World Kite Museum Celebrates Fifth Year!

The World Kite Museum and Hall Of Fame, located in the small coastal town of Long Beach, Washington, is celebrating its fifth birthday. In its brief existence the Museum/Hall has experienced tremendous growth. The Museum now averages about 8,000 visitors each year. At the present time, the Hall of Fame has enshrined four inductees: the first unknown Chinese flier, Lawrence Hargraves, Domina Jalbert, and Peter Travis. The Museum started with two exhibits—the Fighter Kite exhibit and the Chinese Collection; currently, the featured exhibit is The History of Kites and Western Culture. The Long Beach Room, a collection of kites and memorabilia that have been flown in Long Beach, is a permanent addition to the Museum.

An educational program is offered to elementary schools, high school art classes, and senior citizen workshops. This year, four workshops were held. Future plans include a building expansion program directed by the Board of Trustees, a traveling exhibit curated by Ali Fujino and Scott Skinner, and an oral history project in conjunction with the AKA, which involves interviewing kitefliers and kitemakers to capture their knowledge and experience on audio tape.

A dragon-head centipede kite displayed at the Museum.

The clean northwest winds began blowing in June, 1988, a group of 'tako kichi' Long Beach, Washington residents gathered, and gave birth to an idea. The World Kite Museum and Hall Of Fame was the brainchild of Jim Buesing, Lawrence Lessard, Ray Nelson, Carol Knopski, Virginia Leach, Jerry Zorich, Diane Barker, and Jerry Sinotte. They formed a committee which, by August, offered museum memberships at the Washington State International Kite Festival.

Like all new parents, their work had just begun! Lessard used his vacation to visit other halls of fame. Buesing began the process of getting non-profit status. Nyel Stevens, who had museum experience, joined the group and provided sample constitutions and by-laws. Sinotte caajoled Dave Bogie and Doug Hagaman for pictures of kites for a kite calendar, in hopes of a yearly fund raiser. Zorich, a city council member, kept the city informed. Nelson went to a workshop on forms and policies necessary in museums. The rest of the year was spent pursuing all those things a proper museum needs on paper.

Year Two coincided with the Washington State Centennial. Buesing persuaded his wife Kay (that's me) to organize an exhibit—The History of Kites in Washington State. A grant of $500 to build display panels was obtained from the Centennial Committee. With help and support from state kite clubs, historical societies, major newspapers, and the many notable kitefliers in our state, the exhibit flourished for one week in the City Council Chambers, during the Washington State International Kite Festival. The year also saw the Hall of Fame process put through its first run, and three inductees were chosen. Additionally, Barbara Duensing hustled off to a class on how to accession artifacts, since kite donations were coming in fast.

Thanks to the committee's efforts, Year Three (1990) began with the City Council giving the building on the Coulter Park property to the museum. Volunteers began cleaning and painting, while city workers squeezed remodeling into their other jobs. Dorothea Checkley donated David Checkley's collection of 248 Japanese kites; then magically, like a long lost aunt, Pat Button, a lady with museum education, appeared. She and her husband Ron spent ten hours a day for two weeks accessioning the Checkley kites, readying them for exhibit. To finish the building on time for the scheduled opening, Max Weidner and his crew worked all night long to finish the dry-walling and painting, Mary

Continued on page 5.
Since I first became involved in organized kiting, something has continued to bother me. People don’t take us seriously. What we create isn’t art; what we do isn’t a sport. After all – kites are only kids’ toys.

It really irks me to see rollerbladers maneuvering around construction pylons “obstacle courses” on a nationally televised sports program, while major stunt kite competitions are ignored.

AKA is trying to change all that with several current projects.

We have a press plan underway designed to attract media to the national convention and to kite events in general. Jeff Cain and Kelly Morrison in Colorado are developing this print and video package which is intended to better introduce the media to modern kiting.

A new series of radio spots is being produced which focus on historical kiting and how it relates to the modern sport. John MacLauchlan in Florida is managing production of these professional quality public service announcements which will be distributed nationally in cooperation with the National Library Association.

The AKA office has contributed to a number of recent articles appearing in such magazines as Cooking Light, Men’s Fitness, Compressed Air, Model Retailer, and even Playboy. We have also worked with countless newspapers. Providing a central information source and being able to reference local contacts and clubs has really made it easier to get more and better articles printed.

Our next project is to produce a video kite sampler to better show the T.V. networks what we’re up to. A project like this would normally cost upwards of $50,000, but working with volunteer editors and footage from existing festival tapes, we hope to keep the project within financial reach. If you have the tools and background to help, please let me know. With luck, and some good assistance, we’ll be finished by the end of the year.

The problem, of course, is that we’re a bunch of amateur volunteers, constrained by limited budgets. Fortunately, we’re also an organization loaded with diverse talent and enthusiasm. If you have ideas, skills, or contacts, please let me know.

The effort of better publicizing kiting has been going on for years, and AKA doesn’t presume that we are the single, best voice. We can, however, be one of several important voices.

Meeting the media challenge is something we all need to be aware of and help resolve. AKA, working together with individual events, clubs, competition league organizers, the Kite Trade Association, and members of the industry can get results.

You can help by writing the networks and magazines. The real solution will come from people like you, demanding that the things you’re interested in be covered.

Boring But Important: It’s hard to get excited about the process of drawing boundaries among AKA’s official regions. To most members, those lines don’t seem very important. They certainly don’t affect how or where you fly kites. But they do determine how you are represented on our Board of Directors. So for the past two years, a special committee headed by Steve Rubin and Richard Dermer has been steadily working to review and re-balance our districts.

A Kiting article back in January outlined the problem and possible solutions. AKA membership has grown and shifted since we established our current regions over ten years ago. Some regions have nearly doubled in population and are unfairly under-represented on the Board. Other areas contain major pockets of activity, separated by long distances.

At our April meeting, the Board adopted a new set of regional boundaries. Washington State has more than enough members to warrant a single Board representative. Oregon will combine with several states in the Great Basin which were previously lost in a sprawling 11 state region. New York, which has not grown as fast, will merge with New England and Penn-New Jersey.

The new boundaries go into effect at our Annual Meeting in October. The change may take a bit of getting used to, but it works well. Areas of activity are grouped together and everyone is more fairly represented.

Annual Disclaimer: I’m often asked how much I am paid by AKA or told that it must be nice to have all my kite travel reimbursed. Not!

With travel season starting up, it’s time for me to remind everyone that AKA officers are not compensated. Our budget does include $2,000 for Presidential travel. That may sound like a lot until you start buying plane tickets. Last year, AKA funds covered a portion of the cost of my attending about 30 different events. The balance came from event sponsors and the Gomberg family checking account. No Association money is used for international travel.

The other question I’m often asked is what I actually do for a living that allows time for all this travel and for the 30 hours a week that AKA is taking.

Susan and I both walked away from good-paying, high-stress jobs during the past two years. Our kite book business is now our principal source of income. And while we aren’t making the money we used to, we are currently blessed with a wonderful lifestyle.
The AKA Conferences are designed to recognize new fliers and reduce the cost of competing on a national basis. All classes of fliers, novice through masters will be ranked.

**CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES**

Competition conferences will be based on three limited geographical areas. Boundaries are defined as follows:

- **Eastern Conference** - AKA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- **Central Conference** - AKA Regions 6, 7, 8 and 9
- **Western Conference** - AKA Regions 10, 11 and 12

The results of any sport kite competition which is sanctioned by the AKA and which uses the current (1992) *International Sport Kite Competition Rules* will be included in the conference rankings. Events may petition to be included in a different Conference if they attract a large number of contestants from other regions. However, an event may belong to only one AKA Conference. Pairs or teams with members that reside in different conferences must declare which conference they will compete in at the beginning of the season.

**THE AKA SPORT KITE SEASON**

The AKA sport kite competition season will ordinarily be based on a full year of events and run from August 1st to July 31st. Results will be tallied and invitations to compete at the Grand Nationals announced before the deadline for early convention registration (August 20th this year).

For the 1992-3 trial season, events held since the national convention in Lubbock, Texas, will be retroactively included. Events held in August and September 1992 will not be included since they served as qualifying events for last year's Grand Nationals.

**SCORING SYSTEM**

In order to earn points at any given event, individuals and ALL members of teams or pairs must be AKA members at the time of that competition.

AKA points will be tabulated for each competition class and category. (Experience Individual Precision, Masters Team Ballet, etc.). Calculating total points for a season involves three steps.

**Step 1 - Raw Score.** Fliers will receive one AKA Ranking Point for themselves and for each contestant they surpass in both qualifying heats and final rounds. An individual's raw score for the season will be computed by adding the number of contestants beaten at the three events producing the highest points.

Raw scoring will base a contestant's points on the number of fliers he/she competes against and beats. All contestants will be counted, even if they reside outside the Conference or are not AKA members at the time of the competition., but only Conference resident members earn AKA points. Fliers who are disqualified are counted, fliers who scratch are not.

**Step Two - Averaging.** If more than three events are attended, then the results of the top three will be averaged. To determine the Average score, the total number of points earned at additional events will be divided by the number of those additional events.

**Step Three - Event Points.** Contestants will also earn one Event Point for each AKA Conference event category they compete. A disqualification would therefore count, but a scratch would not.

**Scoring Summary.** An individual's Final Score for the season for each competition category he/she enters will be the sum of the Raw Score, Average Points and Event Points.

**Example:** If a contestant attends five competitions and earns 12-19-8-5 and 21 points, his/her Final Score for the season would be 63.5 (Raw Score of 52 + Average Score of 6.5 + 5 Event Points = 63.5)

**CONVENTION INVITATIONS**

Invitations to participate in the Grand Nationals in each competition category will be issued to the top five contestants, pairs and teams from each competition class in each AKA Conference. Three alternates will also be named in each category and class.

