



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

Tulsa Convention Enthralls Thousands!

by
Richard Dermer,
1st Vice President,
Director Region 8

Wow! What a great convention in Tulsa! After two years of worrying about the site and the weather, we were blessed with beautiful skies, perfect temperatures, and plenty of wind. With 407 registered AKA members and thirty acres of mowed fields, (thanks, Cliff Lemons) we put on a show that thousands of enthralled Tulsans will not forget.

When people ask me what I enjoy the most about kiting, I always reply that it's the people who participate. This convention proved it in spades. I have never been so inundated with volunteers. From field setup to publicity,

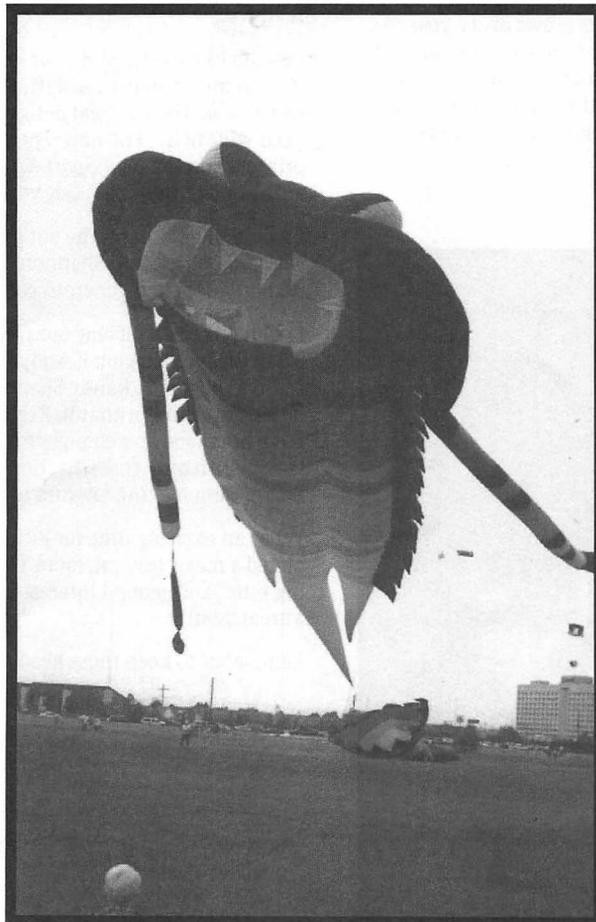
workshop presenters to event coordinators and staff, opening reception crew, fly mart, art kite gallery, and auction helpers, and just regular members who helped keep the fields litter free and the spectators informed and entertained, this event was a joy to host. As field director, whenever I needed help I simply had to ask - I can't remember ever being shorthanded. What a delight!

A treasure trove of memories: Peter Lynn and Phillip McConnachie's giant Trilobite, the new World's Largest Kite, making brief flights on Wednesday and Sunday. (Unfortunately, it was too gusty for it in between.) Canada's Ray Bethell, first flyer on the field each morning and the last one off, getting in more flight time in four days than most mortals get in a month (and flying three Kestrals simultaneously for all of that - what a show!). England's Stafford Wallace demonstrating absolute mastery of the fighter kite.

Superb performances by any number of sport kite competitors and a stunning array of beauty in the hand-crafted kites. Open-mouthed spectators gaping at the buggy racers, and the solid bank of photographers catching those racers crossing the water hazard in their race course. And the daily mass ascensions - absolutely incredible. Saturday's grand finale, when the sky was filled with deltas and then cleared to leave only *eighteen* Bob Ingham kites flying in a tribute to our founder. The announcers were not the only ones choked up.

Continued on page 5.

The giant Trilobite.



Dermer

**This issue is dedicated to
the memory of**

Robert Ingham

**Founder of the
American Kitefliers
Association**

The President's Page

Peter Dolphin

I am back from the Convention; boy, is my head spinning! Having spent three years on the board before this year, I thought I was ready for the task of President. I was not. I was

really surprised by the intensity of our annual get together. The Board met on three different occasions for a total of 12 hours. Members would come up to me with ideas, suggestions, and complaints, not necessarily in that order; pressure always remained high. Now that it is all over, I am tired but happy to be your President one more year. Thank you for all your support.

I will remember this convention for a long time. Emotions were strongly felt with the passing of our founder Bob Ingraham during the convention. This reminded me of the loss of my father during our convention at Jacksonville. At the banquet, I had the honor to award Bob the first Lifetime Achievement Award. My regret was that Bob could not be with us to hear the applause, but I think it was loud enough for him to hear where he is now.

We had to make some difficult decisions this year...the biggest being a dues increase. The cost of membership now stands at \$33.50 per member. Our newsletter costs \$15 per member and our insurance is running \$5 per year per household. The difference between what we collect in membership dues and our costs grows every year. As our membership has doubled over the past five years, the shortfall has increased proportionately. The AKA has shown a profit once during this time (due to the success of Wildwood's Convention which took in \$10,000 in

Where's David?
Can you find him?
Group shot of
attendees at Uchinada
Kite Festival taken at
the kite museum Tokyo,
Japan 1995.



registrations and a record \$27,000 plus, at the auction). This year we broke even on registrations and took in \$21,500 at the auction...a \$15,500 swing in the wrong direction from last year.

By the time you receive this issue, you will probably already have seen a questionnaire polling your choice of a \$5 or \$10 increase in dues. If we go to a \$5 increase, we must then cut back in services, i.e., four issues of *Kiting*. This is an association of people and the Board feels that you should be polled on this matter. Look for the results in the next issue of *Kiting*.

The board voted to invite all established Sport Kite Circuits to have their Cap Stone Event at our convention next year. This should help attendance at the convention and the fliers who are caught between the different circuits when asked to move up. Because AKA Finals are an invitational event, the various Sport Kite Circuits will have to decide if this is something they want. Board policy initiated a few years ago was to limit competition at our Grand National Event, which is now two days.

With the possibility of change in format in *Kiting*, it has been decided to re-bid the proposal for editor. Because there may be fewer issues with larger content, we decided to reopen the request for proposals. These proposals need to be received by December 31, 1995. During January's Board meeting these proposals will be reviewed.

I would like to know of your ideas for new products that we can merchandise...A shirt, pin, hat, or, perhaps, something new. Have a great design? Please let us know; we need your help. The new *Traction Manual* is at the printers and the new *Sport Kite Manual* will go to print at the end of this year. Get your orders in [now!](#)

I would like to thank the out-going Regional Directors - Marty Sasaki, Kevin Shannon, Steve Cseple, and David Colbert - for their generous contributions of time.

I would like to welcome our new Regional Directors: Sarge Cleaves - Region 1, Andy Gelinas - Region 2, Tom Mason - Region 4, Randy Shannon - Region 9. Congratulations to John Burkhardt, Region 3, on his re-election. I have not made any changes to the Executive Committee, so with only these election changes, that is our new Board. I am looking forward to working with this group.

What an exciting time for kiting...Disney has just completed a major festival, more TV commercials are featuring kites, and general interest is high. This is going to be a great year!

Remember to keep those heads raised, and smile.

Peter Dolphin

HAM & KITES

I noticed in your July/August 1995 issue of *Kiting*, that you had a short list of AKA members who were amateur radio operators. Well, you can add one more to your ranks. Although I'm a relative newcomer to the AKA, I've been a ham since 1978. Thought I would just let you know and tell you to keep up the good work. *Kiting* is an enjoyment to read.

*Thomas R. White
KB9KX
Centralia, IL*

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

In my small way I try to present kite flying to the local people throughout the community park and surrounding area. Of course, the children are drawn to my activity with magical curiosity, but even the adults have expressed pleasure to me many times because of the diversity of the kites I fly.

My re-entry into kiting began February 1990, while in my basement one rainy day. My eyes fell upon an old kite and winder long since retired from flying. The price mark on the two-stick-rocket-and-space-capsule kite, dating back to the early '60s, was fifteen cents. The winder was one I had made for one of my two sons, and looking back, I realized, my daughter had never had her own. It was time to make that kite winder I had promised her so many years ago.

The first winder took over four hours to complete. Our daughter, now 30 something, was very pleased, but her reply to me was, "25 years too late, Dad." I told her to send it back, but she replied that she had waited too long so I would never get it back. Thus began my development of a kite winder suitable to deploy and retrieve most any kite with relative ease - so that even a child could easily master this activity.

Our youngest son was teaching school in New York and wanted a winder for one of his friend's children, so I made the second winder a few days later. While testing it at the local park, a woman eating her lunch watched in curious amazement as my kite responded to my every turn of the winder. The woman approached me wanting to know what was the device that could make a kite respond in such a way. Reluctantly, I parted with that winder for \$5.00 and subsequently with a few others, under similar circumstances, until the price rose a bit.

Our daughter suggested that I make them and sell them. I knew that the price could not justify the cost and labor involved in making these winders. She also said something that stuck in my mind. She said, "Dad, with all the problems and difficulties young families have today, think how much it would mean to the children to spend time flying kites with their parents. They could cherish these memories for the rest of their lives."

So began an adventure in simple pleasures and curious enthusiasm for me and the many people who have responded with heart and mind to the enjoyment of flying kites.

*Ed Frketic,
Allison Park, PA*

Variable Winds Aloft Letters to the AKA

KITES OPEN DOORS

Recently, I took a trip to Bismarck, ND, to honor my parents at their 50th Wedding Anniversary. While in that part of the U.S., I wondered if the AKA connection reached nationwide in hospitality. I called a fellow member, Bob Wolf (only AKA listing in Bismarck). We started talking about flying areas, kites and what to bring. (I must mention that I am not in the habit of talking to total strangers; I called Bob on a whim.) Bob suggested we meet at General Custer's house (a National Park). On Sunday, I loaded the car with my kites and gear and ventured out to meet someone I had only spoken to over the phone. I was excited to meet another "wind junkie" and enjoyed meeting Bob, his friend Wayne Mastel of Lincoln, ND, and Amos and his son.

I want to tell everyone that being an AKA member is a door opener in other parts of the country and that I treasure the memory of the experience. Thanks again to the AKA for being such a great icebreaker, and to my new friends.

*Bob Burnett
Sinking Spring, PA*

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.

*Send to Kiting
84 Malta Drive
San Francisco,
California 94131-2816
FAX: (415) 586-5181*

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AKA1

AKA Officers, Staff & Executive Committee

For questions about your membership, phone or fax Executive Director Mel Hickman at (503) 717-0627 or write to AKA Headquarters. E-mail: aka@aka.kite.org

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Regional Directors

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E-mail: mcf02@aol.com
For overnight deliveries, sign the "release without signature" line.

1. *New England (CT, NH, MA, ME, RI, VT, upstate NY)*
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307 Pierremount Avenue
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2. *Northeast (NJ, PA downstate NY)*
Andy Gelinas (1998)
16 West Third Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610) 867-3313

3. *Mid-Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, VA, WV)*
Jon Burkhardt (1998)
10113 Lloyd Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 424-6976

4. *Southeast (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, PR, NC, SC, TN)*
Thomas Mason (1998)
307 E. DeRenne Ave.
Savannah, GA
31405 (912) 352-3142

5. *Great Lakes (MI, OH)*
Robyne Gardner (1996)
2672 Sand Road
Port Clinton, OH 43452
(419) 734-5880

6. *Midwest (IA, IL, IN, MN, WI)*
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(708) 359-2556

7. *Great Plains (CO, KS, MO, MT, ND, NE, SD, WY)*
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8. *South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX)*
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Sport Kite	Sherrie & Dave Arnold (703) 765-5668

The Great Kite Auction was Great!

by Carolyn Moore, Auction Chair

The 1995 Great Kite Auction, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was a huge success. Despite lower attendance than the 1994 convention, everyone opened their hearts, wallets, and pocketbooks to help raise \$21,145 for the AKA. This is a great accomplishment and everyone should be proud of the part they played in its success.

The Great Auction can not be accomplished without the huge number of volunteers. Whether you were a donor, auctioneer, bidder, computer inputter, runner, setting up items, or simply one who did whatever was needed, we had a fantastic group of people who put a lot of time and love of kiting into Friday evening. My thanks to all of you. Happy winds!

