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AKA *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

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American Kitefliers Association
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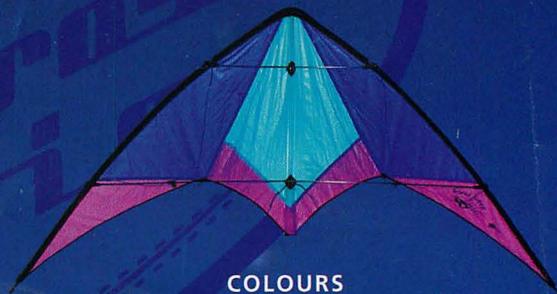
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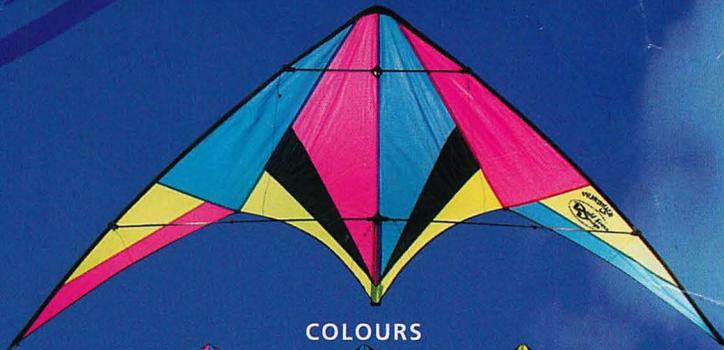
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AKA By-Laws Proposed Amendments -- 1999

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Classes of Members

g. MERCHANT-MEMBER. A member of any class "a" through "e" who operates a retail kite or kite-related enterprise and agrees to give a 10% discount on kites and related merchandise to members in good standing. Membership classes "a" through "e" retain all their rights to vote and hold office.

h. MANUFACTURER-MEMBER. A member of any class "a" through "e" who manufactures or distributes kite or kite-related products on a wholesale basis and agrees to include AKA information and membership applications with their products.

Section 3. Privileges of Membership

h. Manufacturer-Members will be regularly listed in the AKA publication Kiting.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

The Annual Meeting and Convention shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving and presenting to the membership reports of officers and committees, flying and studying kites, and for any business that may arise. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to the members at least 60 days in advance. The meeting shall commence on the first or second evening of the Convention, and no activity or event shall be scheduled in conflict with it. An adjourned or recessed meeting may be reconvened during the Convention by the Board of Directors even if not previously scheduled for reconvening. Adjournment sine die shall occur at the scheduled end of the Convention.

"These amendments will be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting Oct. 5. The proposed change in Article III would add a new class of manufacturer-members. The proposed change to Article V would delete the stipulation that the convention must be held in September or October."

Kite Loft / AKA Fellowship Recipients Announced

This year's Kite Loft / AKA Fellowship recipients were recently chosen during the Maryland International Kite Exposition. **Mike Van Meers** from **Wings over Washington**, **Steve Bateman** from the **San Diego Kite Club**, and **Cindee Shannon** from **The Maryland Kite Society** were selected among twenty nominees. Each recipient will be presented a check in the amount of three hundred and thirty three dollars at the annual AKA Convention in Muncie, Indiana. All nominees were submitted from AKA Affiliated Kite Clubs across the nation.

The Kite Loft / AKA fellowship is a program which began in 1998. It is a five year / five thousand dollar commitment allowing The Kite Loft to show its appreciation to the kite community for all its support and enthusiasm since 1975. The purpose of the fellowship is to recognize and financially aid AKA members who make significant contributions to the goals of their club and who would not be able to attend the AKA convention due to financial constraints.

The Names of all Fellowship recipients for both 1998 and 1999 will be displayed on a perpetual plaque during the AKA Convention.



Empty Places in the Sky

Tom Marvin

Tom Didn't Make The Kites... He Made The Kites Possible

In life, as things mature, there comes a point when the giants that we all have come to rely on begin to pass from the scene, some well before they should. Such was the case on May 28, when I, and the rest of the kiting world, lost a true friend and mentor with the passing of Tom Marvin. Tom was a quiet man, and though his travels were limited, he was known by thousands around the world, because he had a passion; and that passion was kites. But rather than build a few kites himself, Tom took

on the far greater challenge of supplying the world with the finest and most varied materials he could find for building kites.

In 1989, while flying with friends in the Richmond area and discussing the difficulties of obtaining kite building supplies, Hang-Em High Fabrics was born. From the very beginning Tom had one overarching goal for Hang-Em High; to provide the kite building community with the largest selection of quality materials, at the lowest price, and in the most timely manner possible. If you needed it and he had it, which he usually did, you could count on it arriving in perfect condition in, at most, a few days. More than once I have had to rely on Tom's ability to deliver after I waited longer than I should have to start a project.

Tom was as much a kiting innovator as any of his customers with their fantastic flying creations. He continually searched for ways to serve us better, faster, and cheaper without sacrificing quality. Computers, catalogues, answering machines, and fax machines were obvious choices. Less obvious was a cell phone so he could forward his voice lines when he was away from home. And when the Internet exploded on the scene, Tom saw a way to make his home operated business truly global in scope.

Tom was also a teacher. It wasn't enough to simply carry a product, he had to understand it. And he had to share that understanding with others, whether on the phone with a customer, or giving a seminar at the AKA convention. It was his way of advancing the art of kite building.

At his memorial service, Tom's wife Bonnie displayed a photo album she had begun several years ago. It contained literally hundreds of pictures of kites that friends and customers had built over the years with materials from Hang-Em High Fabrics. In his own way, Tom had a hand in each of these kites. To paraphrase BASF Corporation, Tom didn't make the kites, he made the kites possible...and better. So, next time you're flying your latest polyester and carbon fiber wonder, or even a more modest Tyvek or trash bag creation, whether you have been a Hang-Em High customer, or not, tell Tom, "Thanks." He'll hear you, and appreciate it.

What will ultimately become of Hang-Em High Fabrics is unknown at this time. But as I write this, Bonnie is continuing Tom's dream of providing the kite building world with the very best materials available.

By Charlie Dunton



Hi Membership!

Do you have the May issue of Kiting handy? Check out Page 9 again, the photo contest pictures. See that beach shot at the bottom center? That's our convention site for next year—Treasure Island, Florida, Oct. 2-7, 2000!

So we're going to Muncie, Indiana, in a few months, (another great flying field), and then Florida next year. Now we need to find a west coast site for 2001. (Your AKA Board is leaning heavily toward Ocean City, Maryland, site of our first convention, for our 25th. in 2002, and possibly Dayton, Ohio in 2003.)

Can you help us find a suitable western site for the 2001 convention? Here are the primary criteria we're looking for:

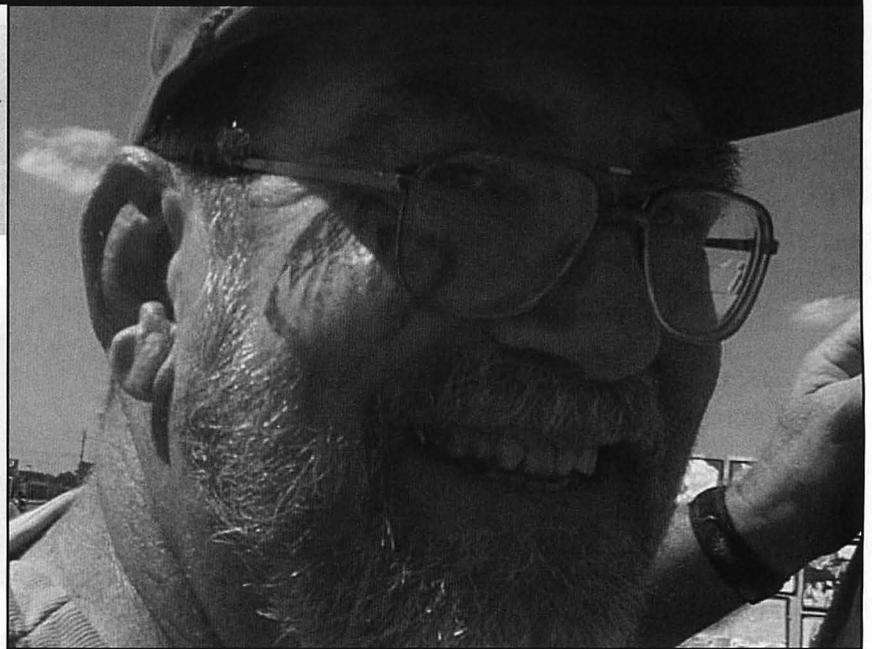
- * A large, open flying field (the larger the better)—beach or grass, with clean, dependable wind.
- * Moderately priced hotel(s), several hundred rooms, as close to flying field as possible. Adjacent or within a few minutes' walk is a huge plus.
- * Adequate space for meetings, workshops, fly market, indoor flying, banquets. (either in hotel or convention center.)
- * Easy access from an airport.
- * Some local kilters. Within easy driving range for as many AKA members as possible.
- * Camping and RV sites nearby.
- * An enthusiastic local community. Small towns give us more support, publicity, etc., than larger cities.
- * A potential for large numbers of spectators. High visibility. Easy access. Adequate parking.
- * Other tourist attractions nearby.
- * Potential local sponsors

Do you know of a site that has many of the above qualities? Please contact us. Start with the flying fields and hotel rooms, only those are essential. We always have to settle for some compromises. At Muncie, the flying field is not walkable from the hotel, but it's just a short shuttle bus ride. At Treasure Island, we'll have to travel several miles to our banquet facilities. We may never find the "perfect" site...

Where can we go in 2001? Kansas City, Tulsa, Padre Island, and Albuquerque have been suggested, although they're not really that far west. Las Vegas? Southern California? Northern California, (the only AKA region which has never had a convention)? Oregon or Washington again? Lobby your Regional Director. Help us find a site!

Speaking of Regional Directors, all have been doing an outstanding job. Steve Santos, in New England, organized and hosted a regional fly-in/meeting which raised \$1060 for the AKA. Al Sparling has set up a midwestern region Web site—others are working on it. Many communicate regularly with "on-line" members in their regions by regional bulk e-mail. All of the directors have been attending and helping with festivals, recruiting, and soliciting feedback from members in their areas. Good job, gang!

Nominations are now being solicited for the office of President, (my



Richard in Tulsa - photo by Kenny Killingsworth

job—I've done it for three years and it's time for someone else to try at least one year), and Regional Directors for the Great Lakes, Midwest, Great Plains, and South Central regions. Want to run? Nominate yourself! Nominations must be submitted to Robyne Gardner by August 21.

I've been reading lots of great kite publications lately. Kiting, of course, has been filling our mailbox and ears with compliments. Club newsletters from all over. KiteLife.com on the Internet. The Drachen Foundation Journal—a real "must read" for all serious kilters, and it's free! (Contact the Drachen Foundation at (206) 282-4349 or email at: info@drachen.org). And finally, a new issue of KiteLines—the oldest, best-edited, and arguably "classiest" kite magazine in the world. Great job, Valerie!

One article in the new KiteLines is already out of date, though. In "For the Record", KiteLines reports how longtime AKA member Bill Bigge of Maryland set a new World Record by flying on 400 consecutive days with 400 different kites. (The old record of 366 days was set by Texan Bill Mosley.) Good jobs, Bill and Bill!

However, Tulsa, Oklahoma member E.W. Redmond has now topped that record—as of this writing he has flown a different kite every day for 505 days, and is still going! I have been aware of his attempt to set a new record ever since he started over two years ago. (He asked me about "ground rules".) E.W. started a log book, (as had Mosley and Bigge), recording each day's flight and obtaining the signature and phone number of a witness to the flight. After about 200 days, E.W. lost his logbook! Bummer...

Undaunted, he started over on Jan.1, 98—this time with a new twist. He gives the kite away each day to the witness! I'm privileged to own #505 now, as well as an earlier one. "That's over 500 kites out there now that people have been given—it gives me a warm fuzzy feeling", Redmond says. He has no plans to stop soon, as the "daily fly" is a part of his life. He got feature treatment from a Tulsa TV station for his 500th. flight. "I might quit at 1000", he says, "but maybe not. You never know." So if you're considering a "run at the record", start keeping your log book. You may have a chance in about three years, or even two. If E.W. keeps going, you might trail him for years. You never know...

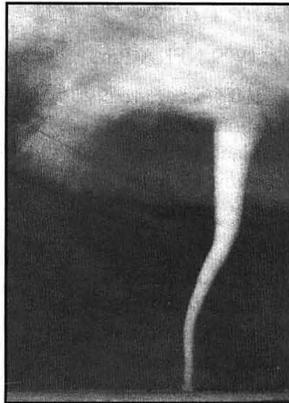
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Many of you inquired after the May 3 tornados that ripped up Oklahoma. They missed us and our family members by miles. However, AKA member A.J.Horn lost his home in southern Kansas. He took his kites to the storm cellar with him, though. Whew! Priorities...

From the land of the highest recorded wind speed on Earth, (318 mph),

Good (gentle) winds,

Richard



National Kite Month Summary

excerpts from report by David Gomberg, KTAI President

- More than 150 local kiteflies, workshops, and exhibitions registered as part of the NKM project.
- Every local NKM event received professional media and press support. As a result, KTAI received reports from around the country of newspaper and local television coverage that far exceeded what similar local events were able to generate in the past.
- Drasnin Communication tracked 140 television reports on Kite Month from markets that span the country from Washington DC to Austin, Texas, to San Diego, California.
- Over fifty pages of educational, historical, and kitemaking material were compiled for use on the NKM web page. That material continues to be available for use by local schools, service groups, members and clubs. (Go to www.AKA.Kite.org and wait for the NKM window.)
- The nationally broadcast Today Show committed to air a "Tribute to National Kite Month" and the program aired on Memorial Day.

KTAI and AKA are considering how to sustain and expand the project. The first goal is to apply for grant funding that will cover financial needs and limit the impact of the Association's budgets. The second goal is to expand local schools involvement in Kite Month. A third goal is to increase participation by local fliers, stores, and clubs. And finally, the fourth goal is to expand the project outside the boundaries of the United States.

AKA MEMBER NOTICE

The Annual Business Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 5, 1999 at the Muncie, Indiana AKA National Convention.

Nominations are currently being solicited for AKA President and Regional Directors in Regions 5, 6, 7 & 8. All nominations should go to Robyne Gardner at (419) 734-5880, or mail to 2672 Sand Road, Port Clinton, OH 43452. Also, nominations for the Steve Edeiken Award are being accepted at this time. Please mail your nomination to past president Peter Dolphin at 715 Taylor Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08107, or call at (609) 833-0579 with questions.

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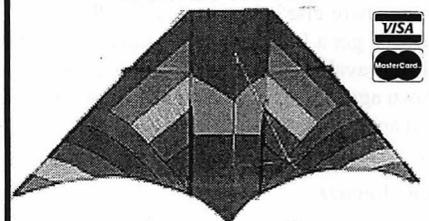
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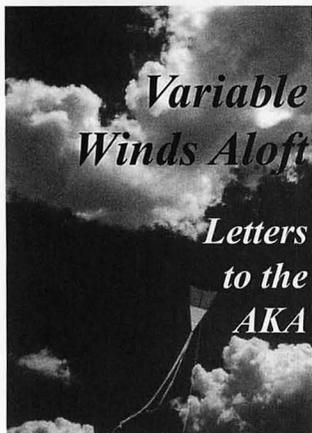
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Hello AKA!

My name is John Iniguez and I recently began flying stunters in the Phoenix area and I'm running into many people who do not understand the dangers involved with coming into contact with an airborne kite. This has lead me to have to land or crash my kite in order to protect their safety, but it has become apparent to me that no matter how much I warn people they will not believe me unless I can show them some proof. So, I've been searching the Internet for some examples of what may happen to people if they have the misfortune of experiencing this catastrophe, but no site on kiting has any examples or actual cases on the matter. It seems to be very taboo to discuss the realities of stunt kiting.

Please don't think I'm perverse, but the people in my area are so stubborn that one guy dared me to hit him just to prove me wrong. So if you have any material on court cases or examples of injuries sustained by kiting it would be greatly appreciated. I just want something that I can carry with me when I go flying, so I can show these nimrods that I'm serious and that the danger is real. I know what you're thinking, why don't you go somewhere else? Unfortunately, Phoenix doesn't get a lot wind so one must rush to the closest available site before the wind dies down again. Thank you so much for your time and any help you could supply me with would be greatly appreciated.

John Iniguez

John,

Just don't shoot anybody! Or hit them with a kite. Although everyone who learns to fly sport kites crashes them in the begining, it is still the responsibility of the flier to take safety precautions, no matter what the public does. If not, you will find your favorite area banned because some "nimrod" complains that kiteflying is dangerous. Remember John, these are controllable kites. The public is not controllable. Think safety first! It is in your own best interest. -ed



Hey Fighter Kite Fans!

