

AKA News

Kiting



The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

March 1990 Volume 12, No. 2



KEEP UP WITH KITING



AKA

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**COMMENTS?
WRITE OR CALL
YOUR
REGIONAL
DIRECTORS!**



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Kiting is the official publication of the **American Kitefliers Association (AKA)**. It is published six times a year — January, March, May, July, September, and November — for the information of AKA members, member-merchants and supporters. **Kiting** is created for the members, by the members to exchange information and keep members well informed. Copyright © 1990

Editorial Board - 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, Corey Jensen, Cherie McFadden.

Submitting Articles and Photos - Submissions to **Kiting** from AKA members are welcome. Members are invited to submit articles about kiteflying, 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 color or black and white, although black and white photos are best for non-color reproduction. 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: 5th of the month before publication for camera-ready ads. Send to Patrice McFadden, 75 Holly Park Circle, San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 641-9815.

Send membership forms, change of address, payments and renewals to the AKA office at 1559 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. Send membership queries 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.

Patrice McFadden - Editor

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

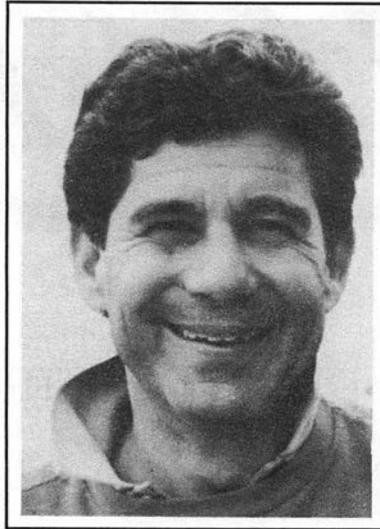
by Jim Miller

Many new kite clubs are springing up all around the country...

Our new club coordinator, Vic Walton, is being kept busy checking in with these embryonic organizations and helping provide the resources to make them grow. The project Vic has been working on that we discussed last month, "Directory and Handbook of Kite Organizations in North America", was recently completed and has received absolutely rave reviews from all who have seen it. It is a formidable document of around 100 pages and contains an excellent section on starting a club, a listing of kiting publications (periodicals), and a very thorough listing of individual local kite clubs. It is far, far more than just a 'directory'. Each kite club has one page devoted to it, to provide ample room to outline the club's philosophy, structure, and describe the club's history, newsletter, annual events, or whatever other information the club felt pertinent. Vic is busy putting the finishing touches on a supplement to include some clubs omitted from the original issue and additional updated information.

Copies of the "Directory" will be available from Vic or from the AKA at cost (which, because of its size and weight, is currently estimated to be \$6.00 plus \$2.50 for postage). The AKA and all kites owe a debt of gratitude to Vic for undertaking this project — truly a job well done! Last month's column contained a typographical error in Vic's phone number — his correct number is (203) 734-0406.

Could student kite clubs on college campuses be a wave of the future? Bob Krewett, at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, certainly thinks so. This energetic and enthusiastic young man is busy organizing the first college campus kite club. (The name has not been chosen yet — OSU



Cowboy Kitters is under consideration.) If this becomes a trend we could possibly see intercollegiate kite festivals and/or competitions. If you are a college student and would like some advice on starting up a campus club, give Bob a call and benefit from his experience. His phone number is (405) 743-1676.

For the past several years we have been successful in scheduling the annual convention two years in advance. This has helped the membership arrange their travel plans and has provided additional lead time to the host club or group for its planning. Therefore, in the next several months, we need to identify a potential site for 1992. If your club has an interest in hosting the AKA's premier event, get in touch with Annual Meeting Chairman Al Hargus III at (616) 723-6338. Al will discuss with you the considerations involved and help you structure a formal proposal to the AKA Board.

A minor adjustment has been necessary in the postage reimbursement for those receiving *Kiting* U.S. First Class delivery and foreign mail. The AKA's actual cost has been a few pennies over \$5.00 per year, so as new membership applications are printed, they will reflect this change.

See you on the flying field!

Good winds,

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Get the kites you want from Into The Wind, America's leading mail-order kite company since 1981. We specialize in unmatched selection and fast service, and we guarantee your complete satisfaction with anything you buy.

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10% discount to AKA members

VARIABLE WINDS ALOFT

Letters to the AKA

Dear AKA:

I wanted to let you know the amazing results of my two classified ads in *Kiting*.

I received my magazine Friday, 1/9 and sold both telescope and parafoil by phone Saturday, 1/10. I received the check for the full amount Thursday and shipped them off on Friday.

I guess I was just plain lucky.

Best wishes,
Bob Ingraham

(Ed.—Dear Bob: We are happy to hear about your success with our new classified ad department.)

Dear AKA:

I enjoy single-line kiteflying as a non-competitive leisure sport, where mobile art is displayed in the sky. What a surprise I got when I enrolled for the AKA Convention in Hawaii and received literature about competitions. I entered for fun and thoroughly enjoyed it, even though I had to tell the judges that my kites were to be assessed from 50 feet away, no closer. My concern came for the judges job, which I thought must have been something like trying to judge *Picasso* against *Van Gogh*, or *Andy Warhol* against *Norman Rockwell*. **You can't do it.**

Competition provides incentive, but equally it provides disincentive. It becomes serious, and provokes tension, aggression and discontent. Isn't there enough competition in this world without making the leisure sport of single-line kite flying competitive too? The winners are most likely going to be those who can afford and have access to the best materials and the most time. I came away from the convention knowing that we are all winners.