We would especially like to acknowledge the following people for their large donations (amounts reflect the prices actually paid for donated items):

Catch the Wind	\$2,100
Brooks Leffler	\$1,005
Shanti Kites	\$675
Anonymous	\$655
Synergy Decca/High As A kite/ Avia Sport	\$650
David Gomberg	\$600
Jon Burkhardt	\$550
Martin Lester	\$500

And these people's pocket books for their generous support:

Robert Cembalest	\$2,005
Scott Skinner	\$1,015
Anonymous	\$675
Karen Gustavon	\$655
Yutaka Fukuda	\$650
Pete Dolphin	\$630
Tom Ryan	\$562
Jon Burkhardt	\$530
Eugene Lewandowski	\$500

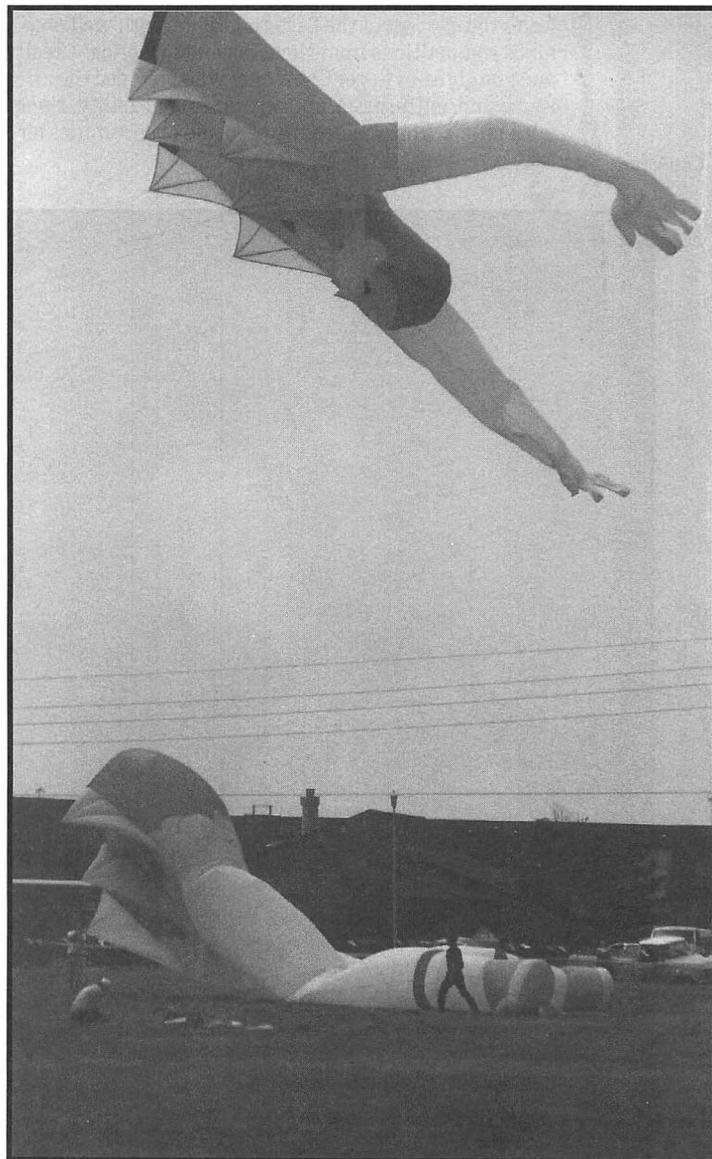
**Note: New Address for
AKA Archives:
c/o Drachen Foundation
1907 Queen Anne Ave. N
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 282-4349 ph
(206) 284-5471 fax**

Tulsa (continued from page 1)

If I had it all to do over again (and I hope I can someday), I would add one thing. Although JR Tolman and my wife Marti managed to make a number of kites for kids, we did not have an organized on-field kitemaking workshop. If we had, we would have been swamped, because I've never seen so many wide-eyed children. Nevertheless, this is something we must try to organize at future conventions – the interest we spark with our own kites will be multiplied many times if we can teach children the joys of making and flying their own.

In closing, I want to once again thank everyone for a magnificent job and a great convention. You know who you are. Smile. Thank you.

◆ Giant kite man and legs made by Martin Lester at the convention.



D. Skinner

1995 Steve Edeiken Award Recipient — Roger Chewning

Congratulations to Roger Chewning of Morrisville, Pennsylvania who received the award for "Kiteflier of the Year" at the convention. The nominating letter was submitted by Bill & Suzanne Edison; it has been excerpted as follows:

As we look back we can all be proud of the success of the East Coast Stunt Kite Competition (ECSKC) and all the other competitions which are patterned after it. Also, we can appreciate the subsequent change and updates made to rules, procedures and organization of events, all of which are done to meet the changes and growth of competitive stunt kite flying. The success of the ECSKC led to the concept of the Eastern League, with well organized competitions from New England to Florida. Credit must be given to Roger Chewning who provided the leadership, enthusiasm, and organizational ability, along with others who realized the need and opportunities for such a venture.

Roger Chewning.



S.E. Spencer

Mr. Chewning helped train organizers and judging staffs all around the country starting regional events where intermediate and novice fliers could get their feet wet. Roger formed The Elf Association and *EL News*, which has expanded into a new magazine *Sport Kiting*. Recently Roger has helped establish the Western League.

Roger strongly feels the need to bring more people into kiting. Whether it's through continuous announcements, programs, signage, or designating ambassadors to the public, Roger is always reaching out to help spectators understand kiting and invite them to join in. He has personally been responsible for getting a kite line into the hands of hundreds and hundreds, maybe thousands of people – spreading the joy of kiting and always helping our ranks grow.

Most people see Roger the organizer, the creator, the energized soul, racing around, making things happen. Not too many see the man who always has time for children, whether the physically challenged ones he works with everyday, or the six year old on the beach who is just dying to fly a kite. Roger is a sucker for every teacher, camp counselor, youth group, who wants to know about kites. No matter how busy his schedule, he'll find the time, or arrange for someone else to be there. The important thing for him is to share the joy of kiting and spark the interest in those eager young minds.

Roger embodies the elements of kiteflier of the year. His expressions of individual freedom which touch everyone he meets is the spirit that lifts all as well as our kites. Roger would like people to think of him as the vermin, the black sheep of our kite family but if you look at his contributions and know him well enough you will find a person truly worthy of receiving the Steve Edeiken Award, the highest recognition given to a member of the American Kitefliers Association.

AKA IS MOVING

Your Executive Director has just learned the address will be changing for the AKA due to the demolition of the building.

Effective 12/1/95, the new address is:
352 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD
20850-4117

The phone number will remain the same.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR UP-DATE

The decision on the new editor of *Kiting* has been delayed pending the decision on a dues increase/reduction of *Kiting* issues.

A PERSONAL NOTE

It was fun to meet so many new faces at the convention after talking to you on the phone earlier in the year. You're probably thinking the same thing I am... "Boy, that person doesn't look a bit like what they sound like on the phone!"

Congratulations!

The following awards were presented at the 18th annual convention:

Robyne Gardner

Regional Director of the Year

Carolyn Moore

Volunteer of the Year

Corey Jensen

Bob Ingraham Award

Scott Skinner presented Bob & Jewell Price with a special award for their outstanding work creating and maintaining the AKA Archives.

**MOVING?**

Tell us now!

Kiting will not be forwarded.

Don't miss an issue!

(503) 717-0627

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

If you were an AKA member prior to June 1, 1995, and your name did not appear in the directory OR if there was a mistake in your listing, please let me know as soon as possible. We will publish an update in a coming issue of *Kiting*.

WE'RE MOVING!!!

Yes, the rumors are true. AKA is moving or at least it's address is. The building that houses our current return address is being demolished to build a shopping center (sound familiar) and so we're moving. Our new address as of December 1, 1995, will be 352 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850-4117. Our telephone number will not change.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

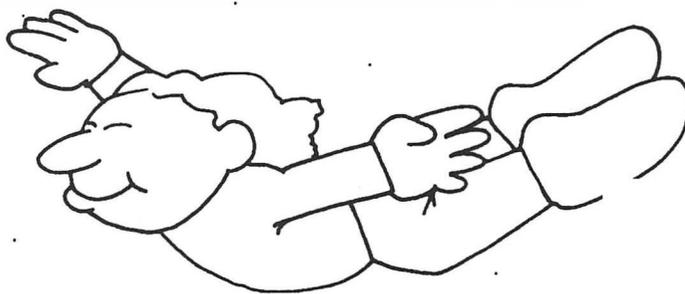
Our e-mail address (aka@aka.kite.org) is up and running, so use it instead of lomond@aol.com for reaching me with AKA business.

T-SHIRT CONTEST

Got any wild ideas for the new AKA T-Shirt Design? Submit them to AKA headquarters. Awards waiting for the winning designs!

Recent Board Actions

by Mel Hickman,
Executive Director

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Sport Kite Competition Runs Smoothly

by Dave Arnold,
Chief Judge

What a difference a day makes! This old axiom held true once again for the sport kite competition. The wind was drastically different on Wednesday (light and variable) than on Friday (strong and gusty). Another difference in the two days was that we had a different team running each day of competition. Sherrie and I ran the schedule on the first day, and Genny & Eric Forsberg took over the reins for the Friday schedule. This partnership helped tremendously in the organizing and implementation of the program.

Each class had excellent representation for each of the respective regions. Team participation was light, but hopefully we'll have a full house next year in Santa Monica, California!

The fields were appropriately huge for Oklahoma and provided all fliers with excellent space to complete their routines. Wednesday was spent running backwards towards the tape, and Friday was spent running forwards towards the other end trying to slow the kites down. Friday really tested the equipment to its limits, and a few of us will recheck those knots and flying line one extra time before stepping onto the field again.

A big thanks goes out to all of the fliers because of their attention to the schedule, and promptness in reporting to their appropriate field. This type of cooperation makes the event run better for everyone involved.

Also, a big round of applause to Richard & Marti Dermer for their tireless work in the field and operations setup for the competition fields.

Check out the results below – see you in Santa Monica. ♦

Novice Individual Precision

1 Renee Lantz	62.400
2 Michael Bates	62.300
3 Brett Kilekas	61.667
4 Wesley Bost	56.200
5 Mac Carder	54.600
6 Larry Bost	53.100
7 Tomarra Taylor	52.933
8 Mary Davis	48.300
9 Diane Hollic	47.033

Intermediate Individual Ballet

1 Dorothy Wagner	73.933
2 Frank Morales III	72.80
3 Jeffrey Cooper	67.733
4 Steve Karatzas	66.26
5 Jerry Hershey	62.400
6 Susan Thonstad	61.000
7 Alex Mason	57.200
8 Lawrence Bates	55.867
9 Noel Nester	55.733
10 John Gabby Jr.	50.933

Intermediate Individual Precision

1 Frank Morales III	64.000
2 Steve Karatzas	61.867
3 Susan Thonstad	59.333
4 James Barber	59.000
5 Richard Saunders	58.867
6 Dorothy Wagner	58.800
7 Lawrence Bates	58.467
8 Noel Nester	58.333
9 Wayne Chlebanowski	58.267
10 Jerry Hershey	57.467

Experienced Individual Ballet

1 Lance Wagner	77.867
2 John Frazier	74.133
3 Manuel Mercado	70.800
4 Curtiss Mitchell	69.000
5 Peter Betancourt	65.000
6 Kenneth Nealey	61.400
7 James Soellner	60.333
8 Phil Schrantz	59.467
9 Larry Christensen	58.933
10 Mike Huff	58.800

Experienced Individual Precision

1 Phil Schrantz	58.067
2 Joel Brown	57.133
3 Peter Betancourt	55.733
4 John Frazier	55.067
5 Phil Broder	54.333
6 James Soellner	54.267
7 Steve Irby	54.000
8 Larry Christensen	53.000
9 Mike Huff	52.467
10 David Burns	51.333

Experienced Individual Quad-line Ballet

1 Billy Ng	79.867
2 Manuel Mercado	69.533
3 Alex Mason	63.667
4 Curtiss Mitchell	63.467
5 Dorothy Wagner	62.467
6 Phil Schrantz	62.000
7 Dennis Smith	60.600
8 Diane Hollick	59.667
9 Tom Farnsworth	53.200
10 Allston Crawford	51.667

Experienced Pairs Ballet

1 KFAN	66.867
2 Which Way	63.000
3 Nemesis II	60.533
4 Southern Breeze	60.467
5 Bono I	54.600
6 K.P. Duty	54.267
7 The Odd Couple	51.133
8 Psycho Flyers	50.733

Continued on next page.

Sport Kite (continued)**Experienced Team Ballet**

1 Nemesis	62.333
2 ZDX	56.467
3 Breaking Wind	54.400
4 Confederate Air Force	36.667

Experienced Team Precision

1 Nemesis	64.917
2 Bono	62.767
3 Breaking Wind	55.867 DQ

Masters Individual Ballet

1 Kobi Eshun	79.267
2 Miguel A. Rodriguez	77.800
3 Dave Arnold	76.400
4 David Bui	75.800
5 Lou Behrman	72.267
6 John Morrison	71.533
7 Dustin Tackett	71.200
8 Chuck Connor	67.067
9 James Wirt Jr.	64.200
10 Susan Mason	64.133

Masters Individual Free Style

1 Ray Bethell	79.300
2 Troy Gunn	68.767
3 Larry Christensen	64.133

Masters Individual Precision

1 David Bui	69.267
2 Kobi Eshun	66.467
3 Rich Javens	65.733
4 Miguel A. Rodriguez	61.000
5 Darrin Skinner	60.133
6 Bill Beneker	59.733
7 Troy Gunn	52.333

Masters Individual Quad-line Ballet

1 Sandy Wagner	67.400
2 Dustin Tackett	64.533
3 Merrick Munday	62.800
4 Troy Gunn	62.733
5 Dave Arnold	58.000
6 Chuck Connor	57.667
7 James Wirt Jr.	57.000
8 Lou Behrman	56.600

Masters Pairs Ballet

1 Sudden Flight	65.867
2 Air Jazz	63.600
3 Aviators	63.000
4 Dos Avispas	62.200
5 Windswept	56.933
6 Wind Dancers	55.933
7 What's Up	55.600
8 Airtyme	48.933

Masters Team Ballet

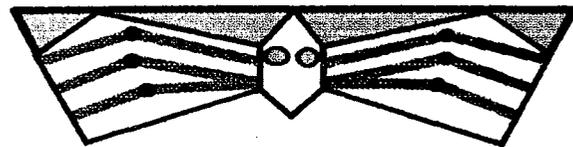
1 Chicago Fire	73.267
2 Invisible Wind	70.133
3 Valli Boyz	61.467

Masters Team Precision

1 Chicago Fire	71.300
2 Valli Boyz	65.200
3 Invisible Wind	20.933 DQ

Open Team Train Ballet

1 Aviators	72.733
2 Wind Dancers	65.133
3 Windswept	63.267
4 KFAN	60.000
5 What's Up	55.667
6 Valli Boyz	52.467
7 The Ticks	0.000 DQ



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DISSEMINATES THEIR ART.

