A s AKA's club liaison chairman for the last few years, I have been privileged to receive kite club newsletters from all over the country. I usually received several newsletters a week and it has been wonderful. As Chris Moore has taken over the job, I'd like to make some comments on club newsletters in general and recognize some of the top publications of this type in the country.

Club newsletters are a lot of work! Every organized kite group owes its editor a huge thanks. A common plea by most editors is for more material, so do your part and help them out.

The top newsletters have a lot in common. The following are some of the best features of most club publications:

1. **Frequency and dependability.** Some are published quarterly, some bimonthly. A few have tried monthly, but this is a good way to burn out an unpaid editor. Probably the most efficient system is a bi-monthly or quarterly newsletter with single-page mailings for special events.

2. **Calendar listings.** Essential. The best calendars describe upcoming events in detail. The Bald Mountain club in Georgia ranks events from one to five stars (actually kites), ranging from informal club flys to big "must-attend" events.

3. **Event articles.** The meat of most newsletters. Any kiteflying event is of interest to other fliers who weren't there, from a club fly to a huge festival. Naming attendees is a sure way to get them coming back, and news of how much fun they had will bring others.

4. **Construction plans and technical information.** It's difficult for editors to get new stuff of this sort, so a lot of "borrowing" from other editors goes on. If editors credit original authors/designers/sources and present the full text or plans as first published, everyone's happy - both the readers and the originators.

5. **Member profiles.** A good, unending source of interesting material and a great way to strengthen club friendships.

6. **Kite profiles/reviews.** These can be of two types - information about classic or historic kites, or reviews of new commercial models. The latter seem more common, as every owner (or seller) of a new kite wants to brag on it.

7. **Names.** The first tenet of journalism: names make news! From event attendees and new members to births, deaths, marriages, illnesses, etc., the top newsletters are full of them. Several clubs publish an annual directory, usually in the winter when news is scarce.

8. **Club (and AKA) information.** At the minimum, a newsletter should include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the editor and club officers. The top publications, though, also feature an introduction to the club, a membership application, and an AKA application.

9. **Advertisements.** It's no surprise that the better newsletters often have several paid ads. The price is generally dirt cheap for small, local kite companies and stores, and the ads hit a perfect target market. For the editor, the ads provide funding for additional pages and serve to educate the readership as well.

10. **Original writing.** Especially humor, stories, and poetry. In addition, how-to articles, letters to the editor, cartoons, editorials, safety reminders, classified ads, club business news, financial information, ballots, and miscellaneous stuff round out a good publication.

11. **Layout.** All of the top newsletters feature really nice layout, typography, and easy readability, most with computer art, photos, or both.

With no attempt at ranking, the following are my nominations for the best club newsletters within the AKA:

- **Skyliners** - San Diego Kite Club, Rob Spori, editor. Bi-monthly, lots of original material and event write-ups. What can you expect from such a hotbed of activity? Believe it or not, the editor claims he didn't have space in the 12 page Jan/Feb issue for two kite plans sent in, but at least one was promised for the next issue.

- **Color the Sky** - Bald Mountain Kite Club, Georgia, Bryan Webb, editor. The top newsletter in the Southeast. The membership roster of 92 in eight states has a special kite symbol for the 49 who are also AKA members. Lots of good event accounts, occasional original plans.

Continued on page 5.
As we looked out across the crowded flying field at the Seoul International Kite Festival, the Korean Minister of Tourism turned to me and said, "You kitefliers are blessed to be able to frolic like children." I kind of liked that and thought I'd share it with all of you.

Think Globally, Fly Locally. AKA has been working hard for the past few years to increase our activity, visibility, and the meaningfulness of our club at the local level. But at the same time, it is important to understand the respect and role that AKA has taken on internationally.

Our Association now has over 370 international members. We find that kiters in other countries regularly look to us as an organizational role model, for competition rules or for answers to the challenges they too are facing.

STACK in Europe and AJSKA in Japan buy hundreds of our sport kite rulebooks each year.

The Kite Association of the Philippines used a copy of our Club Organizer's Handbook when they were ready to draft bylaws.

Numerous international fliers have formally asked to participate in our competition conferences.

The Australian Kite Association (known as "AKA") wants to duplicate our insurance program.

We now have formal AKA liaisons in Europe, Asia, the South Pacific, and Canada.

And most ironic to me, local clubs in Japan have asked for copies of our rokkaku fighting rules.

Sometimes you need to get away from home for a while to appreciate what a good thing you have. With 5,000 members in 30 different countries, AKA is now the largest dues-paying association of kite enthusiasts in the world. My French friends like to joke that the USA has one national kite club with 5,000 members. In France they have 5,000 clubs with one member each!

International Kite Travel. In 1994, the Gomberg's plan to wave the AKA banner at more than a dozen overseas kite gatherings. There's no reason you can't go along too.

Thanks to the pioneering efforts of members like Dave Checkley, Scott Skinner, and Tom Casselman, AKA members have the opportunity to participate in kite events around the globe. From Bali to Berlin, you will find the red carpet rolled out for you.

Often, this VIP treatment includes having part of your expenses paid by local hosts.

The cost of kite travel may seem expensive - but is really a great value and experience. For example, the Seoul International Festival in Korea this year cost $800 from the West Coast for airfare, lodging and meals. Ten days in China for the Weifang festival was $2500. You couldn't visit Cincinnati for ten days for $2500!

I'm often asked how someone gets invited overseas.

I advise people to put together a portfolio or resume of their accomplishments. Pick the events you are most interested in and write to them very early. (Addresses are usually listed in *KiteLines* and *Drachen*.) Include references from fliers who have been to the event before and don't forget to stress that you are an active AKA member.

Usually, organizers are interested in fliers that they have read about, or who have distinguished themselves by winning events. When AKA is asked for recommendations, we try to refer winners of our convention competitions. This policy supports our events and event winners and also avoids the perception that only Dave Gomberg's friends get invitations.

It's important to remember that most festivals tend to treat sponsored guests as an investment in the success of their event. They are quite literally hiring talent, and are fairly selective about spending what amounts to several thousands of dollars per guest. They want good looking kites that are big or unusual. And they also want personalities that are big and unusual!

Organizers also tend to invite fliers they know. When Susie and I first started traveling, we decided to spend the money to go overseas, participate as much as we could, and meet those organizers. Now that we know them, we occasionally get invited back.

Annual Disclaimer. With all this talk about international travel, it's important for me to remind everyone that your dues are not paying for me to jet-set off around the globe. The AKA president is not paid or compensated.

Our Association budget does include $2,000 for presidential travel, but I use that money only for events in the USA. (Two thousand sounds like a lot until you start buying air tickets.) Last year, AKA funds covered a portion of the cost of my attending about 30 different festivals. The balance came from event sponsors and the Gomberg family checking account.

Hope to see you at one of those events soon!
MORE BUSINESS ETHICS

Hats off to Peter Lynn for vocalizing a problem we have tried to draw attention to for more than two years! We agree one-hundred percent.

I recently polled, at my own expense, every kite-related business in America that I could locate. After you eliminate the economy and weather, over which we have no control, the issues of van dealers and product plagiarizing combined for 27% of what our friends in the kiting business consider the largest detriment to the future of kiting.

Manufacturers, did your sales to retailers decrease last year? Retailers, do you know a manufacturer/designer who could no longer stay in business? These are symptoms of these issues.

Designers, manufacturers, and retailers must remember that it is a two way street between product suppliers and retailers. Most retailers would agree not to purchase "knock offs" if their suppliers took to heart the retailer problem with the "van dealer" syndrome. Most manufacturers would offer increased retailer support if the retailers would not purchase knock off products.

It's time we all quit sitting on the fence saying this is someone else's problem. Suppliers should develop criteria for accepting a legitimate retailer of their product. If you intend to have your product sold out of someone's car trunk or along side the highway, be honest with the retailer about it.

Manufacturers should confirm that your distributors, who then resell supposedly to only legitimate retailers, meet your criteria as well. Don't wash your hands of the issue by laundering your kites through someone whose ethical standards are not as high as your own.

Retailers should keep manufacturers/designers informed if their product is misrepresented or advertised without their knowledge. Don’t stock, sell, or even fly “knock off” imitations of products. Inform manufacturers/designers when you see their patented design being copied. They can take it from there.

Most important is that we work together. Don't be afraid to stand up against the status quo and speak out. Whether you agree or disagree with your peers, no one will know how you feel unless you tell them. If you desire changes within the industry, you have to stand up and be counted. Write your kite suppliers and/or retailers. Write others in the kiting fraternity. Lobby your kiting organizations. Write your KTA and AKA board members. Run for office. Get involved! A complete copy of the survey responses is available for the cost of photocopying and postage.

Karen King
Buffalo Beano Company
801 University Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79401

[Ed Note: AKA’s Member Merchants include some who sell out of vans; they are legitimate licensed businesses and meet all of AKA’s Member Merchant criteria. Distributors may set criteria for retailers, but such criteria may not in any way regulate retail pricing or they are illegal.]

MORE ON PIRATES

This is just a little letter to add to the information that the distinguished Peter Lynn gave in his letter about kite "knock-offs." Mr. Lynn was just a little conservative in his cost of getting a kite (or anything for that matter) patented.

The price of getting a patent in the U.S. is somewhere in the neighborhood of $10,000. You, as the inventor, begin paying lawyer fees the minute you contact a patent law firm. By the time your patent is finally approved, if it is approved the first time around, it is possible that someone has already knocked you off. Getting a patent is also a time consuming process, and time is money. Once you get your patent, you must also pay yearly maintenance fees to keep your patent up-to-date.

So you see, the pirates are costing kitemakers a bundle of money. Also, it is very hard to catch these thieves because there are only so many kitefliers in the world.

In closing, I would just like to appeal to kitemakers everywhere. Please, if you’re going to build kites that are knock offs, don’t sell them. All you are doing is making it hard on the rest of us.

Tim Wolfe
Camp Springs, MD

Letters continued on page 6.
### AKA Officers, Staff & Executive Committee

For questions about your membership, phone or fax Executive Director Brooks Leffler at (408) 647-8483 or write to AKA Headquarters.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**Safety & Ethics**  
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**Sport Kite**  
Vern Balodis  
(614) 267-2881
Newsletters (continued from page 1)

Skylines - Chicagoland Sky Liners Kite Club, Guy-Joseph Guercio, editor. This is a FUN LOVING bunch of fliers and it shows in their newsletter. Lots of great photos and a folksie, down home sort of newsletter that makes this large club feel like an extended family.