Kites are like moving art works in the sky, and when the sun shines through, from behind, they light up like stained glass windows. They are visually at their best 200 ft. At times in Hawaii I wondered when a kite became a quilted wall hanging, and when a wall hanging became a kite.

My kites are for flying. They have been tethered to farm fences, trees and ground anchors, and been in the sky for hours and even days on end.

Imagine how I felt when I discovered that the first portion of the judging was to be done in the Princess Kaiulani Conference Room, my kite propped up against the wall, with kites that had never even seen the sky. Was I suppose to bring my newest, untested, untuned creations and then have them marked like a school sewing exam?

Kite festivals are enormous fun giving everybody recognition and acknowledgement; kitemakers get to know and identify each other with their kites.

I read *Kyle Metcalf's* letter in the July newsletter and *Jim Miller's* comment in the October issue with great interest, although I dare to go a step further and suggest doing away with single-line kite competitions and getting the emphasis back on flying, painting the sky with colorful kites, rather than prizes for standard of kite. Afterall, kite festivals are for flying kites and having fun!

My sincere thanks for a wonderful AKA convention!

Alison Stanes
Auckland, New Zealand

(Ed.—Dear Alison: Thank you for your thoughts and comments on this controversial subject.)

Dear AKA:

Thank you for getting *Kiting* back where it needs to be. What a beautiful November issue, keep up the good work.

Hope the kite community in SF is in good spirits and everything is back to normal as possible.

Yours truly,
Paul Smith, Temple, TX

(Ed.—Dear Paul: It's amazing how well the Bay Area is recovering from the earthquake. Thanks.)

OOPS!!

In the November issue of *Kiting* an error was made on page 12, identifying the kite in the top left-hand corner. It was made by Bill Kildow and is a Triple Flex Wing kite. Sorry Bill! Also on page 11, the unidentified Rokkaku was made by Tony Wolfenden.

We apologize to the competitors and readers for the oversights.

Dear AKA:

Thank you for the kite club data sent last May; it helped us get our club, sponsored by the Goodyear Employee's Activities, started.

We formally started the Goodyear Akron Kite Club with 14 members, last October; I am the newly elected president and founder. The club is open to anyone in the area that is interested in kiting on a sponsored basis.

There are many benefits to being affiliated with a large civic minded corporation: free newsletter printing; use of a beautiful private park for picnics and kiteflying; air conditioned meeting rooms; kitchen facilities, workshop areas, all at no cost to us.

Already we have planned a club work night to build a 4 ft. Rokkaku kite and a joint picnic with the 170 members of The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites of Cleveland.

Yours very truly,
Harold E. Correll
President/Goodyear Retiree

(Ed.—Dear Harold: Fantastic!)

We look forward to your comments and letters to the AKA and *Kiting*. It is assumed that correspondence will be published, unless noted otherwise by you. Send to *Kiting*, 75 Holly Park Circle, San Francisco, CA 94110.

KITEMAKING THE ART AND THE SCIENCE

How Come My Kite Won't Fly

by the late Jack Van Gilder

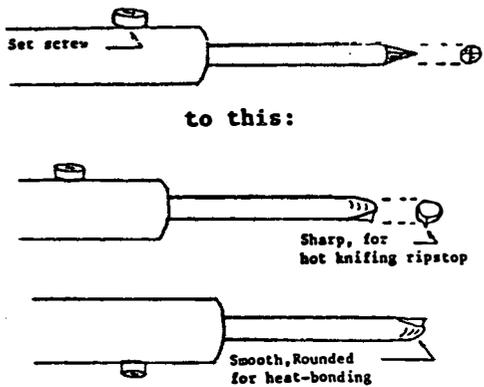
How come my kite won't fly? Maybe the tape on your plastic kite came unstuck. The best of tapes will inevitably dry up and blow away because of the sun's rays. As a rule:

- Paper kites — glue
- Cloth kites — sewing machine
- Plastic kites — soldering iron

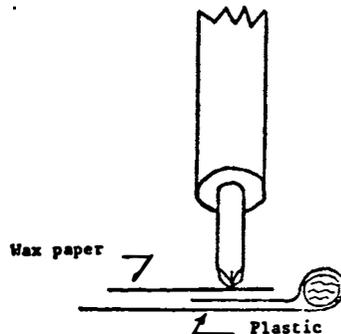
"Soldering iron?", you ask. Yes, a very valuable tool. Even on ripstop nylon, use a soldering iron as a hot knife, assuring an edge which will resist fraying.

Heat-Bonding Polyethylene

25 or 30 watt soldering irons at Radio Shack are still only about \$4.50. With a hammer and file, reshape the tip from this:



The secret to heat-bonding plastic is in the "pressing cloth". Typing paper is OK, newspaper also, but wax paper is best because it's translucent.



With some experimentation, you will be able to cease burning holes in the plastic (too much pressure, too slow a motion) or having the seam come unstuck (too little of same). Layers of newspaper under the heat-bonding area work well.

One generalization: Heat-bonding will, by nature, weaken the seam that is bonded — *So be careful* — Test scrap material first. Very light poly, such as large dry cleaner garment coverings, is very sensitive. Shopping bags of "high density" poly are excellent—very strong, very light. It is the stuff that rattles and is stiffer, when waved by hand. It's becoming more available, replacing paper bags.

The most fun for me is in doing applique. Cut out shapes in contrasting plastic colors and heat-bond them to the kite's cover. Bond only around the outside edges of the design. Then turn the kite over and scissor away the cover, exposing the contrasting colors. It glows in the sun, like a stained glass window.