Rokkaku Battle Challenged by High Winds!

by Kevin Shannon,
Event Coordinator

The battles this year were hotly contested with excellent performances by all participants. Due to strong winds, the events were moved to a field remote from the main arena and public address system. Even so, the many spectators and participants attest to the Rokkaku Battles being a highlight of the convention.

After a short pilot's meeting where everyone was briefed on the rules, everyone tied off their lines to the 200 ft. maximum that had been deemed safe for the high wind conditions.

First up was the Individual Rokkaku Battle. It was run in three heats with time limits of 10 minutes each. In all, 19 people vied to be the last kite in the air. The only mishap was Pete DiGiacomo's injury while battling Ciro Sarti to be the last kite up. The heat was stopped and they split the remaining points.

The final results show just how well everyone performed. There were ties for third, second and first! Since only one trophy was available, winner Dan Buxton gleefully grabbed it, leaving the sponsor and co-winner, David Gomberg, to return home empty handed - at least until he pays for his duplicate trophy.

As much fun as the Individual Battle was, the Team Rokkaku Battle was even better. Watching the confusion of teams trying to effectively maneuver on the field makes for great entertainment. When you consider that 18 teams were tangling at once, you know it was fun!

Again, three 10 minute heats were held. The sky cleared quickly in the opening minute, leaving the eight to ten remaining teams to strategically pick and choose their battles. We saw every technique imaginable...tipping, blocking, and especially cutting, were skillfully used by all contestants. Judges were glad to see no obvious sandbagging. Only one team was disqualified for going over the line, a safety violation that was obviously a momentary lapse during the heat of battle. Generally, everyone was very professional and behaved with commendable good grace.

When all was sorted out, Dan Buxton's team came out on top. Their coordinated effort and obvious expertise won them the first place trophy in the Team Rokkaku Battle. Now everyone knows who to go gunning for in next year's contests!

As with all the events at the convention, the volunteers made the Rokkaku Battles happen. Thanks to my judges, Pete Rondeau and Stretch Tucker, and thanks to the many catchers that helped retrieve fallen kites.

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Airborne Art Gallery Great Success

The 1995 Airborne Art Gallery show at the convention was a romping success for several reasons – we had a wonderful time, it was more of a success than we had ever envisioned, it was a race to get ready for the opening reception and we were amazed at the number of people who came to visit. Not only did many AKA members come, but hotel staff, their friends and families, other hotel guests, and attendees from other meetings.

Mythology and folklore was the theme of inspiration for the show. Some work came with stories: Gail Lindsey's "Dancing Eagle Kachina," Charlie Charleton's "Jack and the Beanstalk," Dawn Williams chose "Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ears" for her Iguana Fish, Mikio Toki illustrated, in the traditional manner, the Japanese tale of "The Naval Battle of General Yoshitsune and Taura Noritsune" Mikio also shared a very old silk and washi Edo by Hyakusen Tamura depicting the legend of Rashomon.

Others were take-offs that stories would illustrate their inspiration but many may not have been realized until after the completion of their work. Some didn't have identifiable tales but their concepts of fit our point-of-view. Scott Skinner's multi-colored bird head fit the Aztec tale of "Quetzalcoatl," JR Tolman used the image of an ancient Tultec trader in his "Coffee, Tea and Kokopelli," "The Hornet Kachina," Randy Shannons huge modified Yakko. Steve Brockett's piece loaned to us by Scott Hampton also illustrated an abstract concept of "The Hornet." While I was working on "Autumn Fantasy-Cloud Pictures in Cork," I began to see some of the monsters of "Where the Wild Things Are" so I developed them.

There were two other kites that illustrated the artists' ideas. Both used the Thunderbird legend. Dan Klo's "Thunderbird" was a three-dimensional folk sculpture while Jerald Houk used geometric shape and limited colors to symbolize his "Thunderbird."

When Bobby Stanfield told me of his piece, its development and flight, it just fit the Egyptian story of "The Phoenix (the bird)" who is reborn in the ashes of its fiery death. José Sainz looked at his Egyptian Falcom kite one day and saw the shape of a fish. He developed it into a happy aquatic creature, thus "The Metamorphosis." Dan Proebstel prefers not to title his work but the elongated, pointy ear, bird shape looked to us like a bat with stained glass-wings. There are many wonderful bat stories.

Ron Gibian, Damon Betha and Laisha Canner shared several pieces with us. Ron based "Long Life" on the Chinese tale of the lady bug and the cockroach. His other piece "Sixtet" is part of his imagineering series. Two of Laisha's dual-line beauties "Supping Sun" and "Night Breeze" are part of a series of environmental impression. The third was titled "Tyamese Fighting Fish." Damon re-

interpreted the well-known work of a California airbrush artist in "Whale Tail." His other work was a portrait, "Face of Linda Love."

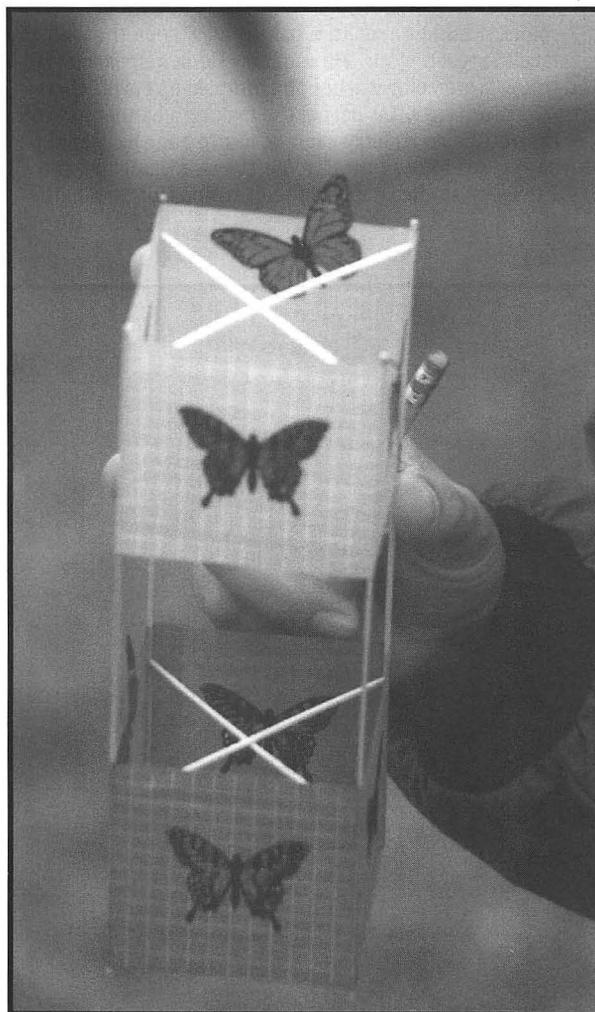
William Biggs "Janus 30" flies as both a kite and, if you turn it around, as a glider. A dual-personality like the Greek/roman God Janus. The "New Mexico Sky Window," when backlit, seemed to lead us out, beyond the end of the gallery walls.

Several works were based on the human form: "Seasons of the Wind" a wind-driven sculpture inspired by a recurring dream. "The Dreamers-theme and variations of Matisse" by Jon Burkhardt, "Jack of Spade" created by E.W. Redmon, Dean Jordan's "Tom's Samuri," Robert Trepanier's "Le Reveur (the dreamer)". Rob Cembalest loaned to us Martin Lester's "Lungs" (his no smoking piece).

The miniature division, organized by Charlie Sotich, world known miniature kite folk artist. He chose to show a number of pieces from his collection and a few of

by Janene Evard,
Gallery Coordinator

Continued on next
page.



A miniature box kite
made by Tom McAlister

Gallery (continued)

his own. He also included a few silk painting hats from me (well, I was the boss), and Charm Linder, who included several fragile Cody's in her display.

The World Kite Museum and Brooks Leffler shared 26 pieces from their recent aerial photography competition. My breath and that of many others was taken away by the beauty of these compositions. They revealed patterns ordinarily unseen by the human eye. Brooks also displayed his equipment and acted as host for this division of the gallery show. Thank you so much for sharing.

The before-Tulsa work would have been impossible without Dawn Williams and Marti Dermer. Marti was the hands and eyes scoping out the facilities, its physical attributes and challenges, so that we would know what we needed to use to optimize the space.

Karen Gustavson and Marti took over the photo wall and did a wonderful job, including the hanging of Oscar Bailey's collection of past convention photos.

Karen also helped us set-up the show on opening day. Dan Proebstel came to help and worked all day, putting together and hanging up. He also played with my watercolors, sloshing them, in a "painterly" way on the wall labels for each work. He and Jerry Houk helped me throw watercolor washes on crumpled-up tyvek, then mop it up (sort of) as part of the making a banner for over the outside door. Jerry came in just to hang his Genki and stayed most of the day. Betty Fumi Hasagawa and Pat Sotich stapled, taped and ran errands for us. Charlie

Sotich worked on the miniature exhibit and ran to the hardware store for me. Marti checked in artwork, helped Karen, acted as a hostess and tried to keep me calm. Bunny Twidwell and Kathy Nixie also helped us through this "D-day" as well as assisting in the Gallery during the week.

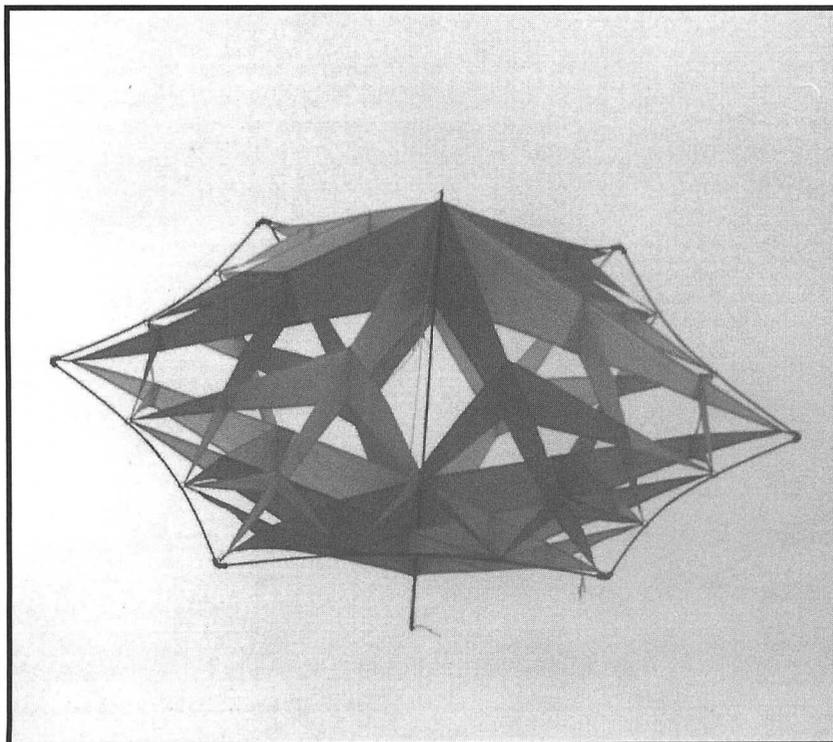
In the midst of all this "organized, fun chaos", JR Tolman quietly and conversationally made his kite for the show. Dawn and I had been up most of the night before working on the curator's statement and the mission statement for *Airborne Art News*, so I began to misplace things right and left. One-half hour before we opened we were still at it. I realized I'd have to forget the nice dress – just clean up all the stuff on the floor, wash the paint off my face, smile, try to look rested, turn on the environmental music and open the door. It was a lovely party and it remained so throughout the convention.

Carrie Lemons, Carmen Mass and Michelle Weber were additional volunteers at our reception desk during the course of the show. We also want to give a big thank you to Jim Miller for helping us with the space and furnishings.

The Gallery became a pleasant place to hang out and exchange ideas. It was fun, exciting and exhausting. Join us next year in Santa Monica.

Look for a report in the next issue of *Kiting* on the meetings the Art Committee had at the convention.

Beautiful cellular kite
made by Lee Thrall and
Joanne Pethithory.



