



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

Learn to be a Good Spokesperson for Your Sport

by Rick Talbott

Rick is past president of the Associated Oregon Kitefliers, past regional AKA director; look for him at future events at the mike.

A typical spokesperson.

Every day, rain or shine, is an opportunity to Show & Tell about our love for kites and kiteflying. We need to be aware that the spectator and novice kiteflyer can be easily influenced by whatever we share with them. Statements, how-tos, and information can be misinterpreted.

If you've ever been interviewed by the media, you probably have mixed feelings about the experience. You probably feel you did well and you know what you would like to do or say if there's a "next time." Chances are, there will be many "next times."

I've stumbled across some insights to share with you. The following "Media Interview Guidelines" are presented by the Public Information/Media Relations division of the U.S. Olympic Committee. They're worth clipping and saving.

- Relax, it's not brain surgery.
- Think before you speak. Silence can be your friend.
- Don't talk negatives. There are usually plenty of positive things to say.
- Feel free to say, "I'd rather not go into that," or "I don't feel comfortable talking about that." Sometimes "no comment" sends up a red flag. There are better ways to say that you don't want to talk about a subject.
- Make yourself presentable. Your appearance counts.
- Anticipate questions you may be asked and plan your response.

- Volunteer background information that the interviewer doesn't know, if appropriate.
- Don't use technical language or sports jargon that the reporter and general public don't understand. If necessary, give a full explanation. (What's a "wind window"?)
- Don't forget you're always ON. Microphones are extremely sensitive. (oops...was that mike still on?) Cameras have zoom lens.
- Don't try to make serious points through humor. It can be easily misinterpreted or translate very badly in print.
- Don't go "off the record." If you don't want to see it in the newspaper, don't say it. Start with the assumption that if you say it, expect to see it somewhere, somehow, sometime.
- Project authority. You're the expert. Use eye contact. (They can't see your eyes if you're wearing sunglasses.)
- If you don't know the answer to a question, say "I don't know." Don't ramble on about it. Offer to find out the answer and move on.
- Keep your cool. You are in control of the interview.
- Praise your teammates, fellow kiteflyers, etc.; thank your coaches and sponsors, if appropriate.
- Don't treat the media like your best friend, telling your deepest secrets. Keep a friendly and professional distance.
- Ask a reporter his or her name or where they are from. Next time you see them, say "Hi." You don't have to be best friends, but recognition is a courtesy.
- Don't worry about the pauses between questions. People are writing or recording. Be patient.

As I look back, I can see where I've made my share of mistakes. I have also done right by presenting the whole picture to many spectators with enthusiasm. Keep in mind that you might be the only contact the media makes on any particular day; hopefully, you leave everyone with a good image of your sport and a positive feeling towards your friends.

Uncle Wilbert



The President's Page

Peter Dolphin

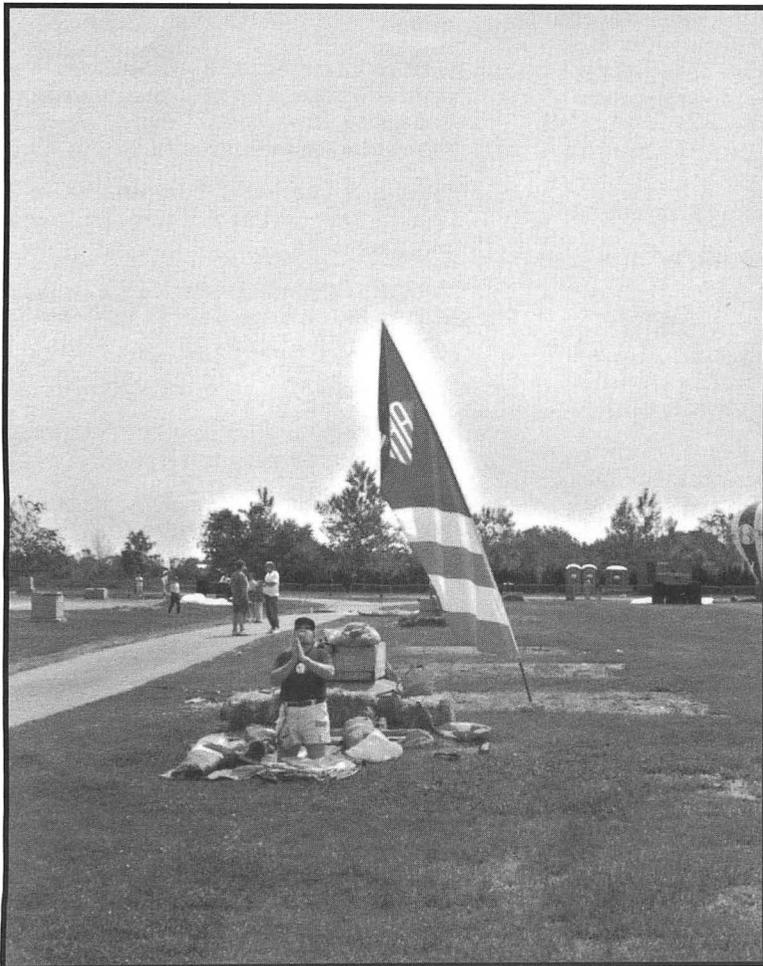
Winter has a strong hold in many areas of the country, now. As I write this column there is snow on the ground in the Northeast and 75 plus mph winds in the Northwest.

This is a good time to reflect on the past and look to the future; also to get some "quality time" at the sewing machine.

The AKA depends on so many volunteers. The Executive Committee and Regional Directors spend many hours helping this Association move forward. I also feel a special "Thank You" is in order for someone who does a difficult job very well, Betty Hirschman. As Secretary, she records and documents all of our Board Meetings; if you have ever done this, you know how tedious this can be. "Thank You," for a job well done.

Andy Gelinias, Region No. 2, will be assisting me in setting up and implementing a marketing plan. This will include new products, public relations, membership, promotions, and *Kiting*. Anyone interested in joining any of these Committees, please come forward with your ideas.

Pete praying for wind at the World Wide Kite Rendez-vous in Verdun, Quebec, Canada, June 1995.



R. Bethell

Preliminary results from the dues polling show a narrow margin between raising the dues to \$30.00 (which was the first choice), dues remaining the same with only four issues of *Kiting* (second choice), and raising the dues to \$25.00, with five issues of *Kiting* (third choice). We received a clear message that the insurance should *not* be changed.

The most important items of business at the January Board Meeting will be making the final decision on the dues increase and hiring a new Editor. We have some difficult decisions to make and I feel the Association needs a spark or two to generate more interest so we can continue to grow.

Remember to keep those heads raised, and smile.

Peter Dolphin

The Editor's Last Word

After seven years of working with the AKA, it seems it is time for me to move on. Indeed, *Kiting* newsletter has provided me with many challenges as well as rewards over these years. We have seen many positive transitions in the newsletter, and I'm sure there will be more in the future.

I must take up some space now to thank the following kites: Corey Jensen (thanks Corey for hiring me), Jim Miller, David Gomberg and Pete Dolphin. These guys all donated their time as President of the AKA and I could not have produced the newsletter without them. All you Regional Directors who have so faithfully sent in your reports each issue – we wouldn't have a newsletter without you. Special appreciation to Richard Dermer who has never, never missed an issue and has sent in numerous articles and photos. (Richard, sorry for not using all the articles!)

It has been a pleasure to work with Executive Director Mel Hickman and past ED Brooks Leffler. I guess you might say "I got to know them better." I feel the team-work created a better publication for the club.

To all of the members who have sent in letters, articles, kite plans, and photos – keep doing it! – the next Editor will need you as much as I did. If I have photos or anything to return to you, please let me know.

What an impressive club the AKA is – all the articles and parts of the newsletter are from you, the members. There is no editorial staff, photographers, etc., just all of you who are willing to contribute.

Keep looking up; hope to see you on the flying field.

—Patrice McFadden

GREAT CONVENTION!!

As a newcomer to sport kiting, I recently attended my first AKA Annual Convention. WOW!!! What fun!

