

AKA Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

by Brooks Leffler

The Aerial Eye—A Beginner's Guide To Kite Aerial Photography

The year of the aerial photograph is at hand: workshops in aerial photography (AP) at Junction and Long Beach; kite-borne views of the world in *Kite Lines* and *American Kite*; planning underway for a celebration twelve months hence of the centenary of the first U.S. aerophotos by Eddy and Wogom.

Now is a better time than ever to get into this branch of the hobby. Cameras are lighter and fully automated; radio-control equipment is compact, light, and flexible; all of it is widely available and relatively inexpensive. Modest-sized kites of several designs — ancient and modern — can put your camera just about anywhere you want it, and do so in a wide wind range.

AKA members at all points of the compass are trying their hand at AP; indeed, some have been practicing the craft for years. These are a few of them:

● Ex-President and AKA Archivist Bob Price has logged countless hours with a Kodak Retina dangling beneath his elegant rhomboid box kite. [See page 11.] Most of Bob's

pictures have been taken with the aid of home-built mechanical timers; only recently has he started using radio control and a point-and-shoot camera.

● Mike LeDuc of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been fascinated with aerial photography and kites since science fairs in grade school, and five years ago combined these interests with his skills as an engineer to take computer-controlled photo mosaics.

● Ten years ago, Henry Jebe of Douglas, Alaska, decided that a kite-borne camera would enable him to get better acquainted with the topography of his deer-hunting grounds; since then, he's tried aerophotos from his canoe, "...really a bit scary, a bit like juggling" he says.

● Craig Wilson of Madison, Wisconsin, has been honing his AP skills since 1986, to the point that he has sold nearly six dozen pictures for publication and earned the 1992 Prix d'Encouragement of the Kite Aerial Photography Worldwide Association (KAPWA). His aerial close-ups will be featured in full color in an upcoming issue of *Kite Lines*.

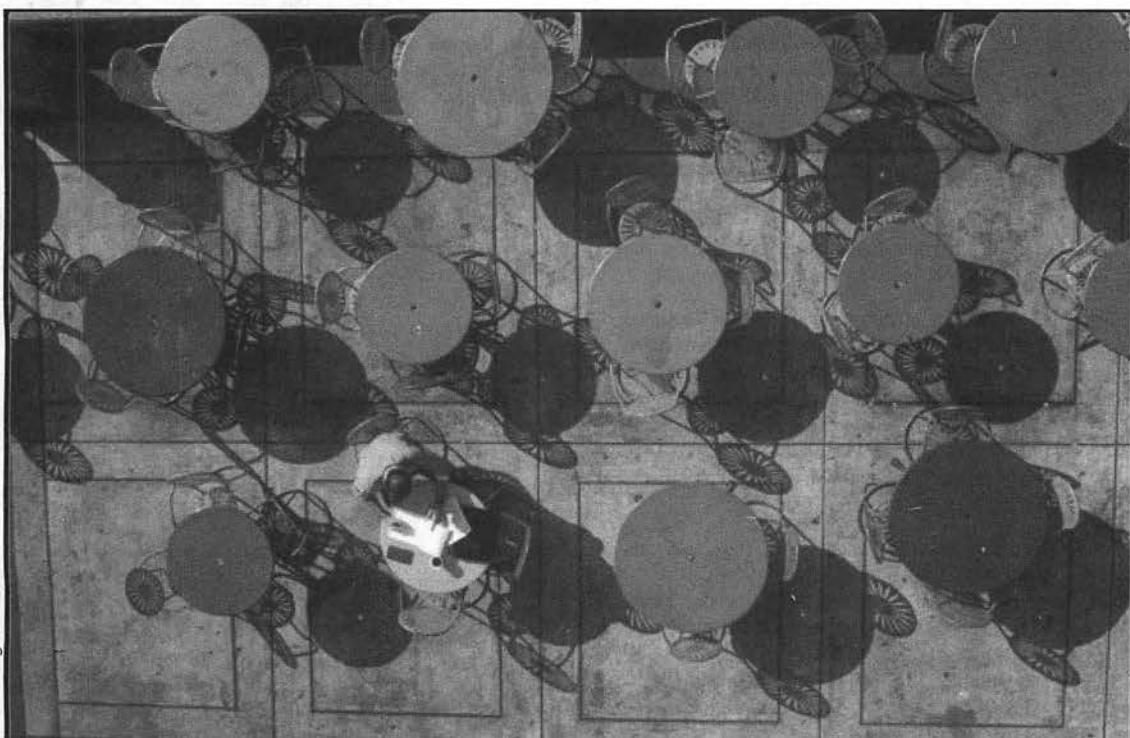
● I got into AP because I wanted a unique view of Greens' Rainbow Stratoscoop for an advertisement, and a means to record the progress of a complicated remodeling of my house.

You may have a specialized reason of your own for trying AP, or you may just agree with Anne Rock of Berkeley, California: "I like the different perspective on everyday places and objects that you get from an aerial photo...and I enjoy the challenge."

With the founding of KAPWA, communication between the far-flung enthusiasts of kite aerial photography has improved greatly through the quarterly bilingual (French/English) publication of *KAPWA News* and *Technique*.

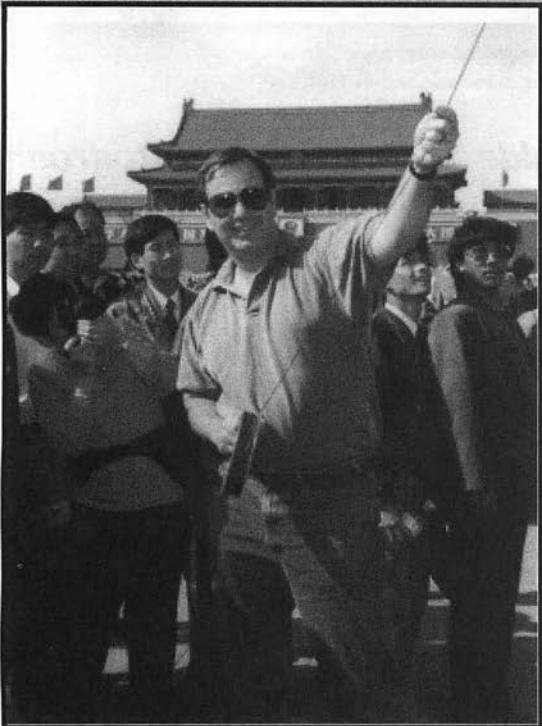
Continued on page 5.

Tables on
the Terrace
by Craig Wilson.



The President's Page

David Gomberg



D. Gomberg

The new sport kite competition rule book should be ready by the time you read this. For many of our members, and for flying friends around the world, this booklet is one of the most important resources that AKA produces.

The Sport Kite Committee has worked hard on this "Third Edition" and deserves our thanks. While the rules contain little which will affect how a contestant actually performs on the field*, the book has nearly doubled in size with the addition of improved safety guidelines, expanded penalty definitions, job descriptions, and detailed explanations of compulsory maneuvers.

One important new requirement is that event organizers must announce required maneuvers, field sizes and any rule variations at least 30 days in advance. Fliers will know what to expect

before they decide to attend an event. Organizers are also provided more flexibility in running these events — as long as they announce everything in advance.

Another expanded section involves designated point penalties for specific performance errors. This is an important improvement. For years, we have heard complaints that event judging is "uneven." One judge will subtract a full point for a wingtip drag, another only half a point. With the listing of particular penalties in the book, judging will become more consistent, something everybody wants.

The next task of the Sport Kite Committee is to produce a summary card of penalties that officials can carry onto the field.

The Board has designated August 1, (end of the AKA Competition Conferences scoring season), as the implementation date for the new book. This means that the Grand National Competitions will use the updated guidelines and penalties.* Other events are free to use the improved safety guidelines immediately, but can continue any of the "older" rules through the rest of the year by simply announcing their decision in advance.

With the completion of the expanded rules book, and the formation of the AKA Conferences, Committee Chair Corky Chewning has asked to be relieved so he can focus on his new job responsibilities and become reacquainted with his family. Corky has done a great job in one of AKA's most challenging positions. All of us appreciate his efforts.

* The only new rule which will affect a flier's on-field performance are changes in the maximum time limits for some free-style events.

Rather than require contestants to develop new, shorter routines for the convention, AKA will use the "old" time limits for the Grand Nationals.

Late season events are encouraged to use the same exception.

In the meanwhile, I'm pleased to announce that Vern Balodis of Columbus, Ohio, has agreed to lead the committee and join the Board for the remainder of Corky's term.

Conference Notes: While we're on the subject of competitions and rules, I've received several questions about the redrawing of AKA Regions and how this will affect conference boundaries next year.

The simple answer is that the assignment of AKA Regions to specific competition Conferences will be adjusted after August 1, so that conference boundaries will remain much as they presently are. The Conference Commissioners are also considering changing from the present three conferences to six smaller ones in order to further reduce distance for competitors. If you have opinions, call Al Hargus, Steve Cseplo, or Genny Forsberg.

Overseas Travel: Following a recent *Kiting* article on the experiences of an American delegation in India, I received a letter from a member asking why AKA had not recommended any women for the trip. The answer is that we did.

The official invitation from the India Tourism Department contained five names — two of which were women. Both decided not to participate because of other commitments and the short lead time. Their positions were filled from an official list of alternates that India provided. After calling those fliers, AKA was left with one truly discretionary slot. I decided that a fair and impartial way to allocate it was to offer the trip to the winner of the Grand Prize or People's Choice at last year's convention.

I'm often asked how someone gets invited to international festivals. Why not do a lottery so everyone has a fair chance? After all, who wouldn't like a free trip overseas? Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

Most festivals tend to treat sponsored guests as an investment in the success of their event. They are quite literally hiring talent, and are somewhat conservative in spending what amounts to several thousand dollars a guest. I wish that AKA was regularly asked for recommendations, but we are not.

My experience is that most organizers select fliers they know, that they have read about, or who have distinguished themselves with a winning track record at other events. When Susie and I first started traveling, we decided to spend the money to go overseas, participate as much as we could, and meet those organizers. Now that we know them, we occasionally get invited back. But knowing what I know today, if I were first starting out, I would put together a printed portfolio or resume of my accomplishments. Pick the events you are most interested in and write to them. Addresses are usually printed in international magazines like *Kite Lines* or *Drachen*.

Sending a portfolio or attending events will, of course, not guarantee future invitations, but it will increase your international profile. The AKA International Committee may have other suggestions. Try them. And don't be surprised if one day your phone rings — very early in the morning.

Good winds,

CONVENTION OR BUST

Every year for a few now, Richard & Marti Dermer have been putting on an informal kite fly in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I've always had a major conflict with getting to Stillwater for these flys, until now. On April 17th, my family and I managed to get to Stillwater, which started with almost no wind at all and lots of rain. As the day progressed, the rain stopped and the winds did finally begin blowing about 45 minutes before we left for a major pizza feed at the Dermer's.

I was impressed not only with fun that was generated (even without the wind) and the non-kiting spectators that just migrated, as if by magic, toward the field. I saw a guy (Steve Rogers) who was tooling around in a little four-wheeled vehicle pulled by a kite! I met an exceptional flyer by the name of Troy Gunn, who was very impressive. Shucks, I even saw Richard Dermer flying for the first time (I mean, I know he could and does fly, but normally I see him in an administrative role where he didn't have time to fly). I'd like the world to know that the Dermers can sure put on a party.

I've made up my mind, that by hook or by crook, I will attend the next Convention that is close to central U.S. Watching the tapes of Seaside and other Conventions and competitions, I was wowed with the idea of seeing these things in person.

*Jon Wagner
Edmond, OK*

WE WANT OUR FULL SEASON

Last fall, Dave Gomberg suggested that *American Kite Magazine* (AKM) consider a "full season" qualifying process for American World Cup Teams. AKM responded that a longer season would result in many teams changing members, that there had not been an "outcry" for change, and that most teams favored a shorter process.

In response, we wrote to AKM, but they have chosen not to publish our letter. We hope that *Kiting* will help us explain that we do support a change and why.

The present, short qualifying season concentrates travel expenses and vacation time into just a few months. Participation is therefore more costly and difficult for many fliers. Early season qualifying also leaves out most of the larger West Coast contests. Western teams have been forced to travel further to compete in the spring and have done well in spite of the process. A longer season would not increase costs since AKM limits points earned to our five best performances.

An article in AKM's on the 1992 Cup noted that many U.S. and international teams continue to change members during and after qualifying. A shorter qualifying season has not affected these changes and is not a valid reason to dismiss the full season alternative.

*Pacific Flyers - OR
Air Art - CA
Bay Area Sundowners - CA
Team Ramjet - OR,*

ON THE FRINGE

I am a power kiting junkie and a proud member of the zany fringe element. After reading Anthony Crisafulli's letter in the last issue of *Kiting*, I had to comment. I agree with the AKA Task Force that man-lifting is the most dangerous type of powerflying. Man-lifting could easily kill the pilot, but acceptance of risk is the prerogative of the flyer. I rarely take that risk anymore. Most likely no spectators would be injured in a man-lifting accident. The flying area would be cleared of spectators.