In the future, trophies and administrative expenses will be paid by an AKA Surcharge by each contestant at Conference events. That fee is being waived during this trial season.

**FINAL COMMENTS**

The AKA Sport Kite Conference Ranking system is being run on a trial basis for the 1992-1993 Sport kite season. The Conference Commissioners, the AKA Festivals Committee and the AKA Sport Kite Committee would like to encourage all contestants, event coordinators and AKA members to respond with suggestions, ideas and questions. Your input will be very helpful in refining the Ranking system for the 1993-1994 Sport Kite season.

Steve Cseplo - AKA Eastern Conference Commissioner
821 Ashley Lane
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
(404)469-1643

Al Hargus - AKA Central Conference Commissioner
3296 Thornway Drive
Columbus, OH 43231
(614)475-8468

Genny Forsberg - AKA Western Conference Commissioner
50201 NW Strohmayer Road
Forest Grove, OR 97116
(503)357-7557

**SPECIAL CONFERENCE NOTES**

In consideration for the many sport kite contestants who reside in AKA International Region #13, the AKA Sport Kite Committee and the Conference Commissioners are examining the possibilities of extending the Conference concept to include all International sport kite fliers in a fourth Conference. Watch for an update in the next issue of KITING.

The following Conference scores may not include all sanctioned sport kite events between October 1, 1992 and April 20, 1993. Scores from omitted events may not have been available at press time. These scores will be added to the totals when they become available.
**NOVICE INDIVIDUAL PRECISION**

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**EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUAL PRECISION**

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**SCORES CALCULATED TO APRIL 20, 1993**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EASTERN CONFERENCE SCORES CONTACT: Steve Cseplo - (404) 469-1643

Eastern Conference Commissioner
# AKA Central Conference Scores

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## Intermediate Individual Precision

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## Masters Individual Precision

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<td>Captain Eddies Flying Circus</td>
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## Open Individual Quadline Ballet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Total Raw Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blair Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ted Dougherty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Carmichael</td>
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<td>Terry Landers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Perez</td>
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## Scores Calculated to April 20, 1993

For more information about Central Conference scores contact: Al Hargus (614) 475-8468
Central Conference Commissioner

## AKA Western Conference Scores

### Novice Individual Precision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>Total Raw Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dana Scott Liston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Weingard</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bobby Unten</td>
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<td>2</td>
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### Novice Individual Ballet

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<tr>
<td>Michael Weingard</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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(AKA Western Conference scores continued on next page)
(AKA WESTERN CONFERENCE SCORES CONTINUED:)

**EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUAL PRECISION**

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<td>Mark Rodgers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Alger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vikki Tucker</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Harkins</td>
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**EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUAL BALLET**

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**EXPERIENCED TEAM BALLET**

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**Masters Individual Train Ballet**

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**Masters Individual Ballet**

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<td>Tsunami</td>
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**Masters Team Ballet**

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**Open Individual Quadline Ballet**

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Joe Hadzicki</td>
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<tr>
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**Open Pairs Ballet**

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<td>Zephyrus</td>
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<td>Bottom of the Line</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Trouble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncle Bubba</td>
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**OPEN INDIVIDUAL QUADLINE BALLET**

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<td>Allan Guillen</td>
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<td>Alan Nagao</td>
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**OPEN Pairs Ballet**

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**Scores Calculated To April 20, 1993**

For more information about Western Conference scores contact: Genny Forsberg - (503) 357-7557
Western Conference Commissioner
A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Trying to remember all the information, tips and skills my wife and I learned will be the most difficult part after returning home from the Top of the Line Flight School. Remembering the fun and people will be easy.

We began our “Kite Lives” much like everyone else, with a chance visit to a kite shop. We purchased our first kite (a stunter) and off we went to fly, well, attempt to fly. After hours of crashes and reading instructions (notice the order, try to fly, then read how), we were finally on our way to becoming wind pilots.

We visited kite shops everywhere we went, planned vacations to include as much air time as possible and generally became kite addicts.

Even with AKA and a few helpful kite shops, we still wondered if we were doing things right. With no one to fly with or to share ideas and problems with, the questions remained. The answer finally came with the Top of the Line Flight School which we attended in February.

There were 25 students from across the nation, representing all levels of flying skill. The instructors taught us how to do things with our kites that we could not even imagine.

We learned more in that one weekend than we had learned in the four years we had been flying. We made new friends, had a great time and learned that what we have been doing was right. We were having fun, being safe, helping others to have fun and that’s what counts.

This was definitely a weekend to remember!

Gary & Nina Self
Santa Barbara, CA

CREDIT IS DUE

In the quest for materials to fill the demand for more information, articles and information “borrowed” from other newsletters and kiteletters have become more prevalent. As good intentioned as this practice may be, it is a cause for much concern.

Those kiters who contribute their knowledge and experiences once the whole, concerned only with the free flow of information. They often agree to hold seminars or develop plans, as a service to a particular club. It is with mixed feelings when they see their work appearing in places that they never intended. I say mixed because there is great disappointment to find that their work has been changed in order to fit the space allotted or to conform to someone else’s concept of what was intended.

Work so severely edited can change your reputation due to inaccuracies that have crept in, a year or more after the fact. This is not fair to the contributor or the people who receive the material.

What I’m saying is that there needs to be a little more concern for the individuals who contribute to the kiting community. It only takes a letter or a phone call to get permission to reprint an article. It only takes an extra line of type to credit the contributor and the original source of the information. If editing is necessary, ask the original author to do it, he knows better than anyone which information is important.

With this extra effort, contributors will be inclined to submit more.

It would be easy for contributors to start screaming COPY-RIGHT with every piece of information they submit. It is much better just to do what is right. Many of the little things that we take for granted were someone’s original idea. It’s a shame that we thought so much of their contribution, yet, we’ve forgotten their names. Let’s give credit where credit is due. We’ll all be the better for it.

Kevin Shannon
Carlisle, PA

Correction

In Vol. 15, No. 2, we mistakenly referred to Dave Arnold as President of the Maryland Kite Society; Jon Burkhard is the President of MKS and Dave is President of Kapitol Air Korps. We apologize for the error.

Send to Kiting, P.O. Box 250657
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Letters continued on Page 7.

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(415) 586-5181

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(405) 372-6127

**Comprehensive Kitemaking**
Jon Burkhardt
(301) 424-6976

**Education**
Kay Buesing
(206) 665-5744

**Electronic Opportunities**
Marty Sasaki
(617) 524-2111

**Festivals & Competitions**
AHargus III
(614) 475-8468

**Flight Events & Games**
Mike Steele
(708) 428-0516

**International**
Scott Skinner
(719) 481-4260

**Kite Art**
Don Mock
(206) 533-3021

**Kite Industry Liaison**
Billy Jones
(301) 289-7855

**Membership Development**
Genny Forsberg
(503) 357-7557

**Nominating**
Richard Dermer
(405) 372-6127

**Promotion**
Tom McAlister
(510) 525-2755

**Regional Director Liaison**
Pete Dolphin
(609) 488-1348

**Safety & Ethics**
Kevin Shannon
(717) 243-7913

**Sport Kite**
Corky Cheunng
(215) 736-0567

**Ways & Means**
Mel Hickman
(503) 738-5859
World Museum (continued from page 1)

Yoshimi, Makoto Ohashi, Eric Forsberg, Peg and Bill Burley and other volunteers began hanging kites with just enough time to open the doors on Tuesday, August 21, 1990.

Now the museum had a building and an exhibit. The State Heritage Resources Center recognized the community’s efforts and provided technical assistance. Hearing of the museum’s need for ultra-violet ray protection (to prevent kites from fading), the Associated Oregon Kitefliers provided money for materials, and manpower for their application; one of the members, Lynn Lary, proposed a ‘Long Beach Room’ – a collection of kites, and pictures of kites/kitefliers, who’d flown at the WSIKF. The Long Beach Room remains a nostalgic favorite for many.

The Board of Trustees, led by museum consultant Fred Lighter, developed a ‘mission statement’ of goals and objectives. Neil Simmons experimented with his computer and created a quarterly newsletter. Mary Ann LaFaye attended a ‘museum store’ workshop, which increased that income. Mabel Phillips took over the accessioning responsibilities, assisted by Mary Yoshimi and Carl Williamson. I attended state museum and tourist conferences to learn curating and marketing skills.

Other kinds of help entered the picture. Drachen Design gave a percentage of their cloisonné pin income to the museum. They also allowed the museum to be the distributor for the Paul Garber Pin set. The City of Long Beach provided advertising funds. Kyle Metcalf donated many pins and the money for a pin display case. Dorothea Checkley again came forth and donated David Checkley’s Chinese Kite Collection. Numerous others also donated kites – all very important to the museum’s ability to provide changing exhibits. Two summer interns – Angela Robertson and Nancy Roberts – organized visitor surveys, membership drives, and print/picture archives. Ben Ruhe added his articles to the newsletter. Betty Pierce and many other community volunteers spent three-hour stints at the museum desk welcoming visitors, answering questions and selling ‘museum shop’ articles.

Board Nominations Sought

Nominations are needed for fall elections of AKA President and six Regional Directors. The presidency is annually elected. Three-year Regional Director seats are open in new Region 5, Great Lakes; Region 6, Midwest; Region 7, Great Plains; and Region 8, South Central. Directors must be elected to fill one-year vacancies in Region 9, Intermountain, and Region 12, SoCal/Pacific. See map on page 23 for regional boundaries.

