

AKA *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

Oregon '93 — Our Annual Convention Turns Sweet Sixteen!

by
Patrice McFadden,
Editor of *Kiting*

Seaside—a quaint and picturesque little town on the beautiful Oregon Coast—saw the convergence of kites from all over the world to attend Oregon '93, the 16th annual American Kitefliers Association Convention; nearly 450 members, including 20 international visitors from five countries were present, making the convention an incredible success.

The flying areas on the expansive oceanfront were very accessible from the many hotels that sit along the beach; those with an ocean view in their hotel could sit on their balcony and watch the great show in the sky! There was more free flying, more games, and more workshops than ever before; the competitions in both sport and comprehensive kites were spectacular! What more could a kiter want?

"It's been a fantastic convention," a happy, but clearly exhausted David Gomberg said on Sunday. "This is the first time that the AKA managed the event through our national office, rather than putting a local club in charge."

Peter Lynn's
Inflatable Tako
Tako kite at
Seaside.

Convention manager Jim Miller and his team really outdid themselves, presenting an extremely well organized, fun convention.

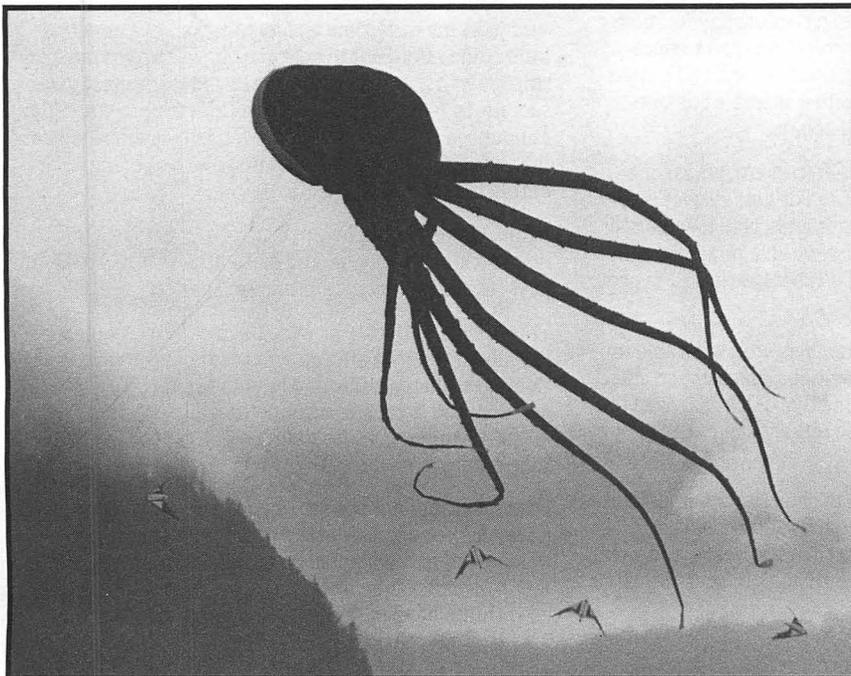
"When the AKA originally proposed to change to a 'do-it-ourselves' convention, without the benefit of a host club," said Jim, "my first thought was how are we going to get all the people it takes to put on a convention? Where are all those volunteers going to come from? Can we get that kind of effort out of the general membership? My concern was totally unfounded, and the answer a resounding YES.

"Oregon '93 was a tremendously successful convention because of the marvelous volunteer spirit of all those who gave so generously of themselves," Jim explained. "The workshop presenters, the event coordinators and their lieutenants, and all the worker-bees helping out at registration, the auction, and field events, made the convention what it was. All I did as convention manager was to provide some structure and organization, but the real credit for a successful convention goes to you folks in the AKA who helped to get the job done."

Over two times the amount of workshops were held on a variety of subjects such as: My Favorite Miniature Kites (Charlie Sotich), Getting the Most From Attending the Convention (Don McCasland), History of Western Pioneers (Jeff Cain), and many more! Abel Ortega very willingly filled-in at the last minute to teach How To Do Sport Kite Maneuvers, since Alan Nagao was unable to attend.

"The workshops went great," said workshop coordinator Don McCasland. "I received mixed opinions regarding the scheduling of the workshops overlapping each other, and that's a wonderful problem to have. We're already working on next year's line-up and scheduling, so that members can attend even more classes." Workshops were held each morning from 9:00 am to noon.

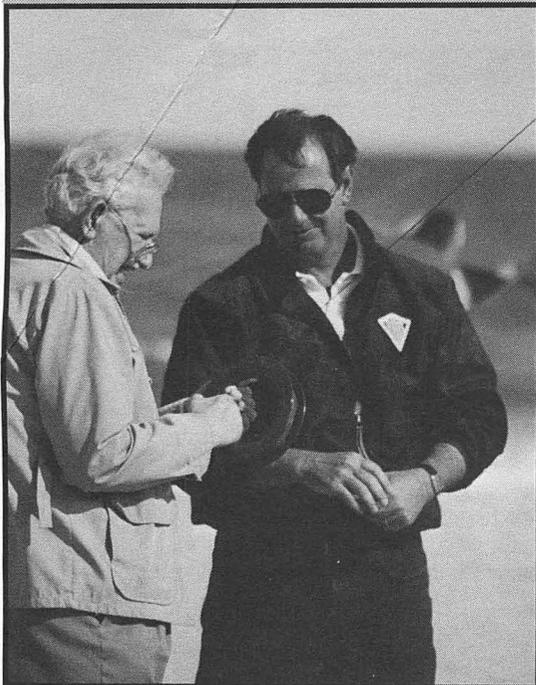
The unpredictable Oregon coast weather caused some delays—light winds, rain and drizzies—but competitions were all completed by Saturday. "The sport kite competitions had the intimate feel of a regional event, not a Grand National event," sport kite competitor Peter Shields said; his Team Paragon placed first in Ballet and second in Precision.



D. McCasland

The President's Page

David Gomberg



Dave at the Seaside convention.

Thank you for honoring me with another term.

Serving as president of your Association is a privilege, a joy – and occasionally – an enormous pain in the behind. Some of you know that I announced to the Board last July that I did not plan to run for reelection. A number of persistent phone calls convinced me to reconsider and I'm glad I did. The mood, spirit, and enthusiasm I encountered at our convention in Seaside reminded me that AKA is indeed doing good things, and more importantly, that you members are a wonderful bunch of people. I'm really looking forward to the next year.

Future Plans. For the past three years, AKA expanded the programs and services we provide to members. An improved newsletter, insurance, a directory, competition conferences, and a toll-free phone number are just a few examples.

My priority as president will not be to initiate major new programs in 1994. Instead, I want to polish our present programs and capitalize on what we have already done to increase both membership and the visibility of kiting in general. Unfortunately, the dues you pay don't cover all membership costs. Instead, we subsidize our membership budget with revenue from activities like product sales and the annual auction. Our goal is to have dues pay for membership costs and use program income to expand educational activities, festival support, publications, and similar projects. To do that, we need to either increase dues, decrease services, or increase membership.

I want to increase membership. Often, members ask me what they can do to help the AKA. The best answer is to help us grow. Sign up your flying friends, club members, or customers. Don't do it just because we give prizes, recognition and rewards to recruiters. Do it because it will be good for kiting.

Convention Summary. For members who were able to attend, Seaside was a great convention. That's important because this was also the first time that AKA managed the event through our national office rather than putting a local club in charge.

This was our largest convention to date. Hundreds of volunteers were involved, we offered more workshops than ever before – actually two times more than last year – and a real bright spot for me was breaking our auction record by raising nearly \$28,000!

The several business meetings were an opportunity for members to learn what we are trying to do and more importantly, to give us feedback. The response was passionate, especially in the special sport kite meetings. But actually, there was less "politics" than usual. The environment was upbeat, and what particularly impressed me was that everyone was working together looking for solutions to any problems, rather than looking for someone to blame. I think the sessions were very productive.

Anyone who stayed home because the amount of competition time was reduced made a mistake. Fliers were encouraged to do demonstrations all week, so rather than just compete once, contestants were able to parade their talents several times before prime-time crowds. Formal competitions actually took two days to finish, even though the Board had requested only one. We learned something from that and I expect there will be some additional time for competitions – along with a continued emphasis on fun flying – at our next convention.

Where Do We Go Next?? Last year, I asked our annual meeting committee to find potential convention sites in the Northeast and Midwest. It has been much too long since we have been able to bring the convention to members in those regions.

When I announced the '94 decision during our annual business meeting, cheers broke out. The proposal provides for large flying areas right next to our hotels. Lodging costs will be under \$50 a night, and while our off-season schedule will mean that we have the entire community to ourselves, our host city has promised to promote attendance in nearby population centers.

So the bottom line is that we're expecting another big success and we're particularly expecting those of you in the East who haven't been able to join us lately to be there. Our 1994 Convention will be in Wildwood, N.J.

More on Membership. Some time ago, I wrote that AKA was working to become an organization that no serious kiter could afford not to belong to. If our current membership growth is any measure, we are having a great deal of success. In Seaside, our Executive Director, Brooks Leffler announced that we now have over 5,000 members! That makes AKA the largest association of dues-paying kite enthusiasts in the world.

More Good News. I want each of you to take a moment now, pick up the phone, and dial **1-408-SEE-4-AKA** – the new AKA Automated Information Service.

This is AKA's effort to provide the most current information about who we are and what we do. Insurance, sanctioning, affiliated clubs, and how to run for office are all detailed, and if you are a competitor, current ranking for all AKA Conferences are posted. All you need is a touch-tone phone.

Darrin Skinner has been the brains and muscle behind the new AKA service. He did the programming and arranged to have the hardware donated. "SEE-4-AKA" is just one more example of members getting involved and making good things happen.

Dave

DANIEL IS AMAZED

I read the President's column in the last issue of *Kitting* in sheer amazement. In it, David Gomberg explains that he is tired of "personality conflicts, game playing and the 'politics' that distract us from accomplishing more." He then proceeded to fill his column with all three.

What sparked this indignation was that Frank Kenisky wrote a letter which criticized the AKA. [See Vol. 5, pg 5.] But he is not mad at Frank. No, he is mad at Daniel Prentice and *American Kite* magazine. Why? Because in his words: "Even the possibility that *AKM* has encouraged letters critical of the AKA, suggests that our disagreements have not faded away."

He supports this "possibility" by outlining disagreements that are two and three years old. He states this history in a very misleading manner – one which is bound to stir up new arguments.

In closing, he writes that we have "to stop this nonsense" and if "you see anyone behaving unconstructively, you should give them a swift kick in the pants." Of course in the next paragraph, he's doing exactly that by writing, "I feel the magazine has treated me and the AKA shabbily."

I believe David's letter, itself, was very unconstructive. I read no reconciliation there and, in fact, instead of "burying the hatchet," I think he has simply dug it up again. If David wanted to resolve these issues, why has he not mentioned them to me in more than two years? I am tired of this and I am sure you are as well, but I will once again try to set the record straight. The following facts can all be verified by other people or your own common sense.

1. *American Kite* had nothing to do with Frank Kenisky's letter (ask him). Printing "letters to the editor" does not mean the staff agrees with them. We print letters critical of the magazine and we rarely agree with them.

2. Regarding the history of the Circuit and the *American Kite*, I think the following facts speak for themselves:

The Circuit was designed to promote the AKA. Events were required to be sanctioned which meant competitors would be AKA members. The Circuit culminated at the AKA Grand Nationals, which brought more flyers to the convention. We handed out Circuit trophies at the convention banquet, tying events throughout the year to the AKA. Circuit events were required to use the AKA rules book which meant that essentially the AKA controlled the sport.

Also, in 1989, *American Kite* organized the World Cup and asked to host the first competition at the 1990 convention and thereby attract more international flyers to the convention. All the above was done at no expense to the AKA.

How has the AKA responded? In 1990, it rejected the idea of having the World Cup within its convention. In 1991, it published a revised rules book in the middle of the season which disrupted "teams" trying to qualify for World Cup, confused organizers, and caused hardship throughout the Circuit.

American Kite petitioned David, then the Board to delay the new rules until after the season, explaining the many problems it would cause. They refused. *American Kite*

magazine then asked the Board to "officially recognize" the Circuit so that future problems of this nature would not happen. They refused.

The Board took a survey of the membership and the majority of the respondents voted in favor of working with the Circuit. (This fact can be confirmed by survey chair, Suzanne Edison.) The Board ignored these survey results.

Ultimately, the Board did agree that in the future it would not publish a new rules book in the middle of the circuit season. However, in 1993, it published its new rules book in August (the middle of the season).

In 1992, the AKA Board voted to make its '93 convention "invitational" and thereby remove it from the Circuit altogether. This was an AKA action, not *American Kite*.

I am not writing to argue whether any of these choices were good or bad for the AKA. The point is simply that *American Kite* magazine and the Circuit committee have been trying to work with the AKA. It is the AKA president and Board creating a split.

3. Has *American Kite* treated the AKA shabbily? This is an absurd statement. Examine it for yourself. Before *American Kite* magazine, there was hardly a word printed about the AKA for ten years. *American Kite* has published more articles about the AKA than any other magazine. We have not only run numerous articles on the AKA convention, we have done many profiles in terms of the AKA. For example, interviewing someone as the "AKA Kiteflier of the Year," or "AKA Founder," increases the credibility of the AKA.

We have run promotional ads for the AKA at no cost. We did this without any request from the AKA. In the Publisher's column of the last issue, I encouraged readers to call the 800# of the AKA for more kite information.

And finally, there are the countless hours invested in trying to make the Circuit benefit the AKA and fliers. Previous Boards encouraged our involvement and we gave it freely. Is this shabby treatment? Can you name any other company which has given as much to the AKA? So why is all this going on? I don't know. I cannot guess what is in another man's heart, but I do know that actions speak louder than words.

