



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

BOX KITE WORLD RECORD, 111 KITES, MILLIONS OF VIEWERS

If you want John Q. Public to enjoy kiting, give him a box kite to carry, stand him in line with a hundred or so more people all holding kites and let him be a part of breaking a World Record! Well that's my theory and its proven to be true on a number of occasions. Most people can relate to the box kite because they flew them as kids or with their kids. Everyone can relate to being a part of an effort bigger than one person can accomplish alone.

On Thursday, May 23, my wife Laurie, our son Zak, Meg Albers and I jumped into my van loaded to capacity with box kites and traveled from Buffalo, New York to Wildwood New Jersey. We arrived at "The Rio" late that night after taking an unscheduled tour of Philadelphia. Friday was spent doing the obligatory walk along the Wildwood boardwalk and checking out the beach. The flying facilities on the beach were tremendous. There were even wooden walkways installed from the boardwalk to the flying fields. Friday night we enjoyed a barbecue with old friends and new acquaintances on the upper deck of "The Rio". During dinner, I attempted to recruit an official box kite

*Richard Dutton's
World Record
Train, Arched
in Wildwood*

team among the kitefliers. Most recruits were happy to join the team when they learned that their major responsibility was to simply help out on the field during the World Record attempt. To those that were not so enthusiastic, I simply made them an offer no self-respecting kiteflier could resist a new kite. It was only after everyone had a few drinks that I mentioned the other duty of the official team to sign all 111 box kites. Actually, the kite signing party turned out to be quite a lot of fun with a little help from Meg's bottle of golden elixir!

As we all know, kites do not like to stand still in the presence of the wind, especially strong wind. We woke Saturday morning to 18 mph winds which made setting up 111 box kites a formidable task. Fortunately, a large Convention Center was located on the boardwalk near the kite field perfect for setting up the kites! Unfortunately, the doors were locked and no one seemed to know who had the keys. Not so good. Fortunately, we were able to convince a Convention Center employee we found that we

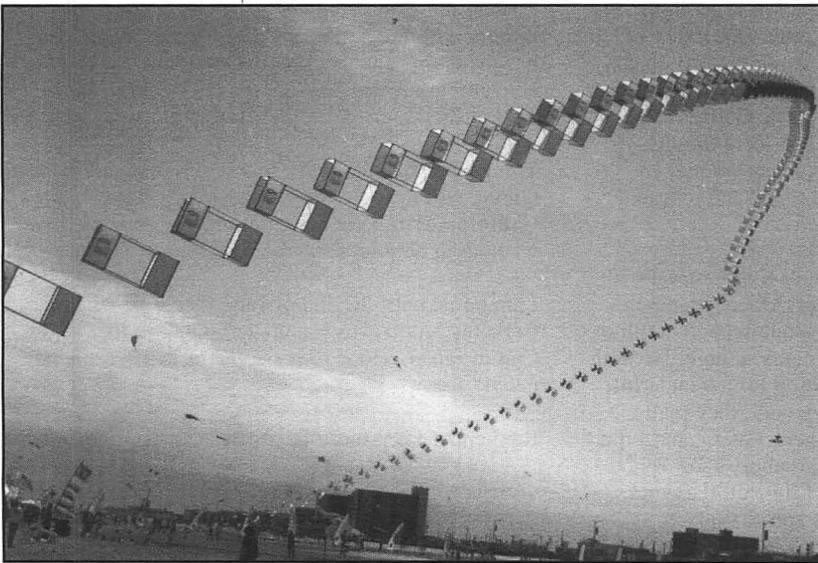


PHOTO BY TONY REISER,
1996 WILDWOOD

were going to do something wonderful that afternoon and our plans would only be possible if he opened the door and let us in. He obliged. Give the man a kite!

I set up the 110 two foot box kites from Mike Decker's Buffalo Kite Company with the help from Laurie, Zak, and a few other volunteers including a young family with two small children who had a great time holding wooden dowels for Mommy and Daddy. Give them a kite, too!

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Editors note: The box kite world record was video recorded and the moment was sent out to the world via satellite. Over 166 television shows in the United States showed the record breaking flight as did BBC World News throughout Europe. The Wildwood International Kite Festival set new marks in media coverage for the sport, and the World Record by Richard Dutton was a bright spot!

The President's Page

Peter Dolphin

Photo by Valerie Dolphin



The hills are alive..

a group of people who are more caring, energetic, creative and down right nice people and I thank you for the opportunity.

Since last issue, I have been to Miami and Great Britain. The 1st Annual Miami Beach Kite Show was one of the best weekends I have had in some time. My oldest daughter was performing at the University of Miami the same weekend which made the trip doubly enjoyable. The hospitality shown by organizers, Rick and Linda Gelinis was fantastic. The Gelinis' approach of teaching children self-esteem through kites should be supported by this Association (see Valerie's article). I look forward to '97 and returning to this event.

Home a week and off to Weymouth Kite Festival with my wife, Don Mock, Bill and Meg Albers attending this event that is held in a picturesque seaport south of London. This small beach (especially at high tide with a sea breeze) offers a great backdrop for a wonderful festival. The spectators are so friendly, they really made you feel welcome. From there Valerie and I did some sight seeing, including Glastonbury's Tor (photo ---"The hills are alive". At top of this hill the wind was really blowing, this is a real spiritual place.

The long strange, exciting and wonderful trip continues. First an announcement that this will be my last term as President. I have mixed emotions about my retirement as President of this Association. It has been a great honor serving in this office. I am presently being pulled in many directions and at times it can be overwhelming. I need to lighten the load. In my 47 years, I have never been associated with

From there off to Cornwall traveling on great roads until you get within a few miles of the coast. Then they drop to one lane so narrow we could not open our doors on a Fiat Punto without hitting the road-side walls. What beautiful country, rolling pastures right up to a 700' drop to the sea. While we were there the wind was 20 mph right off the sea, a nice place to fly.

My truck is still packed from the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships. This is the start of their second decade of competitions. Congratulations! As usual a well run event. The rok battles, both team and individual were hotly contested. Dave Gomberg's team "The Presidents" (John Smith, co-president of South Jersey Kiteflyers and myself) finished 3rd and David won the individual. You know, I hear during these battles the words, "GET DOLPHIN". Hey the heck with that, what about "GET GOMBERG"!

The indoor fly was a big success, with 14 competitors and Curtiss Mitchell winning. The Sport Kite Committee will be starting to formulate rules for judging this event. Any one with input please contact Sherrie Arnold. At Santa Monica we will have a workshop to review the committee's work and receive the input from interested flyers.

I would like to thank the Eastern League and Western League in recognizing the AKA calendar season, joining with the American Kite Circuit, who already has made this change bringing everyone back to the convention for the AKA Grand Nationals. Again THANKS!

Things are shaping up for this year's convention. Ron Gibian will head up the workshops, I am told with a California flair. We need field layout support, anyone wishing to help let us know.

I am home until the end of July, then off to the Berkeley Kite Festival and continuing to the World Cup in Japan. Hope to see some of you West Coast people then.

Remember keep those heads raised and smile.

Pete Dolphin

Santa Monica - Large International Turnout Expected

Early reports indicate that Santa Monica will draw the largest contingent of international guests since AKA gathered for the first Seaside convention in 1990. This is the first time the convention has been in California since 1987. In addition to regular guests from Europe, an unprecedented number of Japanese fliers are expected.

Already, the Japan Kite Association has reserved ten rooms. President Masaaki Modegi will be joining us along with well known artists including Mr. Hashimoto, Toki, Nakamura, Takeda, and Ohashi. In addition, a large group of sport kite competitors from AJSKA (the All Japan Sport Kite Association) are expected including the two top rated teams. And the Revolution Company is rumored to be inviting as many as 20 Asian quad line fliers.

Santa Monica is expected to be the largest AKA convention yet. Make plans early to see a record number of old friends and to make new ones from around the country, and around the world.

Born to Fly!

"AKA Kiting on Ft Myers Beach" was the only TV news Chuck Austin needed to hear. "You know where I want to be", he told me.

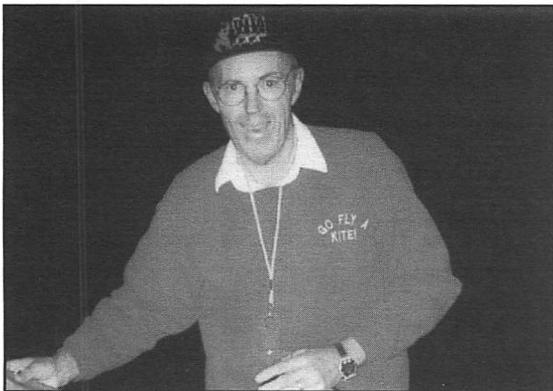
After three hours on the beach, Chuck called via phone and informed me that he was going to enter the kite competition. Chuck was victorious and placed second in the Southeast Division, individual ballet novice.

A handsome wood plaque is displayed proudly in the Austin home. Perhaps this plaque has more meaning to the Austin's as Chuck, 57 years old, was diagnosed with Parkinson's eight years ago. Chuck is a perfect example that kiting is for all ages and physical abilities. Determination, positive mental attitude, a sense of humor and a zest for life - ultimately wins over all!

With a smile on his face, Chuck offers this advice to all - "Go Fly A Kite!"

He sends his thanks to Tom Mason and his family for their encouragement and support at this event, and to fellow vintage Ft. Myers flyers, Don Fisher (KA) Bob Whittimore (3rd in Novice Precision) and to flying buddy Bob Corn.

Char Austin (Kite Widow)



New Layout!

Dear Roger & Judy,

I see from the last issue of Kiting that you've been chosen to edit the newsletter. Congratulations! From the look of the layout of the last issue, it looks like you're off to a great start!

Take care! Good winds to you!
Neil Parker

Neil,

Thanks for the vote of confidence! Judy has been responsible for the design change ideas! Look for more in the future!

Later in this issue Al Hargus writes about the fun of editing a newsletter. He points out the need for copy, and let me say, in support of his comments...send

Variable Winds Aloft Letters to the AKA

copy! You all have so much to share. Interesting kite stories have a place in Kiting, and we depend on you, the readers to add excitement to our publication.

Thanks
Roger

And the Winner is...

(a recent email message)

In '95, at the Tulsa Nationals I won the kite building category of Traditional Western. The name you listed here is "Bill Dick". Could you please change this to my real name "Dick Bell".

Thanx :-)
Dick Bell

Dick,

We must be dreaming about being outside flying a kite or doing something fun... sorry about the error!

Roger

Empty Places In the Sky

Patricia Gilgallon

Patricia Gilgallon of Southfield, MI loved life. An avid kiteflier she flew kites around the world. Once she flew kites from a boat making passage through the Panama Canal. And another time from the Great Wall of China. When she was in Hamamatsu, Japan, a giant kite was given to her, one of two kites to ever leave Japan during that festivals long history, and that kite today is displayed in the Smithsonian. And she had a huge collection of kites that she would put out on display. In her seventy-four years she was a model, a political activist, an artist a civic leader and an avid golfer. She also was the owner of the Unique Place World of Kites in Royal Oaks, MI for the past twenty years.

Elaine Andrea Linn

Elaine Andrea Linn of Ocean Park, WA was known nationally and internationally for flying her parrot kite along with her husband, Kenneth Linn. She was a member of the Honolulu Kite Flyers Association and the Honolulu Sport Kite Association. she shared her time between the Long Beach Peninsula and in Hawaii. She was seventy-seven.

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Bethlehem, PA 18015
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(301) 424-6976

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5. **Great Lakes** (MI, OH)

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6. **Midwest** (IA, IL, IN, MN, WI)

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Palatine, IL 60067
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7. **Great Plains** (CO, KS, MO, MT, ND, NE, SD, WY)

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WIND WIZARDS

...A Magical Success

Five and one half years ago Carolyn Moore and Chris Moore of Kansas City were exposed to Kiting. With limited information and exposure to Kiting, they quickly realized how Kiting could be invigorating, challenging, educational, healing, relaxing, and available to everyone. Their dream was born... This dream was to spread the "magic" of Kiting throughout Kansas City and the surrounding Central U.S.