Current board members may be nominated for re-election or new candidates may be proposed. Job descriptions are available on request, but in general, candidates should be experienced kiters, capable administrators, good communicators, and willing to donate a good deal of time to AKA.

Please contact one of the committee members: Richard Dermer (405) 372-6127, Jim Miller (312) 642-8692, Corey Jensen (408) 372-7922, Rick Talbott (503) 324-3070, and Kevin Shannon (717) 243-7913.
Kite Rights? Preserve 'em!

by Margie Stankiewicz

My husband Gary and I have been flying sport kites with friends for over a year and a half in St. Cloud, a small town of 12,000 people nestled in Central Florida. We also own Skytime Kites and Accessories. The majority of our flying is performed in the fresh winds of our city's Lakefront Park. We have found this prime location to be one of the safest locations for the spectator as well as the kiteflier.

Over the months, hundreds of residents and tourists happen by the surrounding bike paths and walkways to watch us fly our kites, ask questions, and applaud our flying techniques. We've received several high compliments and we have been told how much we enhance the Lakefront with our colorful sails and activities.

We have a perfect safety record, so imagine our surprise! One day last fall when a police officer approached my husband on the field, informing him he could no longer fly there. The officer stated that within a week, the city would be issuing an ordinance to ban kite flying as there were questions of injury and of the safety surrounding the construction of the kites.

Upon inquiring further of the Police Department and City Officials, I found they had no record of any accident or injury, just rumor. The City government felt that an accident could still be possible and continued with their intent to ban us from flying.

We asked ourselves, "Do we have any kite rights?" You betcha. But to bring the City around, our work was cut out for us. In less than a week, Gary and I had to work out a plan of action to present to the Town Council's Citizen's Forum Meeting. I found myself surrounded by good friends, community support and AKA's Brooks Leffler's expert advice.

While our factually stated petition was circulating in schools, churches and stores, Gary lobbied the Mayor and Town Council members for their acceptance and consideration. We asked community leaders who were familiar with us to write letters on our behalf in support of the safety of our kites, as well as our individual safety practices. We put together diagrams drawn to scale of the Lakefront Field and prepared a presentation for the council meeting.

Our day came… We dressed in a professional manner and arrived with strictly organized facts, petitions, maps of the field and letters of support. Fellow kitefliers and friends attended the meeting with us.

Gary addressed the Council with a presentation on the safety of kites, and related subjects such as wind-to-field ratio, field conditions and dual-line flying. He explained that there is actually far less chance of personal injury to the spectator and flier because the kites are steerable and control is maintained.

We proved our safety record and offered to the Council the benefits of our community involvement and education. We informed them of our commitments to kiting in working with Scouts earning badges, and performing a kite demonstration for our young people on the theme 'Get High on Kites, Not Drugs'.

When we were through, the ordinance issue was dropped. We agreed to help the City to set up flying guidelines that were suitable for everyone. We also agreed to continue to educate the public and therefore, in a responsible manner, maintain the right to fly kites.

This story could have had many different endings. On March 27, the first St. Cloud Kite Festival was held. With a tremendous amount of work from many volunteers, the Parks & Recreation Department, and Skytime – it was a great success.

What started out as an end to flying on the best field in the area, turned in to being one of the best events in the opinion of the City Council, spectators, and some of the most experienced kitefliers in the state of Florida.

The festival was geared as a community event focusing on education and fun. With temperatures in the low 80’s and winds kicking at 10-15 mph, everyone had a great time.

Through the efforts of the kiting community, we put on such events as: History of Kites and Parade, Children's Sled Kite Workshop and Kite Races, Sky Queen, Jr. & Sr. Flyer, Fly from the Farthest Location, Spectators Choice/Ground Display. Plans are already in the making for 1994!
Letters (continued from page 3)

MAN, LIFTING, AND POWER

I am a member of the AKA Powerflying Task Force Committee and a professional powerflyer. My interest in accepting a placement on the committee is to stop the AKA from encouraging dangerous powerflying activities of all kinds. For example, the picture of Corey Jensen that appeared in the past two issues of Kiting next to his column shows him powerflying without a helmet on a buggy that has no brakes or roll bar. Do you think this may be dangerous? I wonder if he thinks so?

Man lifting has been singled out as the “most risky,” of all powerflying which seems on the surface to sound reasonable, considering the chair of the committee was seriously injured in a powerflying accident. Inexperienced pilots who go rollerblading and buggy-riding present a much greater threat to spectators and innocent bystanders than my man-lifting exploits. Anyone who attempts powerflying of any kind must realize the inherent danger that exists and the potential injuries they may sustain. I'm not allowed, under condition of my own personal insurance policy, to provide information to anyone about man-lifting. I want to show people that there are many exciting aspects of kiting that they might never before thought possible. When I presented a demonstration to the largest troop of Boy Scouts in New Jersey, they clearly understood the danger. I explained to them how many hours of research and testing went into my rig. They were amazed by the kites and that I was “really flying,” but also realized that is not something anyone can or should try.

I am fortunate that I have the knowledge of the physics involved, power kiting experience, the ability to fabricate special equipment testing and safety devices, and the trust of my sponsors and insurance company that I can and will perform my powerflying exploits safely for others to enjoy.

Please do not let the political self interest of others ruin the sport. The events are fun and kiting is a great pastime for the whole family. We need new faces in this sport or this is going to get very old, very quickly.

I love kiting of all kinds, and do not appreciate being considered a “zany fringe element.” I wonder if Orville and Wilbur Wright were considered “zany fringe elements” when they broke free from the bonds of the earth? I’ve done my homework when it comes to powerflying. Have you?

Anthony Crisafulli
Kite Extremist

[Ed Note: The AKA does not endorse nor discourage powerflying activities. These include lifting, traction (blades, buggies, or skis), and jumping. The Powerflying Committee is developing a list of safety guidelines. Powerflying is not currently included in the AKA insurance program.]
Rokkaku Tips and Techniques — Part II

Bridles

Probably the least understood part of all kites is the bridle. Rokkakus are really very easy to bridle using this simple method.

1) Bridle positions on the sail are usually 1 unit in from each corner of the horizontals, or for a stronger support on big kites, 1/4 of the width of the horizontal in from each end.

2) Cut 2 lengths of line, each 3 times the height of the kite. Attach to your kite using whatever method you choose so long as they end up being of equal length. I prefer loops on the line ends that pass through a grommet on the sail. This allows the bridle to affix directly to the stick.

3) Pull the left bridle out to the right of the kite so that the line is even with the top spreader.

4) Slide the line up so that it is about 5 degrees above the top spreader. Mark this point.

5) Transfer this mark to the same spot on the other bridle line and put both lines onto the tow ring with a larks head loop at the marked point.

This finds your reference mark. This should be very close to the actual tow point. Fine tuning is done on the field in preparation flying.

Bowing

The depth of the bowstrings on the horizontals should be 10% of the width of the horizontals on larger kites (6' tall or more) and up to 15% of the horizontals on smaller kites. The deeper bowing is needed on smaller kites because they react more quickly to gusts and eddies in the wind.

If you are flying the kite in a battle, be sure to use a bowing tie off method that will not come loose if the kite is struck. I have seen many kites become unflyable after contact with another kite simply because the bowstring has loosened, making the kite uncontrollable due to loss of stability.

Flight Adjustments

Kite won't rise - Move the tow point toward the top of the kite in small increments until the kite wants to fly.

Kite is unstable (fishtail) - Move the tow point toward the bottom of the kite in small increments until the kite is stable. If necessary, increase the depth of the bow.

Battle Adjustments

In order to battle these kites, it is necessary to remove some of their inherent stability. Practice is required to learn how Rokkakus react to different winds and contact with other kites. Simply put, to make a rokkaku more maneuverable;

1) Lessen the depth of the bottom bow, and

2) Move the tow point toward the top of the kite to allow the kite to fishtail very slightly.

You want the kite to become a little less stable. Not so much that the kite is uncontrollable, just enough so that it responds quickly to your line handling. By using these methods combined with the pulling in and letting out of line, you will be able to guide your kite across the sky.

Versions of this article were originally available at the 1991 AKA Convention in Jacksonville, Florida and the 1992 Maryland Kite Society Retreat.
Pierre Marzin’s innovative performances are stunning crowds across Europe. The French flier launches a quadrile Revolution equipped with paint brushes on each tip. He dips the brushes in bowls of paint, and uses them to color a plain white tyvek Rokkaku. He even rinses the brushes before changing colors! At the end of the performance, the Rokkaku is launched into the air.

A sample of Pierre’s work has been donated to the AKA auction in Seaside.

How small is small?? Mini-Kite master Charlie Sotich sometimes uses mylar 60 millionths of an inch thick. That’s 10 times thinner than Saran Wrap. For spars, he finds 9 thousandths of an inch thick boron. The result is a kite weighing 3/10 thousandths of an ounce. “I’m nearsighted,” says Charlie. “That helps.”

About 25 members of the San Diego Kite Club nearly went to jail recently. Seems that the group was out flying a set of Rokkakus featuring the Armani logo when they were confronted by two of San Diego’s finest and an official of the Parks and Recreation Department. The charge? Advertising in a city park without a license...

Like all kitefliers, our California friends understood that it pays to be polite and follow the rules. Eventually, the group relocated to a nearby rooftop, relaunched the kites (legally, this time), and probably put them right back into the same airspace.

Cody Box Kites seem to be really growing in popularity. The Cody Kite Society, an AKA chapter affiliate, has even published rules for counting the number of war kites at any one event. The current record is held by Paint the Sky’s Samuel Franklin Cody Birthday Fly, which this year recorded seventy models in the air at one time. Sizes ranged from one inch tall to over fourteen feet wide.

