

AKA Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

India's Rich Kiting Tradition

by
Rajesh Singha

Rajesh is a
freelance writer
specializing in
international
trends.

He currently
resides in
Atlanta, Georgia.

At the corner of Spring and Campbell in Smyrna, Georgia (a suburb of Atlanta), not too far from where Julia Roberts grew up, sits an antique-looking strip shopping center known to locals as the Plaza. It is home to a video parlor, a grocery store, a pizza joint – you get the picture. It is also where Mumtaz Meghani's popular dry cleaning store is located. There is a brief lull in business at 2-King Cleaners as Meghani and Shirin (his wife of almost a quarter century) take a much-needed respite and reminisce about the good old days. Homeland was and still is seven tempestuous seas away. Homeland was fun for Meghani because it provided him with the opportunity to actively indulge in two of life's greatest pleasures – kiting and kiting.

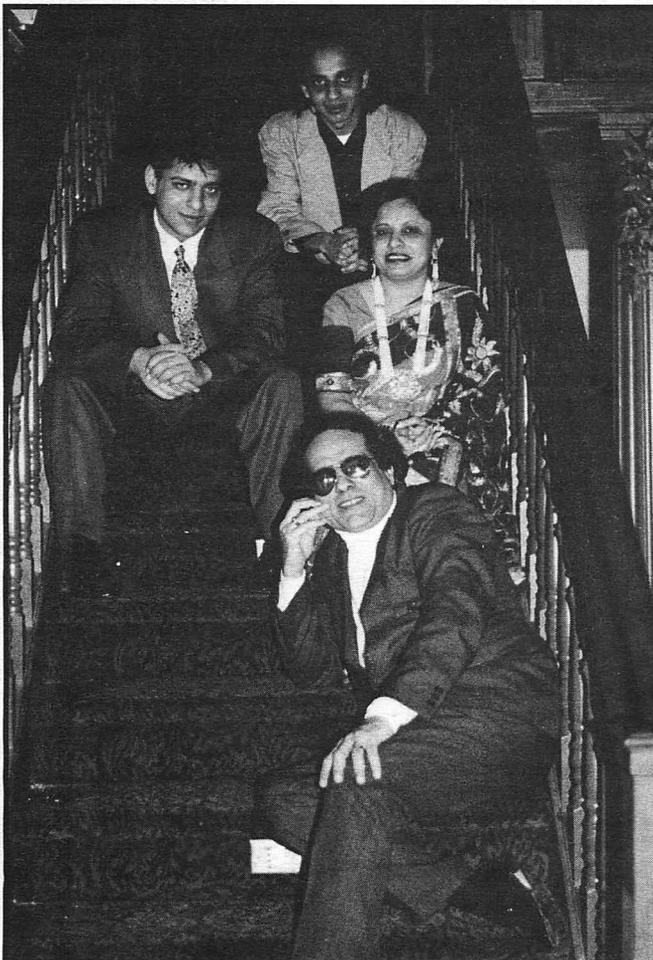
Meghani's devotion to the art and science of kiting is more a rule than an exception. Although no reliable statistics are yet available, according to Bhanu Shah, director of the National Kites Museum in Ahmedabad, India, almost half a billion people in India have flown a kite at least once. In a country of nearly nine hundred million people, that is a rather significant silent majority. In fact, kiting is dear to so many Indian hearts that many, like Meghani, actually pack their kites with their belongings when they leave home to emigrate overseas.

"I treasure my kite collection to this day," says Meghani as we chat with his family in his cozy little store, surrounded by crisply laundered designer shirts and even a shining Indian silk saree or two. Meghani's two sons, Adnan and Zeeshan, are all attention. Both have grown up in the United States, attend Atlanta area high schools and wonder about life in the home country. "Kiting was my passion. We would even attach little mini-lanterns to our kites and fly them at night."

The kiting tradition of the Indian subcontinent is so age-old that it has acquired a mythical stature. The credit for introducing India to kiteflying goes to its Muslim emperors who came from the middle-east and conquered India a thousand years ago. In mid-winter every year, millions of Indians flock to parks, stadiums and rice fields to celebrate *Makkar Sankranti* – the annual kite festival. Revelers dressed in their Sunday best and armed with beautifully decorated kites head to open spaces to set up kite shop. Kites are exchanged, traded, admired and finally let loose to adorn the clear blue sky. Even the weather is on their side this time of year – most Indians have never seen a snowflake except in Hollywood films.

"It is a very pretty picture when you see thousands of colorful kites imprinted against the blue celestial backdrop," says Sanjeev Sethi, an ATM technician from Punjab, India, who works for a Charlotte, South Carolina-based banking firm. "The women folk also participate in a big way. Dressed in their brightly-colored sarees, they turn out in large numbers to witness the spectacle and cheer their favorite kites, their little ones in tow." Says Sethi, "Although kiting has traditionally been a male sport in India, things are changing." A kite enthusiast himself, Sethi has improvised a rather unusual way to stay in touch with his cultural heritage. He has choreographed a uniquely spirited dance style called the "Patang Dance" which is characterized by wild, kite-like body movements. "Patang" is the Indian word for kite.

The Meghani
Family



Jay Karmali, a
freelance
photographer,
generously
donated the
photos.

The President's Page

David Gomberg

I think it's important that your president be visible, accessible and available to hear your ideas.

If you haven't had a chance to at least say hello, it isn't

for lack of my trying. So far this year, I've attended the KTA Convention, the Daytona International Festival in Florida, the East Coast Championships in New Jersey, the Kite Rendezvous in Montreal, the Northwest Regionals in Washington, and the UP Sports Festival in California. And that doesn't count overseas events. Here's an update on what we've done lately in response to your suggestions.

Sanctioning Buggies. At our Board meeting this month, I plan to propose that we officially sanction (and insure) "wheeled traction" at kite events.

This is a big step. Kite powered buggies have captured the attention of a significant part of the kite community, but so far, the Association has been unwilling to risk our insurance policy on any type of powerflying.

My proposal would cover buggies and skates at sanctioned events. Safety equipment, including helmets, shoes and clothing would be required and designated flying fields would be monitored by officials to protect "civilians." An inspection of all equipment would also be required before each day's use. (Flying outside of sanctioned events would remain uninsured and would not be controlled by these requirements.)

This issue will be decided soon so call your regional director and let them know what you think.

Supporting Aerial Photography. With the 100 year anniversary of the first North American kite photograph fast approaching, it seemed appropriate that AKA do more for those dedicated aerial photographers in our membership.

I'm happy to report the formation of a new AKA aerial photography committee, chaired by Steve Eisenhauer of New Jersey. The committee will network with the international organization, KAPWA and also produce a special newsletter. If you'd like to get involved or be put on the mailing list, call the national office.

Promoting Kiting Better. One of AKA's biggest challenges has been to effectively market kiting. We do a great job of responding to interviews and requests for information. We have produced media packets and videos for the

convention, have designed a public service radio campaign, and even have proposals before the 1996 Olympic committee. But the fact is that these volunteer efforts could be better coordinated into a long-term campaign.

I'm now centralizing our efforts in a new public relations Committee, chaired by Tim Waters of Pennsylvania. The committee will produce a marketing plan (and budget) for reaching out to the media in a regular and organized fashion.

Another important committee topic is money. Events across the country are dying off from lack of funding and AKA is straining to increase our activities budgets without asking for more dues, donations, and fees from members. I've asked Tim to come back with some solid recommendations and possible prospects for major commercial sponsors from outside the kite industry to support the Association and sanctioned events.

New Competition Rules. Our sport kite committee now includes members from STACK in Europe and AJSKA in Japan. This international group, chaired by Vern Balodis in Ohio has completed the latest update of sport kite competition rules. Rather than a major overhaul, some minor fine tuning and a few new ideas were implemented this year. But don't look for a new book yet. The purple "3rd Edition" is still in effect with official "addendums" planned for the end of the season. See *Kiting*, May/June 1994, for more details.

Jon Burkhardt and the kitemaking committee have also completed a new rulebook for judging handmade kites. If you plan to enter a kite in competition this year, you will want to know how design, flight and construction will be evaluated and scored. Call the national office and ask for this newest publication.

Registering for the convention; I recently received a letter from a member concerned about convention fees. "I really had a great time at Seaside", she said, "but my registration cost \$120 and I was upset to see people there who had not paid." Solving this problem creates a real dilemma. We want the public to come and experience the convention. We want to excite them with everything that kiting and the AKA has to offer. But we also want people who actually join convention activities to fairly pay for their use.

Even though we check badges, we know some people are borrowing nametags to pick-up lunches, sneak into workshops, or bring their kites into marked flying areas. A bit of peer pressure from fellow fliers may help ease the problem. Since our fees are intended to cover the cost of running the convention, people who slip in are really ripping-off you who pay. And non-members flying in designated convention fields creates a potential insurance nightmare.

The Wildwood convention will have public viewing areas, space for non-registrants to fly, and signs limiting convention events to registrants. Banquet tickets will be available for guests and we'll have special programs for students, the media and spectators.

So come to Wildwood in October. Tell your friends and bring your family. There will be plenty for them to see - for free. But if you actually participate in our workshops, programs or flying events, please register and wear your nametag.

David



BRIDLE PATH REVISITED AGAIN

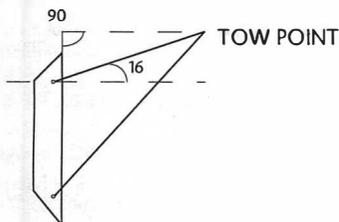
The problem with Kevin Shannon's letter in the March/April issue of *Kiting* is that it ignores the source of the controversy. I refer to the diagram on p. 8 of the May '93 issue.

On the left diagram of the two displayed, I have placed a dashed line (see diagram below) between the juncture of the bridle legs and the spine alignment. That clearly shows that the towing point in the diagram is actually forward (above) of the sail itself. That is absurd and is the basis for my statement that no known single-line kite would fly with such a bridle. As a minor point, the angle identified as 5 degrees is close to 16 degrees and thus visually amplifies the error.

Graphic illustrations of a general subject do not have to be scale, but they should not be ridiculous. As for the mutual friend who exhibited his rokkaku, the towing point lay well aft of the nose, just as it had to be.

Correct the drawing on p. 8 of the May '93 issue and this silly controversy will end as quickly as it began.

John Loy
Bartlesville, OK

**The Author Responds:**

As Mr. Loy's letters are the only negative communications I have received on this subject in over a year, I have to conclude that no one else has had any problems with the article. As such, I would suggest that Mr. Loy alter the drawing in his copy of *Kiting*, as nobody else seems to give a darn about it.

By the way, his comment that no known single-line kite flies with the towing point forward of the sail, is blatantly incorrect. Many large kites, edo-dakkos for example, due to long bridle lines, have their tow points in just such a position...Personal experience has shown me that there are usually numerous ways to solve a bridling problem and the conventional solution is not always the best.

And this is my last statement on this "silly controversy."

Kevin Shannon
Cartisle PA

Call To Artists

Call for artists works in tethered flying art (kites, etc...). Submit up to ten slides labeled and sleeved with artist statement. Include SASE for return of materials. Artists needed for 1996 museum show. Send materials to:

Kite Art
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SUN'S RAYS

My family was holidaying at Pambula, a lovely coastal resort in southern New South Wales, Australia. As always, I took my kite bag with me since a very reliable seabreeze comes in about midday each day. One day, we had gone down to the River Beach at the mouth of the Pambula River. I pulled out a couple of single-liners, got them up above the lee of the rocky headland/trees, and after a short while tethered them both and went off in search of my family.

Some time later, my wife asked "Allan, what are those things swimming out in the water?" Looking out, I saw an old man in chest-high water and a couple of very large dark shapes scooting around near where he was standing.

We occasionally get stingrays along this section of coast, but these were two really big ones. I thought I should let him know what it was about, so I jumped out and swam to where he was standing. I was about to speak to him when one of these brutes abruptly turned and came straight toward me!

The judges later awarded almost perfect 10's for the reverse, upward moving somersault with pike and full twist - a manoeuvre I had perfected for the very purpose of avoiding charging stingrays. After the brute had gone past, it occurred to me that something was wrong. Very wrong.

Letters continued of page 6.

Variable Winds Aloft Letters to the AKA

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

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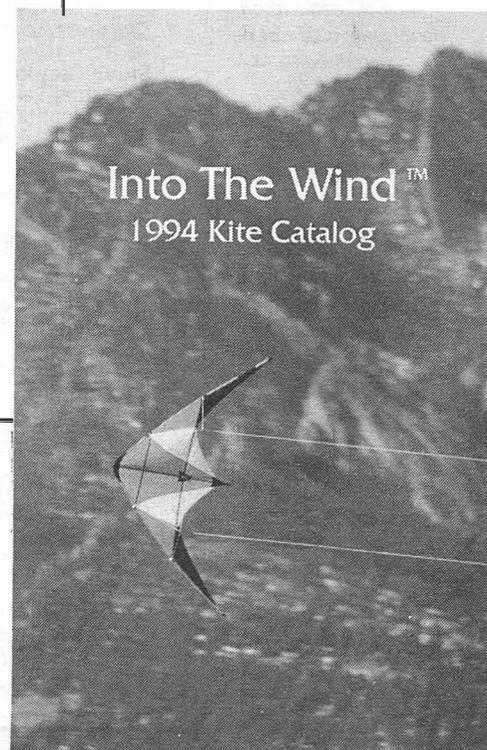
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For questions about your membership, phone or fax
Executive Director
Brooks Leffler at
(408) 647-8483
or write to AKA
Headquarters.