Many people had their doubts about a kite store in Kansas. But not Carolyn and Chris Moore. They created a market where none existed by sharing their passion for kites and their love of people. Now, after 5 years of business, they can be proud of what they have accomplished. They currently have two stores, Wind Wizards, in the Kansas City area and are involved in the Kite Trade Association International, AKA, and never miss an opportunity to express their excitement for Kiting.

Both Carolyn and Chris have backgrounds in business management. Carolyn has 20+ years in the food industry and Chris 5+ years in management experience. Chris is furthering his education in Business Management and Administration.

Carolyn and Chris started out with a business and marketing plan and have pretty much been on target with all their goals. Some of their accomplishments have been:

- * **Kite Retail Store of the Year** by the Kite Trade Association International 1990
- * **Key to the City of Lenexa** for Civic involvement
- * **Volunteer of the Year** from the AKA
- * **Board of Directors** of the AKA and KTA
- * **Chris is a Masters Class flier** with the title of National Champion MIP at AKA Nationals in Wildwood 1994
- * **One of twelve small business' in Kansas honored** by the Kansas Small Business Administration
- * **Instrumental in events** such as the 24 hour Cancer Relay, Hidden Glen Arts Festival, Science City, and the Spirit Festival
- * **Founder and Organizer of Prairie Winds Kite Festival** held the last weekend in April annually
- * **AKA Auction Co-Chairman**
- * **Regional Director and Club Liaison** for the AKA
- * **Founder & President of the Kansas City Kite Club**

All these accomplishments sound great, but true rewards are working with the children and the adults at the Arthritis Camps, Deaf Schools, Kids at Risk, and etc.. We were once asked what the greatest thing is that we have done with kites, we replied "We made someone smile!" Whether its kids flying kites from their wheelchair, or signing "Lets go fly a Kite" to an audience of deaf people or making kites with Inner-city kids, the smiles on their faces and the giggles that come from the heart are all the reward we need.

HOUSECLEANING AND LOGISTIC

Before you do anything else, take a look at the mailing label on this issue of Kiting. If anything is incorrect or you have moved or your family situation has changed or it's not right, let us know. Next, if you belong to a kite club, check the list affiliated clubs near the back page and see if your club is listed and the address is correct. Finally if you are a member merchant, check those listing and see if all the information is correct. If not, let us know.

THE MAIL TRAIL

Imagine for a moment that you are an AKA membership application or renewal and you've just been dropped in the mail box. Scary thought, huh? If you are lucky and you have been addressed correctly, you will arrive at the AKA mailing house on Hungerford Drive in Rockville, Maryland, in a reasonable amount of time. If you have been sent to the Rockville Pike address which is now a parking lot for a mall, you will have to be forwarded on. Once you have reached the mailing house, and we assure you that it has taken as long as a month for some of your fellow applications to arrive there after being mailed in the U.S., you will be bundled up and forwarded to AKA Headquarters in Seaside, Oregon. If you arrived the day the mail boat sailed from Rockville, you could enjoy the hospitality of the mailing house for up to a week. Once you reach Seaside, you will be processed as soon as possible. How long this takes depends upon work load, number of times in a given day Medicare patients dial the wrong number and interrupt the AKA staff (as many as 15 have done that in a given day (but that's a different story), and the ability of xd to resist the call of a balmy, beautiful day on the Oregon coast.

The purpose of this saga is to let AKA members know that there can be a delay before you get your membership card. Feel free to call us if you begin to get you begin to get nervous regarding your renewal.

Things you can do to speed up the process include making sure all the needed information is included, and that payment is enclosed. Bribery is not an option. Communication by fax and email will work. Have a special membership need? Give us a call or an email.

KITE PLANS REVISITED

The number of requests (see last issue) has dwindled to a trickle. We are still laughing over the letter from a teacher in New York that wanted us to send 250 copies of the plans to them. Did he include a SASE? NOT!!! FREEBIES, the magazine that carried the offer, wants us to do it again. Maybe, after we recover.

Notes from the XD Mel Hickman

Box Kite World Record *(continued from Page 1)*

After all 110 kites were filled with spars, they were laid out in 2 long straight lines across the huge Convention Center floor. They weren't even in the sky yet and they were already a beautiful site. At 1:30 pm a call went out over the public address system asking for volunteers. By 2:00 pm we had some people, but not enough, so we went out to recruit from the boardwalk and the beach. By flying time we had about 35-40 people to help. As we began our procession across the boardwalk and onto the flying field, we collected nearly enough people to assign one kite to each person. Many of the volunteers were people from the viewing audience who got caught up in the excitement. I saw many a small child pulling Dad onto the field, each grabbing a kite, and waiting for instructions from members of the official box kite team. As our string of kites was stretched out across the field, I quickly sent the top kite, a 6' Cody (a winged box kite so it counted too!) into the air. We allowed the first ten or so box kites to follow but they wavered a bit due to poor ground level winds. We tugged at the Cody a little and it flew higher lifting the first ten kites into the wind. An exhilarating chain reaction followed and we watched the kites rocket into the air. Once all 111 kites were airborne, everyone remembered to breathe, and a huge sigh of delight could be heard both on the field and off. We all stood gazing into the sky at the huge brightly colored 'zipper' that floated upward. Cheers, high fives, and hugs were shared by experienced kitefliers, as well as, the newly engaged ones. As I said before... if you want J.Q. Public to enjoy kiting, give him a box kite to carry, stand him in a line with a hundred or so more people all holding kites and let him be a part of breaking a World Record!

I gave a lot of kites to my many helpers. If you would like one yourself, they can be purchased from Mike Decker of the Buffalo Kite Company at 716-834-2879. These limited edition two foot box kites are silk screened with the Wildwood International Kite Festival logo and each kite is signed by the official team.

Kiting is looking for kite plans for publication! Have any interesting new projects you would like to share? Plans you would like to publish? Send them or fax them today!

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California Gold Rush!

Sport kite competitions are heating up around the country. Points earned at Spring events enable fliers to qualify for the nationals in Santa Monica this October. In the six different sport kite regions around the country, lead fliers are locking up the slots making them eligible to compete in the Grand Nationals. Here's a look at three of the regions, and who is qualifying.

Northeast (Suzanne Edison, Commissioner)

The Northeast Conference has some of it's own Shinning Stars making their way to Santa Monica for the Convention.. Contenders such as Gilbert Velazquez, Robert McBroom, Lance & Dorothy Wagner, Robert Hurd, Harry Ownes, Don Coleman, Michael Moore, Don Ottomano, Billy Ng, Scott Weider and last but never least The Sliceman are following the Yellow brick road to Wood (Not Holly but the kind you hang on your walls). Pairs and Teams such as The Vali Boys , High Flyers Too K-Fan, DK Breezin, Sudden Flight, Air Strike and Jumbo Shrimps are issuing a challenge to all other regions. Catch the rising stars of the northeast if you can.

Southeast (Sherrie Arnold, Commissioner)

Manuel Mercado of Orlando, Florida is doing well in Masters Individual Ballet after moving up this year. Windswept is at the top as always in MPB and OTT. Dave Arnold is back in action in MIQ, and has topped the fields on a few occasions in the east. Sherrie Arnold is leading the southeast in Experienced. Watch out for the young fliers Alex Mason and Wesley Bost who are both making their marks earning points.

Central (Troy Gunn, Commissioner)

The Central Conference is heating up! The contest in Masters Class is between Chris Moore, George Diekman and Noel Nester. Noel is a young 70 years old! In Masters Pairs the battle is between TKO II (Troy Gunn & Larry Christensen) and Wind Wizards (Chris Moore & George Diekman). In Individual Quadline, Troy Gunn and Tom Farnsworth are leading in Masters, while Brandon Bell, Diane Holick and Alston Crawford are contesting in the Experienced Class. Two Experienced Class teams, TKO and Lotus are heading for Santa Monica, and team members Jerry Hershey and Paul Beugelsdijk are in the hunt in both Experienced Ballet and Precision. Ken Lantz and Kelley Reed are also in the hunt to qualify at the Experienced level. In Intermediate Paul Taylor is followed closely by his daughter Tomarra Taylor, Erik Korte and Paul Alley. The hottest class in the region is Novice, with thirteen new fliers!

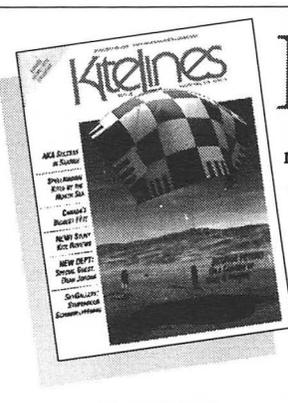
Great St. Louis Kite Festival

With the weather blessing us again with a beautiful weekend for a kite festival, Mr. Kite (Craig Christensen) kicked things off with his red, white and blue salute, and a Grand Ascension each day followed by a complete day of competition and exhibition. The Sport Kite competition was run enter with mixed exhibitions. With the help of John Trennepohl and his staff, Ruth Needham and Ken Nealey, we were able to fit the competition and exhibition in very nicely.

The uniqueness of this festival is that of the 20,000 plus spectators, probably a third of them have kites in the air. The other two-thirds are interested in the carnival atmosphere of the midway, main stage entertainment and constant activities throughout the day. With the size of the audiences we have, you can imagine the response you get to something spectacular. They are just appreciative of seeing the kites.

This year entertainment included: Mr. Kite, Dan Klos (creatures, Ron and Sandy Gibian, Chicago Fire with their 6 man team and Rokkaku battles. Next year's festival will be on April 12th and 13th. Mark your calendar for the 5th Annual Great St. Louis Kite festival. As in years past, we will be planning Friday night activities, Saturday night indoor feed and fly and hopefully a celebrity building class on Monday. This year's class was a great success with the Gibian's helping us to create a unique kite to fly in the sky.

Ron & Charm Lindner



HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING the premier source of kite news? *Kite Lines* is the exciting, colorful, authoritative journal of the international kite community.

It's packed with plans, techniques, personalities, events, reviews (of stunts and one-liners), in-depth feature articles and unusual advertisements—all in an awarded magazine, kiting's standard of reference since 1977.

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—Tal Streeter, American sculptor and kite authority

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 Cardholder's signature _____

Edeiken Award Nominations

The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award is, quite simply, the highest recognition given to a member by the American Kitefliers Association. Nominations are now being accepted for the 1996 award. Steve Edeiken was one of the best loved, most respected, and most active members of the AKA. He was killed in a tragic accident on September 24, 1983. The Association established the Steve Edeiken Memorial Award in his honor by resolution on October 4, 1984.

Criteria:

The Kiteflier of the Year will be a person who will have shown friendly, loving, fair, evenhanded concern for:
People in general, but kitefliers in particular.

Kiteflying in general, but for leading and participating in kite events in particular.

It is the opinion of the AKA that these criteria best exemplify the character of Steve Edeiken.

Nomination Process:

All nominations must be made in writing. Any member of the AKA may nominate a person for the award, but the nomination must be seconded by at least two other AKA members. Only one nomination will be accepted from any one member. Nominating letters should be limited to no more than three 8 1/2" x 11" pages, and one additional page of photos, bibliography, media coverage, or other supporting materials. Candidates should be informed that they are being nominated and may be asked to help assemble or verify the information to be submitted. The following information should accompany each nomination:

Personal data - candidate's name, address, telephone number, a recent photograph for media use;

Leadership examples - include position(s) held in AKA, position(s) held in other kite organizations, participation in activities related to kiting;

Interpersonal qualities - candidates should be helpful, considerate, known and liked in the AKA kiting world;

Communications - articles and kite plans contributed to AKA News / Kiting, other publication, and other media.

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

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

Selection:

The seven members of the Selection Committee are Cindy Edeiken, the current presidents of the AKA and the Kite Trade Association International, and the two most recent past presidents of those organizations. The immediate past president of the AKA chairs the committee. The award is announced at the AKA annual convention to the person selected and announced as the "Kiteflier of the Year". The recipient will be presented with a travelling trophy and an individualized plaque. The trophy remains in his or her possession until it is returned to the AKA in time for the next presentation.

