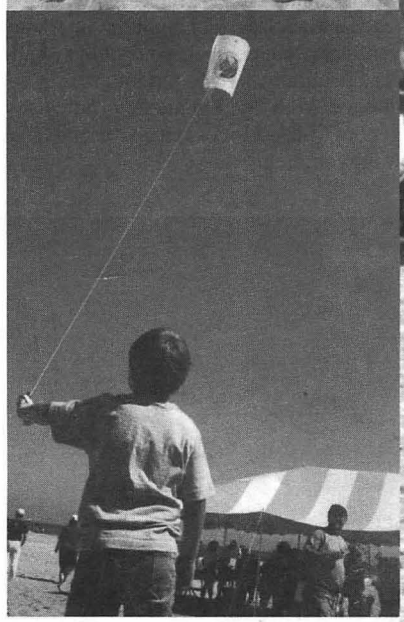
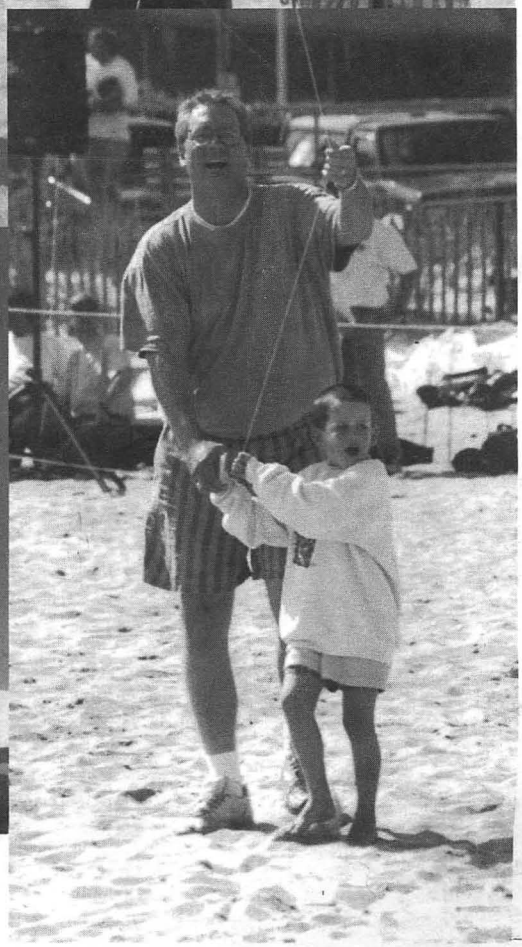
Volume 19, No. 1
January/February 1997

AKA Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association





1996...

1997

Ring out the old,
Fly In the New!

As we say goodbye
to old friends,
and hello to new ones,
let's help the future
by starting our flyers
younger,
teaching and educating,
and signing new members!
Remember we only borrow
the sky from our children!

The President's Page

Richard Dermer

Happy new year, membership!

I'm really excited about being your new AKA president this year. I've been the southwestern Regional Director for nine years and served under four presidents: Corey Jensen, Jim Miller, David Gomberg, and Pete Dolphin. Those are some pretty big shoes to fill, but hey, I've got big feet. They're always tripping over sport kite lines or getting hopelessly snarled with fighter kite line.

Seriously, I think the AKA is more fun than any organization I've ever belonged to, and being president gives me the perfect excuse to have fun all year long, full time. The Hideaway, the pizza restaurant which Marti and I have owned and operated for 37 years, is a solid, local-landmark sort of business for which I have an outstanding 10-year veteran general manager. When I work, on a very limited part-time voluntary basis, I wash dishes. So I intend to spend the next year or two being a full time, unpaid leader of this organization. And have fun doing it.

I want your help. You can be part of the fun. While a non-profit organization, the AKA is nevertheless a business. It's a business with only three employees—Executive Director Mel Hickman, Editor Roger Chewning, and Convention Manager Jim Miller, but with 4,500 regular customers—you the members. Obviously, we depend upon volunteer help to achieve the goals of the organization, which are to advance and promote kiting, kite flying, kite building, and having fun. Here's how you can help, and have fun doing it:

Sign up new members! More customers = stronger business. If we could grow to 6,000 members, an increase of only one new member for three current members, we could do wonderful things. Kiting could be improved and expanded. AKA support and assistance for local events and clubs could be increased. And the hobby-sport-pastime-art of kiting would benefit. Be the one of those three members to sign up a new member. Or more. Remember, if you sign up five we'll honor you at the annual meeting with a special limited-edition AKA kite pin.

Communicate! Let your local AKA Regional Director, AKA Board Member, or myself know what you like and/or dislike about the AKA. We want your input. It is your responsibility, if you want to see change or improvement, to suggest it. In addition, communicate with the general public and the media! One of our greatest needs is for better visibility and publicity. Be a spokesperson for the AKA. Tell everyone you talk to about kiting, or who asks you about kiting, about our group! More visibility and work of mouth publicity = more members = more fun!

Volunteer! Kite festivals, events, and clubs can never have too many volunteers. If all you want to do is fly kites, then give demonstrations or help a child learn to fly. If you would be willing to help set up fields, write articles, hand out programs, judge, bring food, teach a kite class, pick up litter, or whatever—volunteer. Remember, you get out of an organization what you put into it. Put a lot into the AKA and I guarantee you what you'll get out of it—a lot of fun and friends. We want your help!

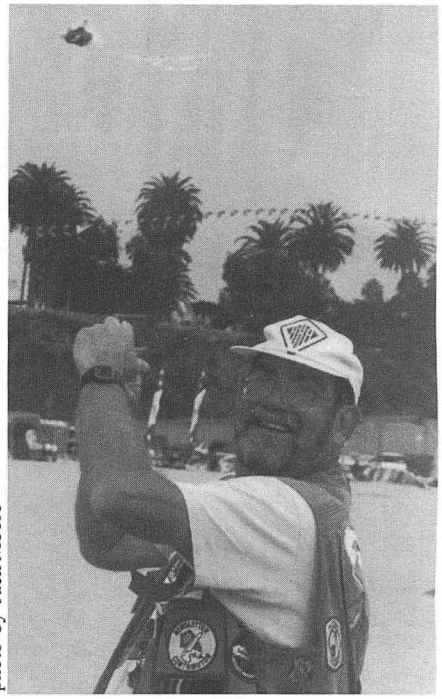


photo by Jack Moore

Richard at work!

I hope to see you on the flying field. Marti and I plan on attending as many festivals and kite retreats across the country as we can afford this year. Currently, we're planning on attending Ft. Worden, WA in March, the Smithsonian in April, Kansas City, Wildwood, NJ, and Junction, TX in May, Japan in June, Long Beach, WA in both August and September, and the convention at Wildwood next October. We hope to get invitations to a few more as well. See you there!

Good winds, Richard Dermer

photo by Jon Burkhardt

AKA Volunteers at work! The 1996 Kitemaking Competition judges panel at Santa Monica, from left to right: Jim Carnevale, Joe Croot, Steve Ferrel, Susan Gomberg, Mel Govig, Glen Haynes, Betty Hirschmann, Tom McAlister, Bobby Stanfield, and Jerry Houk(shadow judge).

THE NEW WAY TO SANCTION

As we mentioned in the last issue of Kiting, the Board of Directors has voted to ask organizers of stunt kite and comprehensive kitemaking competitions to post a $100.00 "bond" when they apply for sanctioning. It is unfortunate that this step had to be taken, but it is one that has been supported by many organizers themselves.

For the newcomers to AKA, our association "sanctions" or provides $1,000,000 liability insurance to festivals and kiting events if the regional director and executive director find that the event meets certain safety and organizational standards.

The fee for this insurance is only $25.00, a bargain by any stretch of the imagination. We ask that within thirty days after the event, the organizer let us know of any incidents or accidents that may have happened, send us any membership applications they may have taken, and forward the results of the competition to the appropriate people.

Unfortunately, we have received applications and results as much as six months after some events, often after numerous phone calls. This slows down the processing of memberships and has nearly resulted in fliers not receiving invitations to compete in the Grand Nationals that they deserve. With this in mind, the Board decided to require the bond before the event is sanctioned. If the requirements listed above are met within the thirty day period, the bond will be refunded.

If you are sponsoring a simple fun fly without the "serious" competitions and will not be taking AKA applications, you are not required to post the bond. For more information about the new policy, contact Sarge Cleaves at 860-223-0001.

NOTICE

The AKA has a Request for Proposals for the position of Public Relations / Customer Service Director. If you are interested you can receive a copy from the Chairperson Suzanne Edison. Contact Suzanne by mail phone fax or e-mail at: The deadline for completed proposals is April 1, 1997.

Suzanne Edison
116 North Water Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
203-531-1084 Phone, 203-531-4684 fax,
Sqedison@aol.com email

THINKING BACK, THINKING AHEAD

In one of those, "Gee, it seems like yesterday. Then again, it seems like ages!" scenarios, as I type this I begin my third year as your Executive Director. I am continually amazed by the "family" I work for. The members of the AKA comprise a most remarkably diverse group of people, a statistician's dream with one exception. When it comes to personality, warmth and openness, AKA members as a group are definitely biased toward the good side.

Thanks again for your support and your patience with the AKA HQ staff. We hope to get to know you and serve you better in 1997.

When I look back to 1/1/95 when I started as XD, I remember promising you that one of my goals was to "Keep it fun". Any group of people is going to have its differences, its disagreements, and its politics. That's normal. Let's just not let them get in the way of having fun.

FINALLY, A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Pete, thanks for being President of the AKA for two years. Talking as often as we did, I know the mental, physical, and financial price you paid for the opportunity to serve your fellow kitefliers. You did yourself proud.

Now, find your favorite beach, your favorite beach chair, your favorite kite, and your favorite beverage, and "Go fly a kite!"

A FINAL NOTE

What with a bout of pneumonia, the holidays, the floods in the Pacific Northwest, etc., I am afraid a few things have fallen through the cracks. If you called or wrote and asked something and didn't get it, give us a second chance. Please?

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NEWPORT '97

July 11-13, 1997
Newport, R.I

HIGH FLYERS FLIGHT CO.

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1997 NEWPORT CUP KITEMAKING COMPETITION
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For Details Contact Sue or Steve at

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AKA Officers, Staff & Executive Committee

For questions about your membership, phone or fax Executive Director Mel Hickman at (503)717-0627, or write to AKA Headquarters.

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http://www.kite.org/~AKA/

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(206) 282-4349

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Kite Industry Liaison (Retailers)	
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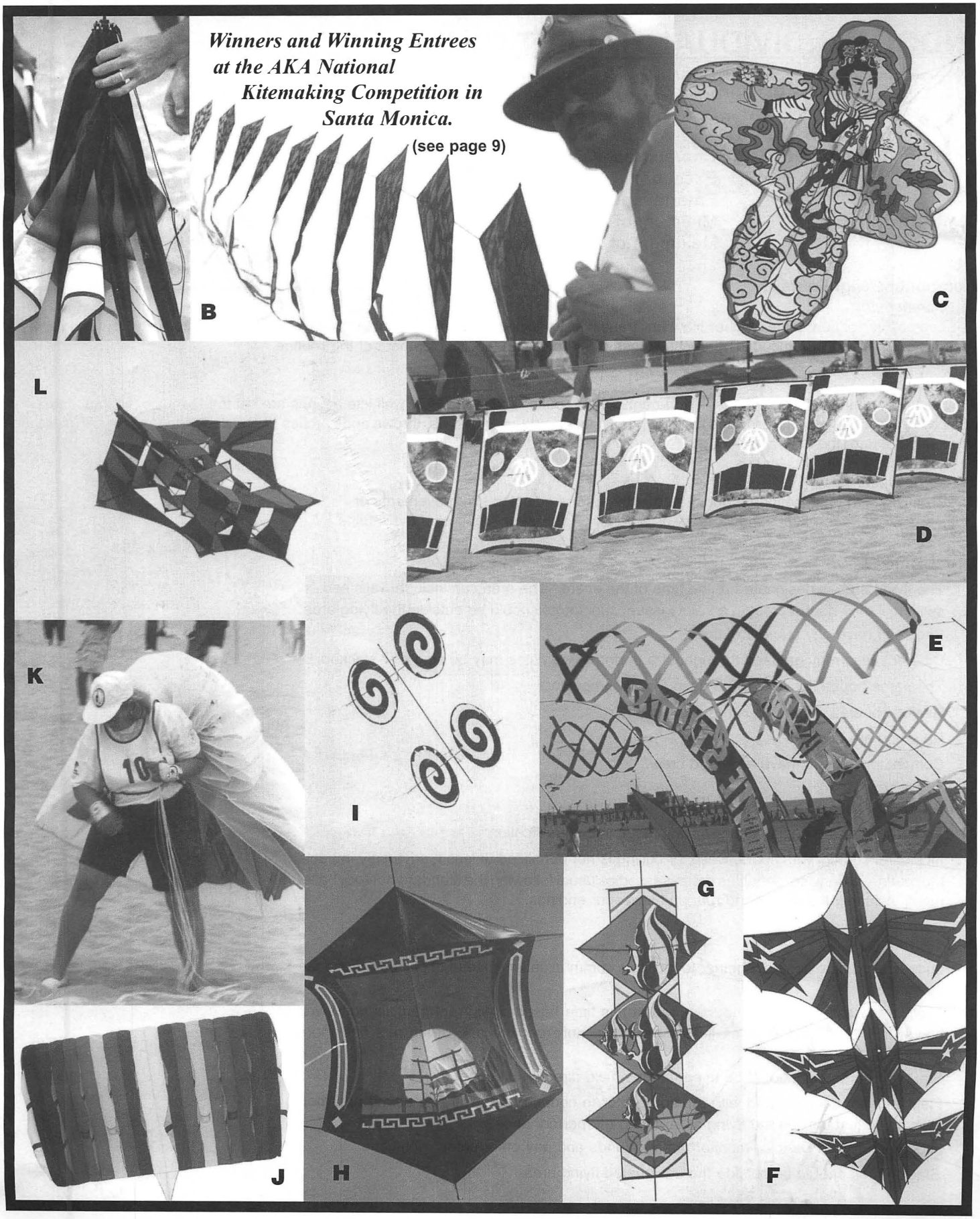

Winners and Winning Entrees at the AKA National Kitemaking Competition in Santa Monica.

