



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

Wildwood 1997

Important Schedule Changes and a Five Day Format are Hallmarks of the AKA's 20th Anniversary Convention

by Jim M. Miller,
Convention Manager



Richard Dermer and the AKA Board of Directors implemented a number of suggestions from the membership as they forged a significantly new format for our 20th Annual Convention to be held October 14-18th on the beach at Wildwood. Our first ever five day

format will allow for a more relaxed and less intense schedule; responding to many members' requests no workshops will be scheduled in conflict with competitions. And what a workshop schedule we have! Workshop Coordinator Scott E. Spencer has combed the ranks of master kitebuilders and kitefliers to come up with a well rounded program of workshops that will include something for everyone. Well known names like Scott Skinner, Ron Gibian, Glen & Tanna Haynes, Martin Lester, Troy Gunn, Richard Gareau and Jose Sainz are just a sampling of this year's presenters.

The convention will kick off with an Early Bird party and reception hosted by the East Coast local AKA chapter clubs on Monday evening. Tuesday will have a very full schedule of workshops both morning and afternoon as well as some time for indoor free flying in the convention center. The traditional Pin Challenge and Opening Reception will be Tuesday evening, followed by the General Business Meeting.

Please note changes to the competition schedules (which will be held primarily in the afternoon): Sport Kite competition will have Novice and Intermediate on Wednesday, Experienced on Friday, and Masters and Open on Saturday. Kitemakers' competition will be on Wednesday and Thursday. Fighter Kite competition will be on Thursday, as will Buggy Competition, which has been moved from a pre-convention activity to a regular convention event. The Rokkaku battles will be held on Saturday. And of course, throughout the convention there will be time for lots of exhibitions and demonstrations. Field Exhibition Coordinator Adam Grow has even planned a kite and banner parade along the boardwalk Saturday (maybe with a marching band!).

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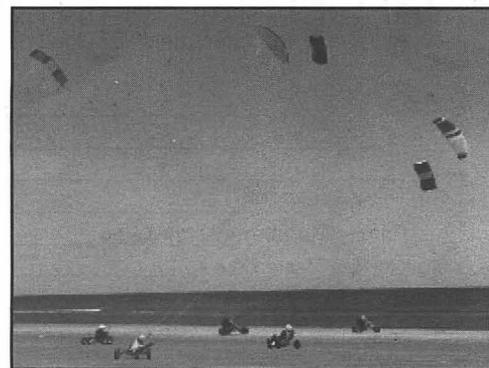


Wildwood International Kite Festival, May 21-26, filled the sky with big kites! The October Convention should be quite a show!

Megawood Sets New Marks

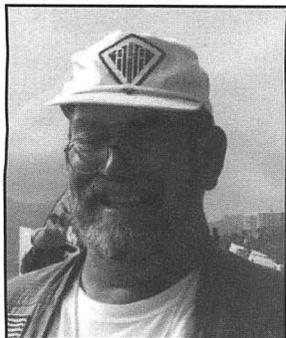
The Wildwood International Kite Festival was a smashing hit this year. Big kites were part of the theme as Peter Lynn, the Megabite and an incredible collection of Peter's kites joined a sky filled by Martin Lester and his flying body parts, giant Spinsocks and flowforms. A record of sorts was set on Saturday, when 38 monster kites (252 square foot or larger) were flown to establish a new world mark. This was the best Wildwood sky yet, and many of the well traveled guests claimed the event to be on an even par with any European festival. The festival is a mini convention of sorts, this year featuring numerous guest kitefliers from around the country, including honored guests Ron and Sandy Gibian.

Beginning on Wednesday, the buggy pilots rolled into town, and opened the beach season by giving Governor Christie Todd Whitman a buggy ride down the beach along with the three mayors of the Wildwoods. This marks the second



Wildwood Buggy Blast! photo by Fran Gramkowski

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The President's Page

Richard Dermer

What a great start to the 97 kiting season! Marti and I attended festivals on eight consecutive weekends in March and April, and had great weather for all of them! Events ranged from great big

ones, the Miami and Maryland Internationals, to several small-town flies with only a few hundred present. All were a blast, and every one made new kiting converts.

Now, some business: Membership is growing, but I'd like the pace speeded up. One of my goals upon becoming president was to build the AKA up to 6,000 members. At the present pace we'll get there in about three or four years—I'd like to do it in one or two. A bright spot: The AKA Web Site application is picking up new members at a steady pace. If the April intake were maintained for a year, it would mean 500 members.

One of your best sales pitches to a prospective member is to point out that membership gives them eligibility to attend the AKA National Convention, one of the country's premier gatherings of kite builders, competitive fliers, and kite activities. This year's convention, in Wildwood, New Jersey from Oct. 14-18, will be our 20th, and the best ever! We're going to do some shifting of the schedule from the last few years—leaving most mornings free for workshops and fun flying and the afternoons filled with a multi-ring circus with something going on all of the time. Sign up your best non-member friend, and bring them with you! It's a great vacation and party!

Your Board of Directors has selected Ocean Shores, Washington, as the site for our 1998 convention, but WE NEED THE MEMBERSHIP'S HELP in locating a 1999 site. We would like very much, after gatherings in California, New Jersey, and Washington, to come to the

Midwest in 1999. Somewhere in the middle of the country, where lots of members can attend and it's not cross-continent for anyone.

Convention sites are not easy to find, and usually must be booked years in advance. Several important criteria must be met, and meeting all criteria is frequently impossible. We want your help in finding a convention site that meets these standards, listed in order of importance:

1. Good flying site, with clean wind and lots of flying space.
2. Reasonably priced housing for 500-600 people. If at all possible, adjacent to flying fields or easily walkable. (Short shuttle buses are a possibility, but the shorter the better.)
3. Adequate meeting space indoors for workshops, meetings, banquets, auction, and fly market. Again, adjacent or easily walkable.
4. Accessible to as many members as possible as cheaply as possible. Air travel access and concentration of membership are big pluses.
5. Reasonably good weather expectations for September-October.
6. Interesting vacation spot—scenery, shopping, other activities, etc. Note that size of city is not a critical factor—there are advantages to both large and small cities. Think about it. Do you know a good AKA convention site? Maybe a city soccer complex, with a new hotel across the street. Or a university campus, with empty dorm rooms rentable in the fall. Any vast open space with hotels and a convention center nearby. TELL US ABOUT IT! We want to fill it up with kites in a couple of years.

Meanwhile, fill up your own open space with kites! Get out there and fly! We're our own best advertisement when we've got a kite up in the sky. How many total strangers come up to you and visit when you're flying? How many would have if you weren't? Ours is a particularly fine form of entertainment—healthy, light-hearted, relatively inexpensive, and addictive. When those folks come up to chat, they're nibbling. Set the hook. Let them fly your kite. Tell them about your local club, and the AKA. Invite them to join. Offer to send in their membership application for them. There, you've got them! And our organization has grown, thanks to you.

Keep up the good work. Richard



Membership Application

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My primary interest is: all kinds of kites single line kites multi-line kites
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05/97 Kiting

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CONFESSIONS OF AN ERRANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's Sunday morning at the Junction Kitemakers Retreat and I am in George Peters' class when it hits me that the kite before me (a kite that George will later say is the weirdest kite he has seen in a long time) is the first kite that I have made in well over two years! It is a sobering thought.

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy being your Executive Director. As I have said before, you are the greatest bunch of people to work with.

On the other hand, this job can be like the most selfish of lovers, demanding all of your attention and time...an endless string of urgencies trying to set back the important things...a harvest of "need it done NOW!!" projects that relegate the creative and fun projects to bits and scraps of work time or to personal time.

At that moment, I realized that somewhere in the 6,000 telephone calls that came in to or went out of AKA HQS during the past year, somewhere in the 2500 pieces of mail that left this office, I have lost my first love for kiting. The simple pleasures of making and flying a kite are lagging far behind the daily logistics of managing the business of the AKA.

The relaxed pace of Junction gives me time over the next three days to contemplate this revelation and during one of my early morning walks by the Llano River, I determine to do something about it. I begin to share the sad state of my kiting enjoyment with others and, before I leave on Wednesday, a new acquaintance has volunteered to be my kite building conscience.

I tell you all this not to cry on your shoulder, but to encourage you not to let it happen to you. Is kiting as much fun now as it used to be? If your honest answer is no, then, like me, you have to ask yourself what has changed. Too much "involvement"? Too much politics? Too much competition? Not enough relaxation?

I feel a gentle breeze tugging at me and I think I will take my favorite kite, find a quiet stretch of beach, and play with the wind. Perhaps, I'll see you there.

CHUCK ANDERSON WRITES US:

"I have a good idea that would be of interest to all in the kiting community. Let's keep an updated record of the many variations of the word "kite" or kite-related subjects that appear on the license plates of vehicles belonging to our fellow kite people!

With such a list appearing regularly in our AKA newsletter, we could show how creative people have been in getting kite-related words on their license plates. People could see what kite-related words have already been taken for licenses in their own states. For example, I wanted a word on my license plate that clearly conveyed my love of kites and kiting and, yet, I couldn't duplicate anyone else's plate, so I ended up choosing "KYGHTS".

To be eligible to get on the list in the AKA newsletter, all a person would have to do would be to send in a photograph of their license plate and a short explanation of the word's meaning if required. We



Executive Director Mel Hickman

could have another list with suggestions for other kite-related words (suitable for license plates) that people could choose from to express their love of kiting."

XD'S NOTE:

How about it, guys and gals? Start sending in those photos and suggestions for license plates. If we get enough photos, we will do a collage of pictures for KITING. We can probably even come up with an award for the most unusual license plate and the the most unusual suggestion for a license plate. To be legal, the suggestion must have no more than eight letters, spaces, and/or numbers, i.e. KYTSRGR8.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FLY....

Richard Hunt of the U.K. is looking for people who are interested in making fully functional scale model hot air balloons and has had some very interesting successes and some efforts that went out in a real blaze of glory. If you have ever tried any of this or are interested, give AKA HQS a call.

TUMBLING TEDDY BEARS

Does anyone out there know enough about parabearing to help write a primer for flying and floating fauna? If you have no idea what any of this means, stay tuned.

VICIOUS RUMOR CONTROL

You know the world thinks you are a sand collector when dry heave producing renditions of "Mr. Sandman" start appearing on your answering machine. Thanks to Elaine Gensler, a kitemaker from British Columbia, there are nasty rumors floating around that your XD collects sand from around the world. Well, I am here to say that those rumors are entirely, categorically, and undeniably true. I just wanted you to hear it here first so some nefarious AKA members can not use this bit of information to blackmail me.

Now that its is out in the open, if you happen to be flying at some exotic location and just happen to collect a sample of the sand and just happen to wonder what to do with it, well....

Editors Note:

I had an interesting discussion with Peter Lynn inside the Megabite in Wildwood last month, regarding the mixing of Italian sand with the sands of Wildwood. And then, Peter imagined all of the possible biological mysteries and possible new life forms generating inside, what with the Megabite having its own climate in there. Look out Peter, I see Mel heading your way with a vial.

AKA Officers, Staff & Executive Committee

For questions about your membership, phone or fax Executive Director Mel Hickman at (503)717-0627, or write to AKA Headquarters.
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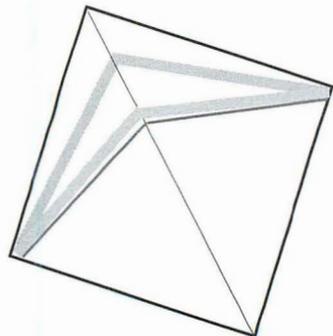
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1997 Wildwood (continued)

Naturally, wind and weather conditions can necessitate changes and adjustments in all field events, so it is important to check with event coordinators at the convention for final updates.

The crowd pleasing Mass Ascensions will be back with a completely new set of pins designed by Coordinator Al Sparling (and maybe even a new kite category). The Fly Market will kick off with an opening reception Thursday evening, followed by additional selling sessions Friday and Saturday morning. We have limited space for booths and a number are already spoken for, so if you intend to be a fly market vendor you had better call Coordinator Ron Lindner (314-376-6055) right away to reserve your booth!

The Great Kite Auction on Friday night is always one of the convention's most fun filled events, and Auction Chairperson Carolyn Moore plans to come up with some super donations that are sure to spark spirited bidding! Remember, a significant part of the

AKA's annual operating budget comes from convention proceeds, so we need YOUR donation. Not only will you be helping the AKA, but you get to take a tax deduction for the value of your donation as well.

An AKA convention is like no other kite festival you've attended. If you've never been, you need to come to our 20th Anniversary Convention! It's a true 3-ring circus devoted entirely to kiting, and this year's is very likely to set an all time attendance record. The beach at Wildwood is immense and perfect for kiteflying and bugging, and the motels (we need to use a number because they are small) range in price from very reasonable to downright cheap!