Submission:

All nominations must be received by the

Chair of the Selection Committee by August 26, 1996.

It is understood that it is not necessary to present this award each year if the selection committee feels there is no qualified candidate.

There is no prohibition on resubmission of a candidate from a previous year.

send nominations to:

Steve Edeiken Memorial Award
c/o David Gomberg

7200 Highland Road Otis, Oregon, 97368
541-996-3083, 541-994-9692 fax

Past recipients

1995 Roger Chewing
1994 David Gomberg
1993 Margo & Bevan Brown
1992 Bill Lockhart & Betty Street
1991 Charlie Sotich
1990 Leland Toy
1989 Tom Sisson
1988 Jack VanGilder
1987 Tom Casselman
1986 Olan Turner
1985 David Checkley
1984 Alfred Chang



Unconditional Satisfaction

Service...

Quality...

Selection...

Above your Expectations!

Terry Yuncker, manager

511 Pacific Ave. S.

P.O. Box 1287

Long Beach, WA 98631

360-642-2229

FAX 360-642-8986

Kitevents

July

12-14

Newport Sport Kite Championships* Newport Cup Kitemaking Competition

Eastern League, Beton Point State Park, Newport, RI
Steve Santos 401-846-3262

13

Seaside Fun Fly, Seaside, OR, 503-717-0627

NCSP Fun Fly, Grays Harbor, WA 360-289-2982

14

Connectikers Rokkaku Challenge

Harkness State Park, Waterford, CT 203-732-5243

Wind, Wings and Water Fly

Whitney Park, St. Cloud, MN David Gjerdingen

SCI-Fi Kite Festival

Jetty Island, Everett, WA 206-339-9334

19-21

North Coast Stunt Kite Games*

Maumee Bay State Park, Toldedo, OH,
BSAF Kiteline 419-535-WIND

20-21

Cleveland's Bicentennial Celebration

Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites,
Pete DiGiacomo 330-454-3467

On the Edge Sport Kite Championships*

Ajax, Ontario, Canada Pina Sicari 416-747-9106

Southern Oregon Kite Festival,

Brookings, OR 800-422-5273

21

WKA Fun Fly, Magnuson Park, Seattle, WA 471-9103

GLKS Funfly, Tonawanda, NY 716-883-5483

27

NWBPA Fun Fly, Grayland, WA 206-788-6355

27-28

Berkeley Kite Festival

West Coast Stunt Kite Championships*

Western League / BASKL

Chavez North Waterfront Park, Berkeley, CA

D. Skinner 408-733-5483 T. McAllister 510-525-2755

Pacific Rim Kite Festival

Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC

David Tuttle 604-872-7685

Sun Flower State Games, 913-894-5483

30 LCWC Fun Fly, Spokane, WA 509-327-2829

August

3-4

R/C Aircrafters, Hamburg, NY 716-883-5483

10

NCSP Fun Fly, Grays Harbor County, WA 360-289-2982

Seaside Fun Fly, Seaside, OR Bill Storey 503-717-0627

10-11

Michigan Sport Kite Classic, Livonia, MI 313-454-3760

11

NCKC Fun Fly Berkeley, CA 916-678-1815

WKA Fun Fly, Magnuson Park, Seattle, WA 206-471-9103

SCI-FI Fun Fly, Marine Park, Everett, WA 206-339-9334

17

Flying Colors Kite Festival

Stunt Kite and single line competitions

Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Lake Elmo, MN

David Gjerdingen 612-724-7918

Milwaukee Art Museum

Kite Flying & Photo Demonstration

608-277-9121

BASKL at Baylands

Baylands, CA, Darrin Skinner 408-733-5483

2nd Annual Benefit Wine Tasting

World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame

Long Beach, WA 360-642-4020

17-18

New York Stunt Kite Championships

Eastern League, Uniondale, NY

Bill & Suzanne Edison 203-531-1084

18

GLKS Funfly, Tonawanda, NY, 716-883-5483

18-25

Washington State International Kite Festival

Long Beach, WA 800-451-2542

24

NWBPA Fun Fly, Grayland, WA 206-788-6355

24-25

Westport Fun Fly, Grayland, WA 206-471-9103

30-Sep 1

Silver Wings Kite Fest & Competition

SW Conference / Wichita Windjammers

Wichita, KS 316-744-2814

31-Sep 1

14th Annual USAF Museum Fly

Sportkite, single line competitions,

Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH

Judith Wehn 513-255-4704

Golden Gate Challenge

BASKL, Western League

San Francisco, CA 916-678-1815

September

6-8

Up Your Winds Kite Festival

Pacific Beach State Park, Pacific Beach, WA

360-276-8377

7

BASKL Award Celebration

Berkeley, CA 408-733-5483

GLKS Fun Fly, S. Orchard Park, NY 716-883-5483

7-8

Daytona Beach International Kite Festival

Southeast Sport Kite Championships

Daytona Beach, FL Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

8

SCI-FI Fun Fly, Marine Park, Everett, WA 206-339-9334

14

Frank Moon Kite Festival, Milwaukee, WI 414-277-9121

NCSP Fun Fly, Grays Harbor, WA 360-289-2982

Seaside Fun Fly, Seaside, OR, 503-717-0627

14-15

Great Belmar Kite Festival

New Jersey Stunt Kite Championships

Eastern League, Belmar, NJ

Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

Mill Run Fall Festival

Hilliard, OH - Hot Air Balloons, Crafts, Entertainment,

Kite demos, lessons -Tree Alexander 614-876-4573
15

Duluth Fly, Park Point, Duluth, MN

Asian Kite Festival

Amazon Park, Eugene, OR 541-689-8175

18-23

Ocean City Sunfest, Ocean City, MD

Kite Loft 410-289-7855

21

Cleveland Kite Festival

Funfly, Bob Lockhart 216-731-3639

Rainbow Festival, Magnuson Park, Seattle WA

Carol Landis 206-720-1076

21-22

Over the Dune Festival, Florence, OR 541-997-9500

Sky Circus & World Rokkaku Battle

Forest Park, Schaumburg, IL 312-726-6234

28

NWBPA Fun Fly, Grayland, WA 206-788-6355

28-29

Lincoln City Call of the Wild Fall Festival

Lincoln City, OR 541-994-9500

Whidbey Island Kite Festival

4th Washington State Sport Kite Championships

Whidbey Island, WA 206-334-0362

October

1-6

American Kitefliers Association *

Grand Nationals, Santa Monica, CA

1-800-252-2550 AKA

1-312-642-8692 Jim Miller

12-13

Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition

Eastern League Kitty Hawk Kites (800)334-4777

Wildwood Power Kite Expo

(Beach Buggy Bonanza III) Wildwood, NJ 215-736-3715

26-27

The Santa Cruz Kite Festival

California Sport Kite Classic - Western League

Santa Cruz, California 408-477-0414

November

2-3

Kite Fest New Orleans, LA 504-529-3247

8-10

South Padre Island, TX Kite Fest 210-761-7484

9-10

Georgia International SKC 215-736-3715

29-30

Galveston, TX Beach Buggy 713-943-5674

December

7

Kites with Lights, Nags Head, NC 800-334-4777

NOTE:

Lilac City Wind Chasers fun fly, every tuesday

Friendship Park, Spokane, WA Bill Lester 509-327-2829

*Sanctioned sport kite events to date

North American Buggy

Championships@El Mirage

September 29-30

Due to the lack of a suitable area for buggying at the site of this year's AKA convention there will be a kite buggy event held in conjunction with the AKA convention the weekend prior to the convention. In order to participate in the racing you must be registered for the AKA convention and be a current AKA member. On site registration will be available. Circuit and pursuit racing will be held on September 29 and 30. October 1 will be reserved as a rain date. Races will be held as outlined in the AKA Traction Flying Manual. Activities will be no means be limited to racing, El Mirage is one of the most highly regarded buggy spots in the country. It has large flats for high speed runs found on all dry lakes and it also has the notorious pucker bumps and trails. Temperatures can vary greatly this time of year maxing out well over 100 degrees and becoming cooler at night. Winds on the lake vary from nothing to 50mph, usually first timers to dry lakes find they need a smaller kite. There are NO facilities on the lake bed, bring everything you need, the closest store is about a 20 minute car ride. Camping is allowed on the lake bed and there are motels in nearby Adelanto, Victorville and Palmdale. For more information about the NABC contact: Fran Gramkowski (609)429-6260 or gramfran@aol.com.

LODGING

All prices based on phone quotes on 12/12/95

Mojave Desert Inn (619)246-4077

2-4 people 2 beds \$37/night

Hi Desert Inn / Casino (619)246-4131

2 people 1 bed \$39/night

E-Z 8 Motel (619)241-7516 (right off of I-15, Sizzler)

2 people 2 beds \$34/night

Want to earn a new kite pin while helping the AKA? For our new membership drive, any member signing up five new members will receive a special new recruitment pin! The drive will run from now through August '97, and the top recruiters will be listed regularly in Kiting. Special prizes will be awarded top individuals, clubs, store and manufacturers. We need new members and we need your help! Pick up some applications from your regional director or Executive Director Mel Hickman and get to work! The Kiting subscription, AKA insurance coverage, and member merchant discount make AKA memberships easy to sell - many kites just need to be asked. See how many you can sign up!

Membership Drive

Keystone Kiter's "Cop Half" is born

by Allan Main

"Keystone Kites Build Giant Keystone Cop Kite at Local Police Station"

At right, Pete Rondeau at the machine

A stormy Mother's Day weekend saw a dozen kite enthusiasts from the Keystone Kites kite club build a 36 foot long three-dimensional kite in the shape of their Keystone Cop club logo. The club members took over the Upper Allen Community room, adjacent to the Upper Allen Police Station to complete the project. The kite, designed by Martin Lester of Bristol, England, famous for his "legs" kites, adapted his

AKA award winning kite "The Top Half" to mimic the Keystone Kiter's Keystone Cop logo. Club members were quick to rename the design "The Cop Half".

While the body was being assembled in South Central Pennsylvania, its designer across the Atlantic was still wrestling with the engineering problems of building the world's largest policeman's helmet out of balloon fabric. For now, this Keystone Cop will remain bare-headed, though it is hoped that the head and hat will be united at Junction, TX.



Keystone Cop's Maiden Voyage

The "Cop half" is a monster kite and is without doubt the biggest policeman ever to emerge from the Upper Allen Police Station. Even though it represents the familiar character only from the waist up, the overall length is 36 feet. The head is large enough to engulf two adults. The kite was constructed by a group of four machinists and eight "gofers" from a kitset supplied by Martin Lester. For everyone this was by far the largest kite they had ever been involved with making and presented new challenges. As a group learning experience, this could not have been bettered as the project enabled each to contribute to their level of expertise while observing more advanced kite builders resolving challenges not previously faced.

Club President "King" Kevin Shannon said the biggest thrill was to see the finished kite flying on Sunday's afternoon breeze. "The mood was one of elation, though there was a heart-stopping moment when the velcro temporarily attaching the head to the body gave way. The head drifted onto a road where it was run over by a passing car. Luckily for the driver, no damage was done! We are fortunate in our club to have



some top notch kite builders. Even though it took the whole weekend to build the kite with three sewing machines each running 20 hours to complete the task," he said. "This is an achievement to be proud of...we are indebted to Martin Lester for enabling our vision."

Each helper was invited to sign the commemorative panel sewn to the center rib. In this way, their contribution will be recorded for future generations of Keystone Kites. "We plan the Cop Half to be the centerpiece of our club display at national kite festivals", Kevin Shannon said. Kevin and club members have a number of other ideas in the planning stage. "When we chose our logo we had no idea how versatile it would be. The possibilities seem endless. For now we are content to enjoy this achievement while keeping plans under our hat." When the Keystone Cop Half is finally fitted with its oversized hat, there will be ample room to store any ideas club members can come up with.

