

# AKA Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

## Jeff Makes Little Kites and Big Smiles!

by Richard Dermer

I was flying a miniature hata, on the beach at Santa Monica with a few fellow conventioners, when our group was joined by a rather rumpled-looking person. With sandals a cane, and carrying a plastic bag, he stood silently at the edge of the group and watched my kite dance overhead.

After a few minutes, the group drifted apart, until only he remained. "Would you like to fly it?" I asked. "Sure," he replied, and did so for several minutes. Then he asked, "Would you like to see the little kites I give away to kids on the beach?"

Reaching into his plastic bag, he produced a roughly-sewn six-inch delta, made of rip-stop and featuring a long surveyor's tape tail and flying line of sewing thread wound on a tongue depressor. "I use coffee stirrers for wing spars, and insert weedcater line into then at the nose," he said. I could see that the nose piece eliminated the need for a cross spar. "I call it the Little Stunt Kite," he explained, "because my 'street name' is Jeff Little" (his real name is Jeff Price.) "And the lady who sews them for me is Pamela Stunt. I give away about 100 kites a week to kids."

We talked for an hour. Jeff explained that he does sell some kites to adults who inquire - asking for a \$10 "donation." "I used to get \$5, but people thought they were junk," he said, "raising to \$10 made them sell better." He went on to report that he had been "busted" by the police the week before for beach sales. They had confiscated several hundred dollars and a couple dozen kites. "I'm going to plead my case to the judge," he said. "They let other artists sell on the beach and I'm an 'aerial kinetic textile artist.'"

Before we went our separate ways, Jeff presented me with two kites—a six-incher and one of his newly-built three-inchers. Neatly packaged in baggies, they come complete with a set of three instructions: 1. Pull gently to gain altitude. 2. Do tricks by jerking and slacking string. 3. In heavier winds, extra tails (provided) may be taped or tied to stabilize kite.

Returning to Oklahoma, I wrote Jeff a short letter, sending him one of my miniatures, enough materials for six more, and a copy of Charlie Sotich's Kiting article on the Cocktail Napkin Kite. Jeff responded with a quick thank-you note. Then he sent several orange and black kites for Halloween, with a new addition to the back of the label and instruction sheet: "Artist Jeff Little is handicapped and homeless, receiving welfare, and living in Venice, California. In 1989, his wife Susan died from cancer. Jeff was devastated by the loss of the only person that he has truly loved—his wife and soul mate. He spent the next seven years in frequent bouts of severe depression and alcoholism.

"In early 1996, he came out of his self-imposed punishment. He started American Little Studio in a rented bicycle storage locker. From this bicycle locker—American Little Studio—comes all of American Little Aerial Kinetic Textile Functional Art, including the American Little Kite."

In an accompanying letter, Jeff wrote: "I've only been doing this about six months. (I started when I was in the homeless shelter from February to March.) I never knew there were so many people playing with kites. And stores and catalogs too! It took me four months to make my first little kite. I went from plastic store to hardware store, referral to referral, then fabric store to fabric store. And I walked to them all. I'm sure those people thought I was crazy with my weird requests. But my persistence paid off. And now I make little kites to give to little kids. I enjoy it. I stated doing this as fun, and it is. But maybe I could see where this could even be a business. But I don't know where to start. I guess that's not totally true—I do sell some to the tourists at Venice Beach I'd enjoy hearing from other kite people—it's a relief knowing I'm not the only lunatic at the beach and in the world." Jeff welcomes correspondence at: American Little Studio P.O. Box 11645 Marina Del Rey, CA 90295. I enjoyed talking with Jeff. I bet you will, too. Drop him a line.



Jeff Little at Santa Monica  
Photo by Valerie Govig

## The President's Page

Richard Dermer

Greetings!

Have you signed up any new members yet? That's one of the best things you can do to help and strengthen our organization. I'd like to share with you a note from Chuck Anderson of Washington state, the first member to qualify for our new recruitment pin by signing up 5 new members: "I've got five (5) new AKA members, and we did it with an absolute minimum of paperwork! First, I made my own copies of the AKA Membership Applications, got all the info needed, and filled-out the forms for them myself. (People hate to fill out forms.) In some cases, I used my own numbers for home and work phones because people were just more comfortable with this at first. Secondly, to pay their membership fees, they each paid me \$25, and then I just sent one check for \$125 to you! Like I said, we got five new AKA members with an absolute minimum of paperwork and extra effort! This way seems to work pretty well in the recruitment of new AKA members, and I really recommend it to anyone who wants to try it—it sure works for me, and I'm going to keep on using it!"

Good work, Chuck! You've illustrated a key point of successful recruitment: actually filling out an application form, and then collecting and sending in their dues works much better than just handing someone a blank application form. (A kite in the sky is worth two in the bag.) Members, call or write your Regional Director for application forms, and then carry a few in your billfold or purse. This method works!

Now, I'd like to thank all of you who returned the membership survey about possible changes in next October's convention. We got 138 responses, with these results:

1. Schedule changes: A slight majority favored a 5-day convention over a 4-day, both 4 and 5 day options ending Saturday ranked above the 4 and 5 day options ending Sunday.



- 2. In favor of a Saturday awards banquet, 116; Sunday, 21
- 3. In favor of on-field vendors, 125; no vendors, 12
- 4. Keeping past workshop schedule: 68; non-conflicting workshop/field schedule, 63
- 5. Ala-carte registration: Most would attend the entire convention; 6 would attend for one day and 5 for two days.

We also got a large number of comments and suggestions for the convention—these were well thought out and much appreciated. Your Board of Directors will be discussing these results, and finalizing plans for the convention at their late March board meeting. Thanks for your input! Our 20th annual convention and Grand National Championships is going to be the biggest and best yet, with your help. Plan on being there!

Good winds, Richard



### Membership Application

- New Member
- Renewal
- Reinstatement
- Register me as a Member Merchant
- Don't publish my name in the Dir.
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

01/97 Kiting

For info call 800-AKA-2550

Membership Dues	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	Amount
INDIVIDUAL <i>Kiting</i> via 3rd class mail	25	48	71	_____
ADDITIONAL FAMILY per person				
relatives living in same household	4	8	12	_____
U.S. 1st CLASS MAIL add	8	15	22	_____
SPONSOR <i>Kiting</i> via 1st class mail				
includes tax deductible contribution	100	200	300	_____
<u>International Members please add postage as follows:</u>				
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.

Send this form with your payment to:

**American Kitefliers Association**  
 352 Hungerford Drive  
 Rockville, MD 20850-4117 USA

**BE ASSURED, YOU'RE INSURED**

Confused about exactly what insurance coverage you have through your AKA membership? Here's the scoop:

There are two types of insurance coverage - individual liability and event sanctioning insurance. Members who live in the United States, its possessions, and Canada are covered under secondary liability insurance with the limit of \$100,000 for each occurrence. The coverage applies any time or any place the member is kiting with the provision that claims against a AKA member must be made and/or filed in a court in the United States, its possessions, or Canada.

Every sanctioning insurance provides liability coverage for the AKA and the organizers of any festival the AKA sanctions. Additional parties may be named on the insurance certificate and will be included in the liability coverage.

Let's say someone at an AKA-sanctioned event gets carried away, their kite hits a bystander, and the victim initiates civil action against the kiteflier. If the kiteflier is an AKA member, they are covered by their own liability insurance and then by the AKA individual liability coverage. If they are not an AKA member, they are not covered by the AKA policy. If the victim's civil action is directed toward the organizers of the event, then they are covered under the AKA policy.

The limits for this sanctioned event coverage are: general aggregate - \$2,000,000, products aggregate - \$2,000,000, personal injury - \$1,000,000, each occurrence, fire damage (any one fire) - \$50,000, and medical expense (any one person) \$5,000.

If you need a sample copy of an insurance certificate showing the amounts of coverage for either of these two types of coverage, contact AKA HQ.



Thinking About a new kite?  
 Paying for it with plastic?  
 Use your AKA Mastercard  
 and the AKAWill  
 benefit from your purchase!  
 Don't have one? Want one?  
 Call the AKA HQ today!

**Executive Director Mel Hickman**



**THE FIRST FIRST**

Welcome to Amanda Cox, the first new member of 1997. Amanda, who lives in Kentwood, Michigan, received her membership as a Christmas present.

**SPEAKING OF GIFTS**

Did you know that AKA has gift membership certificates? So if there is someone out there who needs to be a member of AKA and you are just the person to sign them up, give us a call at AKA HQ.

**THE SECOND FIRST**

Hang-em High Fabrics of Richmond, VA is the first new Member Merchant of 1997. Tom Marvin is the person you should contact at 804-233-6155 if you would like to receive one of his catalogues.

**THE THIRD FIRST**

Chuck Anderson checked in as the first person in 1997 to sign up five new AKA members. Thanks for your efforts, Chuck.

**MISPLACED IN CYBERSPACE**

Like many organizations, the AKA will be making changes in the way it utilizes the Internet to serve its members. The web page is constantly being updated and improved, thanks to the efforts of Chuck Sigal and Darrin Skinner.

We have begun the process of setting up mailing lists for the individual regions for those AKA members who have email capability. An overall mailing list of all online AKA members will be used for important announcements.

To make this work, We Need Your Help! If you did not get the email sent out the last week of January about the mailing list, that means we do not have a working email address for you. If you want to be part of the mailing lists, send an email to <aka@aka.kite.org> with "subscribe YOUR NAME YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS" in the body of the message. Obviously, you should put your actual name where it says YOUR NAME and your actual email address where it says YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.

Secondly, we need to know your personal web page URL and that of your club. If you are a Member Merchant and would like to be linked from our web page, please let us know your URL as well.

**SPEAKING OF URL'S**

If you have had problems accessing the AKA web page or have been faced with a screen asking for your password, here's the solution to the problem, try our new URL at

<http://www.aka.kite.org>

**IMPORTANT POLICY STATEMENT**

If you are not online or cyberspaced out, do not think that you are going to be left out. The AKA Newsletter KITING will remain the primary means of communication with each of you. You will not be denied equal access to or equal opportunity for involvement in any AKA activity simply because you are not online.

A number of circumstances have led to you receiving KITING later than you should have. We appreciate your patience. The major focus for 1997 is to make sure that KITING begins to arrive much earlier than it has been so that its information and calendars are current. For instance, we have started bar coding the mailing labels when possible which will speed up the delivery of third class mailings.

**NOTICE:**

The AKA has a Request For Proposal 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

## AKA Officers, Staff & Executive Committee

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<http://www.aka.kite.org>

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## GHOST KITERS IN THE SKY

by Nap Rowland

If you're like me, when you finish a project you can't wait for a chance to test the final product. It pulls at you with a force just stronger than any resistance you might mount. It rests in the crevices of your mind, finding every excuse to confront you.

It was this lack of patience that catapulted me into one of the most bizarre kite adventures one can imagine. Let me set the scene for you. I had just completed the prototype for a new kite design; a design that will be used to make caricatures of people to fly at kite festivals and such. The prototype is made of white material supported on a cross shaped frame of fiberglass rods and, I suppose, could be construed to look like an ethereal being.

Having finished it, I have to fly it. Never mind that it is ten o'clock in the evening. Never mind that it is dark outside. I have to fly it! So, here I am, out in the park behind a group of houses in my neighborhood. I have my kite flying (perfectly, I might add) and to see the pure essence of its flight, I am shining a large flashlight on it, oblivious to anything around me.

Unbeknownst to me, trouble is afoot.

The first inkling of this trouble comes when Grandpa Ledgerwood charges out of his back yard, yelling some gibberish about demons, aliens and wraiths in the sky, and brandishing his pump action shotgun.

Before I can offer even the most basic argument in defense, a discharge from that lethal weapon rips one side of my soaring creation from its frame, leaving me yelling some gibberish about lunatics, dunderheads, and mental vacuums on the ground.

Grandpa dove into an empty swimming pool earlier in the year, but this is ridiculous.

Unbeknownst to me, more trouble is afoot.

Another neighbor, who remains anonymous for reasons of personal safety, has become so overwhelmed with the grandeur of my kite that he has invited the local gendarme to enjoy the spectacle. Just as Grandpa lets loose with the blast from his blunderbuss, Officer Harry "Whip" Finklebein is running (well plodding is a better term) up the hill behind me.

You must understand that Officer Harry did not get his nickname out of respect for lightening quick reflexes, in recognition of a sharp wit, or in appreciation of Olympic sprinter foot speed. (Rumor has it that Officer Harry gets out of breath exiting his patrol car; a condition he attributes to the massive rush of adrenaline every officer experiences when they are called into service. Let me just say that he would abundantly fill the description "pleasingly plump".)

