



# Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



By Paul Lawrence



San Diego Kite Club members Doreen and Paul Imbach, Lisa Schirmer's windglyph banners, Jessie Lawrence on his birthday, and another one of John Rogers' Alien kite creation at Super Sail '98 in San Diego before the Super Bowl.

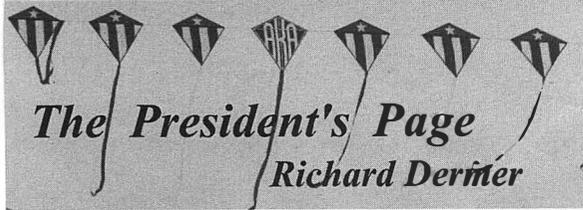
On January 24, 1998, the Super Bowl of football was held in San Diego. On January 17, 1998, the San Diego Kite Club held the Super Bowl of Kiting. Strictly on a whim, we submitted an application for participation in the Super Bowl activities being held in San Diego. Four applications out of several hundred were selected on the first day of screening. They included the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, the San Diego Yacht Club and the San Diego Kite Club. We were asked to put up our colors at Super Sail '98. We immediately started work on our presentation, the key phrase being "We'll have to play it by ear and hope for the best."

The event turned out wonderfully. When you consider the company we were in, it is plain to see that we were not the main event, but I can tell you we were certainly the exclamation point! The entrance to Super Sail was adorned with 15 of Lisa Schirmer's "windglyphs", our club booth was just a few yards away displaying the AKA and SD Kite Club banners, and our members were circling the peninsula with single line high flyers for most of the day. The event was attended by 15,000 people, who had their eyes pointed in the skies looking at our kites as much as towards the waters watching the yacht races, the Coast Guard doing simulated sea rescues, or the Navy Seals and Leap Frogs doing Sky Diving exhibitions. We were clearly a hit. Several hundred people visited our booth asking the how and where's of kiting in San Diego. And many more looked at our ground displays. All of the local TV stations were doing interviews at various times during the day with our kites and banners as background.

During the day, there were anywhere between 5 to 10 single line kites in the air. The crowds and location limited what we could put up. Ed and Gail Lindsey had Elle in the sky all day long along with several other fabulous creations going up and down throughout the day. Paul and Dorine Imbach spent much of the day near the entrance with two of their kites thrilling the crowds. Steve Bateman had several of his sleds in the sky with line laundry that included his spectacular iridescent globes. Steve Davis had several of his high flyers up including his Red Arrowhead. He was hoping Kansas City would be in the Super Bowl and made this kite specifically for the Super Sail. Charley McClary had his Japanese Rok in the air and Larry Mixon's high flyers adorned the area near the ESPN compound. Jim and Jane Skrya's sled was positioned near the center of the peninsula all day next to a gathering of Mark Brownton's banners. John Rogers' day was spent thrilling the kids with Lucy and Alien.

The day was punctuated with a birthday party for Jesse Lawrence who turned 10 that day. We think that the NFL and SDKC planned this event specifically for him but aren't absolutely sure. All things considered it was a great day for the kiting community.





Greetings! Do you just like to fly kites, or do you enjoy learning more about them? If you enjoy learning more, there is an incredible wealth of information available in print for kite enthusiasts. In this column, I want to examine some of the literature available to kites. There is something here for everyone. Read—I urge you! The “overall purpose of the AKA shall be to educate the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites...”. The better educated we all are, the better we can all achieve our purpose. I would like to suggest the following self-education sources:

**KITE MAGAZINES** - Besides Kiting, there are several really good magazines on the market:

**Kite Lines** - This beautiful 20 year old publication evolved from AKA founder Bob Ingraham’s original Kite Tales. It has been a true labor of love by Val and Mel Govig, Len Conover, a dedicated staff and contributors. It covers everything, (art, history, technology, practice, etc.), and does a particularly good job of covering kiting worldwide. And there is the Kite Lines Bookstore—a great mail-order book source for kite books.

**American Kite** - Another beautiful quarterly, edited by long-time AKA member Dan Prentice. AK offers great coverage of U.S. kite fliers, events, and competitions, plus outstanding features on individuals in kiting, and frequent product reviews. American Kite designates the “American Kite Circuit” events, calculates standings, posts rankings, and gives annual awards to AKC sport kite competitors.

**Kite Passion** - English version of French-published magazine. Great photos, coverage of both European and worldwide events, product reviews, and features.

**Aquiloni** - Italian magazine in both Italian and English—side by side articles in each covering both Italian and worldwide events. Half photos and one-fourth English means you can enjoy 75% of this while learning some Italian.

**Planete Cerf-Volant** - French. It’s worth subscribing to just for the photos and plans.

**Drachen** - German. Largest circulation kite magazine in the world, and the most frequently published. Beautiful photos, diagrams, plans, and more.

**The Kiteflier** - British counterpart to Kiting, black and white, lots of interesting event reports, good plans, and sometimes totally indecipherable English humor and slang.

One feature common to all of the above magazines is that all devote space to both single line kites and sport kites. Several sport kite magazines, like Stunt Kite Quarterly, Sport Kite News, and most

recently, Sport Kiting Magazine have stopped publication. But a great deal of sport kite information is carried by most of the magazines.

**KITE NEWSLETTERS** - Many of these are really good, and range from free to cheap, and are just full of information. Among the best:

**Drachen Foundation** - This non-profit Seattle based Foundation, headed by Scott Skinner and Ali Fujino, is unique — it’s doing incredible things for kiting — research, grants, exhibitions, and archives. The current issue is filled with marvelous writing by Ben Ruhe about Ed Graul—his kite patent work and design research.

**The Flyer** - World Kite Museum. Another non-profit, the Long Beach, Washington museum is open year-round, has regularly changing displays and sponsors workshops, lectures, and seminars, which are covered in the newsletter. Well worth the tax-deductible membership, which only requires a donation of \$1 or more. (They deserve more!)

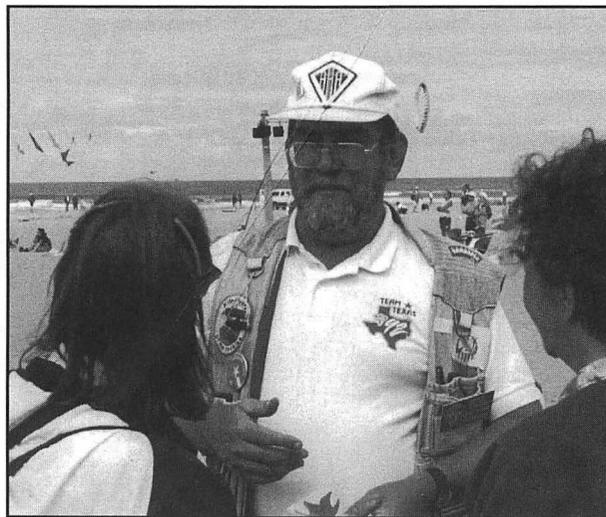
**Aerial Eye** - AKA Aerial Photography Committee publication by Brooks Leffler. An absolute must for anyone interested in kite aerial photography (KAP). Worldwide circulation and contributors—subscription discount for AKA members.

**Airborne Art News** - AKA’s Kite Art Committee publication, covering exhibitions, galleries, technical articles, and all aspects of kites as art.

**Buggy News** - Recently returned after about a year’s break by ex-AKA President Corey Jensen. Must reading for any kite buggier.

**Club Newsletters** - There are good ones in every part of the U.S.. Check the list of affiliated clubs in our next issue and contact all of them near you.

**AKA PUBLICATIONS** - Sport Kite Rules, Kite Building Competition Rules, Kites in the Classroom, Events Manual for organizers, Club Organizers Handbook, Powerflying Manual, Fighter and Rok Manual, (now being revised), and a basic primer: How to Fly a Kite. All are available from the AKA Store.



**ON THE INTERNET** - Only about 25% of our AKA members are “on line” currently, but the number is growing rapidly. The World Wide Web is like a giant library, with “web sites” by individuals, clubs, stores, and organizations covering all aspects of kiting. There are hundreds of these web sites—many offer single-button “links” to others. One can “surf” for days, finding anything from kite plans to festival photos to calendars of events. Our own AKA web site, aka@aka.kite.org is bringing in lots of new members and is constantly being updated by our hard working Electronic Opportunities Committee and Webmaster Chuck Sigal.

Another major area of kiting information is the newsgroup “rec.kites”. This is an open-to-all bulletin board where dozens of kite-related questions, answers, complaints, suggestions, and comments are posted daily, and stay up for several days. Readers can participate at will, or just read along following multiple responses to topics like “what is a kite” or “why is the sky a different blue in France and Australia?”. More serious “threads” discuss sport kite judging standards, discussions of the relative merits of different kites, and virtually instantaneous reports of events around the globe.

**BOOKS** - My library has over 50 volumes, but there are hundreds out there. Among my personal favorites, in no particular order:

Kites - David Pelham. 1976. Recently out of print, but still around—worth looking for.  
Kites For Everyone - Margaret Greger. Everyone's favorite for beginning kitemakers.  
Sport Kites and Sport Kite Magic - David Gomberg. Best how-to manuals on the market.  
The Art of the Japanese Kite and A Kite Journey Through India - Tal Streeter.  
Beautiful Kites: An Historical Survey - Clive Hart. The most complete book on kite evolution.  
Paper Wings over Japan - Drachen Foundation. Wonderful new work on Japanese kiting.  
General Rules For Small Kites - Charlie Sotich. Postage stamp-sized. Exquisite.

Is your appetite whetted? Good. Start reading. Need contact information for publications listed above? Send me a self-addressed stamped envelope, or e-mail me at [bkahuna@fullnet.net](mailto:bkahuna@fullnet.net), and I'll send you a complete listing of addresses and subscription rates for publications listed above.

Good winds, Richard

### Attention All Kite Clubs!

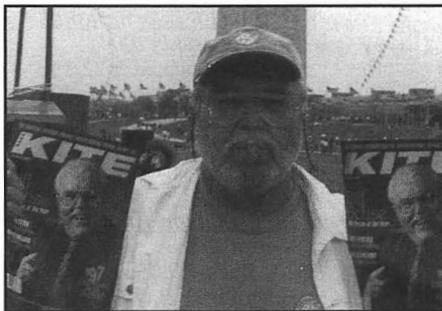
Robyne Gardner, new AKA Club Liason, is in the process of contacting all known kite clubs and updating contacts & addresses. If your club has not received a mailing, please get in touch with Robyne (see page 4 for information). In the past, we have asked all AKA affiliated clubs to send a copy of your newsletter to the Club Liason. Please change your mailing lists to include Robyne. And, don't forget to send one to the editor of Kiting, so we can keep up with your club's calendar of events.

### \$5000 Donated by the Kite Loft

During the 20th Annual AKA Convention banquet, Bill Ochse of the Kite Loft, Ocean City, Maryland announced the formation of the AKA / Kite Loft Fellowship Award. Each year for the next five years three AKA club members will be selected as recipients of the Fellowship and receive \$333.00 each to help defray expenses for attending the next annual convention. "This is our way of saying thank you to the membership of the AKA for promoting kiting in America over the past twenty years"

### Kite Loft / AKA Fellowship

- ◆ Fellowship nomination forms will be sent to all AKA affiliated kite clubs during the month of March. The affiliated club will nominate a member who has made a significant contribution to the goals of the kite club over the past year and who would otherwise not be able to attend due to financial constraints.
- ◆ The Kite Loft must receive the club nomination by April 15th. Nominations may be mailed or faxed to the Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, MD, 21842, or fax to 410-289-5726.
- ◆ The Kite Loft will select three names by way of "drawing from a hat" at the Maryland International Kite Exposition (MIKE), held in Ocean City, Maryland during the last weekend in April.
- ◆ The three recipients of the Fellowship will be notified by mail. In order to receive the honorarium of \$333.00 the selected club members must attend the AKA Convention in October. Confirmation of their registration at the AKA Convention needs to be received by August 1. In the event the chosen recipient can not attend the AKA Convention, an additional name will be selected by way of "drawing from a hat" from the remaining nominations.
- ◆ Three \$333.00 checks will be presented to the selected club members at the AKA Convention Banquet. Attendance is required in order to receive the check.
- ◆ In subsequent years The Kite Loft will display a perpetual plaque with the names of the entire Kite Loft / AKA Fellowship recipients at the AKA Convention.



King of the Wind - Bill Ochse

### HELP WANTED:

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](mailto:bkahuna@fullnet.net)

### 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](mailto:burkhard@intr.net).

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Kiting is published in odd-numbered months by the American Kitefliers Association. It is distributed free to members. Submissions from members are welcome; Advertising rates are available on request; Deadline for all material is the first day of the even-numbered month prior to publication.

*We are expanding the format of Kiting to insure a balanced view of all aspects of kiteflying. Kiting will now have an Editorial Advisory Board to assist with submissions of articles and information. As a predominantly volunteer organization we depend on you to be a contributor as well. Please send in those ideas, photos and articles today!*

#### Editorial Advisory Board:

Dave Arnold, Sherrie Arnold,  
Jon Burkhardt, Sarge Cleaves,  
Richard Dermer, Ron Gibian,  
Fran Gramkowski, Mel Hickman,  
Dean Jordan and more to come!

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Kitefliers  
Association

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Founder of the American Kitefliers  
Association - Robert Ingraham

## Daniel Schmitz

Daniel Schmitz of Rockaway Beach, Oregon passed away on August 18. He had been fighting Multiple Myeloma (bone marrow cancer) for the past six years. He was a "fighter". He never complained or was down about it. Daniel had been involved with aeronautics, engineering and computers over the years and had a very analytical and imaginative mind. He moved to Oregon around seven years ago from Iowa. Due to the ravages of cancer over the last year, he was unable to build any of the kites that he designed. He has passed on his kite plans and some of us are going to build a few of them. Daniel loved the beach, kites, kiting friends, church activities, and music among other things. I will miss him.

"I wish I could fly said the mouse to the Wind. The Wind replied, "Close your eyes and dream you are an eagle".

Bob Serack (From the Newsletter of the Associated Oregon Kites sent to us in December)

## Raymond Loera

We received this sad note from Robert Loera this December.

Aloha fellow kite flying friends! Just wanted to make the announcement that my brother Raymond has just died at the age of 37. He said to say "Hello" to all of you great guys and gals. His wife Jill gave birth to baby girl named Nicole 7 lbs six days after his death. The Hawaii Challenge will go on in his name!

Thank you friends,  
Robert and Barbara Loera

## Empty Places in the Sky

### Estel Crawford, 87 among last to use kite to forecast weather

(Excerpts from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on 1/2/98 by Joel Groover)

The funeral for Estel Crawford, 87, a forecaster for more than four decades with the U.S. Weather Bureau, will be held today. Mr. Crawford belonged to the last generation of meteorologists to predict the weather without the aid of computers or satellites, said his daughter, Peggy Guggolz of Alexandria, Va. He started with the U.S. Weather Bureau during the late 1920s and retired in 1972, two years after it became the National Weather Service. During the 1930s, Mr. Crawford worked at the last station in the country to use kites to make meteorological measurements, she said. "He always used to say, 'Well, now all the weathermen have to do is turn on the computer and press a button,'" Mrs. Guggolz said.

He took a job with the weather bureau after attending Oklahoma A & M. In his hometown (Broken Arrow, Oklahoma) he worked at the bureau's last kite station, then through the next four decades served in a variety of posts with the bureau. He worked as a forecaster in Washington, D.C., and later at airports in New York and New Jersey. Mr. Crawford moved to East Point in 1941, working out of the Atlanta airport weather station until his retirement in 1972.

Submitted by Ron Collie of Atlanta

### Bob Tatten

Bob Tatten, of Wakefield, MA, passed away on January 12, 1998 after a long illness. He was a friend, fellow kite flyer and member of Kites Over New England and the American Kitefliers Association. Bob was one of the original Nahant Beach kite flyers and builders. He shared his knowledge of kites, kite making and kite flying with the people he encountered at Nahant and other favorite flying places. News of his passing came as a shock.

(A memorial fly was held on February 7, at Nahant beach, Nahant, MA after the KONE annual meeting, to remember Bob.)

Archie Stewart

### AKA SPORT KITE RULES COMMITTEE



Dave Arnold  
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Bert Tanaka  
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# Oregon Kitemakers Retreat *by Beth Drake*

The Fifth Annual Oregon Kitemakers Retreat held in Rockaway had a little bit of everything, kites and line toys, from traditional to modern. It also has the one thing which Bobby Stanfield thinks makes this retreat so good, lousy weather. (Actually it just rained and blew 40 mph winds, but that's the Oregon coast in winter). Stanfield feels that forces people to stay indoors and makes them get to know one another. The intimacy is what Bobby likes with this retreat, which hosted over 70 kite builders this year.

