

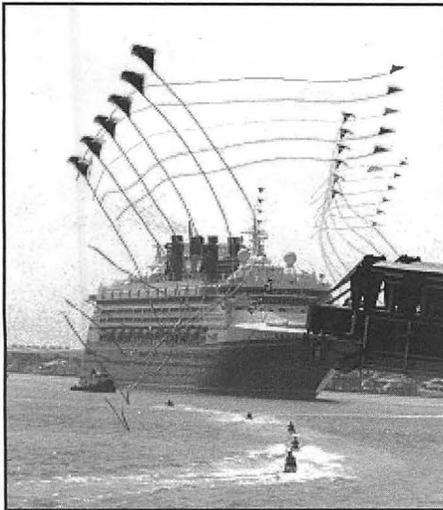
AKA Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

Newport '98

Disney & Flora
Make Magic Together

By Richard Dermer



KitemanProductions team approach the Disney Magic on 14 watercraft. - photo by Bruce Flora

Port Canaveral, FL - "Kiteman Productions in Orlando Florida has been producing kite related shows and events for the past 16 years. For the past eight years 95% of their projects have been for the Walt Disney Company in and around their theme parks in Florida, California and Japan. They specialize in performing choreographed shows by towing a wide range of kites behind watercraft using patented launch systems designed by Bruce Flora and team. By using



Dean Jordan, Bruce Flora and Kevin White.

highly modified kites, a custom harness/pulley quick release system and automatic launch systems (designed and made by Bob Bono), shows can be

Continued on page 20

As confirmed kite festival addicts, Marti and I agree: The mid-July Newport Kite Festival in Rhode Island was OUTSTANDING. Perfect weather—I heard the TV weatherman use “glorious” and “superb” in his opening sentence. Ideal wind. Three beautiful grass flying fields overlooking the ocean. Special parking area for kites. Hundreds of public parking places, shuttle buses bringing spectators several miles from other parking areas and a slow-moving, bumper-to-bumper stream of spectators on the road between the sea wall and the festival. Great organization. Dozens of hard-working, capable volunteers. A single-line field in the middle, filling the sky with kites for two days with sport kite, kitebuilders and fighter competitions on the flanks. Great announcing on each field. Lots of demonstrations in between competitions with virtually no “dead” time on the field. On-site kite store. A complimentary tent for the AKA information booth only 50 feet from the world’s best lemonade stand. Lots of picnic tables, and clean portalets. An indoor fly followed by a night fly on Friday night. Lobster banquet and auction Saturday night. Name tags for the 100+ registered fliers (although I wish more people wore them). Wonderful, friendly fliers (despite their missing name tags), and delighted, enthusiastic spectators. Best of all, I don’t even have to write up the whole story! Here’s organizer Steve Santos’ report of his event. Thank you, Steve!

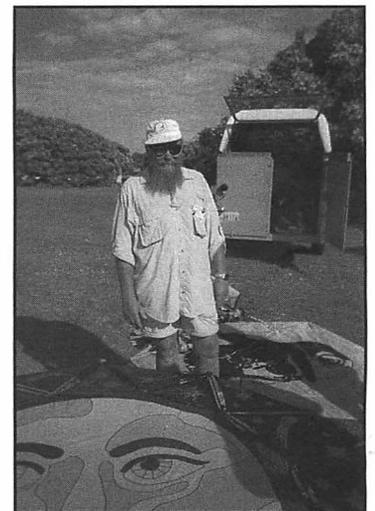


Filled Sky over Newport - photo by Paul Lawrence

Newport Report by Steve Santos

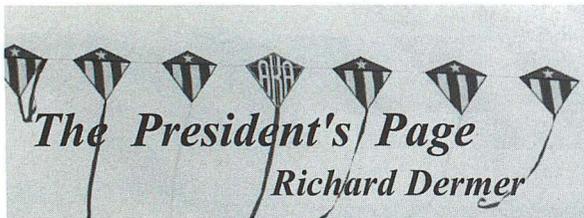
New England had been in flood conditions the previous week, a heat wave was in the future forecast but had yet to approach. What Mother Nature had in store for Newport '98 Kite festival was four fantastic days for kite flyers! WIND, sun, beautiful Brenton Point Park, plenty of sailboats and an awesome selection of kites made for a fun summer weekend in Newport, RI.

The Newport Sport Kite Championships went off without a hitch. “Jef” Sarge Cleaves, Eric Babeliwicz, Forrest Carey teamed up with key assistance from Joe Tricarico, John Ruggiero, Jon Burkhardt, John Smith and dozens of appreciated volunteers in running one of the smoothest sport kite events we’ve seen in New England. With near perfect conditions on Saturday the schedule was well over an hour ahead. They managed to run two additional sport kite events on Saturday.



Pete Dolphin made the Newport trek! - photo by Kathy Nixie

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Hi, Membership!

I want to talk to you (again) about volunteerism. It's the glue that holds the AKA together. For over 30 years the AKA has existed as a non-profit group dedicated to promoting kites and kite flying, due to the efforts of volunteers. Think about it. Thousands of kite lovers like yourself have devoted countless hours over three decades to build the largest kite club in the world.

We can always use more. It's a simple equation: the more volunteer help, the better our organization will be. Here's a list of ways members can help the AKA. Look at it, if you want, as a quiz—how many of these things have you done?

- Helped out at a kite festival with registration, judging, setup, or other duties
- Promoted the AKA by telling others, both kitefliers and non-kitefliers, about us
- Signed up a new member
- Sent an article, photo, letter or other material in to *Kiting*
- Flown a kite at a park, beach or other public spot for others to enjoy
- Given or helped give a kite making workshop
- Served as an AKA board member
- Served as an AKA committee chair or active committee member
- Offered to help your AKA Regional Director
- Offered to help on or chair an AKA committee
- Thanked other AKA members for their efforts to promote kiting
- Taught anyone how to fly a kite for the first time
- Taught anyone how to make a kite for the first time
- Given a talk or presentation about kites to a group of non-kiters
- Given a talk or presentation about kites to a group of fellow kiters
- Talked to a newspaper, magazine, radio or TV reporter about kite flying
- Talked to a teacher or youth group leader about kiteflying
- Made a donation to the Great Kite Auction at the AKA Convention
- Given a gift membership in the AKA to a friend or relative
- Attended and helped out at an AKA convention
- Made a positive comment about the AKA on the Internet
- Given someone our AKA website address on the World Wide Web
- Donated kite books, magazines or video to a school or library
- Given another kiteflier a lesson, tip, or advice to help them
- Promoted and assisted your local kite club
- Told a distant friend about a local kite club or festival in their area
- Referred potential kite buyers to an AKA Member Merchant
- Displayed kites in a public place to promote kiting
- Purchased AKA clothing, pins, patches, window decal, banner or literature
- Fixed a broken kite for someone else



Richard with some spectators at Newport '98 - photo by Kathy Nixie

How did you score? If you're in the twenties, or even the teens, you're a VVM—

Very Valuable Member, and I thank you. (How about working on the few you didn't check?) If you just answered yes to a few of the above items, you're headed in the right direction. Join us! I don't mean just sending in dues, I mean helping. None of the above activities use the word volunteer, but all of them are voluntary. And those of us who scored fairly high on the above "quiz" want to tell all the rest of you: It's Fun! Kitefliers, in general, are among the friendliest people there are. The more you get involved, the more fun you have.

The maximum level of involvement you can have, of course, is at the AKA Convention. If you're able to make it, I guarantee you a good time. And if you help out, you'll have an even better time! The registration staff, workshop presenters, competition coordinators and auction crew can all use your help! Pick your spot and announce your willingness to help to whomever seems to be in charge. You'll be glad you did.

I want to put in one final plug: we need donations to the Great Kite Auction. Even if you're not coming to the Convention, you can help greatly by sending in a donated kite or kite-related item to be auctioned. The AKA derives from 20 to 25% of its annual income from the auction. Without this income, we could not operate at our current dues/services level. We depend on it. Please help us out! If you're coming to the Convention, we not only would like auction donations, we want auction buyers! The Great Kite Auction (which, incidentally, is open to non-registered kiters as well as Convention registrants) is quite simply the biggest kite sale in the world. Once each year, this event features the finest selection of kites and kite stuff to be found anywhere in the world. Unique, one-of-a-kind kites, run-of-the-mill kites, historical kites, newly designed kites, giant kites, miniature kites, high performance kites, low performance kites, you name it! There's something there for everyone.

I hope to see you at the Convention. If I don't, I still hope to see your auction donation. It may be the one thing I have to add to my collection!

Good winds, Richard Dermer

KiteWired: NEWZ

from the Electronic
Opportunities Committee
Chuck Sigal - EOC@aka.kite.org



I'd like to thank all of you who have sent us your e-mail addresses since the Clubhouse opened. There's nothing like locking people out to get them knocking at your door to let you know they exist! Our population of Netizens has grown by nearly one-third, and I'm sure there are even more of you out there.

It is important that all of us let the association know when our personal information changes. Whether it's your telephone area code or e-mail address, if you don't tell us we won't know. If you are on the Net you can use the membership form on our website to send us a "Change of Information." If not, use the 800 number to let Mel know.

New Additions: In the last issue I mentioned a couple of projects I was working on. Both have been completed and are now available to all our web visitors. Festival organizers can submit information on upcoming events through a link located on the AKA Festival Calendar. They may also apply for AKA Sanctioning at the same time. The "Create a Sport Kite Judge's Score Card" program is also up and running. Select an event definition and compulsory figures for precision events and you will get a score card complete with compulsory figure illustrations that can be printed and duplicated for use at your next festival. Click on "What's New" for a listing of all the newest additions to our site.

Surfing the Kite Sites: Contrary to popular opinion, there are more resources on the Net for kite fliers than just our own AKA site. Many local and regional clubs have sites of their own. Check the Affiliated Clubs pages on the AKA site and follow the links to club sites all 'round the country.

Perhaps the oldest resource, and certainly the most heavily trafficked, is the Usenet news group, rec.kites. If you're on the Net and are not at least scanning rec.kites, you can't even imagine what you are missing. Flame wars, feuding, long discussions of new and proposed rules changes, festival reports, competition results and kite reviews are all to be found there, along with the occasional dose of foolishness.

If something more immediate is your style, take a look at the IRC channel #kites. Internet Relay Chat is the predecessor of the chat rooms found on service providers such as AOL or CompuServe. The difference is that they are accessible to anyone with Internet access and the appropriate "client" software. IRC provides a medium for real-time "conversations" between any number of people located anywhere in cyberspace. #kites is currently hosted on the Dalnet's server, so you'll need to point your program there. Remember, this is real time, so when you log on you may find yourself in the middle of a lively conversation between kite fliers all over the world or all alone in an empty room. But keep checking back in—sooner or later, you're sure to find any number of interesting people passing through.

If the previous two paragraphs made absolutely no sense to you, stay tuned for future columns or call up a knowledgeable friend and invite them over to dinner. It's time to get wired!

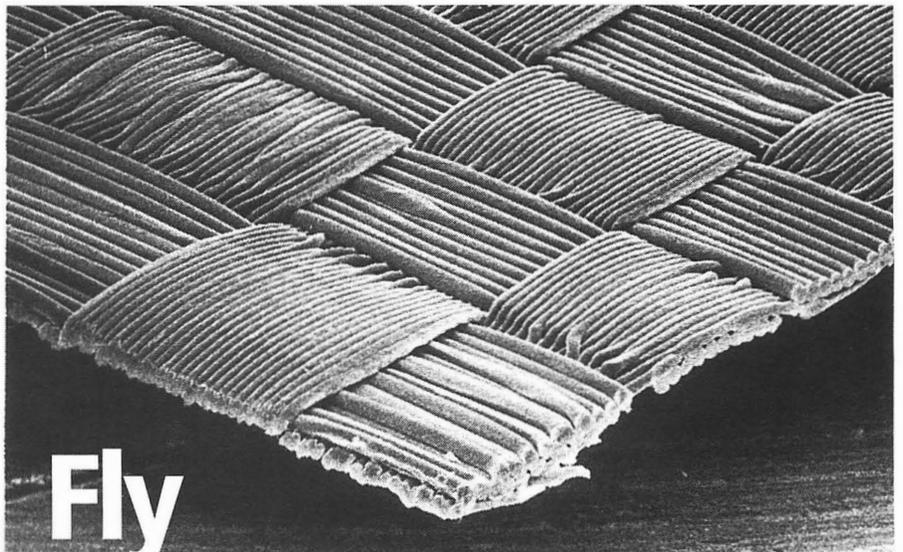
AKA Announces Staff Positions

By Jon E. Burkhardt

In the Spring of 1998, the AKA advertised for candidates for the positions of Executive Director and Convention Manager. A Staff Search Committee was formed; I served as Chairman, and others on the Committee included Richard Dermer, David Gomberg, Suzanne Edison, Tom McAlister and Sarge Cleaves. We created Requests for Proposals for both positions and advertised through several sources (including *Kiting*).

In response to our advertisements for staff positions, the AKA Staff Search Committee received 10 proposals for the position of Executive Director and 8 proposals for the position of Convention Manager. The Committee conducted a thorough evaluation of all these proposals and recommended five proposals for final consideration by AKA's Board of Directors. All of the finalists were highly qualified.

For the position of Executive Director, the Board selected Mel Hickman of Seaside, Oregon. For the Convention Manager position, the proposal from Johnson Promotions, Inc., a Leesburg, Virginia, firm was selected. The contracts for both positions will begin in January 1999.



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We are expanding the format of KITING to insure a balanced view of all aspects of kite flying. KITING will now have an Editorial Advisory Board to assist with submission 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!

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

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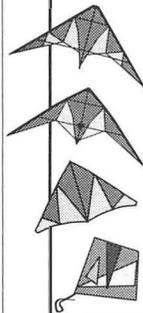
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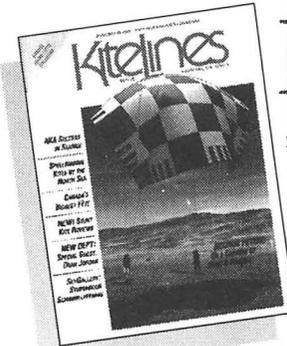
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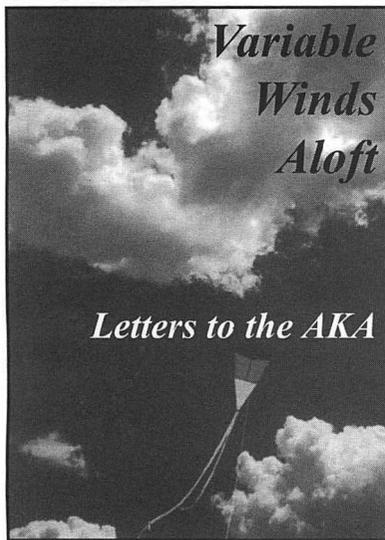
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Newport Blues

I wanted to take this opportunity to comment on the protest by Steve Santos and the omission of the Newport event from the *Kiting* Calendar. I work closely with Roger and Steve. As a member of the Board of Directors I am in constant communication with Roger the *Kiting* Editor. As the Safety/Ethics Chairman with overview of Sanctioning, I work closely with Roger and Steve as Event Organizers. Steve and his wife Sue are very active members of Region I.

While it was an unfortunate omission causing some degree of acrimony, I am sure it was not deliberate. As you indicated in your reply to Steve, The FESTIVAL CALENDAR GROUP is indeed alive and well. For me, it was an exciting period to be part of the creation of the Festivals Calendar on the AKA website. It is even more exciting knowing that there is more to come in that area, which will make it easier and more fun to provide accurate event information to the individuals we serve.

I think, however, the incident does highlight a situation that the entire Board of Directors recognize. We are constantly faced with an incredible amount of work to be done. In this case the error was of the simplest variety. We missed the obvious connection between an advertisement and the Newport event, resulting in the omission of the event on the calendar. In our efforts to accomplish the required tasks, we sometimes miss a detail or two. Most of the time those misses are not significant. What I am leading up to is this: our members have a common interest in kites. Beyond that we know very little about them. I am sure that there are any number of folks out there who have experience, talent and some spare time we can put to excellent use. If members would come forward, we could achieve the highest levels of success and excellence. There are many out there who are helping. But we need more of you. I challenge any of you who aren't involved to give us a call, or write to KITETALK on the website and let us hear from you. I am positive that with some appropriate proofreading assistance by an energetic volunteer, the omission would have been detected and I wouldn't be writing this letter.

Jeffrey L. "Sarge" Cleaves

Director, Region I

Better recruit this next guy right away Sarge! - ed.

A Super Bat With Blood Shot Eyes?

Dear Folks,

I am a newish member, in my first year of having kite-flying be more than "a once a year Super Bat with big bloodshot eyes with the kids at the beach thing." I read Mel Hickman's piece in the recent *Kiting*. He asked us to answer some questions in regard to membership. Since he asked so nicely and all, here's my best shot at "The Answers to All of your Questions!"

What do you feel is the best way to recruit new members?

First off, the organization needs to be more visible. This may not be true in areas where there are big annual festivals, but, is true most everywhere else. Here are some ideas on that.

People around this part of the country fly kites at the beach. They fly Super Bats with big bloodshot eyes. Then they go home. When they go to the beach, they often get a packet of brochures on what's going on, either in one of those little dump bins at a visitor's center, or perhaps left in the hotel room or rented house by a thoughtful landlord. Local kite stores should try to get some presence there, and if there is a way for the AKA to get a flier about kite events or even just the Professor Kite flier in there (We want you to enjoy kiting while you are at the beach...) that would help.

Kite stores should be encouraged to push the AKA a bit. I've been in 5 stores in the Carolinas and Florida, and never heard or saw anything about the organization. I'll bet most would put up a membership poster or something, if asked. Also, since they're selling anyway, you might want to consider recruiting them as membership salesmen, giving them a cut of what they take in or providing them some other service in exchange for recruiting members.

ESPN and ESPN2 and their potential customers have to fill a lot of time with stupid little dinky sports in order to stay on the air 24 hours a day. Sport kite competitions are at least as interesting as skateboarding, I'd guess, and they're showing that. Have you tried to get them interested? Maybe at least in the World Cup as a start, then pulling them into national and regional events... (I guess we can't get into the X-Games, because nobody is risking death or mutilation. Maybe if we occasionally wrap a line around our arms or something...)

I wonder if manufacturers would agree to include an AKA membership form with their kite instructions? A Prism type company would be great, but a Gayla would be even better, the folks buying their kites are less likely to already be members.

Finally, local clubs need to be asked to hold an occasional fun fly or something with a strongly visible AKA presence, dedicated to attracting attention to the AKA and creating interest in membership. In areas where there is no local club (like around here) the regional organization might want to come in and hold a lots-of-neat kites everywhere you look day at a park, again with strong AKA presence and, of course, a membership booth.