(see page 9)

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INDOOR INDIVIDUAL BALLET COMPETITION RULES

These rules were prepared by the AKA Sport Kite Rules Committee. It's intention is to provide standardization for indoor competitions, yet leave the rules open enough to take advantage of unique venues and flyer creativity; since the sport is still growing, we certainly do not want to enforce restrictive rules. These rules will be reviewed periodically, so please relay any comments to the committee.

Scoring Components	Choreography	60%
	Execution	25%
	Entertainment Value	15%
Time Duration	Minimum of 2 minutes	
	Maximum of 4 minutes	

AKA SPORT KITE RULES COMMITTEE
Dave Arnold, Sherrie Arnold, Eric Forsberg, David Gomberg, Abel Ortega, Chuck Sigal, Mike Simmons, Darrin Skinner, Bert Tanaka, and Sue Taft

Component Highlights

1) *Choreography*
The composition or flow of the routine. How well transitions from one program element to the next are made. How well the routine interprets the music, its tempo and mood. The effectiveness of the music in the development of the routine.

2) *Execution*
How well the competitor controls the kite throughout the routine (control). How well kite actions are set to the music (timing). How well competitor exhibited maneuvers specific to indoor flying: up-and-overs, floats, throws and catches (3-D), slack line maneuvers (axels, flat spins, etc.), use of the 360ϒ window, etc.

3) *Entertainment value*
The creativity and imagination demonstrated in the use of selected kite movements or actions, as well as the flyer's movements or actions. "Total visual impact" of the routine.

Other Rules

- The flying area is designated at the time of the event. The area can include walls and ceilings if they do not present a safety issue; spectators should be outside the flying area.
- Kites can have any number of lines.
- Different kites may be used throughout a performance; kites may be single or stacked.
- The same house lighting will be used for all competitors.
- Use of wheeled apparatus is not allowed.
- No props are allowed.
- Competitor may not have a ground crew.

Penalties

- Flying outside the designated area will result in disqualification.
- Incidental contact with floors, walls, or ceiling is *not* penalized unless it adversely impacts the routine; otherwise, penalties are assessed as usual following the standard outdoor ballet rules, including the 45-second rule and improper endings.

Guidelines

- Judges should be seated together to facilitate communication instead of placed around the flying area.
- Multiple class divisions are not required at this time based on current participation level; however, this may change as indoor becomes more popular and organizers find more venues.
- Standard personnel should be used (judges, field director, pit boss).
- Field Director should stand with the competitor to communicate with the sound operator, then move just outside the flying area during the performance.
- Judges and Field Director monitor out-of-bounds and any other safety violations.
- Staging area should be outside the designated flying area.

AKA Sport Kite Commissioners

Be sure to send the scores from your event to your commissioner & email to: scores@aka.kite.org

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Southeast
Sherrie Arnold
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Alexandria, VA 22306
703-765-5668

The 1997 Great Kite Coloring Calendar

These pictures are just bits and pieces of a few of the kite designs to color in the new "Great Kite Coloring Calendar". Order your calendar now for yourself, your family and friends. This is a a great gift for saying "thank you", as a donation to a host, or as a travel gift. And what better way to show off the world of kites. Order yours today!

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Calendars Including Postage Cost $7.50
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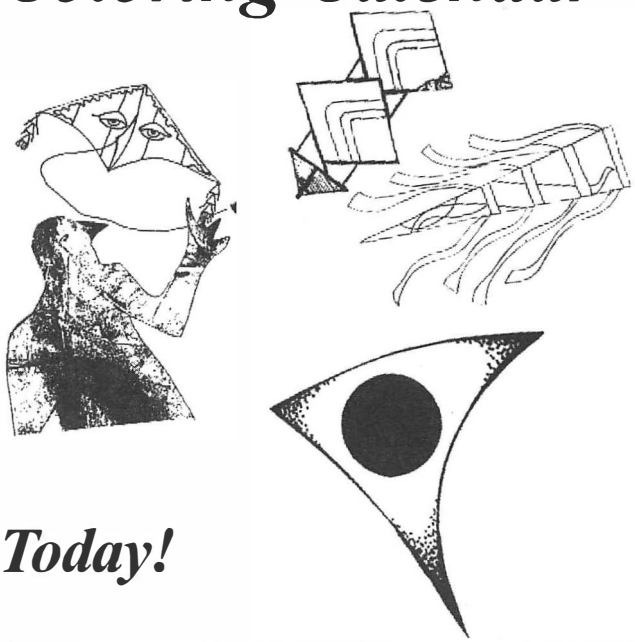
Please call for wholesale prices.



Order Yours Today!

Art Committee Update

by Janene Evard

At the convention in Santa Monica, in the area where the art committee had copies of the 1997 calendar pictures to color, we also had a stack of 50 Airborne Art News no. 4 issues that were given away as samples. A number of people asked me if we had more, because they had not heard of this AKA publication. We do have extra copies of no. 5. If you would like a sample copy please contact Mel Hickman or me and we will be happy to send one to you. My email address is <jevard@aol.com>, fax 405-226-0360, and my phone and street address are in your AKA membership book.

The current issue's lead article is about Kite Retreat Euphoria and highlights two experiences at the Kitemakers International Retreat 1996, those of a student in Robert Trepanier's Self Portrait Class and one in Istvan Bodoczky workshop about working with paper and his lamination techniques. There is also an article about the Artistic Kite Group Gallery Project by Charlie Charlton, Bodoczky's summary of the Art Volant symposium and the kite artists who participated. Editor's musings touches on our lasting effect in communities and tells of experiences from an article in September-October issue of Fiberarts by Barbara Lee Smith. (Fiberarts is a wonderful journal for kitemakers as well as other fiberartists). If you want to know what the art committee is planning, it's in this issue as well. We reprinted an essay by Claudia Ann Chase, from Fiberarts about her definitions of the difference between art and craft. Dawn Williams, Editor's Musing II, deals with Claudia's essay from our point of view. As usual, we also have letters, exhibit and competition opportunities.

You wonder why I went through all of this. We would like to have more subscribers. We want to let you know what we are doing. We also need more people telling us about their work and of people whose work you think should be highlighted. After all, Airborne Art News is a project of the AKA art committee and our mission is to promote kites as an original and contemporary form of visual, sculptural and kinetic art. We also are looking for drawings, stories, and poems. In addition, we need people to look for and to volunteer to cover art exhibits that may include or be of interest to kitemakers. Don't hesitate to contact Dawn or myself (Dawn's email is <Dawnkites@aol.com>).

The lead article for our next issue will highlight the work of several banner makers. It should be out in February.

Special thanks to Karen Gustavson and all of her volunteers for their hard work making the gallery a success at Santa Monica. Mark Ricketts is the curator for the 1997 gallery. And on a final note, Scott Hampton will be looking for drawings for the 1998 calendar in January.

Fighter pilots & artists BAsir Beria & Johnny Hsiung with their kites at the Gallery in Santa Monica. (Photo Karen Gustavson)

Lessons Learned!

Hi! I'm Mike Edwards of Hixson, Tennessee. I was recently asked why I flew stunt kites and what is the hardest thing to learn about flying them. Well the first question was easy to answer. There's nothing else like the feel you get when the kite flys smooth across the sky and "dances" to your command. The second question caused me to sit back and think for a while. The enclosed short article is the result of my thoughts. I hope that you enjoy.

Sincerely,
Mike Edwards

Lessons Learned

I started flying stunt kites seriously approximately 6 years ago. Before that, I would get my hands on a catalogue and just dream. I didn't know that there were other adults out there that were actually interested in kites. After all, a kite is a kids toy. Right? While I was away from home on an extended business trip, no one that knows me would see me playing with this toy, so what the heck. I went out into the public and "flew" my kite. Just so happens I ran into a great group of guys in Rochester, NY. They took pity on this crazy southern boy and after they had fun watching me fight for several hours trying to get my Trbly off the ground they showed me what I was doing wrong. It's amazing what a kite will do when it is put together correctly, bridled right and the lines are the same length.

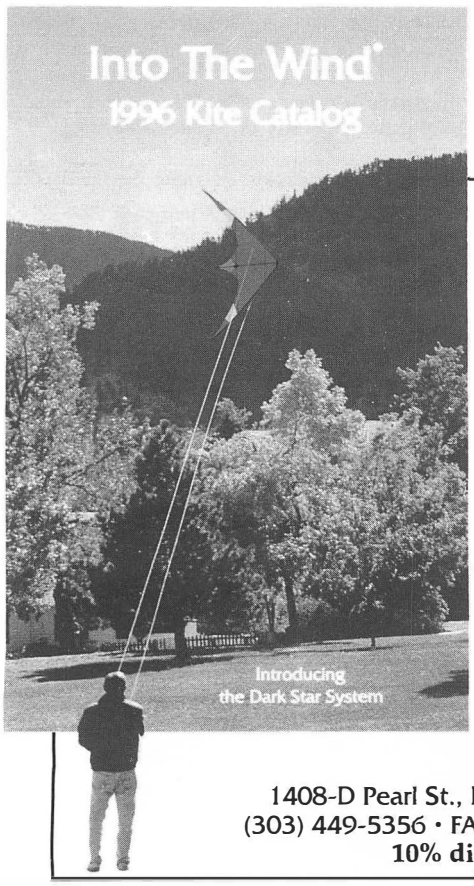
Six months later when it was time for me to return to Chattanooga, I could fly fairly well. I was even the proud owner of a delta stunt kite that one of the fellows in NY made for me. Upon my return home I was no longer embarrassed for people to know that I fly kites, so here I go off into the public eye right here in my own town. And you know what . There was another kite flier at the field I had chosen to fly in. He was even an adult too. We started flying together quite often and learning from each other. There were even others that started showing up when they heard that there were grown men out there playing with kites.

Between the guys in New York, my fellow flyers here in Chattanooga and input from people like TC Powers I have learned a lot about flying stunt kites. But, there are some things that none of these people ever taught me. I had to learn them the hard way. So now I want to share these hard learned facts with others so that they won't have to go through the "school of hard knocks".

1) The wind is light, 2 to 6 mph. So you head to your favorite flying field with your ultralite. When you get there the wind will be no less than 25 mph.
2) Same story, opposite winds. Gale force at the house. You are eager to try out the new monster power kite that you have gotten. At the field the winds might be 3 mph.
3) You decide that you are going to fly, no matter what the winds are doing. So you take every kite you own with you to the field. You want to make sure that you will be able to fly something, so you set up multiple kites to cover the wind range spectrum (approximately 4 to 5 kites). Just as you get your last set of lines laid out, Mother Nature decides that the field needs a good bath and throws in some lightening for good measure.
4) The winds are perfect, you have the right kite, and there is not a cloud in sight. The wind is at your back. Everything in the world seems right for flying. Give your lines a good pull. Beautiful launch, but you can't see it or anything else for that matter, because you are looking right into the sun.
5) Same settings as number 4 , and even the sun is at your back. You are flying great. You even manage to do some tricks you have been fighting with for weeks. None of your flying fellows are there to see them. And to make matters worse, the next time they are around you can't do one trick.
6) The last lesson does not fit with the other lessons. They are the things that can and WILL happen to cause you heartache. Lesson 6 is just the opposite. Kite fliers make the best friends you could ever hope for. I have as yet to meet one that won't land their kite and go help someone having problems.

As a follow up on #6 just to show the kind of people that are involved with kites, I recently ordered a 6 pack of DynaKites. When I started to put them together on Friday afternoon I realized that I did not quite understand some of the assembly instructions. I called and talked to Mr. Martins answering machine on Friday evening. Mr. Martins returned my call that same night. He could have waited and enjoyed his Friday evening by relaxing after a hard weeks work, but instead he took the time to call back and answer my questions.

It's this kind of attitude that makes me proud to say that I am in a league with the best people on earth (or in the sky).



Put Yourself in the Picture

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10% discount to AKA members

Thanks, AKA!

Many thanks to the kite community for their support and well wishes sent from the convention on the world's largest get well card / kite skin. With the right spars it will make a tremendously high (or lo) aspect kite.

