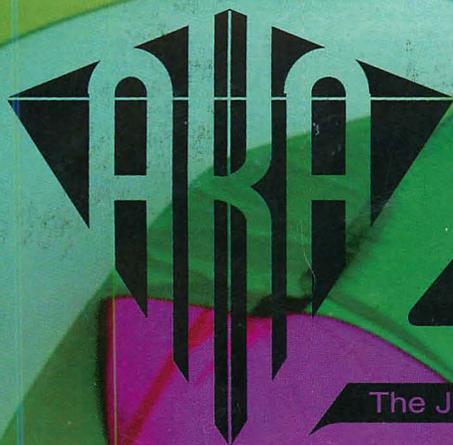


March 2000  
Volume 22, Issue 2  
\$4.00



# *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

## **The American Kitefliers Association**

352 Hungerford Drive  
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## **Inside "KITING"...**

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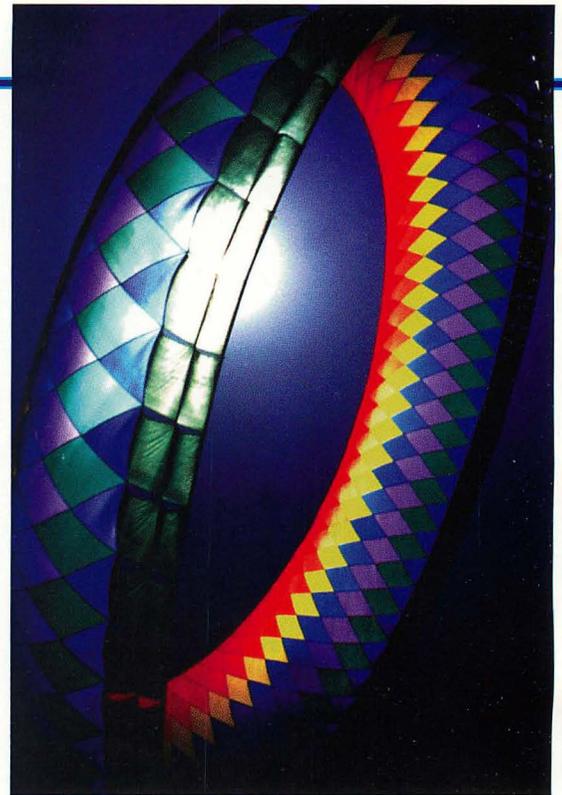
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### New Stuff!



AKA License Plate - made of white aluminum with red and blue vinyl creating the logo and lettering, measure 6 x 12 inches. The plate has 4 slots rather than holes to more easily fit most vehicles. **Member Price \$12.00**

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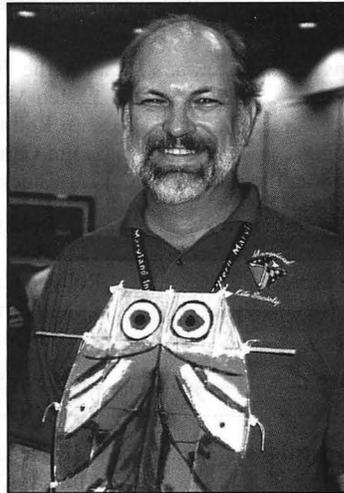
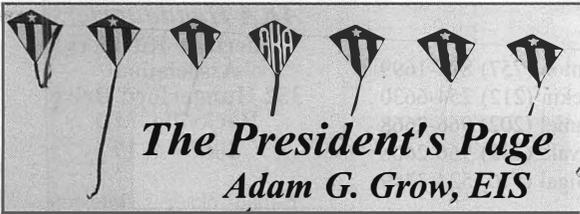
AKA Pilsner Glass - these sand-etched AKA clear pilsner glasses hold up to 12 ounces of liquid and are 7 1/2" tall. **Member Price \$15.00**

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The AKA is now offering authorized, custom designed products to its membership. These items will be manufactured after orders are taken. This method will allow the AKA to offer a wide variety of items to its membership with the opportunity to offer some standard items that can be ordered most any time along with other items for limited time periods. To allow for the custom manufacturing of these items, all orders received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be shipped by the 30<sup>th</sup>. Orders received by the 30<sup>th</sup> will be shipped by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month.

Shipping will be done via UPS Ground. Actual shipping and handling charges will apply to all orders. If you are sending a check you can call the AKA Store for estimated shipping and handling charges.

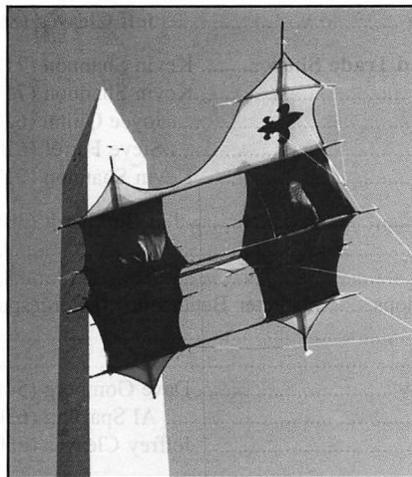
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You can smell it in the air! No more winter blues; it's time for blue skies and bluegrass! I can finally put away the snow shovel and pack up my parka, earmuffs, and mittens for another year. Well, almost — I think I will hang on to those mittens for a little longer. Spring is just around the corner! More daylight, gusty winds, pink cherry blossoms, and the first big kite festival of spring — the Smithsonian!