Kites and line toys were created this year, from non-sewn to sewn, traditional hand painted Japanese sode' kites by Mary Yoshimi to a complex, exacting double box kite designed by Stanfield. Scott Hampton taught his painting techniques and Jose Sainz his applique techniques.

Many first time kite builders took Gerry Pennel's beginning sewing class and went on from there to build kites in some other classes. Ripstop was not the only material used, as is evidenced by Stormy Weather's Swift Victory made of soda straws and garbage bags, and Brian Johnsen's mylar fighters. Sue Clark taught on the color wheel and Elaine Genser, from Canada, taught how to dip and dye rice paper.

Bobby Stanfield designed a special "Rockaway" double box kite just for this year's retreat. Twenty people actually got through it, including Kathleen Nace from Texas who had never built a kite before. It gave goose bumps to all who walked into the meeting hall and saw 20 big cellular kites sitting there. As Bobby put it, "it's enough to make a grown man cry."

OKR has been the start for many new kite builders throughout Oregon. The organizers have managed to keep the costs down and the quality of instruction high. Charmayne Cornell from Washington taught her spikey ball line toy and Mark Neuhaus several of his line toys that have become fixtures on the Oregon coast. The Pan Flute kite class by Beth Drake gave several new kite builders a chance to build their first kite.

Throughout the weekend, there were many opportunities to visit and enjoy one another, some of this being the first time to visit since last summer. Some new projects were shown off and admired. One of the most important things was the camaraderie that prevailed.

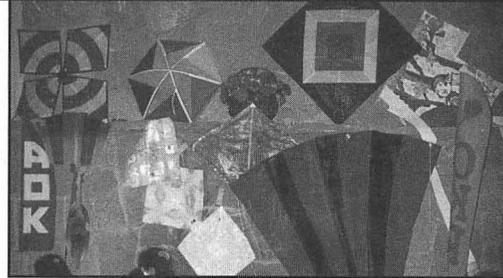
The campground, situated in a small town on the northern Oregon coast, is an ideal location for a kitemaking retreat. The staff is becoming well known for the meals provided, including some simply scandalous deserts! Everything homemade, including the bread.

The raffle held after each meal, is one of the mainstays of the retreat.

There were some incredible pieces, which were offered by members of the Associated Oregon Kites and sponsors. One group of sponsors, the unofficial group called the Animal House, raised over \$300 to bring in some of the out-of-state staff. By putting out items for raffle just before each meal, the choices were many and it made each meal an adventure, wondering what there was and what each person wanted.

Jose Sainz ran around jumping into other people's chairs trying to win. He was sure he was sitting in the wrong place, at the wrong time. Sure enough, soon he started winning and we couldn't keep him down. Hmm, I wonder if there is method in his madness.

All in all, the OKR was a big success. New kites were built, new skills were learned and friendships forged. I think that is just what retreats like OKR are meant to be.



**Photos:** Pan Flute class included two first time kite builders (top left), John Freeman and Corky Corbin measuring in Bobby Stanfield's class (1/16" is too far off) (photo top right); Kathleen Nace, first time kite builder-"what is this thing?" (middle left); Bobby's class - perfection is required (middle); Charmayne Cornell and Guy Skeer making the spikey ball line toys (middle right); Some of the various projects offered at AOK retreat this year (bottom).

## AKA PHOTO CONTEST

We are looking for the best photos to use in AKA Kiting and for AKA promotions. Winners receive a 1 year AKA membership.

We are looking for the best photo for each of the following categories: (1) Buggy (2) Single Line (3) Children Flying Kites (4) Sport Kites (5) Festival / Crowds

Send Your Entry to:  
KITING 232 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067



## The Happy Kite (A Childhood Memory)

by Randy Fox

I was sitting in church, listening to the sermon when something was said that triggered a childhood memory. I don't even remember what the comment was. I'm guessing it had something to do with visiting your grandmother. The memory had me sitting in church but, this time not paying attention. It was Mother's Day and immediately after church, we were going up to my grandmother's farm for dinner. Henry's hamburger stand had been giving out free kites, and the day before I had finally gotten one. There was plenty of space at the farm and the winds were looking good. I was planning to spend the afternoon flying my new kite.

I flew the kite quite a bit that spring. It was different from the other kites I had owned. It was a white square diamond with a red circle in the middle containing the restaurant's logo. It was about three-foot square. The frame was of rigid plastic tubes, three two foot pieces and one foot piece. A tee shaped piece joined the pieces. When all joined, the two cross-spar created a single arc across the back. There was no dihedral in this kite, nor did it seem to need a tail.

I smiled at this memory and decided to build a kite like it. After fruitless weeks searching for the proper rigid tubes and appropriate tee, I decided I'd have to use a different frame design. I'd been playing with fighter kites and had read that they get as big as five foot square. So I decided to base the frame upon a typical fighter kite. Instead of a red circle on white, I decided to concede to the resurgent popularity of the Smiley Face. After all, kites do make me smile. But a Smiley should be yellow, not red; and yellow looks so much better on black than on white. Figuring out the frame dimensions more of a challenge. After studying several fighter kites and fighter patterns, I determined an appropriate frame dimension.

One late winter day, I gathered my supplies and set out to make a kite. By the end of the day, the kite was ready. I was like a kid, waiting for a nice spring day to arrive to fly my new kite. Finally, a nice afternoon arrived and

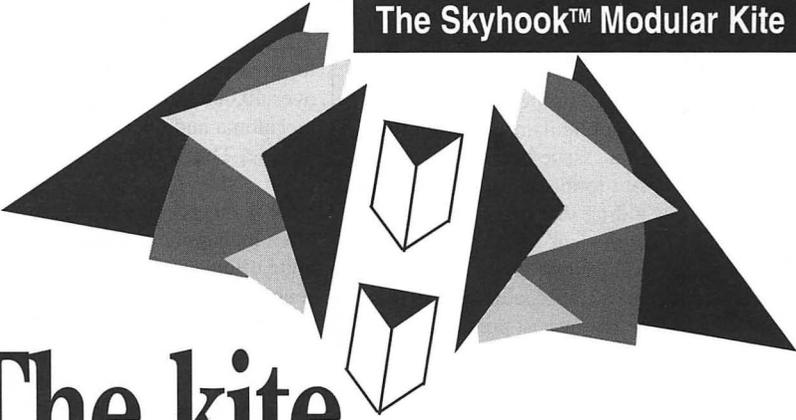
I took out my kite. It didn't take me long to realize that this kite didn't fly like the one in my childhood memories. It needed a tail. It was true to it's frame and flew like a fighter kite. I went home and make a fuzzy tail I'd been studying.

I took the kite out a few more times that spring, each time with a new modification. I finally had it so that I could fly it for long periods without major adjustments. Seeing that smile up in the sky now made me happy.

That summer we were out camping by a river in a ravine. Launching a kite was a little challenge but once up a hundred feet or so, the winds settled down to mostly a single direction. I watched the trees at the top of the ravine and decided that the winds were even

steadier up there. Sure enough, as I played out more line, the kite got more and more steady. A little more line and I'll be clear of the ravine and the surrounding trees. The winds not only were cleaner up there, they were also stronger. Suddenly, the line snapped. I started to chase it but realized after only a couple of steps that I couldn't see the line in the shadows on the ground and that in only a few seconds, the line would be over the river.

I stood and watched the kite drift away, the Smiley seeming to wink at me. Just as it drifted beyond sight in the tree line above, I had another flashback to that childhood kite. It's hadn't disappeared in the back of my closet during the off-season. It too had snapped the line and drifted away beyond view.

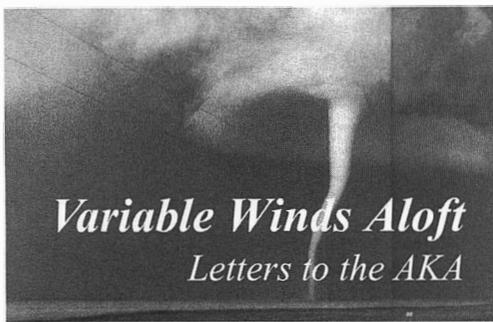


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### Dear Kitefliers of AKA,

It goes without saying that the great donation recognizing Bob's Music Scholarship is more than appreciated. It lifts the scholarship to an Endowment status which will now be used by a worthy student. We're hoping by now this good news is wafting through the airwaves to Bob who will see the fulfillment of his dream. Thanks so very much to all those who pushed and made it possible.

Sincerely,  
Hazel Ingraham & family

### More Cautions About the Sun!

I could not help but write an reply to the this article placed in the January/February 1998 Kiting Journal. We as kitefliers need to watch that our skin not be damaged from the sun, but to me the real issue is that we take care of our skin prior to the damage. I am glad that there is a drug that helps to "reduce the aging effects of the sun", but what about the incidence of skin cancer due to the sun and overexposure to it? It would seem to me that we should take the utmost precaution to protect ourselves from the damage of our environment, instead of waiting to correct what we have already done. I can say this with a lot of feeling, as I have Metastatic Malignant Melanoma, a very aggressive form of skin cancer.

Let me give you some facts on just Melanoma: Consider these excerpts from the book "Saving Your Skin" by Dr. Barney Kenet and Patricia Lawler. Today there are 300,000 people in the United States who have had or are now afflicted with melanoma. Consider these statistics: Melanoma is the most frequent cancer among women aged 25 to 29, and the second most frequent (after breast cancer) among women aged 30 to 34. In 1993, approximately 32,000 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma and 6,800 will die of it. Melanoma is now the seventh most common type of cancer in the U.S., and may become as common as colon cancer (pres-

ently the third most common malignancy) if steps are not taken to control it. The death rate from melanoma has tripled in the past four decades. Twenty-five percent of melanoma cases occur in people 39 years old or younger. Although the United States' population increased ten percent from 1980 to 1987, the number of melanomas increased 83 percent. Researchers at the New York University Melanoma Cooperative Group report that the lifetime risk of contracting melanoma in 1980 was one in 250; by the year 2000 the risk is predicted to climb to one in 75. Compare that with 1935, when the lifetime risk of melanoma was only one in 1,500. The N.Y.U. group further documents dramatic increases in melanoma in particular parts of the country. For example, there was a 340 percent increase in risk between 1969 and 1978 for Caucasians living in southern Arizona. While other types of cancer - such as breast, lung, and prostate cancer occur with greater frequency, melanoma demands close attention. It strikes and kills young to middle-aged people. On average, for each death from melanoma, more than 17 years of potential life before age 65 are lost. That book was published in 1994 and the projections given in it are becoming true. In 1997 malignant melanoma accounts for nearly 1% of all cancer deaths. In 1997 over 40,000 Americans will have developed melanoma and over 7300 will die of the disease. That's about 1 death per hour.

How is this relative to the sun? Well, quite often melanoma starts in a mole. Moles quite often appear from the effects of a sunburn or overexposure to the sun. Unfortunately that is not always true, as in my case, but it is the most predominant way for Melanoma to present itself. You say, only a mole, well that is not a big deal. In answer to that, yes it is. Melanoma is the only known skin cancer to enter tissue, meaning your vital organs, i.e. lungs, stomach, pancreas, brain, heart, eyes. Nothing is exempt from it once it starts to grow and there is no known cure or even a known way to slow its growth. So, you ask, how do I avoid getting Melanoma?

Use sunscreen when exposed to the sun. A SPF 30 sunscreen is your best defense. Long sleeves and long pants with a brimmed hat are even better, along with the sunscreen applied under your clothing. Do not stay out in the sun for long periods, and if you must, reapply your sunscreen often and stay covered. The worst thing you can do is get a sunburn. In reality, do I do all of this? Not always. I always use sunscreen and wear a

hat. I do wear shorts, but again, I use the sunscreen and I am very careful that I do not burn. Fair skinned people with blue eyes are at the highest risk for Melanoma. I must also bring up that Basil Cell Carcinoma and other forms of skin cancer are also brought on by the sun.

I know that we all enjoy the outdoors, the sun, the wind on our faces, but we need to protect ourselves from the very things we enjoy. I would hate to see anyone else have to go through the same treatment I have for the past two years, with no end in sight. Protect yourselves so you can continue enjoying this great sport of kiting.

Chrystal Eshelman  
Team Wind Witches  
Sons of Thunder Pairs

### I Know They're Out There!

Dear Roger,  
On behalf of the Pierce County Kitefliers Association, I'm trying my best to contact as many other kite clubs as humanly possible, (AKA affiliated or not, be they very large, or very small), for the purpose of establishing a kite newsletter exchange between our club and other kite clubs. I would also like to provide a way for our kite club members to become "kite pen pals" with members of other kite clubs.

I've written to over twenty kite clubs so far, and among those I've heard from include the Crescent City Kitefliers of Metairie, LA, Gems in the Sky of Fulton, Texas, Lavender Winds of Freemont, CA and Topeka Kite Flyers of Topeka, KS to name a few. It isn't even necessary for a kite club to have a newsletter, it would just be nice to hear from other clubs, just so we can learn of each other's existence and say "Hi!", and maybe even meet someday and share a patch of sky.

I guess what I'm asking of you and Kiting, is if you could pass the word amongst our fellow kite clubs and kite people that I'm trying to make contact (like a search for extraterrestrial intelligence) and that I'll try to answer all replies. Our kite club can be contacted at the following address:

PCKA  
c/o Mainframe Kite Shop  
3340 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tacoma, WA 98421

Kitefully yours, Chuck Anderson  
PCKA Founder & Club Correspondent

## More on Hot Air Balloons

Mr. Hickman,  
After reading Mr. Krupka's reply to your request for information on scale model hot air balloons from the July-August 1997 issue of AKA Kiting I am including my source of hot air balloons which I have used for several years. Their catalogue "Science Division" is free. The balloons are on page 104.

Edmund Scientific Company  
101 East Gloucester Pike  
Barrington, NJ 08007-1380  
1800-728-6999

Good winds,  
Tom Domery, Sr.  
Selkirk, NY

## Did anybody get a photo of that?

I was at the AKA Convention and had a great time flying my kites and tails. On Thursday, I decided to fly on 250 ft. to 300 ft. lines five six foot flexifoils with 20 of my 100 foot flowtube tails, a total of 2000 feet of tail, which is my record. It was awesome. I flew about two hours, and then realized I forgot my camera. So, I am asking if anyone took photos or videos of my Flexis and their tails. I will pay for all costs.

Rene V. Tremblay  
Fall River, MA (508) 674-1871

## What's In a Name? (Thanks for those new cards Mel!)

The use of "Pilot" by kitefliers is a perfectly acceptable as a general term. I like the card. To "pilot" is to guide or steer an object, be it a boat (preceded airplanes), kite (preceded airplanes), or airplane (which preceded pilot-parachutes). The use of a specific term such as kite pilot or airplane pilot may be used to distinguish pilot of what. Airplanes being a recent invention are far down on the list of claimants for being the "real" pilots. Kitefliers are the "reel" pilots.

I have included the following comparison (Jetlag Musings) between airplane pilots and kite pilots, which may be useful in showing how closely the two pilots operate their ships.

Carl Poehler, Jr.  
Melrose, MA

## Jetlag Musings

Some time ago, during a long flight from Seattle to Tokyo, with a small kiting group

led by Dave Checkley, I wrote a few notes about the similarity in the actions of a jet pilots duties and a kitefliers outing. The trip was in 1979 and included Hamamatsu, Sagara, Mori, Tokyo, and Shirone. The notes follow:

1. As preflight procedure proceeded on the 747, the pilot checked the navigational and weather data and provided software information to the onboard computer.

The flier unfolded the kite fabric and placed the spars in their pockets, tested balance and bridle adjustment for the wind which was light from the west.

2. Roaring motors whined and the pilot rumbled the weighty craft down the runway until the extended wings lift ratio changed the ponderous machine into a soaring swan and a steep climb lofted our cabin into the upper atmosphere, where we leveled off to ride unruffled air at rushing speed.

The kiteflier snapped the line swivel to the bridle loop and nimble fingers launched the kite into the wind while deftly offering line as the craft pulled taut and was airborne. The birdlike shape climbed steadily, darting slightly to balance gusty winds, but when the skein of tether was fully extended the kite assumed its maximum angle adjustment and smoothly rode the unseen pressure flow.