For my 100-delta train, I tried doing away with tape entirely, using very thick high-density poly from shopping bag handles. It didn't work. Heat-bonding thin poly to thick poly is verrrry tricky and doesn't generally work. Filament (strapping) tape is indispensable in some cases. But try to cover it with plastic some way to keep it out of the sun's rays. Filament tape is a little less expensive if obtained at surplus stores.

**Try heat-bonding.
You'll like it! ♦**

*1st Annual
Official*

Kiting

**Photo
Contest**

Send us your best and favorite kite and kite people photos and win valuable prizes — (or really go for it and shoot a few rolls especially for the contest!)

1st Prize:

Your photo on the cover of Kiting! Plus one Year Free Membership to the AKA!

2nd, 3rd & 4th Prizes:

Your photo published in Kiting! and an AKA Polo Shirt!

Photos will be judged on originality and clarity. The Winning Photos will be those that, in our opinion, best capture the spirit of kiting.

Due by May 15th - All submissions become the property of AKA Kiting Newsletter.

Send to:
Photo Contest
75 Holly Park Circle
San Francisco, CA
94110

**VIC WALTON
PUBLISHES
DIRECTORY OF KITE
ORGANIZATIONS**

After months of collecting data and information, Vic Walton has published the "Directory and Handbook of Kite Organizations in North America". This was a completely volunteer effort on his part.

In appreciation of the great job done by Vic, Richard Dermer, Director of Region 9, has been compiling an appendix to that directory consisting of by-laws and constitutions from as many kite clubs as possible which he is willing to share with anyone needing copies.

Richard is also collecting copies of kiting newsletters in order to compile a general review. Information should be sent to him at 121 S. McFarland, Stillwater, OK 74074. ♦

GET HIGH ON LIFE - not drugs

The Kalamazoo County Parks Department's KITEFEST is joining McDonald's restaurants and the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Prevention Program to urge young people to "Get High on Life - not drugs."

With the assistance of 12 McDonald's, the program will distribute 25,000 kites displaying the "Get High on Life - not drugs" message. Coupons, redeemable at McDonald's restaurants for the kites, will be distributed through participating schools in Kalamazoo County.

Kiteflying is its own kind of high," said KITEFEST Coordinator *John Cosby*. "We are pleased to be part of this promotion. Hopefully, some young people (and their parents!) will find that kiteflying is not just a great way to spend time, but a great way to spend time **together**. From just lying on the grass watching a kite float among the clouds to the thrill of pulling a big wing stunt-kite out of a power dive, kiting offers a variety of ways to get high on life — without drugs!"

Kitefest is scheduled for April 28 & 29 at River Oaks Park in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Contact John Cosby at (616) 383-8773 for more information about Kitefest and the Get High on Life promotion. ♦

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE KITE FLY AND BAKE-OFF

by Joan Town

The Sixth Annual International Open

Seaside Park, New Jersey
December 3, 1989

When we arrived in Seaside, there was but a flurry or two of snow floating around. By the time we parked and set-up for the festivities, we had a full-blown blizzard-like storm. Luckily, it only lasted 10 minutes, but the temperature dropped (like a kite)! Thirty-one brave souls (including Mutley) stood in the freezing cold and managed to find the humor in this frigid situation. Some wimps (who shall remain nameless) went to their cars with their nice warm heaters, but most of us were out taste testing and checking out the kite entries.

Olan Turner, again, outdid himself with his trophies and pendants, and **Bernice's** peanut butter M&M cookies were delightful. Everyone who contributed deserves congratulations for their time and efforts and especially their bravery in the face of the wind and cold.

There were 24 in attendance this year, some by proxy, some new and naive, some old.

Next year, as you may have already heard, we'll have PBCKF &BO in November. Hopefully, with some warmer temperatures!

Kite Winners

1st Place

Cheryl Gleckner

Cookie Monster Hexagon

2nd Place

Charlie Sotich

10 miniature Mr. Peanut shield-shaped kites

3rd Place

George Maurer

Long-tailed Nutter Butter Sled

4th Place

Ed Spencer

Ripstop Seagull w/P.B. Sand.

Peanut Butter Edibles

All 1st Place Winners

Cheryl Gleckner

Classic P.B. Cookies

Maxine Hoke

Chocolate Cov. Peanut Clusters

Lucille Johnston

Peanut Butter Fudge

Ed & Christopher Peak

Reese's Chewy Choc. Cookies

Ellen Spencer

P.B. & Choc. Teddy Bear

Nancy Spencer

Hot P.B. Soup

Joan Town

Choc. P.B. Balls

Bernice Turner

M&M P.B. Cookies

Marge Weissman

P.B. Cupcakes

RARITAN AREA FLIERS CALL IT QUILTS

Ray Brandes, founder of the Raritan Area Fliers announced that the club is calling it quits.

After three years of leadership, Ray needs to devote time to other activities.

The original purpose of the club was to generate kite interest in the New Jersey metropolitan area, and they certainly did that!

Many thanks to The Raritan Area Kites for their many contributions and support to kiting.



