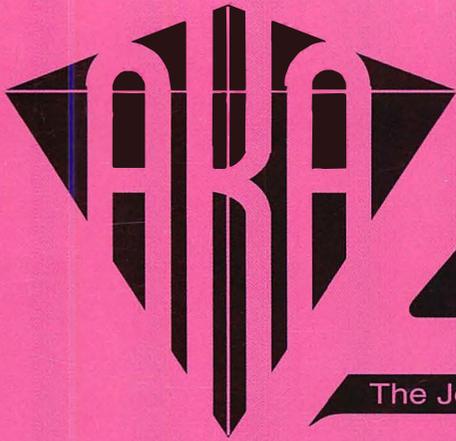
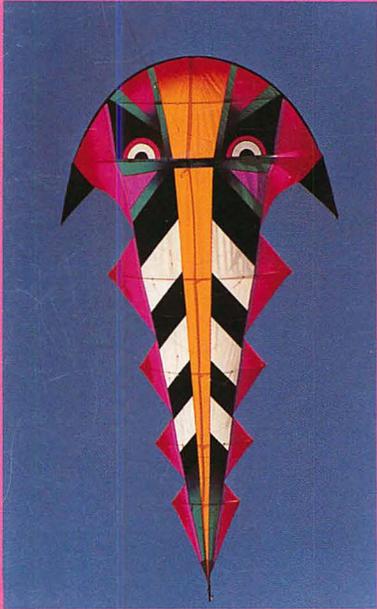


January 1999
Volume 21, Issue 1



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



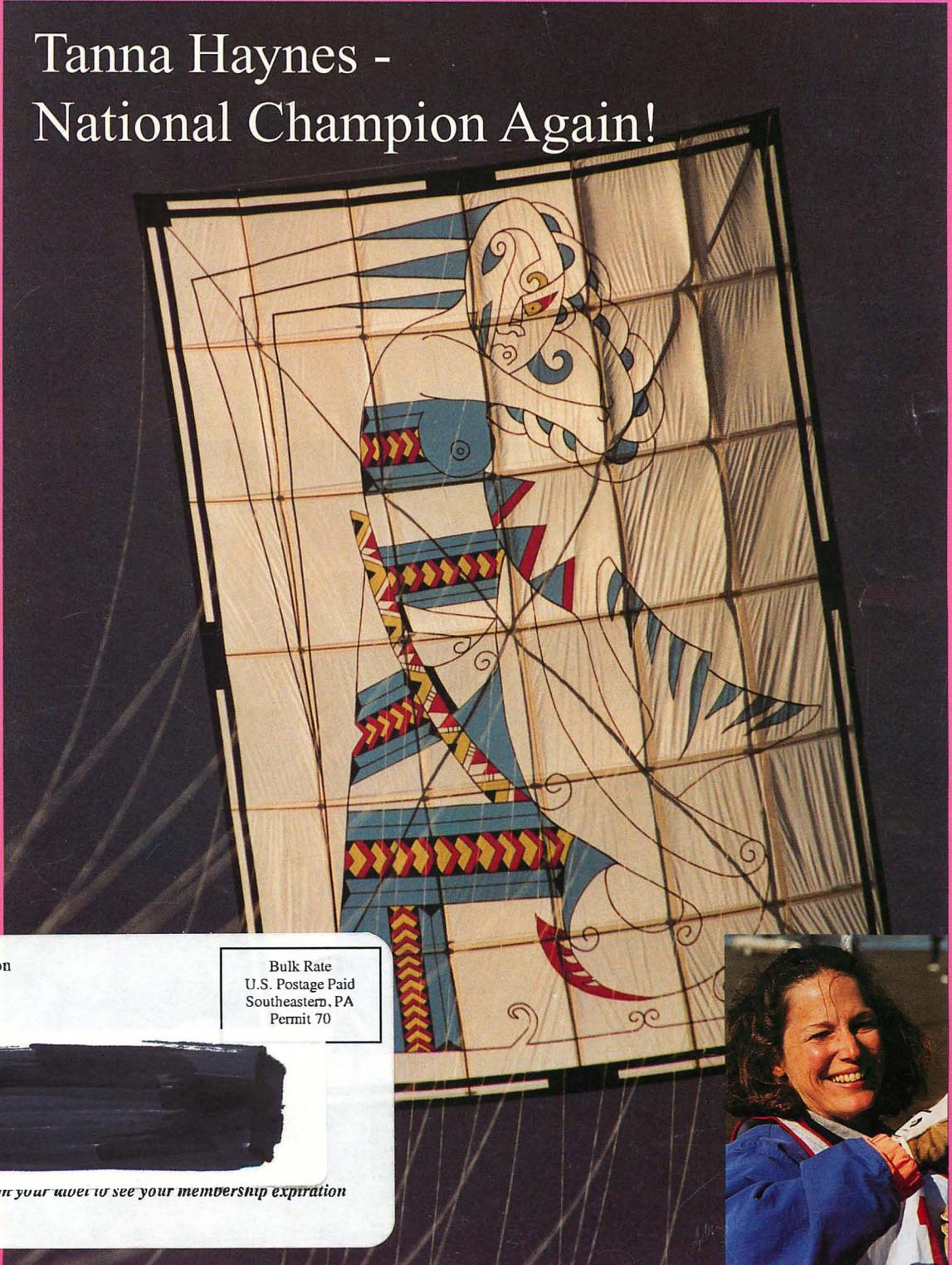
Inside "KITING"
this issue

**1998 AKA Grand National
Championships / Convention**

K-FILES - Scott Hampton

All new this issue - "akaworld"
and "akamembers" sections

Tanna Haynes - National Champion Again!



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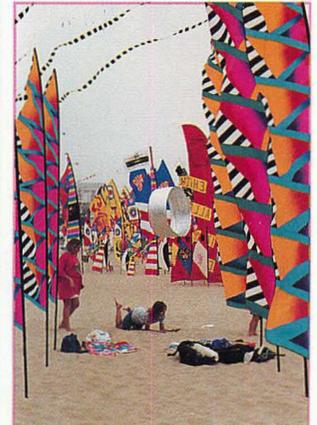


The Maryland International Kite Expo

APRIL 23-25, 1999 - OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

This years featured guests include

Ray Bethell, Larry & Cheryl Gleckner, Scott Hampton, Glenn & Tanna Haynes, Jack Roger's Kite Show, Pete Rondeau, Mikio Toki and others to be announced.



The 10th Annual Mid Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships

Keystone Kitters, Lehigh Valley Kite Society, Maryland Kite Society, Sky Pilots, South Jersey Kite Fliers, Wings Over Washington



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MIKE



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410-289-7855, 410-289-5726 fax
www.kiteloft.com

AKA PHOTO CONTEST

Photos may be entered in the following categories:

1)Buggy, 2)Single Line, 3)Children Flying Kites, 4)Sport Kites and 5)Festival / Crowds. Winners will be announced in the May issue of KITING, along with new categories for our 1999 photo contest. Many of our photo entries have not been published, but these photos and slides will be entered in the contest. Thank you for your entries. Winners will receive a 1 year AKA membership.

To enter, send your photos to KITING 232 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067.

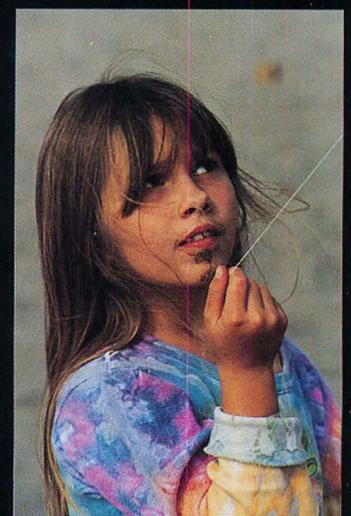


Photo contest entries in this issue are by Cliff Pennell. Top, a Sky Full of Socks at a Westport Windriders' monthly fun fly; Al Axton and grandson in Seattle, June of 1995; and, unidentified girl flying at WSIKF; on the bottom, banner displays at WSIKF.

On the cover, photos of Tanna Haynes and her kite by Cliff Pennell. Scott Hampton's Bad Bug photo by Cliff Pennell.



The President's Page
Richard Dermer

Happy New Year, membership!

I know most of you couldn't attend our Ocean Shores, Washington convention. So, as you read this issue's convention reports, I want you to start planning for this year's convention. It's going to be Oct. 5-9 in Muncie, Indiana. We have a great flying field; it's the national headquarters of the Academy of Model Aeronautics—the model airplane organization. 1,000 acres of wide open space! Muncie is ideally located within a day's drive of most of the east coast and the midwest; Indianapolis is the closest major airport. We have a great convention center for our workshops and meetings, and a new management firm, Johnson Promotions, putting on the convention. There are lots of strong AKA affiliated clubs in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan who will be there in force. So put it on your calendar now! The AKA convention is the most exciting, entertaining, and educational kite event in the U.S.—and we want you there this year!

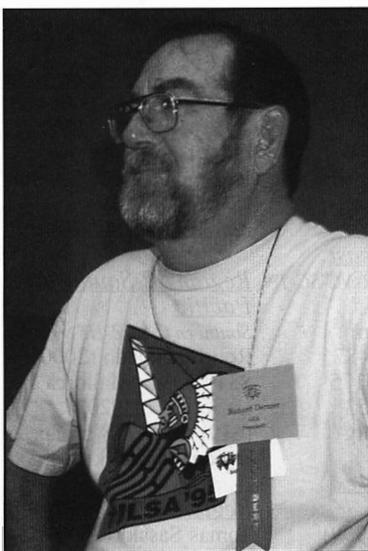
Some highlights of the '98 convention:

The Arch Project. Brainchild of Texas member Terry Sansom, this entry won the co-operative class in the Kitemakers Grand Nationals. An 800-foot arch, with 235 Eddy kites sewn by 38 different builders known as the "rec.kitemakers". Spectacular! After wowing the crowd on the field, the arch was donated, in five sections, to the Great Kite Auction, where it brought a total of \$1,175 for the AKA. Terry is going to repeat the project this year, and hopes to double the number of contributors and size of the arch. (I have a vision of this becoming an on-going annual thing, with previous years' arch components being combined with the new year's entry to form a huge mega-arch with thousands of kites in a few years. They would probably have to be flown in multiple arches for the line to handle the pull.) This might eventually be worthy of a World Record claim, and would be an incredible media attention-getter.

Jon Burkhardt received the Edeiken Award as the AKA Kiteflier of the Year! Jim Miller, a two-term past President and manager of our last six conventions, was given the Bob Ingraham award for service to the AKA, and a special plaque from the AKA Board. Scott Skinner was named by the Kite Art Committee as the first recipient of the Lee Toy Circle award for lifetime achievement in artistic kites. And I got to select two: Robin Haas as Regional Director of the Year and Ron and Charm Lindner as Volunteer(s) of the Year. A truly great and worthy group of honorees!

Anyone who brought home a trophy from the AKA Grand Nationals can be justly proud of winning or placing in the largest, toughest competition of them all. Congratulations!

We had hundreds of volunteers. I can't possibly list them all, so I'm just going to mention one, past President, David Gomberg. He participated actively in both our Board and Membership meetings. He conducted the Sport Kite Seminar for the seventh year; it was the most "mellow" such gathering yet. He judged a large number of sport kite



events, as did his wife Susan, and helped on the field during the Mass Ascensions as part of the team awarding pins. Despite teaching a Rok battle seminar where he gave away most of his tricks, he still won in both the individual and team Rokkaku Battles (again). He had a great entry in the kitemakers' competition. And as Head Auctioneer at the Great Kite Auction, he did a great job of bringing in over \$22,000 for the AKA. David, thank you! And all the rest of you volunteers and auction donors: Thank you, too!

The list of outstanding things at this convention is staggering: the awards banquet slide show of all the winning handmade kites; the outstanding abilities of the sport kite competitors; the constant fun-and-games on the demonstration/exhibition field; the great committee organization and continuous activity on the fighter kite field; the Kite Art Gallery; the wonderful shopping at the Fly Market; the international guests; the workshops and seminars (I was personally thrilled to finally meet Tal Streeter, author of *The Art of the Japanese Kite* and *A Kite Journey Through India*, and listen to his seminar); the weather; and, finally, above all (literally), the daily Mass Ascensions—a wonderful combination of visual spectacle and group camaraderie.

Of course, there are always some negatives. This was our smallest annual gathering in many years; only slightly over 400 attendees. In some ways, a smaller group is more fun, but from a budgetary standpoint, it hurts. AKA revenue from the convention, excluding the auction, was only about \$3,000, slightly over the break-even point. We had hoped for attendance of 500+ and revenue of \$13,000, so the AKA Board will have to work overtime this year to both increase revenue and reduce costs. Sign up more new members—that's the best thing you can do to help!

Despite the above financial "downer", the convention was still a rousing success. It always is. Plan on this year's now! Muncie, Indiana. October 5-9! Write it down!

As my second year as your President ends and I begin a third one-year term, I want to welcome my new board members and thank my outgoing members. Newly Elected Regional Directors are Alice Hayden, Steve Santos, and Bob Peby; newly elected Board Members at Large are Sarge Cleaves and Adam Grow. Welcome! Outgoing Directors at Large are David Gomberg and Steve Ferrel; outgoing Regional Directors are Andy Gelinas, Thomas Mason, and Sarge Cleaves. Thank you all!

As a matter of fact, thank all of you members! YOU are what makes the AKA so much fun! WE have the greatest kite club in the world, because we all love kites! And we're willing to put aside personal differences, opinions, and agendas to work together to achieve our goal: "the advancement of kiting, its joys and its values." This is going to be a great high-flying year for all of us!

Richard

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

We are expanding the format of
KITING to insure a balanced view of
all aspects of 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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Sarge Cleaves, Richard Dermer,
Steve Ferrel, Ron Gibian,
Fran Gramkowski, Mel Hickman,
Dean Jordan and more to come!

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Association

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540-288-9417 Direct line
540-720-1329 Fax line

Empty Places in the Sky

Olan E. Turner, Jr.

Olan Turner of Yardley, PA was an inspiration to all kitefliers who knew him. Along with his wife, Bernice, Olan was tireless in his promotion of kiting. Through the course of the past twenty plus years, many lives were enriched by the Turners, through children's kitemaking workshops, school programs and by the kite flies they initiated.

Olan was the founder of the Bucks County, PA "Kite Day", this year twenty years old. We hope that many of you will join us and honor Olan by attending the event on May 2, 1999. This event was designed and created to be an educational, fun kite flying day, always ending at the Turner's home for a lot of fun and great hospitality.

In 1986, Olan collaborated with Fran Gramkowski and Roger Chewing to produce the first East Coast Stunt Kite Championships in Wildwood, NJ where Olan was the Head Judge. Later, Olan collaborated with Mike Carroll, Roger and Fran to write the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships Rules Book, from which the AKA Sport Kite Rules Book was modeled. Olan participated for many years in Wildwood, teaching the Judge's Seminar and acting as the Head Judge. Olan was a great influence to many of today's competitors and judges. Today, the top honor given at the Wildwood festival is the Olan Turner award.

Olan was humored by the big names our kite flies were given. It was at that time that he created the Annual Open Invitational International Peanut Butter Cookie Kite Fly and Bake Off. His heart was in marketing, as he had worked many years for the Breyer's (ice cream makers) Company. But he yearned for peanuts, peanut butter and all kinds of goodies. You couldn't go to the Turner's house without being offered ice cream. You can guess Olan's favorite.

An active member in the early days of the AKA, Olan was involved in creating the format by which AKA conventions are run today. He attended the very first AKA convention in Ocean City, Maryland and competed in the sport kite competition with Peter Powell as one of the judges. There he met Steve Edeiken. Steve was influential to Olan, and a year later the two of them flew ballet performances in Manassas, Virginia, at the second convention. Many years later, Olan was awarded the Steve Edeiken Kiteflier of the Year award by the AKA.

Olan and Bernice designed and built their own kites. They are most noted for their Bermuda style kites, many of which won awards at the Philadelphia Kite Festival and the Smithsonian Kite Festival. Over the years Olan served as a judge at the Smithsonian Festival and at the Philadelphia Kite Festival. Each year Olan displayed kites at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

Olan will certainly be remembered for many things. I will remember him as a teacher, as a conscientious judge, as a creative thinker, a great musician (violin), a woodworker, a collector of clocks and music boxes, and as a kite flier (his favorite hobby). A truly sincere and caring individual, I will always remember Olan as a friend.

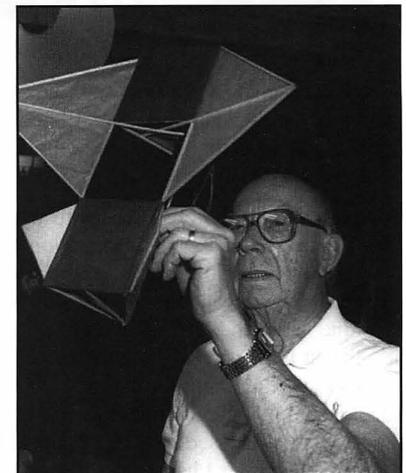


photo by George W. Robinson
- courtesy of the Yardley News

Executive Director Mel Hickman



AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA

Today at the AKA

It always seems to work this way. Just when I start to tire of the daily barrage of phone calls and e-mails, something will strike my funny bone and adjust my attitude.

For example, just before I started to write this, a caller wanted some information about their particular region. I referred them to their Regional Director but had to very slowly give them the name and telephone number. It seems that they were without a piece of paper and were writing the information on their knee. Hopefully, they will call their RD before they either get dressed or take a bath. This call came just after I had read an email from a college student at a major Midwest university who needed information for a research project. Their first question was, "What are some examples of different kinds of kites that are being flied over U.S.?" Whatever happened to freshman English classes?

Kudos Where Kudos Belong

On at least one occasion, I have shared the wacky things that can happen to mail after it is put into the mailbox. On at least one occasion, Karen Gustavson, who works for the USPS, has reminded me in a good natured way that, overall, the USPS does an incredible job when it comes to delivering mail. When she verbally nudged me at the convention, I promised her I would share both sides of the story in the future. So, Karen, this one's for you!

I am looking at this envelope from a lad in San Rafael, California, who wrote to ask for some free kite plans. In pencil, in his best second grade penmanship, the envelope is addressed to:

*America Kite fliers Assoc. 352 Rockville,
MD 94901*

And it arrived here in a timely manner. That's one for the USPS.

Speaking of the Convention

If you weren't able to make it to Ocean Shores, you missed a good time. Smaller in numbers than previous years, but a fine show. A tip of the fedora to Jim Miller for a job well done in his last convention as convention manager. Looking forward to Muncie, Indiana, in 1999. Being a Hoosier by birth, it will be sort of a homecoming for me. Anyone want to go hiking at Turkey Run with me?

What's In A Name?

We received an e-mail from a member that was concerned that there might be a trademark problem with one of the other AKAs out there. I explained that our logo and name were trademarked, but that the letters AKA could not be trademarked.

The "other AKA" was Alpha Kappa Alpha, a sorority formed by and for black female students back in 1908. I spent a few informative minutes checking out their website and was impressed with the list of women who are proudly part of their alumni. There are other "AKAs" out there. The Australian Kiteflyers Association has a nice website and an active membership. The American Killifish Association is a large group of people who are devotees of that particular type of tropical fish.

I am proud to be a part of my "AKA". If there is anything I can do to make it better for you, let me know.

Did You Feel Something Moving?

If you live in New Mexico, Arizona, or Nevada, you have been moved...and you probably didn't feel a thing.

At its October meeting, the Board of Directors rearranged some of the AKA's regions to provide better geographical coverage for its members by their regional directors. Members in New Mexico are now in Region 8 along with Texas and Oklahoma with Troy Gunn as their Regional Director. Arizona kitefliers are now in Region 12 with Southern California and Hawaii with Ron Despojado as their RD and kites in Nevada have joined Northern California in Region 11 with Tom McAlister.

Regarding Favorite Kite Foods!

Mel:

You wanted to know what food we associate with kiting. No easy answer to that. Mountain Dew and Cheez Its are my food of choice for driving to kite festivals. My first kite festival was Grand Haven, so any meal at the Kirby Grill, plus the really good milkshakes there. And for Kalamazoo, the best event in the Midwest, and home of the Roadkill Roast, I prefer roadkill.

Phil Broder

I share your Mountain Dew tastes while driving, but for perhaps slightly different reasons. If I am starting to feel a bit drowsy, I pull into the first service station or mini-mart, get out and stretch, take in some deep

breaths of the local "fresh air", and down some Mountain Dew. The effects of the extra caffeine in the Dew, a sour stomach from the sweetness, and the increased bladder pressure combine to drive off any sign of the drowsiness.

Mel

Send Us Your Clippings!

The AKA's Publicity Committee is collecting any and all press coverage about kiteflying. It will be assembled into an annual scrapbook. If you see any newspaper or magazine articles (besides in the kiteflying magazines) during the time from the 1998 Convention in Ocean Shores until the 1999 Convention in Muncie, please send ORIGINAL copies—no photocopies if we can help it—including the publication date and name of the publication to:

**Phil Broder
AKA Publicity
2114 S. 3rd Street
Burlington, IA 52601**

Update on the Arch Project!

Now that winter is here and the holidays are over now is the time to get out that sewing machine and start making kites. I started last November and already have 18 sails for this year's AKA cooperative arch project. I'm making 50 sails this year, each sail will represent one of the states flags of the USA. Once again Tom Arbster of Kinetic Kites will supply all the spars that we need. And, Tom Marvin of Hang-Em-High Fabrics has donated 3000 feet of 500# spectra. That's enough line for 900 sails! The 38 kite makers who contribute to last year's arch plan to do it again for this year's. Our goal is 500 so we need more kite makers. These are simple kites to make, even for the first time maker. If you're interested e-mail me or visit my site. The address is below. It's a great way to get to know some other kites and contribute to the AKA. We donated last year's arch to the AKA auction and it sold for \$1175.00! You can also be part of a winning team. We won first place at the 1998 AKA nation kite making competition.