Daniel Prentice
Cedar Ridge, CA

Variable Winds Aloft Letters to the AKA

GOMBERG RESPONDS

If the AKA President or Board has made mistakes in the past or failed to properly credit *American Kite* Magazine for their many contributions, I apologize. As I said in September, we've all made mistakes. Now is the time to put them behind us so we can focus on the future and the betterment of kiting.

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Sweet Sixteen (continued)

Due to the new conference rankings in sport kiting this year, there weren't nearly as many heats in the sport kite categories (competitors were already pre-qualified). [See separate article on page 7.]

Also, this year, there was more time for fliers like Lee Sedgewick, Sue Taft, Pam Kirk, Mike Dennis and others to perform demonstrations with various types of sport kites, pleasing the audience with their talent and grace. Five-year old Chad Morrison stole the show with his sport kiteflying routine.

The Comprehensive competitions truly brought out the best of the best. With 96 competitors the judging was tough but the event ran smoothly with good winds. Bobby Stanfield won Grand Champion with his awesome cellular kite. [See article on page 11.]

Like some extraordinary art exhibit, the "museum in the sky" was filled each day with beautiful creations, ranging from trains of sport kites, to giant parafoils, Deltas, Rokkakus, train arches, windsocks and spinners. King Tut, a giant gecko lizard, legs, an octopus, panda bears, airplanes, and much more were all flying high! Nighttime fliers were seen flying kites with lights and other fancy apparatus in the evening. The beach at Seaside provided a wide expanse for kites to fly all types and sizes of kites, with no congestion problems of any kind. The area was well organized, and competition arenas were well marked.

The announcers on the field, Rick Talbott and his crew, did a fantastic job of explaining to the many spectators that lined the promenade and meandered on the beach many of kiting's intricacies like what type of kites were flying, and how the kites were being judged, etc.

The Kite Games, held throughout each day, were sparsely attended. The games included the Single-line Bear Drop, Quad-line Bozo Buckets, Fighter Kite Games, Touch-Me Contest and Small Kite Olympics. Coordinator Mike Steele wasn't troubled by the low turnout, "The more we do it, the more people will expect the Games, and be prepared." he said.

The annual business meeting was held – with a record number of members in attendance – Wednesday evening to discuss Association business and announce the results of the yearly elections. For the fourth year Dave Gomberg was voted in as President. [See separate article on page 12.]

Providing an outlet was a new forum for sport kites aptly called Sport Kite Symposium. Over 150 members attended the open forum, creating an atmosphere to exchange new ideas. [See article on page 13 for the whole story.]

The Fly Market was its usual overwhelming success. The room was packed with shoppers on Thursday – (opening night) and vendors offered fabulous bargains on kites and kite paraphernalia, from posters to high-tech cigarette lighters that don't get blown out in the wind! Jewelry and books were very popular, as well as pins and Oregon '93 souvenirs (the t-shirts and pins sold out the first day of the convention).

Continued on page 6

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Sweet Sixteen (continued)

\$28,000! Yes, that's right. The Great Kite Auction generated that kind of money, thanks to the generosity of the AKA members. Not only did they donate wonderful stuff, they paid big bucks to buy it back! Chair Susan Gomberg and her team did an amazing job rounding up unique items to create the best auction ever.

The evening began by bidding on the silent auction; an aerial photo rig, miscellaneous miniature kites, rare pins, t-shirts, earrings, tie tacks, hats, and a diverse array of kites. Cash and Carry was also held at the same time and most articles quickly sold out.

Auctioneers Rick Kinnard, Corey Jensen, and Andy King kept the loud auction portion flowing with their lively banter, bringing top dollar to many one-of-a-kind pieces. A very special 7-artist kite donated and created by Randy Tom, Jon Burkhardt, Spencer Chun, José Sainz, Kathy Goodwind, Stretch Tucker and Romeo Collado was sold to Tom Ryan for \$3100! Four limited edition Seaside logo pins were sold for \$150 each! The sail from a 1942 Garber target kite was highly sought after; it sold for \$480. Karen Gustavson outbid Scott Skinner paying \$1500 for one of Bill Lockhart's patchwork box kites. \$750 was paid for an incredible 200-ft. dragon kite, with King Neptune applied on the face. A very rare book, *Parakites* written by Woglom, published in 1896, pulled in \$750.

Once again the pie-in-the-face tradition continued – John Barresi got his nemesis John Morrison with the first pie. Brooks Leffler paid to smash pie in Andy King's face, and Martin Lester actually got two pies in the face for \$400! Is this anyway to earn a living?!

On Saturday night, the banquet room was filled with excited energy – winners had not been announced for the

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sport kite and the Comprehensives as well as the Grand Champion. The banquet room walls were decorated with the many works of art which were competing for the Members' Choice awards for kite and kite accessory. [See page 11 for a complete list of award winners.] The trophies (all donated by various member merchants and individual members), were clear acrylic with the colorful Oregon '93 logo painted on them.

The Regional Director of the Year was awarded to Suzanne Edison, Director of Region 2 New York State. Not only has she been an active regional director for several years, she is also Chair for the annual meeting committee. Interestingly enough, due to reapportionment of the regions, there is no longer a New York State region!

Bevan and Margo Brown were honored with the prestigious Steve Edeiken Award for Kitefliers of the Year. Valerie Govig graciously accepted the trophy for them in their absence since they were not able to be at the Convention themselves. [See the article on page 22 about the Browns.]

Martin Lester presented the Dom Jalbert Award for Innovation to Jim, Joe and Dave Hadzicki for their contributions to the kite world. They have truly touched the imagination of thousands with their incredible four-line kite the Revolution and revolutionized the way the world looks at kiteflying!

Awards were given for the membership drive held throughout the year. Trlby Products won a free convention registration for recruiting 82 new members! (see page 23 for all the winners.)

"We had an excellent time – it's our first convention, but it won't be our last," Steve & Judy Millsbaugh of Washington enthusiastically stated.

Each day ended with a beautiful sunset in the temperamental sky that hung over the ocean and competition fields – Nature's way of smiling in approval of the happiness we shared.

Oregon '93 - Smooth Flying for Sport Kite Competitions!

This year's Grand National events were scheduled to take place primarily on Friday, with Open Quad-line and Freestyle reserved for Saturday afternoon. The change in time allotted for sport kite events was designed to ensure that competitions didn't dominate the convention schedule or overwhelm available volunteers.

To some, this change was a major bone of contention and they chose not to come rather than conform to something with which they did not agree. Many came and exercised their right to voice their opinions in the Sport Kite Symposium and, to some extent, in the annual meeting. Ultimately, after all was said and done, the Oregon weather had the last word!

It rained most of Thursday night. Friday dawned wet and cool with only a slight breeze when the events were scheduled to start. Judges were lined up, flight orders posted, and fliers' territories marked by banners, cabanas, and ground displays. Ground is the operative word here; there was hardly enough wind to ruffle the banners. Most kites remained grounded except for those hardy souls who were practicing their 360's. After a few hours of waiting and testing the wind, head judge Eric Forsberg called a break until after lunchtime, hoping the wind would pick up. The sun finally came out along with a good, steady breeze and events were off and running in three fields after lunch.

By the end of the day, all of the scheduled individual events had been completed (except for IIB) and Team competition and Open events had been moved to Saturday.

The rain returned again Friday night, but tapered off after sunrise leaving a good steady breeze Saturday morning. Overall, Saturday turned out to be a good sequel to Friday, although it was certainly not without challenge for the event organizers. First of all, judges were harder to find because many of them were either involved in Team competition or had taken time out to attend Randy Tom's kitemaking workshop. Second, other events had already been scheduled in the competition fields (Rokkaku battle, fighter kite, etc.) and schedules had to be revised all day.

The sun came out and soothed the tension, the wind held pretty steady so by the end of the day, all events had been completed and only demo time had been sacrificed to the change in plans.

Event coordinators Genny & Eric Forsberg did a wonderful job of overcoming the challenges and pulled off another memorable Grand National event. Thanks and hugs to both of them! Thanks, also, to the volunteers who spent hours working in various capacities performing the countless tasks that are so important to an event like this but are sometimes not so obvious. You know who you are - it couldn't have happened without you!

The awards banquet Saturday night finally ended two days of suspense. The winners had not yet been posted so there had been much speculation and attempted bribery of the scorekeepers for the results. The top three in each category received a beautiful trophy from AKA and a hug from Genny. Congratulations to "The Best of the Best!"

by Kate Talbott

If you didn't see much of Kate at the Convention, this Head Scorekeeper spent most of her time entering scores into the computer.

The Winners

Novice Indiv. Precision

1	Mike Huff	70.22
2	Dennis Whyte	67.00
3	Gary LaCross	62.56

Intermediate Indiv. Precision

1	Phil Freiberger	68.00
2	Steve Irby	65.33
3	Jeff Rivers	65.11

Intermediate Indiv. Ballet

1	Hiroyuki Nakayama	75.73
2	Chuck Connor	68.68
3	Ken Blain	62.53

Experienced Indiv. Precision

1	Lou Behrman	75.11
2	Melinda Tackett	74.56
3	Rich Javens	70.89

Experienced Indiv. Ballet

1	David Bui	82.73
2	Shelley Hobbs	78.47
3	Rick Tackett	76.93

Masters Indiv. Precision

1	Abel Ortega	78.89
2	Steve Bates	76.78
3	Jon Trennepohl	74.56

Masters Indiv. Ballet

1	Abel Ortega	87.20
2	John Tivolacci	82.80
3	Greg Aronson	82.47

Open Indiv. Freestyle

1	Ray Bethell	77.53
2	John Barresi	73.10
3	Craig McReynolds	65.48

Open Indiv. Quad-line

1	John Barresi	84.80
2	Dave Arnold	71.87
3	Dodd Gross	71.53

Experienced Team Precision

1	Team Cutting Edge	64.10
2	Team Paragon	63.25
3	Team Woodwinds	61.51

Experienced Team Ballet

1	Team Paragon	75.07
2	Team Cutting Edge	72.40
3	Team Woodwinds	65.40

Experienced Pairs Ballet

1	Team Wing and A Prayer	81.07
2	Team Air Affair	67.33
3	Team Gone With The Wind	54.60

Masters Team Precision

1	Team Bay Area Sundowners	63.50
2	Team Invisible Wind	62.83
3	Team Storm Front	47.45

Masters Team Ballet

1	Team Invisible Wind	65.73
2	Team Bay Area Sundowners	60.20

Masters Pairs Ballet

1	Team Aviators	86.80
2	Team Cosmic Storm	76.47
3	Team Mac Attack	72.00

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Rockport Fly Gets National Coverage!

by Colette Ratajski

Colette is President of
Gems in the Wind
Kite Club.

Gems in the Wind kite club hosted the 4th annual Rockport Beach Kite Fly on Labor Day weekend, September 3-5, 1993. Thirty-two AKA fliers participated in the weekend event.

Friday's press conference kicked off the event with a Rokkaku battle between the local Sheriff's Department (Sheriff David Petrisitus), the State of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (Raymond Jaramillo), Fulton Volunteer Fire Department (Jackie Mundine), and the Rockport Volunteer Department (Jeff Jorden). Raymond Jaramillo won. Local newspapers as well as the Corpus Christi CBS Channel 10 news team covered the event. Jim Siebert, head of the news team, was introduced to kite flying by flying a Rokkaku and a dual-line kite. His enthusiasm prompted CNN to pick up and broadcast the story nationwide on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday morning began with a steady northern breeze making way for the Fighter Kite battle. Under the direction of Rick Roberts, 16 kitefliers participated in the event with Joel Scholz defeating Terry Baudoin in the final round. The Precision Figures event followed, demonstrating the hours of practice required to perfect the figures. Throughout the day, single-line kites filled the skyline along Rockport Beach. The competition was tough, but the judges finally decided on the winners in each category. After a day of flying, Gems in the Wind kite club hosted a banquet & auction at the Stewart-Wendall VFW Hall. The auction was a great success with benefits going to the Good Samaritans organization to assist individuals and families in Aransas County.

As always in the state of Texas, especially along the Gulf coast, weather conditions change at the drop of a pin. With barely a breeze whispering, the judges called a wind delay. Once the wind started to cooperate, the Sunday Ballet events began. With a little restructuring, the Masters Ballet commenced followed by the other classes. The single-line fliers caught a slight breeze on the beach enabling them to put up a splendid display. As the scheduled events ended, the award medallions were given out to the first three winners in each division. Abel Ortega received the prestigious award of a cooler full of ice water for the third consecutive year. Congrats Abel!

Terry & Linda Crumpler hosted a barbecue at the Village Inn motel Sunday evening. The hamburgers were great, swimming was very refreshing, and everyone enjoyed the guitar music by Wayne Daniel, Efren Garcia, and Chris Dunlop.

The fun fly Monday morning was quickly put to rest due to lack of wind, overcast skies, and a light drizzle. Even under these conditions, everyone headed home with smiles on their faces.

KTA Will Hold Sixth Annual Trade Show

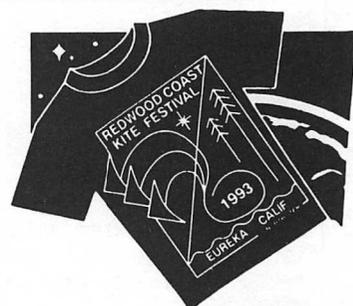
The Kite Trade Association, International, will be having its sixth annual Convention & Trade Show January 11-16, 1994, at the Stardust Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The premier kite industry event of the year will be the Trade Show, which will have almost 100 booths displaying the newest kites and products from around the world.

Last year, the Convention & Trade Show had over 500 attendees from 19 countries. The Convention consists of educational seminars and roundtables geared toward the business of making, marketing, and selling kites for members of the KTA. There will be a product demonstration Saturday afternoon for retailers and a Kite Fly Day on Sunday, January 16, which will be open to the general public. This event will introduce the newest, most colorful kites and stunt kites on the market!