How can we make new members feel more welcome?

Easy. Welcome them. I joined recently and I got a nice packet in the mail with membership cards and stuff, and I get a newsletter. What would have been nice would have been some contact from the regional level, or nearest local club(s) saying "Glad you're with us. Here's some things that are going on, won't you join us?" That sort of thing.

Also, I think I filled out a form that listed the sorts of kites I fly back when I joined. A quick note from the AKA committees dealing with these areas or something to indicate that there was some reason to filling out the forms would have been welcome. For example, I fly

"New" Kite Videos

High Sierra Productions

AKA Masters Performance '97 \$30

Masters Custom tape \$50

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

Washington State International Kite Festival \$30 ea
(90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96)

Check Visa MasterCard

Add Postage USA \$4, Canada \$5, Foreign \$8

7220 40th St. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335 (253) 265-6800 (8-6 pacific time M-F)

NTSC
Pal
Secam

sport kites - a note from your sport kite arm offering information on getting into competition would have been nice.

I'm guessing that you have a relatively high number of new members that last a year or two, and then drop out. Many of them are still flying and would still be members if the organization had made effort to contact them and make them feel some personal interest.

I do a lot of work in political campaigns. In politics, like in the AKA, we are not selling something very tangible to most of our member/givers. We are selling what I call "psychic income", that warm feeling of being a part of something. Personal "stroking", real or simulated, creates that warm feeling and results in happy, repeat members/givers.

Reading your newsletter, it seems there is a big, warm community of kites out there. I'll never get to Wildwood or the World Cup, and it will take me awhile to get to any of the similar, smaller events closer to home. I'd like to get to know y'all, but it's hard for me to find you. I don't know how eager you are to meet me, but the Association needs for me to be a "part of the family."

How can the AKA improve the way it serves the members that it has?

The Convention, wherever you have it, is going to be too far for most folks, or at an inconvenient time for some. Consider regional "minicons" leading up to the big one, if you don't already do that.

Maybe expand the AKA store stuff. I'd like to see a ballcap, and it would be fun to have some actual Kites there. Perhaps some folks would make up small runs of custom kites you could offer to members featuring the logo or some other reference to the Association. That, by the way, would also increase visibility, and allow us to get asked more often "What the heck is this AKA thing, anyway?" Our logo on a T-shirt might generate a question, but let's face it, folks are looking at the KITES not the fliers. A logo in the sky is hard to miss.

What do you think the AKA of five years from now should be like?

Bigger, faster, stronger. Or something. Personally, I have no idea. A lot depends on what we think we are. A "fraternal" social group? A sport "sanctioning body?" Just a bunch of nutty hobbyists, like scifi fandom? All of that?

Whatever we want to be, if the membership declines, what it is eventually going to be is gone. That we don't want!

Jim Martin
Charlotte, North Carolina

Jim has some good ideas there - some take time, some money, some initiative. How many of you will call the chairperson for membership, Suzanne Edison, to volunteer some time and effort? An active membership committee could be a welcoming committee. Suzanne's address, phone number and e-mail are all on page 4. Think of her as Aunt Suzanne. You wouldn't forget to call your Aunt Suzanne, would you?.

Who Was the Parafoil Kite Man?

A few weeks ago, my friend Ed Bass and I were discussing kites. A silly thing to chat about, people may think we are childish. We got around to the subject of "Who's Who" and personalities that I have met throughout the years. He then began a short story about kites of his own.

"Larry," he said, "I was working for the Herculite Corporation near the town of Chester, Pennsylvania, not too far from Feltonville just off Freeway I-95 in the mid 1960's, say '62 to '67. There was a man I used

to watch from my office window flying a Parafoil type of kite. I don't recall his name. On my Noon lunch period, I'd go out and talk with him while he flew. Over a period of a few months, I must have spent 10 or 15 hours talking with him. Interesting individual. During one such conversation, another man stopped his car and came up to my friend in the field. I don't recall just what he looked like, and at this point don't recall what either one of them looked like. This man came across the field and reprimanded my friend up one side and down the other about flying "HIS INVENTION" or "PATENT" and told my friend that he couldn't fly "THIS KITE" without "PROPER AUTHORITY". He got back into his car and sped off.

Over the next several years, my friend used to fly and stack different parafoils and at one point, I remember, he put a stick across the leading edge to get rid of the bow in the kite. Those foils were about 5 or 6 feet across and he also used a drogue chute off the rear for stabilization. I recall he used to fly at about 1500 feet, right in the path of Philly Field. He used to walk his kites down with a pulley and his flying line was a parachute cord. He built those kites himself and he even stopped in my office one day to talk about patterns and kites. I still wonder who he was?"

History in the making? Who was the Kite man and who was the man who stopped his car? And what years did this actually happen? Someone must have a spark of knowledge about this encounter with the past. My feelings are that Bill Tyrell, "The Fabric Lady", may know something about this. Too bad we can't ask Dom Jalbert to add a little.

Larry "Benj" Zilar
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-736-0719, FAX 509-736-0724

Could it be a parafoil derivative? Interesting to note that Flow Forms have been commercially made in the Philadelphia area as well - following Canadian Steve Sutton's design. And I believe Steve Sutton was in the Philadelphia area as well. Historians? - ed.

Educational Survey

Seattle, WA - The Drachen Foundation, a nonprofit kite archive, science and culture organization headquartered in Seattle, Washington, is undertaking a survey of how kites are used in educational curricula. The goal of the survey is to produce a resource directory for educators that will provide information on kite curricula, supplies and local instructors. The directory will cover kites in art, history, social studies, math and physics.

"Educational outreach is a major component of our mission," said Scott Skinner, founder and board president of The Drachen Foundation. "Researching how and where kites are being used in classrooms and workshops will help us show teachers that kites are engaging, interactive educational tools."

If you have used kites in the classroom, found publications or websites with educational resources, located supply vendors who offer discounts to educators or have samples of kite kits that you would like to share, please contact the Drachen Foundation.

Founded in 1995, The Drachen Foundation is dedicated to preserving the history of, and promoting interest in kites, kite making and kite makers.

Letters, photos and articles to KITING are all appreciated. Please allow six weeks ahead of publication dates when submitting.

Kitevents

September

- 4 - 6
16th USAF Museum Kite Festival
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Dayton, OH
Judith Wehn (937) 255-8048, ext.
461 or 462
- 5
DynaKite Mega Fly
Lynn, MA
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290
- NECCO Kite Fly
Haverhill, MA
John Ruggerio (781) 631-1438
- 5 - 6
Golden Gate Challenge
Ocean Beach, San Francisco, CA
Zoe Saloom (530) 894-8136
- 6
Appleside Orchard Kite Fly
Appleside Orchard, Rosemount, MN
Craig Christenson (612) 435-7406
- 7
WOW Labor Day Fun Fly
Flower Hill School, Gaithersburg, MD
Mike Van Meers (301) 948-0559
- 11 - 13
Lewis & Clark Exposition Kite Fly
Seaside, OR,
Bill Storey (503) 717-0138
- Up Your Wind Kite Festival
Pacific Beach, WA
Margaret Robinson (360) 276-8377
- 12
2nd CAPRICCIO Festival of Kites
Ogunquit, ME
Larry Smith (207) 646-6552
- Crane's Beach Kite Fly
Ipswich, MA
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

Eastern Wing Kite Thing
Osborne Park, Sandusky, OH
John Baum (419) 625-3853

Frank Mots Kite Festival
Milwaukee, WI
Jeff Kataoka (414) 277-9121

12-13
Belmar Kite Festival
Belmar, NJ
Tony Esposito 732-280-8084

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

13
Asian Kite Festival
Eugene, OR
Brent Tokita (541) 687-9600

Carlisle Kite Festival
Carlisle, PA,
Cinda Shannon (717) 243-7913

Harkness Day Fly
Waterford, CT
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

18
Harbour Festival
Catskill, NY
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

19
BASKL Awards & Fun Fly
Berkeley Marina, Berkeley, CA
Zoe Salloom (530) 894-8136

Cleveland Kite Festival
Edgewater Park, Cleveland, OH
Doug Mouat (216) 221-8873

Merritt Beck Kite Reunion
Indiana Factory Shops, Daleville, IN
Dwayne Sheppard (765) 643-1253

Narragansett Regional Kite Fly
Narragansett, RI
Forrest Cary (401) 789-4503

19 - 20
Huntington Beach Kite Tournament
Broadhurst & Pacific Coast Highway,
Huntington Beach, CA
Larry Bush (909) 734-2513

Liberty Kite Fest (NJSKC)
Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ
Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715

20
Sky Dance
Duluth, MN
Barb Meyer (612) 424-2571

23-27
Sunfest
Ocean City, MD
The Kite Loft (410) 289-7855

26
Battle Creek Fun Fly
Battle Creek Park, Maplewood, MN
Brad Klages (612) 866-9055

Kokomo Fun Fly and Cookout
Kokomo, IN, (765) 453-2977

26-27
Washington State Stunt Kite
Championships
Whidbey Island, WA
(425) 339-9334

October

3
Buggy Rally
Hull, MA, R. Reed (978) 937-8290

KONE Indoor Fly
Marblehead, MA, (978) 937-8290

3 - 4
New Orleans Kite Fest
New Orleans, LA
Marshall Harris (504) 835-0280

4
Antique Kite Fly
Colt State Park, Bristol, RI
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

Fall Colors Fly
Janesville, WI
Vern Morris (608) 752-0798

Kensington Kite Festival
Kensington, MD
Premiere Kites (301) 604-1881

10
Monroe Central Arts & Crafts Festival
/ Kite Fly
Parker City, IN
(765) 453-2977

10 - 11
Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival
Lincoln City, OR
Ronda Brewer (541) 994-7556

Outer Banks Stunt Kite
Championships,
First Flight Middle School,
Kill Devil Hills, NC
Kitty Hawk Kites (800) 334-4777

The Showdown #2
Rockaway Beach, OR
Robin Loehr (503) 355-2225

Calendar Listings?

Send your event information to:
"AKA KITING"

232 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067.

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

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

Kites Over New England
1st Saturday of the month, all year
Nahant Causeway, Lynn, MA
Sept thru May -1st Sat. of the month
Indoor fly Marblehead High Gym 6-9
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

Lavender 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

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
Governor's 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

11
Norwalk Fall Fly
Norwalk, CT (978) 937-8290

One Sky, One World
Oswego, IL (630) 554-1010
Green Bay, WI (920) 432-8490
Portland, ME (978) 937-8290

13 - 17
**AKA Grand Nationals/ Convention
Ocean Shores, WA**
**Mel Hickman or Jim Miller (800)
252-2550 or (500) 447-5516**

17
YMCA indoor fly, Brockton, MA
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

17 - 18
Linganore Winecellars Fall Festival
New Market, MD, (301) 831-5889

18
Appleside Orchard Kite Fly
Appleside Orchard, Rosemount, MN
Craig Christensen (612) 435-7406

24
Ft. Wayne Kitefly
Ft. Wayne, IN (765) 453-2977

31
Halloween Fly
Bloomington, MN
Brad Klages (612) 866-9055

November

7 - 8
4th South Padre Island Kite Fest
South Padre Island, TX
Cathy Geyerman (210) 761-7484

Georgia International Sport Kite
Championships, Tybee Island, GA
Tom Mason (912) 232-7201

15
1999 Hoosier Kitefliers Annual
Meeting/Auction
Hoosier Kitefliers (765) 453-2977

21 - 22
Burnet Kite Festival
Burnet, TX
Dennis Phillips (512) 858-2549

27 - 29
Galveston 5th Annual Buggy Blast
Galveston, TX
Keith Anderson (713) 943-5674

28
Friends & Family Fly
Hazelwood Park, Maplewood, MN
Pam Hodges (612) 735-5373

To find out about
AKA sanctioning
for your event call
1-800-252-2550.

Drachen Foundation Sponsors First International S.F. Cody Symposium

Seattle, WA – The first international symposium on the life and work of Samuel Franklin Cody will be presented by The Drachen Foundation on September 10 and 11 at the Festival International Cerf-Volant in Dieppe, France. Since the acquisition of a majority of the S.F. Cody family archive in 1997, The Drachen Foundation has taken the lead in organizing archival materials for worldwide public access.

Augmenting the archives will be a number of presentations and discussions by an international group of Cody scholars. Those featured are:

Paul Chapman (Great Britain)	Cody's work on kites and early airplanes
Nick Morse (Great Britain)	Building and flying a replica of Cody's man-lifting kite system
Jan Desimpelaere (Belgium)	Kite restoration and replica techniques
David Hughes (Great Britain)	Military applications of Cody kites

To complement the presentations and discussions listed above, the symposium will include a presentation by Dr. Ben Balsley and doctoral student Mike Jensen of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. They will lead a discussion of the historic use of kites in scientific research as well as discuss and demonstrate their TRAM system, a remote controlled line climber used to carry atmospheric sampling equipment up the kite line.

Included on the agenda for the symposium will be a display of original American World War II kites from the Scott R. Skinner Collection, USA. Supporting documentation on the kites illustrating their military applications will be on display as well. Among the kites to be exhibited and discussed are the Garber Target kite, the Sauls-Vangrow Barrage kite and the Gibson Girl kite.

Presentations are scheduled from 9 am to 12 pm on both September 10 and 11. Displays and materials will be available from 1 pm to 4 pm on both September 10 and 11. The symposium is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and advance registration is required. Please contact The Drachen Foundation by telephone (206/282-4349), by facsimile (206/284-5471) or by e-mail (info@drachen.org) to register.

Founded in 1995, The Drachen Foundation is dedicated to preserving the history of and promoting interest in kites, kite making and kite makers.

Come to the Belmar Kite Festival! September 12 -13!

See Jack Rogers' Kite Show

And, don't forget to visit us...

Fly-Away Kites

1108 Main Street, Belmar, New Jersey 07719

1-800-29KITES

Call or e-mail for price quote
<http://www.monmouth.com/flyaway>
flyaway@monmouth.com



AKA CONVENTION UPDATE AKA CONVENTION UPDATE AKA CONVENTION

Get Ready for "Spirit of the Winds '98"

By Jim M. Miller, Convention Manager

Here's the chance for you hundreds and hundreds of AKA members in the State of Washington to attend the AKA's extravaganza, our annual convention, festival, and Grand National Competitions. Of course, AKA members in Oregon and the rest of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the rest of the world, are cordially invited.

Plans are well underway for another fun-filled week of kites and kiting activities. Workshop Coordinator and local Regional Director, Robin Haas, has a great schedule of workshops and seminars planned with some of the AKA's top experts selected as workshop presenters. (See related article by Robin in this issue). The fun will get underway with a pre-convention "early bird" party hosted by local area kite clubs on Monday night. Tuesday will see a full schedule of workshops, an indoor flying seminar and plenty of time for indoor free flying in the convention center. The first mass ascension will be on Tuesday. (For you new folks, the AKA mass ascensions, held at 1:00 PM every day of the convention, feature a different category of kite each day, and special mass ascension pins are given to all participants. Most conventioners try to garner all five pins). Tuesday evening we will have the Opening Reception and Pin Challenge, followed by the General Business Meeting, a time when you can learn more about the inner workings of the AKA.

The Grand National Competitions will start on Wednesday, with Sport Kite Competition (Novice, Intermediate & Open classes) and Kitemakers' Competition. Competitions will start after the morning workshop sessions, to allow all the opportunity to attend workshops of their choice. Wednesday evening there will be two special evening seminars: the Sport Kite Seminar, and Kite Aerial Photography. After Thursday's morning workshop sessions we will continue with Sport Kite Competition (Experienced and Masters classes) and Kitemakers' Competition. Also, Thursday will be the start of the Fighter Kite Competition with Novice Class preliminary heats. The fighter kite program has been much expanded this year featuring formal seminars and informal teaching sessions throughout the convention, as well as two categories of competition skill levels, and preliminary and final competitions for both levels. Buggers will have plenty of time for open bugging, and on Thursday afternoon will hold their formal trophy events. Thursday afternoon will be Fly Market set-up for booth vendors, and the Fly Market Opening Reception will be that evening, along with a night fly on the beach.

Friday, after workshops, we will continue with Sport Kite Competition (Experienced and Masters classes). There will also be a morning Fly Market session, preliminary heats for fighter kites (Experienced class), individual Rokkaku Battles, and auction set-up in the afternoon. That evening we'll have dinner, cocktails, and the Great Kite Auction, always a raucous and fun-filled evening. On Saturday morning, workshops continue along with the morning Fly Market session, fighter kite finals (both skill level classes), the team Rokkaku Battles, Members' Choice Fly, and, in the evening, cocktails, Members' Choice voting, and the Awards Banquet.

All throughout the convention, Exhibition and Demonstration Coordinator Adam Grow will be scheduling special exhibitions, so check with him for a slot to exhibit your kite or demonstrate your routine. The large exhibitions and demonstrations field will also be the site for the daily mass ascensions.

Spectators are welcome to view all field events, but to participate in all the good stuff above you must be registered for the convention. A limited number of guest banquet tickets will be available for family and friends (\$30.00 Auction Dinner, \$30.00 Awards Banquet). Guest tickets must be purchased by Thursday night. See the pink registration form bound in the center of this issue for all the information on travel and lodging arrangements. We hope to see you there!



Don't Miss These Workshops

by Robin Haas

Ali Fujino & Scott Skinner: The Right Stuff of Kiting and Aviation - a brief summary of the Drachen Foundation and its role in preserving kiting history.

Brooks Leffler & Craig Wilson: Kite Aerial Photography - a review of current techniques for putting your eye in the sky.

Dan Kurahashi: Small Bird Kite - make a small bird kite with one of the premiere miniature kite makers.

Dan Kurahashi - Miniature Kites - techniques, such as bamboo splitting for miniature kites will be explored.

David Gomberg: Sport Kite Symposium - sport kite competitors voice concerns to a panel which includes Conference Commissioners, the Sport Kite, and Festivals and Competition Committees.

David Gomberg: Rokkaku Battle Strategy and Tactics - all the skills and tricks needed to survive and prosper on the battlefield. Perfect for beginners or advanced fliers..

Jeff Howard: Bugging From A to Trix - kite traction techniques from basics to racing, with all the latest tricks.

Jon Burkhardt: Future Directions for the AKA - the AKA's Visions for the Future Committee, will explore a variety of ideas for improving AKA's future prospects.

Jon Burkhardt & Steve Ferrel: A symposium on Judging Handmade Kites - a roundtable discussion will cover judging and the rules for kitemaking competitions.

Karen Burkhardt: The Kitemakers' Competition Computer Scoring Program - the kitemakers' scoring program (Visual FoxPro 5.0) is explained. Copies available.

Kathy Goodwind - Bringing It All Together - learn what is new in parts, spars and materials in this how to workshop.