The photo is of the 1999 NFKA Pin. CHECK'EM OUT !! These are really beautiful pins. Cloisonne with gold outline and letters, black kite with red tail. NFKA gives Dennis Crowley a really big thanks for designing our 1999 pin!

As you can see the new pin is a unique and beautiful design. It is 3/4" wingtip to wingtip. Very classy! A classic collector's pin for sure! The price is \$7 each, including postage. NFKA has only 200 of these beautiful pins. We will ship them on a first come basis. My guess is if you don't act quickly, you may be disappointed!

Please remember the pin is a "fund raising" project for NFKA. NFKA receives a small amount from each pin sale as a donation to the club. So even if you don't think you need 3 or 4 or more of these unique beautiful pins, go ahead and order them anyway! It is for a very worthy cause! Please make your check out to: NFKA and mail your order and check to:

NFKA
PO Box 1508
Ocean Shores, WA 98569 USA

Flyin' & Grinnin', Bruce Lambert

Seattle - Getting Back To Basics

Twenty years of kite making, festival organizing, competition judging, seminar teaching and AKA & KTAI Board sitting has left me with two conclusions; if we want more people to enjoy kite flying we must invite the them into our kite festivals and simplify our events to get the public interested. Finding the right formula to achieve these goals has taken me a few years of observation. Actually it was quite simple I just happen to be a little thick.

Over the past few years I made note of those events at kite festivals that brought more people into the excitement. I concluded that three activities were the biggest draw for neophytes: kite making for kids (it's a good excuse for the adults to make one too), the Rokkaku Battles and the Mass Ascensions. I decided to use these three events to build The Seattle Kite Festival. I also only wanted to have a one day event to cut down on the cost and manpower needed to produce the festival. Another important ingredient that was needed was the manpower.

The task of putting a festival together becomes much easier with the experienced suggestions of like minds. Since all the area stores benefit by one main kite festival, I decided to invite the other merchants in the area to participate. Everyone gladly pitched in. By promoting the event through several locations, the merchants exhibit a unified effort which is attractive to the media, commercial prospects and the general public.

Last year the festival attracted the attention of a local "cause" - the Boyer Children's Clinic. Bill Hintz who is the director of promotions for the Clinic, wanted a family oriented event to connect with. Bill has many contacts within the city of Seattle to raise funds for the Clinic which specializes in neuromuscular disease research and education. Bill has spent untold hours with our merchant group brainstorming on how to publicize the event, connect with other events to promote the event and provide free services such as printing, P.A. systems, and other "in kind" donations. Bill's efforts helped our group to win a portion of the KTAI grant to promote kite festivals. With his help, a proposal was written and submitted to the KTAI. He has taken care of all the press releases and most of all, building important relationships with the local Parks Department, other events. All of these tasks are time consuming but make the path smoother for future events. As Bill says "we are building relationships for the future."

But how do we raise money for The Boyer Children's Clinic? Another brainstorm of Bill's. I told him I did not want to do a raffle or auction. Efforts in the past were difficult to organize and didn't highlight the donations well enough. We decided to sell a limited edition of event mylar octopus kites. Participating merchants sold them before the event. All funds collected are donated to the Boyer Children's Clinic All those people who buy one are not only donating to the Boyer cause, they will be able to fly in the Mass Ascension. An old Leland Toy idea borrowed from the West Coast Stunt Kite Championships. Not only will people who have never flown a kite before be able to get lost in the crowd, but the sky looks fantastic with just a bunch of mylar octopi filling the sky! The kites were urchased through funds raised by the KTAI grant and other people who had their names printed on the kite.

I feel The Seattle Kite Festival is working towards a basic kite event to raise interest in kite flying through simplicity, low cost, and

AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA

building relationships. Great Wind Kite Shop provides over 400 Frustrationless Flyers for the event (kitemaking), The Four Winds Kite Shop from Everett organizes the Rokkaku Battle, The Gasworks Park Kite Shop provides the Mass Ascension, Prism provides demonstrators, Cutting Edge Kites provides team flyers and Mainframes provides moral support. We couldn't do it without them. Thank you all!

Kathy Goodwind
Goodwinds Kites, Seattle, WA

The Seattle Kite Festival will be held on June 20. Good luck, Good wind. -ed.

More For Fighter Kite Fans...

If you have ever thought about going to India during the fighter kite "season", Ajay Prakash is the one to contact! I have met him and he is a very enthusiastic straight forward fellow and a super fighter kite flyer. Also I have talked with people who traveled with him in his tours and who had all travel plans arranged by Ajay. All reports are positive!

Ajay is an avid fighter flyer and knows what fighter kite enthusiasts from other parts of the world want when they come to see the India kite season in full swing!! He also knows where all of India's top kite makers and manjha makers live and can take you to them! Of course, Ajay is also very knowledgeable about all travel places in India.

Check out the e-mail I received from him recently.

Bruce Lambert

Hi Bruce,

We've begun work on putting the Festival together for 2000 - 09 to 15 January at Jodhpur and Jaipur - culminating on Makar Sankranti in Jaipur - a truly awesome spectacle. I hope to get preferential fares for all participants on Air India - but that would be only from NY or Chicago. But I think we will be able to offer 1 free ticket for every 5 paid tickets. Spread the word...

Ajay

Nomad Travels
Sharda, "A " Road, Churchgate,
Mumbai 400 020, India
Tel : + 91 22 202 1503/1549
Fax : + 91 22 204 5396
e mail : nomad.travels@aworld.net
web : <http://www.nomad-travels.com>

From cyberspace:

Birds And Animals Injured

would appreciate your help. I am a Park Ranger with the National Park Service, assigned to the Washington Monument and other memorials on the National Mall.

As you probably know, kiting is very popular in our park. It is a wonderful activity for both spectators and participants. What you may not know is that we have a serious problem with abandoned kite string. The string is frequently the cause of injury or death to birds and squirrels. It is also a tripping and entanglement hazard for humans. We even have a case where a catfish in our lake was snared by a huge wad of kite string!

I have been asked to find ways to make kiting enthusiasts aware of why they should retrieve their string. One of the first projects will be a handout to be distributed in the park. Have

Gunn Points

Check out this website for kite history, why kites fly, etc. - <http://www.win.tue.nl/cs/fm/pp/kites/faq/>
And check out this one for children by Crayola - <http://www.bhglive.com/crayolakids/>

you seen any articles about kite string and wildlife ? ...about how to not lose your kite ? Some of this string is incredibly strong, which makes it lethal for critters who get caught. Are there any guidelines about the length or strength of kite string?

Any comments or suggestions you have to make kiting safer for wildlife and people would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Harry Gedney
Park Ranger

This sounds like a continuing problem with the fighter kite fliers on the Mall. I am certain that sport kite fliers are not leaving their lines, or, for that matter, anyone else with decent lines. Too expensive. How do we get through to others? Perhaps the AKA could create a promotional flyer or redesign an existing one to promote kite safety and the AKA. It could help our frustrated friend in Phoenix (see earlier letter) and serve to show that AKA members are responsible kitefliers.



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Flight Zone by Charles Stonestreet

MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

Hilary Elizabeth Mason, Savannah, Georgia



It sounded like a typical night in the Mason household when I called Hilary for an interview. In the background, a moaning saxophone mingled with the giggles of her friend, Victoria, who was sleeping over. It seems as if Hilary has been a part of kiting from the beginning. I first noticed her as a shy little girl, playing along the edges of a competition field at MASKC. Gradually, around the circuit of the Eastern League, I made the connection with Tom and Sue Mason and since, watched her grow through the gangly, preteen stage to the graceful, attractive 15 year old she has now become. She

seems vulnerable and naive - mature and world-wise, all at once. Hilary is a true child of the kiting community. She attended her first National Convention at Seaside, Oregon with her parents in 1990. She was six years old. "I remember the fun I had," she bubbled, "I watched The Top of the Line team perform a ballet routine but I never imagined that I would compete. Alex was the center of attention."

Her first flying experience was at Tybee Island, Georgia. She chose a Quadrafoil because it was easy to fly and it was unbreakable. Perhaps that's why she has developed a special affinity for quadline kites. "I was attracted to the Ultra because of the way it moved across the sky and maybe T. C. Powers gave me a little encouragement. My first competition was in Novice Precision at The Old Dominion SKC in Northern Virginia. I thought I would win because of the success my brother had experienced. When I didn't do well, I quit kiting competition - forever.

But Alex taunted me until I decided to give it another try. I improved slowly at first but more rapidly once Dennis (Smith) asked me to be a factory flier. Dennis has taught me how to fly with the music rather than react to it. He has been my mentor and my friend. Now I am competing at Experienced level in both Quadline and dual-line Ballet events. I plan to do it all; I'm going for the top." What keeps her interest? "I love to go to the competitions, Wildwood most of all. I enjoy the rollercoasters and hanging out with my friends. Even though I'm only 15, I'm an Old Timer, you know. I remember Roger Chewing before he was married and Michael Bates before he grew up. The kite people are family to me. I know a lot of kids get messed up when they are young but my kiting friends keep me straight. They treat me as an equal instead of as a child and I wouldn't like to disappoint my friends. I admire the way my Mom can fly a simple routine with such feeling, and Dennis Smith who has taught me so much about kiting and self-esteem. Rich Javens is so talented and Marion Proffitt is an inspiration; she stays so positive and happy. Her age doesn't get in the way of a good time, why should mine? These are the people who are special to me."

Her future plans? "I want to go to college, study to be a doctor, maybe become a trauma surgeon. I want to have a family and live on a farm with horses. But I don't see myself tiring of kiting; I have met many good friends and I know there are more out there to meet.

Dorothy Wagner, Brooklyn, New York



If the first thing you notice about Dorothy is her dazzling smile, her twinkling eyes and her aura of loveliness, you haven't exactly invented the wheel. But it isn't until you have talked with her that you realize her beauty isn't skin deep, it goes all the way through. It seems as if she is fully aware of her attractive appearance but regards her intelligence, her talent, and her accomplishments as much more important aspects of her character. She earned a Masters Degree in Music from Yale with emphasis on classical guitar. She followed that path into teaching and professional performing. How she can blend all of that with her marriage, recent motherhood, a new home, and competitive sport kiting should boggle the imagination. "I'm too busy" must be a phrase foreign to her vocabulary.

It was 1992 when husband Lance finished his residency in anesthesia. At a medical conference in New Orleans, Lance returned from a shopping foray with a \$200 MEFM. Dorothy thought it was crazy but she didn't oppose the idea. Lance was experiencing a lot of job related stress. He needed an outlet and a kite seemed harmless. Little did she know, within a few weeks, she realized the role of kite widow wasn't much fun. Together, they purchased a pair of purple and orange Zephyrs. Although she didn't know much about kiting, she did want to be part of what Lance found so fascinating. She remembers the thrill of the noisy kite under her control but she had no clue about the role music played in kiting. She started slowly entering Novice Precision at Sandy Hook, preferring to learn the basics of competitive kiting before exploring the more complex aspects of the sport. In New York, she saw kites flown to music for the first time. Perfect Match! She began to envision routines flown to the complexities of all types of music. She first flew with Lance in competition at Sandy Hook, New Jersey. By October 1995, they were competing in Masters Pairs Ballet at the Nationals in Tulsa. With characteristic understatement, she credits the overpowering wind and their vented Ultras with their first place finish. Four years later, Sudden Flight is a name known and respected from Boston to Tampa and throughout the kiting community. "But why do you stay involved?", I asked. "You are on top. Why continue the practice and the travel?" "I love the company of kite people; I have so many friends. And I really enjoy the opportunity to travel. We've been to Guadeloupe, Verdun, Seattle, Tulsa, Santa Monica and many other places we might never have visited had we not been involved in kiting. And we have plans for attending events in other places too. After all, Lance and I worked very hard in the beginning, choosing music, working out routines, practicing together. This common goal helped us form another bond so that our channels of communication have another level of depth. I see kiting as a great way to spend quality time together. I think it's strange when I hear someone reject the idea of kiting. I can't imagine why a person wouldn't want to be involved. After all, it's family oriented, a way to share a common interest, it's low impact exercise, a challenge among friends. It's true that Andrew's arrival had a significant impact on our practice time but I plan to stay involved in some capacity. Who would have ever suspected a simple toy would have such a profound effect on their life?"

AKA PHOTO PAGE

In the next issue of **KITING** we will announce the winners for the 1998-1999 photo contest.

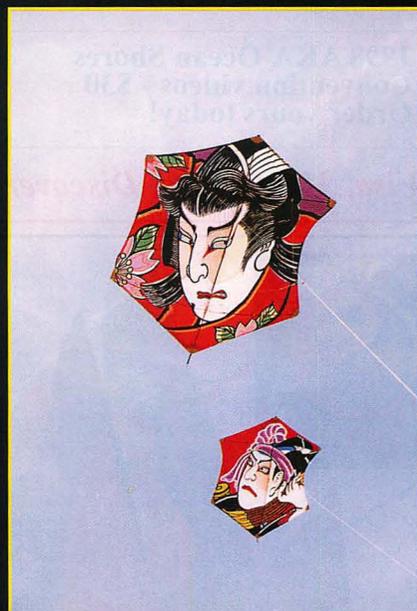
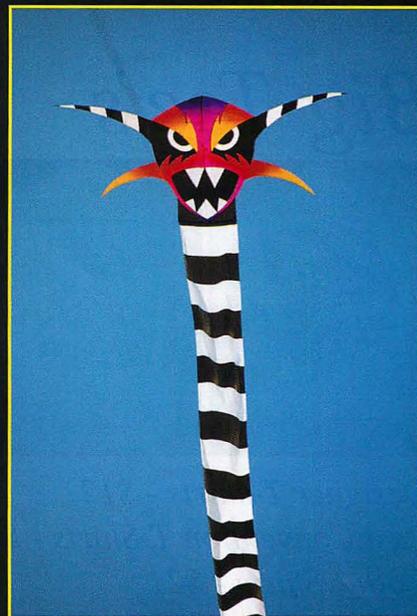
The skies at the Maryland International Kite Exposition (MIKE) this year were beautiful.

All photos on this page were taken by Gregg Mazzatto at MIKE, April 24 - 26, in Ocean City, MD.

Starting at the top left is a the amazing Ray Bethell, refueling while he flies three kites at once. The photo in the middle on the left is of Tanna Haynes' award winning kite;

On the bottom left is Jack Roger's giant 90' barrel, returning to Ocean City, along with plenty of other giant fun kites and ground displays ;

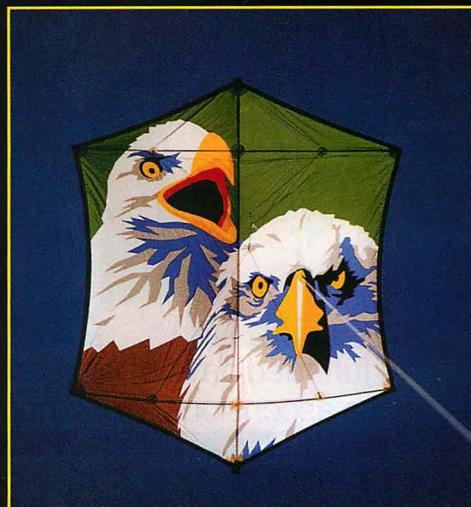
On the top right, a Scott Hampton bug creation ; Middle right, Morihiro Takeda's pair of traditional rokkakus flew high over the beach on Sunday; and, bottom right, Charlie Dunton's Eagles rokkaku.



ON THE COVER THIS ISSUE

David Gombert's Crown blocked out the sun in Maryland.

Photo by Roger Chewning



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A Spectator's Guide to Single Line Sport Kite Competition

by Bruce Flyin' & Grinnin' Lambert

You heard from a friend that a single line sport kite competition was being held at a nearby park and you wanted to check it out. As you parked in the parking lot and looked around the park you didn't notice any "typical" kites anywhere, just quite small ones darting around.

Welcome! You just saw single line sport kites. They are small extremely maneuverable kites. Normally they have no colorful tails streaming behind and usually they are not as fancy looking as other kites. In fact, they are quite simple looking kites. Even the flying line is simple, a single thread-like line.

How does the flyer control the kite?

The pilot or flyer controls the kite by pulling in his flying line hand over hand, dropping it on the ground all around him and by releasing the flying line and allowing the kite to take as much line as it needs. This pulling and releasing the flying line is what allows the pilot to control the precise movements of the kite. When the flyer wants his kite to move in a straight path, you will see him pulling in line hand over hand. When the pilot wants his kite to change directions, spin, or hover, he will let out or release his flying line. A combination of timing, sensitivity to the kite's behavior, recognizing the slightest changes in wind conditions and patience are the elements that make a good single line sport kite flyer.

Competitions

There are many different forms of single line sport kite competitions. All of the competitions have one thing in common. They are tests of the competitors' single line sport kite flying skill!

