



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

'97 AKA GRAND NATIONALS

Sport Kite "Battle on the Beach"

by Dave and Sherrie Arnold

A three day format, impending rainstorms, and hot competition welcomed this year's group of sportkiters. Novice and Intermediate classes were slated for Wednesday, Experienced classes on Friday, and Masters and Open on Saturday, breaking the schedule into three afternoons instead of two full days. As we all know, the best laid plans of mice and men (or is that kites?) - well, you know the rest.

Wednesday's activities were rained out and moved to Thursday. The extended forecast was for more rain, so Saturday's Masters Team events were moved to Friday, with the Experienced classes. A number of well-attended pilots' meetings kept the contestants informed, and the schedule changes seemed to make the best of a stormy situation. Saturday's rain cleared on time, and a more relaxed schedule ensued. Regional representation for each class was good, and each conference took home at least one first place award. The home field Northeast conference slightly outpaced the others, but not by much (see below).

Team competition saw nine teams in Masters and eight teams in the Experienced class, while each of the individual classes were close to capacity. The Windjammers (OTT, MTP, MTB) from the Midwest conference made their first appearance at the Grand Nationals, but this doesn't mean they were a new team; they have existed in one form or another since 1983. Now that's perseverance! The Masters team classes were quite competitive with the top five in precision trading places in ballet. Scott Weider (NE) took top honors in the Experienced class, and Michael Moore (NE) and John Morrison (Pacific) split the brass ring in Masters. Robin Taylor (MW) and Billy Ng (NE) finished first in the experienced and masters quadline categories, respectively. Thanks to a great staff - close to eighty folks who volunteered to be judges, field directors, line judges, and pit bosses - and competitors

who were flexible and responsive, this huge event with almost 200 performances ran well and was a lot of fun!

For Sport Kite Results see pages 18 - 19.

How They Finished!

| Conference | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Pacific | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Northwest | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Central | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Midwest | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Northeast | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Southeast | 1 | 2 | 3 |

KITEMAKERS' COMPETITION

by Jon Burkhardt and Steve Ferrel,
Co-Chairmen, Kitemakers' Competitions Committee

There were new wrinkles this year in AKA's Grand National Kitemakers' Competition in Wildwood — a two-day schedule, and new competitive categories. It was a good thing that we had an extra day because the weather was wet when it wasn't gray. But the kites were wonderful.



Pete Rondeau's Grand National
Champion Centipede Kite

photo Jon Burkhardt

We expanded the number of competitive categories to 15 this year, adding multiline figure kites and multiline innovative kites. For the first time in memory, we had enough entrants to have contests and award trophies in all of the competitive categories. Eighty-one competitors, more than any of the past three years, went through all four judging criteria: kite flight and kite handling, aesthetic visual flight appeal, craftsmanship, and structural design. The best place to view the kites continues to be in a judge's vest. We have fantastic kitemakers with unusually creative and innovative designs.

In keeping with the procedures used since 1993, kites were judged by three to five judges on each of the four criteria. Olympic-style scoring procedures were used, with each judge awarding points from zero to ten on each criterion. The high and low scores for each of the four judging criteria were deleted from the calculation of the average score for each kite.

(continued on page 16)



The President's Page

Richard Dermer

High! That's not a misspelled greeting—it's how all attendees felt after the Wildwood, New Jersey convention. We simply had a marvelous time—lots of members have told me it was one of the best ever. Near record attendance (574), reasonable weather and wind (although it did rain on Wednesday), great kites and flying, and wonderful, friendly, happy, helpful, and generous people. A lot of us, when asked what we like best about kiting, reply that "it's the people involved." That's certainly the case with me. The huge success of our convention was due to a huge number of volunteers, probably over half the attendees, who pitched in and helped in one way or another. Dozens of these put in incredible amounts of work.

At the almost inevitable risk of leaving some out, I want to single out a number of individuals and groups for all their invaluable effort: Roger Chewning, and his sidekick John Smith, for coordinating field activities. This took a lot of pre-event work, and then demanded full-time supervision all week. Roger makes his living, in part, organizing and running kite festivals, but donated his time and expertise for this event, which ran beautifully.

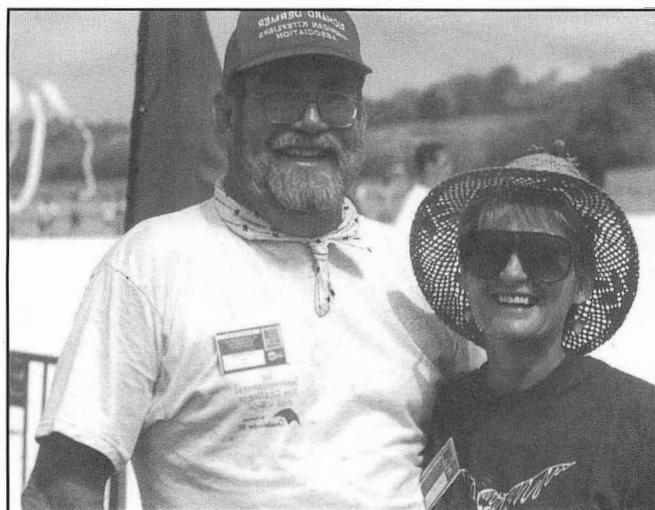
Scott Spencer, workshop and seminar coordinator, who recruited and assisted a record number of workshop presenters. Jeff Burka, Tom Marvin, Gil Velazquez, Ali Fujino, Scott Skinner, John Tavalacci, Rick Gelinas, Pete Dolphin, Glen Haynes, Dave and Sherrie Arnold, Tanna Haynes, Martin Lester, Andy Gelinas, Mike and Cecilia Dallmer, Mel Hickman, Kay Buesing, Charlie Sotich, Kurt Degener, Doug Janelle, Fran and Fritz Gramkowski, Brooks Leffler, Steve Eisenhaur, David Gomberg, Jeannie Merry, Roger Chewning, Richard Gareau, Troy Gunn, Joyce Quinn, Jon Burkhardt, Steve Ferrel, Kash Patel, and Wolfgang Grimsel all gave wonderful presentations with something for everyone.

Our event coordinators: Dave and Sherrie Arnold, Grand National Sport Kite competition; Jon Burkhardt and Steve Ferrel, Grand

National Kitemakers competition; Fran Gramkowski, buggy racing; Peter Lee and Nelson Borelli, fighter kites; Alan Sparling, mass ascensions; Mike VanMeers, rokkaku challenges and especially Adam Grow, exhibition field

director. Adam planned, scheduled, and orchestrated a continuous program of different kites and kilters all week long which drew tons of compliments.

Auction chair Carolyn Moore, who worked all year soliciting donations and then all week preparing for the Great Kite Auction, which netted \$22,500. Members of the Maryland Kite Society (Charlie Dunton, Steve Ferrel, Tony Ferrel, Tanna Haynes, Cliff Quinn, Pete Rondeau, Kevin Shannon, and Jon Burkhardt) contributed unique one-of-a-kind handcrafted kites to the auction. This group of kites, all using the same colors, sold individually for a total of almost \$5,000! Sherri Erlich, supervisor of children's kitemaking workshop, with 160 schoolchil-



dren all making kites simultaneously in the convention center with dozens of volunteer assistants.

Mark Ricketts, and my wife Marti, who hung and curated the Kite Art Gallery, displaying dozens of unique works. With a smaller than usual space, the gallery featured a continuously changing display from day to day, and drew hundreds of visitors.

Kathy Thomson and Barbara Murphy, who did a marvelous job with publicity. Great press coverage in area newspapers, TV coverage daily, even on rainy Wednesday. (Thank goodness for those schoolchildren,

and the AKA indoor fliers.) Marv Naumann, (High Sierra Productions), who this year filmed and is producing for the AKA both the "regular" convention video and a new one, featuring the top sport kite performances in the Master class Grand Nationals.

Sarge Cleaves—Safety Marshall (and operations). Forest Cary—Scorekeeping. Suzanne Edison—Announcer coordinator. Betty Hirschmann and Robin Gardner—AKA Information booth. Rick Kinnaird—Awards Banquet MC. Andy Gelinias—Monday Nite Reception Coordinator.

Ron Lindner—Fly Market Coordinator. Ted Manekin, who explained his committee's proposed by-laws amendments to the membership. They all passed. Bob Price—Snapshot Gallery. All the announcers, judges, field crew, clerical help, auctioneers, set-up staff, and general helpers. Over 40 firms, clubs, and individuals who sponsored convention trophies.

And finally, the guy who ran it all: *Convention Manager Jim Miller*. Number 20 was a great one, Jim! Thanks for managing the whole affair—the AKA is grateful.

THANK YOU ALL!

Now, let me talk to the 85% of you couldn't come to the convention. We missed you. We really want you to think about coming to next year's convention in Ocean Shores, Washington—Oct. 13-17, 1998. The convention is like a five-day party celebrating kites, kitemaking, and the wonderful kind of people attracted to kites. It is also essential to the financial health of our organization.

This year's convention produced close to \$13,000 in income to the AKA, in addition to the auction revenue. Budget estimates were fulfilled. Whew! Think about it... Ocean Shores, Washington... Mid-October, 98. Put it on your calendar now. I really mean it. Put a question mark after it if you have to, but put it on there now! I know you've got a new calendar waiting to get written in. (If you don't, the kite art committee has some great ones for sale.) Now's your chance!

Good winds,

Richard

(the Big Kahuna)

HELP WANTED; APPLICATIONS INVITED

The Board of Directors of the American Kitefliers Association is hereby inviting bids for the staff positions of Executive Director and Convention Manager for the Association. These positions will be filled through a competitive bid process. Either job may be applied for, or both may be bid for by any interested party or firm. We wish to obtain individuals or organizations with the highest possible qualifications, and all interested parties are encouraged to participate in the competition.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for both jobs are now available. The anticipated starting date for the Convention Manager's position will be approximately August 1, 1998 (for the 1999 Convention) and the starting date for the Executive Director's position will be about January 1, 1999.

If you are interested, the first step is to request a copy of the RFP. This RFP includes a description of the AKA, instructions for the submissions of proposals, a description of the duties and responsibilities of the specific position, the criteria for evaluating the proposals, and a tentative schedule for the review of those proposals received. PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15, 1998 TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE COMPETITION. AKA anticipates the award of one or more annual renewable contracts.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the RFP contact Jon Burkhardt, Chairman, AKA Search Committee, 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, Maryland, 20854 (301/424-6976). The e-mail address is burkhard@intr.net.

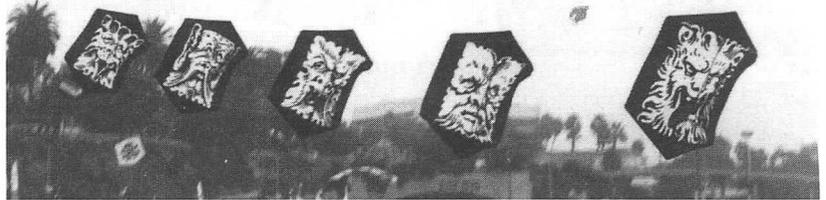
A Few Comments on the Convention

by Jim Miller, Convention Manager

Wildwood was the second largest AKA Convention ever in terms of registrants, 574, bested only by Wildwood '94's 588 registrants. The convention was very successful financially - we sold lots of logo merchandise (almost completely selling out of shirts), and the convention profits will be a big help to next year's AKA budget.

The new expanded five day format was a success. Registrants were able to attend more and different types of events (workshops, competitions, seminars, etc.) without as many conflicts as in prior years. A significant number of registrants also chose "basic registration" (without lunch) indicating the demand for that type of registration. The record number and diversity of workshops was a very big hit. Workshop attendance overall was significantly greater than any past year, and average attendance was also a record, with many workshops seeing 40-70 attendees. Although we did have some weather problems, I feel that Wednesday's rain may have actually helped to produce a more cohesive convention experience for many convention registrants. Impromptu workshops sprung up, general "bull session" information swapping was frequent, more indoor flying was done, and the generally relaxed atmosphere allowed for more visiting between old hands and new found friends alike.

Executive Director Mel Hickman



THE TIME HAS COME...

As you can see by the RFP on this page, we are beginning the process of looking for a new Executive Director. At the convention in October, I let the Board know that 1998 would be my last year. This hasn't been an easy decision and it's one that I admit is not without second thoughts. But, life sometimes puts demands on you that require changes. If you are interested in being the next XD, please call and I will answer your questions.

SPEAKING OF THE CONVENTION

Hats off to everyone who had a part in making the 1997 convention a great one. And, we made money at the event and the auction! (Sorry, but tax preparers and XD's are conditioned to look at the bottom line). My best memories of the convention will be that it was a FUN event with time to get together and talk and share. People still make kiting what it is today, not high tech materials and high tech maneuvers and high tech designs.

AND, SPEAKING OF PEOPLE...

I had the opportunity to spend the weekend before the convention in the Washington, DC, area. There I enjoyed the hospitality of Margo and Bevan Brown who graciously played the roles of hosts, tour guides, chauffeurs, medics (blisters...long story), counselors, and confidants. These two past presidents of the association most impressed me with their genuine concern for AKA and for kiting in general. At the Browns, I ran into two of AKA's cadre of hard working souls, Ron and Charm Lindner. It is always interesting to watch Ron step back and watch Charm and I launch into our interpretation of The Bickersons. You name it, we will find a way to exchange words about it. And, if people around us think we are seriously at war, so much more the fun.

AND SPECIAL GROUPS...

The folks at the Drachen Foundation (that group that does so much to promote the international aspects of kiting) have just announced the availability of designer coffee mugs and designer cookies. The mugs feature well know kite personalities and the cookies have kite motifs. Contact Ali or Andrea at 206-282-4349 or info@drachen.org for more information on these soon to be collector items.

I continue to be amazed at what the World Kite Museum in Long Beach, Washington, can accomplish with limited funds. Kay Buesing and her staff always make the museum an interesting place to visit any time I am up there. Should you ever be cleaning out your kite closet and find old or unique stuff you don't want to throw away, but don't have a use for, give the museum a call at 360-642-4020. See if they could use it.

THE MILLENNIAL COUNT DOWN IS ON

By the time you read this, there will around 725 days left before the year 2000 rolls in. I am interested in what you think kiting will be like at that time. Care to share with us?

TIME TO GET READY FOR TAXES

Tax season is here! Just what you needed to hear, right? Just a reminder that donations of money or usable goods to the AKA are tax deductible. Hint, hint.

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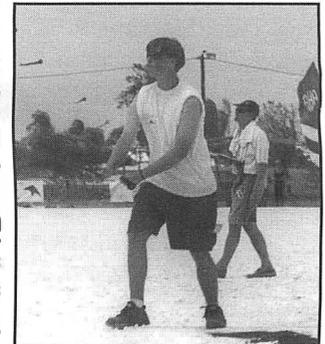
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AKA SPOTLIGHT

GRAND NATIONAL



CHAMPION - M.I.B.

**John Morrison,
Rohnert Park, CA**

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Founder of the American Kitefliers Association - Robert Ingraham

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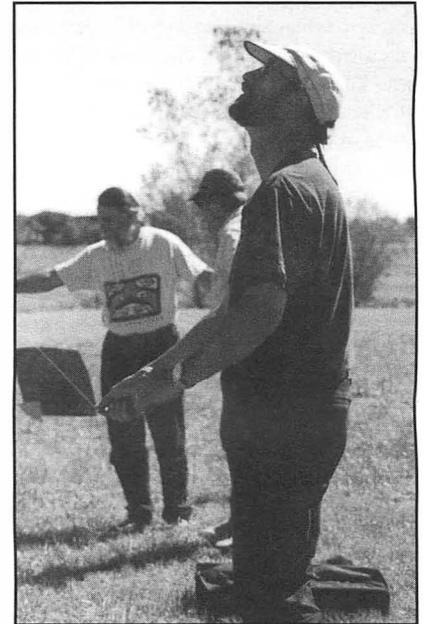
The AKA needs volunteer help planning, preparing, and conducting the GREAT KITE AUCTION at the convention in Ocean Shores. If you are interested in serving on the auction committee, please contact AKA President Richard Dermer. 405-372-6127, or email bkahuna@fullnet.net

Edeiken Award Winner

The following is the nomination letter for this year's Steve Edeiken award recipient, the American Kitefliers Association recognition of Kiteflier of the Year.

"We are writing to nominate Scott Skinner as Kiteflier of the Year. Scott's efforts as a designer and innovator, as a teacher, as a supporter of events, and as the principle curator of our international kite heritage exemplify the character of Steve Edeiken, and the criteria of the award named in Edeiken's honor.

Long before the formation of the Drachen Foundation, Skinner began traveling, learning, and developing innovative kites. In 1987 his Attic Window Edo earned first place at the Washington State International Kite Festival and Member's Choice at the AKA Convention. In 1988, his Patchwork Turtle was named one of the Ten Most Unique Kites of the World in Weifang, China. In 1989, his Flying Fish Edo was named a Major Award Winner by the Japan Kite Association. In 1990, his Patchwork Cowboy and Indian Train earned first place at the AKA Convention in Seaside. In 1991, he earned first place at the Smithsonian Kite Festival, and in 1992 a first place at the Lubbock AKA with Three Geishas.