Miguel Rodriguez & Kobi Eshun - Choreographing a Dual-Line Ballet Routine - learn the tips & tricks from these two winners.

Kelci Williams: Women on Wheels - Bugging Basics for Females - a women's only workshop.

Ken Conrad: Bamboo Lore - techniques and tips for choosing then splitting and shaping bamboo.

Margaret Greger: Kitemaking 101 teaching techniques of kite building to children. Emphasis on the classroom, work space and how to handle materials.

PLUS:

Mel Hickman: The Inside Scoop of the AKA

Mel Hickman: Cyberkiting

Dan Buxton: The Workings of a Sport Kite Judge

Roger Chewning: Make Your Kite Festival a Success

Ron Despajado: Choreographing a Quadline Ballet

Sam Huston: Basics of Non-Sewn Fabric Kite Construction

Scott Spencer: Weaving Ripstop Nylon 103.

Stafford Wallace: Advanced Fighter Kite Techniques

Stafford Wallace: Beginner Fighter Kite Techniques

Jeanette Mandanas: Indoor Flying Workshop



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Kite Pin Challenge

by Alice Hayden

This year's Kite Pin Challenge will be a challenge for all. The Kite Pin Challenge will have contests for everyone. There are contests to appeal to all forms of Kite Pin admirers and Aficionados. They will include:

The Largest Kite Pin Collection - for the Avid Cloisonné Kite Pin Collector.

The Best Display of Kite Pins for the budding to serious Kite Pin Collector.

The Riddle/Scavenger Hunts for the amused observer to serious collector.

The Best Handmade Kite Pin for the hidden artisan among us.

There may be a surprise category or two. Based on last year's enthusiastic response to the Riddle/Scavenger Hunt (to quote one attendee, "the riddle type thing for us "regular-folk' who aren't pin heads."), we will have some new riddles this year.

We are adding a Handmade category. I have some wonderful handmade kite pins: a 'shrinky-dink' kite pin that Rolf Strum made, a pretty quilted one a friend made for me, and some of Robert Trepenier's painted pins. Well this category is not for any of them or all of them. We want YOU to make a kite pin and wear it proudly to the Kite Pin Challenge for this contest. It isn't to reward you for what someone else made, but for what you can produce yourself. I have received suggestions for categories of handmade Kite Pins such as "most creative", or something that is a pin and flies. I think that we will wait to see the response to this year's Handmade Kite Pin Challenge before we worry about breaking it into categories, but remember originality and aesthetics will count in the judging.

Rules for the Handmade Kite Pin Challenge:

All pins must be worn for the duration of the challenge.

All pins must be handmade.

Pins can consist of anything - from paper to wood to metal to plastic to foam to cloth; anything as long as it is not part of another commercial or commercial grade pin.

None of the pins can be available commercially.

Pins must have a **kite theme** and the theme must be evident. If we have to ask, it isn't a kite pin.

Mystery Kite Mass Ascension

by Cinda Shannon

This year, the Keystone Kiteers will again host the Mystery Kite Mass Ascension at the AKA Convention. As with last year's event, you won't know what kite you need to fly until you arrive! On the first day of the convention, we'll post at the registration headquarters what kite will be flown. Now, as the event doesn't take place until Friday afternoon, you'll have plenty of time to obtain that kite if you didn't bring it. Don't worry, we're not going to make you bring every kite you own. As a little hint, it will be one of the following:

- 1) Serpent kite - A flat kite with integral tail.
- 2) Green kite - any kite as long as the covering is entirely in some shade(s) of green. Any color other than green will be cause for disqualification. See Pete DiGiacomo; we understand he has lots of green kites.
- 3) The Birds and the Bees kite - Any bird or bee shaped kite.
- 4) Musical kite - Kite with bells, whistles, hummers, etc. Music graphics don't count. Must be attached directly to the kite, not to the bridle, flying line or as tails.

Participants will be awarded a special pin designed just for the occasion. As usual, judges will have final say as to what qualifies. Smart kiteers will recognize that they may be able to bring one kite that could meet the standards for 2 or 3 of the categories! Be sure to check the schedule for the exact time for this event.

Flying NAKED at the AKA Convention

by Adam Grow

By now, I hope all kitefliers across North America (and the international members too) have made plans to attend this year's AKA Convention in Ocean Shores. This is one my top five places in the world to fly kites—the beaches are gigantic, the wind is a perfect 10-15 mph most of the time, and it is never hot. Once again, I volunteered to oversee the National American Kitefliers Exhibition and Demonstration (NAKED) Field, and we have another great program lined up this year. This program is lots of fun because it is for kitefliers and it gives everyone a chance to fly their kites. No matter what your favorite kite is, you have the opportunity to fly it at this event. And, there are prizes for participants.

Every afternoon, from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m., the NAKED Field will showcase collections of kites flown by distinguished sport kite teams, kite makers, kite clubs, and best of all—the AKA conventioners. This field will also host the famed AKA +Kite Mass Ascension, every day at one o'clock. Following the mass ascension, everyone is invited to bring their kites onto the field and join in the many feature kite flies that start on the hour and half-hour. Each feature fly lasts 20 minutes so nobody gets tired of flying just one kite. Best of all, participating kitefliers are eligible for unique rewards, kite pins, prize drawings, and special coupons given away during the events. Also, fabulous sport kite shows will take place at 20 and 50 minutes after the hour. And, once again, we are planning to do a Parade of Kites and Banners through the village of Ocean Shores on the boardwalk at 11:30 Saturday. This was great fun last year in Wildwood, but this time we have kazoos!

Here are some of the kites that you need to pack in your kitebag to fly NAKED. Pack all the kites for the mass ascensions - a sportkite, delta, soft foil, rokkaku, and a cellular box. The feature kite flies will include - red, white & blue kites, rainbow color kites, facets, dragons, Asian kites (all kinds), Indian fighters, eddys, box kites, kites with tails, Revolution kites, kitetons, kite arches and ribbons, rollers, high and low aspect kites, wind banners, Green's bols, and wind racers. One last thing, pack something warm, plus your rain gear because the weather on the Washington coast can change every 15 minutes. See you soon (fully dressed of course)!





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"Lincoln City Invites AKA Members" by David Gomberg

I stumbled into the first Lincoln City International Kite Festival almost by accident. I had driven to the Coast with a woman I was dating, and as we wound our way along Highway 101, we heard on the radio that a festival was underway. I had never seen a kite festival before, but I had always been a kiter and just happened to have several in the front trunk of my VW Beetle. So, I pleaded to go to the D River and fly—which is, I think, one reason that woman never went out with me again...

When I arrived, a young guy named Steve was on the microphone. "Five minutes left in the highest flying kite contest!", he announced. I looked around but didn't see anything that looked too high. So I asked the organizer who was ahead. He pointed to a blue diamond about sixty feet off the ground. I ran back to my Beetle, grabbed a Vics Fighter, snapped in a 1000 foot spool of twenty pound line, and began to let it out. The Vics soared! I didn't know back then that fighters were supposed to go all over the place so I was using a long tail to keep it flying straight. Three minutes later, I had won the contest and received my prize—a set of brand new maneuverable kites that had just been introduced. They were called Rainbow Stunters.

That summer, I went back to Lincoln City many times. I got to know Steve, who turned out to be Steve Lamb - owner of a small kite store named for a Donovan song called "Catch the Wind". And I learned to fly those Rainbows. In fact, I think it is fair to say that those kites and that festival changed my life. I met people from the AOK and later became club president. Several years later, I wrote the first book on how to fly maneuverable kites and that book grew into a kite business. I was asked to organize Oregon's AKA Convention, and was then elected president of the organization - four times. I started dating a new woman, who I took kite flying. That may be why she kept dating and later married me. We moved to Lincoln City, and the Chamber of Commerce here sent me to my first overseas kite event in Weifang, China. Now I'm president of the Kite Trade Association International. It's funny how some things - like a simple kite festival - can affect you.

In October, Lincoln City will be celebrating their 20th Fall International Kite Festival. I wonder how many of you, directly or indirectly, have been affected by this little gathering. Catch the Wind has grown to seven stores and is listed in every yellow pages in the country. They have introduced many thousands of people to kiting. The festival has drawn fliers through the years that include the most familiar names in Oregon, American, and International kiting. I remember early gatherings with the Forsbergs, Larys, Talbotts, Hoggs, Lesters, Burleys, and Gobles. John Waters perfected the Spinsock in Lincoln City; Corey Jensen went to work for Catch the Wind; and Doug Hagaman experimented with parafoils as an early employee. Shakib Gunn of Singapore announced one year. Maricio Angeletti erected cellular kites that 20,000 people stopped to watch. Peter Lynn dropped a 15 foot tall Tri-D Box into the center of Highway 101. And once, I blew out power all over town with a memorial kite. But we'll leave that story for another time...

Kite festivals have now sprung up all along the coast, and Lincoln City's events are not the premier gatherings they once were. But as this unique anniversary approaches, it may do us all well to consider our roots, and the little festival at the mouth of the D River that serves as the "granddaddy" of so many offspring.

The Gomberts will be hosting our traditional fried-chicken pot luck on Saturday night, and a champagne toast to the event that changed our lives. A number of luminaries, including Pete Dolphin, Richard Dermer, Jon and Karen Burkhardt, Ron and Sandy Gibian, Kevin and Cinda Shannon, Glen and Tanna Haynes, Charlie Sotich and Bobby Stanfield have already confirmed their attendance. For old times' sake please come on down and join us. Raise a kite and a glass to Lincoln City's 20th.

Lincoln City is inviting all AKA members enroute to the Convention to come early and enjoy an extra festival.

Lincoln City, Oregon, is five hours south of Ocean Shores, Washington. The Lincoln City event is October 10-11, and the AKA convention begins on the 13th. Between the two is a spectacular stretch of coastline, dozens of interesting towns and historic sites, the World Kite Museum in Long Beach, and more than 20 kite stores. Hotel information is available at 800-452-2151.



**AKA Auction
Merchandise Wanted!**

If you are unable to attend the Convention, please ship your donation before October 5 to:

Richard Dermer
121 S. McFarland,
Stillwater, OK 74074
Phone: 405-372-6127

After October 5, please send your donation to:

Richard Dermer,
c/o Shilo Inn.
707 Ocean Shores Blvd. NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
Phone: 360-289-4600

Be an AKA supporter!

Great Food at Convention

Here is a sampling of the proposed menus for the evening meals at Convention 1998. I'm getting hungry already!

Auction Night Meal (Friday)

Hor d'oeuvres during Silent Auction:
Peel n' Eat Prawns, Northwest Cheese Ball w/ crackers and chips, Seasonal Fruit Tray
Grand Buffet:

Four Banquet Salads (Chef's choice), Green Salad w/dressing, Blackened Top Sirloin, Roasted Tom Turkey, Lemon Herb Chicken, Baked Lemon Ham, Shrimp Creole, Mashed Potatoes, Beef Gravy, Turkey Gravy, Seasonal Vegetable, Fresh Dinner Rolls, Pecan Pie, Apple Pie, Cheese Cake, Chocolate Thunder Cake, Coffee & Tea

Awards Banquet (Saturday):

Hor d'oeuvres during Social Hour:
Deviled Ham Spread & Seafood Spread, Assorted Crackers and Chips, Mini Quiche Lorraine, Seafood Puffs

Table Service:
Garden Green Salad with Dressing, Northwest Salmon, Chicken Dijon, Parsleyed Red Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Fresh Rolls, Chocolate Mousse, Coffee & Tea

"Come for the Kites - Stay for the Food!" - Tom McAllister, Annual Meeting Chair



AKA CONVENTION UPDATE AKA CONVENTION UPDATE AKA CONVENTION

Kitemakers Competition - Grand Nationals

The kitebuilding competition will again be held over two days. The schedule for each category follows:

Wednesday October 14

- 1:30 delta kites and delta derivatives
- 2:00 flat or bowed kites
- 2:30 figure kites
- 3:00 cellular or dimensional kites
- 3:30 innovative concepts and designs
- 4:00 arch trains and ribbons

Thursday, October 15

- 11:00 stunt or multiple line kites
- 11:30 Trains and centipedes
- 12:00 soft and flexible
- 1:30 traditional kites
- 2:00 multi-line figure kites
- 2:30 rokkaku kites
- 3:00 multi-line innovative kites
- 3:30 open or undesignated category

Cooperatively built kites will be flown with kites of that type. The competition will be run with the same rules and procedures as outlined in AKA's Rules and Guidelines for Kitemakers' Competition, Third Edition. A copy can be obtained at the AKA Store, or at the AKA's web site. We again have added the multi-line innovative category and hope to spark more interest in multiple line kitebuilding. We encourage you to let your imagination run wild. The two new multiline categories always generate lots of innovation and fun.

Another change we will make involves novice kitebuilders. In past years we awarded the one novice kitebuilder with the highest score. This year, to give more recognition to novices, we will award a first, second, and third place trophy. These awards will only be given to kites made by persons who have never won an award in any category in a National Kitemakers' Competition at an AKA Convention. The total competitive scores in all categories of all novice kitemakers will be ranked and awards will be presented to the three novice kitemaker's with top three total scores.

All contestants in a particular competitive category (delta, rokkaku, etc.) will be required to participate with all other competitors in that category in a mass ascension. These mass ascensions will be the start of the judging of each category. We will try to have each ascension begin promptly according to the schedule above. **If you are not there on time, you will not be allowed in the competition.** We do require you to be on the field one-half hour ahead of the time scheduled for your category in order to register on time. In the event that there are less than four entrants in a category, we may combine a low entry category with another if the particular kite categories have some similar attributes. Or, the kites may be placed in the "open or combined" category.

As a reminder to all, kites will be judged according to kite flight and handling, aesthetic visual flight appeal, craftsmanship, and structural kite design. An even 25% of your total score will come from each of these four criteria.

If you've got ideas, suggestions, or questions about the competition, or if you are interested in competition and want to help, please contact me at 5555 Hamilton Boulevard, Wescosville, PA 18106 (610-395-3560) or via email to Steve.Ferrel@aka.kite.org.

Steve Ferrel - Chairman, AKA Kitemaking Competition

Drachen Foundation Hosts Archival Open House

Seattle, WA – The Drachen Foundation, a nonprofit kite archive, science and culture organization, is hosting an open house Thursday, October 13, through Saturday, October 15, at the annual American Kitefliers Association Convention in Ocean Shores, Washington. The open house will be held at the Shilo Hotel Thursday, 10 am – 9 pm, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. An espresso & dessert reception will take place Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

"The annual AKA Convention is an ideal venue for reaching an audience that is interested in our mission of preserving the history of and promoting interest in kites, kite making and kite makers," said Scott Skinner, founder and board president. This year, The Drachen Foundation is holding open houses on Thursday, Friday and Saturday so that convention attendees can learn more about the Foundation and peruse samples of the Foundation's archives. The Foundation archives continue to be central to its mission. In addition to in-depth information on kite makers like S. F. Cody and Domina Jalbert, the archives also includes an extensive library on numerous kite topics. "We have reprints from historical documents and publications, out-of-print books and hundreds of current titles on kites and kite making," said Ali Fujino, Foundation administrator. "And it's all open to the public. Our goal is to provide as much information as possible to as many people as possible."

In addition to the archive, the Foundation also mounts and travels kite exhibits. Most recently, the Foundation curated a stunning exhibit of Japanese kites at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. The exhibit increased attendance at the museum and caught the attention of local, national and international media.

Also among the Foundation's priorities is educational outreach. Foundation staff lead workshops on kite making at local festivals, museums and schools in order to introduce new audiences to the fascinating world of kites. In addition, the Foundation is currently building a resource guide for teachers interested in using kites as an educational tool.

Founded in 1995, The Drachen Foundation takes its name from the German word for kite. Headquartered in Seattle, Washington, the Foundation reaches a global constituency and publishes a free quarterly newsletter and bi-annual journal. For a free suscription, contact the Foundation at 1629 Queen Anne Avenue North, #104 Seattle, Washington 98109. Telephone: 206/282-4349 Fax: 206/284-5471 E-mail: Info@drachen.org



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Empty Places in the Sky

Nishi's Song

I read with great sorrow of Takeshi Nishibayashi passing. I can remember like yesterday his entertaining the '91 AKA Convention. He sang for us on the International Boat Cruise. Dean Jordan wrote in the May/June issue of *Kiting*, "Empty Places in the Sky" about Nishi's Kite Song. Many of you may not know that "Nishi" was also featured on a local radio show called "The Metro" during the Convention. Here is a copy of the song provided by Brenda Star Walker dated October '91.

Nishi's Famous Kite Song

FUKE FUKE FUKE, AGAREYO TAKO
We hope for winds, We hope the kites fly high
TAKAKU AOZORANI, KUMOMADEMO
fly high to the blue sky and to the clouds
BOKURANO TAKO, KAZE NI NOTTAZO
our kites fly with the wind
ICHIBAN DAKO WA DARE NO TAKO DA
whose kite is number one?

KAWARUZO KAZE, OCHIRUZO TAKO
If wind conditions change
maybe kite will crash
SOREMAKE ITO, YUDAN SURUNA
so wind in the line hard,
so watch your kite carefully
AGARIDASHITA TAKO SORE NOBASE ITO
kites are going up
so let out the line again
KUMONO TONARI WA BOKU NO TAKO SA
next to the cloud, there is a kite of me.
My kites are next to the clouds.

OZORA IPPAI UITA ZO TAKO
there are many kites in the sky
MINNA JIMAN NO TAKO BAKARI
Everybody proud of his own kites
URESHI HI YO, TANOSHIIHI YO
A pleasant day, an enjoyable day
TORIMO ODOROKE, SORA NO CARNIVAL
TORIMO ODOROKE, SORA NO CARNIVAL
Birds are surprised,
because there's a carnival in the sky.
Birds are surprised,
because there's a carnival in the sky.

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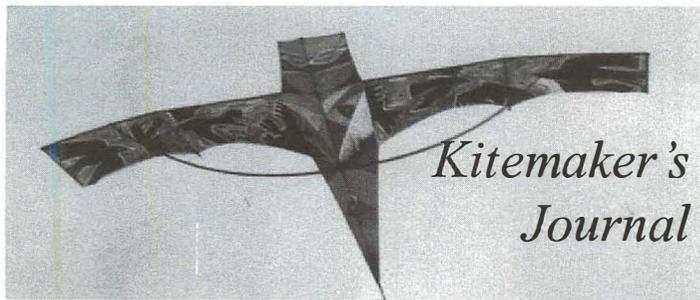
Email: kites@intothewind.com

Website: www.intothewind.com

INTO THE WIND

1408-D PEARL STREET
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302





Kitemaker's Journal

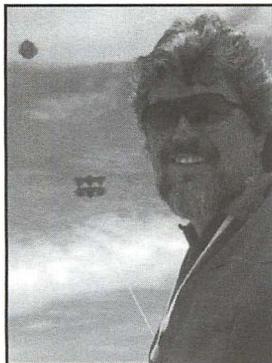
Look into then Near Future

By Ron Gibian

Two issues ago we began our new magazine within a magazine; a journal dedicated to the kite maker, kite flier and kite info in general. In the first column, we printed a general agenda or a tentative mission. Allow me to address this in more detail, if you will.