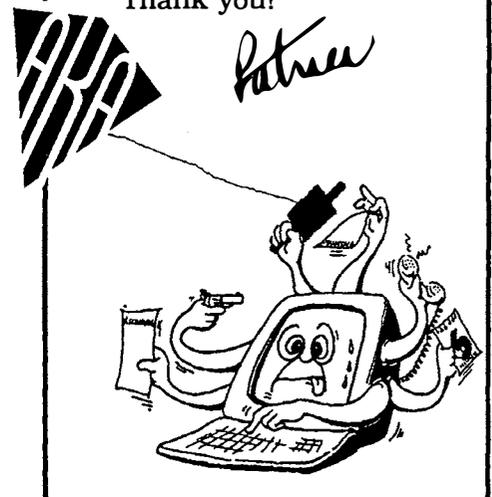
Editor's Line

As 1990 unfolds we're proud to report the highest AKA membership count ever is still climbing; we receive new member calls every day!

We hope *Kitting* and the opportunity to exchange and share AKA information has facilitated this increase.

We're inspired!

Thank you!



FIRST SNO'FLY A SUCCESS

By John Cosby

Kalamazoo, Michigam — January 1, 1990

On warm (relatively), windy (sort of) New Year's Day, 175 people came to Kalamazoo County's Prairie View Park to sled down the hill, ice skate, ski, and — oh, yeah — fly kites. The event was **Sno'Fly: The First Kite Fly of the 90's**. This was the Kalamazoo County Parks Department's first attempt at a New Year's Day fly.

The first kite up was the Parks Department's own Sno'Fly Sno'Flake. The Sno'Flake was made just for Sno'Fly by event coordinator John Cosby. "The Sno'Flake kite is an ultimate irony," said Cosby. "It is a Bermudan, born in the warmth and sun of the tropics, made of blue rip-stop, applied with a white snowflake, and used to promote a northern winter kite-fly."

Temperatures for Sno'Fly hovered in the high 20's and low 30's;

very little snow flew, making it a pretty comfortable day to be outside. Winds ranged from nearly non-existent — great for the wind chill but not for kites — to "howling". The range made it possible for a wide variety of kites to fly, from small plastic deltas and Eddys to Feather deltas, Spin-offs, and trains. Two enterprising souls stacked a Hawaiian Team kite over a 6-foot Flexifoil and flew that.

Recent warm weather had formed a mushy crust over most of the frozen lake where Sno'Fly was held; perfectly safe for "Sno-flyers", conditions on the ice did not permit kite skiing or skating.

Was it a success? "Hey, absolutely," said Cosby. "Everybody had fun. Sno'Fly is now a part of our calendar of events." ♦

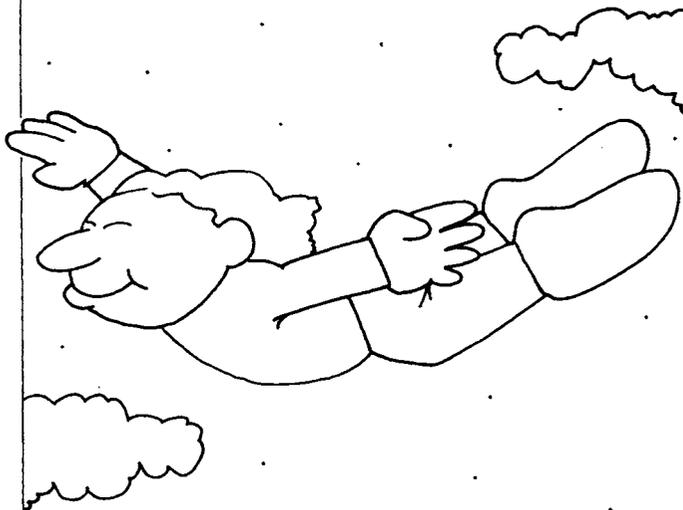
STONE MOUNTAIN CONTEST WON'T BE HELD

Charlie Henderson, Director of Region 5, noted the recent cancellation of the annual Kite Flying Endurance Contest at Stone Mountain park in Georgia. Park officials stated that not enough people came out for the event and it had to be cancelled.

In recent years, teams of fliers set records by keeping their kites in the air for as long as 26 hours, the all-time contest record. The shortest victory came on an almost breezeless day in 1986 when the winning kite only stayed aloft for one hour and 36 min.

Although the meet had attracted kitefliers from throughout Georgia and neighboring states, other considerations wiped the contest from the 1990 slate of park events, officials said. Besides the low turnout, the event was unsettling to visitors who would show up at the park to fly just for fun and then learn they could not put their kites in the air because during the contest kites can only be flown from the top of the mountain. ♦

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Rockville, MD 20852



Region 6

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan,
Ohio

Fred Bell, Representative

Greetings Everyone. I apologize for my long absence from this page and hope to be more visible and vocal in 1990. The severe illness and recent passing of my father put kiteflying on the back seat of my to-do list. I am looking forward to seeing many of my kite friends this year, especially in Toledo at the North Coast Stunt Kite Games, and in Dayton on Labor Day at the Air Force Museum.

I have a request of all heads-of-kite-clubs in Region 6 to drop me a line so I can re-establish communication with you.

For those of you who have called me, I have tried to help as best I could, but my job as Regional Director would be much easier if those of you involved in events would contact me as soon as plans have been confirmed. Recently *Nishi* was here in Columbus and I was not even aware of this until after he left! I will address better lines of communication on an intra-regional basis, so let's stay in touch!

Let's hear it for the newest club to form in Region 6 - The Goodyear Akron Kite Club, 1144 East Market St., Akron, OH 44316. For more information contact President Harold E. Correll, 4685 Buhl Blvd., Uniontown, OH 44685, (216) 896-1040. Welcome to the Region! Remember to have fun and fly kites!