3. The pilot captain set auto-pilot while he bantered banalities with forward cabin guests, his hardware circuits maintaining directional and trim control, checking fuel consumption, pnr and eta with enerring accuracy through the seemingly endless flight.

The kiteflier tied his craft to a ground stake and visited fellow kitefliers discussing methods, motives, and other whimsey related to their avocation while a well trimmed kite with a constant wind provided essential lift and control, without bother or attention throughout the day.

4. The time of arrival had come and the pilot took control from robot guidance and procedurally placed the plane on approach glide, increased lift, cut speed, and lightly squeaked the tires on the runway, a professional show for controllers watching from their tower.

The kitefliers time to leave had come and he smoothly wound in his line avoiding errant jerks, which might dive his fragile ship or

loop it uncontrolled. He wanted a steady retrieve directly to his hand, without the taint of ground touch, from loft to capture, the show of a seasoned flier.

*Hmm. Well, I for one think Pilots have a right to be called Pilots. Personally I prefer to think of myself as a kite flyer, not a kite pilot. But don't ever tell me I don't pilot my kite! That's the difference between us pros and those novices out there. After all, that is why the APA exists, isn't it?*

-ed

## Guadeloupe's Kite Competition Postponed

"2nd Erick W. Rotin Intercontinental Kite Challenge" Now Slated for '99

(POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe) - The organizers of the "2nd Erick W. Rotin Intercontinental Kite Challenge"—between the United States of Europe and the United States of America—have just announced that the 1998 event scheduled to take place at Saint Francois from May 4 to 11 has been postponed till the spring of 1999.

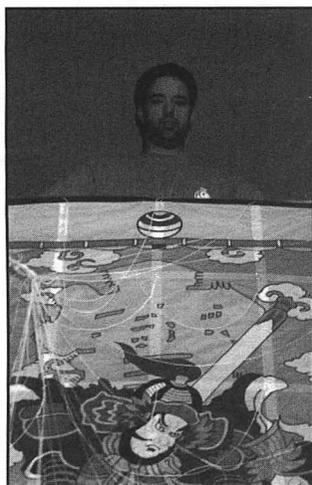
Primary reasons for the change are conflicts with other major sporting events. There is overwhelming competition for sponsorship in Europe from the World Cup Soccer Championships to be held in France beginning in June. Also, later in the year the French West Indies island of Guadeloupe will host the 20-year-old transatlantic boat crossing known as the "Route du Rhum", one of the world's most formidable sailing races.

The "1st Intercontinental Challenge" held in Guadeloupe in the spring of 1997 was a huge success, pitting some 40 kite champions from Europe against 40 American champions who, for one whole week, put on demonstrations of the fast-growing sport of kite-flying. Individuals, pairs and teams vied with single line, double line, acrobatic and kite-ballet contests that thrilled both locals and visitors alike. Highlight of the event was a night-flying competition that emblazoned the Guadeloupe sky with kites of all sizes and shapes.

For further information about the island of Guadeloupe and, eventually, details about the 1999 "Kite Challenge" call (888) 4-GUADELOUPE.

**Your letters, photos and articles to Kiting are all appreciated. Please plan a month or two ahead of publication dates when submitting articles.**

## Pennsylvania Kitemakers – What’s happening....



Pete and his traditional Edo.

Two years ago Tanna Haynes took top honors at the AKA Nationals in Santa Monica. In 1997, Tanna finished second to Mikio Toki in traditional kites while other Pennsylvania kitemakers Tony Ferrel, Todd Little, Cinda Shannon, Kurt Eby, Ed Shenk and Pete Rondeau all had high finishes in the Kitemaking Competition in Wildwood.

Pete Rondeau of New Oxford, PA took the top honors at the 1997 AKA Grand Nationals with his beautiful centipede kite. The kite featured quite a few innovations to a traditional design, something Pete is becoming noted for. As a kitemaker, Pete selects his projects ahead of time and does not stay with one discipline, but

enjoys mixed mediums. The centipede is a kite that Pete has been planning to make for years.

What is different about Pete’s kite is the use of modern materials and some interesting design modifications. Instead of bamboo frames, his cells are supported with carbon. The discs are polyester, and he has a unique knot system allowing him to remove any cell in order to make quick repairs. The head of the dragon is supported with a traditional bamboo frame, and covered with ripstop. The teeth are carved from balsawood, and the eyes were vacuum formed in a toaster oven. The horns and the tongue are made of styrofoam.

At present, there are 27 cells. The kite is durable and has flight characteristics similar to traditional centipedes, although Pete has a detachable drogue he adds for stability. This enables the kite to fly under shifting wind conditions. Pete did this with competition in mind, realizing that you only have that one opportunity to make it work. Something to consider after you have spent 150 hours on the project.

Pete attributes his ideas to traditional influences and credits Jon Burkhardt and Kevin Shannon for years of support. Watching Pete over the last few years, we have seen some very unusual designs come along with very traditional kites, such as the Edo he entered in the AKA Nationals last year. Where does he get his ideas from? “I like what the Europeans are doing. But I also derive influences from outside of kiting, from other hobby groups”, Pete relates.

Jon Burkhardt likes Pete Rondeau’s work. “Pete is an exquisite craftsman with a wonderful sense of color and design”, says Jon. “He

consistently is engaged in difficult projects and he finishes these projects with award-winning results. He is open and sharing with his techniques and ideas, and beneath that quiet exterior, there lies a passionate soul with an incredible sense of humor.”

Not too far away in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Ed Shenk has been making and flying sport kites for quite a few years. After winning in the multi-line category at the Smithsonian, Ed felt the label of “master kitemaker” placed upon him. With his new title, Ed felt the need to make more traditional kites. And to this new kitemaking realm, Ed brought his skill as a craftsman and knowledge of lightweight materials. Ed made a goal to enter in as many categories as possible at the Wildwood Convention, and with that he made kites all summer.

“I’m not an artist. Send me a pattern and I can copy it. That’s my shortfall,” Ed explains. When you look at Ed’s work, his craftsmanship is evident in his tensioning, his knotless bridles and his fancy stitching. In the kites he entered you would notice the PrismaTex keel on his

delta, allowing the design to be viewed unobstructed. You would chuckle at his “Wacky Stack” of six kites of all different sizes set purposely unbalanced off their center train lines. You would smile at his innovative entrees of Snoopy and the Red Baron tethered together with 40 feet of line in between. Perhaps Ed is not the artist he wishes to be, but there is artistry in his work that is visual.

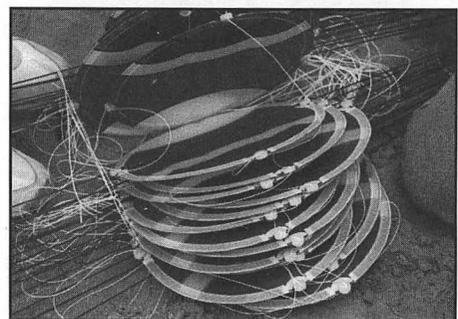
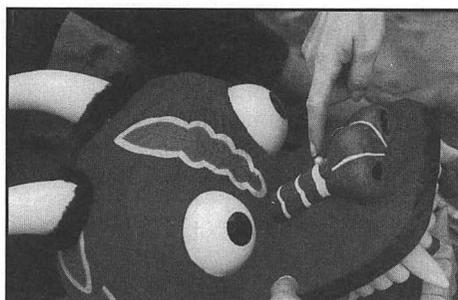
“My goals for the coming year are to take it easy and spend more time with my family. And, to win an award for a single line kite at the Smithsonian, and perhaps to get involved with the judging. And to build a flow form type soft kite, about 180 square feet, so that it is lightweight,” Ed explains. As I am talking to him, I see his time disappearing into numerous new projects and ideas. Oh sure, “take it easy”.

So what is going on in Pennsylvania. The Keystone Kitters are active building kites. And the Lehigh Valley Kite Society is an active kitebuilding group as well. Then there is the influence of the Kite Studio. Or it could be those

good old-fashioned Pennsylvania Dutch work ethics. Or, perhaps the camaraderie of friendly competition drives the kitemakers. There is no doubt that good kitemakers influence each other, as good craftsmen learn their trade from others in a system as old as time. Pennsylvania, after all is no stranger to handcrafts and craftsmans guilds. And now, Pennsylvania is known for its kitemakers.



Ed with a couple of custom kites!



Pete’s Centipede (Photo by Jon Burkhardt)

## A Guilden Opportunity? *by Kurt Eby*

Last August, a friend of mine who is active in the Susquehanna Sewing Guild, a central Pennsylvania based sewing club, asked if I would be interested in giving a presentation about kite making to their organization. I agreed and immediately solicited help from other Keystone Kites. On January 5th, Pete Rondeau, Kevin Shannon and I gave a morning and evening presentation to their Guild. The morning session was attended by approximately 30 of their members. We brought various kites to show examples of different kite making techniques. It seemed that these sewing enthusiasts were most impressed by the examples of the "Randy Tom" method of applique. This is obviously a sewing technique that is new to them. They had so many questions from the basic "what size needle and thread" to very advanced technical questions. Fifteen members, plus a number of repeat attendees attended the evening presentation from the morning session, accompanied by their spouses and children. One attendee remarked that they have never seen so many men attend a Sewing Guild meeting since the Guild was founded. Others remarked that it was one of the most interesting presentations they have ever had! Their club president is recommending us speakers to the Lancaster Sewing Guild. At both sessions, two large trash bags of ripstop scraps were offered for use as samples to their members.

Due to the interest shown by their members, we offered to include a basic Transition Tail project at our Winter Workshop on January 18 at Camp Hill. Approximately 15 of their members stopped in to see our kite display or watch others work on their projects. The net result of our presentation to the Sewing Guild is the fact that we now have four new Keystone Kite members. Another guild member signed up for the Maryland retreat.

Based upon our results, we recommend that other AKA affiliated clubs contact the sewing clubs in their area and offer to give a presentation on kite making. You may find it easy to spread our passion to others already interested in sewing.



*Pete talking to the Guild - finding new kitemakers!*

## Dermer's Dragon - *Richard Dermer*

## KITE PLANS

For a summer library program a few years back, Marti and I were asked if we could build a Chinese dragon kite with the kids' help. We did, and you can too. Here's how:

For really easy construction, use Styrofoam picnic plates for the lifting discs. To these, we glued 30" "outrigger" sticks across the center of the concave sides of the plates, using a hot glue gun to tack the sticks to lips of the plate on both sides. We then glued a second stick, 1 inch longer than the plate's width, across the concave side again at a right angle to the outrigger. Flush at the bottom, the one inch projecting at the top gives an attachment point for the top link line. For these sticks, we used matchstick bamboo from a window blind, but 1/8" dowels could also be used.

We pre-built a bunch of these cells and passed them out for the kids to decorate with magic markers. Pick a theme if you want, but make it easy. After decorating, we had the kids attach tassels of Christmas tinsel to the ends of the outriggers with Scotch tape. Better pre-make these tassels, too, to insure uniformity. For more precise balancing, although we didn't find it necessary here, each disc can be suspended from the top center stob and carefully balanced horizontally by trimming small amounts of tassel from the heavier end, if any.

To link the cells together, we prestretched three lines of 100 lb. braided Dacron in the backyard, got them evenly tensioned, and marked all three lines, with a felt tipped pen, at 18" intervals. (I've since learned that I could have gotten by with closer spacing—1.5 times the diameter of the disc is sufficient.) Note:

You must use Dacron or Spectra line to eliminate stretch—Nylon is too stretchy and will be unworkable.

After the kids decorated and tasselled their discs, we tied all three link lines to a doorknob, left about five feet of extra marked line for the head and bridle, and started attaching the lines, with larkshead knots on each marked spot, to the two outriggers and the top stob of each disc. The decorated convex side faces the front; the sticks are on the back concave side. Note: It helps to have a large room or hallway to do this in. The larkshead knots will take some time, particularly slipping them over the tasseled outriggers and then pulling them tight on the mark next to the plate. It helps to have lots of hands—three pairs doing the knots from front to back, and others holding up the kite and lines as needed. After making sure that the knots are on their marks and pulled tight, put a spot of quick-drying glue on each so it won't slip.

Once all the cells were strung together, we attached the head. This was a flat, colorful design the librarian had made of paper and had laminated. We stiffened the back with multiple bamboo sticks and scotch tape, and then poked three holes in the head—spaced just like the attachment points on the cells. We made sure we had strong bamboo crossing over these holes, tied the three link lines, (now off the doorknob), to the bamboo on the front set of marks, and passed them through the head to the front of the kite. We then tied them together about three feet in front of the head, (long bridles are better than short), making sure that the side lines were

even and the top line just a little shorter—enough to tilt the head and discs about 15 degrees forward in flight. This bridle angle may require some experimentation—we got lucky first try.

That was it. We got about a dozen kids to help transport the whole thing, stretched out, out the door and down a sidewalk to a big open flying field. I attached a 100 lb. flying line to the bridle tow point, backed up so I had about 50' of line to the head of the dragon downwind, and had all the kids, with the kite stretched out tight, let go simultaneously. Up it went! 44 cells, plus head, made it 68' long, and it flew great, sinously snaking back and forth. The outrigger tassels shimmered in the sun, and the kids loved it!

One problem with this kite was its bulkiness on the ground. The outrigger sticks prevent the plates from nestling, so it was about 30"x10"x48" in its most compact form, and that could be only be maintained by careful handling and bundling. We left it with the librarian—last saw it stretched out hanging from the ceiling inside. (It's a big library.)

Before doing this workshop, we had made a prototype to make sure it worked. The first one had only 12 undecorated plates and no head. While a flat head such as we used can furnish additional lift, the traditional 3-D head on a dragon is for looks, not for aerodynamics. The bigger such a head, the more cells you need to lift it.

Try this! It's cheap, easy, and showy. Our unadorned prototype won "most unusual" at the Zilker Park festival in Austin, Texas.

# Kitevents

## March

6-8

Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference  
Guest include Tim Benson, Istvan Bodoczky, Richard Gareau, Willi Koch, Bas Vreeswijk, and more.  
Bob Alford 206-888-2812

7

Bill Kocher Kite Fly  
Sandy Point, Annapolis, MD  
WOW 301-948-0559

8

Small Kite Workshop- Charlie Sotich Kokomo, IN,  
Mike Bragg 765-453-2977

70<sup>th</sup> Annual Zilker Park Kite Festival  
Austin, TX

Richard Robertson 512-453-7174

11-16

Spring Break Buggy Blast  
Ivanpah Dry Lake, Primm, NV  
Fran Gramkowski 609-429-6260

13-15

Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat  
Dan Kurahashi, Scott Skinner,  
Bary Crites featured guests  
NIU/Taft Campus, Oregon, IL  
Kathy Horn 815-393-4672

15

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

St. Patrick's Fun Fly  
Ambleside Park, W. Vancouver, BC  
BCKA 604-657-3309

WOW Annual St. Patrick's Day Fly  
Sandy Point, MD  
Mike Van Meers 301-948-0559

SJKF Flyin' of the Green  
Marlton, NJ 215-722-4092

21

Flight Fair Mount Trashmore  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Betty Rountree 804-925-2016

Smithsonian Workshop  
Washington, DC 301-890-1178

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Spiro Mounds Kite Flite  
Spiro, OK  
Dennis Peterson 918-962-2062

21-22

Go Fly A Kite Festival  
Albuquerque, NM  
Connie Connolly 505-883-0028

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

22

Fun Fly - Saturn Cycling Tours  
Bonita Cove, San Diego, CA  
Neil Tuthill 562-696-5266

LVKS Wildlands Conservancy  
Tony Reiser 610-691-2804

28

Smithsonian Kite Festival  
Washington, DC  
Bevan Brown 301-890-1178

Belmont Shores Kite Tournament  
Belmont Shores, Long Beach, CA  
Neil Tuthill 562-696-5266

28-29

Flying Circle Workshop  
World Kite Museum 360-642-4020

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Westlake Kite Festival  
Lahoma, OK  
Steve Thomason 405-796-2359

## April

4

LVKS West Chester Kite Fly  
610-691-2804

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

4-5

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bluebonnet Kite Festival  
San Marcos, TX  
Judy Aswell 512-396-2374

Ohio Factory Shops Kite Festival  
Jeffersonville, OH  
Tree Alexander 614-876-4573

5

Mid-Michigan String Stretchers Club  
Fly, Calvin College  
Ken Blain 616-676-5980