The AKA Board of Directors also made some adjustments to the registration fee schedule this year: Registration is available with or without daily lunches on the flying field, and a special one day only registration is available for folks who can't get away for the whole week. For those who don't want to participate in the convention, but want to come as spectators, guest banquet tickets are available at registration; \$25 for the Auction Dinner and

\$30 for the Awards Banquet. (Banquet tickets are limited and must be purchased by Thursday). Guest Fly Market tickets are \$3.

See the blue registration form bound in this issue for all the dope on convention travel and accommodations. Note that you can save money on registration fees by registering early. It also might be a good idea to order your convention merchandise when you fill out your registration form – at Wildwood '94 we sold completely out of a lot of stuff, and some folks were disappointed. Don't worry, if you don't like the way it looks (or fits), your money will be cheerfully refunded. And, speaking about refunds, a word on the AKA's convention refund policy: Any registration can be canceled up to September 30th with full refund other than a \$10 processing charge. Cancellations after September 30th are considered emergency cancellations, and are handled on a case by case basis by the Convention Manager.

The AKA's 20th Annual is shaping up to be one to remember – be there!

Welcome Back to Wildwood!

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52/night

July / August 1997

Megawood (continued)

year the Governor has kicked off the New Jersey tourist season at the event. Buggys rolled free over the beaches through Friday, and on the weekend enthusiasts put on a show and gave tandem rides to the public.

The 12th Annual East Coast Stunt Kite Championships returned to past high water marks with 180 competitors in the sport kite competition, equal to participation levels of five years ago. The sport kite competition went off without a hitch, as the experienced Eastern League team of judges and staff did an outstanding job. Outstanding performances were turned in by Captain Eddy's and Pair of Pairs as Ohio continues to become the hotbed for teams. And Team CHOWDA from Rhode Island was the first winner of the new Wildwood Cup.

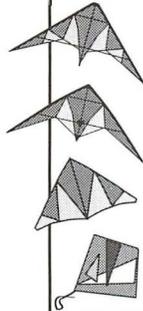
The event culminated on Memorial Day Monday with the Wildwood World Indoor competition. For the third year straight, Curtiss Mitchell stunned the competition with an outstanding performance taking top honors. Jeff Howard of Oklahoma conducted an indoor sport kite workshop that was well received.

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New Schedule for Sport Kiting at Convention

The AKA Grand Nationals' sport kite competition will have a new schedule this year. Events will be as follows:

Wednesday:	Novice and Intermediate classes
Friday:	Experienced classes
Saturday:	Masters and Open classes

The competition is by invitation only through the AKA Conference Ranking system. If you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact your conference commissioner or check the AKA's web site at <http://www.aka.kite.org/>. Precision compulsories and a detailed schedule will be issued with the competition invitations in August.

AKA Sport Kite Commissioners

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

Northwest

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50201 NW Strohmayer Rd
Forest Grove, OR 97116
503-357-7557

Midwest

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Black River, MI 48721
517-724-6157

Northeast

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203-531-1084

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408-733-5483

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316-744-2814

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703-765-5668

Get ready for the AUCTION!

The 1997 Great Kite Auction, to be held during our 20th Annual Convention in Wildwood promises to be the greatest sale of kites in history! A major source of funding for our organization, this once-a-year gala offers attendees a chance to buy cheap kites, kite gear and literature, historical kites, and one-of-a-kind collectors kites—many of them legitimate works of art. Buyers may examine items carefully during the "silent" auction, haggle for bargains at the "cash and carry", and get into the fray during the loud auction.

Members, we need your donations! Everything helps—the AKA is dependent upon auction income to balance the books. We need your donation! Buyers, start saving up! This is your one chance of the year to add that really special kite to your collection!

For more information, contact our incredibly hard working auction chairwoman:

Carolyn Moore
33525 W. 143rd. St.
Gardner, Kansas 66030
(913) 894-5483

Ocean City, Maryland September 17th - 21st

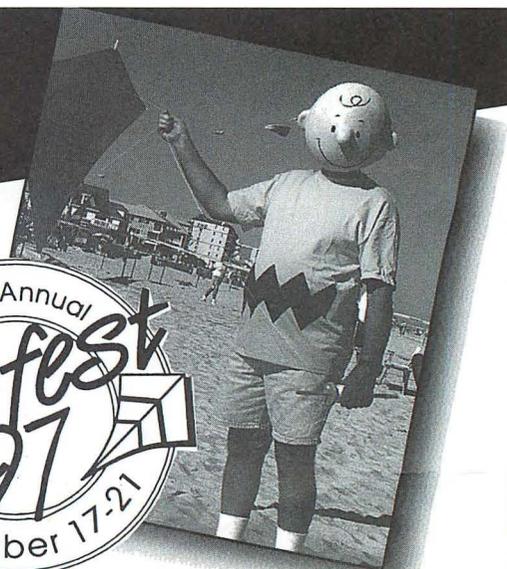
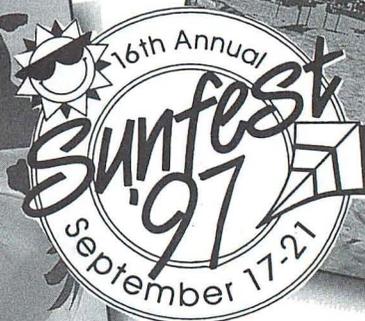
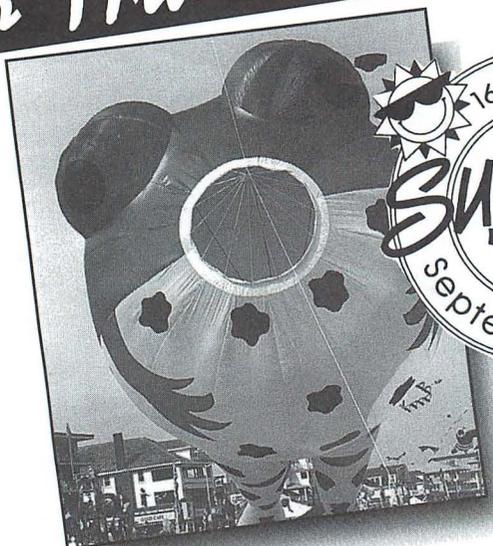
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- Sun. - Rattiest Kite

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Theme**

**Most Craziest
Night Flies**

People's Choice Voting

Sat. - Eastern Shore BBQ Dinner

Sun. - Great Kite Auction

Secret AKA Experiments Uncovered

In a desperate bid to increase membership, the American Kite Association has been experimenting with cloning. Deep underground, beneath the quiet facade of the Kite Museum in Washington exists a laboratory that has finally perfected human cloning. First there was the Randy experiments, then came the Scotts. Close, but not quite perfect. Nine years ago, AKA scientists, hit the jackpot with the Jesse clones. A pair so close to identical they had to be raised on separate coasts to avoid wholesale panic. AKA directors deny any involvement, but here are the facts, you be the judge.

Both kitefliers have the same first name of Jesse. To differentiate between the the two, first they were given numbers, but it was decided that they needed last names to fit into society. Thus Jesse Kapsten and Jesse Lawrence were born. Each clone was sent to live with a kite flying family, unit 1 to the Kapstens on the East Coast, Unit 2 to the Lawrence family on the West. The fathers both are avid kites and it is suspected that they are in the pay of AKA Scientists. Each of the Jesses have been sent to some of the finest schools in the country. One to The Children's Creative and Performing Arts Academy in Claremont CA, the other to The Phonix School in Mass. It is not known where the genetic material came from to give these "boys" their better than average IQ.

Each clone competes on their respective coastal kiting circuits. Each one competed early this season in Dual Line Ballet. Each one had a dismal showing. The next test these clones were given was Quad-line ballet. Here each of the "boys" rose to the occasion and trounced the other competitors while flying Specialized Revolution 1.5s. There are many more examples of clone behavior that can be listed here. For further information, please call up the Website: ImaKiteclone.com

Perhaps the AKA will be forced to admit it's role in cloning if both boys are present at the Convention this year at Wildwood. There it will be decided if competing against these "super kites" is possible or if special clone rules will have to be developed.

All information was researched from the current issue of "SKYLINES", the official newsletter of the San Diego Kite Club, April 1997 and ongoing articles in "Flypaper" the newsletter of Kites Over New England.

Ralph J. Reed III (Kites Over New England)

Dear Kite Fans:

My wife is a student at Texas Womens University in Houston, TX and studying to become an occupational therapist. She is working on her Master's thesis, the subject matter is the therapeutic value of kite flying. She will basically take rehabilitation techniques currently used for people with shoulder injuries or disabilities and try to mimic those movements while flying kites.

Being that my wife is a student, we do not have a great deal of money to fund this project. I was wondering if you could forward this note to your list of kite builders and distributors that may be willing to donate some product for her research.

Those companies donating will receive a copy of her research findings. To my knowledge this may be the first study of its kind. For further information, please e-mail to Lori Andrade at MDAJR111@msn.com.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Michael Andrade

Sounds interesting, best of luck!

Dear Kiting,

Today's mail included the March-April issue of Kiting. Since it is much too muddy to fly today, I grabbed a cold beverage and sat down to read.

First the photo of smiling Jeff Little on the front cover caught my attention. Jeff's enthusiasm for kiting shines through in this shot. Many thanks to Richard Dermer for bringing us Jeff's story.

As I worked my way through the pages I found the story "Ghost Kites In The Sky" by Nap Rowland. Nap's recounting of an ill-fated night flight had me laughing like a loon. At the end, I could see the sprinkler heads popping up and further aggravating Officer Harry.

Now I am done laughing it is time to get my checkbook. Enclosed you will find my membership renewal application and payment. Keep up the good work.

Kevin Reynolds
Canandaigua, NY

Thanks for taking the time to let us know!

Variable Winds Aloft Letters to the AKA

Dear Sir,

I am a member of the American Kitefliers Association and would like to submit an article for publication in the next issue of Kiting magazine. It details the design, construction, and maiden flight of a twenty foot bol kite built by two amateur fliers in Kansas City. The bol made its debut at the Prairie Winds Kite Festival in late April of this year and definitely attracted crowds. It was by far the largest kite at the three day festival and a big hit, as noted by articles in the local paper and on a newscast. Both during and after the festival, we received many comments and questions about the design and construction of the bol. The builder and myself both feel that an article in Kiting would be appropriate. A manuscript and picture is enclosed to consider for publication.

On another matter, the builder of the bol and myself have often admired former AKA President Peter Dolphin's unique kite collection. In particular, his Autumn Sun box kite was spectacular. We have had little luck finding the special type of fittings which would be used to assemble a circular kite such as Pete's. Is there any way to get more information on where Pete got his fittings? Any information you could provide (or forward) would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Allan Gilson

Thank you for your article and photo which follows on page 10. Kiting is in many ways dependent on the generosity and knowledge of the AKA members. Your sharing helps to make a more interesting publication. Perhaps Pete will share with you where he got those fittings, as well, but rumor has it that he smuggled those parts into the states.

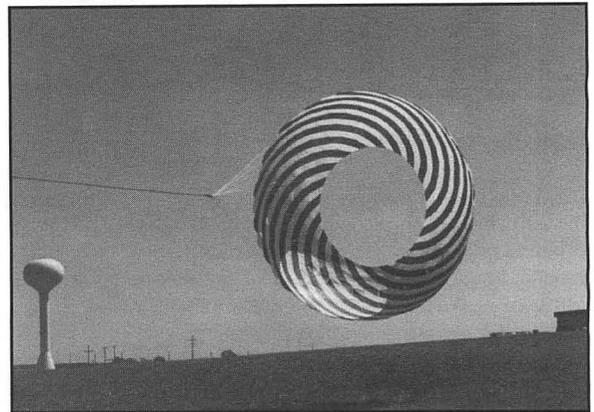
Editors Note: Letters, photos and articles to Kiting are all appreciated, and we print what we can. Please plan one month ahead of publication dates when submitting articles. We are also interested in your kite photos. Help us make Kiting more exciting. Send a photo and if we use it, receive an AKA Kiting Contributor Patch.

“Look at it go!”

Large Bol Kite Draws Crowds at Prairie Winds Kite Festival

by Allan Gilson

One of the many wonderful sights at this year’s Prairie Winds Kite Festival in Kansas City was a very large bol kite designed and built by two area residents. The 20’ diameter blue and white swirled bol kite lumbered up and down in the breezes, drawing many spectators. Children had a great time lying underneath the side of the bol as it bounced up and down on the ground, gently covering them with fabric.