We mentioned kite making competition. We want to encourage regional competition, following the AKA rule book. This way, new people can have the opportunity to learn what to expect at a competition at the national level (AKA). Some changes are needed in the rule book as well. Some people are contented with the competitions as they are, but others are in disagreement. To make changes requires the participation of many people. I have suggested a very active committee that communicates often via conference calls, faxes and e-mail, and reports to the membership through our magazine on a regular basis. This will most likely bring forth good ideas.

There is the issue of judges. I know how hard it is to recruit them. One problem I often hear concerns about credibility and respect. This is an area where we need to concentrate. Having a pool of judges from around the country would be great. We have great kitemakers out there who have acquired the respect of the community as a whole. All of them are known for a particular area of kitemaking (i.e. graphic design, great structures, color composition...). We would like to call on them for some help in this area. Not everyone attends the conventions outside of their area, but if the pool is large enough, we could still have a mix of judges from different parts of the map to make it fair. We have tried in the past to have this mix, but invariably we end up with people from just that region. Some view this as *Cliquish*. I believe that we have had great judges in the past, and some new shadow judges have been very accurate in



help!

I believe that we can make good judges great judges if we have a system to work by that suits everyone. Dual line competitions have organized this way and their situation has improved dramatically in recent years.

The thoughts I am conveying here are not necessarily reflective of my opinions, but based on the observations of people who have communicated their concerns to me the past few years. I do strongly believe that we can make things more fair, credible and consistent. The forum is open. We need volunteers and we need your ideas. We will communicate progress to you as it happens.

In the next issue, I will mention some ideas for the committee and pool of judges, as well as view points on the rules book. Keep in mind I am not the party line, but merely the instigator for change and new ideas. We can continue as we are or we can entertain new ideas, which will require an open mind.

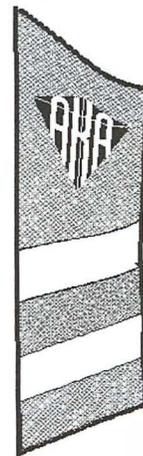
A new area we begin in this issue will profile kitemakers. "K-Files" gives the opportunity to meet many new people that are doing fantastic kites, and do not get exposure. I am currently working with the Southwestern states, starting in this issue with Randy Shannon. We will move on to the Midwest, featuring kitemakers from that area. Along the way we will feature kitemakers from the East and West coast. Along with new kit makers, we will also feature kitemakers who have been around for a long time, and continue to do remarkable work. We might even include two profiles per issue.

Kite plans are always welcome. We are waiting for your unique and creative designs to include in this space. Remember this is your magazine and we look forward to your thoughts, articles of interest, humor or great photographs.

Until the next installment, keep looking up!

their assessments.

Last year we had many who competed and judged. This makes things awkward since competitors cannot participate in final decisions for Grand Champion and special awards. This is no secret folks; we need



Club News

New Contest! Win an AKA banner for your club!

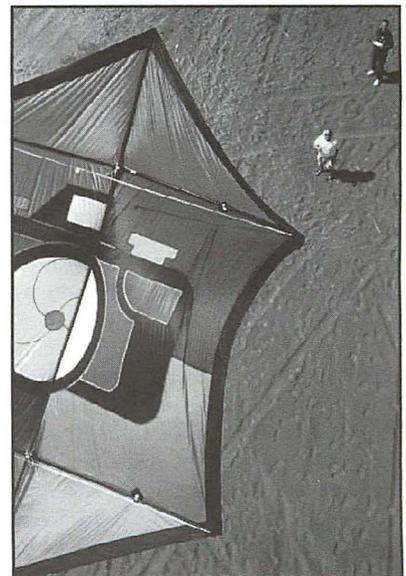
The club recruiting the most new AKA members between September 1, 1998, and September 1, 1999, will win a new AKA banner and pole. Start signing up those new members and remember to list your club name in the "Referred by" spot on the application form.

I am now working on a new Club Directory Book. Please make sure we have your club information up to date, including any website and e-mail addresses.

Where are the best flying fields in the country? Send me the location of your favorite field. We plan to publish a list in a future edition of *Kiting*.

- Robyne Gardner, Kite Club Liaison

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kite by Jim Day ¥ photo by Wolfgang Bieck

K-FILES

Shannon, Randy

“My kites are always changing,” says Randy Shannon. “I think that is why I have stuck with kites for so long, because there is no all-inclusive definition of what a kite is.”

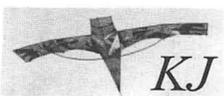
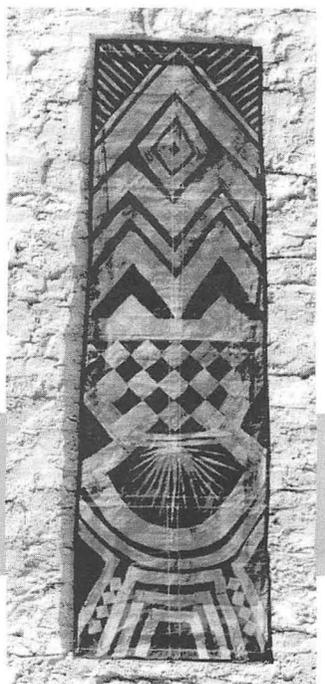
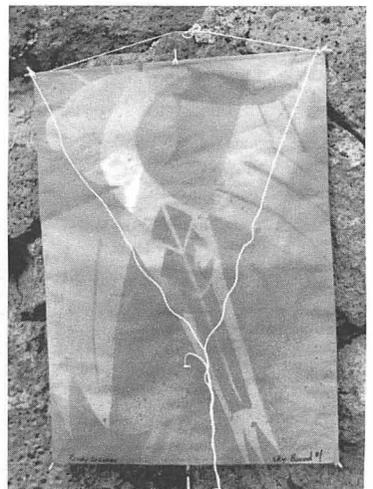
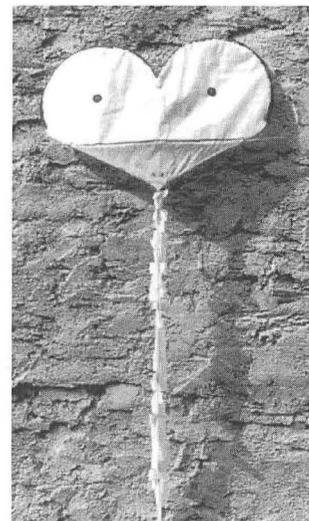
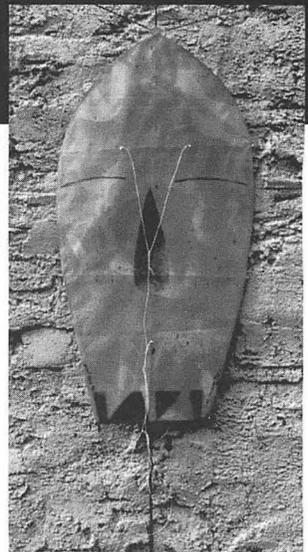
Thirty six year old kite maker, Randy Shannon, lives in Flagstaff, Arizona. He first discovered kites at the age of 9 or 10 when he bought a black and white paper Eddy with a Jolly Roger design. Today he is a well respected kitemaker but says that the first kite he built—Baden-Powell’s Levitor Kite—didn’t fly!

Shannon’s first love is fighter kites, followed by single lines. He loves to design and build new kites. “I really enjoy the first time a new kite takes life and flies from the hand like a fledgling from its nest,” he says. His latest experiments have utilized Design Master paints on paper and nylon. He uses bicycle parts for stencils and weights, achieving interesting shadow effects on the color overlays. He paints kite skins with Inko Dye Resist in African textile designs and then over-sprays in flat black. “I also layer warm hues sprayed over paperboard stencils of my own petroglyph designs,” Randy adds. In the air, the effect is similar to sandstone.

Another technique Randy uses is to put Procion MX dyes on Pima (quilt backing) cotton. “Cotton kites are a completely different bird from sail cloth. Their stretch and bias make creating a successful flier challenging.”

Randy Shannon says his work has been most heavily influenced by Nop & Michelle Velthuisen, George Peters, Steve Brockett and Robert Trepanier. His awards include the Bob Ingraham Award (Oct. 1996) and the Benjamin Franklin Achievement Award from the Los Alamos Arts Council (1998). Shannon has served as AKA Regional Director for Intermountain Region #9 and is a co-founder of the Route 66 Kite Club.

Above: Korean Fighter “Free Freddie” (1/98); Top left: Emperor Penguin (11/96); Top right: Spirit Head Mask (6/98); Middle left: Ostrich (6/98); Middle right: Sky Bound #1 (6/98); Bottom left: Eminent Death (7/97); Bottom right: African Textile Edo #2.



Report by Ron Gibian and Karen Thomson.

Kite Art News

Committee Chair: Janene Evard

The Ocean Shores Kite Art Gallery at the convention will be special this year. We will feature only two artists. Kites by the AKA "Lee Toy Circle" award winner, Scott Skinner, and a retrospective of Lee Toy's own kites will be in the exhibit. The gallery will be located in the Chinook Room at the Shilo Inn. The gallery opening will be Wednesday from 7-9 pm. It will also be open from 7-9 pm Thursday, 3-5 pm Friday, and 9-11 am Saturday. In addition, we will schedule a "Lee Toy Memorial Fly" on Saturday after the gallery closes, with just Lee's kites in the air. The committee is still searching for more of Lee's kites, so help out if you know the whereabouts of any.

Janene Evard helped with a kite art exhibit in Geneva, Switzerland, from Aug. 17 to Sept. 5. Sponsored by the Geneva Kitefliers Association, the exhibit was displayed at the Centre Commercial de Balexert, Switzerland's largest mall. It was titled "The Art of the Contemporary Kite;" Jean-Daniel Junod was the curator. On the domestic front, Janene was asked by the Billings, Montana, Airport Authority if the committee could help put together a kite exhibit for their grand opening in 1999. Janene will be stepping down as Kite Art Committee chair at the convention. Jim Murasaki will be the new chair.



WANTED

For the 1998 Kite Art Gallery

Do you have one of Lee Toy's kites that you would be willing to let the Kite Art

Committee use for the Ocean Shores Gallery? We are looking for Lee's kites to add to the exhibit. If so, please contact Marti Dermer at the following address or phone:

Phone: 405-372-6127 or Fax: 405-377-7763

E-mail: bkahuna@fullnet.net

Mail: 121 S. McFarland, Stillwater, OK 74074.

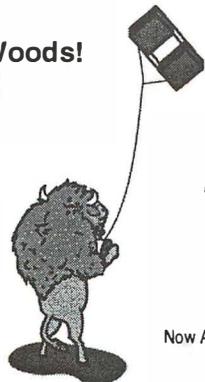
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Getting Started in Kite Building... A Weekend With A Master

by Jim Carnevale

Jose Sainz is a master of the art and craft of kite building. Just ask a few of the members of the Wings Over Washington kite club. This past June, they had the extraordinary opportunity to spend a weekend with Jose in a WOW Kite Building Guild retreat. The project was to build a small hata kite focusing on applique techniques. After two days with Jose, several beautiful hatas emerged with a stunning applique of the profile of a horse. After participating in the workshop, everyone found that they got a lot more than just the technical skills in building that particular style of kite.

For me, it was gaining the insight that an error was an opportunity to redesign. While backcutting the applique pattern, I sliced all the way through the sail. Not once, not twice, but three times. I resigned myself to the fact that this kite was only going to be for practice and I would redo it and get it right. After a few minutes with Jose we discovered that I was not holding the scissors properly which was causing me to rip through the fabric. With that problem corrected, we moved on to fix the rips. We redesigned the sail to add a stripe across the pattern in the background. This fixed the worst of the tears. A couple of patches fixed the remaining two. Rather than giving up, I left with a kite that I was really pleased with. Several others in the workshop also left with similar experiences. Here are a few...



Jose Sainz in Santa Monica - 1996

Jim Cosca, Ft. Washington, MD - Aside from all the great things absorbed from the Sainz workshop, there was something important to ponder. I learned about the value of working together with people who offer their time and efforts to help educate interested parties in the various techniques and tricks in kite design and sewing methods. If these efforts go unappreciated, and without proper respect or recognition, then one can only expect much less enthusiasm from the few that are willing to give. Thanks Jose, Jim, Rod and all those who helped to educate me.

Sandy Occhipinti, Cabin John, MD - I must confess to some trepidation as I lugged my aged Kenmore to our very first kite sewing adventure. The patience and support of Jose and countless other experienced kitemakers in the workshop was incredible. I learned a lot AND had a great time. And I will never forget the tact with which Jose observed that my horse was sewn upside down!

Drake Smith, Fairfax Va - Welp, I guess my experience was that, since you wisely did not hint in advance whether there was a set design, other than a "Hata", I

Continued page 18



just brought MKS colors (red/white/black/gold). So the applique design that Jose handed out was a horsehead (Jose calls it "Troy"). I was stuck so I made the mane into a black/gold checker-board and modified the bridle into a red/white 3 ball thingy. This mistake was highly acclaimed as inspired design technique, for which I can take credit, even though it was your fault in the first place for not telling me everyone else was bringing aqua and blues and stuff. The kite first flew at the Yorktown, Virginia TARAF (This Ain't Really A Festival), and it prefers to have a white fiberglass cross-spar rather than a carbon one.

Charlie Dunton, Yorktown, VA - I have been using the Randy Tom/Jose Sainz applique techniques in my competition kites for about 4 years, with some measure of success. Even so, I was sure I would come away with something of real value, and I did. First, I found that Jose is a very special individual. I am convinced if he knows anything that he feels will help you make a better kite, he will gladly share it and expect nothing in return. He's truly a class act. Secondly, after doing something for four years, one might think my technical learnings would involve minor corrections and improvements, rather than huge Aha's. But how about learning a better way to hold applique scissors. It felt a bit awkward at first, but by the end of the day, I could see a real improvement in my relief cutting. I wouldn't have missed this workshop for anything.

Barb Murphy, Ft. Washington, Md - I would like to say that my experience with that workshop was the delightful one of meeting and getting to know a genuinely nice person, Jose. He was a good teacher and really interested in what his students were doing and in the kites they produced. He was as interested in what we were doing as we were in what he was teaching us.

Paul Dugard, Silver Spring, MD - Don't let a workshop intimidate you. Whatever your level of kiting is either novice or master kitemaker, there is so much to learn. What was to be learned at Jose's workshop. How to fix mistakes. I made a major one. I was back cutting my appliqué and cut deep. Like all of the way through. Now I know what to do. This could have been the end of days work, but in fifteen minutes is all that it took to be back on track. Jose let everyone know that he has no secrets just patience and good technique and an eye for creating a great work. His technique is simple, yet put that together with the detail of his kites and this is why he is a Master Kitemaker.

Retreats are a terrific way to gather and exchange information while developing skills in kite building. However, the experience of a retreat goes much beyond gaining practical knowledge about

building a particular project.



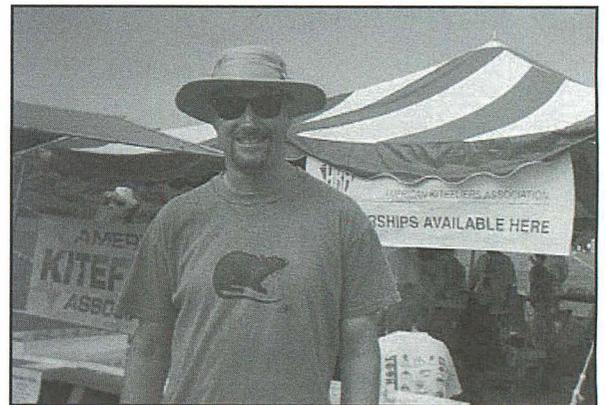
Newport Report *(continued from the cover)*

Single line kites dominated the sky at center field throughout the weekend. Jack Rogers and his Traveling Kite Show filled the field with flow forms, giant kites and assorted large windsocks. Dozens of kite flyers flew and displayed their incredible collection of kites around him. Paul Lawrence, Ron & Gregg Mazzotta filled the sky with their beautiful arches. Paul won the ground display contest on Sunday.

Jon & Karen Burkhardt flew their collection of kites while they weren't judging the Newport Cup Kitemaking Competition. Kitemakers from all over the country entered this competition. Local kitemaker, Phil Neale won the cup and a registration to the AKA Grand Nationals. The fighter kite competition was won by Pennsylvania flyer Gerry Reidel. This growing event was announced by our very own AKA president, Richard Dermer.

The Newport Sport Kite Grand Champion was Intermediate flier, Torrey Lindemann. Torrey heated up his class with 3 first place finishes for a perfect 3 score, a metal cup award and an AKA Grand National registration. Close behind Torrey in the final ranking was San Diego's Lionel Gibbons. Lionel finished first in both Experienced Individual events along with a 3rd in Experienced Quadline Ballet. Home field flier Scott Weider ranked next with a 1st in Masters Quadline and 2nd & 3rd in the Masters Class Individual events. The New England Indoor Championship went to Michael Moore as he edged out Torrey and John Ruggiero.

The AKA was well represented by Richard & Marti Dermer. They brought along a very interesting miniature kite display which drew much attention from the crowd. Richard was able to fly his large American flag kite for an appreciative crowd on Saturday afternoon just before the Mass Ascension. Former AKA president Pete Dolphin dropped by for the weekend along with his beautiful daughter. They had fun camping out as our field security over the weekend.



Jerry Reidel, winner of the Fighter Kite competition.
- photo by Kathy Nixie

Waking up alongside the Atlantic Ocean on a beautiful summer morning can't be that bad!

The Magical Mystery Pairs event which is a favorite fun low pressure money event went off on schedule with Alice Hayden and Bob Hurd splitting a \$100 bill. Team Air Play won the Experienced Pairs Ballet; Team Precision and Ballet went to W.A.T.T.; Masters Pairs Ballet went to Sudden Flight, with the Valli Boyz taking Team Precision & Ballet.

One of the larger registration class was Novice. Bruce Lindemann, Torrey's father, dominated the Novice class. Local fliers Dave Franzi at 12, and Matthew Perry at 10 years of age rounded out the top three in Individual Precision. Jodie Taft and Mike Diogurado placed 2nd & 3rd in Ballet.