No, the real reason for the nickname is Officer Harry's unfortunate resemblance to a certain man in television commercials constantly caught squeezing the toilet paper.

Upon hearing the sound of gunfire, Officer Harry assumes a prone defensive position on the ground, that is to say he makes a headlong dive for cover. With the unerring ability of a trained bloodhound,

Officer Harry at the same time finds the mud puddle left when the park maintenance staff is unable to fix a leaking hydrant.

The sounds I hear behind me are, in this order, a loud four letter word, a loud grunt simultaneous with an even louder spla-a-a-at, and finally, a short dissertation of the beauty of life filled with language Officer Harry must have learned playing guerilla Tiddly Winks and punctuated with the sound of buttons springing from his uniform (his new uniform, I must add) and ricocheting off nearby objects.

In front of me, the kite having lost its aerodynamic integrity, is circling the sky in ever enlarging loops; each loop drawing more wails from the direction of Grandpa Ledgerwood. Off in the distance I hear the screams of a woman later identified as Grandma Ledgerwood inquiring into the wellbeing of her husband.

Behind me, Officer Harry is trying to regain his composure and his feet.

I pause here to ask a rhetorical question. Have you ever wondered how cops on television wearing leather soled shoes can chase bad guys over fences, through swimming pools, up mountain trails, and across swamps without ever losing their footage?

Officer Harry is not on television. His first attempt results in a pirouette Baryshnikov would have been proud of, his second is something of resembling a one and a half gainer in a tuck position (ala Greg Louganis), and his third in a standing position reflecting all the grace and elan of a giraffe on ice.

The kite, in the last lap of its death spiral, is in a dive of its own directly towards Grandpa Ledgerwood. With speed generated by sheer terror, a series of secondary blasts are released from the shotgun, sending bits of kite floating off in the darkness.

(continued next page)

### 1998 AKA Art Committee Calendar



## Call for Entries

Plans are in the works for the  
1998 AKA Art Calendar!

The 1998 calendar is a **juried** calendar. This means we will select 12 artists from all of the entries, to accompany the 12 month calendar. We are looking for all types of **original** artwork, somehow kite related, so use your imagination. The work needs to be in **pen and ink** for this is a color-it-yourself calendar.

The artwork that is chosen for the calendar will be matted and framed and auctioned off at the AKA Convention 1997. The proceeds from the calendar will benefit the AKA.

#### For details Please contact:

Meg Albers  
116 Lisbon Avenue.  
Buffalo, New York 14214  
phone/fax 716/835-6783  
email address: xeno@localnet.com

Continued from page 5

What's left of my creation comes to rest directly on top of Grandpa who has also assumed a prone position on the ground. Behind me, Officer Harry has heard the renewed gunfire, instantly comes to the conclusion he is under attack, and again assumes a prone defensive position exactly in the middle of (well, you can imagine where he lands).

Me, well, I am standing there, kite line hanging loosely in my hand, looking from one prone person to the other, wondering "What next?"

Unbeknownst to me, things can and will get worse.

Behind me, Office Harry draws his service revolver and yells, "Drumpf yadhurd gumpduhrd wempdomph!!!" For those of you who have never had to experience a conversation with an officer with a mouth full of mud, let me offer the greatly abridged translation of

"Throw down your weapon!!!"

"He's already dropped the shotgun," I yell back.

A large wad of mud is forcefully expelled from Officer Harry's mouth and he roars, "Not him, (uncomplimentary name deleted), you!!!" I look at my hands, am about to ask what he finds threatening about a piece of limp line, think better of it, and quickly release the line.

"Face down on the ground," he commands.

I assume a prone position on the ground, thankful that another hydrant hasn't been leaking.

Behind me, Officer Harry slides to the edge of the mud puddle, carefully rises to his feet and warily approaches.

Let me reset the scene for you. I am lying face down on the ground. To my left, Granpa Ledgerwood lies twitching under the remains of my kite, attended to at some distance by Grandma Ledgerwood. Above me stands Officer Harry, looking remarkably similar to the referee of local mud wrestling matches. Around us, intrapred neighbors are gathering in small groups whispering. Further away, one can hear the mixed sound of dogs barking and masters yelling.

Officer Harry looks down and bellows, "Not you again!," obviously mistaking me for someone else he might have run into during

his career. Surely, by now, he has forgotten the little incident with the kite, the state prison, and the escaped inmate.

"What are you doing here?"

"Flying my kite".

"It's 10:59 and you're out here flying a kite?" He continues to bellow, veins beginning to bulge in his neck and fists clincing tighter.

"Yes, sir", I reply, losing all hope that escape is possible.

"This time....", he glowers, pointing a mud encrusted finger at me.

As I listen to his gasping for air, as I watch his body shake and fists clench, I wonder just what it would take to really set Officer Harry off.

Unbeknownst to me, the park's automatic sprinklers are set to turn on at 11:00.

## AKA Auction 1997

by Caroline Moore

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the AKA, the theme of the Auction will be: "AKA - 20 Years of Kiting History!"

Put on your thinking caps and come up with some really unique kites that will tell the history of kiting over the years, honoring some of the famous people in kiting that have made kiting a true art and sport, and search in your archives for some ancient kite that will be reminiscent of years gone by.

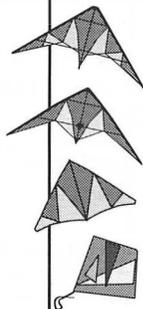
"Are you about to be included in the 'X-mem Files'? Check your mailing label to avoid this fate worse than the dreaded 'no wind'."

"Best New Product Award"  
Kite Trade Association Show, 1995

Full size, totally tested,  
completely detailed

# KITE PATTERNS

Four patterns to help you create  
a kite with your choice  
of fabric colors and framing:



XITR Sport Kite™

Wind Cheater™

6-foot Delta Cumulus™

3-D Dual Duty Diamond™



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Choose from our complete selection of parts. • Call for a free brochure.

**Goodwinds  
Kites**®

(206) 632-6151 • FAX 633-0301

3333 Wallingford Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98103

### It's me!

*Who among us would dare tackle the wind or play in the breeze?  
 Who would fly as the Eagle or soar across the sky as a Swallow?  
 Who could hold the wind in their hand or pull against the invisible?  
 Who would dare bring color to a drab and lifeless sky?  
 Who would share their joy in a display of craft and skill?  
 Who would notice a shaking leaf, a tumbling paper, a frowning child?  
 Who has their backs to the wind and hearts on their sleeves?  
 Who lives with heads and hearts raised to the sky?  
 Who fills a day with friends and laughter at the end of a string?  
 Who would travel great distance and bring joy to new friends?  
 Who, with sail and string, brings peace to a troubled world?  
 Who dares to be an adult with curiosity and heart of a child?  
 Who? It's me silly!  
 The one flying a kite!*

-Sir Shortline

### Dangerous Kites

by Stafford Wallace

I share Bob Burnett's views about dangerous kites. Those who know me, know that I only fly Indian kites, which are known as 'fighters' in the West. I was born in India, now live in England, love flying these kites and now, since losing my job, just travel around UK and other countries demonstrating the fun to be had from flying them. When I joined the British kite scene about 7 years ago, I found kitefliers using 'manjha', the sharp line, in cutting contests at festivals. I began to fly these kites without manjha and emphasised the fun aspect of flying them and the amazing degree of control which could be got from flying a single line kite. Hundreds of kitefliers and members of the public at kite festivals, began to fly and now several thousand kitefliers, in Europe, USA and other countries, enjoy flying them.

I began to wonder if the 'cutting game' was really transferable to Western countries and after reading Bob's letter about his experience at the Washington Monument, and several separate personal experiences in several countries, I prefer to see kites being

### Variable Winds Aloft

Letters to the AKA

flown for enjoyment alone without the necessity to cut line. Kitefliers should always be welcome at all kite festivals and I would not like to see 'fighters' being treated with hostility by festival organisers or other kitefliers because of the danger of cutting other kites out of the sky. I too enjoy the cutting game but I go to India to do it as it was meant to be done in the environment in which it belongs.

I urge any kitefliers, who insist on using manjha, to confine their flying to places where there are no other kitefliers and to ensure the kites, that are cut, do not drift into areas where other kites are being flown. I would even question the necessity to use manjha at any Western kite festival, unless it was for a short demonstration and, even then, commentators should warn people about the dangers. Even the losing kite with it's trailing sharp line has potential risk to the hands of children who chase and catch it.

### Dear Kiting,

This note is being written to give due credit to the members of the Lehigh Valley Kite Society regulars who worked hard on the club's entry to the AKA Convention in Santa Monica, CA.

At the convention banquet it was announced and the award was given to the Lehigh Valley Kite Society for their Keystone Kite Arch that won 1st prize in Co-operative category. Since then Joyce Quinn has been listed in some media releases as 1st place. I represented the club with the entry but it was known that it was an LVKS entry.

My applause & my apologies to the LVKS.

Sincerely,  
 Joyce Quinn, LVKS member

**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.**

**3 - D Gallery**  
**3 - D Gallery**  
**3 - D Gallery**  
**3 - D Gallery**

**This year the Kite Art Gallery in Wildwood is going 3-D...**

**This encompasses work of 3-dimensional construction, such as box kites and cellular kites, and three dimensional graphics on flat and bowed kites. The deadline for acceptance of work is Aug 1, 1997.**

Send Slides, photos and drawings to:  
 Marc Ricketts,  
 AKA Kite Art Gallery  
 c/o Nova Design Group  
 33 Basin Road  
 West Hurley, NY 12491  
 Voice Mail: 888 787 4391  
 Email: SynergyMCR@aol.com.

**3d 3d 3d**

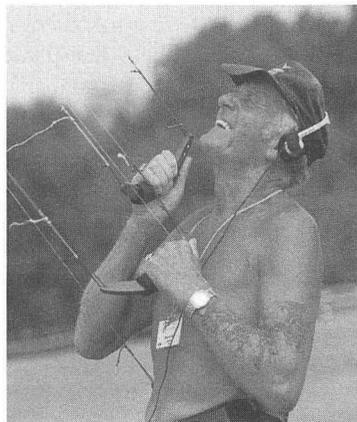
## Ray Comes Home!

by Ray Bethell

I was sponsored to participate in the Kite and Sky Hoolie, plus to join in all of the other weekend happenings that was put on by the Salisbury District Council Leisure Department. And happenings they certainly were, as good as I have ever seen in my worldly travels. What a modern city Salisbury has become! What a difference 46 years has made! The basic idea is that everything will be linked in some way to Salisbury, famous people, local people and people that have made their mark in the world.

I think the people of Salisbury will remember this weeks activities for a long time to come. I know I shall. There was an open air concert starring local celebrities backed up with a whole range of visual attractions including colored water fountains, fire sculptures, lazer and search light kite flying and a grand finale of fireworks, dancing water fountains, lazer lights all synchronized to the best music and sound system money can buy. Thousands of people were thrilled and captivated the whole of the evenings events.

The next day was the Kite & Sky Hoolie Festival, that Cunning Stunt Kite Shop owners have been planning for a year. I arrived at Hudson field around 9:30 am and was greeted by friendly organizers Neil and Martin. Also there were Mark Coventry and Geoff Murray, both multiple kite fliers whom I have not seen since 1993. It was a beautiful day. Sunny and warm with a blue sky. Already about 2000 spectators had arrived along with kite flyers. It was great to see so many old friends. What more could one wish for?... Wind! There was not a whisper, not a blade of grass moving. I had been well advertised over the last week by the media. A lot of old school mates, plus a few old girl friends and relatives, some I had not seen for over twenty years and some I had never seen showed up. Well now about 5000 spectators had collected, and were waiting for the show to start. So when does this world champion show us his stuff?

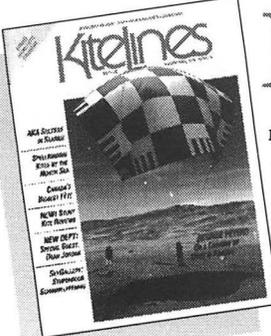


Organizer Neil said, "Ray have you got anything in your kite bag that will fly in no wind, because after his nibbs (the Mayor) has finished his speech, we want you to open the festival with a 3 kite ballet to music. Can you do it?" "No problem Neil, leave it to Big Daddy", I said, wondering what the hell I was saying. I went and setup my Sky Burner Pro Dancers with 50lb line, and took off my shirt. The sun felt good. Come on wind!

When the mayor finished his speech, I looked at both organizers standing there with arms, legs and toes crossed. The music man gave me the sign that the music was rolling. I had chosen the music "The Wind Beneath My Wings". At that moment I felt a slight breeze on my back. That was all I needed. Up went the center kite, then the two outside ones just as the music started. I managed to keep them in flight until the music faded. Neil had a big grin on his face and said "Good Stuff, Ray".