10

Good Friday Fun Fly  
Garry Point Park, Stevenson, BC  
BCKA 604-657-3309

Greater Delaware Kite Festival  
Lewes, DE  
Mike Dallmer 215-722-4092

Renfrew Fun Fly  
Waynesboro, PA  
Bill Fiohr 717-762-8492

11

Go Fly A Kite!  
Wabash, IN Jeff Fuller 219-563-7419

WOW Old Time Kite Fly  
Oak Ridge Park, La Plata  
Jim Cosca 301-292-4849

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Perkasio Kite Festival  
Perkasio, PA LVKS 610-867-4999

18-19

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

Spring Games  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Klig's Kites 803-448-7881

19

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

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

Spring Tune-up  
Indiana Factory Shops, Daleville, IN  
Dewayne Sheppard 785-643-1253

24-26

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

25

Southern California Open  
Fiesta Island, San Diego, CA  
Neil Tuthill 562-696-5266

25-26

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kitefest  
River Oaks Park, Kalamazoo, MI  
John Cosby 616-383-8778

Linganore Winecellars Kiting  
Weekend  
New Market, MD 301-831-5889

Appliqué Workshop with Gail Lindsey  
World Kite Museum 360-642-4020

26

Loogootee West Boggs Park Kitefly  
Loogootee, IN  
Mike Bragg 765-453-2977

Oswego Park District Fun Fly  
Oswego, IL  
Ginny Bateman 630-554-1010

## May

2

Kite Day in the Park  
Bethlehem, PA  
LVKS 610-867-4999

San Diego Kite Club  
3rd Saturday of the month  
Mission Bay (south of the Hilton)  
John Rogers (events) 619-691-8640

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

## 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

Lavendar Winds Kite Club  
2nd Sunday @ noon (March-Oct.)  
North of Sand Gregorio State Beach  
Brian or Mark 510-797-6997  
<http://members.aol.com/kitebear>

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

Midwest Winds Kiteflyers  
Club Meeting 2nd Wednesday of the  
Month at Shoney's (Omaha, NE)  
Club fly following Sunday  
Randy Fox 402-330-7271

North Coast Sky Painters  
2nd Weekend of the month  
Illahee Beach, Ocean Shores, WA  
Eric Halverson 503-537-0817

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

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

2-3  
Rockaway Beach Kite Festival  
Rockaway Beach, OR

3  
Ansel Toney Memorial Kitefly  
Parker City, IN  
Mike Bragg 765-453-2977

Bucks County Kite Day  
Core Creek Park, Langhorne, PA  
215-757-0571

17th Annual Frankenmuth Skyfest  
Frankenmuth, MI  
Kite Kraft 517-652-2961

Thank God It's Spring, Leland T. Memorial Fly-In, Milwaukee, WI  
Jeff Kataoka 414-277-9121

9  
Kites in the Sky '98  
Midwest Winds and Omaha Children's Museum, Immanuel Hospital, Omaha, NE  
Randy Fox 402-597-3653

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

9-10  
Tulsa Festival of Kites  
Collette Commons  
918-322-9630

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

10  
Mother's Day Fun Fly  
Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC  
BCKA 604-657-3309

15-17  
Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships, Grand Haven, MI  
Mackinaw Kites 616-846-7501

16  
Deptford Day Kite Fly  
Deptford, NJ

Mike Dallmer 215-722-4092  
16-17  
Midwest Kite Traction Classic III  
Oak Lake Park, Lincoln, NE  
Bruce Kenkel 402-330-7271  
Showdown II SKC  
Rockaway Beach, OR

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

17  
Beaverdam Fun Fly  
Beaverdam, WI  
AG Kruger 920-885-9278

Traditional Kites Fly-In  
Milwaukee, WI  
Jeff Kataoka 414-277-9121

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

WOW Fighter Flying Seminar  
Gaithersburg, MD  
Walter Matthews 301-330-4547

20-25  
Wildwood International Kite Festival  
Wild Wheels Buggy Blast  
East Coast Stunt Kite Champs.  
World Indoor Kite Competition  
Wildwood, NJ  
Sky Festivals 215-736-3715

22-25  
Junction International Kite Retreat  
Junction, TX  
Betty Street 806-745-6803

23  
Applewood Little 500 Fun Fly  
Anderson, IN  
Dewayne Sheppard 765-643-1253

Colonel Murray Sunset Hill Kite Festival, Valparaiso, IN  
Mark Jaeger 219-926-6777

23-24  
Strawberry Wine Fest  
Lingnore Winecellars  
New Market, MD 301-948-0559

24-25  
San Ramon Art & Wind Festival  
San Ramon, CA  
Kim Giuliano 510-275-2307

**June**  
6  
Wings On Strings Kite Fly  
Jamestown, ND  
Mike Gee 701-252-5611

6-7  
Rogallo Kite Festival  
Jockey's Ridge, Nags Head, NC  
Kitty Hawk Kites 1-800-334-4777

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

Vancouver Children's Festival  
Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC  
BCKA 604-657-3309

## Smithsonian Kite Festival

The theme for the Smithsonian Festival this year will be "Boxes in the Sky". Everyone is invited to join in the mass ascension for box kites, which will feature the 25th Anniversary Smithsonian Kite Festival Silver Cody.

On Saturday morning the commemorative Smithsonian Arch will open the celebrations. Kite judging activities begin early as fliers and clubs set up colorful encampments surrounding the demo field. Look out for bear drops and don't forget to bring your rokkaku to enter the battle. A feature this year will be a display of aerial photographs and camera toting rigs.

You are invited to come fly a kite in the shadow of the Washington Monument. For information, contact Margo or Bevan Brown at 301-890-1178.

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[flyaway@monmouth.com](mailto:flyaway@monmouth.com)

### Calendar Listings?

Send your event information to:

#### "AKA Kiting"

232 W. Trenton Avenue,  
Morrisville, PA 19067.

Include the name of the event, activities, dates, location, contact & phone number.

To receive  
AKA sanctioning  
for your event  
call 1-800-252-2550.

# Member Merchants

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

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## Arizona

**Dream Merchant**  
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Golden Valley 520-565-2116

## Flags & Kites

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Yuma 520-344-1535

## I-Maginations

4951 East Grant Road  
Tucson 602-326-3442

## Kites and More

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## Play It By Air

2901 E. Grant Avenue  
Tucson, 520-326-3442

## Arkansas

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

## California

**Amiga Kites**  
388 Holiday Hills Drive  
Martinez 510-228-0465

## Bay Breeze

362 First Street, Benicia  
707-747-9403

## Becky's Performance Kites

4370 N. Teilman, Fresno  
209-227-4858

## BFK

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Rowland Heights  
818-912-1272

## Candy & Kites

1415 Coast Hwy,  
Bodega Bay 707-875-3777

## Come Fly A Kite

1228 State Street  
Santa Barbara 805-966-2694

## Epic Kites, Inc.

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

## EZ Flyer Kites

117Greenwich Village  
Hermosa Beach  
310-379-0295

## High Line Kites of Berkeley

6809 DelMonte Avenue  
Richmond View  
510-235-5483

## Into the Blue

65 Third Street  
Point Reyes Station  
415-663-1147

## Kite Connection

PO Box 53,  
Huntington Beach  
714-536-3630

## Kite Ranch

24201 W.Valencia Blvd. #2017,  
Valencia 805-254-7123

## Kites N' Stuff

7794 Fair Oaks Blvd  
Carmichael, 916-944-8727

## Knight's Kites

2300 45th Avenue  
San Francisco, 415-731-8554

## Moran Precision Aerobatic

PO Box 2394, Goleta  
805-685-7223

## Super Kites

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San Jose 408-252-2566

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Ventura 805-654-1227

## Windborne Kites

685 Cannery Row  
Monterey 408-373-7422

## Wind Wizard

PO Box 7304  
San Buenaventura  
805-659-5769

## Windworks

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

## Colorado

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

## Kite Sails

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

## Wizard of the Wind

13761 Braun Drive  
Golden 303-279-5353

## Cyberspace

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

## Delaware

**Kites, Tails & Toys**  
101 Garfield Parkway  
Bethany Beach  
302-537-5920

## Rehoboth Sport & Kite

67 Rehoboth Avenue  
Rehoboth 302-227-6996

## Florida

**Adventures Kites**  
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## Beach Barn

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

## Cloud 9 Kites

640 SE 24th Street  
Ocala 352-629-2492

## Flash Flights

313 63rd Street  
Holmes Beach 941-778-7111

## Get in the Wind

109 A Highway 98 East  
Destin 904-654-WIND

## Kites Plus Flags

100 West Venice Avenue  
Venice 813-488-7756

## Kitesville USA, Inc.

405 Gulf Blvd  
Indian Rock Beach  
813-596-3431

## Kool Kites

2283 Wisteria Street  
Sarasota 813-751-6427

## Krazy Kites

8445InternationalDr.#112  
Orlando 407-352-2234

## On Air Kites

208 Johns PassBoardwalk  
Madeira Beach 813-398-4472

## Salt Lake Distributors

411 S. First Street, #402  
Jacksonville Beach  
800-847-7258

## Spindriff Kite Company

115 1/2 First Street  
Neptune Beach 904-246-5708

## Wind and Snow

111 7th Street North  
Bradenton Beach  
941-778-0238

## Georgia

**R Kites**  
PO Box 2216  
Douglasville 404-942-7538

## Savannah Sails and Rails

**TC Ultra Company**  
323 E. River Street  
Savannah 912-232-7201

## Hawaii

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

## Kite Fantasy

1221 Honoapilani Hwy  
Lahaina, Maui  
808-661-4766

## Idaho

**Kite Studio**  
6 Ogden Avenue  
Nampa 208-467-9555

## Illinois

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

## Kite Harbor

435 East Illinois Street  
Chicago 312-321-5483

## Kite Harbor #2

109 N. Marion  
Oak Park 708-848-4907

## K.R. Kites

18057 S. Dixie Hwy  
Homewood 708-798-1122

## Stanton Hobby Shop

4718 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Chicago 773-283-6446

## Indiana

**Play With The Wind**  
1306 N. Eclipse Place  
South Bend, 219-237-0395

## Tether Point Kites

8113 Talliho Drive  
Indianapolis 317-849-5986

## Iowa

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

## Imaginations

700 Sixth Street SE  
Lemars 712-546-5910

## Kansas

**Air Adventures**  
924 East Douglas, Wichita  
316-265-0909

## T-Town Kite Co.

2917 SW Fairlawn Rd  
Topeka 913-272-5483

## Wind Wizards

12944 W. 87th St Parkway  
Lenexa 913-894-5483

## Kentucky

**Berry Blue Line**  
1500 Interstate Drive  
Erlanger 800-258-9368

## Louisiana

**Kites, Tails & Toys**  
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New Orleans 504-529-3247

## Massachusetts

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

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155 George Washington 714  
Hull 617-925-3277

## Maryland

**Kite Loft**  
511 Boardwalk  
Ocean City 410-289-7855

## Kites Up & Away

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Annapolis 410-263-4628

## Michigan

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Ionia 616-527-4229

## Kite Kraft

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## WindZinger Kite Sales #2

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Williamston 517-655-4837

## Minnesota

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## Missouri

**Anything That Flies**  
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Broken Bow 308-872-8307

**Nevada**  
**BFK Sports of Las Vegas**  
3111 S. Valley View A-116  
Las Vegas 702-220-4340

**New Hampshire**  
**Kite Expressions**  
43 Congress Street  
Nashua, 603-593-4240

**Something In the Air**  
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**Oklahoma**  
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580-796-2959

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**Pennsylvania**  
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**South Carolina**  
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Charleston 803-577-3529

**South Dakota**  
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Waxahachie, 214-923-0242

**Sky Delight Kites**  
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Kingsland, 915-388-9288

**Windchasers**  
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South Padre Island  
201-761-7484  
wndchasrs@ies.net

**World Wind Kites**  
7208 McNeil Drive, #204  
Austin, 512-250-9454

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**Air Apparent**  
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Salt Lake City 801-531-7434

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Onancock 804-787-8768

**Blue Ridge Kites**  
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Bedford, 703-586-6846

**Hang-em High Fabrics**  
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**Jackite, Inc.**  
2868 W. Landing Rd.  
Virginia Beach 804-426-5359

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

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

**Washington**  
**Colors On the Wind**  
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Spokane, WA 888-484-KITE

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

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

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

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216 Commercial Avenue  
Anacortes, WA, 360-299-9203

**Hi-Flyers**  
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360-276-8377

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

**Ocean Kites**  
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## Beginner's Guide

In 1993, Brooks wrote the cover story for the July issue of *KITING*, titled "The Aerial Eye," with the above as a subtitle. *THE AERIAL EYE* is now the name of a quarterly journal on kite aerial photography, published by AKA and edited by Brooks. The original article, while dated, still contains useful information for newcomers to KAP. Updated excerpts follow.

First, it should be noted that kite aerial photography as we will discuss it here is really photography from the kite line, with the kite 50 to 500 feet above the camera. That way the kite can achieve stable flight before you even attach the camera.

It's also important to understand that successful KAP depends on an integrated system of kite, kiteflying ability, camera, camera mount, and controls. Each is important and all components are interrelated. Almost nothing is available ready-to-use. You'll have to do some creative handiwork in putting your package together.

### THE RIGHT KITE

There isn't just one, of course. Deltas are good for lighter air, but have the bad habit of overflying you when the wind dies, whereupon the camera drops like a rock.

In winds less than 18 mph, Craig Wilson of Madison, Wisconsin, uses a homemade 18' delta with a 6" x 100' tube tail to correct the overflying problem. "It's easy to launch and recover, and it'll follow me around, says Craig. "And it looks pretty, too—that's still important to me."

Henry Jebe of Douglas, Alaska, has used a 14' homemade genki or a FlowForm 16 with good results, but uses a large delta-Conyne most of the time now. Many aerialists in Europe prefer 6' - 8' rokkakus or multi-flares or roller variants. After trying many others, I almost always use a FlowForm 16 or 30—with a tail.

KAP committee chair Steve Eisenhauer of Pitman, New Jersey, uses a 14-ft Sun Oak D-C or a stack of smaller delta-Conynes in train. Trains have the advantage of flexibility: sometimes it's easier to carry and launch a string of small kites than a large one, and the length of the train can vary with the wind.

### CAMERAS

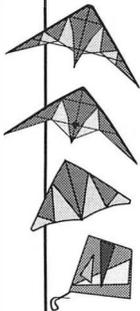
Use the lightest, sharpest camera you can afford consistent with your expected means of presentation; i.e., 3 x 5 snapshots require less optical quality

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## To Kite Aerial Photography by Brooks Leffler

than transparencies for commercial publication. While a single-lens reflex still has the edge in optics, there are many point-and-shoot cameras—usually much lighter—which will give acceptable results. The very lightest cameras are the cardboard throwaways, but they need a lot of light and steady winds, and may not have enough optical quality for your needs. Only you can decide how much money you want to send up the line.

If you're going to use radio control, automatic film advance is desirable. Lock your focus on infinity if you have that option, so objects such as the kite line don't throw your focus off.

For a very lightweight system use a simple non-automatic camera with an external timer and bring the camera down after each shot.

Current point-&-shoot cameras that work well are the Rollei Prego/Samsung Slim twins, the Olympus Stylus (both the original and the new Epic), and the Yashica T-3 or T-4. In SLRs, the choice of most is the Canon Rebel, due to its very light all-plastic construction, combined with an electric shutter release and excellent optics. And as their weight and prices come down and picture quality improves, digital cameras will find their way into KAP as well.

For years I used a relatively heavy Nikon One-Touch f:2.8. Craig Wilson got most of his beautiful pictures with a Minolta KR-10M SLR before upgrading to a Pentax ZX-5.

Craig thinks 1/400 sec. is a minimum shutter speed for success, and shoots at 1/1000 whenever possible. Most point-&-shoot cameras aren't capable of such speeds, maxing out at 1/250 to 1/500, but the Yashica goes to 1/700th and the Olympus Epic to 1/1000th.

Regarding cost, lots of suitable cameras are available for less than \$150, some for much less. I bought my Nikon One-Touch used for \$60.00. Better yet, Henry Jebe suggests that very good buys on suitable cameras can be made at garage sales: he got a Ricoh AF-5 for \$5.00, which takes excellent pictures.