Open Prairie Boling

The design was requested by local kite flyer and collector, Don Larkie, in late 1996. Having seen large bol kites in several magazines, Don decided that it would be an excellent addition to his collection, and a good crowd pleaser. Don discussed his idea with Bill Timmerman, a veteran kite builder and flyer. They made an estimate on fabric quantity and ordered approximately 60 yards of Spinnaker sail cloth with which to construct the bol. After the purchase of the fabric, however, the complexity of the design became apparent. Bill enlisted the assistance of Allan Gilson, a mechanical engineer and novice dual-line flyer, to help with the design and layout. Following several months of nightly discussions with Bill, as well as three aborted designs, Allan developed basic dimensions and piece quantities for a bowl measuring 20 feet on the outside diameter and 10 feet on the inside diameter. Allan used AutoCAD drafting software to determine the dimensions of each of the 440 pieces required. Vents were sized and placed on the kite based on other common bol designs. The dimensions and quantities were selected to maximize the use of the purchased fabric, allow for flexibility in the graphic design on the kite, and maximize the size of the kite.

Bill started fabrication shortly after, with the general goal to complete the kite in time for the 1997 Prairie Winds Kite Festival. Bill spent about 22 hours laying out the color and geometry for the swirl pattern and creating laminated cardboard templates for cutting each piece. Another 24 hours were spent cutting and sorting each of the 440 pieces. As the cutting progressed, Bill’s basement workroom became flooded with kite pieces.

Once cutting was completed, the sewing began. The kite was designed with 40 panels, each consisting of 11 pieces. Each panel initially took around three hours to complete. Sewing the panels together lasted for about a day and the kite was ready for a bridle. By then, the kite took up nearly the entire workroom. Fifty feet of 200 lb. Spectra lines were cut and tied onto each of the 40 bridle points of the kite. They were gathered together on a European made aluminum swivel rated at 1600 lbs.

After months of discussions, frustrations, and the approximately 124 hours of fabrication and assembly, the kite was ready for its debut. About 60 feet of braided rope tied to a tree served as the anchor point for the first spectacular inflation. The breeze was around 6 mph, and, with a little help, the kite popped into life. The kite flew close to the ground for most of the time, though with good 10 mph gusts, it would rise into the air nearly 60 feet. “What a Glorious Thing...Look at her go!” exclaimed Bill, as the kite floated in the air. It was a beautiful sight to see. Even as the kite flew for the first time, Bill and Allen were already discussing how the next kite would be built—design changes, new patterns, etc. Who knows what they might come up with for the next year’s Prairie Wind Festival?



HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING the premier source of kite news? *Kite Lines* is the exciting, colorful, authoritative journal of the international kite community. It’s packed with plans, techniques, personalities, events, reviews (of 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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Edeiken Award Nominations

The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award is, quite simply, the highest recognition given to a member by the American Kitefliers Association. Nominations are now being accepted for the 1997 award. Steve Edeiken was one of the best loved, most respected, and most active members of the AKA. He was killed in a tragic accident on September 24, 1983. The Association established the Steve Edeiken Memorial Award in his honor by resolution on October 4, 1984.

Criteria:

The Kiteflier of the Year will be a person who will have shown friendly, loving, fair, even-handed concern for: People in general, but kitefliers in particular. Kiteflying in general, but for craftsmanship and technical developments in particular. Communication in general, but for leading and participating in kite events in particular. It is the opinion of the AKA that these criteria best exemplify the character of Steve Edeiken.

Nomination Process:

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

The following information should accompany each nomination:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Selection

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

Submission

All nominations must be received by the Chair of the Selection Committee by August 26, 1997. It is understood that it is not necessary to present this award each year if the selection committee feels there is no qualified candidate. There is no prohibition on resubmission of a candidate from a previous year.

Send nominations to:

Steve Edeiken Memorial Award
c/o Peter Dolphin, 200 W. Maple Avenue, Merchantville, NJ 08109
609-488-7084, 609-488-7029fax

Past recipients
1996 Kay Buesing
1995 Roger Chewning
1994 David Gomberg
1993 Margo & Bevan Brown
1992 Bill Lockhart & Betty Street
1991 Charlie Sotich
1990 Leland Toy
1989 Tom Sisson
1988 Jack VanGilder
1987 Tom Casselman
1986 Olan Turner
1985 David Checkley
1984 Alfred Chang

Enjoy A Week of Kites



Aug. 18-24, 1997

Monday, August 18, 1997
**WHAT A WAY TO START
THE WEEK!**

Tuesday, August 19, 1997
TERRIFIC TUESDAY

Wednesday, August 20, 1997
SENIOR & CHILDREN'S DAY

Thursday, August 21, 1997
HANDCRAFTED KITE DAY

Friday, August 22, 1997
**STUNT KITES &
LIGHTED NIGHT FLY**

Saturday, August 23, 1997
RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Sunday, August 24, 1997
FESTIVAL OF KITES



International Opportunity - Invitation to Berlin Festival

First place master winners of the Handcrafted Comprehensive Single Line Competition will have a chance to win an all expense paid trip to the International Kite Festival of Berlin, September 1997.

For more info:

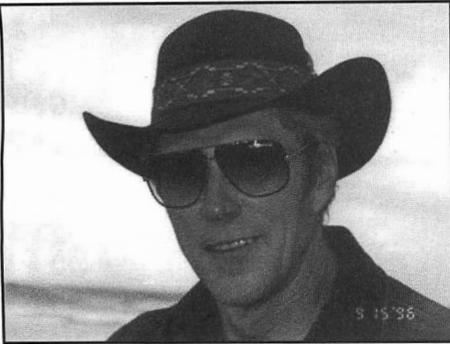
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About the Author

Daniel Schmitz grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the early boyhood home of Wilbur and Orville Wright. His first airplane at age 6 consisted of feathers stuck into the edge of a cardboard strip. Oldtimers regaled him with stories of flying with "Hang-onto" airplanes. Destiny was set that he would be a '60's pioneer of the Rogallo Wing hang glider movement, narrowly escaping, on several occasions, the high death rate encountered as design and techniques were developing.

Early airplane and kite building hobbies were followed by model design and building at Collins Aero Research Lab under the guidance of a renown WWII German Aircraft Engineer on delta wings and delta-like, flying boats.

Later years were filled with work on the major space endeavors, Mercury, Gemini, and Appollo. He capped his career in 1986 as Chief Mechanical Engineer on the Flight Control System Test Set for the new Dutch Fokker 100 passenger airliner.

He retired to Oregon where he discovered kiting, though he has been battling disabling bone marrow cancer for 6 years, which is increasingly limiting his ability to sew and build new kites.

Daniel has expressed his desire to share his sketches/designs with fellow "kiters" as long as he is able. Reader comments may be sent to Box 547 Rockaway Beach, OR 97136.

Reinventing the Wheel (Soccerball)

by: Daniel R Schmitz

As often happens with kite builders/designers, we get an idea for a kite we'd like to build but have no plans or data available to assist our effort. Many prefer to simply start building, testing, modifying, sometimes giving up without success. However, we are sometimes rewarded with a discovery that might never have been made had we been following someone else's plan. Because my life work has been in aerospace and aircraft R & D, I find paper, pencil and lots of erasers (my "Software") to be the easiest way to eliminate many of the problems / challenges encountered in coming up with the "Hardware" (kite).

Recently, a fellow "Kiter" asked if I remembered anything about geometry (from 40+ years ago) as he wanted to build a soccerball. The following presentation of what I am hoping are facts about the polygons needed to construct a soccerball resulted from that question

Let me confess that I have never built one. I figured it out on my \$12 scientific calculator though it is likely already in a book somewhere.

POLYGONS FOR MAKING SOCCER BALLS (& MORE !)

PENTAGONS
 BY DANIEL R SCHMITZ
 © 30 JAN '97
 REV 4-97

MAJOR RADIUS (R) = .850
 MINOR RADIUS (r) = .688
 CHORD = .500
 * (DESIRED SIZE)

AREA FOR ANY PENTAGON:
 MULTIPLY 2.378
 TIMES (.85 x (CHORD))²
 -EQUALS-
 2.378 R²

5 CHORDS (DL) CIRCUMSCRIBING A CIRCLE OF (R) RADIUS EQUALS A PENTAGON

DIMENSIONS FOR ANY SIZE PENTAGON:
 MULTIPLY ANY FIGURE TIMES CHORD (DS)

* SOCCERBALL SIZE :
 MULTIPLY SIZE X .20 OR DIVIDE BY 5
 EQUALS CHORD LENGTH OF HEX. & PENTAGON
 (ADD ALLOWANCE FOR 2 SEAM WIDTHS)

EXAMPLE: RADIUS FOR A CHORD 2' (DS) = 2' X .85 = 1.70' R

HOLE OPENING FOR CORE PENTAGON:
 MULTIPLY BALL SIZE X .10 = RADIUS OF PENTAGON HOLE
 MULTIPLY RADIUS X 1.176 = CHORD (ALL PENTAGONS)

TIE LOOPS

HEXAGONS / 6 POINTED STARS

CHORD = .866
 RADIUS = R
 DISTANCE FROM CENTER TO SIDE = .500

DIMENSIONS FOR ANY SIZE HEXAGON:
 MULTIPLY ANY FIGURE TIMES RADIUS R

AREA OF ANY HEX. EQUALS 2.598 R²
 AREA OF ANY STAR EQUALS 1.734 R²

SIX CHORDS "R" CIRCUMSCRIBING A CIRCLE OF R RADIUS EQUALS A HEXAGON OR STAR LAYOUT

SOCCERBALL CHORD-SEE PENTAGON NOTES



**AKA SPORT KITE
 RULES COMMITTEE**

Dave Arnold, Sherrie Arnold,
 Bob Childs, Eric Forsberg,
 David Gomberg, Troy Gunn,
 Chuck Sigal, Mike Simmons,
 Darrin Skinner, Bert Tanaka,
 and Sue Taft.

To make a soccerball requires 20 hexagon panels sewn to 12 pentagons, one of which has an opening cut-out which allows wind pressure to inflate the ball. The opposite rear pentagon may incorporate a velcro attached "rip cord" deflation panel. The cut out formula presented, is SIMPLY a "best guess", based upon a few limited observations. The size is a compromise between inflation time, pressure retention during wind velocity changes and aerodynamic bounces (leaps) off of the ground. The hole could be much larger or smaller, the major effect being on *time to inflate/deflate*, though larger openings can produce extra pressure (stress) on seams as the fabric "snaps" into place, climaxing very rapid inflation. Otherwise, internal pressure ranges up to 1 lb/sq ft with a peak wind of 20 mph, regardless of hole size or ball size. Tension on the seams, by my way of figuring, is proportional to diameter and at 20 mph would be 1.25 lbs / lineal foot for a 5' ball, 2.5 for 10', and 5 lbs/ft for a 20' ball. Internal pressure increases by the square of the wind speed. The difference between 1 and 4 mph is 16 times. It becomes apparent that there will be a sharp drop-off between "flying" and collapsing as the wind

falls to lower velocities.

Bridling lines can be surprisingly light because a sphere has low wind resistance (drag coefficient). Keep the following example in mind. A parachute (hemisphere) used backwards, as is done with the cups on a spinning wind meter, can have as little as 1/4 the amount of drag that would be generated when the opening faces the wind. A sphere will be in a 1/3 to 1/2 drag coefficient range. Partial parachute line hangers like rings, spinners, and bols can generate up to 3 times the drag of a comparable diameter ball. Simplified calculations show the drag on a 10' diameter ball would be 37 lbs at 10 mph and 148 lbs at 20. Five bridle lines attached to the corners of the open core pentagon could be as little as 1/5 the anticipated load, but should be at least double to account for losses from line frays and knot inefficiencies. The inherent safe nature of a low pressure ball would seem to make a need for large safety margins optional but see the following caution.

The appearance of a 30' diameter soccer ball

on our beach recently, has brought to mind a new concern for safety. Children love to play under low pressure soccer balls. This respectable giant is much more than a toy. It contains nearly 15,000 cubic feet of air weighing over 1100 lbs. The ball rolling in the wind on its tether, at 1 mph, has a virtually unstoppable 1670 foot pounds of energy. The twisting bridle lines should be given great respect, especially to keep the neck of a child from becoming entangled.

I trust that this covers everything a soccer ball designer needs to know.