The wind was back to zero again, but we had to entertain the spectators somehow. Geoff Murray said, "I flew from the back of a motorcycle once". So three motor bikes were brought into the arena. The three of us sat on the back seat and when we gave the word, off we went flying two kites each, chasing each other around the arena. It was a blast and the spectators loved every moment. The danger aspect added to the excitement. Now the crowds were really stirred up. I said to Mark Coventry (UK multiple kite champion) "How about you and I making a first timer and let's be the first ever to fly multiple kites on the same motorcycle." He said, "Ray, you are out of your cotton picking mind, do you know the danger aspect of something like this? I mean, I'm game if you are!" So Mark sat on the back seat, and I stood on the back foot rests between Mark and the driver. Off we went. It was very exciting. Mark and I had a ball with the crowd cheering.

Later in the day the wind came up a little and we were able to give demonstrations in a normal way. Altogether the festival was a huge success and I was glad to be part of it. Well done Salisbury, you certainly have come a long way. Thank you everyone for a fantastic weekend.



**H**AVE YOU BEEN MISSING the premier source of kite news? *Kite Lines* is the exciting, colorful, authoritative journal of the international kite community. It's packed with plans, techniques, personalities, events, reviews (of stunters and one-liners), in-depth feature articles and unusual advertisements—all in an awarded magazine, kiting's standard of reference since 1977. Don't miss another inspiring issue of *Kite Lines*. **Subscribe NOW!**

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—*Tal Streeter, American sculptor and kite authority*

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Tucson, AZ 85712  
602-326-3442

**Route 66 Kite Club**

3352 N. Carriage Lane  
Chandler, AZ 85224  
602-897-2098

**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**

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San Diego, CA 92167  
619-222-9300

**Colorado**

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

**Phi Delta Phi**

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

**Connecticut**

**Connectikters**  
PO Box 270  
Ansonia, CT 06401  
203-732-5243

**D.C.**

**Winds and Rainbows**  
3718 Cumberland St., NW  
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. Fifeshire Way  
Boise, ID 83713

**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  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
913-894-5483

**Tailspins Kite Club**

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Emporia, KS 66801  
316-342-7679

**Topeka Kite Flyers**

601 SW 57th Street, #38  
Topeka, KS 66609  
913-862-5413

**Wichita Windjammers Kite**

924 East Douglas Ave.  
Wichita, KS 67202

**Kentucky**

**Kentucky Kyters**  
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Lexington, KY 40514

**Louisiana**

**Crescent City Kite Fliers**  
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Metairie, LA 70003-6541  
504-454-1722

**Maryland**

**Maryland Kite Society**  
10113 Lloyd Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-424-6976

**Wings Over Washington**

PO Box 7254  
Silver Spring, MD 20907  
301-292-4849

**Massachusetts**

**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**

PO Box 6335  
North Plymouth, MA 02362

**Michigan**

**4 Seasons Kite Club**  
31012 Tamarack #21310  
Wixom, MI 48393  
810-674-8895, 810-960-0631

**Kazoo Stringfellows**

PO Box 2241  
Kalamazoo, MI 40003-2241  
616-345-5432

**Mid Michigan String Stretchers**

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Ada, MI 49301  
616-676-5980

**String Fever Kiteflyers**

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517-724-6157

**Traverse Bay Liners**

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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**  
PO Box 3770  
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

**South Jersey Kite Flyers**

PO Box 32, Collingswood, NJ  
08108 e-mail SJKF@aol.com

**New Mexico**

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

**New York**

**Buffalo Flight Delegation**  
266 Elmwood Ave. #301  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
718-883-KITE

**Great Lakes Kitefliers Soc.**

PO Box 331  
Buffalo, NY 14205-0331

**Ohio**

**Black Swamp Air Force**  
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Toledo, OH 43607  
419-537-7036

**Capt'n Eddie's Flying Circus**

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Columbus, OH 43231  
614-475-8468

**Central Ohio Kitefliers**

1066 Norway Drive  
Columbus, OH 43221-1658  
614-451-4870

**Ohio Soc for Elev. of Kites**

428 East 274th Street  
Euclid, OH 44132  
216-731-3639

**Wright Kite Club**

4012 Forest Ridge Blvd  
Dayton, OH 45424  
513-236-0105

## AKA Affiliated Clubs

Affiliated Club information, contact Chris Moore

12944 w. 87th Street, Lenexa, KS 66215 913-894-5483

**Oklahoma****Above and Beyond**

PO Box 262  
Weatherford, OK 73096

**Tulsa WindRiders**

11722 E. 37th Street  
Tulsa, OK 74146  
918-664-3575

**Oregon****Assoc. Oregon Kitefliers**

PO Box 25616  
Portland, OR 97225

**Lincoln City Kite Friendship**

Box 973  
Lincoln City, OR 97367  
541-994-4847

**Pennsylvania****Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club**

235 Jolly Hill Fd.  
Natauna Heights, PA 15065

**Keystone Kitefliers**

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**

196 Homestead Lane  
Portsmouth, RI 02871-4012  
401-683-1742

**Windblown Friends**

728 Central Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI 02861

**Tennessee****Scenic City Kite Club**

2915 Ozark Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37415  
615-267-5858

**Texas****Alamo Kiteflyers Outfit**

306 N. Guilford  
San Antonio, TX 78217  
612-824-3841

**Border Winds Kite Club**

PO Box 2940  
South Padre Is., TX 78597  
210-761-6222

**Gems in the Wind Kite Club**

PO Box 234  
Fulton, TX 78358

**High Plains Kite Assoc.**

PO Box 9635  
Amarillo, TX 79105

**Jewels of the Sky**

2320 Yeager Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76112  
817-429-6171

**Lubbockites Kite Club**

4408 26th Street  
Lubbock, TX 79410  
808-797-9263

**Red River Kite Fliers Assoc.**

3505 Sheridan Road  
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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  
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**Pierce County Kitefliers**

3340 East 11th Street  
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206-627-1653

**SCI - FI**

PO Box 7882  
Everett, WA 98201

**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 Kitefliers**

10615 W. Greenwood Ter.  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
414-281-3704

**Canada****British Columbia Kitefliers**

Box 755, 1001 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 4E4

**Japan****Above the Rock**

238 AZA Yamada  
Onna Son,  
Okinawa 904-04



## AKA Affiliated Kite Clubs

The AKA Board of Directors recently voted to charge active AKA Affiliate Clubs an annual affiliation fee of \$25 (for twelve months, just like a regular membership, with expiration warnings).

This will help generate funding to continue listing your AKA Club in Kiting, give assistance and publicity for club activities, and help defray the cost of AKA rule books and manuals. The \$25 fee will also cover the sanctioning fee for your club flies. Clubs need only to fill out one sanction form showing the location and time of the regular club flies. NOTE: Only AKA members are covered under AKA insurance. This is a good selling point for trying to achieve 100% AKA membership in your club.

It is very important that your group's affiliation fee for 1997 be submitted to AKA Executive Director Mel Hickman. **Beginning with the May-June issue (deadline April 1), Kiting and the AKA Website will only list those affiliate clubs which have submitted their affiliation fees.** So send your \$25 plus the application from listed below to: Executive Director Mel Hickman. For more information contact, or for assistance from the Club Liaison Committee contact: Chris Moore, AKA Club Liaison Chairman at 12944 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St., Lenexa, KS 66215. Phone 913-894-5483 or Fax 913-894-1071.

### APPLICATION FOR AKA KITE CLUB AFFILIATION

NAME OF KITE CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE & FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL / WEB SITE \_\_\_\_\_

2ND CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

3RD CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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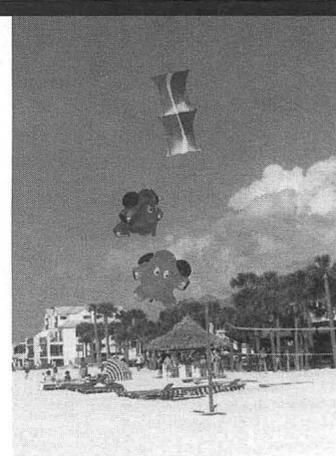
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## Kite Trade Meets in Clearwater

by Richard Dermer

Imagine the biggest kite store in the world. Cheap kites. Really expensive kites. Beautiful one-of-a-kind single liners. Hundreds of sport kites, with factory representatives from each brand. Multiple string departments. Building materials of all types, with every conceivable type of new space-age spars, fabrics, and fittings. Books, videos, and kite magazines from England, Germany, France, Italy, etc. Imported kites from India, Bali, China, Japan.... Bargains. Close out merchandise. You get the idea. Everything!



Such a kite store exists, but it's only open a few days each year and you have to be a member of the kite industry to get in. It's the Kite Trade Association International's annual Kite Trade Show. This year's version, the 9th., was held in Clearwater, Florida, in late January. The KTA, consisting of both kite manufacturers and retailers, was founded in 1983 by Bill Oshse. They met prior to the AKA Convention for several years before deciding a separate event in January would better serve the commercial focus of the organization. This year, the KTA once again made the generous offer to the AKA of a complimentary booth at their show. THANK YOU. Marti and I attended, staffing the booth most of the trade show, and were joined by AKA board members Fran Gramkowski, Carolyn Moore, Sherrie Arnold, Chris Moore, Tom McAlister, Tomas Sasaki, and Kiting editor Roger Chewning. We almost had a quorum!

The trade show is an interesting mix of the serious and the light-hearted. On the one hand, manufacturers are seriously interested in selling their products to retailers and distributors—a good show can jump-start their year after the mid-winter slump. And retailers, faced with a bewildering choice of merchandise, must choose what they think and hope will sell best for them in the coming months. There's some pretty intense activity—the show is only open for a total of 19 hours over a four day period, and this year there were over 70 booths with different products. One learns quickly not to interrupt a serious sales pitch between sellers and buyers.

On the other hand, it's impossible to have a bunch of kites together and not have a real good time partying! The KTA numbers somewhere around 300 members, and virtually all of them are AKA members. While the typical AKA convention usually has about half first-time attendees and half "veterans", the KTA has a much larger percentage of regulars. It gives it a "class reunion" sort of atmosphere, with lots of laughing, hugging, joking, and horseplay. Rivals in the marketplace suspend hostilities for the moment, and the "free fly" product demonstrators on the beach happily share their lines and advice with everybody.

At the AKA booth, Marti and I signed up several new members, passed out lots of membership applications, sold copies of AKA publications, (best sellers were Kites in the Classroom, Sport Kite Manual, and Kitebuilding Competition Manual), and generally

answered questions and listened to advice. Jon Trennepohl, AKA Industry Liaison chairman, talked dozens of manufacturers into inserting AKA applications into their products and passed out stacks totalling several thousand. Marti and I also passed out hundreds of kite plans, particularly to new store owners and others interested in giving kite building workshops. And we even made and flew a few miniature kites during lulls in the action.

One nice happening—I was the first to submit the solution to a puzzle printed in an advertisement in the program from Drachen Magazine. This German kite magazine has a press run of 35,000 copies every six weeks, making it the most widely read kite publication anywhere. By solving their puzzle, I won the AKA a half-page color ad in one of their summer issues this year. We're going to push the Wildwood Convention in New Jersey, and hopefully attract a large group of German builders and fliers.

In addition to the trade show, participants attended a variety of idea exchanges, industry roundtable discussions, board and membership meetings, and heard high-powered guest speaker Bill Brooks. I must

admit that as a non-member I skipped some of these events, but I particularly enjoyed a workshop on Community Kitemaking Classes. At the business meeting, Judy Neuger was elected president; past AKA president David Gomberg was selected vice-president.

The general feeling of the KTA was upbeat and positive, but it was tempered by the knowledge that kite industry sales as a whole seem to have leveled off—the rapid growth of the industry in recent years seems to have slowed. Members of both the AKA and KTA leadership are examining ways the two groups might be able to work together to further publicize and promote our primary interests—kiteflying.

One very positive item: Clearwater seems like a good possibility for a future AKA Convention—perhaps in 1999 or 2000. The Doubletree and Sheraton both own their own private beaches we could use, there are cheaper accommodations nearby, and Clearwater is easily accessible from the Tampa airport. Negatives: we might need to have some convention activities at the convention center, two miles from the beach, and the Sept.-Oct. timeframe for the convention is in hurricane season. Want to go fly a really big wind? We're examining the idea.