I commend Jim Miller for coordinating such a well organized event; Jim also went out of his way to make it possible for me to attend. I have severe food allergies and Jim contacted me several times and also arranged for my dietary needs with food vendors. This was the best treatment I have ever received at a convention and I greatly appreciate his efforts.

Janice M. Carder
Winfield, KS

ROCKETS AND KITES!

Having recently joined the AKA, I eagerly read every issue of *Kiting*. Several ideas occurred to me while checking out the various events for single-, dual- and quad-line kites.

Having 26 years experience in model rocketry and flying single-line kites, I wondered if some of the rocketry events could successfully cross over into kiting. Judging from the wide range of experience in the kiting world, I see no reason they couldn't.

What about:

Weight Lifting – Large kites of a certain area for each class would attempt to lift specific weight clear of the ground for a specified time limit. Simple, single-line kites are easily built, giving even beginners a chance, and with the gargantuan kites some of the pros build, I bet the lifting power would be amazing!

Spot Landing – Using a reliable release and any size single-line kite that can carry it, a para-bear would be lofted to a minimum height and dropped within a specified time limit. The winner would be the one landing closest to the center of a large marked landing area downwind. To estimate wind speed, weight, and sink rate of your parabear is harder than it sounds!

Air Mail – A nonmetallic, easily attached, carrier landing type hook would be attached to the trailing edge of a stunt kite spine. Each contestant would be allowed a specific number of ground passes at a line of boxes, pails, etc. Each kite would have a smaller pickup loop on top than the preceding one. Points would be awarded according to how easy or difficult the pickups were.

Last, but certainly not least, and keeping in mind that it's my intention to operate within the safety rules of both kiting and space modeling, I've successfully launched a low powered, light weight, model rocket from a low altitude Conyne by strapping a minimum size launcher, battery pack included, to the bottom spar and using a monofilament trip line. Radio control ignition is less hassle but costs a lot more.

Variable Winds Aloft Letters to the AKA

Since this worked well, I thought of some possibilities using this arrangement...used as a "starting gun" to really get attention...an exciting eyecatcher at public demonstrations...a new aerial target competition (a dual-line kite takes off, makes a pass at a disposable paper target kite, and attempts to launch a small rocket through it.) Beginners would have a much larger target than professionals.

The small missiles use inexpensive solid propellant engines purchased in most hobby shops. The rockets themselves are built easily from recycled fiber and cardboard, and though each has its own recovery system, they are easily replaced if lost.

I would be pleased to provide plans and answer any questions fellow kites might have and I'd appreciate any positive, negative and constructive feedback.

Without refining any of these ideas except the rocket launcher, I've tried all these ideas "off the cuff" to see if they would even work. They do.

If any or all have been tried in competition and found unsuitable, please forgive my naiveté. I may be just full of enthusiasm, but looking over *Kiting* after purchasing *Stunt Kites To Make And Fly* by Servaas van der Horst and Nop Velthuis, I realized just how exacting modern stunt flying is. I built a Gismo according to instructions and amazed that, first, I got through and followed the instructions properly, and second, the precision and speed of stunt kites is a whole different ballgame! I still need a lot of practice with my Gismo to fly a simple pattern, but when I'm a "top gun" at it, I know I'll want to try something more complicated.

Reading *Kiting*, I felt single-line kiting was a little frozen out because there aren't many competition events on a par with the high speed and precision of stunts. So, I submit these possibilities for all to consider. What do you think?

John Rolph
Seaford, Ontario, Canada

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

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Letters continued on page 5.

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Letters (continued from page 1)

WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

In most organizations 100% of the work is done by 10% of the members. Ninety percent of the members complain about the stuff that doesn't happen. My suggestion is "Give back what you take out."

Kiting is more than just fun, people, places and kites. We all joined the AKA to enhance our experiences in kiting. But, we also have an obligation to the AKA.

When each issue of *Kiting* arrives, I read all the contents. I took particular notice of Mr. Sasaki's Region 1 report of July/August 1995. Mr. Sasaki comments that he has asked people for help, many have promised to contribute, but none have communicated. I was further surprised when Mr. Sasaki apologized to his region for not reporting on regional activities in the September/October 1995 Issue, but chose instead to comment on our founder Bob Ingraham. Mr. Sasaki owes no apology for his writing. AKA members should recognize our Bob Ingraham as the epitome of a true kiting enthusiast...he gave back far more than he took out.

Active members cause strength and growth...
be a contributor!

*C.J. Quinn
Coopersburg, PA*

BOY SCOUTS NEED YOUR HELP!

I am a Boy Scout Leader of a Bergen County troop and have been involved in scouting for more than six years. During those years, I have experienced some of the most rewarding times of my life and I believe this youth program is one of the most valuable programs in the world today. Our boys develop skills, knowledge, respect, pride, and understanding of the world we live in, as well as for each other.

As a fellow kiteflyer and AKA member, I have marveled at the prospects of introducing my scouts to this exciting and wholesome sport. Often, while hiking with the scouts, when I see the trees rustling, my mind drifts to kiting.

I am looking to develop a kite flying program for interested scouts within my troop and possibly within the council. I know the only resistance to this being a giant success is the cost involved and this is where I need your help. I've had conversations with several small manufacturers and flyers too; everyone agrees that most serious flyers have kites they haven't flown for some time, and probably never will. I am looking for a donation of these forgotten beauties. I am a volunteer to scouting and freely give approximately 800 hours a year. Knowing these beauties will be well received, and that you'll be helping me introduce kiting to new members will be your reward...a reward you can be proud of!

CHIVALRY STILL EXISTS!

In this time of "equal rights" and men and women out of touch with each other, I would like to relate a story that actually happened at the Tulsa, Oklahoma AKA National Convention in October of 1995.

There was going to be a Hapi Coat Challenge and I was making a knitted mohair Hapi coat with a Geisha girl design knit in the back. All I finished WAS THE BACK. I was spotted everywhere knitting away at the sidelines but wasn't able to finish. (Too much going on and too many spectacular kites to look at!)

So I opted for plan number two. I had a scarf that matched the color of the wool. My plan was to cut it and attach it to the back piece to make a Hapi coat. The idea was OK but I was all thumbs trying to do it at the last minute.

Well, my husband saw my distress and came to the rescue. After I explained what I intended to do, he said, "Go fix your hair or something." He took over and fashioned a Hapi Coat using masking tape to hold the seams together.

I was able to wear that Hapi Coat that evening and it is still together!

Talk about kite builders and fliers being innovative, ingenious, and creative - mine is TOPS!

There were quite a few Hapi coats at the banquet. It has become quite the trend now. We all had fun prancing across the stage, in fact it was so much fun that we just kept going around and around and around the stage. The judges (Pete Dolphin and Andy Gelinas) declared us all winners! It was fun.

Signed, JC

Please make this project a reality for me.

Over time, we may even see a merit badge on kiting. We have merit badges on computers, skiing, leather works, archery, shooting...why not kiting?

*Rick Scherer
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Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference Offers Exciting Event in March

The members of the Fort Worden Planning Committee are brimming with excitement as plans are being made for the next Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. The conference will be held March 1-3, 1996, at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, Washington. The reason for all the excitement is the terrific line up of instructors that will be presenting at the event and the broad scope of kiting that will be covered.

Peter Lynn from New Zealand is one of the main headliners. Peter is internationally recognized for his innovative kite designs and his kite powered buggies and boats. One whole section of the conference grounds has been set aside to accommodate the programs Peter will present.

The other headliners will bring equally valuable, informative, entertaining and productive classes to all attendees. Robert Trepanier from Montreal has a unique view of the world that is reflected in his hand painted kites. He will present his techniques for painting on fabric.

José Sainz is internationally recognized for his appliqué style. José has won many national awards and his kites are consistently picked as "People's Choice." The beauty of his Hispanic culture is reflected in many of his kites. Students in his class can expect to learn some valuable appliqué tips.

Ted Dougherty is the designer of the Quadri-Foil and Quad Trac kites and will teach a class to build a soft quad-line kite that doesn't require sewing.