Scott at the AKA Convention in Tulsa!

These awards reflect Scott's success in combining traditional American folk arts themes such as patchwork and quilting artistry, with modern materials and traditional Japanese kite theory and design.

In 1989, Scott made his first overseas trip. Since then, he has become one of a handful of Americans that appear frequently at overseas events. He has been an excellent ambassador. Extensive travel has exposed him to a variety of kite traditions, and similarly allowed him to share American traditions overseas. As a result, Scott has made a financial commitment to bring overseas kite artists to American retreats such as Junction, and send American artists to overseas gatherings such as Fano, Denmark.

Kites collected on Skinner's travels now number over 700 and constitute one of the largest private collections in the world.

To further his educational interests, Skinner formed the Drachen Foundation in 1994. The purpose of this non-profit foundation is to gather and disseminate information about kites and to support kiting activities around the world. Efforts of the Foundation thus far include organizing an international exhibit of traditional and modern Japanese kites, sponsoring a book on the life of Dom Jalbert, and acquiring a collection of Cody Kites and artifacts at auction in London. The Drachen Foundation already ranks among the most significant and far reaching kite educational and preservation institutions in the world.

Innovative designer, world traveler, and kite philanthropist — Scott Skinner does it all. Oh yes, and he buggies too! We are pleased to submit his name as a nominee for AKA's highest honor".

Nominated by David Gomberg and Kay Buesing

Two other nominations for the Steve Edeiken Award this year were Dave and Sherrie Arnold of Alexandria, Virginia, and Lois DeBolt of Winchester, Indiana.

Jerry Elkerton

On Sunday October 13th at the Appleton, Wisconsin "One Sky, One World" event Jerry Elkerton died of a heart attack while performing with the Chicago Fire. While it is tragic when any kiteflier dies, Jerry was taken from us so early that most of those who knew him were stunned and grief stricken. What follows are excerpts from some of the tributes to Jerry that Kathy Brinnehl (Jerry's teammate and very much-loved "significant other") has received. I have decided to share just three of these tributes for reasons of space, but I feel that these three will help the rest of you know just a little about someone we miss very much.

- Al Sparling

"The Heart of Chicago Fire or The Man Standing Next to Me"

Hundreds of times over the past seven years I looked to my left and there he was. He was on the left because I led from the right but in every way while the team was flying he was my right hand. More than that, in many ways, Jerry had become the Heart of the Chicago Fire. In some way ways I look back and realize that Jerry gave his heart to all of us, over the time we spent together. His house had become our de facto team headquarters. Never at a loss for ideas, his creativity made us all better at what we do. I know he will always be there, some where, looking out for the team, as well as everyone else he was close to. Even though I know this in my heart, I will miss him deeply and profoundly. When I think of him, I will remember all of the things that we all shared together; the highs, the lows, the wins and losses, the incredible parties at the house and the incredible trips around the world. But most of all I'll remember him standing next to me, The Heart of the Chicago Fire.

- Eric Wolff

"A Good Friend"

Today I received the saddest news imaginable. I sit here now, not really seeing what I type through the tears. I, my fiancée, and the kiting world have lost a friend like no other.



I would like to thank all of you for your kind words, thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Flying was one of Jerry's greatest loves. Jerry and I have always felt that those of you in our kite community were more than friends, we think of each of you as family. I thank God that we all had the opportunity to know and love Jerry. Because of him there has been a little more love, caring and laughter in our lives.

Our Heavenly Crew

From this day on, whenever we lose a kite in its desire to fly towards heaven, we can be comforted to know that Jerry will be there to recover it, safely returning it to us when we meet with him again.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and love,

*Kathy Brinnehl
Chicago Fire*

Jerry Elkerton was, and will always be, what I want to be in this world: independent, funny, wise, deep, loving and most of all, fun to be with and a good friend. I have spent some of the finest times in my life with Jerry and the rest of the Chicago Fire. I have never been a part of a greater collection of unique and close people in my life. We could always count on each other for anything we needed, be it help with a maneuver or a great beer recipe. Our travels together hold countless stories and remembrances that mean more to me than just about anything else.

I can think of no tribute greater for this man than to remember what it all meant to him—the giddy happiness on his face when a routine went perfectly in competition, the

warm glow and great smile while sitting on his deck after a great meal, swapping stories and laughing like the fools we are. He was a man of intense pride and devotion to everything in his life. He never did anything half way, always at full throttle.

- Ed Wlezien

"Kind and Quiet Man with a Devilish Sense of Humor"

The first story that came to mind occurred several years ago at the regional South Suburban festival. It was a typical hot July weekend in the Chicago area.... no wind. The Chicago Fire was in pursuit of an invitation to World Cup. The points were needed. They had to fly... wind or no wind. Rather than fly a set routine, Eric wisely decided to call various maneuvers "on the fly". Boundaries were soft as the team started the Free-Style routine at the far north end of the field hoping that they would have enough room to finish in the minimum required time before

the dreaded hard boundary at the south end of the field was reached. The team rapidly moved toward the crowd during the first 90 seconds or so. Perhaps there would be just enough room but it was going to be close. Then the inevitable... the one mph south wind shifted to a 3 mph easterly. The Fire had already backtracked a good 800-1000 feet; I'm sure they were exhausted, when the minimum time was called by the field director. It was Jerry who turned to the judges and asked, "Can anybody on the team call

out?". Everyone on the field started laughing, the team, the field director and the judges all starting laughing as the team started their landing sequence, and the Fire finished a clean routine.

"Can anybody on the team call out?" A quick wit during a tense time. You are a gem and will be missed Jerry.

These excerpts only begin to tell you about the kind and quiet man with the devilish sense of humor that we have lost. All that I can say is that we have lost a great friend too early and we are all poorer for it. *I hope that the winds are smooth and consistent without ever a rainy day wherever you are Jerry. Godspeed.*

- Harry Larsen

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New Braunfels, TX 78132
Leona Clark 210-609-2002

Assoc. Oregon Kiteflyers
PO Box 25616
Portland, OR 97298
John Freeman

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Scott Spencer 609-854-5520

Sport Kite Club of America
PO Box 101,
Los Angeles, CA 90293
310-219-1410

AKA Affiliated Clubs

Affiliated Club information, contact Chris Moore
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Topeka Kite Flyers
601 SW 57th Street, #38
Topeka, KS 66609
James Aune 913-862-5413

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

Westport Windriders
4004 Wiggins Road, SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-491-3229

Wichita Windjammers Kite Club
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Wichita, KS 67202

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Rt 3 Box 86A,
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Wind Rhythm Kite Club
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LeMars, IA 51031
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Washington, DC 20016
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Milwaukee, WI 53224
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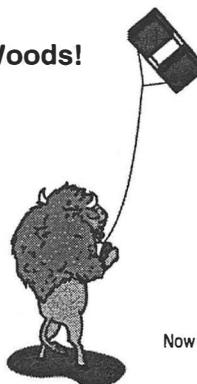
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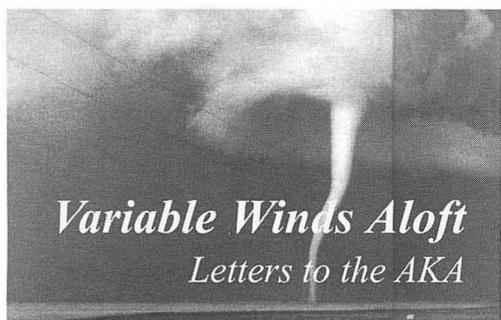
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Why the Wabbit?

Will somebody please explain to me why the Postal Service (PS) has put a rabbit's mug on a postage stamp? Me thinks that all kitefliers should be hopping mad that Bugs Bunny has his own stamp when the PS won't issue one, much less a series, on kites! Not only did the Postal Service do a stamp, they are also selling a whole line of clothing, from hats to jackets, with Bugs's mug on all of them. Why not get into the wind scene with AKA wind gear? AKA kiting apparel is made of the finest materials, looks better, and is less expensive than what the PS sells. AKA has great kite pins, patches, hats, polo-shirts, tee-shirts, sweat-shirts, and jackets for sale with the AKA kite logo embroidered on them, just as long as you like red, white or blue. Check out the inside back page for details. It's the perfect time to get ready for a new year of kiting - in style.

Adam Grow,
Silver Spring, MD

Pilots...

In regard to the pilot letters to the AKA... What's up with the frequent fliers? All they do is sip drinks on airplanes. I hate to have our beloved sport belittled so. Aren't they really airline passengers? Why do their cards say Fliers? Don't they know that many kites take great skill to operate?

Political correctness and special interest group sensitivity has gone way too far. Sometimes it's fun to exaggerate. For instance, I just happen to be the Grand Pilot of the Supreme Order of Kitefliers. Is this not OK?

Bill Flynn
Grand Pilot, Supreme Order of Kitefliers
5' 11" Male, Age 35 - Kite owner / operator who organizes very small flying events in Ohio and who distributes an insignificant kiting related newsletter to others who at varying degrees enjoy kiting.

Too Much Sun=Damaged Skin

Kitefliers take heed, too much fun in direct sunlight is not good for you. We all know about serious sun effects and skin cancer, but now a recent medical study indicates that as little as 5 to 15 minutes of strong sunlight, especially the noonday sun, every other day can trigger photoaging.

Photoaging is the process that eventually gives folks who stay out in the sun too long skin that is wrinkled, sagging, and has brown spots and a leathery appearance (alligator skin). Exposing skin to the direct sun triggers the release of enzymes that dissolve collagen, the connective tissue that gives skin its firmness. The degradation of collagen is increased nearly 60% in skin exposed to ultraviolet light as compared with unexposed skin. The persistent breakdown of skin connective tissue may lead to accelerated premature skin aging. The authors noted that it is not yet clear if sunscreen, which is known to help prevent photoaging, can also protect against the enzyme activity.

The good news is that pretreatment of the skin with tretinoin, the main ingredient of Retin-A (the acne medication), can prevent up to 80% of the enzymes' damaging activity. People with sun-damaged skin, which can be detected as early as the late 20s, may be candidates for the tretinoin treatment. The tretinoin treatment has been recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration. However, careful monitoring is essential because tretinoin can cause reddening and irritation of the skin, and is not appropriate for all patients. According to the prescribing information, it is not clear if the cream is effective for people with heavy wrinkling or over age 50. Note that tretinoin does not eliminate wrinkles, repair sun-damaged skin, reverse photoaging, or restore a more youthful or younger dermal histologic pattern.

If you want to fly your kites on a sunny day, you should wear a brimmed hat, use effective sunglasses, wear adequate clothing, and use lots of sunscreen. The best way to treat premature skin aging is to prevent it by avoiding prolonged exposure to the sun and consistently apply sunscreens.

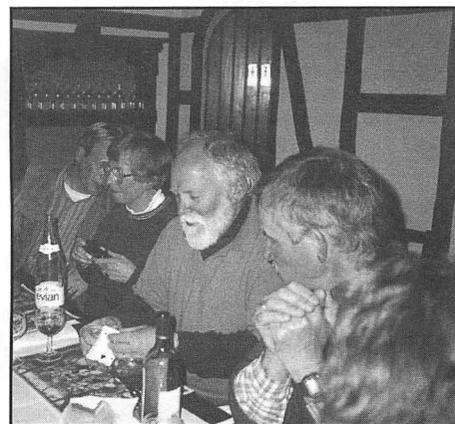
SOURCE: The New England Journal of Medicine (1997;337:1419-1428)

Adam Grow,
Maryland Kite Society, President

Chin Up, Hats Off!

On behalf of all the Aerial Eye members I would like to offer my congratulations to Brooks Leffler on being awarded the AKA Volunteer of the Year at the convention at Wildwood, New Jersey this year. Brooks was awarded this in part for his untiring work publishing the Aerial Eye quarterly journal of kite aerial photography.

Upon retiring from his position as AKA executive director in 1993 Brooks immediately set about to fill a much needed void in the world as creator of the only regularly published journal on kite aerial photography. Now, going into its fourth year, the AE has grown from an initial print run of about 20 to a very enthusiastic group of over 230 subscribers in 19 countries, a third of which are from outside the USA.



Brooks sharing card tricks to a group in Berck (1996). Photo by Craig Wilson

The Aerial Eye is far and away the AKA's most profitable publication with an annual income of over \$3300. Another benefit to the AKA is the revenue from the new AKA memberships, exposure to new international markets, and the diversity fostered by its worldwide readership. That worldwide interest in kite aerial photography can be directly attributable to the quality of writing and production of the Aerial Eye. Brooks has not only given aerial photographers around the world a forum to express their views, show their work, and learn from others, but he has given the rest of the kiting community a chance to experience this high art.

Brooks, thank you so much for your efforts and congratulations, you really do deserve it. As you say at the end of all your letters— Chin up.

Craig Wilson,
Madison, WI



Our intent for this plate is meant to be read as WEB KYTN, however it also has been interpreted as WEB KYTN.

Richard and Margo McKiernan
Bremerton, WA

Blown Cover!

You may wonder who wrote that cover story on the last issue of Kiting, "50 Years of Really High Flying". I cannot tell a lie, it was Robyne Gardner. Sorry, Robyne!

-ed.

Ingraham Scholarship

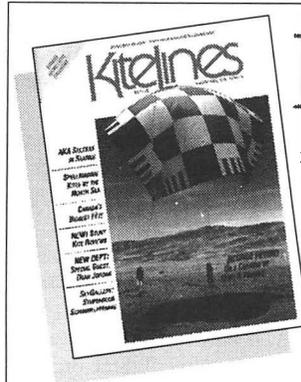
This past summer, the AKA received a request from our late founder Bob Ingraham's widow, Hazel, and their daughter, Helen. They wondered if the AKA or its members would like to contribute to a scholarship fund at Western New Mexico University in Bob Ingraham's name. This will be a music scholarship—music was the other great interest in Bob's life besides kites. The violin was his daily companion, as he performed publicly over a span of many years as a member and concert master of the WNMU Community Symphony in Silver City.

The AKA board, and those members present at the annual business meeting, discussed this request at length. On one hand, everyone wanted to honor our founder with a donation. Conversely, we realized that not everyone would agree with donating association funds to a non-kite related scholarship fund. In the end, it was decided not to donate AKA funds directly, but to ask members who approved to donate individually as they wished. Baskets were circulated at the annual awards banquet and \$1500 was collected. This amount, added to that already received by the Ingraham family, will make the scholarship a reality.

Donations to this fund will be greatly appreciated. Checks may be made out to Western New Mexico University, and sent to Helen Ingraham Francis, 608 E. 12th Street, Silver City, New Mexico 88061. Your donation will be a lasting tribute to our association's founder.

Thank you,
Richard Denmer

Letters, photos and articles to Kiting are all appreciated. Please plan 1-2 months ahead of publication dates when submitting articles.



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Sport Kite Rules Committee Report

Dave and Sherrie Arnold,
Committee Chairs

The Sport Kite Rules committee has had a number of things on its agenda over the past few months, including fine-tuning some of our rules, attending the Convention's annual Sport Kite Symposium, and working with the International Rule Book Committee.

Recent rule issues before the committee are as follows. Rule changes that were voted in will go into effect January 1, 1998.

Accepted (Effective January 1, 1998)

- Increase minimum windspeed for Team Train from 2 mph to 4 mph.
- Amend the definition of the Novice class to include the wording "If you compete on a pair or team, you are not a Novice".
Note: Competitors currently in Novice class that fly on a pair or team may remain in Novice until the end of the current season (July 31, 1998).

Rejected

- Increase maximum individual ballet time from four minutes to five minutes.

Still in Discussion

- Creating a new multi-kite class separate from Freestyle or to replace Freestyle.
- New rules for equipment changes on the field.
- Adoption of STACK compulsory figures.
- Definition of 5.0 score.
- Alternate scoring methods.
- Judges displaying scores and/or quicker score reporting.

For Future Discussion

- Harsher penalty for crashes with relaunch.

If you have comments on any of these issues or have other issues which you would like the Rules committee to consider, please contact any of the committee members.

The Sport Kite Symposium at the Convention was its usual animated event, giving sport kite competitors the chance to discuss issues with each other, the Sport Kite Rules Committee and the Festivals and Competition Committee, which oversees our ranking system. Attended by more than 200 people, this meeting drew a larger crowd than even the business meeting.

The session opened with a trip around the room as each person stated the one issue they felt was most important. A number of people cited the need for a unified set of international rules, others noted that enforcement of the rules needs to be more consistent, along with a host of other issues.

On the topic of international rules, the International Rule Book Committee, consisting of members from AKA, STACK, and AJSKA, is hard at work on a new rule book to be adopted by all three organizations. The new rules will be a combination of existing AKA rules and STACK amendments and some departures from current procedures as we try all try to take sportkiting to the next level.