Flypaper - Kites Over New England (KONE), Gary Engvall, editor. Mailed jointly with a calendar of events by Kite Lovers of New England (Krone) edited by Richard Boisvert. Lots of event reports. This fortunate editor has several good contributors.

Kapitol Flyer - Kapitol Air Korps, MD, unnamed editor. Not much technical material, but interesting event reports. Great little piece on members Jim Coca and Dave & Sherrie Arnold flying underground in a cave in West Virginia in January. This must be a first, right?

Oregon Kiter - Association of Oregon Kiters, Marzzie Freeman, editor. Nice balance between upcoming events and festival reports. Not much technical material, but lots of activity news. Peter Loop and Carl Losche have done a good job editing in recent years.

WKA Newsletter - Washington Kitefliers Association, Dave Christenson, editor. Really a slick production, with lots of news from one of the most active states in the AKA.


Kites An Occasional Newsletter - World Kite Museum, Seattle, WA, Ben Ruhe, editor. While not a club newsletter as such, this mini-magazine must be included in any listing of the best. No advertisements, calendars, club news or local event write-ups. Instead, page after page of original stories about kites, kite personalities, and unique kiting events. Included as a supplement to the official World Kite Museum newsletter for members. Individual membership $15/year. World Kite Museum, 3rd Street, Northwest, Long Beach, WA 90831.

Buggy News - Buggy Pilots of America, Corey Jensen, editor. Again, not a sanctioned club newsletter as such, but a fascinating glimpse at the crazy side of our membership - the buggy fanatics. Ex-AKA president Jensen puts this out for anyone wanting it, hopes for postage and donations, and even puts it on the Internet (minus the stunning graphics) and encourages properly-credited reprints of articles. More editors should do this!

In addition to the above publications, the following deserve honorable mentions - they're all well done and represent a lot of hard work and dedication by their editors.

Ride the Wind - Hoosier Kitefliers, great photos.

Crescent City Flyer - New Orleans, bimonthly kite quiz.

Down the Line - Ohio Society for Elevation of Kites, obtains material by exchanging with 14 other newsletters.

JOTS Line - Dallas/Ft. Worth, Lois Card, editor, has put out this widely read Texas newsletter for years.

Kiteflight - Texas Skyriders, a little bit of everything.

Kite Flites - Pierce County Kitefliers, WA. Had a two-page centerfold thank you listing 82 volunteers by name for club help.

Windsox - British Columbia Kitefliers, good technical material.

Tails, Lines, and Snippets - Ottawa Valley Kite Club, well-rounded, gives members a list of magazine and supplier addresses.

Many deserving newsletters are not mentioned here because I couldn't list all of them and I also may not have received some of them. I relied on complimentary subscriptions and some editors/clubs don't do that. Others, sadly, have ceased publication. My file has several collections of great newsletters that have stopped due to editor burnout, lack of appreciation, or lack of assistance. Don't let this happen to your club newsletter. Help your editor. Write stuff for them. Copy stuff for them. Call them with news.

Note: Does your club send a copy of its newsletter and other mailings to the AKA? Please check. They should be sent to Chris Moore, Club Liaison Chairman, 33525 W. 143rd Street, Gardner, KS 66030. Such copies will eventually be forwarded to AKA archivist Bob Price.

FOR SALE: Rainbow Easton NSR with light wind spine, $140; Fade white to purple Texas Wasp with pultruded carbon frame, $100; Both good condition; Steve (310)943-5048

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.
Letters (continued from page 3)

SHARE A VIDEO

We were invited to video tape the Westport Kite Festival. We started the season with zero kites and now have more than we can count. What really blows me away are the teachers that show the videos to their classes. Anyone that has ever done "kites for kids in the classroom" knows what I'm talking about. It's incredible to watch the kids' faces light up as they watch these videos.

I'd like to ask everyone to share a kite video for a day or week with as many schools as you can, especially elementary grades 3-6. Then, if possible, follow-up with a kitemaking class. The AKA has an excellent book, Kites in the Classroom, and teachers are always looking for new and fun projects.

This is also an excellent way to get more people interested in kiting. All too often, kids today have little reason to smile because of drugs, gangs, broken homes, etc., but show a kid a kite festival, then show them how to make a kite from common household items, and they can make a kite anytime they need a high, and they can dream about going to a kite festival some day.

Marvin Nauman
High Sierra Video Productions
Gig Harbor, WA

WRITE ME

I'm 21 years old, a student of Food Science & Technology in Punjab, India, and I love flying kites. The flying season starts in December and ends in March here in Punjab.

We only fly fighter kites made of paper and bamboo strips. We buy the kites from local kitemakers. We do not fly kites for demonstration. The skill of each flier is judged by their ability to cut his opponent's thread. The thread is made of cotton and coated with a mixture of starch and powdered glass.

Kites are flown up to a distance of 200 meters. The flier maneuvers the kite in such a way that the thread tangles with his opponent. Then we either pull the thread with great speed, or slowly let it go. One of the threads then cuts due to the powdered glass.

I'd like to get in touch with a penfriend who has interest in kitemaking. What are the different kinds of kites you fly? What are the modern materials you use and the design of your kites? If ever you would like to come here and see kitemaking or if you need any information about Indian kites, you are always welcome.

Hardeep Singh
Deep Villa-4651-A-14/24
Guru Nanar Wara
P.O. Khalsa College
Amritsar-143002, Punjab INDIA

WHY NOT?

It's no secret that differing opinions are about as plentiful as blades of grass, and so it should surprise no one that even in kiting, there are different opinions.

When the most esteemed journals in this country publish a substantive article and then receive a response containing a differing opinion, the accepted practice is to publish the original author's response to the competing opinion in the same issue in which the other opinion is published. Why doesn't Kiting follow this procedure?

If it did, it would not have misled its readers by publishing John Loy's response [Jan/Feb '94] to Kevin Shannon's May 1993 article on rokkakus without Shannon's reply, intimated to Kiting readers that Loy's critique had some validity. Not having done his homework, Loy castigates Shannon for propounding "... a towing point ... by which no known kite could fly!"

Loy has obviously not considered the fact that Shannon personally constructs more rokkakus every year than any other kitemaker in this country. There is most assuredly a huge discrepancy between the critique printed in Kiting and the consistently spectacular flight patterns of Carlisle Kiteworks' rokkakus. My considered opinion is that the best theories closely explain real world phenomena rather than ignoring them.

If Kiting's policy is not to police the letters it receives to avoid distributing erroneous information just because it's submitted, it should at least give the original author a chance to reply at the same time at which a conflicting opinion is inflicted on its readership.

Jon Burkhardt
Potomac, MD

[Ed Note: Shannon's response to Loy's letter was printed in the Mar/Apr 1994 issue. We will try to publish a reply to such letters in the same issue if we have the reply in time.]

A MATTER OF DEGREE

At the Ft. Worden Kitemakers Conference, there was some heated discussion as to whether the physicists were right that a kite develops maximum lift when its angle of attack is 45 degrees. I was inclined to believe the physicists, but only if they are talking about a two-dimensional kite. If concavitating or camber enter into the picture, then all bets are off.

To ensure that the 45 degrees figure is valid, I designed and built a single cell, winged, half-box kite; half because the back is not covered. The shadow area, which I believe is the effective lifting area, is 4 sq. ft. The entire skin of the kite (sails and cell) was cut as one piece and all surfaces are under tension so they remain as flat as sail loading, angle of attack, and wind permit. Tow points were attached to the keel every inch from the nose down to 9 in. below the nose, which gives a maximum area above the bottom tow point of 31.3% of total area.

Letters continued on page 7.
The St. Louis Kite Club qualifies as one of the youngest, if not the youngest, kite clubs in the United States. Founded on December 10, 1993 by 10 local St. Louis kiters, the club is old in terms of club organizing experience (over 10 years of combined kite club officer position experience). Of the founding ten, eight are AKA members, we have just been granted AKA chapter status.

The club goals are similar to most other clubs, to promote kiting in a family oriented way and to simply have fun. In its short existence, the club has managed to mature very quickly. We wrote club by-laws, designed the club logo, ordered and received club pins, created a club banner, began publishing the monthly newsletter “Words On The Wind” in January, and started an aggressive activities program.

Apparently, we are on the right track. To date, our membership has grown to 44 kiters. We have received recognition by the local news media in the form of television and press stories and even received a personal note from David Gomberg thanking us for the AKA coverage in our newsletter. Not bad for a club that is only a few months old.

Our focus though is in the promotion of kiting, as a fun sport that involves the family. The St. Louis Kite Club has sponsored four children’s kite building classes so far this year and more are scheduled. The club pays for the materials and members donate their time. The organization requesting the classes pay nothing. This arrangement insures that anyone interested in kiting has a friend as close as the nearest phone and they do not need to be concerned with kite costs.

The club was very active in the promotion of the second annual Great St. Louis Kite Festival, held April 9. Last year, the festival drew 35,000 spectators. Rob Lambert, our club president, is a member of the board of “St. Louis Kite Festiva” (the parent group for this festival).

St. Louis Kite Club members are a diverse group of kiters. From single-line to stunt to custom kite builders, we have it all. Our common bond is the love of kiting and the desire to promote it as a family event. We have flys scheduled on the first and third Sundays each month, and when possible, combine our club flys with those activities of local organizations such as church groups or public park events. While single-liners and stunters fly in separate areas for safety reasons, that is about the only time there is any division within the club. The mix works well thanks to mutual understanding and, so far, a distinct lack of ego conflict. While that may change as the club ages, it is something that we are all aware of and will work to keep the balance as smooth as possible.

Our vice president, Cecil Cook, is retired and now spends his free time building large custom kiters. Cecil’s collection of kites is truly awesome. He has donated his kites and his time to promote both kiting and the St. Louis Kite Club. Over 12 of Cecil’s kites are currently on display in the Jewel Box, an indoor botanical garden located in Forest Park. Cecil has recently conducted a kite sewing class open to the public. The response was much better than expected and indicates an interest in kites that is apparently very much alive and well in the St. Louis area.

So when in St. Louis, share your kite knowledge and fly with us. We can be reached by calling Rob Lambert at (618) 337-4603 or Dave Kempff at (314) 434-3529.