D. Skinner

Attention Airborne Art News Subscribers

If you sent your check to the Rockville Pike address before the convention, please mail or fax a copy of your check to
Janene Evard, Editor
(fax 405-226-0360)

Somehow part of this list was lost getting things in and out of the car in Tulsa.

Thank you for your assistance.

November

- 25 **Westport Windriders Fun Fly**
Westport, WA. C: Pic-A-Patch Kites (360) 268-0877
- 26 ***Gateway Kite Club Fly**
St. Louis, MO. C: Charm Lindner (314) 376-6055

December

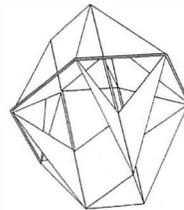
- 2 ***NCKC Fun Fly**
Dixon, CA. C: John Gabby (916) 448-6067
- 10 ***Gateway Kite Club Fly**
St. Louis, MO. C: Charm Lindner (314) 376-6055
- 24 ***Gateway Kite Club Fly**
St. Louis, MO. C: Charm Lindner (314) 376-6055
- 26 **Ed Liphardt Birthday Fly**
Chicago, IL. C: Ed Liphardt (708) 788-6544

January

- 1 ***San Diego Kite Club New Year's Day Fly**
San Diego, CA. C: Walt Thompson (619) 748-1443
- 1 **Sno'Fly: First Fly of the Year**
Kalamazoo, MI. C: John Cosby (616) 383-8778

February

- 2- **The World Miniature Competition**
St. Louis, MO. C: Charm Lindner (314) 376-6055



Kitevents

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

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

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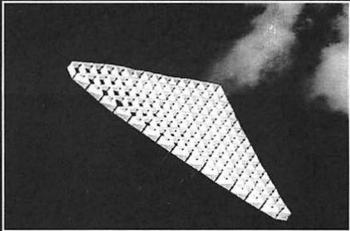
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New Buggy Event Challenged by Wind

by Fran Gramkowski

The Tulsa convention site provided excellent field and wind conditions of 15 gusting to 25 mph for this new event at the AKA convention. There were about 40 buggies at the convention and 15 of them were up to the challenge of racing against some of the worlds best. A challenging three leg course was set-up with an interesting water filled drainage ditch on the reaching leg of the course. This location quickly became the favorite spot for photographers and people with video cameras.

The first race created a real mess of tangled kites as most of the racers reached the first corner close together, they realized a buggy does not take up as much space as their kite. Most racers got back in the race to complete the three laps and learned something that they avoided in the next two races. All participants had a good time because they set their own challenges to improve on each lap.

In order to determine an overall winner, the two best placing for each racer were totaled. The one with the least points was the winner. The third race was used as a tie breaker.

The top 6 finishers were:		place in races		
1	Philip McConnachie	1	4	2
2	Dean Jordan	3	2	3
3	Ted Dougherty	2	3	6
4	Fritz Gramkowski	9	1	5
5	Peter Lynn	6	1	
6	Bob Childs	4	5	4

Pursuit races were only done on the demonstration field Saturday because of the gusty wind conditions.



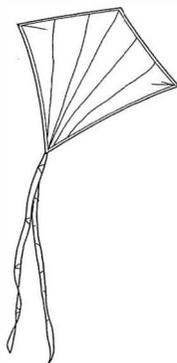
Top photo: John Fraser
Middle photo: Bob Childs
plus friends, bottom:
please let us know who
you are! All photos by
Darrin Skinner.

Chuck Walker (1964-1995)

A talented artist, natural comedian, devoted father, and kiteflier, Chuck Walker met with a fatal accident last October. He was heading out on vacation to Arizona for the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque and apparently fell asleep at the wheel. Lisa, and his daughter Kelsey are okay.

Chuck recently moved to Longmont, Colorado to fulfill a lifelong dream he and Lisa shared. Chuck loved snowboarding, rollerblading, mountain biking, and hiking. He was the art director of *Sport Kiting Magazine* and prior to that the art director for *SKQ*. Working with Chuck was always a pleasure and his enthusiasm always came through in his work. If you look at the art work of the Eastern League, Vermin, the East Coast StuntKite Championships, MASKC, NYSKC, SSKC, you see Chuck's creativity.

A memorial fund has been set-up for his daughter Kelsey. For those of you who knew Chuck and want to remember him, contact Sky Festivals for information at (215) 736-3715.



Mass Ascensions Popular at Convention

Having fun has become the most popular event at the AKA convention. A larger percentage of convention attendees participated in the Mass Ascensions than the previous year's record number of participants. There is no better place to meet other members of the AKA than on a crowded kite field flying a kite.

Wind conditions this year made it quite a challenge and show of kite flying skills to keep your kite from getting tangled because of winds gusting 15 to 25 mph during three of the Mass Ascensions. Everyone who participated earned their pins.

Eighteen Bob Ingraham Deltas were flown at the Delta Mass Ascension and their pilots were asked to remain on the field flying them as a tribute to our founder Bob Ingraham. These kites all have special meaning to their owners.

The totals for each day were:

Box and Cellular	136
Rokkaku	153
Soft Kites	176
Deltas & Derivatives	176

by Fran Gramkowski,
Event Coordinator



A Bill Lockhart kite at the convention.

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L. DeBolt

And The Winds Came Ripping Down The Plain....

by Jon Burkhardt,
Chairman,
Kitemaking
Competitions
Committee

The kitemaking competition at the 1995 AKA Convention in Tulsa was a real challenge for the competitors and their kites. Although the competition was threatened and slightly delayed by an early-morning pyrotechnics display from Mother Nature, the 1995 kites were spectacular and the competition was intense, as always. Fifty-five competitors went through all four judging criteria: kite flight and kite handling, aesthetic visual flight appeal, craftsmanship, and structural design.

In keeping with the procedures used since 1993, kites were judged by three to five judges on each of the four criteria. Olympic-style scoring procedures were used, with each judge awarding points from zero to ten on each criterion. The high and low scores for each of the four judging criteria were deleted from the calculation of the average score for each kite. The total of the points for each kite was the sum of the four average criteria scores.

The highest scoring kite in each of the competitive categories (see list below) was the winner of that category. The judges then ranked the winners of all the categories to determine the 1995 Grand National Champion. A revised AKA Kitemaking Competitions Scoring Program, a computerized scoring program written by Karen Burkhardt, tabulated the results in each individual category.

GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPION Stretch Tucker

Kite by Andy Gelinas.



(These results are now available; see the information below.) Results were cross-checked with hand tabulations by the judges.

The winners of the competition were not revealed until the banquet Saturday night. First, second and third place winners in each category were announced, and at the very end Stretch Tucker of Florida was announced as the 1995 Grand National Champion.

The results of the competition were as follows:

Flat or Bowed

- 1 Scott Skinner
- 2 Randy Tom
- 3 Ron Gibian

Stunt/multiple-line

- 1 Peter Bettancourt
- 2 Reed Richards
- 3 Dan Klos

Delta/Delta Derivatives

- 1 Bill Lockhart
- 2 Walt Mitchell
- 3 Steve Cseplo

Traditional/Western

- 1 Bill Dick
- 2 Charlie Sotich
- 3 Kathy Nixie

Cellular/Dimensional

- 1 David Bui
- 2 Bobby Stanfield
- 3 Benny Hammock

Rokkaku

- 1 Scott Spencer
- 2 Stretch Tucker
- 3 Lou Behrman

Soft or Flexible

- 1 Stretch Tucker
- 2 Jerry Houk
- 3 Mike Steele

Open

- 1 Randy Tom
- 2 Elmer Wharton
- 3 Scott Spencer

Figure

- 1 Pete Rondeau
- 2 Jerry Houk
- 3 Elmer Wharton

Most Innovative

David Bui (a cellular kite with unusual bridles)

Cooperative

- 1 South Jersey Kite Flyers
- 2 A. Ferrel/G. Haynes

Best Use Traditional Materials

Pete Rondeau (a bamboo-framed edo)

Mixed Media & Novice

Park Fleming (quad-line UFO)

Special thanks go to all the judges: Joe Croot, Janene Evard, Steve Ferrel, Mel Govig, Glen Haynes, Betty Hirschmann, Rick Kinnaid, Barry Johnson, Sue Taft, and Linda Williams; the registrars: Karen Burkhardt, Sandy Gibian, Susan Gomberg, Kristine Johnson, Bonnie Rondeau, and Cinda Shannon; the field staff, Adam Grow and Kristine Johnson; the Head Scorekeeper, Karen Burkhardt; the announcers, John Gabby, David Gomberg, Pete Dolphin, and several other notables, and the trophy sponsors; *KiteLines* magazine, Kites Up & Away, Jon Burkhardt, The Kite Studio, Into the Wind, druid labs, MartinLester, Scott Skinner, Sean Arnote, South Jersey Kite Flyers, Margo Brown, Richard & Marti Dermer, Jeff Cain, High Flyers Flight Co., and Jim Cosca and Barb Murphy. Special thanks to Richard Dermer and Jim Miller for their overall support and assistance.

Scores for all competitions are available by writing to Karen and Jon Burkhardt, 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

The 1996 High Flying---Through the Mail Kite Auction!
Benefiting
The World Kite Museum &
The Drachen Foundation



Join the fun, and everyone will benefit in many ways. After three years of a national exhibition tour, the kites of the World Kite Museum/Drachen Foundation exhibition, "World on A String" come home to fly above the skies for the last time.

By consent of the participating artists, the kites will be auctioned off by mail...Use this simple form to process your bid and see if your luck will bring one or more of these priceless (and in many cases, unique) kites to your home. The funds will benefit the World Kite Museum's new building and supplement the project grants of The Drachen Foundation and a portion of the sales will be returned to the participating artists. We thank the artists who supported this exhibition and event.

How the auction works:

- 1) Study the list of kites offered. If you have any questions about the kites, feel free to call The Drachen Foundation at (206) 282-4349 and make inquiry.
- 2) **Make your bid via our form and postmark it no later than January 31, 1996.** Make your bid count, you only get one shot at this! Feel free to bid on as many of the kites as you wish! (Please feel free to send this bid form to other interested individuals or clubs.) All bids will be received and itemized by Mr. Rick Fisher, accountant/auditor of Rick Fisher Incorporated/Seattle, Washington. He will certify all winning bids. Please post bids to only the P. O. Box address on the form. Winners will be notified by the first week in February, and after payment is made, the kite will be shipped to the new owner. All bids and winner information will be held in confidence.

I would like to bid on the World on a String Kites!

Name: _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone: day () _____ night () _____
 Date of bid: _____

I am bidding on the following kites:

	<u>Name of Kite</u>	<u>Kite maker</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1)	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____	_____
4)	_____	_____	_____
5)	_____	_____	_____

(bid on as many kites as you would like)

Post bids to the following postal box: Mr. Rick Fisher/The Drachen Foundation /300 Queen Anne Avenue North/Box 217 Seattle, Washington 98109-4599. Mail will be monitored by Mr. Fisher.

Description of Kites:

Michael Alvarez, Australia

Dimensions: est. 5 m. x .5 m x 2.5 m

A Cody-style box kite of orange, red, yellow and white colors, Michael is a well known educator and kite designer. The style and design of his kites, make them very difficult to come by.

Steve Brockett, Wales

Dimensions: est. 1.5 m. x 1.2 m

This hand painted fabric constructed kite is a beautiful example of Steve's style of flying art. The kite has Sode-like wings and a square top, tapered bottom. Demand of his kites in the art world has made his works a coveted collection piece in the kite world.

The Decorators, Great Britain

Dimensions: est. 2 m. x 2 m.

A rokkaku ripstop kite in the Jorgen Moller-Hansen style of the Decs. This is the only kite made by the team itself, a true collector's piece, especially as they celebrated their 100 performance at the Bristol Kite Festival in Sept.

Peter Dolphin, USA

Dimensions: est. 2.2 m. x 5 m. (with tail)

AKA President and kite designer's signature pastel "dolphin" ripstop rokkaku in pastel and intense day-glow colors is only one of two made. This playful design is the favorite of many kites.

Eva and Chris Dunlop, USA

Dimensions: est. 1 m. x 1 m, each

A delightful duo of two small blue and pink hue sodes, in the distinct hand painted style of the Dunlops. Each Dunlop made one of the kites.

Jan and Wilma Fischer, The Netherlands

Dimensions: est. 2 m. x 1.5 m.

The pear-top kite that became the logo for the exhibition, one half a joker the other half a subtle blue and white checkerboard. (Join their workshop/lecture fun at Junction Kite Retreat in 1996.)

Bob Mosier, USA

Dimensions: est. 2 m. x 2 m.

A log cabin ripstop Rokkaku in hues of beige, yellow, orange is a patchwork of perfection---exemplifies Bob's great color sense and his meticulous craftsmanship.

Linda Murosako Johnson, USA

Dimensions: est. .8 m. x .9 m. each

Three Edo-dako kites made of hand split bamboo and handmade paper. Linda's unique collage construction style incorporates the organic designs and earth-tone colors into a exquisitely delicate layered paper surface.

Katsutaka Murooka, Japan

Dimensions: 2 m. x 1.5 m.