Consistent enforcement of the rules is dependent on the judges and organizers of our events. Judges' training is important - we depend on our experienced judges to train newer judges through seminars and on-field communication. Encourage your event organizer to offer seminars if they don't already! If you are a judge, be sure

you are familiar with the rules and don't hesitate to look it up on the field; most of us know how to handle 90% of the situations we come across, but for that 10%, be sure to consult your rule book.

Finally, remember that this committee represents you, the competitor. If you have opinions, ideas, suggestions, or requests, please let us know. The amount of direct communication we have had over the past few years has been extremely low - we need to hear from you to know what you want! Committee contacts are listed in the front of this and every issue of "Kiting".



**AKA SPORT KITE
RULES COMMITTEE**
Dave Arnold, Sherrie Arnold,
Bob Childs, Eric Forsberg,
David Gomborg, Chuck Sigal,
Mike Simmons, Darrin Skinner,
Bert Tanaka, and Sue Sedgwick.

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Improving Your Precision Flying

by Bert Tanaka

One of the ways to improve your scores in the Individual Precision events is to focus on flying the compulsories as drawn and close to the percentages. What some fliers do is to fly the figure so that it is symmetrical with the one that is drawn, but not at the same percentages, height and width, that are shown in the compulsory drawings. Let's examine three figures that were flown in the Masters Individual Precision at this year's Grand Nationals.

#33. Clover Leaf: The main key to this figure is to be able to fly through center window each time a leaf is constructed. Common tendencies are to make the first horizontal line too high, to make the second vertical left of the first vertical, and to make the leaves of the Clover Leaf, too wide. The figure is to be flown in a space 50% left, and 50% right of center window. Flyers often will make this figure bigger because it becomes easier to fly, but in doing so, they lose points.

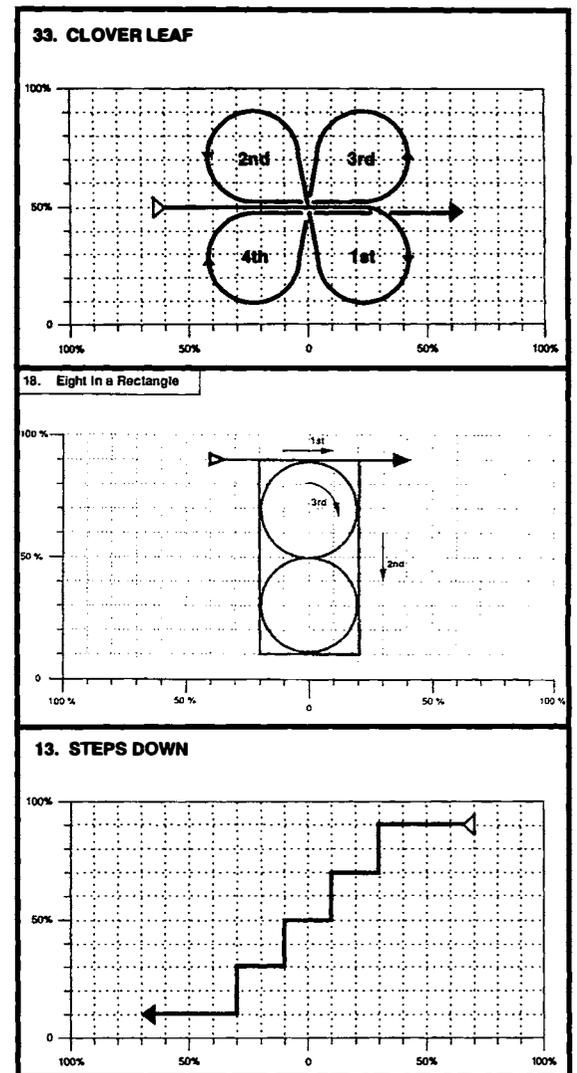
#18. Eight in a Rectangle: You should fly this figure so that you are constructing two circles and not the kind of eight that looks like two tear drops joined at their apex. Common errors are to make the rectangle too large for the circles and to make the top circle smaller than the bottom circle. This figure is really quite narrow, flown in only 20% left and right of center window. It might help you to get a feeling for the true size of the rectangle if you flew the circles first a few times before you started practicing it correctly.

#13. Steps Down: The vertical drops of the steps occur within plus and minus 30% of center window. Nearly everybody flies this figure to the left of center. This is because it makes the figure a lot easier to fly, but again, this should result in a pretty large deduction because it really changes the difficulty and the percentages at which the figure is supposed to be flown at. To make it a little bit easier, be sure to start the figure at 90%. Starting it low makes it way too hard. Use all push turns. Step forward on the downs, and pause on the horizontals. You may need to experiment with your forward movement so that you can slow your kite down, but not to the point where of losing all line tension or the kite will not track true and will just wiggle wobble down.

Transition: A lot of flyers don't really practice a routine for league style precision. What they'll do is to fly a bunch of tricks, then set up for a compulsory, and then do the compulsory; fly a bunch of tricks, set up for a compulsory, and then do the compulsory; etc., etc. Good judges can see the set up coming and mark down for it. Instead of flying a set up, a good flyer will make the transition into the compulsory by making the exit of his last maneuver the entrance into the compulsory. An example might be to do a right handed axel at 50% on the left edge of the window and use the resulting line in as the first horizontal of the Clover Leaf. Generally, too, the Precision event is where a lot of radical flying is encouraged, so for the freestyle section, don't be overly conservative since difficulty is a scored element.

Another way to raise your compulsory scores is to show speed control by flying the figure at a constant speed. This helps to make a cleaner looking figure. After making a turn, lock onto the line. Wobbling onto a line reduces scores. Sometimes flyers get a little too amped up and nervous and whack their way through the turns unaware of how sloppy this looks. Also, learn to lock your loops so that the kite curves smoothly around in a circle rather than ratchets around in an octagon.

The best way to evaluate your compulsories is with video tape. The second best way is to have an experienced flyer critique your figures and/or you yourself get some valid judging experience. The slowest way to make progress is to judge your figures yourself while you're flying them. If you use video tape, you may want to invest in a wide angle lens attachment for your camcorder so that you don't have to set up so far behind the flying area.



Kitevents

January

1
New Year's Fly & Potluck
North Park, Lakeville, MN
Craig Christensen 612-435-7406

New Year's Day Frost Bite Fly
Vet's Memorial, Norwalk, CT

Hangover Fly
On the Mall, Washington, DC
Mike VanMeers 301-948-0559

Sno'Fly
Kalamazoo, MI
John Cosby, 616-383-8778

23-25
Oregon Kitemakers Retreat
Rockaway Beach, OR
360-699-4871 / orkitemkrs@aol.com
Guests: Jose Sainz, Scott Hampton,
Bobby Stanfield, Elain Genser

24-25
Treasure Island Sport Kite Champ.
Treasure Island, FL
Tom Mason 912-898-9142
Kitesville, USA 800-445-6902

February

8
St. Paul Winter Carnival's Frosty
Fingers Kite Fly
Como Park, St. Paul
Craig Christensen 612-435-7406

13-16
Maryland Kite Making Retreat
Best Western, Laurel, MD
Jon Burkhardt 301-424-6976

14-16
The Golden Age of Kites
Cody Workshop-Jeff Howard
World Kite Museum, Long Beach,
WA 360-642-4020

27-March 2
Roaring Forties Int'l. Kite Festival
PO Box 396, Launceston,
Tasmania 7250 Australia

28
MKS Annual Banquet & Auction
Scully's Broiler Bar
Bloomington, MN
Julie Renner 612-935-8239

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

March

6-8
Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference
Fort Worden, WA
Bob Alford 206-888-2812

Midwest Area Kitemaker's Retreat
(MAKR) Oregon, IL
Kathy Horn 815-393-4672

7
2nd Annual Bill Kocher Kite Fly
Sandy Point, Annapolis, MD
Mike VanMeers 301-948-0559

8
70th Annual Zilker Park Kite Festival
Austin, TX
Richard Robertson 512-453-7174

15
St. Patrick's Day Fly, Crystal, MN
Brad Klages 612-866-9055

21
Smithsonian Workshop
Washington, DC
Bevan & Margo Brown 301-890-1178

11th Annual Spiro Mounds Kite Flite
Spiro, OK
Dennis Peterson 918-962-2062

21-22
Round Rock Kite Festival
Round Rock, TX
Dennis Phillips 512-457-8802

24-30
The First Dubai International Kite
Fest and Fighter Kite Olympiad
doi@giasbm01.vsnl.net.in

28
Smithsonian Kite Festival
Theme "Boxes in the Sky"
On the Mall, Washington, DC
Bevan & Margo Brown 301-890-1178

28-29
Flying Circle Workshop
World Kite Museum, Long Beach,
WA 360-642-4020

4th Annual Westlake Kite Festival
Lahoma, OK
Steve Thomason 405-796-2359

April

4
St. John's College Kite Workshop
St. John's College, Annapolis, MD
Adam Grow 301-949-9078

4-5
5th Annual Bluebonnet Kite Festival
San Marcos, TX
Judy Aswell 512-396-2374

10
5th Annual Renfrew Fun Fly
Renfrew Park & Museum
Waynesboro, PA
Bill Flohr 717-762-8492

18
NE Kansas City Kite Fest
Kansas City, MO
Carolyn Moore 913-894-5483

Harker Heights Kite Festival
Harker Heights, TX
Steven Newberry 409-744-4121

The Great St. John's Kite Festival
St. John's College
Annapolis, MD
Joe Croot 410-236-4628

2nd Annual Perkasio Kite Festival
Perkasie, PA
LVKS 610-867-4999

18-19
Little Acorns Int'l Kite Festival
World Showcase of Kitebuilders
Miami Beach, FL
305-667-7756

19
Earth Day Fly
Brooklyn Park, MN
Brad Klages 612-866-9055

Spring Launch Kite Fly
Solomons, MD
Adam Grow 301-949-9078

24-26
Maryland International Kite Festival
Mid Atlantic Stunt Kite Champ.
Ocean City, MD
Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

25-26
Kitefest
River Oaks Park, Kalamazoo, MI
John Cosby 616-383-8778

Appliqué Workshop
w/ Gail Lindsey
World Kite Museum, Long Beach,
WA 360-642-4020

October

13-17
AKA Grand Nationals & Convention
Ocean Shores, WA
Mel Hickman 800-252-2550
Jim Miller 500-447-5516

Monthly 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, Bethlehem, PA

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

Maryland Kite Society
Every 3rd Sunday of the month
Glenwood Park, Inwood, MD

North Coast Sky Painters
2nd Weekend of the month
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, Tacoma, WA
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

Westport Windriders
4th Saturday of every month,
Grayland Beach approach in
Grayland, WA potluck in the evening
Creda Axton 360-491-3229

Wings Over Washington
First Sunday of the Month Fly
Washington Monument,
Washington, DC
Mike VanMeers 301-948-0559

Send us your 1998 Event Information

including name of the event, activities, dates, location, contact
and phone number to:

"AKA Kiting"
232 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067.

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

Spectacular Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference

Mark March 6-8, 1998 on your calendars for the 15th Annual Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference held in Port Townsend, WA. This year's event will allow attendees to explore creative kite shapes and design as well as surface design. A phenomenal group of instructors has been invited as instructors.

Willi Koch, (Germany), Scott Hampton (U.S.), and Scott Spencer (U.S.) will all share their talents as masters of surface design. Willi is known for his known for his open designs using a latticework technique. Scott Hampton's work consistently brings praise (and awards) with his use of color and striking graphics in his kites and banners. He will teach participants to use his system of spray painting. Scott Spencer has developed a way to weave ripstop nylon that blend, change, and create colors not otherwise possible. Students in his class will create their own Malay - Hata kite.

Masters in kite design and structure at this year's conference are Tim Benson (United Kingdom), István Bodóczy (Hungary), Marc Ricketts (U.S.), and Bobby Stanfield (U.S.). Tim is known for his exquisitely designed dual line kites, István for his use of asymmetrical kites, Marc for his unconventionally shaped multi-line kites and Bobby for his elegant cellular and bowed kite variations. Together, they provide a comprehensive opportunity to learn about kite design and structures.

Two other international guests presenting are: Richard Gareau from Canada sharing his method of building fighter kites and Bas Vreeswijk of the Netherlands. Co-sponsored by the Drachen Foundation, Bas Vreeswijk will be presenting two workshops on Cody kites where participants will build miniature Cody kites that can be trained together.

Talented kitemakers from the Northwest who will also be sharing their knowledge include Dave Colbert, Ken Conrad, Deb Cooley, Charmayne Cornell, Bary Crites, Mike Eason, Elain Genser, Margaret Greger, Sam Huston, Brian Johnson, Dan Kurahashi, Jim Murosako, Mark Neuhaus, Gerry Pennell, Dick Wightman, and Mary Yoshimi.

As you can see the scope of the conference, there is something for everyone no matter what your skill level or interests in kiting are! Registration has started, but there should be room for more. For more information please contact Bob Alford at (425) 888 - 2812 or email him at balford@cnw.com.

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Go Build a Kite

Join Us for the 18th Annual

Maryland Kite Making Retreat

*sponsored by the Marland Kite Society
at the Best Westerrn Maryland Inn
Laurel, Maryland*

Friday evening, February 13 through Monday Noon, February 16

The great tradition continues! Treat your valentine to the thrill of learning about and making kites with local, national, and international stars in the kite world.

Featured guests this year include

Steve Brockett, of Cardiff, Wales and Richard Gareau of Montreal, Canada

Other kitemaking projects will be led by Peter Rondeau (1997 AKA Grand National Champion) and Ed Shenk (1997 AKA Special Award Winner).

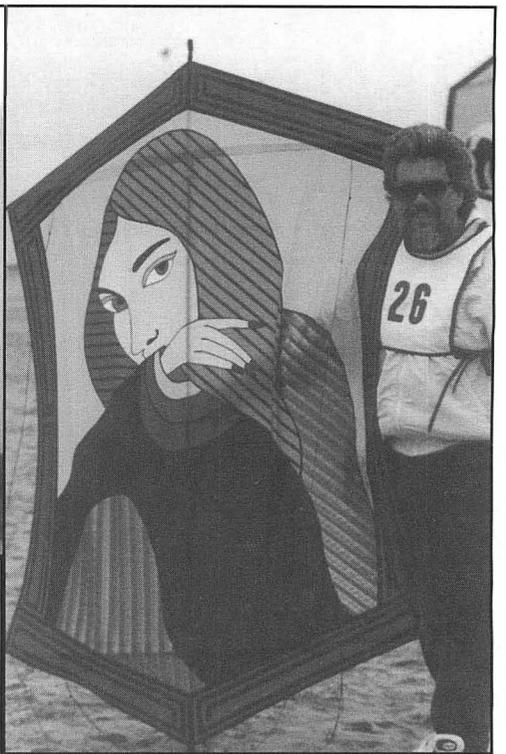
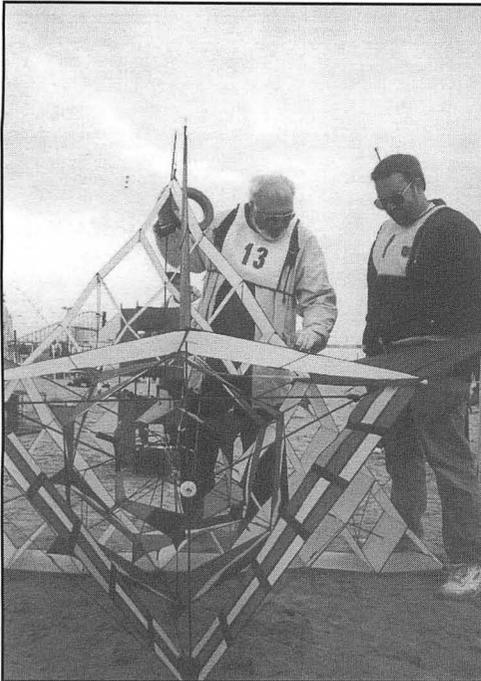
Additional presentations by Kevin & Cinda Shannon,
Glenn & Tanna Haynes, Steve & Tony Ferrel,
Cliff & Joyce Quinn, Marguerite Stankus, & Skippy Sesker.

Retreat registration is \$90 per person, including the Saturday evening banquet.