Traction kiting (buggies, blades, boats, and skis) is less dangerous to the pilot, probably more fun (more like playing or racing than flirting with disaster) although maybe less exhilarating adrenaline-wise. I agree with Anthony that traction kiting can cause more danger to spectators or passers-by but the safety of others rests with the pilot's ability to make safe, intelligent decisions as to when and where to fly.

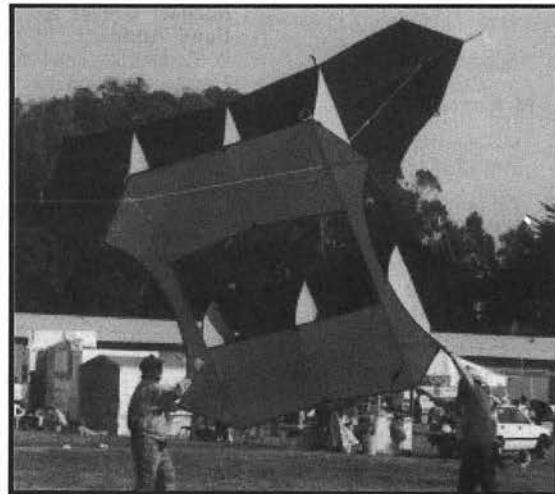
Wind, weather and population dictate to me whether I go to a parking lot, beach, frozen lake or mountain top. I love all the traction kiting toys. My next major project is skiing the snow fields on top of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire. That should take care of the adrenaline.

*George Baskette
Westerly, RI*

THE CODY AT THE MUSEUM

Just received my issue of *Kiting* Vol. 15, No. 3, and as always it's great. For your information, on page 5, the Cody kite was made by me in 1977, and I donated it to the Long Beach Museum last year. Unfortunately, it was assembled very loose as shown in the photo, but it does fit together much tighter. Enclosed is a photo of my new 20-ft. Cody. (See below)

*Dale Vanderhoof
Weed, CA*



D. Vanderhoof

Variable Winds Aloft

Letters to the AKA

*We look forward to your comments and letters to the AKA and *Kiting*. You should assume that correspondence will be published, unless noted otherwise by you.*

*Send to *Kiting*,
P.O. Box 250657
San Francisco,
California 94125-0657
FAX: (415) 586-5181*

[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 covered by the AKA insurance program.]

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Kite Aerial (*continued from page 1*)

But there's still a lot of reinventing of the wheel going on, especially with newcomers to the craft. By reviewing the practices of AKA's more experienced AP hands, we hope to save you some of the wheel-spinning.

First, it should be noted that kite aerial photography, as we will discuss it here, is really photography from the kite line, with the kite 50 to 500 feet above the camera. That way the kite can achieve stable flight before you even attach the camera.

It's also important to understand that successful AP depends on an integrated system of kite, kiteflying ability, camera, camera mount, and controls. Each is important and all components are interrelated.

And almost nothing is available ready-to-use, so you'll have to do some creative handiwork in putting your package together.

THE RIGHT KITE

There isn't just one, of course. Deltas are good for lighter air, but have the bad habit of overflying you when the wind dies, whereupon the camera drops like a rock.

In winds less than 18 mph, Craig Wilson uses a homemade 18' delta with a 6" x 100' tube tail to correct the overflying problem. "It's easy to launch and recover, and it'll follow me around," says Craig. "And it looks pretty, too — that's still important to me."

Henry Jebe in Alaska is currently using a 14' homemade genki or a Flo-Form 16 with good results. Anne Rock and Rodney Thomsen of Eureka, California, like many European aerialists, prefer 6' - 8' rokkakus; I've had good luck with 8' - 11' delta-Conynes in light-to-moderate winds and 6' Codys in strong stuff.

Mike LeDuc uses a Flo-Form or a stack of 7.5' delta-Conynes in train. Trains have the advantage of flexibility: sometimes it's easier to carry and launch a string of small kites than a large one, and the length of the train can vary with the wind. Mike likes the safety feature: one kite acts as a chute if another heads in.

It is easy to loft a very light rig, such as the one described on page 8, with just one medium-sized delta, a 4' winged box, or a small Cody.

CAMERAS

Use the lightest, sharpest camera you can afford consistent with your expected means of presentation; i.e., 3 x 5 snapshots require less optical quality than transparencies for commercial publication. While a single-lens reflex still has the edge in optics, there are many point-and-shoot cameras — usually much lighter — which will give acceptable results. The very lightest cameras are the cardboard throwaways, but they need steady winds and a lot of light, and may not have enough optical quality for your needs. Only you can decide how much money you want to send up the line.

If you're going to use radio control, automatic film advance is desirable, although autofocus may not be. Lock your



Mike LeDuc

focus on infinity if you have that option, so objects such as the kite line don't throw your focus off. Also, Anne Rock suggests putting tape over the eyepiece on an SLR so the sun won't distort your exposure.

For very lightweight applications, use of a simple non-automatic camera with an external timer (and bringing the camera down after each shot) may be the best way to go.

The Ricoh Shotmaster AF (or FF-7 or FF-9) is the choice of Mike LeDuc and many others, mostly because it has an electric shutter, which can save weight and complexity with an R/C rig. Anne Rock's 'extreme heavy' rig uses a Canon EOS 630 SLR; for a lightweight rig she has just bought a 7 oz. Rollei Prego AF, similar to the Samsung Slim but with better optics.

I use a Nikon One-Touch f.2.8, and have just bought a 6 oz. Minolta Freedom Vista, with 24mm panorama format lens. Rodney Thomsen has an Ansco f4.5 point-and-shoot and an f2.8 Yashica. Craig Wilson gets his beautiful pictures with a Minolta KR-10M SLR with either a 28mm Tamron or 50mm Pentax lens, both manually set.

Craig thinks 1/400 sec. is a minimum shutter speed for success, and shoots at 1/1000 whenever possible. Point-and-shoot cameras aren't capable of such speeds, most of them maxing out at 1/250 to 1/500. Use faster film.

Regarding cost, lots of cameras are available for less than \$150, some for much less. I bought my Nikon One-Touch used for \$60.00. Henry Jebe suggests that very good buys on suitable cameras can be made at garage sales: he got a Ricoh AF-5 for \$5.00, which takes excellent pictures.

WANTED

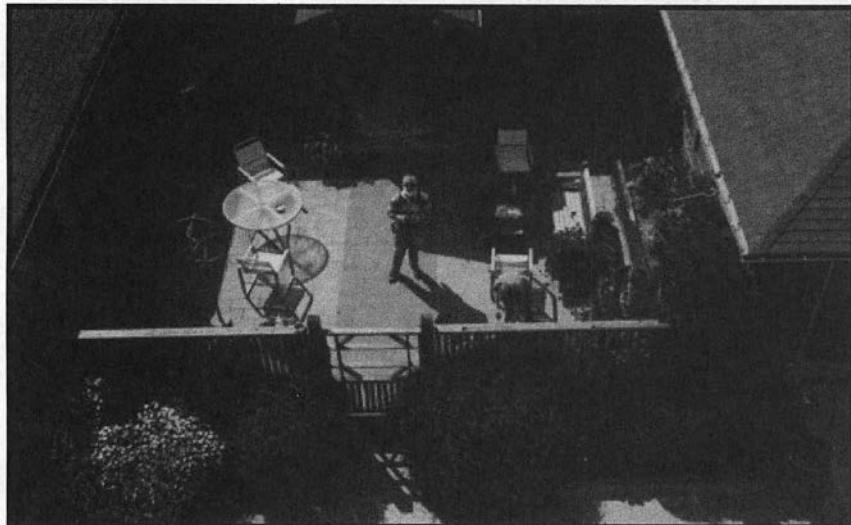
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Mike LeDuc's hometown;
Minot, North Dakota.

Continued on page 6.

Kite Aerial (*continued from page 5*)



B. Leffler

*At home with
the author.*

If you want to spend the money for a new camera and protect yourself while learning, the Ritz Camera chain offers an inexpensive damage insurance policy on cameras they sell, which includes coverage for accidental abuse (such as dropping from a kite into Monterey Bay — I know!).

FILM

Fuji seems to have found favor with nearly everybody. Craig uses Fujichrome (slide) 100, because he sells his work and uses a camera that can accommodate 1/1000 at f5.6. Mike likes Fujicolor (print) 200 as the best compromise of speed, color saturation, and flexibility. Anne uses Fujicolor or Kodak 100 to 400 depending on the day. I like Fujicolor 400 or Kodak Ektar 1000, because my cameras won't do high shutter speeds.

RESOURCES

Timers & Radio Control Equipment

Stanton Hobby Shop
4734 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630
phone (312) 283-6446
fax (312) 283-6842

Bob's R/C Supply
Black Hawk Village
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
phone (319) 277-0211

Both are AKA Member Merchants
and will take phone/mail orders.

Gears, Timing Belts, Chains, Pulleys, Bearings, etc.

Small Parts, Inc. (catalog)
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Miami Lakes, FL 33014-0650
phone (305) 557-8222
fax (800) 423-9009

Stock Drive Products (catalog)
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Quarterly newsletter and technical journal. U.S. subscription (airmail),
1000 Belgian francs (about \$30.) Use MC/Visa for fastest service.

CAMERA MOUNT AND CONTROLS

Here's the place for individual ingenuity — no two rigs are alike. Rodney Thomsen's R/C rig is made of wood because he's most comfortable working in that medium. Most mounts, though, seem to be made of aluminum strap, bent into U shapes and fitted with the necessary panning, tilting, and shutter control gear. This can be as simple as bolts and wing nuts and rubber bands, or more complex with bearings, belts, gears, and servos.

Rigs which are controlled by clockwork timers are the simplest and lightest. But for each shot, pan and tilt must be estimated and locked before launch, and the timer set. Henry Jebe uses the camera's self-timer in conjunction with an external timer, which eliminates any excess jiggle from the movement of the external device while extending the delay time to allow for more altitude.

Many of the radio-controlled rigs use only two channels, one for the shutter and one for either pan (horizontal rotation) or tilt (vertical). With a three-channel rig, of course, you can control everything. Radio outfits cost from \$50.00 to \$150.00. Your needs and bank account will dictate what you do.

Suspension of the mount from the kite line has taken various forms as well. Most fliers today use some form of pendulum, a single rod of wood, epoxy, aluminum, or carbon fibre connected to a bar of similar material which is attached parallel to the flying line.

A suspension system used by many was devised by Pierre Picavet in 1912. A variation is shown in the article on page 8. The main advantage is that most radical movement of the camera is damped; the main disadvantage is that the many lines are as hard to keep in order as the bridles of a parafoil or kaku-dako.

SKILL & SAFETY

All of the aerial photographers interviewed for this article mentioned safety, and indeed, when you're lofting a 2-lb weight over people's heads, that's a main concern. The cost of lost or damaged equipment is small compared to the potential damage done to a human target. Mike advises using safety wire anywhere there's the chance of material failure. Use stronger line than you would usually use with the kite. Give yourself plenty of landing room.

Likewise, says Craig Wilson, don't underestimate the need to fly kites well. "Putting a load on a kite is like adding a sidecar to a motorcycle," he says. "Everything changes." Craig advises never attaching yourself to the kite line; in fact, he never tethers the kite to anything except when he's attaching the camera to the line.

"You've got to start at the bottom of this hobby," Craig says. "There are lots of elements — it's not as easy as it looks. Don't try to go too fast. Take notes so that when you see your results you can learn from them. Make refinements one at a time."

Anne Rock states it succinctly. "Most important," she says, "is how to fly a kite. If you don't know how to control your kite under all sorts of conditions — you gotta fly, you gotta fly lots of places."

Steve Edeiken was amongst the best loved, most respected, and most active members of the American Kitefliers Association. He was killed in a tragic kiting accident on September 24, 1983. The association established The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award in his honor, by resolution on October 4, 1984. The award is presented at the AKA Annual Convention, to the person selected and announced as "The Kiteflier of the Year". The recipient of the award will be presented a "travelling" trophy, to be in his, or her, possession until the trophy is returned to the AKA, in time for the next presentation. The recipient will also receive a plaque for his or her permanent possession.

Criteria

The Kiteflier of the Year will be a person who will have shown friendly, loving, fair, even-handed concern for:

- A. People in general, but kitefliers in particular.
- B. Kiteflying in general, but for craftsmanship and technical developments in particular.
- C. Communication in general, but for leading and participating in kite events in particular.

It is the opinion of the American Kitefliers Association that these criteria best exemplify the character of Steve Edeiken.

Nomination

All nominations for the Steve Edeiken Memorial Award must be in writing. Any member of AKA may nominate a person for the award, but the nomination must be seconded and signed by at least two other AKA members. Only one nomination will be accepted from any one AKA member.

AKA regional directors, and presidents of official AKA affiliate clubs, are asked to consider people who might be candidates for this award, and to process nominations for candidates with the best qualifications.

Candidates should be informed that they are being nominated and may be asked to help assemble the information to be submitted, and to verify the accuracy of the material collected. Please limit the biographical information for each nominee to no more than three 8-1/2" x 11" pages, with no more than one additional page of photos and/or bibliography of media coverage or articles written by or about the candidate.