Executive Director
Brooks Leffler
PO Box 34
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(408) 647-8483

Editor Kiting
Patrice McFadden
PO Box 250657
San Francisco, CA 94125
(415) 586-5181

Founder
Robert Ingraham
315 N. Bayard Street
Silver City, NM 88061
(505) 538-9083

President
David Gomberg
7200 Highland Road
Otis, OR 97368
(503) 996-3083

First Vice President
Richard Dermer
121 S. McFarland
Stillwater, OK 74074
(405) 372-6127

Second Vice President
Pete Dolphin
200 West Maple Ave.
Merchantville, NJ 08109
(609) 488-1348

Secretary
George Maurer
700 Cecelia Drive
Glen Ellen, CA 95442
(707) 935-1212

Treasurer
Mel Hickman
Hamlet Route, Box 851
Seaside, OR 97138
(503) 738-5859

Directors at Large
Vern Balodis
1272 Northridge Road
Columbus, OH 43224
(614) 267-2881
Susie Edison
116 N. Water Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 531-1084
Genny Forsberg
50201 NW Strohmayer Rd.
Forest Grove, OR 97116
(503) 357-7557
Billy Jones
PO Box 23696
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307
(305) 772-3698

Regional Directors

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Editor

Patrice McFadden
PO Box 250657
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94125-0657
(415) 586-5181 phone
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send to
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(613) 967-0668 Phone
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AKA Committees

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Sport Kite	

India (continued from page 1)

The *Makkar Sankranti* kite festival has a strong competitive streak too. Kiting leagues, similar to bowling leagues in the United States, are organized on a war footing and meet head-to-head on *Makkar Sankranti* day. Good cheer flows in abundance and bets are placed all around. The sole objective is to "cut" the opponent's kite string in mid-air and capture the kite as a hostage when it slowly drifts earthward unattached. Ardent kites go to extreme lengths to accomplish this feat. To endow it with a razor-sharp edge, kite string is boiled at dangerously high temperatures in a deadly solution of water, rice paste, ground glass and other secret ingredients. The string is painstakingly guarded against prowling competitors while it is hung out to dry.

Such over-enthusiasm can sometimes have lethal consequences. In March, a young irrigation engineer from India's eastern state of Orissa was killed instantly when he got entangled in a kite string. The sharp string slit his throat moments before he drove his motorcycle into his office parking lot.

Says Prem Nath Beri, the patriarch of a large family of kites in India's holy city of Varanasi, "kiting can become the basis for multi-generational inter-family rivalry in this city. There are families which have feuded with one other for hundreds of years using kites as their only weapon of war." Score-cards are meticulously maintained and handed down from one generation to the next in a truly healthy, competitive spirit. Beri's children grew up flying kites. Now his great-grandchildren fly them too.

Realizing that kiting may have huge untapped tourism potential, the Indian government has started to take an active interest in the sport. The Gujarat Department of Tourism, a state agency entrusted with the responsibility of bringing in large sums of tourism dollars, has institutionalized kiting by organizing the Annual International Convention of Kiting and Kitefliers. Each year, kiting enthusiasts from all over the world including Europe, Canada and the United States, head toward Ahmedabad - India's kiting capital which is also home to the country's only kite museum. Says Vijay Sharda of the Indian Tourist Information Center in New York City, (212-586-4901), "Inquiries about the Indian Kite Convention are received by our office all the time."

The Meet also provides kiting aficionados the chance to survey the state of the art in kiting from a global standpoint. Many innovative kite designers who attend the Meet use complex computerized mathematical models



Sanjeev Sethi doing his patang dance.

Joy Kamnall

based on the laws of aerodynamics to design faster, lighter and more efficient kites. There is something for everyone at the Meet - those who are artistically inclined can feast their eyes on expertly crafted kites bearing exquisite designs, patterns and colors, whereas those who view kites as reliable flying machines can chat with the like-minded about velocity and wind shear.

Kiting, with its universal appeal, fascinates the people of India. In a country where most live below the poverty line, a land where golf and tennis are not for everyone, kiting fulfills a logical need for an affordable hobby. You can buy a complete kiting kit for less than a quarter, making the pursuit well within the reach of millions while at the same time uplifting their spirits.

Little did the Muslim emperors of India realize that the sport they had so fondly introduced to their subjects would one day become a catalyst for international brotherhood.



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Letters (continued from page 3)

What was wrong was that I hadn't actually seen anything. Steeling myself for another rapid alteration to the laws of gravity, I put my head underwater and had a good look. Nothing. Except for the shadows of my two (basically delta) kites that I had completely forgotten about, and which, in the strengthening sea-breeze, were now merrily dancing all over the sky, leaving stingray-shaped shadows behind them.

Do you know the worst part of this episode? It was the hysterical laughter that followed when Macho-Man explained to his Devoted Wife how he had saved the Old Man from a pair of Shadows.

Allan Savage
Melbourne, Australia
via rec.kites/Internet

KITEMAKING, THE SCIENCE

Brooks Leffler's kitemaking article, *Musings on the Box Kite*, in the Jan/Feb 1994 issue while interesting contains an assertion that cannot be true in the real world.

Mr. Leffler asserts that flattening out a rhomboid kite will yield a kite that has the same height, weight, and sail area, and that the lifting surface varies with tow point and spreader length.

I find his assertions on weight faulty. Spars have weight. As the rhombus is flattened, the total length of the spars

decreases, and consequently, so does the weight of the spars and the weight of the kite.

I also find Mr. Leffler's definitions of structures a little confusing. The following definitions might enlighten the non-technical spirits:

A parallelogram has two pair of parallel sides.

A rectangle is a parallelogram with right (90 degrees) angles between the sides.

A rhombus is a parallelogram with all sides of equal length.

A square is a rhombus with right (90 degree) angles between the sides.

A square is also a rectangle with equal length sides.

Steve Rubin
Monterey, CA

The Author Responds:

Steve wins at Bridge; I quit trying years ago. Steve's store has also sold a bunch of my box kites. He's right - the more you squash a rhombus, the shorter the total spar length becomes. From now on, I'll add that to the other reasons for going rhomboid in box-kite building. Regarding definitions, I'm not sure his are helpful or just tell you more than you need to know, but we don't disagree: a rhomboid box kite is one that is wider than it is deep.

Brooks Leffler
Pacific Grove, CA

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Ballard Church Commissions Pentecost Kite

Crown Hill United Methodist Church in Ballard, Washington, commissioned an unusual art work for the Festival of Pentecost. They approved the making of a giant kite, representing the Spirit of God in the air, for use as a parament on Pentecost Sunday, May 22.

According to Pastor Flora J. Bowers, "We used to celebrate Pentecost with a balloon release, but, of course, we now know about the damage to animals and the environment that balloons can cause."

The idea of a kite to represent God's Spirit in the air seemed to be a natural substitution to Bowers, who knew that the church secretary Dick Wightman, was a kiteflier. She asked if he would loan some of his kites to decorate the church for Pentecost. Wightman, who is also a kite builder, offered to build a special kite for the event.

Planning for the kite, based on the colors and symbolism of Pentecost, gradually evolved into a major undertaking, the construction of a 50 sq. ft. multicolored nylon applique kite in the Japanese rokaku style. The finished kite was 8-1/2 ft tall and 7-1/2 ft wide. A white dove, representing the Spirit, rises over orange and yellow flames on a red background. Wightman said it was the largest and most complex kitemaking effort he has yet completed. He described the kite, simply named "Pentecost," as "awesome in the air - great color and tremendous power." Wightman completed "Pentecost" in time for the Ocean Shores Festival of Color Kite Festival held on April 30, 1994, where it was awarded first prize as "Best Handmade Kite."

If you are interested in further information regarding this unusual piece of religious art, please contact Dick Wightman at (206) 784-0883.

Board Nominations Sought For 1995 Seats

Nominations are requested for fall elections of AKA President and five Regional Directors. The presidency is annually elected. Three-year Regional Director seats are open in Region 9, Intermountain; Region 10, Northwest; Region 11, Northern California; Region 12, SoCal/Pacific, and Region 13, International.

Current board members may be nominated for re-election or new candidates may be proposed. Job descriptions are available on request, but in general, candidates should be experienced kitefliers, capable administrators, good communicators, and willing to donate time to the American Kitefliers Association.

Please contact one of the committee members: Peter Dolphin (609) 488-7084, Richard Dermer (405) 372-6127, Rick Tallbot (503) 324-5070, Mike Dennis (619) 225-0593, Janene Evard (405) 226-0285, Scott Skinner (719) 481-4260, or Susan Jo Skinner (408) 733-5483.

Search for Next Executive Director Underway

The Executive Director Search Committee of the American Kitefliers Association announces the immediate availability of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the position of AKA's Executive Director. AKA is looking for a replacement for Brooks Leffler, who will be resigning as AKA's Executive Director effective December 31, 1994.

AKA's Board of Directors intends to fill the Executive Director's position through a competitive bid process. We wish to obtain a Director with the highest possible qualifications, so all interested parties are encouraged to participate in the competition.

The first step is to request a copy of the RFP. The RFP includes a description of the AKA, instructions for the submissions of proposals, a description of the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director position, the criteria for evaluating the proposals, and a tentative schedule for the review of those proposals received. **Proposals must be submitted on or before September 1, 1994 to be considered for the competition.** AKA anticipates the award of an annual renewable contract.

All parties interested in receiving a copy of the RFP should contact Jon Burkhardt, Chairman, Executive Director Search Committee, 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854 (301) 424-6976.



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Kitemaking

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Wayne Hosking

A noted author, Wayne has written such books as *Kites in the Classroom* (an AKA publication), *Kites of Malaysia*, *Wil Bear's Kite Book* and other titles as well.

A Traditional Kitemaking Workshop

My family became members of the homestead volunteer group at the Chippewa Nature Center, Midland, Michigan. This 20-acre center offers a variety of experiences for schools and casual visitors. During festivals and on summer weekends, the volunteers dress in period costumes and demonstrate 1800's style country life. The venue includes a log cabin (1870), barn, stables, sugar house, a one-room school (1890) and animals.

I presented myself with a challenge when I offered to teach traditional kitemaking at the Fall Harvest Festival. I soon realized my dilemma when I tried to gather information on period kites. After two months of research which included calling museums, visiting historic villages, reading books and calling one of the kite magazines, the result was less than I had hoped. Out of frustration, I concluded that it would be more prudent to have a working kite than worry about its historical accuracy.

My next step was to set my priorities and work through the mechanics. From previous group workshops, I realized that I would be working with inexperienced people who just wanted to have fun. Many of them would believe that they could not fly, let alone make, a kite. The following was my work list:

1. SHAPE & SIZE

Traditional.

Either a barn door or a diamond. Big enough to be "real," but small enough for a child. I chose a 25 in. Eddy diamond (both sticks same length).

2. MATERIALS

Traditional low-cost.

Struts – The center's staff ripped-down (sawn) clear pine boards into sticks 25 – 1/2 in. x 5/16 in.

Sail – I found a 24 in. wide roll of 20-lb, brown paper at my local paper supplier. (I do not recommend any heavier).

Bridle and framing line – I used #20-lb. test cotton line.

Tail – I made tails by tying together unbleached calico (purchased on sale) ripped into strips 30 in. x 1-1/2 in.

Glue – I used commercial wallpaper paste, made up (just added hot water) in an old coffee can with plastic lid.

3. TOOLS AND JIGS

Easy and safe to use.

2 Hacksaw blades – broken in half with handle end taped. (Saw a 1/4 in. slit at both ends of each strut).

4 pencils and sharpener (drawing and measuring).

4 scissors to cut out sails.

2 yardsticks to draw glue flap.

2 @ 1/2 in. inexpensive, natural – bristle brushes for glue.

1 @ 18 in. x 4 in. art board for making 36 in. bridle.

2 art board sail patterns. Allow an additional 1 in. for glue flaps. Cut out holes at bridle points and bridle set point.

1 @ 48 in. x 24 in. plywood framing board with two sets of four nails set at the corners of the kite (e.g. draw a cross with intersection 5 in. from top). Nails should be 25 in. apart. (Fig. 1)

4. CONSTRUCTION

Easy, with basic measuring and instructions.