As many of you know, I was severely injured while piloting an experimental airplane that crashed only weeks before the convention. What you probably don't know is that I spent that very same weekend introducing my girlfriend to the joys of flying miniature kites on my first pass from the hospital.

The world wide support from the people with which we share the sky has helped me tremendously in my recovery. I'm looking forward to figuring out the puzzle of how to use an artificial leg on my kite buggy and snowboard.

Thanks to all, Good winds,
Jeff Cain
Denver, Colorado

Used Kite Classifieds

by Kevin Adkins

Has the price of new kites left you a bit behind in technology or sent you to the local loan shark begging for some cash?? Well there is no need for that, there is an alternative that is easy, less expensive and lets you meet fellow fliers in the process. No, it's not join a club and learn to sew. That's a good idea, but this is even easier.

Buy used kites. Used kites are usually in good condition, depending on age, price and type of kite. I have found vast bargains on used or slightly flawed kites. Where to find used kites? Well that is a lot easier than you might think. First and foremost try your local store. Most deal in used equipment and more than likely they will know the previous owner and if they made any modifications. The mail order companies might have some used stuff, or some things that are slightly flawed like a faded color or something that will not affect the kite that much, if you are on the internet, or can get on, it is full of bargain possibilities. There is a Kite Classified web page at http://www.net-link.net/~mawood/. This was set up by Mike Wood for kiters to post single, dual, quad-line kites and supplies. He also has links to shipping information. Mike just set up the page and the transaction is up to the buyer and seller. Continuing on with the 'net the newsgroup rec.kites will occasionally have a used kite post, this is another good place to look. Ask the people you fly with as well, sometimes they will have bought something that they thought was perfect for them and them realized it wasn't what they were looking for. This way you can take it for a test fly before you buy it. There are other ways as well. Try your local club, their newsletter might have a classified section. If they don't suggest maybe starting one.

Another good thing about buying used kites is you don't always have to use money. You can trade with another flyer instead of paying cash. This is a good way to get new kites and also help the kites you don't fly as much find new homes. I'm not trying to stop you from buying new kites, or saying a used kite is going to be as good as a new one, however it is a less expensive way to enlarge your kite collection. I hope this has shown you a way to make your collection grow without shrinking your wallet quite as much.

Kite Ambassador!

Hello. My name is Ashley Dice. I am 13 years old, and I have been an A.K.A. member for longer than I can remember. I wanted to write in about the Avi kite festival in November. This kite fly was fun, fun, fun with "Sky Gods" like Scott Skinner, Randy Tom, Ed and Gale Lindsey, Spencer Chun, Ron Gibian, Randy Shannon, Dan Proebstal, Dawn Williams, and many, many more. There were excellent flying demonstrations by Flight Squadron, Dave Brittain, and Dodd Gross.

Scott never stopped showing off with daredevil moves on his buggy, his beautiful play-sail, and others, just like Randy Shannon wouldn't put away his fighters. Randy Tom took his lovely Disney banner along with two other banners, put them together and made a wondrous 300 arch.

Variable Winds Aloft

Letters to the AKA

Ed and Gale Lindsey had their water crane kite and their Indian kite called "Visions" flying high. Spencer had fighters, a tetra, and he did a candy drop for the kids.

There was even a wedding!!! Tanya and Raymond got married under the kites. Congrats!!

And a special thanks to Kathy Plummer of The Dream Merchant for organizing the whole kite fly for the Avi Hotel and Casino.

Ashley Dice

PS I would also like to say "Thanks" to all the kite flyers who made contributions at the "get acquainted party" at the Avi to use toward my trip to Australia and New Zealand as a student ambassador for People to People Student Ambassador Program. I even earn high school credit for this trip! I can't possibly remember everyones name and hope this letter will be published as my way of saying thanks! Some of the Arizona kite flyers recommended having a silent auction in the Spring and raffle off a kite. If you would like to help me in any way, please send ideas or contributions to:

Ashley Dice Student Ambassador Fund
102 West Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Editors Note: Letters, photos and articles to Kiting are all appreciated, and we print what we can. Please plan one month ahead of publication dates when submitting articles.

AKA Winners (pictures on page 5)

Winners at the AKA Grand Nationals starting top left and going clockwise:

A. Dan Proebstel's special award winner for innovation,
B. Scott Spencer with his winning Arch in the Arch, Trains & Ribbons category,
C. Tanna Haynes winner in Traditional kites and Grand National Champion,
D. Ty Billing's winning train,
E. the Lavendar Winds ground display,
F. Bobby Stanfield's winner in Cellular,
G. Ron Gibbian's winning kite in Flat and Bowed,
H. Rick Rondinone's winning Rokkaku,
I. Pete Rondeau's winner in Stunt or Multi-line,
J. Sam Ritter's in Soft or Flexible,
K. Judi Main gathering her parafoil that awarded her the top Novice award, and
L. Tony Ferrel's winner in Innovative Kites.

Parting Shot! " See Ya Mr. D"

Peter Dolphin photo by Betty Hirschmann.
Photos on page 5 are compliments of Jon Burkhardt and Roger Chewning.

WHERE IT'S AT ... Watering The Lawn

by Corey Jensen

Playing on the Santa Monica beach at the convention, and running into old L.A. kiteflying friends again reminded me of when we used to fly there regularly, back in the early 80's. Down the beach a bit towards Venice at Navy St. We would get there about 8:30 - 9 AM on a weekend morning and park. Then breakfast at one of the sidewalk cafes.

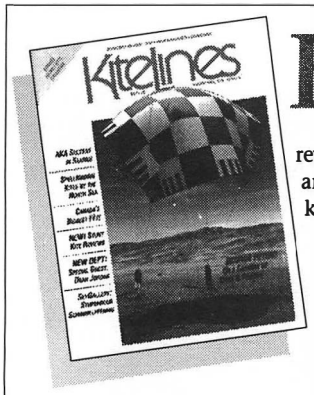
The beach is wide there and we had a spot between the sunbathers and the paved path which was plenty big enough for our 150 ft. lines (Yep! That long ago). The Hawaiian Team Kite was new then and all the rage roaring across the sky. We would set up all our big wings, lay out our lines and erect a row of cabanas behind where we stood when we flew.

We all flew the same piece of sky. Sometimes a newbie would go off to the side to receive instructions, or two or three would break off to practice something, but mainly we shared a common space. It was very social. Some would fly a bit then take a break. Some would fly all day. Some would fly to avoid close approaches while others were dogging whomever else was flying. Team flying was born for us during those lazy summer afternoons. The aerial feast was always changing and fluid, a result of the individuals who happened to show up that weekend. Sometimes we had plenty of single-liners up in the sky, sometimes just stunters. The flys were simply a combination of whatever showed up and the people underneath, but it quickly became more than any of them, and enriching to us all in the process.

Now I go to regular weekend kite spots and I see fliers scattered about the open field looking like sprinklers spread across a lawn. I wonder how that impacts the social aspect of the kite experience. Harder to talk and be heard when scattered about. The Walkmans come out and everyone retreats into their private kite/music world. Looks like fun... But something is missing. Remembering the old days, I also recall when no-one seemed to know about modern kites. It was frustrating at times when the assumption of kites as kids toys came up once too often. Or "You sell kites for a living?" Said in a puzzled voice tempered by disbelief that an adult could turn over enough of those little 25 cent paper toy kites to pay the rent, let alone make a living. Amazement? Not exactly the word.

So it comes in both flavors. A certain nostalgia for the camaraderie we shared when kiting was "new" and warm memories of special friends and the many shared good times. Tempered by the frustration of not being able to explain accurately the attraction of those strings into the sky. Now when I hear someone complain that kites are not mainstream enough, that most people are still unaware of modern kiting, I shake my head and silently laugh. Things are so much better from my perspective. I guess we can see the same thing from many different sides.

Is life supposed to be this complicated?



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—Tal Streeter, American sculptor and kite authority

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Fighter Kite Forum

by Randy Shannon

At this year's Convention we decided to start another Fighter Kite Committee (Bruce Jarvie had headed one a few years ago) of which I have the honor of being in charge of organizing. Our first order of business will be to review the AKA fighter kite rules and make any changes if needed. If you have input or ideas let me know at Shananagan@juno.com or through the U.S. Postal Service. We will try to have a column in every issue of Kiting as space permits. We need writers to cover local events/competitions, review new kites, do book reviews, submit fighter kite plans or anything else related to the fighter kite world.

Some ideas I've already heard is to create a Grandmaster Annual Award that decides an overall winner based on two parts; a fighting competition and a skills competition. Some other ideas that has been done recently and suggested for the future is more involvement in the indoor flying arena and ballet flying to music.

More games would be a real plus. If you have games you've developed locally please let us know so they can be documented and used at festivals everywhere. Games with both small and large numbers of participants are needed. Let's keep the ideas and communication flowing.

AKA Affiliated Clubs

For Affiliated Club information, contact Chris Moore
33525 W. 143rd St. Gardner, KS 66030 913-894-5483

Alaska

Anchorage AlasKiters
320 West 5th #158
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-279-4FUN

Arizona

Coyote Kite Club
4951 E. Grant, #119
Tucson, AZ 85712
602-326-3442

Route 66 Kite Club
4032 East Glen Rosa Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85018
602-955-1959

California

ABCD Kite Flying Club
700 Cecelia Drive
Glen Ellen, CA 95442
707-935-1212

Lavender Winds
38576 Mary Terrace
Fremont, CA 94538

N. California Kite Club
2138 Cypress Avenue
San Pablo, CA 94806
510-724-8601

Redwood Coast Wind Pilots
2306 F Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-442-9245

San Diego Kite Club
PO Box 7977
San Diego, CA 92167
619-222-9300

Colorado

Grand Lake Sky-Hi Kiteflrs
PO Box 57
Grand Lakes, CO 80447
303-627-3372

Phli Delta Phli
3555 Jubilant Place
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719-596-9088

Connecticut

Connectikiters
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203-732-5243

D.C.

Winds and Rainbows
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Washington, DC 20016
202-966-2668

Florida

Wind Watchers of SW FL
2160 Leisure Lane
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
813-939-4348

Georgia

Bald Mountain Kite Club
2157 River Refuge Blvd.
Blairsville, GA 30512
404-745-4454

Kite Assoc. of Savannah
5501 Skidaway Road
Savannah, GA 31406-2264
912-234-8386

Hawaii

Hawaii Kitefliers Assoc.
PO Box 11722
Honolulu, HI 96828

Hawaii Sportkite Assoc.
2863 Kalakaua Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815-4016
806-924-0148

Idaho

Kite Group of Boise
4464 N. ???
Boise, ID 83704

Illinois

Chicagoland Sky Liners
2 South 730 Timber Drive
Warrenville, IL 60555
708-393-3892

Indiana

Hoosier Kitefliers Society
PO Box 6881
Kokomo, IN 46904-6881

Iowa

Midwest Wind Wrestlers
1912 Castle Street
Waterloo, IA 50701

Kansas

Kansas City Kite Club
12944 W. 87th Street Pkwy
Lenaxa, KS 66215
913-884-5177

Tailspins Kite Club
1119 Market St. #2
Emporia, KS 66801
316-342-7679

Topeka Kite Flyers
701 Porter
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

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Metaire, 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

Kites Over New England
4 Crestwood Road
Marblehead, MA 01945
617-639-2836

Sea Coast Kite Flyers
285 Euclid Avenue
Lynn, MA 01904-1964

Sky Sailers Kite Club
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North Plymouth, MA 02362

Michigan

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Wixom, MI 48393
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Kazoo Stringfellows
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Kalamazoo, MI 40003-2241
616-345-5432

Mid Michigan String Stretchers
349 Springreene
Ada, MI 49301
616-676-5980

String Fever Kiteflyers
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

North Carolina

Carolina Kite Enthusiasts
2062 Greenway Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28204
704-332-9300

Nebraska

Midwest Winds Kitefliers
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Omaha, NE 68103-0770
402-339-5849

Prairie Winds Kite Club
PO Box 29775
Lincoln, NE 68529

New Jersey

Mon. Ocean Cnty Kitefliers
PO Box 685
Waretown. NJ 08758
908-918-8707

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91 Cherry Circle
Blackwood, NJ 08012
609-228-2947

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Silver City, NM 88061
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Central Ohio Kitefliers
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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
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Weatherford, OK 73096

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11722 E. 37th Street
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918-664-3575

Oregon

Assoc. Oregon Kitefliers
PO Box 25616
Portland, OR 97225

Lincoln City Kite Friendship
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Lincoln City, OR 97367
541-994-4847

Pennsylvania

Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club
159 Pinchtown Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Keystone Kiters
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

Newport Kite Group
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Windblown Friends
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Scenic City Kite Club
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Chattanooga, TN 37415
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Alamo Kiteflyers Outfit
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San Antonio, TX 78217
612-824-3841

Border Winds Kite Club
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South Padre Is., TX 78597
210-761-6222

Gems in the Wind Kite Club
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High Plains Kite Assoc.
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Amarillo, TX 79105

Jewels of the Sky
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Fort Worth, TX 76112
817-429-6171

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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