Thanks Terry Sansom

<http://members.aol.com/sansom/index.html>

The Arch Project 99 is sponsored by:
Kinetic Kites

<http://www.telepath.com/kiteman/>

Hang-em High Fabrics

<http://www.citystar.com/hang-em-high/>

AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

*Welcome!***From cyberspace:****To:** guestbook@aka.kite.org

I have been an AKA member for two years. The people I have met and the organizations and schools that have asked for my help and input into making things happen in a different way is phenomenal. Kiting has become a large part of my family life, and has brought my 27-year-old son and I a lot closer together. Bravo to all kiting enthusiasts.

Rick Longhurst <ricklong@windsor.igs.net>
Essex, Ontario Canada

Color Commenting

Before I send this to you, I don't get to fly very much anymore due to multiple sclerosis (MS). Seeing I'm land locked in the middle of the country, I would like to make a suggestion:

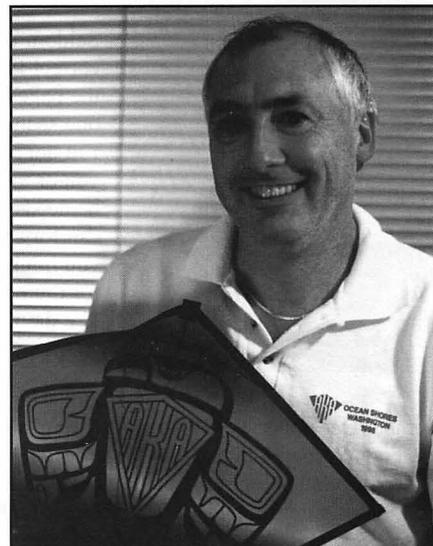
I love the newsletter, but it loses something with the black and white pictures. Some of these kites and feathers I have never seen before. As you well know, kite flying is a celebration of wind and color and I would like to see the pictures that are in the newsletter up on the AKA website so those of us that can't make it to one of the shore lines, could see the kites in their full flying glory of color.

Thank you for listening,

Smitty
onepapabear@webtv.net (Smitty)
MSMYWAY@oznet.com (Smitty).

Smitty,

We are listening, and we feel the same way. Color costs money and we need more advertisers to go there. How do you like KITING now? -ed.



The AKA would like to welcome Jeffrey Reid, from Monroe WA. Jeff is a new member to the AKA but not to the World of Kiting. He has been a member of the Washington Kitefliers Association for many years. Jeff joined the AKA because the Convention would be in his area and he felt it was time to get involved. His favorite part of the Convention was the indoor demonstrations. Jeff flew a fighter kite indoors as one of the demonstrators. Jeff also enjoyed meeting one of his favorite kite builders, Don Mock. Jeff was on the beach taking a picture of Don's kite. Don asked if Jeff would send him a copy because the kite was going to be auctioned that night and it was the first and last time he would get to fly it. Jeff was happy to oblige.

George Peters is another of Jeff's favorite kite artists. Jeff builds and flies his own kites, deltas, fighters and Rokakus. He is also into woodworking and made a box to hold his fighter kites. Jeff flies all kinds of stunt kites and attends the Long Beach Washington State International Kite Festival each August.

We are pleased to welcome Jeff to the AKA and hope our new relationship will last for many years to come. If you would like to welcome Jeff his e-mail address is Jeffr@amc.com.

By Suzanne Edison

The "Welcome" column is another new feature in KITING. Each issue, Suzanne will introduce us to one new member!

The Skyhook™ Modular Kite



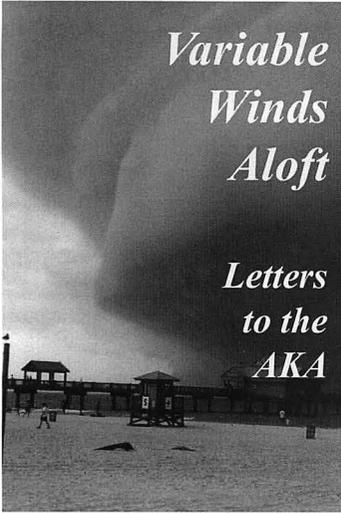
The kite
you can change—
again, and again, and again...

- A patented kite system with interchangeable wings and frames.
- Components are quickly changed to form different kites—
from a 4' box kite, to Conynes, large Delta, and much more.
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as variable as the winds—as adaptable as your preferences.
- Ready to fly with line and winder. Ripstop nylon throughout.
- Meticulously manufactured in the U.S.A.

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Variable Winds Aloft

Letters to the AKA



AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

Who's Older?

Seldom is it worth it to me to correct little errors that get into the pages of "Kiting," but this one seemed somewhat important. I'm not sure if I should write to you or to Richard Dermer, but if he needs this letter maybe you can forward it to him. Meantime, you might do a Corrections item for the next newsletter, somewhat like the following:

CORRECTION

On "The President's Page" in the November/December 1998 issue of "Kiting", Richard Dermer referred to the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference as "the oldest and largest of the country's handful of annual kitemaking retreats." It may be the largest, but it's not the oldest. That distinction belongs to the Maryland Kite Society's Kite Retreats, which began in July of 1981.

For the first two years the MKS Retreats were held twice a year, and are now fixed at President's Day weekend. Location began at Harpers Ferry, WV, then moved to various Maryland locations (Chestertown, Westminster and Laurel). The 1998 Kite Retreat will be held in Calverton, MD. The first, original Retreats were such a success that others were begun around the country in emulation, although the Fort Worden (WA), Junction (TX), Midwest Area (Oregon, IL), Oregon (Rockaway, OR) and other conferences have acquired their own character and, appropriately, are not always called "retreats."

The concept of the MKS was that we would "retreat" from urban pressures and routines to just make and talk kites among ourselves for a few days. The schedule was loose but busy, and there were no "classes." The MKS still honors the concept that everyone in attendance is part of the Retreat, although no one is required to be directly involved in the sessions. Also the presentations and activities occur in one big room rather than separate "classrooms," and there is no overlapping of speakers. These nice features of the MKS Retreats are ones we have to boast about now that the other gatherings have surpassed ours in size.

Best breezes,

Valerie Govig
Publisher-Editor
Kite Lines



That looks like Brooks in the lower right, flying his kite and camera rig! That means that this is a self portrait!

Going for the Gold!

We've recently received notification that my daughter Elena's Girl Scout Gold Award (the highest award in Girl Scouting - similar to the Boy Scout's Eagle award) has received final approval. Her Gold Award Service Project, "Kites For Kids," consisted of several kite building workshops for special needs teens and children. Details of her project have been posted on Girl Scout Troop #2589's Website at: <http://www.gscnc.org/su53-8/t2589/gold98es.htm>

Elena completed her service project "Kites for Kids" over the summer and will be receiving the award at a ceremony being held over her "Winter Break" from college (she started at Beloit College in Wisconsin in August).

This was a major accomplishment for her and involved lots of effort. The Gold Award requires completing several prerequisites, in addition to a service project (which must be pre-approved by the girl scout council) involving a minimum of 50 hours work. For details on the Gold Award requirements please see: <http://www.gscnc.org/su53-8/gaward.htm>. And, if you wish, I'll be glad to forward you the text, and possibly a photo or two, for inclusion in a future issue of Kiting (she also won multi-line at 1998's Smithsonian Festival for her "Knotty Rose" stunter).

Don Stark
dstark@eainet.com, Webmaster, WingsOver Washington

Send us the information and some photos, too! -ed.

Ocean Shores Kudos!

The Ocean Shores convention was a really good one. Kudos should go to many, but especially to these:

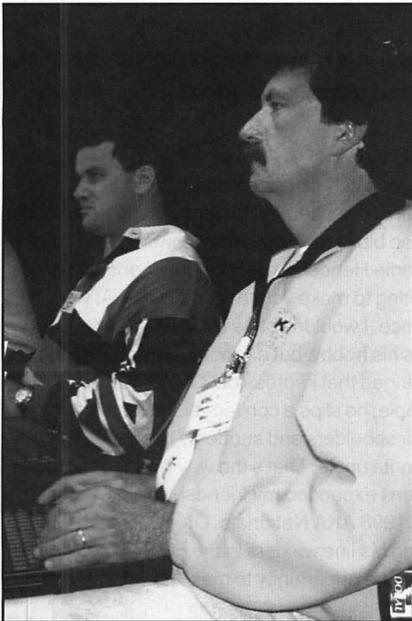
- The City of Ocean Shores, for providing an ideal facility for an AKA convention.
- The Shilo Hotel, with its great rooms, good food, and friendly, helpful staff.
- Mike Gillard of kitelife.com, who quietly accumulated more than 700 digital images to entertain us at the Saturday banquet.
- Jim Miller, whose smooth efficiency demonstrated that true professionals don't act like lame ducks. The AKA will miss him terribly at the convention helm.
- Corey Jensen, who rose to statesman status in his articulate and honest paean to the same Jim Miller as the winner of the Bob Ingraham Award.

I think we should go to Ocean Shores again. Soon.

Brooks Leffler
Pacific Grove, CA

Thanks for straightening things out. -ed.

Indeed a great convention! And Corey always rises to the occasion. And he always surprises! - ed.

AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS **Editorial Message**

Phil Broder (AKA Publicity Chair) and Mike Gillard (KiteLife.com) in a workshop at Convention.

Sorry this issue is late! Growth means change. And that is exactly what is happening to KITING. Although this is a slow time of the year, this issue hardly reflects that. In this issue, we have our extended coverage of the AKA Grand Nationals in Ocean Shores, Washington; a new feature focusing on regional kite clubs looks at the Washington Kitefliers Association, 25 years old this year; and from Washington, DC, we have coverage of the new Japanese exhibit, "Edo Style", at the National Gallery in our new "aka world".

The most exciting thing for me, however, is the new look of KITING. The color cover is a reflection of the changes happening inside, with new features such as member profiles in the "Flight Zone" by Charlie Stonestreet and Suzanne Edison's new member profile in the "Welcome" feature. This is our third issue featuring kitebuilders in "K-Files" inside the *Kitemaker's Journal*. Kite plans are next. Jim Carnevale has been writing kitemaking tips for beginners, and now Brian Champie is writing a regular sport kite tricks and tips column, this one titled "I Hate To Walk". We are planning extended event coverage for sport kites and conference reports. Plus, in the *Traction Kiting* section, we are planning extensive ice and snow coverage in the March issue.

Many of these changes represent what members say they want to see. I enjoy promoting what we do, so it is fun to include photos and articles from you when it is possible. We are looking to expand our coverage of what we do in KITING. I would also enjoy seeing KITING become more of an educational resource publication, containing plans and how-to articles, and include information on where to find more information. I believe every school district in the United States should be an AKA member. How would that be for growth?

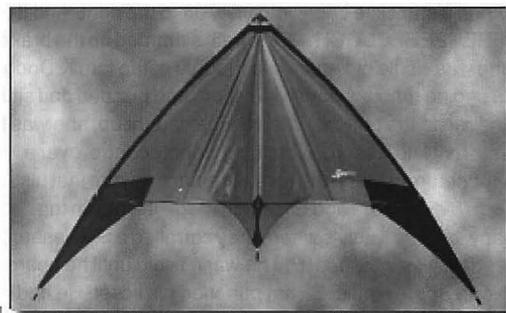
Creating an exciting and attractive publication will help to increase AKA membership. What would you like to see in KITING? After all, this is your publication. Let us know what you think. Send in your ideas today.

- Roger Chewning, KITING Editor

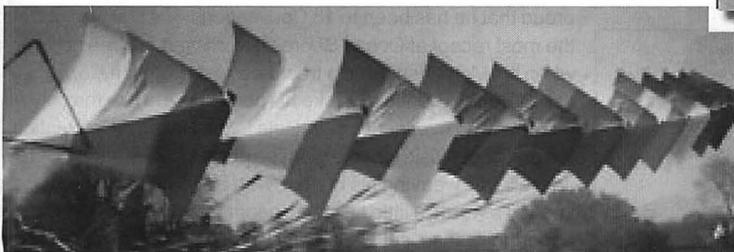
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The Beetle:
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The Stuntmaster:
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Ph (413)283-2555 Fax(413)283-4037

Flight Zone

AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

by I. Emma Phoul

Jeffrey Cleaves, New Britain, Connecticut

Stand at attention when you talk to me on the telephone. Shut up! Sit down! Spit out that gum!

He doesn't say that, but you wouldn't be surprised if he did, because Sarge is in control and don't you forget it. His real name is Jeffrey L. Cleaves, but kitefliers from Maine to California know him as Sarge. Why in the sky would a tough guy like that be interested in kiting? I wanted to find out.

Sarge and his sister built an American Flyer Kite when they were kids. It was an interesting experience but it held their interest for a limited time. It was the 40's and the world was at war. There was serious work to be done. Who had time for kites? More than forty years passed before Sarge and his daughter, Elizabeth, decided to go on a father-daughter weekend at the family beach house in Cape Cod. Elizabeth dug some plastic kites out of the garage and pitched them into the trunk just before they left home. Off they went, never suspecting that they were taking their first steps into a new life.

The kites offered an interesting diversion at the beach. The wind was too high and the kites were too old. Inevitably, the kites were trashed. The books had been read; the games were stale. They wandered to town, vaguely searching for a diversion. At Keely's Kites, Sarge bought Elizabeth a nylon Dragon kite and they made their way to Race Point out at the very tip of the Cape. A funny thing happened on the way. Elizabeth was driving along the winding little road when a stunt kite came into view off to the right. And it executed a left turn. EEEEEEECCCH—Elizabeth slammed on the brakes and slid to a halt. She was a little girl again. No thought of the family Dodge, stopped in the road, engine running, door wide open, and puzzled dad sitting in the front seat. She ran to the beach. When Sarge caught up, she was in the middle of her first stunt kite lesson, exercising wobbly control over a Skynasaur. Scarcely comprehending the fuss but acutely aware that his daughter was having a blast, Sarge and Elizabeth made the return trip, duplicated by so many, back to Keely's where they corralled a Skynasaur. Sarge got his turn and he was intrigued. But he wasn't sold until he heard the Roar—the call of a North Shore Radical. That punched his ticket. He had some trouble getting over the initial purchase price but eventually convinced himself (and don't we all?).

He flew in Connecticut during the early 90's, introducing others to the pleasure of wind wrestling. Competitions began cropping up and Sarge recognized the need for some organization which would allow smooth flowing transitions of fliers onto the field and allow competitors to perform under consistent conditions. He volunteered his time to field direction. Currently, his interests are leading him to promote more uniform scoring among judges. All sport kite competitors owe Sarge our gratitude for his willingness to devote his time and skills to an area of kiting where few roses grow.



He claims to be a Southern Redneck with papers to prove it, but he is probably the last of the true southern gentlemen. Instantly recognizable with those bib overalls and that glowing complexion, Charlie Henderson is a neighbor and friend just waiting to make your acquaintance. At first glance, I wouldn't have guessed that kite flying was his hobby, but a few minutes of conversation changed that impression. Charlie has a way with people; he slips a conversational arm around your shoulders and suddenly becomes your favorite uncle. That's the way it happened to me when I expanded my friendship with Charlie at the 1998 AKA Nationals. Oh, I had seen him

before, at other Nationals, selling his line winders in the Fly Mart and sporting those bibs, but I had never taken the opportunity to make friends.

Charlie opened up immediately. He enjoys a good story, even if it's his own. It was so fascinating, and I found Charlie instantly likable. His kiting experiences began in the thirties before most of YOU were born. He was six years old when his Mother made his first kite for him out of a newspaper, using flour and sugar for glue. His father worked in a twine factory so he had a steady supply of free kite line—money was tight in the thirties—and some other youngsters in the neighborhood were pretty good at kite building so they struck a deal. They made the kites and he supplied the string. Charlie bought some kites too—paper diamonds at ten cents apiece. He didn't buy many of those box kites because they were a whole quarter (which was his total allowance). But, the paper diamonds were in his price range. The first cloth kite he bought cost \$14.00. It was a White Bird. You don't pay that kind of money for a kite and let it get busted up by a careless baggage handler. He carried it on the plane and guarded it on the return trip from California.

Charlie didn't get serious until the eighties when he became a member of the AKA. He came across some dual line diamonds—TriBys, I think. The TriBys had a certain attraction, but the stunt scene didn't hold Charlie for long; his real love was the quiet grace and majesty of the big one liners. He made acquaintance with Bobby Stanfield and they formed a bond of friendship that has continued for 15 years. Charlie owns some pretty impressive single line kites, including Adrian Conn's "#3 Dragonfly" and the "Apache" by Bobby Stanfield. He enjoys the companionship and conversation of kite people in general and especially the familiar friends at the Nationals. He is quietly proud that he has been to 18 Conventions. His first was at Detroit and the most recent at Ocean Shores. He missed the one at Newport, R.I., when his Mother suffered a fractured hip before the Convention, so he asked Bobby Stanfield to take his place. He may be the only AKA member who ever sent a substitute to the National Convention. Near the end of our visit, Charlie glanced at the podium where Corey Jensen was weaving his magic. With a sly wink, he commented, "You know, it's worth a little bit just to hear that feller talk." Should the opportunity arise, set a spell with Charlie and swap a tale or two; you'll be better off for the encounter.



Flight Zone is a new feature column by Charles Stonestreet. Beginning in this issue Charles (Stoney) looks at AKA members and what lured them to first flight. "Stoney" and his wife Laura are avid kite fliers from Richmond, Virginia.

Smithsonian Preparations

by Adrienne Torrey

Each year the Smithsonian Institution is host to the Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival on the Mall, held during the last weekend in March. At the festival, there are kite displays and demonstrations, as well as a competition. For nearly five years I worked at the Smithsonian Associates, a branch of the Smithsonian Institution, as a coordinator of events for children and families. During this time I was a key organizer of the annual kiting event, working on a total of five festivals. I worked with a kite festival committee made up of kite professionals living in the Washington, D.C. area. I'm now living in Ghana, where I am a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching at a secondary school. I did bring a kite with me to Africa which I hoped to spend time flying with others but my primary focus has been on teaching and adapting to my new environment. Now that I've been here for a year however, I find myself thinking about kiting and also reflecting on my experiences with the Smithsonian Kite Festival.

My first year working on the festival was challenging. I'd never attended the event (nor any other kite festival) and it was difficult to imagine the day beforehand. I adopted an attitude of survival; I simply hoped to make it through a hectic time leading to a hectic day. For anyone who's ever organized an outdoor festival, you are familiar with the anxiety of possibly having to cancel due to poor weather conditions. There are no satisfying back up activities for a kite festival. As it happens, we didn't have to cancel. Unfortunately, however, it started to rain as soon as the festival began and continued throughout the day. It was cold, wet, dreary and over all not much fun. I was heartbroken that all the hard work of many people would go unrecognized. Nonetheless, I occasionally remembered to look up from my responsibilities and notice the beauty of the kites. I also admired the tenacity of the fliers who cheerfully stuck it out in the dreary weather, determined to fly their kites. That festival sparked an appreciation of kites and kite fliers which continues to this day.

That first year the most memorable aspect of the festival involved the portable toilets that I was responsible for ordering. Having never been to the festival before I had no idea where they should be placed on the Mall and selected what I thought was an appropriate location for them. Late in the afternoon the day before the event I was sitting down for a moment, relieved that everything was under control, when the phone rang. A representative from the National Park Service was calling to let me know that if the toilets weren't moved as soon as possible the festival would be canceled. Their rules had been changed and the placement of the toilets was unacceptable. Luckily a representative from the toilet rental agency was able to meet me and so we were able to move the ill placed toilets.

After that rainy, dismal day ended I went home and took a long, hot bath. I did not go to the celebratory party some of the kite fliers were having. Instead, I went to sleep. But at midnight I remembered that I did not lock the toilets up. My friend drove me back into the city where I went to each toilet and locked it up. The last toilet had become a refuge for a homeless man for the night and I still feel a few pangs of remorse for asking him to leave his temporary shelter. After that I

always remembered to lock the toilets at the end of each festival.

My confidence grew after that first year. I had a better idea of how to prepare for the day and what to expect. I knew it was unlikely that the weather would be so terrible two years in a row. As it happens, the weather would never be as bad as that first year. Nonetheless, my anxiety about the possibility of having to cancel never diminished. I never did have a good night's sleep the day before the event.

What struck me most at my second festival was just how fun an environment a kite festival can be. People were so happy! The carnival-like atmosphere included children laughing with their parents, friends casually hanging out, kite fliers relaxing and competing, joking with their friends. It was a bit like being at the beach but the focus was on these remarkable, magical flying objects.

There was a year when there was no wind. The weather was beautifully sunny but no one could fly—not even kites designed to fly in low wind conditions. That year my heart went out to all the people, especially the children, who had spent time designing and making their own kites. The kites could be appreciated for their aesthetics only, not their aerodynamics.

Another year the Festival Director fell ill the day before the event and was not able to be there. I panicked but the day went off without any major hitches thanks to the efforts of many experienced individuals. That year I left the fields extremely tired but happy, when I looked up to see a kite stuck at the very top of the Washington Monument. I remember how pleased I was to see it there, flying and bouncing in the wind. The monument seemed more friendly than it had before, flying a brightly colored kite of its own.

An important part of each festival is the Rokkaku fight. Each team brings its six-sided fighter kite to the flying field and, working together, tries to keep its kite up while

bringing other kites down. Participating on the Smithsonian team was one of the festival highlights for me each year. For the most part, my team was made up of terrible kite fliers but we always had fun which was a main goal of the day for those of us that were not professional kite fliers.