Line Touch Combat

The most common form of competition is called "line touch combat". It is just what the name implies, competitors try to touch each other's kite flying line. Line touch combat competition is a head to head, one on one, competition. Two flyers or pilots position themselves about 20 feet apart or so. The judge is usually in between the pilots calling the "points" and "starts". The object of line touch combat is quite simple. Before the beginning of each point, the judge calls "over / top" or "bottom / under". This describes to the pilots how that particular point will be earned. For example, if the judge says this point is an "over" point, this

means the first pilot who can maneuver his kite's flying line to touch his opponent's flying line from on top of his opponent's flying line without first touching the ground, wins that point. The "under" point is just the opposite. The pilots "battle" to maneuver their kites so their flying line is the first to touch their opponent's flying line on the underneath part of the opponent's flying line. If one of the pilot's kite hits the ground that pilot loses that point. A match between two pilots usually consists of either 2 out of 3 or 3 out of 5 points.

NOTE: On most days wearing sunglasses will improve your ability to see the actual touching of the lines. Because the flying lines are very small diameter lines, similar to thread, it can be difficult to see. If there is an announcer, listening to him/her can be a big advantage to a new spectator.

Other Contests

Other typical single line sport kite competitions are tests of flying skill against the clock.

For example, a 100' away from the contestant, a 5' high pole will be placed. The pole will have a plastic cup upside down on top of it. The object is for the contestants to fly their kites in such a way as to knock the cup off the pole. One contestant flies at a time. Each contestant is timed, fastest time wins.

Another is to fly a kite through a 4' or 5'



diameter hoop placed about 100' away from the contestant. The contestant who does it in the shortest time wins.

There are countless other similar tests that could be used at any given event.

How do I learn more about these amazing kites?

While you are watching the competitions, ask the flyers about the kites, how they work etc. Most single line sport kite flyers I have met are very willing to share their experiences and knowledge with anyone who is sincerely interested! However the fastest way to learn about them is to fly them! When you do fly them, you will understand why so many of the single line sport kite flyers are grinning when they fly! They are a "hoot" to fly!

Single Line Sport Kites - Fighter Kites Committee

Nelson Borelli, chair <n-borelli@nwu.edu>
Mike Coons <micoons@albany.net>
Gina & Johnny Hsiung <ghsiung@csun.edu>
Bruce Jarvie <kite_fighter@compuserve.com>
Bruce Lambert <brucel@techline.com>
Chuck Lund <north32st@aol.com>
Rich Miller <crabble@olynet.com>
Terry McPherson <ttoys@iserv.net>
Andy Selzer <fightakite@erols.com>
StaffordWallace <stafford@lucknow.demon.co.uk>

"buy a kite"
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The on-line kite store -

HIGH FLYERS FLIGHT COMPANY, NEWPORT, R.I. 02840

Kitevents

July

4
2nd Freedom Fun Fly
Belmont Shores, Long Beach, CA
Neil C. Tuthill (562) 696-5266

Summer Winds Kite Fest
Norman, OK
Brenda Wheelock (405) 360-0280

9 - 11
Newport '99 Kite Festival
Brenton Point, Newport, RI
Stephen Santos (401) 658-0649

Westport SKC
Westport, WA
Creda Axton (360) 956-9480

10
Aire Affair Kite Productions
S. California Sport Kite League
Belmont Shores, Long Beach, CA
Larry Bush (909) 214-6062

10 - 11
Northwest Buggy Races
Moclips Beach, WA
(503) 887-2168

On the Edge SKC
Toronto, Canada

11
Fort Wayne - Kreager Park Kitefly
Steve Allman (219) 426-5559

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

Wright Kite Festival
Kill Devil Hills, NC
Ann Thompson (800) 334-4777

16 - 17
7th Southern Oregon Kite Festival
Brookings-Harbor, OR
Russ Crabtree (541) 469-2218

17 - 18
North Coast Stunt Kite Games
Maumee Bay, OH
(419) 836-7758

23 - 25
Michiana Area Regional Sportkite
Festival (MARS)
Michiana Regional Transportation
Center, South Bend, IN
George Wright (219) 237-0395

23 - 24
Uri Balloon Festival & Fun Fly
Eric Babilewicz (401) 789-6065

24 - 25
Berkeley Kite Festival
West Coast Kite Championships
Berkeley Marina, Berkeley, CA
Tom McAlister (510) 235-5483(KITE)

Sunflower State Games
Lawrence, KS
Chris Moore (913) 894-5483

August

1
Everett Kite Festival
Naval Atation Everett, Everett, WA
Eru Crosby (425) 339-9334

6 - 8
Oklahoma City Balloon & Kite
Festival
Oklahoma City, OK
Richard Dermer (405) 372-6127

14 - 15
13th Flying Colors Kite Festival
Golden Valley, MN
MKS - (612) 935-8239

Michigan Sport Kite Classic
Livonia, MI (616) 527-4229

16 - 22
Washington State International Kite
Festival, Long Beach, WA

28 - 29
Silverwings Kite Festival
Wichita, KS
Mark Monroe (316) 945-0516

September

4
Golden Gate Challenge
Ocean Beach, San Francisco, CA

4 - 5
US Air Force Museum Festival
Dayton, OH

10 - 12
Lewis & Clark Kite Exposition
Seaside, OR
Bill Storey (888) FLY4FUN

11
Mots Festival
Milwaukee, WI
Jeff Kataoka (414) 277-9121

11 - 12
3rd Kites Unlimited Kitefest
Galveston, TX, Galveston, TX
Carolyn Weir (409) 744-4898

12
Whidbey Island Kite Fly
Greenbank Winery,
Whidbey Island, WA

17
BASKL at Baylands
Baylands Park, Sunnyvale, CA
Susan Skinner (408) 554-8399

17 - 19
Southwestern Bell Plano Balloon
Festival, Plano, TX
Mary Jo Stellano or Troy Gunn
(940) 691-8522

18 - 19
Liberty Kite Fest
10th New Jersey SKC
Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ
Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715

22-26
Sunfest
Ocean City, MD
Kite Loft (410) 289-7855

Monthly Scheduled Club Activities - Flies

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

Kazoo Stringfellows
River Oaks Park (1-4 pm)
April 25, May 2, June 6, July 11)

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 (360) 268-0318

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

Richmond Air Force
1st Sunday of the Month
Dorey Park, Henrico County, VA
C. B. Stonestreet (804) 271-4433

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

SCI-FI Kite Club (Everett, WA)
2nd Sunday of the month
Call for location and details
Gail Cosby (425) 339-9334

Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub
Fun Fly Every Sunday @ 2:00pm
At the Bilmar, Treasure Island, FL.

Topeka Kitefliers
First Sunday of the month
Governor's Mansion, Topeka, KS
Jim Aune (913) 862-5413

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

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

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

25
Narragansett Regional SKC/FEST
Narragansett, RI
Eric Babilowicz (401)789-6065

25 - 26
Cleveland Kite Festival
Edgewater Park, Cleveland, OH
Doug Mouat (216)671-0440

Fredericksburg Kite Festival
Fredericksburg, TX
Dennis Phillips (512)858-2621

Kites Over Burlington
RecPlex, Burlington, IA
Phil Broder (319)753-3436

October

2 - 3
Kite Fest "99"
New Orleans, LA
Marshall Harris (504)835-0280

2 - 10
Albuquerque Balloon & Kite Festival
Albuquerque, NM
Bill Storey (888)FLY4FUN

5 - 10
American Kitefliers Association
National Convention
Grand National Competition
AMA Flight Field, Muncie, IN
Mel Hickman (800)AKA-2550

To list your event in
KITING use the easy form
provided on the AKA
website at
http://www.aka.kite.org/cgi-bin/aka_calendar.ksh
Include the name, activities, dates, location, contact & phone number.

AMA to AKA

I heard recently from an AKA member that was using radio control to direct a camera attached to a kite. His concern was what frequency he should be utilizing to operate the camera. I consulted with our frequency committee and reviewed the CFR's (Code of Federal Regulations) myself. It was our recommendation to this member that the radio be operated on 49 MHz or 27 MHz.

As you probably know 72 MHz in the RC band is reserved for the control of aircraft, and 75 MHz in the RC band is reserved for the control of surface vehicles. In our judgement a camera lofted by a kite falls into neither of these categories. Use of either 72 MHz or 75 MHz by kite flyers can also create a safety hazard for those operating model aircraft or surface vehicles within about three miles of someone operating a kite based camera on either of these bands. This can and will cause loss of control which can result in property damage or loss of life.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in getting this information out to your membership. This will help head off a dangerous situation. You may also want to consult CFR Title 47, Part 95 or contact the FCC yourselves. If you require further information please feel free to contact me. I look forward to meeting you and hosting your Annual Convention on our site this fall.

Sincerely,
Steve Kaluf, Technical Director
Academy of Model Aeronautics
Muncie, Indiana

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My primary interest is: all kinds of kites single line kites multi-line kites

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My local club _____

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AKA Affiliated Clubs

4 Seasons Kite Club
Patrick Franks
317 Boyne Street
New Hudson, MI 48165
(248)486-5277

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

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

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, Succersale M
Montreal, PQ H1V3R2
(514)252-2032

Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club
Paul Shirey
235 Jolly Hill Road
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
(724)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

Great Lakes Kitefliers Soc.
Mike Decker, PO Box 331,
Buffalo, NY 14205-0331
(716)834-2879

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

Hoosier Kitefliers Society
Michael Bragg
PO Box 6881
Kokomo, IN 46904-6881

Jewels Of The Sky Kites
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1520 Amazon
Plano, TX 75075
(972)423-3630

Kansas City Kite Club
Chris Moore
7622 Terrace St
Kansas City, MO 64114
(816)333-9019

Keystone Kites
Todd Little
832 Meadow Lane
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717)939-5222

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

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

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

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

Lavender Winds
Brian Bradley
38576 Mary Terrace
Fremont, CA 94538
(510)797-6997

Lehigh Valley Kite Society
c/o Joyce Quinn, President
16 West 3rd Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610)867-4999

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

New York Kite Enthusiasts
(NYKE)
Jeremy Johannesen
44 North Pine Ave.
Albany, NY 12203
(518)437-0404

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

Northwest Buggy Pilots
Association
Morrie & Kelci Williams
PO Box 1358
Westport, WA 98595-1358
(360)268-0318

O.S.E.K.
Harry Gregory
10228 Winthrop Rd.
Streetsboro, OH 44241
(330)274-2818

Pierce County Kitefliers
c/o Mainframe Kite Shop.
3340 East 11th Street
Tacoma, WA 98421
(253)927-8779

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

Route 66 Kite Club
Bill Dines
5036 W. Belmont Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85301
(602)931-3303

San Diego Kite Club
Roger A. McComb
PO Box 7977
San Diego, CA 92167
(714)369-1681

South Jersey Kite Flyers
Mike Dallmer, PO Box 32
Collingswood, NJ 08108
(215)722-4092

So. Oregon Aire Riders
Mike Godfrey, PO Box 390
Gold Hill, OR 97525
(541)855-9359

Susquehanna River Rats
Bryan Janis
29 CoolCreek Manor Drive
Wrightsville, PA 17368
(717)252-0835

The Alamo Kitefliers Outfit
Leona Clark
1348 Timberwood Trail
New Braunfels, TX 78132
(210)609-2002

Treasure Isl. Sport Kite Club
Claxton A. Thompson
1916 Castle Bay Court
Oldsmar, FL 34677
(813)891-0301

Tulsa WindRiders
Collette Lemons
PO Box 562
Glenpool, OK 74033
(918)322-9630

Washington Kitefliers Assn.
Rob Pratt
Pacific Sci. Ctr.
200 2nd Ave N.
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
Bob Webb
921 1st Avenue SE
LeMars, IA 51031
(712)546-8050

Wind Weavers
Julie Kingery, 1118 Barrow
Abilene, TX 79605
(915)692-5927

Wings Over Washington
Mike VanMeers
PO Box 7254
Silver Spring, MD 20907
(301)948-0559

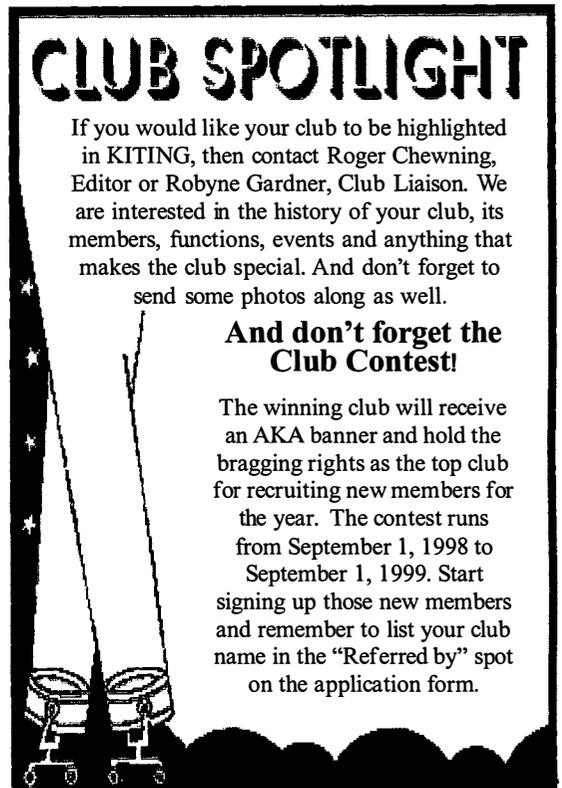
Wisconsin Kites
Bob Rymaszewski
10615 W Greenwood Tr.
Milwaukee, WI 53224
(414)329-9825

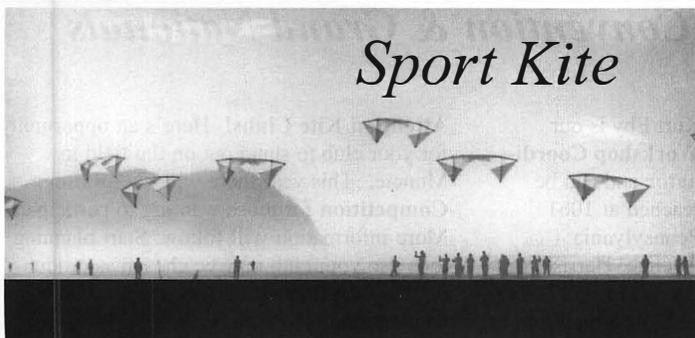
CLUB SPOTLIGHT

If you would like your club to be highlighted in KITING, then contact Roger Chewning, Editor or Robyne Gardner, Club Liaison. We are interested in the history of your club, its members, functions, events and anything that makes the club special. And don't forget to send some photos along as well.

And don't forget the Club Contest!

The winning club will receive an AKA banner and hold the bragging rights as the top club for recruiting new members for the year. The contest runs from September 1, 1998 to September 1, 1999. Start signing up those new members and remember to list your club name in the "Referred by" spot on the application form.





To the Members of the AKA

I'm the New England Indoor Flyer who proposed the rules change to the Sport Kite Committee (SKC) to expand indoor competition to include Dual and Quad-line disciplines in addition to the rules currently in place. I have called the rules as they stand today the "Unlimited" discipline.

Let me share where this idea came from. I started flying indoors with Mark Ricketts in a very large space in the building that used to house the Guildworks factory. After a while, I started telling my friends about this crazy, fun activity and bringing them to fly. I decided to try renting a gym and offered the opportunity to the flyers in New England. Mostly, I wanted to spread the cost. Now, almost five years later, I have hosted the first indoor-only competition and helped with most every other indoor competition in New England. Many indoor flyers have come to me with complements and complaints about the rules. The changes I offered the SKC were a result of this experience.

I read the article written in the March issue of Kiting about the indoor rules change. I obviously don't have a complete picture of the deliberations that went on. I also know there were some strong personalities involved who have definite ideas about their "vision" for indoor flying and competition. My attempt to be more inclusive in this relatively new sport went against that vision. Other indoor flyers came to me after reading the Kiting article in a rage. "We need to do something about this!" "These people have obviously never competed indoors! They don't know what they are talking about!" were a few of the reactions I

got. I decided to take a somewhat less aggressive path. I accepted the offer of becoming the Event Coordinator for the first AKA Indoor National Championship.

In preparation for the Nationals and to "take the pulse" of indoor flying, the Region 1 Director, Steve Santos, held an indoor flying forum at our annual meeting. In attendance were competitors, manufacturers, and people who just think indoor flying is cool. The consensus was that we are on the right track. We agreed that the rules that are currently in place offer challenges that are unique to indoor flying. We also felt the choice to compete in dual or quad-line disciplines made competitors and judges alike feel the event was fair.

The National Championship will be run with the AKA rules as they stand today. In addition, I will be running, as "Demonstration Sports", Dual and Quad-line disciplines. If you win in these Demonstration Sports, you will receive a fine certificate granting you bragging rights for your accomplishments. Regular trophies will be awarded for "Unlimited" only.