All in all, the event was a success. Auctioneers Joe Tricarico & Richard Dermer were able to raise almost \$2,000 for the charity group, March of Dimes, at our annual auction. This followed our New England lobster dinner at the Inn at Newport Beach. Art St.Pierre won a mini ultimate kite bag at the banquet raffle. Almost \$700 in value. Local 2-ticket purchaser, Don Griffith, won the Ultimate kite bag, over \$1400 in value. Don is one happy man! He had several kites in his collection. He was out the following weekend flying kites with his family and relatives.

Sue Moskowitz and Steve Santos wish to thank everyone associated with the event for all their support! See you at Newport '99!

1998 AKA Ballot

Statements from the Candidates

PRESIDENT

RICHARD DERMER

Richard Dermer is a 59 year-old Oklahoman. He and his wife, Marti, have two grown sons and have owned and operated their highly successful pizza restaurant, the Hideaway, for 40 years. Blessed with a great manager, Richard is now largely retired in order to devote most of his time to kiting and the AKA. He has served two terms as President of the AKA, been southwestern regional director for 9 years, first vice-president for three, and chaired the club liaison, nominating, and membership committees. Field director for the Tulsa convention, he is equally enthralled by traditional and sports kites. He and Marti have attended festivals in China, India, New Zealand, Denmark, and France; given lots of kite workshops: and participate in 15-20 kite festivals per year. He sees the AKA's greatest needs as more membership, greater visibility, and better communications.

REGION 1 DIRECTOR

Steve Santos

I enjoy kite flying and organizing events and believe the future for kiting is a positive one. I have personally been involved in the formation of the Eastern League, BASK, Newport and the Region 1 annual Fly & meeting. I was the first NE flyer rep for the EL and am now the organizer of the Newport Kite Festival and am on the EL Committee. In 1996 I served on the American Kite Circuit Committee.

I believe Region 1 may be thought of as a model for maintaining prolific kiting activities, both indoor and outdoor. I want to be sure people in the AKA know about it by reports to Kiting on regular basis. I plan on designating deputy directors who will attend events in all region 1 states. They will contribute to my article for the Region 1 Report. I also believe that AKA should support forming regional conventions such as our AKA Region 1 annual meeting. I will do my best to build this event up to a regional convention status with workshops, lessons, kite making and sharing our experience with the local community, etc. I believe these events will support the growth of AKA membership and attendance to the National AKA Convention.

Finally, I pledge to work hard for you. Let me help lead you and the AKA to a brighter kiting future in Region 1!

REGION 2 DIRECTOR

Alice Hayden

I like blue skies, gentle breezes, good people, good food and yes I like kites. As a kid I don't ever remember a picnic without a kite (thanks, Dad). Met a guy, Mark, and he liked kites, too. Married him. Saw the Smithsonian Magazine with Lee & Sue Sedgwick & kites on the cover. The photo took my breath away and we said, " We have to find these!"

We found the 1st New York Stunt Kite Championships and our 1st real kite store. Within a year we were traveling to stunt kite competitions and in another year Mark was competing. I wasn't as adept at stunt kites, so I began building miniature kites. Charlie Sotich became my hero. I won the Little Rhody award for the smallest kite at the Newport Kite Festival. With encouragement from other flyers I eventually began competing with stunt kites, too. I found that the most fun flying stunt kites at the beach was with groups of people. So, I co-captained the 1st all women quad team: The Bag Ladies. Since I've been on a 3-person team, W.A.T.T., and a pair, Ms. Matched. When we fly at Jones Beach, we set our single lines (with as much line junk as the winds will bear) by the water and fly our stunt kites under them. Friends convinced us to join the ConnectiKeters and then the Maryland Kite Society. The Maryland Kite Retreat taught me a lot about kite making and I now make kites larger than any room in my house, as well as, miniatures.

What I love about kiting is no matter where we go, if you find another kite flyer, you are at home, whether out to Seaside for your 1st AKA Nationals or the beach at Berck-Sur-Mer or the International Kite flyer's Meeting at Fano.

I am a member of AKA and the Eastern League. I am on the Board of Directors of the ConnectiKeters (to whom I've taught fighter kite and banner making). So maybe it is time for me to become more involved in kiting in my own region, if you'll have me. And, Oh yes, I like kite pins, too. *FAVORITE KITE MOTTO: JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT!*

REGION 3 DIRECTOR

Jon Burkhardt

Jon is the current Regional Director for AKA's Region 3, and is asking for your support for one more term of office. He has held many AKA positions, including Convention Chairman, Treasurer, Director at Large, and Chairman of several committees, including the Kitemakers' Competitions Committee, the International Exchange Committee, and the Staff Search Committee (all three times it has functioned). He has written articles on kite flying and kite festivals for numerous publications, including KiteLines and Kiting, and major feature articles about him and his kites have published in American Kite and KiteLines. He has presented workshops at AKA Conventions, many MKS Kitemaking Retreats, Fort Warden, and World Cup IV, as well as for local community groups. He has been Head Judge for kitemaking competitions at several AKA National Conventions, Smithsonian Kite Festivals, and Newport Cup Kite Festivals. He has donated a handmade kite or kite accessory to every AKA Convention Auction since 1981.

A serious kitemaker since 1980, Jon has won top awards in the U.S. and abroad at many festivals. He has attended all of the AKA Conventions but the first, has been a sponsored guest at numerous kite festivals in Europe and the Far East, and has captained Championship Rokkaku kitefighting teams at major "kite capitals" of the U.S.

Jon is actively engaged in spreading the joy of kiteflying to others. He sees the need to bring together differing factions within the kiting community because "the sky is big enough for all of us," and because the greatest pleasures are sharing in the creativity of the wonderful people involved in kiting.

SPIRIT OF THE WINDS '98



OCEAN SHORES, WASHINGTON

**21st
Annual**

American Kitefliers Association

National Convention

**Grand National Kite Festival and Competition
1998 Annual Meeting • Kite Workshops
Fly Market • The Great Kite Auction**

Ocean Shores, Washington
October 13 - October 17, 1998

Convention Facts



DETACH AND SAVE THIS FACT SHEET BEFORE MAILING REGISTRATION FORM

Registration & Membership

All participants, whether competing or not, must register. Except for certain invited guests, all participants must also be AKA members in good standing at the time of registration and during the convention. Please note the registration deadlines; no exceptions are made to those dates.

Transportation

United Airlines is the official airline of the convention and will offer special discounts (domestic travel only) to AKA members; dial (800) 521-4041 and mention meeting ID # 523SI. Get the special AKA members discount from Avis Rent-A-Car by calling (800) 331-1600; mention AWD #J094055. Limited airport shuttle service from Seatac airport (\$25 per person, one way) is available by calling Tours Plus at (888) 461-7433.

Lodging

Registration and Convention Headquarters will be at the Shilo Inn (800) 222-2244 or (360) 289-4600. When you call, mention you are coming to the AKA convention to get the special discount package for AKA members. IMPORTANT: You must make your reservations by September 12 to insure getting a space in our reserved block of rooms. Other hotels with special AKA rates are the Polynesian (800) 562-4836, Holiday Inn Express (360)289-4900, Day's Inn (360) 289-9570, or you may call the Ocean Shores Chamber of Commerce for additional hotel recommendations at (800) 762-3224.

Guest Tickets

At registration you may purchase extra banquet tickets for guests, (\$30 for Auction Dinner, \$30 for Awards Banquet), and guest Fly Market tickets. Guest banquet tickets are limited and must be purchased by Thursday. There are no guest tickets to workshops. Attendance at workshops is limited to convention registrants only.

Video Recording

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

Information

General Information &
Registration Questions

Jim Miller Phone (760) 770-0405
 Fax (760) 770-0415
 e-mail: J-M-Miller@msn.com

Fly Market Chair

Ron Lindner Phone (314) 376-6055
 Fax (314) 376-4328
 e-mail: charon@1main.net

Registration Form

Please fill out a separate form for each registrant. Photocopies are fine.
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

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

I plan to arrive in Ocean Shores on (date) _____

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

- This is my first AKA Convention
- I would like vegetarian meals.
- I plan to enter the Kitemakers' Competition.

PLEASE HELP! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

I am willing to help with:

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

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

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

	If postmarked or faxed:		After 9/30: at the door only
	by Aug 31	by Sept 30	
One Day Registration no lunches, no banquets for: TUE WED THUR FRI SAT (circle one)	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00
Basic Registration no lunches, 2 banquets	\$105.00	\$126.00	\$140.00
Full Registration 4 lunches, 2 banquets	\$125.00	\$145.00	\$160.00

FEES & THINGS

REGISTRATION

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

Basic Registration is as above without lunches.

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

Registration Fee

(from below, left) _____

CONVENTION VIDEO

(sent to your home in December)

\$28.50 + \$1.50 shipping & handling \$30.00 _____

CLOTHING, PINS & PATCHES

Short-sleeved T-shirt

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

Polo Shirt

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

Sweatshirt

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

Cloisonné Pin _____ \$5.00 _____

Additional Patch _____ \$4.00 _____

I will not be attending the convention.

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

TOTAL AMOUNT

To charge to your Visa/MasterCard:

Name _____

Card # _____

Expires _____

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

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

AKA '98 Convention, Jim M. Miller, 43 Augusta Drive, Rancho Mirage CA 92270

Fax (760) 770-0415

Donor Form



THE GREAT KITE AUCTION

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

Donor and/or Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

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

Item Name _____ Estimated Value _____

Description _____

Item Name _____ Estimated Value _____

Description _____

Item Name _____ Estimated Value _____

Description _____

Elections Committee
American Kitefliers Association
P.O. Box 45
Seaside OR 97138

YOUR OFFICIAL 1998 AKA BALLOT HAS JUST ARRIVED VOTE TODAY!!

1998 AKA Election Ballot Instructions

1. Look at the address label on the back of this ballot. In the upper right corner will be two numbers. Write those numbers in the space provided below. The first number is the number of members in your household and the second is the region in which you live. For example, if it reads "(3,1)", you have three members in your household (and, therefore, three votes) and you live in Region 1.
2. Complete the ballot below as per the example remembering one vote per member. Vote only for the candidate (s) in your region. Those of you not living in Regions 1,2,3,4, 8 or 12 vote only for President. Lines are provided for you to write in a candidate of your choice not on the Ballot.
3. Refold the ballot and mail it to AKA Election Committee P.O. Box 45, Seaside OR 97138, USA. You need only return the ballot sheet. The candidate's statements are for your information. If you so wish, you may fax the ballot back to 800-AKA-2550. **BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED IN SEASIDE BY OCTOBER 9,1998.** We realize that deadline is tight but it is mandated by AKA by-laws.

1998 AKA ELECTION BALLOT

NUMBERS FROM THE ADDRESS LABEL: (____, ____)

CANDIDATE

VOTES

KITE GODDESS (as an example)

Venus Goodwind	----	----	----	----	----
Zephyr Kirk	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

PRESIDENT

Richard Dermer	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

REGION 1 DIRECTOR

Steve Santos	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

REGION 2 DIRECTOR

Alice Hayden	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

REGION 3 DIRECTOR

Jon Burkhardt	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

REGION 4 DIRECTOR

Steve Cseplo	----	----	----	----	----
Bob Pebly	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

REGION 8 DIRECTOR

Troy Gunn	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

REGION 12 DIRECTOR

Ron Despojado	----	----	----	----	----
_____	----	----	----	----	----

REGION 4 DIRECTOR

Steve Cseplo

I am a multi faceted kiteflier with no particular preference for, or prejudice against, a particular discipline of our sport, liking them all. I believe I have a level head and have been a member of this organization for the vast majority of my 15 plus adult kiting avocation. I am out and about on regular basis attending festivals in the region during a normal year and have regularly attended the convention during the 1990's. I was director of our region prior to Tom Mason so I possess a realistic appreciation for the time and effort required to successfully carry out the duties of the office. I will/have presented member's concerns to the board during business meetings and lobbied for their successful resolution. The time off since last I was Regional Director has recharges my batteries so I am ready to hit the ground running to serve our region doing the best job I can if you, the members, will allow me the honor of serving you once again.

Bob Pebly

"My name is Bob Pebly and I live in Boca Raton, Florida. I fly kites of all types, am an avid buggy enthusiast and have also done quite a bit of Kite Aerial Photography. I've written articles for The Aerial Eye and KiteLife. I'm an active participant in the Internet kite community through several web sites, Usenet's rec.kites newsgroups, and IRC #kites (email me via pebly@ibm.net). I've been very involved in the Little Acorns Kite Festival in Miami since its inception. My interest in serving as your AKA regional director is to promote kiting & grow the AKA, especially in our region 4, which seems to be lagging behind other regions. There are a number of newer festivals and events in the southeast that can help drive this growth and as your regional director, I would bring a fresh perspective to the AKA board and help fuel that growth."

REGION 8 DIRECTOR

Troy Gunn

(No Statement received)

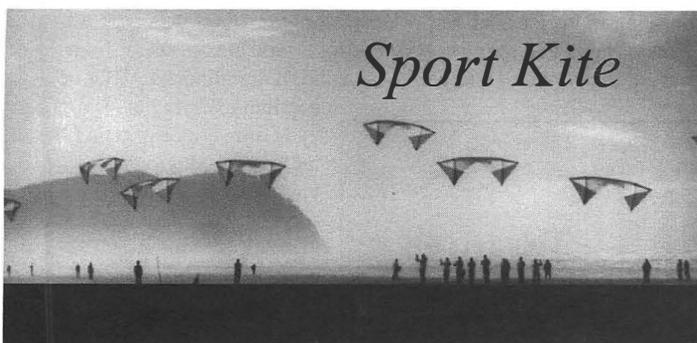
REGION 12 DIRECTOR

Ron Despojado

I have been seriously flying kites for about 10 years. Included in my past experience are many years as either San Diego Kite Club's Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Vice-President, President, and Board Member. I have competed regularly for 8 years, achieving many personal goals including AKA Grand National Champion, All-American Champion, and was immensely proud to have been on Team USA at Guadeloupe 1997.

The position of Regional Director is the focal point of all communication affecting our area. I am not there to direct anyone or anything but to make sure information and guidance is available. We always talk about growth in our organization, but need to ask, "Why join the AKA at all if I can fly at the park without membership? From a lot of little contributions come large projects. We are pooling our resources towards the big picture. True, the wind will continue to blow, the kites will always be on sale at the store, and you will always meet people at the park flying too. And this scenario happens all over the country. Fine, but what if we can go beyond that? Through the AKA we can meet other folks at their parks, flying in their wind and visiting their kitemstores. I've never know anyone who has said they have too many friends. And there are worse things in life than having a lot of acquaintances with the same favorite pastime and passion of kiting. As with most others, I would like to see the big picture get bigger, and what that takes are a lot of little contributions. You have to realize that your membership helped put together the Convention: helped to organize events in our area; helped to gain new members which will in turn keep the cycle going.

In becoming your Regional director, I look forward to maintaining the "cycle". Through communications we can all be part of the whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.



"The Art of Flying"

"The Art of Flying" is Kansas City, Missouri's, only professional indoor kite flying team. They are one of only a few indoor kite teams in the world. Terry Lynne Norris, Jerry Norris and Sean Arnote perform tight team formation flying indoors. "The Art of Flying" encourages everyone to fly kites and endeavors to make this goal easy and fun for all. Through workshops, lectures and flying demonstrations the team strives to fulfill this goal.

Three years ago due to poor Midwestern weather conditions, this group of fliers pioneered efforts to fly indoors. All three future team members knew each other as members of the Kansas City Kite Club. Flying outdoors together, though not as a team, they had formed an informal family common to many fliers. In a few short months of practice this group of indoor fliers was able not only to keep their kites aloft, but to gain control of the kites' indoor flight.

Jerry is a professional speaker and workshop presenter for the Kansas City Science and History Museum. With Jerry's connections, the team decided to promote kite flying and educate young audiences about kites. Now, through a grant from the Drachen Foundation, the team performs regularly. Practice is still a weekly necessity, not to mention a lot of fun.

Because of the novelty or uniqueness of being an indoor kite team, "The Art of Flying" has had opportunities to fly places they never dreamed. Prairie Winds Kite Festival in Lenexa, Kansas, offered the first chance to fly in front of fellow kite fliers. One year later, the team was able to teach a news anchor on the local Fox affiliate television station to fly indoors. With that television exposure, the team was able to perform at a half time show for the Kansas City Attack, a professional indoor soccer team in Kansas City.

"The Art of Flying" hopes to promote indoor flying and to perform at an AKA national convention. According to the team, "We are just beginning to realize the value of kiting. It is a wonderful tool to teach people lessons of personal growth. We plan to continue our efforts to teach future indoor fliers so their indoor flying efforts yield positive rewards."



Photo and story
by Sean Arnote.

International Rules Book Committee

The IRBC have received many comments from flyers concerning Rule B. After much consideration the IRBC has decided to recommend that Rule B be changed with immediate effect to read as follows: "At all times safety shall be paramount - unsafe flying will be penalised by the competitor being disqualified a discipline or the entire competition at the discretion of the Head Judge. In addition, during the time between the first pilots meeting of any day and the close of competition for that day (as determined by the Chief Judge) if any competitor flies their kite(s) over the designated boundary they shall be disqualified from the discipline. Any competitor moving their body over the designated boundary whilst competing shall be disqualified from the discipline." The IRBC continues to solicit comments and feedback from judges, flyers and other interested parties.

To purchase your rule book, contact the AKA Store. The rule book is also available at <http://www.netspaces.com/irb/index.html>

Questions? Comments? Please call, write, or e-mail the AKA Sport Kite Committee.

Report by Sherrie Arnold



AKA Central Conference MegaFly Record!

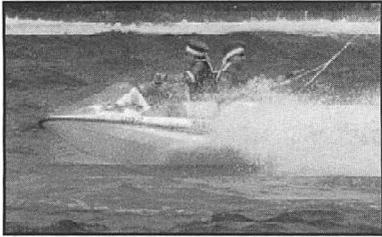
On May 17th 1998, at the "Texas State Sport Kite Championships" held in Rockport, Texas, there were very few shy competitors. Thanks to the efforts of Troy Gunn, who organized the mega fly, and the enthusiasm of 17 other flyers, they flew into Region 8 record books for a Mega Fly with a total of 18 fliers, flying 5 times around in an "Infinity 8". All who participated (Troy Gunn, Al Almandarez, Dick Bell, Aaron McCulley, Abel Ortega, James Salazar, Keith Anderson, Kelly Reed, Eddie Zihlman, Kevin Kirkendoll, Steven Ploof, Ira Shields, Dennis Philips, Tye Harrison, Tony McCready, Carolyn Weir, Renee Lantz, and Clyde Barker) were ecstatic when things just fell into place. Sixteen men and two women (shooting for more women next year) just grooved to the music in total unison. What a rush! I'm telling you it was just too much fun!

You can check out the pictures at:
<http://www.lonestarkites.com/> on the Photo Gallery page.