The following information should accompany each nomination:

- **Personal data** - candidate's name, address, telephone number, a recent photograph suitable for media use.
- **Leadership examples** - include position(s) held in AKA, position(s) held in other kite organizations, participation in activities related to kiting.
- **Interpersonal qualities** - candidate should be helpful, considerate, known and liked in the AKA kiting world.
- **Communications** - articles and kite plans contributed to AKA News/Kiting, other publications, and other media.

• **Educational activities** - participation in providing, organizing, or consulting in kite workshops, lectures, exhibits, demonstrations, or classes.

• **Craftsmanship** - list outstanding kites/kite equipment the candidate has made or invented in the past 12 months and his or her lifetime; also list aeronautical, quality, and safety features and innovations introduced by the candidate.

Selection

The seven members of the Selection Committee are Cindy Edeiken, the current president and two most recent past presidents of both the AKA and The Kite Trade Association. Provision for replacement of missing members is made in the resolution which established the Steve Edeiken Award. The immediate past president of AKA, Jim Miller, is the convener/chairman of the 1993 Selection Committee. By unanimous vote of the Selection Committee, the selection criteria were modified in 1991 to the following: "The committee will weigh their choice in this manner: 25% to nominee's activities during the last 12 months, and 75% to past activities." This change reflects the reality of more heavily considering nominees' entire kiting career rather than accomplishments of the past year.

Submission

All nominations must be received by the Chairman of the Selection Committee by August 25, 1993. As soon as possible thereafter, copies of each nomination will be mailed to committee members for their rating in accordance with the establishing resolution.

Comments

It is understood that it is not necessary to present this award each year if the selection committee feels there is no qualified candidate. There is no prohibition on resubmission of a candidate from a previous year. It is requested that each member of the committee promptly notify the convener of his current address and availability to serve.

The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award

The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award is presented every year at the AKA Annual Convention.

The 1992 co-winners were Betty Street and Bill Lockhart.



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Kitemaking

The Art and the Science

brooxes basic brownie box

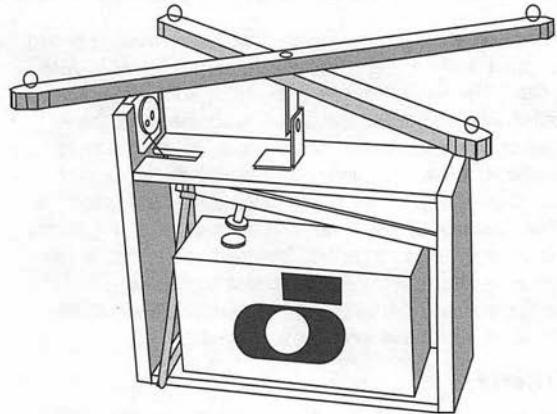
by Brooks Leffler

This aerial camera mount is designed to use a cardboard throwaway camera, triggering it with a model airplane de-thermal timer. Other timers could be adapted. The rig is quite light — about 12 ounces ready to go — so it can be lofted in marginal conditions where a larger, fancier rig could not.

INGREDIENTS

Figure 1 is to scale, more or less, so I won't waste space telling you how to cut the pieces. Sides B & C are 1/2" plywood; top A, bottom D, and spacer E are 1/4" plywood. Shutter arm G is made of 1/4" x 3/8" rectangular plastic tubing available from a hobby or crafts shop.

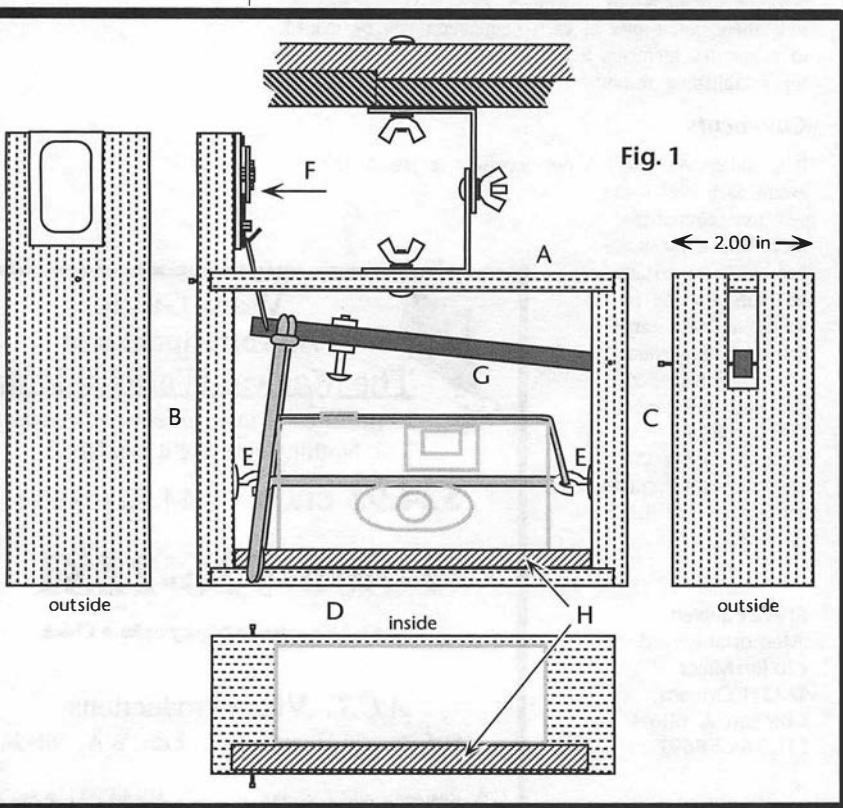
In addition to the plywood pieces, you'll need 2 small brass cuphooks, 2 post office size rubber bands, a paper clip, four 4d finishing nails, two 1-1/2" L-brackets, two 3/4" machine screws, two 1-1/4" machine screws, 2 nuts to match, 3 lock washers, 3 wing nuts, 2 pieces of 1/2" x 3/4" wood 12 - 18" long, 4 small screw-eyes, 2 snap swivels, and 36 - 40 feet of light dacron line. And a timer and camera, of course.



ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Drill holes for all nails, including those projecting in Figure 1. Screw a cuphook E inside each side about an inch up from the bottom. Glue & nail top A, bottom D, and sides B and C together as shown.
2. Attach Timer F in the large notch at the top of side B. Be sure the timer wheel is towards the top and facing in, with switch at bottom.
3. Using a 3/4" machine screw, lock washer, and wing nut, attach one of the L-brackets as shown to Top A.
4. Drill a 3/16" hole through the narrow side 1-3/8" from one end of plastic Shutter arm G; drill 1/16" holes through the wide side 1/4" from each end.
5. Twist a nut about half way onto a 1-1/4" machine screw, and insert screw into the larger hole in shutter arm G. Twist another nut onto screw and tighten finger tight.
6. Unbend the large end of a paper clip into a right angle and insert this end through the hole in the end of the shutter arm closest to the screw just installed. Bend the wire up to secure it and snip off excess.
7. Insert opposite end of shutter arm G into the notch on Side C; insert a 4d nail through the hole in edge of Side C to provide a pivot for shutter arm. Tap nail into place enough to hold, but not so far that you can't pull it out with pliers.
8. Attach a rubber band to the paper clip end of the shutter arm with a lark's head knot.
9. Insert the free end of the paper clip through the notch in Top A and over the timer's trigger hook. Cock the timer and turn switch off. The shutter arm should now be held up by the timer's trigger.
10. Insert a 4d nail through the center hole below timer on Side B, through the loop of the paper clip, and into the wood of the top. Tap into place enough to hold, but not so far that you can't pull it out with pliers.
11. Drive a nail in the hole at left front edge of Bottom D, and in corresponding hole on right rear edge. Leave 1/4" of each nail sticking out.

Continued on next page.



Kitemaking (continued from page 8)

12. Slide camera into place between cuphooks E-E. You may have to lift shutter arm slightly to clear camera. Align camera so screw head on shutter arm will contact shutter button and place Spacer H flush with front of camera. Mark it, remove camera and nail spacer in place.

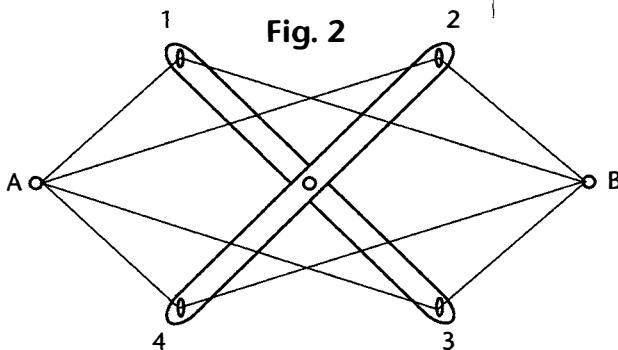
13. Hook a rubber band between cuphooks E-E. Slide camera into place from the front, and seat it against Spacer H and between cuphooks. Slip the front leg of the rubber band over the top of the camera, clearing shutter and frame counter. Back leg of rubber band goes across the back of camera. Check to be sure that camera is seated securely.

14. Hook loose end of the shutter bar's rubber band to front nail installed in step 11, and across to back nail, so that the rubber band describes a triangle from front edge nail to shutter bar to back edge nail. By evening the tensions of the legs of the rubber band, a small amount of adjustment may be had regarding alignment of shutter bar.

15. Waste a picture and test the timer and shutter release. The rubber band tension should be enough to trip the shutter, but not so snappy that it jars the camera. Then lift shutter arm. If you can advance the film, it worked.

16. Refer to Figure 2. Find centers of two wood strips and drill hole big enough for machine screw. Notch one of the strips so they will fit snugly and firmly together in an X. Screw a screw-eye into the top of each end of the X. Fasten the X to the camera box with the other L-bracket as shown, screw-eyes up.

17. Attach a snap swivel to one end of the dacron line; this is point A in Figure 2. Put the other swivel at B. Lace the line through the screw-eyes and snap swivels as follows: A, 1, B, 4, A, 2, B, 3, A. Secure the loose end to swivel A. Even out the lines and be certain that there are no snags and tangles so the line runs freely.



You're ready to take aerial pictures!

With lark's head knots, attach two small rings 3 feet apart on your flying line at least 100 feet below a steady-flying kite. To attach camera rig, simply attach swivel A to the lower ring and swivel B to the upper. Set the X-member level, adjust your camera angle and secure all wing nuts, be sure the film is advanced, set the timer, and let 'er go!

A de-thermal timer will run for six minutes, but I've found that 1-1/2 to 2 minutes is plenty to achieve moderate altitude. Check your watch when you start the timer so you know about when the shutter will snap. With low to moderate altitude, you may be able to hear it go, or feel it in the line. When it does, walk the camera down if there's room. Reset the shutter arm and timer, THEN advance the film, start timer, and relaunch.

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Bits of String Too Short To Save

St. Louis has a richer kite heritage than you might imagine. During the 1903 World's Fair, Samuel Cody, William Eddy, and Alexander Graham Bell joined a flying demonstration in Forest Park. Ninety-three years later, the Great Lt. Louis Kite Festival was an equal success.

Over 10,000 free kites were distributed in the first three hours and a reported \$200,000 was raised for worthy local causes. Congratulations to the Gateway Club, to Coca-Cola USA who served as the main sponsor, and to everyone involved. But please, let's not wait another century for the next big St. Louis festival.

If you have news, notes, or photos for Bits, please send to AKA Bits, Box 113, Neotsu, OR 97364

Standardizing Sport Kite Judging

By Robbi Sugarman
and
Viv Walters

Robbi and Viv are well known competition judges and members of the AKA Sport Kite Committee.

For as many years as there has been a sport kite rules book, there has never been a standard reference point established for minimum requirements for a competition performance.

Through the guidance of Viv Walters, STACK Head Judge, European competitions have standardized their rules over the last two years. The U.S. had not addressed this issue until this year at the 1993 East Coast Sport Kite Championships. It was decided by the ECSKC management team that a reference standard be implemented to further develop the standardization of scoring and procedures for sport kite competition.

This decision was met with some confusion, but overall widely accepted. Since ECSKC, this procedure was implemented at the Chicago Sport Kite Championships where it was widely accepted.

Standardized Reference Point (SRP)

The SRP is the number assigned to an acceptable level of performance based on the International Rules Book Scoring Criteria for all Freestyle and Ballet performances. This new standard is 5.0.

A Freestyle or Ballet performance with a limited variety of simple maneuvers, elements and transitions, without any degree of difficulty and without flaws fulfills the minimum performance requirements for an SRP score of 5.0.

Setting 5.0 as the SRP allows equal distance on either side for more effective scoring and allows a better understanding of the full scoring range from 0-10.

Over the 8-plus years of competition, the SRP established has arbitrarily ranged between 5.0 and 7.5. Shifting that number to 5.0 broadens the scoring areas for above average performances and equals out the areas defined as the minimum requirements for an acceptable level of performance.

Most Common Problem for Existing Judges

When transferring from an old SRP to the 5.0 SRP, watch that the same value — the number that differentiates the levels of performance in your mind — is re-adjusted to reflect the wider range of scoring now established.