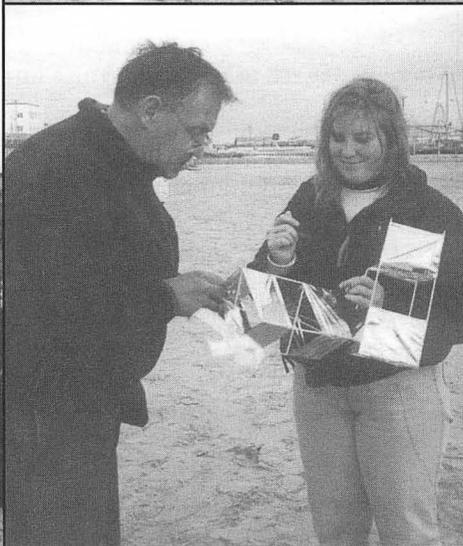
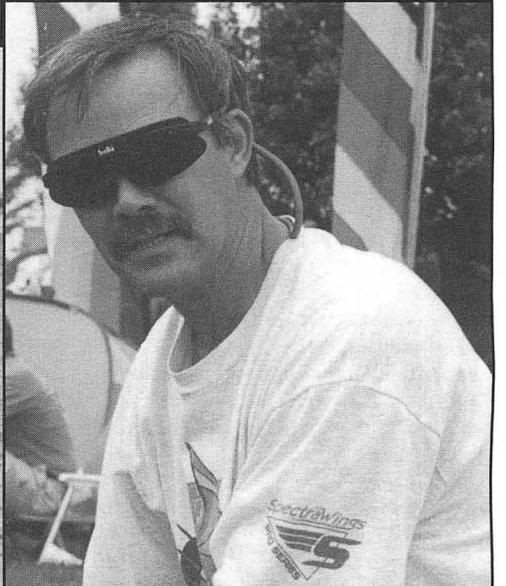
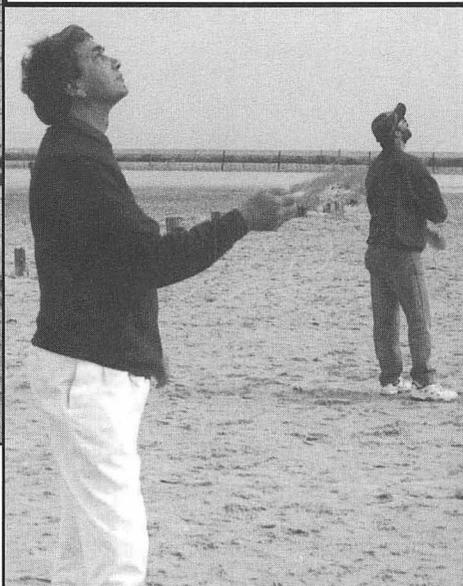
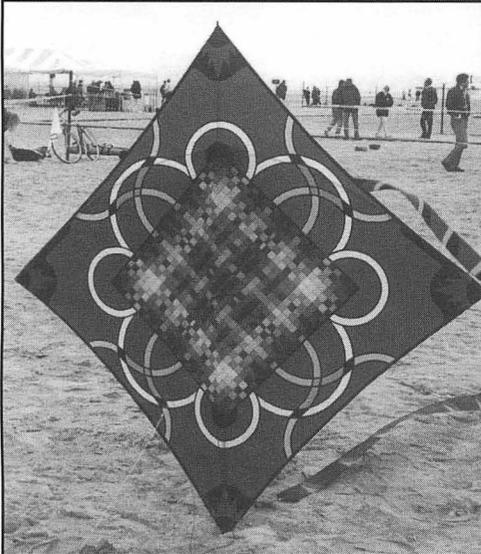
Other meals and materials are additional. Send your check to:
The Maryland Kite Society, 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, MD, 20854

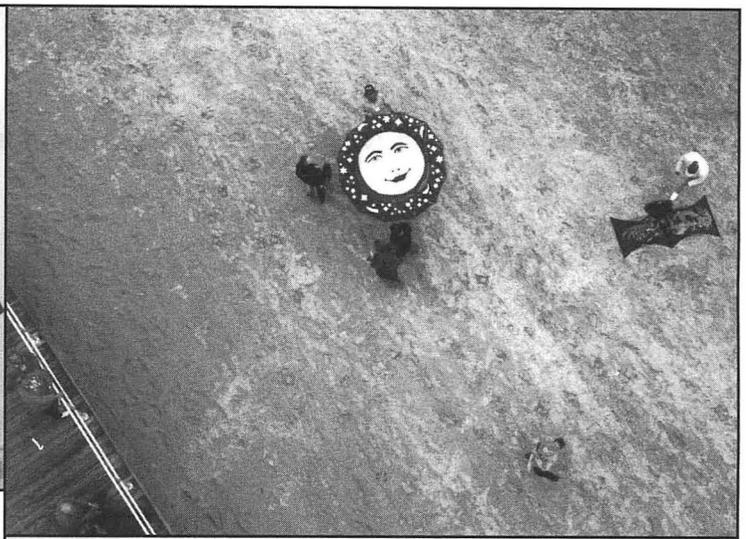
**SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 75 REGISTRANTS,
SO ACT QUICKLY!**

Make your room registrations directly with the Best Western Maryland Inn in Laurel, Maryland at 301-776-5300. Rooms are \$60 per night before February 1.

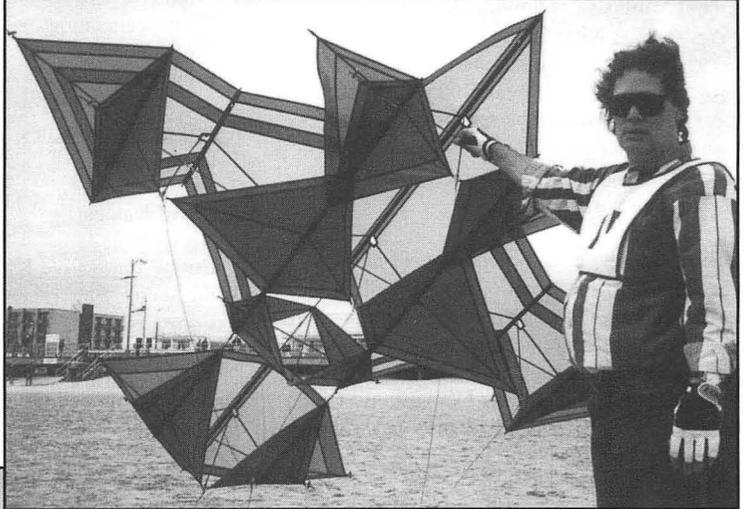



 1997
 AKA
 GRAND
 NATIONALS
 WILDWOOD, NJ



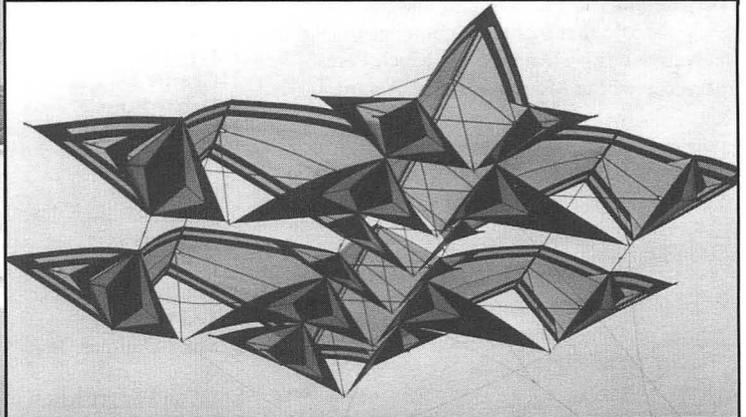
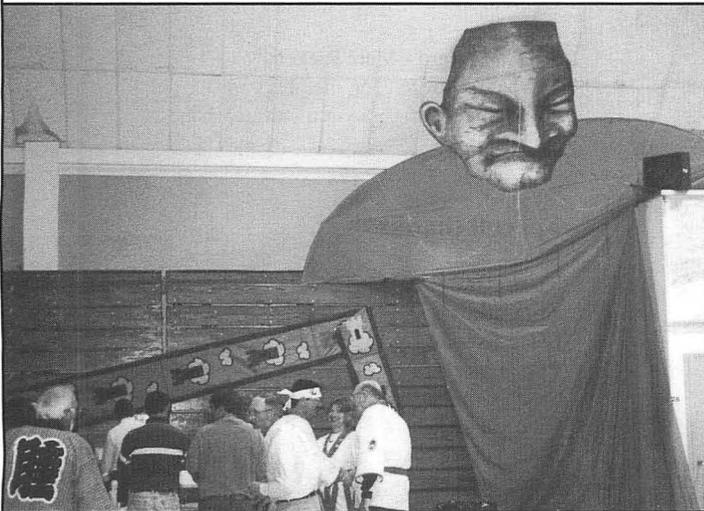


Page 14 - (Top left, going clockwise) Tony Ferrell with his compound kite; Rick Kinnaird in front of the giant WAYV boom box; Ron Gibian and his other lady; Ed Shenk competed in seven different categories; Member's Choice winner (Moon) and other candidates; Traditional box kite mass ascension (Charlie Sotich and friend); Mikio Toki and his entry; Scott Spencer's entry in Innovative Concepts and Design; Richard Gareau and Stafford Wallace (center).



Page 15 (Top left, going clockwise) Charlie Dunton's beautiful rokkaku (a candidate for Member's Choice); Brooks Leffler's aerial photography of Peter Dolphin's Man in the Moon; Bobby Stanfield's Member's Choice entry; Bobby and Kite; Robert Trepanier deviating from kite making; High Flyers Too team entering competition; and Bobby Trepanier's big man (Member's Choice entry).

Photos by Roger Chewning, Lois DeBolt, and Brooks Leffler.





Kitemakers' Competition

(Continued from Page 1)

The total of the points for each kite was the sum of the four average criteria scores. The highest scoring kite in each of the competitive categories was the winner of that category. The judges then ranked the winners of all the categories to determine the 1997 Grand National Champion. A new and revised AKA Kitemaking Competitions Scoring Program, a computerized scoring program written in Visual FoxPro by Karen Burkhardt, tabulated the results in each individual category. These results are now available in summary form on AKA's Web page for all competitors.

The results of the competition were not revealed until the banquet Saturday night. First, second, and third-place winners in each category were announced by Jon Burkhardt and Steve Ferrel, the Co-Chairmen of the Kitemakers' Competitions Committee. Cinda Shannon, Head Registrar, distributed trophies and hugs. This year's Grand National Champion was Pete Rondeau from Pennsylvania, who built an intricate and imaginative centipede kite that included a number of innovative design features, for which Pete also received the Most Innovative Award.

Results of Kitemakers' competition (Top 5)

Arch, Trains, and Ribbons

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1 Ron Mazzotta | 30.80 |
| 2 Paul Lawrence | 30.53 |

Cellular or Dimensional kites

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1 Bobby Stanfield | 34.74 |
| 2 Tony Ferrel | 33.26 |
| 3 Peter Dolphin | 33.00 |
| 4 Cliff Quinn | 31.35 |
| 5 Tom McAllister | 30.63 |

Cooperative kites

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1 Mid Michigan String Stretchers | 31.64 |
| 2 Kurt Eby & Ed Shenk | 28.98 |
| 3 Lehigh Valley Kite Society | 28.60 |
| 4 Alice Hayden / Dave Arnold | 28.38 |
| 5 Carmella Pallotta / Jim Low | 26.23 |

Deltas and Derivatives

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| 1 Ed Shenk | 31.13 |
| 2 Richard Gareau | 29.42 |
| 3 Charlie Dunton | 28.71 |
| 4 Morris Wright | 28.02 |
| 5 Todd Little | 25.84 |

Figure kites

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1 David Arnold | 31.23 |
| 2 Michael Dallmer | 29.61 |
| 3 Martin Blais | 29.55 |

Flat or bowed kites

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1 Wolfgang Grimsel | 32.45 |
| 2 Stretch Tucker | 31.90 |
| 3 Cinda Shannon | 30.63 |
| 4 Richard Koons | 30.22 |
| 5 Tony Reiser | 30.22 |

Innovative kites

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1 Ed Shenk | 31.73 |
| 2 Scott Spencer | 31.12 |
| 3 David Rowe | 29.07 |
| 4 Robert Price | 26.47 |

Multiline Figure Kites

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| 1 Daniel Klos | 30.97 |
| 2 Joel Scholz | 30.27 |
| 3 David Davies | 28.59 |

Multiline Innovative Kites

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| 1 Ed Shenk | 31.63 |
| 2 Daniel Klos | 29.99 |
| 3 Joel Scholz | 29.47 |

Open or Combined Category

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1 Todd Little | 28.56 |
| 2 Mary Baier | 28.53 |
| 3 Charmaine Lindner | 25.43 |

Rokkaku

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| 1 Ron Gibian | 34.41 |
| 2 Charlie Dunton | 33.25 |
| 3 Debby Borg | 30.50 |
| 4 Scott Spencer | 29.52 |
| 5 Steve Cseplo | 29.45 |

Soft or Flexible Kites

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1 Joel Scholz | 30.77 |
| 2 Barbara Meyer | 29.13 |
| 3 Michael Dallmer | 28.16 |
| 4 Ted Nick | 28.00 |
| 5 Mike Dallmer, Jr. | 26.39 |

Stunt and Sport Kites

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| 1 Ed Shenk | 30.96 |
| 2 Daniel Klos | 29.13 |
| 3 Ron Hicks | 28.83 |
| 4 Peter Hugger | 28.45 |

Traditional Kites

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1 Mikio Toki | 33.71 |
| 2 Tanna Haynes | 32.53 |
| 3 Tom McAllister | 30.99 |
| 4 Ed Shenk | 30.54 |
| 5 Stephen Millner | 24.62 |

Trains and Centipedes

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1 Pete Rondeau | 35.03 |
| 2 Ty Billings | 30.38 |
| 3 David Gomberg | 28.12 |
| 4 Ed Shenk | 27.71 |
| 5 Cheryl Kear | 27.66 |

Most Innovative - Pete Rondeau

For his centipede kite with removable disks and several new construction techniques for the head.

Best Use of Traditional Materials -

Mikio Toki -

For his traditional Japanese Edo kite with bamboo framing.

Mixed Media Kites

Kurt Eby -

For his rokkaku kite made with spray-painted fabric.

Novice Kitemaker

Cheryl Kear -

For her six-sided kite with castles on the kite and the tail.

Special Award -

Ed Shenk

For successful competition in four of the seven categories he entered.

Special Award - Marc Ricketts

For his use of tension members in framing kites that could be reconfigured into various shapes.



Mikio Toki receiving award!
Photo Brooks Leffler

Special thanks

To the Judges:

Jim Carnevale
Steve Cseplo
Ron Gibian
Susan Gomberg
Glen Haynes
Betty Hirschmann
Barry Johnson
Tom McAlister
Cliff Quinn
Pete Rondeau

The Registrars:

Cinda Shannon
Tanna Haynes
Joyce Quinn
Bonnie Rondeau
Monica Flynn

The Field staff:

Kurt Eby
Kristine Johnson
Drake Smith



Cinda Shannon and her Entry!
Photo by Lois DeBolt



Two Time Member's Choice Winner, Pete Dolphin, Judge Susan Gomberg and the Man in the Moon.

Head Scorekeeper:

Karen Burkhardt

Assistant Scorekeeper:

Monica Flynn

Announcer: John Gabby

The trophy sponsors:

Sky Festival Productions

Adam Grow

Jon and Karen Burkhardt

The Kite Studio

Sky Delight Kites

druid labs

Martin Lester

Burlesque Kites

North Coast Sky Painters

J. R. Tolman II

Scott Skinner

Jeff Cain

South Jersey Kiteflyers

Pete and Bonnie Rondeau

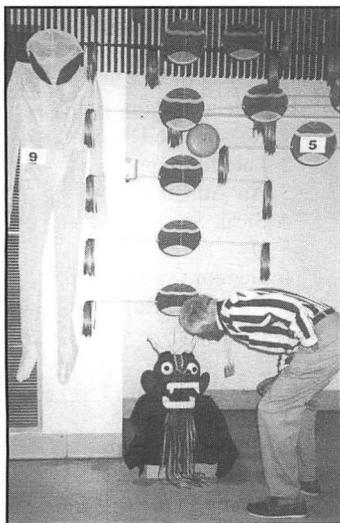
Cliff and Joyce Quinn

High Flyers Flight Company

The Maryland Kite Society

Jim Cosca and Barb Murphy

In Memory of Elmer Wharton



Dan Klos checking out Pete Rondeau's winner!

Photo by Brooks Leffler

Flying Kites

By Dennis L. Kucmerowski

Is it art? Is it a kite accessory? Is it something to bring smiles to kitefliers and on-lookers young and old? It is a little of the above.

My creation "Flying Kites" began with an idea quite some time ago with plans to build a radio controlled (RC) device to fly 2 line kites. There are 2 parts to "Flying Kites;" "Radio Red" and "Little Red" which took approximately 3 months (part time) to build.



Dennis is well armed when it come to innovative development. He certainly has a great sense of humor when it comes to flying kites!

Radio Red is a diamond kite, which stands 48" to the top spinner. What would Radio Red be without a sidekick Little Red, a diamond kite about 18 inches tall. Although Little Red does not fly kites, Little Red intensely watches Radio Red fly kites.

Radio Red was built with parts from our favorite stores: Home depot, Target, Kmart, Sears, Wal-Mart, Builders Square, and Discount Auto. On a shoe-string budget, it is amazing how creative and resourceful one can be. Radio Red's main structure is wood covered with bright red vinyl cloth. The eyes are made from CD-ROM discs, non-skid material, and automotive door trim. The smile is thick black insulated wire. The arms and legs are made from plastic dryer vent hose, and the shoes are my old boots. The main T-bar frame is made of PVC pipe. A pulley and spindle system using an electric screw-driver is the main muscle for controlling the T-bar which the dual-line kite is attached. Radio Red can be operated by radio control as well as remote control.