### FILM

Steve Eisenhauer prefers the color of Kodak slide films; Craig Wilson shoots Fujichrome 100 slides most of the time; Wolfgang Bieck in Bad Bevensen, Germany, nearly always uses the venerable Kodachrome 25—and a very heavy SLR! Many like Fujicolor (print) 200 or 400 as the best compromise of speed, grain, color saturation, and flexibility. I'll confess that I usually use Agfa 400 print film because Costco sells it cheap. Kodak's new Max 800 looks promising for cameras that won't do high shutter speeds.

### CAMERA MOUNT AND CONTROLS

Here's the place for individual ingenuity—no two rigs are alike. Don Dvorak of Santa Clara, California, following the late great Rodney Thomsen of Eureka, prefers to make his rigs of wood, because he's most comfortable working in that medium. Most mounts, though, seem to be made of aluminum strap, 1/16" thick and 1" to 2" wide, bent into U shapes and fitted with the necessary panning, tilting, and shutter control gear. This can be as simple as bolts and wing nuts and rubber bands, or more complex with bearings, belts, gears, and servos.

Rigs which are controlled by clockwork timers are the simplest and lightest. But for each shot, pan and tilt must be estimated and locked before launch, and the timer set.

Some radio-controlled rigs use only two channels, one for the shutter and one for either pan (horizontal rotation) or tilt (vertical). With a three-channel rig, of course, you can control everything. Radio outfits cost from \$50.00 to \$150.00.

Suspension of the mount from the kite line has taken various forms as well. A diminishing number of fliers today use some form of pendulum, a single rod of wood, epoxy, aluminum, or carbon fibre connected to a bar of similar material which is attached parallel to the flying line.

Many now prefer a suspension system devised by Pierre Picavet in 1912, in which the camera cradle hangs from a cross, which in turn hangs from lines connected to the kite line at two points. The main advantage is that most radical movement of the camera is dampened; the main disadvantage is that the many lines are as hard to keep in order as the bridles of a parafoil.

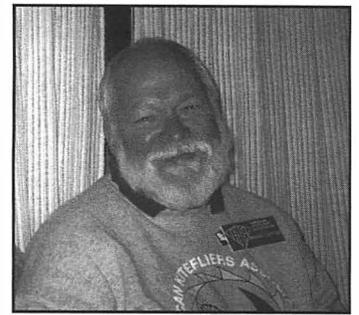
### SKILL & SAFETY

All of the aerial photographers interviewed for this article mentioned safety, and indeed, when you're lofting a 2-lb weight over people's heads, that's a main concern. The cost of lost or damaged equipment is small compared to the potential damage done to a human target. Safety wire or locknuts are a good idea anywhere there's the chance of something coming apart. Use stronger line than you would usually use with the kite. Give yourself plenty of landing room.

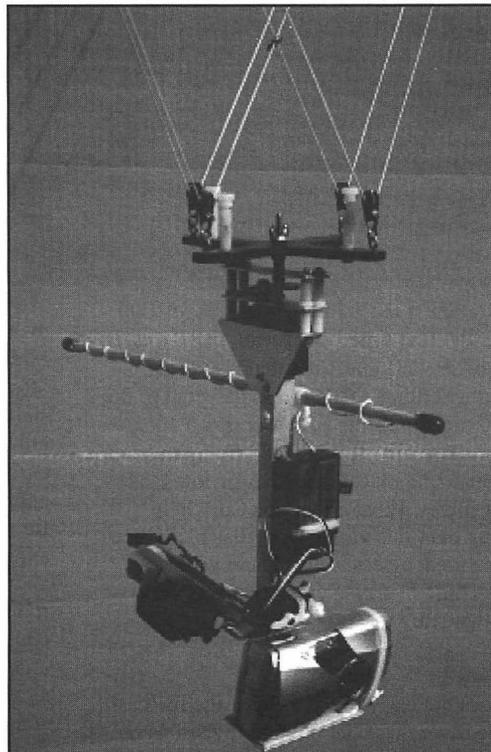
Likewise, says Craig Wilson, don't underestimate the need to fly kites well. "Putting a load on a kite is like adding a sidecar to a motorcycle," he says. "Everything changes." Craig advises never attaching yourself to the kite line; in fact, he never tethers the kite to anything except when he's attaching the camera to the line.

"You've got to start at the bottom of this hobby," Craig says. "There are lots of elements—it's not as easy as it looks. Don't try to go too fast. Take notes so that when you see your results you can learn from them. Make refinements one at a time."

For more information or a subscription to *THE AERIAL EYE*, contact Brooks Leffler at PO Box 34, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, or [kytelman@aol.com](mailto:kytelman@aol.com).



Brooks in Wildwood  
photo by Margery Hawley



Brooks Leffler won the award for best kite accessory at the 1997 AKA Convention for his camera mount shown in the above photo.

## A New Florida Event - Treasure Island Stunt Kite Championships

By Jason Robbins

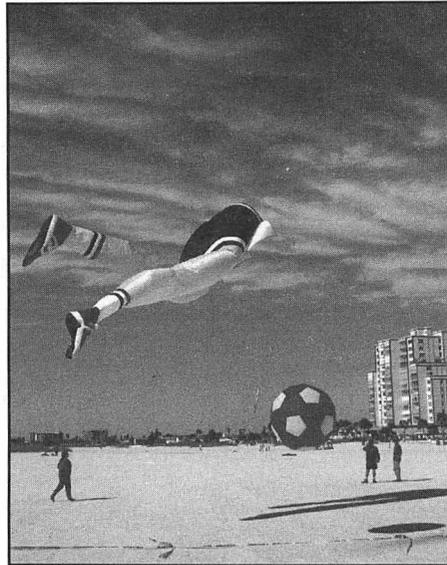
I had been waiting for several years for a kiting event at this beach. Since I had gone to the area on business for several years, and had always extended my trip to fly on this wonderful beach for a couple of days, I knew this event was not to be missed. Perfect timing for us northerners to get out in the sun to fly. The wind was always amazing, steady warm gulf breezes, plenty of variety. Exactly the kind of wind inland fliers dream about. So I convinced my partner, Lou Behrman to give it a go.

### Friday

We decided to leave real early on Friday morning so that we could have some prime practice time on the beach in the afternoon. The flight was a bit rough and we were diverted around some "tornadic activity" the captain said in a rather understated manner. We arrived in Tampa, got our pickup truck, (thanks Fran for the tip), and proceeded toward Treasure Island. It was pouring rain and there was debris all over the roads, needless to say, we were bummed. I thought we would be stuck in the hotel all day. As we entered the city we noticed big signs promoting the kite festival. We checked in at the hotel, met with Dennis Smith, who said "Ya shoulda been here yesterday, it was a great day", and decided to take a ride to Kitesville, USA in Indian Rocks Beach.

At Kitesville we saw TC Powers & Pat Robinson from Savannah Sails and Rails as well as Dodd Gross. It was great to see Sandy and Dirk doing well and hosting this event. They seem dedicated to promoting more interest in our sport for all of the right reasons. They had obviously worked hard to promote the event. After a while the skies cleared, and we all bugged out for the beach to get some flying done.

The winds were great! Lou and I were really in the groove and did some of our best flying ever! After a while we stopped, not wanting to ruin the whole thing and each flew on our own for the remainder of the day. The beach quickly filled up with other fliers; Dennis Smith, Mike Book, the entire Mason family, Donald Coleman, Charles Stewart, and The Valley Boyz and many others. The day had turned out really well considering the severe weather.



Lester style legs and soccer ball over the beach at Treasure Island - Photo by Jeff Jensen  
Below the Kitesville Tent - Photo by Jack Fowler



Registration at the Bilmar Hotel was @ 7:00 and for the first time I can recall, there was food and drink. I guess it's that "southern hospitality" thing. Dodd Gross gave out to the first 30 registrants his new "Fantasy Tour Video". Basically, this is Dodd flying in some really amazing places, showcasing kites that he distributes. What a life, you can't help drooling over this video; Dodd has really been to some great places to fly. There was a novice clinic Friday evening that was very well attended.

### Saturday

Lou goes out early to fly, I check the forecast and see severe weather coming toward us on the map and go out to tell him. For the rest of the morning it rained. In the early afternoon, the rain stopped, and the wind was howling

from 8-20+ mph. Novice, team, and master's quad was postponed. Dennis Smith was his usual jocular self as the announcer, and the events were run as professionally as ever by Tom and Sue Mason. There were several demos flown throughout the day, and TC made available to anyone who wanted his "hurricane" kite, (approximately 10' of kite is vents). Several fliers took him up on it, not wanting to destroy their own in this cranking wind. The buggy action was hot! Dean Jordan and Dodd Gross were zipping all over, all day. This is a really fast beach due to its hardpack, crushed-shell surface. Spectators were somewhat light due to the inclement weather in the morning, however, Treasure Island's Mayor hung out with us for a while and seemed overjoyed at our presence.

### Banquet

First of all, the food was good. Italian fare. Sandy and Dirk, from Kitesville, USA were really enthusiastic about the event's future and were very happy we were able to come for the first one on such short notice. The auction was run by Stretch Tucker with the proceeds going to the Treasure Island Recreation Department. TC made the event kite a sort of homage to Long John Silver. The bidding was hot and spirited; few escaped without spending some money on some real good stuff. I, myself am now the owner of a Gyro-Kite and the new Prism Kite bag.

### Sunday

The day started off pretty chilly with light inland breezes creating choppy, swirling, and very challenging conditions. The precision field was turned over to single line kites for the day and Stretch made the most of it, creating a real "festival" atmosphere. Spectators started showing up as the morning progressed, building to a very respectable audience by the early afternoon. Demos were welcomed and appreciated. The Valley Boyz took to the sky for team and did pretty well in really difficult and challenging conditions. Pairs teams "Q" and Windswept also did very well with their routines given the "choppy-swirl". The competition had a rather "loose" atmosphere and I can't recall any one appearing stressed at all. The novice class was strong, showing some depth and skill. We were all made to feel welcome and appreciated. I can't wait for next year!

## Pairs Basics ... by Dorothy Wagner

Pairs flying has two important similarities to individual flying. You want to show good choreography and technical aptitude. In addition, you have many factors that make pairs flying a distinct challenge, the most significant being the compatibility of the flyers. Pairs members should be compatible both personally and technically as flyers. They should be on the same "wave length" in terms of choice of music, and ability to perform basic skills and tricks. They should share ideas on pairs techniques to be used, and have similar goals in how deeply into competition they want to get.

Let's say you have decided on a partner. You've settled on a practice routine, where and when to meet - now what? The big bugaboo that so plagues individual flyers is the very same one that plagues pairs: choice of music! Where can you find that one piece of music that you like and has enough in it to make it interesting to perform to in your ballet. Most important, you both should like the music. If one of you is really hip-hop but the other becomes physically ill at the sound of it - scratch it! There's plenty of music out there to chose from.

Here are a few basic pairs moves to consider. You should aim to have a few of these techniques at least once in your routine.

**Following** - The first step is to learn how to follow each other. Look for good spacing, speed control on turns and follow a straight path. This is not as easy as it sounds. The kite following should never creep up on the lead kite. If it is, both flyers should adjust their speed control. The kite following should slow down - hands, arms or body if necessary should move forward. The lead kite may need to move back either hands, arms, or body to speed up. If the reverse is happening and the following kite is too slow, the flyers should perform the reverse. This is assuming that there is not an equipment problem, and the flyers have the same kites tuned identically with the same length lines. This is the easiest way to insure synchronicity in your pairs flying.

**Shadowing** - Flyers perform the same moves side by side. Here, the most important thing to look for is similar height in the sky, your height on all turns should be the same, and watch your speed control and spacing. This technique performed well, gives the appearance of the kites truly dancing in the sky.



**Mirroring** - Flyers perform the same moves in a mirror image of one another. You want both kites to be the same height in the sky or at the same angle and to be in the same place, mirrored in the wind window.

**Threading** - Kites pass each other, generally on a horizontal or vertical line going in opposite directions. Here, you need to set up the thread well to avoid touching or crashing. You want to be one or two kite lengths apart and aim to fly straight lines.

**Bursts** - Kites head directly at each other and turn either at the opposite or different angle at the last second. This works well when you want to depict an explosive section or a climax in the music. Kites should be flying straight until the turn and should reach middle of the wind window together.

**Wrapping** - This is simply following in a circle with the addition of line wraps. Flyers can give the illusion of wrapping in the air and avoid wrapping lines if one of the flyers moves his body underneath the other's lines. This negates the need for the kites to unwrap. This is useful in a stall and wrap, where one kite stalls and is encircled by the other.

**Tricks** - These are "higher risk" maneuvers, such as docks (refueling), axels, etc. For docking, where one kite's nose is docked onto another's leading edge from underneath, Dick Bateman (Uproar) suggests these tips: "On the ground, one flyer should be behind the other and should speed his kite into the other kite which is stalled at the top of the wind window. On the turns, flyers should move their bodies one behind the other." For axels and other individual maneuvers, flyers should first gain a mastery of the trick. Randy Joe of Tsunami gives this tip - "if a trick is difficult for a flyer, the risk of failing at it is exponentially increased the more flyers there are attempting it. Unless both flyers can perform a difficult trick over 90% of the time, don't risk it". A clean, well-choreographed routine is more pleasing to watch than one plagued by "downtime", with a field crew scrambling to get kites in the air.

Again it's very important that your equipment be the same. Dick Bateman suggests that the captain maintain all equipment regarding tuning and repairs. This keeps continuity in the performance of your kites. A captain may or may not call out maneuvers, but is responsible for handling music, knowing the rules, and paying all fees for competing. It's a good idea to agree on assigned duties so that responsibilities are clearly defined.

The main thing is to put on a good show!

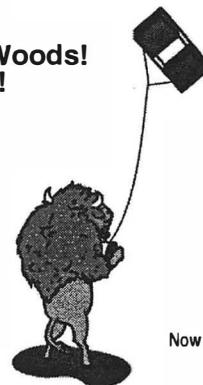
Dorothy Wagner, with her husband Lance are "Sudden Flight", 1997 and 1996 Eastern League Champions and 1995 AKA National Champions in Master Pairs Ballet. Congratulations to Dorothy and Lance on the birth of Andrew Hunter Wagner on January 25, weighing in at 7.1 lbs.

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# WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY *by Al Hargus*

You hear comments on the flying field all the time about how some sport kite rule or other needs to be changed or updated. There is a continual conversation about the need to rectify and clarify some procedure in competition. Everyone comments about how sport kite competitions, rules and procedures are relatively new and have a long way to go before they are "set in stone".

Most of you know me as "One of the Old Guys", and some of you know I am a compulsive "Pack Rat". I save everything connected to kiteflying. The first AKA Convention I attended was in Detroit, Michigan in 1982. Lately, I came across a Field Events sheet for that convention. What struck me as the biggest change comparing that Convention to our last convention was the dual-line competition. Listed under Field Events were six categories. Comprehensives, 3 fun events, Peoples Choice, and last on the list, Dual Line Control. You could register for this competition on the field at the event. Below is a reprint of the rules and procedures for that event 14 years ago.

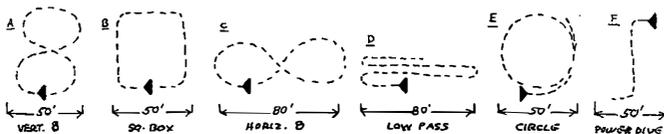


Host Club: 5/20 Kite Group  
**FIELD EVENTS**

\* Points score will be based upon execution of maneuvers and time required to complete. A scale of 1 to 10 will be used for evaluating performance. Additional points will be added to this total based on the following elapsed time schedule:

Under 20 sec.	+ 5 points	Under 50 sec.	+ 2 points
Under 30 sec.	+ 4 points	Under 60 sec.	+ 1 point
Under 40 sec.	+ 3 points	OVER 60 sec.	0 points

Entrant will begin the series of maneuvers when signaled by whistle. We suggest the following guide for positioning kite going into each maneuver.



Maneuvers are to be executed in sequence, non-stop. Kite is disqualified if it makes contact with the ground at any time.

The Detroit dual-line event was delayed at the convention for two days for lack of wind. It never got over 8 miles per hour. (Kites available at that time commercially were Peter Powells and Trlbys).

On the final day of the convention the six stunt kite fliers entered in the event wanted to fly, but alas there was no wind. Corey Jensen of Monterey, CA suggested that the contestants be strapped to the rear of a golf cart and then be driven across the field to complete the event. If I recall, past AKA President Red Braswell won the event with a custom made diamond stunter, that resembled a Peter Powell. He flew with no tail. Three of the six contestants crashed for lack of wind, even on the back of a golf cart. (There were no quad line kites yet and were not to make an appearance until 1988).