Tom McAlister has won a great deal of recognition for his miniature kites. Tom was recently commissioned to build a model Cody kite that was used in the movie "Waterworld." During Tom's class at Fort Worden, students will build a miniature box or cellular kite.

Besides the featured guests, an additionally great group of instructors has been recruited to present classes appealing to a cross section of kite builders. It doesn't matter if you are beginner or experienced, sewer or non-sewer, or your interest lies in single-line, fighters, or sport kites, there will be something for you.

Pre-registration for classes is a new feature this year. Registration materials have been mailed during the Fall and will be handled on a first-returned, first-filled basis. If you are interested in attending Fort Worden and need registration materials, contact Bob Alford at (206) 888-2812, or write: Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, c/o Bob Alford, 320 NE Fourth St., North Bend, WA 98045.

Fort Worden is more than the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable people. It is a time for making new friends and catching up with old friends. It is the feeling of family that comes with spending an entire weekend with a group of people that share similar interests. It is the fun of the raffle, the slide shows, the hospitality, and the variety of activities available. Make plans to attend now so you won't miss your opportunity to register early for this exciting event!

AKA IS MOVING

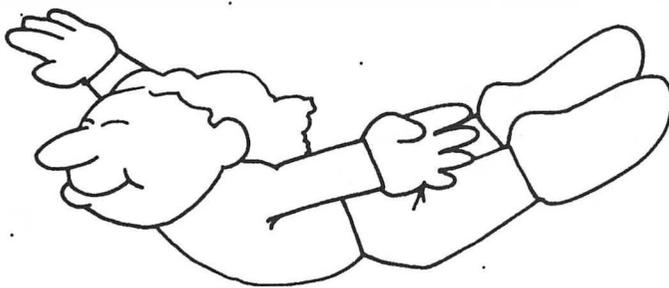
Your Executive Director has just learned the address will be changing for the AKA due to the demolition of the building.

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Notes from The XD

About the Survey

We share your concern for the late arrival of the survey regarding possible dues increases. All of the surveys were mailed from Portland, Oregon by the end of October. Some of you did not receive it until after the 10th of December. While the class of postage had some effect, it was not always the determining factor. We have reports of geographical neighbors receiving theirs third class before others received theirs first class. We had a written response from New Zealand before people in Everett, Washington received theirs.

Rest assured that all responses have been counted and all comments will be sent to the Board of Directors before they meet January 17.

About the Survey (2)

It was interesting to note how many different ways were used to seal the surveys. Masking tapes, duct tape, surgical tape, glue, staples, packing tape, etc.

A Special Welcome

Welcome to new member Richard Dally. Richard's wife called on our private line during the heart of the "Big Blow" that came through here in early December. I took the information down by candle light as the winds reached 90 mph outside.

Contest Revisited

We are still looking for entries in the "Design Our Next T-Shirt" contest. The winning design will receive due recognition and reward.

Looking Back

Has it really been a year since I became your XD? In some ways it was yesterday, in some it was a decade ago. Thanks again for putting up with me while I figured out which ropes to learn and thanks again to my mentor, Brooks Leffler.

Speaking of the AKA Store

If you have any ideas for new products AKA could sell through its retail store, contact Andy Gelinat at (610) 867-3313.

Those Convention Videos

If you ordered a convention video and did not receive one, please let me know. The videos were among the victims of the aforementioned rain and wind. The UPS trailer used to transport them leaked and we had to put new labels and mailers on them before we could mail them out.

A Word of Advice

If you have heard all those warnings about surge protectors and haven't invested money in them, do so at your earliest opportunity. When the storm went through here in December, a power surge on the telephone lines blew out both protectors on the AKA lines.

by Mel Hickman,
Executive Director

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Kitemaking

The Art and the Science

by Gene Hester

A word from Gene:

It is a radical departure from the norm for me, but I recommend using new, unused trash bags for the Pillow Kite. Good luck!

The term "serendipity" has been assigned to any and all flights of the Pillow. Most flights are short if you can only let out a small amount of flying line.

The Pillow Kite

Gene Hester, from Ft. Worth, TX, is a long-time AKA member who has always delighted in making kites from recycled materials. He has designed a whole collection of kites using Styrofoam picnic plates for lifting surfaces. These range from single plate kites, to multiple plate, cellular, flat, and even spinning versions.

Here is his latest invention. Some may argue that it is not a kite, simply a tethered hot-air balloon. But, it flies, and the ingenious valve he illustrates may be usable by other kite builders for all sorts of inflatables.

The following instructions and drawings are Gene's letter, verbatim:

I may have stumbled across a new approach to inflatable kites. I've dubbed it the Pillow Kite because it is soft in flight.

The key to flying one (or a combination of) trash bag(s) is a valve that regulates the filling of the kite in flight. The valve ranges from simple to more complex.

The trash bags that have proven most useful for the Pillow Kite are made by the Ruffies people. The star closure lends itself well to the air intake bag and the last bag of the kite. Visualize a black cigar about eight feet long and you have the best of the Pillow designs so far. [See drawing below.]

The middle bag has had the bottom cut off. The three bags are joined together with 3M Scotch "Magic" half-inch tape and I have not had any "blowouts" along the joining line.

The black pigmentation of the bag helps to give lift to the kite through thermal energy from sunlight. The wind is definitely needed to bolster the lifting of the kite.

Logically, the thinner the walls of the bag, the lighter the kite and the MORE often you will need to plug up holes and mend long tears.

This is a light wind kite and, oddly enough, some of the more spectacular flights happened while I had been untying knots with my back to the kite. Thermal activity can lift the resting kite. Small whirlwinds (dust devils) turn the Pillow Kite into a source of wonderment. There is nothing to get tangled up while in flight. I'm hoping to develop the Pillow Kite into a source of outdoor fun for wheelchair bound people.

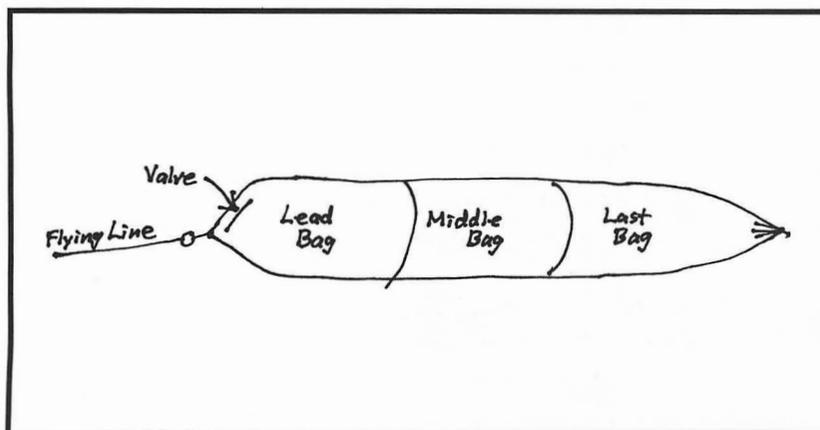
The first method of flying the bag happened when I lost my grip on the inflated but untethered first Pillow and it rode on the wind to the side wall of our two-story apartment building. Surprisingly, the wind carried the kite up the wall and over the roof. I determined right then not to lose any more kites by not keeping them attached to a flying line. These Pillow Kites do well tied to upholstery thread, or button and carpet thread stock.

I have used other plastic bags to make larger kites. The largest to date looks like a flying water bed mattress, and I recommend 50 lb. test line.

I have earned some money in the summertime by teaching a kite building course at Texas Christian University's Extended Education Art Camp. This last camp I reached 100 elementary students; hopefully, next year, I can work with some high school students.

The original Pillow Kite more closely resembles a bed pillow. I used some trash bags that had square corners. The star closure style bags came into use later in my search for a "new" kite. For safety's sake, I must note that plastic bags are a potential danger to infants and small children, due to suffocation hazard.

Continued on next page.



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Kitemaking *(continued)*

Below, is a new kite reel useful for flying the Pillow Kite; it has a long shaft to extend one's reach. I think of it as a modified Indian spool with a long arm. It could also be called a Sceptre Reel. [See drawing 2.]