Report by Carolyn Weir



Flora and Disney (continued from Page 1)



Imagine flying a big train riding backwards on a bucking bronco!

performed with "on time" cues in zero to twenty-four miles per hour wind conditions. Night shows, using radio controlled on-board kite effects (designed by Justin Marceau) such as pyro-gerbs, high-powered strobes, sealed beam halogen spots and electro-luminescent cables are their specialty. These kite effects are enhanced from the ground using follow spots, lasers, firework displays and large sound systems. A six-minute night show can involve a total crew of forty and cost over \$40,000 to produce (not to mention the loss of sleep for Bruce).

A highly trained crew of drivers and kite pilots with an average of 250 performances each, plus a \$2,000,000 insurance policy help ease Bruce's anxieties. Bruce has been involved in over 1,400 kite performances in his career in what he calls "the industrial kite flying business". The efforts are great with hundreds of hours in research, rehearsal and proposals, but the rewards make it all worthwhile. The wide eyes, oohs and aahs, along with the adrenaline highs the crew experiences explain why they do this.

Their most recent accomplishments occurred last month (July) at Port Canaveral, FL, where they performed for the arrival and christening of the new and first Disney cruise ship, the "Disney Magic".

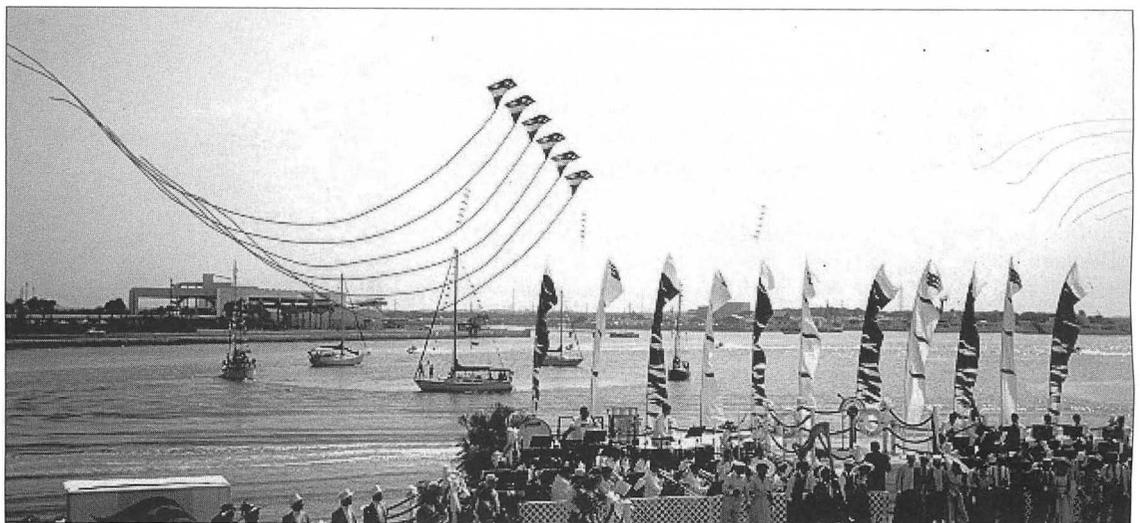
This state-of-the-art 85,000 ton floating theme park arrived from Italy (where it was constructed) on July 15 where it was greeted by ten SeaDoo watercraft towing ten six-stack, six-foot diamond trains with 100-ft. tails. It was an incredible sight to see all of these multi-colored kites (sails and nylon tails produced in record time by Stan Swanson and team) flying on 90-foot lines in front of this 965-foot long ship that stands 14 stories out of the water! Without much control on local watercraft, the challenge drivers faced was enormous. Waters were choppy and kite pilots had to maneuver 45-



Kiteman team surrounds the Disney Magic and escorts her to the pier.

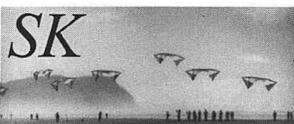
foot long trains clear of harbor obstacles, a hundred watercraft, the Disney Magic and through 100-foot-high fountains of water from fireboat tugs with a 15 m.p.h. cross wind. After almost an hour of continuous flying at 30 m.p.h., with fireworks exploding beside the Disney Magic, 50 feet from your body and kites, it was no surprise to hear several crew members say this was the most exciting hour they had experienced in their entire life! Bruce directed the show by radio from the crew's nest of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter docked at a Coast Guard station a mile and a half away from the launch site. "It was a strange and scary situation not to be able to see my crew at launch, and then for most of the time to see them only on a television monitor with a feed from a helicopter

cam! At one point, as five of our watercraft headed down the side of the ship to make a turn behind the stern I could see what they couldn't. About thirty watercraft were behind the stern on the other side of the ship. My breathing and my heart stopped at the same time as my boats, kites and crew disappeared behind the ship. I did not come alive until I saw them cruising past the bow like nothing had ever happened. What a crew!"



Red, white and blue train passes by feather banners on Dock at Disney Magic Christening. Photo by Bruce Flora.

Thirteen days later the Kiteman Crew showed up at Port Canaveral to do it all again except this time for the christening of the Disney Magic. The show consisted of 14 SeaDoos and 14 six-foot stacks of six kites each. Nine of the stacks were multi-colored trains by Stan Swanson and five were Kiteman trademark red, white & blue trains (sails by Dean Jordan). It took a crew of forty to do the job, which included setting out 11 very custom feather banners behind the stage at the new Disney Cruise Line terminal and hanging 11 custom Icarex window panels inside the new terminal (both produced by Mike Simmons). In addition, nine hundred passengers waved "Catch The Wind" Spinsocks from the ship. The challenge of this show was to launch the trains a





Fourteen SeaDoo three seat watercraft with engines running at rehearsal!



Some silly costumes adorn most of the Kiteman crew of 40, ready for the show to christen the Disney Magic. Photos by Bruce Flora.



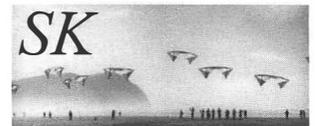
Kite launch boxes stand loaded and ready for the show!

mile and a half from the ceremony pier where Michael Eisner, Roy Disney and three thousand guests were waiting, and arrive in a "wave fly-by" exactly when the show music "Let's Go Fly A Kite" played. Bruce describes, "With only one rehearsal, we launched 14 trains, two every 5 seconds, and moved around two circles of 10 sailboats. The first train swooped down into its fly-by with the last kite in the train only 10 feet behind the stage, as Michael Eisner arrived in his open cockpit antique Dusenbergs, exactly as "Let's Go Fly A Kite" started playing! The production/media/TV crews where I was standing started to hoop and holler! What a rush! And that's why I keep doing this despite the hard work and slow times between shows. Thanks to my great crew and all the hard working vendors for making it possible for me to share kiting (even industrial kiting) with the rest of the world."

Bruce says that both shows went without a problem and Disney was very happy. As they say in show business, "On time, on cue, on budget. Who could ask for more."

Most of the Kiteman Productions crew worked at Epcot for a year performing in the 250+ "Surprise In The Skies" shows. A few are new recruits that were "trained up" during the Epcot World Festival of Kites (also produced by Kiteman Productions) and other recent shows. Some drivers are from the Universal Studios Florida Dynamite Stunt Spectacular show and from the Cypress Gardens Ski Show who were trained by Kiteman Productions several years ago for a kite show in their park. All Kiteman shows have a safety boat standing by (two were used in these shows) with at least one person trained in CPR, emergency water safety and life guard certification. These boats also help retrieve any kites that may go down. A show like this typically has a crew of 14 drivers, 14 pilots, 4 ground crew, 4 safety crew, a technical manager (Kevin White), an operations manager (C.J. Grace), and a kite director (Bruce).

If you have questions or comments regarding Kiteman Productions you may contact Bruce Flora online at: kitemanpro@aol.com



**Dave Arnold
Sherrie Arnold
Bob Childs
Eric Forsberg
David Gomberg
Chuck Sigal
Mike Simmons
Darrin Skinner
Sue Sedgwick**

AKA SPORT KITE RULES COMMITTEE



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AKA Sport Kite Conference's Final Standings

Northwest Conference

Experienced Individual Ballet	
1 Brown, Dan	52
2 Cheatham, Joey Lee	36
3 Hilliard, Robert	29
4 McKiernan, Randy	20
4 Loehr, Robin	20

Experienced Individual Precision	
1 Cheatham, Joey Lee	32
2 Hilliard, Robert	29
3 Loehr, Robin	25
4 Wolcott, Reid	24
5 Thonstad, Susan	21

Experienced Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Westfall, Mike	19
2 Marchand, Fred	12
3 Torres, Sharon	9
4 Clark, Larry	7
5 Cheatham, Joey Lee	6

Experienced Pairs Ballet	
1 Hangr18	19
2 Centrifugal Force	16
3 NW Fly'n Fools	14
4 Chimera	12

Experienced Team Ballet	
1 BumperKites	6
1 Kaleidoscope	6

Experienced Team Precision	
1 BumperKites	6
2 Kaleidoscope	3

Intermediate Individual Ballet	
1 Marchand, Fred	36
2 Loehr, Kasey	31
3 Sutherland, Pat	29
4 Loehr, Iris	27
5 Chartrey, Gary	16
5 Hurd, Rich	16

Intermediate Individual Precision	
1 Marchand, Fred	45
2 Sutherland, Pat	34
3 Root, Bud	29
4 Edlund, Mel	24
5 Loehr, Kasey	22

Masters Individual Ballet	
1 DeHope, Paul	43
2 Soellner, James	39
3 Haines, Kerry	28
4 Huff, Mike	21
5 Washington, Alfred	19

Masters Individual Precision	
1 Barber, James	41
2 Huff, Mike	35
3 Ellis, Melinda	21
4 Washington, Alfred	16
5 Wolcott, Rick	11

Masters Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Lingenfelter, Penny	14
2 Torres, Sharon	3

Masters Pairs Ballet	
1 Wind Dancers	27
2 Zipp Zapp	15
3 Chain Reaction	8

Masters Team Ballet	
1 BumperKites	14
2 Don't Panic	11
3 Indeskyze	10

Masters Team Precision	
1 Don't Panic	17
2 BumperKites	13
3 Indeskyze	10

Novice Individual Ballet	
1 Rogers, Bill	30
2 Taylor, Marjorie	27
3 Clark, Larry	15
4 Root, Lisa	13
5 Taylor, Allen	11

Novice Individual Precision	
1 Rogers, Bill	33
2 Taylor, Marjorie	27
3 Root, Lisa	18
3 Taylor, Al	18
5 Maher, Steve	14

Open Individual Freestyle	
1 Edlund, Mel	26
2 Bethell, Ray	17
3 McKiernan, Randy	7
4 Clark, Larry	7
5 Lingenfelter, Penny	5

Open Team Train Ballet	
1 Wind Dancers	20

Midwest Conference

Experienced Individual Ballet	
1 Wozniak, Dan	53
2 Busch, David	50
3 Broder, Phil	39
4 Wozniak, Steve	37
5 Blain, Kenneth	34

Experienced Individual Precision	
1 Broder, Phil	46
2 Blain, Kenneth	45
3 Wozniak, Dan	40
4 Wozniak, Steve	38
5 Busch, David	34

Experienced Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Blain, Kenneth	29
2 Wozniak, Steve	25
3 Wozniak, Dan	23
4 Thurston,	4
4 Wright III,	4

Experienced Pairs Ballet	
1 Soaring Siegels	19
2 Pegasus	13
3 Offshore Breeze Bros	7
4 Wacky Winds	4
5 Jametz	3

Experienced Team Ballet	
1 Hi 5	17
2 St. Elmo's Fire Drill	11
3 Pops Pilots	4

Experienced Team Precision	
1 Hi 5	18
2 St Elmo's Fire Drill	6
3 Pops Pilots	3

Intermediate Individual Ballet	
1 Siegel, Brian	48
2 Siegel, Julie	46
3 Adkins, Kevin	31
4 Schumacher, William	21
5 Davis, John	17

Intermediate Individual Precision	
1 Siegel, Brian	44
2 Siegel, Julie	40
3 Schumacher, William	22
4 Adkins, Kevin	21
5 Jacobsen, Josh	18

Intermediate Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Wright III, George	3

Masters Individual Ballet	
1 Davidson, Drew	43

2 Hoac, Lam	40
3 Trennepo,	39
3 Cooper, J	39
5 Faulk, Russ	34

Masters Individual Precision	
1 Delfar, Mike	45
2 Cooper, Jeffrey	43
3 Brinnehl, Dan	42
4 Faulk, Russ	36
5 Davidson, Drew	34

Masters Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Hoac, Lam	37
2 Taylor, Robin	9
3 Barresi, Jo	8
3 Donley, M.	8
5 Van Nock	4
5 Wirt, Jr., J.	4

Masters Pairs Ballet	
1 Aerial Assault	28
2 Co-Pilots	27
3 Offshore Breeze Bros	17
4 St. Elmo's Fire	15
5 KiteLife.com	9

Masters Team Ballet	
1 Chicago Fire	21
2 Shanti Air	17
3 Windjammers	16
4 Cap. Eddie's Fly Cir	7

Masters Team Precision	
1 Chicago Fire	20
2 Shanti Air	16
3 Windjammers	14
4 Cap. Eddie's Fly Cir	7

Novice Individual Precision	
1 Young, Paul	12
2 Jagger, R.	7
2 Manning,	7
4 Schubbe, Spencer	6
5 Hauser, Eric	5

Open Individual Freestyle	
1 Blain, Kenneth	7
2 Roehl, Robert	6
3 Broder, Phil	5
4 Schumacher, William	4
5 Hoac, Lam	3

Open Individual Indoor Ballet	
1 Davidson, Drew	12
2 Hoac, Lam	10
3 Lin, Michael	1

Open Team Train Ballet	
1 Windjammers	8
2 Hi 5	6
3 Aerial Assault	1

Northeast Conference

Experienced Individual Ballet	
1 Owens, Michael	34
2 Marable III, Alfonso	30
3 Owens, Harry	25
4 Reidel, Gerry	19
5 Ottomano Jr., Donald	15

Experienced Individual Precision	
1 Owens, Harry	28
2 Marable III, Alfonso	21
3 Polifrone, Ruth	20
4 Owens, Michael	16
5 Weider, Scott	11

Experienced Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Kapsten, Bruce	45
2 Reidel, Gerry	36
3 Kapsten, Jesse	18
4 Marable III, Alfonso	12
5 Desrosiers, Dennis	8

Experienced Pairs Ballet	
1 Air Play	28
2 Ms. Matched	20
3 H2O	11
3 Mixed Nuts	11
3 TWGWR	11

Experienced Team Ballet	
1 W.A.T.T.	21
2 Air Crackers	20
3 Valli Girlz	13
4 W.A.T.T. NOT	3

Experienced Team Precision	
1 Air Crackers	19
2 W.A.T.T.	17
3 Valli Girlz	9

Intermediate Individual Ballet	
1 Lindemann, Torrey	38
2 Bertholf, Edna	28
3 Aguirre, Ryan	27
4 Aguirre, Marty	20
5 Kapsten, Jesse	19

Intermediate Individual Precision	
1 Koons, Richard	36
2 Polifrone, Michael	35
3 Bertholf, Edna	33
3 Lindemann,	33
5 Willoughby, Lisa	23

Intermediate Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Willoughby, Lisa	18
2 Lindemann, Torrey	14
3 Aguirre, Ryan	6
4 Giuffrida, Clare	4
5 Cary, Laura	3

Intermediate Pairs Ballet	
1 Buzzin Bees	12
2 Just Fly	9
3 Ms. Matched	5

Masters Individual Ballet	
1 Karatzas, Steve	88
2 Javens, Richard	76
3 Weider, Scott	73
4 Smith, Dennis	70
5 Wagner, Lance	62
5 Hurd, Rob	62

Masters Individual Precision	
1 Hurd, Robert	55
2 Moore, Michael	54
3 Ng, Billy	51
4 Weider, Scott	50
5 Javens, Richard	42

Masters Individual Quad Ballet	
1 Weider, Scott	44
1 Hurd, Debbie	44
3 Smith, Dennis	30
3 Hurd, Rob	30
5 Morales III, Frank	25

Masters Pairs Ballet	
1 Sudden Flight	27
2 KFAN	23
3 Jumbo Shrimp	10
4 Air Atlantis	4

Masters Team Ballet	
1 Traffic Jam	14
2 High Flyers Too	3

Masters Team Precision	
1 Traffic Jam	9
2 High Flyers Too	5

Novice Individual Ballet	
1 Lindemann, Bruce	42
2 Courmettes, Richard	31
3 Stambaugh, Lisa	30
4 Stella, Bucky	26
5 Stewart, Charles	18

She has put up with seeing my back bent over the keyboard night after night, and the 3-4 hour conference calls. She has put up with plans being changed at the last moment. She has served as my eyes and ears, giving me insight. She is my friend. She has served you by doing all of those things for me. So, you didn't have just one Regional Director, you had two. To my wife and my heart, to Ruth, my love, and my thanks.

But it's not over. You will elect a new Director this fall. He or she will need all of the help you can provide while he "gets his feet wet". If you help him half as much as you all have helped me, then his job will be easy. But then, you wouldn't do anything else. As for me, I will let him "do his thing" in his own way. He (and you) will be able to find me without much difficulty. I'll be the guy on the field, flying a kite, "just for the fun of it".



Region

2

Northeast

Andy Gelinas

This has been a busy kite time for most of us. It used to be there was not much happening between Memorial Day (Wildwood) and late August (NYSKC). This year I attended Old Dominion in Richmond, VA, and Newport, RI, and hosted a Japanese Public Television Show with Tony Reiser (Kite Builder) and LVKS (Kite Club) for Nippon TV of Tokyo, Japan. They came to us and we taped all day July 12 at Burlesque Kites, the LVKS Club House, and our beautiful Louise Moore Park. We taped kite building and flying with LVKS ground display as the back drop. Special thanks to Tony Reiser, Ron Dunn, Joyce Quinn and many LVKS members for helping to make it all happen and go so well.

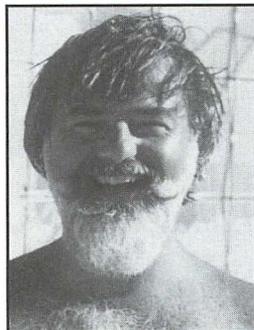
Many of Region II Sport Kite Competitors have finished the year doing well. I know The Valli Boyz pulled a hat-trick in the Eastern League, and the Valli Girlz did great for their first season.

The Carlisle Kite Festival is September 13 at Valley Meadow Park, Carlisle, PA - 11 AM to 4 PM. Keystone Kites also have their Summer Retreat in Camp Hill, PA, where Ed Shenk will instruct the building of a 7.5 foot Ultra-light Extended Wing Cody - August 8 & 9. Call 717-939-5222 about either event.