For more information, please contact:

Traci Davis Souza
KTA, International
50 First Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone and FAX (415) 764-4908

The Kite Trade Association, International, is a trade association headquartered in San Francisco. Its members, from 23 countries, are the manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of kites, an industry estimated to be over \$216,000,000 strong.



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Fish Kite

I was pleased to win a ribbon for most unique train kite at Long Beach, Washington with this design. Singly or in a train, given enough tails this fish can handle a lot of wind.

Materials List

1. 8-1/2 x 11 in. brightly colored paper, i.e. Astrobright.
2. One each: 6-1/2 in. and 11 in. match stick bamboo sticks - from a blind with approximately 1/8 in. sticks.
3. Vinyl plastic tape 3/4 or 1 in. wide or 1 in. x 1-1/2 in. computer mailing labels.
4. Tails: 10 ft. fold in half either crepe paper - plastic surveyors tape or adding machine tape.
5. 100-200 ft. cotton string, I use lightweight crochet string.

Construction

1. Photo copy pattern onto 8-1/2 x 11 paper.
2. Fold in half lengthwise - nose to tail.
3. Cut out 1/2 circle in middle of body.

4. Cut around outline of fish.
5. Punch 1/8 in. hole on side fin.
6. Unfold, you should have a fish with a round hole in the middle.
7. Tape 11 in. stick on back in the crease, tape over ends of stick.
8. Tape 6-1/2 in. stick in place. Stick on back of kite in holes and even with the edge of paper. This spreader will give the kite a bowed or V shape.
9. Fold tail in half and tape in middle of bottom fin on back side.
10. Tie the flying line to the spine stick on the printed side of kite. The string is tied at the top of the round hole.

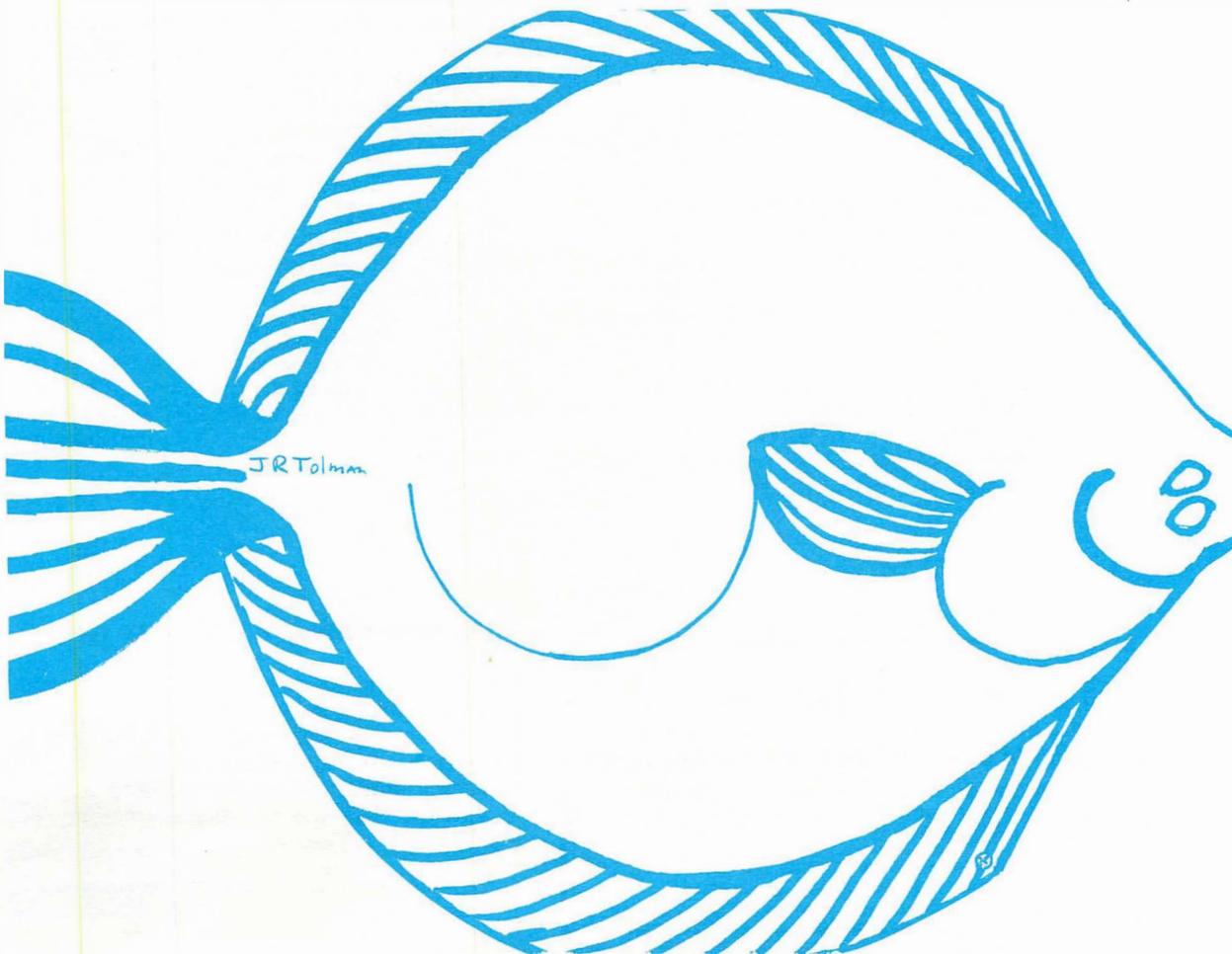
This kite has been made by the hundreds up and down the west coast, and I've been thrilled to see a few hundred flying at one time. Here's to your successful flight.

Kitemaking

The Art and the Science

by J.R. Tolman

J.R. is an avid kitemaker and teacher of kitemaking.



Live TV Broadcast at NY Stunt Kite Championship

Wind + Sun + Hotdogs = Kite Fly

by Susie Edison

Susie and Bill Edison are the organizers of the NY Championship

The fourth annual New York Stunt Kite Championships (NYSKC) held at Mitchel Field in Uniondale, Long Island, August 21-22, were a great success. The NBC Weekend Today Show from NY broadcast live from the field on Saturday morning. Johnna & Sean Doyle from Dyna Kite performed team train to the show's music and Alex Mason, an extraordinary 5-year old kiteflier from Georgia, gave the show's host Bobby Rivers a lesson. He won the hearts of cast and crew alike. Also featured were Melinda lasilli and Bill Edison.

The weather was picture-perfect on Saturday and the Magical Mystery tour was a lot of fun. This year's winner of the \$200 cash prize was Bob Hanson. Gilbert Velazquez, an Intermediate competitor, made the finals by flying a great routine to "It's still rock and roll to me." Sunday morning was another beautiful day, but the winds were light until midday.

Of note was Robert McBroom in the Intermediate Ballet event. Doug Laubach took first place in both Experienced Precision and Ballet. Abel Ortega took first place in both Masters Ballet and Precision and also gave a free seminar sponsored by UP Sports. Over 65 kitefliers attended the back-to-basics class which provided valuable information and techniques that should help them score better and also enjoy the sport more.

Rhode Island swept the Freestyle event, with Joe Perron taking first, Steve Santos, second, and Dave Simpson, third.

The team events had UP 6 Pac first in Ballet and second in Precision in the Experienced Class. The High Flyers swept the Masters Class and flew one of the best ballet routines in NYSKC history. DJ Jam won the Pairs Experienced Class with Adventures close behind. Masters pairs saw Duodrones fly a great performance for a first place victory. Open Team Train had DK Breezing far in the lead.

The event was well run with a great banquet at the Marriot Hotel. Everyone had a lot of fun and plans are underway for NYSKC's fifth annual event. We want to thank everyone including sponsors, competitors, and the public for a great event.

by Derrol Hammer

You want wind, Tracy's got wind! The First Tracy Kite Fly held August 15 in the heart of California's San Joaquin Delta region was characterized by warm winds, warm sun, and hot dogs. Northern California Kite Club members who drove through San Francisco Bay Area rains were pleasantly surprised to find a full day of sun. The wind came up early and strong, staying with us all day.

About 50 NCKC members and over 100 spectators enjoyed the wind and sun at Tracy's new Placencia Athletic Field, with twenty acres of wide-open grass space. It was great to see the Northern California Kite Club members from all over the Bay Area. There was a lively club meeting with lots of work done leading to the Golden Gate Challenge and the end-of-season campout weekend.

Peter & Sue Hartman, the cooks for the day, teamed up with Bob James of Motion Industries to offer a great hot dog barbecue. Wayne Whistler added a nice touch with a huge container of his famous ceviche. The lunch was a welcome and tasty respite from the winds that tested everyone's endurance.

The field was spotted with everyone's favorite high wind kites. Even the Bay Area Sundowners had a chance to do some tuning on their new high wind trains. Despite a valiant effort, the wind proved too strong for an attempt to put up Bob Anderson's "Bobby Sock." However, Brad Graber's Strato filled the gap by supporting his newly acquired ring and lofting a beautiful display of line laundry. A few brave souls put up Rokkakus, but the wind proved to be too much for them. Not many other single-line kites were able to conquer the wind, so it turned out to be mostly a sport kite day.

Thanks are in order to Bob Anderson, John Lippold, and Scott McKelvie for helping with field set-up and to Dan Russell and Dick Reynolds for providing a very convenient and labor-saving golf cart. Final thanks are due to Jim Raymond of the city of Tracy for his support in making the field available.

Bits of String Too Short To Save

The registration form for the Windsong Kite Festival in Oklahoma included this interesting request for contestants: "We'd love to have fighter kite freestyle with music. If some brave/no guts-no glory/fool hardy or artist-dancer wants to try it in demo or in contest, let us know. Since fighters are so 'flighty' we may have to sigh and wait for next year."

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

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Oregon '93 Comprehensive Kite Competition Spectacular!

We had one of the best kitemaking competitions ever at the 1993 AKA Convention in Seaside, Oregon. The kites were spectacular and the competition was intense. Ninety-six competitors went through all four judging criteria: kite flight and kite handling, aesthetic visual flight appeal, craftsmanship, and structural design. This year, kites were judged by three to five judges on each of the four criteria. Olympic-style scoring procedures were used, with each judge awarding points from zero to ten on each criterion, then the high and low judges' scores were deleted from the calculation of the average score for each kite for each of the four judging criteria. The total of the points for each kite was the sum of the four average scores. The highest scoring kite in each of the competitive categories (see list below) was the winner of that category. The judges then ranked the winners of all the categories to determine the 1993 Grand National Champion.

The results of the competition were not revealed until the banquet Saturday night. Jon Burkhardt, the head judge, announced the first, second, and third place winners in each category. Karen Marks, head scorekeeper, distributed trophies and hugs to the winners. Then the Most Innovative Kite Award was awarded. Finally, Rick Talbott and Ron Gibian, two of the judges, delivered a sealed envelope to Burkhardt, which revealed that Bobby Stanfield of Tustin, California, was the 1993 Grand National Champion.

Special thanks to all the judges: Dave Arnold, Don Dixon, Ron Gibian, Rick Kinnaird, Martin Lester, Chuck Lund, George Maurer, Joel Scholz, Scott Spencer, and Rick Talbott. The registrars: Sherrie Arnold and Betty Hirschmann. The field staff: Priscilla Horachek and Tom Sisson. The head scorekeeper: Karen Marks and also thanks to all the trophy sponsors.

Individual scores are available to competitors who write to Jon Burkhardt, 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

Large Rokkaku Battle

- 1 Team What's Up
- 2 Team White Horse Kite Flyers
- 3 Team Wind Wizards

Small Rokkaku Battle

- 1 Dan Buxton
- 2 Team Nightmare
- 3 Jon Reinschriber & Jill Duncan

Fighter Kite Contest

- 1 Joe Vaughan
- 2 Ken Osterlund
- 3 Mike Steele

Most Innovative

Batman by Randy Tom

Member's Choice

Individual Kite
Tatoo - Shirone kite
by Randy Tom

Kite Accessory

Kite bag
by Stan Swanson

The Winners

Flat or Bowed

- 1 Randy Tom
- 2 José Sainz
- 3 Bill Lockhart

Delta & Derivatives

- 1 Bill Lockhart
- 2 Debra Cooley
- 3 Ray Wong

Cellular/Dimensional

- 1 Bobby Stanfield
- 2 Ron Gibian
- 3 Bill Lockhart

Soft & Semi-rigid

- 1 Bonnie Wright
- 2 Dale Vanderhoof
- 3 Kevin Shannon

Trains & Centipedes

- 1 Joel Scholz
- 2 Charlie Sotich
- 3 Maurizio Angeletti

Figure or Novelty

- 1 Charlie Sotich
- 2 Don Mock
- 3 Randy Tom

Cooperative

- 1 Seven Sisters Kitemakers
- 2 Sue Taft & Lee Sedgewick
- 3 Dave Christensen

Stunt/Multiple-line

- 1 Joel Scholz
- 2 Dean Jordon
- 3 José Sainz

Trad. Eastern Kites

- 1 Satoshi Hashimoto
- 2 Charlie Sotich

Rokkaku Kites

- 1 José Sainz
- 2 Stretch Tucker
- 3 Gail Linsey

Historical Repro. Western Kites

- 1 Jerry Sinotte
- 2 Tom McAlister
- 3 Dale Vanderhoof

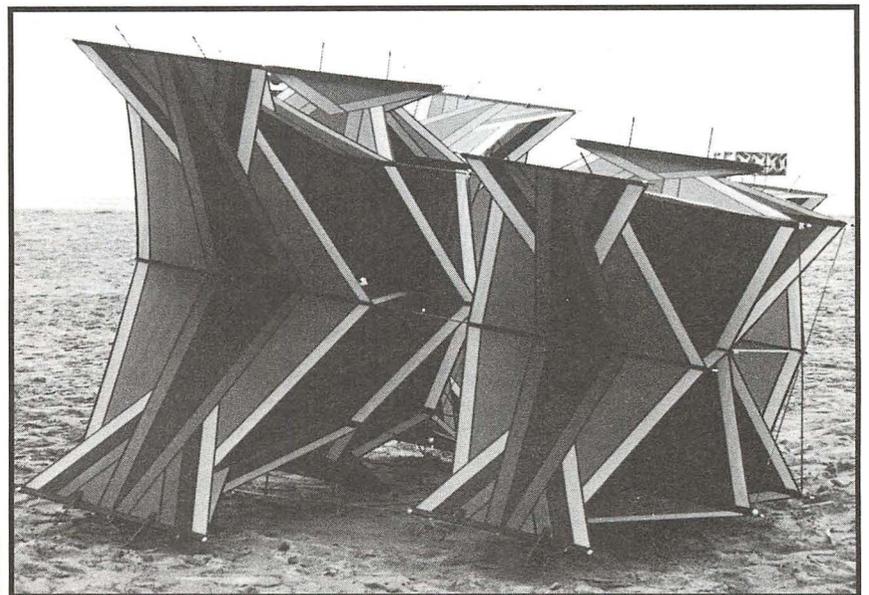
Combined/ Undesignated

- 1 Tom McAlister
- 2 Richard Dermer
- 3 Jeff Cain

Grand Champion Bobby Stanfield

by Jon Burkhardt,
Comprehensive
Coordinator

Bobby Stanfield's
Grand Champion kite.