Washington

Ben Franklin Kite Society
9136 W. Arrowhead Ave
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-627-6404

Lilac City Wind Chasers
W3524 Kiernan
Spokane, WA 99205
509-326-9221

North Coast Sky Painters
PO Box 88
Copalis Beach,WA 98535
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 - F!
PO Box 7882
Everett, WA 98201
Washington Kitefliers

Washington Kitefliers Assoc.
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 Kiters
10615 W. Greenwood Ter.
Milwaukee, WI 53224
414-281-3704

Canada

British Columbia Kitefliers
Box 755, 810 W. Broadway
Vancoucer, BC V5Z 4C9

Japan

Above the Rock
238 AZA Yamada
Onna Son,
Okinawa 904-04

Spring Break Buggy Blast

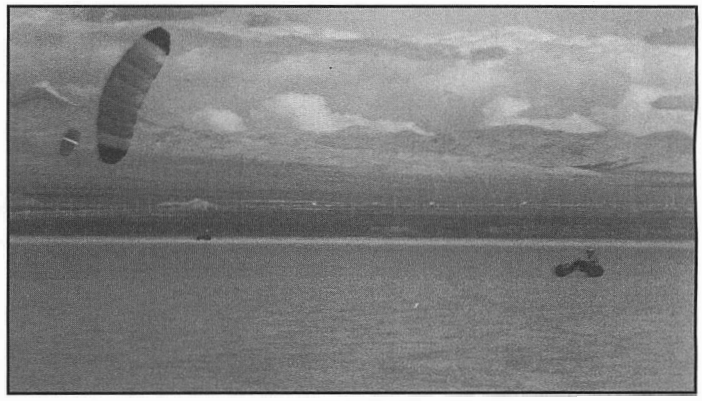
March 8-18, 1997

by Fran Gramkowski

For the third year in a row buggiers will be gathering on Ivanpah Dry Lake for a week of fun and racing. Ivanpah and Roach are located about 45 minutes south of Las Vegas, on either side of a 3 casino complex. The 35 mile Ivanpah Dry Lake is the largest of the two, it is part of a Federal preserve and use is restricted to wind powered vehicles. Access to Ivanpah is through a gate at the East end of the lake bed. Smaller than Ivanpah but often drier, Roach Lake will be used as an alternative site. The surface of the lake bed is hard. You go faster and hit the ground harder when you fall, so safety equipment (helmet, pads, etc.) is a must.

Racing

In the past, both pursuit and circuit races have been held. Everyone who participated in these races had a good time. The pursuit races were very entertaining. This year we are planning on having both types of racing again. It is preferred that you pre-register for these events, but registration will be permitted the day of the event. Racing will be scheduled to take place Saturday and Sunday, March 15 & 16. These races will be run using the rules in the AKA Traction Flying Manual.



Buggy photos by Fran Gramkowski

Pursuit Racing

The course is placed perpendicular to the wind and consists of two marks approximately 100 meters apart. The racing is one on one, with a competitor starting at each mark. The winner is declared when one competitor passes the other and then passes the next mark. This race must have a clear winner, or go at least 5 laps: failure to do so will result in one immediate re-start. If both competitors simultaneously foul out after the tenth mark (5 laps) the leader at the last mark rounded will be the winner. When a restart is also inconclusive no points will be awarded to either competitor. For elimination racing both competitors will be eliminated, or the leader after 5 laps will advance as determined by the race committee prior to the start of the event.

Circuit Racing

The course consists of at least three marks, and will have upwind, downwind, and reaching legs. Starts will be set so that each buggy has at least 10 to 15 meters clear laterally of each adjacent buggy. The start/finish line will be a line at the downwind mark. This spreads out the field by the first mark to reduce risks of entanglements. Once around the downwind mark, all marks must be rounded in the correct order and on the correct side for the number of set laps, as stated in the prerace meeting. The last leg is back to the start/finish line, not to the last mark.
For more information on traction kiting and the complete racing rules see the AKA Guide to Traction Flying.

Accommodations
There are three Hotel Casinos; we like to stay at Buffalo Bills next to the Dry Lakes; rates are $39/night the first weekend, $20/night during the week and $35/night the second weekend. Call 1-800-367-7383 tell them you're with the kite group, group code SK10312 to get these special rates. I'd like to thank Jeanne Merry for getting us the group rate.

For more information write
Spring Break Buggy Blast - 30 West End Avenue - Haddonfield, NJ 08033, USA or fax 609-429-0142 or call 609-429-6260 - email frang@voicenet.com

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OKR/AOK PO Box 5, Portland, OR 92798

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Jeff Kataoka, Kite Society of Wisconsin
414-277-9121

19
MKS Fly Maryland
Glenwood Community Park
Inwood, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

21 - 26
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29
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2
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9
Sky Pilot's Seminar
Reading, PA 610-670-1961

14 - 17
Maryland Kite Retreat
Laurel, MD,
Ray Bordelon, Pierre Fabre presenters
301-949-9078, 301-424-6976

15 - 16
Workshop at World Kite Museum
Mary Yoshimi, John Alholm, and John Wagner, Dan Kurahashi are presenters
Long Beach, WA 360-642-4020

22
Minnesota Kite Society Annual Banquet
VFW at Hwy 100, St. Louis Park 612-724-7918

NW Recreation Center Kite Workshop
Austin, TX Richard Robertson 512-453-7174

March

1 - 2
Hawaii Challenge
Honolulu, Hawaii Robert Loera 808-735-9059

Capitol City Kite Competition
Austin, TX Kelly Reed 512-266-7279

7 - 9
Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference
Masaki Modegi, Mrs.Tokuko Sato, Hideo Matsutani, Jon Burkhardt, Ed & Bonnie Wright, Dan Proebstel, Dawn Williams Wayne Hosking, and Jeff Howard are among the presenters
Port Townsend, WA 206-888-2812

MAKR -Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat
Laredo Taft Campus (Illinois State U), Oregon, IL
Ron & Sandy Gibian presenters
Kathy Horn 815-393-4672

8 - 18
Spring Break Buggy Blast
Ivanpah & Roach Dry Lakes, Nevada/California
Racing March 15 and 16, 1997 609-429-6260

9
Bill Kocher Memorial Kite Fly
Sandy Point State Park
Annapolis, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

69th Annual Zilker Park Kite Festival
Austin, TX Richard Robertson 512-453-7174

16
MKS Fly Maryland
Glenwood Community Park
Inwood, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

St. Patrick's Day Fly
Crystal Community Center, Minneapolis, MN
612-866-9055

21-23
Avi Casino Fly, Laughlin, NV

22
Smithsonian Workshop
Theme "Evolutions in Flight"
Washington, DC 301-890-1178

22 - 23
Workshop at World Kite Museum
Grenada Kite, George Peters presenter
Long Beach, WA 360-642-4020

Eureka Springs Kite Fest, Eureka Springs, AK
Steve Rogers 501-253-6596

23
Kites for Kids
St. Paul Rehabilitation Center
HHH Metrodome - Family Fun Fest & Indoor Fly
JoAnn Weber 612-623-0483

29 -30
2nd Belmont Shores Kite Tournament
Long Beach, CA Aire Affair 310-696-5266

Westlake Kite Competition
Lahoma, OK Pam Thomason 405-796-2359

April

5
Smithsonian Kite Festival
On the Mall, Washington Monument
Washington, DC 301-890-1178

N.E. Kansas City Kite Festival
Kansas City, KS Carolyn Moore 913-894-5483

KaleidoKites Fun Fly, Eureka Springs, AK
Steve Rodgers 501-253-6596

11-13
2nd Annual Regional Meeting (AKA Region 1)
Seaview Inn, 240 Aquidneck Avenue
Middletown, RI 401-846-5000

12
Clear Brightness Kite Festival
Glenwood Community Park
Inwood, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

12 -13
Spring Games, Myrtle Beach, SC 803-448-7881

The Great St. Louis Kite Festival
St. Louis, MO Ron Lindner 314-677-3029

Please send information about your upcoming events to **"AKA Kiting"** at 232 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067.
To have your festival sanctioned by the AKA, call 1-800-252-2550.

18 -19
World Kite Museum
Japanese Air Art, J.R.Tolman presenter
Long Beach, WA 360-642-4020

19-20
Little Acorns Sun & Sand Int'l Kite Festival
World Showcase of Kitemakers
Miami Beach, FL 305-667-7756, 305-KITEGUY

20
MKS Fly Maryland
Glenwood Community Park
Inwood, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

Earth Day Fly
Champlin Park HIgh School
Brooklyn Park, MN 612-866-9055

26
Southern California Open
Fiesta Island, San Diego, CA
Aire Affair 310-696-5266

April 25 -27
Prairie Winds Kite Festival
Kansas City, KS Chris Moore 913-894-5483

Maryland International Kite Festival
Mid Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships
Ocean City, MD Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

26 -27
13th Annual Kitefest
River Oaks County Park, Kalamazoo, Michigan
616-383-8778

May

3
Lehigh Valley Kite Society " Kite Day in the Park"
Bethlehem, PA 610-867-3313

10
Kiwanis Kite Fly, Oak Park, St. Louis Park, MN
Bob Klein 612-941-1321

16-17
World Kite Museum - Fighter Kites
Gary Smith, Brian Johnson presenters
Long Beach, WA 360-642-4020

21-26
Wildwood International Kite Festival
East Coast Buggy Blast
East Coast Stunt Kite Championships
Wildwood, NJ Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

24-26
Junction Kite Retreat
Junction, TX 806-745-6803

Regularly Scheduled Events

Lehigh Valley Kite Society
2nd Monday of the month - Club Meetings
610-867-4999

Lilac City Wind Chasers
Fun fly every tuesday (4 pm til dark)
Friendship Park, Spokane, WA

North Coast Sky Painters
2nd Weekend of every month (except Dec)
Illahee Beach, Ocean Shores, WA
Eric Halverson 503-537-0817

Norhwest Buggy Pilots Association
4th Saturday every month at
Wash-Away Beach, Grayland, WA.
Morrie Williams 206-788-6355

Pierce County Kitefliers Association
Meetings last Thursday of the month
Summit Branch of Pierce County Library
Rob Ford 206-572-8761

Wings Over Washington
First Sunday of the Month Fly
Washington Monument, Washington, DC
Jim Cosca 301-292-4849

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

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BOOK REVIEW

Kites: Paper Wings Over Japan

Scott Skinner, Tal Streeter,
Masaaki Modegi, and Tsutomu Hiroi

No one knows for certain when the first kite was created. China. Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Pacific Islands are often cited as possible locations of this remarkable invention, which is certainly two thousand or more years old. Whatever their precise birthplace and date, kites were first documented entering Japan from China via Korea in the first millennium A.D. From the beginning. The kite was for the Japanese a vehicle of wonder and art, and a celebration of joy.

This delightful book surveys the art of creating and flying Japanese kites. Following a brief history of these kites from their origins to the present, the book takes a close look at the characteristics and anatomy of kites and at the roles they have played in Japan's culture through the centuries. An interview with Tezio Hashimoto, a contemporary master of kite making, and brief profiles of six young kite makers show how the ancient are of making kites is kept alive in modern-day Japan.

Throughout the book are marvelous examples of classic and contemporary kites, all specially photographed and beautifully reproduced in full color. Information on where to view and to buy Japenese kites and a glossary of kite terms make this an essential book for anyone interested in the world of kites.

Scott Skinner is the founder of The Drachen Foundation, an international organization that supports the study and exhibition of kites. Tal Streeter is an expert on the subject and the author of *The Art of the Japanese Kite* (1974). Masaaki Modegi is the founder of the Tokyo Kite Museum, and Tsutomu Hiroi is an authority on contemporary Japanese kite making.

Scheduled release Spring of 1997 by Thames & Hudson, Inc. of NY ($18.95)

Scott Skinner at AKA Tulsa

parallel kiteflying

The air.

A breeze slips through the windows, nudging you to motion. Doors open and close, as do bags; a quick walk to the dune.

The dune.

Height, bending the wind around it. Speeds differently at magic points.

Intro.

First bag. Opened and constructed, hexagon. Second bag. Teased out and adjusted, curved bow diamond. Third bag. Complexity, crossings implicit and explicit, a long-limbed delta

Ruminations.

Hexagon.

A serene lofting, line strolling through fingers; arising with the sanded breaths. To a good height, an appropriate height, a height chosen by its correctness. It floats there, this object in air, bobbing to the vagaries of the wind. Hands smooth the bumps; destabilizing line out, darting line in. Falls and spins; climbs and arrows; complicated tango around a center. Clumsily first, then better; memory returns, arms warm, hands remember. Seeing air in the flight line, intuitive, relaxed.

Descent then, and closure.

Curved bow diamond.

Caressed skull, an obeisance, spine-shaping. Crazy-legged ground winds, hand snaps to climb and straighten. Finger lines, carved by glass, show the work; sensitive tips tugged/pushed. Responses measure by inches, milliseconds; no thought, only sensories. Dart - there; wrap - here; contract - parting; a fellow air-life drifts off. Again: there; here; contract. This one is you. Expected, appreciated, that is the way of it.

Long-limbed delta.