The Fort Worden Kite-makers Retreat has an interesting way of raising funds.

Paper bags are placed in front of all donated items and raffle tickets are sold, four for a dollar. To bid on an item, you simply drop a ticket in the bag. The more tickets you drop in, the better your chances are. And of course, you can buy more tickets all weekend long.

Over 100 items were donated this year, ranging from antique postcards to a three-tiered Cody War Kite. By the end of the conference, over $2,100 was raised. That’s about 8,400 raffle tickets!

This year was the conference’s 10th anniversary. Keynote presenters were Randy Tom and Martin Lester.

The Southeast Stunt Kite Championships in Miami Beach are a welcome winter escape from the rain and snow further north. But a weekend of flying contests in the sun can present some unexpected challenges.

The event is held in the Art Deco district which is famed for its scenery and numerous modeling agencies. Many of the models spend their free afternoons on the “European style” beaches, sunning their torsos. The result was that, on more than one occasion, judges took a particularly long time calculating scores on the sidelines.

Thirteen year old Dustin Tackett of Portland, Oregon, is one happy dude.

The names of winners from each contest category at the North Coast Challenge are placed in a hat and one is drawn for the grand prize. Courtesy of KYTE radio, Dustin picked up an all expense paid trip from the west coast, to the Smithsonian Kite Festival. If you were in Washington D.C. this March, you may have noticed a curly, blonde-haired kid and a very big smile on his face.
Festivals & Competition Committee Report

By Al Hargus, III
Festivals & Competition Committee chair

Please see the AKA Conference Update for current standings and news found in the center of the newsletter.

Kite Conferences and ranking system. This idea has been several years in committee and the concept is finally becoming a reality.

As with any new idea, the Conferences and ranking system is not perfect and will need much fine-tuning and additions before it becomes an efficient system. The main thing to remember is that any system or idea has to be put into practice and actually used in order for it to be improved upon. Actual use is necessary.

There are three conferences in this system. There will be a Conference Commissioner in charge of each of these Conferences. I will be in charge of the AKA Central Sport Kite Conference and will oversee the entire system. Genny Forsberg will be the Western Commissioner and Steve Cseplo will be Eastern Commissioner.

We would like to encourage any and all AKA Members to comment on what we are doing. If you have any questions about the point system, ranking events, or anything else, please do not hesitate to call or write any one of us. We would encourage writing with suggestions to improve the system, so we may share them with the rest of the committees. Conference Commissioner's addresses and phone numbers are listed below.

We would also like to hear from the Single line Kitemaking competitors in the AKA. This ranking and conference idea could be applied to virtually any of the competitions that are held throughout the U.S.A.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER
Al Hargus
3296 Thornway Drive
Columbus, OH 43231
(614) 475-8468

WESTERN CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER
Genny Forsberg
30201 NW Strohmayer Road
Forest Grove, OR 97116
(503) 357-7557

EASTERN CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER
Steve Cseplo
821 Ashley Lane
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
(404) 469-1643

Mobile Kite Collage Wins Prize In Parade

by Christy Henningfeld

A stunning Mobile Kite Collage greeted parade viewers in San Ramon, California with an immense display of bright kites assembled by the Northern California Kite Club. The judges of the annual holiday parade, held December 5, 1992 honored the Northern California Kite Club with a First Place Trophy in a special category.

Truly difficult to categorize, the artful display was fashioned by covering almost every inch of a motor home with kites of many dimensions. Handcrafted assortments of Revolutions and Deltas. Many Dragon kites, boasting vibrant tails and Hyperkites with colorful streamers were nestled on the float. The striking arrangement climbed high into the air with the placement of large cellular kites on the roof of the vehicle. Even the hubcaps sported kites.

The adorned vehicle was driven by NCKC club President Crazy Rodriguez. The kites placed atop the vehicle proved to be taller than the electric street lights. Onlookers stared in amazement at the dense, beautiful configuration of kites of many types, sizes, and colors. Holiday music from the float filled the air. The attention of the judges and those watching the parade were drawn to the 'ambassadors of kiting' who paraded in front of the spectacular float.

The American flag led the entourage, carried by Gordon Osterlund. Alongside Gordon, was J.R. Tolman carrying his personal holiday creation. It was a large green and red Delta which served as a canopy. Under the Delta hung three full-size Pinatas shaped as Santa and snowmen. He was flanked by Bob Anderson, organizer of the club's effort, who carried the AKA banner. NCKC banners were carried by Christopher Henningfeld and Brad Graber. Two additional club banners (all designed by Ron Gibian) rose above the float. An entourage of club members of all ages followed behind the vehicle. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote the fascination and enthusiasm found in kiting.
Planning for the AKA's 16th annual national convention to be held at Seaside, Oregon, is in full swing. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 13 through Sunday, October 17. Two very important policy changes voted on by your Board of Directors will be implemented for the first time at this year's convention.

First, this will be the AKA's first "do-it-yourself" convention put on without a local host club. All activities will be planned at the national AKA level through the AKA standing committee structure. Naturally, it still takes many on-site volunteers to make a convention happen and we expect the wonderful folks at AOK will pitch in along with others volunteering from the general membership at large. This policy was implemented by the board to allow the AKA the freedom to choose future convention sites anywhere in the country not tied to local club centers.

Second, in response to repeated comments from the membership, competition, especially dual-line competition, will receive a high profile, but in a limited time period. [See related article below by Sport Kite Committee Chair Corky Chewing] In addition to the competition, the emphasis will be on flying fun events, games, and demonstrations, and a plethora of wonderful and varied workshops and seminars organized by Education Committee Chairman Kay Buesing and Workshop Coordinator Don McCasland.

Once again, the Shilo Inn at Seaside will be our headquarters hotel, with the Ocean View Resort as our secondary hotel. You can reach the Shilo at 1-800-222-2224 or the Ocean View at 1-800-234-8439. Be sure to mention you are with the AKA to receive special convention rates. The Seaside Chamber of Commerce can give you a listing of other accommodations: 1-800-444-6740.

The 1993 Convention is gearing up to be the best ever. Your sport kite committee has been very busy since last October. Our initial focus involved working closely with the Festivals & Competition Committee to come up with the Conference Ranking System (see March Kiting, Vol. 15, No. 2). Almost simultaneously, we began to work to revise the International Sport Kite Competition Rules book, scheduled for release this spring. This revision includes almost twice the amount of information provided in the 1992 book, clarifies and fine-tunes a number of issues, includes significant rule changes and provides lots of ideas designed to encourage and support continued innovation in our sport. Be sure to get your copy as soon as it's available. (Some of the changes will be phased in over time so as not to disadvantage competitors.)

Finally, we are about to focus the majority of our energy on this year's convention. We have scheduled 15 sport kite competition events: Novice & Intermediate Individual Ballet, Experienced Individual Precision, Experienced Individual Ballet, Masters Individual Precision, Masters Individual Ballet, Open Individual Quad-line Ballet, Open Individual Innovative/Freestyle (see new rule book), Pairs Ballet, Masters Team Precision, Masters Team Ballet, Masters Pairs Ballet.

I know many of you are concerned about the board's decision to limit the number of competitors at the convention. However, the conference system will insure the Grand National Competition is among the "best of the best," and will allow all of us more time to enjoy other aspects of the convention. We will have lots of sport kite games, and the workshop and seminar schedule has been significantly expanded and includes a number of special seminars for sport kite enthusiasts.
Jessica’s earliest experience with kiting was at the age of seven or so, when she and her father, joined by a few friends, had a barbecue in the backyard and decided to try out the kite she’d received as an Easter gift. The flight went well until the wind died and as the kite slowly sailed down in the distance, the huge spool of line (which had of course, been run all the way out) draped itself across the neighborhood. The partygoers took off cross country following the giant spider web through trees and across fences to track down the kite.

It took more than a few years for Jessica to recover from this traumatic kiting experience. It wasn’t until we were married that she got into kiting again. When she did, she plunged in headfirst! Not long after we got addicted, we opened a kite shop in Tacoma, Washington. A few months later Jessica got involved with the fledging kite club, the Pierce County Kitefliers Association. With help from its founder, Chuck Anderson, the club grew from under ten people to over a hundred in a very short time. Chuck stepped down and Jessica took over 90% of the workload. She calls herself the Newsletter Editor, and has recently added “in charge of Member Services” to her title, but she actually does a little bit of everything. Under her care, the club has grown to over 500 members.

Jessica goes to a lot of local kite flys, but she doesn’t do much flying. Instead, you’ll most often see her talking, answering questions, tuning someone else’s kite for them, or showing them how to fly. When she does take time out for her own kites Jessica enjoys flying a double stack of custom made Spin Off stunt kites, and her big pink and black Waldof Superstar. She likes to sew, but makes more banners than kites since she never seems to find the time to finish more ambitious projects.

She has organized many events for her local club, including a couple summer fun flys at the local ski resort giving people a chance to ride the ski lift to the top of the mountain and fly their kites off the summit. She’s put together auctions and fund raisers, lectures and workshops, always trying to find new activities to keep the club meetings different and exciting. At our latest meeting she hid prize tags in Oreo cookies and invited everyone to simultaneously “twist and open” to see what they’d won. Now that’s definitely different!

Jessica’s latest project is the Western Washington Fair. She started a petition last year to open a hand-crafted kite class and succeeded in putting together a new category, complete with fair-sponsored ribbons and cash prizes. She is working on promoting this year’s competition to make it bigger and better.