Last month, here in Ghana, I brought out my kite which was given to me by an avid kite flier on the kite festival committee. I knew how it would thrill my students to see it. Winds were low and we weren't entirely successful in our attempts to get it flying for any length of time but the students loved looking at the kite and running with it. It reminded me of the kite making workshops that took place in conjunction with the kite festival. I wish now that I had paid closer attention to how the kites were made. Still, I have some knowledge of how to assemble kites and hope to begin making kites with my students during my second year here.

Though I was far away from the kite fliers on the Mall this past March, my thoughts were with them—wishing them a day of sunny skies and perfect winds. I later found out that the weather that day was, indeed, perfect. Though I would never dream of trading in the experiences I'm having now, it would have also been nice to have been on the Mall, kite in hand, enjoying the beauty in the sky and the joyfulness that a perfect day of kite flying brings. I thank the kite professionals I worked with over the years for sharing their kiting enthusiasm with me. It has instilled an appreciation and excitement of my own as well as provided me with many memories that will remain for years to come.



Adrienne Torrey, with friend Dave Arnold

Kitevents

January

15 - 17
Treasure Island Sport Kite
Competition (EL), Treasure Island, FL
Sandy (800) 762-5483

17
MKS Lake Minnetonka Fun Fly
Spring Park, MN
Julie Renner (612) 935-8239

20 - 23
Kite Trade Association International
Trade Show, Clearwater, FL
(800) 243-8548

22 - 24
16th Oregon Kitemakers Retreat
Guests include Stretch Tucker, Jose
Sainz, Scott Hampton and more...
Rockaway Beach, OR
(360) 699-4871

22 - March 14
Goldie Paley Gallery presents
Jacqueline Matisse: Kiltail Cocktail
Moore College of Art & Design
20th Street & Pkwy., Philadelphia, PA
Molly Dougherty (215) 568-4515

31
Keystone Kites Winter Workshop
Camp Hill, PA
Kurt Eby (717) 939-5222

February

7
Indoor Fly at Hull High School
Hull High School, Hull, MA
Gary Quinton (781) 595-7687

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

12 - 13
Fly Pittsburgh Ice Fly
Moraine State Park, Portersville, PA

12 - 14
Kites on Ice
Monona Terrace Convention Center,
Madison, WI
Craig Wilson (608) 831-6770

12 - 15
18th Maryland Kite Retreat
Guests - Joel Scholz, Frank
Schweimann, Kevin Shannon, Pete
Rondeau, Beltsville, MD
Adam Grow (301) 949-9078

13
Newport Indoor Open
St. Michael's Academy, Newport, RI
Steve Santos (401) 658-0649

13 - 14
Long Beach (Washington) Wave or
Bargetto Quilting in the Sky
Long Beach, WA
Jody Hagaman (360) 642-4020

14
4th No Wind Classic
Marriott Atrium, Newport, RI
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

Valentine's Day Fun Fly
Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC

20
High Noon Fly at Breton Point
Newport, RI
Steve Santos (401) 658-0649

Winter Fly
Prairie View Park, Kalamazoo, MI
John Crosby (616) 383-8778

21
High Noon Fly at Easton Beach
Newport, RI
Steve Santos (401) 658-0649

27
NW Recreation Center Kite
Workshop, Austin, TX
Richard Robertson (512) 453-7174

March

1
Topeka Kite Flyers
Cedar Crest Park, Topeka, KS
Jim Aune (785) 862-5413

6
3rd Annual Bill Kocher Memorial Fly
Sandy Point, MD
Adam Grow (301) 949-9078

6 - 7
The 5th Annual Spring Kite Fiesta
Auther Pack Park, Tucson, AZ
Joanne or Bryan (520) 326-3442

10
St. John's Kite Makers Workshop
Annapolis, MD
Adam Grow (301) 949-9078

10-16
Spring Break Buggy Blast
Ivanpah Dry Lake, Primm, NV
Fran Gramkowski (609) 429-6260

14
71th Annual Ziiker Park Kite Festival
Austin, TX
Dorsey & Bunnie Twidwell
(512) 647-7488

St. Patrick's Day Fun Fly
Ambleside Park, West Vancouver, BC

19 - 21
16th Fort Worden Kitemakers
Conference
Port Townsend, WA
Bob Alford (425) 888-2812

Kansas City Kite Club Fly
Overland Park, KS
Chris M. Moore (913) 894-KITE

20
12th Annual Spiro Mounds Kite Flite
Spiro, OK
Dennis Peterson (918) 962-5141

20 - 21
Go Fly A Kite Festival
Albuquerque, NM
Connie M. Connolly (505) 883-0028

Marble Falls Kite Festival
Marble Falls, TX
Dennis Phillips (512) 858-2549

26-28
Rainbows in the Sky
Southwest SKC
Phoenix, AZ
Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715
Rhonda Webb (602) 274-3323

27
Smithsonian Kite Festival
On the Mall, Washington, DC
Theme - Looking Back 100 years in
kites. (Raindate: March 28)
Jon Burkhardt (301) 424-6976

Belmont Shore Sport Kite Classic
Belmont Shore, Long Beach, CA
Larry Bush (909) 734-2513

Monthly Scheduled Club Activities - Flies

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

Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club
2nd Saturday of the month
Cooper's Lake Campground
Portersville, PA
Paul Shirey (724) 295-0645

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 Kiteflyers 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 (619) 691-8640

Topeka Kiteflyers
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

27 - 28
Dragons with a Distinctive Design
Workshop, Long Beach, WA
Jody Hagaman (360) 642-4020

Westlake Kite Festival
West Lake, Lahoma, OK
Pam Thomason (405) 796-2374

April

2
Great Delaware Kite Festival
Cape Henlopen Park, Lewes, DE
(302) 645-8073

10
6th Annual Renfrew Fun Fly
Renfrew Park and Museum,
Waynesboro, PA
Bill Flohr (717) 762-8492

10 - 11
6th Bluebonnet Kite Fest
(CKL competition)
San Marcos, TX
Judy Aswell (512) 396-2374

10-12
Region 1 Annual Meeting & Fun Fly
Easton Beach, Newport, RI
Seaview Motel (401) 846-5000
Meeting, indoor flying / forum,
kitemaking & competition work-
shops, banquet and fun.
Steve Santos (401) 658-0649

11
Kansas City Kite Club Fly
Johnson County Community College,
Overland Park, KS
Chris M. Moore (913) 894-KITE

Spring Fling Fun Fly
Garry Point Park, Richmond, BC

16 - 18
Little Acorns 4th International Kite
Festival, Miami Beach, FL
Linda Gelinias (305) 667-7756

17
Harker Heights Kite Festival
Harker Heights, TX
Steven Newberry (409) 744-4121

The Great St. Johns Kite Festival
Annapolis, MD
Adam Grow (301) 949-9078

18
Berks County Kite Day
Mike Dallmer (215) 722-4092

23 - 25
Maryland International Kite Exposition
10th Mid Atlantic SKC (EL)
Ocean City, MD
Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715

24-25
Kitefest
River View Park
John Crosby (616) 383-8778

Kites Unlimited Kitefest
Galveston, TX, Galveston, TX
Carolyn Weir (409) 744-4898

May

1
Huntington Beach Kite Tournament
Brookhurst & Pacific Hwy.
SCSKL

LVKS - 9th Kite Day in the Park
Louise Moore Park, Easton, PA
Karl Imdorf (610) 867-4999

2
20th Olan Turner Kite Day
Core Creek Park, Langhorne, PA
Bucks County Parks (215) 757-0571
or Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715

7 - 9
Prairie Winds Kite Festival
(CKL competition)
Kansas City, KS
Chris Moore 1-816-333-9041

8 - 9
Tulsa Festival of Kites
Tulsa, OK
Collette Lemons (918) 322-9630

15
5th Annual Kites in the Sky '99
South Lawn of Immanuel Hospital,
Omaha, NE
Randy Fox (402) 597-3653

15 - 16
Hagaman Pocket Parafoil Workshop
Long Beach, WA
Jody Hagaman (360) 642-4020

Texas State Kite Festival
(CKL competition)
Beach Park, Rockport, TX
R-F Chamber of Commerce -
Christine (512) 729-6445

16
Wichita Riverfest
Wichita, KS
Jerry Hershey (316) 733-1376

May Fun Fly
Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC

22
Fourth Family Fun Fly
Hull, MA
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

27 - 31
Wildwood International Kite Festival,
East Coast Stunt Kite Champion-
ships, Wild Wheels Buggy Blast,
World Indoor Kite Championships,
Wildwood, NJ 215-736-3715

The 1999 AKA Annual Convention is scheduled for October 5 - 9 in Muncie, Indiana. Plan to arrive on Monday October 4th, as the Hoosier Kite Flyers Association will be hosting a welcome dinner for attendees of the AKA Convention. You won't want to miss out on this. Watch for more details in the next issue of KITING!

Calendar Listings? Send your information to: "KITING" 232 W. Trenton Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067. Include the name, activities, dates, location, contact & phone number.

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Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
(520)772-6224

Associated Oregon Kitefliers
Steve O'Brien
P.O. Box 25616
Portland, OR 97298
(541)935-5408

Bay Area Sport Kite League
Chuck Sigal
643 Jackson Street
Albany, CA 94706
(510)524-3459

Black Swamp Air Force
Terry Gerweck
PO Box 13334
Toldeo, OH 43613
(734)243-0919

Chicagoland Sky Liners
Nelson Borelli
910 N. Lakeshore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611-1533
(312)649-9270

Cloud Chasers Kite Club
Richard Brumleve
304B Cranmer Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
(217)787-8065

Connectikiteers
Dave Lombard
P. O. Box 270
Ansonia, CT 06401
(203)732-5243

Coyote Kite Club
Bert Duron
2901 E. Grant
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520)299-7701

Crescent City Kitefliers
Sandra M. Harris
1813 Edinburgh Street
Metairie, LA 70001
(504)835-0280

Federation Quebec. du
Cerf-Volant
4545 Ave. Pierre-de-
Coubertin
CP1000, Succursale M
Montreal, Quebec H1V3R2
(514)252-2032

Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club
Paul Shirey
235 Jolly Hill Road
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
(412)295-0645

Foothills Kite Club
Randy Nason
112 Cherokee Way
Boulder, CO 80303
(303)499-3998

Gateway Kite Club
Linda Crittendon,
1336 Selma
Webster Groves, MO 63119
(314)961-2668

Gems In The Wind Kite Club
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Fulton, TX 78358
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Great Lakes Kitefliers Soc.
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Buffalo, NY 14205-0331
(716)834-2879

Hawaii Kiteflyers Assn.
Brian Hirose, PO Box 11722
Honolulu, HI 96828
(808)732-6249

Hooked On Kites
Scott Wells
611 East Lake Blvd
St. Joseph, MO 64503
(816)238-8809

Hoosier Kitefliers Society
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PO Box 6881, Kokomo, IN
46904-6881
(765)453-2977

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Bedford, TX 76021
(817)838-7818

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7622 Terrace St
Kansas City, MO 64114
(816)333-9019

Keystone Kiteers--Todd Little
1299 Kingsley Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717)939-5222

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Jeffrey C. Kataoka
2266 N. Prospect Ave., #501
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414)962-6336

Kites Over New England
Ralph Reed, 156 Carver Rd
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508)937-8290

Kzoo Stringfellows
John Cosby, PO Box 2241
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2241
(616)345-5432

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3111 S. Valley View A-116,
Las Vegas, NV 89102-8327

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38576 Mary Terrace
Fremont, CA 94538
(510)797-6997

Lehigh Valley Kite Society
Karl Imdorf
16 W. Third St.
Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610)837-3313

Lilac City Wind Chasers
Stephen Helms
N 5504 Oak
Spokane, WA 99205
(509)325-4300

Maryland Kite Society
Adam Grow
10113 Lloyd Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301)949-9078

Mid-Michigan Kite Club
5241 E. Coldwater Rd. #227
Flint, MI 48506
(810)736-4037

Mid-Michigan String
Stretchers (M2S2)
Ken Blain, 349 Springreene,
Ada, MI 49301
(616)676-5980

Midwest Winds Kitefliers
Todd Petrick, PO Box 3770
Omaha, NE 68103-0770
(402)551-3372

Minnesota Kite Society
PO Box 580016
Minneapolis, MN 55458

N. Coast Sky Painters
Rich Miller, P. O. Box 2336
Aberdeen, WA 98520-0381

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Derrol Hammer
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Pierce County Kitefliers
c/o Mainframe Kite Shop.
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Tacoma, WA 98421
(253)927-8779

Prairie Winds Kite Club
Woody Stovall
PO Box 29775
Lincoln, NE 68529
(402)438-0807

Richmond Air Force
Charles Stonestreet
3646 Groveswood Road
Richmond, VA 23234
(804)271-4433

Route 66 Kite Club
Bill Dines
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Glendale, AZ 85301
(602)931-3303

San Diego Kite Club
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San Diego, CA 92167
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Everett, WA 98201
(425)339-9334

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Wernersville, PA 19565
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South Jersey Kite Flyers
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Collingswood, NJ 08108
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So. Oregon Aire Riders
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Gold Hill, OR 97525
(541)855-9359

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Treasure Isl. Sport Kite Club
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Pacific Sci. Ctr.
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Seattle, WA 98109
(360)956-1513

Westport Windriders
Creda Axton
4004 Wiggins Road SE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360)491-3229

Wichita Windjammers Kite
Club--Mark Monroe
120 N. Hillside
Wichita, KS 67214
(316)945-0516

Wind Dancers
Gloria & Stan Hammon
980 Gibb Road
Waxahachie, TX 75167
(972)938-3954

Wind Rhythm Kite Club
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LeMars, IA 51031
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Winds And Rainbows
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Washington, DC 20016
(202)966-2668

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PO Box 7254
Silver Spring, MD 20907
(301)948-0559

Wisconsin Kiteers
Bob Rymaszewski
10615 W Greenwood Tr.
Milwaukee, WI 53224
(414)329-9825

Washington Kitefliers Association - Celebrating 25 Years Of Flying And Friendship - 1973-1998

By Sylvia Bernauer, WKA Membership

In honor of the club's 25th anniversary, I decided to read archive copies of the club's newsletters to put together a brief look at some of the early history of The Washington Kitefliers Association (WKA).

WKA was formed by a group of kite enthusiasts that decided to get together to fly kites on a regular basis. Jack Van Gilder started a newsletter to let the group know where to gather to fly kites. Some of these "Founding Fathers" included Dave Checkley, Jack Van Gilder, Tony Toledo, Harold Writer, Ken Conrad, Tom Sisson, Bill Spezia, Jim Carnwath and John Dusenberry. WKA was the first kite club in the State of Washington.

They were loosely organized in the beginning as it was too much fun just flying kites to deal with official details, like Articles of Incorporation by By-laws. Dave Checkley was considered the "Chairman of the Board" before there was an official organization or a person named as President. He continued to hold that title until his passing. He was named as President in 1974. Jack Van Gilder was the first Secretary.

According to the newsletter of September, 1974, "After only one year of operation, WKA has about 95 members, the largest local group of kitefliers in the country, according to Bob Ingraham of the American Kitefliers Association. Seattle also has more AKA members than any other city in the U.S."

In May of 1976 the club voted to authorize officers to put together Articles of Incorporation.

In December of 1985, Margaret Holzbauer helped President Tom Sisson in writing up a Constitution for WKA. This was the first step in gaining a nonprofit tax-exempt status.

In the early years, WKA held weekly "fly-ins" at many Seattle area parks including Stan Sayers (later named Genesse Park), Golden Gardens, Volunteer Park, Gas Works, Sand Point (later named Magnuson Park). Later the WKA began traveling around to Westport, Grayland, Long Beach, Vancouver B.C. and other places. The tradition began of flying kites on New Years Day at Golden Gardens.

Included on the list of "Fly-ins" were some special events. These included "Festivals of Kites" exhibitions at the Pacific Science Center, inaugural ceremonies for the opening of the Museum of Flight and at the dedications such as the Rainier Bank Tower office building and Magnuson Park.

There were special "fly-ins" on the Seattle Center grounds at the International Fountain and the Space Needle. Jack Van Gilder flew a Philippine fighter kite so high that it landed on the observation deck of the Space Needle.

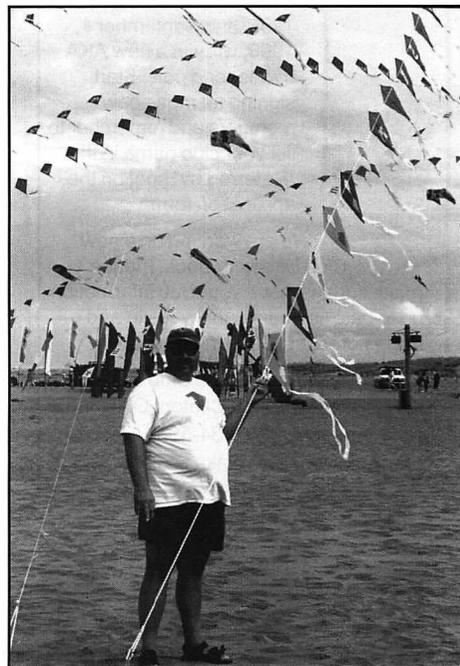
For several years kites flew next to and inside Husky Stadium at University of Washington football games. WKA has also flown kites at half times for Seattle Sounder soccer games in the Kingdome.

Two world record indoor kite flight records were set in the Kingdome. The old record was broken on Jan. 31 - Feb. 1, 1979 with a flight of 9 hours, 13 minutes. This record was again broken on Feb. 7-8, 1980. The new record was set at 39 hours, 53 minutes. The team was the same on both occasions. These records were set by Carl Brewer, Tom Sisson and Bob McCort.

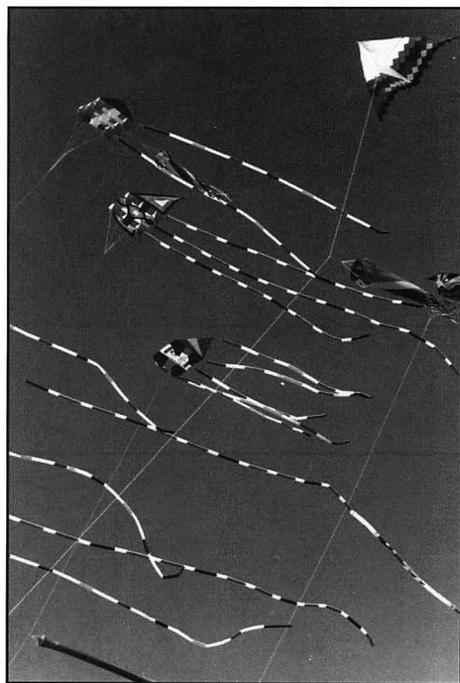
In 1973, Jack Van Gilder was the first editor of the club newsletter. The early newsletters merely had a typed heading of the "WASHINGTON KITEFLYERS - Newsletter" or "WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION." Dave Checkley designed the repeating *WKA WKA WKA*, with the fading letters. It was first used on the newsletter in September, 1976. Later in March, 1983 *WKA* was superimposed on a Philippine fighter kite designed by Tony Toledo, one of the Founding Fathers. The newsletters bore this logo for four issues. Again the fading letters were used as the logo until February-March 1993 when the current red, yellow and blue WKA diamond kites logo was first used. This logo was designed by Jeffrey Reed.

Education has always been an important activity for the club with many members involved. Kite building classes at elementary schools, summer camps, fairs and at Fort Worden have been a continuing tradition. Thousands of kites have been built with kids. Books have been donated to the Seattle Public Library that contained a book plate placed inside the front cover with a drawing of the Tony Toledo Philippine fighter kite.

David Checkley and Jack Van Gilder, and other "high fliers" have passed on to a Higher Flying Field. They have left us with many kite flying adventures to read about in the WKA archives at Great Winds Kite Shop in Seattle. We want to thank David, Jack and the others, for getting together to fly kites and for forming the Washington Kitefliers Association.



Rob Pratt the current president of the WKA. Below, a typical Washington sky - from one of Westport Windriders Kite Club monthly fun flys. Photos by Cliff Pennell.



The AKA Store

phone/fax: 610-395-3560 e-mail: store@aka.kite.org

Club 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.