Spiked ground. A walk without eyes, just finger tips and line slip. A nick: stop, measure, continue. Attachment, sleek metal snapped. Walk return, samurai mind-clearing, focus. Take up, quick backward snap, upward explosive. Music leads, like bag-piped foot soldiers. Kite flows crossed by spin-snaps: sands caressed with extended fingertips; crescendo-punctured loops; beat-driven turns. Final crashing nose down, a climax - wait - then a ground-licked roll to ready. Ebb, and quiet.

Extro.

Disconnections, partings, separations. Rolls and compactions, slipped into bags. Honoring, smiling, sun set, completion.

kiteflier, formerly known as Mike Carroll

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The Maryland International Kite Festival

April 25-27, 1997
Ocean City, Maryland

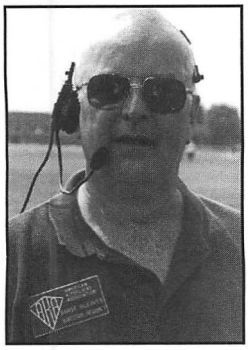
The 8th Annual Mid Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships

3 Sound Stages
Pizza Party Friday Night
Saturday Night Beach Banquet under the big tent

Rokkaku Challenges
Mass Ascensions, Auctions
Children's Kite Workshops, and much, much more!

For more information contact:
Sky Festivals 215-736-3715
The Kite Loft 410-289-7855

The Maryland International Kite Festival is a not for profit event, sponsored by the Town of Ocean City, the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce and the State of Maryland Department of Tourism.



Region 1 New England

Sarge Cleaves

As the song says, "It was a very good year". There were several "firsts".

The first ever Regional Meeting was held at Newport, RI. Steve and Sue Santos were a major force in the planning and organizing the event. Always ready with a solution, their enthusiasm helped to give the event character. Judy Tate came through with thoughtful suggestions and was responsible for the name tags. It was well attended and gave AKA members a chance to gather, build and fly kites. We had the opportunity to gather for fun and fellowship, to talk about kites and other stuff without the stress of a heavy competition schedule. All-in-all, it was a relaxing weekend for those who attended. We are going to do it again April 11-13, 1997.

KONE conducted their first Regional Kite Festival and Competition at Nahant, Massachusetts. Archie Stewart planned and organized, with help from John Ruggiero, a two day event comparable to any event I have ever attended. Events don't just happen. A lot of time and effort is required. When it's done for the first time, it takes even more time and effort. Not to mention the agony of wondering if all of the details have been taken care of.

Flyers competed for the first time. Children made kites for the first time. Some experienced flyers flew fighter kites for the first time. The region has a sound system available for use at a low cost for the first time. Kites and banners were everywhere and the City of Nahant was extremely pleased. Another "relaxing" weekend for those who attended. I hope they do it again.

We flew kites at Nantasket, beach for the first time in many years. Greg and Jackie Lameroux planned and organized their first kite festival. It went off without a hitch. Thirty flyers were able to attend. Again, the sky was filled with color in a new place.

The Newport Kite festival and Competition was conducted during a hurricane for the first time, an organizer's nightmare. In spite of the rain and wind, Steve and Sue Santos were able to keep the festival moving. The Newport Cup was awarded for the first time, for excellence in kitemaking. This will be an annual event giving kitemakers another opportunity to show off their ability.

Indoor flying has emerged as a dominant activity in the region. John Ruggiero said; "why not" and started scheduling semi-regular evening indoor events at Marblehead High School. These have been well attended, fun events. John, without a doubt, is an indoor flying enthusiast. His enthusiasm seems to be rubbing off as I am seriously thinking of acquiring a quadline indoor kite. It seems like a great way to get some exercise during the dog days of winter. John was instrumental in making the Newport event even more successful, when he organized an indoor fly at the Newport YMCA. Hopefully that will occur again.

Outside of the region, In Belmar, NJ, I had the privilege of participating in the first Fly Away Classic, an open competition, which offered prize money to the winners. It was a well organized and run event; an interesting experiment. Planning for 1997 is well underway, and so the experiment continues.

This was the year I acquired my first and second computers. I am ecstatic about the power and convenience they offer. I am constantly humbled by the way they bring me to my knees. I see "General Protection Fault" in my sleep. It is fun to be able to contact my uncle in California and see his web page, or friends of ours who are in the Peace Corps in Russia, or see a note on the screen from my daughters in Massachusetts saying, "Thinking of you". When I am done with this article, I will save it and send it to KITING by e-mail in less time than it takes to dial a phone number. What incredible power!

It was also my first year as your representative for the Region. The AKA faced many challenges during the year. Perhaps the most challenging was the dues increase. This is a dynamic organization. Our new President, Richard Dermer, is full of enthusiasm, and ideas. He has challenged the Board of Directors with that enthusiasm. We will be looking for new and "new old" people to help us rise to these challenges. If you are looking to become more involved now is the time you might help to effect changes to come.
I have been appointed chairman of the Safety and Ethics and Membership Development Committees. There important issues to be dealt with in both areas. If you have a strong feelings on either subject, I would love to hear from you.

I still have hopes of initiating an Advisory Committee. Several people have offered to assist me in the Region and I am still looking for help in New York, Connecticut, and Vermont, This would be a great help to me in covering the region. I think it will provide any of you, who wish to get involved, with a chance to get acquainted. I think it is very important for people to have a chance to express themselves. I would like to become more familiar with kiting in those areas I haven't been to yet. It is always easier when you get help from someone who knows the area. I certainly don't have all of the answers or ideas. There is no limit on the amount of help I will accept.

Ed Webb, Gary Quinton and others are discussing the importance of publicizing kiting and kite events throughout the region. To date, most of the discussion has taken place "on line" i.e.; through the internet. We need input from those of you who are not using electronic communication so the best way to reach all of you can be achieved.

I have gone through the first year process finding out what this job is all about, and I'm not sure that I am done finding out yet. I did learn one thing though. It isn't easy to write on a regular basis. I always seem to leave something out or not pay particular attention to an event or person who has made a contribution. I've been told by experienced newsletter editors that it always happens that way, and you always feel bad. I do and I apologize. I'll keep trying.

Ruth and I are working on our first Christmas as husband and wife. What a joy to share! All of you have been very kind with your gifts and best wishes. We thank you for that, and think of you often. My father, who some of you have met, at age 92 had his first double by-pass surgery. It was followed two months

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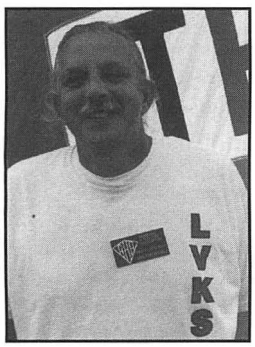
later by his third hip replacement surgery. He is progressing beautifully! Those of you who sent messages of encouragement to him were very kind. At a time when he was discouraged because recovery was "so damned slow", they helped. He is now able to walk, pain free, for the first time in three years! He is writing his life's story on a word processor, another first for him.

What a year it was! By the time you read this, you will have, I hope, enjoyed a joyous Holiday and be well underway enjoying what I hope will be a marvelously successful New Year.



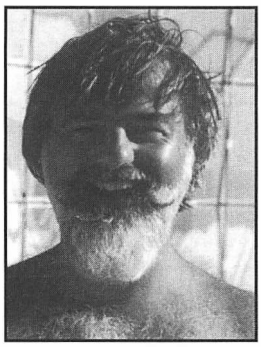
Region 2

Northeast

Andy Gelinas

A new year is upon us. I will, I am sure bring new challenges as well as new opportunities in our kiting community. I have sent out a region 2 packet for information from kite clubs to be
brought up to date so I can work with you in planing the new season. I have heard a new club is forming in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area and also the "Big Apple Club" ? in New York. Please contact me and I will get a packet off to you. At this time, official club presidents and contacts of area clubs are Scott Spencer (South Jersey), Paul Keeler (Lehigh Valley), and Kevin Shannon (Keystone Kiters). By the way some of the region 2 club newsletters are magazine quality and the cost of club membership (not to mention support) is well worth it for the information provided. Think about it!
Another facet of kite clubs is their presentation of seminars and workshops. "Fly Pittsburgh" had one in November at Windstar Kites. IN December they will be building windsocks and in January they will be building miniature kite trains.
Keystone Kiters will host another of their one day workshops on January 26, 1997 with Kevin Shannon and Scott Spencer building a facet kite and transition tails.
Last, but not least, out of our region, but not out of our hearts, Valentine's Day weekend, the great retreat in Laurel, Maryland by MKS. It will be my 6th. Don't miss it.
The merchandising committee is formed and working their way to AKA goods being available at your favorite kite store.

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



Region 3

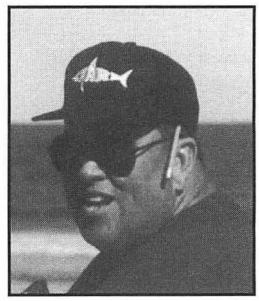
Mid-Atlantic

Jon Burkhardt

Your RIII Director has been having lots of fun burning up the e-mail on AKA's behalf. Lots of good progress is being made on many fronts, so if any of the loyal crew in Region III has issues that they want to bring before AKA's Board of Directors, now is the time to bring them up.

Yes, I know we're not supposed to focus RD reports on upcoming festivals, but we really have some great stuff coming up soon, and everyone needs to know the details. We'll probably have recovered from the annual January 1 fly on the grounds of the Washington Monument (sponsored by Wings Over Washington and others) by the time you read this, but we'll brag about how brave we were in the next report. The Maryland Kite Society's Winter Kitemaking Retreat will be held February 14-17 in Laurel, Maryland. A great program is in store, including workshops by special guests Pierre Fabre from France and Ray Bordelon from Big Easy Kites in New Orleans. Negotiations are underway with one more super surprise instructor. The next big event will be the Smithsonian Kite Festival, which will actually be held in April this year, on the 5th, so you'll have an even better shot at flying kites among the cherry blossoms. The theme this year will be "Evolutions in Flight," and there will be a special prize for the kite that most closely fits that theme. Last year, not many persons made kites that focussed on the theme, so you should start the building process soon. No progress to report on plans to make this festival a two-day event (Saturday and Sunday, too), but stay for Sunday anyway and enjoy a nice free fly like we had last year. As before, there will be a Smithsonian kite-making workshop, which will be on Saturday, March 22 this year. The Maryland International Kite Festival, the last weekend in April in Ocean City, Maryland, is anther event that includes special celebrities and events this year. Words to the wise: tune up the sewing machines now, and mark your calendars. You don't want to miss these activities.

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



Region 4

Southeast

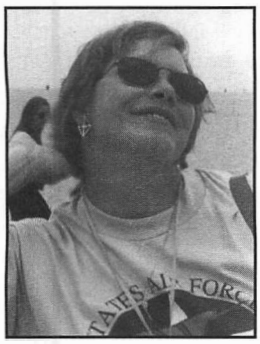
Tom Mason

November 7 through 9 found enthusiastic flyers from Rhode Island to Miami Beach gathered at Tybee Island, Georgia (outside of Savannah) for the 6th Annual Georgia International Stunt Kite Championships hosted by Tom and Susan Mason (Windswept Productions) and Roger Chewning (Sky Festivals). Friday evening after registration, a cookout was held by the pool. After which the annual scavenger hunt took place with head judge Stretch Tucker officiating. On Saturday, the weather was cold and blustery. Events ran on schedule ahead of an incoming tide. On Saturday evening the awards banquet and auction was held at the American Legion Hall. An oyster roast furnished by Pat Robinson and TC Powers started the evening off the right way. Following the auction, Kite bingo was the hit of the evening.

Sunday was warmer and less windy. After all of the required events, the Golden Oldies were held with the top three finishers winning cash prizes. Flyers are put to the test with their ability to adlib to songs from the 50's and 60's.

On October 12 & 13, the Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition was held in Kitty Hawk, NC. Chuck and Betty Rountree were on hand if needed as new organizers Chris Shultz and Jim Cosca (Wings Over Washington) kept things on track. This was a fun, outstanding event. The theme of the event was "Richmond Rules".

Seasons Greetings



Region 5 Great Lakes

Robyne Gardner

As I write this, the '96 Holiday Season is in full swing. I wish you all good health, prosperity, and good winds in the New Year. The Region 5 and Beyond calendar will be finished around the first of January, and is fast filling up with events. If you'd like a copy, please send me a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The 9th Annual Cleveland Kite Festival was held Sept. 21, complete with special guest fliers, Moses Cleveland and Ben Franklin. Some say it was really Tom Kear and George Wilcox, but they looked like the real thing to me! There was a bit of something for everyone at this festival: wind sprints, Rok battle, mystery ballet, sled workshops, and flying demonstrations of all kinds. Great job, OSEK! Next year, they will be expanding this event to two days. OSEK's annual meeting and potluck was well attended, and happened on November 10th amidst the first snowflakes of that BIG snowstorm. Gina Igrazzitto was the gracious hostess, providing the nice party room in her building. At the meeting, I learned that Higher Powered will be back on the circuit in '97. Welcome back, Mike Donley and Phil Salzstein! Gina says she's thinking of jumping into the icy waters of competition, too.