The Keystone Cop was Built by Pete Rondeau, Judi Main, Cinda Cole Shannon, and a host of assemblers and gofers.

Allan Main, along with his wife, Judi, comprise the incredibly hard working core of the Keystone Kites. Allan has taken the thankless job of putting out the club newsletter while Judi is both secretary and treasurer. Each month, Judi also does at least 3 or 4 educational programs for schools and other groups.

They have been flying kites for well over ten years. Since their transfer to the U.S. four years ago, they have become, like all good kites, totally obsessed with the sport. Both of them have started making and competing with their kites. Allan has a passion for fighter kites while Judi has become enamored with parafoils and other soft kites. Along with their daughter Kirsten, they are seen regularly at many of the kite festivals in the New Jersey, Maryland and the Pennsylvania area.

Allan's work contract will soon be completed, so they will be returning to New Zealand, probably at the end of this year. If you get a chance to meet and talk to this kite family, please do so, for they embody everything that is good about the sport of kiting.

Kids 'N Cops 'N Kites ... Oh My!

The Miami Kite Show Puts It All Together

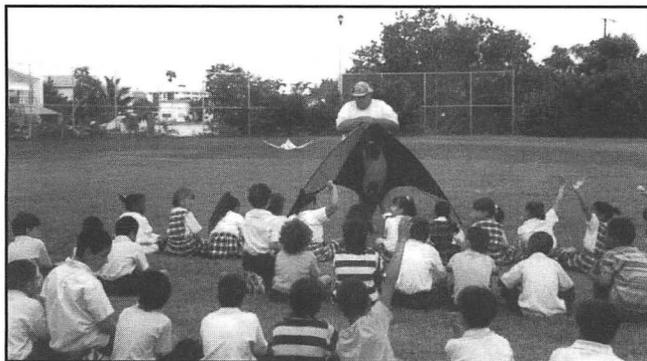
by Valerie Dolphin

For the most part attending kite festivals is a selfish pleasure . . . "I love making and flying kites and I'm having fun!" For some of us, it's also a livelihood, a marketing strategy. "Look at this great kite, spar, bag, drogue . . . wouldn't you love one, too?" The 1st Annual Miami Beach Kite Show offered kites something different - a civic purpose, maybe even a spiritual one. The producers - Rick and Linda Gelinias - have taken the sport and art of kiting and incorporated them into their mission. Rick and Linda operate a non-profit organization, the Delphi Institute, whose purpose is to strengthen families, thus promoting healthy, self-confident children, less likely to indulge in drugs, alcohol and violent behavior. The Delphi Institute has developed the "Little Acorns" program in which the whole family is offered new strategies for living. Taught through the school system, the effects have been significant. A new program, being developed this year, is Kids 'N Cops 'N Kites. Sixteen Miami area

police departments have promised participation in this program in which kids form Kite Clubs and invite police officers to be mentors of these clubs. "We hope this will help build friendships between cops and kids. Some of these friendships may be for life. Maybe the cop's life. Maybe the kids. "These two programs offer promise in addressing issues tormenting society at this time.

The gift that Rick and Linda offer to children, their families and now, to kitemasters, is one of empowerment. If you've ever read a headline describing a violent crime. If you've ever wondered what can I do to make a difference? The Gelinias' offer the answer - do what you love to do, do it well and share it with others. What most of us do well is kites. What the 1st Annual Miami Kite Festival offers us is a chance to do it for others. The Gelinias' have created a venue for high risk children to come and observe the kitemasters of the world. They see Peter Lynn and his giant creatures, they watch Lee Sedgwick playing as only Lee can play, they watch big Pete Dolphin amazingly light on his feet dancing to the Eye of the

Sparrow and Manuel Mercado hopping it up with a Latin beat. They meet Linda Murosaka displaying kites of tradition made with exquisite papers and a limited edition book on kites that packs history and technique into a piece of art. Michael Alveres comes into their schools and entertains as he instructs. (Now I'm in trouble. There's not room enough here to mention everyone and each one of them was spectacular!) The message - kiting's not just for sissies It's for strong, playful, artistic, dedicated, fun-loving people. People who started kiting because it spoke to something within them. That something woke up and became their own style and passion. Doesn't it speak to something in you?



The producers of this kite show did a superb job, They asked for help and came to those in the know, asking them what was necessary for a successful show. Advisors included Kay Buessing, David Gomberg and Genny Forsberg. Production coordinators were Sue and Bill Edison. The comfort of the

kitemasters - available shade and drinks, helpers for breakdown of large aerial displays, a separate competition field for children (where everyone won a prize!) on beach lock-up - allowed them to display their talents with ease and enthusiasm. But the graciousness with which our hosts went out of their way to make each participant feel welcome was extraordinary. (Imagine Carolyn Weir schlepping Pete Dolphin's heavy kite bags from the airport to his room and that will give you some idea of the extent they went to to insure our comfort.)Get your hands on a copy of the souvenir book to see the first class work the Gelinias' are promoting.

Rick's trying to do what many of us have dreamed about for a long time - attract corporate sponsors. "Our goal's to create a new community wealth by inviting corporations to invest some of their marketing and advertising budget ..." What he is proposing is an innovative, symbiotic relationship - publicity for corporations, a well run festival for kitemasters, support for Kids 'N Cops 'N Kites, and community well being. It appears to be a winning situation for all.

*Manuel Mercado at South
Pointe Elementary School
doing demos, teaching
lessons, and
answering questions.
Photo Linda Gelinias*

Airborne Art Committee

Janene Evard

At the end of summer before the convention, we will have our **first color-it-yourself kite art calendar ready. It will be for 1997.** Thirteen kite artists, many of which are international kite community "household names," have donated pin and ink drawings, one for each month. The calendar paper is heavy enough so that you can use markers, watercolors, or whatever you like to make the designs in the colors you like best. There will be room to write your own activities for each day and we hope to commemorate some historical kite dates as well.

The cost will be \$7.50, in North America and \$10.00 elsewhere (to pay for additional postage). If you're a retailer, let us know how many you would like for your shop - now or at the convention. They will also be great to take as inexpensive, unique gifts when you travel and for festival auctions. And a great gift idea! **The original pin and inks will be framed and sold, individually, at the auction in Santa Monica.**

Why is the Art Committee doing this? To help expenses for: 1. Airborne Art News (AAN). (We volunteer our time and much of our own expenses but there are expenses to print it and mail it to you). 2. The annual Art Gallery Show at the convention (printing, lighting, photography, publicity, insurance, etc.). Our long range plans involve building networks with fiber art communities around the world, people in arts non-profit groups, galleries, etc., to "enlighten" them about our wind-involved art form. We'd like to send kiteartists to related fiber art meetings, at least pay registration, so that they can learn and share with us what they learn through workshops and articles in AAN, building networking possibilities as well as developing their own skills and outreach potentials.

We would also like to plan for a traveling show of a first rate quality that we could offer to major galleries, university galleries and museums. We've also talked about a color brochure and a really good catalogue of our convention shows to use as a marketing tool. It will be possibly another year before AAN is in the black as well. We need fundraising activities and ideas. Do you have any? We would like to do the calendar each year because it showcases kites as art as well as provides an interactive art opportunity. Scott Hampton is in charge of this project.

One other thing. If you know of any kitemaker retreats, anywhere in the world, please send us (at Airborne Art News) the information so that we can share it with our readers.

**"KITES AREN'T
BLACK AND WHITE!"**

Art Kite Gallery American Kitefliers Association Convention

Santa Monica, CA
October 2-5, 1996

*Artists are invited to display
original art kites.*

*This is a juried show.
Drawings, photographs, and
slides will be considered.
While gallery submissions may
be accepted at any time,
early submission is suggested,
as space will be limited.*

*Kites should interpret the theme:
"Kites Aren't Black & White"*

*All art must be original.
If you are not attending convention,
shipping arrangements can be made.*

For questions, or
jury submissions, contact:
Karen Gustavson, curator

256 Painted Cave,
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805-683-2429
karengus@west.net



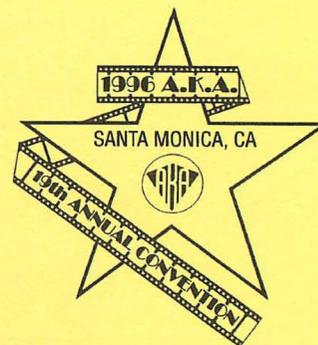
**19th
Annual**

American Kitefliers Association
National Convention

**Grand National Kite Festival and Competition
1996 Annual Meeting • Kite Workshops
Fly Market • The Great Kite Auction**

Santa Monica, California
October 2 - October 6, 1996

Convention Facts



DETACH AND SAVE THIS FACT SHEET BEFORE MAILING REGISTRATION FORM

Registration & Membership

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

Transportation

American Airlines is the official airline of the convention and will offer special discounts (domestic travel only) to AKA members: dial (800) 433-1790 and mention Star File # S7196AC. Get the special AKA member discount from Avis Rent A Car by calling (800) 331-1600 and mentioning AWD # J627610. The Holiday Inn will offer complementary shuttle transportation to and from Los Angeles airport.

Lodging

The headquarters hotel for the convention is the Holiday Inn BayView Plaza, (800) 465-4329 or (310) 399-9344. When you call, mention you are coming to the AKA convention to get the special discount package for AKA members. **IMPORTANT:** You must make your reservations by September 1st. to insure getting a space in our reserved block of rooms.

Meals

All of the following are included in the registration fee:

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

At registration you may purchase extra banquet tickets for guests.

Video Recording

Cameras & camcorders are welcome, but commercial sales or distribution of videotaped convention coverage is prohibited without the prior authorization of the AKA Board of Directors. Copies of the professionally-produced, one hour official convention video may be ordered on the registration form. Please note that much material shared in convention workshops is copyrighted. Please be sure to ask each presenter's permission before recording a presentation.