L. DeBolat

by Brooks Leffler,
Executive Director

A Well-Attended Annual Meeting

The AKA annual meeting took place as always on Wednesday night at Seaside, and played to a much fuller house than some in recent years, with almost half of the conventioners in attendance.

Board elections under the new regional realignment were first on the agenda. Elections committee chair Mel Govig announced the results:

President	David Gomberg	
Director, Region 5	Great Lakes	Robyne Gardner
Director, Region 6	Midwest	Bob Neiman
Director, Region 7	Great Plains	Chris Moore
Director, Region 8	South Central	Richard Dermer
Director, Region 9	Intermountain	Dave Colbert
Director, Region 11	SoCal/Pacific	Walt Thompson

David Gomberg's election is to an unprecedented fourth one-year term. Each of the Regional Directors will serve a three-year term except Colbert and Thompson, each of whom will serve the one remaining year of an unexpired term.

In nominating Directors-At-Large, David announced that Kay Buesing would be leaving the Board, to be replaced by annual meeting committee Chair Susie Edison, the only Regional Director to have been reapportioned out of a job. All other current At-Large Directors were renominated, and the slate was elected unanimously.

David announced a slight realignment in the Officers for 1994, as follows:

1st Vice President	Richard Dermer
2nd Vice President	Peter Dolphin
Treasurer	Mel Hickman
Recording Secretary	George Maurer
Directors-At-Large	Vern Balodis, Suzanne Edison, Genny Forsberg, Billy Jones

David announced new committee chairs, listed on page 4.

Nominating chair Richard Dermer urged the re-election of the longtime election committee of Nat & Cynthia Kobitz and Mel & Valerie Govig for next year, and solicited nominations for the Nominating Committee for next year's election. The Kobitzes and Govigs were re-elected, and a nominating committee of Pete Dolphin, chair, and Dave Colbert, Mike Dennis, Richard Dermer, Janene Evard, Scott Skinner, Susan Jo Skinner, and Rick Talbott was likewise approved.

David announced the creation of the AKA Information Service, a computer-based telephone system containing answers to most of the frequently asked questions about AKA and AKA-sanctioned competition. Darrin Skinner created the system, which may be reached at (408)SEE-4-AKA.

Treasurer Mel Hickman, with an apology for coming on as "The Grinch that Stole Christmas," reviewed the association's financial condition. Current projections were that AKA would end the year \$7,300 in the red, mostly due to higher-than-anticipated publishing costs. In return, we now have book inventories which will carry us through much of next year. [Since the meeting, the auction has brought in \$4,000 more than anticipated, and the

convention will likely show an unbudgeted profit, although our annual insurance premium will be \$5,000 higher than budgeted.]

The membership approved a balanced budget for 1994, agreeing with the Board's recommendation that publication of the next membership directory should be postponed until early 1995.

Executive Director Brooks Leffler announced the winners of the 1993 membership drive, listed on page 23, and reported that membership has reached 5,000.

TAKING THE PULSE

David introduced Tom Casselman, who with Scott Skinner had just completed a telephone survey of 110 members selected at random to ascertain member sentiment about moving the convention to a different time of year, and other more general sentiments about AKA. Tom gave the results of the survey as follows:

Members were asked, "Is Fall the best time for the AKA Convention?" Responses were 69-yes, 38-no, 3-no opinion. Of those answering no, 23 suggested Summer and 14 said Spring. Each respondent was asked if they were "competition-oriented." 74-no, 37-yes. And finally, each member was asked if s/he was "generally happy with the AKA." A resounding 107-yes, and 3-no.

David pointed out that the Board did not feel that the necessary by-law amendment to change the convention schedule was warranted at this time, but encouraged those who felt strongly about the matter to consider submitting their own proposed amendment.

JERSEY IN '94

In Susie Edison's absence, Dave Gomberg announced that the 1994 convention would be held in Wildwood, NJ, October 12 - 16, and that negotiations were under way for Tulsa, OK, for 1995.

Jon Burkhardt, chair of the newly-renamed Kitemaking Competitions committee, announced that a revision to the 1991 rulebook was planned for 1994, and welcomed all suggestions for changes.

Safety & Ethics chair Kevin Shannon reported on the Board's consideration of proposals by the Power Kiting subcommittee to include bugging activities at AKA-sanctioned events, and to extend liability protection for same. Kevin said that the Board had approved making the subcommittee an independent committee, but declined to approve the recommendations until the committee could develop them further.

A wide-ranging discussion followed the regular agenda. Mel Govig, speaking for Bob Price, expressed concern about careless behavior on the flying field which was disrespectful of the flags of the USA and other countries. The membership approved a proposal that the association develop and publish guidelines for flag etiquette.

our address so we can send you a bumper sticker.

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USA

7) If you've visited other museums, kite or otherwise, what did you see that was good and/or not so good?

The Museum thanks you for taking time to give us your thoughts so we can plan the very best Kite Museum.

Yes, I'd like to become a member of the
WORLD KITE MUSEUM and HALL of FAME



Please indicate annual membership contribution you wish to make.

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- Donor 50.
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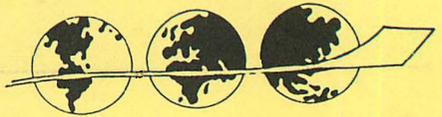
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The World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame

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DEAR AKA MEMBERS,

With the generous support of the City of Long Beach, the World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame is planning to enlarge its building. Because you are kite enthusiasts, we want your ideas about what you think *THE IDEAL KITE MUSEUM* would be like and what it should do. This will help us plan an appropriate building.

For your time and efforts Drachen Designs joins the museum in our appreciation, and will send you a free American Kiteflyer bumper sticker.

Below are listed some categories to respond to, but don't let them stifle your ideas. We need your help to plan the best possible facility.

Unless otherwise specified put a * after those of primary importance to you; ✓ check if they are of lesser importance; write **NO** if you feel they are unnecessary. After 'Other' write in your suggestions.

1) What kind of exhibits would you like to see?

Permanent exhibits done by professionals _____ Demonstrations _____
Shorter term, changing shows _____ Electronic/Animated displays _____
Hands on, interactive displays _____ Video and/or audio shows _____
Other _____

2) What kind of 'Kite Stories' should these exhibits focus on?

History _____ Science _____ Kinds of Kites _____ Cultural _____
Kite Uses _____ Sport _____ Kite Festivals _____ Art _____
Hobbyists _____ Inventors _____ Kite Competitions _____
Other _____

3) What services and events should the Museum provide?

Demonstrations _____ Festivals _____ Publications _____ Lectures _____
Newsletters _____ Workshops _____ School Programs _____ Research _____
Access to Archives _____ Travel Tours _____ Other programs for kids _____
Other _____

4) What physical space do you imagine inside the building?

Storage _____ Workshops _____ Lecture or large group area _____
Museum Store _____ Library/Study area _____ Display space (describe below) _____
Other _____

5) What do you think people would be willing to pay for the following in this new museum?

General Admission _____ Workshops _____ Lectures _____
Special Shows _____ Information Access _____ Lessons _____
Membership _____ (what would you expect to receive for this?) _____

6) To help us with demographics, please check all that apply:

I am: 25 yrs or younger 26-55 56 or older. I'm a kite: flyer maker
 merchant watcher. I've been to the Museum. Haven't made it yet.
 I am a Museum Member.

Positive Results At the Sport Kite Symposium

If there was one clear message to emerge from the Sport Kite Forum held in Seaside, it was that AKA needs to communicate more. In future issues of *Kiting*, the Festivals and Competitions committee, chaired by Genny Forsberg, and the Sport Kite committee, chaired by Vern Balodis, will use this space to talk about proposed rule changes, competition policies, and convention qualifications.

Open forums with committee members were held at the East Coast Championships, the World Cup, and during the annual convention. The Seaside meeting drew more than 150 fliers who expressed a variety of opinions.

On the subject of Convention competition, for example, some felt that events should be open to all AKA members with no pre-qualification necessary. Some fliers felt that qualification should be weighted toward states with more contests and some felt that we should go to a non-competition, demonstration only format. Some fliers also felt we should require all competitors to volunteer as staff for events. Some felt strongly that we should do the opposite.

I think that many at the meetings were startled by the differences of opinion they encountered. There may be consensus on some issues in certain regions of the country, but that doesn't mean that everyone, everywhere else agrees. I also think there was a growing awareness that committee members are sincere in their efforts to balance all interests or opinions and put together the best system or policies they can. [See President's Page for additional information.]

That being said, here are a couple of very important announcements and policy changes which resulted from the meeting.

New Conference Commissioners

Now that AKA has expanded to six competition conferences, a separate commissioner has been appointed in each area to help make policy decisions, answer questions, and accumulate scores. Here are the new appointments:

Northeast	Susie Edison	(203) 531-1084
Southeast	Sherrie Arnold	(703) 765-5668
Midwest	Al Hargus	(614) 475-8468
Central	Richard Dermer	(405) 372-6127
Northwest	Genny Forsberg	(503) 357-7557
Pacific	Darrin Skinner	(408) 733-5483

Competing Outside Your Conference

One weakness in the current AKA conference system is that fliers are not rewarded for traveling to large events outside their own region. While local events continue to be the focus of the conferences, a proposal has been adopted which is intended to encourage limited travel and to provide more support for the larger "national" contests. [See Conference report, *Kiting* Vol. 15, No. 5 page 8 for details.]

Beginning in the current season, fliers may include the results of two events outside their conference in their season score. The two events earning the greatest points will automatically be included in the AKA score formula.

Formula Changes

The current AKA scoring formula adds a competitor's top three scores to the average of the rest. During the Sport Kite Forum, many fliers complained that the averaging system penalized contestants who attended both large and small events. Smaller contests have lowered the average score even when fliers performed well.

In response to these concerns, the commissioners have eliminated the averaging portion of the AKA scoring formula. Starting in the 1993-4 season, final scores will be the sum of a flier's top five performances. This may include up to two events outside the conference.

Fliers will continue to earn one Event Point for each competition they enter in their designated conference. Attending more events, even smaller ones, will therefore continue to increase a flier's final score. However, event points will not be earned at contests outside a flier's designated conference.

Conference Results

One problem in the past year was the challenge of gathering scores, calculating rankings, and informing fliers of results on a regular basis. This information is now available by telephone, 24 hours-a-day, through the AKA Automated Information System.

by David Gomberg,
moderator of the
Sport Kite Forum

Look for updates from
the Sport Kite
Committee in future
issues.

Continued on page 14.

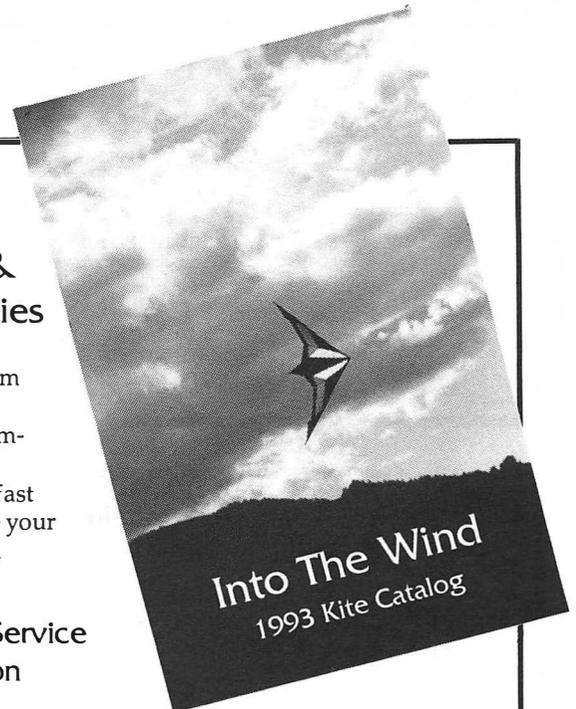
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10% discount to AKA members



Sport Kite (continued)

Dial 408-SEE-4-AKA (408-733-4252) to check 1993 results and 1994 standings. Please note that events not listed have not yet provided results to AKA. Call the organizer and ask them to forward your scores!

Int'l Contestants at the Grand Nationals

Earlier this year, it was decided that each international region would be allowed to send one contestant to the Grand Nationals for each AKA competition category. International liaisons would make selections from among any applicants.