If you're in the Dublin, Ohio area, please consider volunteering your time at a children's workshop on February 1st. Susan Swit could use some help with this workshop, provided in part by the Dublin Arts Council. You can reach Susan at (614) 873-1421.

A Big ol' welcome hug goes out to new AKA member, Frank Zahora of Steubenville, Ohio. Also, I'd like to welcome Randy Niederhouse to Region 5. Randy moved to Gaylord, MI. from Oklahoma last fall.

The Mid-Michigan String Stretchers continue to grow and stay active in many local events. Some of the happenings they brightened late last season were: The Pyrotechnic Fly, The Danish Festival Fly, The Shoreline Spectacular, and One Sky One World. Last I heard, Bill Schumacher of M2S2 was in the process of lining up the gym at Caledonia High School for indoor flys.

Information, please: Would someone from the Mid-Michigan Kite Club contact me? Am I correct in assuming that this is a separate and different club from Mid-Michigan String Stretchers? Enlighten me!

The 4 Seasons Kite Club flies regularly at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, and invites any interested kiter to come out and say Hi. For more information, contact Joe Wright (810) 960-0631 or Susan Habel (810) 674-8895.

The Black Swamp Air Force kicked off the holiday season with "Christmas in the Swamp" on Nov. 30. Charlie Sotich again taught Swampers the fine art of building miniature kites - this year, out of postage stamps! The great indoor kite mass ascension did not break any records for number of kites this time, but we decided it had to be one of the longest mass-flights in the history of indoor flying. Could this have anything to do with Al Hargus being put in charge of the stop watch? North Coast's best kite flying Santa was on hand to dole out presents and take requests from children of all ages & sizes. [Picture this: Sam Ritter on Santa's lap.] Terry McPherson assures us Santa's lap is none the less for the wear.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the first official kite fly of the year, Sno' Fly, up in Kalamazoo on New Year's Day. Gazing further into the year, I'd like to mention some changes that will be happening with the USAF Museum Festival next Labor Day. Our own Uncle Wilbert has taken the reigns and will be assisting the [real] Air Force with this one. Look for big changes on the flying fields - no more separation between the ranks! and a more spectator-friendly cabana row. Mike & Pat Bragg have stepped up to relieve Lois DeBolt of the Indoor Kite Exhibit coordination duties this year. Lois has done a terrific job with this annual month-long exhibit for MANY years now, so it's time for her to relax a bit for a change. If anyone out there has a kite or kites that you would be willing to loan for the exhibit, please contact the Braggs (317) 453-2977. This could easily be turned into a worthwhile club project, combining efforts and resources to insure a beautiful display at the museum.

Membership Application

☐ New Member ☐ Register me as a Member Merchant
☐ Renewal ☐ Don't publish my name in the Dir.
☐ Reinstatement ☐ Don't distribute my name outside AKA

Name_____ Spouse_____
Address_____ Email_____
City_____ State___ Zip_____
Home Phone_____ Work Phone_____
Other Family Members_____
Charge my Visa/MasterCard #_____
Signature_____

My primary interest is: ☐all kinds of kites ☐single line kites ☐multi-line kites
Referred by_____ My local club_____

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Membership Dues	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	Amount
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ADDITIONAL FAMILY per person relatives living in same household	4	8	12	
U.S. 1st CLASS MAIL add	8	15	22	
SPONSOR *Kiting* via 1st class mail includes tax deductible contribution	100	200	300	
International Members please add postage as follows:				
CANADA or MEXICO	8	15	22	
OVERSEAS SURFACE MAIL	10	19	28	
OVERSEAS AIR MAIL	25	48	70	
TOTAL REMITTANCE				

Please remit in U.S. dollars.
Sorry, we cannot take Canadian cheques.

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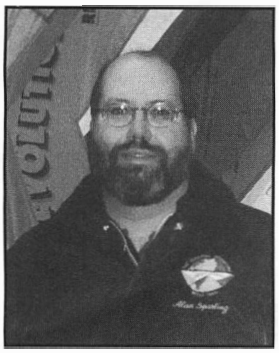
Rockville, MD 20850-4117 USA



Region 6 Midwest

Alan Sparling

This is my first regional report, so there are a couple of things I would like to say before I get into the report proper. First, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me, I want to assure you that I will try to live up to my promises. Pursuant to that, the first Region Six newsletter will be mailed soon. I also want to thank my predecessor, Bob Neiman, for all of the effort he put into promoting kiting. The fact that kiting has grown so much in Region Six and particularly in the Chicago area can be attributed largely to the efforts of Bob and his wife Wilma. The regular weekly learn to fly sessions and Chicago Sport Kite Festival have greatly expanded kiting in this area.

Another person who has done a lot for kiting in Region Six is Lois DeBolt. For the past fourteen years, she has put together the annual kite exhibit at the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum. These exhibits were wonderfully done, and introduced many people to the wonders of kiting. This year she announced that she is retiring from this job and asked be to publish the following note thanking all who have helped her.
"I would like to personally thank all of the members of the AKA and clubs throughout the USA who were gracious and/or freely willing to loan me kites for the yearly exhibit of kites at Wright Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio for the past 14 years. You all know who you are and I thank and love every one of you. Lois Debolt"

I think that Lois is the one who truly deserves our thanks and would like to personally extend my thanks to her.

Region Six members did very well at the AKA Kitemakers Competition and the Grand Nationals. In the Kitemakers competition, Eric Wolff came in second in innovative and fourth in cellular. Jerry Houk came in fourth in Rokkakus and sixth in flat or bowed, while Charlie Sotich came in fourth in figure kites and eighth in soft. Frank Fiesler rounded out the Region Six kitemaking contingent with a ninth place finish in flat or bowed. Congratulations to all of you.

Sport kite fliers also did well, The Chicago Fire, (Eric Wolff, Bob Neiman, Jerry Elkerton, Kathy Brinnehl, Dan Brinnehl, Jan Winkel, Herb Schulz), took first place in MTB, and third in MTP. Jeff Cooper came in second in EIP and fifth in EIB. Three Region Six pairs teams competed, Co-Pilots (Dan and Kathy Brinnehl) took first, QC Frequent Fliers (Doc Jenkins, Al Bull) took third and Windy City Shear (Harry Larson, Wayne Chlebanowsky) took fifth. In ETB, Charlie Brown & Co (Doc Jenkins, Al Bull, Richard Thomas) came in third, with a fifth place finish in ETP. Last, but certainly not least, Harry Larson came in fifth in IIB and sixth in IIP in a very large field. Congrats all around. I sincerely hope that I have not missed anyone, if so let me know and I will do penance.

The mere recitation of scores does not capture the fun and excitement of the convention, but this report is already longer than it is supposed to be. I tried to meet everyone there from Region Six, but I know I failed. I hope to meet many more of you in the coming year as I attend events around the region. Please, feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of help to you or just to talk about kites.

Region 7 Great Plains

Chris Moore

Here we are already embarking upon the new year of 1997 and as you know, the new year often brings new ideas, changes, and a chance for reflection on the past year.

The past year has been very filled with an array of kiting events and kiting growth here in Region 7. Region 7 now has 13 kite clubs concentrated in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and Missouri. AKA members have reached an all time high and kiting has gained significant recognition from the media.

Looking into the future for next year, I see even more excitement for kiting; activities being planned, kite clubs growing, more AKA members, and building enthusiasm in the AKA.

Although no activities have been called to my attention in January or February, I would like to give everyone an opportunity to plan their calendars for the year around what is really important - kite flying. Here are some of the events that will be going on in the first few months of 1997. As usual, the Midwest is a hub-bub of kiting events every weekend. Last year we had a kite festival of some type every weekend. Included in the calendar is a partial list of events for 1997. More events will be included in the next issue, plus an article on each event. If you would like a more detailed list of activities in Region 7 or would like to include any event in the list please give me a call. My new phone number is 913-894-5483.

Best wishes in the new year to everyone!

Region 8 South Central

Troy Gunn

First of all, thanks to those of you who took the time to mail in the 1996 election ballots. Those of you who did, can be satisfied in knowing, that by staying involved with the AKA your opinions can and will make a difference in the decision making process. Those of you who didn't make your voices heard, get involved and make a difference. As regional director my job demands that I act as the eyes and ears for all of you. This process can be very costly and time consuming. Region 8 includes the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. All of your ideas of how we make our kiting events more pleasurable, productive, and profitable can make a big difference. So please take the time to write down your ideas and send them to me. And I'll do my best to forward your ideas, or suggestions to the AKA Committee.

Here is a list of kite activity information that I need from all of you: Event dates, locations, and contact information, festival/competition scores, reports, and photos. Information you send in I will forward to Kiting.

For those of you who missed out on the opportunity to attend the "96" Santa Monica Convention, you missed a great show! What a great learning experience. Region 8 was well represented, by a large group of talented kite flyers. As you know, Richard Dermer was elected our new AKA President. What an honor it is for Region 8 (and the AKA) to have one who is devoted to the needs of the AKA membership, as is Richard. On behalf of Region 8 a special congratulations to you Richard! At the convention, Richard made a statement that one of his main goals as new president will be to increase the number of AKA members. This is something all AKA members need to work on, not just our elected officials. New members mean more revenues, new ideas, and more camaraderie. Help make a difference in our organization and get involved.

Several of our Region 8 members did well in their respective competitions at Santa Monica. In Sport Kite competitions "Team TKO" were winners in both Team Ballet and Precision in the Experienced class. "TKO" also placed second in Open Team Train. "TKO" members were Troy Gunn, Jerry Hershey, Larry Christensen, and Paul Beugelsijk. Jerry Hershey and Paul Beugelsijk placed second in Experienced Pairs as "Southwind". Jerry placed third in Experienced Individual Ballet. Although Jerry and Paul are from Wichita, Kansas, I have adopted them as stepchildren from Region 7, as Team TKO always practiced in Region 8. Congratulations to all of the competitors that worked hard in qualifying for the Convention, it is an honor to attend.

October 26-27, the 7th Annual Rockport Beach Fly, sponsored by the Gems of the Wind Kite Club was a success. Saturday's high winds put a little damper on kite flying events, however the event drew a large crowd of curious onlookers. Contestants participated in a series of fun events, such as Most Unusual, Best Display, Happiest and Ugliest kite. Special thanks to chairpersons Mike Wright and John Schmidt for coordinating a fun event.

The 2nd Annual South Padre Island Kite Festival was sponsored by Windchasers Kite Store and the Border Winds Kite Club on November 8-10. This years event saw temperatures in the 80's, with as announcer Frank Kenisky stated, "Blue skies, as blue as a sky can be"! With nearly twice the competitors and spectators as last year, with light and steady breezes all kite activities ran smoothly. Thanks to volunteers Frank Kenisky, James and Cythinia Salazar, Kelly Reed, Stephanie Wise, and from Michigan Ken Neely and Ruthie Hammond. Jeff Howard coordinated the buggy relay races and demos. Jeff canceled the buggy races due to problems with soft sand. Sport Kite winners were Jim Cox, Eddie Zihlman, Dennis Phillips, James Salazar, Kelly Reed, and Keith Anderson. Two new sport kite teams made their debut at this event, with entertaining performances. "Team Iguana" (now Sushi) edged out "Team Austin E.O.L." for the win in Team Ballet, while "E.O.L." took the win in Precision. Members for "Team Sushi" are Kelly Reed, Stephanie Wise, and Dennis Phillips. Members for "Team Austin E.O.L." are Eddie Zihlman, Ira Shields, Jim Cox, and Stephen Ploof. Pairs Ballet was won by newly formed "Killer Bees" (Kelly and Dennis).

There were five candy drops for the kids. I'll bet the parents of those kids enjoyed the ride home with their kids filled with all that sugar. On Saturday night the banquet/auction was a success, except for the fact that the local marines were having their annual birthday ball the same night directly above the kite banquet. As Frank Kenisky spoke on the PA system, the marines music grew louder. This provided for some very funny moments. This South Padre Islands tropical setting has lots to do and see. You really can't beat this event.

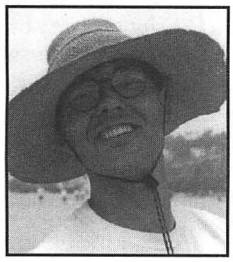
Festival dates for the spring are listed in the calendar. I will continue to submit new dates with each report. If you would like a complete calendar of kiting events for our region, let me know and I will see that you get my list. Or, if you know of other events in our region that need to be mentioned, let me know.

Winds up, gotta fly!

Kelly Reed and Cynthia Salazar with Rokkaku atPadre Island, and Keith Anderson (Mr. Spandex) off and running the beach at Padre.
Photos by Tom Chaffee of Border Winds Kite Club.

Region 9

Inter-Mountain



Randy Shannon

Well another year of kite flying is coming to a close. I think it was a great year. The only downfall was the lack of the Cielo Encantado this fall in Silver City NM. Hopefully that will be made up twofold in 1997.

Remember our festivals are only as good as our volunteers. So thank the unsung heros the next time you attend a festival. From the local city-sponsored event right up to the Annual International festivals, volunteers make it happen. Also don't be afraid to jump in and help when asked. Rare are the one or two people who can run a successful event year after year. Do your part, volunteer.