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Kitevents

July

3-6
Freedom of the Press Kite Fly and NCKC member meeting
Ron Barron 707-875-3657

4
Fourth of July Fun Fly
Aronson Park, Lakeville, MN
Air Traffic 612-631-3150

WOW 4th of July Fly
Flower Hill Elementary School, Gaithersburg, MD
Mike VanMeers 301-948-0559

5
Summer Winds Kite Festival
Norman, OK Brenda Wheelock 405-360-0280

5-6
North Coast Challenge
Lincoln City, OR David Gomberg 503-996-3083

11-13
Westport Sport Kite Championships
Robin Haas 206-670-3693

Summer Buggy Blitz
Washaway Beach, Grayland, WA
NWBPA 425-788-6355

12
19th Annual Wright Kite Festival
Wright Brothers National Memorial
Kill Devil Hills, NC Kitty Hawk Kites 800-334-4777

Adrian's Night Fly
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Adrian Conn 519-948-8819

12-13
Newport Kite Festival
Newport Sport Kite Championships
Newport, RI 401-846-3262

On The Edge Sport Kite Championship
Ajax, Ontario, Canada
Michael Lin 905-276-1891

Heritage Days Celebration of Kites
HRA Fields in Hull - Nantasket Beach
Sea Side Kites 617-925-3277

13
Wheels, Wings & Water
Whitney Park, St. Cloud, MN
JM Nelson 320-251-4445

Dave DeBolt Memorial Fun Fly
Parker City, IN Mike Bragg 317-453-2977

Jetty Island Days Kite Festival
Jetty Island, Everett, WA 206-339-9334

18-20
North Coast Stunt Kite Games
Maumee Bay State Park (near) Toledo, OH
BSAF Hotline 419-535-WIND

Wings Over Angel Fire
Angel Fire, Texas? 800-446-8117

19-20
Byron Good Neighbor Days Ice Cream Social & Kite Fly, Byron, MN
Kel Krosschell 507-252-8842

Reggae Festival
Linganore Winery, Jim Cosca 301-292-4849

20
Fun Fly on Kite Hill
Magnuson Park, Seattle

25-26
Swiss Days - Drachenausstieg / kitefly
Berne Indiana, Don Teeter 219-589-3815

25-27
Sunflower State Games
Lawrence, KS 913-8894-5483

Balloon Fest & Kite Fly
Monroe, WI
Wisconsin Kites Kite Club 414-329-9825

26
Swiss Days
Berne, IN, Don Teeter 589-3815

26-27
Berkeley Kite Festival
Cesar Chavez (Marina Waterfront) Park
(510) 235-5483

27
Monroe Balloon Festival
Monroe, WI Wisconsin Kites 414-281-3704

August

2
3rd Annual Lake Erie Islands Kite Festival
Put-In-Bay, OH Robyne Gardner 419-734-5880

2-3
1st NW Kite Club's Super Fun Fly
Ocean City, WA Rob Ford 206-572-8761

3
National Night Out Celebration
Manteca, CA Derrol Hammer 209-835-6478

9
Flying Colors Kite Festival
St. Louis Park, MN 612-866-9055

9-10
Michigan Sport Kite Classic
Lavonia, MI
Joe Wright 810-960-0631

10
SCI-FI Fun Fly (Hot Dog Feed!)
Casey State Park, Coupeville, WA
206-339-9334

Birthday Fly, Harkness State Park
Connectikites 203-659-8747

Fun Fly on Kite Hill
Magnuson Park, Seattle

15
49th Anniversary of Rogallo Wing Invention
Meet Francis Rogallo, Father of hang gliding
Kitty Hawk Kites 1-800-334-4777

16
Family Fly Day
HRA Fields in Hull - Nantasket Beach
Sea Side Kites - 617-925-3277

15-17
Night Fly & Meteor Shower Camp-Out
Maumee Bay State Park, Toledo, OH
Al Hargus 614-475-8468

16-17
Keystone Kites Summer Retreat
Ron & Sandy Gibian, presenters
Kevin Shannon 717-243-7913

17
Rochester Community Fly
Watson Park, Rochester, MN
Ron Melvin 507-287-2000

17-24
16th Annual Washington State Kite Festival
Long Beach, WA, 800-451-2542

23
Mexican Fiesta Fun Fly
Milwaukee, WI, Jeff Kataoka 414-277-9121

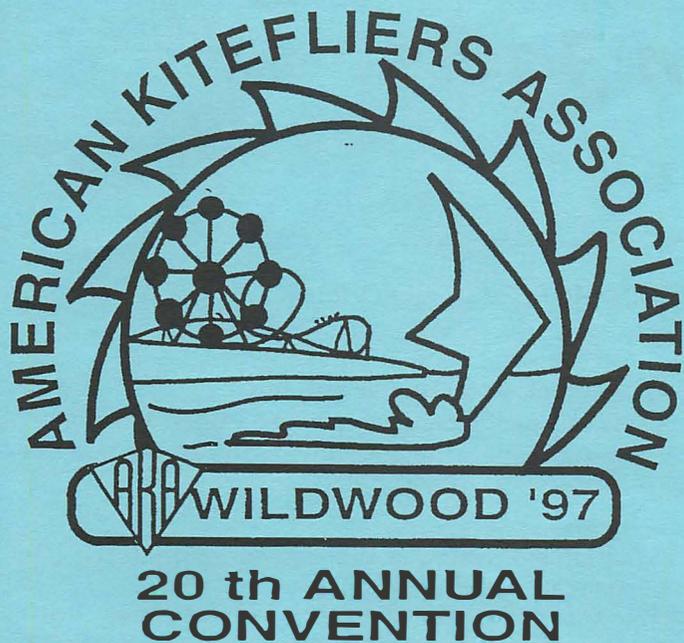
23-24
5th Annual Silverwings Kite Festival
Wichita, KS, Jerry Hershey 316-744-2814

New York Stunt Kite Championships
First Annual Brooklyn Country Fair
Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn
Edisons 203-531-1084

23-25
Portsmouth International Kite Festival
Southsea Common, Hampshire, UK
The Kite Society 01206 271489

29-September 1
2nd Annual NWBPA Labor Day Buggy Trip
Alvord Desert, Fields, OR
Morrie or Kelcie 206-788-6355

**To have your festival sanctioned
by the AKA, call 1-800-252-2550.**



**20th
Annual**

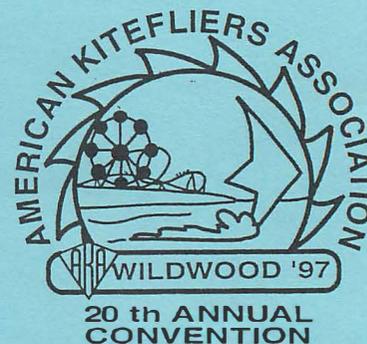
American Kitefliers Association

National Convention

**Grand National Kite Festival and Competition
1997 Annual Meeting • Kite Workshops
Fly Market • The Great Kite Auction**

Wildwood, New Jersey
October 14 - October 18, 1997

Convention Facts



DETACH AND SAVE THIS FACT SHEET BEFORE MAILING REGISTRATION FORM

Registration & Membership

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

Transportation

US Airways is the official airline of the convention and will offer special discounts (domestic travel only) to AKA members: dial (800) 334-8644 and mention Gold File #88660227. Get the special AKA member discount from Avis Rent-A-Car by calling (800) 331-1600; mention AWD #J946495.

Rio 800-960-8876

Lodging

Registration and Convention H.Q. will be at the Adventurer Motor Inn (609) 729-1200. Other convention motels are the: Rio (609) 522-1461, Oceanic (609) 522-6500, Day's Inn (609) 522-0331, and Newporter (609) 522-4911. All of the above are a short walk to the flying fields. Check first; some do not accept credit cards. When you call, mention you are with the AKA to get their special discount package.

Guest Tickets

At registration you may purchase extra banquet tickets for guests, (\$25 for Auction Dinner, \$30 for Awards Banquet), and guest Fly Market tickets. Guest banquet tickets are limited and must be purchased by Thursday.

Video Recording

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

Information

General Information & Registration Questions

Jim Miller

Phone (760) 770-0405

Fax (760) 770-0415

Fly Market Chair

Ron Lindner

Phone (314) 376-6055

Fax (314) 376-6055

Auction Chair

Carolyn Moore

Phone (913) 894-5483

Fax (913) 894-1071

Registration Form

Please fill out a separate form for each registrant. Photocopies are fine. **PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY** and sign at the bottom.

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Eve. Phone (____) _____

I plan to arrive in Wildwood on (date) 10/15/97

Note: If you have special needs for accessibility please contact the Convention Manager.

- This is my first AKA convention.
- I would like vegetarian meals.
- I plan to enter the kitemakers' competition.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

I am willing to help with:

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration | Sport Kite Comp.: | Kitemakers' Comp.: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auction | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever I am needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Boss | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Staff |

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Please **circle** the registration fee in the table to the right and write that fee in the blank at the top of the next column.

	If postmarked or faxed:		After 9/30:
	by Aug 23	by Sept 30	At the door only
One Day Registration no lunches, no banquets for: TUE WED THUR FRI SAT (circle one)	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00
Basic Registration no lunches, 2 banquets	\$95.00	\$116.00	\$130.00
Full Registration 4 lunches, 2 banquets	\$115.00	\$135.00	\$150.00

FEES & THINGS

REGISTRATION

Full Registration includes lunches Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday; banquets Friday & Saturday nights, one convention patch, and admission to workshops, the Fly Market, and all field activities and convention events.

Basic Registration is as above without lunches.

One Day Registration grants admission to convention events only on the day specified. It includes a convention patch, but no meals.

Registration Fee
(from below, left) _____

CONVENTION VIDEO

(sent to your home in December)
\$28.50 + \$1.50 shipping & handling

\$30.00 _____

CLOTHING, PINS & PATCHES

Short-sleeved T-Shirt

___ M ___ L ___ XL \$14.00 _____
___ XXL \$16.00 _____

Polo Shirt

___ M ___ L ___ XL \$24.00 _____
___ XXL \$26.00 _____

Sweatshirt

___ M ___ L ___ XL \$24.00 _____
___ XXL \$26.00 _____

Cloisonne Pin _____ \$5.00 _____

Additional Patch _____ \$4.00 _____

I will not be attending the convention.

Please send me the above on 10/23 and add shipping & handling of \$5.00 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT

To charge to your Visa / MasterCard:

Name _____

Card # _____

Expires _____

You may register by mail or fax. Faxed registrations **MUST** have Visa / Mastercard number.

Make checks payable to **AKA Convention**. Mail or fax this page only with your payment to:

AKA '97 Convention, Jim M. Miller, 43 Augusta Drive, Rancho Mirage CA 92270

Fax (760) 770-0415

Donor Form



THE GREAT KITE AUCTION

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

Donor and/or Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

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

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

Item Name _____	Estimated Value _____
Description _____	

30
Golden Gate Challenge VI
Ocean Beach CA John Gabby 916-635-3549

30-31
15th Annual USAF Museum Kite Festival
Dayton, OH Judith When 513-255-4704

September

5-7
Up Your Winds Kite Festival
Pacific Beach State Park
Pacific Beach, WA 360-276-8377

6-7
BSAF Eastern Wing Kite Thing
Sandusky, OH John Baum 419-625-3853

7
Fun Fly on Kite Hill
Magnuson Park, Seattle

13
Frank Mots Kite Festival
Veteran's Park, Milwaukee, WI
Jeff Kataoka 414-277-9121

Skydance
Park Point, Duluth, MN
Duluth C.V.B. 800-438-5884

Kitefest
Bernie King Pavilion on Nantasket Beach - Hull
Sea Side Beach - 617-925-3277

13 - 14
Daytona Beach International Kite Festival
Southeast Sport Kite Championships
Daytona Beach, FL 215-736-3715

3rd Annual Great Kite Club Challenge
Oklahoma City, OK Troy Gunn 817-691-8522

Aire Fly and Competition
310-696-5266

Mill Run Annual Fall Kite Festival
Hilliard, OH Tree Alexander 614-876-4573

14
SCI FI Fun Fly
Everett, WA 206-330-9334

Harkness Day Fly
Harkness State Park, CT 203-926-9995

17-21
16th Annual Sunfest Kite Festival
Ocean City, Maryland 410-289-7855

20
Anderson - Ivy Tech, Fun Fly
Anderson, IN Dewayne Sheppard 765-643-1253

20-21
Cleveland Kite Festival
Cleveland, OH Doug Mouat 216-221-8873

Washington State Sport Kite Championships
Ocean Shores, WA
Four Winds Kite Shop 206-339-9334

22-28
World Cup of Sport Kiting VIII
Long Beach, WA
Terry Yuncker 360-642-2229

27
Ivy Tech Fun Fly
Anderson, IN, Dewayne Sheppard 317-643-1253

Battle Creek Fun Fly
Maplewood, MN 612-866-9055

Chalet Debonne (Grape Jamboree)
OSEK 216-731-3639

27-28
LVKS Demonstrations & Kitebuilding
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square
610-865-0375

28
Uncle Wilbert's Carbo-Loading Cookout
& Nuclear Kite Fly
BASF Hotline 419-535-WIND

October

5
Club Fly
Janesville, WI
Wisconsin Kites Kite Club
Bob Rymaszewski 414-329-9825

11
Monroe Central Arts & Crafts Festival / kitefly
Parker City, IN, 765-643-1253

11-12
10th Annual Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition
First Flight Middle School, Kill Devil Hills, NC
Kitty Hawk Kites 1-800-334-4777

12
One Sky, One World Kite Fly for Peace
Contact your area kite club.

Connectikiter's Fall Fly
Norwalk, CT, 203-659-8747

14-19
20th Annual AKA National Convention
and the Grand Nationals
Wildwood, NJ
Jim Miller 500-447-5516
AKA 800-252-2550

25-26
10th Annual Carolina Kite Fest
Atlantic Beach, NC
Kites Unlimited 919-247-7011

Santa Cruz Kite Festival
Linda Betancourt 408-477-0414

November
7-9
South Padre Island Kite Festival
South Padre Island, TX
210-761-7484

8-9
9th Annual Kite Fest
New Orleans, LA

9
Turkey Fly
Savin Rock, West Haven, CT
516-433-7709

16
Hoosier Kite Society
Planning Meeting
Dewayne Sheppard 765-643-1253

Regularly Scheduled Club Activities / Flies

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
1st Sunday of the month fly, Louise Moore Park

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

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

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

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

San Diego Kite Club
3rd Sunday of the month
Tecolote Shores, East Mission Bay Drive
619-685-2885

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 information about your upcoming events to **Kiting!**

Wild Wildwood Show

Since we are going back to Wildwood again, the AKA and Richard Dermer asked me to get kites on the field flying kites. Now that is something different. So we are going to have a great big nonstop kite show, where everyone is invited on a central exhibition field, complete with sound and music, for the Wildest Wildwood ever!