- Trace sail onto the brown paper and cut out. Fold sail in half and snip or punch holes at bridle points. (Fig. 2)
- Mark a 1 in. glue flap and fold along lines.
- Tie framing line around nails (not to the nails) and glue sail over framing line. Remove from nails. (Fig 3)
- Saw 1/4 in. slits at each end of the struts. Fit struts into framing line (at kite's corners) and secure together with a wire twist or line. (Fig 4)
- Attach the bridle. Find the tow line and tie a loop. (Fig 4)
- Make a tail and attach to the bottom of the kite. (Fig 5)
- Bend cross strut (2 in. to 4 in.) and tie a string across to make a bow, before flying. (Fig 4)

On the first day of the two day festival, the beautiful weather brought out a good-sized crowd. It was not long before I knew that I had underestimated the popularity of my workshop and that I should have had assistance. It is not that the construction was too complicated, but most people just need a lot of time and guidance when making a traditional kite.

My basic philosophy is that kitemaking should be a family experience. So I informed parents that I was there to expedite the workshop and not to make the kites for their children. In other words, I wanted at least one adult to work with each child. I spent most of my time giving instructions, checking each kite's final construction, tying tow points and making tails. Occasionally I broke my own rules and gave extra help for a lone child or a large family.

Even though at any one time there was a large line of six to ten people, most kept their sense of humor and occasionally helped each other. We made a total of eighty kites and everyone agreed that the first day of kitemaking was a success. After working unassisted for the four hours, I was too exhausted to even think.

The second day was a little easier with the bugs worked out and two assistants to expedite the flow of people. This time we managed to make 120 kites.

Continued on the next page.

Kitemaking (continued)

On reflection, I felt that the most rewarding part of the workshop was the number of grandparents who shared their experience with their grandchildren. You should be warned that if you present this workshop, you'd better be a good listener. The older folks will often reminisce on how they used to make kites when they were young. From listening to people, it is easy to get the impression that a whole generation may have missed out on the fun (and occasional frustration) of making traditional kites.

During the event, a number of teachers approached me about making my kite in their classrooms. I explained that traditional kites have their place, but they make a difficult first-time kite, especially with a large class. My recommendation was that they start with more practical designs, such as plastic sled or paper fold kites.

[Next, Richard Dermer's sled kite workshop.]

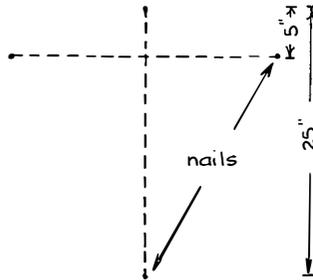


Fig. 1 Framing Board

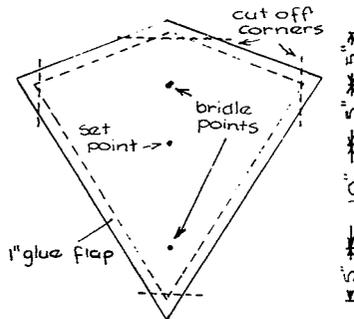


Fig. 2. Sail Pattern

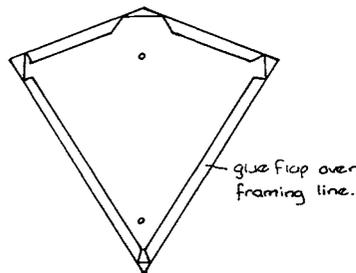


Fig. 3 Sail

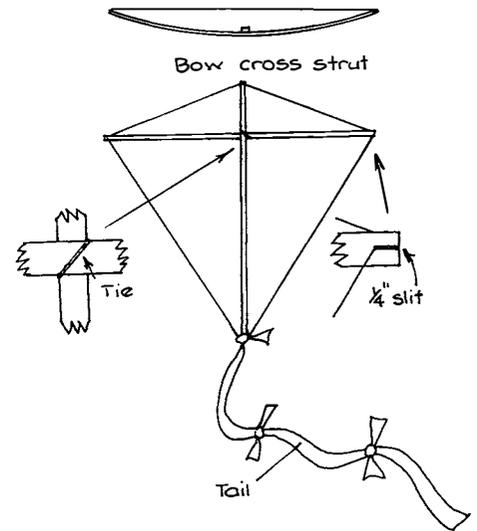


Fig. 4 Complete kite

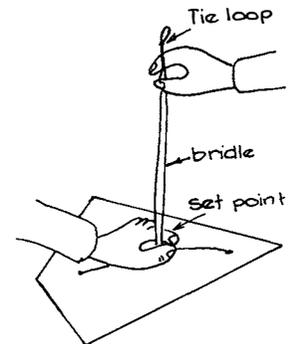


Fig. 5 Finding the tow point

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The Financial Page

1994 REVISED BUDGET

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	
INCOME	\$ 83,800
Membership Revenue	4,000
Bulk Newsletter Sales	4,000
Advertising Revenue	200
Checking Interest	\$ 92,000
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP INCOME	
EXPENSES	\$ 55,600
Newsletter	17,000
Management & Clerical	20,000
Insurance	2,000
Membership Development	17,000
General Operating	\$ 111,600
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP EXPENSE	
NET MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	
ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS	
INCOME	\$ 23,150
Auction	9,000
Convention	2,300
Sanctioning Fees	6,000
Merchandise Sales & Shipping	6,500
Publication Sales	500
Mailing Labels	2,000
Donations	750
Interest	250
Miscellaneous	\$ 50,450
TOTAL A&P INCOME	
EXPENSES	\$ 8,000
Management Services	2,500
Store Merchandise	5,000
Publishing	2,000
Presidential Travel	5,100
Board Expenses	750
Professional Services	7,000
General Operating	500
Miscellaneous	\$ 30,850
TOTAL A&P EXPENSE	
NET ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS	
NET MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	
NET TOTAL BUDGET	
	\$ 0

If you have questions about any of this, call Mel Hickman, (503) 738-5859, or Brooks Leffler, (408) 647-8483.

1993 BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking Accounts	\$ 19,406
Savings Accounts	37,525
Accounts Receivable	4,716
Merchandise Inventory	11,315
Deferred Expenses	165

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 73,127

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 326
Deferred Income	14,457

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 14,783

MEMBERS' EQUITY

\$ 58,344

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$ 73,127

1993 INCOME STATEMENT

MEMBER SERVICES

INCOME

Membership Revenue	\$ 79,157
Newsletter Sales	3,375
Advertising Revenue	4,607
Checking Interest	222

Total MS Income

\$ 87,361

EXPENSES

MS Management & Clerical	15,274
Newsletter	52,542
Directory	8,857
Insurance & Bonding	18,699
MS Operations	17,400

Total MS Expenses

112,772

NET MEMBER SERVICES

(\$ 25,411)

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

INCOME

Auction Proceeds	\$ 27,426
Convention Profit	10,721
Sanctioning Fees	2,170
Mdse Sales & Shipping	13,158
Mailing Label Rental	918
Donations	1,976
Savings Interest	903
Miscellaneous Income	321

Total A&P Income

\$ 57,593

EXPENSES

A&P Management	\$ 8,000
Merchandise & Publishing	14,567
Presidential Travel	1,992
Board Expense	4,759
Membership Development	1,925
Professional Services	1,363
A&P Operations	5,671
Misc Expense	1,016
A&P Expense	39,293

NET ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

\$ 18,300

NET TOTAL INCOME

(\$ 7,111)

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

Criteria

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

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

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

Nomination

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

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

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

The following information should accompany each nomination:

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

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

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

Selection

The seven members of the Selection Committee are Cindy Edeiken, the current president and two most recent past presidents of both the AKA and The Kite Trade Association. Provision for replacement of missing members is made in the resolution which established the Steve Edeiken Award. The immediate past president of AKA, Jim Miller, is the convener/chairman of the 1994 Selection Committee. By unanimous vote of the Selection Committee, the selection criteria were modified last year to the following: "The committee will weigh their choice in this manner: 25% to nominee's activities during the last 12 months, and 75% to past activities." This change reflects the reality of more heavily considering nominees' entire kiting career rather than accomplishments of the past year.

Submission

All nominations must be received by the Chairman of the Selection Committee by August 25, 1994. As soon as possible thereafter, copies of each nomination will be mailed to committee members for their rating in accordance with the establishing resolution.

Comments

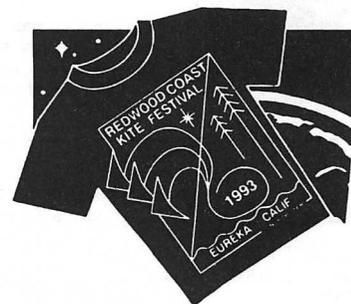
It is understood that it is not necessary to present this award each year if the selection committee feels there is no qualified candidate. There is no prohibition on re-submission of a candidate from a previous year. It is requested that each member of the committee promptly notify the convener of his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

Steve Edeiken
Memorial Award,
c/o Jim Miller
1723 N. Orleans,
Chicago, IL 60614,
(312) 642-8692

The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award

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

The 1993 co-winners were Bevan and Margo Brown.



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First Time Children's Kite Workshop at Convention

by
Sheri Erlich

The Children's Kite Workshop is a first time event for the AKA National Convention. Students from local schools will be invited to participate in special activities related to building, decorating and designing, flying and judging kites. The children will also (experience/take part in) a history of kites workshop presented by Kay Buesing and a kite safety seminar.

The children's program will begin in the classroom in September and conclude on the beach in October.

Second through eighth grade students will participate in activities such as kite games, stunt kite lessons, single-line kiteflying and a workshop on kite building and judging. Second and third grade students will build and decorate Frustrationless Flyers, by Ken Conrad of Great Winds Kite Company during a kite making workshop headed by Dave Young (Forever Young Kites). Fourth through eighth graders will bring their homemade kites to be judged based on construction, aesthetic appeal and fly-ability.

This exciting event will take place on Wednesday, October 12 and Friday, October 14 from 10 am - 2 pm. Lots of enthusiastic volunteers are needed for the following committees:

Safety Workshop	Greeting/Welcome Comt.
Field Marshal	Registration
Safety Crew	Kitemaking Workshop -Wed.
Scorekeepers	Judges/Homemade Kite
Set-up and Tear Down	

Workshop Leaders/Assistants - kite games and stunt kite lessons - Wednesday & Friday; single-line kiteflying, building and judging - Friday only.

AKA representatives/Group Leaders - one person for each class attending to spend the day (10-2) with the class and also assist on the field for judged events.

AKA Liaison/Teacher Workshop - phone contacts for frustrated, curious or confused teachers, (they need to learn to make the kites before they can show the students); help teach the teachers at a hands-on workshop.

Volunteers are needed for all positions Wednesday and Friday unless otherwise noted. For more information and specific times and details please contact Sheri Erlich (215) 968-5895. Feel free to leave a message.

The Great Kite Auction

Do you have any rare, unusual, BIG, small, or one-of-a-kind items for the AKA's 17th Annual National Convention Auction to be held at Wildwood, NJ, in October? If you do, please contact Carolyn Moore (913) 894-5483 or Susan Gomberg (503) 996-3083.

We had a record-breaking auction last year in Seaside and The Great Kite Auction of 1994 is looking better in terms of contributions and organization. With one successful year behind us and lots of good experiences and knowledge at our disposal, we are anticipating another record-breaking auction this year.

Kites are not just for kids anymore. The media have increased kite awareness by covering the sport, art, science, and recreation aspects of kites. Today, more families spend quality time together kiteflying, schools use kiting as an educational tool, sport competitions continue to grow, and the scientific and artistic community use kites in their disciplines.

As kiting grows, so does our need for increased revenue. The auction is one of the main sources of income for the AKA. The monies are used to underwrite the national convention, and also to keep you, the AKA member, informed and educated. But most importantly, our monies go to increase the public's awareness of kites. Without this valuable information going out to the public, kiting as an industry, sport, and business would cease to exist. Please continue your support of the AKA, and kiting as a whole, by donating to the auction.

We do ask that if you know you are going to make a donation, even if you don't intend to ship it ahead, please let us know prior to the convention (by using the donation form on the back of the registration sheet) so we can enter it into the computer.

Thank you for your help! Send items anytime to:

1994 AKA Convention
c/o AKA Auction
Wildwood Convention Center
Burk Avenue & Broadway
Wildwood, NJ 08260



HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING the premier source of kite news? *Kite Lines* is the exciting, colorful, authoritative journal of the international kite community. It's packed with plans, techniques, personalities, events, reviews (of stunts and one-liners), in-depth feature articles and unusual advertisements—all in an awarded magazine, kiting's standard of reference since 1977.

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—Tal Streeter, American sculptor and kite authority

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Be Part of the Biggest AKA Convention Ever!