Letters (continued from page 6)

We can use this kite to determine if a flat kite develops its max lift at 45 degrees by towing the kite starting with 0 wind and slowly increasing the tow speed (relative wind speed) until the tow line is just horizontal. I tethered the kite to one end of a plastic water pipe and towed it in a circular path of known circumference and timed each lap. I slowly increased the tow speed until the tow line was between horizontal and 5 degrees above horizontal. I did this for each of the tow points and when the 5 in. down tow point was used (20.7% of total area above the effective tow point, as in the Conover Eddy), the angle of attack was indeed 45 degrees at liftoff, decreasing to about 15 degrees when the kite reached its highest flight angle. The 5-in. tow point gave the lowest lift-off wind speed which is the reference point for the rest of the experiment.

When the tow point was set at 1 in, so that around 5% of total area was above the effective tow point, the kite liftoff angle was about 30 degrees and it took a 47% increase in relative wind speed to get liftoff. When the kite reached its highest angle of flight, its angle of attack was no more than 7 degrees and lift was minimal. Surprisingly, the kite did not become unstable in the roll axis as expected.

I decided to try something different and doubled the weight of the kite by pinning a fishing sinker to the bottom of the keel and attached the tow line to the top of the keel. Again the attack angle at lift-off when the tow line was horizontal was 45 degrees, but lift-off required about 60% more wind speed than the unweighted kite being towed from the 5-in. point. But the test kite is actually 3-dimensional rather than flat, so the effective tow point is moving up and down within the kite (probably about 5-in. behind the keel) as the angle between the towing line and the keel of the kite changes. The effective tow point and the actual tow point are the same only when the tow line is exactly 90 degrees from the angle of the keel, which usually happens only when the kite is flying at its maximum angle of flight and minimum angle of attack.

Stony Weathers Milwaukie, OR
Almost Everything that I Know About Kite Spars — Part I

Understanding kite spars used to be pretty simple. Most folks would use hardwood dowels or possibly bamboo. If a stiffer spar was needed, a larger diameter dowel or a thicker piece of bamboo would be used. Some kites would use solid fiberglass rods. So if you understood dowels, bamboo, and solid fiberglass rods, you knew everything you needed to know.

These days, there are a confusing number of spars using varying manufacturing techniques and a variety of materials. I hope to clear things up a bit in this article.

SPAR CHARACTERISTICS
These are a few of the ways to compare one kite spar to another:

Cost: With kites, this is often the first and most important criterion.

Weight: To be useful, this should be the spar weight per unit length. Spar manufacturers often use grams per meter or grams per 32.5 inch length, a standard size from the arrow-making trade.

Stiffness: This is the amount of bending a rod can take along its length. Theoretically, this is the amount of deflection that a rod takes as force is applied to a rod. For most kite purposes, a static measurement is sufficient. The measurement is done by suspending a weight from the middle of a rod that has been supported by its ends.

Arrow manufacturers have standardized on the measurement of this deflection. It is called the spine of the shaft, and is the deflection of a rod with supports 26 inches apart and a 2 pound weight hanging from the center. Since many kite spar manufacturers also make arrows this measurement is fairly standard.

Strength: There are several types of strength that can be defined, but I will define strength qualitatively: The strength of a rod is how well the rod stands up to abuse. In other words, strength is how much of a beating the rod can take before it breaks.

Please note that strength and stiffness may be related, but are not the same thing.

Glamour and fashion: Kitefliers are not above being trendy. A certain rod may be more trendy than another, and a kitemaker may use the trendier rod even though it might not be the best choice based on other criteria.

MATERIALS
Hardwood: Hardwood dowels are very popular. They have the advantage of being readily available, inexpensive, and easy to work with. In some cases, dowels make more sense than high tech materials.

Bamboo: Very inexpensive. Solid bamboo is very stiff for its weight, though its stiffness is not uniform along the length. Thinly split bamboo may be very supple due to its long fibers. It can be bent sharply with heat and will hold its shape.

Aluminum: High tensile strength aluminum tubing is slightly more expensive than fiberglass, stiffer than fiberglass for a given weight, but not as tough. When it bends, it usually stays that way.

Fiberglass: Glass fibers are bonded together using a resin of some sort. fiberglass is relatively inexpensive and generally strong, but not as stiff as other materials.

Graphite: Carbon fibers are bonded together using a resin of some sort. Graphite is more expensive than fiberglass. It is also stiffer, for a given weight, but it is not as strong. A kite framed in fiberglass is often more appropriate for a beginning flier than a graphite-framed kite since the fiberglass framed kite will stand up to more abuse.

Boron: You don’t see too many kite tubes made out of boron. It is very expensive (don’t ask!), but it is stiff and lightweight. It can also be very strong.

Ceramic composites: These are like the boron tubes, very expensive, but stiff and light. Because of the expense, these two materials are seldom seen in kites.

Resin: The resin used in the construction of fiber-based spars — the last four described above — can have a profound effect on the final characteristics of the spar. Some spar manufacturers will tell you everything about their products except the composition of their resins.

MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES
Hardwood dowels are usually rough-cut and then sanded to final shape. If you want maximum strength from dowels, then the wood should be split and shaved to final shape.
The purpose of this summary is to provide a very brief overall description of the rules and procedures to be used in AKA's 1994 kitemaking competition at the convention in Wildwood.

The kitemaking competition is for the purpose of selecting the best handmade kites at AKA's annual convention in a variety of categories, as listed below. Judging will be conducted according to the detailed guidelines in AKA's Rules and Guidelines for Kitemaking Competitions, 2nd Edition. These rules were compiled by AKA's kitemaking competitions committee in 1994 and will be available soon.

Kites will be judged according to specified criteria regarding the following:

- kite flight/kite handling
- aesthetic visual flight appeal
- craftsmanship
- structural kite design

If there are large numbers of contestants, only the top six entrants in each category — according to the sum of the average scores in the flight and aesthetics judging — will continue on to the craftsmanship and structure judging. The winner of each category becomes eligible for the judging for Grand Champion. A number of other special awards, including those for Member's Choice, Novice Kitemaker, Most Innovative Kite, Mixed Media Kite, Best Use of Traditional Materials, and Best Kite Accessory may also be given.

Kites will be judged in the following competitive categories:
- Delta & delta derivatives
- Traditional Eastern
- Traditional Western
- Cellular or dimensional
- Soft & flexible
- Innovative concepts & designs
- Stunt or multiple line

If there are fewer than four contestants in any one of the above categories, the judges may decide that kites of that category may compete against kites of other low-entry categories in the combined kite categories group.

The basic rules of competition are as follows:
- All competitors or their representatives must be AKA members and convention registrants.
- Only handmade kites may be entered.
- Competitors may enter as many kites as they wish (but only one per category).
- Kites (or essentially identical copies of kites) which have previously won awards at past AKA conventions are not eligible for current or future AKA kitemaking competitions.

This summary in no way replaces or abridges any of the rules and procedures contained within AKA's new rulebook. All contestants and staff of the competition should be familiar with the detailed rules and procedures before participating in these events.

Kitemaking (continued)

This is usually more effort than it is worth for kites, but you will often see furniture made from split, rather than sawn, wood.

Solid fiberglass rods are made by a process similar to making spaghetti. The fibers are mixed with the resin and extruded — forced through an opening or die (like rigatoni) — into long thin rods. The rods are baked in an oven to cure the resin.

Aluminum tubes start out as larger diameter tubes which are then heated and pulled until the desired diameter and wall thickness are attained. The original tubes may either be rolled (with a welded seam) or extruded. Aluminum is usually heat-treated to make it harder and stronger.

Graphite and fiberglass tubes are constructed using one of two processes: pultruding or spiral wrapping.

Pultruding starts with a mixture of the fibers and the resin. This mixture is then extruded through a die. This relatively large tube is then stretched by pulling until the desired diameter and wall thickness are obtained.

With spiral wrapping, the fibers are usually woven into a fabric that is formed into a long strip that is wound, in a spiral fashion, around a metal rod. This rod is called a mandrel. The strip of fabric is impregnated with resin (either before or after the wrapping), and everything is baked to cure the resin. The mandrel is then removed, leaving the surrounding shell. The mandrel is usually a constant diameter along its length, but several manufacturers use a tapered mandrel to produce a tapered spar, which has constantly varying stiffness.

Generally, spiral-wrapped rods are lighter and stiffer than pultruded rods. They can also be stronger.

Beman Archery has a relatively new process using interwoven carbon fibers which are then pultruded. Many of the fibers spiral around the shaft, increasing the strength and stiffness without increasing the weight.

Easton Aluminum used to make a kite spar that consisted of a thin-walled aluminum tube with carbon fibers bonded to the outside. The combination of the aluminum tube and the graphite resulted in a spar that was relatively stiff and light, but tougher than equivalent all-graphite rods.

While Easton has left the kite market, the rods are still available as A/C/C arrows. They are more expensive than all-pultruded graphite, but less expensive than spiral-wrapped graphite.

Next time I'll continue this discussion with opinions on choosing the best spar material for different kites.
Challenge Issued to All Kitemakers!

At its recent winter kitemaking retreat in Westminster, Maryland, the Maryland Kite Society established the Wide Range Airborne Platform (W.R.A.P.) challenge to all kitemakers for competition at AKA’s 1994 annual convention in Wildwood, New Jersey. The basic challenge is to build the best possible single kite for aerial photography.

Here are the rules established by the MKS W.R.A.P. committee:

1. The one kite (no kite trains!) must be able to lift a single, detachable, compact weight of at least 2.25 pounds in a variety of winds (between 1-25 mph is suggested). The weight, which may be suspended from any point from or on the kite or kite line, must be positioned such that it has an unobstructed view of the ground.

2. The launching, flight, and retrieval of the kite and its payload must be handled by only one person during the competition.

3. The kite will have the same configuration and structure for all wind speeds. No alterations will be permitted.

4. The launching, flight, and retrieval of the kite during the competition must be accomplished with enough care and stability so as not to endanger a precious payload (such as a valuable camera).

5. Fliers may supply a single, compact weight with no dimension greater than 12 inches. At the judges’ option, the judges, not the flier, will supply the standard weight to be lifted during the competition.

6. The prize-winning kite will be that kite which, in the opinion of the judges, best achieves the following:
   - minimum flight time (at least five minutes) at the minimum altitude (100 feet)
   - the most stable flight at a decent angle
   - flight over the widest range of wind speeds
   - maximum safety for the payload

7. If the kitemaker is not a registered attendee at the convention, the kite may be flown by another registered attendee. In such a case, both the kitemaker and the kite flyer must be current AKA members.

Decisions of the judges are final.