We are 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. Send information to:

Robyne Gardner, Kite Club Liaison
2672 Sand Rd., Port Clinton, OH 43452
phone: (419) 734-5880
e-mail: region5@aka.kite.org

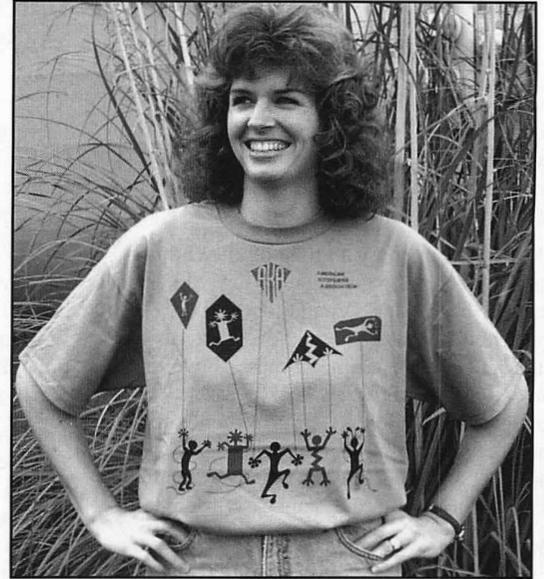
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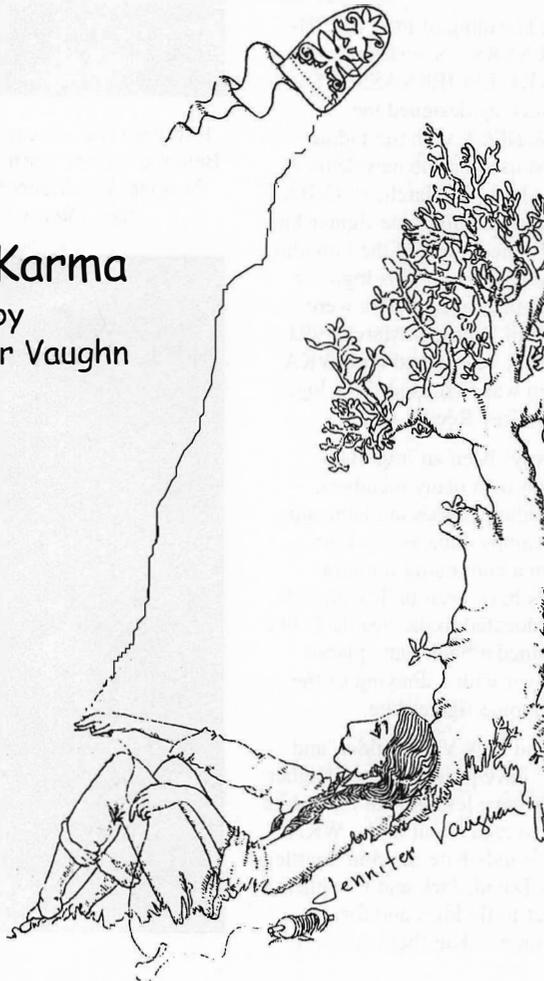
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1998 Convention videos are now available - order yours today!



Kite Karma by Jennifer Vaughn



I'm just another unflown kite hanging on the wall
Down here near this foreignground feeling weak and small
Never floated on the breeze
Staring down at tops of trees
Afraid to feel their reaching arms
Wary of their rooted charms

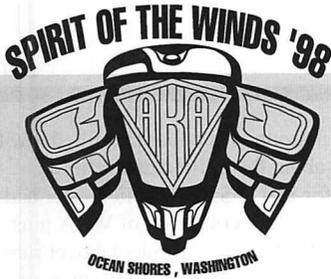
My fading colors tell my shame
Inside dreaming outside tame
My unscarred wings, my unborn tail
My guarded beauty doomed to fail
For never having taken flight
Rejoicing in a laughing fright
Bending to the mean stiff breeze
High above the docile trees
Floating, diving, shifting, still
As the wind commands I will

To lose myself this anchor wall
And break free at the wind's wild call
To be dared just once to take a chance
To heed the wind and learn its dance
To have that memory to sustain me
Not longing dreams to haunt and drain me

And even if the limbs should catch me
Their prickly twigs scrape and scratch me
Wound my wings and steal my tail
Til I hang broken, withering pale
Then feel the freedom fighting gale
Attempt to lift my sagging sail
And for a moment to prevail
But in the end to cease and fail.

To age and lose what makes me me
And fade into my hanging tree
My bones a symbol of a life that was free
To die the death of a wounded kite
Tackled in the midst of flight
Is a death I'd gladly seek still young
Than remain forever here, unflown.

And yet I hang here and complain
My earnest longings all in vain
For I - a kite - am only one
And I - a kite - can't fly alone.

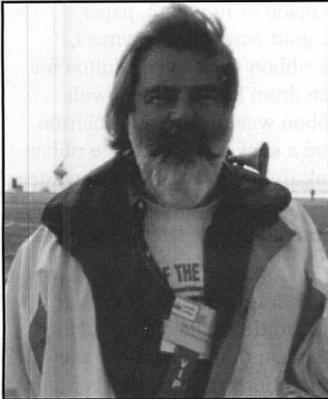


1998 AKA Convention & Grand Nationals Ocean Shores, WA

AKA Convention Photo Files

Edeiken Award Recipient - Jon Burkhardt

Below are excerpts from his nomination letter...



Jon first became intrigued with kites for their graphic design possibilities, but he says what really encouraged his involvement were the wonderful people he found in the kite world. On examination, Burkhardt emerges as an artist, a teacher, a kite traveler, a club and event organizer, judge and rulemaker, an AKA officer, and most important, as a contributor.

A kitemaker since 1980, Jon has won top awards in the U.S. and abroad. He has attended all of the

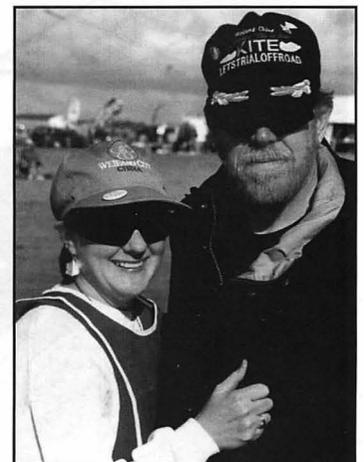
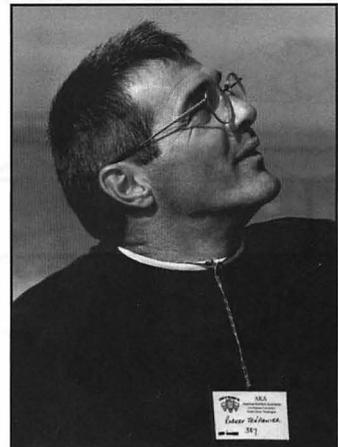
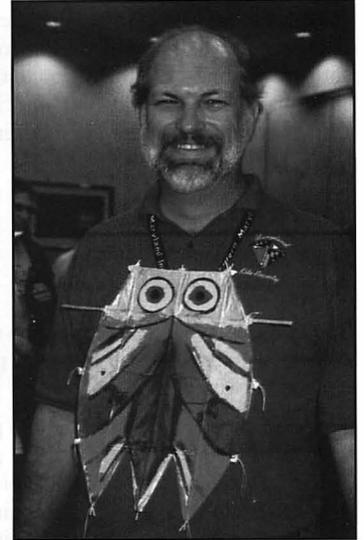
AKA Conventions but the first, and has been a sponsored guest at numerous kite festivals in Europe and the Far East. He is actively engaged in spreading the joy of kiteflying to others, and is a strong and vocal advocate of the need for kitefliers to appreciate the particular specialties of other kitefliers.

He has been the lead officer of the Maryland Kite Society for many years and has held most other posts in the MKS. For the American Kitefliers Association, he has served as Convention Chairman, Treasurer, Director at Large, Regional Director, newsletter editor, and Chairman of several committees, including the Kitemakers' Competitions Committee, Membership Directory, and the International Exchange Committee. He has served on AKA's Board of Directors for as long as anyone can remember. He has been Chairman of AKA's Staff Search Committee. He is currently Regional Director for AKA's Region 3, a member of the Safety and Ethics Committee, and is working on goals and procedures for AKA for the next several years. Starting in 1981, Jon has created a handmade kite or kite accessory for the kite auction at every AKA convention since that time.

Jon was the Event Coordinator and Head Judge for the National Kitemaking Competition at the AKA Conventions from 1993 through 1997. He has served as Head Judge in Newport and at the Smithsonian. He has been an active participant in the planning and operations of numerous major kite festivals, including AKA Conventions, Smithsonian Kite Festivals, Maryland Kite Festivals, Maryland International Kite Festivals, Newport Cup Festivals, Sunfest events, kite flying publicity events, and kitemaking workshops for children.

Jon has written articles on kite flying and kite festivals for numerous publications, including KiteLines and Kiting, and major articles featuring him have appeared in American Kite and KiteLines. He has presented workshops at several AKA Conventions, MKS Kitemaking Retreat, as well as for local community groups.

Jon is actively engaged in bringing together differing factions within the kiting community. Like others before, he believes that "the sky is big enough for all of us," and the greatest pleasures are sharing in the creativity of the wonderful people involved in kiting.



Top to bottom: Kathy Goodwind teaching a workshop; Adam Grow with the biggest kite pin; Mr. Nasty (Frank Kenisky) in the Electronics Workshop; Dan Kuriachi with his train; Robert Trepanier in the air; Charmayne (Cornell) & Bob Umbauer. Photos by Cliff Pennell and Roger Chewning.



The Pin Challenge

by Alice Hayden

It gladdened my heart to see that the 1998 AKA Pin Challenge had a rise in the number of participants. Pin collecting is not dead. Thank you all for participating. And thank you to the judges, Beth Bowen, Ruth Polifrone, Frank Kenisky and Mark Virgilio, who assisted me with often difficult choices. There were 5 different Pin Challenges:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Largest Collection | 14 collections |
| 2. Best Display | 8 displays |
| 3. Handmade Kite Pin | 21 participants |
| 4. Beatles' Tunes Riddles | 24 participants |
| 5. Popular Classic Tunes Riddles | 20 participants |

The Largest Collection competition saw 14 collections entered. The pin collections ranged in size from 141 pins to 3086 pins. The top 5 collections were:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Vic Eshpeter | 3,086 pins | region 10 |
| 2. David Gomberg | 2,913 pins | region 9 |
| 3. Bill Deatherage | 880 pins | region 10 |
| 4. Ken Blain | 809 pins | region 5 |
| 5. Ron Button | 778 pins | region 10 |

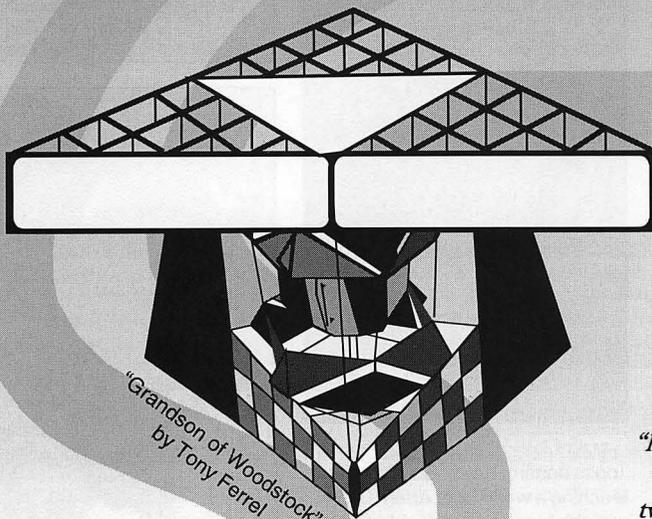
The Best Display was won by one of the AKA's favorite Canadian Kite Artists, Robert Trepanier. Robert made a tie shaped kite, which he

flew during the day, and then tied it around his collar and filled it with a collection of his own pins. Talk about the million dollar tie, a hundred or so pins which he sells for \$10 to \$15. Connie Lester had a map of Washington proudly displaying her collection of WKA pins. Mike Button had a plastic resin brick filled with accidental over runs of a valuable pin (was that Vic following him with acid?). Runners up were David Gomberg as a pin welder, making a shop apron out of his kite bags; Cliff Pennell in a natty red vest with his pins displayed in rows, Pat Button with her display of special event pins and Barbara Hall with her famous US vest.

The Handmade Pin Challenge saw pins made in almost every media imaginable. Handmade Kite Pins were made of fun foam, paper sculpture, shrinky-dink, ripstop, beads, gold wire, clay polymers, embroidered fabric and more. The blue ribbon went to Pat Button for her woven pine needle Native American drum kite complete with flying line and feather tails. The red ribbon went to Lindsey Johnson for an elegant gold wire diamond kite on a stick pin. The white ribbon went to Sam Huston for his shrinky-dink fighter kite with Northwestern Native American bear and salmon on the tails. The ribbons were exotic wood delta kites on the appropriate colored lanyard. They were made by Frank Kenisky.

The Riddle challenges were a series of 4 phrases from well known songs with 1 or 2 blanks. The object was to fill in the blank and then find a pin illustrating the word. Awards went to the first 6 entrants with correct answers. If anyone has suggestions for next year's riddles or ways to make the Pin Challenge more fun, please forward them to me.

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AKA Convention Auction

The assortment of many one-of-a-kind donations to the auction this year was spectacular. All the items were sold for excellent prices. There were 130 donors and 130 people were buyers. We should all thank the donors and buyers as they raised \$22,607.00 for the AKA. The silent auction raised \$4,185.00 and the loud auction raised \$18,422.00. Two kite making group projects were major contributors to the auction's success, the Fort Worden and the rec.kites arch projects.

The time and effort put into making many of the one-of-a-kind donations by individuals, kite stores and manufacturers is to be commended. It is worth coming to the convention just to bid on these items. I want to thank everyone for making the auction a success, in particular the members who volunteered their convention time to organize and run the auction.



*Fran Gramkowski,
Auction Chairman*



AKA Art Gallery

by Marti Dermer

The Kite Art Gallery at the AKA Convention is sponsored annually by the Kite Art Committee. The 1998 Ocean Shores gallery introduced the "Lee Toy Circle" award. So this year the gallery exhibit featured the first recipient, Scott Skinner, and Leland Toy. Many thanks to the Toy family for the use of Lee's kite collection and personal family photos. We hope to see this fantastic collection become a traveling kite art exhibit. Both Lee's mother, Mary Jane, and his sister, Sunny, drove up for the gallery opening Wednesday night with Scott Skinner and KAC members Meg Albers, Marti Dermer, Karen Gustavson and Charlie Sotich. The quilt that Stan Swanson made for the Toy family was on display and brought a lot of interest with people looking for the "hands" they contributed. The Edo workshop kite from Long Beach, Washington, along with pictures of the event were displayed. Three tyvek Roks Lee made for the Reno kite festival, his banner, and the AKA logo kite with everyone's signatures which was presented to Lee in 1982. Several of Lee's fighter kites were also in the exhibit. The Toy family donated one of Lee's fighter kites to the AKA auction, which brought \$400 and Jose Sainz donated a beautiful appliqued hata as a KAC fund raiser. Our thanks and gratitude to Lee's family, Mary Jane and Sunny Toy and Jose Sainz.

Scott Skinner's kites were a bit of a

departure from his past work, in that they were smaller and handmade paper was used to create the intricate patch-work designs. The five new kites he designed for the gallery were displayed on a dark wall, under lit, about eye-level, so they were easy to study. My favorite had an exquisite iridescent sheen in the paper. As first recipient of the "Lee Toy Circle" award our congratulations go out to Scott for his effort in the elevation of art, kites, and continual learning. The following is the artist's statement from Scott.

Reactions on the Lee Toy Circle Award

The AKA Kite Art Committee has instituted a new, annual award that recognizes the lifetime contribution in support of "Kite Art". There is a great deal of latitude in sizing up those contributions: they can come from the written word, photographs, gallery exhibits, or actual kite making. The award, named for Lee Toy, could not be more appropriately named, since Lee contributed to the notion of kite art in his newsletters, his gallery shows, and most appropriately, his kites. Lee made artistic statements with the simplest of materials and showed that, whether with paper, tyvek (tm), or ripstop, an original statement could be made with every kite. Lee's good humor, empathy, and encouraging personality did as much as his work to inspire the best from every person he met and as the first recipient of the Lee Toy Circle Award, my thanks and gratitude goes first to Lee.

I started making kites almost ten years after my introduction to the hobby. I had no formal training, but I knew what I liked (in kites) and also knew what was most exciting to me in graphic design. I chose traditional American patchwork as my "language" for expression and Japanese kite shapes as the "book". Within this seemingly narrow framework, I found an almost limitless number of artistic statements. Along the way, a number of people have offered advice, support, and criticism, while a number of others provided powerful motivation to refine and define my finished product. Lee was one of the first of those people, with his kites, his writing, and his spirit. Mindful of that spirit, I'd like to recognize that circle of friends who pushed, pulled, and goaded me toward this award.

Betty Street, Bill Lockhart, and Bob Mosier; their use of patchwork designs as a primary graphic influence proved to me that I was on the right track, and that every one of us could make a unique statement within the framework of geometric patchwork. Tal Streeter opened the door for me and countless others to Japanese kites and their elegant and refined designs. Peter Malinski has served as a constant motivation. His powerful statements are a reminder that great graphic statements are not necessarily about what you put in them, but, rather about what you take out of them. Jose Sainz, Randy Tom, and Bobby Stanfield; I've got to admit it, I made plenty of kites with the intent that they be judged "better" than these guys'. It never happened, but the kites I made were better than they would have been without these three guys' influence. George Peters and Reza Ragheb; my two local heroes, George and Reza bring such different personalities to kiting and both have influenced me greatly.



Sunny Toy, Scott Skinner and Mary Jane Toy.

- Scott Skinner



AKA Grand National Kitemakers Competition

Whether images were original or borrowed, all kites flying in this year's comprehensive competition represented a lot of creative style and imagination. The way colors played with light and the way sails danced with wind, all kites forced you to stop, look up, and stare.

As I stood back and watched the competition I couldn't help but notice the expressions on most every face. While judges evaluated each kite in the air for flight and visual appeal, instead of paranoid and worried looks on the faces of the competitors, there were smiles. People were actually having a good time competing! That is what it is all about — having fun. Too often, competition is taken too seriously and people forget about enjoying themselves.

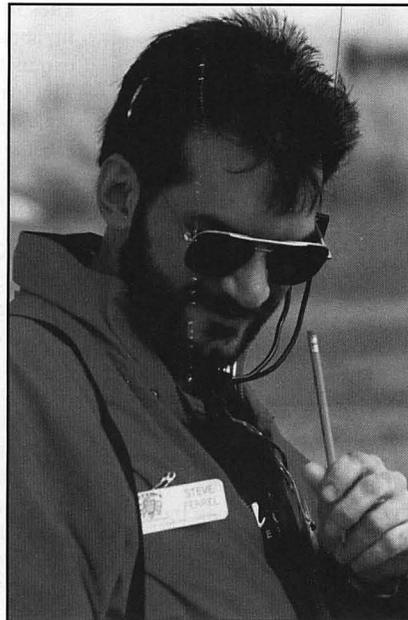
On the ground, judges were also treated with wonderful hand-crafted fittings, flawless sewing, and finely cut appliques. Just as a painter takes great pride in each stroke of the brush and a sculptor carefully plans each angle, crevice, and position — it was evident that each kite builder took that same pride in the design and craftsmanship of his or her kite.

Seventy-two kites were entered in thirteen categories and indeed gave the ten judges a hard two days of work. It was a difficult job giving scores to kites that were all in some way spectacular. The competition was so close in some categories that the winning kites differed by only 0.10 of a point!

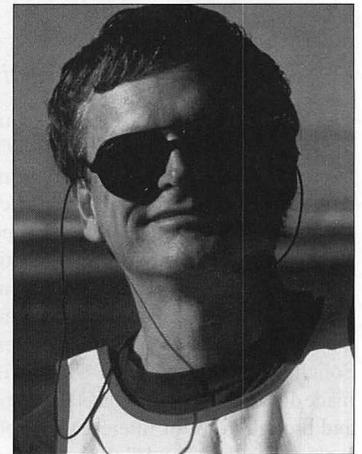
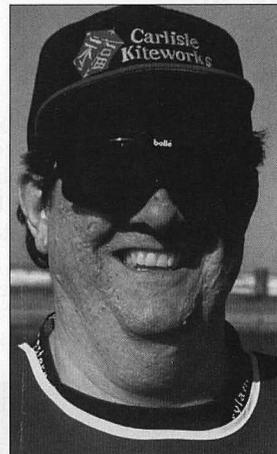
We had a fantastic group of judges that came from both coasts. From the east: Jon Burkhardt, Kurt Eby, Drake Smith and Pete Dolphin. From the west: Bobby Stanfield, Rick Talbott, Susan Gomberg, Violet Weeks, Tom McAlister and Bill Lester. We also had a great ground crew that helped with registration (Karen Burkhardt and Tanna Haynes), field staff (Charmayne Cornell, Doc Counce, John Thomas), and Polaroid camera (Beth Drake). Karen Burkhardt was also our head score keeper and did an exceptional job this year by revising and ensuring a smooth running computer score keeping program. Those of you who attended the award banquet were also treated to a wonderful digital slide presentation by Mike Gillard of KiteLife.com and his big crew of digital photographers who clicked pictures all week. I would also like to thank Margaret Gregor for helping me pass out awards. I put her on the spot when I asked her for help, but she gladly accepted. She didn't know it but I was the one who was most grateful. It was an honor to share the stage with her.