I looked for a picture of Jessica flying kites, but as I paged through our albums I realized that almost every photograph was taken by Jessica of other people having fun. As usual, she was behind the scenes making sure everything had run smoothly.
May 1993

1 Beach Fest '93
   Great Salt Lake Beach State Park, UT.
   C: Mike Greenholz (801) 561-4618

1 *Field of Dreams Sport Kite Competitions
   Lansing, MI. CANCELLED
   C: WindZinger Kite Sales (517) 323-1666

1- 6th Annual Four Winds Kite Festival
   2 Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
   Kortright Centre for Conservation
   C: Colleen Dupuis (416) 832-2289; FAX: 832-8238

1 City of Fairfield Fun Fly
   Fairfield, CA. Laurel Creek Park
   C: Tawny Kanae (707) 427-0307

1- *2nd Prairie Winds Kite Festival
   2 Kansas City, KS.
   C: Carolyn Moore (913) 894-5483

1 Spring Kite Festival
   2 Lincoln City, OR. D River Wayside
   C: Visitor & Conv. Bureau (800) 452-2151

1- *Redwood Coast Regional Kite Competition
   2 Eureka, CA.
   C: Radio KINS/KEKA (707) 442-5744

2 Windy Hill Fly
   Menlo Park, CA.
   C: Peninsula Open Space Trust (415) 854-7696

8 Kite Festival Mission Hill
   Boston, MA.
   C: Don McCasland (617) 742-1455

8- *High Plains Kite Festival
   9 Amarillo, TX. Southwest Park
   C: Mike Elliston (806) 335-1456

8- *Mid Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships
   9 Ocean City, MD
   C: Sky Festival (215) 736-3715

8 Chicagoland Skyliners Club Fly
   Schaumburg, IL. Ned Brown Woods
   C: Mitch Rosset (708) 827-0763

8 CEFC Sport Kite Competition Workshop
   Columbus, OH. School for the Deaf
   C: Captain Eddie's Flying Circus (614) 475-8468

9 CEFC Sport Kite Competitions
   Columbus, OH. School for the Deaf
   C: Captain Eddie's Flying Circus (614) 475-8468

9 Mother's Day Fly
   Columbus, OH. School for the Deaf
   C: Captain Eddie's Flying Circus (614) 475-8468

9 OSEK Free Fly
   Cleveland, OH. Edgewater Park
   C: Connie Pederson (216) 886-6178

9 Kansas City Kite Club Mother's Day Fly
   Johnson County Community College
   C: Carolyn Moore (913) 894-5483

12 Buggy & Traction Kiting Demo
   Hull, MA. Nantasket Beach
   C: Don McCasland (617) 742-1455

14 Kitemaking at Mission Hill
   Boston, MA. New England Baptist Hospital
   C: Jan Sullivan (617) 738-5800 x. 5400

15 Columbus Kite Festival
   Columbus, OH. Whetstone Park
   C: Al Hargus (614) 475-8468

15 25th Annual Boston Kite Festival
   Boston, MA. Franklin Park
   C: Don McCasland (617) 742-1455

15- San Ramon Street Faire & Wind Festival
   16 San Ramon, CA. San Ramon Central Park
   C: Kim Giuliano (510) 275-2300

15- ROCKAWAY Fun Fly & Pro Fly
   16 Rockaway Beach, OR.
   C: Chamber of Commerce (800) 331-5928

15- 8th Annual Int'l. Kite Festival
   16 Oostduinkerke, Belgium
   C: Nest Lernout (32) 03-449-12-21

15- *Ninth Annual Kitefest
   16 Kalamazoo, MI. River Oaks Park
   C: John Cosby (616) 383-8778

15- *2nd Ann. Daytona Beach Int'l. Kite Festival
   16 Daytona Beach, FL. Boardwalk at Marriott
   C: Terry Yuncker (719) 269-3268

16 *Kite Kaper of Northwood University
   Midland, MI. Northwestern University
   C: Joe Lughermo (517) 834-4377

16 The Ansel Toney Memorial Kite Fly
   Parker City, IN. Monroe Central School
   C: Mike Bragg (317) 453-2977

May events continued on next page.
May (continued)

21 - Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships
23 Grand Haven, MI.
C: Bob Strub or Jeff (616) 846-7501

22 Spring Kite Festival
Rockford, IL. Rock Valley College
C: JoAnn Johnson (815) 965-4454

22 Kitemaking & Flying Demonstration
Boston, MA. Boston Museum Garage Roof
C: Don McCasland (617) 742-1455

22 - *Windsong '93
23 Ardmore, OK. Ardmore Regional Park
C: Janene Evard (405) 227-7626

22 *Rockaway Stunt Kite Championships
23 Rockaway, OR
C: Genny Forsberg (503) 357-7557

23 Northern California Kite Club Fly
Palo Alto, CA.
C: Lesley & John Lippold (415) 967-1346

23 Sky Liners Fly & Sky Circus Tune-up
Schaumburg, IL. Ned Brown Woods
C: Mitch Rosset (708) 827-0763

26 Buggy & Traction Kiting Demo
Hull, MA. Nantasket Beach
C: Don McCasland (617) 742-1455

28- 5th Junction Int'l Kite Retreat
31 Junction, TX. Texas Tech University
C: Betty Street (806) 742-3027

28- *East Coast Stunt Kite Championships
31 Wildwood, NJ.
C: Roger Chewning (215) 736-3715

29 - Memorial Weekend Kite Fly
31 Long Beach, WA. Bolstad Street Access
C: Long Beach Kites (206) 642-2202

29 Skydance Sakakawea
Garrison, ND
C: Deb Lenzen (701) 463-2661

30 1st Annual Kite Festival
Garrison, ND
C: Deb Lenzen (701) 463-2661

30 Normandy Farms Campgrds Kite Fly
Foxborough, MA. West Street
C: Don McCasland (617) 742-1455

June

1 Deadline for Kiting Newsletter

3- Worldwide Kite Rendez-vous
6 Verdun, Canada. St-Lawrence Waterfront
C: Lyne Champagne (514) 765-7213

5 Kite Building Workshop
Fairfield, CA. Solano Mall
C: Tawnie Kannahe (707) 427-0307

5 Bainbridge Island Kite Fly
Bainbridge Island, WA. Battle Point Park
C: Darryl Stephenson (206) 432-1931

5- 11th Annual Rogallo Kite Festival
6 Nags Head, NC. Jockey's Ridge State Park
C: Kitty Hawk Kites (919) 441-4124

5- Farthest North Kite Festival
6 Anchorage, AK
C: Hans Jensen (907) 688-3932

5- Yakima Valley Kite Festival
6 Union Gap, WA. Fullbright Park
C: Cliff Bond (509) 670-6248

6 The Great Piccolo Spoleto Kite Festival
Charleston, SC. Brittlebank Park
C: Sonja McFarland (803) 577-3529

6 Capital City Kitefest
Lansing, MI.
C: WindZinger Kite Sales (517) 323-1666

6 SCI-FI Fun Fly & Potluck
Everett, WA. Marine Park & Boat Launch
C: Robin Haas (206) 670-3963

12 Chicagoland Sky Liners Sky Circus
Chicago, IL. Grant Park
C: Sky Lines (708) 393-3892

12 Spring Fun Fly
Spokane, WA. Franklin Park
C: Colors On The Wind (509) 325-KITE

12 Peninsula Fliers Fun Fly
Long Beach, WA. Bostad Street Access
C: Long Beach Kites (206) 642-2202

12- *Newport Kite Championships
13 Newport, OR. Shiloh & Nie Beach
C: Wayne Glenn (503) 265-2004

13 Ben Franklin Kite Society Fun Fly
Richland, WA. Columbia Point Marina Park
C: Greg Greger (509) 943-3951

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Drive ends September 15, 1993

PRIZES
10 new members - Limited Edition AKA Pin
15 new members - 1 Year Membership Renewal
25 new members - Grand Championship - Free Convention Registration

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June • Kitevents

20- **Seattle Kite Karnival**
21- Seattle, WA. Magnuson Park
C: Goodwinds Kites (206) 633-4780

23- Wil-Bear's Festival of Fun
Nags Head, NC. Kitty Hawk Kites
C: Kitty Hawk Kites (919) 441-4124

24- 8th Annual Westport Kite Festival
27- Westport, WA. Twin Harbors State Park
C: Pic-A-Patch Kites (206) 268-0877

26- *Edmond Libertyfest Kite Festival
Edmond, OK. Edmond North Mid-High School
C: Jon Wagner (405) 341-3676

26- *Northwest Regional Stunt Kite Champ.
27- Long Beach, WA. On the beach
C: Genny Forsberg (503) 357-7557

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* AKA Sanctioned Event
Region 2
New York State

Suzanne Edison, Regional Director

Hello Region 2. Spring is upon us. May 22 is the date for the 2nd Annual Sullivan County Kite Festival held at Sullivan County Community College in the town of Fallsburg. This event has a wonderful field and many people who are starved for kiting. For more info, call (914)794-3000 ext. 5010. Also keep early June open for the Windham Kite Festival, call (203) 531-1084 for more info as it becomes available. The 1994 convention should be held in the Northeast – anyone who has information on a good location, please call me at (203) 531-1084 or Convention Manager Jim Miller at (312) 642-8692.

A kite festival was held at Pratt Institute of Art the weekend of April 3 & 4. Greenwich, CT had an annual kite festival at Greenwich Point the same weekend.