A modified delta-conyne of black, red and white ripstop, that is idea for kite aerial photography. He is a master of detail and a true technician---this kite "snaps" open and is ready to fly in an instant. This is a rare opportunity of sale.

Jose Sainz, USA

Dimensions: est. 1.5 m. 1.5 m.

One of the pieces de resistance of kite applique, this multicolored ripstop kite of brilliant red, green, yellow, purple, and black. This is a smaller and less detailed version of his original Aztec Calendar, capturing all his superb workmanship and artistic influences.

Rolf Sturm, Germany

Dimensions: est. 2 m. x 1 m. x 2.5 m.

One of Rolf's delightfully fanciful and perfect soft airplane designs in ripstop, this is a small yellow biplane that vintage soft sculpture and flies without a hitch.

Tony Wolfenden, Australia

Dimensions: est. 2 m. x 2 m. One of the first in a series of colorfully graphic ripstop rokkakus, Tony's "Sky

Zip" displays his love for primary colors and command of graphic design scale of the skies. Beautifully crafted, his sewing technique is impeccable.

San Diego Kite Club Fourth Annual

Mariner's Point
San Diego, CA

January 1st
1996

96
New Year's Day Fly

Events include:

◆ Tail Grab ◆ Potluck ◆ "People's Choice Award" ◆ Demo's ◆ Raffle ◆

DON'T FORGET...

Sunday December 31:

Fighter Kite Challenge- Mission Bay Park

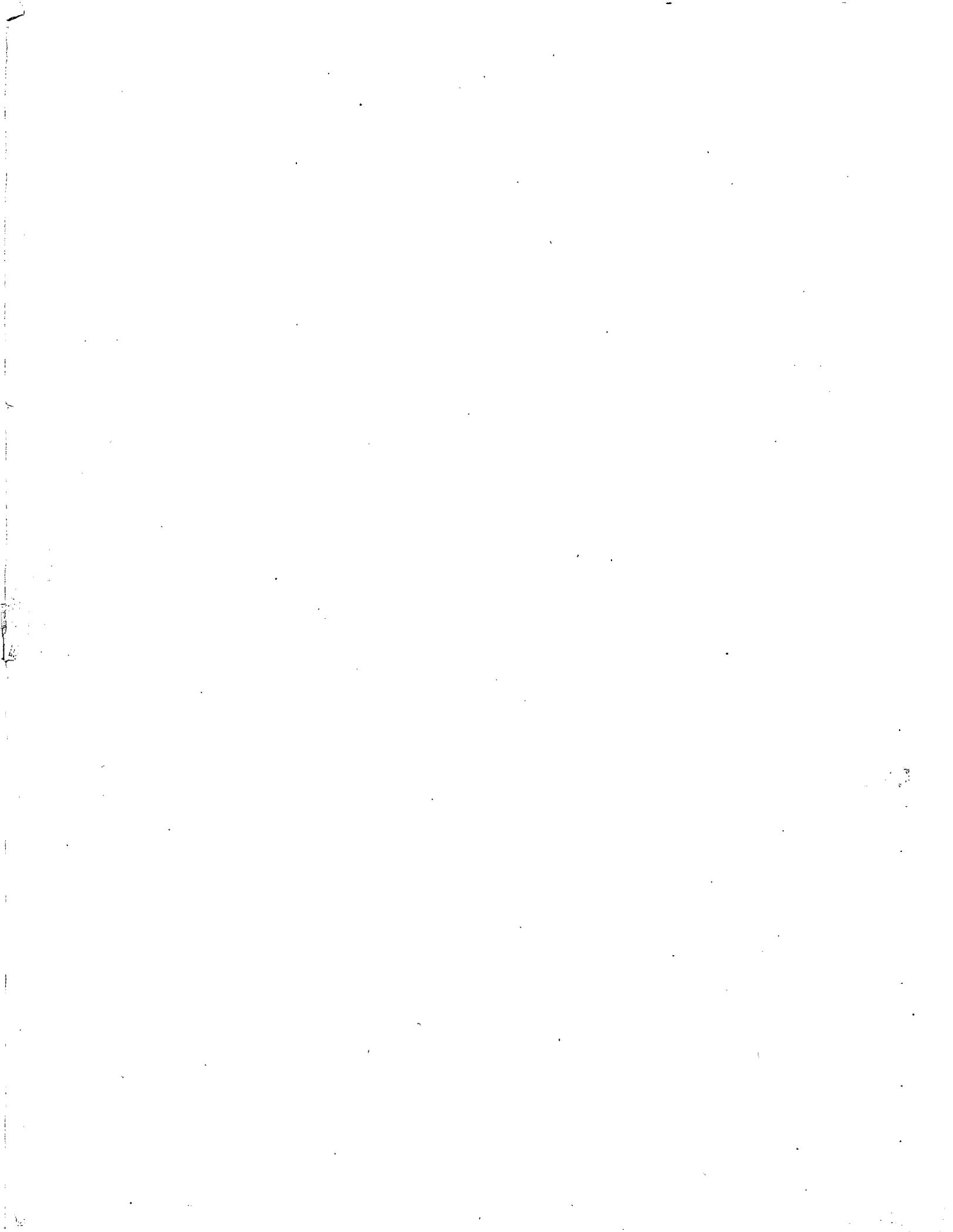
New Year's Eve Reception- Fabulous Inn Hotel

From Interstate 5 take Sea World Drive exit, head west until just past Sea World, take West Mission Bay Drive turnoff where it will turn you around and point you west. Drive over the bridge and take the first left into Mariner's Point.

Events start at 10:00 a.m. continuing until 4:00 p.m.

For more information call (619) 685-2885

Design: Ron Despojado



When Bob & Hazel Ingraham started the AKA in the 60's, they didn't give much thought to what would happen in the 90's. They probably didn't foresee a club of nearly 6000 members spread around the world. The largest international organization of kilters the world has ever seen.

Bob didn't know he was heralding an incredible renaissance of kiting that would include elements of aerodynamic engineering, innovative designs, the popularity of controllable kites and kites used in artistic interpretations both through design and as expressionistic tools.

Bob did not plan this broad and strong international community of kite flyers that encompasses people from every imaginable walk of life, every rung of the economic ladder.

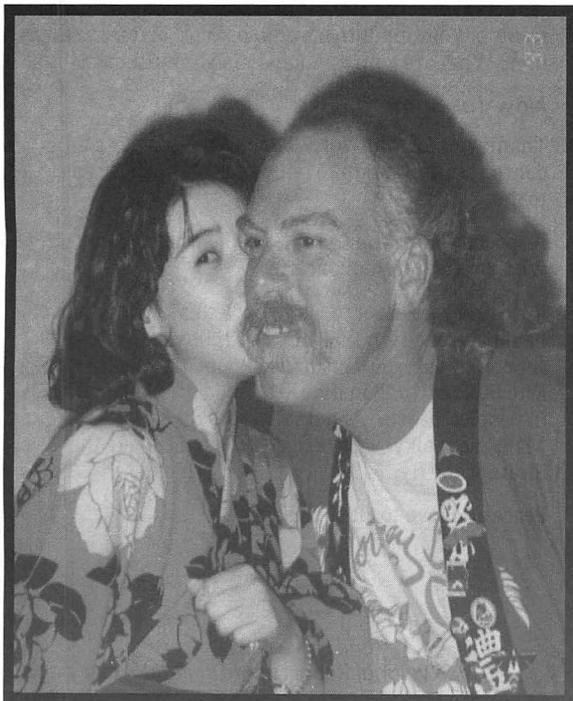
All these things happened, however, because Bob and Hazel did the things that brought them joy. And by doing that, they brought all of us together.

Bob just wanted to have fun and fly kites with his friends.

His kite flying friends. That is us. That is what we carry forward.

Bob passed away on Thursday morning, September 28, 1995. He was 84.

Rick Kinnaird and I had visited with Bob and Hazel and their daughter Helen on Tuesday afternoon on our roadtrip to the AKA convention in Tulsa. He was happy to see us and we entertained them with stories, some silly stuff and much laughter. The five hours we spent with them was over too quickly and with night-fall we had say good-bye and push on to Tulsa.



Where It's At ... Remembering Where We Came From

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.

A day and a half later, Thursday afternoon, while I was gathered with other kilters at the annual convention of the club he started, some friends came over and brought me the news. As I looked up into the sky, I saw a batch of Bob Ingraham's 10th Anniversary Deltas flying overhead.

Bob was also an accomplished musician, a violinist. He was the leader of a dance band in his younger years, and for a time, concertmaster of the Silver City Orchestra. Music was very important to Bob, as was his kite flying. One of the things he hoped to accomplish was to re-invigorate the music program at Western New Mexico College in Silver City.

Any and all wishing to remember Bob in a continuing way are encouraged to contribute to the music scholarship in his name. Send your check to: Robert Ingraham Music Scholarship, Western New Mexico Foundation, P.O. Box 1158, Silver City, New Mexico 88062. Attn: Jerry Joy, Vice-President, Student Affairs, Room 201.

There is other sad news... In England a month or so ago, a family was out flying their new kites when the young boy accidentally let go of the handles of his new sport kite and the wind and power from the kite caused the handle to fly away and hit his younger sister in the head where it embedded itself, causing her death.

Andrew Beattie, an AKA'er in England, has located the family and determined the sad truth of the accident. It would not seem to be anyone's fault, but the tragedy is terrible, nonetheless. While our club has no authority or responsibility, as kilters we grieve with the family for their loss. The young boy must live with the horrible memory of causing his sisters death.

Andrew has suggested starting a fund to help him cope with this awful burden. Kilters should send any contributions to Andrew Beattie who will forward them to the family's solicitors. Andrew's address is P.O. Box 109, Basingstoke RG24 7YB, United Kingdom. His e-mail address for more information is <andrew@tug.com>.

Sorry for the bummers this issue. I will have some happy stories next time.

Want AKA info?
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Regional Reports

Region 1 New England

Sarge Cleaves, Regional Director

My first article.

Normally, I get more time to think of just what I am going to write about, but I guess three years is long enough, so I'll just have to suffer.

Some of you may remember that I ran for this office three years ago. Since then I had been waiting patiently (HA!) for the opportunity to run again, and this time you selected me to serve as your Region 1 representative. The official title is: Director, Region 1, and I am a member of the Board of Directors, but, in fact, you will be directing me.

I see this as an opportunity to serve the organization and people who have given me great delight...payback so to speak.

There are 259 names in the latest directory. The actual population of the region, according to Mel Hickman, is somewhere around 337 households, including some 547 members and family members...not bad for a start.

Take a look at your directory:

Maine - 3; Vermont - 4; New Hampshire - 18; Rhode Island - 38; Connecticut - 63; Massachusetts - 131. For those of you who are interested, New England covers 66,608 square miles, and the 1970 population was 11,847,245 (I like to keep up). Quite often, there is more than one kite event on the same day, nevermind the same weekend. This is great for kiting, but not so great for the region rep who has to make the choice of which event to attend.

Accordingly, I am announcing the formation of the Region 1 Executive Committee. I need one person from each state (two from Massachusetts) to assist me in representing you. This job is too big for one person to do the way I think it should be done and to fulfill the goals I published on the ballot.

These people will be asked to:

1. Help plan and organize the Region 1 AKA Regional Meeting...When? May? or June? Where? It must be near a flying field and not cost a whole lot.
2. Help me communicate; I can't talk to everybody and you can't all talk to me all the time. If I'm going to represent you and your concerns, I want to know what's going on. The executive committee can really help in that regard.

3. There must be more flying fields out there...places where we can gather in large groups, small groups...alone. Mel Hickman suggested a fly on Mount Katahdin. Some of us have already flown on Mount Washington in New Hampshire; how about some nook or cranny in Massachusetts or Rhode Island? Perhaps we can find a crag in Vermont, or a pond in Connecticut.

4. Some of you have valid concerns as to what you would like to see happen in New England (or something that has happened and you never want to see it happen again). You don't feel comfortable bringing it to me personally. Hopefully, someone on the executive committee will be able to serve as a conduit.

I am asking you to help me travel, help me listen, help me do the things you want to have done...the demand will be great.

If any of you would like to "join up," call or write:

Jeffrey L. (Sarge) Cleaves, 307 Pierremount Ave., New Britain, CT 06053-2365, (860) 223-0001

(Don't be afraid to talk to Ruth; she's a great listener, my best friend and advisor.)

The first big issue:

As you are aware, the 1995 convention was held at Tulsa, OK. Attendance was below expectation and the auction did not produce the income necessary to conduct "business as usual" (about \$6,000 shortfall). I am not yet up to speed as to just what this means. We will be receiving a letter from Peter Dolphin with an explanation. He will request a consideration of a dues increase to \$30.00 per year. If that is not acceptable, then a reduction of services to accommodate the treasury's ability to pay...a combination of dues increase and a reduction of services. The decision will be made as a result of your input to me and/or Pete...better me than him. What are your opinions? Call or write soon.

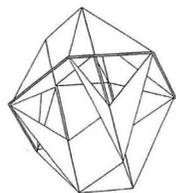
Now for some thanks:

Thank you for your vote. Thank you for your confidence. I cannot begin to tell you how much this means to me.