Next year our competition will be held in Muncie, Indiana... it is centrally located to areas with a lot of kite builders and should prove to bring in a lot of competition. I'm asking every kitebuilder who plans to attend, ENTER A KITE! Don't be intimidated. This year, eleven of the awards given in the "regular" kite categories were won by novices! We are also giving more recognition to the novice builder by adding a second and third place trophy to the special novice award. So come on out to Muncie and give it a shot, I promise you'll have a blast!

report by Steve Ferrel



Chief Judge Steve Ferrel (top left); Pterodactyl stunt kite entry, by Nathan Sendan (below); and big winner, Kevin Shannon - photos by Cliff Pennell



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AKA Grand National Kitemakers Competition Results

The scores listed below are in the following order: Flight, Visual Appeal, Craftsmanship, Structural Design, Total score

TRAINS AND CENTIPEDES

Kevin Shannon	8.33	8.80	7.97	8.63	33.73
Charmayne Cornell	6.50	7.10	7.93	8.20	29.73
Alan Sparling	6.40	6.50	7.00	7.47	27.37
John Murray	5.50	6.40	5.63	6.50	24.03

TRADITIONAL

Tanna Haynes	8.00	8.50	8.70	9.83	35.03
Kevin Shannon	7.57	7.98	7.15	7.43	30.13
Adam Grow	7.73	7.65	6.88	7.43	29.69
David Gomberg	6.17	5.80	7.00	7.33	26.30

STUNT OR SPORT KITE

Lam Hoac	7.43	7.77	8.30	8.30	31.80
Richard Barnes	7.43	7.50	8.07	8.07	31.07
Peter Betancourt	7.00	7.00	7.90	7.70	29.60
Nathan Sendan	7.37	7.57	7.20	7.33	29.47

SOFT AND FLEXIBLE

Dean Jordan	8.27	7.90	7.83	8.67	32.67
Kevin Shannon	7.27	7.90	8.63	7.83	31.63
Don Mock	7.23	8.23	8.00	7.50	30.96
Kenneth Forslund	7.77	7.60	8.10	7.17	30.64
Jerry Fincher	7.63	7.53	7.87	7.57	30.60
JoAnn Weber	7.00	7.90	7.60	6.77	29.27
Mike Smathers	6.50	6.00	7.27	7.23	27.00
Margaret Greger	6.00	6.60	7.37	6.67	26.64

ROKKAKU

Sharon Musto*	7.43	8.33	8.60	7.73	32.09
Lou Behrman	7.37	8.83	7.77	7.93	31.90
Charmayne Cornell	7.93	7.37	8.43	7.07	30.80
Kevin Shannon	7.57	7.83	7.60	7.33	30.33
Ty Billings	7.67	7.70	7.17	6.93	29.47
JoAnn Weber	6.93	8.00	7.33	7.17	29.43
Kenneth Forslund	7.20	7.60	7.27	6.50	28.57
Mary Blain	5.93	6.60	6.73	6.30	25.56

* Elain Genser proxy

OPEN OR COMBINED

Jerry Houk	7.23	7.73	7.57	7.47	30.00
JoAnn Weber	6.70	8.03	7.37	7.73	29.83
Rick Miller	7.87	7.87	6.97	7.10	29.81
Greg Fillmore	7.33	8.27	6.33	6.67	28.60

INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AND DESIGNS

Terry Sansom	7.80	8.33	8.00	8.87	33.00
Nathan Sendan	7.20	5.83	6.27	7.03	26.33
Charlie Sotich	7.60	5.00	5.67	7.17	25.44

FLAT OR BOWED

Kevin Shannon	7.77	8.50	7.97	8.17	32.41
Sam Huston	8.17	7.58	7.67	8.30	31.72
Larry Mixon	7.63	7.67	7.40	7.78	30.48
John Freeman**	6.90	9.00	7.40	7.00	30.30
Jerry Houk	7.27	5.67	7.70	7.83	28.47
Chuck Lund	7.27	5.50	6.63	7.93	27.33
Nathan Sendan	7.23	6.33	6.83	6.67	27.06
JoAnn Weber	5.67	7.33	6.77	6.57	26.34
Elain Genser	7.07	6.50	6.07	6.23	25.87
Miriam Schafler	6.83	5.50	5.00	6.43	23.76

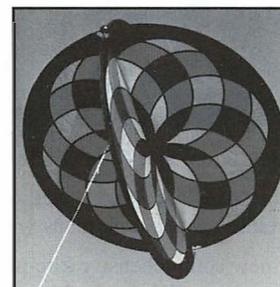
** Charmayne Cornell proxy

FIGURE KITES

Jerry Houk	6.83	6.33	7.53	8.63	29.32
Larry Mixon	7.07	7.00	6.67	6.77	27.51
Charmayne Cornell	5.00	6.27	7.47	7.30	26.04

The Arch Project

The Arch project was coordinated by Terry Sansom of San Antonio, TX. Terry entered the arch in the cooperative division on behalf of kite builders from around the world who contributed. The arch won the category! Terry is working on plans to build another cooperative arch for the 1999 Muncie, Indiana AKA Convention. Contact Terry at sanTsom@aol.com for news and information about the 1999 Kite arch project. Go to <http://www.kitelife.com/1198/images/coop.jpg> to see a pic of Terry holding one end of the arch at the competition.



Terry Sansom's first place entry in Innovative Concepts and Designs - photo Cliff Pennell

Below are the contributors and purchasers of each section of the arch:

Section 1 was purchased by Steve LaPorte for \$250.00. Contributors were Dave Arnold, Ed Burnham, Jerry Houk, Craig Rodgerson, Sharon Musto, Terry Sansom, Mike Smathers, Carolyn Weir and Dick Barns. Section 2 was purchased by Richard Dermer for \$225.00. Contributors were Jim Aune, Beth Drake, Paul Homan, Terry Sansom and Cindy Thrall. Section 3 was purchased by Charles Stonestreet for \$225.00. Contributors were Tom Arbster, Gary Engvall, Elain Genser, Cherly Lucas, Mike Polifrone, Ruth Polifrone, Terry Sansom, Rod Thrall and Dan Weinreb. Section 4 was purchased by Richard Dermer for \$250.00. Contributors were John Biggs, Terry Sansom, South Jersey Kite Flyers- Jim Davis, Mike Dallmer, Betty Hirschmann, Mary Mears, Pat Mosier, Russell Mosier, Scott Spencer, Anita Petito and Mark Siemon. Section 5 purchased by Clay Stille for \$225.00. Contributors were Leona Clark, Ken Lantz, Karl Longbottom, Larry Mixon, John Murray, Graeme Poole, Terry Sansom and Dick Barns.

report by Troy Gunn

Look for plans on the Kite Arch Project in the next issue of KITING.

DELTA AND DERIVATIVES

Kevin Shannon	8.33	7.43	7.97	7.83	31.56
Glen Haynes	7.63	6.83	8.07	8.27	30.80
JoAnn Weber	8.13	7.50	7.50	6.50	29.63
Larry Mixon	6.83	7.97	6.77	6.50	28.07
Richard Koons	6.30	6.00	7.10	6.17	25.57

CELLULAR OR DIMENSIONAL

Glen Haynes	7.73	8.57	8.53	7.95	32.78
Sam Huston	7.68	8.52	8.63	7.85	32.68
Steve Davis (Larry Mixon proxy)	7.58	8.40	7.80	8.30	32.08
Mike Smathers	8.03	8.33	6.83	6.88	30.07
Andrew Rumming	7.35	6.97	7.33	7.55	29.20
Dick Curran	7.03	6.50	6.83	8.13	28.49
Tom McAlister	6.28	6.30	7.67	8.00	28.25
Richard White	7.08	6.67	6.93	6.90	27.58
Elain Genser	6.88	6.67	6.10	6.03	25.68
Gerry Reidel	6.90	6.73	5.60	6.13	25.36

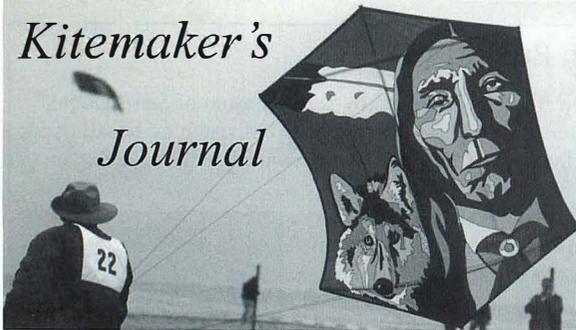
ARCH TRAINS AND RIBBONS

Ron Button	7.63	7.63	7.67	7.95	30.88
Ty Billings	4.67	4.33	6.77	7.28	23.05

COOPERATIVE

rec.kites (Terry Sansom)	7.67	7.55	7.00	8.38	30.60
Keystone Kitefliers (Glenn Haynes)	7.50	7.55	6.83	8.03	29.91
Cliff and Gerry Pennel	6.93	6.67	7.40	7.33	28.33
Bob Umbowers/Charmayne Cornell	6.43	7.33	7.00	7.10	27.86
Alice and Bill Hayden	6.73	7.83	5.50	6.67	26.73

Kitemaker's Journal



Another Year Gone By....by Ron Gibian

First and foremost, I hope everyone had a super holiday season and wish that all your dreams and resolutions become a reality in the upcoming year.

Last year was a very busy one for us with probably too much travel. The last trip was to Dieppe in France. It was absolutely wonderful, but took its toll on us. For the first time in ten years we did not go to the AKA convention. It felt strange not being there, and we missed everyone. We have heard it was a great

convention, that competitions went smoothly and everyone had a great time.

Kitemaker's Journal is well on its way and the response to it seems to be large. We are getting lots of profiles on kite makers, kite plans will soon be featured, and letters are beginning to trickle in.

A new comprehensive kite-making committee is now being formed which will consist of people from around the country. We are looking for people in the middle of the nation in particular! The larger pool of judges will be solicited after the committee is fully in place, so as to have more input this way.

On the subject of kite-making competitions I can tell you that we are working on several exciting new changes. In scoring, there will be additions to our criteria, such as originality. Not to worry, we are not doing away with craftsmanship, structural design or anything that we may have put great emphasis on in the past. We are merely changing a bit in how we look at the overall inventiveness and originality of the kite, and awarding points for it. I personally believe if we start somehow with this, eventually we will end up with the best from all worlds, with highly crafted, unique and interesting kites. Breakdowns for this type of scoring have not yet been determined, but we will have this information soon. Streamlining categories is being considered. There are other changes as well that we will detail in future issues.

Also, my personal thanks to Jon & Karen Burkhardt for their letter of support in the last issue. I agree that if the folks who have volunteered in the past few years had not been there we would have been in trouble. Many thanks to all of them.

Remember this is your magazine so keep your ideas, thoughts and articles coming. Until the next installment keep looking up!



SEW WHAT?! by Jim Carnevale

The sewing machine is probably the single most important tool used in kite crafting. With a wide variety of machines to choose from, selecting the right machine can be a challenging task confronting the novice kite builder. There are many different options to consider in selecting the perfect machine to fit your needs and budget. Machines are available in all price ranges from five dollar yard sale specials to sophisticated computerized sewing machines costing up to four thousand dollars or more. A machine can be found within everyone's budget.

Sewing machines used in kite building should be able to do a straight stitch and a basic zig-zag stitch. They should have a motor powerful enough to penetrate several layers of fabric - particularly some of the heavyweight nylon fabrics used in nosing and reinforcements. Apart from this, any other features are purely for convenience.

A beginning kite builder may want to consider a used machine. Many machines with minimal hours of use are readily available and easy to find. The best source is from a reputable sewing machine shop in your area. Good quality used machines can be purchased for \$100 to \$200 for machines with names such as Singer, Kenmore and others. Prices can go up to \$400 to \$800 for used European machines such as Pfaff and Bernina. The key advantage to a used machine is the cost savings.

When buying a used machine from a source other than a dealer, it is best to check out the machine as thoroughly as possible. If you cannot test the machine, look for obvious signs of wear. Scratches around the throat plate (where the needle penetrates) or a large buildup of lint and fuzz around the bobbin are indicators of wear and lack of regular cleaning. It may still be a good machine with many more years of life, but machines like this will benefit from a good professional cleaning and tuning.

New machines fall into two basic categories - computerized and mechanical. Mechanical machines utilize all mechanical parts in selecting and forming stitch types. These machines tend to be the entry level machines in a company's line offering all of the basic stitches and features that a kite builder needs.

Computerized machines utilize electronics as well as mechanical parts in forming stitches. In addition to many more sophisticated decorative stitch types, these machines have some other desirable optional features. One of these features is the ability to have the machine stop with the needle in the down position. This is particularly useful when you have to frequently turn or rotate the fabric such as while working with applique. Many computerized machines also allow you to design your own stitches. This can be a fun feature if you want to have a hem of your kite done in stitches shaped like kites. Many kite builders like a feature known as a "walking foot" or dual feed. This is a device that moves the fabric forward through the machine from the top as well as the bottom. This accommodates consistent feeding of the fabric with less slipping. Most machines have this feature available as a separate attachment while the Pfaff machine has it built in on most of their models.

There are many factors to consider in buying a sewing machine for kite building. If a new machine is in your future, shop around, look at as many as possible and seek the opinion of other kite makers. They are your best source of information. Whatever your decision may be, remember that a machine that forms a good quality stitch is requisite for making a good quality kite. Happy stitching.



K-FILES

Hampton, Scott

I returned to kiting after a twenty-year absence (adolescence, high school, sports, military, college) in 1988. I walked into a kite store looking for a large single line delta to fly from the local mountaintops. Instead, I walked out with a stunt kite and was instantly hooked with the thrill of playing with the wind.

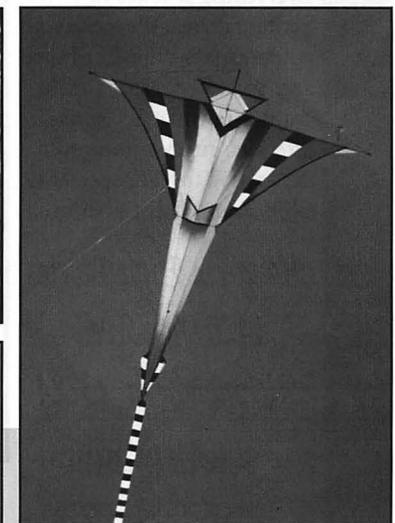
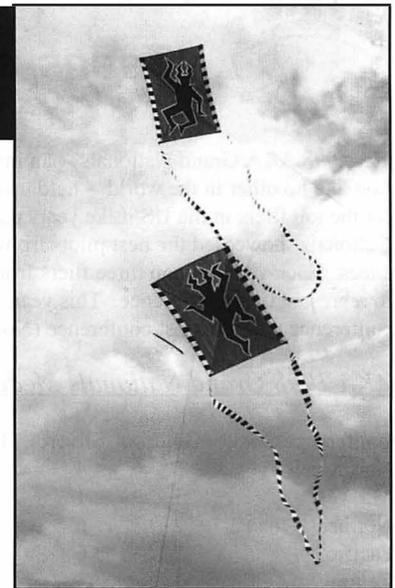
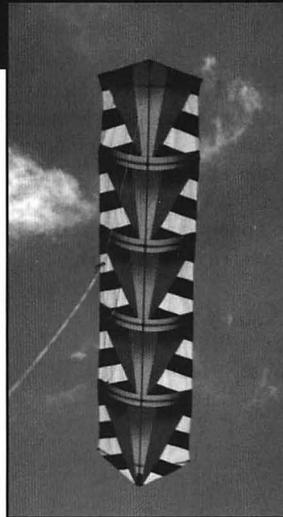
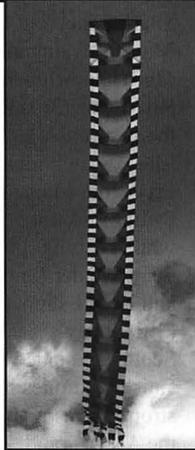
Attending my first kite festival in Reno, NV, I soon came to appreciate the beauty and diversity of single line kites by Deb Cooley, Ron Gibian and Lee Toy.

My first attempt at building a kite was a twenty-foot Delta-Conyne. I used a tape measure and measured one of Don Mock's D.C.'s. From that first kite I went to painting on Tyvek with acrylics, building miniature kites and banners. I also produced a series of limited-edition kite posters depicting well known kites.

Inspired by the banners of George Peters, I spent several years making banners, and just a few kites, trying lots of different surface designs techniques - painting on Tyvek, silk dyes on cotton (Steve Brockett method) and applique techniques (Ron Gibian). However, I was unable to find a particular area that I wanted to develop further. I was also not willing to copy any one else's work. Ron Gibian suggested I find a theme and focus my kites and banners around that theme.

I was inspired by Ron Gibian's use of black and white stripes. I also felt encouraged from rereading the "KiteLines" article written by Chris Dunlop. It discussed using Design Master paints. One further motivator was having a couple of kites from Don Mock where he used Design Master paints. I decided to give it a try. Wow! It brought a new dimension and life into my banners. Soon, I was using Design Master and black and white stripes as an integral part of all my kites and banners. I found my theme to focus on. I now only use fuchsia, mango, blue colors and black and white in almost all of my work. I am now trying to further develop the variety of techniques for using Design Master paints in kite building and have taught several classes on using these techniques.

I now spend way too much time designing and building, and not enough time flying. I am not sure where this kite journey will lead, but lately I've done several stage and site decorations for Art Festivals and special events as an extension of my kite building. Being a teacher by profession, I naturally want to share any information I can pass on to others. Thanks to Don, Ron and the entire kite family for sharing ideas and techniques with me.



Photos: Top left - An X-frame kite with a 70' tail; Top middle - a basic noodle from Ed and Gail Lindsey's plans; Top right - Della Portas (Dancing Devils) done on crinkled painted nylon; Middle left - Bug on a stick, this banner bug is being flown from a pole; Middle right - Long each Special - a dagger kite that has only flown in Long Beach; Lower left - an angry bug kite; Lower right - Shaman kite (variation on Jose Sainz kite); Bottom - Scott and son Chris at their favorite flying place; On the cover - Bad Bug was going to be a bug on a stick, but was too large, and became a kite.



Teens continue to dominate MIB at Grand Nationals

The 1998 AKA Grand Nationals -- an invitational sport kite competition like no other in the world -- held up to its reputation as a shoot out for the top fliers in the US. Like years past, this year's AKA Grand Nationals showcased the best pilots from each of the six AKA Conferences. Each year, the top three fliers from each conference are invited to represent their conference. This year, top honors go to the Pacific conference with the host conference (Northwest) a close second.

AKA 1998 Grand Nationals Medal Count

Conference	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Northwest	5	4	7	16
Midwest	1	1	-	2
Northeast	2	6	3	11
Pacific	7	6	5	18
Central	1	-	-	1
Southeast	2	1	3	6

[Complete results can be found at the AKA website at <http://www.aka.kite.org/standings>.]

Will teenagers continue to dominate Masters Individual Ballet? For the third year in a row (John Morrison in 1997 and Curtiss Mitchell in 1996), 1st place in MIB was won by the next generation. This year Shane Snowden (Central) took top honors. Taking a big jump up from his Intermediate Individual Ballet win last last year at the Nationals,

Shane edged out Michael Weingand (2nd) and Miguel Rodriguez (3rd) for the win. In Masters Individual Precision, Michael Delfar took 1st while keeping Scott Weider (2nd) and Kobi Eshun (3rd) at bay. Scott's 2nd place finish continues his strong showing at the AKA Grand Nationals having

placed in the top 2 each of the last 3 years (2nd in EIP in '97 and 1st in IIP in '96). Ron Despojado, arguably the best Masters Quadline competitor in the US, Masters Individual Quadline Ballet 1st place in 1996, 2nd place in 1997, and 1st place again this year... but only 0.466 points a head of Lam Hoac. Last year Lam took 3rd, 1.33 points behind Ron. This year, Lam took 2nd once again behind Ron with Penny Lingenfelter making her presence known in 3rd. The performances keep getting better and Lam keeps getting closer... Will Lam overtake Ron next year?



Susan, Cassie and Darrin Skinner (Master of Ceremonies) were the core organizational group producing the Grand Nationals. Great job!

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Visa, MC, Discover

Ripstop Fabric Ripstop Fabric

And speaking of dominance, Dos Avispas continues the winning streak with their third win in a row in Masters Pairs Ballet. Papalotes took second, their second time in the top three. And the 1995 Experienced Pairs Ballet champions, K FAN, rounded out the Masters top three with a 3rd place showing. In Masters Team the word for the day was "Northwest". Five of the six trophies went to Northwest teams. Don't Panic and Indeskyze in 1st and 2nd, respectively, for both Ballet and Precision events. Valli Boyz (Southeast) earned 3rd place in Precision and BumperKites (1st place Experienced Ballet and Precision at last year's Nationals) took 3rd place in Ballet. This makes 6 AKA Grand Nationals trophies in the last 3 years for Don't Panic.

Open Team Train Ballet saw some familiar faces with last year's 3rd place team, Valli Boyz, edging out last year's winner, That's My Line, for the gold. Wind Dancers (2nd place in 1995) finished the top three with 3rd place honors.

Just clowning around in Open Individual Freestyle seems to have been the right choice for Steve LaPorte. With a 5 point lead over Ron Despojado (2nd) it's clear that the judges enjoyed the clown act a bit more than Ron's 70's revival and (G rated) strip show. Less than a point behind Ron, Ray Bethell, the shirtless tower of power from Canada, turned in a beautiful performance with his 3 kite ballet.