Pillow Kite Construction Tips:

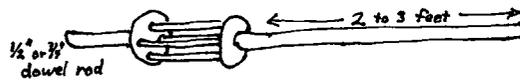
Bag joining seam should overlap at least 1/8 inch.

Strapping tape is best to attach flying line to plastic bag. (Star closure style.)

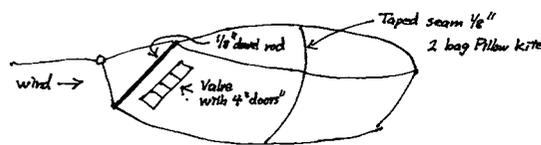
Square Cornered Trash Bag:

Orange or onion bag netting is taped or low-temp glued over "doors" of valve. This porous covering lets "doors" blow inward, but NOT outward. [See drawings 3 and 4.]

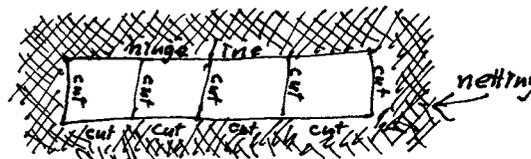
Drawing 2



Drawing 3



Drawing 4



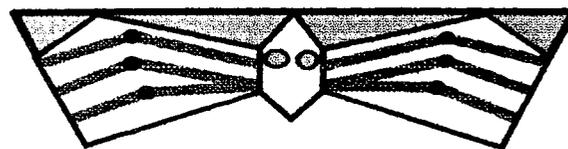
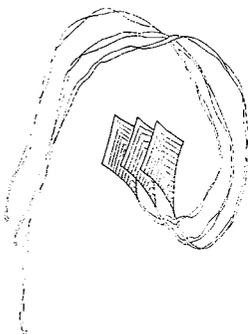
Win Free Convention Registration!

Attention graphic artists, designers, and all other AKA members with a creative flair: enter the logo contest for our 1996 19th annual AKA convention in Santa Monica, California, and win a free convention registration or a set of logo shirts (tee, polo & sweat) with your very own design emblazoned across the chest!

The design must contain the AKA logo, and should be reproducible in both color (for pins, shirts and patches) and black & white (for badges, signs and other print medium). Line drawings with clear, uncluttered graphics work best; pictorial art usually does not lend itself to reproduction in all the media necessary.

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Kitevents

February

- 2- **The World Miniature Competition**
4 St. Louis, MO. C: Charm Lindner (314) 376-6055
- 1/26- **Winterfestival**
3 Newport, RI. C: Steve Santos (401) 846-3262
- 10 **NCSP Fun Fly**
Grays Harbor County, WA.
C: Eric Halverson (360) 289-2982
- 10- **Kite Swap Meet**
11 Ocean Shores Convention Center, WA.
C: Dee Halverson (360) 289-2982
- 16- **Maryland Kite Retreat**
19 Laurel, MD. C: Adam Grow (301) 949-9078
- 17 **6th Annual Kites on Ice Fly-In**
South Higgins Lake State Park, MI.
C: Carl Doxtator (517) 821-6125
- 17- **Kite Trains & Flocks of Birds**
18 World Kite Museum. C: Kay Buesing (360) 642-4020
- 25 **Chicago SkyLiners Winterfest**
Schaumburg, IL. C: LaDonna Hoak (708) 357-6852

March

- 1- **Fort Worden Kitemaker's Conference**
3 Port Townsend, WA. C: Bob Alford (206) 888-2812
- 9- **Fiesta Fly**
10 Tucson, AZ. C: Bert or Jo Anne Grabe-Duron (520) 326-3442
- 9 **NCSP Fun Fly**
Grays Harbor County, WA.
C: Eric Halverson (360) 289-2982
- 10 **68th Annual Zilker Park Kite Contest**
Austin, TX. C: Richard Robertson (512) 453-7174
- 23 **Eureka Springs Kite Festival**
Eureka Springs, AR. C: Linda Rogers (501) 253-6596
- 30 **Belmont Sport Kite Competition**
Long Beach, CA. C: David Gomberg (503) 996-3083
- 30- **Rencontres Internationales De Cerf-volant**
4/8 Berck-sur-Mer, France
C: Gérard Clément (+33) 44-68-00-75

April

- 12- **Great St. Louis Kite Festival**
14 Forest Park, St. Louis, MO.
C: Ron Lindner (314) 376-6055
- 13 **NCSP Fun Fly**
14 JR Toman Kite Building Workshop
Grays Harbor County, WA.
C: Eric Halverson (360) 289-2982
- 13 **Renfren Fun Fly**
Waynesboro, PA. C: Bill Flohr (717) 762-8492
- 20- **Getting Ready for Battle**
21 The Fighter Kites of Don Mock
World Kite Museum. C: Kay Buesing (360) 642-4020
- 20- **3rd Annual Bluebonnet Kite Festival**
21 San Marcos, TX. C: Frank Kenisky (210) 659-1803
- 20- **Southern California Open**
21 San Diego, CA. C: David Gomberg (503) 996-3083
- 28 **6th Annual Kite Day in the Park**
Bethlehem Township, PA. C: LUKS (610) 867-4999

May

- 11 **NCSP Fun Fly**
Grays Harbor County, WA.
C: Eric Halverson (360) 289-2982
- 18- **Chinese Extravaganza**
19 World Kite Museum. C: Kay Buesing (360) 642-4020
- 24- **Junction International Kite Retreat**
27 Junction, TX. C: Betty Street (915) 446-2301

June

- 8 **NCSP Fun Fly**
Grays Harbor County, WA.
C: Eric Halverson (360) 289-2982
- 7- **Ocean Shores Int'l. Kite Challenge**
8 Ocean Shores, WA. C: D. Gomberg (503) 996-3083
- 8- **A Big Bird Week**
9 World Kite Museum. C: Kay Buesing (360) 642-4020
- 13- **Fanoë '96**
16 Fanoë, Denmark
C: Rainer Kregovski (+45) 40-21-38-48
- 13- **Worldwide Kite Rendez-vous**
16 Verdun, Quebec, Canada C: (514) 765-7213
- 21- **Scheveningen International Kite Festival**
23 Scheveningen, Holland C: (+31) 70-38-58-586

Where It's At ... Looking Around

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.

Plenty of opportunity recently to reflect on our club, where it has come from and where it is headed. Everyone should be aware by now just how special this whole thing is. There is also ample opportunity for everyone to be heard concerning where and how we should approach growth and costs in the coming years. It is our club. We are choosing, by what we do or fail to do, just what is worth paying for and what can we forego. We are planning the future. Grown-up stuff.

Sometimes a little distance helps to gain a better perspective on the whole picture. I recently returned from Australia and a magnificent 10 day International Kite Festival organized and produced by Glenda Nixon for the East Gippsland Shire Council, the Dept. of Tourism and the wonderful roster of sponsors that put up the cash to bring in the dancing bears. Kite flyers came from all over the world. And from the other side of Australia.

Michael Alvarez of Perth, came three weeks early and visited some 40 primary schools in the region and taught world geography, history and kites to hundreds of kids who all built kites that became a 300 kite arch that flew over the town and the event.

The Australian Sport Kite Championships kicked it off and the World Cup Team Sport Kite Championships closed the show the next weekend. In between were Richard Dutton's 101 box kite record flight, the Buggy Roo, Integration Day (that allowed access to elderly and disabled kite flyers) Children's Day, and a corporate Rokakku Challenge.

What an incredible show we put on and how excited the locals were to have an international event come to their community and see some of the best team flyers in the world. Perhaps the highlight of the event (at least one of the most popular) was Ray Bethell from Vancouver B.C. and his three kite solo performances. Even for a general kind of Australian audience with their relatively new interest in modern kiting and just learning about sport kites, Ray inspired many people, not just other kite flyers, with the heart and soul he brought out onto the field each time he flew.