A special thank you to Pat Cook of Spruce Head, ME, who wrote with his concerns.

Ruth and I are eager to visit you; let us know when. To Paul Lawrence who called me at 11:00 pm to offer his support. Paul, you can change your title from "Aspiring Kite Builder" to "Bonafide Kite Builder"...You put smiles in peoples' hearts. And finally, to Gary and the "Kite Man," now all you have to do is help me make the Strato-scoop fly.

Peace and love to all of you.



Region 2 Northeast

Andy Gelinis, Regional Director

Convention thoughts:

Although I am from Pennsylvania, it was more cost efficient to fly out of Baltimore. I arrived at the Welcome Party; this was my fifteenth weekend in a row kiting and I had seen many of the kites only days before at NY SKC, Sandy Hook; Belmar, NJ; or Ocean City MD, Sunfest.

The pizza and beer were good as I rekindled old friendships from beyond the Eastern League and with kites from places other than the East Coast.

On Wednesday morning I went out to the fields where I claimed some property for the LeHigh Valley Kite Society Ground/Banner Display. We set up the goodies, checked out other areas and flew some kites.

That night I went to supper with Bob & Jewel Price – old friends from Maryland Kite Society and the retreats at Westminster. The business meeting that evening became more interesting as it progressed. I soon found myself to be the new AKA director for Region 2 – Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Lower New York. Thank you very much.

On Thursday morning, heavy rains ended about 8 am and we went off across the fields again. I was planning to compete in the kite building – innovative division – which was to be held later in the afternoon. I spent the morning playing in the mud and "beefing up" my kite for the 18-25 mph winds. It held together and under the guidance of Stretch Tucker, I did well.

That night was my first Board of Directors meeting. Luckily, I already knew over half the people and got to know the others quickly. Some things were accomplished and others were put aside 'til later. We seem to have a lot of hard workers and I will work hard to be useful.

Friday brought seminars again. Earlier, I had been to Scott Spencer's fabric weaving and application class and this time I went to John Burkhardt's class. Both were informative...I always learn something. That afternoon, I flew, visited, and enjoyed. The night brought the auc-

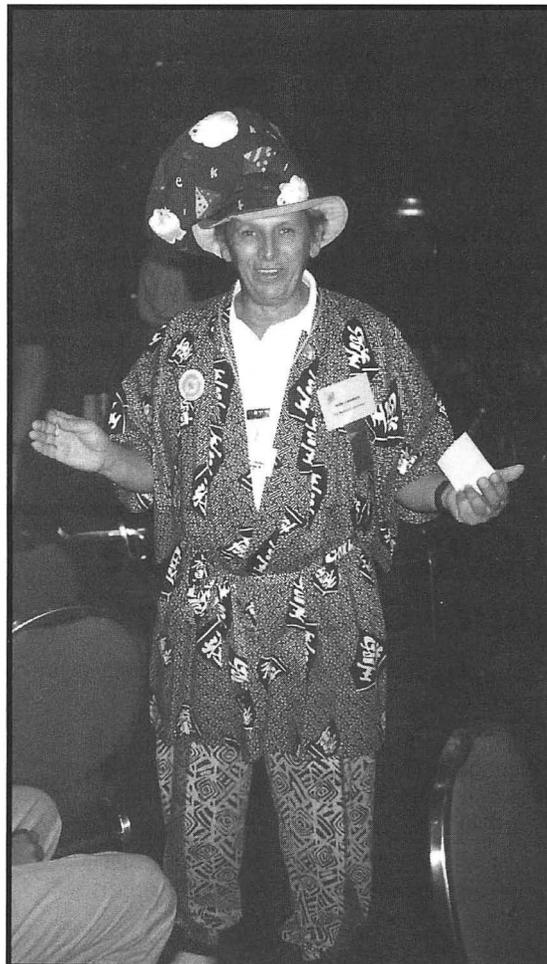
tion; I bid on a bunch of "silent" ones, and watched the "aloud one" from the Valli Boyz' table where I dined with Pennsylvania folks.

Saturday morning I garnered my judges for the Field Banner Challenge; we did our thing...looked at beautiful field displays and chose our winners. I did my third mass ascension and went to the Rok battle. I had no Lehigh Valley Kite Society players so I grabbed three people from the side lines who had never Rokked before. They Rokked, had a blast and by the time it was over were making plans to build a kite and do it again on their own. That's kiting!

On Saturday night at the awards I was proud; we had many Region 2 and Eastern League Member winners, including myself...second place, "most innovative" category. The sport kites and kite builders from our area are great. The most coveted award of all, the **Steve Edeiken Award**, went to Roger Chewning for doing the most for kiting in 1994. I believe without a doubt he deserved it. After the awards...a little bar time and a little sleep...up early...quick breakfast...off to the airport...back to Baltimore and home to Pennsylvania.

A great time was had, I hope, by all.

*Regional Reports
continued on
next page.*



*Ron Lindner at the
convention –
A symphony of
color and pattern.*

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Region 3 Mid-Atlantic

Jon Burkhardt, Regional Director

Your large Region 3 clubs, the Maryland Kite Society and the Kapital Air Korps, were once again highly active participants in the AKA convention. Yours truly plus spouse and Adam Grow of MKS were among the key staff of the 1995 National Kitemaking Competition, and David & Sherrie Arnold of KAK directed the Sport Kite Competition.

Also of note was the annual Sunfest event in Ocean City, which was again this year blessed with wonderful weather. As usual, one of the highlights was the big rokkaku battle. Sixteen teams entered; the first and second place teams were the Sky Pilots and the Lehigh Valley Kite Society. Among the winners of Sunfest's many events were Cheryl Gleckner, longest tail (1,600 +!! feet) and Pete Lee, fighter kite battle. New events this year were the lectures and on-the-beach workshops on kite fighting; Kevin Shannon did the Rökkaku instructions, and Peter Lee led the classes on fighter kites. The events were organized by Bill Goodwin, Stu Eisenman, and Jay Knerr, and sponsored by the Kite Loft. Thanks again to all who helped to make this a wonderful event.

We held a small One Sky, One World fly on the beach in southern Massachusetts. With a lovely day, almost a dozen kites, and about that many spectators from time-to-time, it was a fine event. Then we proceeded to the ritual lobster feast.

Planning is underway for the Maryland Kite Society's annual **Weekend Kitemaking Retreat**, which will be held in Laurel, Maryland this year on February 16-19, 1996. One of the special guests this time will be Martin Lester. The new location will allow 25 more attendees than before, but space will still be limited – if you're interested, you need to sign up in advance.

Good winds!

Region 4 Southeast

Thomas Mason, Regional Director

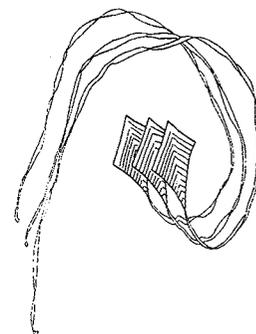
First of all, I would like to thank all of you who voted for me for Southeast Regional Director. To do a good job, I will need input from all the fliers in the region – information regarding any kind of kiting events in your area. Please call me (912) 352-3142, or write (307 E. DeRenne Ave., Savannah, GA 31405). That way I can list it in the *Kiting* newsletter calendar of events and more of us can get together.

Those of you who could not make the convention in Tulsa missed a really good time. The event was well organized and ran smoothly. The grand ascensions were magnificent. The world's largest kite was there (built by Peter Lynn). The single-line competitions were awesome. Both the best and least known kite builders entered. Winners from our region included past Regional Director Steve Cseplo, stunt kite builder Reed Richards, and Dan Klos. Grand National Champion, 1995, went to our one and only Stretch. Congratulations!

Our stunt kite pilots did our region proud also. From marginal light winds on Wednesday for the Intermediate and Experienced fliers, to gale force winds on Friday for our Novice, Masters and Open fliers, we held our own. Congratulations to Manuel Mercado, Alex Mason, Team ZDX (Reed Richards, Ron Collie, and Steve Cseplo) for placing in the top three in their competition categories. All of our other fliers deserve congrats also – just to make it to the Nationals is quite an accomplishment.

The buggy competition drew a large crowd as most spectators had never seen such an event. The workshops were well attended and informative. The Fly Mart was definitely a popular place to pick up anything from wood winders by Charlie Henderson to fighter kites, rokkakus, pins, shirts, etc. The event organizers should be commended.

Upcoming events that I'm aware of right now are the **Carolina Kite Fest**, Atlantic Beach, NC, October 28-29 (919) 787-4212; **S & P Kites' Regional Stunt Kite Contest**, Charlotte, NC, November 18, (an Eastern League regional event) (704) 567-9006; **Georgia International Stunt Kite Championship** (formerly **Golden Isles Stunt Kite Championship – new location Tybee Island**), Savannah, GA, November 10-12, (Eastern League event) (912) 352-3142, (912) 232-7201, or (215) 736-2715.



Panoramic Photo Available 18th Annual Convention

You've seen them in homes, you've seen them in museums, you've seen them in stores, and now's your chance to have one of your own.

We're talking about six square feet of photograph with the attendees of this year's Tulsa convention and their kites. Thanks to Oscar Bailey who graciously donated the negative, we have a limited number of these prints available through the AKA Store (610) 395-3560.

The price for each of these full-color, 12 in. x 72 in. photos is \$29.00 including postage and handling. That's the easy part of having one. The difficult part is finding wall space to hang it.

Region 5 Great Lakes

Robyne Gardner, Regional Director

On August 5, about 30 kitefliers woke up to rain, but decided to head for South Bass Island anyway. The first **Lake Erie Islands Kite Festival** started out wet, but by 11 am the rain stopped, leaving overcast skies and no-wind conditions. All of the kites were treated to a free pass to Perry's Monument, courtesy of the National Park Service. George Wright traveled all the way from Indiana to put an island in his life! Late in the day, Uncle Wilbert & Aunt Cass led volunteers who helped little hands construct tie-dyed sled kites. All of the workshop participants received prizes donated by Island Kites. Thanks also go out to the Erie Islands Historical Society for their sponsorship of this event.

Another first, the **Michigan Sport Kite Classic**, took place in Livonia on Aug. 12-13. Kites & Fun Things (Jon & Marieanne Trennepohl) did a great job of organizing this event, and Four Seasons Kite Club was right there providing backup. Frank Kenisky, as event announcer, kept everyone informed and entertained, and left many of us wondering how he got the nickname "Mr. Nasty"! Pair of Pairs kite team made their competitive debut, and was ecstatic to place first in ETB. Skunkworks, who traveled down from Toronto, placed a close second. In MTB, Captain Eddie's Flying Circus bested the Windjammers.

Nancy Lockwood and Harry Gregory were two of the invited guests at the **Washington State International Kite Festival**, held Aug. 21-28. Nancy says this is the first time she'd ever seen a map of a flying field that showed the direction the wind WILL be blowing!

It saddens me to announce an empty space in the sky. Larry Flandera succumbed to a heart attack August 27. Larry was a long time member of AKA and very active in OSEK, serving as membership chairman for many years.

The **13th Annual USAF Museum Kite Festival** was held over Labor Day weekend at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. BSFA's own Uncle Wilbert engineered a convocation of high altitude experts for this event. Special invited guests Richard Synergy of Toronto and his associates, Dave Hudak and Moby Baksh, gave an informative lecture inside the museum on Saturday. Museum officials are still shaking their heads in disbelief after seeing Richard "in drag." (Richard says you can't effectively talk about it unless you dress the part.) A panel discussion was held afterward and it drew the attendance of other noted specialists: Adrian Conn, Bill Tyrell, and Gordon Schmidt. Min Jin-Kee, chairman of the Korean Traditional Kite Institute, was also an honored guest at the festival. Winners! Boy, do we have winners!

First, the kitebuilding competitions: (1st thru 3rd place, as given) *Trains/Centipedes, Advanced*: Kathy Nixie,

Elmer Wharton, Charlie Sotich; *Box/Cellular, Regular*: Bruce Jarvie, Jami Masters; *Adv.*: Jerry Houk, Charlie Sotich; *Delta, Reg.*: Merritt Beck, Bruce Jarvie, Julie Friess; *Adv.*: Elmer Wharton, Charlie Sotich, Richard Ordo; *Flat/Bowed, Reg.*: Cheryl Kear, Jame Bouhuys, Kevin Albright; *Adv.*: Jerry Houk, Nancy Lockwood, Craig Christensen; *Figure/Novelty, Adv.*: Elmer Wharton, Vale Kimple, Kathy Nixie; *Non-rigid/Sled, Reg.*: Ladonna Jouk, Jane Bouhuys, Steve Day; *Adv.*: Charlie Sotich, Lynn Berry; *Fighter Competition, Regular class*: Richard Saunders, Nelson Borelli, Jeff Gandee; *Exp. class*: Joe Schiros, Mike Steele, Min Jin-Kee; *Dual line competition: NIP*: DeWayne Sheppard, Pat Franks, Dan Thiel; *IIP*: Terry Thurston, Ted Landers, Jerry Yurek; *EIP*: Ken Blain, Paul Evans, Dick Saunders; *MIP*: J. MacCracken, Mike Donley, Mike Ferguson; *IIB*: Terry Thurston, Jerry Yurek, Steve Day; *EIB*: Rudy Bouhuys, Dick Saunders, Ken Blain; *MIB*: Mike Donley. In the *Rokkaku Battle*, Rich Myers' and his Team Shogun (Jon Kurtz, Mike Dunbar & Wayne Taylor) took top honors for the fourth year in a row! (See photo below.) Team Toronto (Merv Cooper & Ron Linder) placed 2nd, and the Jolly Rogers (Jerry & LaDonna Houk) placed 3rd. This is a good time to welcome Kathy Nixie to Region 5. Region 8's loss is our gain!