Example

If your SRP was 7.5 and you scored a performance that was, in your mind, 1 point higher than your minimum requirements, your final score would be 8.5. Within the SRP of 5.0 your 1 point differential would be doubled and your final score would be 7.0.

This maintains the scoring differentials from your old SRP to your new SRP.

Results

Ultimately, using an SRP of 5.0 will have no effect on the final ranking position of a competitor. It will, however, present a much wider range of scores between acceptable and exceptional performance levels.

During the transition to this new approach, competitive fliers may not fully appreciate the final numbers assigned to their performance, but in time they will come to understand, accept and appreciate the new system.

The implementation of the new SRP can only benefit the global competitive flying community.

AKA Response

The AKA Sport Kite Committee has reviewed the "SRP" proposal and suggests that this new procedure be embraced at sanctioned competitions with the beginning of the new AKA Competition season.

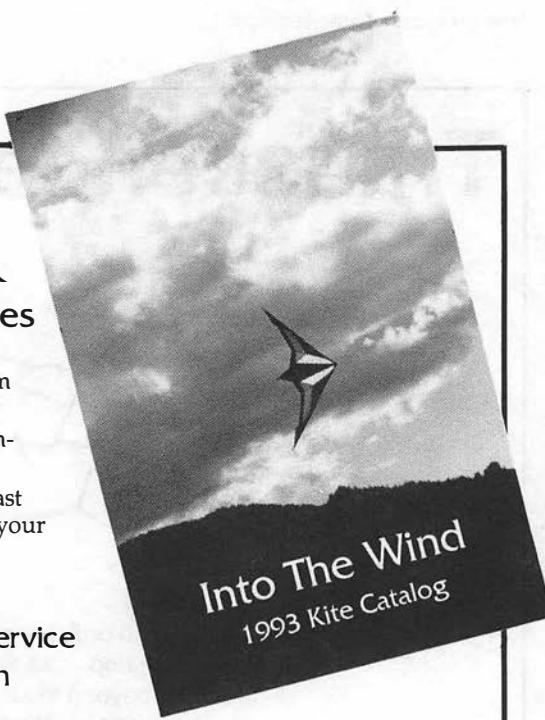
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The Berkeley Video is Here!!

Pushing 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.

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(CA residents add 8.25% tax)

AKA's 16th: Encore At Seaside!

We liked it so much the first time, we decided to do it again! For the first time in AKA history, we will be returning to a previous convention site, the lovely Pacific Coast town of Seaside, Oregon.

Nowhere else in 15 years of conventions have the flying fields been so readily accessible from our hotel rooms; the dual-line judges don't even need chairs on the competition field—they can do their scoring from the hotel bar! (Well, not quite, but pretty darn close). And, if you're afraid of getting your camera sandy, just leave it in your room and take pictures out your window! Nothing like brisk ocean breezes and a wide beach for a great place to fly kites!

This will be the first AKA convention organized without the assistance of a local "host" club. And, as such, we really need your help to make it happen. Please check a box on the registration form to volunteer—if you can give us just a few hours out of the four days we can get the job done. The AKA standing committees have planned a super time for us all.

Workshop coordinator Don McCasland, under the direction of Education Committee Chair Kay Buesing, has planned a dynamite panorama of workshops and seminars; a true smorgasbord with something for everybody. Just to name a few of this year's presenters; Oscar & Sarah Bailey, Bobby Stanfield, Tom Sisson, Daniel Prentice, Kathy Goodwind, Martin Lester, Corey Jensen, José Sainz & Randy Tom, Alan Nagao, Charlie Sotich, Ed & Bonnie Wright, Margaret Greger, the list goes on and on.

In addition, the Sport Kite Committee, under the direction of new committee chair Vern Balodis has planned a number of indoor and field seminars of special interest to sport kite fliers.

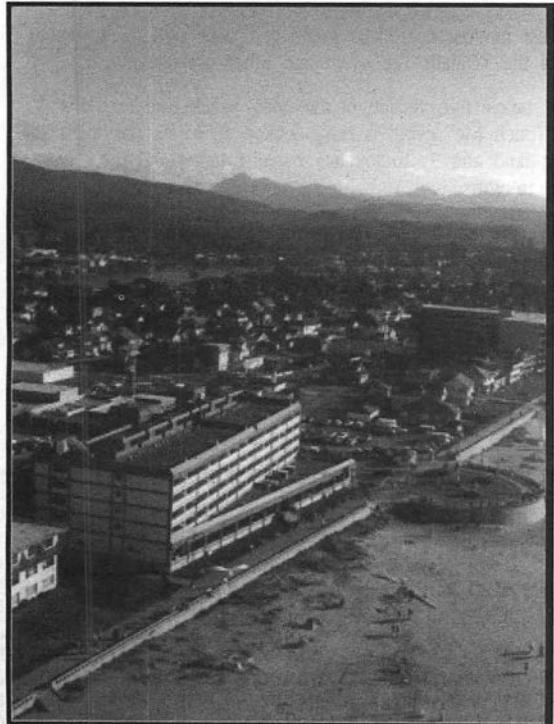
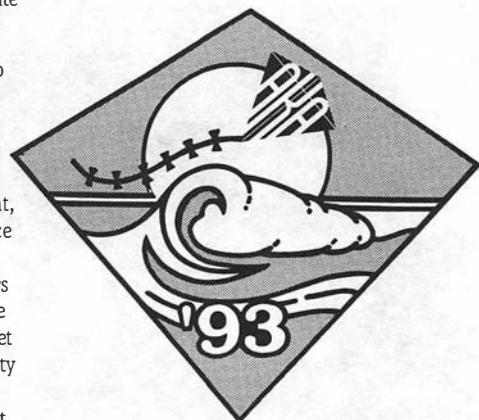
The Great Kite Auction promises to be one of the best ever. The entire Auction committee — Susan Gomberg, Richard & Marti Dermer, Carolyn Moore, and Rick Kinnaird have all been working on this event, which provides an important source of funds for the AKA. (And also affords tax deductions for both donors and purchasers.) Carolyn Moore the Donation Coordinator, intends to set a record for the quantity and variety of items donated. If you have rare, unusual, or one-of-a-kind items that you'd like to donate, you may ship auction items to: The Great Kite Auction, Attn: Mel Hickman, 210 S. Columbia, Seaside OR 97138. Donations will also be accepted during convention registration. Contact Susan Gomberg, Auction Chair at (503) 996-3083 or Carolyn Moore, Donations Coordinator at (913) 894-5483 for more information.

This year's Fly Market will be held at substantially expanded quarters at the Ocean View Lodge, allowing us to have greater variety and number of booths. Vendors interested in participating should call Fly Market Chairman Ron Lindner at (314) 376-6055.

The flying fields will be a beehive of activity — for additional information on the Grand National Competitions call Comprehensive Coordinator Jon Burkhardt at (301) 424-6976; Sport Kite Coordinator Genny Forsberg (503) 357-7557. Festivals and Competition Chairman Al Hargus (614) 475-8468, will act as Demonstration Coordinator, scheduling "center stage" Demos of interest to all, while Flight Events & Games Chairman Mike Steele (708) 428-0516, will be coordinating kite games, Rokkaku Battles, and other fun stuff.

It'll be a great time — hope to see you there!!

by Jim M. Miller,
Convention Manager



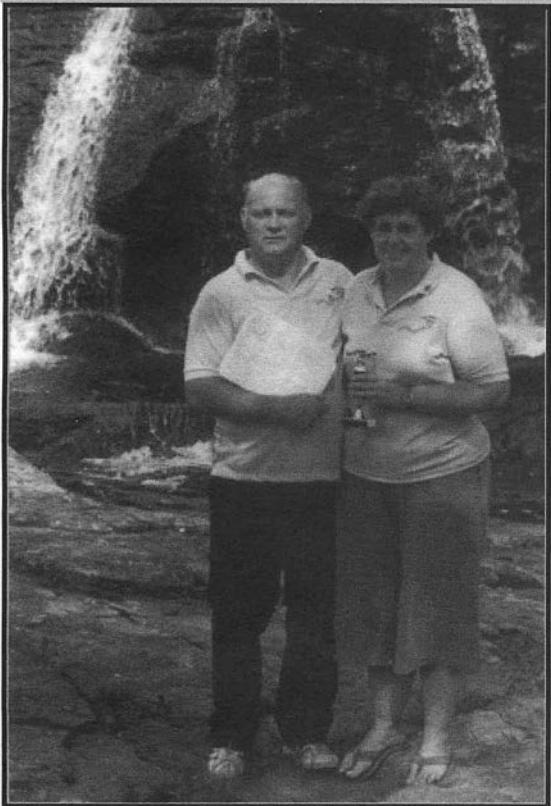
Aerophoto of the Shilo Inn, Seaside, Oregon

Contributors to *Kiting* receive one of these patches! Articles about kitemaking, kiteflying, kite programs and activities are welcome. *Kiting* is published in odd-numbered months and submissions are due the 1st of the month before the issue. Type and double-space articles or send a 3-1/2 in. disk in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, MacWrite, Pagemaker in Macintosh format or Ascii text file. Send to: PO Box 250657, San Francisco, CA 94125-0657



Characters In Kiting

JIM & PEGGY BURNETT



Jim & Peggy Burnett

by Vic Walton

Vic is a frequent contributor to *Kiting*.

Each issue we will feature one of the "outstanding volunteers" that were listed in the November 1992 issue.

8 · 5 jobs. They have five children and a dog (Moochie — the Connectikiter mascot). Yet, in the last five years, they have managed to get to four out of five AKA conventions. They have actively participated in numerous major kiteing events along the east coast and have been among the most active contributing members of Connectikiters since its first organizational meeting. They currently serve on the board of directors, as well as being team leaders for three of the six weekend kite-building sessions held at Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for seriously ill children.

Whenever anything needs to be done, I have never heard the Burnetts refuse to help. They coordinate events, write articles for the newsletter, and provide a home for wandering kiters. They help with the set-up of festivals, conduct workshops, and freely offer food and drink to the hungry and thirsty from their own supplies. In our opinion, they are the spark in fulfilling the motto of Connectikiters: "Just for the Fun of it."

They are eminently deserving of recognition, because in addition to their voluntary contributions of time, effort, skill and talent; their motivation is simply to help. They are wonderful, fun-loving, positive, unpretentious nice people.

Volunteerism is the life blood of kiting organizations. Quite simply, if nobody volunteered, there would be no AKA, no KTA, no local clubs. There are those "Golden Folks" who embrace the notion that membership in a volunteer-dependent organization carries a certain responsibility to contribute to the organization's growth and development.

The vast majority of people in the kiting community would not recognize the names of Jim and Peggy Burnett. They have never held an AKA office, they have never been appointed to an AKA committee, their names have never been featured in *Kiting*, *Kite Lines*, or *American Kite*. They have never won a significant trophy in competition, nor created a new dramatic kite design, nor do they hold any kite records. But, they are among the "Golden Folks" of kiting.

I don't know how they do it! Jim and Peggy Burnett from Manchester, Connecticut both hold non-kite oriented

Flight Events & Games Committee Report

by Mike Steele, Chair

As the summer begins, the Flight Events & Games Committee looks forward to the fall AKA Convention. Though events are not finalized, we have several ideas that are promising.

It has been proposed that a challenge be issued for the design and flight of the best musical kite. After individual flights, all entrants could return together to perform for the crowd and each other.

Another event might be a small kite Olympics, a series of events for kites no bigger than 3 inches. If we can get the approval of the Power Kiting Committee, a mini-sled pull and paper clip lifting contests might be included. Other contests might be a 30-foot wind sprint and a through-the-hoop flying contest.

For all the dropniks in the AKA, a bear drop contest has been suggested.

The fighter kite crowd has shown an interest in a balloon popping contest. From within a fenced off flying field a balloon would be attached to a banner pole, and flyers would try to pop it within a set time limit.

A quad-line version of the ever popular egg races is being developed. A quad-line flyer would race his kite between target zones picking up a light weight target and moving it to the other zone and then race back to the first zone and touch a 6 foot ground rod.

Fast moving dual-liners might test their skill on a version of the William Tell event and other obstacle events.

A tangle free version of the Long Beach Kite Festival's "Touch Me" event is being looked at. Kiters start with kite in-hand and fly to touch a hanging target and the lowest time wins.

We are looking at several games that would involve both single- and multi-line kite teams in single events. We look forward to bringing you a great day of kite games at the 16th Annual AKA Convention.