Information

General Information & Registration Questions

Jim Miller

Phone (500) 447-5516
Fax (619) 770-0415

Fly Market Chair

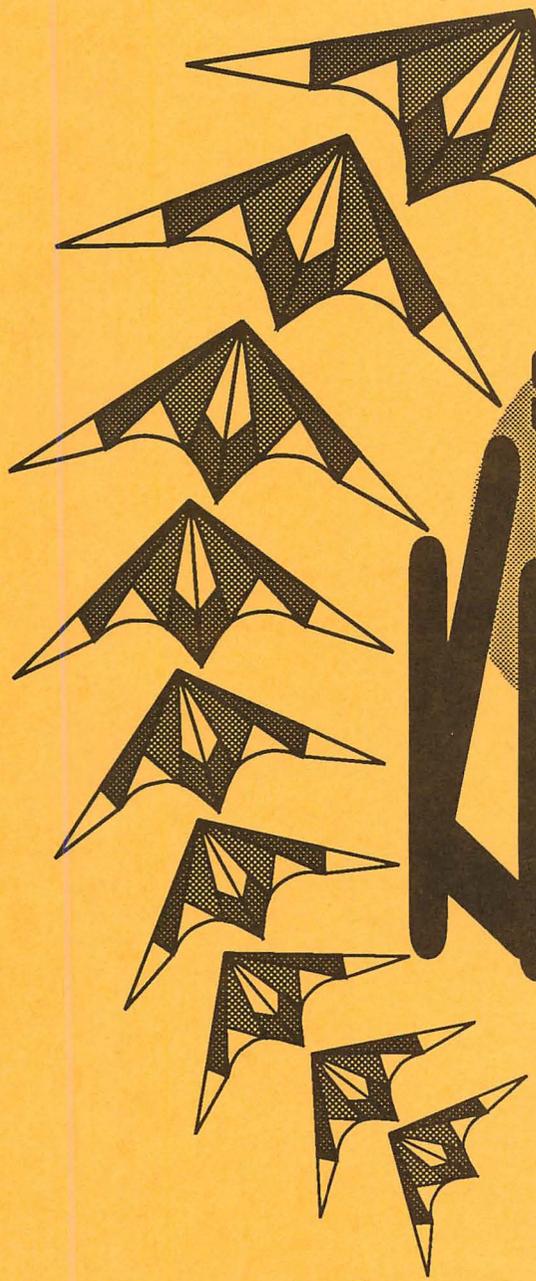
Ron Lindner

Phone (314) 376-6055
Fax (314) 376-6055

Auction Chair

Carolyn Moore

Phone (913) 894-5483
Fax (913) 894-1071



**2ND ANNUAL
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

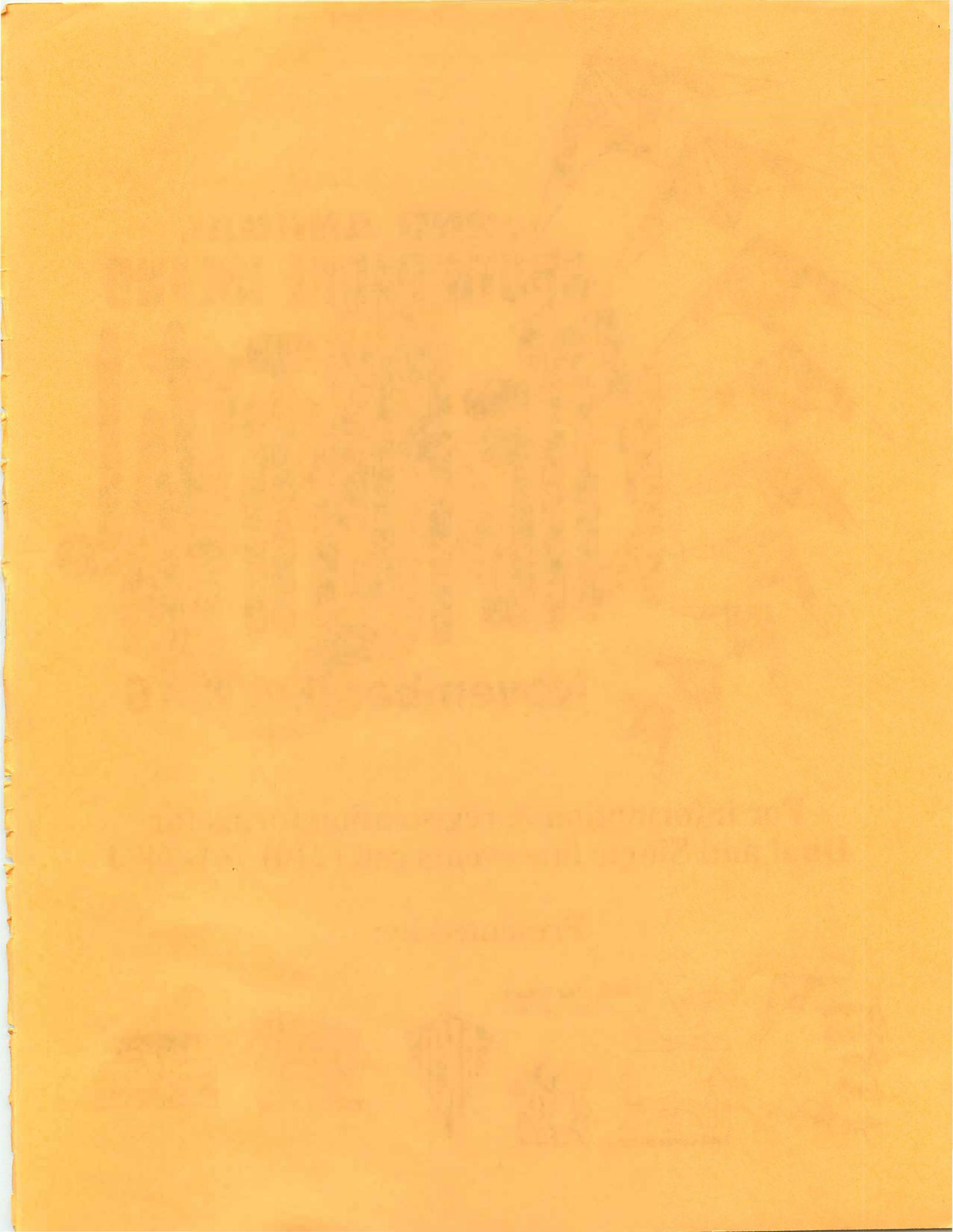
KITE FESTIVAL

November 8, 9 & 10

**For information & registration forms for
Dual and Single line events call (210) 761-7484**

Presented by:





Donor Form



THE GREAT KITE AUCTION

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

Donor and/or Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

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

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

“How to be the Editor of the Club Newsletter...

Or, How I learned to stop complaining and start cutting!”

by Al Hargus

You have decided to help out and become the editor of the club's newsletter. There are actually several parts to the job of editor. First to actually write, entice someone to write, beg someone to write, photograph, collect or invent the “Stuff” to put in the newsletter. The second task of editor is arrange copy, articles, photos and edit them for final assembly. The third task of the “Editor” is to get the final copy to the printer and ultimately to the club member subscribers.

Acquiring Articles is probably the hardest thing an editor does. Editors are not supposed to write. It seldom works that way. Before an event pick someone who is reliable and ask them to write about it. Give them suggestions and a general outline of what you would like in a report. Give them a deadline (make it ten days before you need it). Give the reporter the size of the space you would like them to fill, either in number of words or amount of column inches. This is a sensitive area as feelings can be hurt as you edit for space. If you decide to have photos in your newsletter, have the same person to take them all, or take them yourself. Photographs are like articles. I hope you can enough to be fussy about.

Preparing Camera Ready Copy can make or break the look of a newsletter. Once you've assembled all your stuff and you're ready to go to the printer, keep in mind these tips so to not make your printer crazy. Talk to your printer before you are finished and get suggestions that can make your job and theirs easier.

Use black ink. Use white copy boards that are not easily seen through and keep the degree of density (darkness) of all your copy as consistent as possible. Use rubber cement, or glue stick for paste-ups and never use scotch tape. Keep pasteups at a minimum. Use first generation copy. Keep as much clear margin around the edges as possible and don't run copy to the edge of the sheet (bleed) as it will cost extra. Keep copy clean. Remember Color photographs reproduce poorly.

Almost all of the pre-press work mentioned here refers to “non-computer” paste-up and layout. Today there are hundreds of programs that make newsletter creation very simple. Consult your local computer software store for the package best for you. And, when you are asking yourself why you are bothering with all of this work, remember what Ben Franklin said. “He that controls the printed word, controls the world.”

Al Hargus has been into organized kite flying for about fifteen years. He assisted in the original creation of the Chicagoland Skyliners newsletter, SkyLines and has written and published many kite articles, pamphlets and newsletters over the years. Al has worked in the graphic Arts and publication industry for all his life and is currently a print shop manager and pressman in Columbus, Ohio.

Lots of Fabric... CHEAP!
 Must sell approximately 500 yds (60" wide) of polyester fabric (yellow) from hot-air balloon
 Recycle and Save: \$1.50 per yd / 50 yd minimum
 For free sample or to order call Howard at:
Balloon Adventures, Inc.
 1625 Emerson Street, Jacksonville, FL 32207
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THE KITE LOFT

THE FESTIVAL OF FUN • FOOD • FAME • FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Be a Star - Come to the AKA Convention in October!

By Jim M. Miller, Convention Manager



Well, we are getting ready to go to LA LA Land, where the sun shines the year 'round and the only thing that outnumbers the gas stations on every corner are the health food stores. Santa Monica, which many years ago used to be a quiet (almost sleepy) beach town has become one of the real "in" places in LA with its Main Street strip of upscale bars, restaurants and boutiques, the Third Street Promenade with even more shopping, restaurants and movie houses, and a renovated Santa Monica Pier amusement park area. All of this is within walking distance from our headquarters hotel, the Holiday Inn Bay View Plaza. And, as an added attraction, the world acclaimed Cirque du Soleil will be pitching their tent a stone's throw from our flying fields.

The Southern California area is a Mecca of tourist attractions. Many conventioners may wish to come to the North American Buggy Championships at El Mirage the weekend prior to the convention, and then spend Monday or Tuesday visiting Disneyland, Hollywood, Universal Studios or other sightseeing highlights. The special convention rate at our headquarters hotel will be extended a few days before (or after) the convention to accommodate those wishing to take in the sights of the area. Call Fran Gramkowski (609-429-6260) for more information on the N.A.B.C. *Note: You must be a convention registrant of you wish to compete in the buggy events.*

If you live in the Western part of the country, and you haven't been to an AKA convention, take advantage of this opportunity to come to Santa Monica and be a part of the grandest kite festival of the year. The convention will start with an Early Bird reception hosted by the San Diego kite Club on Tuesday evening, and things will be in full swing first thing Wednesday morning with a series of terrific workshops and seminars planned by Workshop Coordinator Ron Gibian. Workshops will continue each morning through Saturday and will include a number of different kitemaking and kite building subjects as well as seminars directed to sport kite flyers. A workshop on indoor flying techniques is also planned. Intermediate and Experienced sport kite competition will take place on Wednesday, with Novice, Master, and Open following on Friday. This year our Grand National sport kite competition will have the extra attraction of being an All American event on American Kite Magazine's circuit. Thursday will see Fighter Kite competition and Kitemaking competition. The Fly Market will start with an opening reception Thursday evening, and will continue with sessions Friday morning and Saturday morning. We'll have an opening reception and Pin Challenge Wednesday evening, followed by the Annual Business meeting. And of course, one of the highlights of the convention, the Great Kite Auction, will be held Friday evening. It all wraps up with an annual Awards Banquet Saturday evening.

See the yellow registration form insert bound in this issue for all the info on convention travel, accommodations, and phone numbers to call for additional information. Please note that to insure getting space in our reserved block of rooms at the Holiday Inn, you must call them with your reservation by September 1st. It has been a number of years since the AKA has held its convention in a large metropolitan area, and costs in the "big city" run quite a bit more than places like Seaside, OR, Wildwood, NJ, or Tulsa, OK. Convention registration fees are primarily the cost of meals plus the shared cost of all the other convention overhead items (sound system, porta-potties, workshop supplies, etc., etc.). The AKA has decided to absorb most of this increased cost and pass along only five dollars of the increase as higher registration fees.

Don't forget to bring a kite for each of the four 1:00 PM Mass Ascensions, and bring a couple of kiting snapshots for the photo gallery. There will be a Happi Coat Challenge Saturday evening, and a Club Banner Challenge as well. The dates, once again, are October 2nd to October 6th. Don't miss it!

Kite Flying With Hoosier Hospitality

Our Tenth Anniversary

In October 1986, the Hoosier Kitefliers Society was formed by 12 people with the common goal of fostering the enjoyment of kiting within the State of Indiana. Here, while we celebrate the anniversary of our first decade, our numbers now exceed 200; but the goal has not been altered. For it is not the sheer numbers of kitefliers, but our qualities that each flier brings and personally shares with others that truly means the most. Things that last... perhaps it's grass roots mid-America that have helped us succeed and grow for these years. No big name sport kite team here; oh, we fly them, and we admire those who are successful on the circuit. No Grand National Champions, but the kites we build are always beautiful in the eyes of the beholder. We do spend a great deal of time building for the future by building HKS trash bag sleds for the most important people who grace our events... the children. In 1995, at the Anderson (IN) Little 500 Kitefly, I was asked by a reporter why I fly kites. At that moment, down the field a little ways, was a girl about six years old who was learning to master one of those sleds. The smile on her face was unmistakable. I said "See the child... see the kite... now see the joy of the kite through the eyes of a child... and now you know why I fly kites."



If the whole is always equal to the sum of the parts, then this Society is truly blessed by the members it has. Each in their own way have given a true measure of our success: for this Society, for the kiting community at large, for the promotion of the AKA, and for the growth of the friends of kites. Those seeking the same success might emulate any of the following:

Mike Bragg - our Society's current President, annually holds an average of 20 kitebuilding/promoting seminars at schools, home-schools, and local organizations. This equates to the promotion of kiting as an exciting and wholesome activity to over 800 new and potential fliers each year. It is most certain that the future growth of kiting depends on activities such as these.