Locally the Route 66 Kite Club (which I co-founded in 1990) recently took a short hiatus from life. Fortunately some people volunteered to pick it up and get it going again starting after the first of the year.

The new club in Prescott, AZ is the High Desert Fliers. They don't have their AKA affiliation as of yet but they are applying. Contact Jan or Mark Motto at (520) 772-6224 for more information.

The Coyote Kite Club of Tucson, AZ had their fun fly on Sunday, November 17th at Arthur Pack Park in Northern Tucson. This was my first Tucson event that was plagued with a lack of wind. Fortunately there were sporadic gusts throughout the day that enabled us to fly every once in a while. The wind was so minimal that the fighter kite competition was finally called half way through the second round. Rick Miller of Silver City, NM was ahead and won. Stefani Hines (Dean's definite better half) has gotten quite skilled with a fighter and shouldn't be taken lightly in the competition circle. She whipped me in a 3 to 2 round. The final event of the day was the No Wind Rokkaku Battle. This was a single round event. All the kites were placed against a fence and the competitors let out their lines for a one-shot high launch match. Someone's line actually got cut, while the rest of us ran around trying to keep our kites aloft and knock our opponent's kites down. The winner of this fast paced frenzy was Brandon Eller of Phoenix. Look for good things from this young man as his kites keep getting better. The Coyote Kite Club runs a great festival. Lots of field help, music, arts and crafts and refreshments. Their next event will be March 8-9, 1997. Contact I-maginations in Tucson at (520) 326-3442 for more info.

Last weekend the Avi Aireal Kite Fest II took place outside of Laughlin, NV at the Avi Casino and Hotel. More fliers, more kites and more fun than the last one. On Thursday night a rainy front came through but by Friday morning it was dry with winds up to 18 mph. The recent trend in low-aspect kites or "noodles" as they've been coined by Dale Vanderhoof proved very airworthy in the strong and sometimes gusty winds. The weather turned beautiful by late afternoon and stayed nice the rest of the weekend. Each day had winds by late morning and the most spectacular light and scenery for flying I can remember. One afternoon there was rain and lightening twenty miles away with the

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golden hour glow hitting the front of the kites that were high above. Then when you thought it couldn't get any better a rainbow developed in the distant cloudburst and the full moon rose over the mountains. The air was so clear that the rugged mountains surrounding the area looked painted in place.

On Friday, Charly McClary, Scott Skinner, Tom Dice, Spencer Chun and Miyuki and Ron Gibian and I think a few more fliers went to a local school and put on a display and candy drop for the students. They also took advantage of mad man Ron Gibian's driving to play a hilarious practical joke on Kathy Plummer of Dream Merchant Kite Store. Kathy put in countless hours to organize this event for the Avi Casino. I had the pleasure of rooming with Scott Hampton and got to know his kites, banners and him a little better over the weekend. Scott makes beautiful banners and bugs that are unmistakable on the field. His use of color is fabulous.

Randy Tom flew his wind ribbon arches; all three of them hooked end to end! Talk about pull! I also had the pleasure of flying one of Don Mock's huge asymmetrical pieces! Tim Nelson and JoAnn Weber from the Minnesota Kite Society were there with their rock steady Rokkakus and Deltas. I really liked JoAnn's Endangered Species Delta. Mike of Denver, CO was there also. This guy's kites are impeccable for having been building for only a couple of years. Jennifer and Bob Snyder from Inverness, CA debut their new frog kites. These are great little fliers and handle a surprisingly wide wind range. Johnny Hsuing and Basir were there and kept things lively with their expert fighter kite flying around all the single lines. Gina and Michelle Hsuing kept Ramsay busy all weekend. My greatest experience of the weekend came from finally meeting Dale and Calvin Vanderhoof. I have always admired Dale's kites and was glad to just sit and talk to the two of them about kites, gardening, the desert and more kites.

My self-portrait kite that I made in Robert Trepanier's class last year in Junction, TX had the misfortune of doing a roof top inspection of the casino. I almost escaped unnoticed until my bow line caught on a nail and hung my kite upside down on the side of the casino four stories up. Luckily Johnny and Basir came to it's rescue with their manjha line and a paper fighter. After two attempts Johnny successfully cut me loose. That kite got photographed more that day than Bell Rock in Sedona, AZ on a Sunday. Definitely plan on attending the next Avi Fly on March 21,22 and 23rd in 1997!

We still haven't found a suitable field in Tombstone, AZ for our Region 9 and Region 12 fighter kite shoot out for early 1997. JoAnne from I-maginations is going to drive down and check it out to see if we can find a field that will work. At this point it will be decided between interregional contact so if you want to participate contact myself or Walt Thompson of Region 12.

After doing some compass work I discovered the center of our Region to be just below Salt Lake City, or in our own Scott Hampton's backyard of Sandy, UT. After talking with Scott we decided that it would be best to combine a Region #9 fly with the Beach Fest in April that takes place at the Great Salt Lake Beach out side of Salt Lake City, UT. I'll have a finalized itinerary for the next issue, so look for it. That's about all for now.

Steady Breezes

Region 10

Northwest Dave Christenson

The Third Annual Ocean Shores International Kite Challenge was a smashing success. Although there was a couple of glitches everyone came together and brought off a great festival. A special Thanks to the Mayor of Ocean Shores for being a great help when the ovens quit. We had several of the kiters that took my comprehensive judging class doing the judging duties. They did a great job and said they would like to do it again.

"Beach Party 96", also known as the Westport Festival sponsored by the Westport Windriders Kite Club was a great success again. This years festival was a more laid back and fun this year. It worked out great by the looks of all the people and cars that crowded the beach. The NW Buggy Pilots Association put on buggy demo's and races at the south end of the beach. The public really enjoyed seeing us buggying, and there were lots of questions asked and answered.

Another Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF) has come and gone. Although I was there for 5 days they sure flew by. International guests Peter and Soon Rieleit from Dusseldorf, Germany, Anne Harris from the UK and Silvio Maccherozzi from Parma, Italy put on great displays. Also, Manuel Mercado was invited from Orlando, Florida.

The NW Buggy Pilots Association has put on several Buggy Blasts at the drylake beds this year. There was the Spring Buggy Blitz in May, the Labor Day Weekend Outing in September, and there was the Independence Day Buggy Blast during the Beach Party 96 Festival, July 4th- 7th. During WSIKF this year about 40+ of us met a Sunset Beach in Oregon for a day of buggying and BBQ. It seems that every time I head to the beach I meet some new buggiers. The sport is really getting popular here in the NW. The NW Buggy Pilots Association members are working with the State Parks Commission to open more areas for legalized buggying.

The 4th Annual "Up Your Wind" Kite Festival at Pacific Beach was another roaring success. Don't ever believe someone that says Pacific Beach is a quite little beach resort. It sure was hopping when we were having our salmon dinner in the grange. A young gentleman doing a flaming num-chucks demonstration was the more tamer entertainment we had.

Sixteen months ago (during WSIKF 95) a group of kiters, buggiers and State Parks people got together to see about opening some more areas for Kite Buggies and Sand Saliors. We had our second meeting the other day at the Parks and Recreation Office in Olympia. It looks like it is startiing to move again. We are hoping to get a favorable vote back from the Commissioners(sp) and maybe put into effect by this coming summer. Stay tuned but

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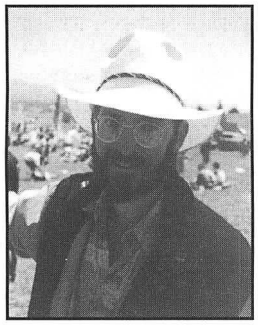
If you have any questions, please e-mail me at my address listed under Regional Directors. May you always have Warm Winds at your Back.

Region 11



Tom McAlister Northern California

Once again we find ourselves at the starting gate of a new year, a time when we can reflect on the past and look forward to the future. We have seen a dramatic increase in sport kite activities in our region. It's hard to believe that just two years ago it seemed we didn't have enough events. While it has been very satisfying to watch and participate in this transformation of the dual-line scene, I would still love to see a similar renaissance in the single-line arena.

We have some of the finest single-line fliers and kite builders in the country right here in Region I I, yet we still don't seem to have a lot going on. I hope that in '97 we can find some way to bring single liners together in a constructive way that will reinvigorate the heart of our single-line community.

On the dual-line front look for a BASKL Judging Seminar sometime before the first sport kite competition of the new season. All of us can afford to be better judges and this seminar should help all of us improve our judging.

As for this column in '97, I will try to make it what you want it to be! Although I may not be able to attend every event in our region, I would like nothing more than to report on every event that takes place here. If you run an event or have participated in one that you would like to see mentioned, please let me know via a quick phone call, E-mail or even a few notes scribbled down on a napkin! I promise you I will find a way to include your suggestions and notes into this column.

Actually, a few of you are already sending me messages regarding our region and its members. I'm sure that many of you know Flora Thompson, a regular Berkeley flier and BASKL competitor. I am sorry to report the sad news that her husband passed away in November and I send my condolences to Flora and her family. Hang in there, Flora, for our hearts are with you!

On a different note, I want to report about a new kite event that I attended in autumn. Organized by Peter and Linda Betancourt, the Santa Cruz Sport Kite Classic included sport kite competitions run by the Bay Area Sport Kite League, and single-line activities coordinated by the NCKC. The flying conditions on Saturday were among the most challenging ones that fliers have ever seen here on the West Coast. At one point old timers were reminded of the old Eureka Kite Festival when the tides began to nibble at the competition fields.

Fortunately our region's competitors and volunteers are not easily intimidated by the whims of Mother Nature. The competitors and volunteers demonstrated a lot of character by facing whatever Mother Nature threw at them, and in most cases, doing it with a smile. My hat goes off to all of you who took your chances on that field behind the boardwalk. Special thanks also to the Betancourts and BASKL for standing up to the challenging conditions on Saturday. Sunday, the fun fly day, which included workshops by Scott Skinner and J.R. Tolman, was blessed with the usual onshore breezes which make the beach a beautiful place to fly.

At this time I would like to take time out for a BLATANT COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT...

"How many times have you gone to get your AKA Membership Directory, only to find that the Sock Gnomes have struck again and your directory is no where to be found? At last, my friends, there is hope: the AKA Electronic Directory! If you want to check out this new product you can do so by logging on the AKA Web site and looking under new products. The E-Directory is one of the most exciting new AKA products to come a long in some time. Now you can have your membership directory on your PC and look up members by name, city, region, or phone number. Want to know all the AKA members in your city? With the New E-Directory, it's a snap, so purchase yours today!"

....We now return you to your regularly scheduled programming:

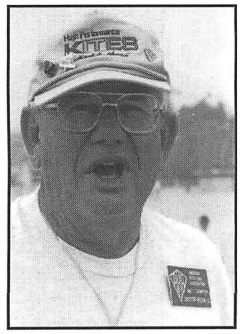
With winter come the traditional holiday kite parties. First came the NCKC Fun Fly and Pizza Feed, which was held in San Ramon at the San Ramon Wind Fest site. Reporters on the scene said that while both the wind and the turnout was low, the Pizza Feed was well attended and no one went home hungry.

This weekend is the Skinners' Holiday Party, but as we go the press, it hasn't started yet, so I can' t very well report on an event that hasn't happened (although some would say that it never stopped me before!). Suffice to say they came, they ate, they belched, (OK, only some of them) they ate some more, and then went home with smiles on their faces.

As long as I am reporting on events that haven't happened yet I might as well report on Highline Kites' Annual AKA Volunteer & Customer Appreciation Party. This get-togther was moved to January to alleviate some of the holiday party crunch. Suffice to say they came, they ate, they belched, (yes, all of them), they ate some more.....

Hope to see you all in 1997.

Region 12



Walt Thompson Southern California / Pacific

After surviving the holidays it is time to think of the new year of kiting. We can look back on the past with thoughts about our resolutions, our present and future about life overall and kiting in particular. This year, we are going to do something about those activities that we have been putting off for all those good reasons.

Want to make a kite? Then share information with a friend, go to a workshop but do it! There will be several good national workshops this year plus the kitemaking clinics presented by the San Diego Kite Club (SDKC). Call the hotline for information at (619)685-2885 or to leave your suggestions and requests. The SDKC is planning to have Jose, Randy, John, Dorine and a few others

you can put last names to as clinic and class leaders.

Want to enter competition or advance your flying skills for competition? For quadline flyers, Ron Despojado will lead a workshop in Quadline Flying. I will also be part of this event that will be either an SDKC or AKA Region 12 sponsored activity. We may repeat this in different areas of the region if demand suggests it.

I have been gathering information on the European styles of Rev flying with emphasis on the STACK compulsory figures and tapping the wealth of information of John Mitchell. John was born in southern Illinois and spent time in Souther California during his navy training and now lives in Germany. He was the European Quadline Champion in 1996 and STACK Germany DCD German Quadline Champion 1996. My hope is to invite him to SoCal this coming year for one of the workshops, depending on a possible sponsor I am working with now. More on this to come when I have more details. Meanwhile we are stuck with having the 1996 Nationals (AKA) Quadline Ballet Champion who only placed first in the Master Class at Santa Monica this year - Ron Despojado. In our region, know as the hotspot for quadline flyers we have much talent and more on the way up.