**Come to Wildwood Two Times This Year!**  
**For Twice the Fun!**

May 21-26

# The Wildwood International Kite Festival

The 12th Annual East Coast Stunt Kite Championships  
*America's Largest Sport Kite Competition*

Eastern League Comprehensive Sport Kite Judges Seminar, Technique Workshops, Night Fly  
**Memorial Day Monday, May 26 - The World Indoor Competition**  
**The East Coast Buggy Blast - May 21-23**

**World's Widest Beach -**  
**World records** for most Sutton Flow Form Giants & 90' Giant Spinsocks  
**World Famous Boardwalk** With More Rides than Disneyland

**Special Guests - Martin Lester  
 Ron & Sandy Gibian  
 and surprise guests  
 to be announced.**

**And the AKA Grand Nationals**  
*coming October 15-19... Wildwood the place to be in 1997.*

**For information contact:**  
**Sky Festival Productions, 232 West Trenton Avenue Morrisville, PA 19067**  
**Voice 215-736-3715 Fax 215-736-2208 Email [vermin@voicenet.com](mailto:vermin@voicenet.com)**

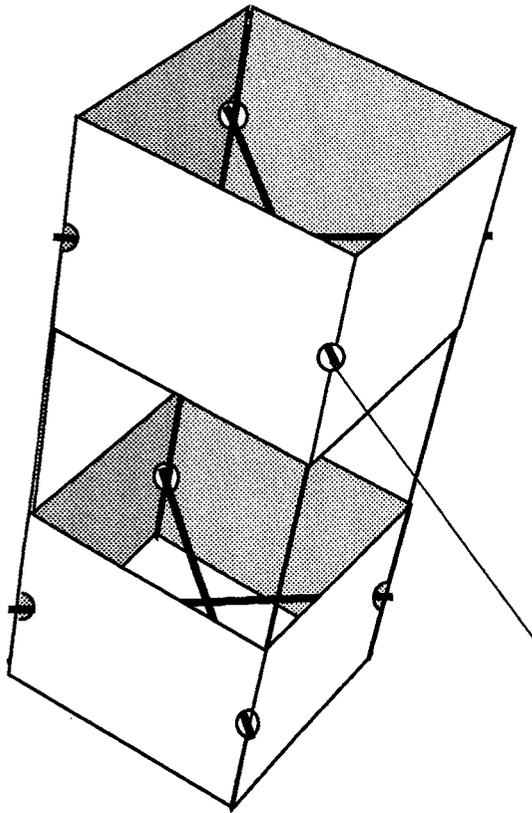
# brooxes basic box kite

by Brooks Leffler

ages 10 - adult

wind range light to moderate (5 - 12 mph)

use 20 - 30 lb flying line



## MATERIALS & TOOLS

- 1 large plastic kitchen garbage bag  
(13 gal size, 2 ft by 2 ft 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  in)
- 4 -  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x 36" hardwood dowels
- 4 -  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ " hardwood dowels
- 8 pieces clear vinyl tubing,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " ID x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long
- 2 garbage bag ties or wire twist-ties
- 8" strong string
- Heavy plastic packing tape 2" wide
- 3 ft metal straightedge or yardstick
- Sharp knife
- $\frac{3}{16}$ " punch or drill
- Felt-tip permanent markers

## CONSTRUCTION

1. Lay the plastic bag out flat and smooth on a table you can cut on. Without folding the plastic, fold a 24" piece of tape over the open end of the bag to seal it from edge to edge.
2. Find the center of the bag each direction by folding it carefully in half each way and creasing it along the fold.
3. Using the straightedge and knife, cut the bag lengthwise along the center crease so you have two double-thickness pieces 12" high by 29 $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide.
4. Cutting through both layers, trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " off the closed long edge of each piece.
5. Smooth out one of the pieces and find the center again by folding it in half top to bottom, creasing the fold as before. Repeat for the other piece.
6. Place a 25¢ piece over the center of the plastic (where the creases cross). Cut carefully around the coin through both thicknesses of plastic. Center the coin

over the middle of each side edge of the piece and cut half-circles there too. Now the flattened piece should look like Figure 1. Repeat with the other piece. These are the *sails* of your kite.

7. Punch or drill a  $\frac{3}{16}$ " hole  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from one end of each piece of vinyl tubing, as in Figure 2.

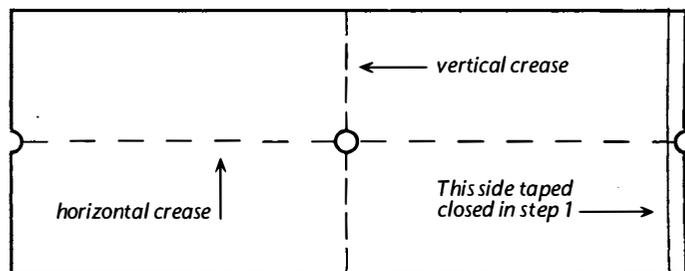


Figure 1

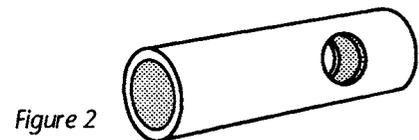


Figure 2

## Lots of Fabric . . . Cheap!

Must sell approximately 500 yards (60") of polyester fabric from hot-air balloon.  
Recycle and Save: \$1.50 per yard / 50 yard minimum. For free sample or to order call Howard at:  
**Balloon Adventures, Inc. 1625 Emerson Street Jacksonville, FL 32207**  
904-399-2882 Fax 904-399-2883

8. Make a mark 6" from each end of each 36" dowel. Insert the end of a dowel through the punched hole in a vinyl tube and slide the tube down to the mark. Repeat for each end of each 36" dowel. Twist the tubes so they both point the same way.
9. Cut 8 pieces of tape 3" long, and 8 pieces 2" long.
10. It helps a lot in this step if someone can help you by holding the sail flat and smooth. Lay one of the 36" dowels over the vertical crease on the *inside* of one sail. Attach the stick by placing one end of a 3" piece of tape, sticky side up, under the edge of the sail, and folding it over the sail and the dowel so the stick can't slide up or down. Line up the stick with the crease and tape it to the other edge of the sail with a 2" piece of tape. See Figure 3. Attach the other sail to the other end of the stick the same way. Repeat for the other three sticks.

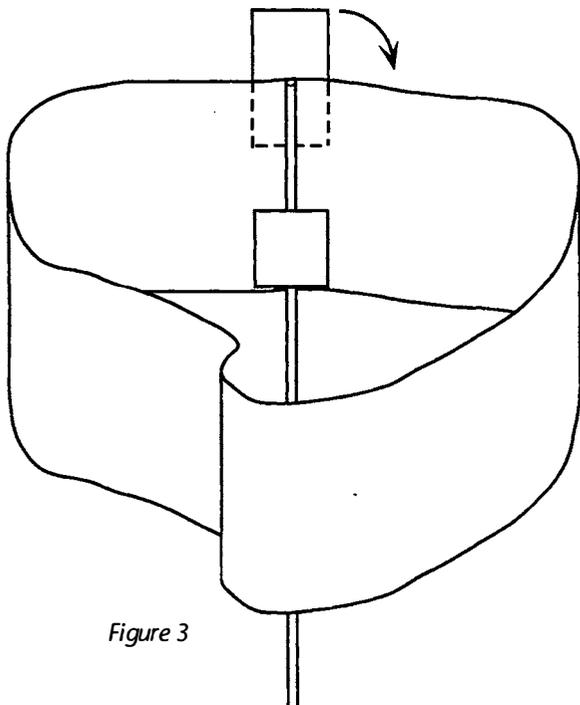


Figure 3

11. Twist the vinyl tubes so the long ends point in. These will be the sockets for the sticks that hold the kite open, called *spreaders*. If you want to decorate your kite with felt-tip markers, now's the time to do it. Make decorations big and bold so they're not lost in the sky.
12. Tie the ends of the 8" piece of string together with a loop knot, and connect it around the top front vinyl tube as shown in Figure 4.

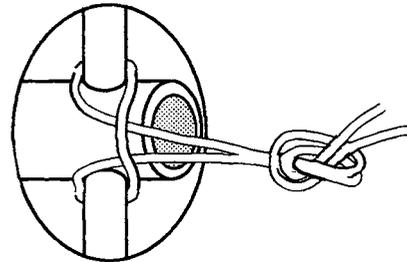


Figure 4

13. Inside one sail, insert one end of one of the short dowels into a vinyl tube socket and the other end into the socket on the other side of the sail. Likewise, place another short dowel between the other two sockets in the same sail. **CAREFUL!** The last end will be very tight—you'll have to bend the sticks, and it's easy to break one! Now install the other two spreaders—carefully.
14. After the spreader ends are all seated, place a bag tie around the crossing of each set of spreaders and tighten it.
15. Check and straighten all connections so nothing is twisted and the kite is square.
16. Attach your flying line to the string loop, stand with your back to the wind, have a friend walk the kite out 50 - 100 feet, and let 'er go!

### Plan on Making Plans

Kiting is working on ways to bring you exciting kite plans. This year we will travel to many of the best kite making retreats around the United States. We start this Spring by visiting the Maryland Kite Retreat, the Midwest Kitemakers Retreat (MAKR), and Fort Worden. Other retreats are being lined up. We will be looking into what goes on at these retreats and what motivates the people who organize and attend them. In addition, kite plans from some of the presenters at each workshop will be included in Kiting. Lined up from MAKR is Ron Gibian. We look forward to these exciting plans from Ron this Spring or Summer. If you have kite plans that you would like to share, or abilities to help us with drawings and graphics, Kiting is seeking your help.

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Receive a 10% discount off the regular price at these fine merchants.

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Windsong Kites  
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Birmingham 205-403-0500

### **Alaska**

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320 W. 5th Ave. Suite 156  
Anchorage 907-279-4FUN

### **Arizona**

**Dream Merchant**  
4195 Hwy 68,  
Golden Valley 520-565-2116

### **Flags & Kites**

3280 S. 4th Ave. #C  
Yuma 520-344-1535

### **I-Maginations**

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Tucson 602-326-3442

### **Arkansas**

**KaleidoKites**  
1-C Spring St.  
Eureka Springs 501-253-6596

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5615 Kavanaugh Blvd.  
Little Rock 501-280-0070

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362 First Street, Benicia  
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209-227-4858

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19306 E. Windrose Dr. #102  
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### **Candy & Kites**

1415 Coast Hwy,  
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### **Come Fly A Kite**

1228 State Street  
Santa Barbara 805-966-2694

### **Epic Kites, Inc.**

423 Culver Blvd,  
Playa Del Rey 310-822-9550

### **Kite Connection**

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### **Kite Ranch**

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Valencia 805-254-7123

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Carmichael 916-944-8727

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PO Box 2394, Goleta  
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### **Super Kites**

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### **Tight Lines Kite Co.**

1024 Thomas Lane  
Ventura 805-654-1227

### **Windborne Kites**

685 Cannery Row  
Monterey 408-373-7422

### **Wind Wizard**

PO Box 7304  
San Buenaventura  
805-659-5769

### **Windworks**

15317 1/2 Roscoe Blvd.  
Panorama City 818-892-6474

### **Colorado**

**Into the Wind**  
1408 Pearl Street  
Boulder 303-449-5356

### **Kite Sails**

4749 N. Carefree Circle  
Colorado Springs  
719-596-2332

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13761 Braun Drive  
Golden 303-279-5353

### **Cyberspace**

**Air Fun**  
fax 888-AIR-FUN1  
<http://www.air-fun.com>

### **Delaware**

**Rehoboth Sport & Kite**  
405 N. Boardwalk  
Rehoboth 302-227-6996

### **Florida**

**Adventures Kites**  
8100 Cedar Creek Drive  
New Port Richey  
813-846-0483

### **Beach Barn**

200 S. Gulf Drive  
Bradenton Beach  
941-778--4506

### **Cloud 9 Kites**

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.**

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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**

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Oak Park 708-848-4907

### **K. R. Kites**

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Homewood 708-798-1122

### **Stanton Hobby Shop**

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### **Indiana**

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

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**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  
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### **T-Town Kite Co.**

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Topeka 913-272-5483

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Lenexa 913-894-5483

### **Louisiana**

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New Orleans 504-529-3247

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Boston 617-742-1455

### **Seaside Kites**

Hull 617-925-2367

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511 Boardwalk  
Ocean City 410-289-7855

### **Kites Up & Away**

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Annapolis 410-263-4628

### **Michigan**

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

### **Kite Kraft**

576 S. Main  
Frankenmuth 517-652-2961

### **Kites & Fun Things, Ltd**

1049 South Main Street 5171  
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### **Saugatuck Drug Co.**

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Royal Oak 313-398-5900

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Lansing 517-323-1666

### **WindZinger Kite Sales #2**

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Williamston 517-655-4837

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**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**