I also found some literature from the 1984 Nashville, Tennessee National Convention. As I looked through the program I remembered this convention very well. It was my third. It rained for four days and was somewhat of a disaster. The dual-line competitions were again very simple. Here is a reprint from the 1984 program.



**NASHVILLE AKA  
CONVENTION 1984**

## EVENT 4: Dual-Line Maneuverable Kiteflying Competition

This event is for flyers of dual-line control (stunt) kites. Any dual-line kite is permitted. Competitors may enter in either Advanced or Novice divisions. Assisted launches are permitted in both divisions. The judges will award points on execution of required maneuvers and imagination and choreography of the freestyle portion (Dazzling Display).

### Novice Division

Required maneuvers and points distribution are as follows:

Down and up again	10
Back and forth across the sky	10
Right circle	10
Left circle	10
Figure Eight, vertical	10
Figure Eight, horizontal	10
Dazzling Display	40

### Advanced Division

Required maneuvers and points distributed as follows:

Right circles (2)	10
Left circles (2)	10
Figure eight, vertical	10
Figure eight, horizontal	10
Square	10
Dazzling Display	50

As you can see the Advanced Division had a "much" harder set of maneuvers. They had to do two circles plus the "infamous" square. I especially like the second Novice maneuver, "Back and forth across the sky". Very difficult indeed! By the way, rains cancelled the event.

At both of these events, what you see reprinted in these articles were all that a contestant received. These were not supplements to any rules booklet. The first of these "Rules" book arrived three years later in Wildwood, NJ at the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships in 1987.

So remember, the next time that you think the rules for sport kite competitions are not detailed enough remember that it is better than it has ever been, and we really have come a long way! Also, remember that the way things change is by individual efforts. "Ask not what your sport kite commissioners can do for you, ask what you can do for your sport!"

Al Hargus is one of the old guys. He flew on Chicago Fire, was Assistant Editor for SKQ Magazine, flew on Captain Eddy's and POP and currently is flying on Team Shanti Air. He has held various positions in various kite clubs and currently is the AKA Sport Kite Commissioner for the Midwest.

# ... on a roll

by dean jordan

Welcome to Kiting's full time buggy page. This space will now be filled with buggy news about who is who, and what is what. For those of you who don't know me, some background. For those who do, no excuse will work. For me, to buggy is now my life ambition. Not much of an ambition, you say? Not true. A higher calling I've not heard. Here's how it all began. . . in 1991 in Jacksonville, I met Peter Lynn for the first time. Besides some really wild kites, he had this contraption that he was making a training video for. The winds were light but he was still able to move this little tricycle looking thing around, steering with his feet while flying a large mattress looking thing he called a 'peel'. I sort of kept my distance as i was very involved with sport kiting at the time, and didn't need any distraction from something which was already taking up to much of my time. In '92, at the AKA convention in Lubbock, there were more of these contraptions around, but since the winds were light (again), they were not seeing much action. I saw them go a few times, and couldn't keep my eyes off them, finally i went up to Corey Jensen who had one and asked him if i could use it. "No", he said. No? "That's right, as soon as the wind blows, I'm going to use it." What a pr\*ck. Dang, I thought that Corey was a nice guy. I had never encountered this attitude in kiting before, what is going on here? Early the next spring, in Miami, at Mike Simmons event that he used to run, there were more of these things, but this time there was wind. Yet still, no one would let me use theirs! I couldn't believe it! Finally, I couldn't stand it, I'd asked a number of people, no luck, now it was time to take fate into my own hands. When Dodd Gross's back was turned, I hopped into his buggy with a 50' quadrafoil, and off I went! Straight downwind over onto my face scraping my nose and elbows just that quick, and just that quick I was hooked! What a feeling! I kept trying it until I could go for awhile before I'd crash or get to the end of the field. Pretty soon Dodd found me and took his buggy back, but it was too late, I knew what I had to do. Went home and ordered two buggys. One for me and one for Dave Arnold!

Now I was beginning to see why these guys were so possessive about their buggys. Buggy time became precious. Soon more of my friends were getting them as we tried out

different kites. Later that year, after the first Daytona Festival, Peter Lynn spent the day with Curtis Mitchell and me giving us private buggy lessons!

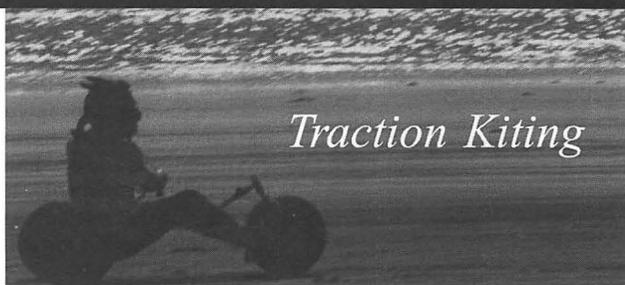
Wow. Of course by then, I thought I was pretty good, but Peter cleared that up by giving me a kite that was identical to his, and no matter how fast I went, Peter would pass me, backwards!

I was still heavily involved in sport kiting, but it was hard to keep me out of the buggy seat. At the same time, David Gomberg had made me head of the Power Flying committee so I was learning all about the different forms of traction that were taking place all over the world, as well as getting to know some of the people doing it. People like George Baskette, Anthony Crisofulli, Lee Sedgwick who has been doing kite traction for a long time on ski's and some of the hot new people getting involved, like Fritz Gramkowki.

In July of 1993 something happened that changed my life forever. Dodd and I were going to attend the UP open in Manhattan Beach, just outside of LA. Corey had somehow convinced me we should come early and meet him and some friends out in the desert, a place called El Mirage Dry Lake. I convinced Dodd and we went. I'll never forget finding the place. The remoteness, the sheer size. Dodd was sure our friends had left and we were going for nothing, since we couldn't see any kites, even though we had driven for five or six minutes at high speed across this thing. Finally we see some color and head for it, and soon we see kite buggys! Wow! There we met Scott Dwyer, Corey and some other folks. This is when I fell truly in love with my buggy. For those who have not experienced the desert, it is hard to describe the beauty of the place, as mostly we think of emptiness. But it is full. Full of light, wind, space, and speed. I was stricken. This is what I had been searching my whole life for. Like a surfer in the perfect wave or a skier on the most perfect downhill run, I had found nirvana. All was right, and I still had no idea what I was doing!

That would change (a little). Finally I understood why Corey wouldn't let me use his buggy back in Lubbock!

Okay, no more about me. Next issue, what's hot, and who is who. Feel free to write with questions or to share a great buggy spot you've found. E-mail me direct at >ahclem0013@aol.com< or write me at 836 nw 20th terrace, gainesville, fl 32603. Stay safe, and always AoxomoxoA.



*Traction Kiting*

## 4th Annual Spring Break Buggy Blast

**Ivanpah and Roach Dry Lakes  
Nevada/California  
March 11- 17, 1998  
Racing March 14 and 15, 1998**

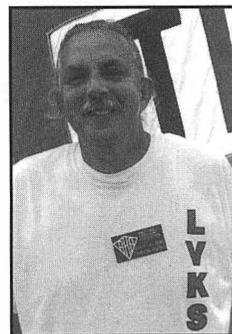
Buggiers will be gathering on Ivanpah Dry Lake for a week of fun and racing. Ivanpah & Roach are located about 45 minutes south of Las Vegas, in Primm, NV on either side of a three casino complex. The 35 mile Ivanpah Dry Lake is the largest of the two. It is part of a Federal preserve, and its use is restricted to wind powered vehicles. Smaller than Ivanpah but sometimes dryer, Roach Lake will be used as an alternative site. The surface of the lake bed is hard. You go faster and hit harder when you fall. Safety equipment, helmet, and pads are a must.

Both enduro and circuit races will be held again this year. It is preferred that you pre-register for these events, but registration will be permitted the day of the event. Racing is scheduled to take place on March 14 - 15. The races will be run using the rules in the AKA Traction Flying Manual. Races will be held on Ivanpah dry lake and start times will be at 12, 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 on Saturday afternoon, subject to weather conditions. The course and racing rules will be reviewed at 11:30 am. On Sunday, we will have a distance race 25 to 50 miles depending on wind conditions. This race will start at 10:30. Racers are required to attend a pre-race meeting at 10:00 am.

Buffalo Bills Casino Hotel has offered us a special group rate. Call 1-800-386-7867 and tell them you're group code #SKG0307. We all need to thank Jeanne Merry for getting us the group rate. Camping is allowed on the lake bed but there are NO facilities.

For info, or to get a registration write:  
Fran Gramkowsky  
Spring Break Buggy Blast  
30 West End Avenue  
Haddonfield, NJ, 08033, USA  
or fax 609-429-0142 or call 609-429-6260  
e-mail frang@voicenet.com

Region  
2  
Northeast  
Andy Gelinas



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—Tal Streeter, American sculptor and kite authority



It's quiet here in Pennsylvania this time of year. Instead of the usual frozen, snowy kite flying with sleds and saucers we are into "mud flies", dampness, and rainy weekends. Ice and snow flies are being cancelled or held without the cold attributes.

I have heard little from the region's clubs. I read their newsletters and attempt to get information about what is happening in their areas. South Jersey Kite Flyers has a new president, Mike Dallmer of Philadelphia. His family is the one with the beautiful dragon, parabears and great ground and air shows seen on the east coast.

I have heard nothing from Sky Pilots of Reading, PA, but have heard that they decided to regroup and give it a go for another year.

Keystone Kites, by their newsletter, seem to be strong under the new presidency of Kurt Eby with his kite-building par excellence entourage of Pete Rondeau (Grand Champion) and Ed Shenk, master kitebuilder (4 - 1st places at AKA).

No news from Pittsburgh, except no ice flying.

My home club, Lehigh Valley Kite Society (new president Karl Imdorf) is in planning stages of its 8th Annual Kite Day in the Park which draws over 3500 people Saturday, May 2 in Easton, PA. That same weekend on Sunday, about an hour south of us at Core Creek Park another great festival is the Bucks County Kite Day. Contacts are Olan and Bernice Turner.

LVKS has also started their Kitebuilding for Kids, and last year an unprecedented 1450 kites were built. This year LVKS will have two sport kite teams, the Valli Boyz, and the new Valli Girlz Team making their debut in competition.

Events coming up for area fliers are the Smithsonian Festival in Washington, DC and MIKE in Ocean City, MD. We also are looking forward to the Wildwood International Kite Festival and the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships on Memorial Day Weekend.

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

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# BASKC and BAKE '98

Boston Area Stunt Kite Championships and Boston Area Kite Expo

JUNE 12-14 1998

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BASKC competitions on Saturday and Sunday

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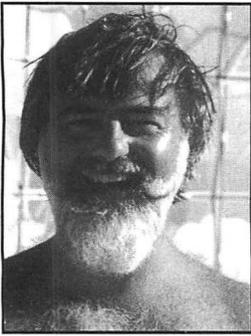
Banquet Saturday night at the hotel

For event information contact Archie Stewart at 617-969-1814,

or email to [ikite2@juno.com](mailto:ikite2@juno.com)

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Region

3

MidAtlantic

Jon Burkhardt

When the cold chases us indoors, there's time to reflect a bit on what we do and why. From this vantage point, it seems that some well-intentioned folks have lost a sense of perspective, and we all need to work to get it back.

Fundamentally, kiteflying is supposed to be about enjoying life, people and the great outdoors. One of Steve Edieken's great contributions was his sense of wonder and joy in the creativity of others. Have we lost some of that? I say let's get it back! The fundamentals of kiteflying are not supposed to include politics, stroking fragile egos, and paying money for what should be done for fun. It used to be a good day if your kites flew well, not if you brought home a trophy. Helping someone else begin the joys of kiteflying was the focus, not snowing them with the length and breadth - ho, hum! - of your kite resume. Congratulating someone on their newest creation, not telling them that it isn't really "Art," should be our focus.

Let's reemphasize the focus on filling the sky with all kinds of kites. Let's reemphasize finding ways to appreciate what others can create and fly instead of ranking them as greater or lesser competitors. Let's find a way to leave hostility out of the kite pages on the Internet (and let the rest of the world wallow in it!).

We'll see if we can put some of these ideas more in the forefront of our upcoming events. Final plans for the Maryland Kite Society's three-day February kitemaking retreat in Laurel, Maryland, and for the Smithsonian Festival at the end of March, and for the Maryland International Kite Exposition at the end of April. This year's special guests at the MKS retreat are Steve Brockett from Wales and Richard Gareau from Canada. We're looking forward to another great get-together. The theme for the 1998 Smithsonian Festival will be "Boxes in the Sky" — come and show off those cellular pieces! The 1998 Maryland International festival (now referred to as "MIKE") seems poised to surpass last year's spectacle. We hope to see many old and new faces there.

AKA always welcomes good ideas, especially from those willing to help make them happen. Anyone have a bright idea for adding new members to the AKA in 1998? What other good ideas are out there? More members, more workers, more participants, and more fun! How about a new perspective?

Let's spread the word and share the fun. Good winds to all.

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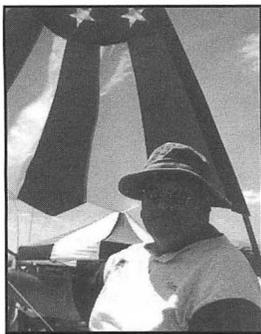


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## Region

# 4

## Southeast

### Tom Mason

Hello from the south. We just got back from the new event in Florida, "Treasure Island"! Everyone had a blast. Kitesville USA of Indian Rocks Beach sponsored the event. They did a very good job for the first time out. This new event is an Eastern League event. Don't miss it next year, it will be on Martin Luther King's birthday. As time goes on we expect this to be a very big event.

This will be my last year in this position as Regional Director. The AKA will be looking for a replacement. If you're interested, get in touch with Mel Hickman at the AKA.

Klig's Kites will be having their Spring Games this year on the 18 and 19 of April. For more information you can call 1-800-333-5944. Ask for Rick. This is a good event to compete in for your Eastern League points or for AKA points. They have a good location on the Main thoroughfare in Myrtle Beach. Good luck to all that get a chance to go.

The "Gone With The Wind Classic" will be held on Tybee Island, outside of Savannah at the Pier Pavilion February 28 to March 1. This event is always a lot of fun. It is sponsored by Savannah Sails and Rails and by TC Ultra. Pat will be putting on a kid's workshop on Saturday, and the kids can show off their new kites on Sunday by marching in the parade. Dinner will be at Snappers Restaurant on the beach road. Bring your single line kites and your fighter kites. Reed Richards is taking on all comers again this year. Mr. Smith will be displaying his fine kites at this event. Hope to see you there.

The Miami International will be held again this year on South Beach in April. There will be some wonderful demonstrations being put on by Master Class fliers and Master kite builders.



## Region

# 5

## Great Lakes

### Robyne Gardner

Contrary to popular rumor, Christmas DID come to the 'Swamp' this past holiday season. It seemed that the annual BSAF Christmas party might be endangered; T. Santa McPherson retired, Charlie Sotich & Pat chose to spend Thanksgiving at home for a change, and Uncle Wilbert was doing battle with yet another attack of Real Life. But the Holiday Spirit prevailed! Uncle Wilbert & Aunt Cass did make it, Jenny & Kevin Kilgoar worked their magical elf-stuff, and a fine feast was shared by about 60 kites & kids last November 29. Alan Sparling took time out and came from Region 6, and the Michigan portion of

the Swamp was well represented, too. Joining the regular local crowd of Swampers were: Bill Kildow, Bruce Jarvie, Bob White, Dick & Kathy Armstrong. Of course, the whole Bad Influence bunch was there ... Sam Ritter entertained us with his new laptop; Annie was nursing a bad foot injury caused by tripping over their dog on the stairs. [Ouch!] The evening of dinner & door prizes was a warm and wonderful way to share some time with friends and to kick off the holiday season.

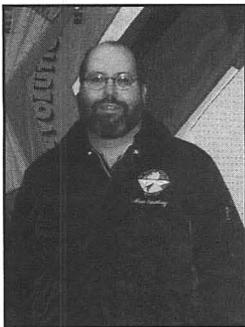
Meet Mid-Michigan Kite Club: [Not to be confused with Mid-Michigan String Stretchers! Different club, although there are quite a few people who belong to both.] This newly affiliated club has been around, informally, for over two years. Its current president is John Davis, and he can be reached at (810) 736-4037, or by email: [kitewiz289@aol.com](mailto:kitewiz289@aol.com). Jim Imperi edits the club newsletter, called Skys Over Michigan. They fly regularly in Bay City, but many members participate in other flies all over the state. I am saddened to report the passing of Garry Fleming on Nov. 24. Garry was one of the club's founders and served as the club's treasurer. The club affiliation came through just after Garry's death, but I am sure Garry is looking down and smiling - very proud of this group & their accomplishments in the short time they have been together.