Radio Red and Little Red, Flying Kites!

Initial test flying on the beach (clean winds) found that Radio Red could handle up to 20+ mph winds, but that is really pushing it. The ideal wind range for controlled flying is 8-15 mph.

Why the name Flying Kites? "Flying Kites" has a double meaning. Is it the Kites (Radio Red and Little Red) or is it just flying kites like you and I do? Your choice. My main goal for "Flying Kites" is to bring smiles to many faces, because that's what kiting is all about.

I would like to thank my Mom for the artistic ability she has given me and my Dad for the guidance and knowledge, which allowed me to create "Flying Kites."

Special thanks goes to Roger Chewning for his overall support. Interested parties may also write to Jon and Karen Burkhardt at 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, MD, 20854 for complete copies of all scores. Results of the 1997 Grand National Kitemakers' Competition are also available from Steve Ferrel at the Kite Studio, 5555 Hamilton Blvd, Wescoville, Pennsylvania, 18106.

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AKA \$30 ea 90, 92, 94, 95, 96

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(90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96)

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AKA GRAND NATIONAL RESULTS

Novice Individual Precision

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Phil Napier | 62.73 | SouthEast |
| 2 Edna Bertholf | 58.00 | NorthEast |
| 3 Kevin Kirkendoll | 57.73 | Central |
| 4 Torrey Lindemann | 56.90 | NorthEast |
| 5 Steven Ploof | 53.97 | Central |
| 6 Jim Cox | 53.70 | Central |
| 7 Ryan Aguirre | 51.40 | NorthEast |
| 8 Susan Adkins | 48.73 | MidWest |
| 9 Marion Proffitt | 42.47 | SouthEast |
| 10 Cody Kell | 41.77 | Pacific |

Intermediate Individual Precision

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Lionel Gibbons | 69.40 | Pacific |
| 2 Joesph Bacon | 67.20 | Pacific |
| 3 Dennis Phillips | 64.67 | Central |
| 4 Shane Snowden | 64.47 | Central |
| 5 Jeff Wallace | 64.00 | NorthEast |
| 6 Reid Walcott | 63.47 | NorthWest |
| 7 Richard Koons | 62.80 | NorthEast |
| 8 Terry Murray | 61.40 | SouthEast |
| 9 Jason Robbins | 61.33 | SouthEast |
| 10 Mary Bos | 60.80 | NorthWest |
| 11 Gina Ignazzitto | 59.20 | MidWest |
| 12 Carl Wall | 56.47 | Canada |

Intermediate Individual Ballet

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Shane Snowden | 67.60 | Central |
| 2 Terry Murray | 66.27 | SouthEast |
| 3 Alfonso Marable | 61.40 | NorthEast |
| 4 Jason Robbins | 60.47 | SouthEast |
| 5 Todd Little | 59.73 | NorthEast |
| 6 Joesph Bacon | 59.40 | Pacific |
| 7 Brian Guile | 57.87 | Central |
| 8 Lionel Gibbons | 57.13 | Pacific |
| 9 Gina Ignazzitto | 56.73 | MidWest |
| 10 Carl Wall | 55.40 | Canada |
| 11 Dwight Kentfield | 54.60 | MidWest |
| 12 Gerry Riedel | 54.40 | NorthEast |

Experienced Individual Precision

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Scott Weider | 65.13 | Northeast |
| 2 Dennis Desrosiers | 64.40 | Northeast |
| 3 Rick Wolcott | 63.13 | NorthWest |
| 4 Terry Thurston | 62.27 | MidWest |
| 5 Ed Shenk | 62.13 | NorthEast |
| 6 Phil Broder | 61.07 | SouthEast |
| 7 Mike Delfar | 58.93 | MidWest |
| 8 Mike Rix | 58.73 | Central |
| 9 Monica Barber | 57.80 | NorthWest |
| 10 Steve Cseplo | 53.67 | SouthEast |
| 11 Ron Hicks | 51.87 | Pacific |
| 12 Zoe Salloom | 50.07 | Pacific |

Experienced Individual Ballet

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Scott Weider | 74.07 | NorthEast |
| 2 Mike Book | 69.73 | NorthEast |
| 3 Dennis Desrosiers | 68.80 | NorthEast |
| 4 Mike Delfar | 66.53 | MidWest |
| 5 Terry Thurston | 63.13 | MidWest |
| 6 Phil Broder | 62.53 | SouthEast |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|
| 7 Jeff Burka | 60.60 | SouthEast |
| 8 Zoe Salloom | 57.40 | Pacific |
| 9 Steve Cseplo | 57.40 | SouthEast |
| 10 Marg Nicol | 52.27 | Canada |
| 11 Gerri Adler | 52.07 | Pacific |
| 12 Susan Thonstad | 50.27 | NorthWest |

Experienced Individual Quadline Ballet

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Robin Taylor | 74.80 | MidWest |
| 2 Bob Hurd | 74.40 | NorthEast |
| 3 Dawn Dimanno | 61.60 | Pacific |
| 4 Lionel Gibbons | 61.40 | Pacific |
| 5 Tye Harrison | 58.93 | Central |
| 6 Jason Robbins | 56.67 | SouthEast |
| 7 Charles Stonestret | 49.33 | SouthEast |
| 8 Jeff Burka | 48.67 | SouthEast |
| 9 Bruce Kapsten | 44.60 | NorthEast |
| 10 Kelly Reed | 44.13 | Central |
| 11 Dennis Phillips | 42.53 | Central |
| 12 Todd Little | 0.00 | NorthEast |

Experienced Pairs Ballet

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Reasonable Doubt | 64.40 | Central |
| 2 Late for Supper | 59.47 | SouthEast |
| 3 Air Atlantis | 56.47 | NorthEast |
| 4 Steak Sandwich | 56.13 | NorthEast |
| 5 Q | 50.47 | SouthEast |
| 6 Gemini Connections | 47.73 | Pacific |
| 7 Richmond Rafi's | 46.07 | SouthEast |
| 8 Par Avion | 46.00 | Pacific |

Experienced Team Precision

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Bumper Kites | 72.63 | NorthWest |
| 2 Higher Powered | 64.58 | MidWest |
| 3 Spirits in the Wind | 59.78 | Canada |
| 4 Austin EOL | 55.57 | Central |
| 5 W.A.T.T | 54.35 | NorthEast |

Experienced Team Ballet

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Bumper Kites | 71.27 | NorthWest |
| 2 Implosion | 58.20 | Central |
| 3 Higher Powered | 57.27 | MidWest |
| 4 W.A.T.T. | 55.40 | NorthEast |
| 5 Spirits in the Wind | 48.13 | Canada |
| 6 Air Crackers | 45.53 | NorthEast |
| 7 Wind Wizards | 45.40 | Central |
| 8 Austin EOL | 36.87 | Central |

Masters Individual Precision

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Michael Moore | 71.40 | NorthEast |
| 2 Billy Ng | 70.60 | NorthEast |
| 3 Jim Barber | 70.13 | NorthWest |
| 4 Rich Javens | 69.67 | NorthEast |
| 5 Mike Huff | 69.40 | NorthWest |
| 6 Curtiss Mitchell | 68.33 | SouthEast |
| 7 John Barresi | 67.93 | MidWest |
| 8 Mike Lin | 67.40 | MidWest |
| 9 Miguel Rodriguez | 67.20 | Pacific |
| 10 Troy Gunn | 67.07 | Central |
| 11 Vern Balodis | 63.73 | MidWest |
| 12 Michael Weingand | 63.67 | Pacific |

1997 WILDWOOD

Masters Individual Ballet

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 John Morrison | 85.40 | Pacific |
| 2 Steve Karatzas | 82.93 | NorthEast |
| 3 Lance Wagner | 78.80 | NorthEast |
| 4 Rich Javens | 77.93 | NorthEast |
| 5 Drew Davidson | 75.67 | MidWest |
| 6 Miguel Rodriguez | 73.33 | Pacific |
| 7 Michael Weingand | 72.93 | Pacific |
| 8 John Barresi | 71.80 | MidWest |
| 9 Curtiss Mitchell | 68.60 | SouthEast |
| 10 Jerry Hershey | 68.00 | Central |
| 11 Kelly Reed | 65.40 | Central |
| 12 B.C. Shelby | 60.40 | NorthWest |

Masters Individual Quadline Ballet

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|------------|
| 1 Billy Ng | 88.13 | NorthEast |
| 2 Ron Despojado | 84.13 | Pacific |
| 3 Lam Hoac | 82.80 | MidWest |
| 4 John Barresi | 78.40 | MidWest |
| 5 Sandy Wagner | 77.87 | NorthEast |
| 6 Debra Hurd | 77.13 | North East |
| 7 Dave Van Nocker | 76.47 | MidWest |
| 8 Curtiss Mitchell | 74.27 | SouthEast |
| 9 Drew Nelissen | 70.33 | Canada |
| 10 Troy Gunn | 69.87 | Central |
| 11 Michael Weingand | 62.20 | Pacific |

Masters Pairs Ballet

| | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Dos Avispas | 79.87 | Pacific |
| 2 Aerial Assault | 77.00 | MidWest |
| 3 Sudden Flight | 75.73 | NorthEast |
| 4 Jumbo Shrimp | 74.00 | NorthEast |
| 5 K-FAN | 71.87 | NorthEast |
| 6 Rob-N-Air | 65.80 | MidWest |
| 7 TKO II | 63.33 | Central |
| 8 Wind Dancers | 60.07 | NorthWest |
| 9 Papalotes | 0.00 | Pacific |

Masters Team Precision

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Captain Eddie's Flying Circus | 78.87 | MidWest |
| 2 Don't Panic | 78.58 | NorthWest |
| 3 Air West | 75.07 | Pacific |
| 4 High Flyers Too | 65.83 | NorthEast |
| 5 Uproar | 58.80 | NorthEast |
| 6 Valli Boyz | 58.10 | SouthEast |
| 7 Windjammers | 57.27 | MidWest |
| 8 Traffic Jam | 48.90 | NorthEast |
| 9 Pair of Pairs | 0.00 | MidWest |

Masters Team Ballet

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Air West | 81.47 | Pacific |
| 2 High Flyers Too | 71.87 | NorthEast |
| 3 Don't Panic | 71.13 | NorthWest |
| 4 Captain Eddie's Flying Circus | 70.93 | MidWest |
| 5 Uproar | 62.40 | NorthEast |
| 6 Valli Boyz | 61.73 | SouthEast |
| 7 Pair of Pairs | 61.53 | MidWest |
| 8 Windjammers | 61.33 | MidWest |
| 9 Traffic Jam | 54.60 | NorthEast |

Open Team Train Ballet

| | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 That's My Line | 67.60 | NorthEast |
| 2 DK Breezin' | 67.00 | NorthEast |
| 3 Valli Boyz | 66.07 | SouthEast |
| 4 TKO | 62.53 | Central |
| 5 Wind Jammers | 60.87 | MidWest |
| 6 Wind Dancers | 59.67 | NorthWest |
| 7 K-FAN | 43.67 | NorthEast |

Open Freestyle

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 Troy Gunn | 77.27 | Central |
| 2 Ron Despojado | 75.60 | Pacific |
| 3 Phil Broder | 73.37 | SouthEast |
| 4 Ardith Quanbury | 64.53 | Canada |

Confessions of AKA Convention First Timers

by Terry Murray and Phil Napier

We attended the Outer Banks Sport Kite Competition the weekend before the convention and after a brief stop home we made the trip to Wildwood with Marion Proffitt, another first timer invited to compete in NIP. Many individuals spent the entire week at the convention and after attending our first, we can understand why. There are so many activities, workshops, and seminars covering every aspect of kiting that it can be a bit overwhelming. Although relatively unknowns in the kiting world, we were constantly being asked for autographs... there was a contest for who could acquire the most first timer signatures. All first timers received mini windsocks (a gift from the South Jersey Kite Flyers) identifying the wearer as an autograph target. Many new friends were made during these autograph encounters.

Mother nature can sometimes get in the way of even the best laid plans and force schedule changes to be made. If you are a competitor, our advice is to stay for the entire convention even though you may only compete on a single day. At least one competitor was unable to compete because of schedule changes. Although Wednesday's outdoor events were postponed until Thursday due to rain, there were seminars and workshops taking place in the convention center. Jeff Howard organized an indoor fly which included performances by many of the best in the world. An unexpected surprise was watching children fly their homemade "indoor" sled kites constructed at a workshop.

Being sport kite competitors, the sport kite symposium was something we were looking forward to. Dave Gomberg was masterful in moderating the sport kite symposium, giving each person an opportunity to introduce themselves and ask questions of the Sport Kite as well as the Festivals and Competition Committee. It was rewarding to have an opportunity to be heard. Topics included everything from issues facing the serious international competitor to the recreational sport kiter.

Many exciting things were packed into a tight schedule. Where else can you see some of the most highly crafted kites in the world, a HUGE Gecko with 80 lbs of Sand in its tail anchored to a Chevy Suburban, rokkaku and fighter kites drifting down the beach after a battle, and Phil Broder in a tutu for his Innovative performance - that's entertainment! We went to the AKA convention focused on the sport kite competitions in our respective classes but by the end of the week we had learned a lot about ALL aspects of kiting. We made new friends from across the country and around the world, got to visit with our friends, and even got to see Santa at the Fly Market- hope he can fit all of those kites on our lists down the chimney!

Editor note -Phil and Terry both did well in competition, check out their finishes: Phil first in NIP, and Terry second in IIB!

FLYING HIGH IN WILDWOOD

by Kristine Johnson

Back in early October, I kept asking myself, "What is this kite exhibition program at the AKA Convention?" and, "Am I really supposed to bring all of those kites?" I've been to several AKA conventions, but I don't remember anything about a kite exhibition field that goes on for five days. "OK, I'm game." My husband and I stuffed our kitebags full of kites (some I didn't even know I had) and off to New Jersey we flew.



Our first day in Wildwood, and WOW! I was more surprised then ever with the kite exhibition program. It started with Mr. Kite (Craig Christianson) coming all the way from Minnesota just to do a special Red, White & Blue Kite Fly, complete with Craig's big American Flag Stratascoop rising to the national anthem. Next, Tony Reiser got his giant patriotic giant banner/bol of dazzling red, white, and blue high into the air. Then kites filled the sky, and it didn't matter what kind of kite you flew, so long as it was red, white, and blue. Now, who doesn't have at least one patriotic kite in their bag? Frank Kenisky did a great job as the field announcer, music and kites filled the air, and the 20th Annual AKA Convention was underway! The Exhibition Field was for everyone. I never flew that many kites in one day, and there were still four more to go!

As I said, this kite exhibition program really astounded me. For the first time, AKA felt like a real convention. Every time you flew a kite featured on the Exhibition Field you received some kind of promotional item from one of the many event sponsors. There were kite pins from KiteLines, Kites Up & Away, Kite Studio, Carlisle Kiteworks, and Into the Wind; Nautica ballcaps; Kite Loft water bottles; Kite Co kite building material kits; Revolution t-shirts; Maryland Inn name-tag lanyards; and a raffle ticket each time you flew a kite. These raffle tickets were good for special prize drawings that were held on Saturday night: prizes such as a Maryland Kite Retreat package, \$50 gift certificate from the Great Atlantic Kite Company, a WearGuard jacket, High-as-a-Kite tee-shirts, special edition kite pins from Into the Wind, and lots of other prizes from the Fly Market vendors. Over one hundred special prizes were given away! I have never received so many goodies at any other kite convention! This Exhibition Field had as many giveaways as any of the professional conventions that I attend via work, except I had a lot more fun flying my kites. I think I got enough pins on the Exhibition Field to compete with the likes of Dave Gomberg and Pete Dolphin. Look out guys!

The first day was dynamite, but I wasn't prepared for things when it really got cranked up! For the rest of the week, the big Exhibition Field became a three-ring circus with at least three events going on all at the same time! There were sport-kite team demonstrations with their grace, beauty, and agility to show everyone how great team flying can be. There were feature kite flies by some of the best kite makers in the world. It was awesome to see a sky full of kites by the likes of Reza Ragheb, Kevin Shannon, the Gibians, Bobby Stanfield, and that party animal Martin Lester. And, over on the edge of the field was the ever present Jack Rogers with his giant and monster-sized kites.

My most memorable moment was flying the kite arches and ribbons. Standing in the middle of the field in the midst of so many kite arches and ribbons flapping in the wind and listening to the music in the background, I had a feeling that - yes, I really was a part of this kite convention. Also, the running of the bols and boling team with the Gombergs was a hoot. Who would ever dream of harnessing a strap around your waist connected to a ten foot bol and then running into the wind pulling it behind you until you drop at the finish line located on the other side of the field. I hope there will be a portable oxygen tank next year. There were a few racers that had more than a few gray hairs and I laughed until the tears came rolling down my cheeks. Women and kids raced and no one was excluded.