Several proposals have now been received for refining this process. While the proposals are being reviewed, all fliers should remember two important points which allow international members and events to become a part of the conference system:

1. Any AKA member, regardless of where they live, can "declare" the conference of their choice by contacting the commissioner responsible for that area. Once a declaration has been made, only points from that conference can be tabulated. Fliers will automatically be ranked in the conference where they reside unless they declare otherwise.
2. An event may petition to be included in a conference other than where it is physically located. The Festivals and Competition Committee must approve the petition. Events will only be listed in one conference.

If an AKA member residing outside the United States qualifies for convention competition through participation in a declared AKA conference, they will represent that conference at the convention and an additional "slot" will remain available to be filled by the International Liaison. [See page 4 for a list of International Liaisons.]

Fliers wishing to declare a conference must contact the commissioner for that area by February 15, 1994.

Sport Kite Rule Changes

No significant changes in the International Sport Kites Rules are anticipated before the end of the 1993-4 season. Page 1 of the Rule Book details how to propose changes. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact a member of the committee.

Summary of Policy Changes

- ✓ Up to two events from outside your Conference will now be included in Conference scores.
- ✓ Scores will be based on sum of top five events plus event points. Averaging of additional scores has been dropped.
- ✓ For current scores, call the AKA Information System at (408) SEE-4-AKA.
- ✓ Fliers wishing to change Conferences must do so by February 15, 1994

Sport Kite Committee Members

AKA Conferences, ranking points, and Grand National qualifying is coordinated by the Festivals and Competitions committee. Committee members are the six conference commissioners.

Sport kite rules, judging issues, and the actual running of the Grand Nationals are the responsibility of the Sport Kite committee. Current Sport Kite committee members are:

Chair - Vern Balodis	Columbus, OH	(614) 267-2881
Corky Chewning	Yardley, PA	(215) 736-0567
Bob Childs	Boulder, CO	(303) 440-6303
Eric Forsberg	Forest Grove, OR	(503) 357-7557
Bob Hanson	Rumson, NJ	(908) 741-7247
Ron Reich	Ramona, CA	(619) 565-2358
Mike Simmons	Lauderhill, FL	(305) 572-5094
Darrin Skinner	Sunnyvale, CA	(408) 733-5483
Robbi Sugarman	Mill Neck, NY	(516) 922-3508
Sue Taft	Erie, PA	(814) 864-0511
Viv Walters	London, UK	(44) 71-836-1666
Eric Wolff	Chicago, IL	(312) 327-6814

Wild Pin Challenge

by Scott Skinner, Pin Challenge Coordinator

Mayhem prevailed during this year's pin challenge. Held in a room adjacent to the Convention's annual meeting, the challenge attracted competitors and spectators alike and made for close quarters in the basement of the Seaside Shilo Hotel. Mel Hickman and Ed Wright were assistants and enforcers to head judge Scott Skinner, but there was little controversy, as those who protested were advised that they were responsible to prove the protest (that means that they would have to count pins if they didn't believe a competitor's count).

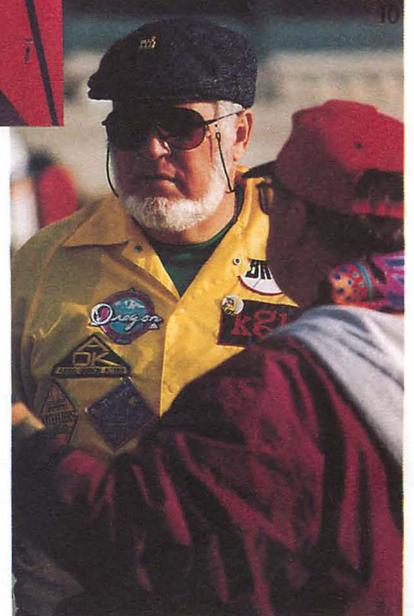
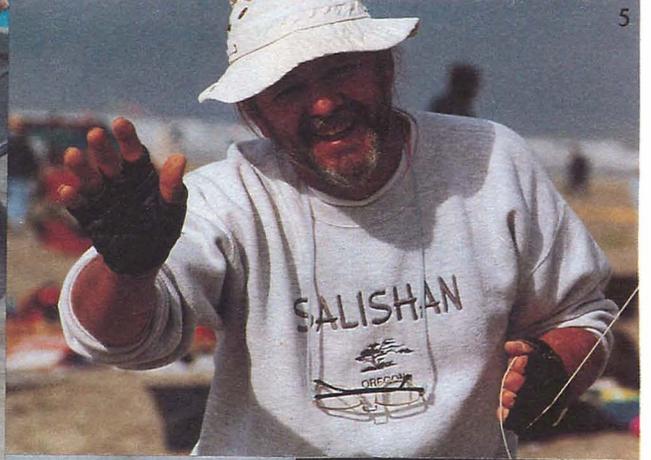
This year's top ten really was a top eleven. We almost missed Vic Eshpeter and his pin carpet as he hid quietly in the corner of the room. Anyway, here are your winners:

David Gomberg	Number One
	Great Pin Kahuna! - 1334 pins
Vic Eshpeter	Number Two with a bullet!
Pete Dolphin	Number Three, but still suited up
Jon Reinschreiber	Number Four with a great hat!
Kyle Metcalf	Number Five in the kite train
Bill Deatherage	Local boy makes good!
Steve Millsbaugh	Five away from 500
Ron Yarger	Waaaay too organized!
Pete DiGiacomo	Still over 400
Alice Hayden	Womannnn Scales
Ron Button	Just made it!

In the top ten category, judges were looking for the best display of ten unique and different pins. David Gomberg placed second with ten different and unique AKA pins, but Jon Reinschreiber was the winner. His acquisition of a LARGE Polish Kite Pin pushed his ten into the realm of legend!

Finally, for best presentation, Kyle Metcalf and Rod Yarger deserve special mention, but Pin Womannn, Alice Hayden was a super hero in our book!

16th Annual AKA Convention 1993 Seaside, Oregon



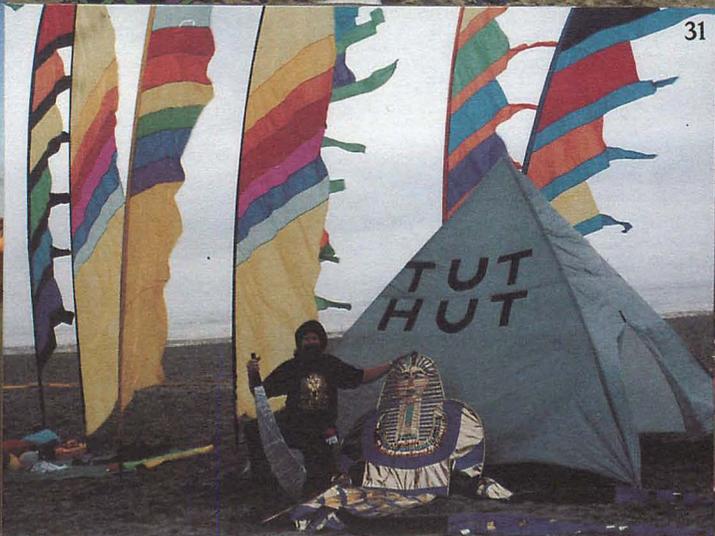
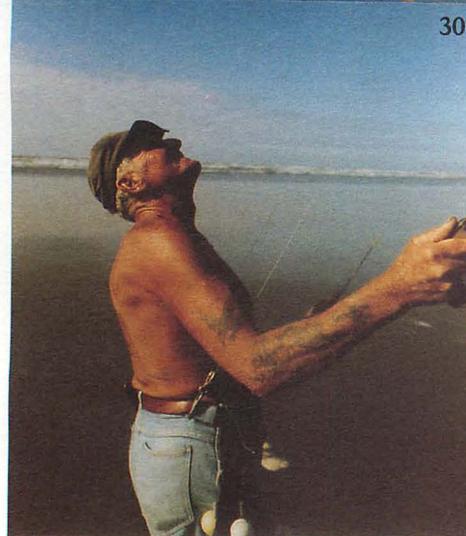
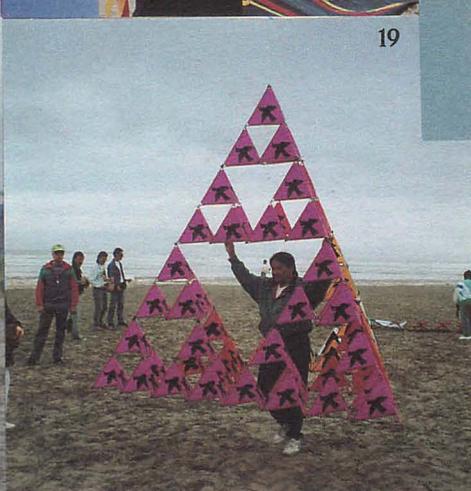
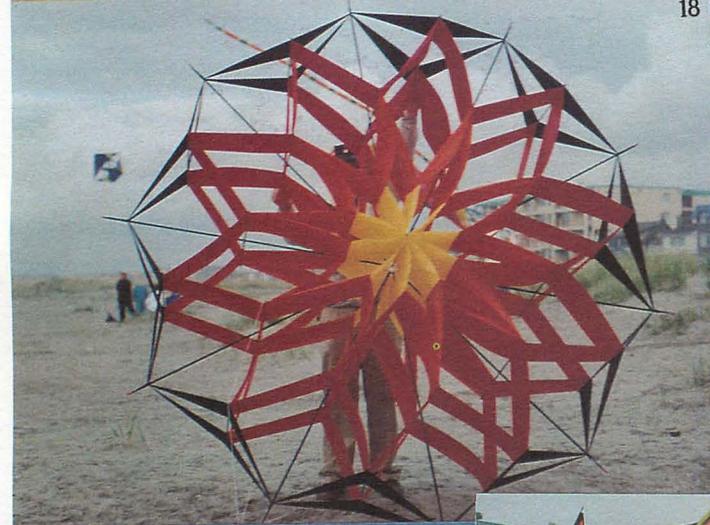
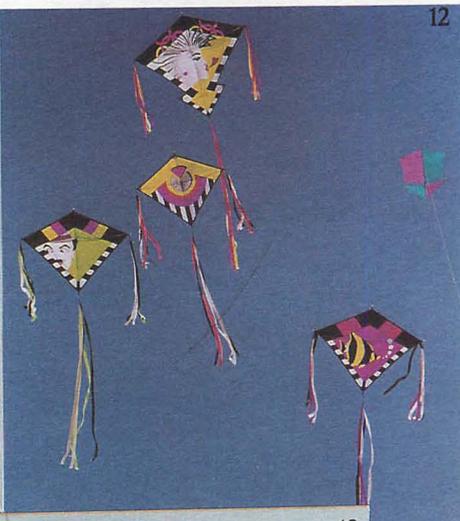
CREDITS

- 1 International guest - intent on flying.
- 2 Seious buyers at the silent auction.
- 3 Convention manager, Jim Miller.
- 4 Mr & Mrs Kite (Lou & Pat Lewandowski).
- 5 Hi Jerry Sinotte!
- 6 Dale Vanderhoof looking through his kite.
- 7 A demon by Joel Scholz.
- 8 A warm hello from Maggie Vohs.
- 9 Ron Gibian, Valerie & Mel Govig
- 10 Don Mock in the judging round.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

- L. DeBolt-3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29,
35, 37, 40, 43, 46
B. Leffler-6, 8, 17, 47, 48, 49
G. Maurer-1, 12, 16, 20, 36, 30, 36
P. McFadden-2, 7, 9, 19, 23, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45
Anne Rock-38

Centerfold collage by Anne Marx Design Studio (CAM)





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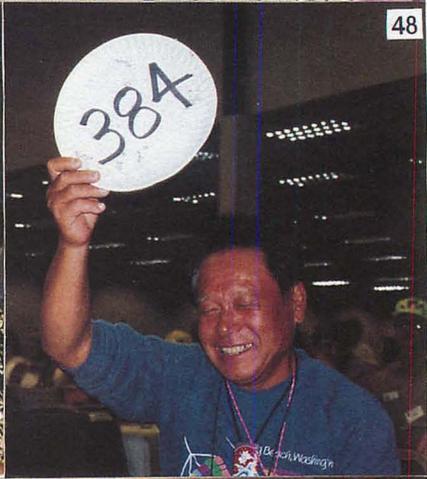
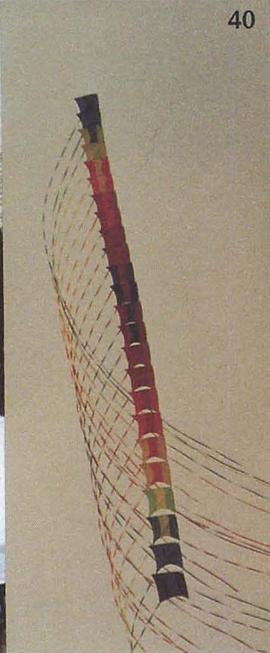
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CREDITS

- 11 Inflatable octopus - Peter Lynn.
- 12 Malay kites by Ron & Sandy Gibian.
- 13 José Sainz and another Aztec original.
- 14 Flying rings and Lester's Legs.
- 15 Interlude by the Gibians.
- 16 Japanese Sun and a Bermuda star.
- 17 Dave Gomberg and his family pet.
- 18 Big Wheel by Elmo & Vi Weeks.
- 19 Randy Tom carrying his Escher Tetra.
- 20 Delta/Malay kites.
- 21A & B Grand Champion - Bobby Stanfield.
- 22 Bill Gobel - Autumn flyer.
- 23 Kingfisher appliqué by Gail Lindsay.
- 24 Seven Sisters in Flight
- 25 Another of Stanfield's creations.
- 26 A beautiful train.
- 27 "Tatoo" - Randy Tom (People's Choice).
- 28 Scott Skinner - Japanese with a twist.
- 29 Another Bill Lockhart beauty.