The Maryland Kite Society will provide the judges and the trophy for this event. A minimum of two flights will be performed, one at low wind speeds and one at higher wind speeds.

Maryland Kite Society members who are also members of the W.R.A.P. challenge committee are Bevan Brown, Bill Bigge, Jon Burkhardt, Mel Govig, Arnold Simon, and Bobby Stanfield. Any questions should be addressed to Bevan Brown, Executive Secretary, Maryland Kite Society, 3633 Turbridge Drive, Burtonsville, Maryland 20866, (301) 890-1178.

AKA Travels to a Serene Wildwood

by Jim M. Miller, Convention Manager

Getting Set for the Biggest AKA Convention Ever

This year’s 17th annual national convention will be held Wednesday, October 12 through Sunday, October 16 in Wildwood, New Jersey. Those of you used to the raucous, honky-tonk ambiance of Wildwood during the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships Memorial Day weekend will be in for a surprise – after the season, in mid-October, a mood of calmness and serenity prevails in this small beach community. With the “summer folk” gone, we will have much of the beach and the town to ourselves.

Extremely reasonable hotel rates coupled with the location’s proximity to major East Coast population centers may serve to make this convention the most widely attended in AKA’s history. In addition, Roger Chewning’s Sky Festival is sponsoring a two-day “buggie thang,” the Wildwood International Traction Kite Exposition, to be held the Sunday and Monday preceding the convention.

A number of the popular elements of last year’s successful convention at Seaside will be repeated this year. Once again, education committee chairman Kay Buesing and workshop coordinator Don McCasland will be organizing lots of interesting and varied workshops and seminars. The Kite Gallery will be back this time under the direction of Scott Skinner. The Great Kite Auction will be under the co-chairmanship of Susan Gomberg and Carolyn Moore. Details for shipping auction items in advance will be in the July issue. Susan and Carolyn ask that if you know you are going to make a donation, even if you don’t intend to ship it ahead, please let them know prior to the convention. An article on the kitemaking competition is on page 9, an update on the sport kite committee is on page 13, and conference update is on page 12.

The Fly Market will be held at the Wildwood Convention Center. Forms for booth space registration (at the early registration fee of $130) are available from Fly Market coordinator Ron Lindner at (314) 376-6055. We have limited booth space and all booths are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

We have two headquarters hotels this year, the Rio (609) 729-1200 and the Adventurer (609) 729-1200. Both have special package rates for AKA conventionees. You can fly to Philadelphia or Atlantic City on US Air, the official airline of Wildwood '94. Get the special meeting discount (domestic travel only) by calling (800) 334-8644 and mentioning Gold File #29350095. Discount car rentals are available at both locations from Hertz by calling (800) 654-2240 or (405) 749-4401 and mentioning CV #13355. Details on a limited shuttle bus from Philadelphia or Atlantic City will be sent with registration confirmations.
Wildwood (continued)

Convention registration forms will be in the July issue of Kiting. Early registration ($110) will run through August 20, regular registration ($130) until October 1, and late registration ($150) at the door only.

The beach at Wildwood is one of the widest beaches in the entire United States. There will be more than enough room for all of our competitions, plenty of space for free flying, and a great view from the boardwalk for spectators and guests. See you there!

Curses! Foiled Again... Flexifoiled, That Is
by John A. Gabby Jr.

You know the old saying, “Some it takes a while, others a little longer, and some never learn.” I’ll confess to being new to the sport of kiteflying. I started out, as many do, with a sport kite, a Skynasaur Classic 96. With time and practice, I discovered I was crashing less. Fewer crashes meant increasingly fragile kites capable of lower wind flight, advanced maneuvers, and seemingly impossible stunts. In a few months, I had acquired enough sport kite equipment to outfit a medium size kite shop. Addicted!

I managed to attend every kite festival within a two-day drive of home. I was totally fascinated by just about everything that flew on the end of strings, but the really big stuff was the neatest of all. I consider myself lucky to have the Guru of Big, Bob Anderson, as a fellow club member in the Northern California Kite Club. Bob taught me a lot about flying, and a great view from the boardwalk for spectators and guests. See you there!

Continued on page 12.
by Genny Forsberg, Conference Committee Chair

We have passed the half-way point in the 1994-95 AKA conference season (Aug 1-July 31). However, a major portion of events for this season are still to come. Each competitor has a chance to improve their conference standing and be eligible to fly at the Grand Nationals held during the AKA convention in Wildwood, NJ.

Points to remember:

✓ Each conference event will earn you your score plus one event point.
✓ Top two out-of-conference scores may be included in your season total, but no event points will be given.
✓ Your top five scores are included in compiling conference standings.

The Grand Nationals will include the following events:

Novice: Individual precision only
Intermediate: Individual precision & choreography
Experienced: Individual precision & choreography, Team precision & choreography, Pairs choreography
Masters: Individual precision & choreography, Team precision & choreography, Pairs choreography
Open: Team train choreography, Individual quad line choreography, Individual freestyle

The Grand Nationals will include the following events:

Novice: Individual precision only
Intermediate: Individual precision & choreography
Experienced: Individual precision & choreography, Team precision & choreography, Pairs choreography
Masters: Individual precision & choreography, Team precision & choreography, Pairs choreography
Open: Team train choreography, Individual quad line choreography, Individual freestyle

NOTE: As at past conventions, there is a progression of events. Novice only includes the Individual Precision level, Intermediate adds Individual Choreography, and Experienced adds Teams and Pairs. There will be no Intermediate Team or Pairs. Team Train event has been added to the Open classification.

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Tom & Brenda Dice

CLARIFICATION POINTS:

1. You must be a current member of AKA in order for your scores to be included in the conference rankings. The AKA policy of a 45-day grace period will apply. KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT!

2. Team/pairs may compete as individuals in one conference and as a team/pair in another conference.

3. It is imperative that all teams/pairs report each member’s name (as well as the team name) at registration for each event.

4. Open events: If the event has only one class, OPEN, the event organizer and conference commissioner will separate points for individuals & teams.

5. If the event is a NOVICE/INTERMEDIATE event, no one can obtain points for Experienced or Masters level.

6. Fliers may gain points for only one level. Those who move up during the season will forfeit their scores for the lower level.

Questions? Call your conference commissioner or the conference committee chair Genny Forsberg. To find out your standings call the AKA Information Service at (408) 733-4252.

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

(continued from page 11)

stacked some day when the wind is five gusting to six. I hope to be out there helping Bob Anderson again this spring, armed with a whole new respect for potential dangers. My admonition? Think when you fly. It's really that simple. Kiting should be a painless sport!

And what about Robin and his parachute? Well, he met this real neat lady and is talking about things like getting married and all that mushy stuff. I heard he gave up wild parties, chewing tobacco, and cussing. Sounds like love to me. As a twenty-year veteran of the marriage thing, I still think I better have a talk with him.

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RECENT BOARD ACTIONS  
by Brooks Leffler

At their spring meeting April 13, the AKA board took the following actions:

- selected Kite Studio of Wescosville, PA, as the retail AKA Store to succeed Stanton Hobby Shop (see article below).
- terminated wholesale sales of Kiting to Member Merchants due to the inordinate cost of billing and collection. Each store will receive three free copies of each issue instead when current accounts are settled.
- decided to stop asking the postal service for mailing list address corrections, which have proven to be expensive and inefficient.
- approved a treasurer’s report which showed a first quarter which is slightly in the black instead of several thousand dollars in the red which was budgeted and normal for this time of year.
- reaffirmed the AKA member discount policy, and approved a mailing to Member Merchants which reviews this policy and another one prohibiting the use of AKA media for price-oriented advertising.
- referred to committee the further development of policy regarding the use of the AKA mailing list.
- received a report from the Annual Meeting Committee regarding event coordinator appointments for the Wildwood convention and substantial support efforts developing in the local community, and approved a convention budget.
- approved inclusion of phone numbers in a directory of attendees to be distributed at the convention.
- agreed to open the Kite Gallery at the Wildwood convention to the public.
- established a fee of $25 per kite entered by proxy fliers for kitemaking competitors who are unable to attend the convention, and voted down a proposal to put all proxy fliers into a separate category.
- elevated the annual convention Rokkaku Challenge to the status of a bona fide competition for which convention trophies will be given.
- reviewed the duties and responsibilities of regional directors.
- established an Aerial Photography Committee with Steve Eisenhauer as chair.
- scheduled for the July meeting consideration of proposals for sanctioning of buggy events.
- agreed to consider at the next meeting a proposal to offer an AKA Visa card to members as a means of revenue.
- approved Chapter membership for St. Louis Kite Club; Springfield (MO) Area Kite Enthusiasts (SAKE); Sky Pilots of Reading, PA; and Topeka Kite Fliers.
- sanctioned events in California, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

Sport Kite Committee Update

The 1993/94 sport kite competition season is in full swing. Your sport kite committee has been responding to proposals for changes and additions to the International Sport Kite Competition Rules book. Some of these proposals have been unanimously approved by the committee and all the information will be forwarded to the event coordinators. They will determine whether or not to implement these changes at their event. However, when the new season starts, these changes will be included as an addendum to the rules book.

Some of the changes that were approved are simple wording changes, others are changes all of us on the committee feel are needed to help the sport grow. The most important changes are as follows:

1. Maximum wind speed will now be 20 mph.
2. Landing on the boundary line is a safety disqualification.
3. If the competitor calls “out” prior to his kite going out of the boundaries, a safety disqualification will override the “out” call. There are no overriding circumstances to avoid a safety disqualification.
4. The use of profanity in musical or taped selections is inappropriate and cause for immediate disqualification.
5. All sanctioned competitions must have a minimum of three judges for all events.

Plans for the AKA nationals in Wildwood are going along smoothly with the help of Roger Chewning. He has been working with Jim Miller to help set up as many things as possible. Dave and Sherrie Arnold of Virginia will be the chief judges and Genny Forsberg has agreed to be the operations field officer. We’re sure that with this group and the help of the Eastern League and others, we will have one of the best conventions ever.

A NEW AKA STORE

Effective immediately, Kite Studio, the AKA Member Merchant in Wescosville, PA, will serve as the retail outlet for AKA merchandise advertised on the back cover of KITING.

Stanton Hobby Shop of Chicago, which has served the association valiantly without cost for the last five years, has moved to more compact quarters, and can no longer accommodate AKA’s needs.