People like Ray do so much to promote our sport. So much more than just promoting kites as a product. Ray brings a sense of the beauty and majesty that is much easier to understand for lay people who may not have seen modern sport kiting or do not understand the complexities of competition.

Ann Harris from England with her magnificent line art (giant 60 ft. long purple dinosaur, a 40 ft. high kangaroo and the smaller joey, her echidna, the hedgehog, the 40 ft. basking shark) and her humble, "I just work in the spare bedroom" attitude impressed all who met her. Long known as Jonathan Harris' mum, Ann has taken her own place in the international kite artist community.

The opportunity for such kites (and there are many, many more) to be presented publicly, to share with an audience some of what each of us has felt through our kiting, that opportunity is the result of our having organized. As a group we help make kiting available to more people.

That this sport/hobby is blessed with such members reflects well on all of us and gives everyone a greater sense of pride in our shared accomplishments. That is what we are paying for. That opportunity for the magic to happen. What price is that?

Outback Buggy Safari To The Biggest And Fastest Place On Earth:

After the World Cup, a bunch of us chartered a bus (The Phaatt) and traveled to Lake Gairdner in South Australia for the Outback Buggy Safari. This blazing white salt lake is the site for the world land speed record attempt and is over 100 miles long and over 30 miles across at its widest. I have been to many dry lakes, but this one... This one was huge! Looking across the lake the far edge was beyond the horizon.

From Joan of the Never-never who runs the place where we stayed (another powerful Aussie woman), to the plentiful roos, emus, "phht" (blue fly) and bloody Gullahs in the outback, we buggied every day on one of the most incredible flat places on earth, and we all, visitor and Aussie alike, shared a life-affecting experience. It's a buggy thang!





WELCOME TO THE '96 KOREA INT'L KITE FESTIVAL

(MARCH 16-17, 1996, TAEJON, KOREA)

HELLO TO KITE LOVERS,

THE KOREA INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE KOREA NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION AND THE CITY OF TAEJON.

THIS FESTIVAL GAINED AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION IN 1994, WHEN IT ATTRACTED 150 PARTICIPANTS FROM ELEVEN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS OVER 300 KOREANS. WE HOPE THAT THIS YEAR EVEN MORE KITE LOVERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY AND CHARM OF KOREAN KITES, AS WELL AS THOSE FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

BY HOLDING THE KOREA INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF TAEJON THIS YEAR WE ARE GIVING PARTICIPANTS THE ADDED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE MANY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING THE YUSONG HOT SPRINGS, THE EXPO PARK LOCATED ON THE SITE OF THE '93 TAEJON EXPO AND THE HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT TOWNS OF KONGJU AND PUYO.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION FORM, JUST CALL THE K.N.T.O BRANCH OFFICE NEAREST YOU, AND WE WILL DO THE REST. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN TAEJON ON MARCH 16 & 17.

CONTACT THE '96 KOREA KITE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE AT ANY K.N.T.O. BRANCH OFFICE TOLL FREE NUMBER (800) TOURKOREA (800-868-7567)

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KOREA NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION

The Ultimate Kite Flying Experience

by Marvin Nauman

I started flying a big box kite in the late '50's, then got back into kiting in 1990 when I was invited to video tape three kite festivals. Our kite videos are now sought after worldwide. A few kites have actually seen me fly, and a few have even made me some very special custom kites. You see, the only way I get to fly at the festivals is when someone hands me their lines, otherwise, I would miss filming something when putting my attention on setting up my own kite. So, I learned a long time ago that you can't fly and shoot a professional kite video at the same time.

When I did get to fly, though, I flew everything I could get my hands on...and I do mean everything! If I didn't own a particular kite, I borrowed whichever ones I wanted to try to fly. Johnny handed me one of his prized fighter kites and I was shocked to learn, after three minutes of non crashes, that I had never flown one before...Heck! I had been taping and watching fighters for countless festivals. Anyway, I've always been game to try new things.

One year, my oldest daughter and wife gave me a birthday present. Early one morning we went to fly. Upon arriving at the field, we found there was no wind, but I didn't let that stop me. I climbed on board a plane and soared to 12,000 feet; I proceeded to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft. I free fell for 7,000 feet and opened the chute (kite) at 5,000 feet; boy was I relieved. I had this big beautiful kite and total freedom to go where ever I wanted.

I have also carried my love of controlling a piece of cloth to the open ocean where I've sailed 4,400 square feet of canvas on the 170 ton tall ship "Lady Washington." There's something special about handling up to twelve sails and having the ship go where you want it to...in one piece.

Attn: Flyers, Competitors, Retailers, Manufacturers

Scoutmaster looking to introduce Boy Scout Troop of 30 boys to competition kiteflying. Looking for donations of used but no longer needed kites and accessories taking up space in the bottom of your flight bags. Excellent tax deductible donation.

Contact: Rick Scherger (201) 670-8748
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Thank you for your donation.

Western League Announces Spring/Summer Events

Three new events have been added to the Western League spring calendar, according to league organizer David Gomberg. With the addition of these events, competitions are well balanced throughout the West Coast. There are three in Southern California, three in Northern California, one in Oregon, and three in Washington.

The league was formed in January of 1995 and will conclude its first competition season in July of 1996. Each event is represented on the League Board of Directors. Points are earned by fliers at all member events during that period and awards will be issued at the conclusion of the season. A \$2 fee per flier is collected from each event to pay for awards.

Events scheduled for spring and summer 1996 include:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| March 30 | Belmont Sport Kite Competition
Long Beach, California |
| April 20-21 | Southern California Open
San Diego, California |
| June 7-9 | Ocean Shores Int'l. Kite Challenge
Ocean Shores, Washington |
| June 15-16 | Los Angeles Kite Tournament
Santa Monica, California |
| June 29-30 | Northwest Sport Kite Competition
Long Beach, Washington |
| July 6-7 | North Coast Challenge
Lincoln City, Oregon |
| July 27-28 | West Coast Sport Kite Championships
Berkeley, California |

Local contacts for these events will be posted soon. Stay tuned to rec.kites for the latest info, figures, and event schedules.

The Western League would like to express its gratitude to the many businesses and individuals who generously contributed toward start-up expenses during formation of the Western Sport Kite League. When you visit these businesses and manufacturers, please remember to tell them "Thank You" for supporting competitive sport kiting.

ANCAL, Becky's Performance Kites, Catch the Wind Inc, Catch the Wind Kite Shops, Coastin' Kites, Cosmic Kites, Dyna Kite Corporation, Flight School Video Series, Four Winds Kite Shop, Gasworks Park Kite Shop, Gone with the Wind Kites, Great Winds Kite Shop, Guildworks Flight Studio, Into the Wind, The Kite Company, Kites Northwest, M.L.D. Associates, Ocean Kites, Paint the Sky, Prism Designs Inc., Revolution Enterprises Inc., Savannah Sails and Rails, Spectra Star Kites, Stormin' Norman's Kite Shop, T. C. Ultra, Tori Industries, and Wind Wizard.

Regional Reports

Region 1 New England

Sarge Cleaves, Regional Director

Let's Get Started

The first AKA Region 1 regional meeting will be held in Newport, Rhode Island in April 1996. Some of the plans we had at the outset have not yet fallen into place, so I am unable to provide specific details...More to follow.

I am open to suggestions for activities you would like to see happen in addition to flying kites and gathering in fellowship.

I need people to assist me in producing a pleasant and successful event. No one will be asked to do much, but it does take a lot to put an event together, no matter how simple we keep things.

Congratulations to John Ruggerio on the **Marblehead Indoor Fly**, December 2. John put this event together,

which 27 flyers attended, on a shoestring budget. Support from some stalwart kite folks made this a solid success.

So far, I have had very good response to the idea of a Region 1 Executive Committee. I still need to hear from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Upper New York state. If you would like to participate on a different level than you are currently, I would love to hear from you.

I know there are many flying opportunities planned for 1996, so if any club or person has an event you want publicized, please call or write with your information. There is a section in *Kiting* for that purpose. We are in the midst of considering proposals for *Kiting* editor, so it would be best to contact me.