Don't forget to get calendar submissions in to *Kiting* by April 1st to be in the May issue! Hope to see you in the field and keep 'em flying! ♦

REGIONAL REPORTS

Region 9

Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri,
Oklahoma, Texas

Richard Dermer, Representative

Southwestern sunshine to you! Festivals are scheduled almost every weekend in March, April and May; a flyer willing to travel can enjoy balmy breezes and friendly fellow flyers throughout the region.

The season will kick off, as usual, with the massive Zilker Park Kite Contest in Austin, Texas on March 11. This year's event will be the 62nd annual, and should draw 10,000 or more spectators. This is a relaxed, happily informal festival, with more competition for kids than adults and a relatively limited stunt-kite agenda. Where else can you find three and four generations of families whose eldest members have been participating for decades?

The region's major stunt-kite event, the Texas Gulf Coast Stunt-Kite Challenge, will again be held at Apffel Park on the Galveston beach, one of the largest flying sites in the nation, April 7-8. As a major stop on the stunt-kite "circuit", the Texas Challenge is expected to draw top fliers and teams from across the nation, while junior and novice divisions will be available for local fliers. A large area will be placed "off-limits" to stunters to allow a safe flying area for showy single-liners.

Finally, the Junction International Kite Retreat, sponsored by the Texas Tech art department at their secluded country Univesity Center near Junction, Texas, promises to have a truly international flavor on May 25-28. Kiteers from Italy, Malaysia, and China are expected.

Please see the kite calendar for more events in Region 9.

Club activity is picking up. The Gateway Club in St. Louis held its first retreat in January, two sewing classes, two club flys, and a business meeting in February, and will

host its first St. Louis festival in March. The JOTS club in Dallas-Ft. Worth maintains a similarly busy schedule, assisting numerous Texas festivals with their expertise. Last year's new clubs in Houston, Abilene, and Wichita Falls are all thriving, as are the Surfside Flyers south of Galveston.

Two new clubs are underway in Oklahoma. A new Oklahoma City kite club held an organization meeting in December attended by 32 people. The president is *Mike DeBell*, 930 South Blvd. #102, Edmond, OK 73034. Newsletter editor is *Danny Jones*, 7828 NW 102, Oklahoma City, OK 73162.

In Stillwater, the Cowboy Kite Club has been organized on the Oklahoma State University campus. An April festival will build on the momentum of a highly successful One Sky-One World fly in '89. With several outstanding flying sites available, (how about an unused golf course, huh?), this club hopes to become the first active university affiliate of the AKA. Founder is *Bob Krewett* (405) 743-1676.

Finally, I'd like to share a bit of kite poetry:

Tibetan Kite Song

In the simplest words,
that the guru writes-
kites are paper birds,
and birds are feathered kites.

Which to you prefer,
shrieking living things?
Or the pleasant whir,
of lifeless paper wings?



REGIONAL REPORTS



Region 10
Alaska, Oregon,
Washington

Rick Talbott, Representative

Whoa! The Great Northwest is gearing up for Oregon '90, the AKA National Convention in Seaside, Oregon. Congratulations to *Debra Lumpkin* of Lincoln City for being the winner of the Logo contest. Her design was chosen out of 46 entries.

A new addition to the calendar this year is the Pacific Northwest Regional Stunt Championships, held June 30, 31 and July 1 in Long Beach, Washington. The contact person is *Kathy Goodwind* at (206)633-4780. Usually this event is held in conjunction with the Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF) in August, but this year stunt day will be different, with lots of fun and challenges planned.

New clubs have formed this year and are looking for new members. Welcome! Pierce County Kitefliers Association, Tacoma, WA, contact *Chuck Anderson*, 5914 Woodlake Dr. W., Tacoma, WA 98467-1650. (206) 565-2372. Another welcome to Southern Oregon Casual Kites (SOCK), contact *Frank & Janet McNew* at 33 Michigan Ave. SE, Bandon, OR 97411. (503) 347-3722.

And for all Cody kite lovers, a new club — The Samuel F. Cody Kite Society is intended to be a national source of information for Cody kites, Cody designs and for historical information on Mr. Cody himself. Contact *Rick Brown* at 5167 8th Avenue NE, Salem, OR 97303 (503) 390-8411. ♦

Region 11
Monterey County,
Northern California

Ron Romero, Representative

1989 was our busiest kite season ever and already scheduled for 1990 are a host of repeat festivals and competitions: Berkeley Kite Festival; Bodega Bay; Candlestick Park; Father's Day Kite Festival; Fairfield; Reno Int'l. Kite Festival and events in Stockton and Vallejo. Please refer to the Calendar for actual dates and times.

New events for 1990 are: San Ramon Wind Festival May 19 & 20th in San Ramon. Contact me for more information at (415) 866-8173.

Eureka Rhododendron Festival will have, for the first time, The "Behind The Redwood Curtain" Kite Exhibition and Fly. This new event, being co-ordinated by *Dusty Smith* will be held on May 5th & 6th somewhere near Eureka. For more information contact *Dusty* at 2306 F Str., Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 442-9245. *Dusty* very much wants to introduce sport kiting to his neighbors and friends, so lets give him a hand by attending the festival and passing the word.

Brian Gustafson, co-ordinator of this year's Fairfield event is looking for input to improve the event. Give him a call with your ideas at (707) 428-7602.