We thank Joe Stanton for his generosity and support, welcome Kite Studio, and wish them both well.
**Kitevents • May**

14  Tracy Sister Cities Annual Kite Fly  
    Tracy, CA. C: Sharon Smith (209) 836-2672

14  Whitman AFB Kite Festival  
    Nobnoster, MO. C: Carolyn Moore (913) 894-5483

14  Sight & Sound Kite Festival  
    Rockford, IL. C: Bob Neiman (708) 359-2556

14  3rd Annual Spring Kite Festival  
    Rockford, IL. C: Ken McNell (815) 962-9680

14  *3rd Annual Daytona Beach Kite Festival  
    Daytona Beach, FL. C: Tom Mason (912) 352-3142

14  *Tulsa Windriders Kite Fly  
    Tulsa, OK. C: Larry Stiles (918) 634-3575

14  Brighton Kite Festival  
    Patcham, Brighton. C: Ray Oakhill (+44) 0273-306842

14  *Kitefest  
    Kalamazoo, MI. C: John Cosby (616) 383-8778

15  Kitefest ‘94  
    Wichita, KS. C: Troy Gunn (317) 691-3425

15  Ansel Toney Memorial Kite Fly  
    Parker City, OH. C: Mike Bragg (317) 453-2977

15  8th Annual Kite Fly-off  
    Youngstown, OH. C: Bill Flynn (216) 393-0016

15  River Festival Fun Fly  
    Wichita, KS. C: Mel Wohrley (316) 733-0148

20-22 Great Lakes Sport Kite Championship  
    Grand Haven, MI. C: Bob Negen (616) 846-7501

21  Sullivan County Kite Festival  
    Loch Sheldrake, NY. C: James Goldfarb (914) 343-5750

21  McLean Day  
    McLean, VA. C: Bill Goodwin (301) 990-1673

21  *Moorpark College Kite Festival  
    Moorpark, CA. C: Walt Thompson (619) 566-7543

21  San Ramon Art & Wine Festival  
    San Ramon, CA. C: Kim Giuliano (510) 275-2300

22  Sky Liners Club Fly  
    Schaumburg, IL. C: Wilma Neiman (708) 991-6825

27-31 6th Annual International Kite Retreat  
    Junction, TX. C: Betty Street (806) 742-3027

28- 5th Annual Fun Fly  
    Sechelt, B.C. C: Lee & Leigh (604) 885-9309

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

29  Stockton Fun Fly  
    Stockton, CA. C: Crazy (510) 724-8601

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**Europe or Bust**

My wife and I, and my wife’s parents, will be traveling to Europe this fall and hope to attend a European kite festival. We would greatly appreciate any information we can find regarding dates, locations, and contact people for festivals being held between August 1 and October 31, 1994. My phone is (206) 584-0368 and fax (206) 566-1979. Thanks.

John Thomas
107 Champion Street
Steilacoom, WA 98388
1. Deadline for Kiting Newsletter
2. Worldwide Kite Rendez-Vous
   Verdun, Quebec, Canada
   C: Lyne Champagne (514) 765-7213
3. KGWA/Westlake Kite Festival
   Enid, OK. C: Alan Clepper (405) 234-4230
4. Windsong Fun Fly
   Ardmore, OK. C: Janene Evard (405) 226-0285
5. Sky Sail
   Cape May, NJ.
   C: Great Atlantic Kites (609) 884-3444
6. Rogallo Kite Fest
   Nags Head, NC. C: Kitty Hawk Kites (919) 441-4124
7. Columbus Kite Festival
   Columbus, OH. C: Flights of Fancy (614) 431-KITE
8. S.A.K.E. Mystery Ballet Kite Competition
   Springfield, MO. C: Shawn Nett (417) 882-5374
9. *3rd Annual Chicago Sport Kite Festival
   Schaumburg, IL. C: Bob Neiman (708) 991-6825
10. Sea & Sky Festival
    Cape May, NJ. C: Lisa Bernstein (609) 884-3444
11. Ocean Park Fun Fly
    Ocean Park, WA. C: Flamingo Ray (206) 665-3655
    Round 2, Weston Super-Mare, UK
    C: Andy King (+44) 71-836-16Q, 6
13. Kiwanis Park Kite Festival
    Wichita Falls, TX. C: Brent Onstott (817) 692-9061
14. Academy of Model Aeronautics
    Muncie, IN. C: Mike Bragg (317) 453-2977
15. Topeka Kite Festival
    Topeka, KS. C: Larry Cheek (913) 250-2951
16. Wichita Falls Kite Festival
    TX. C: Troy Gunn (817) 691-3425
17. Papillion Kite Fly
    Papillion, NE. C: Nora Cooper (402) 331-9102
18. Lake Elizabeth Fun Fly
    Hayward, CA. C: Diane Graber (510) 889-8525
19. MKS Red, White & Blue Fly
    Columbia, MD. C: Jon Burkhardt (301) 424-6976
20. Lavender Winds Kite Club Monthly Fly
    Santa Cruz, CA. C: Brian Bradley (510) 797-6997

June • Kitevents

12. Father's Day Kite Fly
    Brigantine, NJ. C: Sue Wick (609) 266-3391
12. Free Fly
    Cleveland, OH. C: (213) 731-3639
12. *14th Annual Family Kite Day
    Anchorage, AK. C: Pat Brooks (907) 279-4386
18. *Twin Rivers Kite Festival
    Emporia, KS. C: Nina Whittridge (316) 342-3454

July

2. Candy/Kites Freedom of Press Kite Fly
    Bodega Bay, CA. C: Barbara Price (707) 875-3777
2. *Libertyfest Kite Festival
    Edmond, OK. C: Jon Wagner (405) 341-3678
4. 4th of July Fly
    Fort Lee, NJ. C: Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715
4. Independence Day Fly & Concert
    Gaithersburg, MD.
    C: Bill Goodwin (301) 990-1673
4. Red, White & Blue Festival
    Moolack Beach, OR.
    C: Judy Brown (503) 689-8175
9. 2nd Annual Summer Winds Fun Fly
    Norman, OK. C: Brenda Barnes (405) 360-0280
The winter has been a long and cold one for New England. Record snowfall has covered many popular flying fields. The field where I spend most of my time these days is the beach at Nahant. For several weeks it looked more like Antarctica than the North Shore Massachusetts. If course this didn't stop anyone from flying. Hearty folks bundled up and headed for the flying fields. Several folks into kite traction could be seen being pulled along on skis.

Mike Dawson, aided by several experienced kitemakers, held a kite making workshop in January. Workshop members got to make a 4-sided facet kite. It was nice to welcome so many new people into kitemaking.

I was saddened to see Keely's Kites close its doors. Five years ago Keely's took over the store in Provincetown. Around the first of the year, Steve Behr decided to get out of the kite business. He blamed the sluggish economy and kite politics.

Late news from the Smithsonian Kite Festival in Washington DC. Superior tactics won out over experience and practice in the rokkaku battle. The folks from Kites Over New England won easily.

As I write this, on 1 April, the sun is shining and it hasn't snowed for over two weeks. Maybe Spring is here!

Everyone should attend this event at least once in their lives, but leave good kites at home. Imagine hundreds of kites in the air attached to flying lines that are held by kids running in every direction.

Boston has a culturally diverse population and it isn't unusual to see beautiful kites from folks from Asia and the Caribbean amid the mass tangle.

Also on May 14 is Kites Over the Pike. It is sponsored by Kites Over New England, the Middlesex News and the Bose Corporation. In past years Kites Over the Pike was held in April, it was moved to May for May's better weather.

June 24-26 is the Fifth Annual Boston Stunt Kite Championships. The event is returning to the campus of the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth campus.

Along with the usual stunt kite events, there will be some single line competition, and a rokkaku battle. That's all for now. Gentle breezes.
Region 2 (continued)
totally dry. The number of entries were down consider­ably, but kiters from our region really cleaned up with trophies and ribbons. Winners included:

Chris Peak, Alan Mariet, Clifford Quinn, Howard Lambut, Gary Gleckner, Sara Peak, Bill Beneker, Joyce Quinn, Cecilia Dalmer, Tony Reiser, Michael Dalmer, Larry Gleckner, Gina Dalmer, Joe Damin, Richard Koons, Ed Schenk, Pete Rondeau.

All of the region's clubs were well represented with a multitude of flags staking out each club's enclave. Many of the winners had attended the MKS kitemaking retreat and had picked up those special tricks that gave them the edge. How about the Region 2 clubs hosting a kitemaking retreat? We've got the talent and the people. If anyone is interested, let me know and I'll see if we can get something going.

The East Coast Stunt Kite Championships and Wildwood International Kite Festival will be held May 27-30 in Wildwood, N.J. As usual, the best stunt fliers in the country will be there. Stunt competitions in all classes will take place. Also, a judges' workshop, innovative clinic, and indoor individual ballet flying competition are scheduled for Friday. The Lehigh Valley Kite Society will be the host club for the single-line portion of the event. There are many fun contests planned throughout the event along with the requisite rokkaku challenge and the night fly. Also, on Monday, an AKA regional meeting is planned to discuss the upcoming AKA convention at Wildwood. Call Roger at (215) 736-3715 for more information.

Other upcoming events include: June 11-12 - Sea & Sky Festival, Cape May, N.J., call Mike or Lisa Bernstein (609) 884-3444; June 12 - Fathers Day Kite Fly, Brigantine, N.J. (on the beach at 37th Street), call Sue Wick (609) 266-3391; July 4 - Fourth of July Kite Celebration, Ocean City, N.J. (Athletic Field, 6th St. off Boardwalk), call Mark Soifer, City Hall Public Relations (609) 399-6111.

One final note before I sign off. A gentleman from Long Island, NY, left a message on my answering machine asking how to start a kite club. I'm sorry to say that my tape picked that moment to go bad and I didn't get the name and number to call. Please call me again so I can help you get started. Also, everyone out there who is interested in starting a club, let me know and I will try to put you in contact with each other. By the way, the AKA publishes a great book on forming a club. You can order a copy from the AKA store at (610) 395-3560.

Region 3
Mid-Atlantic
Jon Burkhardt, Regional Director

It seems like a long time since the Smithsonian Kite Festival had wonderful weather, but 1994 left little to complain about other than light winds. The sun and blue skies were a MOST welcome change from last year's aerological experiments in flying kites that were soaked with rain. This year there were over 150 contestants from 15 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada, and everyone had a wonderful time. The overall winner was Charlie Dunton of Yorktown, Virginia, who received the highest overall score as well as first prize in the Master Kitemaker Rokkaku category, and who also got a very nice write-up in The Washington Post. His kite, which some of us had seen at the Maryland Kite Society's kitemaking retreat in February, pictured Chief Sitting Bull on one side and a head of a buffalo on the other. This year's rokkaku battle, a real test of skills in the light winds, was won by a team from Ontario led by Michael Graves.