Great wide beaches, brisk sea breezes, the camaraderie of 600 kiteflying friends, and hotel rooms for 50 bucks a night or less – how can you beat a deal like that? If you have never been to an AKA convention, this is the one not to miss! The AKA travels to Wildwood, New Jersey, for its 17th annual national convention October 12-16. If you are into buggying, you might want to come early for the Wildwood International Traction Kite Exposition, October 9-10. (Call Roger Chewning at (215) 736-3715 for further information.)

See the green registration form insert bound in this issue for all the dope on convention travel, accommodations, etc. Articles on the sport kite and kitemaking Grand National competition events were in the May issue of *Kiting* (including a recap of sport kite qualification requirements). You should refer to them for guidance in making your competition plans.

If competition's not your thing, there will still be more to see and do than a three-ring circus. Once again this year, workshop coordinator Don McCasland is planning a schedule of varied workshops and seminars that will leave you exclaiming, "There's too many – I just don't have enough time to go to all the workshops I'd like to see." The Great Kite Auction co-chairs Carolyn Moore and Susan Gomberg are planning to make this one a real record breaker! If you wish to send your donations ahead, send them to The AKA Auction, c/o the Wildwood Convention Center, Burk Avenue & Boardwalk, Wildwood, NJ 08260. Remember, all proceeds from the auction help keep the AKA operating for another year, and donors can take a tax deduction for the value of their donation. The ever-popular Fly Market will be held Thursday evening, and Friday and Saturday morning. Vendors interested in participating should contact Fly Market chairman Ron Lindner at (314) 376-6055. Booth space is limited and reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

New this year, Frank Gramkowski was named international guests coordinator to help facilitate the special needs of those folks coming from overseas. You can reach him at (609) 429-6260.

Another new innovation is the requirement that candidates for the members' choice best kite award will be required to fly their kites for one-half hour Saturday afternoon. Judging and voting will still be held during the cock-

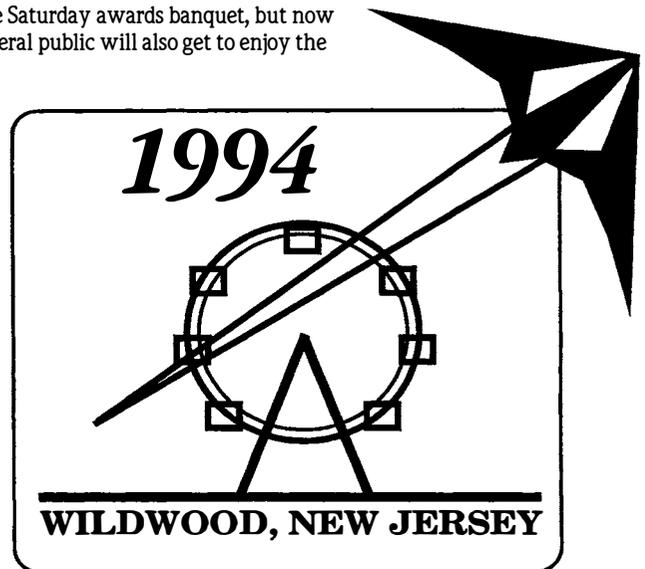
tail hour preceding the Saturday awards banquet, but now spectators and the general public will also get to enjoy the show of the year's best kites.

Also new this year is added incentive to participate in the daily mass ascensions. A special AKA mass ascension pin will be given to each flier who is flying the appropriate kite during the scheduled ascension. Bring your deltas, boxes, foils and rokkakus – fly one each day and collect a full set! Speaking of pins, watch the September issue of *Kiting* for rules of the 1994 pin challenge. The Maryland Kite Society announced the W.R.A.P. challenge in last month's issue, and challenges coordinator Pete Dolphin may have some more challenges up his sleeve.

For those of you concerned about finding an adequate refreshment spot to cater to our needs – not to worry. We have made arrangements with one of the local watering holes to act as the AKA's "official bar," closed to all but tako kichi kitefliers.

The convention will opened with a welcoming reception hosted by the local kite clubs of Regions 1, 2, and 3 on Tuesday evening. The tentative schedule has workshops each morning, Wednesday thru Saturday. Intermediate and Experienced Sport Kite competition will be on Wednesday, with Novice, Masters and Open on Friday. The Kitemaking and Fighter Kite competitions will be Thursday. The Great Kite Auction will be Friday evening, and Saturday will see the Rokkaku Battle, as well as special field demonstrations. The convention will culminate with the Awards Banquet Saturday evening. Naturally, weather and wind conditions can necessitate changes and adjustments in all field events, so it is important to check with event coordinators at the convention for final updates.

Last year, the demand for convention pins and logo clothing was so great that we sold out completely and some folks were disappointed. This year's design is a dynamite pictorial triptych highlighting the beach and sea, with Wildwood's ferris wheel and roller coaster in the background. It should look terrific on a T-shirt or polo shirt. It might be a good idea to put your logo clothing order on your registration form to insure your choice. And you don't have to worry – just like the commercial mail order outfits – we guarantee complete satisfaction or your money will be cheerfully refunded! See you in Wildwood!



By Jim M. Miller,
Convention
Manager

CONVENTION AGENDA

Tuesday
Early Bird Reception

Wednesday
Workshops
Board Meeting
Mass Ascension -
Cellular & Boxes
Int. & Exp. Sport Kites
Annual Membership Mtg

Thursday
Workshops
Mass Ascension - Rokkakus
Kitemaking Competition
Fighter Kite Competition
Fly Market Opening
NightFly

Friday
Workshop
Mass Ascension -
Soft & Foils
Novice, Masters &
Open Sport Kites
Great Kite Auction

Saturday
Workshops
Mass Ascension - Deltas
& Other Winged Kites
Demonstrations
Rokkaku Battle
Awards Banquet

Sunday
Rain Date & Free Fly

SEE Corey Jensen go airborne!
Martin Lester get double-creamed!
Bobby Stanfield show his truss!

plus lots of great kites and kiteflying—on the
SEASIDE CONVENTION VIDEO

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Wholesale: AKA office (408) 647-8483

Kitevents • July

*AKA Sanctioned Event

- 15-17 ***North Coast Stunt Kite Games**
Toledo, OH. C: Uncle Wilbert (419) 535-WIND
- 16 **The Easy Wind Kite Fly**
Minneapolis, MN.
C: Larry Fahnoe (612) 925-0744
- 16 **Desert Lights '94**
Quartz Hill, CA. C: Jon Small (805) 274-2791
- 16-17 ***Sky Circus 1994**
Schaumburg, IL. C: Ken McNeill (815) 962-9680
- 16-17 **Aerospace America Flying Exhibitions**
Oklahoma City, OK.
C: Vanda Cole (405) 722-5076
- 16-17 **Oregon State Stunt Kite Championship**
Lincoln City, OR. C: (800) 452-2151
- 16-17 **Canadian West Coast Stunt Kite Championship**
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
C: Art Ross (604) 321-6409
- 16-17 **Southern Oregon Kite Festival**
Brookings, OR. C: (800) 422-5273
- 17 **Dave DeBolt Kite Fly**
Monroe, IN. C: Bob Neiman (708) 359-2556
- 22 **Festa Italian Nightfly**
Milwaukee, WI. C: Jeff Kataoka (414) 277-9121
- 23 **Peak Into The Clouds Festival**
Brians Head, UT. C: Dan Oliver (800) 386-5634
- 23 **Westport Windriders Fun Fly**
Westport, WA. C: Pic-A-Patch (206) 268-0877
- 23 **Minnesota Kite Society Night Fly**
Roseville, MN. C: Bob Neiman (708) 359-2556

- 23-24 ***Newport Stunt Kite Competition**
Newport, RI.
C: Windblown Friends (401) 333-1578
- 24 **Sunday Fighter Fly**
Redmond, WA.
C: Dave Christenson (206) 471-9103
- 30-31 ***Sunflower Games Kite Festival**
Lenexa, KS. C: Carolyn Moore (913) 894-5483
- 30-31 **Berkeley Kite Festival & West Coast Championships**
Berkeley, CA.
C: Tom McAlister (510) 525-2755
- 31 **Blackheath Summer Festival**
Blackheath, London
C: Andy King 071-836-1666

August

- 1 **Deadline for *Kiting* Newsletter**
- 6-7 ***Washington State Stunt Kite Championship**
Camano Island, WA.
C: Robin Haas (206) 359-2206
- 7 **Sunday Fighter Fly**
Redmond, WA.
C: Dave Christenson (206) 471-9103
- 13-14 ***Ocean Shores Kite Festival**
Ocean Shores, WA.
C: Robert Scribner (800) 972-9885
- 14 **Tracy Kite Fly**
Tracy, CA. C: Linda Hammer (209) 835-6478
- 14 **Lavender Winds Kite Club Montly Fly**
Santa Cruz, CA.
C: Brian Bradley (510) 707-6997
- 14 ***Carbo-Loading Cookout & Nuclear Kitefly**
Monroe, MI.
C: Uncle Wilbert (419) 535-WIND
- 15-21 ***Washington State Int'l Kite Festival**
Long Beach, WA. C: (800) 451-2542
- 20 **Arvada Center Festival**
Arvada, CO. C: Tillie Laskey (303) 258-0315
- 20 **Milwaukee Kite Making Workshop**
Milwaukee, WI. C: Jeff Kataoka (414) 277-9121
- 20-21 ***New York Stunt Kite Championships**
Uniondale, NY. C: Kite Works (203) 531-1084
- 27 **Westport Windriders Fun Fly**
Westport, WA. C: Pic-A-Patch (206) 268-0877

NOW READY!

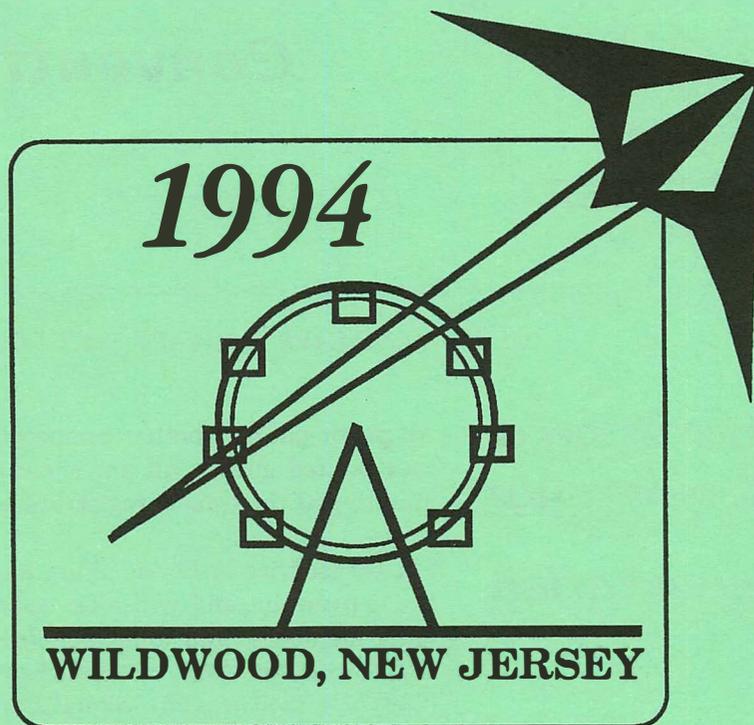
**RULES & GUIDELINES FOR
KITEMAKING COMPETITIONS**

SECOND EDITION

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a prizewinner for the Convention,
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17th Annual

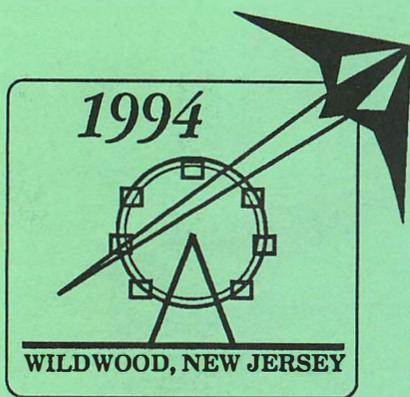
American Kitefliers Association

National Convention

GRAND NATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION
1994 ANNUAL MEETING • KITE WORKSHOPS
FLY MARKET • THE GREAT KITE AUCTION

Wildwood, New Jersey

October 12 - 16, 1994



Convention Facts

DETACH AND SAVE THIS FACT SHEET BEFORE MAILING REGISTRATION FORM

Registration & Membership

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

Transportation

US Air (service to Philadelphia and Atlantic City) is the official airline of the convention and will offer special discounts (domestic travel only) to AKA members: dial (800) 334-8644 and mention Gold File # 29350095. Get the special AKA member discount from Hertz Rent A Car by calling (800) 654-2240 or (405) 749-4401 and mentioning code CV#13355.

Lodging

The three Headquarters Hotels for the convention are the Rio Hotel, (609) 522-1461, the Adventurers' Inn, (609) 729-1200, and the Oceanic Hotel, (609) 522-6500. When you call, mention you are coming for the AKA on-vention to get the special discount package for AKA members.

Meals

All of the following are included in the registration fee:

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

At registration you may purchase extra banquet tickets for guests.