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St. Louis 314-376-6055

### **Wind Wizards #2**

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Kansas City 816-746-1197

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**Amazing Toys**  
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Great Falls 406-727-5557

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323 Box Butte  
Alliance 308-762-2144

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Omaha 402-346-3607

### **Pretty Picture Kites**

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Omaha 402-333-0322

### **Prairie Flyer Kites**

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

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

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353 Ocean Boulevard  
Hampton Beach 603-926-

### **New Mexico**

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1210 Lexington Ave.  
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584 Kime Road  
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Atlantic Station Shop, Ctr  
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Atlantic Beach 919-247-7011

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North Hills Mall  
Raleigh 919-787-4212

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Toledo 800-228-3524

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**Thomason's Sport Kites**  
Rt 1 Box 65 Lahoma  
405-987-2558

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1141 SE Grand #114  
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Abbey Street Pier  
Newport, 503-265-9600

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619 Broadway Street  
Seaside, 503-738-KITE

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

**Pennsylvania**  
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RR2, Box 224A  
New Paris, 814-839-4492

**Grandmaster Kites**  
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PO Box 276, Mifflinville  
717-759-3167

**Kite Studio**  
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492 Thames Street  
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801 University Avenue  
Lubbock, 800-788-2326

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**Kite Sensations**  
113 1/2 Midway  
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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

**Windchasers**  
5800 Padre Blvd Suite 105  
South Padre Island  
(210) 761-7484  
wndchasers@ies.net

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Salt Lake City 801-531-7434

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29 Market Street  
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Bedford, 703-586-6846

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**Kite Koop**  
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Chincoteague 804-336-5554

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

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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

**Head in 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

**Spartime 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.**  
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414-868-3769

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1832 Lomas de Zamora  
Buenas Aires, 54 1-245-7945

**Australia**  
**Hold the Line Kites**  
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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

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8829 Portland Place  
Sidney British Columbia  
604-655-7051

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**AGAIN**  
Shinshia Yamate 1F  
Yamate Douri 3-24  
Showa-Ku Nagoya  
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**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  
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**R.O.S.**  
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20 Marina Mall, #01-02  
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Singapore 65-226-0928

**Switzerland**  
**Alphaplane Kites**  
Altrheinweg 98 Basel  
61-631-0529

**Thailand**  
**Intersport**  
121-77 Ramiudra Rd

# Kitevents

## March

1

SJKF Workshop  
Camden County Library, Haddon Heights, NJ  
609-854-5520

1-2

Hawaii Challenge International Sport Kite Chmps.  
Queen Kapiolani Park, Honolulu, HI  
Kite Fantasy 808-735-9059

Capitol City Kite Competition

Austin, TX Kelly Reed 512-266-7279

7-31

Sky Trash - A Gallery of Kites and Fabric Objects  
by George Baskette, The Emporium Gallery,  
Mystic, Conn 860-536-3891

7-9

14th Annual Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference  
Port Townsend, WA 206-888-2812

Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat (MAKR)  
Laredo Taft Campus, Illinois State University  
Oregon, IL Guests Ron & Sandy Gibian  
KathyHorn815-393-4672

5th Annual Winter Kite Festival  
Quebec, Canada 514-491-2825

8-9

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

Fiesta Fun Fly

Pima County Arts & Crafts Fair, Tucson, Arizona  
I-MAGINATIONS 1-520-326-3442

9

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

Flyin' & Wearin' of the Green  
Ocean City, NJ 609-983-7656

8-18

Spring Break Buggy Blast  
Racing on 15-16  
Ivanpah Dry Lake, Nevada/California  
609-429-6260

9

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

15

10th Annual Spiro Mounds Family Kite Flite  
Spiro, OK Dennis Peterson 918-962-2062

Kites Unlimited Kite Festival  
Galveston, TX Steve Newberry 409-744-4121

15-16

Honolulu Festival  
Queen Kapiolani Park, 808-735-9059

16

MKS Fly Maryland  
Inwood, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

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

St. Patrick's Day Fly  
Sandy Point, Annapolis 301-948-0559

Big Kite Workshop  
Anderson, IN Mike Bragg 317-453-2977

22

Smithsonian Workshop  
Washington, DC Margo Brown 301-890-1178

Banner Workshop  
TBD, WI Wisconsin Kiteers 414-281-3704

22-23

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

6596

23

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

28

29th Annual Great Delaware Kite Festival  
Lewes, DE Betsy Reamer 302-645-8073

29

17th Annual Hit the Beach Kite Fly  
Rehoboth, DE 302-227-6996

29-30

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

## April

4

Berks County Go Fly a Kite Day  
Reading, PA Cathy Wegener 610-374-8839

5

Smithsonian Festival  
Washington, DC Margo Brown 301-890-1178

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

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

5-6

Ohio Factory Shops Kite Fest  
Children's workshops & demos  
Jeffersonville, OH R. Pletcher 1-800-746-7644

Bluebonnet Kite Festival  
San Marcos, TX Judy Aswell 512-396-2374

6

Lancaster County Kite Carnival  
Lancaster, PA 717-299-8215

11-13

2nd Annual AKA Region 1 Meeting  
Seaview Inn, Middletown, RI 401-846-5000

12

Clear Brightness Kite Festival  
Inwood, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

Greene County Parks Kite Festival  
Xenia, OH Rich Myers 513-372-7486

Spring Tune Up  
Daleville, IN Dewayne Sheppard 317-643-1253

12-13

Spring Games Sky Festival  
Myrtle Beach, SC 803-448-7881

The Great St. Louis Kite Festival  
St. Louis, MO Rob Lambert 618-337-4603

Windborne Kite Festival  
Monterey, CA 408-373-7422

19

Just Say No Kite Flight  
Wichita Falls, TX Troy Gunn 817-691-8522

## AKA Sport Kite Commissioners

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

### Northwest

Genny Forsberg  
50201 NW Strohmayr Rd  
Forest Grove, OR 97116  
503-357-7557

### Pacific

Darrin Skinner  
1010 Astee Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
408-733-5483

### Midwest

Robert H. Smith  
4465 Lakeshore Drive  
Black River, MI 48721  
517-724-6157

### Central

Jerry Hershey  
5816 Denise  
Wichita, KS 67220  
316-744-2814

### Northeast

Suzanne Edison  
116 N. Water Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
203-531-1084

### Southeast

Sherrie Arnold  
6334 Chimney Woods Ct  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
703-765-5668

18-20  
Little Acorns Sun & Sand Int'l Kite Festival  
Miami Beach, FL 305-667-7756, 305-KITEGUY

20  
Earth Day Fly  
Brooklyn Park, MN 612-866-9055

MKS Fly Maryland  
Inwood, MD Adam Grow 301-949-9078

Kites in the Sky '97, Omaha, NE  
Midwest Winds Kiteflyers 402-597-3653

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 Park, Kalamazoo, MI 616-383-8778

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

27  
72nd Annual Kiwanis Kite Tournament  
Sac City, IA Ted Leonad 712-662-7268

## May

3  
LVKS Kite Day in the Park  
Bethlehem, PA 610-867-3313

3-4  
Fly Away Classic / Extreme Sport Kite Challenge  
Belmar, NJ 908-787-4945

10th Annual Four Winds Kite Festival,  
Kortright Centre for Conservation, Toronto, Canada  
Connie J. Pinto 905-832-2289

Midwest Kite Swap Meet, Maumee Bay State Park,  
Toledo, OH Al Hargus 614-475-8468

Flying Objects Kite Festival  
Littlerock, AK Bob Riggins 501-280-0070

4  
16th Annual Frankenmuth Sky Fest  
Frankenmuth, MI Kite Kraft 517-652-2961

Ansel Tony Memorial Fly  
Parker City, IN Mike Bragg 317-453-2977

18th Annual Bucks County Kite Day  
Langhorne, PA Jill Unger 215-757-0571

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

Workshop, Crawford Auto Museum  
OSEK 216-639-2477

10-11  
Mill Run Kite Festival  
Hilliard, OH Tree Alexander 614-876-4573

Tulsa Festival of Kites  
Tulsa, OK Larry Stiles 918-835-0844

16-18:  
Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships  
Grand Haven, MI Mackinaw Kites 616-846-7501

17  
Workshop, Cleveland Art Museum  
OSEK 216-639-2477

Art / Flight  
White Rock, NM Kathleen Daniel 505-662-8403

17-18  
Texas State Kite Festival  
Rockport, TX Collette Ratajski 512-729-2448

18  
Wichita Riverfest Kite Festival  
Wichita, KS Jerry Hershey 316-744-2814

21-23  
East Coast Buggy Blast  
Wildwood, NJ Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

23-26  
Wildwood International Kite Festival  
East Coast Stunt Kite Championships  
Wildwood, NJ Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

Junction International Kite Retreat  
Junction, TX Betty Street 806-745-6803

Spring Buggy Blitz  
Alvord Dry Lake, Fields OR  
Morrie Williams 206-788-6355

24  
Applewood Fun Fly  
Anderson, IN Dewayne Sheppard 317-643-1253

25-26  
San Ramon Art & Wind Festival  
San Ramon, CA Kim Giuliano 510-275-2307

May 31-June 1  
Aire Affair Fun Fly and Competition  
Belmont Shores, Long Beach, CA  
Aire Affair 310-695-5266

## June

6-7  
15th Annual Rogallo Kite Festival  
Jockey's Ridge, Nags Head, NC 800-334-4777

6-8  
Ocean Shores Stunt Kite Competition  
Ocean Shores, WA Eric Halverson 503-537-3904

Twisted Lines Kite Festival  
Topeka, KS Jim Aune 913-862-5413

7  
Wings On Strings Kite Fly  
Jamestown, ND Mike Gee 701-252-5611

AMA Homecoming  
Muncie, IN Mike Bragg 317-453-2977

13-15  
Aerospace America  
Oklahoma City, OK David Burns 405-722-2818

Boston Area Stunt Kite Championships  
North Dartmouth, MA Engvalls 401-942-3606

Sky Circus  
Schaumburg, IL Mauricio Araujo 773-489-1347

15  
Seattle Kite Festival  
Magnussen Park, Seattle, WA 206-633-4780

16-17  
World Kite Museum Workshop - Buggys  
Long Beach, WA 360-642-4020

19-22  
Rendez-vous Mondial du Cerf-Volant de Verdun  
Verdun Worldwide Kite Festival, Canada  
Lynn Champagne 514-765-7155

Calendar continued on the next page:

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**415-594-1055**  
fax: 415-591-0544

GWTW kites

G O N E · W I T H · T H E · W I N D

**Calendar continued**

21  
Summer Solstice Kite Fly  
Minnesota Kite Society, White Bear Lake, MN  
Brad Klages 612-866-9055

Twin Rivers Kite Festival  
Emporia, KS Chris Moore 913-894-5483

21-22  
Mid-American Sport Kite Classic  
Kalamazoo, MI John Cosby 616-383-8778

28-29  
Northwest Stunt Kite Championships  
Long Beach, WA Genny Forsberg 503-357-7557

Old Dominion Stunt Kite Championships  
Richmond, VA 703-765-5668

**Regularly Scheduled Events**

Kansas City Kite Club  
2nd Sunday of the month Club flies  
Johnson County CC, Overland Park, KS  
913-894-5483

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)  
Ilaha Beach, Ocean Shores, WA  
Eric Halverson 503-537-0817

Northwest 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

Topeka Kitefliers  
First Sunday of the month  
Governors Mansion, Topeka, KS  
Jim Aune 913-862-5413

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

Please send event information to  
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at 232 W. Trenton Avenue  
Morrisville, PA 19067.  
To have your event sanctioned by the  
AKA, call 1-800-252-2550.

**WHERE IT'S AT ...*****Waiting For The Other Shoe...****by Corey Jensen*

Just got back from the KTA show in Florida. Changes sure are happening to the business. These affect us because the kite stores are our first line of support for growing our sport. There are fewer manufacturers and retailers out there. Consolidations are happening. I know about those. Someone told me the day of the kite specialty retailer is through. More and more of the retailers are selling more toys instead of kites. They say that is what the customers are buying. It's a matter of the bottom line. I say it is because it is easier to sell toys than kites. One can sit behind the counter reading a book and toys will sell. One must DO something to sell a kite. Customers often don't know what modern kites are all about, so they stay with what they know. Even when we try to help them understand, they often still don't get it. I watched a young couple on the beach last Sunday struggle with their kite. Nothing serious, but hardly fun. They had purchased a 4 ft. delta (single line) and proceeded to let all the string out and then engaged in the thrilling act of slowly winding all the line back in.