Merritt Beck - a person who at a tender age of seventy-something successfully mastered the skills of kitemaking from the one and only Ansel Toney, and gladly took these skills and his uncompromising standards of quality, and taught others his fine art. Shown by one - teach many.

Lois DeBolt - present membership chairperson, and for 10 years the editor of the club's newsletter *Ride the Wind*. If you want participation, then you have to keep people informed. Lois insisted on 3 things in a newsletter: to be of high quality, to be informative, and to be on-time. Like the convention pictures in *Kiting?* Many of them are hers. Lois is instrumental in the success of the Colorful Kite Tales exhibit at the month-long display in Kettering Hall for the Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio. This exhibit is viewed by thousands and thousands of people. Potential of stirring a little interest in kiting on a grand scale? We think so. These people are far too modest to tell you these remarks themselves, but since the above information was contained on their certificates of induction into the Royal Order of the Kite (our kiteflier of the year award), they are simply statements of record. The list could go on and on.

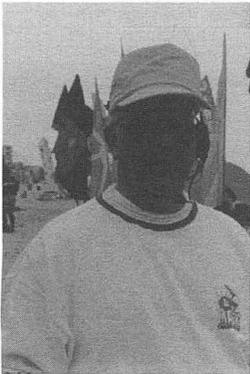
The little things do matter in being successful. Next time you're out flying, help a child feel the sky through your delta, or pull out a Trlby and show someone the thrill of controlled flight. You may never know if that new member is but a short flight away, but you will know how marvelous it makes you feel.



*Members of the
Hoosier Kitefliers
Society Relaxing*

*Richard Pratt
Editor and Publisher
Ride the Wind*

Regional Reports



*Sarge Cleaves
Region 1 Director*

Region 1 New England

Well, Ruth and I were married on April 6th. It was an evening service with just immediate family attending.. even so that was thirty-three people. It was a semi sunny day, reasonably cool. There was a large parking lot. "Good", I thought, plenty of room to fly the wedding kite, and it was. After the service and dinner we returned to the hotel to open gifts. Then we all went outside to fly the kite which everyone had by now signed. We attached the strobe lights and off she went much to everyone's delight. We may have started a new tradition in our family. Then we went to the lounge for dancing. Afterwards as Ruth and I were returning to the hotel, I suggested we fly the kite again (2:00 am)... so we did. It was very dark so I guess it made it that much easier for the Berlin policeman to see our strobes. When he found out what was going on, he was dismayed as he thought he might get to report a UFO... a grand ending for a wonderful day. By the way if you need a best man, let me recommend my very good friend Tony Sparrow...he doesn't drop rings and gives great speeches.

To all of you who have offered your best wishes: Ruth and

I are very grateful for them. It just proves to us that the kiting community is as warm and caring as we have known it to be.

That was the first weekend of a very busy month. On April 12-14, 1996 in Newport, RI the first New England Regional AKA meeting was held. We stayed at the Seaview Inn and ate at Johnny's Restaurant. The hotel sits on a hillside with a marvelous view of the harbor and you can walk out of your room, cross the driveway and fly a kite!! In addition the restaurant is right on the beach with huge glass windows offering a great view of the moonlit water. Three hundred invitations were sent. Sixty-six people sat down to dinner. The schedule was purposely light in order to allow our major goals to be achieved...fly kites and have fun. The overwhelming reaction was "Sarge, you need to do this again next year". And so the Seaview Inn has agreed to host us again next year April 11-13.

The following weekend we went to Nahant, MA for the first Kites Over New England regional competition and kite festival. Archie Stewart was the event coordinator; it was the first time he had done anything of this magnitude. Let me say it was a premier event. The weather cooperated, the city provided support and the event went off without a hitch. Gold, silver and bronze medals were presented to the winners. Congratulations to the organizers!

On April 27-28th we went to Belmar, NJ for the Fly Away Classic. This event was co-sponsored by Monmouth Ocean County Kitefliers (MOCK) and Fly Away Kites of Belmar. It was different in that \$3000 was offered in cash and prizes to the winning competitors. This event was organized by some folks who had not done it before, but not to fear... Gil Velazquez, Mike Fitzpatrick and John Fragale worked closely with Tony Esposito in providing expertise in field staffing. Congratulations to MOCK on a great success. As the whether or not "money competitions" are the way to grow the sport, I'll have to leave that to a larger jury. This event was done well, and in my opinion a brave move.

Outgrowth of Activities,
Or how did we wind up with our own sound system?

When one begins a project, there are sometimes some difficult objectives to be met. For the Nahant Regional one of the major needs was a sound system capable of supporting the event. A sound system to be used throughout the region has been one of my goals for years. To that end, I began accumulating various pieces of equipment - mixer, wireless microphone, tape deck, etc. I made John Ruggiero and Archie Stewart aware of my holdings and then John Demattio came up with a 200 watt amp. "But", John said, "We need more more than this, this is not strong enough". And so John and Archie went shopping. A professional mixer, a pair of mega speakers, a 1200 watt amp and the region now has a sound system. It is available to anyone in the region for a nominal fee, the proceeds pay for improving the system. The quality and scope of vision are way beyond what I had envisioned. It has already been used to support events in NH and Massachusetts, and is

Transcendent.



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scheduled to be used at Newport. Good Job Guys!

Another new beginning for me is the acquisition of a computer. With help from John Ruggiero, I am now computer equipped and on line. I can be reached at sargeak@aol.com.

Region 2 Northeast

Summer is almost here - the end of the early season. In April, I was lucky enough to fly on the West coast in San Diego. Mission Bay is so beautiful and just great for kite flying. My hosts, John & Rosie Rogers and Ed & Gail Lindsay gathered kite folks together and we were able to fly for three days. I met Walt Thompson, my region 12 cohort, flew with old friends and enjoyed the time in the sun.

Later in April the Lehigh Valley Kite Society hosted the 6th Annual Kite Day in the Park. This year we had over 3500 spectators for our guest fliers the Valli Boyz, kite games, food and fun.

May came and so did MASKC and the Maryland Intenational Kite Festival at Ocean City, MD. Kite clubs from all Eastern regions took an active part in the festivities as well as sport and single line fliers from across the country.

It is hard to believe that June starts tomorrow and our nite time temperatures in the 40's. Last weekend, Memorial Day, was the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships at Wildwood, NJ. Quite an extravaganza.

Richard Dutton broke his world record for most box kites on one line, at 111, a record he set in Australia. The attempt to fly the most giants fell short of last years number. The winds did not cooperate. Twenty six flowforms flew, but they were unable to lift any of the sleeping 90' spinsocks. This is the biggest and best event of all, partly because of the club involvement. LVKS, SJKF and WOW were a major presence and influence throughout the festival.

Coming up in August is the New York Stunt Kite Championships, followed by the Belmar Festival in September. Check the calendar for dates of upcoming events in your area. Keep in touch, the wind at your back and kiting on your calendar.

Region 5 Great Lakes

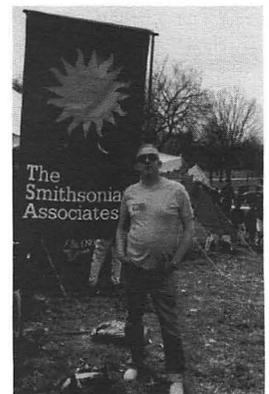
Congratulations are in order for several Region 5-ers on a nice showing at the Smithsonian Kite Festival in Washington, DC, held last in March. Cheryl Kear won the Theme Award with her Castles in the Sky, a beautiful Chinese 3-stick kite with a 30 ft. tail. Tom Ryan, Nancy Lockwood and Harry Gregory shared the Patriotic Award in the Other category for their collective effort on Toms 150 ft. red, white, and blue sky ribbon. I bet it was a sight to behold, with the Stars and Stripes Forever music playing, and the Washington Memorial in the background. Goosebumps, anyone?

I've gotten word from a couple of lonely kites in Ohio who are interested in starting new groups in their area. New AKA member Rob Wilson would like some contact from anyone in the area of New Philadelphia, Ohio. You can drop him a line at 9419 Haas SW, Sugarcreek, OH 44681. John Baum invites fliers from the Sandusky-Huron region to join them at the Osborn Park Recreation Area in Huron on the 2nd Saturday each month. He says there is space for buggying, too. You can reach John at (419) 625-3853.

If you didnt see any kites flying on Earth Day, it's because you werent looking. Several groups in the region raised consciousness along with kites to celebrate the day. O.S.E.K. of Cleveland participated in the Lake Metro Parks Penitentiary Glen festivities, and the BSAF colored the skies over Secor MetroPark in Toledo. Dennis Findley unveiled his first applique job by flying his Rokkakka-poooh. (Winnie the Pooh on a Rok.) Although I haven't seen it yet, I heard it looks great! Mid-Michigan String Stretchers [M2S2] held a club fly that day, and about 30 members flew for appreciative spectators and soccer players.



Cheryl Kear and her kite at the Smithsonian.



Andy Gelinas
Region 2 Director

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*Robyne Gardner
Region 5 Director
(with an old, old friend,
Ben Franklin)*

A big ol MEND FAST hug goes out to John Cosby in Kalamazoo. John had an unfortunate accident that did major tendon damage to his left leg. With lots of help from his friends and family, and by delegating duties from his golf cart, he managed to preside over another very successful Kitefest! on Apr. 27-28th.

Congratulations, complete with wedding bells, go out to Jackie Rosenberger and Denny Frey! Also, to Leo Malvitz and his new bride, Louise, who will tie the knot on June 1st. Kudos, also to David Spiff Bangley on his recent promotion to Producer at WGTE TV.

High, high winds were the order of the day at the first Neil Armstrong Museum Kite Festival in Wapakoneta, Oh. on Apr. 20. I'd like to thank all who showed up for this event - the Museum officials were appreciative and want us back next year. Some of the fliers battling the gusts and sacrificing equipment that day were: John Pfister, Rich Myers, Tone & Sue Rameriz, Tim & Emily Haupright, Robin, Wayne & Michelle Taylor, Darrell Willis, Scott Ness, Steve Gilbert, Uncle Wilbert & Aunt Cass, and Pair of Pairs Kite Team. The kitefliers received free passes into the museum. Small festivals such as this one go a long way to help promote community interest and raise public awareness about kiting. Although the flying fields may not be optimum, the important thing is that we can all share in the camaraderie and help to cultivate some good clean family fun. While a big part of kiting focuses on awards, competition, and recognition, there is still a large part that offers us many opportunities for personal satisfaction. Find some for yourself! Fly for a Scout Troop (like Mark Bailey did up in Flint recently); host a childrens sled workshop at a local park or school (like Nancy, Harry, & Gene and Dorothy Lewandowski did on May 22); offer to put up a display at your town library. There are many ways to boost your own happiness factor, incite more smiles, and brighten someone elses day.

At this time, I would also like to ask what I can do for YOU. I try to stay available and in touch with my region, but it isn't always possible to be at each and every event. It's up to YOU to feed me information, pass along the shining moments and ask for my help if you need it. Looks like you all may be stuck with me for the next three years, as I have just agreed to run for another term as Region 5 Director. Thanks, everyone, for making the first three years so memorable. The Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships were held this past weekend in Grand Haven, MI. I'm out of room now, but I'll have a full report in my next column.

Please note the following corrections to the AKA Internatinal Sport Kite Competition Rules, 4th Edition:

Appendix C, Scorer's Worksheet, page A-4 Under Standard Precision, the weight for Freestyle Technical should be 3.0, the weight for Freestyle Artistic should be 1.0.

Compulsory Figures, page 44-45 There are two figures labeled number 28; the star should be number 29.

Region 7 Great Plains

Chris Moore, Regional Director

The Central Region is heating up with the hottest weather and some hot kiting activities. If the heat of the summer has you feeling like a menu item at the kite club barbecue, try cooling off by flying a kite by a nearby lake in one of many parks throughout the Central Region. Not only is the air a little cooler by these lakes, but it also offers a chance for you to participate in a little sink, swim, or flying games with your sportkite. Most sportkites can be landed in the water and then flown out or for some real practice in control do a graceful wingtip drag across the surface of the water!!