And, a special thanks from our Scorekeeper to Michael Moore and Sue Sedgwick for having the most readable score sheets :-)

report by Darrin Skinner



AKA Grand National Sport Kite Competition Final Results

Masters Individual Ballet

1	Shane Snowden	86.933
2	Michael Weingand	84.600
3	Miguel A. Rodriguez	83.933
4	Steve Karatzas	83.067
5	Richard Javens	81.267
6	Scott A. Weider	80.067
7	Paul Dehope	80.000
8	Kobi Eshun	79.933
9	James W. Soellner	75.067
10	Kerry Haines	74.133
11	Jon Trennepohl	71.467
12	Troy Gunn	69.533
13	Lam Hoac	68.000
14	Lou Behrman	65.533
15	Bill Beneker	64.067

Masters Pairs Ballet

1	Dos Avispas	75.200
2	Team Papalotes	72.933
3	K FAN	69.200
4	Late for Supper	60.933
5	TKO II	57.933
6	Wind Dancers	57.533
7	H & H	53.200

Masters Team Ballet

1	Don't Panic	75.667
2	Indeskyze	74.933
3	Valli Boyz	73.467
4	Team Wind Wizards	68.733
5	BumperKites	66.533

Masters Individual Precision

1	Michael J. Delfar	73.067
2	Scott A. Weider	71.333
3	Kobi Eshun	70.333
4	Mike Huff	67.600
5	Miguel A. Rodriguez	67.067
6	James Barber	66.333
7	Robert Hurd (65.720)	65.933
8	Shane Snowden (65.640)	65.933
9	Melinda Ellis	65.800
10	Brian Champie	64.933
11	Michael Moore	64.733
12	Bill Beneker	60.467

Masters Team Precision

1	Don't Panic	73.917
2	Indeskyze	71.217
3	BumperKites	66.933
4	Wind Wizards	64.500
5	Valli Boyz	63.233

Experienced Individual Ballet

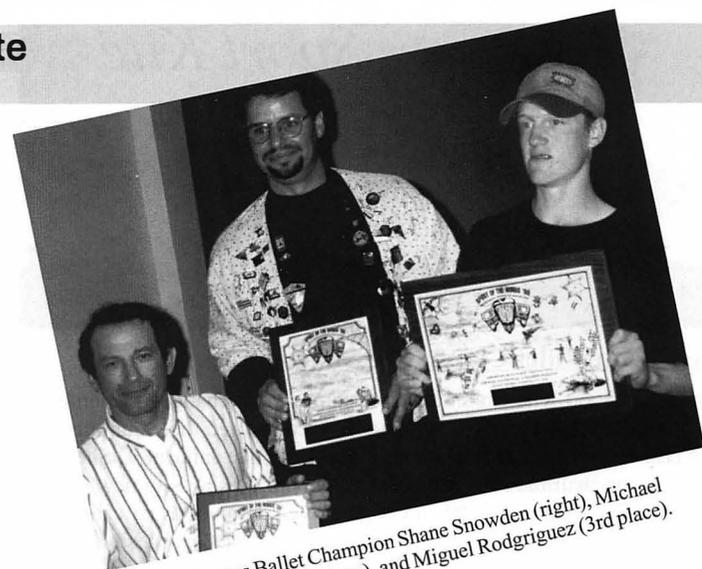
1	Dan Brown	72.667
2	Scott Akira Higashi	71.000
3	Steve LaPorte	69.133
4	Terry S Murray	68.533
5	Lionel Gibbons	68.067
6	Phil Broder	62.133
7	Joey Cheatham	60.400
8	Gerry Reidel	58.000
9	Kenneth Blain	52.000
10	Robert Hilliard	50.067
11	Brian Guile	48.133

Experienced Individual Precision

1	Scott Akira Higashi	65.917
2	Robin Loehr	62.600
3	Joey Cheatham	61.617
4	Lionel Gibbons	61.000
5	Steve LaPorte	59.700
6	Phil Broder	59.067
7	Terry S Murray	58.133
8	Brian Guile	58.083
9	Ruth Polifrone	55.650
10	Robert Hilliard	54.233

Masters Quadline Ballet

1	Ron Despojado	79.733
2	Lam Hoac	79.267
3	Penny Lingenfelter	74.533
4	Dave Van Nocker	71.200
5	Scott A. Weider	70.067
6	Debra Hurd	69.400
7	Robert Hurd	69.200
8	Troy Gunn	65.533
9	Michael Weingand	63.533
10	Charles Stonestreet	56.867



Masters Ballet Champion Shane Snowden (right), Michael Weingand (2nd place), and Miguel Rodriguez (3rd place).

Experienced Quadline Ballet

1	Steve LaPorte	78.800
2	Lionel Gibbons	77.267
3	Fred Marchand	73.933
4	Gerry Reidel	73.533
5	Alan Brooks	70.867
6	Bruce Kapste	67.200
7	Terry S Murray	62.800
8	Torrey Lindemann	62.467
9	Kenneth Blain	60.000
10	Sharon Torres	59.400
11	Mike Westfall	46.733
12	Philip Napier	43.867
13	John Binder	42.000

Intermediate Individual Precision

1	Alan Brooks	62.000
2	Torrey Lindemann	59.733
3	Fred Marchand	58.467
4	Philip Napier	58.333
5	Richard K. Koons	58.000
6	Michael Polifrone	56.933
7	Pat Sutherland	55.800
8	Bud Root	52.533
9	William C Schumacher	46.600

Novice Individual Ballet

1	Susan Shampo	66.600
2	Bill Rogers	59.000
3	Jason Adame	57.600
4	Bruce Lindemann	57.067
5	Larry Clark	54.667
6	Richard D Courmettes	54.067
7	Marjorie Taylor	53.267
8	Charles Stewart	52.200

Novice Individual Precision

1	Bill Rogers	64.467
2	Susan Shampo	62.367
3	David Franz	61.033
4	Marjorie Taylor	59.533
5	Jason Adame	59.500
6	Bruce Lindemann	58.400
7	Richard D Courmettes	58.133
8	Lisa Root	55.533
9	John Binder	46.333

Experienced Pairs Ballet

1	Centrifugal Force	81.333
2	Q	75.600
3	Air-Play	67.400
4	Hangr18	58.733
5	Lasting Impressions	58.000
6	Team Factor	57.000
7	Richmond RAFL's	52.133
8	Ms. Matched	50.067
9	NW Fly'n Fools	49.600

Experienced Team Ballet

1	Team W.A.T.T	54.600
2	Air Crackers	52.600
3	Richmond Air Force	46.867

Experienced Team Precision

1	Air Crackers	57.183
2	Team W.A.T.T	51.550
3	Richmond Air Force	50.217

Intermediate Individual Ballet

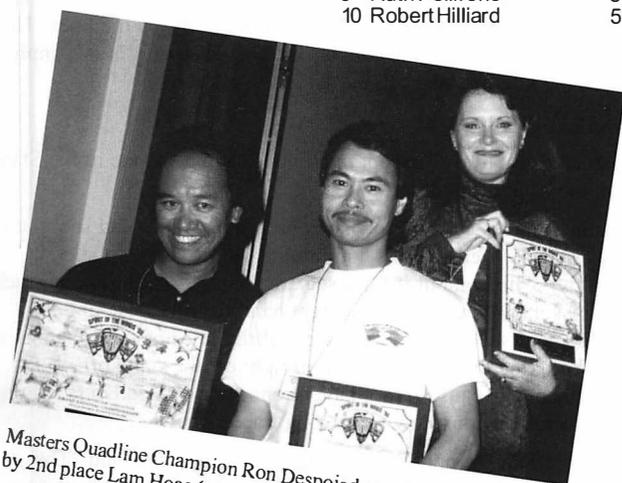
1	Philip Napier	71.000
2	Torrey Lindemann	69.067
3	Alan Brooks	63.800
4	Marty Aguirre	60.400
5	Flora Thompson	59.867
6	Pat Sutherland	59.000
7	Fred Marchand	56.267
8	Kasey Loehr	55.200
9	Laura Stonestreet	52.267
10	William C Schumacher	45.800

Open Individual Innovative

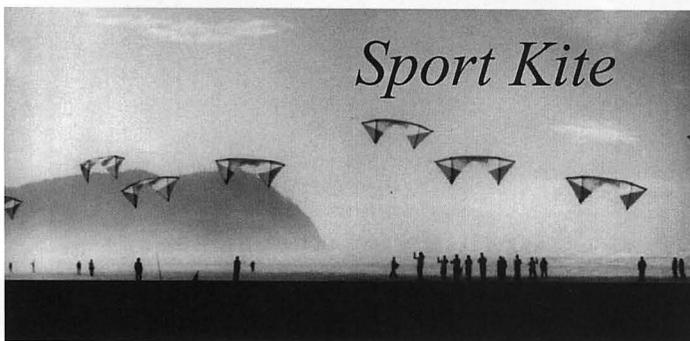
1	Steve LaPorte	65.433
2	Ron Despojado	60.433
3	Ray Bethell	59.533
4	Mel Edmond	57.533
5	Kenneth Blain	56.400
6	Bryan Leonard	55.433
7	William C Schumacher	52.933

Open Team Train Ballet

1	Valli Boyz	69.533
2	Thats My Line	68.467
3	Wind Dancers	66.933
4	K FAN	62.000
5	TKO II	61.400



Masters Quadline Champion Ron Despojado on the left, followed by 2nd place Lam Hoac (center), and Penny Lingenfelter in third.



Sport Kite Rules Committee Changes

The AKA Sport Kite Committee had some recent changes in membership. Dave and Sherrie Arnold, who have co-chaired the committee for the past four years, are transitioning out. Effective January 1, Sherrie turned over chairmanship duties for all general business to new member Kobi Eshun of Berkeley, CA; Dave continues as co-chair in charge of International Rule Book Committee (IRBC) issues until that work has been completed.

In addition, Joel Brown of Hartsdale, NY, and Michael Moore of Pittsburgh, PA have been added to the committee, replacing Bert Tanaka and Mike Simmons.

These changes result in committee membership as follows:

Dave Arnold (Co-Chair for IRBC), Kobi Eshun (Co-chair for all other business), Joel Brown, Bob Childs, Eric Forsberg, David Gomborg, Michael Moore, Sue Sedgwick, Chuck Sigal and Darrin Skinner. The committee's primary focus at this time is input to the IRBC work on the Judges Book and implementation of the IRBC Rule Book, put into effect for the 1998-99 season. If you have questions or ideas on either of these, you can contact or e-mail (skc@aka.kite.org) any of the members.

International Rule Book Committee (IRBC) Update

IRBC continues its work on the Sport Kite Judges Book, the second phase following introduction of the IRBC Rule Book. This document will cover the scoring process, including judging criteria for all aspects of ballet and precision competition, penalties, and improved tools for quantitative evaluation.

Dave Arnold and Eric Forsberg represent the AKA on the Committee, which consists of two members each from AJSKA, AKA, and STACK.



AKA Grand National Fighter Kite Competition Results

<p>Novice Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Neannette Mandanis 2 Chuck Lund 3 Richard Hurd <p>Experienced Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Brian Johnsen 2 Joe Bolin 3 Jeremy Rydel 	<p>Novice Fighting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Al Councilman 2 Terri McPherson 3 Jeannette Mandanis <p>Experienced Fighting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Jeff MacInnes 2 Bruce Lambert 3 Rick Miller
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TRICK

I Hate To Walk...

My name is Brian Champie, I fly in the San Francisco bay area at Berkeley's North Waterfront Park, now known by the politically correct as Caesar Chavez Park. I have been known to fly 20 to 30 hours a week in the summer. I love kites and "do" all of the festivals I can. I am a founding board member of the Bay Area Sport Kite League and a Northern California Kite Club manager. I am known as an aggressive trick flier, and get a real kick seeing others doing tricks I have spawned. There is so much interest in tricks lately that I thought some basics tricks are in order. Often learning a new trick results in an unplanned landing and tangle, and because I really hate to walk and turn the kite over, here are some of the tricks I use to keep from WALKING! Tricks you can use to "adjust" the kite on the ground to relaunch.

The Ground Flip

The kite is on the ground, on it's back:

Gently pull on both lines so the kite will stand on its nose. Pull one line and the kite will roll over in that direction. Pull gently on the other line and the kite will roll to that side. Practice rocking the kite from one leading edge to the other.

Once you are comfortable with this, set the kite on one leading edge, let's say the left edge, (remember the kite is on its nose so the LEFT edge is on your RIGHT). Now pull sharply with the right hand and let the left hand go to follow the kite over. You may need to pull down with your left hand after the kite has passed over center (left tip past 12 o'clock position) to finish the move with command. With practice you will be able to flip the kite over without even thinking of the hand movements. This one trick will save you many trips and is the basis for a couple cool tricks!

Wing Wrap

Another frustrating "kite on ground" problem is the wing wrap:

The kite is on the ground in the relaunch position, except one of the lines is caught on or wrapped around one wing tip. This one is easy, and certainly no reason to walk. Lay the kite on its back, gently pull on the line that is wrapped until the caught wing is pointing right at your belly button, now with both hands, pull evenly on the lines. This will stand the kite up and the caught line will drop off. Now simply straighten the kite up, take off and fly!

Whisker Wrap

The kite is "ready to fly" except one line is caught on one of the Stand Off's on the back of the kite:

First instinct makes us want to shake, pull, drag, rattle and shout at the line that is stuck. Well, all this commotion will do is help stick it more firmly! Think about it for a sec... let's say the right line is stuck on the whisker. If you move your right hand forward, slacking the caught line, and shake, rattle and swear at the left line (the one that is NOT hooked), the loose snag will drop right off the stand off! I mention this one because I, too, have spent accumulated hours tugging on, what seems obvious now, the wrong line!

Next issue: "The Dropped Handle Dash", "The Slider" and "The Upside Down Slider". If you want to share your tricks with us - send them to me at champ@hooked.net.

Buggy at the convention; can it get much better? Arrived Weds afternoon in Seattle, got the last rental car and booked it to Ocean Shores. The drive out was beautiful and two hours later, i'm on the beach, and what a beach it is my friends, Huge! Long and wide, sort of dark sand, gray Pacific Ocean, lots of waves. Plenty of kites everywhere. The first buggy i see is Dodd Gross going fast backwards.



Top and bottom: Kelci Williams (Babes On Our Buggies) and Sherrie Arnold helping with "Women On Wheels" workshop.



on a roll...
by Dean Jordan

The wind is a perfect onshore breeze, not too hard, but steady. Find out that the designated buggy area is way down the beach away from the main convention, which is a shame, as we like to be a part of the convention too. Lots of rules are handed to me as soon as i pull up, but i'm happy 'cause

i'm about to buggy. Fritz and Jeff are already here flying new quadrafoil XXL's and doing lots of tricks. Dave and Sherrie Arnold made the trip. Dave had the trick new helmet from Sears, a Bell, and Sherrie was fresh from helping Kelci teach her Women on Wheels buggy class. Morrie Williams was there as well with the new C-Quad and Dodd had some kites from Wind Tools (Ekko and Mosquito Pro) that he is importing. Dave Jam and Richard Ridgway, the Jo-Jo boys were ripping, and Brian Smith was giving rides. Took me awhile to get out of the travel mode. I put my gear together finally and got out and rode till dark, it was way smooth with the C-3 and fast. Was surprised there were not more buggies, what up West Coast?



Jeff Howard was way fast in the Buggy Races, and the beach was way big!!

I was late for racing on the next day due to my comprehensive competition, and barely made it in time for the race meeting. In case you don't know yet, we're using the PKA rule of starting the races at the posted time regardless if anyone is there or not. A good rule, but one i had to learn about the hard way! Needless to say i missed the first race when i misunderstood how much time was left and tried to take another lap only to see the whole field headed for the first turn! Sorry if you were in earshot, i apologize.



Competition was stiff, with Jeff Howard and Fritz Gramkowski neck and neck followed closely by Richard Ridgway then Kurt Anderson and i, then Mark Davis and David Jam. It was a very stock car type race with lots of bumping and aggressive piloting going on. I don't know what it looked like to others but it was pretty exciting from where i sat. We had our regular 5 race series of three laps around a rectangular course. The wind was almost directly onshore and slightly blowing out of the north making the return leg a bit of a beat. Jeff & i were flying C-3's Fritz was flying a XXL, Richard and Dave were flying Jo-Jo's (say yo-yo).

On Saturday, the last day, winds were high and blowing almost straight down the beach. Jeff & Fran organized a three race series in a slightly different format. The course was laid out with a narrow gate to pass through for the start, then half way down widened out with two chairs on the outside, one on the right you had to pass on the way down and one on the left you had to pass on the way back after going around a single pole at the far end. This was a high-speed course all the way

with mostly small kites in use, though Fritz was flying a 5m N-Gen., which gave him a little trouble. To make things interesting, after the course was set up, some folks thought the corners would be a good place to learn to fly a kite! Lots of bumping in this race too, but so much fun we did one more for fun.

Of interest was Richard Dutton's prototype quad handles. These are the best quick release i've seen. They work by pushing a button under your thumb which releases 6 feet of line allowing complete collapse of your quad kite without fouling your line set.

Don't forget SBBB at Ivanpah Dry Lake. The dates are March 10 - 16 with the weekend of the 12 - 14 being the center of activities.

Grand National Kite Buggy Racing Results

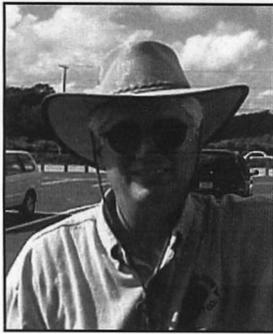
Circuit Race

- 1 Jeff Howard
- 2 Fritz Gramkowski
- 3 Richard Ridgway
- 4 Kurt Anderson
- 5 Dean Jordan
- 6 Mark Davis
- 7 David Jam

Pursuit Race

- 1 Jeff Howard
- 2 Richard Ridgway (Buggy Bison)
- 3 Dean Jordan
- 4 Fritz Gramkowski
- 5 Mark Davis





Region

1

New England

Steve Santos

This is my first month as Regional Director. I'd like to take this opportunity to say hello to everyone and offer my first report to our members! In the position of Regional Director, I will try to attend as many kite events as my schedule allows. If I'm not at your event, please write or e-mail me and I'll try to get as much info as I can into my reports! Send photos as well! Tell me about your upcoming events! I want to keep all members informed of the many opportunities to attend kite events in our region. Jack Rogers will be a Deputy Director for our region and will help me stay in touch with as many members as possible. He'll be a big asset for our region. One of my goals is to build up the status of the Annual Regional 1 Meeting to a convention-like atmosphere with choice of clinics, seminars, indoor fly and pure kiting fun! Growth in Region 1 AKA membership will always be my top priority!

Now, information on some new indoor events-

KONE (Kites Over New England) club is sponsoring its first Kites Over New England Indoor Championship on January 23, which will be held in the Marblehead High School Gymnasium. This is a great facility and used regularly for monthly indoor flies! John Ruggiero is the person who spearheaded these events! We owe our thanks to John!

Another new competition event will be held at St. Michaels Academy in Newport, RI - the Newport Indoor Open, February 13. It will be one of several kite events within Newport's Winterfestival schedule (12-21). There are also new indoor flies scheduled in Nashua, NH and Hull, MA. More in RI, CT and MA. Check AKA or club calendars for regularly scheduled indoor and outdoor flies throughout New England!

Past Happenings- Jeff "Sarge" Cleaves and new Region 2 Director, Alice Hayden, ran a regional event in Norwalk, CT on Halloween, Oct 31st. Novice and intermediate fliers competed. The event offered a judging seminar and managed to run a fun filled Magical Mystery Pairs Tour! Points gained will also count towards standings in a new NE Regional League. This league is for Novice and Intermediate fliers. This is a great way to develop kite fliers in our region. Thanks to Eric Babilewicz and Forrest Cary for developing the league!

As for Region 1 members at the national convention, fliers Torrey Lindemann, Scott Weider, David Franzi, along with teams Air Crackers and Air Play all placed in the top three

in their respective competition events! This was 12 yr old David's first convention and he took home wood! Way to go! Thanks to everyone for all your hard work!

Mark your calendar for the Annual Region 1 Meeting and Fly on April 10th & 11th!



Region

2

Northeast

Alice Hayden

I want to thank you all for your notes of confidence in me. I hope to help further kiting in our region. This region already has a many faceted wealth of kiting talent. From kite builders/creators to stunt kite aficionados to fighter kite enthusiasts to the strong kite clubs. We have the impeccable award winning kite craftsmanship of the likes of Tanna and Glen Haynes, Kevin Shannon, Steve and Tony Ferrel, Pete Rondeau, Jim Low, just to name a few. We have top notch stunt kite teams like the Valli Boyz and Sudden Flight and KFAN; some developing teams like W.A.T.T. and the Valli Girlz. We also have some incredible individual stunt kite fliers in the likes of Steve Karatzas, Lou Behrman, Billy Ng and Dodd Gross. Some of the best

NEWPORT '99

July 9-11, 1999, Newport, RI

Newport Sport Kite Championships VIII
1999 Newport Cup Kitemaking Competition
3rd New England Indoor Championships

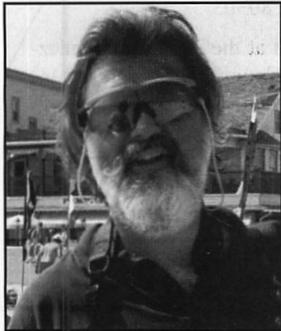
- Beautiful Atlantic Ocean Location*
- Dual & Quadline Sport Kite Competitions*
- Competitive Kitemaking Competitions*
- Fighter Kite Competition*
- Single Line Flying Fields*
- Demonstrations*
- Special Invited Guests*
- Raffles & Auction for Charity*
- Lobster banquet at Johnny's House of Seafood*
- Ground Display Contest*
- Night Fly Contest*
- Large Spectator Audience*
- On Field Kite Manufacturer Displays*
- Kite Retail Sales*

Book rooms early at the Seaview Motel at 401-846-5000.
For details contact Sue or Steve at
HIGH FLYERS FLIGHT COMPANY, INC.
492 Thames Street, Newport, RI 02840
Ph/Fax 401-846-3262
Email: HighflyrA@AOL.COM

Official kite vendor of Brenton Point State Park - Site of the '86 AKA Convention

fighter kite pilots like Peter Lee, Andy Seltzer and John Rose. And we have 6 of the most active kite clubs I know. The clubs promote kiting both within the kiting community (such as Keystone Kites bringing in the Gibians or Ed Shenk for workshops) and outside (like the Lehigh Valley Kite Society's workshops for children). Just check the score sheet from the Nationals to see how many of the participants you know are from our region.

What's the point? You all have a lot of talent and great ideas. Let's use each other as resources and help grow all aspects of kiting. If you have suggestions or requests for assistance, please let me know. Let's see if we can make this region even better.