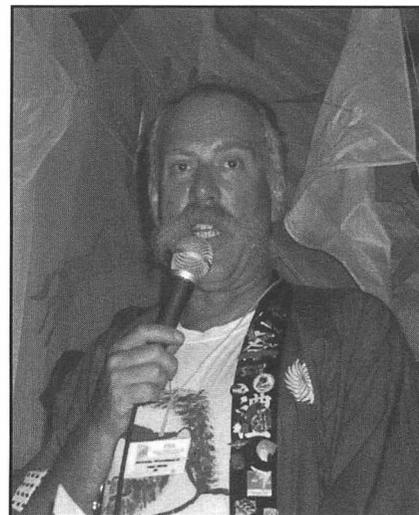
We have all seen this before. The sad part is knowing there will probably be little reason to want to go do it again. That kite was probably headed for the closet or garage, never to see the sky again. This bothers me. I (and you) know there is so much more to kiting than what they had found. Being the "kite guy" I headed over to share some of the fun stuff about kiting with them. As the girl was struggling with the winder and line, I first showed her how to use the spool. You know... the quick and easy way to get the kite down without tangling the line and then wind up all the line by spinning the spool in the crook of your elbow. Then I shared some ideas about anchor bags, ribbon on the line, taking your kite for a walk on the beach... You know the kind of games I mean.

Anyway after about 2 minutes the girl said: "Does it have to be so difficult? Can't I do it like when I was little?" See how difficult it is for some to move away from the memory of how things used to be? They weren't having a good time. But change is so scary.

We are in the same place as our sport has hit the doldrums. We are not growing. The world is changing but we retreat to our warm memories and never notice that the bus left an hour ago.

Many talk about growing our sport but who is really doing anything? Seems to me that most of us are just waiting. We have our kites and so why not just go play? Let some one else worry about the problems. Soon we might not have the specialty kite stores where we can get enthused while we buy new kite gear. Let's not forget how important that is. The gear we play with is not nearly so important as the sharing and the play. Next time you visit your local kite shop, thank them for being there. Offer to help some of their new flyers get acquainted with the games. Make an effort to walk across the beach or field to help some one who needs it.

Share the spirit of kites.



Corey Jensen is a former AKA President and a world famous kite personality who regularly submits an opinion column.



*Region*  
**1**  
*New England*  
*Sarge Cleaves*

The CONNECTIKITERS' Annual meeting went on yesterday (Feb 1st). It was a well conducted meeting (Johnna Doyle was the Chair), and the group of 20 odd considered many issues. It was decided that the Club should be affiliated with AKA to take advantage of sanctioning of the Club flies.

It was decided that Dave Lombard is doing a super job as Newsletter Editor (excuse my pride in my home club, there many good newsletters out there, but none better) and that Tim Leblanc has performed above and beyond the call as Webmaster. You should check out the CONNECTIKITERS' WEB PAGE. A real professional job.

Typical of all organizations, there were many topics for discussion, money, membership, events, schedules. But there was one in particular, which I thought was unusual, if not courageous. The group talked at length about itself. By that I mean it took a long hard look and examined whether or not "the way things were" is the way things should be. The discussion was spirited, and far reaching. The decision to remain pretty much the same was not the important result. The important result of the discussion was that they are comfortable with themselves, their ideas and their goals. Discussions like this are important from time to time. We all need to do it. It was a fine example of concerned, caring, capable leadership. As a result, the 1997 Board of Directors is off to a good start.

I congratulate Sean and John Doyle on their service to the CONNECTIKITERS. Five years on the governing board of any organization requires a level of dedication that isn't always available when it's needed. The club was very fortunate to have been able to rely on the Doyles. That's what went on. In 1996 we had 126 members from our region who went on to other things. Certainly, there will always be people changing their

priorities. But if we have failed to provide them with what they are looking for then we should take a look at ourselves. I will be contacting those people to ask them just what prompted their action. I wonder if you would consider doing the same type of thing. If there is someone you haven't seen on the field for a while, why don't you consider giving them a call and talk about "things". This is an organization of kites. But it's people who cause it to breathe, the more people, the deeper and healthier the breathing. Flying alone is sometimes what we need to do. But flying with another who feels as we do, is a real experience. On a larger scale, AKA itself has experienced a drop in membership. The Board of Directors is in the process of addressing the situation. If you have any ideas give me a call. I would be grateful for the help.

KONE'S ANNUAL MEETING will be going on February 15th, 1997. This year it will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Newport, RI. A major change from the past. Another good start for a club in 1997. A good chance to throw John Ruggiero in the harbor to thank him for a 1996 "JOB WELL DONE". Also a great place to fly kites.

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Also in Newport that weekend is The NEWPORT WINTER FESTIVAL. There will be a night fly and fireworks on Friday night, an indoor fly at the Marriott on Saturday, and lots of free time, fun and fellowship. The HOJO hotel is running a special of \$39 for Friday night, \$59 for Saturday night. All of the ingredients are there for a real good time.

Another going on is KONE'S 2nd Annual Regional Competition and Kite Festival, April 18-20, 1997 in Nahant, MA. If it's half as good as last year, it's too good to miss.

**BULK MAIL HAS ARRIVED!** We now have the capability to email to all who are "on line". It allows me to send information to, or ask questions of many people at one time. As always "spreading the word" is of great importance. When it was set-up there were 83 people who had registered e-mail addresses with the AKA. As a result of a test message we discovered that approximately 20% of those addresses weren't current. I need you to talk about this to everyone so that we can generate a complete, updated list.

The ease of the Bulk Mail system allows me to concentrate on how best to publicize to those who are not on line. It requires a lot of time, effort, and money to mail. Most members are not on-line. We need to remember that and work to include them. I would be grateful for any help.

Hot and heavy planning is going on for the 1997 AKA Convention and Annual Meeting, October 12-18, 1997 in Wildwood, NJ. There are many plans afoot to make this convention more fun, relaxed, meaningful, and more economical. As things come together we'll keep you posted.

DON'T FORGET THE:

**2nd Annual Regional Meeting**  
**April 11-13, 1997**  
**Seaview Inn**  
**240 Aquidneck Avenue**  
**Middletown, RI 02842**  
**(401) 846-5000**

Is there more? There sure is! A full year of fun, fellowship, food, flying, competition, and the joy that goes with putting smiles in peoples' hearts.

Ruth and just got finished plugging in dates, and places, a weekend or two to ourselves, and there isn't a whole lot left. I'm sure it's the same way for you as well. So if anybody is planning anything GET THE WORD OUT NOW! So we can ALL be there.



*Region*  
**2**  
*Northeast*  
*Andy Gelinus*

It's winter - our region is cold. Last Sunday, a few of us went out to one of our favorite parks to fly. We stayed out for about an hour - too cold! Today it was 45 degrees, but wet. More fliers went and we stayed longer. Around the region, it seems indoor events come often and are exciting as well. Many clubs are having workshops/retreats/seminars all winter-long. Here is a listing:

**Keystone Kitters -**

Kevin Shannon (717)243-7913

They are having another of their one-day kite builds in Mechanicsburg, PA, with Scott Spencer building a facet kite and Kevin a transitive tail. Then on February 26<sup>th</sup>, KKC is having a seminar on Rok battle techniques. If I remember correctly, they are the champs of "no wind" Roking, remember Smithsonian last year?

**Sky Pilots -** Mike McMullen (610)670-1961

They are doing a one-day seminar with presenters Larry and Cheryl Gleckner directing the building of a club frog windsock.

**Fly Pittsburgh -** John Kish - (412) 882-5044

They have had a couple of seminars. December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1997 they built a spinsock and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1997 a kite was presented by

their volunteer of the year Carl Hillard. Also inside Fly Pittsburgh will sponsor an indoor fly on March 1, 1997.

**South Jersey Kite Flyers**

Scott E. Spencer - (609) 854-5520

They will be building a 4' Rok February 1, and a Facet Kite March 1. Presenter Scott E. Spencer. South Jersey held a fighter kite competition at Brandywine Creek State Park in Delaware. Finalists - John Rose, Doug Laubach, and Michael Dallmer, Jr. Battled until Doug was the winner. He received a fighter kite from the sponsor - Andy Selzer.

**Great Lakes Kitefliers Society**

Mike Decker - (716) 834-2879

They appear to be the outdoor folk! They have "flys" January 18 - 19, February 1, and February 15-16. Then they have an indoor display of kites at a local mall March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. In their area don't forget the Presque Isle fly on Valentine's weekend. Contact the "Short timer" single Lee Sedgewick.

**Lehigh Valley Kite Society**

Paul Keeler - (610) 867-4999

They will be doing their usual kite building for kids (over 6,000 so far) and also a kite building and fly for "Friends of the Blind." The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Kite Day in the Park will be May 3, 1997. Last year this event drew a crowd of 3500. Don't miss it this year!

On a very different note, the AKA Merchandising Committee, that I Chair, met last week again and worked further toward our aim of putting AKA merchandise into the hands of every AKA member merchant to sell for your enjoyment.

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

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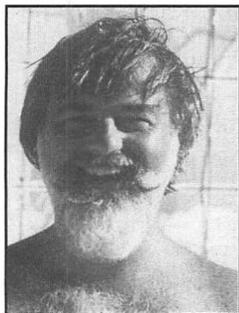
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*Region*  
**3**  
*Mid-Atlantic*  
**Jon Burkhardt**

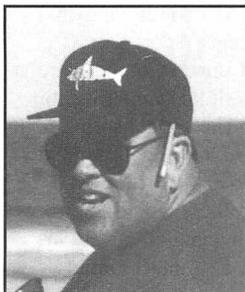
Skies are grey, but we're thinking of good times to come. We're into the final plans for the Maryland Kite Society's three-day kitemaking retreat in Laurel, Maryland. This year's special guests are Pierre Fabre from France and Ray Bordelon from New Orleans. Last year, the retreat was well attended by members of the Keystone Kites, the Lehigh Valley Kite Society, SkyPilots, the South Jersey Kiteflyers, Winds and Rainbows, and Wings Over Washington, and well as the hosts from MKS. We're looking forward to another great get-together.

And speaking of get-togethers, let me add my two cents. It's time to put a little extra effort into kiteflying and its supporting organizations!! I hope that everyone in this region, as well as others around the country, will sit up and take notice. There have been some declines in the fortunes of some kite businesses, kite festivals, and kite clubs in the past year. **Those of us who really care about what's going on need to stand up and be counted.** Go to the meetings, go to the flies, support your local and national businesses, and **help the AKA.** We need more members, here in Region 3 and around the country, too. For all of you in this region, how about a personal goal of each of you getting one new member of AKA for 1997?

**We need some other good ideas, too.** Anybody want a regional competition for adding new members to the AKA in 1997? What other good ideas are there out there? More members, more workers, more participants, and more fun! Something worth working for? Let's spread the word and share the fun. Good winds to all.

**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.



*Region*  
**4**  
*Southeast*  
**Tom Mason**

As we start the 1997 season, we are looking forward to a lot of kite flying. We need to gather in our old friends and start enjoying the fun of kite flying again. A lot of the old AKA members are dropping out of the group. Let's talk to old friends and get together again and share the sky.

The Mason family had the pleasure of participating in the marriage of Chuck and Monica Connors on the 10th of January. T.C. Powers and Pat Robinson put together a very beautiful wedding party for Chuck and Monica. Jeff Rivers even showed up to photograph the occasion. We all had a great time.

Savannah Sails and Rails will start off the year with their GONE WITH THE WIND CLASSIC on March 1st and 2nd. Looking forward to two days of fun flying and some competition. Reed Richards has issued a challenge for fighter kite flyers to meet him for some fast flying fun.

Frank Cook is once again hosting Freedom Florence on the first Saturday in April. It will be a good warm up event for Spring Games. Frank puts on this event each year, and I'm sure that he would appreciate anyone willing to give him a hand.

Spring Games will once again be hosted by Klugs Kites in Myrtle Beach. The dates are April 12 and 13. This will be the first spring event of the Eastern League and a chance to pick up on some points. Rick Kligman is even willing to be the water balloon target if enough raffle tickets are sold!

The Kids, Kops and Kites event will be happening in Miami on the April 19-20. Contact Dan Ward for more information. The Carolina Kite Fly will be in Chaplin, SC on April 26. Contact Lisa Hawkins at 803-345-6181.

Remember to go out and gather up old friends, get involved, and join the AKA.



*Region*  
**5**  
*Great Lakes*  
**Robyne Gardner**

Is it just me, or do you feel like this winter will go on forever, too? Looking ahead to the early spring events, I am filled with new hope, knowing that we'll all thaw out soon.