Now we're looking forward to the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships in Wildwood over the Memorial Day weekend. Other events that took place were Old Dominion Stunt Kite Championship in Virginia - Apr 10-11; Maryland Kite Festival - Apr 30; Bucks County Kite Day - May 1; and the Mid-Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships in Ocean City - May 7-8. In between all of that, a number of kitefliers will join a very happy wedding celebration for me and Karen. How's that for a full schedule of events?

Region 4
Southeast

Steve Cseplo, Regional Director

There have been all types of activities in our region during the intervening time since my last report and unfortunately, I cannot be all places at once. Like on March 19th when I had three event invitations I would have liked to attend. Rather than gloss over events I have not attended, I would like to instead offer personal kiteing experiences for the period.

The one concept I am left with at the end of this two month period is the fraternal nature of AKA membership. By this expression, by no means do I intend to exclude any gender, rather it seems to be the natural way to express the sentiment. That being if you meet a fellow AKA member, there is an instant bond, a commonality that leads to instant understanding of the other. The love of kiteing grants this blessing. True enough, it does not ensure lasting friendships or harmonious relationships in the future, but the initial experience is sure to be a pleasant one.

I like to think that the intervening period has brought me back to the roots of kiting. Local events where folks get together and have a good time like the KAOS Kitefest, edition number 5. This year we were again blessed with magnificent weather and wind, albeit the wind once again waiting until the mid-afternoon to develop. Competitions have always been a part of this festival and while I have done my fair share of bringing home "the hardware," the most important part of this event has always been getting out, flying a few kites, seeing old familiar faces and making new acquaintances. After a long day of kiteing spent flying, competing and judging, the traditional oyster roast and cookout is a great way to wind down and enjoy the company of fellow kite crazies.
Region 4 (continued)

This year I had the pleasure of the company of my wife at the event, and she thoroughly enjoyed herself I am pleased to say. As the kiting community is one of the most friendly environments you can find, it would be hard not to enjoy one's self, especially with the beauty of the calm ocean lapping at the shore through the daylight hours. Unfortunately, Sunday morning came much too soon and while festivities were planned for later that day, we had to leave for Atlanta. After a stop for breakfast and checking out of the hotel, we hit the road back to the Big Peach and the AEGIS Benefit event that I was not about to miss. After all, it isn't everyday that one gets to make personal contact with and enjoy the company of a celebrity the status of Tula.

The week following found Reed Richards and me assisting with a kiting display which ran until the end of April at the Southern Bell regional headquarters in Atlanta. While it was not open to the general public, it came off looking good and as several thousand people are employed there, we had the pleasure of knowing that at the least, many people had been exposed to the modern kiting world. Almost simultaneously, Reed was featured on a local morning program and several of us showed up early one Monday morning to fly live on the air as the teaser for that article. Hopefully, these activities will spur further local interest in kiting and generate larger crowds for the upcoming Dogwood Festival.

The final organized event I had the pleasure of attending occurred on that weekend I previously mentioned. The Lions and Lambs KiteFly in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was co-sponsored by the Chattanooga and Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Departments and The Scenic City Kite Club. This was the first time I have been able to make tracks to meet the membership of the club and it was a pleasure to do so. As with many kite events, the winds did not cooperate and that old familiar refrain of "you should have been here yesterday" was heard again and again. So low wind sport kites were the order of the day and I was able to amply entertain the crowd with my ZDX by R's Kites. In reality, it was the only kite that would fly consistently early in the day, fighters even having difficulty staying in the air.

Finally, the winds picked up enough for the competitions to be completed and several children were made quite happy by winning their first kite competition awards, often with the kites they had made at the morning workshop. By the time chief judges Don Helton and Chuck Jones finished their duties, they were shaking their heads and wondering how anyone could enjoy judging. As this was a local event, the focus was mainly on the children who attended and the smiling faces of some is really what these types of events are all about.

So that about ends it for me this time. I'll try to keep up with what's going on in the kiting world in the Southeast. But with limited time and resources, it is simply not possible to do it all no matter how much I may want to.

Until next time, take care, stay happy and keep a kite in the sky.

Region 5

Great Lakes

Robyne Gardner, Regional Director

Spring FINALLY arrived here in Region 5 One family whose kite calendar is filling up quickly is the Boyers of Huron, Ohio. Ralph Boyer is practically a one-man kite festival. He is aptly assisted by his wife Barbara and daughter Sara. Together, they offer many sled kite workshops for children throughout the northern Ohio area and always try to incorporate a bit of kite history and flying safety into their presentations. Between the Boyers, the Black Swamp Air Force, O.S.E.K., S/20, and the Battle Creek Cloud Cutters, there's probably thousands of children learning how to make and fly kites this spring. Get out the Kevlar!

The Wright Kite Club in Dayton, Ohio, is also becoming quite active. Mark Bottenfield got the ball rolling for a month-long exhibit at Dayton's Public Library. This club is also knee-deep in kite string and wooden dowels.

Even though the calendar says it's spring, you may get a different impression if you've been out trying to loft your favorite kite during March and April. The well-dressed kiter in these parts was wearing mud boots, ear muffs, and warm mittens. Some of the competitive sport fliers are beginning to whine about not having enough time to prepare for Grand Haven. Quite a few of the kitemakers have at least one creation sitting in a corner waiting for its virgin flight.

On the subject of sport kite competitions: Several competitors have called to ask about the scores that are reported on AKA's new automated phone system. I have been in contact with our conference commissioner, Al Hargus, and Darrin Skinner, who programmed and set up the automated system. Any new system has bugs. One of the major problems with this new system was our region's realignment that took place late last year. Some of our scores were mixed in with other conferences. Another problem Darrin encountered was not knowing all the names of the fliers, especially the fliers on teams and in pairs. Warning: Make sure your AKA dues are current! For teams and pairs, this means ALL fliers on the team must be current AKA members to accumulate points. Let's be patient and give this system a chance to get up and running smoothly. This automated system was a huge undertaking and I think Darrin deserves to take a bow just for getting it to this point. If you have questions about your scores, call your friendly conference commissioner, Al Hargus.

Some new pairs are surfacing this year on the competition field. Sam Ritter and wife Ann will be flying under the name of KiteWorks. Mike Donley and Phil Salstein get my vote for most original name: Higher Powered. Late in May, Aaron Harris and fiancée Debra Holt will present a one-time routine to the tune of "Here Comes the Bride." Congratulations, Aaron and Debbi!

If you're in the Youngstown area May 15, give Bill Flynn a call. He and other members of the Supreme Order of Kitefliers will be getting together for their 8th Annual Kite Fly-Off. While our region's spring and summer

Regional Reports continue on next page.
Region 5 (continued)

event calendar is growing almost daily, it is with regret that I cannot report all of them here in advance of the event. Please remember that I have to send these reports in this writing, here are some upcoming kite happenings:


Region 6

Midwest

Bob Neiman, Regional Director

Well, the clocks have been moved forward - we've got an extra hour of daylight to fly kites - so it must be spring! To start off, the Kite Society of Wisconsin has a full slate of activities planned for the next few months. On April 30, the Appleton Paper Arts Festival will feature sled kitemaking and stunt kite demos by Chicago Fire. Mark your calendars for Mother's Day, May 8, for the 1st Annual Leland Toy Memorial Fly at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee. On May 21, WEZW, a local FM radio station will sponsor a kite fly with lots of giveaways from 12 noon to 5pm, also at Veteran's Park. The big Hot Air Balloon Rally will be held in Wisconsin Dells on June 4 with a giant kite fly. All kite fliers attending will receive free passes for Wisconsin Dells attractions. Finally, KSW will be flying at yet another Balloon Rally/Kite Fly in Monroe, WI on July 9. For info on any of these flys or to register for the Wisconsin Dells event, write to Jeff Kataoka, 2266 N. Prospect, Suite 501, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Moving down to Indiana, the Hoosiers Kiteflyers Society is sponsoring the Ansel Toney Memorial Kite Fly on May 15. The club will also be flying at the Academy of Modeling Aeronautics (AMA) Homecoming in Muncie, IN on June 11-12. This is the new world headquarters for the AMA and a great place to fly kites. Moving to July, the club is hosting the Dave DeBolt Kite Fly at Monroe Central High School on July 17. For more info on these flys, contact HKS president, Mike Bragg at (317) 453-2977.

The Minnesota Kite Society is busy at work this spring with a full calendar of events. On May 14, MKS will co-sponsor the Kiwanis Kite Fly in Oak Park and on May 21, the club will fly at the Clean Air Bike Festival in Shakopee, MN. Finally, the club will host the MKS Fun Fly at Battle Creek in St. Paul on June 19. Call Jim Henry at (612) 757-0060 for more details.

The Midwest Wind Wrestlers from Waterloo, Iowa are in the process of setting up their spring and summer flying schedule to include kite building seminars in April & May. They are also promoting kiting to neighborhood schools.

Turning closer to home, the Chicagoland Skyliners have a full slate of activities on hand. On April 30, the Quad Cities branch of CSL held a kite fly at Blackhawk College in Moline, IL. The site shifts across the river to Davenport for the United Neighbors 1st Annual Kite Fly on May 14. WQAD, channel 8 from Moline, is co-sponsoring this event with free food, prizes and lots of free kites with the event's slogan emblazoned on them, "Get high on kites . . . not drugs!!" For more information on these two events, call Renee at (319) 322-7363.

On May 7, CSL will sponsor a kite festival in Antioch, IL, and on May 14, the Sight & Sound Regional Reports continue on next page.

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Region 6 (continued)

Kite Festival for the sight and hearing impaired will be held in Rockford, IL. Featured will be a rokkaku battle, kid’s kite building, and a “Godzilla” challenge.

The 3rd Annual Chicago Sport Kite Festival will be held on June 11-12 at Ned Brown Woods in Schaumburg, IL. This AKA sanctioned and American Kite Circuit regional competition will feature some of the top Individual, Pairs, and Team fliers from across the country. A Pairs team from Japan has even signed up to compete! The two day festival will also feature a single-line extravaganza with featured flier Randy Tom and a TV/radio celebrity rokkaku challenge highlighting the festival. Kite manufacturers will be on hand to demo their products and conduct hands-on learn-to-fly clinics. Contact CSKF at (708) 359-2556 for more info and registration forms.