April 3 & 4 was the date for the Old Dominion Stunt Kite Championship held in Herndon, VA. The event gave me the opportunity to judge a novice competition and get my spirit renewed all over again. Just when I get a little stale, something reminds me to forget all my cares and feel like a kid and have fun and help others get into a great hobby. Most of the winter has been just too nasty to fly, but a couple of weekends ago, the sun came out and the weather was warm. I took a few kites out to our home field and just as I set up a man came over and told me how much he had always wanted to try this kite thing. Well, I gave him a quick lesson and in two minutes he was flying like a pro. Four hours later he told me it was the most fun he’d had in years and thanked me. I shared the field with him but he shared his experience with me, and it just felt good. You can’t keep it if you don’t give it away. Paint the sky!

Region 3
Penn-Jersey

Kevin Shannon, Regional Director

Hello to all you Region 3 people. The festival season has just been kicked off by the Smithsonian Kite Festival. Held on the 27th of March, it was well attended by fliers from our region. I was a very soggy flight judge while my wife, Cinda, judged craftsmanship. We can tell you that the level of competition was very high. Unfortunately, the rainy weather kept the spectators away.

Region 3 winners include Ed Shenk in the dual-line category with his beautiful Double Prism big wing ultralight. Larry Gleckner had a great looking octagonal flat kite with a dragon appliquéd that took the Oriental category. Jim Reiser had a large multilayer that impressed the judges with its high angle of flight and stability, allowing him to cop the Single Surface trophy. Glen Haynes flew a Rokkaku decorated with the graphic of a wrist watch to an impressive first win. The numbers on the watch could even be changed to reflect the current time!

The Masters Class was also well represented. Scott B. Spencer flew a Peter Lynn box to high honors in the Winged Box category. Howard Lamhut’s geometric pattern Rokkaku edged out several other spectacular roks for the category. Another rokkaku, this one by Pete Rondeau, sporting an intricate star quilt pattern, was good enough to take a special award for aerodynamics. Yours truly broke tradition by making a parafoil with a Chinese Swallow Kite design appliquéd on it to win the Parafoil/Sof division. Cheryl Gieckner charmed the judges with a Flowform kite made to look like a giant frog. This novel kite was good enough to win her the Figure/Novelty class AND a special award for the Funniest Kite. The Dallmer family was able to take home the Family Award. Steve Ferrel of The Kite Studio didn’t enter this year, but he made a spectacular Rokkaku with the Smithsonian logo on it to use in the battle. Unfortunately, the weather cancelled the event, but we’re looking forward to seeing it next year. My congratulations to all of you for representing our region so well!

The East Coast Stunt Kite Championships (ECSKC) has more activities planned than I even dreamed of when I wrote about it last issue. The Annual Judges Seminar, run by Mike Carroll, starts on Friday morning. This is a comprehensive look at sport kite judging. It will conclude in the afternoon with an AKA Rules Book review. The new rules book will be discussed by David Comberg, Corky Chewning, Robbi Sugarman, and Viv Walters. New this year, a special Judges Symposium, open to everyone, will present the world’s best judges discussing current judging practices and procedures, areas of difficulty, and future direction. Also, an Innovative Workshop with Masters Lee Sedgwick, Joe "Photo" Perron and John MacLauchlan will start on Friday and be repeated on Saturday and Sunday. Topics include multiple kite flying, dogstake techniques, and 3-D flying. Also, a night fly contest is held on the beach Saturday night.

As I mentioned last time, ECSKC has expanded into the single-line arena with separate fields available just for those folks. The Lehigh Valley Kite Club are the official coordinators for the event this year. Be sure to check out the schedule when you arrive, as I’m sure there will be lots of fun things planned.

Another event that promises to be worth going to this year is the Cape May Kite Festival in Cape May, NJ on June 12 & 13. The City of Cape May, the Chamber of Commerce, and The Great Atlantic Kite Company have planned kite building workshops, demos, fighter kiteflying, stunt kite demos, and novice kite building competitions, each day from 10 am on. As good as all of this sounds, the clincher will be the special guests of the festival this year – the Thai Heritage Group, who are visiting the U.S. for the month of June will attend and promote traditional Thai kiteflying and making! For more info, call Mike or Lisa Bernstein at (609) 884-3444. My thanks to Roger Chewning for passing on this information.

Regional Reports

continued on next page.
For this regional report, I thought we would do things a little different, covering items in reverse chronological order. A regional Eastern League sport kite event was held in Charlotte on March 28, but since this is being written in advance, I can't say what went on. Sober Fest at Kings Bay, Georgia, also falls into this same category. The inaugural regional Eastern League event was held February 28 in Charleston, SC, and by the reports received, it was a successful, albeit small, event. The whole concept for this new series of events is the brain child of Tom Mason and is intended to introduce fliers to competition in a less stressful venue. Only Novice and Intermediate classes are contested at these regional competitions and the emphasis is on learning about competitions and gaining some experience. Another event is currently planned, bringing the total so far to three, and he hopes to have a 10 event series organized by the end of the year. For further information, call Tom at (912) 352-3142.

Atlanta is on Tom's "hit list" to host an event, but given the response to the Leland Toy Fly, it might be a while. Ever wonder what would happen if you have a fly and nobody came? Well, you get the idea. The concept was to announce a fly at a central location on the same day as the Berkeley fly and discuss formation of a kite club. Outside of the Mid Town Maniacs, yours truly included, only one person showed up (later in the afternoon) from the notification postcards sent out to the local AKA membership two weeks in advance. Turn out was undoubtedly affected by the weather; overcast and minimal winds, but one would have thought there would be enough response to form a club. Well, we're all members of the Bald Mountain Kite Club anyway (pretty much) so maybe we don't need an Atlanta club. Makes one wonder about turn out for an Atlanta competition. I'm pretty sure that we'll find out about that later.

Backing up one week, Florida was active with the Orlando Museum of Art Kite Festival. I've always heard good things about it and more recently have gotten many comments about the calendar rating it received. It probably got short-changed as far as the rating went so look for an improvement next year. If multiple people feel that way, who am I to argue.

KAOS's Kitefest (fourth edition) occurred on March 6 & 7 at Tybee Island, Georgia, and it was a resounding success. Fliers from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and points further enjoyed clear skies, warm temperatures and good breezes all weekend long. Everywhere you looked, up and down the beach, kites filled the air. Hats off to Dale Anderson who disqualified himself from Sunday's single-line competitions so that a child could win a ribbon!

February brought the Southeast Sport Kite Championships in Miami. According to reports, the weather was nice, winds good and turn out of spectators and flyers excellent. Single-line folks got in on the act, being led by Stretch Tucker, and colored the sky with their creations. Power kiting made its presence known with a demonstration of kite water skiing and they say it is awesome! I'll leave a more complete report on the competition to the various kite magazines.

Well, that about wraps up the activities in the south for this issue. Completed surveys from the mailing to the southern membership keep on arriving. Generally, we are a fairly content bunch who like all types of kites and believe AKA membership is a good value. Experience ranges anywhere from one year up to 30 years plus and most members possess 50 or so kites. There is a strong sport kite contingent (about 25%) in the region which isn't that surprising and was expected. Support for a regional convention is good with favorable responses in the 90% range. A central location seems preferable with the main emphasis on workshops and fun activities, although competitions are favorably received as long as they do not dominate the event. It looks like we're going to hold a regional gathering and a couple of letters have already arrived espousing the virtues of possible locations. If you have a proposal to make, let me hear from you.

As for myself, my agenda for May and June contains May Fly, Daytona (by hook or by crook this year! (I hope?), Piccolo Spoleto, and generally hanging at Myrtle Beach for a weekend or two in that time frame. Look for me if you make it to one of these events. I always prefer meeting people face-to-face. Gentle breezes!
Region 8
Mountain

Scott Skinner, Regional Director

From Bluster, the nearly quarterly newsletter of Phi Delta Phi, Kelly Morrison got my attention with the following story. I share it with you all in its entirety [printed with permission]

STUNT KITER SUED FOR HITTING BYSTANDER*

There was wind and there were kite fliers...too many, too close to each other. I know that we've always been a tight group, but please don't set up your stunter right next to another flyer unless you're planning to fly team with that person (traditionally, the other member of a team knows that you want to fly team in advance).

Someone did get hit by a stunt kite and there were several near misses (or for George Peters only, near hits). That type of flying will very quickly bring an end to the clubbing welcome at any park in the area. The joy of having fast, powerful kites fades quickly when you don't have any place nice to fly them - ask a Californian if you need corroboration.

The familiar response to warnings is, "I'm skilled enough to fly perilously close to people, despite the obvious danger." Our response is, "No, you're not and besides, you may inspire someone else to be really stupid, too."

If members insist on endangering others, we'll cancel their membership, tear up their parking passes, take back their secret decoder rings, refund the balance of their dues, and not let them play any reindeer games. So there.

*No one got sued; I just wanted you to read my annual harp about safety.

I thank Kelly for his innovative and humorous look at a problem we all need to be aware of.

Isn't it amazing the people we meet through kiting? About a year ago, a man in his late 70's walked into my office and talked kites! The man, Joe Worrell, worked for a company in Minneapolis called RAPINWAX. Rapinwax became a huge company in the 40's, when the government mandated that all bread products had to be wrapped for sale. Rapinwax made wax paper (the breadwrapper of the 50's and early 60's) it was, in fact, a paper and plastic laminate. In the early 60's (Mr. Worrell referred to them as 'Sputnik days') it was very simple diamond kites with wood and string frame. The innovative aspect of the kite was that the paper skin was heat sealed over the outer string, so you didn't need to glue anything. Joe thought that the company had made about two and a half million. Typical of the throw-away items that kites were at the time, it would be unlikely that any of us will stumble upon one today.