- 30 Ray Bethell (winner Open Indiv. Freestyle).
- 31 Pete Dolphin and his Tut Hut.
- 32 7-Sisters Kite with Jon Burkhardt.
- 33 AKA flag made by Pete Dolphin.
- 34 Flock of flying creatures.
- 35 Two award-winners by Don Mock.
- 36 Joe Vaughan plays with the wind.
- 37 Neil Thorburn, Tom Ryan & Bob Price.
- 38 Aerial view of the beach.
- 39 Letting out the train of kites.
- 40 Custom Dyna Kites.
- 41 John Reinschreiber & Rick Talbott.
- 42 Bob Friesl w/ mini-legs.
- 43 Joe Vaughan & Maurizio Angeletti.
- 44 Banners on the beach.
- 45 Peter Shields & John Lippold (Team Paragon).
- 46 Jerry Sinotte's Sauls Barrage kite.
- 47 Tom McAlister with his prize winner.
- 48 Tom Ryan & Hashimoto bid for 7-Sisters.
- 49 Opening night at the Fly Market.



December

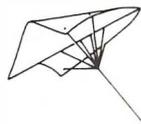
- 5 **Australian Kite Society Flyin**
Shalhaven Heads, Australia. Shalhaven River
C: Peter Harves 044-48-7205
- 5 **Australian Kite Society Flyin & Christmas Party**
Blacksmiths Beach, Australia
C: Ted Coles 02-521-7631
- 11 **Peninsula Fliers Fun Fly**
Long Beach, WA. Bolstad Street Access
C: Long Beach Kites (206) 642-2202
- 12 **Ben Franklin Kite Society Fun Fly**
Richland, WA. Columbia Point Marina Park
C: Greg Greger (509) 943-3951
- 12 **Australian Kite Society Flyin**
Balgowlah, Australia. Tania Park
C: Ted Coles 02-521-7631
- 12 **Wright Brothers Commemorative Fly**
Flagstaff, AZ. Fairfield Driving Range
C: Randy Shannon (602) 779-2828
- 19 **Australian Kite Society Flyin**
Canberra, Australia
C: John Sullivan 06-288-2605
- 19 **Northern Kite Group Fly**
West Yorkshire, England.
Stainland Recreation Ground
C: Ron Ogdén 061 682-9308
- 20 **Deadline for *Kiting* Newsletter**
- 23- **International Kite Meeting**
27 Malacca, Malaysia
C: Roger Tan 03-776-1245
- 26 **Fourth Annual Post Christmas Kite Fly**
Blairsville, GA.
C: Bryan/Sharon Webb (706) 745-4454
- 26 **Chicago Sky Liners Club Fly**
Schaumburg, IL. Ned Brown Woods
C: Pat Sotich (312) 735-1353

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Kitevents

January

- 1 **Sno'Fly: First Kite Fly of the Year**
Kalamazoo, MI. Prairie View Park
C: John Cosby (616) 383-8778
- 4- **Merimbula Kite Festival**
8 C: Ted Coles 02-521-7631

Bits of String Too Short Too Save

We recently received a letter from the Supreme Order of Kitefliers in Ohio. Curious about the continuing discussion on sport kite rules and procedures, the SOKF writes that they have "purchased a stunt kite for analysis to see if we too develop a different outlook on kiting."

The Order claims that they too have internal controversies. One is determining whether kites are more likely to tangle clockwise or counter clockwise. As yet, SOKF has not applied for AKA club affiliation.

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

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:

KITING
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P.O. BOX 250657
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
94125-0657
PHONE AND FAX:
(415) 586-5181

*AKA Sanctioned Event

Bob Ingraham's

10TH ANNIVERSARY DELTA

Introduced in 1974, on the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of AKA, and still hand-made by our founder,

this kite will fly in just about anything but a flat calm. Now available in solid colors at \$35.00, and several appliqué designs at \$45.00, plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. No collection is complete without this piece of kiting history!

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Recent Board Actions

by Brooks Leffler, Executive Director

At their meeting in Seaside, the Board of Directors took the following actions:

- selected Wildwood, New Jersey, as the site of the 1994 Convention, after considering two other sites in the northeast; scheduled consideration at the January meeting of Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the convention site for 1995.
- adopted a balanced budget of \$134,250 for 1994.
- considered a number of options for reducing annual directory expenses, and approved postponement of the next update until early 1995.
- heard a report from the Safety & Ethics committee on Power Kiting, and expressed consensus that buggy events should eventually be sanctioned and insured, but agreed that more study is necessary first.
- established a Power Kiting committee answering directly to the Board.
- urged that event organizers use more lead time in requesting AKA sanctioning, and doubled the sanctioning fee to \$50.00 for requests which are postmarked or faxed less than 30 days before the event.
- agreed to decrease costs for board teleconferences by having board members who live near each other join together at a common phone location instead of being connected separately.

- empowered Industry Liaison Chair Billy Jones to investigate the most cost-effective means of protecting the association's ownership of its logo.
- expressed appreciation to Jeff Cain and Kelly Morrison for coordinating a comprehensive promotion campaign for the Convention.
- approved chapter affiliation for two clubs: Above and Beyond, (Weatherford, OK) and Wind Watchers (Ft. Meyers, Southwest Florida).

Bits of String Too Short To Save

Someone approached Regional Director Richard Dermer at a recent fly in Waco, Texas. "Maybe you can help me," he said. "I'm an antique dealer and I just bought an estate. It includes a number of old kites with pictures of airplanes on them..."

It didn't take Richard long to confirm that he had encountered as many as 30 original Garber Target Kites, in pristine condition. And it also didn't take the dealer long to determine a fair value for them. If you're interested, some may still be left.

The point is, of course, that there are still treasures to be found out there if you are either diligent or lucky.

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

\$50.00 REWARD \$50.00

1. Do you belong to a national organization that holds its annual convention in the first six months of the year?
2. Does this convention have an average attendance of 500-1000 registrants?
3. Is the management of this convention now in the hands of volunteers?
4. Would the convention benefit from having well organized, professional management that is surprisingly affordable?

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Convention Planning

Meeting Management

Rain, Fog, No Wind? That Doesn't Stop a Kite Championship!

Thank God for rain dates! The originally scheduled date for the first annual Central PA Stunt Kite Championships was Saturday, September 18 at York, PA. It rained! Although folks from as far away as upstate New York faired the weather to be with us, the fog rolled in, the rain fell, and the wind didn't even have the decency to blow, even a little bit. Not enough, however, to dampen the spirits of kitefliers. Some of us flew anyway (no lightning), some took in a good movie (even for the fourth time), and the others returned home. The next morning took on a whole new light: wind, sunshine, and yes, of course, competitors. Equipped with a modest sound system and everything else needed to run a regional event, we commenced with our event.

The first event was Novice Precision. With a modest number of six competitors and five experienced judges from the Eastern league, we started. Harry Owens, Jr., took third place, Michael Goldman, second place, and Bill Quittman from Silver Springs, MD, first place.

The next event was Intermediate Individual Precision. Out of eight competitors, seasoned flier John Goudy of the now famous pairs team the John Boyz, placed third. Second place went to another regular on the Eastern league, Bob Smrcina, and first place went to Joel Brown. Moving along to the Intermediate Individual Ballet, only four pilots dared to enter this event. Jeff Levine finished third, John Goudy, second, and Chuck Connor was awarded first place. Last, but certainly not least, the first ever Intermediate Quad-line Ballet. An impressive seven pilots geared up to compete in this event. Chuck Connor finished third, Paul Degard, second, and yes, we've heard this name before, John Goudy finished first.

A total of 18 competitors participated in this event that was conceived and carried out in just two weeks. The sponsors – Cobra Kites, Skynasaur Kites, D.J.S., and Skyshark – all contributed to make this first event a success. We would like to thank Brian (Sliceman) Vanderslice for his help and incredible demos, and also the too-numerous-to-mention Eastern League regulars (Valli Boys, John Boyz, John & Sherie), the AKA, and of course, the Kapital Air Corp.

by *Dodd Gross*

*Dodd is owner of
D.J. Sport Kites
in York, Pennsylvania.*

CLASSIFIED ADS

KITE COLLECTOR looking for Gibson Girl box, genuine Jalbert Parafoil (30 sq. ft. or larger), and Harry Sauls Barrage kite and other old kites (804) 420-2663.

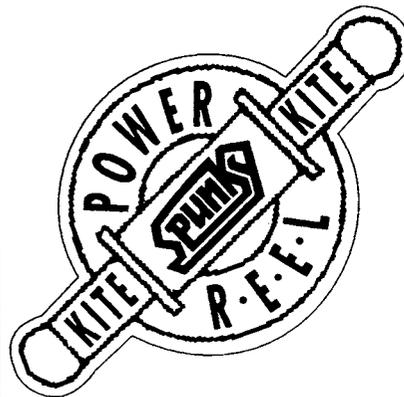
FOR SALE: Super-10 Rainbow Flexifoil. Flown only a few times, like new condition. Asking \$225 or best offer. Rick (217) 442-7976 Danville, Illinois

CONSOLIDATING KITE COLLECTION: Available for purchase are classic and signature kites plus books, artwork, glass, china and numerous other kite related items. For further information C: Margo Brown, PO Box 903, McLean, VA 22101

HOW TO PLACE a CLASSIFIED AD

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.

COMING SOON!



CALL

(415) 341-9329

Regional Reports

New York has been absorbed by two other regions due to reapportionment.

Ex-Region 2 New York State

*Suzanne Edison,
Ex-Regional Director*

This Fall has been a wonderful time for kite activities.

The **Sandy Hook Stunt Kite Championships** held in September is fast becoming a favorite of the Eastern League. This year the weather was near perfect and competition was at a higher level but still fun. The location is simply beautiful and the lobster banquet and new logo made this a real winner.

Had the opportunity to go to the first **Wildwood Buggy Races** in October. The beach in October was a thing of beauty. No people, just miles of beach, wind, and surf. I sat on the beach at midnight under a full moon and watched as four buggies drifted past in the solitude. A very different Wildwood experience. During the day, the weather was great - warm, sunny, and windy. Fritz Gramkowski is the East Coast king of the Buggies. Steve Shapson hooked up a tandem buggy ride and gave rides along the surf. A great feeling of sharing the buggy experience was prevalent. Newcomers were welcomed and given instruction and hands-on experience. A special thanks to Don McCasland for his patience. We had a wonderful banquet and afterward a treat of buggy and ice kiting videos highlighting Lee Sedgwick and Sue Taft. The Wildwood Buggy experience was exceptional.

New for the Eastern Region is the concept of kite workshops and regional competition geared towards novice and intermediate competitors. It really is a lot of fun to help new competitors and share their enthusiasm for the sport. Regional competitions have been held in Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut.

The town of Irvington sponsored "**Go Fly a Kite Day**" at Matthiessen Park. The event was held on Saturday, October 2. Kites were handed out to the first 100 children as they arrived. Bob Beyer represented the AKA and volunteered his time and talent to demonstrate skills in flying dual-line kites and also passing out AKA information.

The **Norwalk Kite Festival** was held October 23 at Veteran's Park. The Connecticuters do a wonderful job. On hand were Maggie & Gary Engvall, Sarge Cleaves, Monica & David Young, Tony Sparrow, John & Lorraine Martins, and a host of Connecticuters. Over 91 Dyna-Kites graced the sky. Hank Manseau performed a beautiful ballet. Teams included: The High Flyers, Team Image, Uproar, Black Sheep, Duodrones, DK Breezing and Dave Simpson, Joe Peron, Brian Vanderslice, and Doug Stout. A very impressive list of flyers as well as some beautiful kites and a Teddy Bear Drop.

This will be my last report as regional director, Region 2, New York. I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to have served. I got to know many wonderful people, shared great experiences, and learned much about kiting. I'll see you on the fields and share the sky with you all. Thanks.

Region 2 Northeast

Kevin Shannon, Regional Director

WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY! That's right folks, next year's AKA convention is coming to the expansive beaches of Wildwood. Those of you who've been to the **East Coast Sport Kite Championship** know how perfect that beach is for kite flying. Hotel rooms will be cheap, with flying available almost at the front door. There won't be much else going on in Wildwood at the same time, so the city is bending over backwards to do everything it can for us. Those of you who have spouses that crave better accommodations, or shopping, will be well served by the quaint and picturesque town of Cape May, a mere ten minutes away. Bed and Breakfast Inns, along with many speciality shops, make it a must see location for all convention attendees.

Our region was very well represented at the AKA convention. I missed the last convention, so I was very pleased to attend this year. Other Region 2 attendees were Glen & Tanna Haynes, Marie Argesson, Tony Ferrel representing The Kite Studio, Scott Spencer, Betty Hirschmann, Dodd & Jenny Gross of DJ's Sport Kites, Sue Taft, Lee Sedgwick, and Pete Dolphin. If I've forgotten anyone, I apologize. They say the first thing to go is...DRA! I lost my train of thought. Oh well!

Many of our region's members attended **Ocean City's Sunfest**. Especially visible was Lehigh Valley Kite Society with over 60-ft. of beach taken up by member's tents and banners. Along with many single-, dual-, and quad-line events, the big show was the Rokkaku Challenge. Dave Gomberg, AKA's esteemed president took first, defeating two-time winners, The Maryland Kite Society. The second place slot was captured by Juan and Carmella Figueroa, competing as team Medicine Man. Third place was garnished by the Capitol Air Korps of Washington DC. This was an extremely grueling event as there were fourteen teams and three heats. Congratulations to all who competed. I know I was tired by the end of it!

Roger Chewning called to let me know that the **Buggy event** in Wildwood on Oct. 2-3 was a great success. In excess of ten buggy drivers from all over the East Coast took part in a variety of races and tests of skill. The information exchanged and the skills demonstrated show that kite powered buggies are a growing segment of kiting, I can't wait to try my hand at it (after I improve my quad-line skills!). If you want to get involved for next year, give Roger a call at (215) 736-3715. It's sure to be an even better event next year.