Finally, July 16 marks the return of Sky Circus to be held at Ned Brown Woods in Schaumburg. This year’s event will feature a circus atmosphere in which some of the most beautiful single-line kites and laundry will be displayed for all to see. Kitefliers from all across the Midwest flock to attend this gala event, culminating in the World Rokkaku Challenge on Sunday, July 17. For more information on any of the CSL events, contact Ken McNeil at (815) 962-9680.

Phew! Whatta spring Region 6 has cooked up! It looks like we’ll all be busy with kites every weekend from now through summer! Call me at (708) 359-2556 with any info, gripes, comments, or praises you want to heap on the AKA.

Fresh breezes to all!

Region 7

Great Plains

Chris Moore, Regional Director

Well, organized chaos has broken into full-blown mayhem here in the Midwest as kite flier speeds across the Great Plains. Fabulous weather, great winds, and plenty of open spaces has provided us with an ideal kiteing environment and a great spring!

March 12 in Grand Lake, CO, there was a beehive of kiteing activity as 44 registered kiters assembled with their parents and onlookers to make their own kites for the Sky High Kite Fly that afternoon. Scott Skinner was on hand to explain the mysteries of stable kiteflying and encourage the prospective kiters.

April 2 was the date of the 2nd Annual Great St. Louis Kite Festival on Central Field in Forest Park. This year’s event topped last year’s event, which created around 19 million impressions, between television, radio, and newspaper coverage. 55A’s, an in-school program, and the event itself. The even:; sponsored by Coca-Cola, boasted two competition fields, competitors from throughout Regions 7 & 8, and some spectacular aerial art. Everyone had a great time.

The 3rd Annual Prairie Winds Kite Festival was held April 30 - May 1. Prairie Winds Festivals, Inc., organizes this event as well as many other festivals throughout Region 7. This event is a combination kite carnival and a competition for kite connoisseurs. It is dedicated to the celebration of the kite and the free-spirited hobby that it represents.

Activities at Prairie Winds include: Red, White, and Blue opening ceremony with the KC Attack soccer team. AKA sanctioned competition, demonstrations from It’s A Breeze, Skynasaur, Sksburner, and many other well-known manufacturers. Two separate sound systems and a sky full of kites from “Mr. Kite” (Craig Christensen) will add to the festive atmosphere. Channel 41, a Fox network affiliate, will give away free kites throughout the festival and clowns and storytellers make it a family oriented event as well as a competition. If you miss this event in 1994, be sure to put it on your calendar for 1995! It takes place the weekend before Mother’s Day in May every year. Contact Prairie Winds Festivals, Inc. at (913) 894-KITE.

The McPherson Kite Club will hold the All Schools Day Fun Fly in McPherson, KS, on May 13. Contact Ken Roark, events coordinator, at (316) 241-6922.

The River Festival Fun Fly in Wichita, KS, is a demonstration for the public and will be held at Coleman Middle School on May 15. All kinds of kite flying will be represented including fighter kites and team flying. Contact Mel Wohrley at (316) 733-0148.

The Mystery Ballet will be held June 11 in Springfield, MO. What the heck is a Mystery Ballet? It is a low-stress contest that emphasizes fun. Imagine coming to the field totally unprepared with no routine in mind. You reach into a bag full of tapes to pull out your musical selection (anything from rock to classical) and then have 30 minutes to formulate a routine. Contact the Springfield Area Kite Enthusiasts (S.A.K.E.) at (417) 882-5374.

June 11-12 is the Topeka Kite Festival in Topeka, KS. Last year’s event was a fun fly but this year they will have an AKA competition. They must have the biggest kite flying field in the Midwest, 80 acres of pure pleasure set aside by the city of Topeka just for kite flying. For information on this exciting event call Larry Cheek, (913) 256-2951.

June 11-12 is also the date of the Papillion Kite Fly in Papillion, NE. Some of the activities include a competition and a workshop by Dean Jordan. Contact Nora Cooper at (402) 331-9102.

June 18th is the Twin Rivers Competition in Emporia, KS, a third annual event that keeps getting bigger and better each year! AKA sanctioned competition will be going on all day as everyone else enjoys the spacious Kansas flying area! For more information contact Nina Whittredge at (316) 342-3454.

June 24-26 is the World’s Smallest Kite Festival in Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Dawn Williams at (719) 596-2332. July 30-31 is the Sunflower Games (Kansas residents only) in Lawrence, KS. Contact Carolyn Moore (913) 894-5483.
Region 8
South Central
Richard Dermer, Regional Director

The Southwestern kite season opened, as usual, with the Northwest Rec Center's Kite Workshop in Austin, Texas. Seventy-six kids learned how to make four different kites, a few weeks before the 68th annual Zilker Park Kite Contest. This year's festival was postponed a week due to rain, but out-of-town AKA members already in Austin enjoyed an all-day kites party in Joel Scholz' Sky Delights Kite Co. shop. It was a bargain hunter's delight. Joel had a garage sale of dozens of kites, spars, lines, and assorted goodies. The rescheduled event a week later had good winds, saw most of the trophies taken home again by AKA members, and featured Jim Stipe's world record largest delta in another successful flight.

Up the road, the Windfest in Waco shared the same good wind as Austin, with kids' single-line events, a rok battle, and fighter kite competition alternating with a full schedule of sport kite competition. Frank Kenisky and David Williams ran a smooth and entertaining event, which included a Keith Anderson buggy demo, several great performances by team Nemesis, and some sparkling innovative flying by Eddie Reynolds. Individual class winners included Kelly Reed, Ryan Kelley, James White, Eddie Reynolds, and Keith Anderson. I was also very impressed with the craftsmanship of Enrique Iglesias, who has developed some original techniques for making outstanding fighter kites.

Eureka Springs, Arkansas's Kite Festival saw continuous rain on Saturday, but hosts Steve and Linda Rogers simply moved visiting fliers into the clubhouse for a day of video, miniature kitemaking, and socializing. Sunday featured clear skies, good winds, and a Dynakite kite combat event and rok battle won by the Kansas City Kite Club, that were real crowd pleasers.

A first time Arkansas festival at Jacksonville State Park was a great success, with hundreds of children flying sleds made from AKA plans. Members Park Fleming, Bruce DeLeuil, and John Clements gave a magnificent demonstration of single-, dual-, and quad-line kites. A number of teams, each composed of several third graders and one senior citizen, competed with homemade kites for group prizes.

A couple of member casualties in March – John Eddyhausen of Ft. Worth cracked his hip when his buggy flipped in a tight turn, and a few weeks later, well-known Texas kitemaker Terry Crumpler suffered a heart attack. Both are mending well. Terry and Linda say thanks for all the cards and letters.

A well-written newsletter editorial by Wichita, Kansas Windjammer president John Johnson argues that the AKA sport kite committee should set the maximum wind speed for competitions at 25, not the proposed 20. Citing Wichita's high average wind speed (14), and the fact that most novice and intermediate fliers have heavy-wind kites, he maintains that the higher maximum would be more practical for Kansas conditions. (I know, Kansas isn't in my region anymore, but I thought John's opinion was worth passing on.)

Word steadily filters in from area clubs. Well-attended club flies in Houston, Dallas, Rockport, Abilene, New Orleans, Tulsa, and Wichita Falls let us know the season is in full swing.

Pin Collector Alert - The Crescent City Kitefliers in New Orleans have a new and spectacular club pin. Square, it measures an inch and a half on a side, and features 11 colors! It was designed by Marshall Harris and has a nine-color rainbow delta opposite the state of Louisiana.

A lot of events are happening in May, June, and July in the region. We have new festivals in Richardson and Wichita Falls, TX, and Enid and Norman, OK. Also, annual events like the Edmond, OK, Libertyfest Kite Festival and the Junction, TX, International Kite Retreat, and numerous club exhibitions. Read your calendar carefully. There's something for everyone!
Region 11
Northern California

Tom McAlister, Regional Director

I have a whole pile of kite gossip notes which I had planned would make up the bulk of this report. However, there has been something on my mind that I think is important to all of us.

I am sorry to report that we have lost seven events on the West Coast this season: Visalia, Eureka, Fairfield, the North Coast Challenge, Newport, Rockaway Beach and Oregon State Sport Kite Championship. While there were many factors involved in each of these cancellations, a major factor in all of them was lack of sponsorship money.

I would like to take a moment to address event sponsorship and my fellow AKA members whose livelihood comes entirely or in part from the kite industry.

Each member of this industry relies on kite festivals to increase public awareness of kite flying as a fulfilling recreational pastime. This increased public awareness results in greater sales of kites, from the five-dollar variety to the $500 custom. Kite festivals boost everyone's sales.

The loss of these events hurts businesses of all types — materials manufacturers, kite manufacturers, and retailers alike. Kite entrepreneurs cannot let this trend continue and then at year's end blame slow sales on a sluggish economy. Successful businesses have a responsibility to keep as many events alive as possible. It's a way of giving something back to the kitefliers who support you. It's good business and it's good sense.

If you have supported kiteflying events in the past, I thank you and hope you will continue to do so. If you have not been a sponsor, I urge you to do so. Ask yourself this question — Do you believe that kiteflying events are a positive force in our sport? If your answer is "Yes" then you have an obligation to your own business, the industry, and most importantly, to the kiteflying community who supports you, to support events in any way you can. You can do this by becoming a sponsor the next time you are asked. Kitefliers will win, the industry will win, and so will you.

Look for a lighter tone in my next report.

P.S. Congratulations to George & Marion Ham on their 50th wedding anniversary coming up in May. See ya!

Region 12
SoCal/Pacific

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

Surviving the big fires in Southern California and the Northridge earthquake left many people with a sense of general anxiety and, in some, hidden fears. Flying kites and being involved with kiteflying activities helps soften the blows and provides a healthy diversion. If you know someone who is suffering post-traumatic syndromes or something close, introduce them to kiteflying. Take them flying. Take them to a kite festival. We'll be better off and you will be taking the initiative.

Moorpark College in Ventura County, located between Thousand Oaks and the Simi Valley, will hold its 1st annual kite festival on May 21, starting at 10 am. Moorpark Community Services wanted to provide relief to all the recent tensions and chose a kite festival. The contact is Sue Jeffers (805) 378-1408, Moorpark College, 7075 Campus Rd., Moorpark, CA.