To begin I will be working on the STACK compulsory figures (8) and four more that John has developed. These can be incorporated into really cool routines for Quadline Ballet. Precision Quadline Events is something that we are going to have at least four of our Regional competitions this coming year. The A.K.A. formulas will be followed and augmented by what others are doing in the world.

If you have access to the Internet, John Mitchell has a great site at http://gutemine.multinet.de/john/ that you can visit and see diagrams, descriptions and other interesting Rev information. For those so inclined there is another site, http://www.hs-bremen.de/crew/buchholz/revsim/revsim.htm that has a cool program called RevSim, a Revolution Simulator using a real-time, pilot-in-the-loop, visual simulation of a Revolution kite. You can download this and work out some interesting moves. Both sites include interesting references to others sites as well.

Four regional competitions are scheduled for 1997 for both dual line and quadline and possibly fighter kites. They are Belmont Shores Kite Tournament, Southern California Open, Aire Affairs Fun Day and Competition, and Aire Fly and Competition. For more information on the above four events contact Aire Affair (310) 696-5266 and ask for Neil Tuthill or Larry Bush. They will be glad to help you in many ways. Great people!

In March, the Saturn Car Company will sponsor it's annual American Cancer Association Cycling Tour and Kite Fly. I will be coordinating the kiting portion of this event that will be held at Mission Bay, San Diego this year. Further details to come as the plans are firmed up.
If you don't want to compete but enjoy flying with others there will be many kite club events in the region this year. The Inland Empire Kite Club in San Bernardino and a possible club starting in Seal Beach, and also the new Frequent Flyers club will all have events. You can see what others are doing and sharpen your skills at the clinics, workshops and competitions.

Single line flyers will be heavily in demand for the Air Affair competitions because the founders realize the sense of festivity and color the single line kite bring. Single Line Days sponsored by the SDKC as well.

Look for several venues for fighter kite devotees as well. In March Basir will present his Afghan kite events and there are others that are in the works by different people.

So, 1997 starts with a bang with the SDKC annual New Years Day Fly and the season continues on for the rest of the year. If you have something that you would like to contribute or ideas others would find interesting please contact me. I'll give as much advance notice of coming events and your ideas as possible.

Again, Happy New and Smooth Winds.

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640 SE 24th Street
Ocala 352-629-2492

Flash Flights
313 63rd Street
Holmes Beach 941-778-7111

Get in the Wind
109 A Highway 98 East
Destin 904-654-WIND

Key West Kite Co.
409 Greene Street
Key West 305-296-2535

Kites Plus Flags
100 West Venice Avenue
Venice 813-488-7756

Kitesville USA, Inc.
405 Gulf Blvd
Indian Rock Beach
813-596-3431

Kool Kites
2283 Wisteria Street
Sarasota 813-751-6427

Krazy Kites
8445InternationalDr.#112
Orlando 407-352-2234

On Air Kites
208 Johns PassBoardwalk
Madeira Beach 813-398-4472

Wind and Snow
111 7th Street North
Bradenton Beach
941-778-0238

Georgia

R Kites
PO Box 2216
Douglasville 404-942-7538

Savannah Sails and Rails
323 E. River Street
Savannah 912-232-7201

Hawaii

Kite Fantasy
2863 Kalakaua Ave.
Honolulu 808-922-KITE

Kite Fantasy
1221 Honoapilani Hwy
Lahaina, Maui
808-661-4766

Idaho

Kite Studio
6 Ogden Avenue
Nampa 208-467-9555

Illinois

Chicago Kite Co.
6 S. Brockway
Palantine 708-359-2556

Hobby/Tech, Inc.
34 Joslyn Drive
Elgin 708-695-5903

Kite Harbor
435 East Illinois Street
Chicago 312-321-5483

Kite Harbor #2
109 N. Marion
Oak Park 708-848-4907

K. R. Kites
18057 S. Dixie Hwy
Homewood 708-798-1122

Stanton Hobby Shop
4719 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago 312-283-6446

Indiana

Tether Point Kites
8113 Talliho Drive
Indianapolis 317-849-5986

Iowa

Flying Designs, Inc.
217 East Washington
Iowa City 319-351-3271

Imaginations
700 Sixth Street SE
Lemars 712-546-5910

Kansas

Air Adventures
924 East Douglas
Wichita 316-265-0909

T-Town Kite Co.
2917 SW Fairlawn Rd
Topeka 913-272-5483

Wind Wizards
12944 W. 87th St Parkwy
Lenaxa 913-894-5483

Louisiana

Kite Loft
Riverwalk 1 Poidras
New Orleans 504-529-3247

Massachusetts

Kites of Boston
7 North Market, Faneuil Hall
Boston 617-742-1455

Maryland

Kite Loft
511 Boardwalk
Ocean City 410-289-7855

Kites Up & Away
8 Fleet Street
Annapolis 410-263-4628

Michigan

J & T Enterprises
2177 E. Bluewater Highwy
Ionia 616-527-4229

Kite Kraft
576 S. Main
Frankenmuth 517-652-2961

Kites & Fun Things, Ltd
1049 South Main Street
Plymouth 313-454-3760

Saugatuck Drug Co.
201 Butler Street
Saugatuck 616-857-2300

Unique Pl. World of Kites
525 S. Washington
Royal Oak 313-398-5900

Windzinger Kite Sales #1
4616 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing 517-323-1666

WindZinger Kite Sales #2
118 W.Grand River Ave.
Williamston 517-655-4837

Minnesota

Minnesota Kiteworks
1224 70th Street West
Inver Grove Heights
800-854-3846

Missouri

Anything That Flies
1412 I-70 Drive SW
Columbia 314-442-5724

Flying High With Charon
5633 Carlton Drive
St. Louis 314-376-6055

Wind Wizards #6
6202 NW Barry Road
Kansas City 818-*746-1197*

Montana

Amazing Toys
319 Central Avenue
Great Falls 406-727-5557

Nebraska

Cloud Climbers
323 Box Butte
Alliance 308-762-2144

It Flys
1208 1/2 Howard Street
Omaha 402-346-3607

Pretty Picture Kites
6512 N. 44th Street
Omaha 402-333-0322

Prairie Flyer Kites
938 N. 70th Street
Lincoln 402-434-5318

Prairieland Loft
429 S. 9th Ave.
Broken Bow 308-872-8307

Nevada

BFK Sports of Las Vegas
3111S. Valley view A-116
Las Vegas 702-220-4340

New Hampshire

Something In the Air
353 Ocean Boulevard
Hampton Beach 603-926-5171

New Mexico

Kites & More
5604 Menaul Blvd, NE
Albuquerque 505-883-0028

New York

Big City Kites
1210 Lexington Ave.
New York 212-472-2623

Buffalo Kite Co.
49 Argyle Ave.
Buffalo 716-834-2879

Kookaburra Kites
584 Kime Road
Geneva 315-585-9524

No Strings Attached
12 Dunsbach Road
Clifton Park 518-371-8510

North Carolina

Kites Unlimited
Atlantic Station Shop. Ctr
PO Box 2278
Atlantic Beach 919-247-7011

Kites Unlimited
North Hills Mall
Raleigh 919-787-4212

Kitty Hawk Kites
PO Box 1839,
Nags Head 919-441-4124

Ohio

Aerial Pursuits
315 S. Kellner Road
Columbus 614-231-1559

Creative Banners/Flags/Kites
622 S. Main Street
Dayton 513-228-5577

Eye'z Up Kites
3578 Birdland Ave.
Akron 330-644-8200

Flaggs U.S.A.
2030 Madison Road
Cincinnati 513-533-0330

Wings On the Wind
126 W. Wooster Ave.
Bowling Green 419-352-5483

Yankee Doodle Flag Co.
2430 Tremainsville Rd
Toledo 800-228-3524

Oklahoma

Thomason's Sport Kites
102 S. D Street, Carmen
405-987-2558

Wings on Strings
1141 SE Grand #114
Oklahoma City
405-670-2221

Oregon

Bend Ski & Sport
1009 NW Galveston
Bend, 541-389-4667

Catch the Wind
123 S. Hemlock
Cannon Beach 503-436-1022

Catch the Wind
304 SE Hwy 101
Depoe Bay, 503-765-2900

Catch the Wind
266 S.E. Highway 101
Lincoln City, 800-227-7878

Catch the Wind
Abbey Street Pier
Newport, 503-265-9600

Kite Factory of Seaside
619 Broadway Street
Seaside, 503-738-KITE

Paint the Sky Kites
828 N.W. 23rd Ave.
Portland, 503-222-5096

Pennsylvania

Burlesque Kites
16 West Third Street
Bethlehem 610-867-4999

Cuppett's Country Creations
RR2, Box 224A
New Paris, 814-839-4492

Grandmaster Kites
222 West Third Street
PO Box 276, Mifflinville
717-759-3167

Kite Studio
5555 Hamilton Blvd.
Wescosville 610-395-3560

Rhode Island

High Flyers Flight Co.
492 Thames Street
Newport 401-846-3262

South Carolina

Kites Fly'n High
40 N. Market Street
Charleston 803-577-3529

South Dakota

Air Flair
901 Chicory Lane
Sioux Falls 605-335-7883

Tennessee

River City Kites
2915 Ozark Road
Chattanooga 615-267-5858

Texas

Air Line Kites
4218 Prothro
Wichita Falls 817-691-KITE

Buffalo Beano Co.
801 University Avenue
Lubbock, 800-788-2326

Fly It Port A
Avenue G & 10th
Port Aransas 512-749-4190

Kite Sensations
113 1/2 Midway
Old Town Spring,
713-288-4700

Kites Over Houston
5015 Westheimer #1450
Houston, 713-960-0608

R & R Kites & More
97 S. Austin, Rockport
512-729-1291

Rainbows 4 Sail
Rt. 3 Box 86A
Waxahachie, 214-923-0242

Sky Delight Kites
503 Willow Street
Austin, 512-476-1758

Utah

Air Apparent
396 Trolley Square
Salt Lake City 801-531-7434

Virginia

Blowing in the Wind
29 Market Street
Onancock 804-787-8768

Blue Ridge Kites
1234 Windsor Drive
Bedford, 703-586-6846

Jackite, Inc.
2868 W. Landing Rd.
Virginia Beach 804-426-5359

Kite Koop
6176 Landmark Plaza
Chincoteague 804-336-5554

OK Kites
2721 Manor Haven Court
Alexandria, 708-780-9179

Washington

Colors On the Wind
118 E. Wellesley St,
Spokane WA. 888-484-KITE

Four Winds Kite Shop
1911 Broadway
Everett, 206-339-9334

Gasworks Kite Shop
3333 Wallingford North
Seattle, 206-633-4780

Great Winds Kite Co.
402 Occidental Ave. S.
Seattle, WA, 206-624-6886

Heaven the Clouds
216 Commercial Avenue
Anacortes, WA, 360-299-9203

Hi-Flyers
55 Main Street, Pacific Beach
360-276-8377

Long Beach Kites
104 Pacific Avenue North
Long Beach, 360-642-2202

Ocean Kites
511 South Pacific Ave.
Long Beach, 360-642-2229

Sparetime Hobbies
1502 Yelm Ave. W, # 2
Yelm, 800-862-KITE

Wisconsin

Aerial Stunt Kites
121 Wrigley Drive
Lake Geneva, 414-249-0631

Fish Creek Kite Co.
3851 Hwy 42, Fish Creek
414-868-3769

Argentina

Windy Top Deltas
Monsr. Schell 55
1832 Lomas de Zamora
Buenas Aires, 54 1-245-7945

Australia

Hold the Line Kites
Shop 1 357 Cambridge St
Wembley Perth, 619-387-5676

Austria

fly high
Argentinierstrasse 16
Wein 43-1-50-50-260

Canada

Flicks & Flights
147 Old Hampton Road
New Brunswick Fairvale
506-849-4444

Four Wind Flyers
3901 49th Ave.
Lloydminster SASK
S9V-0S1
306-825-5422

La Vache Volante
Bas-caraquet
7801 rue du Havre
New Brunswick

Pacific Rim Kites
8829 Portland Place
Sidney British Columbia
604-655-7051

Japan

AGAIN
Shinshia Yamate 1F
Yamate Douri 3-24
Showa-Ku Nagoya
81-52-835-9808

Air's Kite Works Co.
1-9-4 Hasegawa Riki Bldg.
Ebisunami Shibuya-ku
Tokyo 81-3-3760-7341

Mexico

Go Fly A Kite
18 Zaragosa,
Puerto Penasco, Son
52-638-33545

R.O.S.

East South Enterprises
20 Marina Mall, #01-02
Marina South
Singapore 65-226-0928

Switzerland

Alphaplane Kites
Altrheinweg 98 Basel
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MLD 72" kite bag, 2 pockets, w/ logo	65.00
AKA Fanny Pack, w/ logo	7.50
AKA Nylon Banner (3' x 14')	125.00
w/ telescoping pole	150.00
AKA Window Decal	2.00

The AKA Store

phone or fax: 610-395-3560
email: kbiferrl@fast.net

Visa & Mastercard

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American Kitefliers Association

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