Interested in joining a new kite club? In the Lancaster area contact: *B.J. Brown*, 43423 Carpenter Dr., Lancaster, CA 93535. In the Eureka area contact *Dusty Smith* at the address above. ♦

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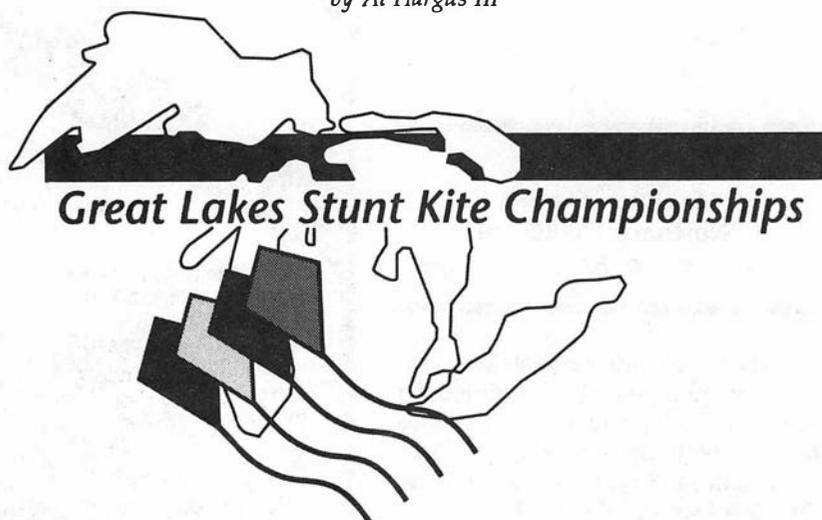
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the Kite pit

GREAT LAKES STUNT-KITE CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD MAY 12-13

by Al Hargus III



May 12-13 Grand Haven State Park will again be the site of the 2nd Annual Great Lakes Stunt-Kite Championships. Located on the Eastern shore of Lake Michigan, it is the most centrally located national stunt-kite event on the 1990 circuit. "We anticipate a turn-out of over 200 fliers this year", says co-event coordinator *Bob Negan*.

There will be competitions in five categories, divided into four classes: Individual and Team Kite Ballet, Individual and Team Precision, and Individual Innovative; class divisions are: Junior (under 12 years old), Novice, Experienced, and Open. Competitions will begin on Saturday, May 12 at 9 am and continue through Sunday. (Monday is a run-over date for possible weather delays at the event.)

Co-event coordinator *Steve Negan* says, "The event in 1989 drew nearly 2,000 people to either fly or watch; for our first year as a National Event '89 was a roaring success." The event

will take place at Grand Haven State park which has 48 acres of beach. On-site camping is available at the park (on a first-come-first-serve basis). For camp site registration and information contact: Grand Haven State Park (616) 842-6020.

Contestants should pre-register for the competitions. Headquarters for the event will be the Khardomah Lodge, a beautiful bed and breakfast, two blocks from the competition fields and lake. The Khardomah Lodge, 1365 Lake Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417, (616) 842-2990.

For registration forms, accommodations, and further information contact: The Mackinaw Kite Co., 301 N. Harbor, Grand Haven, MI 49417, (616) 846-7501.



SUNKIST K.I.D.S. FEATURED ON NETWORK TV

The Sunkist K.I.D.S., a weekly series which airs on ESPN, featuring the nation's hottest young athletes filmed *Jason Loo* of Santa Cruz, California and *Missy Romeo* of San Ramon, California flying their dual-line kites at the West Coast Nationals last September. Jason's segment was shown last month and Missy's segment is scheduled to air late-March or early April. Also included in the feature is complete information on how to join the AKA. ◆

BELMONT PARK NATIONAL STUNT-KITE CHAMPIONSHIP

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Belmont Park Championship will not be held in April. Future date and location to be announced.

WHERE IT'S AT ... FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOW ...

and Somthing Else For All The Rest ...

by Corey Jensen

FIRST, come on you lazy bums and send pictures to *Kiting* so Patrice can put some in this newsletter. Do you think there is some magic way of knowing what's going on when you never write or even send a card or anything? NO! If you remain silent then we have no way to be YOUR newsletter. So sit right down and write us all a letter (with pictures). I know for a fact there are wittier, cleverer and more erudite people in this club than you or me... Well, you maybe. Seriously... don't make me make this an issue. Just do it! Thank you.

SECOND, a short diatribe on the SAFETY issue. At the recent KTA convention in Miami Beach, I watched fliers who know better fly in one of the most ill-advised locations imaginable. As members of a group, to whom others look for direction, we have an obligation to provide a good example. Safety is more than not hitting bystanders; folks who have no idea what this sport is about watch us and assume what we do is how it should be done. I walked through the crowded, narrow beach area and asked flyers if they thought what they were doing

was safe and/or advisable. With only a few exceptions, who moved up the beach to a proper flying area, everyone else had excuses — "everyone else was doing it", "nobody told me to move", even though they all admitted to knowing that they were unsafe. Many buyers did not even venture out into the madness.

We can not wait for others to tell us what we already know. WE are the examples others look to. MAKE SAFETY COOL — FLY SAFE. Politely encourage others to act in a responsible manner... *By example.*

OK. Enough of my preaching — it's just so darn important.

THIRD, The European Kite Community is growing by leaps and bounds. A large contingent showed at KTA and is only the tip of the wing (so-to-speak). *Michael Steltzer* from Berlin, gave me a new magazine from Germany called "DRACHENMAGAZIN". Very well produced and it even has picture captions in English, as well as an English language page (for those with "keine Deutsch" in their lexicon). Subscriptions are available from DRACHENMAGAZIN, Brahmsallee 8, 2000 Hamburg 13, West Germany. Pub-

lished bi-monthly, \$5 U.S. per issue. Joe Bob says check it out!