Video Recording

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

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

Information

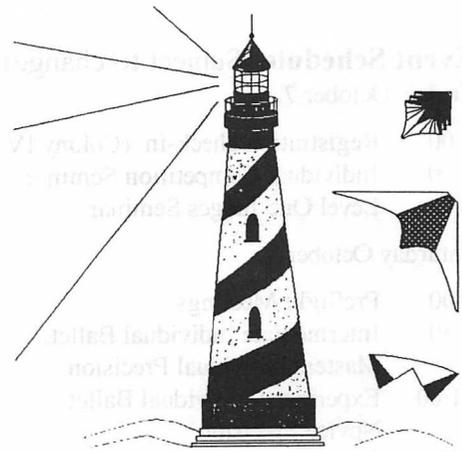
General Information & Registration Questions	Jim Miller	Phone (312) 642-8692 Fax (312) 642-8693
Fly Market Chair	Ron Lindner	Phone (314) 376-6055 Fax (314) 343-0270
Auction Co-Chair	Susan Gomberg	Phone (503) 996-3083 Fax (503) 994-9692
Auction Co-Chair	Carolyn Moore	Phone (913) 894-5483 Fax (913) 888-5722

7th Annual Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition

October 8-9

Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina

***Eastern League Event *American Kite Regional *AKA Sanctioning pending**
 Single Line Events Kite Buggyng Rollerblades KiteSki
 Sponsored by Kitty Hawk Kites



Transportation: Norfolk International Airport is a two hour drive from Nags Head. Air shuttle service is available from Norfolk to First Flight Airport in Kill Devil Hills via Kitty Hawk Aerotours at (919) 441-7677.

Directions: From the North take I-95 South to I-64 East. Continue on I-64 to Hampton, Va. There, get on I-664 going South. I-664 will turn back into I-64 East. Follow signs for Nags Head and pick up 168 South. Stay on this road to hit Route 158, which will take you to Kill Devil Hills. From Raleigh get on US 64/264 heading East, stay on this road until you come Bypass 158. Turn left. From the South, take I-95 to the Rocky Mount exit which is US 64/264 heading East and stay until you come to Bypass 158. Turn left.

Accommodations: The host hotel is the Colony IV on the beach in Kill Devil Hills. Call 1-800-848-3728 for reservations. Ask for kite festival rate of \$33.00. Other hotels include Ocean Reef Best Western at 919-441-1611 for \$82.00 and the Comfort Inn at 1-800-854-5286 for \$50.00 a night.

Registration Form

Name: _____ Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

I will volunteer as: Judge _____ Field Crew _____ Instructor _____ Other _____

Individual Event Competition Level: Novice _____ Intermediate _____ Experienced _____ Masters _____

Pairs Name: _____ Team Name: _____

Level: Experienced _____ Masters _____

Shirt Size: M L XL XXL Menu Choice: Chicken _____ Beef _____ Seafood _____

Waiver: In consideration for the right to compete, I hereby hold the Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition(OBSKC), Kitty Hawk Kites, Town of Kill Devil Hills, First Flight Middle School, Dare County School Board, the sponsors and all other persons associated with this event harmless, and release them from any and all liability in connection with my participation. I agree that the event may use any photographs or video without payment, permission, or restriction that I may appear. If under 18 years of age a parent or legal guardian must sign. I have read this and understand its meaning.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Send your registration in early. Registration deadline is October 1, 1994. Late registration will be accepted with a \$20.00. late fee. Registration is \$30.00 with an additional \$10.00 per event. No confirmation letter will be sent, and your cancelled check will be your receipt. Registration Includes event shirt and banquet. "Registration Only" allows you to compete but does not include shirt or banquet. Please indicate below which events you are entering. Each event cost \$10.00 in addition to a \$30.00 registration fee.

Registration Only \$5.00 No shirt or banquet

Registration Fee	\$ _____
Individual Precision	\$ _____
Individual Ballet	\$ _____
Individual Quadline	\$ _____
Buggy Challenge	\$ _____
Captain Only Pays:	
Pairs Ballet	\$ _____
Team Ballet	\$ _____
Team Precision	\$ _____
Team Quadline	\$ _____
Team Train	\$ _____
\$20.00 Late Fee After October 1, 1994	\$ _____
Extra Banquet Tickets \$20.00	\$ _____
Additional Shirts \$15.00 M L XL XXL	\$ _____
AKA Rule Book \$5.00	\$ _____
Judges Seminar \$5.00	\$ _____
Competitor's Seminar \$5.00	\$ _____
Eastern League Flyers membership \$15.00	\$ _____
AKA Membership \$20.00	\$ _____
GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____

FLYER BIO

How long have you been competing? _____

Previous competitions and how you placed: _____

What kind of kites do you fly? _____

Other Information: _____

Mail to:

Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition
 C/O Kitty Hawk Kites
 P.O. Box 1839
 Nags Head, North Carolina 27959

For More Information Call Chris Shultz @ 1-800-334-4777

Event Schedule (Subject to change)

Friday October 7

5:00 Registration check-in (Colony IV)
7:00 Individual Competition Seminar
8:00 Level One Judges Seminar

3:00 Buggy Challenge
RollerKiting
7:30 Dinner & Awards Ceremony Port-O-Call Restaurant

Saturday October 8

9:00 Preflight Meetings
9:30 Intermediate Individual Ballet
Masters Individual Precision
11:00 Experience Individual Ballet
Novice Precision
12:30 Intermediate Individual Precision
Masters Ballet
2:00 Experience Individual Precision
Open Team Train

Sunday October 9

9:30 Preflight Meeting
10:00 Experience Pairs Ballet
Open Team Precision
11:00 Masters Pairs Ballet
Open Team Ballet
12:00 Open Team Quad Ballet
2:00 KiteSki Clinic/Demonstration
Intermediate, Experienced, and Masters Precision will be (EASTERN) LEAGUE STYLE.

Single Line Events will be run all day on Saturday and Sunday. Schedule to be announced. Call Chris Shultz @ 1-800-334-4777 for details or more information.

Event Maneuvers:

Novice	3,2,4	Experienced	14,16,19,22	Open Team	T-2,T-6
Intermediate	8,4,9,15	Masters	30,32,36,29		

The AKA Rule Book is used for this competition.

EASTERN LEAGUE FLYERS ASSOCIATION (ELF)

The Eastern League is comprised of 11 events ranging from Boston to Miami. The EL Competition years starts in Miami and finishes in November at Jeckyll Island. SCORES EARNED AT OBSKC WILL COUNT TOWARD EASTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS ONLY IF THE PILOT IS A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN LEAGUE FLYER ASSOCIATION. If you are not a member, you may join with this registration. The cost is \$15 for which you will receive an EL News subscription. You do NOT have to be a member to compete here, but you must be an AKA member for insurance purposes and your scores will count towards AKA standings.

Competition Notes

Field sizes will be 300x300.

League Style Precision

League style precision features four compulsory figures flown in sequence with a fifth score given to the transitions between the figures.

Team Precision

Comprised of three or more fliers, this category requires two compulsory figures plus a free flight demonstration. A very complex program of tactical flying with the judges carefully weighing each technical and artistic movement.

Ballet

A free flight performance accompanied by music and presented within a two to four minute time frame. Artistic originality and choreography are extremely important in this category. Team/Pairs Ballet consists of two, three or more flyers choreographing complex maneuvers to music.

Open Team Train

Similar to team/pairs ballet, this event has two or more flyers compete with kites flown in trains(stacks). At OBSKC a stack is defined as 3 or more kites.

The Outer Banks is a vacationers paradise. Serene beaches, a wide variety of historical and recreational sights, sport fishing, as well as the area's famous sea oats and natural dunes are here to enjoy. Weather conditions are usually excellent at this time, with daytime temperatures around 70 degrees and average winds around 15mph. For RV parks or campsites and/or further information on the Outer Banks contact:

Dare County Tourist Bureau
P.O. Box 399
Manteo, NC 27954
919-473-2138

-OR-

Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1757
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
919-441-8144

1994 AKA Convention • October 12 - 16, 1994 • Wildwood, New Jersey

Registration Form

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

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

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

- This is my first AKA convention.
 I would like vegetarian meals.
 I have special needs for accessibility as follows:

* * *

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

I am willing to help with:

- Registration Auction Field Activities
 Scorekeeping Wherever I am needed

* * *

WAIVER & RELEASE

In consideration for right to participate in this convention, I hereby hold all persons and entities associated with the administration or sponsoring of the 1994 AKA National Convention harmless and release them from any and all liability in connection with my participation.

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

Signature _____ Date _____

FEES & THINGS

REGISTRATION

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

If postmarked or faxed
by Aug 20 \$110.00 _____
by Oct 1 \$130.00 _____

Late Registration after Oct 1
at the door only \$150.00 _____

CONVENTION VIDEO

(sent to your home in December)
\$28.50 + \$1.50 shipping & handling \$30.00 _____

CLOTHING, PINS & PATCHES

Short-sleeved T-Shirt
___ M ___ L ___ XL \$14.00 _____
___ XXL \$16.00 _____

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

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

Cloisonne Pin \$5.00 _____

Additional Patch \$4.00 _____

I will not be attending the convention.
Please send me the above on 10/20 and
add shipping & handling of \$5.00 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT _____

To charge to your Visa/MasterCard:

Name _____

Card # _____

Expires _____

*You may register by mail or fax. Faxed registrations MUST have Visa/Mastercard number.
Make checks payable to AKA Convention. Mail or fax this page only with your payment to:
AKA '94 Convention, Jim M. Miller, 1723 N. Orleans, Chicago IL 60614
Fax (312) 642-8693*

Donor Form



THE GREAT KITE AUCTION

PLEASE NOTE: Even if you are planning to bring your kite or other donation with you to the convention rather than sending it on ahead, (and even if it isn't built yet), it would be a great help to the auction organizers if you could fill out this donation form now. It gives them a head start on data entry and reduces their heavy and hectic workload the first two days of the convention.

Donor and/or Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

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

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

- 3- **Bristol Int'l Kite Festival**
4 Ashton Court, Bristol
C: Avril Baker 0272-466852
- 3- **4th Annual Rockport Kite Festival**
4 Rockport, TX.
C: Colette Ratajski (512) 729-2448
- 3- ***Callaway Kite Festival**
5 Callaway, NE. C: Connie May (308) 836-2620
- 9- **World Cup**
11 Le Touquet France C: 010-33-21405040
- 9- **2nd Annual Kite Festival**
11 Pacific Beach, WA.
C: Rob Robinson (206) 276-8377
- 10 **Frank Mots Kite Festival**
Milwaukee, WI C: Jeff Kataoka (414) 277-9121
- 10- **Dieppe Int'l Kite Festival**
19 France C: 010-33-21405040
- 10- **Sandy Hook Stunt Kite Championships**
11 Sandy Hook, NJ.
C: Fly Away Kites (908) 280-8064
- 10- **Leavenworth Kite Competition**
11 Leavenworth, KS.
C: Carolyn Moore (913) 894-5483
- 11 **Lavender Winds Kite Club Monthly Fly**
Santa Cruz, CA.
C: Brian Bradley (510) 797-6997
- 17- **College Park Air Fair**
18 College Park Airport, MD.
C: Bill Goodwin (301) 990-1673

September • Kiteevents

- 17- **Clinton Kite Festival**
18 Clinton, OK. C: Gerald Kelley (405) 323-1198
- 18 **Omaha Kite Competition**
Omaha, NE. C: Joe Gaerlan (402) 346-3607
- 18 **Maryland Kite Society Fall Fly**
Burtonsville, MD. C: Bob Price (301) 421-9620
- 21- **Sunfest**
25 Ocean City, MD. C: Kite Loft (410) 289-7855
- 24- **Berlin Int'l Kite Festival**
25 Germany C: 010-49-30-788-1992/3

October

- 1 **Deadline for *Kiting* Newsletter**
- 1- **Silver Wings Kite Festival**
2 Wichita, KS. C: Mel Whorley (316) 733-0148
- 2 **Kensington Kite Fly**
Kensington, MD. C: Val Deale (301) 604-1881
- 2 ***4th Annual Grove City Kite Festival**
Grove City, OH. C: Miller Makey (614) 228-8715
- 7- **Cielo Encantada Kite Festival**
9 Silver City, NM. C: David Turner (505) 538-3875
- 9 **Lavender Winds Kite Club Monthly Fly**
Santa Cruz, CA.
C: Brian Bradley (510) 797-6997
- 9 **One Sky, One World Worldwide Kite Fly**
Many locations C: Regional Directors
- 12- ***17th Annual AKA Convention**
16 Wildwood, NJ. C: Jim Miller (312) 642-8692

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

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

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

**AKA Sanctioned Event*

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PINS!