Region
3

MidAtlantic

Jon Burkhardt

WOW! What a great Convention! We were blessed with fine weather, a fabulous hotel, and just great feelings all around. The flying space was maybe even too big (is this possible?), but we had lots of great stuff up lots of times. Congratulations to all the winners, especially Tanna Haynes, who garnered her second Grand National Champion trophy in the Kitemakers' Competition. Hats off to the Fort Worden Kitemakers who accepted the challenge of the Maryland Kite Society, and continued the tradition of a club's kitemakers donating a collection of kites in similar colors to AKA's auction. It looks like the Fort Worden crew may have beaten the total dollar amount raised by MKS for AKA last year, but it looks like the percentage take was about the same. Once again, a great contribution to AKA's fiscal health. So the gauntlet is tossed to the Hoosier Kite Society — time for you folks to step up and continue the tradition. This is the kind of competition that helps us all.

It was a real thrill for me to be the 1998 recipient of AKA's Steve Edieken award. Steve was a genuine friend and a true inspiration to me. If everyone had the same generous, sharing approach to kiteflying that Steve had, this would be a far, far better world. Big shoes to fill, but I'll try to continue Steve's inspiration and sharing. Thanks to all who've expressed their kind thoughts on this award.

Looking forward: The Wings Over Washington Bobby Stanfield retreat will have been completed by the time you read this, but we expect that it will have been great. In 1999, the Maryland Kite Society's Winter Kite Retreat will be held in Laurel, Maryland February 12 through 15. Joel Scholz of Texas is a confirmed presenter and others will be announced soon. After that, the Smithsonian Kite Festival is scheduled for Saturday, March 27. The 1999 theme is "A Century of Flight: Looking Back," and in the year 2000 it will be "A Century of Flight: Looking Forward." The kites that best fit the theme for the year will be awarded special prizes. For 1999, award criteria include the best representations of historical turning points in kite designs, technical advancements, or popularizing kites from the 1890s through the 1990s. Additional considerations will be given to kitefliers in costume or offering performances in keeping with the theme of their kites. Bring your own press release! You could be a featured flyer!

Reminder: Region 3 flies include the First Sunday Flies at the Washington Monument grounds in D.C., sponsored by Wings Over Wash-

ington, and the Fly Maryland events, sponsored by the Maryland Kite Society every third Sunday at Glenwood Community Park in Inwood, Maryland. These events are attracting lots of interest, and everyone is welcome to join us.

Stay warm, stay well. Good winds to all.

Region
4

Southeast

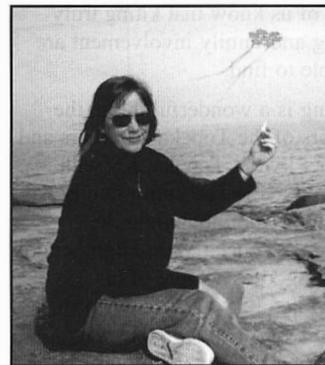
Bob Peibly



Happy New Year Region 4! First, thank you for electing me as your new regional director. Please feel free to contact me with any AKA issues, questions, comments or concerns and I'll do my best to help out. As the cold sets in and other regions pack their kites for the winter, we are fortunate that our region enjoys some of its best flying weather of the year. Upcoming regional events include the 2nd Treasure Island Sport Kite Competition hosted by Kitesville USA January 15-17, the Kite Trade Association International convention in Clearwater, January 20-23, and the 4th Annual Little Acorns International Kite Festival on Miami Beach, April 16-18. Send me your event news and announcements (and submit events to the calendar on the AKA web site).

For those of you in the Tampa area, there's a new AKA affiliated club in town. TISKK (Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub) flies every Sunday afternoon on the beach near the Bilmar Hotel on Treasure Island with their official meeting the last Sunday of the month.

Hope to fly with you soon in and about the region!



Region
5

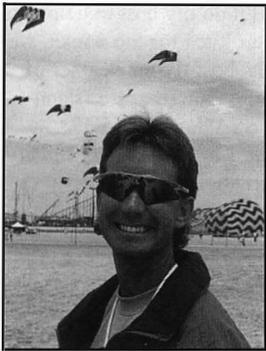
Great Lakes

Robyne Gardner

We're looking forward to the Holidays as I type, and yet I realize that by the time you see this, my Holiday Greetings will be belated. Hope you had a wonderful Season, and found a chance to get out and fly. For the New Year, I'm urging everyone to make a conscious effort to be happy and thankful for all the good things in your life. I'm borrowing the following words - an email - from Terry McPherson, and send it along to you, dubbing it "The New Region Five Creed" :

"Our main objective is to fly kites & to have fun. I, for one, like to grin; kite flying makes me grin. I can't grin all the time, wish I could. I can't have fun all the time, wish I could. I can't fly kites all the time, wish I could. Which is more fun, flyin' or grinnin'? Wish I knew. I want everyone to have fun and keep grinnin'. Flyin' kites is the very best way to do that. It just puts a grin on your face that lets us all know that we're having fun."

Fun will kick off the New Year at the Annual Sno' Fly on New Year's Day in Kalamazoo. I hear several of the Region's Clubs plan to invade-uh, er- attend. There are plenty of cold weather events coming up, each offering an opportunity for fun and friendship - so don't just sit there in that chair all winter, okay? Terry's Annual Frozen Thingy will take place at Maumee Bay State Park, January 30 - 31. Call Terry Gerweck for details: (734) 243-0919. The Annual Valentine's Day Ice Fly in Erie, PA has been moved up a week this year. I got it through the grapevine that it will be held February 6 - 7. I suspect that is because Lee & Sue Sedgewick are two of the invited guests at another event in Madison, Wisconsin. The new Kites on Ice festival (Feb. 12-14) sounds like it's shaping up to be another of those big "can't miss" events. Great website with more information at <http://www.madfest.org/kites.htm>, or contact Craig Wilson. Next up will be another all-new event: the Midwest Indoor Championships at the Bowling Green State University Field House. This will be not only a chance to fly (and learn to fly) in the greatest indoor field around, but also a chance to take part in a no-sew light wind Roller Kite workshop given by Bob White. Contact the folks at Wings On The Wind for more scoop: 419-352-5483.



Region

7

Great Plains

Chris Moore

Perhaps some of you have heard comments like, "Aren't you a little old to be playing with kites?", or "These kites are expensive, it must be a hobby only for adults." Well most of us know that kiting truly does span the generations and that kiting and family involvement are something that many of us have been able to find.

There is one family that knows that kiting is a wonderful thing, the Homan family. The Homans are members of the Topeka Kitefliers and the Kansas City Kite Club. Bob and Janet live in Topeka, KS with their son Paul, 15, and their daughter Emily, 13. The entire family has been active in kiting events throughout the region including the Twisted Lines Kite Festival. Paul Homan, a Topeka West High School sophomore, has been quite busy constructing kites. Some of his creations include a 28 foot diameter bol kite, a 55 sq. ft. flow form, a giant caterpillar, and a myriad of colorful wind feathers. He was recently highlighted in a section of the Topeka Capital-Journal newspaper with some great color pictures. The Homans fly with the Topeka Kitefliers on the first and third Sundays of the month at Cedar Crest. For more information call 913-862-5413.

The Kansas City Kite Club has also been busy constructing kites under the careful direction of David Ellis, who was been diligently instructing and sharing his kite building knowledge with fellow KCKC members by holding monthly kite building classes. David has taught a class on constructing a small stunter and most recently a class on fighter kites. For information contact the KCKC at 816-333-9041.

The 6th Annual Silver Wings Kite Festival held in Wichita, KS in late August gathered kitefliers from all over. The festival was a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and was a big success due in part to several events that the public could take part in for a donation. Amy Pittman's miniature kite making booth and the sled kite making

booth were busy all weekend. Barney Tull from the Windjammers gave hands-on instructions in trying a sport kite. The Lemons from Oklahoma gave some pretty swift buggy rides, and Sam and Barbie Pedregon and Mike Shaw from Colorado were painting the sky with their kites. There were some terrific bols, including the "Stargate" bol conceived, designed and constructed by Don Larkie, Bill Timmerman and Allen Gillson from Kansas City.

Also, there is increasing activity by the Foothills Kite Club in Colorado. The Foothills Kite Club has members as far north as Lyons, CO and as far south as Pueblo, CO. Their wide ranging club is unique and growing! There are some very talented kite builders in this club, as well as some serious collectors. For more information contact Randy Nason at 112 Cherokee Way, Boulder, CO 80303.

The River Breezes Kite Club made it debut at the 1st River Rendezvous held on October 10 & 11 at the Cole County Fairgrounds near Jefferson City, MO. The club was invited due to the persistence of club member Andy Heimericks and they are already planning next year's activities, as they had a great time entertaining the approximately 30,000 people that visited the festival.

As we move into the colder time of the year, it is an excellent time to start the kite building project you have been planning, to work on the choreography of next year's sport kite routine, or to plan out this year's Kiting Calendar and share a kite story with some friends.

Region

6

Midwest

Alan Sparling



Well, it is the end of my second year as a Regional Director and time to reflect a little on the past year. I am quite disturbed by the loss of membership in the AKA, both nationally and particularly in this region. My strategy has been to try to keep a very high profile for the AKA in the region, hoping to at least retain a higher percentage of current members. Although this strategy has pleased many of our hard core members, it has driven me to the edge of exhaustion and has not stemmed the tide of non-renewals. I am at my wits end as to how to better promote the AKA and increase membership. So, I must now ask each of you to go out and sign up at least one new member. If half of you are successful, this region will be at record membership levels by this time next year. For the over-achievers among you, I will come up with a gift certificate to a kite store in the region for the most new or lapsed members signed up. If any of the kite stores would like to partner with me, please send me an email or leave a message on the answering machine as I am still working crazy hours and am rarely home during the day or evening hours.

A major recruiting tool for use among lapsed members will be the 1999 convention in Muncie, IN. Please remind our departed friends that they need to be a member to attend this convention. Speaking of the convention, a few of the Region 5 and 6 clubs are getting together to sponsor the Early Bird reception this coming year. In order to put on a really nice spread it will take around \$2000. It does not seem fair that the Hoosier Kitefliers should take on this responsibility by

themselves, so we are organizing clubs in the two regions to do fundraising and spread the cost. If each club could raise around \$200, maybe a little more for bigger clubs, less for small clubs, we could throw a spectacular party for our friends from the rest of the country. Any clubs wanting to participate in this endeavor, please let me know.

Another piece of pressing business for next year's convention is recruiting kitemakers to build kites for the auction. In the past two years, kitemakers from the region hosting the convention have built several kites with a unified set of colors which have brought in a substantial portion of auction revenue. We have been challenged to do the same. We are looking for kitemakers to make the kites and sponsors to help pay for the ripstop. Again, it is not fair to expect the kitemakers to give up their time and effort to make the kites and also expect them to pay for the privilege. I will come up with some memento for each kitemaker and sponsor involved in the Great Midwestern Kite Project. Any suggestions as to the appropriate colors to use will be gratefully accepted.

Shifting gears, my three year term will be up at convention next year. If work calms down to the point that I can do this job properly again, I will run for another year. There is no guarantee that this will happen, and the nominating committee wants each regional election to be contested. So if you like to travel, want to promote the AKA and enjoy making new friends, why not run for Regional Director? While I hope to be in a position to run again, I will not be insulted or upset by those who run against me. I hope that some of you will truly consider stepping up to this job.

Changing gears again, remember that the end of fair weather, does not mean the end of kite flying in the Midwest. This year in particular we will host an additional event featured in the last KITING, "Kites On Ice". This event promises to be a truly great event if the amount of effort and planning that have gone into it are any indication. So pull out your warm clothes and get up to Madison in February or you will end up regretting it all year as you listen to the rest of us go on and on about how wonderful the event was. Also, remember that there are many other cold weather events and workshops that are deserving of your time.

I have used up so much space already that it is now impossible to do the club reports in the allotted space, so look for a consolidated version in the next issue. In closing, please go out and sign up a new member. I can not stress enough the importance of stopping the loss of membership to the viability of the AKA. Please help.

Gunn Points

An on-line account of the U.S. Federal Aviation Regulations as they pertain to kites can be found at: <http://www.faa.gov/avr/AFS/FARS/far-101.txt>

Below is a link to World Cup Champion "Aftershock" and an on-line link to several videos of the team in flight at: <http://sport.freepage.de/eckholt/test/>



Region

8

South Central

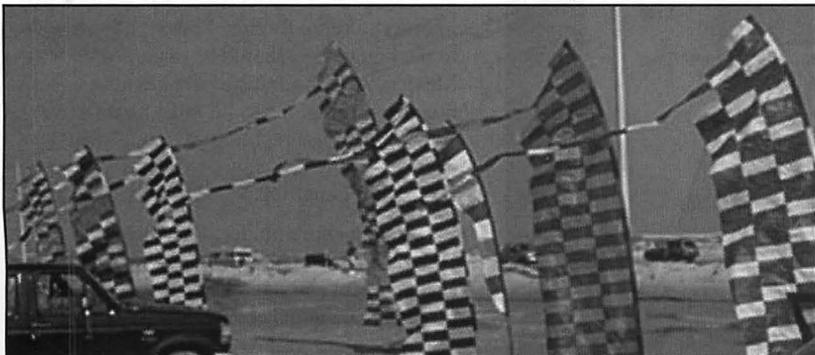
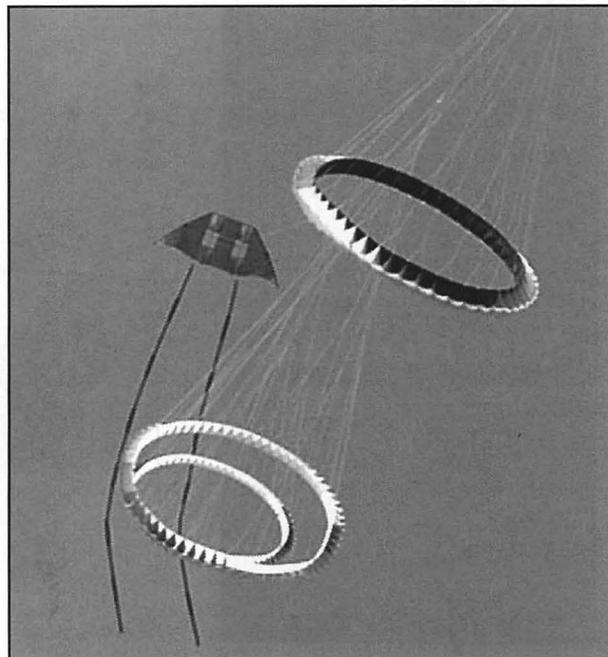
Troy Gunn

Happy New Year everyone! Let me begin this report by welcoming New Mexico to Region 8! Region 8 now includes AR, LA, OK, NM & TX. I hope all of you got your fill of kite festivals in 1998, I know I had a great time going to almost every festival in the region!

A new League (CKL) has been organized in our region. The purpose of the Central Kite League is to: Promote kite competitions, Recognize competitors, Create ideas that will increase kite flying exposure within our league's geographic area. The Central Kite League includes: All American Kitefliers Association (AKA) members from both Regions 7 & 8. The CKL will reward kite competition winners at the end of each year with special awards. The winners will be picked by a points system where points will be awarded for each of the following competitions:

Sportkites Buggy Races, Comprehensive Kite Building, Rokkaku Battles, Ground Displays and Fighter Kite Battles. Go to the CKL website to find out more information. The URL is <http://www.webzone.net/KennyK/central.htm>.

Those of you that weren't able to attend the 1998 AKA Ocean Shores convention missed another great one! Several of our region's AKA members made you and I proud by winning or placing well in their selected expertise and brought home the Gold (wood)! Shane Snowden won MIB by flying his now legendary routine to the theme of "Mission Impossible". Shane won with rock solid choreography & execution. BTW- Shane just moved to our region from the Kansas City area. Shane made it quite clear that none his success would have been



Paul Homan's banners at the South Padre Island festival. Paul is still in high school in Topeka, KS and makes his own kites and banners. To the right: Spinning wind wheels and double Delta-Conyne. - photos by Sam Pedregon

possible without the encouragement and support of his mother, Phyllis Snowden. Pairs Team TKO 2 placed a respectable 5th place in MPB. John Binder placed a respectable 9th place in NIP.

The Buggy Pursuit and Circuit races were dominated by Jeff Howard. Jeff swept both events in convincing style as usual!

Comprehensive Kite Builders competition saw first time convention attendee Terry Sansom win both the Innovative Concepts and Cooperative categories! Terry is from Wimberley, TX. Terry won the cooperative kite category with an entry named "The Rec.kites Arch". Rec.kites is the favorite internet discussion group for kites all over the world. Thirty-eight regulars of rec.kites all made the kites for what was named "The Rec.kites Arch Project". Kinetic Kites of Bethany, OK furnished all the sticks for the project. Terry Sansom had the following to say about the Arch, "When we first started this cooperative kite project I did not expect to win until the first sails started to arrive. I was amazed by the artistry and craftsmanship of all the contributors. The arch, all 810 feet of it, was awesome in the sky. It could not even fit inside the designated flying field. At first, I was somewhat intimidated with launching such a large arch, but with the expert help of John Murray and Mike Smathers it went up without a hitch in about 20 minutes." There were 239 kites total in the arch. The arch was later donated to the AKA auction and was sold in five separate pieces for a total of \$1175.00. Richard Dermer bought two of the sections, so don't be surprised to see these two sections at many of this year's festivals!

Congratulations to Terry and all the other winners that represented our region with their winning Grand Nationals efforts!

Seven more words and this report is history. "Don't forget to renew your AKA memberships!"



Region

9

Intermountain

Robin Loehr

News from Region 9. Life seems a whirlwind of kites and festivals in the last two months. We flew two events in September, the Lewis and Clark Kite Expo in Seaside, Oregon and the Washington State Stunt Kite Championships at Whidby Island, Washington. Though it is in Region 10, WSSKC is still one of our favorite events. On October 10-11, the dates of our own event, SHOWDOWN II finally arrived.

All during the week preceding we had watched the weather reports with trepidation. October can be a beautiful month in the Northwest; it can also be foul. On Friday, the 9th, the sky opened up and rain poured down. We ran about making final preparations — in the rain. Several out of conference fliers arrived — in the rain. The volunteer crew staked out the fields — more rain. Eric and Genny Forsberg, Dual-line Coordinators, and Al Councilman, Field Director, arrived. It was getting dark. And still raining. Everyone assured us that everything would be fine.

Saturday dawned partly cloudy, but the rain was gone. And stayed away for the entire weekend. Get a bunch of fliers together and we can influence even the weather. The rest of the weekend is a swirl of memories to me: the flurry of energy and activity that always precedes a festival; fliers pulling into the parking lot; trunks opening; kite bags taken out; wind feathers lifting to the breeze; kites rising on the light breezes. It was a beautiful sight. Though the winds were light and strange (90 degree wind shifts), there was wind, and kite fliers and kites. For us, it was a wonderful time. We hope everyone else enjoyed it as well.

And on Monday? Rain again, though the A.K.A. Convention at Ocean Shores was blessed with almost perfect flying conditions.

Other Region 9 news of importance: Region 9 is shrinking! During the Board of Director's meeting at the Convention it was decided that in order to serve Region 9 better, adjustments to the boundaries should be made. New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada are now members of regions 8, 12 and 11 respectively. Though I'll miss representing you, I will get a chance to fly with many of you at the Avi Festival in Laughlin, NV.

Lastly, a quick reminder: The Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat in January is a very special event and one to be attended if possible. See you there.

good flying

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Region

10

Northwest

Robin Haas

Well, we did it! The Region did a GREAT job of hosting the 1998 AKA Convention in Ocean Shores, WA. We were even successful in having the weather cooperate with us! Could anyone believe that we had five days of no rain on the ocean in the middle of October? Well that's not exactly true but it was pretty close. With the exception of Saturday morning, it rained only when there weren't activities taking place on the beach! I came away with lots of pictures with blue skies in the background!

I would like to thank all of you that showed your support and contributed so much time and effort to make this event a huge success. The hotel was great, the food was great, and I think people came away from the event with a very positive feeling about what is happening here in our region.

The Northwest did very well in the competitions at the convention. I won't go into a great deal of detail because that is being covered elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it to say that there was a good representation of Northwesternites (is that a word?) in all areas including single line, dual line, fighters, buggies, pins, etc.

For those of you that don't follow the sport kite scene, I would encourage you to take some time to check it out again. This area is being so well represented with some very talented flyers that it would be a shame to miss this. Teams have been a rare commodity for the last few years. However, 1999 looks like it is going to be a good show with no less than four teams competing in the region. On any given day any team could come away with a first place finish which will make it a very exciting competition to watch. You just can't believe how the flying has matured if you haven't been following it. Check it out!

The only other event that occurred between the time I wrote my last report and the time I am writing this report is the Washington State Stunt Kite Championship and Whidbey Island Kite Festival. The weather cooperated for this event as well with sunny skies and relatively decent breezes prevailing. The folks at SCI-FI have learned how to do a festival right and should definitely be included on your calendar of "must-see" events next September.

Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference is going to be an incredible event this year. The dates are March 19-21, 1999. Registration began in December but if you act quickly you may still have a chance to attend. If you want more information call Bob Alford at 425-888-2812. You can also check out the web site at <http://www.ftwrndnkitemakers.org>. I hope to see a lot of you there.

Well, that is about all the space I have for this issue. I hope all of you had a great Holiday Season and are getting ready for a wonderful Kiting Season! See you all on the beach (or wherever we happen to be flying!)



Region

12

*Southern California
- Pacific*

Ron Despojado

Happy New Year 1999!

Now that I am officially Region 12 Director, I would like to do something different and write about other issues. These issues are common in many regions, and not just Region 12.

We belong to the AKA, the largest organized kiting organization in the world. Recently, I was confronted by what the AKA has to offer, and what my role will be. The biggest benefit we should be enjoying is the fact there is strength in numbers. Communication, sharing and receptiveness are the keys. Rumours, bad attitudes, and politics will destroy us. We have a tough time as it is, we don't need the negativity. I was informed that I had won the position by a mere eleven votes, but I had 100% of the voting. Eleven out of over 250 regional members is a marginal response.