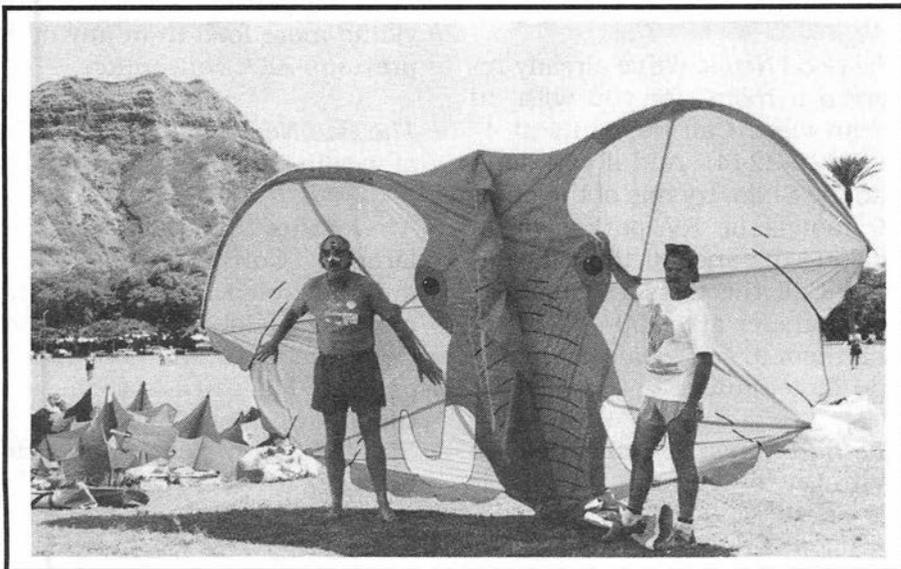
FOURTH, many have been asking about the World Cup Stunter event that will be taking place the weekend before the AKA Nationals in Seaside. Produced by American Kite Magazine, with input from STACK, AKA, NZKA, and ASKA (Australia), this is truly an international team stunter event. Mostly ballet — totally team... the ultimate kick-off for an incredible week of intense kiting. I guess because so much of the AKA Convention is directed internally, this event should be just what the public is clamoring for. With an international scope, the potential is obvious, and quite an opening for what promises to be an outstanding week.

If you have never been to the Oregon Coast... here's your chance to play during some of the best weather of the year. Cannon Beach — with famous Haystack Rock in the pounding surf — is one of the most beautiful places on earth. Hug Point, Oswald West State Park, oh my, I could go on and on. Rooms are reasonable and available, the food is plentiful and inexpensive.

One thing though... Seaside isn't the hottest place for nightlife. It's there, just not much; so bring your favorite kite videos, lite stix, and kite toys so the fun need never stop.

Lastly... these brief notes... The KING'S KITE-CHI CHALLENGE is still going strong. Entrants will be accepted until AKA Seaside '90. If you don't know what it is, check out previous issues of *Kiting*, or call me.

A tip for easy repairs on ripstop sails... tired of ripstop tape not sticking? or matching colors? or the look of patched sails? Try 3-M Clear Plastic Tape. Available in hardware stores everywhere, one tape for all colors, great adhesive, very inexpensive. Don't forget where you heard about it! ♦



Corey Jensen & Stan Swanson w/Jumbo at Kapiolani Pk. Hawaii (photographer unknown)



13th Annual AKA Convention October 10 - 14

The Associated Oregon Kiteers have "good news" and "bad news" about the AKA Convention in Seaside:

The Bad News: There will be no shuttle service from the hotel to the flying field.

The Good News: You won't need shuttle service. The fields are on the beach right outside the hotel door.

The Bad News: Box lunches will not be served during competition.

The Good News: We will be setting up buffet lunches — on the flying fields — each day. You'll also get a Seafood buffet on Friday and a Salmon dinner on Saturday.

The Bad News: We will not have a Fly Mart set-up in the hotel.

The Good News: The Fly Mart will be outside, in a covered area, open to the public.

The Bad News: Seaside is an hour from the Portland Airport.

The Good News: AOK has arranged bus tours, leaving from the airport and traveling through our magnificent Columbia River Gorge before delivering you to Seaside. On the way back, we're providing a tour of the Oregon

wine country. Pre-register for the tours. Plan to arrive in Portland by Tuesday morning and leave on Monday night.

The Bad News: Oregon guarantees capacity crowds. The City of Seaside has already committed to an advertising campaign that will fill the beaches and the local hotels. And the local newspaper will be publishing a kiting supplement the week before the convention.

The Good News: We've already reserved a room for you with an ocean view. Call the Shilo at 1-800-222-2244. And if you don't like the Shilo, try one of the other 40 motels or RV parks within walking distance of the Convention. Call the Seaside Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-444-6740. Ask them to send you a free map and motel guide.

The Bad News: You may need to fly to get to Oregon.

The Good News: United Airlines — the "Official Airline" of AKA '90 — is offering 45% off their regular listed fares or 5% off any advertised fare. Call the United reservation desk at 1-800-521-4041, and tell them you're with *Meeting Number 444FC*. This price only applies if you place reservations through the United Reservation Desk.

The Bad News: Last year, the registration fee for AKA was \$100.

The Good News: Seaside will cost less than \$100.

The Good News: In addition to buffet lunches and gourmet dinners, your registration includes a continental breakfast each morning. In fact, we'll be providing more food than any other previous AKA convention

The Bad News: Plan to gain a bit of weight in Oregon.