The 10th annual **International Invitational Open Peanut Butter Cookie Kite Fly and Bake-Off** was held Nov. 14 on the beach in Seaside, NJ. Olan Turner was the chief judge and trophy maker (and taster).

Region 3 Mid-Atlantic

Jon Burkhardt, Regional Director

Greetings from your old regional director in your new Region 3 (representing the same localities: Maryland, D.C., Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia). In the new regional alignment, our region is the smallest in terms of membership, but it doesn't have to be that way for long! If each Region 3 member recruits one new member, we could have the largest population of any AKA region by this time next year.

The big news, of course, is the **1993 AKA Convention** in Seaside, Oregon. Members of the Kapitool Air Korps and the Maryland Kite Society (MKS) were extremely well represented, both in running convention events and in receiving awards. There are three MKS members who have attended all sixteen conventions – Rick Kinnaird, Ted Manekin, and Bob Price.

The convention was truly wonderful, even though your director and his loyal computer wizardess spent days debugging and using the new computer scoring system for the kitemaking competition, locked away from all the other workshops and flying events. But we finally got to fly some kites, tour the countryside, and take on other challenging activities, such as stimulating the local economy and chaperoning another regional director (with modest success).

Big events closer to home were the **One Sky One World** fly on the Washington Monument Grounds, the **Kite Inefficiency Challenge** at Carpenter State Park, NJ (run by Felix Cartegen), and the **Linganore Octoberfest** in Mt. Airy, MD. September's **Sunfest** in Ocean City, MD, was blessed with good weather and winds, plus kitefliers from near and far. The Maryland Kite Society was finally dethroned as Rokkaku champions; the winner was none other than David Gomberg. Bob Burnett won the best kite theme event with his Native American clothing, dancing, and theme kite. Ed & Nancy Spencer collected the spectator's choice prize for their "American Gothic".

The end of October brought the **Chesapeake Bay Appreciation Days** at Sandy Point and the **Alternative Flying Objects Contest**, otherwise known as **Pumpkin Chunkin'** at Lewes, DE. A favorite of local kitefliers for years, this festival featured large, non-tethered airborne orange spheroids with universally unfavorable landing characteristics. But what would happen if you had the right bridle...and the right wind?

P.S: All Region 3 members: If you don't see your name in print, you didn't send me any information. You send it, we print it.

Region 4 Southeast

Steve Cseplo, Regional Director

H ey, hey	But we all survived,
Ho, ho.	And October is thrilling!
Nothing to report,	Montgomery and Charlotte,
So away we go.	Charleston, too,
August brought heat,	November brings Golden Isle,
September brought sun,	Hope you're there too.
There wasn't much wind.	So what was five,
Thus not much fun.	Now is four,
The clubs were inactive,	Hope this little ditty,
And festivals missing,	Hasn't been a bore!

Please excuse my feeble attempt at poetry, but occasionally things get a little crazy around here so I thought I would let you experience just how crazy they can get. In reality, nothing has been going on in the region, the only news being our renumbering due to reapportionment. Consequently, rather than run my mouth about some esoteric subject, such as my personal philosophy of kiting, entertainment struck as a natural. Besides, I composed the first verse about the time my wife glanced over, read the computer screen and said she liked it, so I figured why not go for it. As the poem implies, while the past two months have been a void, things really crank up in October and November, so look for details next time. Hope the preceding caused a chuckle or two. Till next time, gentle breezes.

Region 8 South Central

Richard Dermer, Regional Director

Gems in the Wind kite club of Rockport, Texas, hosted the **4th annual Rockport Beach Kite Fly** over Labor Day weekend. This was the first year the event was AKA sanctioned and 32 members competed in an outstanding festival. A Rokkaku battle on Friday between local government agencies received heavy media coverage. CNN picked up the Corpus Christi TV station's story and gave the event national exposure on Saturday and Sunday. [See page 8 for a separate article.]

A first-time festival for a new club, Above and Beyond, in Clinton, OK, was blessed with plenty of wind, a nice flying field, and an appreciative crowd of largely novice spectators. Twenty-two dual-line competitors braved the strong winds with only minimal damage, while more durable single-line kites, particularly those of Texans Ben & Donna Hammock, attracted more spectators throughout the two-day event. Festival director Gerald Kelley, assisted by Tim Woods, Troy Gunn, Frank Kenisky, Terry & Linda Crumpler, myself, and all the hard-working members of the club, ran a smooth, low-key, enjoyable weekend.

Region 8 (continued)

Precision and Ballet competition for all classes was completed on Saturday, leaving Sunday open for a mystery ballet. This competition was based on a single tape, pre-recorded by Frank Kenisky, with a broad selection of flyable tunes by different artists. Fliers simply lined up and took pot luck. I like the ease of running this fun event, and would suggest that organizers or clubs around the country either record their mystery tapes or hit on Frank for a copy of his. Award winners included Terry and Josh Officer (a dead-even father/son tie), Ryan Kelley, Dennis Gray, George Diekman, and Tony Perez (who just edged out David Bui in both Experienced Precision and Ballet).

Yet another first time festival, the first annual **Silver Wings** in Wichita, KS, went over really big! Sponsored by the Wichita Windjammers club on October 2, the sport kite competition drew 60 registrants! The biggest competition in the region this year and I had to miss it! 70° temperature, winds from 5-15 mph throughout most of the day, and an estimated 7,500 spectators. Troy Gunn, Mel Wohrley, and Bill Ketchum led a splendid group of volunteer workers, and over \$1200 was raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. First place in Comprehensive competition went to John Johnson for his Chinese centipede, edging out Ketchum's 16' delta. Sport kite winners included Jordan Tull, Todd Petrick, Gerald Kelley, Larry Christensen, and David Bui.

At all of the above mentioned festivals, substantial sums of money were raised for good causes. I'd like to personally thank the many retailers and manufacturers of the Kite Trade Association for their frequent donations of kites and equipment to local kite festivals. Their gifts make a huge difference in the attendance, publicity, and public awareness of kiting events, and are greatly appreciated by organizers everywhere.

Advance word on a new festival planned for April 9-10, 1994 in San Marcos, Texas. Reportedly a great flying field, heavy involvement on the part of local government, the Lions Club, and the visitors bureau, and a desire to host a major Texas kiting event. The organizers are inexperienced, though, so I expect all you Texas clubs and serious kites to offer some help. I've already given them your addresses.

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Region 10 Northwest

Don Mock, Regional Director

Has anyone ever thought there were too many kite events and not enough time? This has been a recurrent problem for me this summer. It all started when Janene decided she would like a new job in Seattle. So during June we made plans to move. We couldn't move before the Westport fly because Dave & Janet Robinson, our friends from Swindon, England, were going to stay with us, along with Greg & Sue Clark, Francis Hall, and Sonny Hamner. So I moved a little at a time. Sonny Hamner came a few days early to help me move and we worked on kites in our spare time. I greatly appreciated his help. I also started a new job in July, which really cuts down on my kite building and flying time.

The Westport Kite Festival, "**Let's Go Kite Dancing to the Music of the Wind**," was a huge success! The weather provided just about everything - high winds and mist, slightly overcast with perfect winds, and beautiful sunshine. There was something for everyone: hand-crafted, fighters, stunts, lifters, and pinheads. I don't think there were as many spectators this year, but the kites flew their hearts out, visited with friends, made new friends, and had a wonderful time. Lots of awards were presented. Keep up the good work!

Robin Haas reported that the first **Washington State Stunt Kite Championship** was held July 31-August 1 at Biringer Farm in Marysville, WA. The event was sponsored by the Snohomish County Incredible Flying Individuals and the Washington Kitefliers Association. This stunt kite competition was the first to be held in the Puget Sound region.

Our area, like many other areas of the county, experienced unusual summer weather. July was the wettest month in recorded history for our region. The weatherman, however, smiled on us with warm, sunny weather and a steady wind for the weekend event.

The 53 competitors were able to complete all of the events ahead of schedule. Enough time was leftover for some crowd-pleasing demonstrations and to open the fields to anyone wishing to fly. On Saturday, Roger Maddy demonstrated his skill at flying three separate kites at once, which is unusual in that he put quad-line bridles on each delta shaped kite. On Sunday, Jim Baldo performed a couple of kite ballets including last year's Grand National winning routine. Another crowd pleaser was the Tackett family who flew a tango with three kites while the tails were tied together.

The **Long Beach Festival** was as great as ever and is truly one of the premier events to attend. Rumors on the wind - Pierre Fabre is to be the international guest at Ft. Worden, and that AOK is planning a kitebuilders retreat in January. See you at the end of a kite line!

Region 11 Northern California

Tom McAlister, Regional Director

Has it been a busy summer or what? Between Fairfield, Bodega Bay, Berkeley, Ocean Beach, and the **World Cup**, we really had our hands full! Thanks go out to each volunteer, organizer, and sponsor who made each of these events possible. Once again, I will be presenting **Volunteer of the Year** awards for the best single-line and dual-line volunteers in our region. Please let me know who you would select in each category.

The number of dual-line competitors seems to be a bit down this year, while the number of single-line builder/competitors is on the rise. In fact, we are seeing more and more builders of both kinds of kites. Building your own kite can be very rewarding and will add a whole new dimension to your kite flying fun. If you want to get into kitemaking but don't quite know where to start, the *Penguin Book of Kites* or any of Margaret Greger's books can be very helpful. If you get involved in a project and have questions that the books don't answer, just get out your trusty AKA directory and call the kite builder nearest you and ask for help. If you don't know who builds kites in your area, give me a call and I'll try to suggest someone to help you.

What a stroke of luck to have **World Cup IV** come to our region! The Labor Day weekend event in Berkeley was just about the most fun you could have without getting arrested. From the workshops coordinated by the Gibians and the sky show coordinated by Scott Skinner to the team competition with Viv Walters as head judge, what a show! Thanks to everyone involved.

My condolences to those of you who couldn't make it to our annual convention; you missed a great time. Once again, our region did very well at the events. Congratulations to everyone. I would also like to apologize to any of you who were turned away from the bar on the last night of the convention. This was a fiasco and a real shame for those who missed one last evening with their friends. Seaside is a great place for our convention, but this is the second time we have had problems with the bar staff at the Shilo Inn. As your regional director, I will not vote for this location again unless we are assured adequate facilities for evening socializing. On the bright side, I would like to thank the **Washington State International Kite Festival** for the hospitality suite they provided throughout the week. Thanks also to the long list of volunteers who made our convention possible.

Everyone was disappointed not to see Air Art or Team High Performance. Apparently, Air Art is in a restructuring phase. We look forward to seeing both teams in the 1993-94 season. Team Paragon will be moving up to Masters Class and is looking for new members. Congratulations to the Sundowners for their fine performance.

Team member Gordon Osterlund was almost unable to attend due to a recurring stomach problem. Good luck with the doctors. Also, good luck to Genny Fosberg who is dealing with an eye problem. To everyone else, adios till next year.

Region 12 SoCal/Pacific

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

Is this the end of the kiting season? Not for Region 12! Southern California and Hawaii will be going strong through the Fall into the Winter and stronger in the Spring.

Please tell me of any events you have planned and I'll try to attend and put the word out. Also, if you want to share don't be bashful. My phone number is (619) 566-7543 and the best time is after work hours. Write or send me electronic mail if you prefer, 13517 Tobiasson Road, Poway, CA 92064 is my mail address.

In Lancaster, two new parks have opened and will provide new flying areas for the desert folks. Terra Bonita at 30th East and Lancaster Blvd. is the best I'm told. The other is near Sky Tower Park and yet another is under construction in Ranch Vista.

If you like power, come to Ivanpah Dry Lake near the CA/NV state line. **The Buggy Boogie Thang** should be kicking dust Jan. 17-20. It's never too soon to plan for this fun event, ask Corey Jensen at (408) 372-7992!

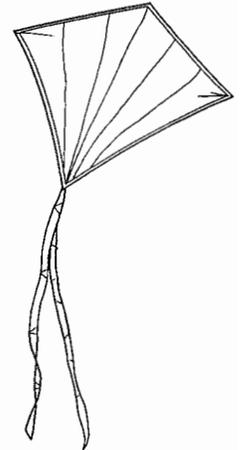
While we're thinking about 1994, yup 1994, the **3rd Annual New Year's Day Fun Fly and Pot Luck** will be held in San Diego at Mariners Point on Mission Bay. Call Dianne Martin at (619) 222-9300 for a good time.

Looking west to Kapiolani Park, the **Hawaii Sportkite Association (HSA)** will present a kite building workshop for the keikis. For older kids, instructions on sportkite flying, including team flying, will be on December 3. Volunteers are needed to help out.