Joe Worrell also brought a sales model of the X-I Rocket Kite, a molded plastic kite also produced by Rapinwax. This one looked like it was a real dog as a kite, but again, rather innovative in design. The advertising for the X-I boasted, "Strong, durable, oriented polystyrene rigid plastic, will outlast several 'stick' kites". It also was "ready to fly - simply attach kite string and tail..." My thanks to Joe for sharing a bit of his and kiting's past.

Region 9
Southwest

Richard Dermer, Regional Director

The spring season started off great! Austin, Texas 65th Annual Zilker Park Kite Contest again filled the park with thousands of people and filled the skies with hundreds of spectacular kites. Although no official competition was held for sport kites, members of the Houston Skyriders, TAKO, and other clubs thrilled the spectators with a series of individual ballet exhibitions, culminating in a 10 person mega-dancing by Abel Ortega. The biggest crowd pleaser, though, was Jim Stipe's 3000 sq. ft. Delta. This enormous black plastic creation measures 100 ft. across the base of the triangle, has a 60-ft. spine, and features a pre-curved spooler bar on the front of the kite. It made several successful flights throughout the day, easily winning peoples' choice before breaking a wing spar. A world-record Delta claim has been submitted.

Waco, Texas' sixth annual Wind Fest had good wind, but cold, overcast conditions, a muddy flying field, and complete unavailability of motel rooms kept attendance disappointingly low. 18 fliers competed in Intermediate and Experienced sport kite competition. Single-line winners included Paul Smith, Richard Robertson, Frank Kenisky, and Austria's Richard Neumayer, a Houston transplant who picked up three first places with a variety of beautiful kites.

Eureka Springs, Arkansas, had glorious weather and the largest crowds yet for the third Kaleidokites Kite Festival. (Smithsonian attendees the same weekend take note.) Despite being basically a fun fly with no competition, the event drew fliers from Kansas City, Wichita, St. Louis, Memphis, Tulsa, and Texas!

Coming events include the Emporia, Kansas Kitefest and Edmond, Oklahoma Libertyfest in June, both sanctioned competitions, and the second annual SAKE mystery ballet in Springfield, Missouri in July. This event gives competitors exactly one hour before performing to whatever musical selection they draw from a grab-bag of widely different tapes.

Congratulations to our newest affiliated club in the region: the Prairie Winds Kite Club in McPherson, Kansas.

Regional Reports continued on next page.
Region 11
Northern California

Tom McAlister, Regional Director

Beautiful skies, gentle winds, and kitefliers met at San Francisco's Marina Green on Sunday, March 21 in honor of the late Leland Toy. Family and friends came from all over the region to honor Lee by flying his creations, which ranged from his beautiful fighters to a giant wine bottle windsock. Lee was commissioned to sew the windsock by Michael & Cherie McFadden for the 1988 Father's Day Monterey Vineyard Kite Fest in San Francisco. As it turns out, the wine bottle windsock was listed in the 1990 Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest wine bottle windsock.

The relaxed, no-schedule event left plenty of time to visit and was a fitting tribute to Lee, who represented the best side of kiting – the fun side. Best wishes to Lee's family, and special thanks to George & Marion Ham who hosted the memorial.

Our region has an exciting year ahead of it. There are more events planned than ever before. Here's a list so you can plan your weekends:

- May 1-2, Redwood Coast Kite Festival in Eureka; May 15-16 San Ramon Wind Fest; June 20, AKA Summer Fun Fly in Berkeley;
- July 3-4, Freedom of the Press Kite Festival in Monterey; July 10-11, Fairfield Kite Festival; July 24-25, Berkeley Kite Festival; Aug. 28-29, Golden Gate Challenge in San Francisco; Sep. 2-5 World Cup in Berkeley; Oct. 23-24 Hair of the Dog Fun Fly in Monterey. See the calendar for more information.

Region 12
Southern California

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

First some bad news. The High Desert Kite Club has officially dissolved. Declining membership, participation of only a few dedicated members performing all the tasks were the reasons. Volunteer organizations are susceptible to this happening no matter where they are.

Some of the flyers from the High Desert have joined the San Diego Kite Club (SDKC). The SDKC has members in every county of SoCal, Western Arizona, Nevada, and even Hawaii. Other states are represented by individuals who come to San Diego for business and/or pleasure. The farthest member lives in South Africa, commutes to the UK via San Diego. Is the SDKC becoming the Southern California Kite Club?

By providing an infrastructure, a newsletter and local event participation, the SDKC could form districts such as the Riverside County and Orange County contingents. If you are interested in more information contact the SDKC hotline (619) 222-9300 for recorded information of regional events.

Hawaii is heating up in more ways than just the weather. Many activities are fighting for time and attention. Philip Lauer of the Hawaii Kitefliers Association (HKA) indicated the three days he worked on Alan Nagao's Paradise Cup were some of the most enjoyable and fun days in quite a while.

Robert Loera has so much going that only a few items can be mentioned now but more later. Robert, a co-founder of the HKA has started the Hawaii SportKite Association (HSKA) to establish new flying sites, education of physically-challenged fliers, demonstrations and workshops.

Robert and friends set a record for Puffer Stuffing (a 3000 cubic foot blowfish) with 312 children from the Kapalama Elementary School on March 29. The Mayor of Honolulu declared March kite month and the Governor, John Waihee commended the (HSKA) for the Hawaii Challenge. Way to go.

Back to San Diego, the SDKC Hawaii Kite Fly and Luau will be held on June 5 at Mission Bay Park. Reservations for the feast will be necessary, contact Diana Martin, 1343 Morning View Dr. #315, Escondido, CA 92026. Besides stuffing bellies with exotic foods "something really special" is planned. Fun will start at 11 am and food will be served at 2 pm.

The mayor of San Diego and the City Manager have asked that a major kiting event be held in San Diego. I'd hoped to have a package together this year, but there has not been enough time to put it together by mid-May.

Such an event, celebrating use of San Diego's Mission Bay Aquatic Park by promoting sail boat races, wind surf contests, yachts events and may other activities along with a major kiting event, would occur during May. If this comes together it would be an ANNUAL event.

The City would be the co-sponsor along with sponsors. A public relations firm is being hired to put everything together for the media. The kiting event would have a radio station on site during the entire time.

Another firm called Destination San Diego has put in a bid to promote this event. This can be a regional, national or international event depending on what we as kitefliers want to do.

All of this has grown rapidly in complexity and involvement that it may be beyond what a region can handle. Kite manufactures, retailers and kiters would be asked to participate. The Park & Rec Department would like to plan for 100,000 to 200,000 visitors.

Fornow, I'm Chairman for the kiting activities. This would have to change to a group effort. Again, if this comes off, we would have one hell of a regional event. More information to come, but if you can't wait, contact me.

The Berkeley Video is Here!!!

Putting the edge of the envelope, the 1992 Berkeley Kite Festival and WCKC Video is here! Ninety minutes of non-stop kite action at its best, including everything from the incredible five-story high 'Bobby Sock' to 12 winning performances by some of the best competitors in the world.

1991 Video....$25.00 1992 Video.....$30.00

Send your check plus $5.00 for shipping and handling payable to Highline Kites at 5901 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804 or call (510) 525-2755 (CA residents add 8.25% tax)
Join Hands — Salute Lee Toy and a Cure For AIDS

Project One
Hands Across The Sky To Fight AIDS

When we learned of Lee's passing, I felt a need to do something special in his memory so I designed and made a 13 ft. Delta kite with Lee's likeness dedicated on March 7, 1993.

To Participate
The kite is designed so its tail pieces are made of 8 1/2" x 11" fabric squares with individual's hand prints and signatures on them. The hand prints can be drawn, sewn, or made however a person wishes. As each square is sent in, it will be attached and the patchwork tail of hands will continue to grow.

Schedule
The kite itself is now available to whoever would like to request it for their kite event. My hope and Mike's is that the kite will continue to travel worldwide, and at each event more squares will be added.

We hope to see your hands in the sky and help to make people aware of the AIDS crisis. Send your hand(s) to:

Diana & Mike Aurigemma
Highflying Banners
114 Alaskan Way South
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 625-9079

Project Two
National AIDS "Names" Quilt Exhibition

To create a quilt in the name and memory of Leland Toy for the National AIDS "Names" Quilt Exhibition. This exhibition travels all over the world to help bring to everyone's attention the growing impact of AIDS. Lee's quilt will travel with the exhibition.

The Quilt Design
The final size of this design will be 6 ft x 3 ft. Leland's "Healing Kite of Hands" theme will be the design. We are asking you to trace out the shape of your right hand onto ripstop material, sign the thumb, and mail it to us with $1.00 (to cover cost of production and registration fees with the AIDS Exhibition).

Production
Stan Swanson, Condor Kites, has graciously volunteered his time and staff to sew the hands on to the 6 ft x 3 ft quilt. We are expecting many hands, so a layering method of layout will be done to accommodate all the participants into the 3 x 6 ft. space. It will be a lovely and dramatic design.

Submissions are due by November 1, 1993. For your participation packet, send $1 to:

Leland Toy Quilt Project
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The Northern California Kite Club (NCKC) was founded by Crazy Rodriguez in 1990 at the annual One Sky One World fly. After the OSOW fly, he called a meeting at his home. The group who showed up formed the nucleus of what is now a club of over 300 members. That original group included: Nanette & Kelly Smith, Khris & Al Pari, Edward Rodriguez, Sally & Ron Barron, Sue & Marcelo de Vera, Robin & Chuck Abney, Pat & Lou Lewandowski, Crazy & Bunz Rodriguez, and Hubba, the dog!