This year the Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites celebrates their 20th Anniversary! They are the oldest kite club in the region. OSEK's newsletter, Down the Line, included some great historical club information in the recent winter edition. The club's officers in 1977 were: Tom Rask, Ida Jones, and Judy Neuger. Others instrumental in getting the club off the ground were: Mike Weletyk, Connie Pederson, Bill Jones, David Newcomer, and Bill Parsh. The article by Nancy Lockwood, "Keeper of the Stuff", will be continued in this year's club newsletters.

Several New Year's Day flies ushered in '97. John Cosby and his merry band of K-zoo Stringfellows held the annual Sno' Fly in Kalamazoo. Steve Wozniak, Mike Dertien, Bill Schumacher, and others from the Mid-Michigan String Stretchers decided to join in the fun. A group of Black Swamp Air Force members gathered at Maumee Bay State Park to brave the cold and the rain that day. Fireman Kevin Kilgoar was able to convince the Ranger that he could indeed have a fire in the parking lot without harming the asphalt. After checking out the set-up, the ranger joined us for hot chocolate. Pete DiGiacomo tells me that a few OSEK'ers flew at Edgewater Park on New Year's Day, too.

The 3rd annual BSAF Ice Fly (aka Terry's Frozen Thingy) was held at Maumee Bay State Park on Jan. 25-26. There were high winds, gusting to 37mph, and low, low temperatures. The really crazy amongst us tried staying warm by playing with their favorite winter toys and buggies. The "merely nuts" people just enjoyed each other's company, the fire, hot dogs & maybe grabbed a sled ride or two off the buggies. Those among the brave & crazy: Terry Gerweck, Dennis Findlay, Sam Ritter, Doug Mouat, Pete DiGiacomo, Rick Gardner, and

Dean Herrick. Those among the merely nuts: Ann Ritter, Gina Igrazzitto & friend, Tim, Tone Rameriz, Jim & Nancy Gruver, and Tim Haupright. John & Debby Pfister tried their hand at sled-kiting, and Gina had her first buggy ride. Al and Vicki were content with doing donuts in the icy parking lot.

On April 5 & 6 there will be a new festival sponsored by the Ohio Factory Shops in Jeffersonville, halfway between Dayton and Columbus. Children's workshops and demonstrations are planned. Several of the area clubs and shops are pitching in to make it a good first festival. For more information call Rebecca Pletcher at 1-800-746-7644.

There are many early season events I would like to mention. Contact numbers will be listed in the main calendar if omitted here: Xenia, Ohio is the place to be on April 12. Contact Rich Myers for information on the "Onion Fly". On Apr. 26-27, you may want to travel to Kalamazoo for KiteFest! Call John Cosby (Parks & Rec. Department). Kite Kraft will be hosting the 16th Annual Frankenmuth Sky Fest on Sunday, May 4th. On May 3-4, the Kortright Centre for Conservation (near Toronto) will present the

10th Annual Four Winds Kite Festival. There is something for the whole family and an AKA Midwest Conference Sport Kite Competition as well. Contact Connie Pinto at (905)832-2289, or email: kcc@interlog.com for more information. The annual spring Mill Run Festival in Hilliard, Ohio will be held on May 10-11. Call Tree Alexander. And the Supreme Order of Kitefliers would like to invite you to their 11th annual kite fly in Warren, Ohio on June 1. Contact Grand Pilot, Bill Flynn, at (330)609-6611. This is a new phone number.

On May 3-4, Al Hargus invites all you pack rats out there to the first Midwest Kite Swap Meet. If you've been in the sport for awhile, no doubt you have boxes and stacks of forgotten and unused STUFF. Here's your chance to swap it for something you need, or at least stash it in someone else's truck when they're not looking. If you are new to the hobby, this will be a great place to pick up on some good deals and good advice. This event will be held at Maumee Bay State Park (fast becoming the most popular kite flying sight in Ohio), so you can opt to camp right there where the action is. Al is putting together a catalogue-type directory, so now is the time

to make a list of what you have to offer. Call Al for more details: (614) 475-8468 or (614) 488-6601.

I'm looking forward to seeing EVERYONE at the Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships in Grand Haven, MI on May 17-18th.



Region

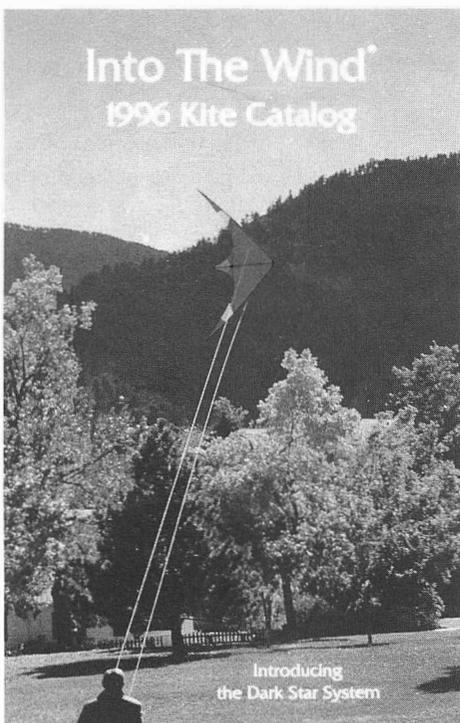
6

Midwest

Alan Sparling

Fisher sponsored the Cool Fool Kite Fly. The event was well attended with at least twenty kites in the air at the same time. This was quite a feat, as most people kept going back to get more of the free hot chocolate, so kites kept going up and down. I was astonished to see Charlie Sotich flying a seven foot delta for two hours. I can not remember when I have ever seen Charlie fly anything even half the size. The Flake Out Festival the Wisconsin Dells suffered from a lack of wind, but not of hospitality. The Kite Society of Wisconsin made visiting kite fliers very welcome. So make a note for next year and we will hope for better winds. The last winter event that I have to report on is the Frosty Fingers Fly at the St. Paul Winter Carnival. I also have a suggestion for a new event at these winter festivals: The Ice Maker Fling. Those interested in details should contact Kathy Brinnehl as she demonstrated near perfect form in the event at the Neimans' New Years Day party.

Now for upcoming Region Six events. The Minnesota Kite Society Auction will have passed by the time this is in print. But it may make it out in time for the Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat in March. With eleven different classes to choose from it offers something for everyone. Rank beginners (me) appreciate classes like "Sew Basic...Sew Easy...Sew Innovative", while experienced kitemakers will appreciate the "Little Eddy Grows Up" workshop by Ron and Sandy Gibian. It will be held March 7 - 9 in Oregon, IL. Contact Kathy Horn 815-393-4672.



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On March 23rd, the Kites for Kids family fun festival will be held INSIDE the HHH Metrodome in Minneapolis. This may well be the largest indoor flying facility to date. In addition to indoor kite flying there will face painting, jugglers, magicians, kite making, games and food. So if you want to fly in a really BIG indoor facility contact JoAnn Weber at 612-623-0483 or Air Traffic at 612-623-0483.

In Indiana, the Ansel Tony Memorial Fly will be on May 4th in Parker City. Contact Mike Bragg at 317-453-2977. The Applewood Fun Fly will be in Anderson, IN on May 24th, there is also a 500 mile race there that weekend. Contact Dewayne Sheppard for more details at 317-643-1253.

For sport kite competitors who are missing the Chicago Sport Kite Festival, there is some potential good news on the horizon. There may be a sport kite competition in Milwaukee this summer. As soon as the decision is finalized I will put out more information on Internet and in a mailing.

On a sad note, I just finished helping the Neimans load the remaining inventory and fixtures from the Chicago Kite Company into a truck and watched Bob scrape the stores name off of the door. The store will be sorely missed in the Chicago area. I just want to remind everyone who has a local kite store in their area that it is a resource that you will greatly miss if it goes away. So please patronize you local dealer or else you may soon be missing them.



Region  
7  
Great  
Plains  
Chris  
Moore

Springtime is the land awakening and the March winds are the morning yawn that most of us kites look forward to with eager anticipation. With this thought, I warmly welcome you to Spring 1997! Many of us have been impatiently waiting for the start of another unforgettable Spring.

As life explodes around us this Spring, most of us will find our lives becoming increasingly busy. As this happens, let's not lose focus on what I feel is the fundamentals of kiting - taking time to enjoy the fresh outdoors with family and friends, listening to the giggles of little children, exploring nature, and enjoying life with people of different generations. Kite, kiting, and air toys bring us together. They come to us from ancient cultures, are heavily influenced by modern materials, and lead us to the mystery of the skies, the majesty of flight, and the power of the wind.

One of the greatest things about kite flying is the people that you meet. Over the past six years I have met and flown with some of the greatest people in the world. I would like to

dedicate this section of the newsletter to some of these wonderful people so that you too could get to know them.

Gary and Amy Pittman started flying kites about 2 years ago. Since then, they have built up their collection of kites, attended festivals, competed, have been instrumental in organizing club activities and share kiting with others as a regular part of their lives. When Gary and Amy, owners of Pittman Wallpapering are around, there is a sense of whimsical humor, an air of congeniality and enthusiasm. This attitude towards life is apparent in their business slogan, "We Save Marriages, We Wallpaper". If you have ever attempted your own wallpapering then you undoubtedly have a deeper understanding of this slogan.

Gary and Amy received their first kite as adults last Spring from their son, Kevin Pittman. Gary recalls his free lesson from Wind Wizards, "My first lesson lasted about 30 seconds, because it was 30 degrees!" The "cold" start Gary experienced that day must have generated some spark because Gary and Amy now boast a collection of 16 kites and rarely miss a Kansas City Kite Club fly.

Kiting has a strong heritage and is often thought of when we think of family traditions and activities. For the Pittman family, kiting has become a very family oriented activity. Their son, Kevin, is an avid flyer, their daughter, Amber and her husband Jason, and even their 3 year old granddaughter Jessica also get involved! Nearly every friend of the Pittmans knows their addiction to kiting and the wind. Their enthusiasm for the sport is evident through the eagerness at which they promote it. Amy explains, "We don't leave home without our kites and/or kite photographs. Sometimes at our wallpapering jobs Gary will pull a kite out and teach our customers how to fly a sportkite!" Wallpapering and sportkite lessons, there might really be something here.

The best kites have yet to be made, the largest collection of kites is not yet completed, and the most beautiful flying spot has yet to be discovered. Whether it's your fate to meet a best friend out on the field or bring a family closer together when you introduce them to kites, SOAR ON THE WINDS OF OPPORTUNITY IN 1997!

If you know a special someone who shares the pleasures of the wind and would like to mention them in Kiting, send me an article.

**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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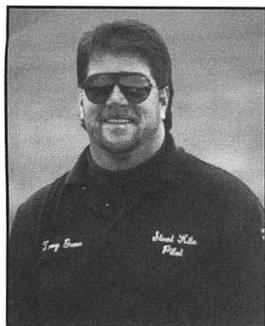
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*Region*  
**8**  
*South Central*  
*Troy Gunn*

Usually winter weather in the south isn't too extreme, but at the time of this writing (January 16, 1997) winter has hit this region full force! It's about as cold as a well digger's butt outside! By the time you read this, kite season here in Region 8 will be in full swing. Hopefully with much warmer temperatures!

Your AKA elected officials have been working hard all winter coming up with creative ideas that may improve our annual AKA conventions. Some of the ideas include: a convention schedule restructure, ala carte registration fees, on field kite and food vendors, more items in the silent auction and less in the loud auction, and best of all, better banquet food! All of this to make your convention experiences more festive and enjoyable! The preceding ideas aren't set in stone as of yet. Maybe they will materialize soon! Any of you with any other ideas, please speak up and make the difference.

Last November, Kites Over Houston and the Texas Skyriders Kite Club hosted the Galveston 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Buggy Event. Houston's Keith Anderson reports that this year's event was their best ever! Despite the stormy skies, about 50 kites showed up for the three days of activities. About twelve buggy pilots were on hand anxious to tear up the sky and the wide open beaches. Texas Flyers from all over the state were plentiful, while Oklahoma buggiers Jeff Howard, Larry Stiles, and Clifford Lemons made the trip south. It seems the three were tired of their Oklahoma cowpie dodg'n, tarantula smash'n, buggy relay races that they're used to in Oklahoma! And all the way from Washington state came Steve Irby. I guess Steve was tired of the rain in the northwest! There's a saying in the northwest "Northwesterners don't tan, they rust.." This event was created with good old-fashioned fun in mind, says co-event coordinator Keith Anderson. Along with the buggy action, ground and aerial displays decorated the sand and the sky. A strong storm front passed through and nearly blew everything away. Texas skyriders and Kites over Houston furnished hot dog lunches for everyone. Several banners were on loan from Quadafoil North America. And also a Peter Lynn Gecko on loan from Goodwinds Kites. Event coordinators said that keeping with Texas tradition, the '97 event will be even bigger and better! Ya'll come back now, ya hear!