The Kite Trade Association Int'l has a surplus of logo pins and wants to sell them fast. Two types:

- 1-1/2" x 5/16" with pale blue logo and gold text on black background
- 1" x 1-1/8" with white logo and gold text on cobalt blue background, reads "The Magical World of Kites, Orlando 1993."

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Checks, money orders, M/C & Visa accepted.

Regional Reports

Region 3 Mid-Atlantic

*Jon Burkhardt
Regional Director*

We hafta tell ya, yes we do, that kiteflying in the Caribbean is a tricky operation – not many beaches large or flat enough for good distance away from the palm trees or for large launching spaces, and winds that seem to go from 0 to 30 (and back again) in ten seconds....But what's that I hear? What do you mean, "No sympathy!?" Why, Karen and I actually took time out from our honeymoon to do scientific kiteflying experiments! Well, we did and it was wonderful. I became known to all the locals as "kiteman" (as in "kiteman, I give you good price on this!" and "kiteman, you give me that kite for my children?"). Our wedding was quite a party too, according to all assembled. We wish that all the kitefliers we know could have joined us, because those that did had quite a grand time.

The **Mid-Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships** and the **Maryland Kite Society's Annual Festival** were events that were actually blessed with great weather this year, as were the **East Coast Stunt Kite Championships**, where the winds just blew and blew. Hope we don't use it all up before the rest of you get out here in October, but it has just been SUPER flying weather so far in 1994. Can't remember the last time we could say that.

Our upcoming thrills in Region 3 include the **MKS Fun Fly and Picnic** to celebrate Flag Day, the **Independence Day Fly** in Gaithersburg (no-winded out last year), and the **AKA general meeting** on July 10 at Sandy Point. We're also hoping for some repeats of flying at local wineries in Maryland and Virginia, where our local kite clubs displayed their flying and consumption abilities.

Good winds!

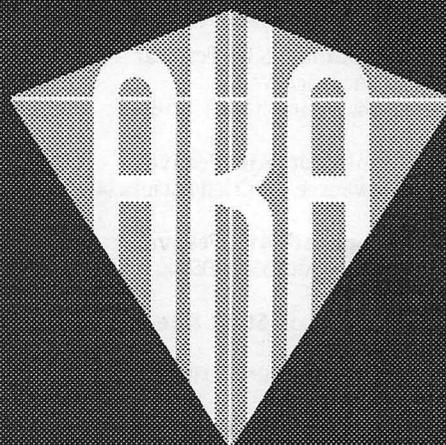
Region 4 Southeast

Steve Cseplo, Regional Director

Well hello again all. I hope that spring has treated you well so far and that winds have been smooth and to your liking no matter where you are. From what I read, the **Smithsonian Festival** had excellent weather this year, which is just my luck as it was an off year for me (my wife and I decided back at the beginning of the decade to attend every other year, the odd numbered years.) Such is life, eh?

Before going any further, I want to take the opportunity to extend heartfelt kudos to Frank Cook of Florence, South Carolina, for his efforts in staging an **Eastern League Regional Sport kite event** in that city in late March. It was after I filed my last report that it came to my attention that Frank single-handedly conceived, organized and sponsored the event. From what I hear, it was quite suc-

Continued on next page.



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1559 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-1651

Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery.

Region 4 (continued)

cessful, especially given the financial obligation of such an undertaking. The fact that an individual chose to do so without the backing of a store or other sponsor, speaks leagues about that person's character and dedication to kiting. So, if you see him out and about, be sure to thank him. Frank certainly deserves such.

While we are on the subject of individuals, I would like to mention a couple of others in the region that I believe deserve mention at this time. It seems that Alex Mason, son of well-known kite personalities Tom & Sue Mason, placed second in Experienced Quad-line Ballet at the recent **East Coast Stunt Kite Championships** in Wildwood. The amazing thing is that Alex is quite young (elementary school age) and to do so well at such a tender age against such stiff competition just blows my mind. The future of kiting seems bright.

It also seems that Dan Klos has joined the ranks of those kitemakers/fliers lucky and talented enough to have festivals sponsor them to come and fly. You may know Dan because of his marvelous three dimensional sky puppet creations ranging from angels to prehistoric beasts. I'm sure if you have ever seen one of them, you are sure to remember them. Congratulations Dan.

Otherwise, the region was active with the **Carolina Kite Fly** in Chapin, SC, which also had **The World On A String** traveling kite show, **The Spring Games** in Myrtle Beach, SC, another E.L. Regional event in Indian Rocks Beach, FL, and the third edition of the **Daytona Beach Kite Festival**. What strikes me as strange is word that

Daytona Beach has banned wind powered vehicles from the beach. Certainly unexpected for the world's fastest beach.

Of course, there have been numerous club events during the intervening period since my last report, one of which was the non-competitive Dogwood Festival in Atlanta, manned by members of KAOS and **Bald Mountain Kite Club** (and yours truly who was there). ;)

So once again, it is time to bid adieu. By the time you read this, the dog days of summer will be upon us and we will all be wishing for the breezes of autumn and its cooler temperatures. But they will be here soon enough. Take care all. Gentle breezes.

Region 5
Great Lakes

Robyne Gardner, Regional Director

The weather was NOT very spring-like for early season events here in Region 5. This hasn't stopped the diehard kitefliers from having fun, however.

On April 2, The Black Swamp Air Force (BSAF) celebrated the club's 8th birthday at Woodlands Park in Perrysburg, Ohio. Cold, blustery winds prevailed over the festivities which included a champagne toast. Don Navarre, one of the original founders of the club, was there and there was a good showing of Michigan members of the Force.

April 9 was the date for a rainy **Youngstown Kite Festival**. A steady drizzle did not dampen the spirits of the

Regional Reports continued on next page.

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Region 5 (continued)

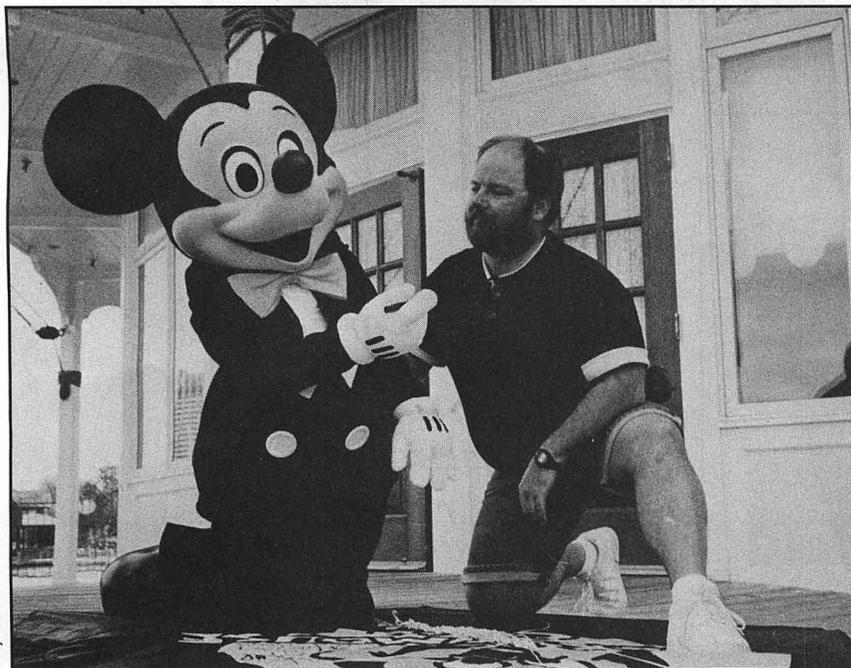
crowd, estimated at 400. Ben Franklin was there, handing out advice and 110 OSEK sled kites to many smiling children. OSEK'ers treated the crowd to a low-wind performance of Peter Pan at the end of the day. The wind came up as most spectators were leaving the park, but the folks who remained were treated to a short flight of Gene Lewandowski's Mega Legs.

The **Mill Run Kite Festival** was held May 1 in Hilliard, Ohio. The cold wind had most attendees wishing they had donned their long johns. Organizer "Tree" Alexander was thankful that all those clouds weren't dumping rain on the festivities. Captain Eddie's Flying Circus kept everyone entertained under the watchful eyes of a 35 ft. Godzilla, provided by High Fly Promotions. Thanks to C&S Sales, Tree's Sutton Flowform sported two beautiful 50 ft. Tuber tails. Flights of Fancy donated kites to the winners of several wind sprints. I made a spectacular "landing" in a small tree at the end of one of our Rob-N-Airdemos. Adrian Conn was an honored guest and had traveled down from Canada to fly (and freeze) for the crowd.

May 1 was also the date for the **Frankenmuth Kite Festival** in Michigan. First place awards went to Bill Kildow for Advanced Homebuilt, Bob White for Novice Homebuilt, and Dr. Kyte himself (Joe Schiros) won the Windsprint.

The weekend of May 14-15 was peppered with events across the region. Organizer Rich Myers "awarded" all of the participants at the **Xenia [Ohio] Kite Festival** with Vadalina onions. Rick and I won ours for traveling the furthest. Except for a few sprinkles, the rain held off until the end of the day, much to the relief of the cozy group of kitefliers gathered there. CEFC was on hand to add color & sound, and it was a delight to see that so many new people have caught the kiting bug in this area.

Mickey Mouse and Terry Gerweck.



Mary Gerweck

On May 15, the BSAF held the first-ever-anywhere **Vegetarian Kite Fly at Maumee Bay State Park**. Commandant Uncle Wilbert named this event "**One Sky, One Rutabaga Kite Fly for Peas**," and it may be destined to become an annual event. High winds were the order of the day. Terry Gerweck and David Bangley braved wind-blown bits of veggieburger and tofu to dazzle the meatless masses with their mastery of homemade kite buggies. Sam Ritter (5/20 president) & wife, Ann, made their Pairs Ballet debut to an appreciative crowd of spectators. Look out pairs competitors, here they come! By the way, Terry is the only kite builder I know who has an authentic autograph on a kite from a famous personality. Terry built a beautiful rokkaku with the Mickey Mouse Club logo on it. This past spring, while he and his family were vacationing at Disney World, he was fortunate enough to get Mickey himself to sign it!

If I were to say that "plans are under way for this year's **North Coast Stunt Kite Games**," you would get the impression that this event was getting organized. It isn't. Uncle Wilbert reports that he has yet to even hear from co-conspirators Fred Bell and Al Hargus, but "Merrill Shaffer is ready to cater the pig roast and that's all that counts anyway". This is the ninth (or is it tenth?) year for this annual bash held the third weekend in July (15-17) at Maumee Bay State Park just east of Toledo. For more information, call the BSAF Kiteline at (419) 535-WIND.

Uncle Wilbert also reports that the "**Carbo-Loading Cookout and Nuclear Kitefly**" will be held again on the second Sunday in August (14th) at Sterling State Park in Monroe, Michigan. This has turned into a huge afternoon potluck with folks from the 5/20 Kite Group and the BSAF. This is the only kite fly held within sight of two nuclear reactors and right next to a beach with an adjacent hazardous waste site. Say Yes! M!chigan!

Drop a get well card to Gloria LaCross of Alpena, MI. We're pulling for you, Gloria! Look forward to the next *Kiting* and a full report on a GREAT event: **The Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships**.

Sun, Wind & Rain Kalamazoo's Kitefest!

by John Cosby

Kalamazoo County's Kitefest, held at River Oaks Park, May 14-15, 1994, was AWESOME!!!! The early sunshine on Saturday brought old and new friends together to celebrate Kitefest's 10th birthday over huge birthday cakes and soaring kites. Good air both days gave lie to the rumor that there's never any wind in Kalamazoo. Beginning sport kite pilots earned their wings from experienced fliers at the Kitefest flight school.

Not even rain Saturday afternoon and Sunday could dampen the spirits of visitors to this huge birthday party. They played party games like Pin the Tail on the Kite, No

Continued on next page.

Kitefest (continued)

Hands Marshmallow on a String, and Scavenger Hunt despite a dying P.A. system that hampered organizers' efforts to announce activities and communicate with the crowd.

The Sunday rains blew out and skies began to clear just in time for the now traditional rokkaku battle. Using suspicious line ("that's gotta be some new stuff from planet Vulcan"), the Double Ugly team swept all comers from the sky. The team name refers to the kite ("that is one butt-ugly kite"), not to fliers Lou Baldis and Steve Wozniak or launcher Dan Wozniak. How ugly is that kite? According to official judge and scorekeeper Terry McPherson, Double Ugly won going away after four cuts and SCARING two kites out of the air. The team was awarded the coveted Kitefest cup where their names will be inscribed with permanent magic marker and a box of crayons in hopes they can come up with a better looking kite before next year.

Watch for Kitefest to be on the move "back to the future" in '95, as the event moves back to its original dates, April 29-30, 1995 (the last weekend in April).

Region 6 Midwest

Bob Neiman, Regional Director

Kite activities are in full swing in Region 6! Since early May, all the region's clubs and affiliates have been involved in flies with fresh (AKA strong!!) winds and fliers eager to escape the long winter's grip.