The kite show will be planned every day from noon on that will feature as many kites at the convention as we can fit in. This includes all of the mass ascensions, and new distinctive kite flies, such as an AKA Red, White, & Blue Fly, a Dragon Fly, Field Boling Team, Roller Derby, Boxing Match, Kite Trains, Monster Mash, Flight of Champions, Over the Rainbow Fly, Banana Winds Fly, Kite Tale of Tails, Kite Arches, Ribbon Arches, It Really Does Fly, Sport Kite Teams, Individual and Team Rokaku Challenge, and a Grand Sport Kite Fly to only name a few! This will be a nonstop kite show! We are also inviting many renown kite makers and all kite clubs from across the country to put together a half hour program for a Featured Kite and Kite Club Fly. In addition, we are going to try to put the Aerial Kite Art Show into the air for the first time and see if they really do fly.

Now for the best part, this is more than just kite flying for fun. Several sponsors (and more are being added every day) have agreed to give out kite pins and promotional items to the participants on the field at each fly. Along with this, everyone flying a kite at each event fly will receive a ticket good for special prizes in a raffle to be held Friday night, the more times that you fly a kite the more tickets you will get!

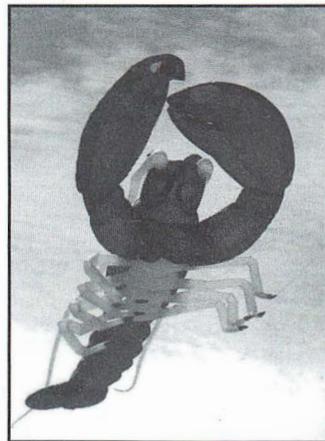
This is a kite flier's convention. It is the AKA's intention to get as many people to fly their kites as possible, so start now and plan what kites you want to pack for this years' AKA convention. Specifics on the various kite flies will be published in the pre-convention issue of Kiting. I promise the AKA's 20th in Wildwood is going to be fun!

Adam Grow,
Kite Exhibition Coordinator

BERCK SUR MER 1997

by Jon Burkhardt

Imagine spending two weekends and the time in between flying kites on a big, beautiful beach in France, and you begin to get the feeling of Berck sur Mer, site of one of the truly fine kite festivals of the world. Throw in wonderful accommodations and fabulous French breads, cheese, wines, salads, pastries, and chocolates and you're getting even more of the picture. How about some of the best kitemakers and kitefliers in the world on top of that?

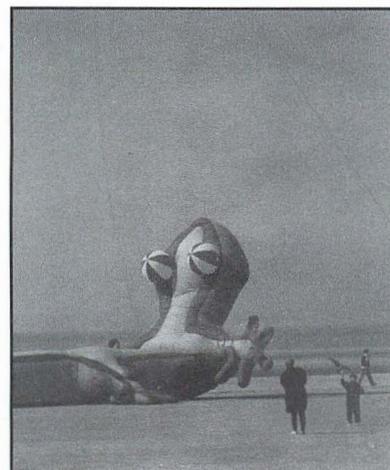


50' Blue Rolf Sturm Lobster
Photos by Jon Burkhardt

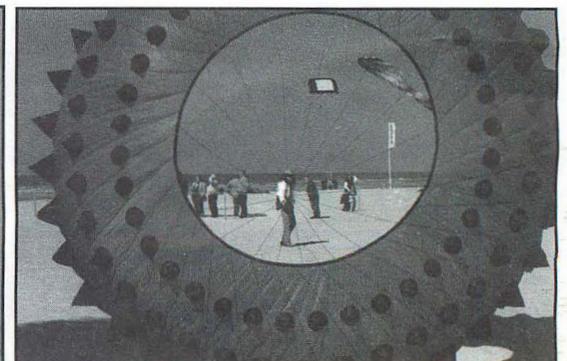
As you can see from the accompanying photos, our group had a marvelous time, flying, eating, drinking, carousing. Our tour was organized by Gomberg Kite Productions. Yanks on the beach in 1997 for the festival's 11th year included Jon & Karen Burkhardt, Pete Dolphin, John & Marzlie Freeman, David & Susan Gomberg, Adam Grow, Alice Hayden & Mark Virgilio, Glen & Tanna Haynes, Lindsay Johnson & Ronda Brewer, Ed & Gail Lindsay, Kevin Shannon, and Susan Thonstad. Dolphin and the Gomers are getting to be regulars at this event.

The Berck festival has wonderful sponsorship from the local tourism office, the regional power company, a big transportation company, a liquor company, and others. This gives the festival many added attractions, like the ability to host many fliers from different lands (the Indonesians were special guests this year) and one of the finest sound systems you ever heard. The hospitality extended to the fliers was really extraordinary. And do

they get spectators! On Easter Sunday, the crowd was reported to be 150,000 strong. You really had trouble moving in the throng if you left the beach.



A Tough Time in France!



The Gecko that ate the beach on left, and Karen Burkhardt wrestling with Madonna above.



Region

1

New England

Sarge Cleaves

Well, I missed the last issue... Yes, I knew it. I have been reminded of it several times. As time goes on, "stuff" will become apparent. But you do deserve to hear about "What is going on"...

So, Let's begin with the 2nd Annual KONE Regional Kite Festival and Competition, held April 20-21. Archie Stewart and the Club pulled off another great planning and organizing feat. The event would have been better than last year's had not Mother Nature intervened. When we arrived on Saturday morning the breakers were hitting the seawall with 30-to-50 foot splashes. As we got closer to the causeway and the beach it became apparent that we would probably not have a competition. The winds were howling (18K, gusts to 28K). The wind chill encouraged us to seek shelter. However, not to be undone, there was a "WEATHER PLAN" in place and we were able to complete all of the event on Sunday, following an outstanding Saturday night banquet.

This is a good case in point for all event organizers and participants. Newport "96" was faced with a hurricane, which toppled the "porta-johns" and rolled the dumpster. However, with some creative "let's try it" ideas the event was completed in one day. Let me add that there was incredible cooperation. The same thing happened at the KONE Regional. The major considerations were anticipated. Because of that, the event was saved. What can one say about good planning?

Next, I want to talk about Your Regional Director... What his job is (as I see it) and what you expect of him, and what he expects of you. I realize that this might be somewhat inflammatory, but I think we need to think about the direction KITING and KITEFLIERS are looking at in the next five years. Here are some of my thoughts: It occurs to me that when I go on a kite field, I see all of the people I know and, no-one I don't know. Events (both competition and festival) in the North East, while more plentiful, do not seem to draw the new flyers we are looking for to replace those who move on to other things. Dual-line flying seems to draw the younger folks. We should invest time reaching out to those people, and then invest more time to preach the gospel of "Fun Flying Them All!" A kite field will always be divided between dual-line and single-line flyers, but the flyers are united in our interests.

I have been too busy to enjoy the fellowship of the Connecticuters. I miss them. Dave Lombard

is an important person and we should all give him our support (heart surgery June 11). The "PHANTOM" is driving us all crazy! And I ain't him! And Ruth isn't either!

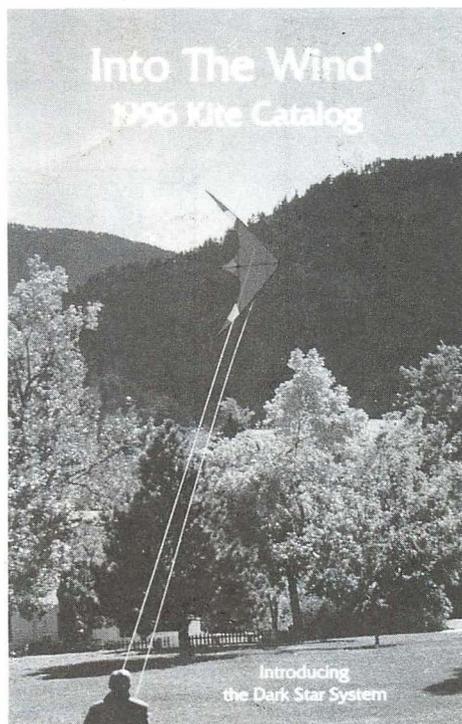
The director for the NORTHEAST cannot, in all good conscience, begin to deal with up-state New York, and we should petition for another "re-organization" to take the heat off my successor.

And, I cannot/will not run for another term in this office. One of you—or some of you—will decide that you are "THE ONE" and throw your hat in the ring for consideration. If you do ask for the job, and are not elected, the members make a choice: You don't win or lose. If you are elected you can expect to work your buns off. You don't have the luxury of writer's block, or personal problems, or that you "Have had it", "Are fed up", or "Need a break". Your desire to do the best job possible cannot be achieved because as a very good friend of mine observed: "organizing kitefliers is like herding cats". When I mentioned that comment to another member, his retort was "more like herding ants".

This job is EXCITING, REWARDING, SATISFYING! I have as much fun doing it as I could possibly have. Some of us have to work, work hard, so that the rest of you can enjoy "TAKO KICHI" (just for the fun of it). In spite of all the downs, the ups are worth it all and you are the best folks I have had the opportunity to deal with.

That's it for this one. I have a story to tell you about the Community Bank Kite Festival, Sonja Welch and her stomach, Deane Paulus and the tree and Ruth's kite, and a day which had a lousy start and a great ending!

PEACE TO ALL—



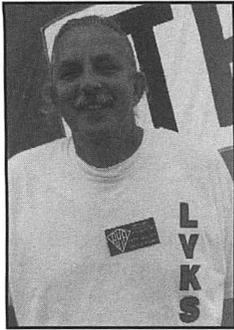
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Region

2

Northeast

Andy Gelinas

It is about the end of the early season here on the east coast. It has been quite a time. The past couple of months have brought really great opportunities to be involved in kiting either within your kite club or on a larger scale at many of the great festivals in Region II or nearby.

Region II people were heavily involved in the Smithsonian as competitors, judges and helpers. Then, the great MIKF/MASKC saw two Region II clubs, LVKS and SJKF working the fields, building kites for kids and general kiting helpers. Scott Spencer and Tony Reiser were honored as featured kite flyers and builders, showcased throughout the weekend. LVKS took the honors at the Banner Challenge. The next weekend saw LVKS rained out on Saturday but revived on Sunday for their 7th Annual Kite Day in the Park. Also, this same weekend was the Fly Away Classic 9 (Tony Esposito) in Belmar, NJ and the Bucks County Kite Day on Sunday in Langhorne, PA. All three festivals saw visitors from many other regions. Not to be left out, Fly Pittsburgh



Ed & Nancy Spencer, Double Winners of the "Faces Theme" Kite and Banner Challenge at the Maryland International Kite Festival!

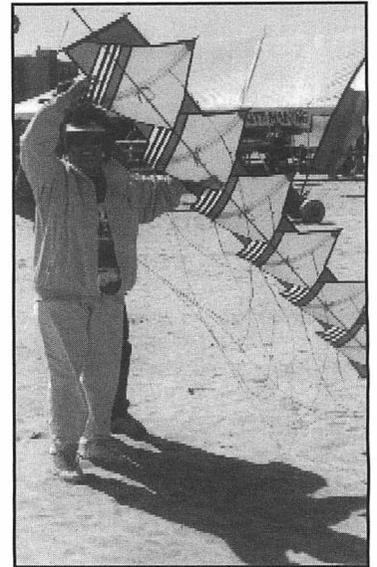
Kite Club had an indoor fly on Saturday (one way to beat the rain!).