On the flip side, there's some bad news to report. It seems that the Waco, Texas Wind Festival and the Wildflower Kite Festival in Richardson, Texas both have canceled their events for 1997. Also, the Tulsa Festival of Kites is questionable. Tulsa Windriders president, Larry Stiles reports that the local soccer club has put up \$1,000 to lease the fields and the soccer club isn't willing to share the facilities with anyone! By the way, this is the same field on which the '95 AKA convention was held. So pending a new festival site, the 1997 Tulsa Festival of Kites is in transition, stay tuned for future updates. Maybe with a bit of persuasion from all of us, we can get the Waco and

Richardson event to reconsider. We all need to do a better job of supporting our local kite festivals or they may all become extinct. Make a difference by getting involved, our kiting future depends on it.

I now have a complete list of most all of the kite events for Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, and Montana. I will have already mailed out copies of this to date to all area kite clubs before you read this. I am without a computer, so I will be forwarding this list to Richard Dermer to load into his computer, for those of you who prefer to obtain a copy via e-mail. Thank you, Dermer for providing this service for me. Stay tuned to AKA Kiting calendar for event dates and locations for our region.

P.S. - I almost forgot! I have a little added incentive for all of you. Any Region 8 AKA member that recruits the most new members to the AKA by October '97 will be presented with a new kite, valued at over \$200 and autographed by "Team T.K.O!" You must have all new recruits refer your name to the AKA Executive Director, Mel Hickman, to qualify for this award. I'll be keeping track of the results throughout the year, but I won't release the results until after the '97 Wildwood Convention. So good luck to all of you!



*Region*  
**9**  
*Inter-Mountain*  
*Randy Shannon*

Well another year has come and gone. I hope your's was as much fun as mine. I did not make any New Year's Resolutions again, and I feel the better because of it. Here's a resolution I have heard about that sounds good to me; E.WE. Redmond, a.k.a. The Kite Gypsy of Tulsa, Oklahoma has taken it upon himself to fly a kite everyday of the year. I wish him luck in his endeavor and hope he can succeed in Tornado Alley.

The overall response to the recent survey has seemed favorable. Unfortunately whenever you get more than two people together it becomes difficult to agree upon anything. The survey was no exception. I do know that all of your opinions do matter to us and we will try to please the greatest number of members as possible.

Everything here in the great white northland of Arizona is melting right along. For those of you who don't know this, it does snow in Arizona. We have been digging out of a blizzard that our local government did not seem prepared for. The amount of snow received to incapacitate our city would be laughable to most of the country, but it did shut down the town for three days last month.

The next two months are shaping up into one of our best Spring calendar of events yet. Scott Hampton of Sandy, Utah has put together yet another kite exhibit at the Sandy Public Library. This exhibit features kite builders from around the world and runs through February 27th. The Coyote Kite Club is having a kite festival on

March 8th and 9th, 1997 at Arthur Pack Park in Tucson, AZ. This club runs some of the best organized and FUN events I have been to. Make sure to put room on your calendar for this one. Contact Jo Anne at (520) 326-3442 for more information. The following weekend on Saturday, March 15th a kite fly is tentatively scheduled to take place in Prescott Valley at the new Amphitheater. Information is still sketchy but is suppose to be on rec.kites as soon available, or call me at (520) 779-2828 in March for more details. On March 21st, 22nd and 23rd the Avi Aerial Kite Fest III, in Laughlin, NV will take place. If you haven't heard, this one is mandatory! Contact Kathy Plummer at 1-800-752-0239.

April, 6th the Toby House Kite festival is scheduled for Phoenix, AZ. Contact Justine at (602) 234-3338 for more information. On a separate note I have gotten involved in a local kite promoting project. Bert Duron (President of the Coyote Kite Club) came up with the great idea of putting on little impromptu kite festivals at some of the smaller towns in Arizona. The idea being to promote kiting as an alternative for kids to stay out of trouble. Bert, Rick Miller and myself are planning on flying at Sierra Vista, AZ on February 8th, Safford, AZ on February 22nd and Springerville, AZ on April 19th. We plan to use public service announcements ahead of time to promote a three-man festival in each town. We plan to include kite flying demonstrations and a kite building workshop. If you are in the area and would like to help, or just come out and fly, let one of us know and we can fill you in on the details.

Hope to see you on a flying field soon.



*Region  
10  
Northwest  
Dave Christenson*

Things have been pretty quite here lately so I haven't much to report.

In December the WKA (Washington Kitefliers Assoc.) and the PCKA (Pierce County Kitefliers Assoc.) held their Annual Christmas Gathering Potluck. We had a large turnout of kites, tables of food and quite a large assortment of donated door prizes and raffle items. This year all proceeds from the raffle and auction went to the local food bank. We raffled and auctioned off over \$800.00 worth of items. The Mayor of Fife and the local food bank sent the clubs letters of thanks for a job well done.

The Fort Worden Kitemakers Retreat looks like it has a full schedule this year. After all the storms this winter it looks like everyone is ready to start making kites again.

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Region

11

Tom McAlister  
Northern California



Well, it's time for a new season of kite flying. Bay Area Sport Kite League meetings have been rumbling along throughout the winter season and the Northern California Kite Club is gearing up for spring one more time.

Kiting events are rapidly approaching and this Spring we can look forward to the return of some of our old favorite events as well as few new ones here and there to spice things up a bit.

On the single-line front we can look forward to the return of the Lee Toy Spring Fly at San Francisco's Marina Green on April 20, as well Davis Art Center's Wind Works Gallery Exhibit and Festival. This year's exhibit will feature Japanese kites from the Drachen Foundation's collection and will open on May 15. The family-oriented festival is scheduled for May 17. On the following Memorial Day weekend, kitefliers can attend the San Ramon Wind Fest in where else but San Ramon. The NCKC will get their season in gear at their Lewis Reservoir Camp-out during the weekend of March 15. There is also a rumor of a first-time event in the Monterey area on April 14. Unfortu-

nately it looks like we have lost the Tracy Sister City Fly for the time being.

Looking a little further ahead, plans are in the works for a Traditional Japanese Kite flying event at the Marina Green over the July 4 weekend. Plans call for members of the Japan Kiteflying Association to conduct hands-on kite-making workshops. The organizers from Japan are eager to involve our region's kitefliers and hope the event can be an opportunity for exchange between our kiteflying cultures. Plans are also in the works for an AKA Eddy Arch Train workshop sometime in the late spring.

On the dual-line front we can look forward the first ever BASKL Judging seminar on March 15 followed by the first sport kite competition of the year on April 19 at Baylands Park in Sunnyvale. The rest of our region's 1996-97 sport kite season includes BASKL at Berkeley on May 10, BASKL at Newark on June 21 and finally culminates with the Berkeley Kite Festival & West Coast Kite Championships on July 26 & 27. The 1997-98 BASKL calendar has not been announced yet but last year it included The Golden Gate Challenge on Labor Day weekend and the Santa Cruz Sport Kite Classic in October.

Throughout the coming year I hope to stay in better touch with each of you. To help with that goal we now have a bulk E-mail system in place for region #11. The first mail went out in January regarding our Annual AKA Volunteer Appreciation party. If you did not get this piece of E-mail it means that either we have the wrong E-mail address for you, or you don't have an account (that would make it hard for a piece of E-mail to get to you, now wouldn't it?). I plan to use the bulk-

mail system to alert members to upcoming events and to solicit information for future regional reports and of course, to invite you to the next party. If you think that we may have an incorrect or old electronic address for you, or if you have just recently gotten on line, please zap your correct address to Chuck Sigal, our Electronics Opportunities Committee Chair, at <cjsigal@netcom.com> or E-mail it to me at <athiline@ix.netcom.com> and I will forward it to him.

With any luck this new bulk E-mail system will help me do a better job of staying in contact with all of you in 1997. Happy New Year! =)!!!

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Region

12

Walt Thompson  
Southern California  
Pacific



Writing this in January for publication in March or thereabouts is not easy. The past few weeks have been cold, very wet and today is a Santa Ana day with a temperature around 81 degrees and winds from the northeast from 0-60mph combined with a relative humidity of 30%, so planning is not that intuitive but here we go again.

This March there are many things to places to go. Being in SoCal or Hawaii flying weather is all year but there is a season so find out what you want to do and do it. The 1997 Hawaii Challenge has three festivals, yes count them three. What a place to go and fly or just go and relax. Starting with March 1st and 2nd at Queen Kapiolani Park, next to Diamond Head near sunny, relaxing sandy beaches of Waikiki starts the fun.

Following the Challenge, on March 15th the Oahu Festival will grace Kapiolani Park with the Honolulu Kite Festival on March 16th. So far more than 70 members of the Japan Kite Association are planning to come how about you? For more information contact Robert Locra at (808)735-9059. Robert promises snow will not be a problem.

Saturn Cycling Tour will be held in San Diego on March 22 at the Bonita Cove of Mission Bay. Saturn (the car company) and GMAC (the money company) as well as the Radisson Hotel (the room company) are the major sponsors with many more secondary sponsors. Several hundred cyclists and many more spectators show up at these yearly events. The proceeds go to the American Cancer Society so this tends to have a good turnout and good entertainment for the spectators. Our kites are part of the entertainment and provide a sense of festivity so please come if you can and help spread your knowledge about kiting with many different types of people. Last year when the San Diego Kite Club was also a sponsor we had a great time. The coordinator for all this is that man from Devore - Mark Brownton and can be reached at (908)880-0015 or [ailto:browntonmark@msn.com](mailto:ailto:browntonmark@msn.com).

On the far eastern edge of our region on the Colorado River that fun AVI KITE FEST will be off and running March 21, 22, 23. This is hard to describe and you really have to go to understand but if you want fun, good kiting relationships and not be square go there. Contact Kathy Plummer at 1-800-752-0239 or (520)565-2116. Kathy still does not have email going but maybe we can help her to see the light.

By now you should have seen the A.K.A. announcement about using email for various functions. We in the Region have been doing this and are slowly ramping up. This announcement adds another good reason besides all the others. While you are on the Internet, two new and very interesting sites from Japan highlight the Kite Museum in Japan. These are 1) <http://www.sainet.or.jp/~kaoru/kites/taimeken.html> and the second is <http://www.sainet.or.jp/~kaoru/bigkite.html>. There are beautiful photos of huge Japanese kites with a presentation that gives a

different sense of what they are all about.

Speaking of Websites, the San Diego Kite Club (SDKC) has a home page at <http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Field/5841> so please stop by and take a look. Links to some major kiting sites are included - e.g. A.K.A., KFS, Gina's Fighter Kite Site. The SDKC email address is [sdkc@geocities.com](mailto:sdkc@geocities.com) if you just feel like sending email or getting more information about what is happening.

If you are not online yet or don't ever plan to you; you can use the SDKC HOTLINE at (619)685-2885 to hear the latest information or leave a request for more information about SDKC and related kiting activities. The SDKC has monthly general meetings on the third Saturday of the month at Mission Bay Park, Tecolote Shores. The Board of Directors meets about 10am prior to the main meeting with all members invited to participate.

Not ones to rest on last years laurels, that dynamic duo of Larry Busch ([lbush14668@aol.com](mailto:lbush14668@aol.com)) and Neil Tuthill (no email yet but can be reached at (310)696-5266) have rested during the winter and are pumped up for the Aire Affair Kite Production Competitions for 1997. The Flight Schedule includes March 8th and 9th at Belmont Shores, Long Beach, CA. For April on the 26th the Fiesta Island Competition in San Diego, CA. May has a bash set for May 31st and June 1st at Belmont Shores, Long Beach, CA. September, moving north to Ventura on the 13th and 14th a fine competition should rock the shores of Ventura's beaches.

For the competitive fliers in Precision flown standard style there are 7 different classes, Ballet has 9 classes and Specialty only has 4 classes, for Families they have set new Family Entry Fees. If this were not enough those two wild guys have added a new Pro Class for 1997 and Super Series Champions Awards. To find out more about this and have information sent to you contact Neil at (310)696-5266 or by FAX (310)698-6217 By the way they GUARANTEE the TOUGHEST JUDGING for competitors.

As we start this new kiting year with many different goals may I suggest you place recruitment of new members for the AKA on your list. For those who share the same interests or are just starting out, a place to go for information, help and meeting new kiting friends is a real need. The AKA can be that place to go. You need to tell others about an organization that not only shares you interests but where you can help others. Touching the lives of stressed out, nearly burned out adults and developing interests of children toward kiting gives them a lifelong interest and enjoyment. By giving you receive much more in return.

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