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July • Kitevents

- 1 Leland Toy Traveling Exhibition**
Aug Fullerton, CA. Muckenthaler Cultural Center
30 C: Robert Zingg (714) 738-6706
- 10- *Fairfield Annual Kite Festival**
II Fairfield, CA.
C: Tawny Kanae (707) 428-7465
- 10- 18th Annual Pacific Rim Kite Festival**
II Vancouver, B.C. Vanier Park
C: Art Ross (604) 321-6409
- 10- *Oregon State Stunt Kite Championships**
II Lincoln City, OR. D River Wayside
C: Visitor & Conv. Bureau (800) 452-2151
- 10 Kites over New England Monthly Kite Fly**
Framingham, MA. Framingham Industrial Park
C: Hank Manseau (508)875-0998
- 10 Seattle Times Picnic & Kite Fly**
Seattle, WA. Magnuson Park
C: Barbara Anne O'Neill (206) 878-5772
- 10 Peninsula Fliers Fun Fly**
Long Beach, WA. Bolstad Street Access
C: Long Beach Kites (206) 642-2202
- 11 OSEK Free Fly**
Cleveland, OH. Edgewater Park
C: Connie Pederson (216) 886-6178
- 11 Jetty Island Days Kite Fly**
Everett, WA. Jetty Island
C: Robin Haas (206) 670-3963
- 11 Connectikitors Monthly Kite Fly**
Waterford, CT. Harkness Memorial State Park
C: Sarge Cleaves (203) 223-0001
- 11 Ben Franklin Kite Society Fun Fly**
Richland, WA. Columbia Point Marina Park
C: Greg Greger (509) 943-3951
- 11 Sky Sailors' Monthly Kite Fly**
Plymouth, MA. Nelson Beach
C: Sue Flannery (617) 545-1341
- 11 Wings 'N Wind Kite Fly**
St. Cloud, MN.
C: Barbara Meyer (612) 424-2571
- 16 North Coast Stunt Kite Games**
18 Oregon, OH. Maumee Bay State Park
C: Uncle Wilbert (419) 537-7036
- 17 *2nd Canadian West Coast Stunt Kite Champ.**
Vancouver, B.C. Vanier Park
C: Kites & Puppets Only (604) 685-9877
- 17 Wright Kite Festival**
Kill Devil Hills, NC. Wright Bros.Nat'l. Memorial
C: Kitty Hawk Kites (919) 441-4124

- 17 *Desert Lights '93**
Quartz Hill, CA. Quartz Hill High School
C: Jon Small (805) 943-6860
- 17- Southern Oregon Kite Festival**
18 Brookings Harbor, OR. Port and Beachfront
C: Steve O'Brien (503) 469-9044
- 17- 9th Annual Fly The Wild Wind**
18 Stevenson, WA. Rock Creek Park
C: Jim Joseph (509) 427-5460
- 23- 4th Annual Great Sand Dunes Fly**
24 Mosca, CO.
C: Dave Williams (719) 596-2332
- 24 Westport Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck**
Westport, WA. Twin Harbors State Park
C: Pic-A-Patch Kites (206) 268-0877
- 24 Dave DeBolt Memorial Kite Fly**
New Castle, IN. Summit Lake State Park
C: Mike Bragg (317) 453-2977
- 24- Winchester Bay Fleet Days Kite Fly**
25 Reedsport, OR.
C: Sonny Hamner (503) 271-2784
- 24- *Berkeley Kite Festival & West Coast**
25 Kite Championship
Berkeley, CA. Marina
C: Tom McAlister (510) 525-2755
- 24- *Newport Sport Kite Championships**
25 Newport, RI.
C: Maureen & Charlie Stimpson (401) 333-1587
- 24 Rainier Kite Fly**
Rainier, OR.
C: Julie Taylor (503) 556-0842
- 25 KSOW-Single Line & Wind Socks Kite Fly**
Milwaukee, WI. Veterans Park
C: Jeffrey Kataoka (414) 277-9121
- 25 T.K.F. Fun Fly/Kids Summer**
Ajax, Toronto, Canada Waterfront Park
C: Mark (416) 740-5220
- 31- Washington State Stunt Kite Champ.**
Aug Marysville, WA. Biringer Farm
1 C: Robin Haas (206) 362-3519

*AKA Sanctioned Event

Kitevents • August

Editor's Note: The events listed in the calendar are accurate to the best of our knowledge. Event dates are subject to change and we recommend that you call ahead.

To list an event in the calendar, please send by the first of the month preceding publication. It is important to include event location with city and state, time, contact name, area code and phone number. Send to:

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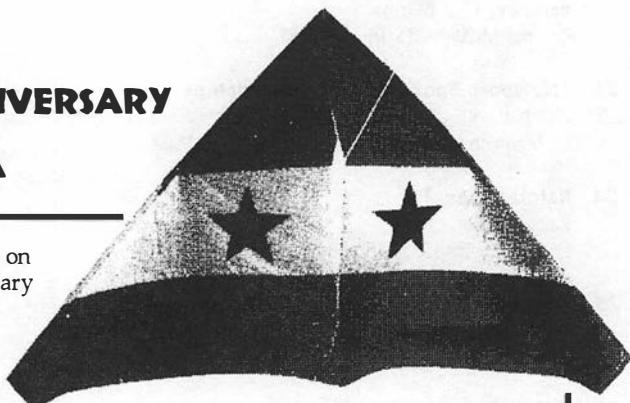
*AKA Sanctioned Event

Bob Ingraham's
10TH ANNIVERSARY
DELTA

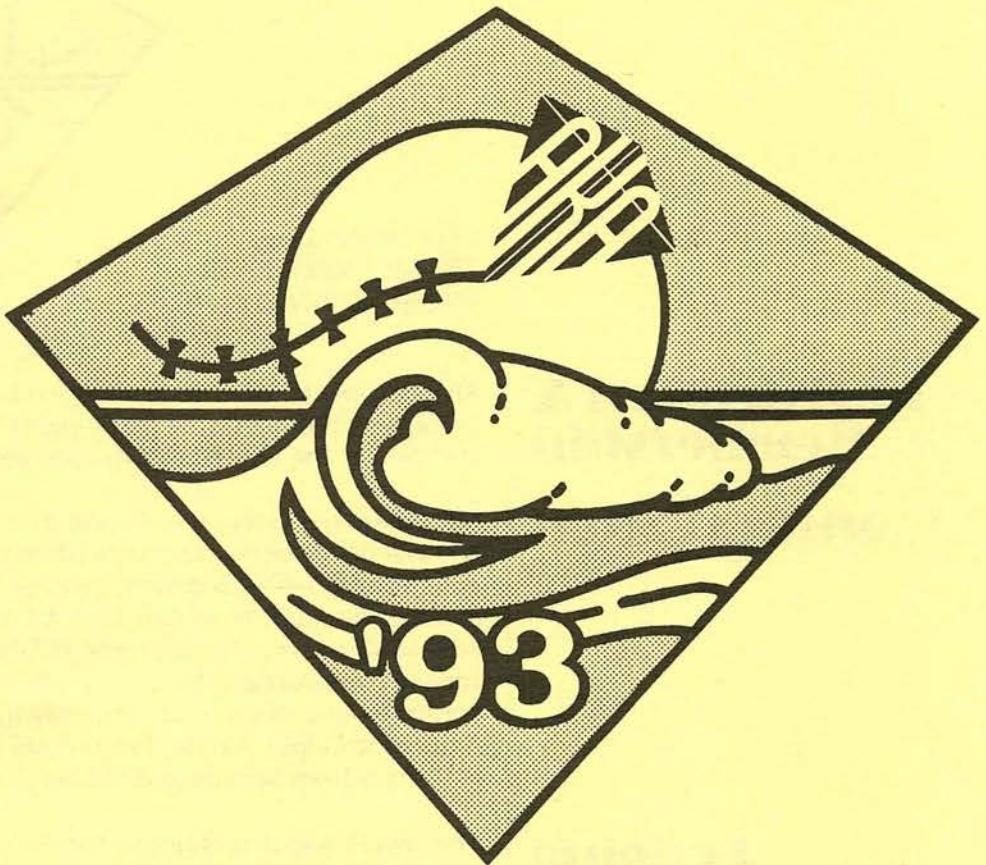
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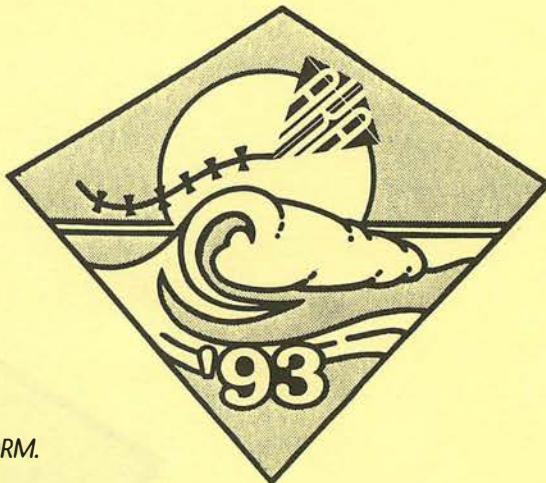
- 1 Deadline for *Kiting* Newsletter**
- 3- 11th Annual USAF Museum Kite Festival**
6 Dayton, OH.
C: Al Hargus (614) 475-8468
- 6- Boston Area Sport Kite Competition**
8 Dartmouth, MA. U-Mass. on Old West Post Rd.
C: Info & Registration (401) 942-3606
- 7 USAF Museum Kite Exhibit**
Cleveland, OH.
C: Lois DeBolt (317) 584-4131
- 7 Semiahmoo Kite Fly**
Blaine, WA. Semiahmoo Park
C: Jerry Warren (206) 398-8042
- 7 Family Day in the Park**
Newburyport, MA.
C: Richard Boisvert (508) 388-3412
- 7 *1st Ann. Peak Into the Clouds Kite Festival**
Brian Head, UT. Brian Head Peak
C: Corky Foster (801) 677-3000
- 7- Boston Area Stunt Kite Championships**
8 North Dartmouth, MA
C: Marty Sasaki (617) 524-2111
- 8 Duncans Mills Fun Fly**
Duncans Mills, CA. Thousand Trails Campground
C: Candy & Kites (707) 875-3777
- 8 Seattle Summer Kite Festival**
Seattle, WA. Magnuson Park
C: Ken Conrad (206) 624-6886
- 8 Ben Franklin Kite Society Fun Fly**
Richland, WA. Columbia Point Marina Park
C: Greg Gregor (509) 943-3951
- 8 KSOW-Fighting Kite Fly**
Milwaukee, WI. Veterans Park
C: Jeffrey Kataoka (414) 277-9121
- 14 Peninsula Fliers Fun Fly**
Long Beach, WA. Bolstad Street Access
C: Long Beach Kites (206) 642-2202
- 14 Farmland Good Old Days Fly**
Farmland, IN.
C: Mike Bragg (317) 453-2977
- 15 First Tracy Kite Fly**
Tracy, CA
C: Linda & Derrol Hammer (209) 835-6478
- 15 45th Anniversary of Rogallo Wing Invention**
Nags Head, NC. Kitty Hawk Kites
C: Kitty Hawk Kites (919) 441-4124
- 21- *New York Stunt Kite Championships**
22 Uniondale, NY. Mitchell Field
C: Bill & Suzanne Edison (203) 531-1084
- 16- 12th Ann. Washington State Int'l Kite Festival**
22 Long Beach, WA. Bolstad Street Access
C: Kay Buesing (206) 665-5744
- 22 KSOW-Relatives Day Kite Fly**
Milwaukee, WI. Veterans Park
C: Jeffrey Kataoka (414) 277-9121
- 28- 1st Kite Festival French-Speaking Switzerland**
29 Rossiniere, Canton Vaud, Switzerland
C: Office of Tourism 029/4.65.22
- 28- *2nd Annual Golden Gate Challenge**
29 San Francisco, CA. Ocean Beach
C: Gayle/Crazy Rodriguez (510) 724-8601
- 28 Westport Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck**
Westport, WA. Twin Harbors State Park
C: Pic-A-Patch Kites (206) 268-0877



16th Annual
American Kitefliers Association
National Convention

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1993 ANNUAL MEETING • KITE WORKSHOPS
FLY MARKET • THE GREAT KITE AUCTION

Seaside, Oregon
October 13 - 17, 1993



DETACH AND SAVE
THIS FACT SHEET BEFORE
MAILING REGISTRATION FORM.

Registration & Membership

Transportation

All participants, whether competing or not, must register. Except for certain invited guests, all participants must also be AKA members in good standing at the time of registration and during the convention.

United Airlines (service to Portland) is the official airline of the convention and will offer special discounts (domestic travel only) to AKA members: dial (800) 521-4041 and mention code #539JO. Get the special AKA member discount from Avis Rent A Car by calling (800) 331-1600 or (918) 664-4600 and mentioning code #B571017. Details on limited shuttle service from Portland to Seaside will be sent with registration confirmations. If you wish, you may fly to Portland on United and on to Astoria on Empire Airlines (United will book a continuation ticket). Astoria is 17 miles from Seaside and taxi service is available.

Lodging

The two Headquarters Hotels for the convention are the Shilo Inn, (800) 222-2244 or (503) 738-9571, and the Ocean View Resort, (800) 234-8439 or (503) 738-3334. Both have special prices for AKA members.

For information on alternate accommodations, call the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, (800) 444-6740 or (503) 738-6391.

Meals

All of the following are included in the registration fee:

- Box lunches on the field Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday
- Auction banquet on Friday evening.
- Awards banquet on Saturday evening.

At registration you may purchase extra banquet tickets for guests.