The Minnesota Kite Society has a full slate of activities scheduled for late June-August. The **MKS Fun Fly** will most likely have been held on June 19 by the time you read this, but it promises to be a fun time for all Society members. The **4th Annual Stunt Kite Festival** will be held sometime in early July. (Jim Henry says either July 2, 13 or 4 - contact Jim at [612] 631-3150.) **The Wind, Wings, and Water Kite Fly** will be held on July 10 in St. Cloud, MN, followed by the **Easy Wind Kite Fly** (does that mean "no wind"?), in St. Croix River Bluffs. Finally, **The MKS Night Fly** will be held from 6-10 pm on July 23 in Roseville, MN. For more information on any of these events, call Jim Henry of MKS.

Sky Circus and the **World Rokkaku Challenge** takes centerstage at Ned Brown Woods in Schaumburg, IL, on July 16-17. Long a favorite of Midwest fliers, this gala single-line event will center around a circus atmosphere with some of the most spectacular single-line creations and sky laundry seen anywhere. This event is sponsored by the **Chicagoland Skyliners Kite Club**, so if there's any chance of being in the Chicagoland area in July, this is one event you have to attend!

Just to the north, The Kite Society of Wisconsin will be part of the Fourth of July festivities held at Milwaukee's lakefront on July 3. Monroe, Wisconsin will be the site of

the **Balloon Rally/Kite Fly** on July 9 and the club will be helping out at the Milwaukee Art Museum on August 8, making sled kites for the kids and staging a rokkaku challenge and kite demo. Finally, the **Dave DeBolt Kite Fly** will be held in Monroe, Indiana, and hosted by the Hoosier Kite Society on July 17.

We've got some notable kitefliers and builders here in Region 6, and now we have some of the best up-and-coming competitive stunt kitefliers as well - as shown by the recently completed **Great Lakes Stunt Kite Championships!** The following fliers placed in the top five in selected events (hope I didn't miss anyone - please let me know if I did): Jerry Elkerton (5th OQB), Bob Roehl (3rd MIP, 1st OIB), Bryan Schackmuth (1st EIB, 2nd EIP, 1st OQB), Herb Schulz (2nd IIP), Jim Wirt (5th MIB), Sky Scapes - Herb Schulz & Jan Winkel (1st EPB), Over the Hill Gang - Bob & Karen Roehl, Herb Schulz, Jan Winkel (1st ETB, 1st ETP), and Chicago Fire - Eric Wolff, Jerry Elkerton, Bob Neiman & Ed Wlezien (2nd MTB, 2nd MTP).

I hope I didn't miss any of the events for the next two months. If I did, give me a call and I'll make it up to you in the next newsletter. Since I can't be at all the events over the entire region, I need the eyes and ears of all of you fellow members to let me know what I missed so I can cover it in this space. Call me at (708) 359-2556 with any kiting news you think is noteworthy - PLEASE!

Region 7 Great Plains

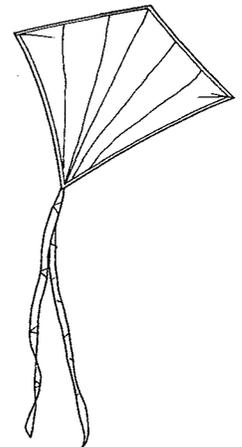
Chris Moore, Regional Director

Through my experiences with kiting and kite competitions, I have traveled to places all over the U.S.A. and watched the kite appeal equally to the mystic, the do-it-yourselfer, the scientist, the romantic, the child, and the competitor. I noticed this wide variety of people and realized that they all attended kite festivals for different reasons. Everyone views kiting in different ways; it reflects one's individual personality, values, and how they view the sport/hobby. The beauty of it all is that they are all there because they love kites and they love to fly kites.

There are some great festivals and competitions this summer in the Great Plains area. Festivals and competitions require a great deal of time, energy, and money to be successful and are intended to bring kitefliers together in an organized manner where they can share their common interest of kiting. This organized gathering provides opportunities that everyone can benefit from.

There have been some recent concerns about the future of kiting events. I feel that participation in these events by those of us who enjoy the sport and hobby must increase in order for the event itself to be successful and to further expose kiting to others. Try to make it to some of these events and support them any way you can.

The Topeka Kite Fliers organized the first annual **Twisted Lines Kite Competition** in Topeka, KS, on June 11. Many



Region 7 (continued)

fliers joined in to help color the sky over Topeka. The festival was located in what may very well have been the largest ever flying field of 80 acres!

Also on June 11, the Springfield Area Kite Enthusiasts hosted their annual **Mystery Ballet**. This event brought fliers to Springfield, MO, to enjoy a day of impromptu kiting. After randomly selecting their ballet music from a grab bag, fliers had 30 minutes to put together a routine. This was a common occurrence for some fliers, since they plan most of their ballet routines this way!

June 11-12 was also the date of the **Papillion Kite Fly** in Papillion, NE. This fly included a workshop by Dean Jordan intended to nurture some of the local enthusiasts.

June 18 at Emporia, KS, was the fourth annual **Twin Rivers Kite Festival**. This year's event was enriched by Frank Kenisky from San Antonio, TX. Frank is the founder of the Southwest Sportkite Conference and also quite a captivating MC. Club members from Topeka, Wichita, McPherson, & Kansas City also participated in this year's event.

July 30-31, Wind Wizards kite store in Lenexa, KS, will be hosting the first ever kiting event for the **Sunflower State Games**. The Sunflower State Games is a multi-sport festival of Olympic-style competition for Kansas amateur athletes of all ages and abilities. The purpose is to provide a wholesome avenue for positive personal development

through sports and physical activity and to recognize dedication and achievement. More than 7,300 athletes competed in the 1993 games!

Bikes, kites, and puppets come alive at the **Arvada Center Festival** on August 20 in Arvada, CO. This festival is a celebration of the artistry of the three with 20 interactive outreach workshops including kitemaking. Colorado is fortunate to be the home of some of the world's most renowned kitemakers. Two of those, George Peters and Scott Skinner, will be on hand to fly giant, fantastic kite creations. For more information call coordinator Tillie Laskey at (303) 258-0315.

Region 8 South Central

Richard Dermer, Regional Director

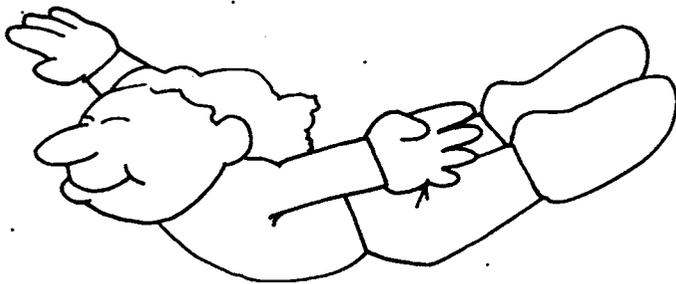
Here's some great news! At this year's **Buffalo Beano Kite Fly** in Lubbock, Texas, the Lubbock Kite Club presented me with a check for \$1,000 to be used any way I wanted to promote kiting in the Southwest. After giving it considerable thought, I spent the whole amount on a huge order of cotton string, prewound on plastic tubes, from Gayla Kites in Houston. I will send quantities of this string free (you pay shipping) to any kite club or AKA member in Region 8 (TX, OK, AR, LA) to use in giving kitemaking workshops. With 100 feet per winder, this is great for sleds, eddys, deltas, or whatever. For the rest of the country, I will happily send you winders of string at cost, 15¢ per winder. I would love to keep restocking. Give me a call at (405) 372-6127, then start cutting sticks and sails!

There's more good news. I reported last issue that John Eddyhausen of Ft. Worth cracked his hip in a pilot-error buggy accident in Oklahoma City. I am delighted to report that exactly six weeks later he took first place in both Experienced Precision and Experienced Ballet at the **Bluebonnet Kite Festival** in San Marcos, Texas. Way to bounce back, John! The festival was also a success in many other ways. The local Lions Club put on a super first-time event, with lots of food, crafts vendors, sky diving and folk dancing exhibitions, a childrens' petting zoo, and zillions of volunteer workers. With a great flying field, this festival, a Southwest Sport Kite Conference event, shows promise of becoming a good annual festival. Other winners included Duane Holick, Kelly Reed, Dean Himes, Abel Ortega, and Eddie Reynolds.

The **Oklahoma City Spring Arts Festival**, one of the top ten such outdoor events in the country, showcased kiting this year in a big way. For six days, members of the Oklahoma Kite Club gave both single- and dual-line exhibitions (frequently team flying) at a highly visible demonstration field in downtown Oklahoma City. Nearby, Jon Wagner, Terry Officer, Janene Evard, and I gave kite lectures daily. Inside the adjacent Stage Center building, a magnificent exhibition of fine art kites, collected by Janene and exhibited with the help of Scott Skinner, was on display to the public throughout the week. This exhibit, with over 250 kites by 51 AKA members, was the finest I have seen - AKA conventions included. On the final weekend,

(continued on next page)

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Region 8 (continued)

Vanda Cole headed up a team of arts council volunteers and club members teaching hundreds of children to make kites. With beautiful weather all week and attendance estimated at 750,000, this event promoted kiting in a huge way!

San Angelo, Texas's annual **KLST Kite Fly** had disappointingly light wind this year, doubly disappointing because KLST, the local TV station, had promoted the event heavily. They had even paid Marti and me to come down two days early and give seven kite programs at elementary schools across the city. We did have enough wind to give continuous ultra-light dual-line exhibitions, and periodically the sky would fill with hundreds of plastic deltas given away by the sponsor.

The following day, Lubbock's annual **Buffalo Beano Kite Fly and Frisbee Fling** had better wind and a large crowd – those frisbee catching dogs are a great draw! While the sky was filled with kites all day, particularly the huge train of Bill Mladenka and Cathy Jones, the dual-line competition turnout was surprisingly light. Only novice precision was held, with Ken Lantz topping a field of five. Next year's event will change to a two-day format, undoubtedly a good idea since Lubbock is a long drive from anywhere, even in Texas.

The Dallas area's first-ever festival, the **Richardson Wildflower Kite Festival**, had beautiful flying fields, light but flyable winds, and lots of enthusiastic kites. Unfortunately, bitter cold kept most of the spectators away – on May Day in Dallas, of all things! Nevertheless, the kites had a good time, with two days of flying, exhibitions by the Dallas Dog and Disc club, a great banquet and auction, and a highly popular on-field sport kite seminar by Abel Ortega. Organizer Dick Bell did a fine job, with a nice balance of single- and dual-line activities. Winners included Ken Lance, Kelly Reed, Paul Smith, James White, Eddie Reynolds, and Abel Ortega in sport kites, and Ben Hammock, Mike Wright, and Janene Evard in single-liners. James White, who took first in both experienced precision and ballet, has now won eight out of the nine competitions he has entered, and moves up a class every year. Masters, look out!

A couple of small Oklahoma events rounded out the spring season. Marti and I hosted our annual two-day fun fly in Stillwater, and again drew about 50 AKA members to our favorite flying field just by sending out invitations. No fuss, no work, just a lot of laid-back flying.

The Tulsa Windriders hosted their first sanctioned competition, and just managed to complete it before being drenched by heavy rain. Winners included Noel Nester, Larry Christensen, Larry Stiles, and David Bui. The next day (for the first time ever), the giant plastic kites of Tulsans Wes Allee and Brian Power and Texan Jim Stipe were flown on the same field. Three kites totaling 11,000 square feet! It was awesome. A new state record was also set for a mega-team fly, with 12 fliers putting on a sustained demonstration for over ten minutes.

I would like to mention team Nemesis, with team leader Troy Gunn, Larry Christensen, Gerald Kelley, and some-

times Larry Whitacre and Ryan Kelley. As the only sport kite team in the Southwest this year, they are short on competition but long on exhibition skills. In the absence of competitors, they have been giving repeated flying demos and organizing mega-team flies at events all over Texas and Oklahoma. They hope to set several new records for team flying this summer. Stay tuned for details.

Region 9 Intermountain

David L. Colbert, Regional Director

First, I would like to say I'm sorry for missing the last issue of *Kiting*. I was very busy with kite orders and the deadline was past before I knew what happened. It almost happened again but this time because of things that were out of my control. My wife Joanne found out that her mother was diagnosed with a terminal brain cancer. They informed us that she only had a few days to live so we decided to make a quick trip to New York. One of my friends, Russell Mc Culley, drummed up donations from friends all over the northwest and held a raffle at the **Rockaway Beach Kite Festival**. We are still feeling the pinch from the expenses incurred on the trip but the funds that were raised will help a great deal. Thank you all for being such a great, wonderful extended family that we call kitefliers and be assured that the time we had with Joanne's mother will be cherished long after she has gone.

Regional Reports
continued on next page.