On Saturday, the rain stopped just in time for the first ever AKA Convention Parade, held on the Wildwood Boardwalk. You had to be there to fully grasp the feeling of it all. What a great beginning this was for future AKA parades. The Grand Marshall led the parade in style with his AKA Convention shirt, silver whistle, and sparkling baton while marching to the music. Kiteers carried their kites and banners and we even had one man on his motorized scooter float! Kids got into the act with their musical instruments and twirling batons. Later people commented to me that the parade was their favorite part of the convention. Oh, have I got ideas for next year!

To me the kite exhibition field was the perfect event for us "little people" who don't compete, but love to fly kites. This year's AKA convention was more fun and exciting than any before. I know this was the dream of one person (Adam Grow) and he made this dream into a reality at Wildwood, and in turn, it became lots of fun and good times for the rest of us. Thanks, Adam!

Exhibition Field

by Adam Grow

Kristine highlighted several of the events in her article, however, there were so many events that you had to be there to enjoy it all fully. She failed to mention how hard she worked herself, and I want to thank her. The idea behind the kite exhibition field was to get people out on the beach to fly kites. The program featured many single-line variety, multi-line sport kites, fighters, figures, and even bols. The Kite Exhibition Field had more than 3,300 kites flown during the five-day convention at Wildwood, NJ.

A few thanks must be extended to those who helped make this event fun. I want to thank Roger Chewning for providing the sound system and the field setup. Roger, along with Jon Burkhardt did a great job of convincing the AKA leadership of the need for a separate field of this size and location. Our field announcer did a terrific job. This was the second time I have had the pleasure of working with Frank Kenisky at an AKA Convention, and he is a class act. I believe Frank had as much fun working the PA system as the fliers did out on the kite field. Also, I want to thank the Maryland Kite Society and the Field Chief, Ron Young, along with his staff, Scott Tabaldi, Harvey Wolf, and Curt Eby, for doing a fine job each day with field setup and break-down.

The kite mass ascensions went off every day without a hitch, thanks to Al Sparling and his staff. The new mass ascension pin set was a big hit with everyone. By my calculation, more than 800 kites were flown at this event alone. Also, Keystone Kites sponsored a mystery mass ascension that got more than 100 classic box kites into the air.

More work went into getting all the sport kite teams together and setting up their schedules. This feat was accomplished by Alice Hayden. Also, filling in any gaps were Sam and Annie Ritter, and Lee and Sue Sedgwick with their mega stacks of Revolutions. They made sure the show kept going with fun and excitement.

Requests for support and sponsorship of this event went out to various companies, and the response was truly fabulous! Twenty-eight event sponsors answered my call. They gave out more than 1,500 promotional items on the field (was this great stuff or what) to people flying kites. The sponsors made it fun and they deserve our support.

Finally, I want to thank all of the people who participated on the Exhibition Field by flying their kites and all the people who came to the event to see the kites fly.

WORKSHOPS GRAND SUCCESS

by Scott E. Spencer, 1997 Workshop Coordinator



The workshops at the '97 convention (WWII) were a grand success. With minimal conflicts between workshop times and field events more people were entertained. On Tuesday, we hosted 10 workshops with a total of 296 attendees. On Wednesday, 12 workshops drew 549 attendees. Thursday's workshops totaled 6 with 148 attendees, and Friday's workshops totaled 5 with 132 attendees. On Saturday, we wrapped up with 4 workshops (99 attending), for a grand total of 37 workshops with 1200 attendees.

Top 10 list:

1. "Sport Kite Symposium" - Dave Gomberg / Sport Kite Committee members (150 attendees)
2. Kurt Degener (Avia) "More Than You Ever Wanted to Know About Spars" (73 attendees)
3. Mike & Cecilia Dallmer "Bear Droppings and How to Be a Dropnik" (74 attendees)
4. Brooks Leffler & Steve Eisenhauer "Kite Aerial Photography" (73 attendees)
5. Tom Marvin (Hang-m High) "Kite Making Materials" (79 attendees)
6. Charlie Sotich "Materials for making small kites - What, Where and How" (52 attendees)
7. Brian Champie (assisted by Jason Benedict) "Trick flying lessons" (45 attendees)
8. Glen Haynes (assisted by Tanna Haynes) "Thread wrapping spars" (46 attendees)
9. Martin Lester "Tissue paper balloons. A study of gore shapes" (43 attendees)
10. Pete Dolphin. "Attention getting kites and kite projects" (43 attendees)

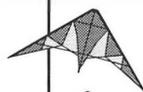
All the presenters deserve a Grand National THANK YOU. These people spent their own time, money and enthusiasm for kiting. The only compensation they receive is a special colored convention pin, and a minimal reimbursement for hand out materials. As workshop coordinator, I only receive a special colored pin. So I hope you enjoyed the effort, as we the volunteers did. If anyone has an idea for a workshop subject, or more importantly someone who can present it, pass on the information to Jim Miller or me, and we will forward it to next year's coordinator.

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Pin Challenge

by Alice Hayden

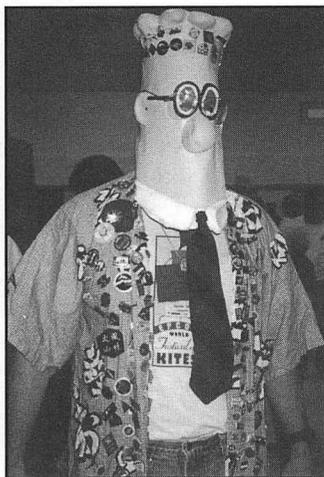
The Pin Challenge at the '97 Nationals was an event for all. The esteemed judges were Ruth Polifrone, Joel Brown, David Gomberg (one way to beat him is to make him a judge) and myself, Alice Hayden. Yes, there the standard largest collection and best display contests were held. The largest collections displayed belonged to Vic Eshpeter of Washington, and Pete Dolphin of New Jersey. The best display contest was a hoot with Darrin "Dilbert-PinHead" Skinner, Pete "Neptune-King of Water Worlds & Kite Pins" Dolphin and Scott "Chest-O-kite-pins-in-the-Clouds" Spencer. Other notable displays included Christy Payne's sweet water colour of the beach with the AKA Eddy kite pins flying over it

in the gentle breezes and Alan Sparling's special set of his AKA Regional Pins (Alan, I don't have any of them, you know).

In order to involve the non-pin collectors, we also ran Kite Pin riddles. There were kite pin Rock 'n Roll and Nursery Rhyme contests. Here contestants (pin owners or viewers) had

to identify the missing word(s) and then find a kite pin to fill in the blanks. For instance, Jack & Jill went up a ___ to fetch pail of _____. The missing words were HILL and WATER. Answers included the Crystal Mountain Kite Festival, an old KAK pin ('The Hill' in DC) and the Canadian Northern Flights pins for HILL. Kite pins like the classic Team Tsunami, David Gomberg's Japanese Wave, and the Ocean Shores satisfied the WATER requirement. I was surprised at some of the creativity and number of people who didn't know some of the nursery rhymes. I mean, how many of you think that The Owl And The _____ was the owl and the prostitute (thank you, Troy Gunn). I won't go into some of the answers that were given for PUSSYCAT. The general consensus was that it was a fun time for all. And 14 contestants successfully finished the riddles and won a special kite pin for participating.

Thanks to all who helped and participated. Send pins!



Dolphin and Dilbert (King Neptune & Darrin Skinner)

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Fly Market

by Ron Lindner

As usual, the AKA Convention Fly Market was an exciting place to see, feel, and take home some of the most beautiful, unique and advanced kites on the market including new as well as old kite accessories. Even though the space was limited, the displays were very impressive. As usual, bargains were to be found everywhere. Everyone was there including Santa Claus. Ask those who went to the convention to see their picture sitting on Santa's lap.

As the Fly Market Chairman, I would like to thank everyone for their enthusiastic support and generous participation in the Fly Market. If you have any questions or suggestions for next year, please let me hear from you.

Ron Lindner
5633 Carlton Drive
High Ridge, MO 63049



Children's Kitemaking Workshop

by Sheri Erlich

On Wednesday, October 15, 162 elementary school students gathered in the Wildwood Convention Center for the second Children's Kite Workshop. Students from Margaret Mace Elementary School, Glenwood Avenue School, Our Lady Star of the Sea, and St. Ann's Elementary School came out on that rainy day for an afternoon of fun and exciting experiences that they will never forget. The afternoon began with a warm welcome from AKA President Richard Dermer, who also spent some time showing the kids some of his favorite kites, as well as teaching them a bit about the history of kites. Dave Gomberg then gave the students an opportunity to ask, and even answer some kite trivia questions. Next, Mike and Ceilia Dallmer introduced the kids to their parachuting teddy bears and showed off some of their beautiful and huggable creations. Scott Skinner, Robert Trepanier, Martin Lester, Stafford Wallace, Frank Kenisky, Toki San, and Aggie the Clown then gave a quick and fun lesson in the many different ways to say "kites" around the world. Alice Hayden and Stafford Wallace then spoke to the kids about fighter kites while Peter Lee flew his indoor fighters.



Children's Kitemaking participants making 'Frustrationless Flyers'.

Photo by Mike Fitzpatrick

Next, Gary Engvall, with the added assistance of Maggie Engvall, Aggie the Clown and Jeff Burka led an informative and interactive discussion about kite safety. Finally, before the kite building began, John Rose discussed stunt kites, indoor flying and bugging with the assistance of Rob Cembalest and Jeff Burka.

After the talks by some of AKA's finest fliers, it was then time for the kite construction to begin. What a sight! 162 future kites all making kites at the same time. With the help of an awesome group of volunteers, teachers, and parents, everyone was ready to build Frustrationless Fliers. The kite building activity was led by Sheri Erlich, Children's Kite Workshop Coordinator, with the help of more than 50 AKA volunteers. Despite the rainy weather, the day turned out to be a fun and exciting experience for everyone.



Gallery Story

by Marti Dermer

The 1997 "3-D" Kite Art Gallery was housed in a second-floor meeting room at the Rio Motel—the "50-yard line" for convention activities. One leg of the L-shaped room housed the Aerial Photography exhibit curated by Brooks Leffler—the larger room the Kite Art display orchestrated by Marc Ricketts. With limited space, Marc hit on the idea of changing the makeup of the gallery each day, and spotlighting different kite artists at different times.

Among the outstanding kites on display were a large, multicelled box with striking graphics by Michael Alvares, Australia; Texan Bill Lockhart's "Humming Bird" winged box, a Tom McAlister miniature cellular, a variety of both wind-art spinners and kites from Germany's Wolfgang Grimsel, an inflatable "red devil" quad-line kite by Dan Klos, a traditional Edo from Japan's Mikio Toki, and the high-tech modernistic kites of Stuart Allen, Scobie Puchtler, and Marc Ricketts. Others exhibiting included Paul Berard, Bill Bigge, Richard Dermer, Beth Drake, Tim Elverston, Janene Evard, Brian Guile, Robert Ricketts, Charm Lindner, Carmela Pallozza and Jim Low, Martha Piscina, Scott Spencer, and Stretch Tucker.

The Kite Art Gallery, a project of the AKA's Kite Art Committee, continues to grow in popularity each year—offering a quiet, peaceful spot amidst the convention activity to simply relax, examine, and enjoy the beauty of some remarkable works of art. And they fly, too. Next year's exhibition is already being planned, with a new concept. Watch for further information, and plan on seeing it.

GREAT KITE ART CALENDARS

The Kite Art Committee still has 1998 "Color Your Own" calendars for sale. These black and white calendars, on heavy paper, feature original art by 13 kite artists: Randy Shannon, Richard Gareau, Scott Skinner, Mikio Toki, Dawn Williams, Janneke Groen, Gail Lindsey, Igbal Husain, Dan Proebstel, Anne Harris, Roger and Janice Maddy, Michael Alvares, and Tokuko Sato, along with wonderful commentary by the artists. These make great kiter gifts!

Only \$7.00 each!

Order yours now! contact Marti Dermer, AKA Kite Art Committee, 121 S. McFarland, Stillwater, OK 74074, or phone 405-372-6127, fax 405-377-7763, or e-mail bkahuna@fullnet.net

Fighting Kites ————— fighter kite challenge

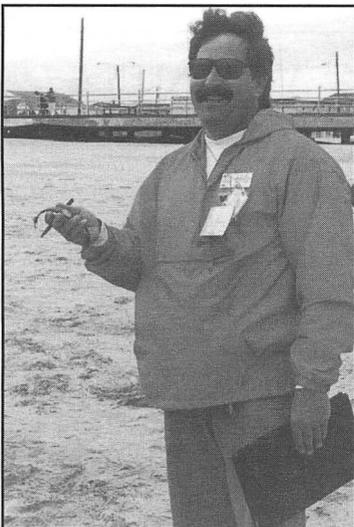
the rokkaku challenge

by peter lee

by Mike VanMeers

The individual rokkaku challenge started with a field of eight international flyers. We used the Wildwood points scoring system this year, where we award points for taking out your opponents kites. We even had bonus points available if you could cut off the udder from the cow kite. As hard as everyone tried, no one earned the bonus points. After three rounds we had a tie between Paul Keeler and Wolfgang Grimsel. A sudden death bout was won by Wolfgang Grimsel after a 5 minute fight. Dave Gomberg finished 3rd. and was awarded the udder.

The team rokkaku challenge had five teams entered. The small field meant the battles were going to be really quick. The point system makes the contestants very aggressive to acquire a higher score. The first round started with the field attacking TEAM TARGET. Guess who? That's right, the guy's you love to hate on the rok field, Dave Gomberg and Pete Dolphin. Chasing them were the South Jersey Kite Flying Girls. After 3 rounds we had a very close score with Lehigh Valley Kite Society finishing in 3rd with 12 points and the Toronto Kite Flyers in second with 16 points. Our grand National Champions for 1997, with 17 points, was Team Target. Team Tiger, the Kinnaird family was the first to claim victory, which is very important in any rok battle. We couldn't have had anymore fun!



Rokkaku Coordinator Mike VanMeers

It has been three years since the Grand Nationals came to Wildwood. For many, it was the time they ever saw a fighter kite challenge. But in those three years those sparks were fanned into flames that forged a core of fighter kite enthusiasts willing to display their mettle on this occasion. We waited for the one chance to stand on the top of a hill quilted by the thorns of fortune. In fighter kite, we do not qualify for the nationals, we come with our sleeves rolled up. In just one day, the entire year will be decided.

We decided that this day is too important to be left to single short matches. In the interest of a good fight, we decided to apply a new set of rules for elimination. Matches were drawn by lot as usual, but each match was for the best of 5, and each contestant was allowed 2 marks. We knew this meant that the day would be long. But it is OUR DAY. Nelson Borelli had this great idea of setting up a reception area and brought a yummy spread of traditional Indian snacks. Soda, juice and fruits were also provided and it was a welcome addition to our flying area. The refreshments were definitely a boost to the contestants and guests. Everyone helped tremendously and worked very hard to make this event a success.

Twenty two contestants came forward. There were contingencies from Canada, the Great Lakes and the North East. Regardless of where they are from, fighter kite flyers are a loud bunch. We cheer, laugh, and jeer each other all in good spirit. In Ballet and Precision, you go out by yourself (or with your team) and do your best routine and hope it is enough. In fighter kite, you have to out fly and out think your opponent in pitch battle. And then do it again and again. It is almost impossible to keep quiet, the rush that you get from competing head to head has no equal (save Rokkaku) in the kite world. Even the ritual of drawing lots for the matches was filled with excitement, as we all cheered at the announcement of each pairing. Opponents shook hands, padded each other on the back and hugged, "for he who fought with us today shall be our brother....or sister".

An interesting fight was between Lisa Willoughby of New Jersey and Kevin Adkins of Michigan. Lisa was one of the two women contestants and had the entire crowd boosting for her. Poor Kevin must have been the biggest underdog in Wildwood, but some of that newlywed magic lifted him through. Another boisterous match ended with the spontaneous mangling of "America the Beautiful" to the bewilderment of our Canadian friends. Nelson Borelli gave me a good lesson on the "age and treachery" thing.

The sky was contested by both the traditional bamboo and tissue, and the high tech rip stop and carbon. Platforms came in the classic India, new exotically scalloped creations and the perplexing high aspect rectangular "Buka". Sadly missed were the fuel injected and turbo charged Koreans. Each platform had its advantages, and it is important to understand what your opponent is flying. The stiffer nylon kites were very good at running past the edge of the window and had good speed. The traditional kites turned fast and tight but demanded line handling finesse for maximum fighting ability. The Buka just confused everyone and was ungodly fast. The colorful kites darted back and forth past the extremes of the wind window, danced and barrel-rolled in breathless defiance, a taunting wing span from the sand. Every gamble we take to attack leaves us vulnerable if we don't succeed. Some strike quickly, others wait with annoying patience. Some matches were like Samurai, or gun fighters, each waiting for the next person to make the first move. For six and one half hours we cheered and bonded. 42 matches were fought, winners fighting 6 and 7 opponents. In the end, the hill belonged to Richard Gareau of Quebec who lasted the day without losing a single match. In second was Bruce Jarvie of Detroit, and yours truly took third.