The **All American Sport Kite Championships** descended on Grand Haven, MI. Sept. 9-10. One noteworthy mention – the crowd was treated to a wonderful demo performance of The Aviators' new routine for 1996. Jim & Jeff Poy continue to be the Masters Pair to beat, always incorporating excellent choreography and technical skills, with emphasis on entertainment value.

I am now collecting dates for a 1996 calendar events. If you have events to include, PLEASE let me know.

Regional Reports continue on next page.

Rich Myers (far right) and Team Shogun.



Region 6 Midwest

Bob Neiman, Regional Director

Region 6 fliers have been in kite heaven over the past two months as no fewer than eight festivals and competitions have taken place in and around the region.

Looking back into August, the **Michigan Sport Kite Classic** was held on August 12-13 in Livonia, Michigan. For a first year event, it was run to perfection with great organization and an even greater list of fliers. Region 6 fliers took home a lot of hardware as Josh Jacobsen took 3rd in NIP, Dan Brinnehl won IIP, while Russ Faulk took 2nd in EIP and 1st in EIB. Matt Ward took 3rd in MIP. Cathy Brinnehl brought home a 2nd place trophy in IIB, acing out her brother who finished 3rd. Finally, Wacky Winds (Dorian Bouhuys & Josh Jacobsen) took 1st in IPB and Cheap Sunglasses (Rudy & Jane Bouhuys) grabbed 1st in EPB. (The Bouhuys need another wall in their study for all their trophies!)

The Minnesota Kite Society held their **9th Annual Flying Colors Festival** on August 19, but unfortunately I don't have the details to report. Moving on to the **Wright Patterson Air Force Base Kite Festival** in Dayton over Labor Day, Rudy Bouhuys added to the trophy wall by winning 1st in EIB.

The **American Kite Circuit All American Sport Kite Championships** took place in early September and what a week-end it turned out to be. Beautiful sunny skies hid the fact that the winds climbed to over 25 mph for most of the competition on Saturday. This final circuit competition featured experienced and master class events only to determine the AKM Circuit champions. Russ Faulk took 3rd in EIB and Jan Winkel capped a great year, finishing 1st in EIP and 1st on the circuit. Cheap Sunglasses (the Bouhuys again) grabbed 3rd in EPB and even after a DQ in this event, Sky Scapes (Jan Winkel & Herb Schulz) won the circuit in EPB.

Other Region 6 fliers that had a great year were Jim Wirt and QC Frequent Flyers (Al Bull & Doc Jenkins). Chicago Fire (Eric Wolff, Jerry Elkerton, Bob Neiman & Ed Welzien) captured 1st in MTP and the AKM Circuit championship for Masters Team Precision with a near-flawless compulsory and freestyle routine. However, an ill-fated mid-air collision, destroying nearly half of the lead kite but still completing their ballet routine, dropped the Fire to a 3rd place finish for MTB on the AKM circuit. After all the points were totalled, Chicago Fire missed US bid to the World Cup in Australia by 4 tenths of one point! Congratulations to team Uproar and team Invisible Winds on qualifying for the World Cup.

The Wisconsin Kite Society hosted **Motts Festival** on September 16 on Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront. The festival featured spectacular single liners and sport kite demos from Jim Wirt and Chicago Fire to go along with WKS's annual breakfast.

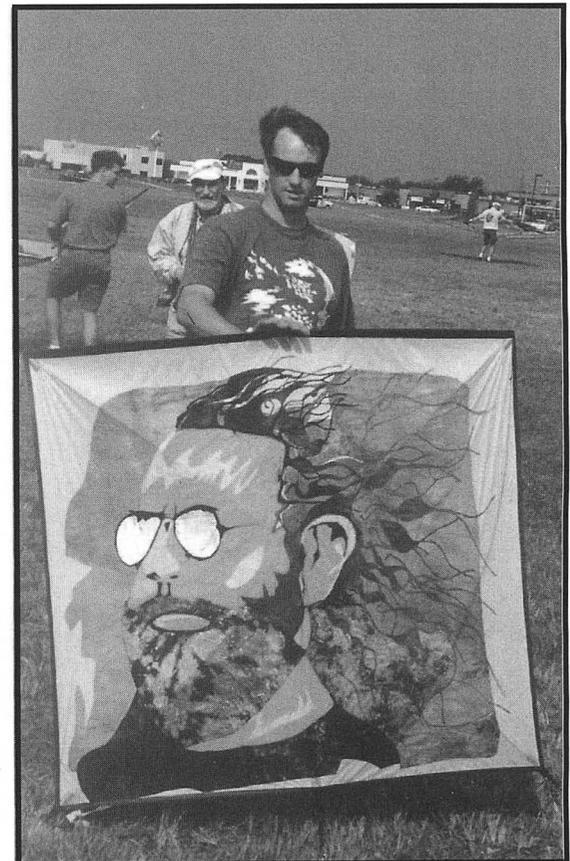
Sky Circus, sponsored by the Chicagoland Skyliners kite club was held on September 23-24 in Schaumburg, IL. This event, one of the oldest running festivals in the country, featured Pete Dolphin and world-renowned kite artisan, Martin Lester. Besides some incredible sky art, there was a fighter kite competition and Rokkaku battle along with comprehensive kite judging. Frank Fieseler took home 1st, and Eric Wolff, 3rd place, in the Flat and Bowed competition.

Finally, the **AKA Grand Nationals** were held in Tulsa over the last weekend in September and because it is covered in much depth elsewhere in the newsletter, I'll be brief and just congratulate all the Region 6 fliers who competed at the Nationals, especially Chicago Fire, who brought home the AKA National Championship in Masters Team Precision and Ballet!

That's it for most of the festivals and competitions in Region 6 for this year. In the next issue, I'll concentrate on workshops and kite doings as we move into the cooler fall season. Call me at (708) 359-2556 and keep me informed of what's going on. Because it's a BIG region, I can't be at every event and I have to rely a lot on the clubs and interested AKA members to provide me information, so please...help me out!

Until next timegentle breezes to all!

Jerry lives on. Created by Tye Billings.



Region 7 Great Plains

Chris Moore, Regional Director

Fall is here and Winter will be blowing in soon. In the Central Region that means crisper breezes, blowing leaves, and brilliant colors. The only spectacle that matches the dazzling array of colorful leaves is the incredible display of colors put against the big blue backdrop by kites.

For many of us kiting fanatics the AKA Grand National Convention has become a benchmark, representing the beginning of the Fall season. For other folks, this event has been only a far-away-festival to dream and read about in *Kiting Magazine*. This year's **AKA Convention** in Tulsa gave many of us in the Central United States our first opportunity to attend the event. Taking advantage of the close proximity, the Central and surrounding Regions showed their support through attendance and involvement.

As always, volunteers did many thankless jobs. Thanks to everyone who generously gave time and effort to make the Convention such a success!

The Convention was wonderfully diverse as usual and ran the gamut from adrenaline-seeking, hard-core buggers to kiting artists creating aerial art. I especially enjoyed the reactions of first time attendees as they absorbed the wide range of kiting and kiting activities. We had time for fellowship with old friends as well as chances to make new friends. From enjoying the competitive AKA Sportkite Circuit to admiring the Comprehensive Kitemaking, the Convention was most importantly, an opportunity to expand our kiting knowledge.

Besides the convention, other kiting festivities have been taking place here in Region 7. **The Buffalo Bill Days Kite Competition** in Leavenworth, Kansas was held September 9. The flying field over looked the town and attracted a small crowd of kite enthusiasts. The AKA sanctioned event was small, stress free, and friendly.

The 3rd Annual Silver Wings Kite Festival on September 16-17, organized by the Wichita Windjammers, gets better every year. Frank Kenisky, on the microphone, was entertaining and moved the event along

smoothly. This was a well-run event by the Windjammers under the direction of Jerry Hershey with the help of many dedicated volunteers.

Who says bigger is better? Come to the **World's Smallest Kite Festival**, February 2-4 in St. Louis, and experience the joys of miniature kite building. This 1996 kite season kick off event will attract miniature kite builders from all over the country who will learn, build, and teach, and then compete with their new creations. A new record for miniature kites in the air will be attempted under the "Gateway to the West" (The Arch). For a complete schedule of the St. Louis activities contact the Gateway Kite Club, c/o Ron & Charm Lindner, 5633 Carlton Drive, High Ridge, MO 63049. (314) 376-6055.

Congratulations to David Bui for his kiting accomplishments this past year. I met David the summer of 1992, not long after my own inauguration into kites. We quickly became friends and began traveling to festivals together. Although David is not highly competitive by nature his ambitions for personal improvement are reflected in his daily life and he quickly accelerated to the top ranks of competition. David maintained his love of the science and construction of kites by building and flying his own kite design, the Phoenix. Recently, David has been awarded some of the top honors in kiting:

Outstanding Kiteflyer of the Year by *American Kite Magazine*

American Kite Magazine Circuit Masters Champion MIP & MIB

All American Sportkite Championships MIP & MIB

AKA Grand National Champion MIP

AKA Grand National Champion - Comprehensive Kitemaking - Cellular

AKA Grand National Champion - Innovative Kite

Way to go David!!

I am gathering dates for all 1996 events. Please write or fax (913) 894-1071 any information (even if it's just a date). I will be putting together a brochure of events and need information at least two and a half months in advance to give it proper publicity in *Kiting*. Until next time, have a Happy Holiday season and pass your time with friends and laughter.

*Regional Reports
continued on
next page.*



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Region 8 South Central

Richard Dermer, Regional Director

Two festivals were held in Texas over Labor Day Weekend. The sixth annual **Rockport Beach Kite fly** was delightful. It kicked off Friday with a Rokkaku battle between local groups – the volunteer fire department bested the police department, the chamber of commerce, two schools, two churches and a septic service company. (There's something intriguing about the latter sponsorship.)

Wind was light, but picked up each afternoon and continued into the evenings – successful night flies were held both Saturday and Sunday nights. The Saturday Night Auction following the banquet raised \$700 for the Good Samaritan Organization. Sport kite flying was limited to exhibitions this year, but a full set of single-line awards was given. Winners included Richard & Marion Robertson, Dick & Gail Bell, Dorsey & Bunnie Twidwell, Roy Chapman, William & Tyler Schmidt, Roy McNeil, and Jason Lincoln. The 45-member Gems in the Wind club worked diligently to make this fly a success and were rewarded with a fantastic weekend.

About 300 miles farther north, the **Great Kite Club Challenge** in Wichita Falls, TX, was the hottest event

I've ever attended – 103 degrees! Thank goodness we had wind. Organized by Troy Gunn, this contest pitted members of four different clubs against each other to see which group could put on the best show. One spectacular result: the ground display competition had over 600 large kites! After mass ascensions of both single line and sport kites two representatives from each club performed Open Ballet routines. Finally, it all boiled down to the final Rok Battle. The Oklahoma Kitters (from Oklahoma City) now have the huge traveling trophy and the right to host the next club challenge event! Other groups competing were the Tulsa Wind Riders, Combined Kansas clubs, and Jewels of the Sky.

Saturday night, a great Chinese buffet was followed by a super auction – generous donors financed the event itself, the AKA convention welcoming reception, and a donation to Bob & Hazel Ingraham. Just as the auction was about over, we got a frantic call from the on-field guardian of the sound system: "Get over here quick! The parking lot has 500 or more spectators who've come to see the night fly. It's been dark for 30 minutes and they're getting impatient!" We beat a rapid path back to the field and rewarded the onlookers with some great night flying by teams and pairs.

Regional Reports continued on next page.

Ray Bethell flying 3 kites at the same time, at the Tulsa convention.