Memorial Day Weekend, the end of the May is the largest festival in our region drawing flyers from around the world. Wildwood, NJ, host city for this event with it's enormous, deep beaches will also host the '97 AKA Convention in the fall.

This fly, the Wildwood International Kite Festival and East Coast Stunt Kite Championships started Friday and went through Monday. Truly a mega event with Peter Lynn and his Megabite, Martin Lester and his giant sets of legs and a new world record of thirty-eight 252 square foot or larger flow forms. Big, as was the excitement for many of us!

South Jersey Kite Flyers put on the barbecue Friday night (Great

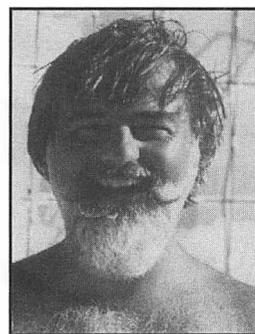
Food!) and Lehigh Valley did the kid kitebuilding Saturday and Sunday afternoons. LVKS was finally beaten at the banner challenge. Congratulations to club display winner Wings Over Washington! Paul Keeler won first place in Individual Rökkaku and Paul Dugard of WOW took second place. In Team Rökkaku, Paul Dugard piloted WOW to victory, while Paul Keeler with my two daughters, Karianne and Julie took second for LVKS. I would be remiss not to mention the presence and expertise of Ron and Sandy Gibian, special guests and banner challenge head judges. Thanks also to Jeff Howard who taught fliers to build a very nice dual line indoor delta at the 4th Annual Indoor Competition. This festival is the Region II showpiece. Try it, you'll like it!



Sandy Gibian and her shadow on the beach in Wildwood!

Coming up in the region: Keystone Kites (Kevin Shannon) have two workshops, June 25 "Working bamboo" and August 16 & 17, Ron and Sandy Gibian. South Jersey (Scott Spencer) will have a 16 square foot flow-form workshop on July 26 and a no-sew indoor stunt kite on August 23.

Let me know what you are up to. Keep the wind at your back and kiting on your calendar.



Region

3

MidAtlantic

Jon Burkhardt

Many kitefliers and kitemakers had a great time at the Maryland Kite Society's three-day kitemaking retreat in February in Laurel, Maryland. Pierre Fabre from France and Ray Bordelon from New Orleans were the special guest lecturers. Ray introduced two new kites at the retreat, one of which was an ultralight designed in the Maryland flag colors especially for the retreat. Forty-four attendees built Ray's "Illudium Q-36 Wind Modulator," and some even rushed out for test flights in the high winds late at night (not always taking into account the light wind designation, sometimes with disastrous results). Pierre's classes on kite design were inspirational for many attendees, and a number of students designed more kites over the weekend than they had designed in the previous several years. Some beautiful miniature

kites were created and a few full-size versions were begun. Kevin Shannon and Pete Rondeau also taught classes, and Tanna Haynes and Felix Cartagena gave special presentations. Wonderful food at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Kite Banquet got everyone in a good mood for the auction that followed, which had a large variety of special handmade items from Tanna Haynes, Wings Over Washington, Cliff and Joyce Quinn, Pierre Fabre, Ray Bordelon, Felix Cartagena, Tony Ferrel, Ron Gibian, Kevin Shannon, the South Jersey Kiteflyers, your RD, and many more. Those special items generated lots of interest and income.

Two weeks later, your RD and leading lady were lucky to be special guests at the Fort Warden Kitemakers Conference. Fort Warden is a really big event (almost three times as many attendees as the MKS retreat). We did two applique classes and tried to see as much as possible of the rest, but there's so much going on! This year, the organizers were blessed with a substantial contingent from Japan, and one evening's entertainment consisted of a Japanese tea ceremony followed by Kodo drummers. It was a truly memorable experience. A highlight of the Conference was an excellent AKA Kite Art Committee meeting where lots of good work was accomplished with positive inputs from persons with very different viewpoints. It's great to see that working out well. Getting reacquainted with old West Coast friends and making new ones is still the top feature of such events. Kitefliers are the best!

Read about what your Board of Directors has been doing. There have been some challenges and some well-measured responses. Questions, comments, and suggestions for improvements are also welcome. Good winds to all.

Region

5

GreatLakes

Robyne Gardner



In my last column, I published an email address as a contact for John Baum, founder of the Eastern Wing of the Black Swamp Air Force near Sandusky, OH. He has a new one, please make a note. John can be reached through his son David. at: davidb@lrbcg.com

I have used the new bulk email system once, and will continue to use it as an informal way of keeping "Netizans" updated on any last minute event information. I received positive feedback from quite a few of you. Pete Meek and Bruce Rahm - I'm looking forward to meeting face-to-face sometime.

Several Region 5-ers attended the Smithsonian Kite Festival in Washington, DC. in April. Bill Flynn and Mike Phifer of S.O.K.F. made the trip, as well as the Kear family of Poland, OH. Congratulations are in order for the Kear's, as they brought home several impressive honors. Young Brian Kear won a 1st overall in the 12-15 yr.old category with his sport kite. Mom Cheryl captured the Garber medal with her 18-kite rainbow train. Thanks to sister Susan's

Rokkaku entry, they also won an award for most points in one family. It is fitting and appropriate that the Kear's bring some of those wonderful trophies back home to their native OSEK territory. OSEK donated the Group Effort trophy given to a troop of Tiger Cubs at the event.

OSEK is busy planning festivities to celebrate the club's 20th Birthday this year. Listen to this: they had 45 people at their annual spring meeting in March. This was an INDOOR meeting, folks. Good to see so many people participating.

Michigan fliers are keeping quite busy, too. I don't have all the details, but heard good reports from several who attended the Kalamazoo Kitefest. A tip of the hat goes out to first time competitors Jim Imperi, for a 1st in Novice Precision, and Julie Siegel, for a 1st in Intermediate Precision. Julie and Jennifer Jumisko swapped places in IIB, with Jennifer taking home a 1st in that event. Bill Schumacher placed 3rd in IIB. The Mid-Michigan String Stretchers debuted their 90-kite club arch. Watch for it at other events this summer.

Several of us from Ohio kicked off the sport competition season at MASKC in Ocean City, Maryland at the end of April. New to the field this year is 3-person Team Higher Powered. Mike Donley, Phil Salzstein and Gina Ignazio garnered two 1st's in the Experienced team events. P.O.P's drove home from that weekend proudly clutching their 1st place in Masters team Precision and 2nd in Ballet. A big thank you goes out to Jim Gruver, for being there when Rob-N-Air needed you! Ken Nealey also captured a few early season points at the South Padre Kite Bash (Texas), placing 2nd in Master's Individual Precision.

May 3rd dawned wet, windy & wildly cold for the first ever Midwest Kite Swap Meet at Maumee Bay State Park. There was quite a good showing... weather and all things considered. There seems to be a group consensus to do this again next year, but with an indoor area in place as a back-up plan. Sunday the 4th was much dryer and a bit warmer, and a few good deals were made by those who persevered.

Once again, I'd like to remind you of the USAF Museum Kite Festival in Dayton on Labor Day weekend. It is shaping up to be the best in the festival's 15 year history. This year, the Museum is expanding it's hospitality, and giving special guided tours for the kitefliers on Friday evening. Also new to the schedule is a night fly for the same evening. New categories of competition being added this year are Masters and Exp. Quad Ballet, Young Adult Windsprints, Ind. Rok Battle, and a Co-operative class in the kitebuilding competition. Any sort of group - family, club, Scout troop, senior citizen Jazzercizers... you're all encouraged to get busy, make and enter your creations. Harry Gregory and Nancy Lockwood will again provide the backdrop for Club Central, and would like all area clubs to get some brochures ready for the booth. Even if someone from your club cannot attend, they are requesting that you send them some hand-outs or information on your club. A display of a national map showing all known kite clubs is planned. Dayton gets visitors from *everywhere*, and Club Central can point people in your direction.

I'm writing this the evening before we leave for Grand Haven and the Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships. As if this event weren't already exciting enough, word has it there will be TWO weddings taking place there during the event. I can't wait to give you a full report on this in the next issue. Until then, Keep UP!



Region

6

Midwest

Alan Sparling

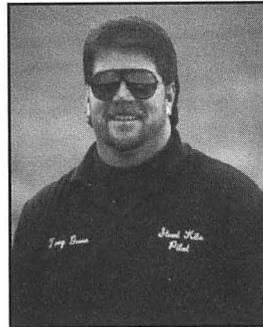
Spring is coming slowly to Region Six, but the kiting season is coming to life. A few weeks ago, a few Chicago area kilters went down to Montrose Harbor beach to lend a hand and a few kites to the Young American Outdoors TV show. The show highlights outdoor activities for children. Dave Zavell of Kite Harbor had worked with the producers of the show to arrange a segment on kite flying. Mark Hicks, Harry Larsen, Mike Lafever, Mauricio Araujo, Steve Ponders, John Krupka and Bob Zavell all contributed to the show by flying and talking about their favorite kites. The show has already been broadcast in at least California and Indiana, but is still in the process of being sold in other markets.

The first event of the spring for the Hoosier Kitefliers Society was the Ansel Toney Memorial Fly in Parker City, IN. With the winds around 20 mph and gusting higher, many of the winter projects stayed in the bag, but everyone found something to fly and had a great time. Local kids were the beneficiaries of winter workshops as free kites were distributed. The only sad point of the day was looking at an Ansel Toney delta that had broken free and was caught in electrical wires. A free drawing was held for a delta made by Merritt Beck and won by a local child as the local club members had stayed out of the drawing so someone new to kiting could win. Merritt reminisced about his days working with Ansel Toney making kites after dinner that night, giving me new insight into a man apparently driven to make kites.

The local Kiwanis Club and the Minnesota Kite Society had a near perfect day for the annual Kiwanis Day Fly in St Louis Park, MN. Three hundred kites were given to local children who then proceeded to fill the sky. Craig Christensen was there flying a giant frog to the delight of the children. Adult sport and single line fliers were also there in force to add to the festive atmosphere. I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of the fliers in Indiana and Minnesota who welcomed me so warmly.

On a more serious note, The Chicago Fire has been flying without Jerry Elkerton as Jerry has been very seriously ill. Jerry is at home now recovering from surgery to implant a defibrillator. Actually, by the time this is printed Jerry will hopefully be back out flying, but wish him well anyway. I understand that the Fire did take first place in open team competition at Prairie Winds, however I don't have any other regional results. Please, if you are from Region Six and do well in a competition, let me know. Or if you just like seeing your name in print, let me know. I might need to fill some space in the report.

On a final note, the first Michiana Area Regional Sport kite festival will be held in the South Bend, IN area the last weekend in July. So, everybody who has been griping about competitions disappearing in the Midwest needs to call George Wright at 219-237-0395 and sign up to compete.



Region

8

South Central

Troy Gunn

Spring has come and gone. There were kite festivals almost every weekend to report on. I hope most of you had the opportunity to attend a few of them. Now is the time to make your plans for this year's Wildwood AKA Grand National Convention. This year's convention is scheduled for Oct. 14-19, and will have many new improvements that should please everyone, such as: on-field food/kite vendors, better banquet food, a five day schedule which will give everyone more time to see and do everything, public flying areas, more fun events, and a-la-carte registration for those of you who can't attend the entire event. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity!

Steve Rogers, owner of KaleidoKites, sponsored this year's Eureka Springs, AR, Kite Festival. This year's festival featured nice weather, door prizes, live music, a sled kite building workshop by Richard and Marti Dermer, a bonfire social Saturday night (FUN), at which Richard Dermer claims that he flew a Miniature kite in no wind by using the thermals from the fire to keep the kite in flight (COOL). There was an interesting game/challenge that took place. A small needle was placed on the nose of a fighter kite, and then a balloon was placed at the top of a 5 foot pole. Competitors were then asked to try and pop the balloon with the fighter kite as quickly as possible. The winning time was 17 seconds, compared to a second place time of three minutes. It sounds like someone was either very good or very lucky! There were kilters from TX, OK, KS, MO, AR, and TN that made the trip to this year's event. A good time was had by all!