I did not and still don't feel there is anything bad about the AKA rules for indoor competition. Experience tells me that people enjoy competing in different ways. Some people feel the current rules are fair, others want a more level playing field. By expanding indoor competition into three disciplines, we in Region 1 have brought more people into the sport and had a great time doing it. That is all I ever wanted.

I had also reviewed the rules that are followed internationally. European indoor ballet rules don't have an "Unlimited" discipline. The international rules only pit dual-line against dual-line and quad-line against quad-line in ballet. If I went to Belgium or Germany or England and competed in the manner we do here, I would be disqualified.

I hope the experience we gain at the Nationals will be as fun and enlightening as the experiences we in Region 1 have had. There have been three competitions run under the expanded rules. All of them have been fun and successful. If the participants wish to speak out to the SKC and the AKA in general, that is why we have conventions.

I wish you all luck and skill for the Nationals. Since this is the first time we have tried to do this, each of the events are open but will be limited to the first 30 flyers to enter. The Convention Center has 22-foot high ceilings. You may also be interested to know the Raddison Hotel in Muncie has the tallest lobby (21 feet) in the area. I'll be staying there...

I'll see you in Muncie!

John Ruggiero
johnr@mediaone.net
 781-631-1438

AKA Club News and Stuff

As of May 19, the Hoosiers Kite Club is way out in front of the pack in our current banner contest. The Hoosiers have roped in 7 new AKA members since January 1! The following clubs have all recruited 3 new AKA members: the Black Swamp Air Force, Connecticuters, Jewels Of The Sky, Kites Over New England, and the San Diego Kite Club. Keep on recruiting! There's still time to catch up to those Hoosiers before the contest ends on September 1. A Banner will be awarded to the winning club at the Convention in Muncie, IN.

This came to me from Bob Peby - Mike Edwards of the Scenic City Kite Club in Chattanooga, TN. wrote: "Thought you would like to hear about what we are doing here to help promote the AKA. Our local club dues are \$10 per year and AKA is, of course, \$25. That would total \$35 per year. What we are doing is "eating" \$5 of our local dues to encourage people to join both. For every one that signs up for both we are collecting only \$30. We are also going to give away one AKA membership, to be drawn at our fly on 4/17/99. To be eligible they have to pay up their local dues between 1/1/99 and 4/17/99. Just thought you would want to know so that maybe you can pass this on to other clubs in the region."

Great idea, Mike! Other clubs, what do you think?

-Robyne Gardner, AKA Club Liaison

Kobi Eshun, Chair
Joel Brown
Bob Childs
Eric Forsberg
David Gomberg
Michael Moore
Sue Sedgwick
Chuck Sigal
Darrin Skinner

AKA SPORT KITE RULES COMMITTEE



Muncie, Indiana - October 4 - 9

Kiting

The 22nd AKA National Convention & Grand Nationals

THREE MONTHS & COUNTING!!

Maureen Poscillico,
Project Manager

Do you realize there are only 3 months before we arrive in Muncie, Indiana for 5 full days of kites, kites, and more kites? Are your bags packed? Are your reservations made? Today is the day to take care of all those little details.

Here is a tentative schedule of activities to assist you with your planning.

Monday, October 4

Registration, Early Bird Dinner

Tuesday, October 5

Registration, Indoor Fly, The "Ugly Kite" and Cellular Mass Ascensions, Annual Business Meeting, Pin Challenge

Wednesday, October 6

Registration, Soft & Flexible Mass Ascension, Workshops, Kitemaking Competition, Sport Kite Competition, Sport Kite Symposium, Night Fly, Single-line Sport Fighter Kite Brain Storm Session

Thursday, October 7

Registration, Workshops, SLS-FK Mass Ascension, Fly Market Set-up & Opening, Kitemaking Competition, Sport Kite Competition, Buggy Competition, Single-line Sport Fighter Kite Competition, Indoor Fly Competition

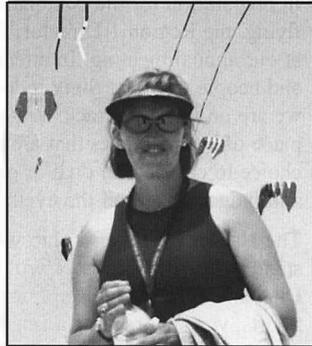
Friday, October 8

Registration, Fly Market, Sport Kite Competition, Mystery Kite & Memorial Fly Mass Ascension, Single-line Sport Fighter Kite Competition, Individual Rokkaku Battles, Silent Auction, Auction & Banquet

Saturday, October 9

Workshops, Fly Market, Single-line Sport Fighter Kite Competition, Mass Ascension, Team Rokkaku Battles, Members' Choice, Awards & Banquet

Registration Forms are included in this issue and can be mailed or faxed to me. You can also register on-line with a credit card through the AKA web site. Hotel reservations are to be made through the Muncie Visitors Bureau (800-568-6862). Deadline for hotel reservations are September 4th. When calling be sure to indicate you are with the AKA.



Kurt Eby is our **Workshop Coordinator** and can be reached at 1061 Pennsylvania Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17111, (717) 939-5222 or e-mail him at kites@paonline.com. Kurt has put together an exciting list of workshops for you to choose from.

Adam Grow, Field Operations Director has developed a wonderful list of activities for the flying field and a layout that will enable us to accomplish more events at one time. The field at the Academy of Model Aeronautics is said to be one of the best sites yet. Reach Adam at Marylandkites@hotmail.com.

The Early Bird Dinner will be hosted by the Hoosier Kite Society and other Region 6 Kite Clubs on Monday, October 4 at the Horizon Convention Center. Dinner is scheduled for 5 p.m. If you are going to attend, please indicate so on your registration form.

This year's **Night Fly** is going to be hosted at the Ministrista Cultural Center and transportation will be provided. It will be on Wednesday evening from 8:30 - 10:00. Start thinking about what you want your kite to look like in the sky on that night.

The Fly Market is planned to be bigger than ever and filling up fast. If you are interested in being a part of it, contact Fly Market Chair Ron Lindner at (314) 376-6055 or e-mail him at charon@1main.net. **Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and vendors are required to be convention registrants.**

Attention Kite Clubs! Here's an opportunity for your club to stand out on the field in Muncie. This year there will be a **Banner Competition** for those wanting to participate. More information will follow. Start planning today so your club may be chosen as producing the best Banner Display at this year's convention.

The Great Kite Auction is scheduled for Friday night and donations are necessary to make it a truly successful event for the AKA. A significant part of the AKA's annual operating budget comes from convention proceeds and your donation is important for the future of AKA. Contact Al Sparling (630)369-9682 or indicate your donation on the registration form.

Banquet Tickets will be available for those that do not want to participate in the Convention but want to come as spectators. Guest banquet tickets are available at registration: \$32 for the Auction Dinner and \$32 for the Awards Banquet. Banquet tickets are limited and must be purchased no later than 12 noon Wednesday, October 6.

Convention Merchandise: Be sure to indicate your choices on your registration form so that an accurate number can be ordered. **Notice** new item this year - long sleeve t-shirt.

Refunds: AKA's refund policy states that any registration cancelled prior to September 30th will be refunded less a \$20 processing fee. After September 30th cancellations will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Questions for Maureen? Contact her at Johnson Promotions at 540-288-9417, or fax to 540-720-1329.

WE'VE OPENED OUR DOORS TO THE WORLD!

Worldwindk@aol.com
7208 McNeil Drive #204
Austin, TX. 78729
512-250-9454

www.worldwind.com
1-800-292-2748

All Rights Reserved. © World Wind Kites

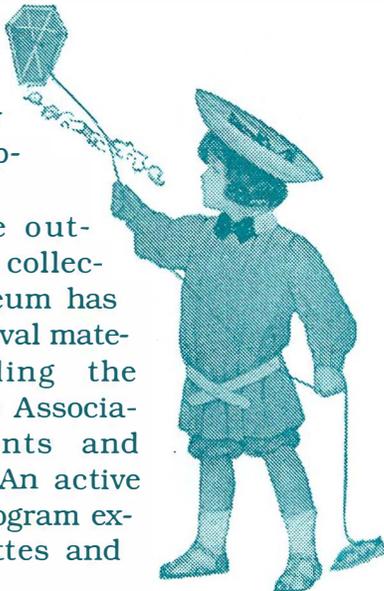
HISTORY, ART, SCIENCE

The World Kite Museum celebrates the achievements and magic of kiting worldwide. Besides its goal to preserve the past and record the present, the Museum's programs work to educate young and old about the role of kites in science, art, religion and sport. The Hall of Fame pays special tribute to the people who participated in this multicultural phenomenon.

...

The Kite Museum is into its tenth year of existence. During that time its collection of kites from around the world has increased to 1300 kites. In 1989, the David Checkley Asian Kite Collection of 700 Japanese, Chinese and Malaysian kites was donated to the Museum. The 400 Japanese kites are considered the most complete collection of Japanese kites outside of Japan. The Kite Museum changes its exhibits regularly to accommodate many educational opportunities.

Besides the outstanding kite collection, the Museum has extensive archival materials, including the American Kite Association documents and memorabilia. An active oral history program exists on cassettes and videos.



The Last Great KITE RAFFLE of the Millenium

A Special
Membership
Benefit
for the
World Kite
Museum &
Hall of Fame

Til Krapp, German kitemaker and friend of the Museum, has made an exquisite box kite 3 meters by 2.5 meters expressly as a fundraising and membership drive effort for the World Kite Museum & Hall of Fame.

HOW TO GET TICKETS:

Tickets for the raffle are a special membership option in 1999 when you join the Museum for \$50 or more. The column on the right displays the accelerating numbers of tickets with each membership upgrade.

Current members may also upgrade their membership category to \$50 or more. Just check the category you want to reach, subtract the amount you've already paid and send it in with this form.

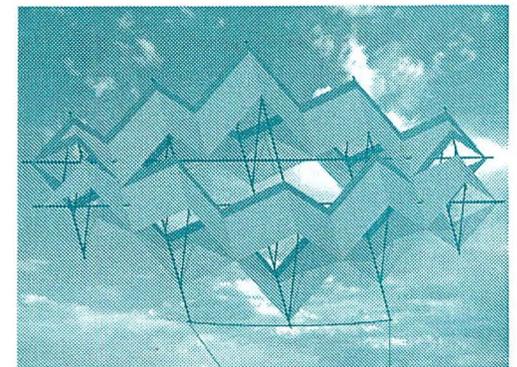
After you've become a \$50 member, you can either upgrade for more tickets or you can become a membership recruiter. Recruiters will get one ticket for every fifty dollars they recruit, ie: \$50 membership 1 ticket; \$100 membership 2 tickets. Use membership form on the back.

Raffle Tickets per Membership	
\$ 50	- 3
\$ 100	- 8
\$ 150	- 14
\$ 200	- 22
\$ 250	- 31
\$ 300	- 40
\$ 350	- 50
\$ 400	- 61
\$ 450	- 73
\$ 500	- 86
\$ 550	- 100
\$ 600	- 115
\$ 650	- 131
\$ 700	- 148
\$ 750	- 166
\$ 800	- 185
\$ 850	- 205
\$ 900	- 226
\$ 950	- 248
\$ 1000	- 275

Description of the Kite

The "Quintet", a truly unique kite, is a design first produced by Holland's Jan Pit and refined by German Werner Ahligrim. Til Krapp's knowledge of this kite, his refined graphics and excellent craftsmanship, combined with special fittings made especially for it, makes this a unique collectors item and a fantastic flying machine.

Scott Skinner



and . . . FUN of KITES

The Museum also has a three-member International Advisory Board from England, France and Japan. They promote the Museum, obtain and locate items for the collections and advise on specific projects and exhibits.

Education programs include elementary and high schools in both the local and surrounding area. Adult touring groups, local organizations and Elder hostels are another educational niche. Six weekend kite making workshops sponsored by the Museum introduce the joys of making your own flying creations to beginners and experienced.

The **World Kite Museum** is a non-profit organization that relies heavily on the support of individuals like you who are devoted to preserving this unique monument to kites. Become a member (see form on back) and receive the following benefits:

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Membership Card
- Free Admission to the Museum
- Invitation to Special Events
- Workshop and Museum Discounts
- Special Preview of Inductees to the Hall of Fame

P.O. Box 964
Long Beach, WA 98631
jkite@willapabay.org
www.worldkitemuseum.com

Yes, I'd like to become a member of The World Kite Museum & Hall of Fame

- Floats on the Breeze...\$10-49 Plays with Clouds.....\$ 250-499
 Soars in the Wind..... \$ 50-99 Dances in the Sky...\$ 500-999
 Reaches New Heights....\$ 100-249 Flies at the Top.....\$ 1,000 +

Remember, your contribution is TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please make checks payable to: **WORLD KITE MUSEUM**

VISA or MC#: _____ Exp. _____

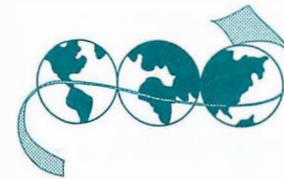
Cardholder's Name _____ Cardholder's Signature _____

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () FAX: () E-Mail _____

Member recruited by _____



the **WORLD KITE MUSEUM** and **HALL OF FAME** a monument to kites



LONG BEACH, WASHINGTON

CONVENTION INFO MUNCIE, INDIANA

GENERAL: This year's National Convention is being hosted in Muncie, Indiana. The Muncie Visitors Bureau, Radisson Hotel Roberts, Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), Horizon Convention Center and Ramada Inn are excited about our visit and are pulling out all the stops to insure a successful event for the AKA. The rental cost for the Horizon Convention Center and Shuttle Service to/from the AMA Field is offered courtesy of the Muncie Visitors Bureau, Radisson Hotel Roberts, Ramada Inn and Horizon Convention Center.

LODGING: Hotel Reservations are to be made through the Muncie Visitors Bureau (800)568-6862. There are five host hotels - Radisson Hotel Roberts, Ramada Inn, Lees Inn, Amerihost Inn, & Signature Inn. The shuttle service will stop at each on its way to and from the Horizon Convention Center and AMA Field.

CAMPING: The AMA has limited number of over-night parking available on a first-come, first-served basis. The closest campground is Prairie Creek Reservoir (765) 747-4776. Other campgrounds are: Big Oak Park (765)358-3208, Mel-Mac Campground (765)789-6091 and Camp Red Wing (765)288-0223.

AIR TRAVEL: For those who are traveling by air-plane, there are three airports to choose from which are each about 65-70 miles from Muncie. They are Indianapolis, IN, Fort Wayne, IN and Dayton, OH. Shuttle service to Muncie will be from the Indianapolis airport only. Details to follow in Kiting.

CAR RENTAL: AVIS is the official car rental company. To make reservations, call (800)331-1600 and mention AWD code J094055.

GUEST TICKETS: Tickets for Auction and Awards Banquets are available at registration for \$32 each. Tickets are limited and must be purchased by 12 noon Wednesday, October 6th.

REGISTRATION FEES

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

Register by Aug 10: \$130
Register by Sept 10: \$150
Register after Sept 10: \$165

Basic Registration: All of the above without lunches

Register by Aug 10: \$110
Register by Sept 10: \$130
Register after Sept 10: \$145

One-Day Registration: No lunches, No banquets.

Circle Day(s): Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

Register by Aug 10: \$ 50
Register by Sept 10: \$ 60
Register after Sept 10: \$ 70

ALL participants, whether competing or not, must be registered. ALL participants must be AKA members in good standing during registration and at the convention. Certain invited guests are exempt.

PLEASE NOTE REGISTRATION DEADLINES!

SPECIALTY ITEMS FOR SALE

Cloisonne Logo Pin. \$5

Logo Patch. (One included in registration) \$4

Short-sleeved T-shirt (Lt. Grey) Logo screen printed on front. M L XL \$15 2XL \$17

Long-sleeved T-shirt (Lt. Grey) Logo screen printed on front. M L XL \$18 2XL \$20

Sweatshirt (Lt. Grey) Logo screen printed on front. M L XL \$21 2XL \$23

Polo Shirt Embroidered logo on left chest. (Lt. Grey) M L XL \$26 2XL \$28

Convention Video (Delivered to your home in December) \$30, includes shipping

Registration Form (Use separate form for each registrant)

Sign up for:	How Many	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee (see reverse for amt)	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cloisonne Logo Pin \$5 each	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 1999 Logo Patch \$4 each	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-sleeved T-shirt Please Circle M L XL \$15 2XL \$17	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Long Sleeved T-shirt Please Circle M L XL \$18 2XL \$20	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt Please Circle M L XL \$21 2XL \$23	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Embroidered Polo Shirt Please Circle M L XL \$26 2XL \$28	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention Video @ \$30 each	_____	\$ _____

Method of Payment

- Check
 Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Subtotal: _____

Tax: _____

Total: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

352 Hungerford Drive
 Rockville, MD 20850-4117
 U.S.A.
 Phone/Fax: 800-252-2550

THE GREAT KITE AUCTION DONOR FORM

DESCRIBE YOUR KITE DONATIONS BELOW. An accurate estimate of value will help bring the best price and is essential to claim a tax deduction.