The initial mission of the club was to “get together to be together,” doing something we all loved - kitesflying. This is still true today but we have discovered many other joys that come with the love of kiting. Nothing is neater than to assemble on a field or beach with no one around for miles and hoist our stuff. Before you know it, people have swooped in from seemingly out of nowhere and they all have these huge round eyes and gaping mouths. Then the questions begin. For many of our members, this is one of the greatest satisfactions of the sport.

We meet for a monthly fly with the exception of November, January and February. NCKC members have coordinated many, many kite building workshops, especially for children, schools and the handicapped. We coordinate kite-flying lessons for beginners at several of the annual kite events and festivals in the region. In December 1992, we entered the annual San Ramon Christmas Parade with our own rendition of a kite float. First kite float most of us had ever seen. The club walked away with a special trophy. [See page 10 for more details.]

We have flown in some very unlikely spots - San Quentin, where we flew for the inmates and trustees as part of a prison crafts display; Angel Island Jubilee where we had to be ferried to the island and hike the hills for the perfect spot to fly over-looking San Francisco’s Bay; Palo Alto’s Shoreline Amphitheater 4th of July, where we tried to fly inside the amphitheater in the spectator area [what a task]. Aside from these unlikely spots, we are blessed in California with some pretty terrific locations for kitesflying: North Waterfront Park at Berkeley Marina; Ocean Beach and Marina green in San Francisco; Rocklin field in Rocklin; Solano College in Fairfield; anywhere along the Pacific Coast, especially in Bodega Bay; and a very special place called ‘Top of the World’ just outside the town of Bodega Bay.

More and more, NCKC has become involved in a volunteer capacity with Berkeley’s West Coast Kite Championship, Eureka’s Redwood Coast Regional Championship, Fairfield’s Annual Kite Festival, Visalia’s Annual Kite Festival and Candy & Kites ‘Freedom of the Press’ fly in Bodega Bay. These events, along with our own, make up 20-25 gatherings a year. There’s definitely something for everyone.

In September of 1992, the NCKC put on their own first-time event, the Golden Gate Challenge in San Francisco. Due to the success of this event, we are doing it again in 1993, back-to-back with the World Cup. Our emphasis with this event is to encourage and challenge the beginning and intermediate sport kite fliers, while we decorate the sky with fantastic single-line kites. We plan to continue with this theme. This 1993 event will be the last weekend of August and will be AKA sanctioned.

NCKC boasts some of the most talented and prominent kite-world figures as its members. We also have a tremendous following of dedicated, lesser-known members who are there each month to fun fly, volunteer, exchange ideas and secrets, pitch-in, donate and enjoy whatever comes up. Thanks to the Kite God for all these folks.

NCKC holds a special weekend camp-out each year in October. At this gathering, we give back to the members with a barbeque dinner and an awards night just to say ‘thanks’. In December, we have our annual pizza/raffle party. All the pizza members can eat and paid for by NCKC. And there are always great raffle prizes.

NCKC is AKA chapter affiliated, and we hope to enjoy and contribute to the sport of kitesflying for many years to come.
REAPPORTIONMENT FINALLY HAPPENS

Redrawing of AKA's domestic regions was the main action taken by the AKA Board at their April meeting. While the bylaws call for such action every three years, this is only the second time since the bylaws were drawn in 1978 that any changes have actually taken place, and the first that significantly alters the composition of the regions.

Before reapportionment, the regions had populations ranging from under 200 (New York) to nearly 700 members (Pacific Northwest).

Confusing bylaw language which had deterred the Board in past years was corrected at last year's annual meeting, clearing the way for the April action. The new regional boundaries will become effective this fall.

Committee members Steve Rubin and Richard Dermer developed a proposal based on nearly equal regional populations, and two options which kept areas of like interest together despite minor population imbalance. The Board approved the package including both options, and added a third modification keeping New Jersey with Pennsylvania and splitting New York along upstate/downstate lines between the New England and Penn-Jersey regions. The specifics of the New York state split are to be determined by the committee. The regions with greatest change are, coincidentally, the regions in which director's terms expire this year, so the upset to the board - and the fall ballot - is minimal.

In other matters, the board took the following actions:

- established August 1 as the effective date for use of the upcoming edition of the International Sport Kite Rules, and decided to call the rulebook by edition number instead of year of publication. (The upcoming revision will be the third edition.)
- named an informal committee (Burkhardt, Maurer, Skinner) to develop policy for the naming of AKA awards.
- named another ad hoc committee (Maurer, Burkhardt) to develop a publication policy and review process.
- established a policy of providing one year’s free membership or renewal including surface mail (or equivalent value with air mail renewals) for each convention attendee from outside North America.
- agreed to collaborate with the Kite Trade Association in staffing an information table at the Chicago Model & Hobby Show in November, assuming Regional Director Mike Steele can find an adequate army of volunteers.
- gave preliminary consideration with a negative consensus to a proposed bylaw amendment proposed by Tom Casselman and Vic Walton moving the convention from fall to mid-summer.
- granted Chapter status to Prairie Winds Kite Club, McPherson, KS; Hawaii Sport Kite Association, Honolulu; and Captain Eddie’s Flying Circus, Columbus, OH.
- sanctioned 13 events in Pennsylvania, Florida, Maryland, Oregon, New Jersey, Washington, Kansas, and British Columbia.

Recent Board Actions

by Brooks Leffler, Executive Director

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  (907) 279-4111/FAX: 279-4388

- The Pegasus Project
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  Fairbanks, AK 99710
  (907) 437-1394

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- KaleidoKites
  IC Springfield
  Eureka Springs, AR 72632
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  Lancaster, CA 93534
  (661) 922-3380
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  St. Petersburg, FL 33710
  (727) 349-7154

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  New Orleans, LA 70124
  (504) 462-5009

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  Minneapolis, MN 55448
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### Other

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  - or call or fax
  - (408) 647-8483
New news. A correction and addition. In talking about the Buggy Boogie Thang to be held next January right after the KTA Trade Show in Las Vegas, I said we would be going to El Mirage Dry Lake. Since then I have been invited to the North American Land Sailing Assoc. Regatta at Ivanpah Dry Lake during Easter week. Ivanpah Dry Lake is situated on the California / Nevada line on Interstate 15 just 40 miles outside of Vegas.

The closeness to Vegas offers an opportunity to many who will be at the KTA show but are not interested enough to travel 190 miles to El Mirage but would like to see what the excitement is all about. I expect the new site to be adequate for our needs in January and will confirm it on this visit. There are two casinos at the top of the dry lake on the state line and Whiskey Pete's took my reservation at $18/nite. I will offer a full report in the next *Kiting*.

By the way, I have been distributing a little newsletter called Buggy News to any one who asks and some who don't. Send me name and address if YOU would like to be on the list.

Steve Shapson called me recently to correct the possible mistaken idea that the quad in the photo with this column in the last two issues is from *Kite Innovations*. It is not. The photo is from AKA - Lubbock and shows Steve's KiteSail at work. Sorry about the confusion.

I have noticed how focused on the "things" we are. On the retail level, many flyers are convinced that kites fly great. Kites just fly. The skill resides with the flyer.

So kiting is like carpentry? Do you see the connection? Carpentry is not about tools, although good tools allow a wider and freer expression when used with skill and practice. But one cannot buy Bob Vila's tools and expect to host a show on cable.

Likewise, skill and knowledge do not lie nestled within the folds of fabric in our kite bags. But like any good tool, when used with imagination, something greater can be achieved.

Joe Vaughn of Grandmaster Kites recently appeared off-Broadway in a modern dance piece that combined the floor work with his kite dancing overhead. The kite work received good reviews and Joe's imagination and skill are now more recognized outside our little kite world. Way to go Joe!

The Lee Toy Memorial Kite Fly held March 21 at the Marina Green in San Francisco was very special. Not only were his mom and siblings there, and more Lee Toy kites in one place than I have ever seen before, but the group of Bay Area flyers who turned out demonstrated how important Lee was to the kite community. The field and sky were thick with kites and friendly flyers.

Through the entire day, particularly pleasing was watching how Lee's spirit and joy of kites was affecting even those who didn't know who he was.

Further comment on something from last issue... Tom Casselman has proposed an amendment to the AKA By-laws to shift the convention date to the 4th of July. I desire to provoke debate on the issue to ensure the member's feelings are heard. While I oppose this change, I also understand the great tie-in between our celebration of independence and kites in American history. Hence my abrupt suggestion of local kite festivals throughout the country as unusual or something because a number of times, shopkeepers would close up and disappear as he approached.

Lastly, a little story I heard from Richard Gareau of Spyro... about the recent trip to India undertaken by various Important Kite People. Pete Dolphin was along for the “3-Hour Tour” and as all who know him can attest, Pete presents an imposing figure being a large man with red hair & beard and blue eyes. Oh... He’s quiet too.

Anyway, Pete enjoys wandering through the bazaars and markets whenever the opportunity arises, and he did so on this trip. Perhaps large, loud, red headed and bearded men are unusual or something because a number of times, shopkeepers would close up and disappear as he approached.

It must give pause, to be treated that special. Don’t worry about it, Pete. WE love you.
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1/92

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red w/white logo $9.00

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AKA PUBLICATIONS
(Publication prices include U.S. Postage)

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<td>Club Organizer's Handbook</td>
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CONVENTION GOODIES

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<td>1992 Lubbock Visor</td>
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Shipping & Handling Charges

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<td>T-Shirts</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combinations</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Shipment</td>
<td>at cost</td>
</tr>
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</table>

☆ Sale Priced Closeout Items

THE AKA STORE
Stanton Hobby Shop, attn: Joe Stanton
4734 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630
Phone (312) 283-6446
Fax (312) 283-6842
Visa • MasterCard • American Express

AKA
American Kitefliers Association
1559 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
Address correction requested.