Next up was the Bluebonnet Kite Festival in San Marcos, TX, sponsored by the Bluebonnet Lions Club. Just when you think this event can't get any better, the organizers out-do themselves: there were food/craft vendors, kids' activities, dancers, karate demos, live music, and giant crowds. Single line artists such as Dick & Gail Bell, Joel Scholz, Walt Mitchell, Richard & Marti Dermer, and Jeff Howard filled the sky with their colorful creations. Sam and Barbie Pedregon made the trip all the way from Colorado and flew some fantastic Peter Lynn creations, including Peter's second largest Gecko, and a very large Trilobite. Spectators were amazed by the giant colorful kites! Sport kite competitors flew wonderful routines that had the spectators begging for more. Sport kite winners included Tye Harrison, Dennis Phillips, James Salizar, Jerry Hershey, Troy Gunn, and Austin E.O.L. and Pairs Team Reasonable Doubt. Saturday night there was an on-field banquet/auction which Frank (Mr. Nasty) Kenisky had the honor of emceeing. Anytime Frank gets on the microphone, it's like watching a standup comedian at the Improv. Frank does a great job of mixing comedy with his emcee duties, which usually helps bring higher bids at the kite festival auctions that he works. This event continues to grow each and every year! San Marcos is deserving of National status. With its history of great weather and great location, why not?

The 4th Annual Westlake Kite Festival that took place in Lahoma, OK was the best yet since its beginning. Old Lady Mother Nature smiled

upon the festival by offering 80 degree weather, 5-15 m.p.h. winds and picture perfect blue skies! This event offered a huge flying field, Richard & Marti Dermers' sled building workshop, concessions, a Saturday night banquet and auction, an indoor fly, kids candy drops, raffle drawings for free kites, and great camaraderie! The Oklahoma Tourism Bureau brought in a bus full of spectators most which were retired. Most of the retirees attended the Dermers' sled building workshop, then sat back and watched the festivities. Single line kites of all shapes and sizes painted the clear blue skies, while sport kite competitors danced their kites



Sam Pedregon with his Gecko at the Bluebonnet Festival!
photo by Troy Gunn

around the sky to various styles of music. Most of the tour bus spectators didn't want to leave when the bus driver said it was time to move on to the next stage of the tour! Jeff Howard did a great job of announcing, and was a hit with the kids. Jeff played several games with the kids including Simon Says, and "Steal Troy Gunn's Shoes for a Dollar" (which resulted in stickers in my feet!). I later repaid Jeff with the same game! I later played the same game on Jerry Hershey, but Jerry managed to outrun his 10 year old pursuers and then locked himself in his car, but not before the kids wrestled Jerry to the ground and stole one of his shoes and hat! Sport Kite winners included Marissa Taylor, J.R. Hunt, A.J. Horn, Tomarra Taylor, Steve Thomason, Jerry Hershey, and Troy Gunn. This event was sponsored by Steve and Pam Thomason of Thomason Sport Kites, and Westlake Recreation Area. Team TKO put on a flawless demonstration of their 1996 Grand National winning team ballet routine (Apollo 13). Members for this demonstration were Troy Gunn, David Burns, Jerry Hershey, and Noel T. Nester. Jeff Howard did a Sport Kite "Trick Flying Seminar." Jeff showed the participants new tricks that most had never seen or heard of before. Overall, the festival was a huge success. Don't miss next year's event!

The 2nd Annual Flying Objects Kite Festival saw great weather, with blue skies and temperatures in the mid-80's. The flying field was located just outside of Little Rock, AR, in Maumelle. This event was designed with family fun in mind, and with a 12 acre field everyone had room to put a kite in the sky! Richard and Marti Dermer helped kids of all ages build sled kites. Team TKO flew team demonstrations throughout the day. John Rogers came all the way from San Diego, CA to show his fantastic works of art.

John flew several large Flow Forms with wind socks all up and down the line. Sunday winds were light (0-6) and constantly changing directions. At one point (make that two points) during the day, John Rogers' large single line display was sitting on the ground waiting for wind. All of a sudden a huge whirlwind appeared out of nowhere, and picked up one of John's 30 ft. windsocks and pulled it straight up in the air. The tail end of the sock pointed straight up in the air, and then began to spin with the whirlwind! The only reason that the sock didn't float off was because it was still attached to the flying line on the ground. The opening of the sock was pointed straight down, about five feet off the ground! This happened not once, but twice during the

day. Dan Klos showed up from Tennessee with his unusual quad line creations. Dan's kites were a wonderful treat for everyone to see. Overall this festival was very entertaining for everyone. Special thanks to Bob Riggins, owner of Flying Objects Kites of Little Rock for organizing a festival that I'll never forget.

May 10-11 The Tulsa Windriders and Tulsa Parks and Recreation organized the Tulsa Festival of Kites at a new location. This year's festival was coordinated by Collette Lemons and Barbie Raney, and was their best ever! There were kids games, food vendors, live radio broadcast, media exposure, craft booths, 3,000 spectators and kite fliers from 6 different states, the

Dermers kite building workshop, and last but not least, great weather! Jeff Howard shared the announcing duties with Radio DJs. I was chief judge for all the sport kite competitions and in order that we could finish everything on time, all competitors staged in to the flying field and performed their precision routines, and then performed their ballet performances before leaving the field. This format allowed us to have to use only 1/2 of the amount of judges and field crew that we normally would have needed, and took only 1/2 of the amount of time to complete competition. This allowed more time for fun flying and demo's. Sport kite competition was tight between all skill levels. Winners were Bill Dindy, Shane Snowden, Steve Thomason Tomarra Taylor, Brandon Bell, Jerry Hershey, myself, and TKO. Sunday saw a 6 kite rok battle with Dick, Gail, and Brandon Bell edging out the Tulsa Wind Riders (Clifford Lemons, Larry Stiles) for the win. The winning team received a very nice trophy hand-made by Kansas kiter Charles (Jug) Buckles. The Trophy sported a large silver victory cup sitting on top of a large wood base. Jug also showcased several hand crafted works of kite art (kites). Jug has mastered the craft of kite building in just a few short years! Sponsors of this year's event were KBEZ Radio 92.4 FM, Thomason Sport Kites, & Kite Service Heating and Air Conditioning.

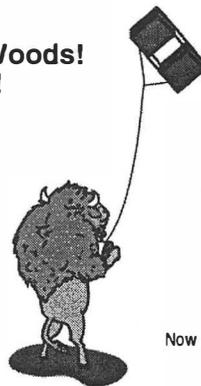
Fliers don't forget that the 20th Annual AKA Grand National Convention in Wildwood, NJ, is just around the corner. Make your reservations today for what promises to be the best convention ever! For more information, contact myself or the AKA at (800) 252-2550. Don't miss the time of your life. Come see for yourself what you've been missing.

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Region

11

Tom McAlister

Northern California



As I ponder my third regional report of the year, one of our members reminded me of the many forms of philanthropy and that people do not have to be rich to make valuable contributions to their community. One fine example of an AKA member who is generous with her time and knowledge of kites is Zoe Salloom from Oroville. Zoe teaches grades 4 through 6 at Oakdale Elementary School. Last fall she started the Oakdale Heights Kite Club. She began the club as a result of the enthusiasm kids showed when she flew her kites in the school yard after classes. At first she thought that once-a-week meetings would be enough but before she knew it, popular demand got her to increase meetings to three days a week! The club now has between 30 to 40 enthusiastic kids who are learning about safety, good sportsmanship and cooperation, as well as kite-flying skills. In addition to flying, members learn to set up, break down, bridle, and repair their kites. They held their Juniors' Competition on April 12 at the First Annual Oroville Kite Day and received help from numerous AKA, NCKC, & BASKL members though the light winds of the day. Since then several of the club members have gone on to compete at BASKL events and three of the members are in the top AKA standings for novice class. The Oakdale Heights Kite Club is especially important because the school is in a low-income area where children don't have a lot of options for after-school recreation. Zoe has found kite flying to be a sport in which kids, especially those who may not be stars at traditional team sports, can excel. She says it is turning out to be a real confidence builder that's effective at raising the self-esteem of club members. Thanks, Zoe, for making a difference, both in your daily work and in your work with this new club. Thanks also for showing the rest of us that philanthropy is not just for the rich. Here's a terrific opportunity for YOU to also get involved! If you have any old kites or line sets burning holes in your bag, the club can always use more equipment. The funny thing about philanthropy... sometimes it's contagious.

Speaking of contagious, kites and kites as art seem to be almost everywhere. I just came from the Davis Wind Works Festival. Hot weather and variable winds were challenging to the sport kite fliers, but they couldn't stop the inimitable George Peters, who from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, always had something in the sky. Thanks to the Adlers for throwing a fun party at the end of a hot day. The festival took place in Davis but the gallery exhibit was expanded to include, Benicia and Fairfield. The Davis exhibit showcases Japanese kites, while the Benicia one features the works of George Peters. The Fairfield Center Gallery is filled with aerial art of Tal Streeter and Stuart Allen. Davis runs through July 15, Benicia through June 22, and Fairfield through July 1. Contact Stuart Allen for more information at: (707) 428-7430.

In memorial to a kite artist of the past, George Mauer reports that the Lee Toy Spring Fly brought a fine group of kite fliers the Marina Green, and that once again, the Mayor and First Lady of the "Green"

(George & Marion Ham) were on hand with some of the best strawberries on the planet. Pat and Lou flew the giant wine bottle wind sock which Lee built. The Sundowners, Neil Thourburn, the Schneiders, Corey, Crazy, Ty, & Sam, as well as many of Lee's family were all on hand to celebrate his life and kites on a day that was blessed with good winds and plenty of sunshine.

On a lighter note, I would like to applaud a little-known kiting institution in our region. On Sunday, May 18, the Marin County Day School celebrated its 40th Anniversary Kite Day. Wow, that has to earn it the title of longest-running kite event in California. Congratulations to Marin County Day School... any challengers?

Our upcoming calendar is jammed with events which, while of lesser longevity, are of no lesser enthusiasm and good-hearted fun. The first-ever Martinez Kite Fly is scheduled for May 24 of the Memorial Day weekend and will be followed by the Wind Fest on the 25 & 26th in San Ramon. And don't forget about Brain Champie's annual party on Sunday the 25th. Brian's party is sure to be a highlight of the weekend. June follows with an NCKC meeting and fly in Tracy on the 8th; an AKA Eddy Arch Train Workshop at my place on the evening of the 14th; the First Annual Father's Day Fun Fly and AKA membership drive in Berkeley on Sunday the 15th (three free kite pins to anyone who joins AKA at this event); BASKL at Newark on the 21st; and the Berkeley Art Festival's Eddy Arch Train Ascension in Berkeley on the 28th. I don't think June can get much fuller than that! The Father's Day Fun Fly and AKA Membership Drive in Berkeley is a joint effort among Highline Kites of Berkeley, NCKC and BASKL. The AKA Eddy Arch Train Workshop will be the preceding night at my place and will be open to all AKA members. The workshop is free but you must bring your own sewing machine and a small folding table. If you want to attend the workshop please RSVP at (510) 235-5483 (KITE). In July we can all look forward to the 12th Annual Berkeley Kite Festival & WCKC on July 26 & 27th. It looks like the Berkeley Banquet will again be held on the Empress Hornblower Yacht, so if you missed it last year you have one more chance. Don't let it pass you by. A new wrinkle for this year's Berkeley is a Kite Club Ground-Display Challenge. At stake (haha) is one of the great new trophies and bragging rights for the year. The challenge is open to all local clubs as well as those from out of the area. Also in July is the Freedom of the Press Kite Fly in Bodega Bay on July 6.

On the Northern California buggy front, Eve & Martin from Sacramento made an expedition to the Black Rock Desert near Reno. Contrary to earlier reports that were posted on rec.kites, they have told me that buggyable lake bed is only about 1.5 hours from Reno and that paved road leads right up to the lake bed. They also report that there is a small hotel within 10 minutes of the lake. Black Rock is much closer to most of Northern California than the dry lakes of the south. Plans are under way for a Region 11 caravan to Black Rock in the fall when the temperature drops a little. "Breaker, breaker.... We got a convoy!". OK, OK, So I am a child of the 70s. And yes, yes, I did wear bell bottoms and platform shoes.

And on that high note (the shoes, ha ha), thanks again to Zoe Salloom, George Mauer, Paul Danielson, and Eva & Martin for their contributions to this report. To all: "If you send it, I'll include it."



Region

12

Walt Thompson
Southern California
Pacific

The Airs Affair productions of competitive events are moving right along. By the time you receive this much will be history. But there are a few innovative changes that we should acknowledge. The addition of a Pro-Class (a grand Master class) can cause new opportunities for those in the master class to try something quite different. Also the larger number of entrants into the Novice and Experience classes is providing challenges for newer flyers and giving many other fliers the incentive to try competition.