Donor/Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ PHONE _____

Item Name _____

Estimated Value _____ Description _____

Item Name _____

Estimated Value _____ Description _____

Item Name _____

Estimated Value _____ Description _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP.

I am willing to help with:

- Wherever Needed
- Convention Registration
- Auction [] Setup [] Registration [] Cashier
- Sport Kite Competition:
[] Judge [] Field Director [] Pit Boss
- Kitemakers' Competition
[] Judge [] Registration [] Field Staff

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING WHERE APPLICABLE

- This is my first AKA Convention
- I would like vegetarian meals
- I plan to enter the Kitemakers' Competition
- I plan to arrive in Muncie, IN on (date) _____
- I plan to attend the early bird banquet, Monday, October 4th.

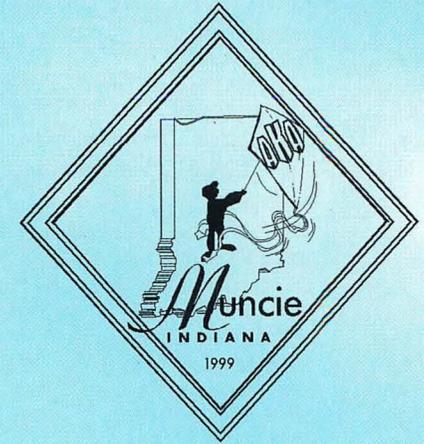


American Kitefliers Association

352 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850-4117
U.S.A.
Phone/Fax: 800-252-2550
E-mail: aka@aka.kite.org

Johnson Promotions, Inc.
Convention Management
P.O. Box 2812
Leesburg, VA 20177
Corporate: 703-777-8577
Fax: 703-779-2388

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION



AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION 22ND NATIONAL CONVENTION, FESTIVAL & COMPETITION OCTOBER 4 - 9, 1999 REGISTRATION FORM

Register by mail, e-mail or fax. Include Visa/Mastercard number on fax or e-mail forms. Make checks to AKA Convention

For General Information & Registration Questions

Maureen Posillico, Project Manager
2017 Victoria Dr., Stafford, VA 22554
Phone: (540)288-9417 Fax (540)720-1329,
e-mail: convention@aka.kite.org

Convention Workshops - by Kurt Eby, Workshop Coordinator

If you love kites, there's something for everyone at the National Convention. The following Workshops are featured at this year's convention.

- The Sport Kite Symposium will once again be moderated by David Gomberg. The symposium will also be attended by many of the Sport Kite Conference Commissioners and the Sport Kite Rules Committee.
- Ron Despojado will be presenting a workshop on Choreographing a Quadline Ballet and Flying Quadline Precision.
- Kobi Eshun will be presenting two workshops. The first is entitled Choreographing a Ballet routine.
- Kobi Eshun and Brian Champie on Basic Sport Kite Judging, which will include Shadow Judging Panels.
- Brian Champie will also present his "I Hate to Walk" series which will highlight ground launches and crash recovery, with an emphasis on tricks.
- Al Hargus and Mike Gillard of Captain Eddie's Flying Circus will present a seminar geared toward fliers who are interested in starting a sport kite team.
- Five time AKA Rokkaku Champion David Gomberg has promised to share all his tricks in his Rokkaku battle workshop.
- Jeff Howard will give instruction on buggy riding from the basics, to racing and all the latest tricks.
- Jack Rogers will present two workshops, the first is devoted to handling large kites and ground displays. His second workshop is dedicated to remote control dropping devices for candy drops or teddy bears.
- Brooks Leffler & Craig Wilson team-up to give an instructional class on kite aerial photography.
- Charlie Dunton will be presenting tips and tricks to help you design and produce award winning appliqué kites.
- Learn the unique construction techniques of Pete Rondeau and how he built "Elvis" his 1997 Grand Champion dragon-headed centipede.
- Jose Sainz will present techniques for applying graphics designs without the use of adhesive spray.
- If you haven't built a Circoflex yet, Gary Engvall will show you how easy it is to build and bridle this kite. In another workshop, Engvall will show you how to repair big kites, including those that use the "super ripstop" technique.

- Tony Ferrel will tell you how to design a cellular kite from conception through construction and will show how easily they assemble with custom fittings.
- Learn all about carbon, fiberglass and composite rods from Kurt Degener.
- Learn how to decorate kite rods while strengthening them through the use of thread wrapping, by Glen Haynes.
- Kathy Goodwind will detail the evolution of kite components and will discuss kite pattern modification for special purposes.
- Steve Ferrel and Jon Burkhardt will lead a discussion about the kitemaking competition and event judging.
- Thirty students at the two-and-a-half hour class of Bruce Lambert, will build his "new" five-sided fighter design. Kite materials will be provided, however, the following construction materials will be required: 18 inch straight edge/ruler, ultrafine tipped Sharpie marker, small roll 2 inch wide clear packing tape, scissors, Xacto type or razor knife with new blade, a 12"x 18" or 18"x 24" piece of poster board or cutting surface would protect the table top.
- Twenty students, in each of two classes, will have the opportunity to build a traditional Japanese washi paper & bamboo framed Suruga in J.R. Tolman's two-and-a-half hour class. All materials will be provided, except that a travel hair dryer would help dry the ink and dye on your kite, and is recommended.
- Thirty students, in each of two classes, will build a 48 x 33 mm American Flag kite of tissue paper, with paint brush bristle spars, in a 1 hour miniature class of Charlie Sotich.
- Scott Skinner of the Drachen Foundation will present archival information on the life of Alexander Graham Bell, including real Bell tetra cells, photographs and slides related to Bell and his tetrahedral kites.
- Learn about the World Kite Museum, its goals and objectives, from Kay Buesing.
- Roger Chewing will host a workshop on successful event planning.
- Phil Broder will teach us how to publicize a kite festival.
- Harry Gregory & Nancy Lockwood will present a class on how to teach workshops to children.

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FLY NAKED on the Kite Festival Field

Festival Field Coordinator: Adam Grow

Yes, ladies and gentleman, boys and girls and kitefliers of all ages, it is once again time to stop thinking about, and start planning for this year's AKA Convention in Muncie, Indiana. Because Muncie is located somewhere between the east coast and the west coast, this should be the biggest and best AKA Convention of all time! To make it happen, we will have four dedicated sportkite fields, an apportioned buggy area, the ever popular festival field, and two new fields: one for megakites and another just for Asian style fighter kites. You have probably heard the AMA field is big. Well, I'm here to tell you it's for real! There is plenty of space for everyone to fly their kites, so stuff your kite bag with all the kites that you can fit and don't forget your feather banners.

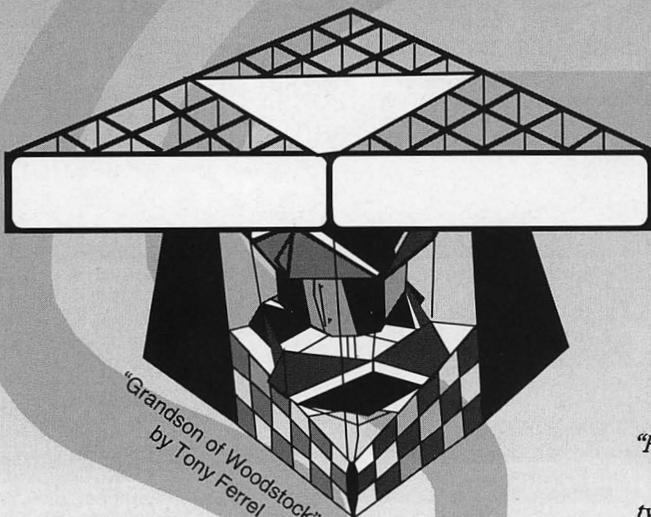
This year the Kite Festival Field will host all of the daily AKA Mass Ascension of Kites, the National Kite Makers Competitions, and all of the events associated with the National American Kitefliers Exhibitions & Demonstrations, better known as Fly NAKED. The AKA Mass Ascension of Kites will be held each day at one o'clock with a whole new pattern of five kite pins. Also, this year some new kites have been added to the list of five: Tuesday - eddy kites, Wednesday - sport kites, Thursday - fighter kites (rokkakus are fighters too), Friday - foils and soft kites, and Saturday - box kites.

The Kite Festival Field will host the AKA National Kitemakers Competitions on Wednesday and Thursday. Steve Ferrel will be officiating as the Chief Judge. At past conventions, many kitefliers were involved with this competition and in the Fly NAKED activities. So, we decided to make it easier on everyone and combined both programs onto one field. This also gives the kitemakers the advantage of flying on a bigger field during competition. If you have not yet made a kite to enter in this year's competition, it is not too late to start.

Fly NAKED will be held on the Kite Festival Field Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. There are lots of fun events planned for this Fly and lots of megakites will be tethered on the adjacent field. Fly NAKED events start at 12:30 and go until 4:30 p.m. This program showcases a vast collection of kites flown by distinguished sport kite teams, kitemakers, kite clubs, and AKA conventioners from around the world. All registered kitefliers are invited to bring their kites onto the field and join in the featured kite flies, that start on the hour and half-hour each day after 1:30 p.m. Fly NAKED events last about 20 minutes and all participants are eligible for unique rewards, prize drawings, and exclusive coupons that will be given out during each event. Also, incredible sportkite shows will take place 20 and 50 minutes after the hour. This is pure kite flying fun at its best!

And don't forget your banners because we plan to line the AMA with hundreds of banners everyday. Saturday at 12:20 p.m. the AKA will have its 3rd Annual Parade of Kites and Banners with the All Star Kite Kazoo Band at the AMA. Don't miss getting in on this event, it keeps getting more outrageous every year. Kite clubs and sport kite teams should check with Field Coordinator Adam Grow for time slots and program information.

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Edeiken Award

The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award is the highest recognition given to a member by the American Kitefliers Association. Nominations are now being accepted for the 1998 award. Steve Edeiken was one of the best loved, most respected and active members of the AKA. He was killed in a tragic accident on September 24, 1983. The Association established the Steve Edeiken Memorial Award in his honor by resolution on October 4, 1984.

Criteria:

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

Nomination Process:

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

The following information should accompany each nomination:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Selection

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

Submission

All nominations must be received by the Chair of the Selection Committee by August 26, 1999. It is understood that it is not necessary to present this award each year if the selection committee feels there is no qualified candidate. In the past we have had many excellent nominations who have not won. **Please remember, there is no prohibition on resubmission of a candidate from a previous year.**

Send nominations to:

Steve Edeiken Memorial Award
c/o Peter Dolphin
715 Taylor Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08107
609-833-0579, 609-854-3425fax

Past recipients of the Steve Edeiken Award

1998 Jon Burkhardt
1997 Scott Skinner
1996 Kay Buesing
1995 Roger Chewing
1994 David Gomberg
1993 Margo & Bevan Brown
1992 Bill Lockhart & Betty Street
1991 Charlie Sotich
1990 Leland Toy
1989 Tom Sisson
1988 Jack VanGilder
1987 Tom Casselman
1986 Olan Turner
1985 David Checkley
1984 Alfred Chang

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on a roll wave...

by Dean Jordan

Hey gang, another issue, more wind, and news from the traction forefront. The latest thing to really come along and make things really exciting in traction action is KITE SURFING! Yeah buddy, now this is something I can really sink my teeth into. I got to try this new sport using one of the new boards up in Wildwood, at the biggest, baddest kite festival in the US, the Wildwood International Kite Festival over Memorial Day weekend. Wow, what a hoot.

Although kite traction over water has been here for a long while, it really hasn't been until lately that we've been able to make good upwind progress with kite craft. This, of course, is what really makes the sport possible.

Yes, we've had the Peter Lynn boats, and the kite ski system, but it's these new surfboard inspired kite boards that really rock. Right now the boards to watch are the F-One by Raphael Salles

of France, the Flexi board, the Q board, and Wipika. There will be other boards available before long, and I imagine cheaper mass-produced boards before too long, but right now expect to pay \$550 to \$750 for a good new board. The Kite Ski system has water ski type boards for between \$350 and up as well.

The boards come with three foot straps, neoprene decking, a place for a surf leash, and are between 6 to 7.5 feet long. They are narrower than a surfboard and built much better with heavier cloth used, and additional layers of cloth, though they are still very much lightweight, which is good for jumping!

In addition to using a surf-type board, there are also the wake boards people are using which do not go upwind well, and the PL foil board and little bullet. I'm betting the surfboard style is going to be the one that

stays around, though there will always be room for the individualist in this sport. It's still kite flying friends, and may bring more people to the sport.

Getting started is not as hard as you might think. You need to be more over powered than you would be on your buggy, but still able to control the kite. A life jacket or personal floatation device is a must, as well as a helmet. You heard right! You don't want to get hit by the board! Water is serious business and should be treated as such. As a youth I was knocked unconscious on many occasions from water skiing accidents (that explains a lot, doesn't it?) and owe my life to pfd's. You park the kite straight over head, put your feet in the straps, with the board in close and cross-wind, put the kite in the power and go! You point toward the kite to get going, then turn away from it as you plane out. It is that simple. Jibing will take more time, as you have to learn to switch stance unless you plan on riding backside, which can be done.



In the beginning water re-launch seemed to be a big issue, and to some extent, it still is. The biggest problem is the lines. If you don't have a control bar reel system the lines are a bitch to deal with, and usually require you to get back to shore to sort out. However, you will find that you don't need to crash the kite just because you wipe out. It is really not that hard. Kite Ski invented the control bar, which integrates a reel system to bring you, and the Banshee inspired kite together, so that you can re-launch. Now Peter Lynn has come up with a Paul Garber inspired system that is very similar, though it uses a lever instead of a mountain bike brake, and the reel is mounted differently. In addition to these two systems, people are using conventional handles with harness, as well as many hybrid bars, some resembling drop bars from a bicycle, some that look like a pole that allow

Buggy's, Racing and Parrakarts



Jeff Howard on the water in Wildwood, catching some air, riding waves. - photos here and on the cover by Jason Robbins

you to fly quad by sliding two sleeves in and out. Whether you use a bar or handles, a reel system or whatnot, will depend on your background and budget.

Meanwhile there are several trains of thought in kite design. The Wipika, by the Legaigoux brothers from France is probably the best for its ability to tumble across the water and re-launch. The problem it has is it is always in the power with no way for you to put it into neutral or park it. The PL C-quad is a single skin kite that can be made to float and water re-launch if you have a control bar, or it lands in such a way as the lines don't go slack.

You can use any traction kite for kite sailing, and, people are with great success. It is happening all over the world right now in a big way, and is attracting all kinds of attention. Flexi has a kite, the Blade, Concept Air has the Wave, Robbie Nash has a Wipika inspired kite, Quadrifoil has a new kite coming out, along with their line of traction kites, Cobra Kites has the Sky Tigers, Ted Dougherty has his line of kites by Premier Kites, and there are some other designers working night and day. This sport is going to be huge.

Check out these url's.

kiteskiworld.com
hawaiiproline.com
flexifoil.com
quadrifoil.com
axelair.com

That's it for this issue, see you at the nationals or possibly Long Beach.

aoxomoxoa

Recently there has been some controversy about the AKA's role in the promotion of the sport kite "Buggyng." Some of the perceived problems include not enough rules in keeping with our European counterparts, and the name. Many of you may not be aware of the fact that in the UK the sport is called Parakating. This is so they could merge with the existing land sailing community and take advantage of existing rules and places to buggy.

What is the AKA's role in regards to kite Buggyng? As the former head of the power flying committee I saw our role as that of an organizational body.

We set the rules, sanction the races, and keep score. We also include a Grand National race at our annual convention. What we don't do is promote the sport. As a dues driven, volunteer organization the AKA has many interests. Certainly portraying kiting positively in its many forms is a part of that interest. Promoting buggyng is up to the individual with their own interests. As to rules, we have an excellent set of working rules that have been in use since 1994. We've run dozens of races with no problems. Our rules are designed to be fair and require the minimum # of race officials to run. Our races are open to anyone who can safely make it around the course.