Join us this Fall in Seaside, Oregon. Convention activities are scheduled from Wednesday morning, October 10, to Sunday, October 14. In addition, American Kite Magazine is sponsoring the first annual "World's Cup" of Stunt-Kiting in Seaside on October 6th.

(continued on next page)

13th Annual Convention

(continued)

Read future issues of *Kiting* for convention details and registration materials.

Phone numbers you may need:

- **Seaside Chamber of Commerce:** 1-800-444-6740.

Call and ask for *free* material on lodging and recreational activities.

- **Shilo Inn in Seaside:** 1-800-222-2244 (for room rates and reservations).

- **United Airlines:** 1-800-521-4041 (for discounted air fares - reference meeting #444FC).

- **Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce:** 1-800-452-2151 (for Oregon travel information and a schedule of additional kite events in the Northwest this Fall).

- **Convention Chair:** David Gomberg: (503) 996-3083 or 1-800-452-2151. ♦


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American Kiteflyers Association
 1990 Convention
 Seaside, Oregon

Oregon's state motto, adopted just last year, is "She flies with her own wings". It is particularly appropriate that the same year, the leadership of the American Kiteflyers Association decided to bring their annual convention to Seaside, Oregon in 1990.

Our Associated Oregon Kiteflyers are planning an interesting and well managed event for you. And they have picked an ideal kite convention location.

Oregon's Northwest Coast is rich in beauty and historical heritage. Sir Francis Drake anchored his ship, the Golden Hind, in the area, and later, in 1805, Lewis and Clark wintered at Fort Clatsop, just a few miles from your convention site. The City of Astoria, only a few minutes north of Seaside, is the site of many Victorian homes and the fascinating Oregon Maritime Museum.

Although kiteflying is what brings you to Oregon, we also offer many wineries, antique shops, and art galleries nearby.

In Seaside, you'll find wide, clean beaches and hundreds of motel rooms and RV facilities. A new convention facility and recently remodeled downtown core are all waiting for you. Among the many other stores in the area, you will find three full service kite shops.

Oregon boasts more kite stores and kite festivals per capita than any other state in the Union. Earlier this year, KiteLines Magazine rated Oregon's beaches as the best place in the world for flying, qualitatively and aesthetically.

Come and see why!
 Oregon looks forward to welcoming the AKA and the excitement your convention will bring to our state.


 BARBARA ROBERTS
 OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE



ASK DR. KITE

Dear Dr. Kite:

How did the Delta kite get its name?

Curious in Chicago

Dear *Curious*:

Many people mistakenly think that the Delta kite got its name from its shape, which resembles the Greek letter delta. Actually, the delta was so named because it originated in the Mississippi Delta region of the United States. The blues singers in that area invented the Delta kite so that they would have something to do when they weren't depressed. This is also the reason most of the first Deltas were blue.

Dear Dr. Kite:

How is it that fighter kites can fly in such light winds?

Wondering in Walla Walla

Dear *Wondering*:

Fighter kites can fly in light wind because they do not need wind at all. Unlike other kites, fighter kites are held aloft by Eastern mysticism. In order to fly a fighter one must learn the proper mantras. A favorite mantra of fighter fliers is "I'm going to get this kite up if it kills me, OM. I'm going to get this kite up if it kills me, OM. I'm going to get this kite up if it kills me, OM", etc.

Dear Dr. Kite:

What weight line should I use on my 13' delta?

Uncertain in Utica

Dear *Uncertain*:

The choice of line weight is immaterial. You will either end up with a line that is too light and your kite will be lost or you will have a line so heavy it will not fly. I suggest that you take up a less frustrating hobby, like raising rabbits.

Dear Dr. Kite:

Why are stunt-kite fliers such jerks?

Purist In Peoria

Dear *Pure*:

Stunt-kiters behave the way they do because of childhood traumas. The root causes are too complicated to go into in this column. I suggest you try to get along with them peaceably, because they are potentially violent.

Dear Dr. Kite:

Why are single-line fliers such jerks?

Hyperkinetic in Hawaii

Dear *Hyper*:

Single-line kites behave the way they do because of childhood traumas. The root causes are too complicated to go into in this column. I suggest you try to get along with them peaceably, because they are potentially violent.

Dear Dr. Kite:

My parafoil will not fly steady. It will yaw left and right and then crash to one side. What can I do about this?

Confused in Cucamonga

Dear *Confused*:

Parafoils are especially susceptible to anomalies in the earth's gravitational field. If your kite will not fly, it is due to this. Pack it up and put up a delta. Anyone can fly a delta because they are immune to gravitational influences.

Dear Dr. Kite:

There is no kite club in my area. I am thinking of starting one here. Do you have any suggestions?

Lost in Louisiana

Dear *Lost*:

We physicians have a term for people who want to start, or be officers in kite clubs. Masochist. Think of collecting dues; think of organizing flies; think of trying to put together a newsletter. Better yet, think of moving to an area with an established club.

Dear Dr. Kite:

Where do you get off writing smart-alec answers to people's serious questions? There are enough jerks in kiting without you and your inane column.

Mad in Miami

Dear *Mad*:

The Doctor was subjected to complicated childhood traumas. He suggests you change your tune as he may be potentially violent. Remember, he has your return address.

ASK DR. KITE

If you have any questions for the Doctor, please write in care of *Kiting*. All correspondence will be kept in strictest confidence, unless I want to make fun of your ignorance.

Dr. Kite

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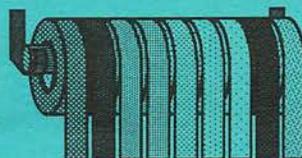
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