The weekend of June 7-9 saw the successful completion of the annual **Twisted Lines Kite Festival** held in Topeka, KS in June 7-9. This event is hosted by the Topeka Kite Fliers, a growing club here in Region 7. The flying field is over 80 big so it truly is kite flying on the prairie with plenty of sky for everyone!

June 15th at Emporia, KS was the annual **Twin Rivers Kite Festival**. The festival is sponsored every year by the Emporia State Bank. AKA sanctioned competition was the main feature of this festival. Special thanks to George Diekman, Nina Whittredge, Marshall Ellis, and all those who helped judge events. Other activities included learn to fly a sportkite, water balloon launching contests, a Rokkaku Challenge, a Grand Ascension, and sled-kite making workshops with Richard Dermer.

On July 27th and 28th the 3rd annual Kite competition for the **Sunflower State Games (SSG)** will be held in Lawrence, KS. The SSG is a multi-sport festival of Olympic-style competition for Kansas amateur athletes of all ages and abilities. The purpose of the SSG is to promote health and fitness through friendly, family-oriented athletic competition, to recognize dedication and achievement, and to create private as well as public sector support for physical fitness and amateur athletics, 6,600 athletes competed in 1995!

Wind Wizards and Prairie Winds Festivals, Inc. founded and will be hosting this years Kiting venue. The event is an AKA sanctioned competition. Entries postmarked after July 12th will be subjected to a late

Sherrie Arnold, Sport Kite Commissioner

fee of \$3.00. The entry fee is \$15.00 for the first event and \$5.00 per event thereafter. Contact Kiting Commissioners: Carolyn and Chris Moore, Wind Wizards at 12944 West 87th Pkwy Lenexa, KS 66215. Tel. (913)894-KITE Fax (913)894-1071.

The Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Arvada, Colorado, just 12 miles west of Denver, will host their third annual **Arts Adventurefest**. This is a free family festival, open to the general public, prominently featuring kiteflying. It runs from 10-4 on Saturday, **July 13th**. Children can make sled kites in the outdoor workshop and fly them next to world renowned flyers such as Bob Child, Reza Reghab, Scott Skinner and George Peters. There will also be a drawing to win a kite being donated by Reza Reghab. For information contact Tillis Lackoy at (909)258-0315.

The sixth annual **Callaway Kite Flight** will be held at the beautiful Callaway, NE golf course on Labor Day weekend Aug. 3 - Sept 1. Each year, the kite fly has grown from the first year with 35 families participating to over 125 families participation in 1994 and 1995. The flying families have a \$15.00 fee and receive a free commemorative T-Shirt. Flying is for fun, no competition. There will be exhibition kite flying. Camping is available at Morgan Park and entertainment will take place at the park in the evenings. In addition, there will be a kite exhibit at the old public library during the event. Thanks go to Connie May for all of her hard work on this event. Contact Connie at (308)836-2620.

Region 8 South Central

Kite Festivals every weekend and good weather for all of them! It was a great Spring season this year in the Southwest.

The Third Annual Westlake Kite Festival in Lahona, OK was sponsored by Thomason's Sport Kites, Westlake Recreation and many others as a benefit for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Sport kite competition was spread over two days as a result of Saturday afternoon rains, but Sunday was beautiful. Winners included Michelle and Steve Thomason, Kenneth Monohan, Tomarra Taylor, Jerry Hershey, Noel Nester, Larry Christenson, Paul Beugelskijk, and Troy Gunn. Texan Walt Mitchell took single line honors while Oklahoma's Precision Kite Company debuted some new indoor sport kites before the banquet and auction.

San Marcos, Texas' Bluebonnet Kite Fest again lived up to its growing reputation. Sponsored by the Bluebonnet Lions Club, this event is a charitable fund raiser with lots of craft vendors, food vendors, kids activities, folk dancers, live music and big crowds. Those spectators were treated to a great display of both single line demonstrations and multi-line competitions. AKA members from both Jewels of the Sky and Texas Skyriders pitched in and did a great job of running the kiting part of the show - the Lion's Club took care of everything else, including the on-field banquet and auction Saturday night.



Richard Dermer
Region 8 Director

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Richardson, Texas' Wildflower Kite Festival had its usual strong winds, beautiful fields, and disappointingly small crowds. The very remoteness of the gorgeous site makes it hard to draw spectators. The kites that showed up had a great time, thanks to a small group of Dallas-Ft. Worth AKA members who hosted the event. It was a smooth competition with a great banquet/auction and plenty of wind and room.

Good news from Arkansas - a new festival near Little Rock! Sponsored by Flying Object's Bob Riggins and the Maumelle Parks Department. Basically a two day funfly with a small group of AKA members, entertaining lots of local families. Marti and I made 180 sleds over two days, a three flier team from Memphis wowed the crowds, and Jeff Howard, Park Fleming, and others gave continuous demonstrations. A good flying field, with high visibility and friendly folks.

The Tulsa Windriders returned to the AKA convention fields for their 2nd Tulsa Kite Fest. After mowing the fields themselves (team flying riding mowers), they achieved a lawn-like field and a commendation from the property owners. Large crowds watched sport competition on Saturday, while Sunday featured demonstrations and sled-making for kids. Winners included Chris Johnson, Michelle Thomason, Tomarra and Paul Taylor, Jerry Hershey, Larry Stiles, Noel Nester, Brandon Bell, and Troy Gunn, and Team TKO. Something new I learned at this event: flying two fighters simultaneously on relatively short lines forking off from a single flying line. I think Jeff Howard started it. It's not that tough - only one has to be flying to keep the pair aloft, and both are flying 95% of the time. Classy action!

Rockport's Texas state Kite Festival, sponsored by the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Skyriders, drew 85 registered kites and an estimated 500 spectators. Frank Kenisky presided over the SWSKC event; sport kite winners included Stephanie Wise, Dennis Phillips, Randy Gardner, James Salazar, Troy Gunn and Brandon Bell. Single line awards went to Mike Wright, Kathy Nixie, Richard Robertson, Bill Mladenka and Cathy Jones, while buggy pursuit races were won by Keith Anderson and Jeff Howard. One recruitment worth mentioning: Rockport's C. of C. Beach Coordinator, Karin Magera, became seriously hooked on sport kite flying and kiting. It's nice to have a kiter in her position.

Region 9

Intermountain

Randy Shannon, Regional Director

I just found out the other day that Dennis Rodman, of the Chicago Bulls, and I have the same birthdays. For those of you who really know me this probably comes as no surprise. Anyway, I thought it was interesting. The kite season (at least in the southern part of the region) is pretty much over until Fall. Arizona and New Mexico are in the grip of an eighteen

month drought and extreme summer heat. While Flagstaff and many forested areas are threatened to be burned off the map any day now. Be kind of like the old TV series Bonanza all over again, except no men on horseback would come riding through the flames.

I was talking materials the other day with Tom Dice. For those of you who don't know Tom, he's the kite flyer who spends his free time making a living as a machinist. His kites are dialed with nifty little fittings. Anyway, personal safety came up over boron, and I felt it needs to be addressed. Most modern kite building materials present some level of hazard. For the hobbyists, the risks are minimal, but many of us are beyond hobby. The short term immediate effects of most materials are nil. But over time, respiratory ailments can arise from repeated exposure to fiberglass or carbon dusts, while the risks of even a small piece of boron could be deadly. Take precautions with materials. Use a good respirator recommended for the dusts you are exposed to and do so in a well ventilated area, outside or even better, on a vacuum table. Most importantly, if you're going to use exotic materials, learn how to use them safely as well as innovatively in your designs.

Junction was a kick. I roomed with Bobby Stanfield, Tom McAlister and Robert Trepanier. I don't think the four of us were in the room together more than a couple of times. George Peters didn't make it this year and was thoroughly missed. Robert Trepanier's self-portrait class was really fun. Scott Skinner's portrait was a rare treat and actually flew better than most of his kites. Mine came out pretty nice also. Let's see if Joanne Duron and Gail Lindsay are brave enough to fly theirs in public. This year there was wind at Junction! So much that many kites weren't flown until Sunday when it died off a little. A major event that brought out the cameras like a swarm of locusts was Bobby Stanfield crashing Bill Lockhart's Navigator kite not once, but twice in the same tree. Jan and Wilma Fischer and Willi Koch helped him run a kite rescue and retrieve it both times, unscathed. The trip to the bat cave was less eventful than last year, but more spectacular (because the bats actually flew out this time.) Late night talks until the sun came up were frequent. Your eating becomes more regular, but your sleep becomes less regular at Junction. In four days I probably only slept 17 hours.

Bodoczky Istvan and his son Benjamin were there from Hungary with his wonderful asymmetrical masterpieces. The Japanese had a strong contingency with their sold flying Rokkakus and bee kites with incredibly loud hummers attached. Dawn Williams taught a class on her jewelry technique. Her workshop replaced George Peters as the place to hang out and play. The way Dawn uses color, design and mixed media in her kites and banners is fantastic. Look for more great things to be coming from Colorado. Dan Proebstel has a new X-Wing design that is a building phenomena. It's a large kite that literally snaps together in a matter of seconds!

The auction raised a whopping \$12,000 plus change. Gary King and Burt and Joanne Duron from Tucson came away with some really nice pieces. As always, there was a lot of unique one of a kind kites available. The highlight was the co-op kite of Bill Lockhart and Bobby Stanfield. It's an orange breasted, blue-eyed yellow beaked fly catcher cellular design that went for \$1,500.

Betty Street had her first in a series of Junction quilt pieced design kites on display. An eight foot Rokkaku with a stylized Armadillo pieced in. The amount of sewing and thought that went into it is amazing.

Ezance Yusoff from Malasia gave a few of us a bamboo working lesson in the traditional Malaysian method. He is number four of their 3 man Malaysian stunt kite team. You do the math. Chang and Nash of the same team are great for stirring up trouble. If you ever get the chance, eat some of their Malaysian hot peppers, they'll put excitement back in your life!

The greatest thing about Junction for me is catching up with old friends, making new ones and the jump start of creativity and new ideas that I leave with. It is what keeps me going 'til next year. I think I'll go to bed for a couple of days and dream about kites. Oh, by the way, who won the Indianapolis 500?

PS My sons name is Ramsay with 2 a's. not sey.

Region 11 Northern California

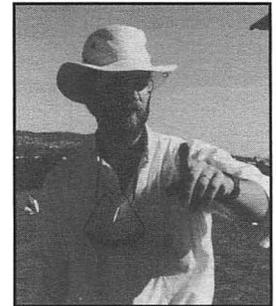
The '96 season is flying by as I speak. The combination of BASKL events, NCKC fun flies, exhibits, festivals and the new Air Affair competitions in Southern California are keeping everyone busier than ever. The Lee Toy Memorial Fly at the Marina Green was a good time for those who could attend it. Unfortunately an unrelated event forced the closure of many of the access roads to the Marina Green and kept all but the most tenacious kite fliers away from the event. Mark your calendars for this event in 1997. Then came the Visalia Kite Fly in Visalia which has become one of the biggest kite parties around. Good food, good wind, and good company were the rules for this event. Keep up the good work, Ron and Sandy.

In May the first Wind Works Exhibit organized by Stuart Allen of the Davis Art Center, teed off with a kite festival on May 18th. The first annual event was so well received by kite fliers and the Davis community alike, that plans are already in the works for next year. The well-rounded gallery exhibit runs through June 15th and is a must see for any fan of kite art. Kite artists included in the exhibit are: Robert Trepanier, Bobby Stanfield, Ron Gibian, Stuart Allen, Scott Skinner, Tom McAlister, Ty Billings, Ann Kresege, George Peters, J.R. Tolman, John Gabby, Mark Ricketts, Masaaki Sato, and Chen Zhao Ji. The mechanized flying cranes of China's Chen Zhao Ji are worth a drive to Davis, in and of themselves.