On September 19-20, the 9th Annual New Jersey Stunt Kite Championships return to Liberty State Park. The backdrop for this festival is the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline. Call Sky Festivals for further information at 215-736-3715.

On another note, this is probably the issue I should announce that I will not be running for Region II Director in the fall. The reasons are many — the easiest to explain are time constraints and health problems. My hopes are that someone will come to the forefront with the energy and confidence I started with and be able to serve Region II with that attitude throughout their tenure. I have had some victories, met many great folks and expanded my (and I hope your) knowledge and enjoyment of kiting.

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



Region

3

MidAtlantic

Jon Burkhardt

Recent big events in this region included the Wings Over Washington Kitebuilding Workshop that featured Jose Sainz in June. Jose made the long trek from California, taking time off from coaching his daughter's championship softball team, and taught a group of eager kitebuilders his applique techniques. Everyone had made beautiful kites by the time the workshop ended, and we should have some great photos coming of these works of art lit up by the afternoon sun streaming through glass blocks. It made the fabric appear to be marbled, a really wonderful effect. If we could just buy some of that stuff!!

Then it was on to traveling. We keep telling folks that July's Newport Kite Festival is one of the nicest on the East Coast. Yes, we know that it's not officially in Region 3, but we're pals with all RDs, and we like to share the good times. We even had AKA's esteemed President and First Lady in attendance this year, and fliers from many states outside of New England.

Yours truly and his Leading Lady once again ran the Newport Cup competition for kitemakers at the Newport '98 Kite Festival. The Newport festival is organized by Steve Santos and Sue Moskowitz of High Flyers Flight Co, Inc., and its location at Brenton Point State Park features one of the most scenic settings of any kite festival. Once again, Steve and Sue offered a paid registration to the AKA Convention as a special prize this year for the winner of the kitemaking competition (as well as for the winner of the sport kite championships). Philip Neale of Rhode Island won the kitemaking competition with a lovely train of small Cody kites in white, grey and black. A very close second was Rich Koons of Pennsylvania with one of his applique four-line stunt kites. East Coast fliers should add this festival to their "must attend" list of fine events for many reasons - the great hospitality, the fabulous flying site and the wonderful prizes among them. And did we mention the lobsters?

While it's hot and not so good for flying around this area, we're concentrating on upcoming fun later in the fall. September's Sunfest in Maryland's Ocean City is always a nice warm-up for the AKA's big national party. West Coast - are you ready for us? It seems like a long time since we've been out your way and we're looking forward to some new ideas from hosts, auction contributors, and competitors to make the 1998 Ocean Shores convention one of AKA's best.

Keep flying, keep smiling. Good winds to all.

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Region
5
Great Lakes
Robyne Gardner

Summer is in full swing here in the Great Lakes Region. Mother Nature is keeping us tuned in to our favorite Doppler Radar, on guard for those high temps, floods, lightening storms and tornadoes. One lesson to be learned this season: even if the forecast says bad weather, *go anyway!* Event after event, The Great Field Director in the Sky parted clouds or held off the bad stuff long enough for us to have some fun or complete the competitions.

Kalamazoo served up wind for its competition on June 21-22. The Mid-American Sport Kite Classic is now known as "The Kalamazoo Kite Thing-y, a prestigious national event" (proclaimed on the new event shirts). The winds were there but swirling and variable, as evidenced by this made-up headline I overheard: "Drew Davidson, Indoor Champion, calls for wind check in K-zoo." The upgraded national status boosted participation here, with 56 competitors including 6 teams. The 4 masters class teams (Shanti Air, Windjammers, Chicago Fire and Wind Wizards from Kansas) were all vying for top spots on the AKM circuit and that coveted trip to World Cup held this year in Dieppe, France.

The Alien Road Kill Roast was as much fun as ever, with the added ambiance of the Intergalactic Cafe [created by Karen Roehl] and flying aliens everywhere. This event is one of the few that still offers Freestyle Competition. We were entertained by Bill Schumacher as cowboy Woody, Ken Blain's Red Baron/Snoopy fighter kite performance, Bob Roehl's 3-kite exhibition and Phil Broder's alter ego [Phyllis?] tippy-toeing her way through a classic kite ballet.

The next weekend, it was back in the van and off to Bowling Green for the Inaugural Ohio Cup. Hats off to Wings on the Wind kite shop. They did a super job with this first time event. We discovered a HUGE complex perfect for indoor flying. The Field House on the campus of BGSU is an air conditioned indoor football field, complete with cushy AstroTurf. We are looking into the possibility of getting this space for a big wintertime indoor fly. The heat was brutal, and that kept spectator numbers down, in spite of great press coverage from newspapers and a live remote on the Channel 11 morning news show. Gene and Dorothy Lewandowski struggled valiantly to keep some color in the sky all weekend, and got some help from Tree Alexander on Saturday. Due to threatening weather and low wind, some things didn't work out as planned, like the Rok battle and the Fighter competition. However, other things happened spontaneously that made up for it. Bruce Jarvie came down from Michigan and gave a nice fighter demonstration, Jon Trennepohl gave an impromptu indoor flying seminar, and the Shanti-Fire megateam literally stopped traffic on I-75. The first ever Ohio Cup was won by a Michigan-der, Ken Blain. This award quickly turned into a good-natured race amongst the M2S2 group. Dan Wozniak came in a close 2nd, with brother, Steve, placing 3rd. How's this for a full weekend?... Ken's 278.25 total event points came from flying team, individual dual line and quad, indoor, AND 3 entries in the kitebuilding competition! He still found time to help judge, folks.

What a guy! The design of the actual Cup is a closely guarded secret - ask Ken to show it to you sometime. This event could not have run without support from the Black Swamp Air Force, M2S2, and Fly Pittsburgh Kite Clubs. Thanks, everyone! Because the Windjammers had other commitments for the weekend, this event decided which team would be the first to board that plane for France in September. Shanti Air bested the Chicago Fire in both precision and ballet. Good luck at the World Cup to both of our Midwest teams!

Meet the Manning family... Paul's job has transplanted them to Portage, Michigan, from the state of Oregon. Paul has been competing for a couple of years, and recently his wife, Chrystell, daughter Jessica, and son Brian have all joined in. I even saw their 3rd child, a baby, out there on the field helping Daddy ground crew.

I'm putting together a reference list of people who are willing to help out with children's workshops, demonstration flying, etc. I often get calls asking for someone to come and "show us your kites". Usually, this does not take any special skills other than kiteflying. Sometimes the callers do not really know what they want from us; as long as it's kite related, they're happy. If you're interested, drop me a line with your preference of activity and the general area in which you'd be willing to travel. I'm out of room for this time. Next issue, I plan to cover OTESKC, North Coast Games, the Mid-Michigan Sport Kite Classic, and the USAF Museum Festival. Try to Keep UP!!



Region
6
Midwest
Alan Sparling

Well, it's mid summer and the busiest part of the kite season. I am on the road every weekend going to at least one kite festival and I am enjoying meeting new friends and well as renewing old acquaintances.

The Lakeview Museum exhibit, "Chasing the Clouds: the Art and Science of Kites", opened June 13th and a contingent of fliers from the Cloud Chasers of Central Illinois and the Chicagoland Sky Liners showed up to fly on the front lawn and help celebrate the opening. The museum has done a really nice job with the exhibit which is open until mid September. It's worth a look if you are going to be in the Peoria area.

The Chicagoland Sky Liners hosted Sky Circus again this year with Ron and Sandy Gibian as the featured kite makers. They filled the sky with some truly wonderful creations. Richard Gareau came down from Canada and split his time between announcing and running the Rok events, as well as teaching people how to fly Roks. On average there were great winds. In other words, there were high winds on Saturday and very light winds on Sunday. This did not keep everyone from having a truly great time.

The Hoosier Kitefliers Society has been busy with a series of events including an event at next year's convention site, the Academy of Model Aeronautics National Flying Site. The weather cooperated and the field is huge. What more can you ask for at a kite fly. HKS ran sled kite workshops on both days of the event and over 200 kites were made.

The same factors - large field, great weather and a large number of fliers - combined to make the Indiana Factory Shops Fly very successful. Also in Indiana, the first Col. Murray Sunset Hill Kite Festival got off to a great start. This was a huge fly for a startup event and everyone that I talked to had a great time. I expect the event to be even better next year.

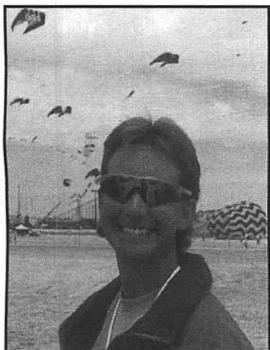
In Wisconsin, The Kite Society of Wisconsin has also had a series of flies. In addition to their monthly flies, they provided entertainment for the Asian Moon Festival in Milwaukee. In addition to the kite flying, Charlie Sotich did demonstrations of miniature kite building. Their Stunt Kite Spectacular was attended by both sport kite and single line fliers, something I am always happy to see. There are not enough kite fliers for us to bicker about which type of kite we fly and how the other type is bad. We need to work together to promote kiting.

The Wisconsin Kite Society has also been active with a series of flies, including the Big Water - Big Sky fly in Milwaukee. They put up an impressive display of kites in Veterans Park that was visible up and down the lakefront.

The Wind Rhythm Kite Club in Iowa continues to be very active with a series of demonstrations and kite flies. Unfortunately, I have not been able to make it out there yet but I hope to soon, as my Jeep now has new tires and brakes so I feel better about making long trips.

I just got back from the Wheels, Wings and Water Festival in Minnesota. This fly is part of a larger festival and this year the kite fliers got moved at the last minute to an unsuitable area. High winds and a small field are a combination for disaster. Even with this problem, we had a great time when the winds died down a bit and the festival organizers promise that the kite fliers will have a better field next year. I must commend all of the kite fliers at this festival for the extreme attention they paid to crowd safety.

Well, I am late leaving for my next festival so I will close this report with a request for event organizers of the events I can't attend to send me info on how they went.



Region

7

Great Plains

Chris Moore

The Topeka Kite fliers presented the Twisted Lines Kite Festival, in Topeka, KS on June 6-7. The event featured an AKA sanctioned competition, an indoor kite fly, and kite fliers from all around. I was unable to attend, but I heard great reports and want to thank Sam Pedregon for displaying his awesome kites, Jeff Howard for his support, and Jim Aune and all the Topeka Kite fliers for their hard work. Jim Aune also gave me a copy of the new Topeka Kite fliers newsletter! It has full color pictures and the whole layout!

John and Matt Grimshaw put on a great kite event in Columbia, Missouri, June 27th & 28th at Bethel Park. The event, Columbia Festival of Kites, was held at Bethel Park and sponsored by KBXR Radio and the Columbia Parks and Recreation. John and Matt have done a great job cultivating the Funky Flier Club in Columbia.

Colorado fliers congregated to fill the sky outside Denver on Saturday, June 13th! It was an awesome display with some of Colorado's finest kite fliers, collectors, and builders. The event started as an impromptu invitation by myself to Colorado flyers to attend a kite show put on by Wind Wizards team. The response I received from Mike Shaw and Sam Pedregon and other flyers was amazing! Mike, Sam, and others contacted each other and flyers came from all over to create a festival type atmosphere. There were many flyers there and I apologize that I don't know every one's name to list them personally. Sam Pedregon, Mike Shaw, Dawn Williams and Randy Nason were a few of the people who went all out! There were other well-known flyers there and I thank everyone for coming and hope they had fun.

Come help us "Color the sky" in Callaway, Nebraska for the 8th Anniversary of the Callaway Kite Fly, Labor Day Weekend, 1998. This event is a favorite for many 'kiters' with good hometown hospitality and old fashioned fun. Last year's event included Kite Bingo, giving anyone an opportunity to purchase a square of ground for \$2.00 and after the kite stays up for at least 5 minutes, when it comes down and if it lands on your square, you win half of the money. This year will also continue to include the "Adopt a spectator" program. Thanks goes out to Connie May and everyone involved in creating, organizing, promoting and sponsoring the ever popular Callaway Kite Fly and for keeping it fun!

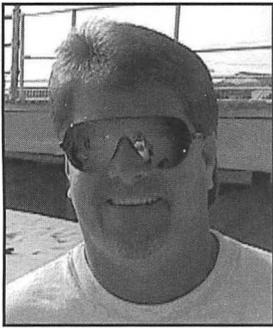
Silver Wings Kite Festival, August 29 & 30, 1998 will be an American Kite Circuit National Event, The Central Kite League's First Event of '99, and competitive events will award '99 AKA points. The event is a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and will include a Saturday night banquet, auction, and an indoor kite fly, buggy rides, and miniature kite making! For those wanting to learn the latest and coolest tricks, there will be a "Hot Tricks" workshop on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Shane Snowden, top ranked masters class flier on the American Kite Circuit, and renowned kite maker, Jeff Howard of Precision Kite Company, will conduct the workshop on understanding the mechanics behind some of the latest and most radical tricks and their insights on how to perform them. Special thanks to the Wichita Windjammers Kite Club and all of those involved in presenting this festival/competition.

One of the greatest things about kiting for me has been the people that I have met. This section of my column is dedicated to some of these wonderful people so that you too could get to know them.

David Ellis is a retired 3rd & 5th grade school teacher, Kansas City Kite Club member, and local resident of Overland Park, Kansas, where he lives with his wife, Christina. David has four kids and now teaches computer classes to pre-school children. What I admire most about David is how he always goes out of his way to share the pleasures of kiting. I always see David at kite events going out of his way to help someone with a misguided bridle or perhaps some helpful tips to a new sport kite pilot. Over the past years that I have known David, I can tell you that David is patient, understanding, willing to help and to share and has a knack for creativity and ingenuity. He enjoys a good challenge, puts his heart into everything that he does, and loves children. You can visit with David at <http://www.sound.net/~kiteguy>.

Herb Weldon a Kansas City Kite Club member and resident of Grandview, Missouri was recently highlighted in an issue of Guidepost Magazine for his contribution to kiting and the impact kiting has had on his life. If you want to highlight an outstanding person in your area, please contact me with the information. It is impossible for me to meet all the wonderful people out there, I need your help!

I hope to see as many people as possible at The Spirit of the Winds '98 AKA National Convention in Ocean Shores, Washington.



Region

8

South Central

Troy Gunn

Fall has arrived, thank goodness! It has been the hottest summer in Region 8 since I moved to Texas in 1993. With temps at 100+ for most of the summer, it made going outside to fly kites a bit too much! I know why most festivals in this region happen in the spring or fall.

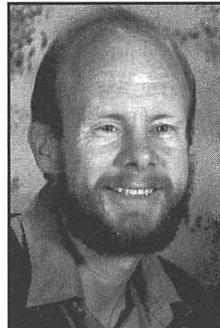
May 9-10 was the 5th Annual Tulsa Festival of Kites, coordinated by the Tulsa Wind Riders and the Tulsa Parks Department. Collette Lemons is the key force behind this festival and, as usual, did a wonderful job. Saturday morning was overcast with rain expected. The Novice Precision class had just finished competing when the clouds let loose with raindrops the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. But the rain didn't stop these dedicated fliers from having a good time. Everyone gathered under the registration tent and talked for hours about kites. That evening, the kites gathered in a local gym for some indoor flying and came back later for the auction.

Sunday morning dawned with clear blue skies and 3-10 mph winds. Thanks to judges, field crews and punctual competitors, all sport kite competitions were completed. Winners included Mitchell Thomason, Albert Guevara, John & Matt Grimshaw, Shane Snowden, Reasonable Doubt and Crosswind Traffic. A five-team Rokkaku battle was held in almost zero wind. Team Bkahuna (John Lemons and James Sherrod), using Richard Dermer's Rokkaku, were the over all winners. Vendors, kids' games, candy drops and a live radio broadcast added to the Tulsa event. Richard and Marti Dermer once again spent all day teaching kids to build sled kites. They also showcased their large collection of miniature kites. Dennis Phillips emceed the event and did as good a job as any I've seen at any kite fest.

On May 16-17, the 3rd Annual Texas State Kite Festival took place in Rockport, Texas. The festival kicked off with a traditional Friday night barbeque and reception. Festival coordinators were Colette Ratajski and Tom Farnsworth. This event continues to get bigger and better every year! Both days' activities were held under partially smoky skies (due to the fires in Mexico). Winds were a consistent 10-15 mph. Competition was strong in every class among the 46 sport kite competitors, 12 buggy racers and 30-40 additional kites. A mass ascension was staged with 84 kites. Buggy race winners were Keith Anderson in Buggy Pursuit and Jeff Howard in the Obstacle Course. In sport kite competition, 2nd place in MIB went to Abel Ortega, who lost 1st place to yours truly. Other winners were Clyde Barker, Ty Harrison, Dennis Phillips, Kevin Kirkendall, Aaron McCulley, Tangled Mess, Austin EOL, Crosswind Traffic, Reasonable Doubt and Air Borne. A Region 8 Mega Fly record was also broken with 18 team fliers all flying at the same time!

June 19-21, the Oklahoma Kites Kite Club performed demos for the 5th year in a row for the Aerospace America Airshow in Oklahoma City. This show draws 200-300,000 spectators each year. What great exposure for kiting! The Oklahoma Kites are specialists in Team Flying demos with 4-10 fliers.

If any of you have kiting questions or ideas for Region 8, please contact me at Region8@aka.kite.org or at (940) 691-8522.



Region

9

Intermountain

Robin Loehr

Greetings from Region 9! Other than the Las Vegas Kite Club which sends me their newsletter regularly (Thank You), I haven't heard much from folks outside of Oregon. I know you are out there. Let me know what's happening so I can get it in the newsletter. The big news for us in the Northwest is the A.K.A. Grand Nationals. And we are excited. It has drawn much attention already and put the NW including Oregon, my home state, in a different perspective. The close proximity of Nationals also highlights two great Oregon coastal festivals taking place on October 10 and 11, the weekend prior to A.K.A.'s showcase event: The 20th Annual Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival and Rockaway Beach's SHOWDOWN II SKC and 8th Annual "unChallenge" Fun Fly. Normally festival announcements are located on the calendar, but this years migration to Ocean Shores, Washington, for Nationals gives these two events more significance to a larger audience.

Twenty years marks a milestone for any festival and twenty years makes Lincoln City's festival one of the two oldest in the state of Oregon. (Rockaway Beach's Spring Festival celebrated its twentieth in May). Located in the town where the Spinsock was born, it has frequently been the premier festival in Oregon. This year is no exception. The town, Rhonda Brewer, the Kite Festival Committee and local kites have pulled out all the stops and plan a traditional "Big Bang" Lincoln City fly. With the amount of radio and tv advertising I have heard and seen even early in the year there should be a flock of kites flying and thousands of spectators. (We all like to put on a show, right?) If you have ever flown at D River Wayside you may have noticed that Lincoln City sometimes has a shallow beach during high tides. This year low tide is around 11:00 A.M. so there will be ample space for everyone. Several famous/infamous kites will be attending including Richard Dermer, Oregon's own Dave Gomberg, Pete Dolphin, Jon and Karen Burkhardt, Ron and Sandy Gibian, Kevin and Cinda Shannon, Glen and Tanna Haynes and Charlie Sotich. Lincoln City is only five hours from Ocean Shores, WA, and offers a great range of motel accommodations as well as shopping and a couple of golf courses. If you would like to fly in one of Oregon's largest and oldest festivals and help celebrate their twentieth anniversary, please attend the 20th Annual Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival.