You do have to be an AKA member to participate but this is true of all sanctioned AKA competitions. The bottom line is, if it ain't broke don't fix it. The name of the game is "Kite Buggyng!" Fran Gramkowski heads the Traction Flying committee. We welcome any suggestions or comments.

dean jordan

Traction Kite Committee -

Fran Gramkowski (chair), Dave Arnold, Steve Bateman, Fritz Gramkowski, Jeff Howard, Cory Jensen, Dean Jordan, Steve Kent, Tom MC Alister, Richard Ridgeway, Dan Rubesh, Darrin Skinner, John Tavolacci, Morrie Williams

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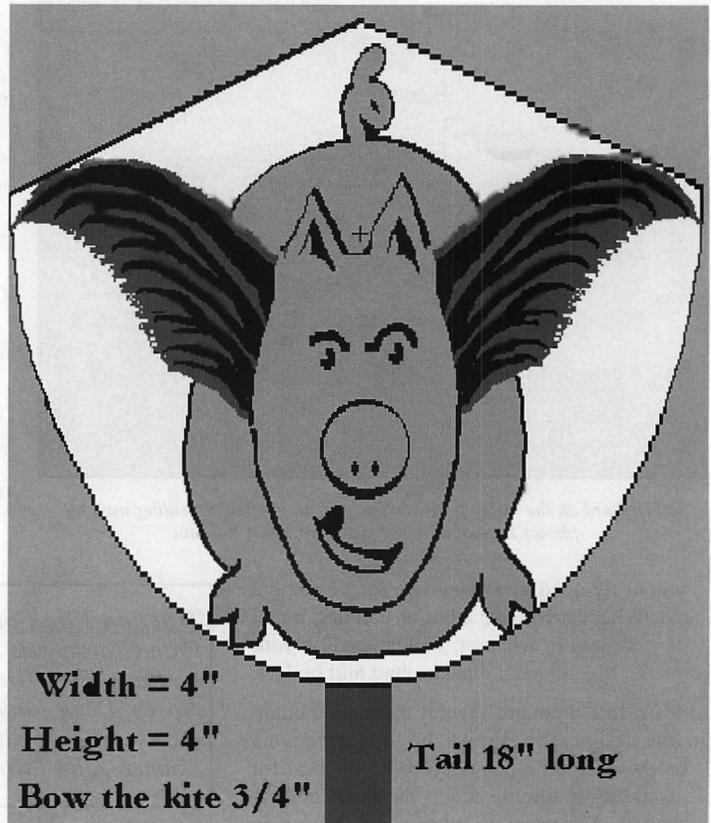
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MINIATURE SHIELD KITE by Glenn Davison

This is a "shield kite" which can be made with a 4" wingspan. It's based on a plan by Charlie Sotich. I drew the "Pigs Can Fly" image directly onto the fabric using permanent markers. Here's how you can build one too:

1. Use a light color (yellow or white) scrap of lightweight fabric such as Icarex.
2. Tape the fabric onto the picture.
3. Trace the picture of the pig onto the material
4. Fold in half and cut out the shape of the shield
5. Use tape to attach a bamboo or microcarbon spine and spreader, each 4" long.
6. Tension the spreader to bow the kite 3/4" using thread.
7. Attach the flying line directly to the point between the ears. (a good spot, eh?)
8. Add an 18" tail that's 1/2" wide.
9. Use thread as a flying line.



Pigs Can Fly...

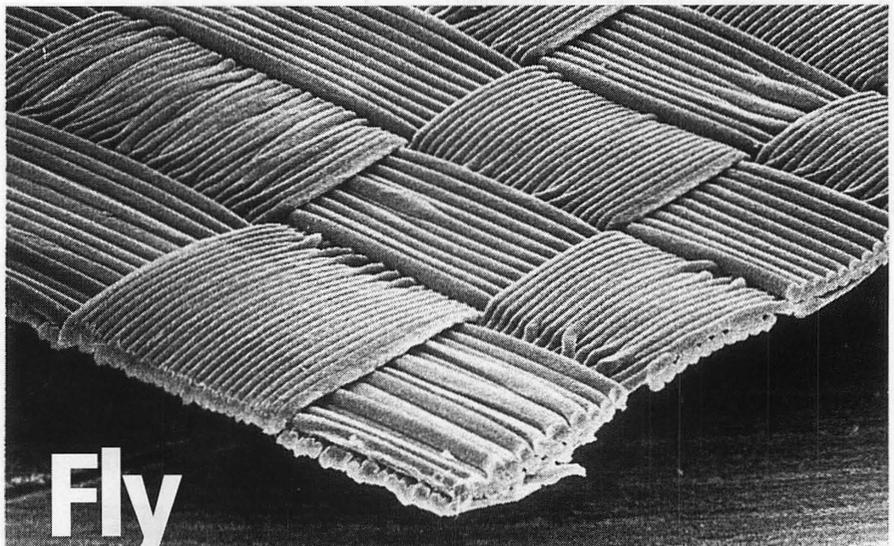
Our club has finally discovered what many kite clubs have known for years, that kite flying and eating tons of food is a popular idea. In our club, Kites Over New England, we call this kiting event "Pigs Can Fly". For those of you who missed the fly on June 5th at Colt State Park in Bristol, Rhode Island, here's the scoop.

The name has a couple of meanings. First, Kite Fliers Love To Eat! So we had a potluck BBQ during the day and then we filled the air with all kinds of critters that have a food connection. Pigs, cows, bears, lobster, fish and many others. There was line laundry, flags, banners, or dropables, let your imagination run wild.

The true reason for this event was to remind people the important role that food plays at a really fun kite event. We flew, we ate like pigs, we flew some more, we had a snack, we flew some more, then we went to an all-you-can-eat buffet!

This will go down as one of the nicest flying times this season and the summer has just begun! We're planning another "Pigout" soon.

Paul N. Berard
Ralph Reed
Glenn Davison
(the three little pigs)



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K-FUN

Cooley, Deb



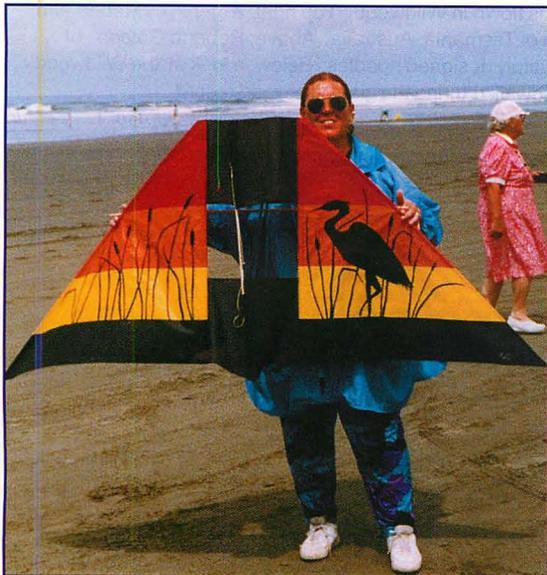
Once upon a time I walked into a kite shop on the Oregon coast and purchased a kite and enjoyed it. I thought to myself, "Cool Christmas presents for my family and friends. Everyone liked them so well that I cashed in my husbands Life Insurance policy, and purchased 25 yards of each color. In February 1980, the Rainbow Kite Factory was born. My work space was small, but it felt great to put my artistic talents to use. I had recently quit a job I did not enjoy and had been remodeling a house for five years. I tried pottery, painting, sculpting and woodworking, but I didn't have much fun. I needed a way to express myself.

I started selling kites at art shows and to my friends. I even put on my own kite festivals. It was a great reason to have a party and it was fun to see kites I had made years before flying in the air. What really makes me proud is to know that the kites I made twenty years ago are still flying today.



Selling kites to Catch The Wind really started a train reaction. I realized that I didn't want to be an average kitemaker. My goal was to be one of the best. I changed the techniques I used for applique. Hot cutting the designs out gave a much cleaner look to the kite. And one of the first designs that I made is still one of my most popular. There is no limit what you can do on a kite skin.

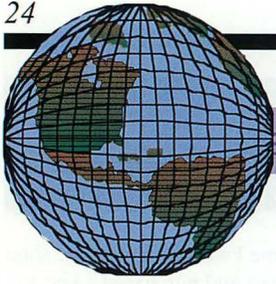
A few months later I received a phone call. There was a young man who had seen my kites and wanted to meet me. He was traveling around the U.S. on his motorcycle talking to different kitemakers. Leland Toy. He was visiting Margaret Gregor. Both of them came to visit. I think they were the two who helped and encouraged me to keep going. After that, the kite family started. I went to a few kite festivals down on the Oregon and Washington coast and made a lot of friends. It is nice to have a family all around the world.



Watching others like Bobby Stanfield, Scott Skinner, Ron Gibian and Jose Sainz, I have learned a lot of different techniques on how to build kites. They inspire me to try new things and new designs. I advise others to try and keep their minds open, and learn something new each day.

The last few years I have been privileged to be a teacher at the Oregon Kitemakers Retreat and at Fort Worden. I like to share the knowledge that I have acquired throughout the years.





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Scenes from Wildwood

Returning after being away for a few years...

I attended the first decade of the Wildwood competition, and watched during that time as the contest expanded from a handful of competitors to almost 200, and started its evolution towards a general festival instead of sport-kite only. Then I "retired" for a few years, to attend the Junction Kitemakers Retreat. After that retreat reached its graceful end, I returned once more to Wildwood this May. Nothing ever stays the same, philosophers say, and I wondered what these four days would bring.

While the days progressed I noticed everything was better than it had been in years past. WIKF is maturing - well, as much as a kite festival of any sort can be considered to be "mature" - and the organizers' and workers' experience was put to good use in ensuring that things go smoothly - even the inevitable snafus were handled better.

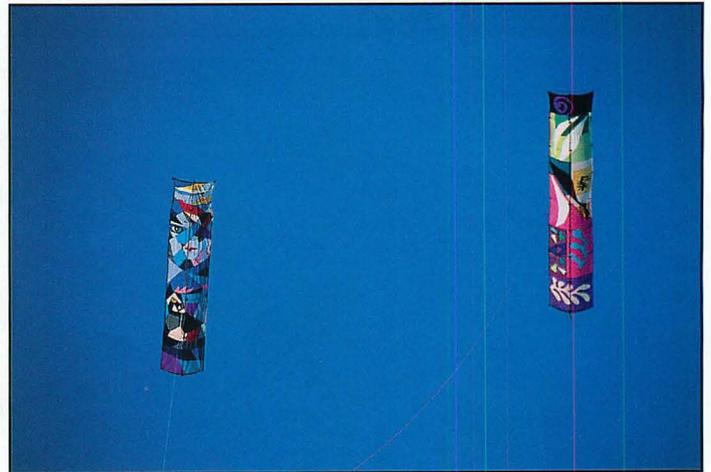
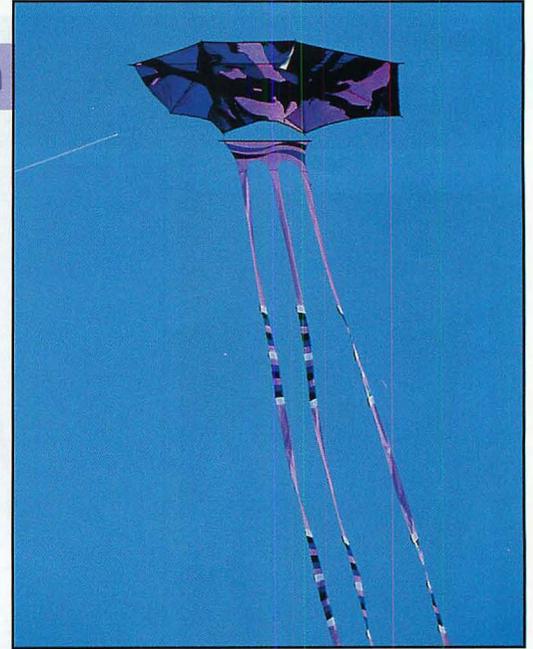
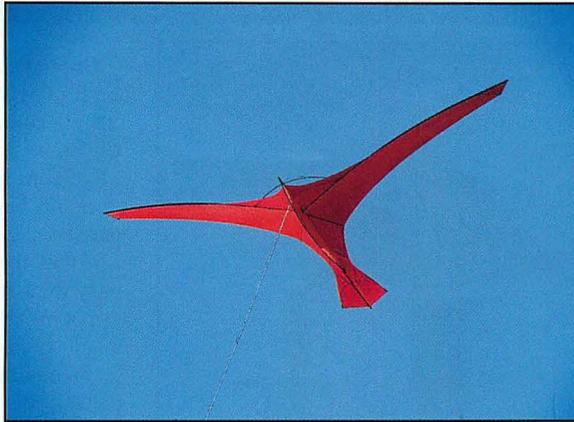
A major change from the last time I was here was the amount of kites and color in the sky. With the continued expansion of the festival side of the weekend, there was almost always a sky full of kites and there were banners everywhere - single-line banners, sport-kite banners and commercial banners.

Through the efforts of all participants - single, dual, and traction - in putting on a show, spectator involvement was higher than I had expected, with people actually leaving the boardwalk to wander around the kite fields to get closer looks. To appreciate this, you need to realize that the beaches at Wildwood are huge - which means lots of walking in the sand to get places - and that aside from the kiting community the largest population in the city on Memorial Day weekend is high school and college age kids looking to meet others of similar age so getting any involvement from the folks on the boardwalk is a major advance, and one for which the organizers should be praised.

Many things haven't changed over the years, the most important being that everyone is there for fun. I was especially entranced by Aerial Acoustics (Dennis Smith and Dorothy Wagner) practicing in the Rio Motel's courtyard late Friday night for their free concerts on Saturday and Sunday, as well as the jam session Dennis and Lance Wagner gave us Saturday night. (Fine musicians all, and I urge you to track down and buy the Aerial Acoustics album!)

It is this aspect of kite festivals - fun - that keeps them alive. WIKF is awash in it. It gets to be a drug in our system, pulling us every year. I, for one, am not immune to this, and in the words of Arnold Schwarzenager: "I'll be back."

- Mike Carroll, Downers Grove, IL



Top left: This kite by Ramlel Tien of France was one of many unusual and refreshing designs flown in Wildwood. **Top right:** a genki by Robert and Tracy Brasington of Tasmania, Australia. **Above:** Roberto Guidori, of Cervia, Italy beautifully designed noodles. **Below:** a look at the Wildwood sky from the boardwalk during the giant kite world record.

- Photos by Samuel T. Tyler, Jr.



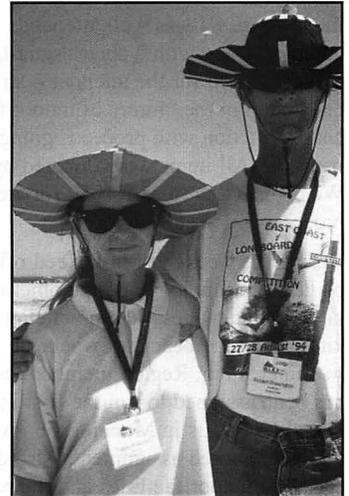
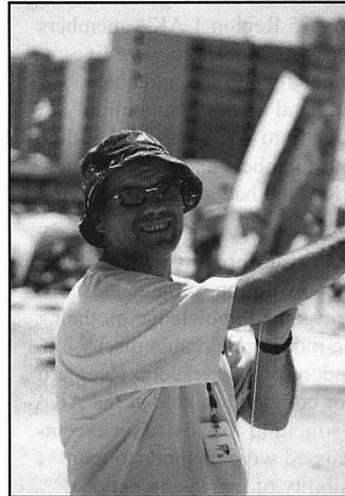
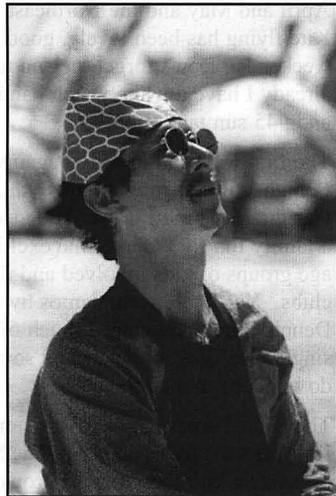
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Special guests at the Wildwood event this year were creative kite designer Ramlel Tien of France (below, left) and Hirohiko Yoshizumi, master miniature kite maker (second to left). Also featured were Robert & Tracey Brasington of Australia, with their exciting cellular kites and Roberto Guidori of Italy (second from right) with some very artistic applique and dramatic mask kites. American kite designers Scott Skinner and Ron and Sandy Gibian were also featured. The skies on Sunday during the world record were impressive with the number of kites and the deep blue sky, however, the collection of kites flown on Saturday was inspiring. It was modern kiting at its best.

FYI

Martha Stewart's Living Television is doing a kite segment on one of their shows. The plans call for a kite making portion and then attending a kite festival. The kite festival will be Newport '99 on July 10th or 11th. There will be one day of filming and that is not yet determined. This could be a good time for our members to show the diversity of color, design and workmanship that exists in our wonderful world of kiting. Daytime TV never experienced anything so good!