Video Recording

Cameras & camcorders are welcome, but commercial sales or distribution of videotaped convention coverage is prohibited without the prior authorization of the AKA Board of Directors. Copies of the professionally-produced official convention video may be ordered on the registration form.

Please note that much material shared in convention workshops is copyrighted. Please be sure to ask each presenter's permission before recording a presentation.

Information

General Information &
Registration Questions

Jim Miller

(312) 642-8692
Fax (312) 642-8693

Fly Market

Ron Lindner

(314) 376-6055 days
Fax (314) 343-0270

Auction

Susan Gomberg

(503) 996-3083
Fax (503) 994-9692

1993 AKA Convention • October 13 - 17, 1993 • Seaside, Oregon

Registration Form

Please fill out a separate form for each registrant. Photocopies are fine.
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and sign at the bottom.

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Eve. Phone (____) _____

I plan to arrive in Seaside on (date) _____

- This is my first AKA convention.
- I would like vegetarian meals.
- I would like to be a vendor at the Fly Market.
- I have special needs for accessibility as follows:

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

I am willing to help with:

- Registration Auction Orientation
- Judging Scorekeeping Field Activities
- Wherever I am needed Other _____

WAIVER & RELEASE

In consideration for right to participate in this convention, I hereby hold all persons and entities associated with the administration or sponsoring of the 1993 AKA National Convention harmless and release them from any and all liability in connection with my participation.

I also hereby consent to be photographed or videotaped, and grant to the American Kitefliers Association the right to use my film or tape likeness in any media coverage of this event.

Signature _____

Date _____

FEES & THINGS

REGISTRATION

includes lunches Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday; banquets Friday & Saturday nights; one convention patch, and admission to workshops, the Fly Market, and field events.

If postmarked or faxed

by Aug 20	\$105.00	_____
by Oct 1	\$125.00	_____

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at the door only \$145.00 _____

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___ M	___ L	___ XL	\$14.00	_____	
			___ XXL	\$16.00	_____

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			___ XXL	\$26.00	_____

Sweatshirt

___ M	___ L	___ XL	\$24.00	_____	
			___ XXL	\$26.00	_____

Cloisonné Pin \$5.00

Additional Patch \$4.00

I will not be attending the convention.
Please send me the above and add
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Card# _____

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MAIL OR FAX THIS PAGE ONLY WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

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Fax (312) 642-8693

Donor Form



THE GREAT KITE AUCTION

Donor and/or Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Please describe each of your donations as clearly and concisely as possible. ASSUME THAT THE READER IS NEW TO KITING AND KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT YOUR ITEM. An accurate estimate of value will help the auctioneer bring the best price, and will be essential if you wish to take a tax deduction!

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____ _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____ _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____ _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____ _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____ _____	

September • Kitevents

- 2- *World Cup 1993
6 Berkeley, CA. North Waterfront Park
C: Daniel Prentice (916) 273-3855
- 4- *4th Annual Rockport Beach Kite Fly
5 Rockport, TX. Rockport Beach Park
C: Mike Wright (817) 773-2818
- 4- *Callaway Kite Flight '93
6 Callaway, NE. Callaway Golf Course
C: Connie May (308) 836-2677
- 5 SCI-FI Fun Fly & Potluck
Everett, WA. Marine Park & Boat Launch
C: Robin Haas (206) 670-3963
- 11 Peninsula Fliers Fun Fly
Long Beach, WA. Bolstad Street Access
C: Long Beach Kites (206) 642-2202

- 11 *7th Annual Flying Colors
Minneapolis, MN. Battle Creek Park Reserve.
C: Barbara Meyer (612) 424-2571
- 12 Sandy Hook Stunt Kite Championships
Sandy Hook, NJ
C: Roger Chewning (215) 736-3715
- 11- *Mid-American Sport Kite Classic
12 Kalamazoo, MI. River Oaks Park
C: John Cosby (616) 383-8778
- 12 Ben Franklin Kite Society Fun Fly
Richland, WA. Columbia Point Marina Park
C: Greg Greger (509) 943-3951

*AKA Sanctioned Event

- 18 Frank Mots Kite Festival
Milwaukee, WI. Veterans Park
C: Jeffrey Kataoka (414) 277-9121
- 18- T.K.F. Annual Festival
19 Toronto, Canada, Humber Park
C: Mark (416) 740-5220
- 17 Leland Toy Traveling Exhibition
Oct Las Vegas, NV. Winchester Community Center
30 C: Sally Alsted (709) 455-7340
- 25 Westport Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck
Westport, WA. Twin Harbors State Park
C: Pic-A-Patch (206) 268-0877

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE LEADERS

as of June 1

Name	New Members
Wind Wizards (KS)	41
Cobra Kites	30
High Performance Kites	24
Trlby Products	23
Anonymous	23
Richard Dermer	23
Windborne Kites	17
Chicago Fire Kite Co.	15
Kites BFUN	14
Dyna-Kite	13
High Fly Kite Co.	10

Drive ends September 15, 1993

PRIZES

- 10 new members - Limited Edition AKA Pin
15 new members - 1 year Membership Renewal
25 new members - Sterling Silver AKA Pin
Grand Champion - Free Convention Registration

FOR MORE APPLICATION FORMS
CALL (800) AKA-2550

THANK YOU AKA MEMBERS

The Surfsand Resort and Wayfarer Restaurant of Cannon Beach, Oregon wish to thank the AKA members for their continued support of our annual Puffin Kite Festival. Member assistance and participation in all aspects of the festival have helped to make the event successful and enjoyable.

A special thanks goes to **Rick Talbott**, whose help has been invaluable.

Kites As Art

by Don Mock,
Kite Art
Committee Chair

The AKA Kite Art Committee has been asked to promote kiteing as an art form, and to organize traveling exhibitions. To date, there are four of us on this committee, Carl Crowell from Portland, Oregon; Ron Gibian from Visalia, California; Janene Evard from Ardmore, Oklahoma; and myself from Washington state. We are going to meet at Seaside during the Convention, and if you want to join us and give your input, we hope to see you there.

Some of the ideas we are working with are:

1. Kites should be signed, and there should be a limited number in the production run.
2. We would like more than one category.
3. Kites should not be an exact copy of pre-existing art, no matter where that art is in history, i.e. same colors, spacing. Is a replica a good art kite?
4. Make the kite your own passion and interpretation.
5. One person will be coordinator of each show. This will help develop a theme, and be able to follow through with the theme better than if we do everything by committee, with the distance and mailing times between each of us.
6. We'd appreciate any ideas on how to make sure kites are hung correctly with adequate levels of back-lighting so the kite will show well.
7. Our preference is that art kites should be flown at festivals as well as being hung in galleries.

8. We need help with ideas on insurance and transportation of exhibit. Do we need a curator to travel with the exhibit?

9. Janene is looking at ways of developing major sponsorship with foundations and manufacturing companies.

10. Ron is looking for locations in California to feature an exhibit so we can work out some of the bugs.

11. Carl has agreed to show an exhibit at the AKA festival, so he is looking for your art creation to be on display at one of the buildings during the festival.

12. We are looking for your slides of art kites for this and future shows. Knowing my bookkeeping system, you probably won't get the slides back, so please send duplicates.

Send to:

Don Mock
823 N. Thornton
Aberdeen, WA 98520
(209) 533-3021

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October 13, 1993
Seaside, Oregon

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Region 2 New York State

Suzanne Edison, Regional Director

On May 22, at Sullivan Community College in Loch Sheldrake over 1,000 kitefliers enjoyed a great kiteflying day. The campus is an ideal place for kites. Its rolling grass fields are spacious, and the mountains surrounding the field lend to the peaceful atmosphere.

The philosophy of the event is to have the general kiteflying public in the front fields and the demo professional fliers in the back field.

David Wishingrad, one of the organizers, feels that people like to watch the pros for a while but then they want to try it for themselves and get in on the joy and fun of flying.

Bill & Donna Beneker from Philadelphia, along with kiteflying twins Casy and Kelly, flew some large kites and assorted barnyard creatures. Gary & Maggie Engvall from Rhode Island flew some beautiful trains of Dyna kites and helped give lessons to newcomers. Both couples managed to get full page pictures in the local paper. George Baskette was on hand with an awesome stack of flexis and his new Quad-line kite. Kitemaker extraordinaire Bill Connors and wife Marian flew some of his great creations.

The event was very relaxing and a perfect way to spend a spring day. I would recommend it to everyone for next year.

The weekend of Memorial Day took us to the **8th East Coast Stunt Kite Championships (ECSKC) or Wildwood**. This year, event organizer Roger Chewning tried to bring some uniformity to our sport by inviting chief judges from different parts of the sport kite community to come together at ECSKC. Viv Walters, Robbi Sugarman, Eric

Forsberg, and Corky Chewning had responsibility for overseeing the Experienced, Master, Open, Intermediate and Novice divisions. Instruction was given on the rule book changes in store for the coming year and an international judges' seminar was held. When growth and change are involved, there are always growing pains. Some competitors and judges were frustrated with having to think in new ways. We are fine-tuning a sport and in my own opinion, I think ECSKC was very important in the process. I feel the splintering of the sport is now a thing of the past and people are now working together for a common good.

I got a chance to ride a buggy at Wildwood. I now know what the Buggy Thang is and it's the most fun I've had in a long time. ECSKC was still a great time — even with its growing pains.

The New York Stunt Kite Championship will be held August 21 & 22. at Mitchell Field in Uniondale, Long Island, New York. For information call Bill or Suzanne Edison at (203) 531-1084. We will be using the new rule book and will have a judges' meeting open to everyone to go over changes and to work out rough spots. The meeting will be on Friday night around 7:30 pm at the event headquarters. For more information please call.

We will also be using League Style for Masters and Experienced Classes for the Precision events. We invite the Novice and Intermediate classes to watch and see how its done. The Magical Mystery Tape Tour will be a special event open to all classes. A pilot will go to the field and it's a mystery to them just what song will come on. Hope to see you all at NYSKC. Paint the sky and enjoy the wind.

Regional Reports

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*Regional Reports
continued on next page.*

Region 3 Penn-Jersey

Kevin Shannon, Regional Director

Summertime is finally here. I can tell by the sudden decrease in local festivals. Most of the clubs are running their normal weekly or monthly flies, but the big events are pretty much over until the fall season arrives. Of course, that gives us time to catch up on those chores we keep putting off (YEACH!). A better use of the time is to start practicing that new routine or making that killer kite for the convention or even next year's Smithsonian Festival.

Current news is that we've been getting some great weather for the kite events this year (I know, except for the Smithsonian). MASK, ECCKC this year, first one I've missed in a long time. Some interesting things that happened there puzzled some fliers, but word has it that fixes are in the works to make everything go smoothly again in the future. The Buggy Races on Monday were such a hit that Wildwood is even talking about an event featuring them in the fall!

The single-line portion of the event was expertly handled by the Lehigh Valley Kite Society. The sky was constantly filled with colorful kites of all sizes and shapes. With the help of many fliers and clubs, the shore was again made into a spectacle.

Steve Ferrel took People's Choice with his Kaleidokite. Mike Dahmer pleased everyone again with his train of Dalmatian kites and took Most Kites on One Line. Judy Gelinas's kite was inundated with stuff from other fliers and won Most Junk on the Line. The Rokkaku Battle was handled in heats with the final showdown giving the trophy to Team Knightmare, captained by Scott Spencer. Second and third went to Lehigh Valley and Team Medicine Man.

The Cape May Festival was a treat due to the attendance of the Thai Heritage Group and the incredible show of Peter Lynn stuff brought by the Whiteheads of New Zealand. The Gleckners, Scott Spencer, Fran and Mary Gramkowski. Pete Dolphin, Joe Vaughan, and many others put on a show that just blew away the crowds. This is one event to keep your eyes on next year.

My request for kiters in the western part of Pennsylvania has brought some promising replies. There are people just dying to hear from other fliers.

Two who have consented to be contact people are:

Denis Denning	Steve Smith
PO Box 124	14279 Horseshoe Drive
Plumville, PA 16246	McKeesport, PA 15131
(412) 397-2768	(412) 751-1761

One last note — if you're planning or are involved in an event, and are wondering why I haven't mentioned it in this report, the answer is very simple. YOU have not let me know about it I can't make it to every event that takes place, so, if you don't tell me about in advance or you don't send me details of what took place, you will not become famous by having your name printed in this prestigious paper!

Region 5 South

Steve Cseplo, Regional Director

There are many items that need addressing in this issue so a brief summary of the activity in the region for the past two months is the first order of business. The Irmo Recreation Department sponsored The **Carolina Kite Fly** in Chapin, SC, on April 3 and was quite successful from what I gather. I was off at the **Old Dominion Stunt Kite Championships** that weekend, part of a long journey to Washington, DC, for the **Smithsonian** which was wet...very wet. Savannah Sails and Rails, Bald Mountain Kite Club, KAOS and the Mid-Town Maniacs, along with out of state guests Tom Powers and Dean Jordan, combined to hold down the kiting portion of the **Dogwood Festival** in Atlanta, GA, April 16, 17 & 18. Although the winds were light, typical for Atlanta, a good time was had by all and a receptive public was entertained and educated by all those who helped out. The **Spring Games**, new version of the Summer Games, was held by Klig's Kites in Myrtle Beach, SC, over the weekend of April 23 & 24. A superior site yielded great winds, excellent exposure, and a large spectator attendance.