Tidbits from the world of Cyber Kiting...a Chat channel just for kites, named #kites. Chatting is real-time talk with other folks on your computer. You'll need a modem, and an IRC (Internet Relay Chat) software program. Your regular internet service provider can help with connecting, but I was able to download a shareware program called mIRC from <http://www.mirc.co.uk> and eventually got it working all by myself. Once you get that installed, you can connect to #kites through DALnet. I know from experience that most chat channels can be pretty weird and spooky places when you're first starting out. That's why I highly recommend #kites - a great place to learn, and more importantly, meet kites from all over the world. You can talk with the whole group, or single each other out for direct (private) chatting. Peter Peters and Andrew Beattie started #kites about two years ago. Mike Woeller, a kite flyer from the South Jersey area, maintains a couple of websights devoted to #kites. You can learn more about it at <http://www.pulsar.net/kiteschat/classic> or at the newer one, still under construction, <http://www.pulsar.net/kiteschat/preview>. I hear there's also a chat channel for kiting kids at #JrKites.

There's a webpage produced by Big Wind Kite Factory of Molokai, Hawaii that saved my skin once last summer. A few of us were at a small balloon festival for what I thought was some demo flying. Not long after we set up the banners, the organizer came up to me and said "What time do you want to start the kid's kitemaking classes?" This was clearly a misunderstanding, and I proceeded to explain that I did not come prepared for a kite workshop. Roger Weith from the Wings on the Wind Kite Shop, mentioned he saw a webpage called "20 kids, 20 kites, 20 minutes", and explained this simple little kite. With a quick trip to the local hardware store, a stop at a church for some shishkabob skewers, the kids' workshop was up and running. Locate the 20-kids kite at <http://www.aloha.net/~bigwind/20kidskites.html>.

Remember to check the main calendar for the spring events. We're kicking off the season here with the Ohio Factory Shops 2nd Kite Festival in Jeffersonville, Ohio on April 4-5. Bring your Sutton, as they are going for the Most Suttons In The Air Record.

Can someone help locate a video of the EQB competition at the Wildwood convention? Robin Taylor would dearly love to get her hands on a copy. Contact her or me if you have footage of her 1st place performance.



*Region*

**6**

*Midwest*

*Alan Sparling*

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome a new club to Region Six, the Cloud Chasers of central Illinois. They already have over twenty members and hold monthly flies of the third Sunday of the month. They are also already holding kite building workshops. Anyone interested in more information about this club should contact Linda or Richard Brumleve on (217) 787-8065.

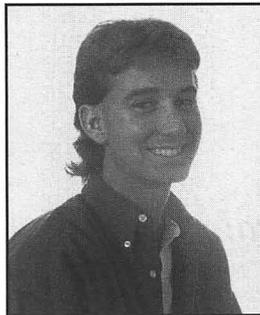
Many of the existing clubs had Christmas parties and it seems that everyone had a great time. I attended the party at my home club, the Chicagoland Sky Liners. It was great to see all of the kite people who I don't get to see as much of since I became regional director and started traveling so much. I do want to unequivocally state that the raffle was not fixed, I kept winning so much stuff purely because of good karma.

The Sky Liners also turned out for the Ed Liphardt Memorial Fly on December 26<sup>th</sup> again this year. About ten to fifteen hardy souls left the warmth of their homes to fly kites and honor Ed Liphardt. After flying for a few hours they adjourned to a local restaurant to eat, remember Ed and partake in birthday cupcakes.

Craig Christensen ran the New Years Pot Luck Fly in Minnesota this year. They had a really great turnout this year including a lot of passers by, who were pulled in the spectacle. It also did not hurt that the weather was particularly mild for this time of year in Minnesota. The Cool Fools Fly in Wisconsin, although on the same day, was not smiled upon by the weather. The winds howled all day and the steel rods supporting my banner poles were bent by over 30 degrees. However, there were quite a few hardy souls who braved the wind and snowy slush on the ground to fly kites, or at least to try to fly them until they broke. Scott Fischer of Gift of Wings sponsored the event and provided hot chocolate, donuts and a place to get out of the wind in his lakefront store.

If you are wondering what to do this coming summer, other than flying kites, why not plan a trip to the Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences in Peoria, IL. They will be mounting a kite exhibit from June 13<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup> of this year. I met with several people from the museum over the Christmas holidays and I think that they are going to put on a great exhibit. For more information contact the museum at (309)686-7000.

In closing, I have received word that Debbie and Jeff Cooper had a son, Christopher Charles Cooper, on 12/20/97 at 9:03PM. Christopher weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to Debbie and Jeff. I guess Jeff's practice time is going to be a little more limited now.



*Region*

**7**

*Great Plains*

*Chris Moore*

Springtime is the land awakening and the March winds are the morning yawn that most of us "kiters" look forward to with eager anticipation. It is a time to enjoy the outdoors and celebrate life as it explodes around us. What better way to do this than to raise a kite into that ocean of blue sky?

As spring winds are blowing our way, kite fever is spreading throughout the Great Plains. I see even more excitement for kiting in 1998, including activities being planned, kite clubs growing, more AKA members and building enthusiasm. The amount of kitefliers in this region has been really growing and new festivals are springing up as well. The festivals and clubs are starting a forest fire of eager pilots who have never seen kites in the way most of us know them. Check out these coming events.

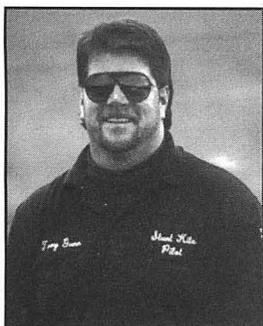
The Great St. Louis Kite Festival will be held in historic Forest Park on April 18. Forest Park is the home of the 1904 World's Fair. A lot of the original structures and lakes constructed for the World's Fair are still in existence. This event has attracted crowds of over 20,000 people with probably one-third of them having kites in the air. This year's event will feature professional kite demonstrations by the "Wind Wizards Kite Team" from Kansas City, kite clubs from throughout Region 7, Jug Buckles will be flying kites from his extensive collection and thousands of kids will be flying kites. Contact Cecil Cook, Gateway Kite Club President at 314-928-1288 for further details.

The Annual Old Northeast Kite Festival will be held in Kansas City on April 11 in conjunction with the Historical Homes Society. This event will include AKA sanctioned sport kite events blended with a multitude of other activities to involve spectators. 2000 free kites will be given away to area families and there will be an historic home tours throughout the day. Come enjoy the kites and lots of that unique Kansas City fun. "Prairie Winds Festivals, Inc." organize the event. Call them at 913-894-5483.

As I write this article I have recently returned from the Kite Trade Association International Trade Show. I can't help but get excited about all of the new creative designs of kites, the larger selections available, the better prices, and the better tools available for us to expose kiting to more people. Check out your local kite store to see what is available for 1998.

Region 7 includes Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Please keep me informed of activities going on in your area. I need information about events in your area at least two months in advance in order to publicize the information in Kiting. It is my goal to highlight people in our region as well. To write about these people I have to hear from you. Please fax me a short story on someone that has been supportive of kites or deserves recognition. And speaking of recognition, congratulations to Shane Snowden, 17 of Olathe, Kansas for a job well done at the Nationals last year and at the Padre Island event. Keep your eyes on this new Masters class flyer, he has the right stuff!

I am looking forward to exposing kiting to more people and working on AKA's goal of increased membership. I know there are a lot of people out there that have never experienced the joy of kiting in its many aspects.



## Region

# 8

## South Central

### Troy Gunn

Spring is here! Dust off your kites and gear and support our region's kite festivals by attending! If you are not already a member of one of our region's kite clubs, join one and help them grow. Kiting activities cannot happen without willing volunteers. There is a list of Region 8 kite clubs in almost every issue of Kiting. If any of you have problems in contacting any of the clubs, please let me know and I will help you! A few of our region's kite clubs put out very fine newsletters. The Crescent City Kiteflyers in Louisiana produce the best newsletter of the region, with full color layouts and photos printed on glossy paper. Marshall Harris is the club's newsletter editor and should be commended on the fine work that he does in producing the letter! The letter is always sent out on time once a month, like clock work! Call Marshall at (504)835-0280 for membership information. Three other clubs include club newsletters with membership and they are: Jewels of the Sky or J.O.T.S. for short. Jots has a new club president: Kathy Nixie. Kathy's e-mail is Knixie@aol.com and her address is in the AKA directory. Abilene WindWeavers & Texas Skyriders also put out a newsletter on occasions.

November 8-9, 1997 was the 3rd Annual South Padre Island Kite Festival, sponsored by Jim and Kathy Geyerman, owners of Windchasers Kites. This year's event was its biggest yet! With kites from over 8 different states making the trip, including Sam & Barbie Pedregon from Colorado who flew all their wonderful Peter Lynn inflatables. And Craig Christensen all the way from Minnesota to fly his R/W/B inflatables for the opening ceremonies. Craig wore his matching R/W/B tuxedo & top hat each day. He's easy to spot on the field. Rain stayed away until Sunday morning and was sporadic throughout the day, soaking competitors and judges alike. Competitions went on without many delays. Abel Ortega showed up with his newly formed team (Airborne) to sweep the team events, while teams Austin E.O.L. & Windwizards of Kansas City swapped 2nd & 3rd places in the ballet and precision events. Pairs team Reasonable Doubt edged out TKO II in pairs ballet. Other winners were Tye Harrison, Alex Lee, Kevin Kirkendoll, Stephen Ploof, Mike Rix, Shane Snowden, Steve Thomason, and myself. Other activities included, a banquet auction, candy drops, rok battles, buggy demo's by Jeff Howard, Keith Anderson, and Tom Farnsworth. Frank Kenisky did his usual great job as M/C. Thanks to all who helped judge or help in any way with making this event the best yet!

November 28-30, 1997 was the 5th Annual Galveston Thanksgiving Buggy Blast, sponsored by Kites Over Houston and coordinated by the Texas Skyriders Kite Club. The event was the best attended in its five year history, with over 125 participants. Special guests were Brian Smith of Quadrafoil North America and Jeff Howard of Precision Kite Company. Jeff did an on field buggy workshop that was a huge success. Bill Mladenka & Kathy Jones went to war with Tom Farnsworth & Collett Ratajski as to who could put up the most single line displays. By the time they were done, it looked like the works of about 20 flyers instead of just the four. Great job! Allston Crawford &

Diane Hollick helped with the free lunches provided by Kites Over Houston. The weather this year was like a mixed can of nuts, with winds changing directions constantly and clouds swapping places with clouds continuously. A good time was had by all!

Don't forget to renew your AKA membership on time, it will save the AKA money in sending out reminders, and will save me time from calling to remind ya'll to do so! The last newsletter showed an incorrect e-mail address for me. The correct address is : TKOGunn@webtv.net

Let's all try to make a goal of signing up at least one new AKA member this year and our sport will be stronger for it. Thanks in advance to all of you for caring enough to help make our sport grow, by volunteering and recruiting new kite club & AKA members!

## Region 9

### Intermountain

#### Robin Loehr

Greetings from wet, windy, cold, snowy, dry, arid, warm Region 9 (Oregon to New Mexico). Outside my house on the Northern Oregon Coast we've had our customary 20 inches of rain for January on our way to the usual 100 or so inches annually. Other areas in this region don't see that much in several years. Not much flying for us in the last two months. However, just last week from January 23 to January 25th the Association of Oregon Kiter's held its 5th annual Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat at Rockaway Beach, OR. It rained all three days, but that didn't subdue the approximately 80 rabid kitemakers who spent three days furiously sewing, eating, gossiping, sewing, buying raffle tickets, sewing ... Bobby Stanfield, Jose Sainz and Scott Hampton were the guest instructors along with NW instructors: Elain Genser, Gerry Pennell, Mary Yoshimi, Beth Drake, Brian Johnsen, Mark Neuhaus, Sue Clark and Charmayne Cornell.

Some incredible kites built during the weekend ranging from Jose's appliqued Hata, Scott's spray painted sled and Bobby's Rockaway Box to Sodes, Fighters, and line laundry. An intended quick visit to the kite gallery easily stretched into an hour. Here were displayed the creations three or four dozen kitemakers were most proud of. The display was informal as is the tradition for all of the OKR. You didn't have to be nationally famous, regionally or locally known to hang there, just have a kite you put your best work into.

Some tribute should be given to the Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat Committee for their outstanding work in pulling this event together. Sometimes when we attend kite events we forget just how much effort is involved in organization. As one participant, my thanks to the OKR Committee: Sam & Barb Wright, Deb Cooley, Ken Tumminia, Jerimy Colbert, Diane Weber, Judy Brown and Bob Serack.

Our season has just turned the corner with OKR in late January and it is time to look forward to more flying and perhaps a little less sewing and kite talk. (Though most of us can talk kites and fly at the same time quite easily.)

I have listed dates for upcoming events in the calendar. If you know of an event in our region, please let me know and I will send it on to Kiting. My thanks to Jeannine Connolly for her timely information on the Albuquerque Fly set for March 21 & 22. The 1998 Albuquerque "Go Fly A Kite

Festival" sponsored by the City will have demonstrations of stunt flying as well as fighter kite demonstrations during the lulls between contests. On Sunday (22 March) the stunter, fighter and possibly Rokkaku battle competitions will be held. Let's hear from the rest of Region 9. Just because the Intermountain Region looks like a snake on the map doesn't mean we can't communicate and disseminate festival information.

Good Flying

## Region 10

### Northwest

#### Robin Haas

Wow! We have almost made it out of Winter. Spring is just around the corner and with it is the beginning of a brand new season of kite flying and related activities.

The much blamed El Nino almost caused the first ever rain out of the Protest the Bowls Fly. This was the 24<sup>th</sup> time this event has been held. I was fighting a case of flu (great way to start the New Year) and wasn't able to attend. I'm told that over the course of the day 30 - 50 people showed up to fly kites and swap kite tales. It actually stopped raining for a couple of hours and people were able to fly for a while thus preventing a rain out, which has never happened. The press even showed up and got some pictures. I'd say the attendance was pretty good considering the Cougars were playing in the Rose Bowl for the first time in 67 years!

By the time this arrives in your mailbox the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference would have just happened. I want to thank all of those that helped make it a success. It couldn't happen without a dedicated group of volunteers that work all year to put it together. I will be writing an article giving more detailed coverage of the conference for the May/June issue of Kiting. The Pierce County Kitefliers Association is putting together a booth for the Spring Fair at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. The event will be April 17 - 19, 1998. They will have everything from displays of kite aerial photography to sky diving teddy bears. There will be kite construction demonstrations and possibly some indoor flying. Details are still being worked out, but swing by during the weekend and check it out!

The World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame has a brand new exhibit that opened over the President's Day weekend. The display is being called "The Golden Age of Kites." It is featuring kites from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Many of the kites are being displayed for the first time since the museum acquired them. They range from Alaskan airmail kites, early high-flyer kites used in advertising, and barn door kites from the 1920's. Kite historians will be interested in a re-creation of the "Grand Bazar (stet) Parisien, a kite shop popular in France in the early part of the century. The display will feature a bird shaped kite sold at the shop.

The museum will also be presenting a couple of workshops in the near future. On March 28 - 29, 1998 Peg and Bill Burley will be teaching a class in building a Circoflex kite. For a very small fee participants will be able to build one of these unique kites. On April 25-26, 1998 Gail Lindsey will be teaching her appliqué technique. Gail is one of the finest kite artists around and has won many prizes for her work. This is

a rare opportunity to learn from this master. Students will build a Hata kite during the class or they can work on their own design. Gail's husband, Ed, will be demonstrating how to bridle and fly the kite. If you haven't taken advantage of one of the museum's classes, I would encourage you to do so. They are a great way to spend a weekend in one of the premier flying areas of our region.

That about wraps up the events that I'm aware of that will be coming up in the next couple of months. Of course there are the fun flies for the different kite clubs in the region. The Lilac City Wind Chasers, the North Coast Sky Painters, SCI-FI, and the Westport Windriders all have monthly flies that are open to all.