But the celebration of fighter kites did not end. On Saturday, fighter kites took to the demo field. There was a splendid exhibition match between the newly crowned champion, Richard and the magical Stafford Wallace. Then we served the icing, "The Wolf and the Sheep". For those of you who missed this treat, first imagine a fighter kite mass ascension, a flock of colorful sheep frolicking in the sky. Then, one lone fighter kite flies in with Manja/cutting line. This wolf swoops down and chases the sheep one by one to set it loose. Fluttering like colored patchwork snowflakes the freed kites drift down wind into the hands of a cheering crowd, a gift from us fighter kite lovers to you.



Region

2

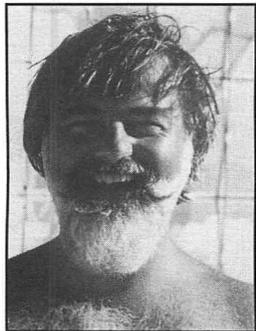
Northeast

Andy Gelinas

Thanks to the generosity of Region 1 -- Kites Over New England, Connecticuters and the Nekite Computer Group; Region 2-- South Jersey Kite Flyers, Lehigh Valley Kite Society, Fly Pittsburgh and the Sedgwicks; and Region 3 -- Winds and Rainbows we had the seed money to purchase pins to sell, raffle prizes and the food to feed the multitudes. Wildwood International Kite Festival supplied the keg of beer and we were off finding cups for it - oops!

The pins sold briskly that night and throughout the week. The raffle prizes were donated by Scott Spencer, Mike Dallmer, Andy Selzer of South Jersey KF, Carmella Pollatta of LVKS, and Wind and Rainbows. Thanks to the SJKF and LVKS workers who helped throughout the evening. I would be remiss not to mention Gloria Olschewski who brought an abundance of food and cakes and also worked the entire evening serving out on the deck. She was my MVP (Most Valuable Person). Thanks to all others who cooked, set up, sold tickets and generally made it happen.

When all was done and bills were paid our profit came to \$727. We gave \$200 to the Children's Kitemaking Workshop, \$100 to the World Kite museum, \$100 to the Drachen Foundation, and \$327 to the AKA general fund. A good time was had by all.



Region

3

MidAtlantic

Jon Burkhardt

The AKA Convention topped off a list of really great events in 1997 for Region III. Lots of great new stuff this year with the extra day added to the schedule — in particular, a lot more kiteflying this time around, especially with the demonstrations all week long, which were one of the great hits of the 1997 Convention. Hats off to Adam Grow of the Maryland Kite Society who organized and carried off with great fun and style what most of us thought was an overly ambitious schedule of performances. The MKS also played a big role in the 1997 Convention Auction, with a collection of eight kites plus bags and winders (organized by Adam Grow) garnering 27 percent of all proceeds at the loud auction. The kites, which were all different but were made in the same four colors — raspberry, periwinkle, white, and black — were made by Charlie Dunton, Steve Ferrel, Tony Ferrel, Tanna Haynes, Cliff Quinn, Pete Rondeau, Kevin Shannon, and yours truly. The bags were made by Adam Grow and the lovely kitewinders were made by Mike Van Meers. A huge thank-you to all

who helped out — including the happy buyers of the kites — and contributed mightily to AKA's fiscal health.

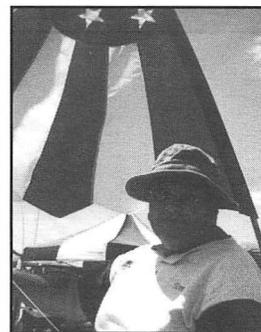
Looking back to the recently completed Sunfest festival in Ocean City, Maryland, which again had lots of good weather blessing the fliers, there were lots of contests and lots of ways to have fun. The club display contest was won by Sky Pilots (with the help of the Gleckners), and Peter Lee was victorious in the fighter kite competition and with his Susquehanna River Rats team in the Rokkaku battles. We again had a memorial fly and other ceremonies in honor of Bill Kocher. Some time was spent by representatives of the local kite clubs and AKA in planning next spring's Maryland International Kite Festival. It will be hard to top last year's, but we'll be trying.

Looking forward to 1998, major events coming up for our region in early in the year will include the Maryland Kite Society's Winter Kitemaking Retreat, which will be held in Laurel Maryland February 13 through 16. Steve Brockett of Wales will be one keynote presenter and another will be Richard Gareau of Canada. Also on the list are AKA multiple trophy winner Ed Shenk, and Kevin Shannon and Pete Rondeau. More will be announced soon. After that, the Smithsonian Kite Festival moves back into its usual March date in 1988. The scheduled date is Saturday, March 28; the rain date is Sunday the 29th. This year's theme is "Boxes in the Sky."

And speaking of the Smithsonian Kite Festival, Mike Dallmer reminded me that he really cleaned up on trophies at the 1996 Smithsonian Kite Festival, winning the trophy for the highest overall score, the People's Choice Award, the highest points in his category, best costume, and best aerodynamics. I should have known that....I was judging, and took some great photos of Mike's three-dimensional dragon kite named Camelot. (What do they say you lose first as you get older?? I forget what it is.) Anyway, hats off and apologies to Mike. And thanks for the correction.

If you're living in Region 3 or just visiting, don't forget the First Sunday Flies at the Washington Monument grounds in D.C., sponsored by Wings Over Washington, and the Fly Maryland events, sponsored by the Maryland Kite Society every third Sunday at Glenwood Community Park in Inwood, Maryland. These events are attracting lots of interest, and everyone is welcome to join us.

Hope to see lots of you soon. Good winds to all.



Region

4

Southeast

Tom Mason

The 1997 version of GISKC was a lot of fun this year. Many Florida fliers showed up this year and they collectively put on a good showing. TC ULTRA and Savannah Sails & Rails were always on hand to help when it was needed. The primary Quad line competition was dominated by the Ultra Flyers. Pat and TC put on another oyster roast prior to the banquet [always good]. Mr. Tucker was the auctioneer again this year. He always does an outstanding job.



Region
5
Great Lakes
Robyne Gardner

New Year's Greetings! Those words seem a bit ludicrous - it's only November as I write. Where did this year go? I find what my Grandma told me is true - the older we get, the faster time flies. She was fond of saying "It seems like I have a birthday every six months."

And speaking of Birthdays... there was a big birthday celebration here in Ohio last September. Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites turned 20! They are the oldest surviving kite club in this region, and I'd venture to say one of the oldest in the country. OSEK did it up right, serving about 60 club members a full steak and lobster dinner at Edgewater Park in Cleveland. The food committee (Pat Butler, Phil Salzstein and Mike Donely) really outdid themselves with preparations for this feast. It was a catered affair, and I heard absolutely NO complaints about the size of the portions or the quality of the food. It was great to see so many of the original club members and longtime AKA members in attendance - Mike & Lanie Weletyk, Connie Pederson, Judy Neuger, George Wilcox, Chuck & Helen Somasko, Tom Ryan... thanks go out to these people who have "gone the distance" and continue to support their local club activities.

The Cleveland Kite Festival, held the following weekend, started out under rainy skies. While the weather did keep the spectator numbers down, it did not undermine the fun factor. Many participated in the Mystery Ballet, where dual line fliers have to come up with an impromptu routine to music that is chosen at random. The four judges for this event were specially hand-picked - none of them fly sport kites! Don Nottage won, with Phil Salzstein placing second, and [blush]me third.

I was very pleased to see nearly 50 Region 5-ers at the convention in Wildwood. We had a good share of first-time convention attendees, also. Our own Vickie Proudfoot (a first-timer herself) won some handsome prizes by collecting 120 first-timer signatures out of a



Cleveland Kite Festival

possible 145! While Al Sparling can be proud of the work he did with the outdoor mass ascensions, I, personally, am proud of the indoor mass ascension our region managed to pull off during the auction on Friday night. About 45 bottles of bubbles were handed out, and you didn't let me down, folks!

Hats off to all the convention competitors and participants from region 5. A Special "O-H-I-O!" salute goes out to: Robin Taylor, for winning in the Experienced Quad category; Cheryl Kear, who won the Novice Kitemaker award; Mid-Michigan String Stretchers, for first place in the Cooperative category; Team Higher Powered, who captured 2nd in ETP and 3rd in ETB; and to Captain Eddie's Flying Circus for placing FIRST in MTP. Phil Broder placed 3rd in Freestyle, with one of the most ridiculously funny routines I have ever seen. Unfortunately, I didn't have my camera on the field during this event, but I bet there are people who would gladly pay to see a photo of Phil in his tutu. Yes, I know... Phil competed as a member of the Southeast Conference, but he's back in Michigan now, and I can brag about him if I want to. I am very proud of this region and it's members. We have such an abundance of talent, skill, and great personalities. Overall, though, it's the friendship and the feeling of brotherhood that binds us all, and no where is it stronger than in Region 5.

Add another member to our regional listing: James Harold Malvitz came into this world on Nov. 9th. Parents are Louise & Leo of Carleton, Michigan. Rumor has it that Gizmo Gerweck is already designing a tiny buggy from the spare parts of a Big Wheel.

It's that time of year, folks. I'm getting the '98 Region 5 calendar ready to go, and I NEED YOUR EVENT DATES. We have a new event coming up in Bowling Green, Ohio on the weekend of June 27-28. The Inaugural Ohio Cup will host all classes of sport kite competition - including indoor flying, and are considering kitemaking competition as well. We are currently looking for people to help out with this new event, but in particular, they need someone who will step forward to oversee the kitemaking portion. To volunteer, or to get on a mailing list for more information, call Julie, Harry, or Roger at Wings On The Wind kite shop (419) 352-5483, or by mail at wowkites@wcnnet.org.

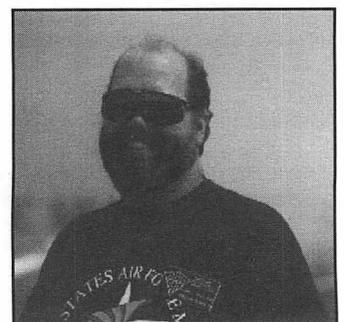
The Region 5 webpage is nearly completed at this moment, so it should be out there for all the world to see by the time this goes to print. And finally, I would like to welcome the Mid-Michigan Kite Club, our newest AKA affiliated club.

Region

6

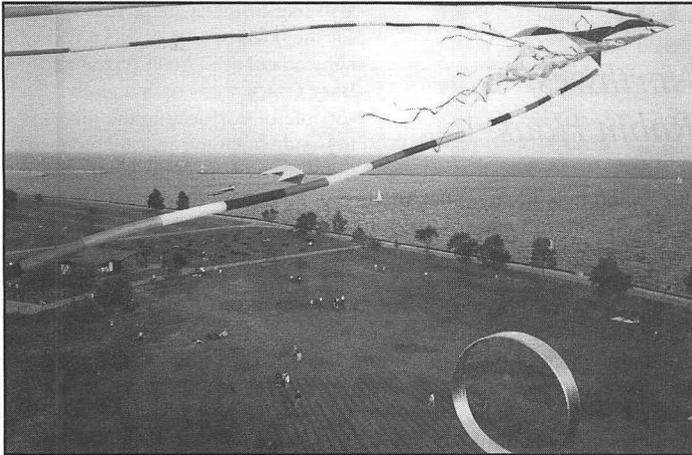
Midwest

Alan Sparling



We were asked to keep the reports short this issue, so I will be brief. There were One Sky - One World events throughout the region, however I only have reports from two. There was a new event in Oswego, IL that showed a very promising start for a new event. The OSOW event in Appleton, WI was on its way to another very successful year, when the event was marred by the tragic death of Jerry Elkerton. Please see the article about Jerry elsewhere in this issue.

*Congratulations to Al Sparling
Regional Director of the Year!*



High Art!

Aerial Photography by Craig Wilson at the Frank Mots Festival.



In September, the Hoosier Kitefliers Society participated in a first annual event for the Columbus Regional Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Program. They had a great turnout and helped spread some joy in the lives of kids who don't get to have a lot of fun.

Above photos aerial photos by Craig Wilson were taken at the Frank Mots festival in Milwaukee, WI, held on September 13.

Also in September, Pat and Charlie Sotich joined me at the Special Olympics event in Lisle, IL. I want to encourage everyone to help out at this type of event, they are great visibility for kiting and it is a great feeling helping these kids.

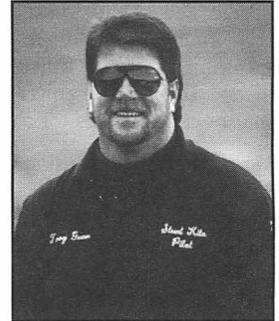
So, to everyone who had events in the region that I have not reported on, please send me a short report on your event if I was not able to be there. I will do my best to get everything into the regional report. Please remember that I will be sending out a Regional Calendar in mid January. If you want your event to be publicized please send me your info ASAP.

Region

8

South Central

Troy Gunn



Happy New Year! It's already 1998 and my first anniversary as Region 8 Director. How time flies when you are having fun going to all of our wonderful kite festivals. During my first year I have learned how hard this job really is. I have learned that it is very hard to please everyone all of the time. If there is anything that any of you feel that I have overlooked, please don't hesitate to let me know your comments and ideas. I did my best to travel to as many of Region 8 events as possible in 1997 (21 festivals and 30,000 miles on my van).

Areas we need to improve in 1998 are: more communication, more festivals, less whining and more constructive input about what you expect from the AKA and event organizers. Remember our hobby/sport of kite flying is only as good as we make it. Sign up new members! Volunteer at your local kite festival! Make a New Year's resolution to sign up one new AKA member in 1998! Remember to renew your membership on time, it will save our organization a lot of postage money.

Those of you that didn't attend the Wildwood convention missed one of the best conventions yet. Our region was well represented by kites and competitors alike. Winners were Team Implosion placing 2nd in Experienced Team Ballet, Reasonable Doubt winning Experienced Pairs Ballet, TKO II finished 4th in Team Train, Kevin Kirkendoll placed 3rd in Novice Individual Precision, Steven Ploof finished 5th in Novice Individual Precision, Jim Cox finished 6th in Novice Individual Precision, Dennis Phillips placed 3rd in Intermediate Individual Precision and Tye Harrison 5th in Experienced Quad Ballet, Austin EOL finished 4th in Experienced team Precision, Troy Gunn took first in Individual Freestyle, Jeff Howard nailed first in Buggy Circuit racing and 4th in Buggy Pursuit, and Keith Anderson finished 5th in Buggy Pursuit and 6th in Buggy Circuit racing. In the Kitemaking Competition, Joel Scholz placed 2nd in Multi-line figure kites and 3rd in Multi-line Innovative. Morris Wright finished 4th in Deltas. Congratulations to all of you!

Look at this issue's calendar for a list of upcoming events in and around our region. If you don't see your event listed, you haven't bothered to send me your festival information yet. There are many fine kite clubs scattered throughout the region. Most are listed here in Kiting. If you are not a member of one, join one and get involved. You'll be glad you did!

Please note, I now have an email address: tgunn2@webtv.net. And finally, here is a report from Richard Dermer from New Orleans:

The fifth annual Crescent City Kite Festival, held on the University of New Orleans lakefront campus Nov. 8-9, was a delightful event. Facing the loss of their commercial sponsor of the past, the Crescent City Kitefliers organized and pulled off the event themselves this year, with fantastic results: good weather, publicity, organization, and hundreds of happy participants and spectators.

Guests of honor were Maasaki and Sashiko Modegi from the Japan Kite Association. Modegi's traditional Japanese kites and his 100-kite train wowed the crowd—his attendance at this event was greatly

appreciated. Other guests included Richard and Marti Dermer with their miniature kite display, Tennessee's Dan Klos with his wonderful quad-line creatures, Ron and Charm Lindner from Missouri, and Texans Henry and Leona Clark, who pitched in helping club members make over 300 kites for children on the field.

No "serious" competition was held, but an entertaining Rokkaku battle featured ten six-foot Tyvek roks made and decorated by club members. These wonderfully artistic kites were auctioned off to help with funding the event, as were numerous kites and kite gear. Meals included a great seafood banquet at 140-year-old Brunings restaurant, and club member Ted Perdue's authentic jambalaya, (one of the reasons the Modegis came from Tokyo.) A hearty congratulations to all the members of this small but active club for putting on a really nice event!