In many ways the Rockaway Beach festival is as different from Lincoln City's as one can get. Located in Tillamook County (35,000 humans, 37,000 cows) only a three and one-half hour drive to Ocean Shores, Rockaway is a small coastal town (pop. 1050) blessed with one of the best beaches in northern Oregon. One small example: Our police department used to be located in a 500 sq. ft. building which was once the location of Catch the Wind Kites. Now the police are housed in a small cottage. Things are done differently here. The Fall kite fly, the "unChallenge" fun fly, is in its eighth year. Each year it draws a couple of hundred fliers ranging from little kids with their first plastic deltas to our own NW stars: Bill and Peg (Pa and Ma) Burley, John and Marzlie Freeman, Bob Serack, Barb and Sam Wright, Stormy Weathers, Harley Ryan, Doc Counce, Corky Corbin (this year's single-line coordinator) and many others. We never know for sure who is going to

show up, but every year they come. Last year, the SHOWDOWN SKC was added (the only SKC in Oregon in 1997). It ran slick as glass. This year, SHOWDOWN II SKC, an A.K.A. and AKC sanctioned event, will be run again by veteran competition organizers Eric and Genny Forsberg. Great sound by Gene Cavenaile and incredible food from Steve Block, Chef and Masters Kite Flier, dedicated parking for fliers, a very deep beach, seven miles long, a professionally run SKC (perfect tune-up under NW conditions for Nationals) and a casual, somewhat disorganized fun fly: If this suits your taste, please come to Rockaway Beach and join in the flying.

Either way, Oregon kite fliers invite you to join us in casual fun and flying on the weekend before A.K.A.'s premier event: the A.K.A. Grand Nationals in Ocean Shores, Washington.

Good flying!



Region

10

Northwest

Robin Haas

It's been a great summer with a lot of super events and the good times just keep on coming! There have been so many fun things happening that it is going to be hard to adequately describe what happened in the allotted space. This just lends support to the notion that in order to know exactly what happened, you just have to show up.

The Ocean Shores International Kite Challenge occurred June 6-7, 1998, and was sponsored by the North Coast Sky Painters. The event featured many single line kites as well as a sanctioned sport kite event. There was also a handcrafted kite competition. It was very impressive to see all of the kites stretched out up and down the beach. If you were there and enjoyed that sight, come back for the convention in October for another impressive display.

The Seattle Kite Festival took place on Father's Day (June 21, 1998) at Gasworks Park in Seattle. The venue for this event provided a great backdrop for the kites with the Seattle skyline, the Space Needle and Lake Union with tons of boats out enjoying the beautiful day. Disney Radio was present with handouts and games for kids. A raffle was held with the proceeds going to the Boyer Children's Clinic. The event was taking place along with one of the Peace Concerts held in the park, which presented a few challenges, but it appeared that everyone was having a good time. Other activities included demos, kite building for kids and a sponsors Rokkaku challenge.

The Northwest Sport Kite Championship was held in Long Beach, WA, on June 27-28, 1998. This was a well-attended event with a number of competitors coming in from out of state. There were some very impressive routines flown over the weekend. I was pleased and impressed that, even with some "big name" fliers from California, the top three spots in the Masters Individual Ballet went to Northwest fliers. Paul DeHope, Jim Soellner, and Kerry Haines took top honors. In the team events, Bumper Kites flew an eye-popping ballet routine that earned them the top spot in the Masters Team category. The Experienced Pairs Ballet event saw Centrifugal Force, composed of Kerry Haines and Dan Brown, take first place with an absolutely

amazing routine. It looks like the Northwest will be very well represented at the AKA Convention this year with a number of teams, pairs, and individuals capable of being at the top. Should be fun!

On July 4, 1998, the Westport Windriders Kite Club entered a parade in Tokeland, WA. Thirty-six club members participated. A large trailer was decorated with kites and banners and was towed by a Jeep decked with kites. Three buggies were towed behind the trailer. Eli Williams wore the Westport Superman shirt and rode his moped. Other people walked in the parade carrying banners and kites, handing out candy and brochures for the Westport Kite Festival and Washington State International Kite Festival. It was a lot of fun carrying my AKA banner in the parade and hearing the comments from the spectators that lined the parade route. When all was said and done, the club earned the top trophy (Judges Choice) for their efforts!

The following weekend (July 10-12, 1998) the Westport Windriders held their Kite Festival. The weather was a little reluctant to completely cooperate for the entire weekend, which kept some of the crowd away, but it

didn't seem to dissuade the kite fliers. There was a handcrafted kite competition as well as a sanctioned sport kite event. The festival in Westport has always been one of my favorite events and this year proved to be no exception. There were lots of big kites in the air as well as a lot of fun activities for children and adults. For you pin collectors out there the club came up with a number of new pins to be on the lookout for. My count is nine brand new pins but that number may be off by one.

Upcoming events in our region include the 6th Annual "Up Your Wind" kite festival in Pacific Beach, Washington. The event is one of the most fun events you can attend! It is held at the State Park that is located right on the ocean. There isn't even a dune between the campground and the festival site! If you can get a camping spot in the park you can decorate your campsite and carry your kites onto the beach. There are lots of fun contests but it is mostly a three day fun fly! There is a potluck dinner on Saturday night that usually features salmon cooked using traditional methods by members of the Quinalt tribe. And yes, for those of you that are wondering, I will be bringing my famous Black Bean Chili again this year!

The Washington State Stunt Kite Championship and Whidbey Island Kite Festival will be held at Fort Casey State Park on September 26-27, 1998. As I reported in my last report, this is a great venue for a festival. Many fliers appreciate the opportunity to fly on the massive grass fields. It's a great break from trudging through the soft sand! The event is sponsored by SCI-FI and has become one of THE events to attend each year. There is camping available as well as the opportunity to stay in a dorm that features "Fort Worden" style accommodations.

Of course the AKA Annual Convention is coming to Ocean Shores, WA, this year. I encourage all of you to take the time to participate in the conference. Let's do our best to show the rest of the membership how friendly, active, and excited we are about kites! If you haven't heard by now the dates are October 10-16, 1998.

Until the next time.... Happy Flying!



Westport Windriders Kite Club in parade regalia! - photo Charlotte Wolland



Region

11

Northern California

Tom McAlister

The Summer has been a busy one for kiting in our region, and an especially busy season for me personally. Kicking off the summer was the San Ramon Wind Fest which found Brian Champie leading the charge as the organizer of the kiting aspects of this wonderful exhibition event. BASKL and NCKC worked together on this event and made it a great success. The party at Brian's place is always a highlight of the Wind Fest and this year was no exception. The new slogan for Brian's party is "Come for the Turkey... Stay for Sharon's Pie!" Just like the Dinner Cruise is to Berkeley, Brian's party is a great excuse for a kite festival. Thanks, Brian, for all your hard work.

Planning for the Berkeley Kite Festival & West Coast Kite Championships usually consumes the better part of my Spring and Summer seasons, but this year I had a special project with which to fill the rest of my "free" time. That project was the "Kites over San Francisco"

Exhibit at 505 Sansome Street, next to the Transamerica Pyramid. The Exhibition is valued at over \$40,000.00 and includes the works of Stuart Allen, Carl Crowell, Ron Gibian, Scott Hampton, Tim Helwig, Satoshi Hashimoto, Brooks Leffler, Pamela Lim, Tom McAlister, George Peters, Mark Ricketts, Masaaki Sato, Scott Skinner, Bobby Stanfield, Rod Thompson, Robert Trepanier and Dale Vanderhoof. The exhibition is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and will run through November 12. Coordinating the exhibition turned out to be more work than I expected. My reward was the opportunity to see so many great kite works up close. Sometimes it felt like I was taking a graduate course in kite assemblage and techniques. Many thanks to the artists and collectors who made their work available to the exhibit and especially to Chuck Sigal, Stuart Allen, Joe Taitt, Pam Lim and Brooks Leffler who made up the installation crew.

Two weeks after the exhibit came the Berkeley Festival and all its exceptional madness. Special guests at this year's event included George Peters and Melanie Walker from Colorado and Ray Bethell from Canada. Other Canadians in attendance were Mel Edlund, Dom Jaspers and Cal Yuen. East Coast representatives included the father and son pairs team Air Atlantis (Bruce and Jesse Kapsten). The attendee traveling the farthest to attend Berkeley was Tomas Sasaki from Japan. Tomas worked several judging panels over the weekend while George and Melanie showed us why many consider them a two-person kite show. They always seemed to have a dozen or more kites in the sky. On the stunt kite side, Ray Bethell and Dom Jaspers treated our Bay Area to a stunning exhibition of the two men flying four kites in team formation. Wow! Teams attending the event included Air West, Bumper Kites and The Sundowners. Another long distance

traveler was quad-line competitor Paolo Milana from Italy.

The sport kite competitions, organized by Darrin and Susan Skinner, ran smoothly while Demo Coordinators Bruce and Lori Morrison kept the pace flowing on Field One. Single-line Coordinators Ron & Sandy Gibian worked with a great group of single-line fliers from all over to provide an eye popping spectacle throughout the weekend.

BASKL and the NCKC were on hand in force, each making generous contributions of manpower and or equipment to help make the event a success. Both groups ran raffles which are traditionally the biggest fund raisers of the year for their organizations. This is a perfect example of how the various kite clubs and organizations can work together in a situation where everyone wins.

My thanks to all the volunteers, competitors, fliers and spectators and, of course, sponsors who made this years event such a successful three ring circus. Special thanks to the BASKL, NCKC and LW for all their contributions to the event.

And one last thank you. Thanks to my wife Pam for allowing the BKF & WCKC to consume our lives once again and for all you do to make the event such a success. OOOXOOX! :)

Hope to see all of you at the Golden Gate Challenge on September 5.

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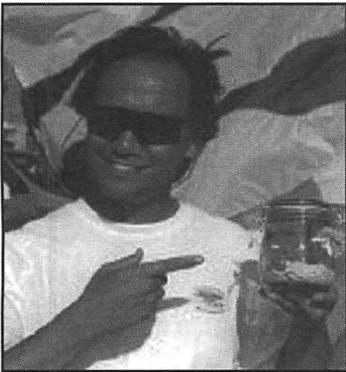
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Region
12
Southern
California - Pacific
Ron Despojado

Greetings! For those a bit confused, I was asked by Richard Dermer to fill Mark Brownton's position for the time being. Mark needed to concentrate on personal matters and we all wish him the best.

It was a great summer in our part of the world. To celebrate our nation's birthday, Team Wind Witches and ANCAL held the first ever Independence Day Freedom Fly and Mystery Ballet. Contestants from first-timers to seasoned pro's competed in a mystery ballet, with the winner taking all of the entry fees. I am very proud to say that I literally won the pot! (See my picture with the pot above.)

Aire Affair Kite Productions is winding up their Southern California Sportkite League maiden season. As of this fall the League has held 4 sport kiting events. Many thanks to Larry Bush, Tom Stoner, and all their staff for the hard work and dedication to sport kiting.

The San Diego Kite Club recently held elections and the following are now the brain trust of the club: President and Public Relations: Greg Lawrence, VP: Jim Skryja, Secretary: Jane Skryja, Treasurer: Steve Bateman, Membership: Dorine Imbach, Events: John Rogers, Equipment: Mitch Anderson, Archivist: Charlie McClary. The club hopes to put together another great year of events and special guests.

Speaking of Greg Lawrence, his son Jesse has been invited to Florida to appear on a Nickelodeon TV game show. Little Jesse, at 10, is one of Southern California's more experienced competitors.

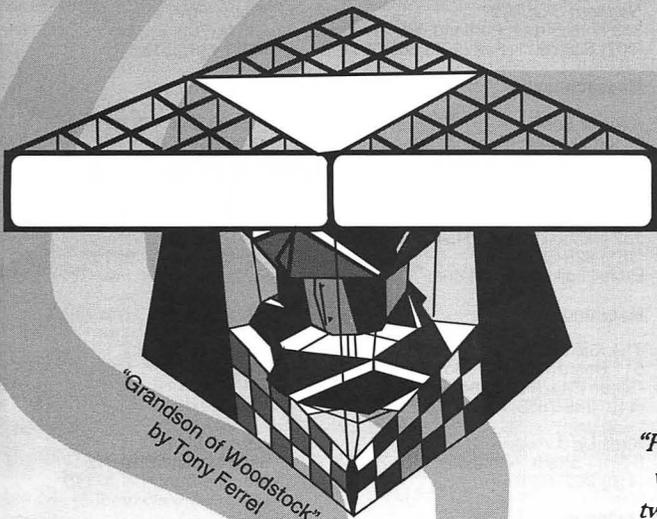
The City of Oceanside is again planning to host another festival this October. As always, kids' kite-making will be on the agenda along with sportkite demonstrations. City representative Hal Koch is looking towards corporate sponsorship in addition to city funds and volunteer help. The festival will be in conjunction with the international One Sky, One World event.

Also, the Port of Los Angeles is wanting to put together a family oriented kite festival. They are looking towards the early spring of 1999 in San Pedro.

The Westwinds Kite Club, located in Huntington Beach and founded by Dave Shenkman, is steadily working to increase its membership base. Dave would like to concentrate more on the club, but his workload at the Kite Connection hinders him from devoting more time. "I wish I could be in more places at once," says Dave, "but we do the best we can." We all wish the Westwinds Kite Club the best of luck.

I hope to see you all at the Convention in October! Happy flying.

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Kitty Hawk Kites
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(919) 441-4124, Fax (919) 441-7597

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E-Mail: wowkites@wowkites.com
<http://www.wowki.com>

Yankee Doodle Flag Company
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PO Box 5815 Toledo, OH 43613
(800) 228-3524

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Bethany, OK 73008
(405) 722-KITE

Thomason's Sport Kites
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Lahoma, OK 73754
(850) 796-2359
E-Mail: kites@ionet.net
<http://www.ionet.net/~kites>

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(541) 765-2900

Catch the Wind-Florence
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Florence, OR 97439
(541) 997-9500

Catch the Wind-Lincoln City
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(800) 227-7878, Fax (503) 994-4766

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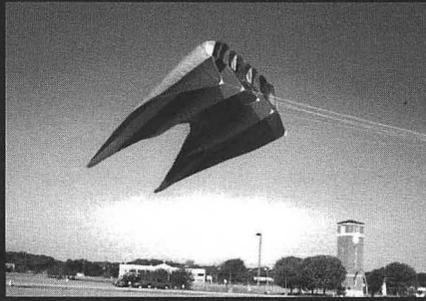
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AKA PHOTO CONTEST

We are looking for the best photos to use in KITING and for AKA promotions. Winners receive a 1 year AKA membership. We are looking for the best photo in each of the following categories: 1)Buggy, 2)Single Line, 3)Children Flying Kites, 4)Sport Kites, and 5) Festival / Crowds. Send Your Entry to: KITING 232 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067. Note - Over the past few weeks we have been overwhelmed with great responses to our photo contest. Look for many more in future issues of Kiting.



You didn't specify if you would accept digital photos as well as traditional format ones. Of the hundreds of photos I took this year, this is one of my favorites. I'd like to enter it in the Festival/Crowds category. It was taken at Wildwood. The girl is unknown, basking in the bubbles from Felix's machine. Below, pilot Terry Gerwick is bundled up to buggy. The next photo is of Grandpa Rick, with my Grandsons Jack and Jay Nagy. -Robyne Gardner



"Photos of my single line kites" submitted by Robert Stirling, of Cincinnati, OH. Top photo is of 450 sq. ft. Flow Form flown at the 5th Annual Bluebonnet Kite Festival; the 21' frog flying at the San Marcos, TX, festival in April; the bottom two photos are of a kite fly in Rockaway Beach, Oregon in July of 1997.

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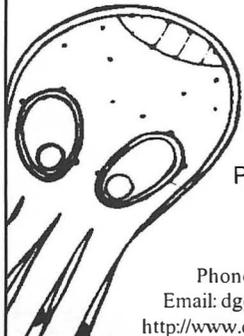
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WHERE IT'S AT ... So You Want to Compete?

by Corey Jensen

Tis the sport kite competition season, fa-la-la-la-la... And they are coming from all over to win the gold ring and wealth beyond avarice on the competition circuit...

A few things need to be repeated for the benefit of those new to the circuit and those who might have forgotten. We are putting on a show. I know many think the competitions are for the benefit of the fliers... The way some of the events lag along, that is becoming a problem. Along with any personal enjoyment, we are also entertaining the audience. Sort of dancing bears in a three ring circus. So the flow of the show becomes important. Competitors need to become more responsible to make it a great show. Such as being in the pits, kites ready, as soon as your event is announced. Not roaming around, making everyone else wait while you hustle over to set up. Have your music (for the ballet events) ready to go. Suggestion: Use 15 minute cassettes (available from RadioShack for answering machines) with the music recorded on both sides. Your name should be on the cassette and on the box. Do not use your performance tape to practice. Save it for the competitions only. Keeps everything nice and prevents fouls. Cue the music to the beginning of the tape. No 5 second silent lead-ins. More and more fliers are burning their music onto a CD. Quite easy to do now that computer CD drives are so available.

Competitors should rotate as field crew for the others in their event. Do not wait to be told or asked to help. We all know what is going on so let's act like it. These are kite competitions, not brain surgery. Friendly competition is where it's at, not cut-throat, smash-the-other-guy, win-at-any-cost, take-no-prisoners, death-before-dishonor serious stuff. It's kites. It's supposed to be fun... We sometimes need to remind ourselves of that. During my visits to Japanese competitions, I noticed that all the fliers were in the pits at the beginning of each event. All helped the others and nobody had to remind them. The events ran quickly and smoothly and everyone had a great time.

We all need to remember why we fly kites... To have fun and enjoy ourselves. Winning a sport kite event may feel good, but the world goes on without much of a notice. The plastic trophies don't keep you warm at night and most of our friends don't understand anyway...

So let's pay attention to the real values in kiting... The friendships we make, the great times we share, and the memories we will have for the rest of our lives.



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

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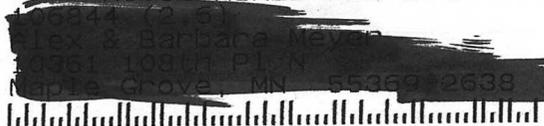
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