The Board of Directors will meet via conference call on January 17, 1996, at 9:00 pm, ET.

Two major topics we will discuss are the results of the dues raising survey, and the selection of editor for *Kiting*. If anyone has any thoughts for me to present to the board, let me know.

I sincerely hope that all of you enjoyed a joyous Holiday season, and that your new year is full of promise.

Regional Reports continued on next page.

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DRACHENmagazin has just celebrated its fifth year of publication. For the last two years DRACHENmagazin has won the Chris Batdorf award for outstanding publication at KTA. Now we offer you this award winning magazine in English.

Region 2 Northeast

Andy Gelinis, Regional Director

First of all – thanks to all of you who helped to vote me into the Region 2 Director position. I hope to be of service to you and also to those who did not think I was the better choice. In fact, I would be remiss not to thank my opponent, Kevin Shannon, for unselfishly helping me to find direction...to build kites, join the kiting community, and for encouraging me to become more involved.

In early October, I sent questionnaires to all Region 2 kite clubs and many prominent kite people for background and other correct information. To date, I have had responses from: Momouth/Ocean County Kitefliers (MOCK); Great Lakes Kitefliers Society (GLKS); Sky Festivals (Roger Chewing); and my alma mater, the Lehigh Valley Kite Society (LVKS). I sent out about 25 packets. If you think you should have received a packet let me know; I will say it was "lost in the mail" and send one right out to you.

I think my job is to keep the AKA kiting community informed about as many of you and your kiting activities as possible. Your job is to give me the information to be able to do that. Please mail or fax information, as there is less chance of me making an error that way. If you want to call and gab, that's great...if you want to complain, that's o.k. too...if you want to gossip – don't bother. I don't have the time or the interest. The best time to get me is Friday morning or Thursday night, (610) 867-4999, phone or fax.

Coming events include: a **Polar Bear Fly**, January 7, and a **Heart In The Sky Fly**, February 11. These are both at the beaches in Belmar, NJ and sponsored by MOCK. Contact Mike Fitzpatrick (908) 787-4945. Our friends in Buffalo, NY, GLKS, seem to be holiday folk...they have flyers scheduled February 3, **Groundhog Day**; **Winterfest**, February 17-18; **St. Patrick's Day**, March 3; and **April Fools Day**, March 31. Contact Mike Decker at (716) 834-2879, for more information.

Out of the region but not to be missed, the **Maryland Kite Retreat**, this year at Laurel, MD, with guest kiter Martin Lester. The date is President's Weekend, February 16-19. Contact Adam Grow at (301) 949-9078. The other out-of-region event I want to mention is one of the crown jewels of kiting...the **Smithsonian Kite Festival**, on the Mall, Washington, DC. This will possibly be a two-day event, March 30, and maybe March 31. Contact Bevan Brown at (301) 890-1178.

Keep in touch...the wind at your back...and kiting on your calendar.

Region 3 Mid-Atlantic

Jon Burkhardt, Regional Director

After the thrills of the AKA Convention, the attention of Region 3 flyers has turned to local events. One that saw a lot of attendance and excitement was the **Chesapeake Appreciation Days**, held at Sandy Point in Maryland on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Lots of Kapital Air Korps and Maryland Kite Society members were in attendance over the two-day festival that included seafood, local flora and fauna, and occasionally wicked winds.

Several flyers, including Joe Croot, saw lovely kites sacrificed to King Neptune as gusts ripped up kite stake and sent the kites out to sea. Yours truly returned from a short rest stop to find an excited crowd of flyers and on-lookers watching my classic 150 ft. dragon swimming for England. After mad dashing around the beach, and a most substantial bribe, a local fisherman was located for a rescue mission. After playing Ahab on the bowsprit for what seemed an eternity, we finally spotted the beast six inches below the surface of the water and dragged it aboard to the cheers of the watching throng. At least they all didn't get away.

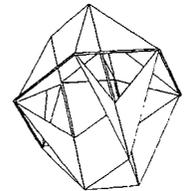
After that, several of the crew took in the annual **Pumpkin Chunkin' Festival** in Lewes, Delaware. (If you bridle it right, you can fly one of those big orange things!) Lots of Halloween remnants flying up to one-half a mile (!!) At a festival that attracts more and more kitefliers each year.

Around town, lots of work is underway for our next **Smithsonian Kite Festival** in March, which is really going to be a big one this year – the 150th anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution and the 30th anniversary of the kite festival. The theme this year will be "Castles in the Sky," and there will be a special prize for the kite that most closely fits that theme. While not yet confirmed, discussions are underway to make this festival a two-day event in 1996 (March 30 & 31) and in subsequent years. Stay tuned.

As before there will also be a kitemaking workshop at the National Air and Space Museum, the **Smithsonian Kitemaking Workshop** on March 23, the kitemaking competition of the **Smithsonian Kite Festival** on March 30 (with the banquet at Bevan & Margo Brown's house to follow).

The **Maryland Kite Festival**, on April 27, is also 30 years old this year, and a special celebration is planned for that event. The following weekend will be the **Greater Maryland Kite Festival** in Ocean City, Maryland, with both single-line and stunt kite competitions (formerly called the MASK event).

Keep flying high (and stay warm!). Best breezes.



*Regional Reports
continued on
next page.*

Region 5 Great Lakes

Robyne Gardner, Regional Director

Hello Everyone! I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I must start where I left off way back in September. There were so much going on I didn't have space to report on all the Fall events.

On Labor Day weekend, while many of us were in Dayton, Doug Mouat and a few friends were busy at the Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland. They were asked to do a buggy demonstration before the big Air [plane] Show. The **Cleveland Kite Festival** was held week-end of Sep.16-17. A memorial fly was held for **Larry Flandera**, and the crowd was kept busy with ongoing raffles and flying demonstrations of all kinds. In adult windsprints, Jo Anderson was bested only by mysterious Mr. Green flying a small delta from a fishing pole. Harry Gregory emerged victorious in the Rok battle, and donated his cash prize back to the West Side Mental Health Center, recipient of the festival's proceeds. Past OSEK Prez Connie Pederson was occupied most of the weekend with the kids' sled workshops. Organizer Gary Porter drafted some food vendors for the festival, and the field food was GREAT.

The same weekend, Tree Alexander was busy with his **Mill Run Festival** in Hilliard, Ohio. The Windjammers of Detroit were the special invited guests, and they were joined by Dan Kloss and his magnificent sky puppets. The crowd was also treated to a team demonstration from POPS. Pairs competitors – watch out! Gary Maynard and his four year old son, Jason were practicing together. Was it a "preview" of things to come? A real avid kiteflier, Jerry Yurek, abandoned the Cleveland Festival on Sunday when the rain hit there and packed in more fun at Hilliard on the way home.

*BSAF at Godzilla's
Birthday
(Godzillapalooza).*



Uncle Wilbert

On November 4, the Black Swamp Air Force hosted the very first ever **Godzillapalooza** at Woodlands Park in Perrysburg, Ohio. It was a celebration for every kitefliers favorite mascot, Godzilla, on his 41st birthday. Tree Alexander generously donated, transported, and erected a 35-foot inflatable Godzilla for the day, and it stood tall and proud overseeing the festivities. As the first flurries of the season combined with cold blustery winds, many fliers took time out from the field to taste and judge ten or so different kinds of chili. There was even a tasty white chili, made by who else – Bob White. In the end, Karee Kimple took home the top award in the chili cook-off.

Charlie Sotich and sister Pat traveled in from Chicago on November 25 to lead yet another enthusiastic group in the fine art of building miniature kites. This year, it was tiny little tea bag kites. The BSAF Christmas party was held that evening in nearby Perrysburg, and the count for the indoor miniature kite fly broke last year's world record! Fifty-nine people flew 182 kites for well over five minutes.

Hats off to Jenny Kilgoar for the wonderful decorating job and to her and husband Kevin, for always being Swampers-on-the-Spot. Jenny is a never-ending source of energy and goodwill, and my bet is that neither she nor Kevin have ever uttered the words "Let someone else do it." The Christmas party was attended by 65 kids of all ages. Uncle Wilbert once again used his charm to entice the BEST Santa to preside over the gift exchange.