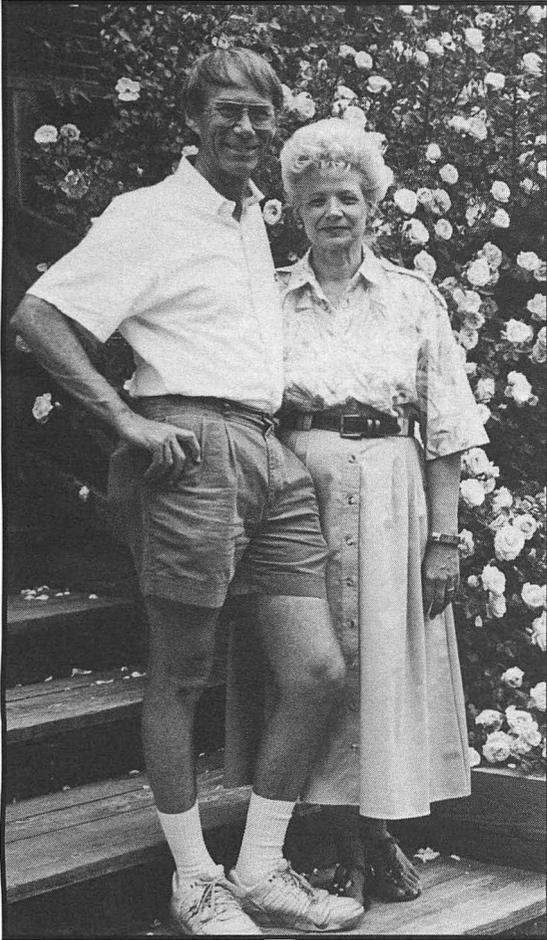
Team captain for "**Bad To The Bone**" has temporarily relocated from the Islands to Seattle. Scott Liston first erupted like a volcano on the kiting scene at the **'92 Hawaii Challenge International Sportkite Championships**. He is the first Quad (rapelagic) dual-line flyer in our region and perhaps elsewhere. At the 1993 edition of the **Hawaii Challenge**, Scott entered the Innovative competition field in his kitebuggy (wheelchair) being pulled by a rare Air Pro Cheetah, and in style with the BOSE sound blaring George Thorogood's "**Bad To The Bone**" tune.

Dec. 4th, the San Diego Kite Club **2nd Annual Pizza & Food Drive with a Fun Fly** will start at Mission Bay at 12:30. Call Dianne "What Would We Do Without Her" Martin about collections. By bringing a donation of can goods, you receive a discount on a pizza. A rain date will postpone the Food Drive until Dec. 11.

"**The Wave**" A Contemporary Art Exhibition from Yokohama '93 opened the San Diego's Port District Exhibition Gallery on B Street Pier Sept. 23. "The Wave" was held on Sept. 26 at the Broadway Pier and was fun and successful. Randy Tom created a beautiful kite for these events. I flew it during the ribbon cutting ceremony and at the festival. The Port Commissioner approved this as the first kite to fly on the B Street pier. Remember that kiting is about PEOPLE. All the activities build friendships, closer relationships, understanding, and help us all to grow in many different ways.



1993 Steve Edeiken Award Recipients — Bevan and Margo Brown



Bevan and Margo.

Congratulations to Bevan and Margo Brown of Burtonsville, Maryland who received the annual award for "Kitefliers of the Year" at the convention. The nominating letter was submitted by Valerie Govig, Mel Govig, A. Pete Ianuzzi and Arnold Simon; it has been excerpted as follows:

Bevan and Margo were present and involved in establishing the AKA in 1978 in Maryland and in following years. Both Bevan (1980-81) and Margo (1985-86) served as President of the Association, in both cases bridging difficult times for the AKA and keeping the organization going with limited resources.

Bevan and Margo have been active, helping members of the Maryland Kite Society since 1968. They have also participated most years at the Sunfest kite festival in Ocean City, Maryland, and the East Coast Stunt Kite Championship in Wildwood, New Jersey, as well as many

smaller events. Bevan and his stopwatch and Margo and her parasol are a welcome sight wherever they appear; their good spirits and good sense virtually guarantee that whatever the weather, there will not be a disaster.

Bevan and Margo have contributed to *Kite Lines* as well as the *AKA News* on many occasions. Both have served as judges at many kite events, both dual-line and single-line, and Bevan wrote the first draft of the AKA rule book for comprehensive judging. The Browns' generosity has been less visible but no less appreciated by those who know their contributions to both publications. Recently, Margo has undertaken the editing of *The Windy Notice*, the newsletter of the Maryland Kite Society.

Bevan is well-known for his eagle kite (which is now in the Smithsonian kite collection), his pair of seagulls, the various versions of his delightful, kinetic carousel kite (especially the one with the impossible 13 spokes for the Bicentennial), and his rokkakus. Bevan issued the original Rokkaku Challenge of 1982 that has kept running for an amazing 11 years and is still going strong internationally. Margo's kites include several fine, fanciful fliers, beauti-

fully decorated, and a rokkaku to match Bevan's and to make a pair (since Bevan and Margo are an example of that rare breed these days, a truly devoted couple). Margo was a Founding Member of the Mama-sans International Women's Rokkaku Team and in 1985 provided lavender t-shirts for all the teammates.

Bevan and Margo have either given or helped with kite workshops on a regular basis for many years. Every year since 1976, the Browns have taken on responsibility for the pre-festival educational Smithsonian workshop and lecture, which are now very largely in their hands.

Bevan and Margo have been participants in the Smithsonian kite festival since 1968. With their children Rochelle, Vincent and Stephanie, they would regularly sweep up the trophies, always including the Family Trophy. Now "retired" from competition, they watch as their grandchildren come along and get closer to the age to compete, although competitiveness is not a dominant feature of their personalities. Sharing is. They have been sharing big-time since about 1976 when they started the tradition of the Browns' Open House each year after working all day at the Smithsonian. In addition, they have for several years opened their home to overnight kite guests who travel from distant locations to attend the festival.

Of course, the biggest help the Browns give to the Smithsonian festival is in directing it, which they have been doing gradually since 1976, when Paul Garber and his wife Buttons began to need help. Also, the Smithsonian Resident Associates, who run the festival, did not have the thorough grounding in kites that the Browns brought to the job. The Browns have worked quietly to improve the Smithsonian without violating the traditions set up by Paul and Buttons and without alienating the institutional sponsorship. The latest 1993 Smithsonian, the first after the death of Paul Garber, was an unusual, valiant effort to beat the rain, which the Browns and recruits managed to do in style.

Perhaps the Brown's most important services for kiting have been those relating to Paul Garber personally. They cared for him in their home for several months after he suffered a stroke in 1991.

These days, the Browns are serving as conservators of historic kiting materials, including some left to them by Paul. Furthermore, the Browns are giving three days a week of time to the Smithsonian, especially to the Paul Garber Preservation, Restoration and Storage Facility in Silver Hill, Maryland, where aircraft is cared for before transfer to the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum. The Garber Facility is home to a number of historic kites collected by Paul over the years. With the aid and encouragement of the Browns, the kites will be placed on display in the Museum once again in 1997 for a five-year period. Finally, Margo is continuing to work for a series of U.S. postage stamps in commemoration of kites, as first outlined some years ago by Paul Garber.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AWARD WINNERS

FINAL RESULTS

Name	New Members
Trlby Products	82
Wind Wizards (KS)	76
Cobra Kites	68
Anonymous Mfr.	51
Richard Dermer	45
Windborne Kites	41
Eric & Genny Forsberg	32
Cascade Kites	31
Chicago Fire Kite Co.	28
Kites BFUN	24
High Performance	24
Dyna-Kite	21
Blue Sky's Kite Conn.	20
Al Hargus III	18
Kites of Boston	18
Renegade Kites	18
Gasworks Park Kites	15
Klig's Kites	14
Kite Innovations	11
Reach For The Sky	11
High Fly Kite Co.	10
Vic Eshpeter	10
WKA	10

PRIZES

10 new members - Limited Edition AKA Pin
15 new members - 1 year Membership Renewal
25 new members - Sterling Silver AKA Pin

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International guests from Scotland, England, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Japan attended the convention in Seaside. We were treated to sport kite performances by the Japanese teams Woodwinds and Flying Colors, as well as the beautiful single-line kites of Messrs. Takeda and Hashimoto. There was also active bidding by the Japanese table at the auction. The organization certainly thanks all of these people for enhancing our convention.

Phillip Mc Connachie from New Zealand joined the buggy brigade on the far reaches of the beach and showed them all some of the capabilities of countryman Peter Lynn's Peels. He also managed to help with turtles, octopus, and geckos from Peter's stable.

The English treated us all to a display of skill and cunning during the Rokkaku battle. The American Sky Eraser fought through two heats identified as the defunct Blitz team and took every opportunity to make that team look very bad. The Blast was easily blown from the skies as everyone agreed that the kite was really just a disguised target. Of course, Martin Lester attended the convention and we all enjoyed the impromptu bug out, a collection of his newest creations, lady bugs, bees, and fireflies flying in a confined area. Great fun!

Currently working for *Kite Lines* magazine, Maurizio Angeletti from Italy and his girlfriend, Jacqueline were guests of the convention. He attended several workshops and flew both his Millistelle and star train on the field.

International Corner

by Scott Skinner,
International
Committee Chair

Your Invited to the Weifang International Kite Festival!

AKA members have been invited to attend the 11th annual Weifang International Kite Festival to be held April 20-25 in Shandong, China. The invitation includes participation in flying events, local tours, fire work demonstrations and the huge opening ceremonies. Food and lodging while in Weifang will be provided by the festival organizers.

One Sky One World and AKA are coordinating group travel to the Weifang Festival. The trip includes air transportation from the USA, ground transportation in China, and lodging and meals outside of Weifang. The ten day itinerary provides for three days in Beijing with tours to the Forbidden City, Tiainin Square, and the Great Wall. Also included are one day in Xian and an overnight visit to Hong Kong during the return flight.

Tentative dates of the trip are April 17 through 29. Anticipated costs are \$2,434 per person based on 10 paying travelers. For more information, contact David Gomberg at (503) 996-3083.

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Honolulu, HI 96815
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Kite Fantasy
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Lahaina, Maui, HI 96761
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Wings On The Wind
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Iowa City, IA 52244
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Wichita, KS 67226
(316) 634-1772

Game Shop of Wichita
550 North Rock Road, #42
Wichita, KS 67206
(316) 634-0303/Fax 634-0303

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Lenexa, KS 66215
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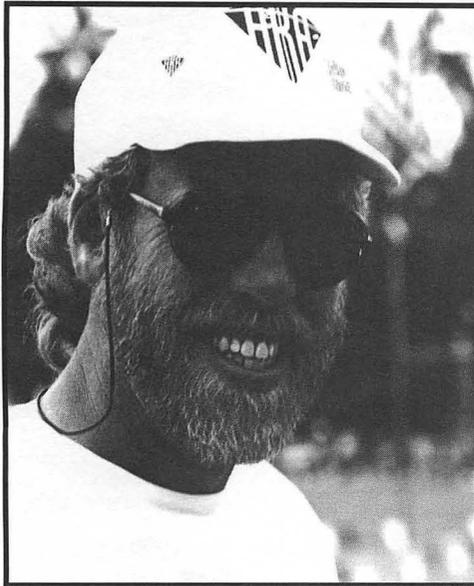
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Where It's At ... The True Believers

Japanese Giant Fighting Kites, or the qualities of Flow-Form vs. Ram-Air Parafoils.

True Believers share. True Believers play with wind instead of just the kites. True Believers remember how to smile when nothing is working. True Believers look for opportunities instead of having expectations.



by Corey Jensen

Corey Jensen, Head Buckaroo of Windborne Kites in Monterey, is a former President of AKA, who submits an opinion column each issue

True Believers keep kites in the car always ready for the wind. True Believers don't classify kiting by the number of lines unless discussing

True Believers don't care what non-flyers think about kite flying as a hobby. True Believers have loads of time while flying their kites to come up with witty retorts to "the same dumb questions all the time" - But don't bother.

True Believers never crash... They just wanted to prove how tough the kite is. True Believers know that running backwards is not the magic way to relaunch kites.

True Believers know that "letting go" is a form of control. Of kites and life. True Believers can enjoy the moment. True Believers al-

ways claim victory.

Flying the Nationals... Winning and Losing. The idea surfaced in the bar after the sport kite symposium. Sometimes the best stuff comes out after the meetings when there has been time for the thoughts to mix together in the head and like magic... great ideas are born.

At issue? The changes in the AKA National Convention and it's relationship to the sport kite circuit. Specifically, the cutback in time allowed for the competition. The conflict between all the happenings at the Nationals and the amount of people and time and space to make a sport kite competition happen is obvious.

In the "old days" (early 80's) the AKA Nationals was just about the only event that gave flyers the opportunity to fly against others on a national level. The game was new and exciting so we didn't notice how it entertained the select group of fliers, involved a small army of volunteers but mostly ignored the audience.

Fliers want that chance to "Fly at the Nationals." But we're not the only ones anymore. Competitions have popped up everywhere.

In the last couple of years, we have watched as some of the absolute best flyers have dropped out of the competition scene. Perhaps an indication that the rewards are not as sufficient as they could be. After all.. Why do we fly? To add to a collection of trophies?

The time has come to make the AKA National Convention a Showcase. Winners from all sanctioned events earn an invitation to fly a showcase at the annual convention. No pressure. Eliminate the competition entirely. Everyone is already a winner.

Teams could try experimental routines with maybe a 50% chance of success instead of the 95% stuff they would fly in competition. People would enjoy the whole experience without the pressure of competition and the need for all the field personnel at an event that should not keep people from the fun.

The audience would see the best flyers from around the country with the sky always busy. It would be a celebration of kiting. Should the AKA National Convention be the scene of just another competition? *Think about it!*

The argument could also be made for a kite building competition that is not so heavily biased towards outstanding sewing skills in nylon. The celebration of kiting should encourage the use of imagination. We should have a place for what we have never seen before.

UPDATE on The Buggy Boogie Thang. Following the KTA Trade Show (Jan 12-16, 1994) in Las Vegas, many of us bit by the buggy bug will gather at Ivanpah Dry Lake on Interstate 15 just 40 miles away at the Cal/Nev state line for 4 days of incredible buggy action. The headquarters (the Prima Donna Casino/Motel where we have booked rooms) lies at the top of the lake bed.

Their toll-free reservation number is 1-800-367-7383. Winter non-weekend rates are \$18/nite. If calling from outside the USA use 702-382-1212. Use my confirmation number (#216-508) for adjacent rooms along the back parking lot with direct lake access. We will be there Jan. 17-20, 1994. You should be there too if you want to learn the buggy from the best buggy people in the world.

Contributors to *Kiting* receive one of these great 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 or Ascii text file. Send to:



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