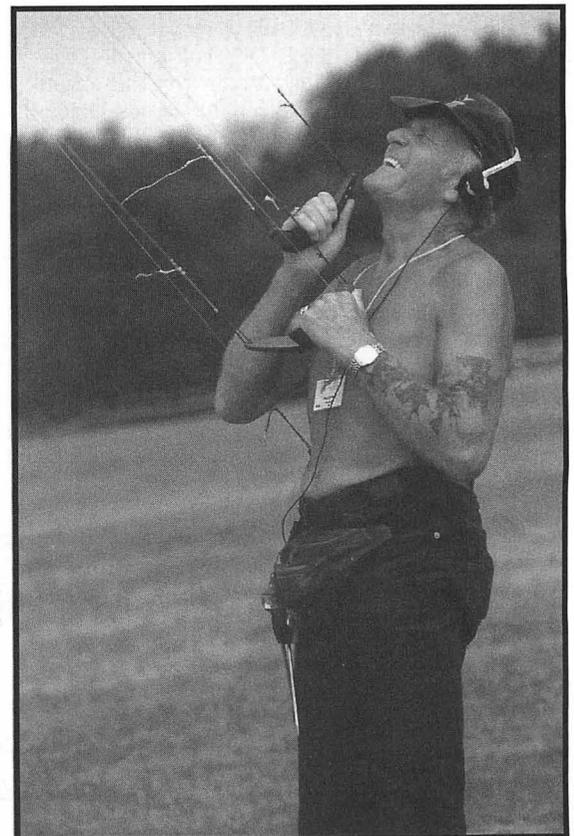
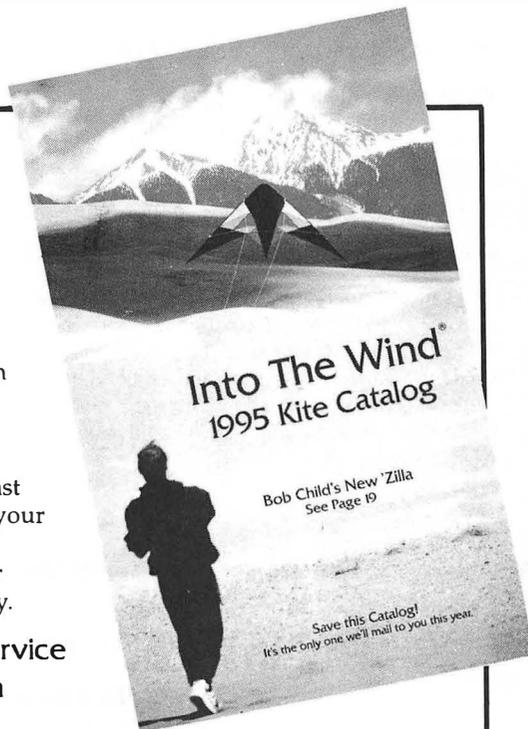
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Region 9 Intermountain

Randy Shannon, Regional Director

Greetings, Region 9.

Thank you for electing me as your regional director; I am glad you feel confident that I will do my best to represent you and your needs to the AKA.

Thank you also to my opponent, Genny Forsberg, for her dedication to kiting and the American Kitefliers Association. I personally voted for Genny.

Many people felt I did not stand a chance of winning, being the unknown boy from the Southwest. But I feel that is why I won. Due to the makeup of the intermountain region it is next to impossible to represent both the north and south regions equally. Over the past 5 years I've noticed that the southern region has not been represented; this, combined with the recent growth of kiting interest in the Southwest, helped secure my election.

I will try to represent all areas of the region and all aspects of kiting, but, I will need your help. I am asking here for all clubs in the region to send me copies of their newsletters to give me an idea of your interests and needs. I feel that I am weak in the multi-line events so I

particularly need someone from each state in the region to keep me informed of multi-line and buggy events in their state.

On a sadder note, Bob Ingraham, who had liver cancer, died early Thursday morning (September 28). At the same time, a clap of thunder awoke us at the hotel.

I had the pleasure of first meeting Bob in 1991 at the Cielo Encantado in his home town of Silver City, New Mexico. I was dropping squirrels from my line when Bob came up and told me stories of line drops he had done - everything from gallon bottles of water to life size dummies. I was impressed with the child like enthusiasm Bob had for kites. Let's face it, if he had not come out of the closet for adult oriented kiting, most of us would not be involved in kiting today.

We all need to remember why we kite; I think I speak for most of us when I sum it up in one word, FUN. I believe that is what Bob wanted us to get from kiting.

As I write this, I am packing to leave for the **1995 Cielo Encantado**; it will be different without Bob, but I know he will be there in spirit. He will not be forgotten. So, to you, Bob, I say thanks.

Steady Breezes.





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Region 10 Northwest

David Christenson, Regional Director

Boy, does time fly when so much is happening. Like most of the regions, we have so much going on it's hard to pick which festivals and fun flies to attend...Decisions, decisions.

The Yakima Valley Kite and Flight Festival came off with everybody flying "In the Round". The official competition field was a large 300 foot circle with small American flags every three feet around the outside. I thought it was a unique approach. Some of the fliers that came up from Oregon were into a larger style of kite. They were jumping off the side of the hill with their 30 square meter Paragliders. They put on a good show Sunday morning.

Westport's Fun-tastic Kites Festival had a great turnout. This year's theme was towards the easy-going fun type fly and everyone appeared to be having a good time. There were lots of Kite Arches flying this year. When all the trains and arches were flying they sure covered a lot of beach! There were about 55 fliers participating in the Mass Ascensions and it was great to see so many flyers on one field.

The Seattle Kite Festival turned out great as always. Kite Hill in Magnusen Park in Seattle was looking great. It shows what can happen to a mound of Scottish broom and weeds when a group of kites likes to fly in an area. Kathy Goodwind put on some great demos for the public and Ken Conrad gave away sled kites that the kids built and decorated and then flew on the hill.

The largest festival in the Americas – **The Washington State International Kite Festival** – was held August 20-27. Guests such as Till Krapp, Melsungen, Germany; Chantal Barret and Genevieve Merel, Paris; Anne Slaboda and Eric Curtis, Toronto, Canada; Nancy Lockwood and Harry Gregory, Streetsboro, Ohio were all part of a great event!

Until next time, good winds. ♦

*Scott E. Spencer — leading a convention workshop
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Region 11 Northern California

Tom McAlister, Regional Director

Each regional director has been asked to report on the Tulsa Convention; rather than try to give a full account of the event, I will key in on a few gems that were highlights of my 1995 convention trip. By the way, the 1996 convention comes to California for the first time in many years. This is an opportunity California kites should not miss. If you like kites, you'll love our AKA convention!

One of the great things about the convention is that I always come away with exciting new ideas that I can't wait to try. One such idea came from Scott Spencer. Scott is using a new flat weaving technique to create kite skins. At first glance one might think it is some new type of seminole work, but close inspection reveals his secret. He uses 3/4 in. strips of ripstop and weaves them together on a piece of white ripstop. The most fascinating thing about this technique is that when the finished piece is not back-lit it looks like an abstract mosaic of colors, however, when back-lit it reveals a three-dimensional geometric pattern. I guess you just have to see it.

Another highlight of the trip was the chance to see Peter Lynn's new world's largest kite, the "Megabite." Upon hearing about this new kite I was a bit skeptical, but, after watching it for an hour and a half on Sunday, I became a believer. It is one thing to build a big kite but another thing entirely to build a giant kite that looks like a trilobite. I think the most impressive thing about this kite is the design itself.

If you have any experience with large soft kites you know that one of the challenges in launching these types of kites is inflation, and maintaining inflation. To help address this problem Peter has brought a completely new idea to soft kites with the creation of a valved anterior opening to the kite. The mouth of the Megabite has a cloth flap across it which functions as a sort of one way valve that is pushed open by air entering the kite. The mouth is on the under side of the kite's leading edge such that when the kite comes to the ground the increased pressure of impact, which would normally cause a soft kite to deflate, forces the valve closed, thus maintaining positive pressure in the kite.

The functional result of this valve innovation is two fold. One, there is no need to reinflate this monster for every launch attempt. (This is significant because inflating this beast is no small task.) And two, instead of an amorphous bunch of boring cloth on the ground between launches, you wind up with this gigantic monolith of a kite sitting like a beached whale or hover craft atop the ground. In some ways it looks even more impressive on the ground than in the sky.

Another aspect of the design that impressed me was Peter's keying in on the relationship of lift for kites of

this scale. Efficiency of lift is not a desired trait in a kite this size. The key to the Megabite is that it creates just enough lift to fly. As a result, it was the most mild mannered giant I have ever seen. Did I tell you I was impressed by this new kite?

And then there were the buggy races. I placed seventh in the second heat – even though I raced four laps in a three lap race! It's a long sad story but I need visual aids to fully explain it. "What a long strange trip it's been."

Although only a few of our regions single-liners attended the convention, our sport kite fliers were well represented. In fact, some of their luggage was a bit heavier on the way home.

In Masters Individual Ballet our region took three of the top six places. Congratulations to Kobi Eshun who took first place in MIB, to Miguel Rodriguez for second, and to John Morrison in sixth place. Experienced Individual Ballet saw John Frazier fly into second place followed by Peter Betancourt in fifth place. In Experienced Individual Precision Peter Betancourt took third place with John Frazier following in fourth place. Defending Masters Pairs Ballet champions Dos Avispas came home with fourth place this year.

Back in California the **Bay Area Sport Kite League** presented its end of the year awards celebration in Berkeley. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for supporting BASKL all season.

There were also special surprise awards for the BASKL Grand Champion in each class. The BASKL Grand Champions for 1995 were Chad Morrison in novice class, John Gabby in intermediate, Peter Betancourt in experienced, and Kobi Eshun in Master. Their award was a custom BASKL jacket that has to be one of the sharpest kite jackets around. Hats off to the entire board and everyone else who made BASKL's first year so successful.

That's all for now. See ya next year.

Past AKA president, David Gomberg, won Rokkaku battles all over the world with this line. When the Europeans saw what David was using, they named it ...

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Region 12 SoCal/Pacific

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

Aloha all. It may be the start of the fall season for many parts of the country and the time to put kiting equipment away, but not in Hawaii. Those lucky folks have not only great winds and locale but also many activities to enjoy. If you live there, here are a few things to think about. If you can wangle a trip to the islands there is more to do than just eat poi and watch the hula dancers. Call (808) 947-7097 for general information before you pack and work up an itinerary that can include the dancing, eating and most importantly kiting.

For Night Kite Flies call (808) 942-8799. The October 7 fly at Waterfront Park started at 7 pm. "Bring your kites, food, drinks and fun!" is the way they phrase it.

For a change of pace when the wind doesn't cooperate bring out your yoyo. Yoyo madness is spreading and High Performance Kites is setting up a yoyo club with a launch date of October 28. Call (808) 942-8799 for more information wander down to Ala Moana Center and "just say yo". This is spreading like wild fire across the island and you can join the fun. Red, white & blue...around the world, walk the dog - hmmm.

Meanwhile, back at the beach in Southern California, specifically at Santa Monica beach on September 23 a meeting was held to discuss competitive kiteflying events. The lack of competitions in our area has prompted, no propelled, Larry Bush into getting some action. You can call him at home (909) 734-2513, work (909) 621-5827 for more details. This is an example where a person with enthusiasm, intelligence and devotion to kiting can make a difference. Larry has worked well with many different individuals and groups to try and get something going. Good Job Larry!

At the Santa Monica 9/23 meeting called by Larry Bush among those in attendance (not in any particular order) were Larry Bush, myself, Ron Despajado, Bowdy & Kathy Aggars, Steve Bateman, Jim Campbell and his two sons, Gary Gerfen, Vic Heredia (of Vic's Fighter Kite fame) and his lovely wife Yaya and son, Dorine Imbach, Chuck and Janet Meyers, Larry Navarro (Team Tsunami), Hoy Quan (BFK Sports owner), Dan Rubesh (the Wind Wizard and Kite-Buggy Master), Tom Stoner (Legend West), Bert Tanaka (Legend West), Neil Tuthill (ANCAL). This coincided with the unofficial **Santa Monica 4th Saturday un-club fly** so I'm sure I missed a few others that stopped by then left to fly.

Not a bad start to kick off a southern California circuit. Four events are planned for 1996 so far starting off with the **San Diego Kite Club's Annual New Year's Day Fly** in San Diego at Mariner's Point in Mission Bay (site of the 1985 AKA Convention).

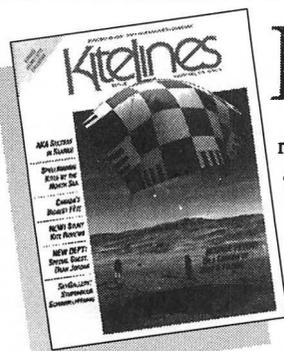
Flight #1 as mentioned in the preceding paragraph; **Flight #2** is March 30, 1996 at Belmont Shores, Long Beach CA; **Flight #3** on April 20th and 21th at Mariner's Point, San Diego; **Flight #4** is June 15th and 16th with the location to be either at Santa Monica or Belmont Shores.

Neil Tuttle and Larry Bush have formed Aire Affair Kite Productions to handle logistical items. For more information call (310) 696-5266. Also, I'll track and report details as I receive them. Ron Despojado, President of the San Diego Kite Club and Dorrine Imbach, Editor of the *SDKC Newsletter*, will have information available and published.

Randy Weston has started a new kite store in Long Beach, CA, at Shoreline Village called Up Up and Away Kites. He will be hosting a fun fly in December and wants to become involved in the kiting community. Give him a call at (310) 432-7263 to find out more about what you want and what he can do.

For information about what is happening in southern California, call the San Diego Kite Club HOTLINE at (619) 685-2885. You can leave a message on the voice mail as well and promote some of your ideas or request more specific information. I can be reached by phone at (619) 748-1443, email-walter@cts.com, maito:walter2@electriciti.com. For those familiar with the Internet, I'll have the World Wide Web page up and available by next issue and will publish the URL.

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