Looking forward to some winter fun? This note came from Terry Gerweck: "I, Vice King, Marshal in Charge of Chilly Things, and Master of Frozen Extremities, Do hereby declare that the official date for the **BSAF Ice Fly (also known as Terry's Frozen Thingy...)** shall be held on Saturday, Jan. 27, in the Year of our Commandant 1996."

"Whereas Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, Ohio is an Official Flying Field of the BSAF and a suitable location for this kind of nonsense, the event will be held there unless I decide to do it elsewhere. (Due to conditions beyond my control, of course.) Whereas the universal time for kite flies is from sometime around 1pm 'til ya quit, and acknowledging this ain't a normal time of the year to fly kites, I'll try to get stuff set up by 11:00am... We will continue the merriment until they pry our frozen fingers from the handles of our kites..." Terry urges everyone to check with the BSAF Kiteline at (419) 535-WIND for more details as the date gets closer.

A call goes out to any kiteflier willing to help with a new event this year in Wapakoneta, Ohio. The Neil Armstrong Museum there has requested a festival date of April 20, 1996 (rain date April 21). Please contact me if you can attend and would like to help out.

Sport kite competitors interested in the formation of a new **Midwest League** should write to Rich Yedinak, c/o Mackinaw Kite Company, 116 Washington St. Grand Haven, MI. 49417. This league was scheduled to get off the ground last year, but plans were put on the back burner due to slow response.

Region 8 South Central

Richard Dermer, Regional Director

The first day of **South Padre Island**, Texas' first kite festival was called off due to incredible winds (sustained 35-40 mph with gusts well over 50). Not only was the city's large circus tent on the beach flattened in the early morning hours, the unused port-a-johns were blown over! In the hotel coffee shop, four kites discussed the situation. "I've got several vented stunt kites, but nothing that can fly in this!" "What if we made a stunt kite out of nothing but vent? Mesh, in other words." "Let's try it!" The four, Ken & Karen Nealy of Lansing, MI, and Jerry Hershey and Paul Beugelsdijk, from Wichita, KS, sprang into action. A trip to the local hardware store netted several yards of screen door mesh. "Is this stuff fiberglass or nylon?"

Back to the hotel, where it was laid out on the carpet in the lobby. A homebuilt experimental stunter made by Nealy, a flyer rep for Skyburner, was disassembled, and the skin laid on the mesh for a pattern. Sleeving was accomplished by folding the mesh and duct taping it on both sides - this tape-to-tape adherence through the mesh was then reinforced with staples...Same with the nosepiece which came out a little lop-sided. Reinsertion of the graphite rods and hardware, a few decorative stripes on the sail with colored vinyl tape, reattachment of the bridles, and the kite was ready to fly. And it did!

Jerry Hershey's description of the "Total-E-Vent" flight and handling characteristics: Quick turning, good ground work, extremely easy to hover, stall, do axels and coin tosses. On the negative side, an extremely narrow wind window and very slow flight. In fact, it was frequently easier to hover or stall than to achieve forward flight. But it did fly, and pulled surprisingly hard! Total time from idea to airborne...two hours. The kite was donated to the auction that evening and now belongs to festival organizer and Windchasers store owner Jim Geyerman.

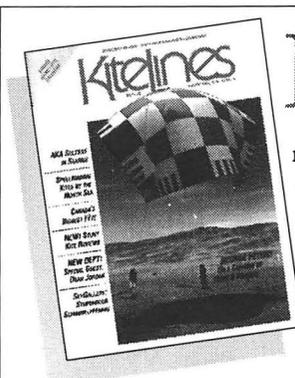
The next day's wind was much lighter, if quite variable, and a full slate of dual and single-line events, emceed by Frank Kenisky, kept a small but happy crowd enter-

tained. Craig Christensen flew a wide variety of his stunning single-line kites, while dual-line awards were won by Jim Aune, Jerry Hershey, Chris Moore, George Diekman, and Troy Gunn.

New Orleans annual **Crescent City Kite Festival**, sponsored by the Kite Loft with assistance from the Crescent City Kitefliers, had beautiful weather this year. Large crowds turned out for both days, and over 600 sleds were built on site by and for children. David Gomberg presented a workshop on rokkaku battling techniques, and the ensuing three-heat rok battle with fourteen contestants was the biggest crown pleaser of the weekend. Sport kite winners were Louis Lascola, Michael Christensen, and Tim Stover, while single-line awards went to Chuck Myers, Calvin Griffin, Larry and Morris, and Marshall Harris.

Finally, the annual **Completely Unstructured Kite Gathering** at Galveston, TX was again a huge success the weekend following Thanksgiving. A large number of Texas kites make it to this yearly happening...if it keeps growing it could become the U.S. version of the Fanø, Denmark meeting of kitefliers. Weather was described as perfect this year, with temperatures in the 80s, the water warm enough for swimming, and winds steady at 10-12 mph. A forest of banners provided a focal point to draw spectators, and large crowds gathered with lawn chairs and sun lotion to enjoy the spectacle.

Regional Reports
continue on next
page.



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—Tal Streeter, American sculptor and kite authority

Fighter Kite Display at World Kite Museum

The World Kite Museum in Long Beach, Washington is planning a display of fighter kites beginning in August 1996. They are looking for suggestions and input from kitefliers everywhere.

If you would like to add your comments and suggestions, contact the museum at:

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Region 9 Intermountain

Randy Shannon, Regional Director

Today my wife and I took our 15 month old son to the health department for his immunization shots. While waiting in the lobby, we were discussing a kite as a gift for a friend when the man sitting next to us asked, "Do you fly kites?" I responded with an enthusiastic "Yes!" We talked briefly as our name was being called. I left the room talking over my shoulder, telling the guy where we fly on campus on Friday afternoons. Hopefully, he'll be there with his kites and we can enjoy some of this unseasonably warm fall weather.

I tell this story to remind you that kitefliers come in all ages, sexes, occupations, and religious and ethnic groups. Take advantage of your kiteflying interest to enlighten others to the fun of kite flying.

The week after the AKA Convention, I traveled to Silver City, NM, for the **Cielo Encantado** Festival. This multi-day event caters to both single- and dual-line, with a biased interest towards fighters. The emphasis is on fun and I highly recommend this festival to all. This year, the field was the site of a local memorial service for Bob Ingraham. There was a large turnout of Bob's friends who knew him as a pillar of the community. Obviously, they knew of Bob's love of kites, but I won-

der if they realize the impact Bob had on people through his kite organization. While Bob's deltas flew overhead, Dave Turner reflected on Bob's life. I think Bob would have wanted it that way.

That same weekend, the Route 66 Kite Club held their annual **One Sky One World Kite Fly** in Phoenix. They were organized, had advertised and were ready; but where were all the people? Apparently, the fliers, spectators, and wind were absent. Next time, Sherry Jeffries says, she'll stick with the unorganized, better attended model of the festival.

On November 12, the Coyote Kite Club held their **2nd Annual November Fun Fly** at Arthur Pack Athletic Fields. The event was excellent. For a new club these people have their stuff together. Everyone pitched in and ran a smooth and organized event; the day was shared with a local arts and crafts show. The winds varied from none to about 10 mph. Look for future events in March of 1996. Rumor has it they are planning three separate schedules for the day based on wind speed. Hats off to the Coyote Kite Club!

On November 18, the Flag and Kite Factory in Yuma had a kite fly in conjunction with a hot air balloon festival. No word on how it went, but the schedule was full, complete with fireworks.

Word from the North: The Lincoln City Kite Friendship Association raised scholarship money to send a local high school student to China next year. The lucky recipient was Chris Bradley. The selection qualifications were: 1) be interested in kite flying, and 2) volunteer at the festivals throughout the year. Do any of you think I could pass for a high school student?