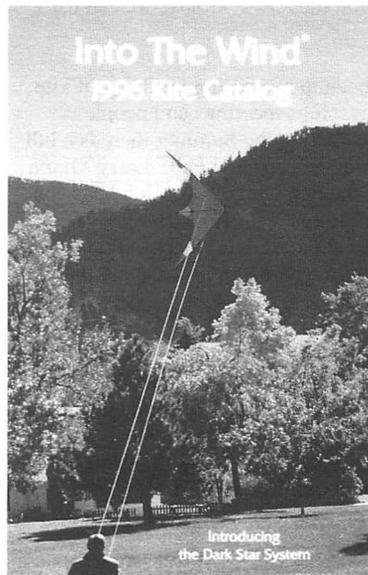
For more information call Stewart Allen at (916) 756-4100.

I am writing this aboard a Southwest jet on my way back from the Junction Kitemaker's Retreat in Texas where I presented my miniature box kite workshop. The best way to describe Junction is to say that it is a summer camp for kite makers where you will find an unbridled spirit of optimism and youth pervading the event. My thanks to Betty Street and Bill Lockhart for making my attendance possible, and to the whole Junction Crew for the great hospitality. Earlier this year I attended the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Conference in Washington State. It was my first trip to a kite retreat and while I didn't know what to expect, I was quickly taken in by the natural beauty of the site and the warm hospitality of my hosts. Many thanks to the Fort Worden Board and special thanks to Jim and L.B. Day for making me feel so at home in Seattle, and to Suzanne Shadow and Ken Conrad for their help at the event. If you have never attended a kite making conference I strongly recommended both of these.

Back in California congratulations are in order to all of those competitors who did so well on their trips to compete in Southern California. Congratulations also to the entire Air Affair crew for getting their season off to a good start. BASKL got off to a terrific start with its first two events in Berkeley and Tracy. While judging at Tracy I saw two routines that really caught my attention. In Master's class Mike Weingand continued



Tom McAlister
Region 11 Director



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his strong showing this season with a dynamic, action-packed routine to the sound track of "Fantasmic". The second routine that stood out for me came from first time competitor John Dalton in Intermediate Class. John flew a finely-choreographed routine that was worthy of a seasoned competition. Both fliers received well earned victories. As a judge and fan of sport kite ballet as well as ice skating I watch for routines that move me on an emotional level, routines were there is a synergy of music and flying that makes both even better. This elusive magic of ballet seems to be the exception rather than the rule. But when it all comes together on the competition field the audience can see it, hear it, and most importantly they can feel it. Thanks to Mike and John two great performances.

Now that is all for now. I hope to see many of you at the next BASKL at Fairfield on June 22nd, and of course, at the 10th Anniversary Berkeley Kite Festival and WCKC in July 27-28.

Region 12

Southern California / Pacific

Walt Thompson, Regional Director

By the time you receive this issue we will be right in Summer. With vacations and traveling outside of the local area you can still enjoy kiting. Take kites with you. It seems that no matter where we go and fly someone will come up to you and ask questions or you can ask questions. This past month I've met many new people who still have the old stereotype of what a kite is. Be sure and mention the AKA because we can use the new members.

This past spring has been the usual frantic flurry of kite festivals, competitions, clubs meetings and people coming out of winter. During the Summer there is a lull with the pace picking up again in the Fall. Larry Mixon the Vice President of the San Diego Kite Club has been secretly gathering a contingent for Rock Battles. You might want to call him at the SDKC HOTLINE and inquire but don't tell him where you heard about the "team".

Oh I almost forgot that festival in Berkeley July 27-28. This year's West Coast Stunt Kite Championships is the 10th annual. This year the Southern California quadline flyers are the best yet. Come and see some real surprises. Tom McAlister at (510)525-2755 can give you more information about the event. Tom is one really nice person to know and has put on the events every year with very few grumbles.

Of course the AKA National Convention in October from the 1st to the 6th is in Southern California area this year at Santa Monica. The San Diego Kite Club will host the October 2nd "Early Bird" reception on Tuesday night. The location has not been nailed yet but plan to come. You can call the SDKC HOTLINE at (619)685-2885 for more information as it develops.

Since this convention site is in our backyard and you all know this area, you can help by volunteering. Some folks have offered but more are needed. Even if you can just put in one day that would help and perhaps forge new friendships. Neil Tuthill has tentatively agreed to act as Field Operations Manager. You can contact him at (310) 696-5266 to help out. There are a lot of fun tasks to do and jobs that have to be done. Please consider how you can give something back.

The AKA Convention Manager, Jim Miller has seen the light and has moved back to Southern California. Call Jim if you want to speak with him directly about volunteering, or call me at (619)749-1443 or email to: walter@cts.com anytime.

The San Diego Kite Club will hold the annual Anniversary and Election Meeting on the 3rd Saturday in July. If you look at the roster of officers and board directors you will see that they come from around the south land. Ron the president lives in La Jolla, Larry the Veep and his wife Linda the Secretary are from Corona, until recently the M'Clarys came down from Redlands, Dorine the Newsletter Editor lives in San Clemente and 2 board members come from Los Angeles. So if you want to influence the direction of the club and don't live in San Diego, don't feel you can't get involved because there are many others who do.

Are you on the World Wide Web? Surfing the Internet? There are many interesting kiting sites to see and among them are two great collections of information. If you don't have a computer hook up then look for one of your friends who does. This is too much to miss.

Gina Hsuing has a fantastic fighter kite site that she keeps adding to. The address or URL is <http://www.csun.edu/~hfoao033/fighters.html>. One can learn a lot about fighter kites just from what Gina has done so well. Pictures of Indian Fighter Kites and her spouse that wily fighter Johnny, Afghani Fighter featuring Basir Beriaand, Korean Fighting with Tom Joe, Japanese Kites, Brazilian Fighter with Yves and Hans, from Oxnard Gumbo Fighters by John (Gumbo) Gardina, and of course our coach for SoCal fighter team Victor Heredia of Vic's Fighter Fame. All of the above names are from our region but Gina has added more including such luminaries as Stafford Wallace from England.

The BFK has a new retail site up. Hoy has put the <http://www.bfknet.com/> address up with over 300 pages of kites and related materials. This has to be seen to be appreciated. Hoy also gives the AKA discount as well as other material and links to other sites. Hoy has quietly supported many events this past year and it is appreciated.

Well there is a lot to do in the coming months and I hope to see you at the Convention. I'll be working the Fighter Kite Competition and who knows what else so please stop by and say hi.

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Auburn, KS 66402
918-256-2951
Wichita Windjammers Kite
924 East Douglas Ave.
Wichita, KS 67202

Kentucky

Kentucky Kyters
949 Gregory Way
Lexington, KY 40514

Louisiana

Crescent City Kite Fliers
8139 Shirley Street
Metairie, LA 70003-6541
504-454-1722

Maryland

Maryland Kite Society
10113 Lloyd Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-424-6976
Wings Over Washington
PO Box 7254
Silver Spring, MD 20907
301-292-4849

Massachusetts

Sea Coast Kite Flyers
285 Euclid Avenue
Lynn, MA 01904-1964
Sky Sailers Kite Club
PO Box 6335
North Plymouth, MA 02362

Michigan

4 Seasons Kite Club
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Wixom, MI 48393
810-674-8895, 810-960-0631
Kazoo Stringfellows
PO Box 2241
Kalamazoo, MI 40003-2241
616-345-5432
Mid Michigan String Stretchers
349 Springgreene
Ada, MI 49301
String Fever Kitefliers
4465 lakeshore Drive
Black River, MI 48721
517-724-6157
Traverse Bay Liners
354 W. McKinley Road
Traverse City, MI 49684
616-946-5762

Minnesota

Minnesota Kite Society
PO Box 580016
Minneapolis, MN 55458

Missouri

Gateway Kite Club
5633 Carlton Drive
St. Louis, MO 63049
314-677-3029

St. Louis Kite Club

2238 Arborview Drive
Maryland Hts., MO 63043
314-434-3529

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Carolina Kite Enthusiasts
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Charlotte, NC 28204
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Omaha, NE 68103-0770
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New Jersey

Mon. Ocean Cnty Kitefliers
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Waretown, NJ 08758
908-918-8707
South Jersey Kitefliers
91 Cherry Circle
Blackwood, NJ 08012
609-228-2947

New Mexico

Club Cuervo Azul
1518 Combs Circle
Silver City, NM 88061
505-388-2252

New York

Buffalo Flight Delegation
266 Elmwood Ave. #301
Buffalo, NY 14222
718-883-KITE
Great Lakes Kitefliers Soc.
PO Box 331
Buffalo, NY 14205-0331

Ohio

Black Swamp Air Force
1951 Potomac Drive
Toledo, OH 43607
419-537-7036
Capt'n Eddie's Flying Circus
3296 Thomway Drive
Columbus, OH 43231
614-475-8468
Central Ohio Kitefliers
1066 Norway Drive
Columbus, OH 43221-1658
614-451-4870
Ohio Soc for Elev. of Kites
428 East 274th Street
Euclid, OH 44132
216-731-3639
Wright Kite Club
4012 Forest Ridge Blvd
Dayton, OH 45424
513-236-0105

Oklahoma

Above and Beyond
PO Box 262
Weatherford, OK 73096
Tulsa WindRiders
11722 E. 37th Street
Tulsa, OK 74146
918-664-3575

Oregon

Assoc. Oregon Kitefliers
PO Box 25616
Portland, OR 97225
Lincoln City Kite Friendship
Box 973
Lincoln City, OR 97367
541-994-4847

Pennsylvania

Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club
159 Pinchtown Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Keystone Kites
460 Allenview Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-691-0459
Lehigh Valley Kite Society
16 West Third Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
610-867-3313
Sky Pilots Kite Club
3020 Linda Lane
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Rhode Island

Kites Over New England
PO Box 20191
Cranston, RI 02920
Newport Kite Group
196 Homestead Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871-4012
401-683-1742
Windblown Friends
728 Central Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02861

Tennessee

Scenic City Kite Club
2915 Ozark Road
Chattanooga, TN 37415
615-267-5858

Texas

Alamo Kitefliers Outfit
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San Antonio, TX 78217
612-824-3841
Border Winds Kite Club
PO Box 2940
South Padre Is., TX 78597
210-761-6222
Gems in the Wind Kite Club
PO Box 234
Fulton, TX 78358
High Plains Kite Assoc.
PO Box 9635
Amarillo, TX 79105
Jewels of the Sky
2320 Yeager Street
Fort Worth, TX 76112
817-429-6171
Lubbockites Kite Club
4408 26th Street
Lubbock, TX 79410
808-797-9263
Red River Kite Fliers Assoc.
3505 Sheridan Road
Wichita Falls, TX 76302
817-767-5044
Texas SkyRiders Kite Club
PO Box 920529
Houston, TX 77292-0529
Wind Weavers
1118 Barrow
Abilene, TX 79605
915-692-5927

Utah

Windwatchers Kite Club
1457 E. Winterwood Circle
Sandy, UT 84092
801-571-0719

Virginia

Richmond Air Force
3646 Grovewood Road
Richmond, VA 23234
804-271-4433

*for Affiliated Club
info, contact
Chris Moore,
Club Liaison
33525 W. 143rd
Street Gardner, KS
66030
913-856-5177*

Washington

Ben Franklin Kite Society
9136 W. Arrowhead Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-627-6404
Lilac City Wind Chasers
W3524 Kiernan
Spokane, WA 99205
509-326-9221
North Coast Sky Painters
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206-927-0275
NW Buggy Pilots Assoc.
18030 NE 155th Place
Woodinville, WA
206-821-8602
Pierce County Kitefliers
3340 East 11th Street
Tacoma, WA 98421
206-627-1653
SCI - FI
PO Box 7882
Everett, WA 98201
Washington Kitefliers
Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98109
Westport Windriders
4004 Wiggins Road SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Wisconsin

Kite Society of Wisconsin
2266 N. Prospect Ave.#501
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-962-6336, 414-277-9121
Wisconsin Kites
10615 N. Greenwood Ter.
Milwaukee, WI 53224
414-281-3704

Canada

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