Region

9

Intermountain

Robin Loehr

Greetings from Region 9: Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico—The Intermountain Region. I am Robin Loehr, newly elected to the Board to represent this diverse region of kiteflyers. From the cool, wet and windy (80 mph last week) ocean beaches of the Oregon Coast across the Cascades to high desert country of eastern Oregon

and Nevada, Nevada's Sierra Nevada, grasslands and desert, Utah's visual splendor, to the deserts and high mountain areas of Arizona and New Mexico. A huge diversity in climate, topography and people, with one great unifying element: whether it is the pure, dry crystalline air of New Mexico's high mountains or the misty refractive marine layer along the Oregon coast, the air and sky unify us as kite flyers.

I've seen 110 m.p.h. winds here on the north Oregon coast and have been no-winded more times than I wish to count. And sometimes, often enough to keep us dreaming, there are those days where everything is perfect: the sky, the temperature, the gentle breezes. Time doesn't exactly stop, but it does cease to have meaning. My kite drifts and soars without my conscious input. I don't exactly become the kite, but I do forget who I am. I forget my ties to earth for a moment, an hour, an afternoon. Though we may be a thousand miles apart, these are the moments that bind us together.

One such weekend occurred on October 11 & 12 at Rockaway Beach, Or for the SHOWDOWN I SKC and 7th annual "unchallenge" fun fly. The weather wasn't perfect, the winds were intermittent, but the collection of kiteflyers both multi-line competition and single-line flyers was perfect. Two days of sharing with our friends our joy in the ariel arts. Corky Corbin and Deb Cooley were the s/l coordinators and Genny and Eric Forsberg the m/l coordinators. They and their tremendous team of volunteers deserve the credit for an event that ran as smooth as glass.

Later in January, the Association of Oregon Kites will be presenting the 4th annual Oregon Kitemaker's retreat in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. Kitemakers as prominent as Ron and Sandy Gibian, Martin Lester, Charlie Sotich, Bobby Stanfield and George Peters have taught in the past and this year promises to be as exceptional.

At this time, I haven't received news of other events in our region. I would like to encourage any kites out there with news and event dates to please contact me either by mail or e-mail. Please remember that it takes about 6 weeks lead time to get information into a newsletter article before the event date.

Good flying!

Region

10

Northwest Robin Haas

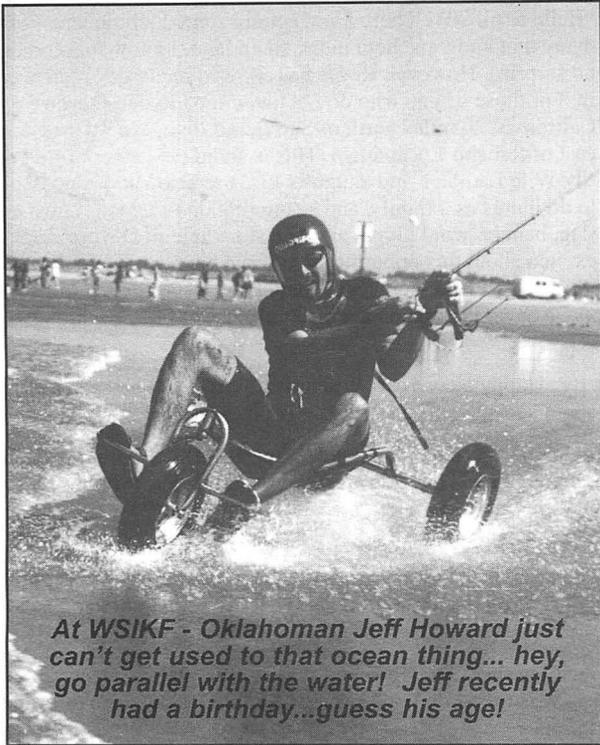
This is my first submission as your new Regional Director. I would like to start out by saying that I hope everyone had a great holiday season and a wonderful New Year. I would also like to thank those that voted for me. I know that it was a difficult choice because Creda Axton and Bary Crites were both equally capable of performing the job. It is my understanding that there was more participation in the election in this region than in any other single region. I think that this demonstrates the interest and love of kiting that is evident in our area. I am looking forward to my tenure as the Regional Director of Region 10. It is my desire to work for you and to address your needs and desires in kiting. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. All of my contact information should be listed elsewhere in this publication. I also want to give as complete and detailed report of all the activities that are taking place. That's where I need your help. Please let me know well in advance of any activities you would like me to include and drop me a line telling me how things went if I am unable to attend an event.

By the time my report goes to print the 24th Annual Protest the Bowls Fly will have taken place. This event is a great way to start out a brand new year. It was held at Magnuson Park in Seattle and provides a great alternative for those that don't want to sit in front of the television all day watching the football games (even if our Huskies or Cougars are playing). Organized by Ken Conrad and Suzanne Sadow of Great Winds Kite Shop, this annual event usually attracts several hundred hardy (crazy?) kite flyers who brave the elements to get together, fly kites, swap lies, share warm treats, and maintain the sense of community we have here in the Northwest. It usually attracts the local television news crews which gives exposure to our great hobby.

The Washington Kitefliers Association and the Pierce County Kitefliers Association held a potluck in December. This event has taken place for many years now. The clubs provide turkey and ham and everyone else fills in. There is a raffle with all the proceeds going to local food banks. In the past there has always been several hundreds of dollars raised. What a great way to get together, have some fun, win some great prizes, and all for a charitable cause!

Coming very soon (March 6-8, 1998) is the 15th Annual Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. This year's conference is shaping up into one of the best ever. The conference will be giving kite builders a chance to explore and experiment with surface design and kite structures. With guests such as István Bodóczy, Willi Koch, Marc Ricketts, Scott Hampton, and Scott Spencer, there will be plenty of opportunities available for people to learn new ideas and principles of kite and surface design. Other guests include Tim Benson, Richard Gareau, Bobby Stanfield, and Bas Vreeswijk. Completing the program will be a host of other established and knowledgeable instructors from throughout the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. Classes are filling fast but there is still time to register. Contact me if you need more information.

The Western League has begun a new season of competitions. They are planning on having at least two more competitions join the circuit this year and at least two indoor events. There are many new Novice class flyers in the league and an emphasis is being made to encourage them to continue to progress in the sport. One of the league's goals is to encourage new flyers no matter how young or how old. Look for announcements of upcoming Western League events as they become

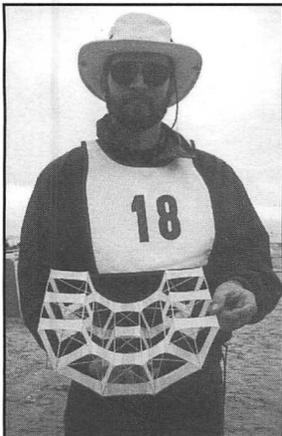


At WSIKF - Oklahoman Jeff Howard just can't get used to that ocean thing... hey, go parallel with the water! Jeff recently had a birthday...guess his age!

Photo by Mark Davis

available. Well, that is about all I have space for in this issue. Enjoy all the coverage of the AKA Convention in Wildwood, NJ. Just think, we get to have the convention in our own back yard this year when it is held in Ocean Shores, WA! Please be sure to let me know of upcoming events so they can be included in this report.

Fresh Breezes



Region

11

Northern California

Tom McAlister

I hope the report finds all of your well and that you are surviving the holidays. And now an end-of-season news roundup. In September, the NCKC survived the Golden Gate Challenge and proved that philanthropy is still alive and well in our region when they donated a portion of their GGC proceeds to the World Kite Museum in Long Beach, Washington. My thanks to the NCKC and to all the GGC's participants for making this generous donation possible. The Challenge found 38 competitors doing battle for AKA, AKM, and BASKL points. Many single-liners added to the show of the event. The Lavendar Winds Kite Club set up a most colorful display in the form of a "Wind Garden". Their display earned them the Peoples Choice Award.

With the end of the summer season AKA members began to gear up for our 1997 Convention in Wildwood, New Jersey. Although we had a bit of rain in Wildwood, it was another special convention and my appreciation to all of you who attended and to those who volunteered.

One of the brightest spots on this year's convention was the generosity demonstrated by members of the Maryland Kite Society. Several MKS members built world class kites which they donated to our Great Kite Auction. Their donations made a dramatic difference to the auction receipts. Thank you to all contributed and to those of you who broke out your credit cards, and to those generous MKS members. As I mentioned in a report earlier this year, philanthropy at its best is contagious. I hope the MKS example will inspire us all. Our association is facing challenging financial times and the annual Kite Auction is one way that you can help out your association. Let's all start thinking now about what special item(s) we can donate to the 1998 Great Kite Auction so that we can make it the biggest auction ever!

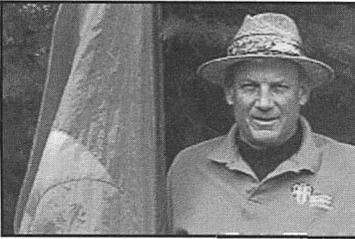
Another highlight when our region's own Dos Avispas took first place in Masters' Pairs Ballet. Dos Avispas (Miguel Rodriguez and Kobi Eshun) are true pioneers in the renaissance in pairs competition. It was great to see them take the title for the second year in a row. Congratulations! Another first-place winner from our region was John Morrison. John battled to first place in Masters Individual Ballet. With this will John becomes the first Sport Kite flier from our region to take the top spot in MIB at the Grand Nationals. With it he adds the ultimate exclamation point to his illustrious kiting career. John is by far the most dominant individual Dual-line competitor ever to come out of Northern California. John first dominated while competing in Experienced Class at the young age of 12. Just after his thirteenth birthday he won first place at the AKA Nationals in Lubbock Texas. When John moved up into Masters class he never seemed to skip a beat. In his 22 competitions over the last two years John placed first an astonishing thirteen times, second six times, and third once. Wow! And perhaps the most amazing thing is that even in the face of his unprecedented success, John has always remained a gentleman, and a genuine nice guy on the flying field. Congratulations, and thank you for the many years of great performances.

Kudos are also in order for two modern icons of the kite world whose names have come to symbolize the finest in kite artistry and craftsmanship. They are Ron Gibian and Bobby Stanfield. Bobby earned first place in the Cellular, while Ron flew to first place in the Rokaku category. I would also like to thank everyone else who represented our region in the competitions. Regardless of how you finished, you competed with class and dignity and by so doing represented our region well. Muchas gracias a todo (many thanks to all of you).

Congratulations also to Chuck Sigal on his recent appointment to our AKA Board of Directors. And thanks to all of you for electing me to serve another term as your Regional Director. The really good news for you is that with Chuck Sigal, Darrin Skinner, and myself now on the Board, you now have greater access and representation to your Board than ever. If you have a problem with AKA or any idea that you think will help us, please give us a call. The worst that can happen is that we will ask you to volunteer.

Next year our Convention will be in Ocean Shores, Washington. It has been several years since our Convention has been in the North West and I can't wait to go back there in 1998. The fliers of Oregon and Washington have their own unique brand of enthusiasm which helps to ensure a great convention for everyone. Don't miss out on Convention '98! Make your plans now!

Lastly, if you see something that you want included in this column just send it along and I'll do my best to include it. The new year will pass before you hear from me again so happy new year and "go fly a kite!"



Region

12

So. California /Pacific
Mark Brownton

"Hello to all". Well here I am, getting started a little late. For the many that know me here in the south land, I know this comes as no surprise. However, Roger has allowed me to get a few words in. For those of you who do not know me I live in Devore, California, 20 miles north of San Bernardino, and 10 mile north east of Rancho Cucamonga. This is about the center of Region 12. My Wife Lauralee and daughter Lisa are also kite lovers. We love to do things as a family, and kiting fills this so good. I own a small flag, banner, wind glyph, and kite store here in Devore. I am very excited about this opportunity to serve the people who love kiting.

I also enjoy teaching all aspects of kiting for organizations and groups, as well as individuals. Please contact me about any issue concerning groups wanting information. I will get with them and make sure they receive all information we have. Please contact me at (909) 880-0015 or through e-mail (this is the best) browntonmark@msn.com.

By the time you receive this issue we will have already had a great New Years days fly. Happy New Year! With this I do hope all had a blessed holiday season. There are many events happening this year and I am very excited about seeing everyone there.

Keep your eyes open for the Super Bowl "98" in San Diego this year. Thanks to the San Diego Kite Club, and the persistence of Greg Lawrence, it looks like we will be putting on a display of hi-flyers on the Saturday just before the big game. This will most likely take place at Embarcadero Marina from 10:00AM to 4:00 PM. This is in conjunction with the Superbowl Fest. Way to go Greg and the SDKC members. It takes a team to get the job done. For further details please contact me or be at the January SDKC monthly meeting on January 17.

There are many, many events coming up this year. Contact me or the SDKC Web site at: <http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/Field/5841> and the e-mail address is: ratzilla@internetmci.com you can talk with Ellen or Marshall for a list of all events. If you are planning something, and have not notified me, please do.

Finally, there are so many people to thank who support kiting it would be hard to mention them all. However, there is one that has been a true mentor to me and many, many others. And this is Walt Thompson. All I can say for now is this: I do hope I can come some what close to filling his shoes, it will not be easy, but I will do my best. Thank you Walt for all you do for kiting.

Wind blessings to all!

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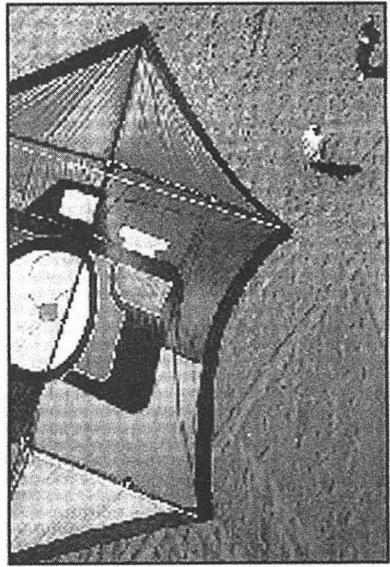


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VIDEOS & PHOTOS

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|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1996 Santa Monica (VHS - 1 left) | \$30.00 |
| 1995 Tulsa (VHS-PAL) | 30.00 |
| 1994 Wildwood (PAL - 1 left) | 26.50 |
| 1993 Seaside Convention (VHS-PAL) | 23.00 |
| Panoramic Photo Tulsa Convention | 29.00 |

PUBLICATIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Sport Kite Rules, 4th Edition | 6.00 |
| Powerflying Manual | 4.00 |
| Kites in the Classroom | 5.00 |
| How to Fly a Kite | 2.00 |
| Manual on Kiting Events | 6.00 |
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| Fighter / Rokkaku Rules | 5.00 |
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PATCHES

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|-------------------|------|
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| 1996 Santa Monica | 4.00 |
| 1994 Wildwood | 2.50 |
| 1993 Seaside | 1.00 |

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| Patches & Pins | 1.00 |
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| Overseas Shipment | at cost |

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|--------------------------|------|
| 1996 Santa Monica | 4.00 |
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| "Otto" Hats royal w/AKA logo | 20.00 |

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| | |
|--|--------------------------|
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| Diamond Shaped Pendant, with chain | 60.00 |
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| MLD 72" kite bag, 2 pockets, w/logo | 65.00 |
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| AKA Nylon Banner (3' x 14') | 125.00 |
| | w/telescoping pole 150.00 |
| AKA Window Decal | 2.00 |
| AKA Button | 2.00 |

Visa &
Mastercard
Accepted

located at
Kite Studio
5555 Hamilton Blvd.
Wescosville, PA 18106

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT! SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TODAY!
AND MAKE A RESOLUTION TO SIGN UP TWO NEW MEMBERS IN 1998!



Membership Application

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

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

Name _____ Spouse _____
 Address _____ Email _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
 Other Family Members _____
 Charge my Visa/MasterCard # _____
 Signature _____

International Members please add postage as follows:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| CANADA or MEXICO | 8 | 15 | 22 | _____ |
| OVERSEAS SURFACE MAIL | 10 | 19 | 28 | _____ |
| OVERSEAS AIR MAIL | 25 | 48 | 70 | _____ |
| TOTAL REMITTANCE | | | | _____ |

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

My primary interest is: all kinds of kites single line kites multi-line kites
 Referred by _____ My local club _____

01/98 *Kiting*

For info call 800-AKA-2550

Send this form with your payment to:
American Kitefliers Association
 352 Hungerford Drive
 Rockville, MD 20850-4117 USA

*So, Why don't you stop
and see your old friend*

Mike?

*If you do, you will bump into a few friends,
like Ron & Sandy Gibian, Robert Trepanier, Frank
Schwiman, Reza Ragheb, Joel Sholz, Anne Harris,
Peter Dolphin, Kevin & Cinda Shannon, Tony and
Steve Ferrel... they will all be over at Mike's house,
along with so many other kiteflying friends of Mike
for the biggest kite party of the year!
The good news is you're invited too!*

MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL KITE EXPOSITION

April 24, 25, & 26, (Mike's house), Ocean City, MD

Call us, or write us and we'll send you directions
(Sky Festivals 215-736-3715, or the Kite Loft at 410-289-7855)
232 West Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067



American
Kitefliers
Association

352 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD
20850-4117

Address correction
requested

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U.S. POSTAGE
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PORTLAND, OR
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***** MIXED ADC 970