The same Association will send one lucky adult to Weifang, China along with Chris next year; that lucky person is Deb Cooley. Deb won by scoring more points than anyone else during the three festivals involved. Congratulations Deb! I first met Deb at the 1991 Reno International Festival, and knowing her work, I'm sure she's deserving. What's up for grabs next year? A paid trip to France in April of 1997! Word has it that individual event winners will have their names put in a raffle drawing with the winner taking all...I think I will try to make at least one of their festivals next year.

Again, I ask any and all of you to let me know what is happening in your area. Hope the holidays find you all in good health and dreaming of kites.

Steady breezes.

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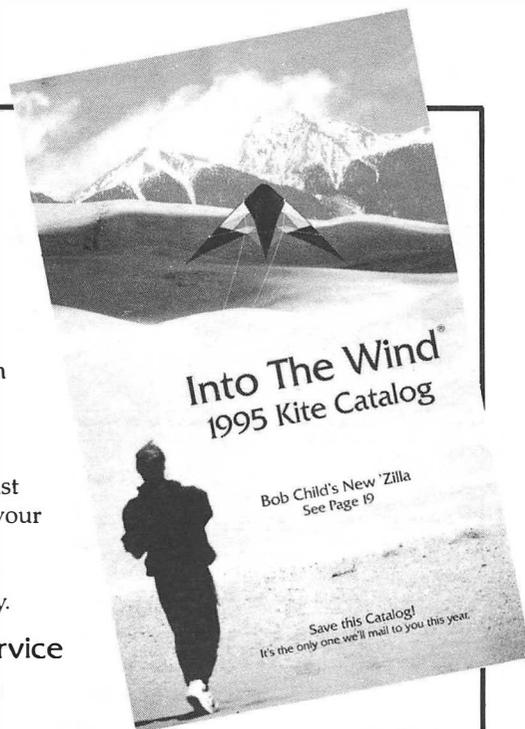
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Bits of String Too Short Too Save

The unidentified buggy rider on page 14 of the Nov/Dec., 1995 issue has been identified as: Kelly Reed of Austin, Texas. Thanks Kelly for letting us know, it's a great picture!

Region 11 Northern California

Tom McAlister, Regional Director

Happy New Year and welcome to 1996. So far It's been an unseasonably dry winter. Lets hope January and March bring us the rains we need. Let's also hope it only comes on week days.

The holiday season brought its usual collection of kite parties including the **NCKC Pizza Raffle**, the **Skinners party**, as well as our own year end celebration. All of these gatherings were well attended and a few extra holiday pounds were added by all.

Due to a snafu with the ballots there is no news yet on the outcome of the NCKC elections . Best of luck to all the candidates.

A good number of our regions buggiers attended the **annual buggy gathering** at State Line Nevada over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. One of the highlights of the trip was night buggying. In a word it was scary. Keep in mind that we had no moon, overcast skies, and winds that gusted from 25-35 mph! You couldn't see your kite, the ground, or what was in front of you. Nor could you get a good feel for how fast you were really going. It was exhilarating but a bit unnerving at the same time.

Joe Taitt commented that it was probably one of the stupidest things most of us had ever done! He was probably right especially when you consider the 60-70mph closing of two buggies going opposite directions. Of course he probably put on more night mileage than any of us. Then there was the "Desperado" the tallest, fastest roller coaster in the world. Not a bad diversion when the wind dies. By the way, where were you Evan and Martin from Sacramento? We missed you.

January 11-15 will bring the **3rd Buggy Boogie Thang** at El Mirage dry lake in Southern, California. With any luck this will be the biggest buggy gathering in U.S. history. If you have any interest in buggying you won't want to miss this one.

My thanks to all of the organizers and volunteers who made so many events possible in our 1995 season. Thanks also to each of you, who when no one was looking walked across the flying field to help that stranger who had their bridle on wrong side of their kite or were

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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hopelessly running down the lee side of the hill trying to get their kite airborne. In a small way you made yourself a better person and at the same time made kiting better for all of us. Thanks.

See ya in '96, I'll be the one with line in my hand and the grin on my face... oh yeah, and the buggy under my bottom.

HOW TO PLACE a CLASSIFIED AD

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

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Region 12 SoCal/Pacific

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

HAPPY NEW Year! and happy flying in 1996. In the middle of winter many fliers can't go out because of the snow or rain or perhaps the cold but there are still adventures to be had.

Tyrus Wong, master kitemaker, is being honored or is honoring the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Tyrus and Royal Morales are presenting their work in a show called **Flying High**. The showing runs from December 2 to March with the reception held December 2. Call (213) 485-2427 for more details on the location at the Los Angeles Theater Center, 414 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California.

Tyrus, who is young at heart, is one of those ageless people. Most of us are not sure of his chronological age even though his 70th Birthday Party was held some years ago.

Tyrus is willing to share so much that the trip to the Santa Monica Non-Club on the fourth Sunday of each month is worth attending just to talk with him and see what he has brought. His centipede kites are fantastic. His unique trains made of butterflies, owls, doves and who knows what else are bridled differently and with a beauty of their own. He has a single anchor line that may extend 1/4 mile into the sky and the individual kites can be 2 feet high by 2 to 3 feet wide are attached to the anchor with individual lines about 15 feet long.

These long trains are really cool but his centipede kites are still his trademark. Stop by sometime and talk with him and perhaps he will show you his miniature kites. One, the size of a postal stamp and flies well and uses 1000 lb. line (not).

Tyrus also will exhibit some of his bird kites in Long Beach, Washington for the "Birds" show. Also in February there will be a workshop about flying his trains in Washington. Tyrus will not be there but it should be interesting and fun.

Tyrus Wong is my candidate for the **1996 Regional Living Treasure** so I am spending more space about him. If you want to add more please contact me. Tyrus has an artistic and graphic background that includes working for many of the animation shops including Disney. While at Disney he worked on the Bambi film and did the artwork for my favorite character "Thumper" mostly he has created background and anything else that was needed. If you know where to look you will find his work on many Greeting Cards as well. All of these earlier experiences prepared him well for kite making.

While speaking of sharing, you can share with Ron Reich who still flies in San Diego between traveling all over the place. Ron, who has won so many awards I have lost count, is always willing and feels a responsibility to share. I spoke with him last week while he was showing a new flier how to do axels. Ron is a well

known and liked person who is here locally and accessible. He is always busy (doing R&D work on a new Revolution kite for the Rev folks when I saw him last) but always has time to share.

Victor Heredia, kite store owner and famous for building the Vic's Fighters, presented a fighter kite seminar at the last San Diego Kite Club Meeting (November). Vic shared what he knows and has done and answered questions about fighter kites the entire day. Here is another fountain of knowledge that presented interesting and fun information.

Later that day a fighter kite competition was held and a bunch of people entered including Jessie Laurence, Guy Lindsay, Mitch Anderson, Jack Irwin, Myself, Larry Bush, Harry French, Steve Bateman, Ron Despajado, Jim Skager (?), Charlie M'Clary, Hans Braemer Jr, Ed Lindsay, Gayle Lindsay, Yves from Brazil and Nicole. Quite a field of people from beginners to masters.

The winner of the competition was Hans Jurgen Braemer Jr. who is here from Brazil and making fighter kites with Yves and the company is called H&Y Kites, naturally. Everyone on the field was a winner because we all had fun and learned a lot from Vic.

Hans, who has flown for many years spends a lot of time showing others how to fly. He and Yves give away dozens of kites to help others learn.

So if you are getting bored on these short winter days, share with others. Go to events where other kite people can share with you.

Hopefully, you went to the San Diego Kite Club **New Years Day Fun Fly** but if not the Aire Affair Kite Production schedule includes Flight #2, March 30th at Belmont Shores, Long Beach CA and Flight #3 April 20th and 21st at Mariner's Point, San Diego. Then there is Flight #4 on June 15th and 16th, location TBA at either Belmont Shores or Santa Monica. Volunteers are needed to help the events move smoothly. If you want more information or want to volunteer call Neil Tuttle or Larry Bush at (310) 696-5266.

If you want to find out what is happening in Southern California and other places, call the **San Diego Kite Club Hotline at (619) 685-2885** and listen to the recording or leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Enjoy the new year!

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