May Fly, by Bald Mountain Kite Club, did not have to contend with a rain delay this year and came off on time. The weather was gorgeous and all activities completed. The Scenic City Kite club also was active on May 1, being a featured attraction at a bridge opening in Chattanooga, TN. The Crescent City Kitefliers have been involved and their president is in the process of establishing The Gulf Coast Sport Kite League. For more information on the prior, contact Peter D. Rau. Daytona happened and indeed, Martin Lester, Peter Lynn and Art Ross attended and flew as billed. Perdido Key, right next door to Pensacola, was the site for a Eastern League regional hosted by Sunset Kites.

OK, now on to the important stuff for this issue. The survey results are in, and my sincere thanks go out to all who took the time and returned them [Region 5 members were mailed an independent survey by Cseplo]. In all, 59 surveys made it back (20.9% response), many with good thoughtful comments. The typical profile of a southern AKA member revealed a person who has been kiting for 14.6 years, been an AKA member for 4.2 years and owns a total of 14.75 kites broken down as 8 sport kites, 6 static kites and .75 fighters. Don't ask me how you get three quarters of a fighter. 42.3% of us are members of a kite club, 96.3% believe the AKA to be good value for the money, 95.9% favor returning the convention down south again (how about Virginia Beach in '94) and 98.2% enjoyed the calendar. I'm glad the major response to the latter was so positive, I'm looking forward to updating it next year so if you are planning an event for next year, even if the date is a little loose, let me know so that I may include your festival in the new and improved 1994 version.

Many of us subscribed to additional publications besides *Kiting*, but a full 30% depend upon it for all their kite-related news. The major three publications are split pretty

Region 5 continued on next page

Region 5 (continued)

evenly but amazingly enough 5.4% of the membership subscribes to *Drachen* which is mainly in German. Now the great question, what do we like to do? 38.7% favor the sport kite mode, 15.4% prefer the passivity as a single line static kite, 26.8% enjoy everything and 19.1% of us just want to make kites. I really fit in the latter category, finding that my main enjoyment revolves around flying a kite of my own hand and design, no matter what type. Like Congress, which can't agree on anything, 39.6% of the membership believes our organization stresses competition too much while 60.4% do not hold this view.

And 92.7% favor a regional convention. So get to work (86.2% said they would help) and prepare a proposal. Attendance should be in the 40-60 range, a registration fee of \$30-\$35 is considered reasonable, 71.4% think there should be some form of competition and it is split 50-50 on whether or not it should be part of an established festival. Location wise, a central location is favored, with strong sentiment for a gulf coastal location, but really any place with good consistent winds. Atlanta was mentioned more by name than any specific location but I have to warn you, there really aren't any superior flying fields here. And we'll discuss in depth a newsletter at the mini convention. Look for more about the convention next issue.

Well, that's enough ink for one issue. Get out and enjoy the weather, fly a kite and relax. After all, that's what it's all about in the final analysis. Gentle breezes.



Region 6 Northeast

Al Hargus III, Regional Director

The Great Lakes Stunt Kite Championships took place in Grand Haven, MI on May 21-23, without a hint of delays or problems. The event attracted about 100 contestants from the mid-west. Several teams and individuals stopped in on their way to Eastern events, among them were High Performance and Tsunami, two of the hottest teams on the sport kite circuit this season.

The event was again hosted by Mackinaw Kite Company with Bob and Steve Negen at the helm, along with Robbi Sugarman as Chief Judge. With threats of bad weather on Sunday, the event staff pushed ahead and completed a schedule of three days of contests into two days without making any of the competitors feel pushed or pressured. Well done, western Michigan fliers!

Preparations for the biggest "Unevent" in Region 6 are underway. From the Black Swamp Air Force in Toledo, OH comes rumors of the biggest North Coast Stunt Kite Games ever! The Games will take place on July 16-18, 1993 at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, OH. Uncle Wilbert, Grand Poobah of this event has been working his fingers to the bone in preparation for the Games. The Games, which are in their ninth year (or is it tenth?) attract some of the best fliers from across the Midwest for three days of just

fun flying and companionship. The highlight of the weekend is the Pig-out Pig Roast, Grand Auction and Night Fly at the campsites on Saturday night. For event and camping information, contact Uncle Wilbert at (419) 537-7036.

The Hoosier Kitefliers Society completed a successful fly-in at the AMA's (Academy of Model Aeronautics) new facilities in Muncie, IN on June 19-20. This site is being considered as a possible for the AKA convention location. For more information about kiteflying in the Indiana area, contact HKS and Mike Bragg at (317) 453-2977.

Preparations are underway for the **11th Annual United States Air Force Museum Kite Festival** to be held in Dayton, Ohio on Labor Day weekend. This is one of the biggest events in Region 6 and features some of the best single-line kitemakers from around the country. There will also be dual-line competitions for sport kite fliers. For more information about the USAF Museum Kite Festival, contact Al Hargus at (614) 475-8468.

Another annual big time event in region 6 is the **Mid-America Sport Kite Championships** which will be held in Kalamazoo, MI, September 10-12, 1993. Under the direction of John Cosby, this event has grown by leaps and bounds in the last three years. All classes of competitor, including juniors, will be held and a full field of competitions this year will make for another first class Midwest event. For more information about MASK-C contact John Cosby at (616) 327-8517.

In closing, I would like to remind all the AKA members in Region 6 that they can contact me any time with questions about the AKA, flying, classes, sport kites, comments, suggestions, complaints or just to say hello at (614) 475-8468.



Board Nominations Sought For 1994 Seats

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.

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) 324-5070, or Kevin Shannon (717) 243-7913.

*[Ed. Note: Please see the last issue of *Kiting*, page 23 for a map depicting AKA's new regions.]*

Region 8 Mountain

Scott Skinner, Regional Director

Just back from **George Peters' Kite Camp Caravan** and all I can say is "you shoulda been there!" George Peters, the mild-mannered kite maniac, was transformed into Cactus Jack, trail boss from hell. Cactus Jack proved to be an able organizer, a creative camp-finder, and a master camp chef (even though he let others think they were in charge). Only the organized dishwashers (union local #474) were immune to the organized chaos of Cactus Jack. I'm not complaining; as Moustache Kohler from Germany would say, "rumbling in camp, you're about axs welcome as a sidewinder in a cattle herd," but Cactus Jack drove us like willing lambs through dust, sun, rain, and gnats throughout the southwest.

You are sure to read and, hopefully, see more about the tour in the future. Michelle Velthuizen and her husband Nop, from Holland, have already cataloged their exploits biking around the U.S. and will surely write about this adventure. George has already prepared a slide show and lecture about the adventure, and Ben Ruhe was along to record things for the World Kite Museum's newsletter. Of greatest significance, however, was the fact that a three-person French television crew was also along to record the trip. They work for a public TV program that concentrates on flight, with specific programs on kites and kite events. It was wonderful to have them along as they proved to be able campers, great cooks and their camper took the overflow of equipment which seemed to grow daily.

The international camp delegation included campers from France, Holland, England, Germany, Australia and the U.S. George will evaluate critiques from all participants before deciding to do it again. If he does decide to do it again, he may just become the most popular tour leader in the land. George, we all enjoyed the adventure and our stories are already ignoring the killer car-rides and embellishing the relaxing, carefree kiteflying.

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Region 9 Southwest

Richard Dermer, Regional Director

Early April: San Antonio, Texas **Regional Sport Kite Competition**. Minimal wind and intermittent drizzle on Saturday changed to clear blue skies and howling wind on Sunday. With only 15 competitors and several hundred spectators, the event had the look, feel, and friendly atmosphere of a really well-organized club fly.

Next Weekend: **First Annual Great St. Louis Festival**. Wow! A first time event with a huge flying field in Forest Park, perfect weather, continuous demonstrations by Chicago Fire, Captain Eddie's Flying Circus, and Craig Christensen, and 20,000 spectators! Coca Cola, the largest sponsor of the event, gave away 10,000 ready-to-fly plastic deltas in three hours. This caused the largest aerial string tangle I have ever witnessed—literally hundreds of kites entwined with each other, and all identical! On the demo and competition fields, however, AKA members were immune from the "soup" of the public flying field, and kept the throng captivated.

Next, our second annual great **Oklahoma Invitational Open Fun Fly** in Stillwater. All the organization involved was the borrowing of a single porta-john, sending out handbills to the nearest 100 AKA members to us in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas, and calling the local airport to tell them we were doing it again. About 50 flyers showed up—some for the whole weekend and others for just a day. I was pretty impressed by the flying of Troy Gunn, a Master class flyer just moved from Oregon to Texas.

Last weekend of the month, a double: San Angelo, Texas on Saturday and Buffalo Beano's event in Lubbock on Sunday. Several thousand Eddy kites were given away by sponsor KLST-TV, only a tiny fraction survived more than a few minutes in the huge wind. In Lubbock the next day, a huge crowd and great weather for the **13th Annual Buffalo Beano Kite Fly and Frisbee Fling**, on the same site as last year's AKA convention. Host Gary King watched in dismay as his brand new 9 ft. Rokakku with appliquéd store logo, by Chris Dunlop, was cut loose, caught a thermal, and took off in free flight. It was returned by a good samaritan who saw it make a soft landing in the interstate median 8 miles away!

Weekend Five: **Prairie Winds** in Kansas City. Another great one! Organizers Carolyn & Chris Moore put on a super event—a year's advance planning was quite evident. Flyers from 16 states attended, including Craig Christensen, Bob Childs, Steve Shapson, Dean Jordan, Frank Kenisky, and "Roadie". With over twice the number of stunt competitors of any other Southwestern event, this festival should be a "must" next year.

Week Six: We stayed home from the Amarillo, TX festival since we were exhausted and the forecast was for solid rain. As it turns out, it didn't and I heard they had a pretty good event. Sorry, High Plains Kitefliers, I promise we'll be there next year.

Region 9 continued on next page.

Region 9 (continued)

Finally, an Oklahoma festival! The always-improving Ardmore, OK **Windsong Festival** was a rousing success, despite heavy rain on Sunday. Festival organizer Janene Evard simply switched to plan "B", moving out-of-town kiters indoors for a miniature kite building workshop by Charlie Sotich. All the dual-line competition had been completed on Saturday anyway, on a great new festival site next to the Interstate. I wish I had counted the cars that pulled off to watch, drawn initially by Ben Hammock's giant spin sock.

Bits and Pieces of News: 1991 AKA Eddiken award winner Charlie Sotich of Chicago put together a "mini" tour of his own traveling to and from Junction. On the way to Texas, he gave miniature kite workshops to the Gateway Club in St. Louis, the McPherson, Kansas, Prairie Winds Club, the Oklahoma Kitters in Oklahoma City, and an Ardmore, Oklahoma School. On the way home he gave still another for the Kansas City Kite Club.

The Kansas City club is shopping for a club sound system to use at club flys and demonstrations. Do any other clubs have their own PA systems?

Next major event in the Southwest will be the **Rockport, Texas Festival** scheduled for Labor Day weekend. Contact Mike Wright, (817) 773-2818.



Region 10 Pacific Northwest

Don Mock, Regional Director

Noted Samuel F. Cody scholar and researcher Paul Chapman from Chard, England, was the guest speaker at the January Windrider, Washington potluck. He has given many lectures on the life and times of Cody both in England and in the U.S. Paul's interest in Cody's life is from his work in both kites and as a pioneer in the aviation world.

Because of Paul's research, he has been able to find some of the documentation and photographs that have been stored away from the public. His presentation included some of those photos and was very interesting. Unfortunately, the attendance at our meeting was small because of the snowy weather. Perhaps we can talk him into a return visit.

Seattle stamp artist Francis Hall was asked to be one of the artists for the show "Mythological Creatures of the Northwest" at the Stonington Gallery in Seattle. He is one of seventy-plus to have works on exhibit, and during the opening he was asked to leave his stamps on long term display and sale. Since this series is of my kites, I'm especially pleased that he was asked to exhibit one of the kites in the show also. Congrats to Francis!

More kudos go to Dan Schwenk for the great article about him in the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* about his work with kids in their classroom. According to the story he teaches about 40 classes per year in the Seattle area and he inte-

grates math, science, art and FUN. What else can one say about good teaching. Pats on the back to Dan as this is where future kiters come from.

Another **Ft. Worden Kite Builders Conference** is history, and I think the Board deserves a big round of applause for their hard work in making this event happen. They are already thinking about next year, so if you have any suggestions, comments or ideas for presenters...

I heard that Brooks Leffler taught a terrific class on the art of aerial photography at the World Kite Museum in Long Beach. That's one that I'm sorry to have missed.

"Let's go kite dancing to the music of the wind" was the theme for this year's **Westport Kite Festival, which was held** June 24-27. International guests that I know of will be David & Janet Robinson from Swindon, England and Paul Taylor, who is now working in Corvallis, Oregon, but also considers home in Swindon, England.