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Region 9 (continued)

Now to let you know what has been going on around our area. The Oregon Kites held their first "Unofficial Fun Fly and Pot Luck" at Gleneden Beach State Park. We had a rather small turn out for this event but we are hoping for a better response in the future. We had good wind (7 MPH), good flying field, good friends, and good food. What more could you ask for? We found the opportunity to talk to people on the beach about A.O.K. and A.K.A. and hopefully we will have some new members soon. We had drawings for door prizes donated by local members and local businesses. We all had a great time at this gathering and hope you'll come to the next one. These socials will be held the second Saturday of each month at different locations around Oregon. If you are in the area and would like to attend give me a call, and I'll let you know where to meet us.

The other flying opportunity we had was at the **Puffin Kite Festival** at Cannon Beach, Oregon. There were some problems with the parking. They scheduled in a car club and gave them the main parking lot. Well, the fur flew but was well smoothed by noon as they opened up half of the lot to the fliers. Don't misunderstand me. This is a great fly to attend and a great deal of fun. Things started Saturday with various contests ranging from smallest to most beautiful with some very nice prizes. They took a break to feed us all lunch consisting of hot dogs, kettle chips, and your choice of pop, and Tillamook ice cream for desert as well. Sunday started off with a treasure hunt complete with the pirate and his booty for the kids.

Well, that is all I have for now but if you have a tidbit of information that you could pass along, I would be glad to add it to my report. If there is something happening in your area of Region 9, let me know so we can tell others.

Again, a special thanks to all of you that were thoughtful enough to help us out with our trip expenses. You are all very special to us and we hope to see you soon.

Region 11 Northern California

Tom McAlister, Regional Director

I am happy to report on a new event in our region, the **Folsom Kite Fly**. This event is a perfect example of how you don't have to do a full-blown competition in order to have good attendance and good fun. Organizer Darrel Neufeld of Tradewinds Kites used the "Magical Mystery Tour" format that was developed by the Eastern League. Each flier performs a ballet routine to a surprise musical selection that is drawn out of a hat. Local flier Mary Buyer put together the music and it seemed to be a big hit. Everyone enjoyed the challenge of flying impromptu ballet. Kudos to all who made this event happen!

Once again the **San Ramon Art and Wind Festival** (May 21-22) fulfilled the role of the biggest spring kite party of the year. Long-distance attendees included Dale and Calvin Vanderhoof, Ron and Sandy Gibian, and George and Suzanne Maurer

As usual, J.R. Tolman made hundreds of kids happy in his kitemaking classes. Both kids and adults enjoyed the yummy breakfast coordinated by the Henningfelds and the Saturday night barbecue pig feast orchestrated by Brad Graber. If you went hungry at this event, it was your own fault.

Ron Gibian, (a.k.a. "The Man with the Hair!"), kept the microphone warm and the crowd informed at the same time. Lots of demos and fun flying are the heart of this event. Each of the Bay Area's hot pairs teams did great demos, as did Team Tsunami. The Morrisons also performed and a question was raised among the adults: Is watching 6-year old Chad do his demo inspiring or discouraging? Let's hope it's inspiring. Another question was posed to John Lippold: Isn't there some kind of award for doing more demos with more different kinds of kites than anyone else? Special thanks to Kim Giuliano and Bob Anderson for making it all happen!

Chuck Sigal, Doug Scott, Darrin, Susan & Cassie Skinner, and I went on a road trip to the Reno area in search of buggy-friendly dry lakes a little closer to home. The fruit of our search was a lake called Stagecoach on Hwy. 50, south of Reno. It was not quite as uniformly smooth as Ivanpah in southern California, but it was great to buggy on a wide, open lake bed again. The land sailors we met there told us about a lake bed called the Black Rock Desert that is only two hours north of Reno. It's supposed to be 17 miles wide and 40 miles long! Now that's what I call a wide, open lake bed! Looks like our buggies might need compasses for the next trip. If you would like directions to Stagecoach of Black Rock, give me a call.

Speaking of next trips, I hope to see all of you at the **Berkeley Kite Festival** and **West Coast Kite Championships**, July 30-31. If you don't attend, you will be forever banned from membership in the AKA. (I'm only kidding!) But seriously, I hope to see all of you there. I promise I won't put you to work...N-O-T!

Continued on next page.

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Region 11 (continued)

Single-line builders note: Check out the new "L" fittings Dale Vanderhoof is using on his barrage kites. Nice job, Dale!

Competition note: Congratulations to the Sundowners on taking two first-place victories at the **Great Lakes SKC**.

Congratulations also to Team Tsunami for taking a first place in precision and a second place in ballet at **East Coast Stunt Kite Championships**.

P.S. Northern California Kite Club president John Rodriguez has been ill and in and out of the hospital too often lately. From all of us in the region, John, "Get well soon!" Hope to see you and everyone else at the **BFK-WCKC!!!**

Region 12 SoCal/Pacific

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

Can you believe that summer is here? It seems like yesterday that we were involved in winter activities and waiting for warmer and drier weather.

Feedback on what you would like to see in this column is what I need. Are you interested in upcoming events, personalities of our region, more or less attention devoted to stunt kiteflying, single-line, kitemaking or what? Our world of kiting is huge, and I don't want to overlook areas that are important to sections of our region.

By going to activities in the region, I am still amazed by the diversity of interest. Hawaii is on my list of places to go but in lieu of going there I have been relying on different individuals to present a little of what is happening.

Let me know what you would like to hear about. You can write to me at 13517 Tobiasson Road, Poway, CA. 92064 or call at (619) 566-7543. If you have access to the Internet, wbtompson@ucsd.edu.

On a sad note, I was informed that Millie Schlosser of La Palma, California, passed away on April 4th. Millie was the wife of Don Schlosser who was the AKA Region 12 Director a few years ago. Many knew Don and Millie and her passing saddens us all. Our sympathies go out to the Schlosser family. Don's address is 8051 Dawn Circle, La Palma, CA. 90623, (714) 821-8784.

One of my goals this past year has been to bring art into kiting and kiting to artists. Some progress had been made so far and I want to bring you up-to-date.

Some of the highlights included the opening of a new art gallery in San Diego by the San Diego Port District September 23rd. This coincided with "The Wave" from Yokohama Art Exhibition (a sister city relationship between San Diego and Yokohama).

At the **Gala Art Opening**, which was an international event in San Diego, a solitary rokkaku flew over the proceedings.

Randy Tom was commissioned to create a rokkaku with the logo of the event and I flew the kite during the ceremonies. I am still getting requests for information from local artists.

Lisa Schermer, one of the artists who helped with the **Music and Art Festival '93** (where the SDKC flew beautiful kites) by coordinating events with the Mayor's office in kite building. Lisa has been working on a series of banners that include original art and incorporate sounds. Using chime like devices, ripstop and sewing, she is making three banners to represent an abstract representation of a family.

She has exhibited her art work in galleries and using mixed media in the past. This is an extension of what she has done and now wants to incorporate the wind movements into her vision and talent. If this goes well, there are several other artists in her group that plan on placing forty or so banners on exhibition.

Basir-A. Beria of Panorama City has been building and flying great Afghanistan type fighting kites. This spring at the **Santa Barbara Kite Festival** Basir won the award for the most beautiful kite.

He has been making traditional Afghan paper kites with bamboo spines and cross spars. Basir has added contemporary graphics that are becoming art pieces. Some people have brought or traded kites to place these fantastic creations on their walls. He also makes his own cutting line (Manja type) and spool winders.

Basir has started to bring his artistic kites to different events around the region and I recommend you look for him and his work. He flew and exhibited his kites at the **Moorpark College Kite Festival** at Simi Valley.

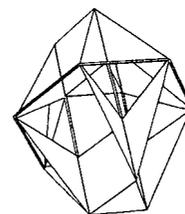
This crossover of talents benefits not only the kitemakers and artists but all of us with the beauty we can see and perhaps fly. There are many others that I know of and if you have knowledge of kite/art please pass it on to me and interested friends.

Pow! Fourth of July! Come to the **Manhattan Beach UP Sports Kite Festival 1994**. Roger Chewning is putting together a bang-up event on the Pacific Ocean Beach. This is a sanctioned event and is a showcase competition that will be covered by national media. Most of the kite events will take place north of the pier with the annual beach volleyball tournament south of the pier.

The details have not been totally worked out but UP Sports would like to see more kites south of the pier as well as the planned competition north of the pier. Which way to look? North then south? The San Diego Kite Club has been invited to show off with single-line high fliers and whatever else members can bring to fly.

If you have never met John Rogers of the SDKC he will be there in person. Others have been invited and you may be surprised to see who is there. Maybe you?

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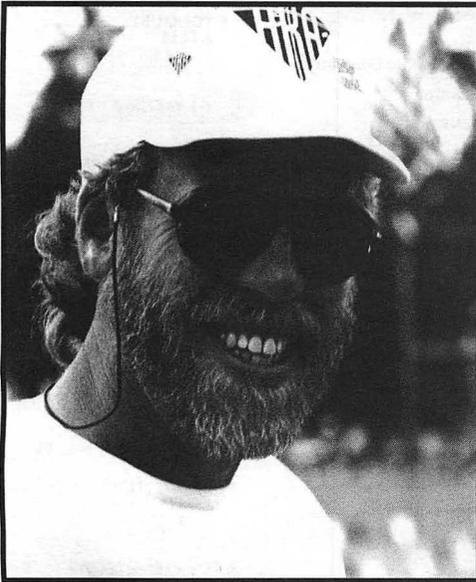
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A registration form is on page 103 of the membership directory.

Where It's At ... Living With Competition and More

My problem is when competitions sometimes bring out the worst in some people. Competitions can sometimes act to exclude or divide people, and I would be more interested if kiting competitions made more people feel like winners.



by Corey Jensen

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

Many who have talked with me about competitions (among sport kites particularly) will assume I am anti-competition. This is not necessarily true.

As a member of the AKA and a supporter of its aims and goals, but not being a sport kite competitor, I would like to see the best that kiting has to offer at the National Convention. I would hope that the sport kites can agree that a showcase of Masters and Open Pairs and Team winners from the regional and national events would be a wonderful afternoon show that could become one incredible highlight of our national gathering instead of just another competition.

Once again we have placed ourselves some place with little hope of an audience. The south coast of New Jersey three weeks after the summer season has ended. But really, that is perhaps how it should be. The AKA National Convention is really for US! It's

nice to show off before an audience, but aren't we really showing off for each other?

The Comprehensive Kitemaking Competition for instance, would hardly be a rewarding experience for a family with their first newspaper-kite project. Nor is our annual auction easily understood by people whose only familiarity with the personalities and reputations involved is some whispered, half-understood comments made during the lulls between shouted offers to "pie" someone, or an over the top bid on some item of used, soiled clothing.

The idea of creating a showcase of the best fliers from a competitive level sport and putting on an afternoon show for all the other gathered fliers who will take these images back home and tell the stories and show the pictures seems a logical way to reward and acknowledge all the effort. At the same time, we would be creating a format that may be translated to a festival setting by local organizers that would help present kiting as an imagination-based activity instead of just a competitive one.

The AKA National Convention has traditionally been the place to take these forward steps. I remember the first stunt kite competition at AKA-Houston in 1981. I have seen the combination of music and kites move beyond just flying to a beat to the telling of a story through the interaction of flyer/kite/wind/music.

The past is made of memories of what things used to be. The future is filled with what things may be. Our future in the AKA should address our visions of where we hope kiting is going, not where it is or where it was. The organiza-

tion was founded by a few who saw so much more in kiting than just the kites. Our appreciation for their efforts is our gift to the next generation of kites.

Quack quack quack about the Kite Buggy on the Mojave Desert drylakes. We are planning a THANG for July 27-29. Timed to occur prior to the Berkeley SKC (July 30-31). Interested parties will fly into SFO or Oakland on Tuesday evening and get a mini-van. We plan 4 or 5 per mini-van to keep expenses down. If more becomes merrier, we'll just have to share more vans. Return on Friday. If you're interested... Call me for more details.

Julian Wolfe-Patrick in France sends a report of an event last April, the "Transaquitaine", a 90 km Buggy Run on the Atlantic beach to Cape Ferret. Check it on your atlases, sports fans. Reported wind gusts up to 120 km/h. Most buggy sailing was done in slightly less wind using a Q-2 on a SpringBack equipped Buggy. For the metric-ly-challenged, that translates to some 55 miles along a beach in winds that maxed at nearly 80 mph (That is hurricane-force!).

Bob Childs is planning a Buggy Enduro at Bonneville Salt Flats - Utah for Sept. 9-11, 1994. A 50-miler is the highlight with stage races for increments of time and distance. Contact Bob at POB 2282 Boulder, CO 80306, (303)440-6303.

Buggy Stuff at the AKA-Wildwood: Plans are to gather early in the week to do our thang before the main festivities start. Some are planning races on Sunday and Monday. Reports are of plenty of room on a pretty hard sandy beach and little chance of crowds.

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