Steve Santos



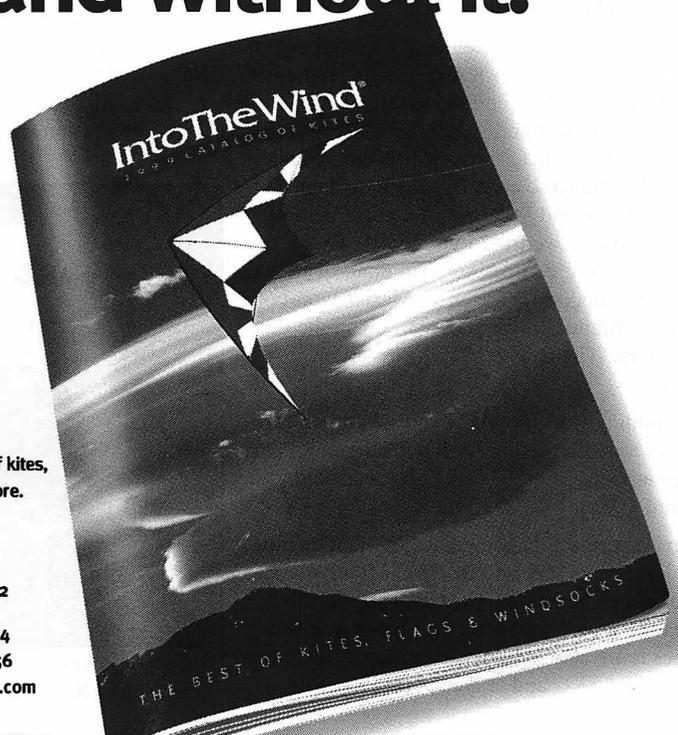
Above photos by Ralph Offredo and Roger Chewning.

Fourteen, but who's counting...

New Jersey Governor Whitman, kids from D. A. R. E. with their kites, spectacular fireworks, buggy races, International guests, glowing night fly... and this was Friday, the day before the really big stuff started to happen. The East Coast Stunt Kite Championships has grown to be more than just another kiteflier gathering. Big kite world records and displays, and really hot sport kite fliers make the event a real happening. Warm weather (thank you, thank you) and predictable ocean breezes made each part of the weekend work. Along with Dean Jordan we tended ten of the 200 sq.ft. kites on Sunday. The big dogs were off the porch and strutting in the yard all day long. What a spectacular sight! All kites behaved and 43 kites were recorded. Blasts from the past Mike Carroll, Corky Chewning, and Mike Simmons made return appearances. Indoor on Monday saw a new champ - Torrey Lindemann. Lots of great strides in the sport of kiting has been made on these beaches, and some really cool ones could be seen this past Memorial Day Weekend. Don't miss #15!"

- Sherrie and Dave Arnold, Alexandria, VA (recipients of the 1999 Olan Turner award)

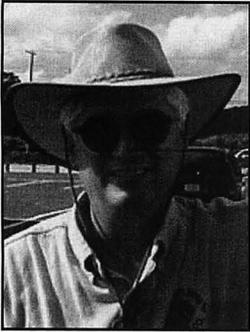
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(end of term - 2001)



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NJ-PA-NY (lower)
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(end of term - 2001)

It has been an active spring in Region I. Our annual regional meeting in Newport, RI was well attended. Over 75 Region 1 AKA members gathered along with a special guest, Mark Reed. There were five clinics offered for the attendees, an indoor fly and a roundtable discussion of the "future of indoor flying and indoor competition". A charity auction with proceeds going directly to AKA was held at the banquet. All items were donated by our members and were unique. We managed to raise \$ 1050 for the AKA and had a great time in the process! Kudos to Region 1!

During the weekend Mark Reed offered two informative clinics. One on bridle technology and the other on the evolution of the delta sport kite. The attendees were practicing their gained knowledge on their kites out at the beach all weekend. The indoor roundtable discussion was interesting. Region member and indoor organizer, John Ruggiero has been assigned to run the first indoor competition held at the AKA Grand Nationals in Muncie. John was soliciting for advise on executing this honored assignment. Also discussed were methods to gain access to indoor facilities and the possibility of increasing national exposure to indoor kite flying. Establishing an indoor league within our region was discussed.

Gary Engvall ran a feather making demo and Paul Berard offered an indoor mini kite making clinic. A team flying clinic was offered by Team Air Crackers. Overall, everyone had a great time, the AKA benefited and the local public had a great kite show throughout the weekend! Our members are now looking forward to next year! What a way to start a kite season!

Kites Over New England Regional - KONE organizers Gary Quinton and Jack Rogers ran an AKA regional competition at Nahant, MA on May 7, 8 and 9th. Novice Individual events were led by Dave Dill with Charles Stewart and Adena Schutzberg trading places in precision and ballet. Intermediate Individual events were led by Mike Diguardo with Bruce Lindemann with Bob Hogan and Mike Hoeffler close behind. Peter Kuklemanis won the Intermediate Quad Ballet. The indoor competition had dual, quad and "unlimited" categories. Peter McMaster won both quad and unlimited! Mike Digurado won the dual line category. The Buggies hit the beach on Sunday!

A kite building workshop in Lynn was organized by MA flier and long time member Ed Webb. On May 8th a Special Olympics kite fly was held in Waterford CT.

The next report will have updates on Soundwinds Festival in Bristol, CT and BASKC. If anyone has any pictures of our region's events and want to help get them in this newsletter, then please send your pics to me and I'll do my best to get them in. See you at BASKC and at Newport '99 in July!

April and May and the Northeast is coming alive with kite events. Kite flying has been lovely, good weekend weather has graced us most weekends. Don't forget the sun tan lotion. It is only May 16th and already I have a white watch band and raccoon eyes, despite using #30 and #45 sun tan lotion.

The first weekend in May began with an incredible double header: Lehigh Valley Kite Society's 9th Annual Kite Day in the Park. This was the first time I'd ever attended a LVKS event. It was pretty much a family fun fly. One of the exciting parts of it was seeing the varying age groups of kids involved and flying with their friends from the clubs. Yes, there were demos by the Valley Boyz and Valley Girlz and Dennis Smith announced much of the day. But there were really neat single line kites in the air and some stunt kite games. It is difficult to do tip stabs in a circle.

The Olan Turner Kite Fly (previously known as the Core Creek Kite Day) was the following day. The South Jersey Kite Flyers helped organize a kite show for the crowds. There was a constant mix of stunt kite demos and single line ascension to interest the bystanders. Bernice Turner, with daughter and granddaughter, were there to fly with the kites and well wishers. The sun was beaming and the winds were up, capping the perfect kite weekend.

The Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club has been very active of late. They seem to be having an event almost every weekend. At their 3rd Annual Indoor Fly, a record turn out of 35 or so Fly Pittsburgh members, with 17 actually registering to fly. Kite legend Lee Sedgwick was in attendance and took his first try at indoor flying with outstanding results (what doesn't Lee fly well?). Master competitor Michael Moore also took center stage and performed his winning Ballet routine. A Dizzy Lizzy Challenge was held for most 360's in a single minute. With the requisite 15 ft. minimum of line, the final results were: First - Paul Shirey (16 passes), Second - Tom Baumgardner (14-1/2 passes), Third - Billy Consiglio (13 passes). Due to the rising popularity of this event, Fly Pittsburgh is now looking for a larger venue for the next year's indoor fly!

Fly Pittsburgh's most popular event is their Spring Fly (8th annual this year) and it is widely attended. For the first time, it was a 2-day festival, held at Cooper's Lake Campground. Throughout the weekend, approximately 100 kiting enthusiasts attended from the tri-state area. The weather was perfect and the winds held out on Saturday night for a night fly. It was quite a sight to see several dozen kites affixed with glow sticks, lighting up the night sky.



Go Fly A Kite's custom foil at the Southwinds Festival in Bristol, CT - photo Gregg Mazzotta

Fly Pittsburgh has a new club web site: www.pathway.net/gckiteguy/

Lehigh Valley Kite Society was invited to help the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, PA to celebrate their 175th year anniversary. This is a children's "touch me" science museum. LVKS decorated the inner atrium with kites and banners as was possible, and on Saturday and Sunday they did kite building workshops. It was a beautiful sight.

The Hudson River Lovers invited kite flyers to participate in their Shad Festival. The festival was held on top of the Croton Point Park in Croton-On-The-Hudson. Kites were demo'd and flown with the attendees.

I'm getting better at the AKA bulk mail (e-mail) system and will occasionally be sending updates to those of you who have supplied e-mail addresses. Recently, I forwarded a note about a new flying spot in New Jersey.



Bernice Turner, her daughter Marilyn Lesko and granddaughter, Betsy Turner, at the newly named Olan Turner Kite Day in Langhorne, PA. - photo Roger Chewing

So be sure that the AKA has your correct e-mail address if you want to be included in these notices.

Region 4 Northeast

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(end of term - 2001)



Well, it finally happened. After three years of bestowing nearly perfect weather on the Little Acorns International Kite Festival in Miami Beach, Mother Nature gave Miami a small dose of bad weather and big winds. Half of the festival went off without a hitch. Friday was field trip day and tons of kids from local schools came out with a wide variety of homemade kites to enter in the Miami Herald newspaper kite contest. Despite wind that built to the 20mph+ range in the afternoon, the kids all had a good time although a lot of those newspaper kites didn't survive the winds. To add to the festivities on Friday, a music video was being shot on South Beach. Saturday started out as another beautiful day, but the winds quickly started building again. One of the highlights of the festival occurred when Dean Jordan strategically positioned a 200' red, white & blue Airform high above the main flying field as the Windjammers flew their red, white & blue stacks underneath. Chief Billie, from the local Seminole tribe, was also on hand to christen Anne Harris' new alligator inflatable. NBC was there shadowing Alex Mason all weekend long as part of National

Kite Month - no word on an air date as I write this. A few hundred yards offshore, powerboat racing again provided a backdrop for the festival. As the winds built on Saturday, ground crews had to scramble to keep everything in order. Late in the afternoon a front swept quickly through Miami Beach bringing big gusts and rain. Most of the kites made it down in time, but for those that remained, a lot of ripstop didn't. Several kite masters had plenty of sewing & repairs to make after Saturday's big winds. Sunday morning brought rain that looked like it would clear at any moment, but after a long couple days and a morning huddled up in the vans & tents catching up with the other fliers, I finally gave up in the early afternoon and packed up and headed for home.

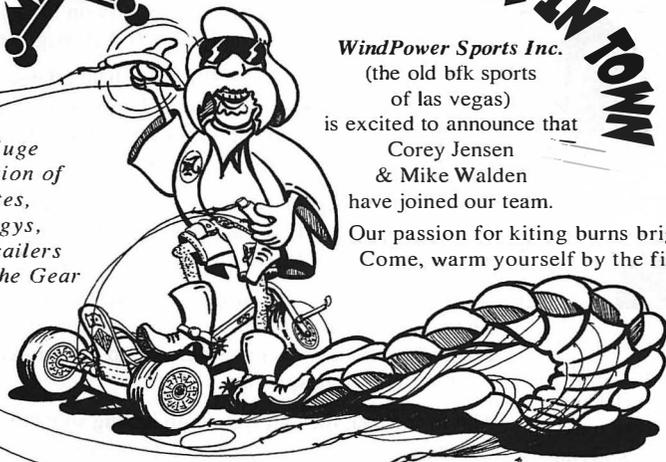
Congratulations to Treasure Island on being selected for the 2000 convention.

From all the email, it sounds like the informal fun fly at Frank Liske Park in Charlotte, NC is quickly becoming a regular event on the first & third Sunday of the month. What about it WACKOS, are you ready to become an AKA affiliated club yet?

Once again, the upcoming schedule is pretty light. The Outer Banks of North Carolina are the place to be for the Wright Kite Festival in Kill Devil Hills on July 11 and the Hatteras Kite Festival in Buxton on August 1. Contact Kitty Hawk Kites for more details.

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Region 5 Great Lakes

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(end of term - 1999)



Congratulations are in order for a couple of new fearless leaders:

Harry Gregory has been elected President of O.S.E.K. (Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites). This active Cleveland-based club has members stretched far & wide; they even have an Akron/Canton "wing", so if you're anywhere near the area, give them a call or meet up with them on their favorite flying field at Edgewater Park.

Patrick Franks is the new president of the 4-Seasons Kite Club. Their home field is at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, MI. For more information, call Pat at (248) 486-5277, or email to eye2sky@prodigy.net. This club will be hosting the 3rd Annual Michigan Sport Kite Classic in Livonia on August 14 & 15. Please note this is a change!

Mike and Susan Castor have relocated from Ohio to Michigan, and would like to invite everyone to stop in at their kite shop in Pentwater, MI. You can phone them at (616) 869-7004, or go to their website for more information (<http://www.air-fun.com>).

In February, Wings on the Wind held an indoor fly and kite workshop at that great Field House on the BGSU campus. The roller workshop was led by Bob White. Among those completing roller kites that day was Roger Weith, finally building his first kite after all these years of flying and selling them! Terry Gerweck showed everyone that it's not impossible to fly one of those huge Peter Lynn C-3 Quads INDOORS. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it myself.

Many of us have taken advantage of the mild spring by doing some long-distance traveling. Quite a few of us went to Miami's Little Acorns Festival in April, several attended the Spring Games in Myrtle Beach, and plenty of us showed up in Ocean City, Maryland for MIKE / MASKC. Tone and Sue Rameriz made a 30-day tour of it, and included Disneyland in their travels. Pete DiGiacomo's Rok team emerged triumphant in Ocean City. Pictured with Pete & the beautiful trophy (center) are OSEK teammates, James Gibson (L) and Brian Garrison (R). Robin Taylor landed 3rd place out of a very tough field of Masters Quad fliers there. Ohio's own Captain Eddie's Flying Circus kicked off their '99 season with a big bang, bringing home a 1st place in Masters Team Precision and Ballet! This team is awesome this year. I hope you get a chance to see them. .



Reports on the GLSKC at Grand Haven, at Kalamazoo for the "New & Improved" Kite Thing-y, and at Bowling Green, for the Ohio Cup will be in the next issue. Be sure to check the calendar for details, and try to attend some of the great events lined up for the rest of summer. All indications point to a great turn-out of Region 5 members at the annual AKA Convention this year in Muncie, IN. If this trip is not already in your plans, get busy and make it happen!



Region 6 Midwest

IA-IL-IN-MN-WI

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(end of term - 1999)

Well, I need to start out asking for your help. In February, I took five new memberships. I did not photocopy them as usual before I sent them in. Somewhere between here and Oregon, the mail disappeared. I know who two of the memberships were for and those are taken care of, however the other three are not and one of the people paid cash. I am desperate to find out who these members were, particularly the one who paid cash. If you run into anyone who is griping about not getting their membership since February, please let me know at once.

The web page that I have been promising is finally up. It can be accessed through the Regional Directors page on the AKA web site. Please send me a picture and news to put in it.

There is a new sport kite competition starting up in Burlington, IA this year. Phil Broder is the driving force behind this new event and he is promising something for everyone. At least something for both single liners and sport kite competitors. David Gomberg will be joining Phil and helping to create a single line wonderland. Any event run by Phil should be a great time. Kites over Burlington (KOB) is being held September 25th & 26th. For more information, check out Phil's web page: members.tripod.com/twelvewinds.

In Chicago, the first of two events in conjunction with the City of Chicago was held on May 1st at the Museum of Science and Industry. There was a wonderful community turnout for what will hopefully be an annual event. The second event will be held the weekend before convention, so come a little early and fly on the lakefront with us. Look for information on the Region 6 Web-page or give me a call.

The Cloud Chasers of Central Illinois held a large kite building workshop/fly in Springfield that really involved the community. This is a great way to build support for kiting while having a wonderful time. They also got great local publicity.

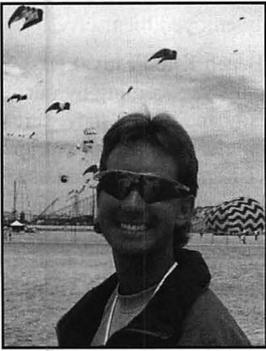
In Minnesota, they started out the year with the Kiwanis Fly. Everyone had a great time and they are now gearing up for the Minnesota Kite Society's largest event, Flying Colors, on August 14th.

Both of the Wisconsin clubs, Kite Society of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Kites have had a series of well attended flies. I will be attending events from both clubs this summer and I am looking forward to the great Wisconsin hospitality.

And in Indiana, they are yet again having so many events that there is not enough space to list them all. I will however report on the two HKS events that I will be attending later in the year and on the MARS sport kite competition at the end of July.

I will finish up by recognizing the Region Six winners at the last Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships. The word is that it will be a fun fly next year. Chicago Fire took 1st place in both Masters team events, George Wright took first in Experienced Quad, Francis Hocombe took first in IIP. Steve Isenhower, Paul Young and Sky Scapes took 3rd in EIB, IIP and Masters Pairs Ballet respectively.

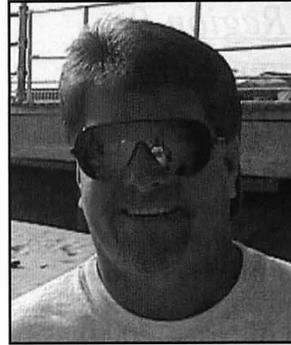
That's it for now. I hope to see many of you on my travels this year.