And finally, speaking of Swindon, England, Ray Bethell from Vancouver, British Columbia, Greg & Sue Clark from Naches, Washington, and Jeanne and I were among the international guests at both the **Weymouth and Swindon Kite Festivals** during the beginning of May.

Coming events: The **Jetty Fly** in Everett, the **Washington State Stunt Kite Championship** July 31-August 1st at the Biringer Farm near Marysville, WA. This is just a sample of the events that are being held every weekend. Anticipated international guests at the **Washington State International Kite Festival** will be Steve Brockett from Wales, Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig from Germany and a team from Shirone, Japan. See you on the end of a kite line.



CLASSIFIED ADS

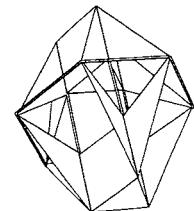
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KITEFLIERS WANTED: Cielo Encantado Fiesta, Oct. 8, 9, 10. Write 1103 N. Hudson St., Silver City, NM 88061 or call Cathy Jewell (505) 538-0510.

COLLECTOR'S ITEM FOR SALE: Original Garber Target Kite: Japanese Zero. Original spine w/rudder and bridle. Some bullet holes in sail. Needs spreaders only. Best Offer. Michael (415) 345-4140 or FAX 345-9015.

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AKA members are welcome to use the Classified Ads Section to sell or trade kites and kite-related items. It is not intended for commercial purposes. The rate for classified advertising is \$5.00 for a three-line ad (30 words or less). Enclose a check or money order made payable to American Kitefliers Association, and mail it to us.



Region 11 Northern California

Tom McAlister, Regional Director

Our first major event was **Great Visalia Kite Festival**. Centrally located, Visalia has turned out to be a great meeting place for kitefliers from all over California. Light winds prevented teams Paragon, Sundowners and Papalotes from flying until "traction flying" permitted them to really get their routines moving. (Jargon alert: "Traction Flying" is when fliers jump into the back of a pick-up truck and make their own wind.)

There was an extensive collection of Master's level kites from all over the state. Corey was there with his buggies, and I finally had a chance to try one. Thanks Corey, now I know what you're so excited about.

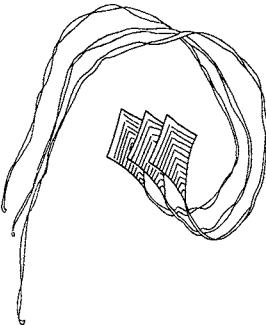
The event also included Fri. and Sat. parties. One sure way to make kitefliers happy. Feed-'em for free! It works! Thanks to Ron & Sandy for a great event.

Then came Dusty & Louise Smith's **Redwood Coast Kite Festival** up in Eureka. Many of the same happy group of builders who had attended Visalia also made it to Eureka and put on a great sky show, coordinated by the Gibians. On the dual-line side, Bill Lester was head judge, while Chuck Sigal was on hand again with his Kite Fest, festival-management software. As a judge, I was especially impressed by the excellent level of competition in Master Ind. Ballet. Across the board, its competitors displayed one of the most consistently high levels of performance I have ever judged. Greg Aronson flew a riveting routine that had everyone's heart pounding all the way to first place. In a word it was superb. Hats off to all the competitors for making the judging fun.

Kudos to Dusty and Louise for putting it all together and special thanks to Bill Lester, who stepped up to the plate as head Dual-line judge when no one else would. He did a great job. (Thanks for the nice note, Bill)

In my last report I quoted that the 1990 Guinness Book of World Records that recognized Lee Toy's wine bottle as the "Largest wine bottle windsock". It should have read "largest wind sock kite." It was lifted by Lou Lewandowski's 550 ft. Sutton flow-form.

While on the topic of windsocks, I'd like to make a belated congratulations to Bob Anderson for his show-stopping "Bobby Sock." Bob first flew it at my own **Berkeley Kite Festival and West Coast Kite Championships** last year. The Bobby Sock is 308 ft. long and five stories tall. Green's of England used over 1250 yards of Carrington cloth and one and one-half miles of bridle lines in its construction. This sock is the largest windsock of its kind on the planet. It has broken all previous records, including the Guinness record for "wind sock kite." Congratulations Bob! Bob's latest project is a colossal spinning ring that he calls the "Circle of Vision." It's over 12.5 stories tall and uses four miles of bridle line. You can look for it at this year's Berkeley Kite Festival and West Coast Championships on July 24-25. Hope to see all of you there. As Ron Gibian would say, "They just keep getting bigger and bigger!"



Region 12 Southern California

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

The **Hawaiian Summer Jam** has been rescheduled to August 14 & 15. This is a Hawaiian Kitefliers Association (HKA) event that promises relaxing and enjoyable activities. Region 12 includes Pacific Islands such as Hawaii with a wealth of great flying weather and many activities.

The HKA was originally founded by Warren Zane and Al Chang. Al is still with us and is a wily fighter kiteflier. Al has been around for quite some time and those of us who enjoy fighter kites have much to learn from living treasures like Al Chang.

Back at the ranch in California, the July 17th **Desert Lights '93 Fly** will light up the night. This will be the second annual High Desert night kite fly at Quartz Hill. Prizes will be awarded for Most Lights on a single kite, Most Beautiful Display of Lights and Most Absurd use of lights. Quad-, dual- and single-lines kites are eligible. Call (805) 943-6860 for more information and directions.

Desert Lights is presented by The Kite Ranch owned by Jon & Patty Small, an AKA Member Merchant. This most interesting kite store will surprise you. Jon has developed his ideas from many sources and has been influenced by the Buckaroos at Windborne in Monterey. This straight dealing and involved couple gives our Region an added dimension that extends beyond the Antelope Valley.

July 24th the San Diego Kite Club (SDKC) will meet in Ocean Beach as a co-conspirator for the **Ocean Beach Family Days**. This is the 3rd annual joint event and will also be the Founding Day event for the SDKC. The normally third Saturday monthly meeting will be moved to the above event for July.

By the time you read this, the SDKC's Luau will be history, but I want to mention a few items regarding the major event being planned in Region 12.

Rick Richards, owner of Destination San Diego will provide an overview of what the city of San Diego would like to see happen at a kite festival and present the support we can expect. Rick will also address the SDKC Board of Directors at the next meeting. If you are interested in helping, call me at (619) 566-7543, my home phone.

Die Ringelschlange fever has hit San Diego. Since the Drachen magazine Feb/Marz/Apr issue was published many of these circular, bewitching, spinning creatures have been seen attached to static lines. Others are in the process of being made in several kitemaker's workplaces.

If you want to build one, but have problems reading Die Ringelschlange ist urheberrechtlich geschützt. Die bier veröffentlichte Bauplan darf ausschließlich zu privaten Zwecken verwendet werden. Then, relief is spelled John Rogers. The first of, I hope, several kitemaking workshops will be given by John in making Die Ringelschlange. Call the SDKC Hotline at (619)222-9300 for details.

From Weifang, China comes this exciting word on a project that we can all contribute to. The Propaganda Department of the Chinese Communist Party is backing a major effort to publish "The Encyclopedia of International Kites," a study of the history, features, and technology of kites as well as kite festivals, famous kite artists, and current kite developments.

Mr. Zhen Jin, in his speech to the participants of the 10th Weifang International Kite festival stated, "A kite is a piece of a dazzling pearl in the international cultural treasure house. From past or present, kiteing has done much in promoting technological development and in molding a person's character in many other fields. Especially in recent years, since all scales of international kite festivals have been held all over the world, the kite art has developed to a period of great prosperity, which has strengthened the friendship between different people".

Present plans are for the book to contain eleven parts covering history, kinds and themes of kites, constructive technology, International kite festivals, kite museums, kite references, and famous kite personnel. The Chinese estimate the work will be over 400,000 words and will include over one thousand illustrations.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS, if you have any information; kite plans, historical references, technical plans, biographical information, or documentation of your own work,

please send it to Weifang as soon as possible. They are also looking for: photos of prize-winning and/or scientific kites, kite museums, and international festivals.

They want to know founding members of kite competitions and clubs and influential kite flyers. In short, everything and anything about kiteing. Feel free to send written materials, photos, slides and videos.

The materials are preferred to be written in English. Please send them to Mr. Liu Yu - kui, Foreign Affairs Office, Weifang, Shandong, China. Fax: (86) 536-238688.

International Corner

by Scott Skinner,
International
Committee Chair



MOVING?

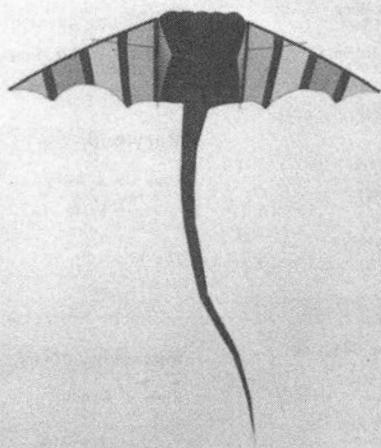
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Where It's At ... And The People You Meet

dinner. Our kite store is in the middle of Cannery Row. We get our share.

I was working one Saturday evening when a gentleman walked in. He browsed among the kites, asked a few questions about different ones, and made some selections. I shared some historical insights to kiting and showed off our Garber Target Kite and Gibson Girl.

After some 20 minutes of conversation, the gentleman commented that HE was a member of a well-known kite family. So I asked him his name as if I know everyone. Sometimes I'm so full of myself...

"Grosvenor" He said. "Gilbert Grosvenor. I live on the east coast."

The name rang a bell, but it was so faint and distant I couldn't be sure it had really rung. After a couple of minutes I had it. I knew where I had seen that name before. Gilbert's dad, Melvin Bell Grosvenor had founded and published the National Geographic Magazine (of which Gil is now the Editor/Publisher) and was a son of Alexander Graham Bell (a famous kite person indeed).

A closer connection to that point in time where tethered kites gave way to flying machines and the zany fringe element that dared to explore those things NOT known.

And another gentle reminder that one should not assume one knows who is standing there asking the questions or telling the story.

Summer is at full boil and kite stuff is coming hot and fast. The sport kite circuit is finding itself at a crossroads as the newer flyers replace the old guard. For every famous name we remember hearing in the reports, five new flyers are striving for that measure of fame.

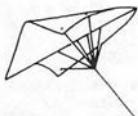
Some would say that life is a circle as family kite festivals (thought to be forgotten for all the stunter competitions) are growing as fast as the comps were just yesterday. All in all, a full season of a wonderful variety of kite happenings.

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The Monterey Peninsula is a particularly beautiful place.. People visit here from all over the world. Many wander around in the evening after their

The magic part happens as they are largely created on the spot by those who make the effort to show up. If you haven't made your way to some organized event in your neck of the woods; By all means, make the effort!

The Worldwide Rendezvous of Kites held in Montreal the first weekend of June was a shining example of kites as the showpiece of an urban European-style Festival. Over 100,000 people crowded the bleachers and the fringes of the fields to watch an international contingent of flyers put on a 4-day show in what **Peter Lynn** called "spectacularly unpredictable winds."

A more complete account of this watershed event in North American Urban Kite Festivals will appear in the next issue of this fine rag.

Smaller, less publicized, local and regional kite festivals are happening nearly every weekend and surely a few would be within a reasonable travel distance. Festivals become a very special part of the kiting experience. Go if you can, or build one of your own. If you build it, they will come.

With dreams of grandeur or just to find other flyers, find some local spot where your presence as a kiter would be noticed, within the bounds of safety and good taste, and appear there with your kites on some kind of regular basis. If there are in fact no other flyers around, at least you get to fly. Eventually you might offer over a line or an AKA handout to those curious folks behind you.

Some flyers are born to it, some we must make ourselves. Some of the curious learn with their eyes, some by hearing it explained and some just need to do it! Hands-on is the most connected way to feel the power and energy of the wind. Most of us would agree. We have found it. Listen to the questions for the clues to how each of us learns differently.

The Buggy Boogie Thang that is scheduled for next January will be at Ivanpah Dry Lake (We hope!) outside Las Vegas, Nevada on the 17th. - 20th. The event is timed for the end of the KTA show being held in Vegas. International buggy-ers from around the world and overseas.

If the lake is dry, we plan 4 days of buggy fun and match races. Lessons from beginner to advanced. We are hoping the international pressure and the hue and cry from the massed masses will persuade Peter Lynn that this can be a seminal American Buggy Event and He should really be there. Aahh, it'll probably rain!

Buggy Protection: A word of explanation. I spent my childhood in Southern Oregon during the 50's where "helmet" was a slang word for condom. I always wear one while Buggying. Sorry for any confusion.

Kite Chi Thought: The wind will be. Whenever this odd collection of so many different kinds of people, connected through kiting, collects, the painted skies erupt above them as they play their wind games. While the sky canvas is erased, the paint remains, and the spirit of the artist. A little bit in each of us (OK. lots in some) that works in mysterious ways when we join together in the sky. Don't Come Expecting Wind... Come To Play!

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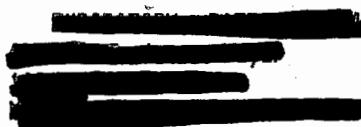
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