The Moorpark Kite Festival will hold contests for the most beautiful kite, the largest, the smallest, best aero­dynamic design, the most kites on one line and prizes for youngest and oldest kitefliers. Prizes are being donated by local businesses. Quartz Hill Kite Ranch and the Village Kite and Toy Store in Ventura will demonstrate kite building and flying with displays of the newest kites. Various civic groups will offer a barbecue and gobs of food. If you can, plan to attend. Nearby Oxnard is holding its annual Strawberry Festival and the Moorpark Melodrama (an old time theater) will be in season. This will be great family fun.

If you are heading to Hawaii, keep in mind that the Hawaii Kitefliers Association has a night fly every month. Contact Brian Hirose, president, at (808) 947-7097 for details. A

(Continued on next page.)
Region 12 (continued)

tropical night with new friends and a steady wind provide a beautiful venue for flying. Then, enjoying a meal and each other's company is an advantage of this paradise.

Back in California, the Night Fly in Lancaster provides a contrast to Hawaii with a desert environment with great flying. July 16th, Jon Small (805) 943-6860, owner of the Kite Ranch ("where they teach chickens to fly"), will sponsor the Annual Desert Lights Nite Fly. Bring HIGH WIND kites.

The L.A. SPORTKITE CLASSIC is coming June 11-12. Sport kite fliers from around the country will go for points. Both the American Kite Circuit and AKA recognize the event for competitors in Novice, Experienced and Masters classes. Individual, teams and team events will provide sport for all. Contact Randy Joe at the Sunshine Kite Company (310) 372-0308.

The Manhattan Beach Fourth of July competition is still on from what I hear. Roger Chewning of the Eastern League and other mighty events is the coordinator and if anyone can put this together, Roger is the person.

The San Diego Kite Club (SDKC) has events planned every month for the rest of the year. You can call the club hotline at (619) 222-9300 for the local news or call Fred Martin, president, SDKC (619) 738-7013 for specifics on having a good time.

AKA Region 12 Kiting - Living Treasure is an honor recognition I want to initiate. The first honoree is Virgil Dalton of the SDKC.

In March, Virgil presented kiting to over 600 students of the Ocean Beach Elementary School. The WHOLE school! He presented the background of kiting and had kitemaking workshops for 3 weeks. This culminated in the 46th Ocean Beach Kite Festival.

Almost every day Virgil is at the kite field testing new creations and helping new and experienced flyers. He is a great man to talk with. He has a wonderful sense of humor and often has a new joke. Visitors to San Diego from around the world have been taught to fly by this gentle man. Others seek his counsel about kitemaking and flying. The genuine Virgil Windsocks, which are not for sale but donated to raffles, are prized possessions.

Virgil Dalton at the mature age of 74 is an active member of the kiting community. His attendance at formal club meetings and informal gatherings is always a welcomed event. Although Virgil has been active in kiting for the last 15 years, he admits that he is continuously learning. If you need kiting help or a good joke, Virgil is the man to talk with. He is truly a Living Treasure in our region.

A special certificate will be presented to Virgil Dalton, Living Kiting Treasure – AKA Region 12.

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Wings On Strings
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(405) 237-2221

TULSA
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LUBBOCK
Best Kites
5508 Amberhill Place
(806) 223-6827

BUFFALO BAY COMPANY
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(806) 788-BEAN0

PORT ARANSAS
Fly It Port A
Avenue G & 10th
(512) 749-4900

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY
City Kite Company
500 Corto Avenue
(503) 469-9377

NEWPORT
The Company
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(503) 266-3624

SEASIDE
Catch The Wind
2155 SENECA
(503) 383-0309

KITE Factory of Seasidc
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(503) 736-KITE

KITES Northwest
320 Broadway
(808) KITES NW

THE DALLES
Break Wind Kites
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(503) 296-2026

Krazy Kites - On the Pier
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(503) 428-0753

Pennsylvania

BETHLEHEM
Burlesque Kites
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(610) 867-4999

ELIZABETHTOWN
Lefty On Right
123 South Market Street
(717) 305-0740

GETTYSBURG
The Wind Master
800 E. Carlisle Street
(717) 334-3760

MINFILLINVE
Grandmaster Kites
222 W. Third Street
(717) 739-3367

WECSOCILVE
Kite Studio
5555 Hamilton Blvd
(717) 395-2500

WINDSOR
D.J. Sport Kites
1201 Howland Ave
(808) 206-KITE

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NEWPORT
High Flyers Flight Co.
406 Thames Street
(401) 440-3062

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CHARLESTON
Kites Fly'n Hi
The Ramp Kite Shop
40 N. Market Street
(803) 359-5292

MYRTLE BEACH
Kigtz Kites
814 Grand Strand Street
(803) 448-7881

Texas

AUSTIN
Sky Delight Kites
505 Willow Street
(512) 476-7598

SEATTLE
Garden Park Kite Shop
3333 Wallyford Ave N
(206) 633-2450

Great Winds Kite Shop
402 Occidental Ave. South
(206) 624-6880

TACOMA
Mainframe Kite Shop
3340 E. 11th Street
(206) 262-6573

YELM
Sparretime Hobbies
1592 Yelm Avenue W, #2
(206) 863-KITE

Wisconsin

FISH CREEK
Fish Creek Kite Company
3853 Highway 66
(414) 807-3709

LAKE GENEVA
Aerial Stunt Kites
858 W. Main Street
(414) 249-0631

Virginia

BEDFORD
Blue Ridge Kites
234 Windridge Drive
(703) 566-6846

CHINCOTEAGUE
The Kite Koop
104 N. Main Street
(757) 339-5594

VIRGINIA BEACH
Jackie Kites
2886 W. Lending Rd.
(443) 420-5339

KRazy Kites - On the Pier
1333 Mid Dam Road
(503) 428-0753

Washington

EVERETT
Four Winds Kite Shop
603 Broadway
(206) 239-3334

SPOKANE
Sparretime Hobbies
1592 Yelm Avenue W, #2
(206) 863-KITE

YELM
Sparretime Hobbies
1592 Yelm Avenue W, #2
(206) 863-KITE

Any licensed retailer who is a regular member of AKA will offer a discount to each AKA member.
Wow! The Buggy Thang really hit the media didn’t it? I hope everyone caught the ESPN 2 and MTV sports segments. Valerie Govig from KiteLines magazine had an article on traction kiting published in the March/94 issue of Omnn magazine. The Internet bulletin board [rec.kites] is alive with ongoing discussions and reports from kite events. This spring, CNN presented kite pictures from festivals in Thailand and India. The funny part was that the kites shown were invariably western designs and not the local culture kites. It is probably only noticeable to kiters who recognize Peter Lynn’s giant inflatables in Thailand or the giant ripstop rokkaku and a long train of plastic diamonds being flown at a festival in India.

Since Bob & Hazel Ingraham started this whole AKA thing back in the 60’s, and since we started holding annual conventions in 1978, the AKA has provided the format and inspiration for presenting kites as more than childhood toys. Through the efforts of AKA members and kitefliers worldwide, modern kiting has made itself known to the larger culture. Not only is this occurring while we watch, WE are the perpetrators of the plot! And what a great job we’re doing!

It wasn’t always this way. Will Yolen told the story about flying kites in the middle of the Great Meadow in Central Park. He would bring a life-size cardboard cut-out of a small child with him because he felt it would look less odd if he appeared to be a kindly grandfather flying kites with his grandson.

Last week a particularly fetching young lady stopped by our shop to pick up kite stuff. In the course of conversation she told me she had visited us regularly over the past 10 years while on vacation with her family to our area. We had helped them get started in kiting. They had enjoyed the experience and kites had become a family tradition.

She just wanted us to know that we had provided them with much more than just the products they had purchased.

The same is true at kite festivals and local flying fields. We usually have no idea how “what we do and how it looks” appeals to people. Some come up and ask questions. Some acquire their own kites and join us on the field or beach. Some of those people are us. But how many find something for themselves in kiting and are not interested or are unaware of organized kiting? How many people do we affect in ways that have nothing to do with our kite community? The zen of kiting embraces the contrast between the act and the reaction. Kiting is so much more than the tools we play with.

Whether we care, or even think about it, our actions as public kitefliers are what has brought the awareness of kiting to so many. The joy of kiting must be pretty obvious to the civilians who stop to watch (or are non-kiters called lay people?). Kite activities are growing because so many folks put so much of themselves into it. I don’t think kiting grows because there are kite stores. The stores spring up because demand has been created by people already playing the game. Many people who sell kites are just getting their “piece of the pie.” It is the bakers of the pie who do the real work.

Every time we fly our kites, we touch the sky, and our experience touches others. And the whole thing keeps going around. The true zen of kiting is like gravity. It doesn’t depend on us to understand it or even believe it. It works. Enjoy!

Kite Song

By day the wind stalks the kite like the lion stalks the lamb.
Scrambling over clouds, my kite scampers upward and into long, blue meadows.
Wheeling in the sky, it stalls in silence, then pivots and dives down in a roar.

I feel the lines alive in my hands.
My strings are singing.
The hard, bright light from shining sun too soon fades down to a yellow lit dusk.
My heart astride the gentle evening wind,
I ride the darkness down.

— Bert Tanaka

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1/92

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PO Box 688
Kokomo, IN 46904-6881

Kansas City Kite Club
12044 W. 87th Street
Lenexa, KS 66215

Prairie Winds Kite Club
PO Box 51
McPherson, KS 67460

Witchita Windjammers
Kite Club
308 N. Rock Road
Wichita, KS 67226

Katykykers
949 Gregory Way
Lexington, KY 40504

Crescent City Kitefliers
2008 Tugue Street
Metairie, LA 70003

Sea Coast Kite Flyers
285 Euclid Avenue
Lynn, MA 01904-1904

Sky Sailers Kite Club
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N. Plymouth, MA 02362

Kapitol Air Corps
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Silver Spring, MD 20907

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Potomac, MD 20854

S/20 Kite Group
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Oak Park, MI 48237

Kazoos Stringfellow
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Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2241

Traverse Bay Liners Kite Club
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Traverse City, MI 49684

Minnesota Kite Society
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Minneapolis, MN 55458-0001

Gateway Kite Club
249 Clags
Porterton, MO 63135

Carolina Association of Kite Enthusiasts
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Charlotte, NC 28204-3300

Lehigh Valley Kite Society
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Bethlehem, PA 18015

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Portsmouth, RI 02871-402

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Patricia, RI 02801

Scenic City Kite Club
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Chattanooga, TN 37415

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Amarillo, TX 79105

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