Fighter kite enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that there is a new club that has just formed called the Northwest Fighter Kite Association. They state that their official purpose is to share the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying fighter kites here in the Northwest. Their real purpose is to fly a lot, grin, and have a really great time. They are meeting monthly at various flying fields, and have plans to provide demonstrations at kite festivals in an effort to help get more people interested and involved. Membership is open to anyone interested in fighter kites and costs \$15.00 annually. Contact Jim Wilson at Ocean Shores Kites (360-289-4103) or Bruce Lambert (360-289-2717) for more information.

On the President's Page Richard mentioned that there are many resources available to get information on kites. He mentioned that there were many clubs that produce newsletters. Our region is blessed with an abundance of clubs that do this. Some contain kite plans and other information while all have news about what is happening in their club and a schedule of events. I have enough space to list some (I hope I don't forget any) of the clubs that produce newsletters. The clubs that I know of are the Lilac City Wind Chasers, the North Coast Sky Painters, Pierce County Kitefliers Association, SCI-FI, Washington Kitefliers Association, and Westport Windriders. If you would like contact information about any or all of these give me a call, write me a letter, or send an e-mail and I will have the information available. Many events are being planned for the summer and I will have more details in my next report. If you are an organizer of an event be sure to get me the information so it can be included. In the meantime, keep building and flying those kites and I'll see you on the flying field!

## 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, Iqbal Husain, Dan Proebstel, Anne Harris, Roger and Janice Maddy, Michael Alvares, and Tokuko Sato.*

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*Region*

**11**

*Northern California*

*Tom McAlister*

Happy New Year to all of you!

George and Marion have been kite-flying icons at San Francisco's Marina Green for over 15 years. George is known internationally as a master parafoil builder and the "Kite Mayor of the Green". Those who have visited the Green over the years have also had the pleasure of meeting George's ever-gracious and cheerful wife Marion, the "Queen of the Green". I am sorry to report that Marion passed away on Sunday, February 1st. She had been stricken with bone cancer, but she kept her strength of character and sense of humor even though she struggled with the cancer. Those wishing to send their regards may send them to George Ham at 649 Page Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. If you prefer you can e-mail me and I will make sure that your

words get to him. George could use all the prayers and good thoughts we can muster.

On the NCKC front, Zoe Salloom reports that in the interest of fun for all, the NCKC will be making a few changes in its by-laws. In the future the NCKC will not have traditional officers such as president and vice-president, but rather be directed by a five-member board of managers. With any luck this will help prevent everything from coming down on one person's shoulders. Another change will be that instead of having business meetings at every monthly fly, there will be only two meetings a year. Three cheers for fewer meetings!

Buggiers will also have something to cheer about at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Break Buggy Blast at Ivanpah Dry Lake, March 11-17. This year's event will include a 50-mile enduro race, as well as circuit racing. A fun, new twist for this year's enduro race is that the top five finishers will be allowed to continue racing in the quest to become the maximum distance champion. Ivanpah's hard, dry surface makes it easy to go fast. This is a good thing except for the fact that it makes it hurt more when you crash. If you go to the Buggy Blast, don't forget to pack your helmet, pads and a little bit of caution to use in your pursuit of buggy fun.

Brian Bradley reports that the Lavender Winds Kite Club has a new web page at the following address: [www/members.aol.com/KiteBear](http://www/members.aol.com/KiteBear). They hope to keep the site up to date with photos of their latest club activities.

As a final note I need to make two corrections to my last report. I was in error when I reported that John Morrison was the first flier from our region to win the MIB title at our Grand Nationals. In fact Kobi Eshun

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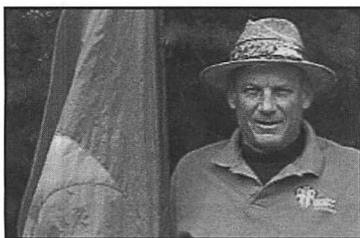
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*Go Build a Kite*

was the first to do this in 1995 at our Tulsa Grand Nationals. Sorry Kobi. I was also in error when I when I reported that John was 13 when he won first place in EIB at the Lubbock Grand Nationals. It turns out that John was only 12. Sorry guys.

Well, I guess that's my Regional Report two-error quota for the year. If I make another mistake you will have to fire me and deny me my pension.

Have a "WINDERful" year!



*Region*  
**12**  
*So. California / Pacific*  
**Mark Brownton**

Hello to all! It has been a fantastic two months. Many things going on around Southern California, Hawaii, Guam and the Pacific Islands. It is wonderful to hear from people like Graeme Poole in Adelaide, South Australia and Wayne Stoudt in Hilo, Hawaii, and all of you in Southern California. As I focus on what the AKA stands for, and all the people it takes to make it happen, I feel a genuine gratitude for having the opportunity to be involved. Part of being regional director was to go and find out what is going on, and then report this to all. I did, and now I am concerned I will leave out someone or some event. So, if I miss something, give me a break, and let me know. I will get better as time goes on.

The first day of 1998 came as a beautiful day in San Diego as many kites came together for the Annual San Diego Kite Club "New Year's Day Fly". I tried to count the number of people and lost count at 100. The annual Auction was a great success with some of the quality items being donated by people from all over. The food and fun were outrageous, the SDKC really did it up big. What I saw was every body working together, involving everyone that came around, so that new people being included. Great Job to SDKC.

San Diego was the host this year for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual KTA show. It was a great success. Every booth space was full and there were lots of people looking at the new products for 1998. I would like to thank Maggie Vohs for the great job she and the many others did to put on a most excellent show. It was great to spend some time with the "Big Kahuna" Richard Dermer as he helped me set up for the coming year.

This is a good place to talk about "School Flight in 98". One of my passions is to introduce all aspects of kiting to kids in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. We have found out that middle school kids seem to pay more attention and have a better chance of understanding kite making and kite flying. This year our small team (Larry Southard and Mark, LauraLee, and Lisa Brownton) will take to the schools a program that will show approximately 4000 young people what kiting is all about. We asked a number of manufacturers to help in this effort, and I would like to thank each and every manufacturer for their help. I am putting together a special report that will recognize everyone. We do need help as this project has increasing interest to the local schools. Let me know if you can help in your area when we come to town. We will be going to schools in all of Southern California. So stand up and let me know what you can do. Thanks to all that have helped up to this date.

Following the KTA was the Boogie Thang 3 at El Mirage dry lakebed. I talked to Steve Kent and he said they had a great time, and everybody should have been there. Yes, there was some water, but so what, it was great anyway.

January 17, 1998 brought about the event know as "Super Bowl Super Sail". San Diego put on this event as a kick-off to the Super Bowl. Thanks to Greg Lawrence and the SDKC members, the promotion committee requested the presence of the SDKC and its Hi-Flyer to put on a kite display in the sky on the bay at Seaport Village. The Club was allowed to put up as many kites as possible. Thanks for putting kiting in front of thousands of people.

I had a chance to enjoy the company of good friends and met some new ones at the monthly meeting of the SDKC. It was like a mini kite festival. I was able to meet some wonderful people that came out in the wheelchairs and it was not too long before they were flying kites. As I was standing there Tori Cable introduced me to Frank who was just signing up with the club and the AKA and on his way to the local kite store to pick up his kite. I talked to at least eight (8) people who were new and getting ready to join the AKA. I gave them all a membership application as I was taught by Richard. (You should have seen Richard at KTA handing out AKA applications.) Everyone needs to go to Mission Bay on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.



Flight Squadron members, left to right Paul Hodge, Eric Streed, Pamela Kirk, and Mike Dennis.

I had the opportunity to get to know the Fight Squadron team. They have so much talent. It is such a pleasure to watch this world class group fly. If any of you pilots have ever tried to keep a team together, and to organize times to get together, then you know what an impressive feat it is. And they are always ready to extend their friendship for kiting by donating their time. Their latest goodwill tour found them at the most prestigious horse race in the world, the Breeders Cup at Hollywood Park. Flight Squadron opened the 1997 Breeder Cup on November 8 by demonstrating their routine before millions of people, at the park and via satellite. The fans enthusiastically welcomed this group. They gained worldwide recognition not only for themselves, but for the sport of kiting. Thank you Pamela Kirk (Captain), Paul Hodges, Eric Streed and Mike Dennis all from the great city of San Diego CA.

There was another team on the field, and this team is as known to us as any other first class team. They are called "The Wind Witches". A story of three ladies's, that if you have kept up with other publications will know their story. Their story is one of good times, bad times,

happy times, and sad times, but all in all they have put their faith in life. Thank you ladies for making our lives better. We do enjoy your enjoyment of life.

Neil Tuthill is planning to put on a sport kite competition down at Rosarito Beach in Baja Mexico on July 18. In the past, events Neil has been involved with have been a time to enjoy. Thank you Neil for all you do. I will be there to support the kite competition. It is not easy putting on an event like this and I know Neil will appreciate all the help he can get. So lets all get ready for a good time in Old Mexico.

On Sunday, January 18, I attended the restructuring of Aire Affairs Kite Production and the formation of the Southern California Sport Kite League (SCSKL). Larry Bush is heading up the board. They have some outstanding events planned but it can not be done without all of us helping. There will be a First Flight Workshop on March 7 at Belmont Shores in Long Beach. The workshop is to prepare people for competition. Check the calendar in Kiting for upcoming events or if you have questions call (562) 592-5483 or e-mail [LARINSAND@AOL.COM](mailto:LARINSAND@AOL.COM).

The San Diego Kite Club will host the Southern California Open on April 25 at Bontia Cove, at Mariners Point. This is the event to look forward to. We have all had a great time in the Super Bowl City, and once again, we need to be there to help out. Look for information on their Web Site. <http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Field/5841>. Thanks to SDKC for all you do once again.

Two other events coming up are as follows: The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual SANTA BARBARA KITE FESTIVAL at Shoreline Park, Santa Barbara. There will many kites of all types, prizes, food, music, and fun for the whole family. Thanks to Rakesh Bahadur for the many hours of hard work he puts in to make this happen. You my contact Rakesh at (805) 963-2964. I will be there to sign up AKA members. The other kite festival will be held on March 28-29 at Seal Beach. This festival is sponsored by Up Up & Away Kites (562) 596-7661. Please contact them for more information.

I know I have not got to everything I wanted to. Forgive me for not getting more pictures in from all the events I have been to. Many of you want to see some of these great shots of people having fun kiting. They will have to come later for there is no more room for now.

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# WHERE IT'S AT ... Travels in Kites

by Corey Jensen

Not having a real job (anymore) or a wife or children or pets or plants provides me the opportunity to travel without anything or anyone dying in my absence. No more checking schedules and obligations... Now I just go. So, when invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Capri-sonne International Kite Festival in Cape Town, South Africa last October, I went.

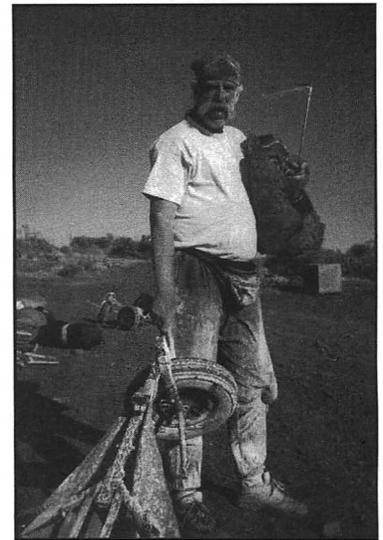
Peter Lynn and I were the international guests, with Peter's big kites the main attraction. As a promotion for the festival, we flew one of his giant Octos from an uncompleted freeway overpass in downtown Cape Town. At the Capri-sonne Festival the sky was decorated with lots of kites and the scene was even more majestic with Table Mountain and Cape Town in the background. A giant Manta Ray and a giant Octopus hovered over the beach until the World's Largest Kite: Peter's Megabyte rose and dwarfed them all. Organized kite festivals are still pretty novel in South Africa. But they are on a tear to catch up. Imported kites are costly so many flyers are either building their own kites or flying a variety of wings built by the small but growing local kite businesses.

In Cape Town, there is a friendly and active kite community built around some great kite people and they play on some outstanding beach sites with kite flying every weekend. The South African kites have a rich and warm culture. They also have a social inclination to "braai" (pronounced b-rye -what we would call b-b-q). The mix works wonderfully. Besides, their television has only 3 channels, so hanging out and flying kites is the natural thing to do. Of course, there are the ones (usually guys) who really like power and Cape Town is no exception. Because the usual wind blows down the beach, "dragging" has become popular. Here's how they play. Using some "big enough" engine (often a PL Paua or Peel or a locally built power foil) the flyer, wearing a wetsuit, is drag down the beach, through the surf, for many kilometers, if one wishes.

The kite buggy is brand new to most flyers in South Africa. Peter Lynn told me that most of the 50 buggys there had been sold in the previous month. Regardless, after the festival, a manic caravan of about 20 buggy fanatics were off to the Verneukpan (ver-nic-pan), a large dry lake bed some 770 kms (460+ miles) up into the interior. The journey took us through a variety of landscapes including farmlands, vineyards, rugged mountains and some incredible escarpments we had to climb. The site of Sir Malcolm Campbell's 1929 land speed record attempt in his car the Bluebird (parts of which still lay on the pan), the Verneukpan is vast, barren and very remote. Our accommodations were surprisingly posh at a farm cottage just off the pan. Our days were spent helping most of the locals get their buggy legs and exploring the vastness of the pan and the Bluebird Track. We did our obligatory races, with Peter taking the prizes (surprise?). The return to Cape Town included a stopover at a fishing tournament where we flew the giant Octopus from the back of a speed boat as it raced around the lake. Even though it was a fishing competition, the fish were not afraid. Some of these guys were not even going to get close to the water. But what a party!

And that is, I guess, the main reason behind all the hassle of travel...What a party!

PS... It is very cheap to vacation in South Africa (after getting there) and anyone wishing to contact the local Cape Town flyers, just me know (E-mail and snail mail addresses available).



Corey Jensen is a world famous kite personality, a publisher (Buggy Newz and Colors of The Wind) and a former AKA President, who regularly submits an opinion column.

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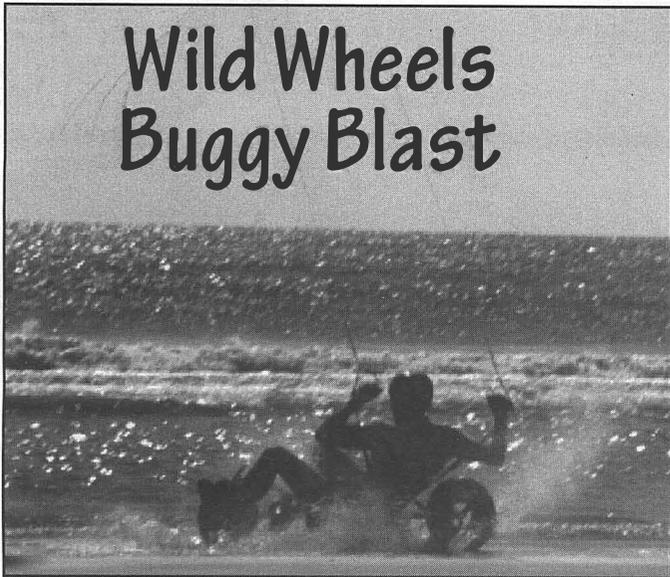
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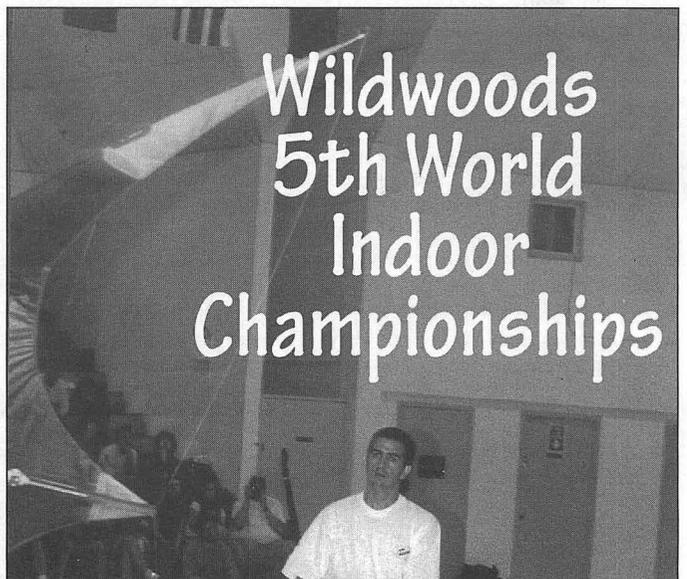
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