The latest addition has been Precision Quadline. As with many things in life this event will have to learn how to fit in and change to represent a part of quadline flying that had been done in the past and is now being revived. We have many quadline fliers in this region with some of the best in the country, including the AKA National Champion - Ron Despojado.

Your support at these events is what will make the difference. Go to Belmont Shores, Ventura, San Diego and cheer on those flying and contribute some of your talents. Single line flyers always are welcome at these events to add beauty and color to the sky. They help create a festive atmosphere and enhance the enjoyment of non flyers. At all the events I have been to, the beauty of the single liners has captured the imagination of many onlookers. These contacts help us all to explain our addiction/recreation/sport to others and ourselves. By giving of ourselves we receive a lot back.

Lately in our region many corporate, public and private groups including churches, schools and clubs have asked for kites to be at their events. This is a great way to meet new people and perhaps new members. If you ever need AKA materials please be sure and let me know and I'll get what you need.

Innovation is still alive and with the summer here there is more time to fly. Some people are breaking new ground in different areas. Steve Bateman that happy go lucky kite buggier and 2-line flier has come up with some exciting new fighter kite ideas. So far I have seen several of his new kites and they keep getting better. The next time you see Steve ask to see one of his new stealth fighters made with florist wrap, graphite and glued together or taped together.

Steve will be giving a workshop this summer for the San Diego Kite Club on new techniques of fighter kite construction and I'm sure it will amaze many fighter pilots and kite makers. His techniques also have application in larger, multi line kites and he has some interesting new designs. One lightweight 8-foot 2-liner that I flew in just about zero wind had amazing control and feel. Steve is a rising star in kite design and kitemaking so bug him and support his works by seeing them and testing his creations.

Several others in the region have been active in school education programs, scouting (both boy and girl) and getting quite a bit of press on local TV and newspapers. Gregg Lawrence has unleashed some powerful abilities as a public relations coordinator. He has appeared on TV as an announcer, interviewed by local newspapers to describe what is happening on the kite field and a general contact for the public by the media. This previously untapped talent also contacted dozens of PR people. He has been this "newbie" to PR work, the reluctant publicist who was so uncertain of his ability, tried and prevailed. These activities have helped us all including me, by seeing kiting portrayed as a background for TV weather reports and one feature that had almost seven minutes of air time. He has more projects in the planning stage so keep your eyes on him. He took on this task because no one else would and has done great! Congrats!

Well what is happening to Kite Clubs in our region? Changes have been happening more rapidly with a change to smaller, local fliers getting together. The San Diego Kite Club may be changing but with new leadership the direction may change again to a proactive group as in the past. Meanwhile others are trying to work something out. If you want any help, the AKA has some excellent publications that can help so let me know if you need anything.

The latest entry for an area club to include Orange County and Long Beach is from Dave Shenkman at (714)536-3630. Dave who has the Kite Connection on Huntington Beach has always been a strong force in the kiting community for many years. His civic and educational activities have really been enjoyed by many including that new person walking down the beach interested in learning to fly a kite. Well Dave now wants to spearhead the formation of a kite club. He has the background to do it but needs your help if you are in that area.

What is this talk about a quadline club? Does anyone know anything about this? The idea sounds interesting. Please let me know if you have any solid information so I can inform others in the region. From what I understand it started as quadline megafliers (giant insects?) and is bringing like-minded flyers together. Just what we need!

There are too many festivals, competitions, workshops and other interesting kiting things happening in the next few months to try and enumerate them here but look at the calendars in Kiting and elsewhere. If you can, share your experiences with others and let me know if you want to mention something here. Photographs convey a lot of information and can be shared with others by placing some here. It is not too early to start thinking about the AKA Convention 1997 at Wildwood. It will be time before we know it so it is best to get an early start.

I wish I had more information about Europe vs. the US in the Caribbean in June but so far I only have sketchy details. The French government is sponsoring the event and all expenses for those invited plus prize money. Several of our region's members have been invited to this trip of a lifetime. I should have more information later but talk to those who do go and try to have them share with others as we are all interested in the details.

Any ideas you have for this column are welcome. I need to know what others would like to see, please contact me somehow. I either stumble across something interesting or hear about it later generally too late to tell many others.

Enjoy your summer, good winds at your back.

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Carmichael 916-944-8727

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San Jose 408-252-2566

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Panorama City 818-892-6474

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Savannah 912-232-7201

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Honolulu 808-922-KITE

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1221 Honoapilani Hwy
Lahaina, Maui
808-661-4766

Idaho

Kite Studio
6 Ogden Avenue
Nampa 208-467-9555

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Palantine 708-359-2556

Hobby/Tech, Inc.

34 Joslyn Drive
Elgin 708-695-5903

Kite Harbor

435 East Illinois Street
Chicago 312-321-5483

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Oak Park 708-848-4907

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Williamston 517-655-4837

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Inver Grove Heights
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Missouri

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1412 I-70 Drive SW
Columbia 314-442-5724

Flying High With Charon

5633 Carlton Drive
St. Louis 314-376-6055

Wind Wizards #2

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Montana

Amazing Toys
319 Central Avenue
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Nebraska

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Omaha 402-346-3607

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Lincoln 402-434-5318

Prairieland Loft
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Broken Bow 308-872-8307

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

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Kite Expressions
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Nashua 603-593-4240

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

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

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

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

Kookaburra Kites
584 Kime Road
Geneva 315-585-9524

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

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

Kites Unlimited
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Raleigh 919-787-4212

Kitty Hawk Kites
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Nags Head 919-441-4124

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Aerial Pursuits
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Dayton 513-228-5577

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Wings On the Wind
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Bowling Green 419-352-5483

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2430 Tremainsville Rd
Toledo 800-228-3524

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Thomason's Sport Kites
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405-796-2359

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1141 SE Grand #114
Oklahoma City
405-670-2221

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Bend Ski & Sport
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Cannon Beach 503-436-1022

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

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Lincoln City 800-227-7878

Catch the Wind
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Newport, 503-265-9600

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Rockaway Beach
503-355-2225

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Seaside 503-738-KITE

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Charleston 803-577-3529

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Chattanooga 615-267-5858

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5800 Padre Blvd Suite 105
South Padre Island
210-761-7484

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396 Trolley Square
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Seattle 206-633-4780

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Long Beach 360-642-2229

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Lake Geneva 414-249-0631

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Janesville 608-868-9750

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506-849-4444

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Showa-Ku Nagoya
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Bungkum, Bangkok 10230

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Paul Shirey

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Randy Nelson 303-499-3998

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Wixom, MI 48393
810-737-7300

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Fulton, TX 78358
Bonnie Daniel 512-790-8990

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Roy Morisada 808-526-1717

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St. Joseph, MO 64503
Scott Wells 816-238-8809

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Kokomo, IN 46904-6881
Michael Bragg 765-453-2977

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817-838-7818

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Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2241
John Cosby 616-345-5432

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156 Carver Road
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AKA Affiliated Clubs

Affiliated Club information, contact Chris Moore
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Club Affiliation costs \$25 a year, and may be sent to the AKA c/o Mel Hickman. For more information contact the AKA at 1-800-252-2550, or contact: Chris Moore, AKA Club Liaison.

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Fremont, CA 94538
Brian Bradley 510-797-6997
Fax 610-490-9338

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Bethlehem, PA 18015
Paul Keeler 610-867-3313

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Spokane, WA 99205
509-326-9221 or 484-5483

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10113 Lloyd Road
Potomac, MD 20854
Jon E. Burkhardt
301-424-6976

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Ken Blain 616-676-5980

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Bruce Kenkel 402-339-5849

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Chandler, AZ 85224
Rod Shelton 602-897-2098

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Scott Spencer 609-854-5520

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

Washington Kitefliers Assoc.
Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. N.,
Seattle, WA 98109
Mike Benedict 360-435-3325

Wichita Windjammers Kite Club
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Wichita, KS 67202

Wind Dancers
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Waxahachie, TX 75167

Wind Weavers
1118 Barrow, Abilene, TX 79605
Judy Kingery 915-692-5927

Winds and Rainbows
3718 Cumberland St. NW
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WHERE IT'S AT ... A Culture of Kites

by Corey Jensen

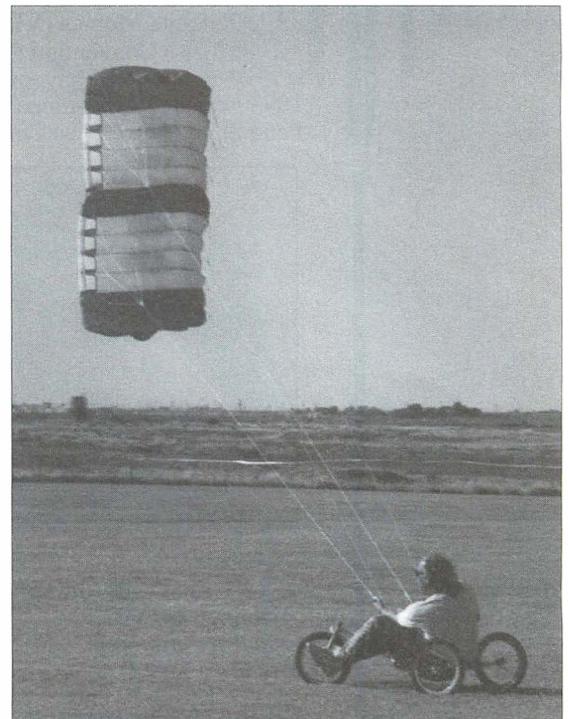
So where were we... Oh yes. As I was saying... I have noticed that as Native Americans often dance to celebrate their culture and their relationship with nature and the changing seasons, so kite flyers have developed rituals in praise of our relationships with the wind and nature and each other.

The Lee Toy Memorial Kite Fly was held at Marina Green in San Francisco recently. It was especially nice to see so many old friends and spend such a nice afternoon with them, remembering and being reminded. Lee helped create something with lasting effects, besides the inspirations he provided to countless kite flyers. He helped create a family out of the different people who crossed kite paths in the S.F. Bay Area in the 80's. I don't know if it was a conscious thing, but Lee always found ways to include his friends and strangers in his projects. Feeling included is what makes it feel like a family, I guess.

Bob (Our Founder) Ingraham had the same idea. It is a very simple formula. Mostly what we all want... To fly kites with our friends. Now, happiness comes in many forms and in Bob's other life, music was a big part of what made him happy, and how he could make others happy. In his memory, a fund has been established at Western New Mexico State University to provide a music program. If you are interested in being a contributor to the Robert Ingraham Music Scholarship, contact: Western New Mexico Foundation P.O. Box 1158 Silver City, NM 88062 Attn: Jerry Joy, VP/Student Affairs, Room 201. Bob's dreams reached beyond kite flying. You can help.

On to thoughts on the buggy: I returned from El Mirage Dry Lake late Monday night. Had a little "buggy thang" there. It wasn't a very big event, but it was notable for the wide mix of riders from around the country. Philip Chase from Florida, Bob Childs from Colorado, Vince Bobrosky from Illinois, Rob McDaniel and Rich & Betty from Oregon, Steve Bateman from San Diego, Steve Pugh and I from the Monterey area and George Cameron from Tracy. The weather was agreeable with wind every day, and it was HOT! Nothing like baking on the buggy for a few days to help one appreciate the cool ocean breezes. We had buggy conditions from dawn to well past midnight nearly every day and we all racked up tons of miles.

It was interesting to me to notice how the conversations and relationships have developed over the years. Some of these folks have been coming to the desert to buggy since 1992. We don't spend too much time talking about this buggy or that one or which power kite is the favorite. Mostly we discuss the economy, jobs, politics, religion, relationships, the sad state our society has fallen into, and



Corey on the move. photo Don McCasland

tell bad jokes. We talk about the travelling we've done and the plans for coming events, about our lives and situations. If the wind blows, we also fly kites and buggy. My guess is that you may have noticed the same thing. Sometimes being in the middle of stuff makes it a bit harder to notice the bigger picture, but the culture of kites we have developed is made up of lots of little things. Over the years, we have accepted certain conventions as being understood between kite flyers. Participation and sharing transcend any language barriers. Within the culture of kites there is no need to explain why we do what we do... It is understood.

So.. that's it. Enjoy.

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

MEMBERSHIP BY CLUB...

Here is a bit of interesting information for you. This list represents the top AKA Chapter/Clubs with Active Members in the AKA. Talk about bragging rights!

Northern California Kite Club	37
Kansas City Kite Club	30
San Diego Kite Club	30
Connectikites*	28
Chicagoland Sky Liners	27
Kites Over New England*	25
Washington Kitefliers Association*	23
Wings Over Washington	23
Black Swamp Air Force	22
Hoosier Kitefliers Society*	22
Pierce County Kitefliers Association*	22

* Clubs up to date with AKA affiliation.



The AKA Store

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

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