We belong to a primarily volunteer organization. For many, it will actually "cost" them to volunteer. These unselfish few people work tirelessly and keep the big picture in focus - the AKA and making attempts to make it an enjoyable organization for others. True, not every decision will sit with everyone, but decisions have to be made and pleasing 100% is near impossible.

My region covers Southern California, Hawaii, and now Arizona according to the recent restructuring of the regions. Most of the people I know are from the Southern California area, but I would like to hear from those in Hawaii and Arizona.

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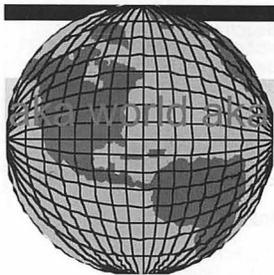
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A KITER'S PARADISE

Natural Heights, a specialist travel operator, is in its fourth year of organizing kite flying holidays in Portugal's southwest Algarve region. In 1999, Natural Heights has six kite weeks running throughout the year which are being hosted by top kite fliers and designers, Chris Matheson and Jeremy Boyce from the UK. They will be there to give hints and tips on flying, and to help with improvement on trick, quad-line, team flying, power, dual & single line flying. There is a simple policy to the holiday: have fun, meet new people who share the same interest, experiment with new kites and improve your flying skills!

Each afternoon we will meet at a choice of different locations, some on the south and west coasts which boast stretches of long, sandy beaches with hardly a soul on them! The group flies at leisure and participates in the structured lessons on various tricks and tips. Time is also spent practicing the lessons during the week.



Our home base during the holiday is a small fishing village called Burgau. The village is about eight kilometers from the city of Lagos and a 75-minute drive from the airport in Faro. The village overlooks a small bay and sandy beach. It is relatively uncommercialized and unspoiled by tourism with a number of good restaurants and bars to please most tastes and budgets. Generally, our kite groups stay around the village in various self-catering apartments, fisherman's houses or villas. For anyone looking for bed & breakfast accommodations or hotels, we offer a hotel in Luz, four kilometers from Burgau. There's also a B&B just outside Burgau.

There are plenty of places to visit for those wanting to do some sightseeing, and lots of activities, too. You can rent mountain bikes, go horseback riding, play tennis, visit a water park, swim, take beautiful coastal and countryside walks, play golf or just relax by a

Due to numerous reports we receive from members regarding festivals and kite activities worldwide, and to international kite activities home we have created this new section - aka world. We hope you enjoy these feature articles.

pool or on the beach and have an aroma therapy massage. The week-long courses are for the kite flier but because there is so much to see and do in the area, you do not have to be into kite flying to enjoy this beautiful conservation area.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The next dates are as follows: March 11th, March 25th, June 23rd, August 5th, September 30th and October 7th. The course fee is £100 (approximately \$160) which will be in addition to accommodation and transportation costs. There are flights to Faro from Germany, Belgium, Holland and the US (via London), and we can arrange a place for you to stay, be it a luxury villa with a pool or an apartment or studio.

The Natural Heights website is www.naturalheights.co.uk/km and you can e-mail us at naturalheights@dial.pipex.com

Our address is: 10 Blandfield Road, London SW 12 8BG, UK. Telephone (44) 181-682-8990. Fax (44) 181-673-7466.

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Treasures from Ancient Edo in Washington DC

Four giant Shirone kites introduce visitors to the National Gallery's "Treasures of Edo" exhibition. The kites, in the atrium of the Gallery, served as backdrop to the kite making demonstrations of Yoshizumi, Toki, Suzuki, and Watanabe, present for the first week of Japanese cultural activities associated with the exhibition. Watanabe-san and Suzuki-san introduced area kitefliers to the Tahara-dako, a fighting kite with a 250 year history, from the town of Tahara in central Japan. Yoshizumi-san and Toki-san demonstrated their skill in their fine bamboo work and skillful painting - making kites as crowds watched. Children of all ages were given the chance to fly Yoshizumi-san's mini-kites in the Gallery atrium.

Modegi-san and his wife, Sachiko, served as demonstrators, translators, and hosts to all who visited the kite-making area. The tako gakken, or kite battle, staged on Saturday gave visitors to the Mall a glimpse into kite fighting traditions of Japan. Local clubs Wings over Washington, the Maryland Kite Society, the Lehigh Valley Kite Society and the Richmond Air Force all had representatives flying Rokkaku and other traditional Japanese kite shapes. Four giant shirone kites

tested the sporty winds and served as introduction and grand finale to demonstration kite battles. My thanks to all.

Edo Style

Japan 1615-1868: For the first time in the history of Japan, the country was united under the Tokugawa shoguns, and under this rule, came a period of unprecedented peace and prosperity in their capital, EDO (which is now the world's largest city, Tokyo). During this era, art flourished, and to prove this, nearly 300 examples of art from this period are being exhibited at the National Gallery from November 15th to February 15th. Items include: painted scrolls, screens, costumes, ceremonial armor sculpture, ceramics, and woodblock prints as well as KITES. It was during this period that kites were designed and exhibited in great number.

The exhibition has commissioned Masaaki Modegi, to create three large odakos for exhibition in the East Wing.

Hanging from the large sculptural I.M. Pei National Gallery addition, they are a sight to behold. Kite enthusiasts will relish in the opportunity to see the kites and learn about the style and the era in which their art was created.

Learning about kites also means learning about the Japanese who created them, and this exhibition establishes the tone of high style and buoyant spirits characteristic of Edo art and the life of the Japanese,

Anarctica Ice Trek...

At the present time, an Anarctica expedition by Sir Edmund Hillary's son and two others currently underway. The adventure represents the longest attempt at an unsupported ice trek and involves the use of kite traction. The three plan on traveling dragging sleds to the South Pole, leaving provisions enroute to be recaptured on the return trek to the base camp. The total distance to be covered is over 1800 miles and on the return trip they plan on using Quadrifoil kites to increase their speeds up to 15mph. Check out the website (www.icetrek.org) to find out more.

In the next issue of KITING we will be featuring kites on ice and snow. You can participate by sending us an ice and snow traction photo, or a report on your event.

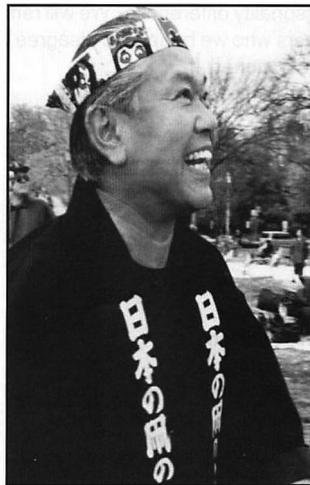
which can be found even in their lives today.

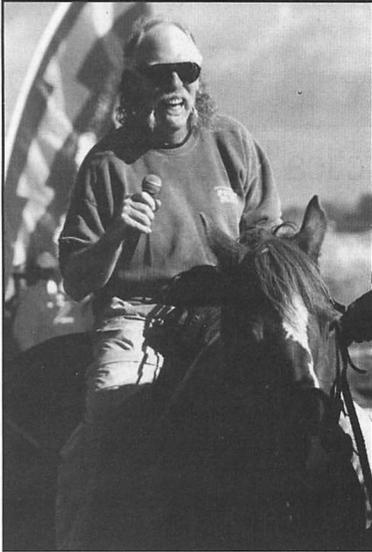
The National Gallery, Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue N.W., is open daily. Admission is free, but passes for the exhibition will be required on weekends and holidays. Advance passes can be obtained at the National Gallery (no fee) or at Ticketmaster (\$2 per pass). Call Ticketmaster at 800 551-7328, outside of the Washington DC area, \$2.75 per pass, and \$1.25 per order service charge. A limited number of same-day passes are available at the Gallery's East Building on a first-come, first serve basis, call (202) 737-4215 or check the web: www.nga.gov.

Report by Scott Skinner and Ali Fujino of the Drachen Foundation

Honored Japanese kitemakers Masaki Modegi (above) flying a Tahara-dako fighter; below Modegi-san is flanked to the right by Yoshizumi-san and Toki-san and to the left by Watanabe-san and Suzuki-san. Modegi's wife Sachiko is on the left.

photos - Fran Gramkowski





WHERE IT'S AT ...

The Bob Bowl

by Corey Jensen

I have been asked to reprint the Ingraham Award presentation speech I gave at the AKA convention banquet in Ocean Shores. Here goes:

I am privileged to present the Ingraham Award for outstanding contributions to the AKA. As I have stated in the past, I do not live my life to receive awards, but I do love kiting. So, in Tulsa at AKA '95, when I was presented the Ingraham Award, I was more than a little surprised. At AKA '98 it is my honor to present the award to another who did not set out to win anything. This honor is not political. It is not a present to a friend. Indeed, over the years there have been many issues where we have disagreed... sometimes strenuously. But for all the points of contention there have

been hundreds, even thousands, perhaps millions of details that were taken care of, never raising a gripe, before we even noticed, and receiving all too few thanks along the way.

This individual's contributions to the AKA cover well over a decade and a wide variety of jobs and responsibilities. All done well. Most superbly. In doing all these things, more than just me were rubbed the wrong way - One never accomplishes much trying to keep everybody happy. And much was accomplished.

I also wanted this moment to remind us that THIS club will not forget what is really important. We will not let ourselves be limited by petty personality differences. We will remember the power of praise. We will try not to use this club to punish others who we happen to disagree with. We will try to remember that everyone wants and deserves to be a winner. If we cannot rise above our differences with others, we are no better than those we complain against.

With this in mind, now is the moment to demonstrate our higher consciousness. To set aside any personal differences and offer our heartfelt appreciation for the accomplishments of Jim Miller.

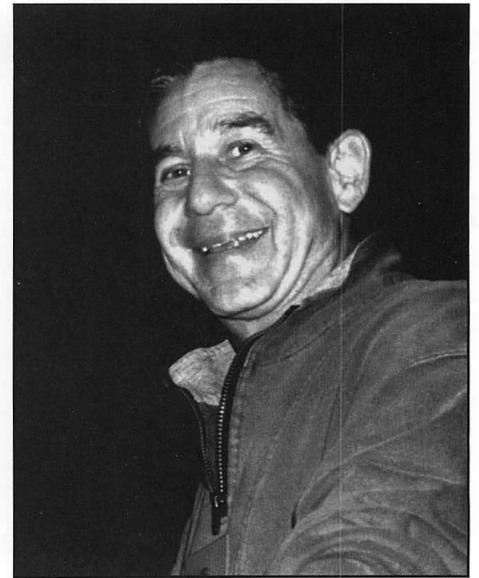
My buddy Rick Kinnaird reminded me that his wife Eileen also bid for the job of convention manager, and every time Rick receives one of Jim's detailed letters, he is ever more grateful that Jim got the job. If you need to move 500 people from Seattle to the moon... Eileen, a powerful manager, is who you turn to. If it matters which 500 people go... Then Jim is the choice.

That attention to detail has been Jim's hallmark. Among many things Jim has done for us, he managed the Chicago convention in 1988, then served as President of the AKA in '89 and '90. He went on to the contract job of Convention Manager... All without winning a single popularity contest.

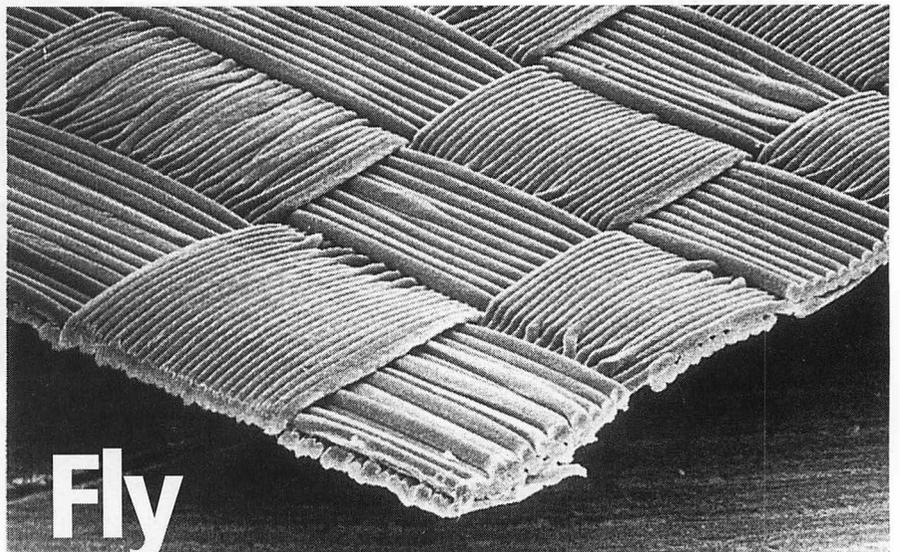
Just working hard to get the job done.

Thank you, Jim.

Update: Ingraham Music Scholarship. During the convention banquet, we also passed the hat to help fund the music scholarship established in Bob's name at Western New Mexico University in Silver City. We raised \$1200. Anybody wishing to contribute to this most worthy cause can send a check to me and all will be forwarded to the fund. Thank you.



Thank you Jim for so many years of dedicated service! The AKA appreciates all of your efforts, and shares in the benefits of all of your accomplishments.



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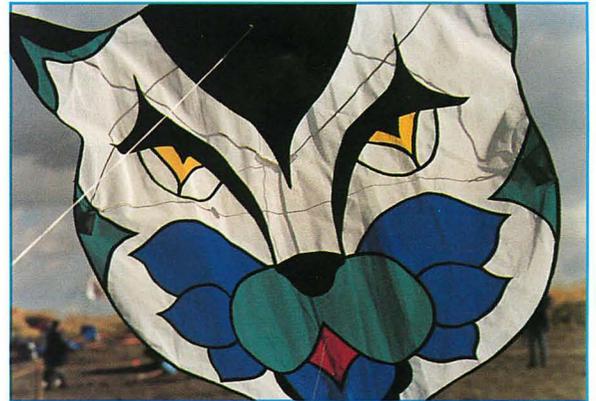
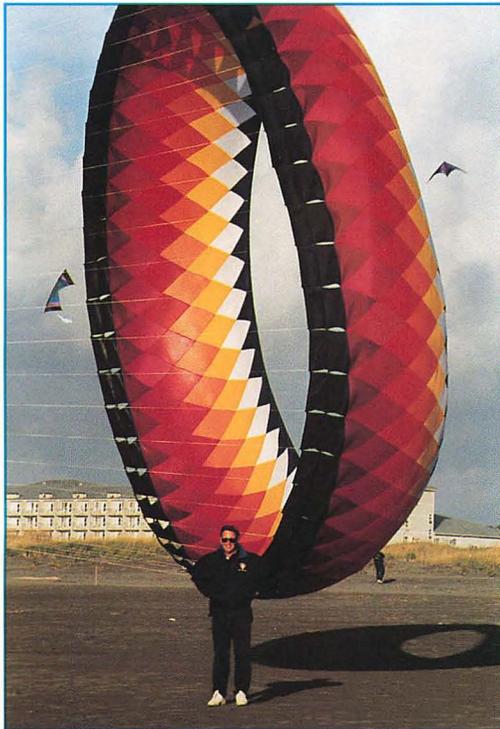
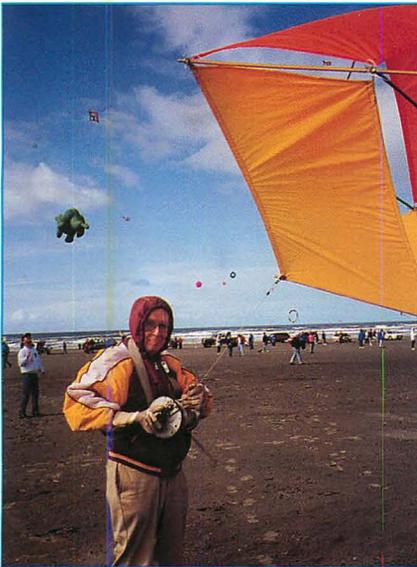
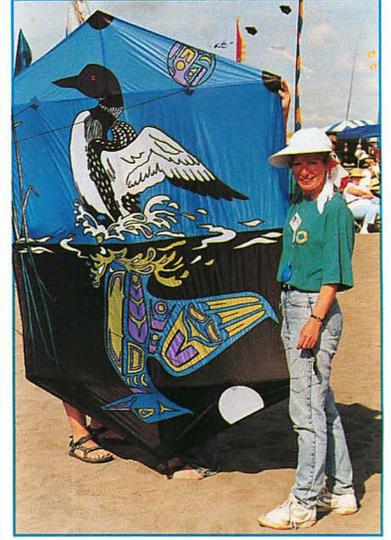
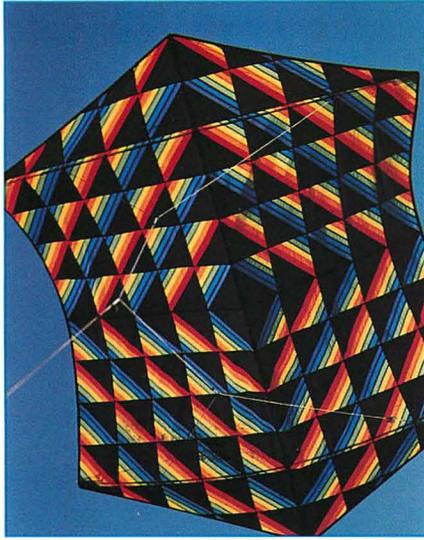
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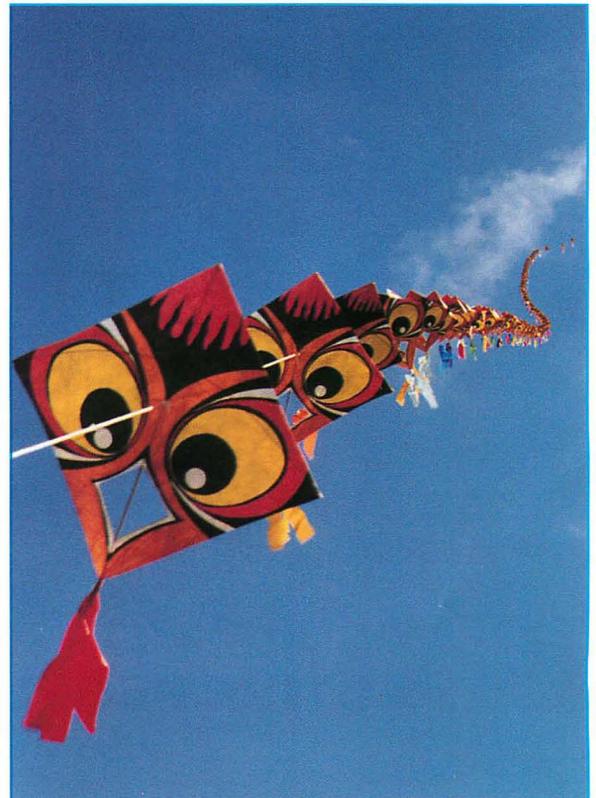
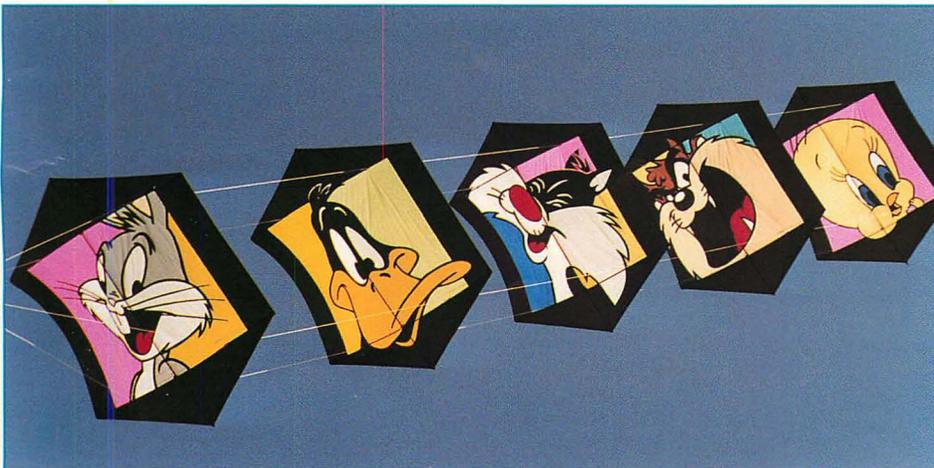


Convention Photo Album

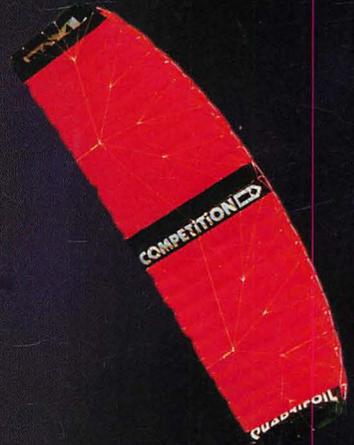
Top: Runner-up Rokkaku entry by Lou Behrman; Miniature entry by Tom McAlister; Sharon Musto, holding her "Loon" entry, winner of People's Choice (photo from Long Beach); Middle: Bob Price, regular convention attendee, in the box kite mass ascension; Dave Gomberg with a new adult toy; and Charmayne Cornell Umbauer's Cat Train; Bottom: Looney Tune's characters on Kevin Shannon's rokkaku train; and Dan Kuriachi's train touching the Washington sky.



Special thanks to Cliff Pennell of "Touch The Sky Kites", Olympia, WA for his photo contributions in this issue of KITING. Photos on this page by Cliff Pennell and Roger Chewning.



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