**Region 7
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(End of term 1999)

Spring was full of kiting activities here in the Great Plains. I counted seven major festivals in the months of April-June, from St. Louis, MO to Lafayette, CO and from Omaha, NE to Wichita, KS. We are having more club activity and festivals than I can ever recall! Here are a few reports from some of those festivals.

The First Kites for CASA took place in Hays, Kansas on April 10 -11. The event was a great success and raised almost \$2900 for CASA of the High Plains, Inc. The event was well attended by AKA members and amateur kite flyers from the Midwest. Plan to be in Hays next year as the event will be bigger and better! Special thanks go out to Scott Skinner, John and Mary Gabby, Jim Aune and the Topeka Kite Club, the Kansas City Kite Club, Don Murphy, Connie May, and others who made this event a great success. See you next year!

Prairie Winds Kite Festival enjoyed some of the best weather in the country on May 7-9. The event was held at Wyandotte County Fairground in Kansas City, KS. This years event was widely attended and featured kiteflying of all sorts as well as a Bluegrass Festival, a State BBQ Championship, a Regional Yo-Yo Contest, and more! Now this was a festival. They even had Ricky Skaggs singing on Saturday night and some incredible fireworks! Special thanks to all those that helped make the event a success, Don, Carolyn, & Curtis Moore, Jon & Marieanne Trennepohl, Amy Thompson, and many more too numerous to list!

On July 29 & 30, Wind Wizards will be hosting the annual kite festival and competition event for the Sunflower State Games. The Sunflower State Games is a multi-sport festival of Olympic-style competition for Kansas amateur athletes of all ages and abilities. Contact Carolyn and Chris Moore at 816-472-5535.

Young or old, rich or poor, male or female can all get pleasures out of kiteflying. Go Fly a Kite and attend festivals in your area or help organize one yourself!



Craig "Mr. Kite" Christianson led the Red, White, & Blue Ceremony at Prairie Winds Kite Festival the first weekend of May.

I've been to nine festivals so far, at the time of this writing (May 26) with many more to go to this year! Is this a fun year or what? Unfortunately I don't have near enough report space to write about even half of them. So this report will be about the unsung slaves that work the festivals. Sorry competitors, no names in lights this report. As kite fliers and festival goers we often forget to thank those responsible for making the festivals happen. It's almost as if we expect festivals just to fall in place and happen, all on thier own! Next time you go to a kite festival, remember to thank those that organized the festival and thank those that worked the festival. Without these people none of you would have a festival to go to and fly your kites. I personally want to thank the following people for their hard work in running some of our regions festivals. And I'm sure I'll miss some names, so I'll apologize in advance.

A huge THANK YOU to: Richard Robertson, Beth Drake, Dorset & Bunny Twidwell, Dennis Peterson, Connie Connolly, Dennis Phillips, Allen Wren, Steve & Pam Thomason, Judy Aswell, Beth Morriset, Steven Newberry, Aaron McCulley, Tye Harrison, Dick Bell, Larry Whitacre, Collette Lemons, Colette Ratajski, Bill Hildebrand, Sam Williams, Pat Courtier, Sue Victor, Tommy Kirksmith, Judy Kingery, David Burns, Marshall Harris, Mary Jo Stellano, Jim & Cathy Geyernan, Keith Anderson, Sam & Barbie Pedregon, James & Cynthis Salazar, Al Almanderez and Jeff Howard. And, also, to all of you that have volunteered your time to help out our festivals by judging or helping in some way.

You can make our hobby/sport much better for everyone by volunteering your time to help out at an event. Or by supporting the festivals with your participation. Tell people about the AKA and sign them up as members and we'll all be stronger for your efforts. Get involved! Check out the Kite Calender on my webpage for a festival near you. My webpage URL is <http://members.tripod.com/~TKOGunn1/kitecalender.htm>. Or, check out the AKA website at <http://www.aka.kite.org> and the the Central Kite League website for complete event reports for AKA regions 7 & 8. Also check out <http://www.kitelife.com/> for kiting news from around the nation and world!

Don't forget to vote for this years AKA officers when you receive the ballots in the mail.

HELP!

During last weeks chain of tornados in Oklahoma & Kansas, A.J. Horn and his family lost their home to one of the tornados. AJ & his family are very active members of the AKA and of the Wichita Wind jammers Kite clubs. The Horn family was lucky to come out of this alive! A charity drive has been organized to help the Horn family. Please help if you can. You can send all donations to :

Air Adventures
120 N. Hillside, Wichita, KS. 67214
phone (316)262-6242
Please make all checks or money orders, payable to A.J. Horn.



Region 9
Intermountain

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(end of term - 2000)

It's been a long time coming but even here in the Northwest, the kiting season is upon us. One-hundred and sixty inches of rain at my house last year. An entire winter and most of the spring, just waiting and wishing for a little sun, and a little wind, and a few kite flying friends.

In April, there were a couple of lightly attended fun flies including one in Seaside, OR which served to get us started. However, the event many in our neck of the woods regard as the start of the season is the Puffin Fly in Cannon Beach, OR. Most every year it gets some rain and this year was no exception getting a cloudful on Sunday. Saturday was a fine day that found kites from all over swarming the beach including not a few that traveled long distances to attend. Our friend Corky Corbin was there directing his crew of friends and family to hang as much cloth as possible. Always fun and friendly, the Puffin Fly is an event that you will want on your calendar next year.

May 8th and 9th marked the traditional date of the Lincoln City Spring Kite Festival which I've been told was also well attended. The cranky

weather cooperated and friends say they really enjoyed themselves.

On May 15th and 16th, the 21st Rockaway Beach Kite Festival was held on our home beach. On Saturday, the stunt flyers coming by our shop were delighted: 3 to 4 m.p.h. winds, steady and light – they were “trickin” their hearts out and loving every minute. Bob Serack put up his big 33 foot soccer ball which astounded visitors; we locals are used to a neon green, orange and black ball as tall as a three story building bouncing on the beach. On Sunday, the one-liners were jubilant. The sky was filled with foils, conynes, frogs, octopii and other creatures. Spinsocks spun and worms twisted. People came in and asked what was that wheel “thingy” that rotated so slowly tethered to a pole on the beach. Ah, the Catherine’s Wheel. Bill and Peg Burley had one of their circoflexes out well over one thousand feet. Other enthusiastic flyers included Harley and Helen Ryan and Bob Stirling. It was a very fine weekend.

I would like to encourage anyone interested in the AKA, from Region 9, to consider accepting nomination for Regional Director for our area. I can say from my experience that there is no better or more satisfying way to get involved. My term is up in October, and although I do not wish it, I cannot run for another term. It has been a pleasure and an honor to represent this area. If you might be at all interested please contact me or the nominations committee for information.

Last note: Showdown III and the 9th annual Unchallenge Fun Fly in Rockaway Beach, OR, has been cancelled. Iris & I just do not have the energy or riskable funds this year to do it, but we hope to revive it again next year. Our thanks to any who have attended in the past, our apologies to any who planned to come this year.

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Region 10 Northwest

AK-WA

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This Spring has definitely been a rough one and has put a damper (pun definitely intended) on many activities. I know I am really anxious to get out there and get some serious kite flying in! We have had some good days, but there has been definitely room for improvement.

I told everyone that I was getting married on May 22, 1999. Well, the wedding went off just great with the weather cooperating so we could hold our wedding outside on the boardwalk in Long Beach. We honeymooned in Mexico to get away from the cold and wet. It was great! The weather was wonderful, the area was beautiful, and we had a very relaxing and enjoyable time. I'm sure I'll have pictures and stories to tell all summer so look me up and I'll share with you. I only saw one kite being flown the entire time we were in Mexico. It was being flown by a little boy and even though he could speak no English, he communicated that he was enjoying himself with his "kite smile." I guess I'll just have to force myself to go back and take kites with me (no, I didn't take any on my honeymoon) and show the people what kiting is all about.

I am writing this article prior to the start of some upcoming festivals. I will include some details of what happened at Ocean Shores Interna-

tional Kite Challenge, the Seattle Kite Festival, and the Northwest Stunt Kite Championship in my next report. I am anticipating that they will all be as great as usual!

The Westport Windriders Kite Festival is happening July 9-11, 1999. This year's festival is looking good with a sport kite competition, fighter kite and handcrafted competitions, games for children, and other activities. The festival is actually held in Grayland due to beach conditions closer to Westport. Just follow the signs and look for the kites! There is plenty of room for people to set up big displays. Many of the Windriders are known for large kites and colorful displays.

Speaking of large displays, it sounds like the Washington State International Kite Festival in Long Beach, WA is going to be an event you won't want to miss this year (as if it ever is!). Team No Limit from Germany will be featured international guests at this year's festival. They are an energetic group of young men who have a display of very large and unique kites. I have it from a good authority that they are the most sought after guests to festivals all over Europe. It should be a spectacular sight that you won't want to miss.

The SCI-FI Kite Club has made the decision to not hold the Washington State Sport Kite Championship and Kite Festival this year. They are in the process of evaluating sites for next year and are hoping to bring the event back to the area. They are putting together a new festival for this year though. It is the Everett Kite Festival and will be held at the Naval Station (2000 W. Marine View Drive, Everett, WA) on the waterfront in Everett. The date for the event is August 1, 1999. There are many activities planned including a fighter kite challenge, stunt kite classes, team and individual demonstrations, and Mystery Ballet. There will be lots of events for the kids including kite making and a candy drop. Club members are currently recruiting teams from government agencies to represent neighboring cities for the Everett Rokkaku Challenge which should provide a lot of entertainment.

Well that's all I have for this issue. I'll be looking for you all out on the beach!

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INTERNET MAGAZINE

WHERE IT'S AT ...

Moving On!

by Corey Jensen

One has a certain sense of security when things remain the same. However growth usually comes through change. Change can be scary. After 15 years in Monterey California, on April 1, (no joke) I moved to Las Vegas and took a new kite job. Scott Dyer (of the old bfk-sports) hired me to help build a serious kite and landsailing operation. **WindPower Sports** will operate a website (www.windpowersports.com) and produce a regular mail-order catalog as well as continue the retail store (we plan to move to a better retail location as soon as we find an appropriate one).

I have had the special opportunity to notice, on a very personal level, the joys and fears of undertaking such a life change. I am fortunate to have such good kite friends, who have been calling and offering their support and encouragement. My flying buddies in Monterey even threw a going-away sushi party for me... After such a feast I had to leave town. One does not stay around after that kind of party. It would be impolite.

I have been establishing new routines, getting settled in a new town, finding the good flying fields and exploring dry lakes I have seen on maps but never visited before. It all keeps me occupied so I don't have



much idle time to miss my old friends and favorite beaches. But I do miss them.

I figure it might be similar for many of us... The richness of our lives is in a large part due to the richness of the group we associate with. With the recent passing of some of our good kite friends, perhaps it is a good idea to reflect a bit on just how important all this is to our enjoyment of life. Perhaps it is time to do a number of things to make sure those connections flourish and thrive... From putting into words some of our feelings to acting on ideas and promises we have been putting off until a better time. Perhaps that time is now. Let us take a moment to say to our friends how much we appreciate them, not just assume they know. Everyone deserves to hear the words. Those words mean so much and carry so much emotion with them. And we may not have the chance later. Simple acknowledgment of the value we place on our kiteflying friendships. What do you think? Good idea? I know how much it has meant to me these last few weeks.

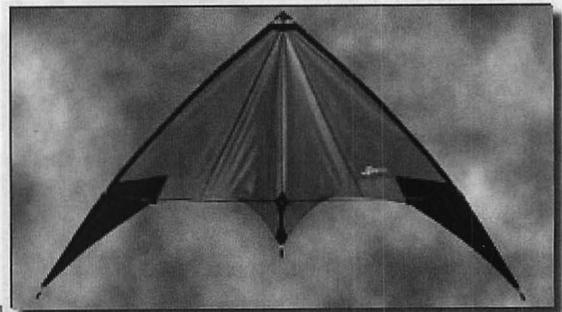
The summer kite festival and competition season is upon us as well. Remember this is just kite flying... Let's not get too serious out there... And remember to include new flyers in as much of the fun as possible. That's where many of us and our friends first found kiting. Share the joy.

Corey Jensen is a past president of the AKA, an avid kiteflier and buggy enthusiast, an all around, full-time kite expert and a part-time aerial philosopher, occasionally redundant, but always fun!

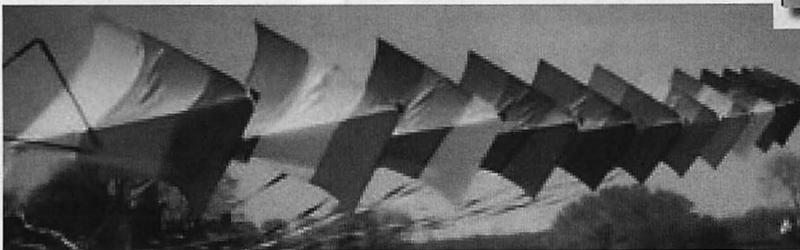
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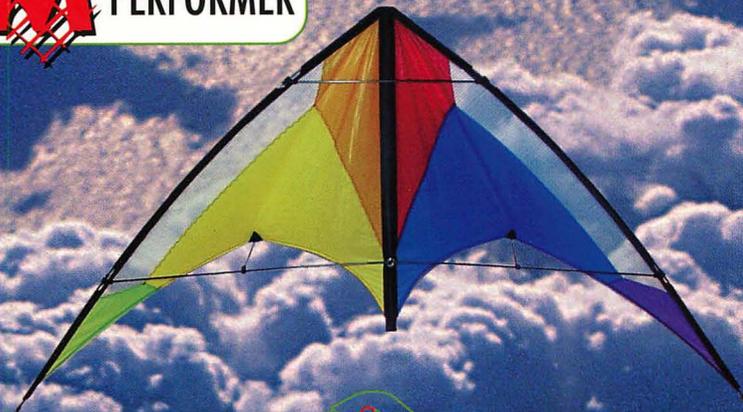
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Skin: VENTEX
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Windrange: 3-22 mph
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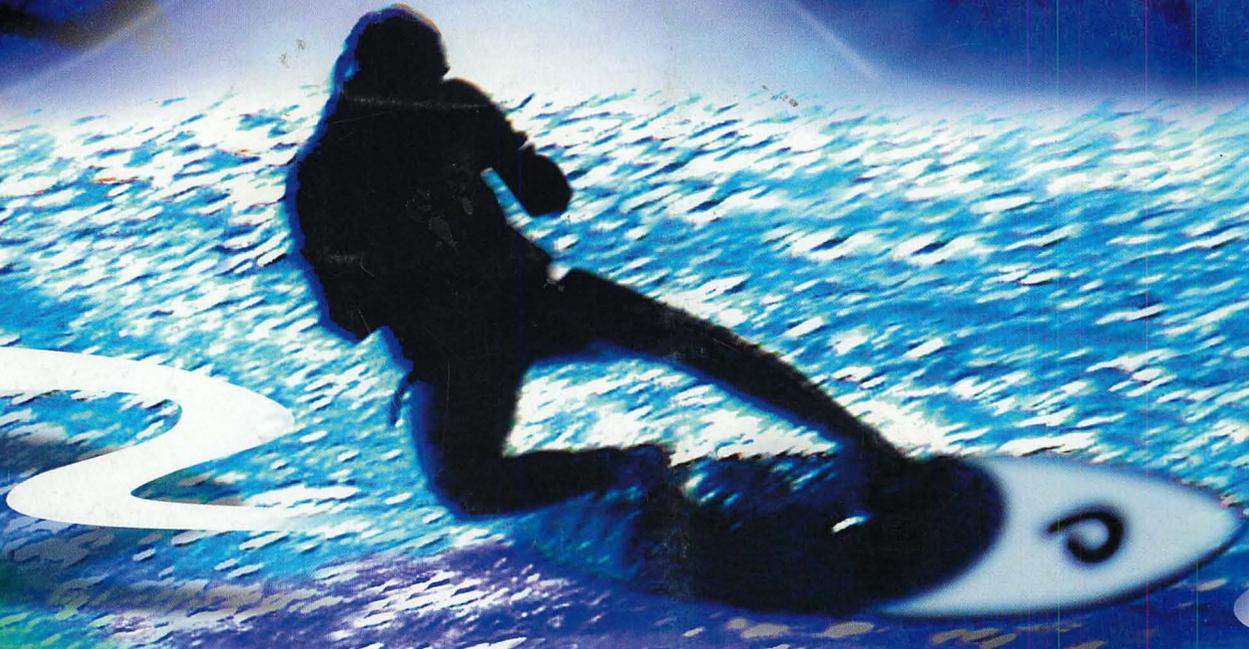
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