The Smithsonian is probably one of the best-known kite activities in the United States, and indeed it has been referred to as "America's Kite Festival." This year will be the Smithsonian's 34th Annual Kite Festival, to be held on March 25th. Having been a part of this event over the last decade, I always find it to be one of the most colorful events in the world. Not only because of all the kites, banners and monuments on the Washington Mall, but because there are usually hundreds of Japanese cherry trees in blossom around the Nation's Capital during this time.

What makes this a popular event that attracts kitefliers from all over the world? The time of the year, capital location, and cherry blossoms play a part. Another part of the festival's prosperity lies in its two major sponsors, namely the Smithsonian Associates and the National Air and Space Museum, but they are more of a presence than a stimulus. The real driving force behind this kite festival's longtime success are the dozens of volunteers, most of them kitefliers from the area, who contribute to the success of the festival. Sometimes it seems like total disorganization, but these volunteers take on the responsibility to get involved in all stages of this one-day kite event. It includes months of planning, securing equipment, making arrangements, taking care of out-of-town guests (we enjoy a full house), setting up the kite fields (lots of stakes to pound into the ground), registering kitefliers, judging the kite competitions, giving out kite pins, arranging kite demonstrations and shows, helping children fly new kites, sponsoring awards, participating in the many kite events, doing TV interviews, and finally taking down all the equipment at the end of the day. Oh yeah, this



group of volunteers also throws a party for the all participating kite clubs on Saturday evening. The end results are thousands of people come from all across America, and even the world, to see a kite festival which they will remember for the rest of their lives, as well as a lot of tired kitefliers who know they did their best to make it happen once again.

Most kite festivals around the country are not as big as the Smithsonian, but just the same, they all require the kite enthusiasts to do most of the work, make things happen, and contribute to the project's overall success. The most important items you can contribute are your time and energy at these events. Being a volunteer is not an easy thing to do, but someone has to do it.

The Smithsonian Kite Festival is the lead-off event for National Kite Month, a five week celebration designed to highlight the fun of contemporary kite flying, which includes everything from kite making classes to maneuverable sport kite ballet, traditional Japanese kite battles, giant inflatable kites, and kite powered buggies and surfing. National Kite Month will be the biggest kite happening ever planned in North America. This year we hope to see more than 200 kite festivals and workshops across the country. Each of these events will need AKA members to help make them fun and successful.

Our goals for Kite Month are to encourage kite flying and promote kiting as an educational, recreational, and sporting pastime for all ages. Kite festivals, fun flies, exhibitions, and workshop programs will take place across the country with local kite clubs and organizations setting up displays of colorful kites and banners under the wide open sky. We need every AKA member to participate at the events in their area to contribute to their enjoyment and success. To do this, many volunteers are needed to help out, be it laying out

flying fields, doing workshops and special events, flying kites, participating in kite games, judging competitions, monitoring safety, taking care of guest kitefliers, or answering questions about kite making and kite flying. The list of things that have to be done at a kite festival is endless. Get involved at a kite festival in your area and take on a task or two. You will get your reward in the smiles on the faces of all the people enjoying the kites.

Remember, kite flying is supposed to be fun. But, there is more to kiting than just having fun outside on a breezy day. Kites can be a learning experience and used as tools in the classroom to teach students about art, ecology, history, math, science, and aesthetics. But that is for another column.

Oh, by the way, my first experience at the Smithsonian Kite Festival in 1994 was pounding stakes and stretching rope for the field layouts. Since then, I coordinated the demo field several times, judged kites, helped at countless children's workshops (two of my students were top winners last year and made the cover of AKA Kiting), won a Garber medallion . . . you name it, I've done it at this festival. Guess who has been invited to be a VIP guest at the Smithsonian this year?

Keep kiting fun.

Adam



## AKA Directory

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## Tom Sisson

Tom Sisson was a grass roots kite flier and kite maker who accomplished World-class feats. His kiting biography began when his dad taught him to make cross-braced box kites using Christmas wrap for sails. During WWII he flew Target Kites off merchant ships. As soon as his children and the neighbor kids were big enough, they helped their dad make and fly kites, to everyone's enjoyment.

In 1972, Tom ran into a group just forming the Washington Kite Association. Thus began his kite passion. In his 26-year involvement with WKA and many years as an AKA member, he played many roles. He was the WKA president five times.

Tom's kite making fame evolved from kites made from "found" materials which he escalated into classes for adults and kids. One guess is that he helped others make over a quarter of a million kites. He was a master at acquiring materials for little or nothing. Plastic bag handouts, line from Boeing surplus and company stick-on labels ready for discard were a few of the materials. His venues were schools, libraries, senior centers, AKA Conventions, festivals, and the amazing Very Special Arts Festival at the Western Washington Fairgrounds where for over six years he and his crew would make almost 3,000 kites with participants during three days each year.

Tom, with Carl Brewer and Bob McCort, set a world indoor flying record of 39 hours and 57 minutes in Seattle's Kingdome. Tom helped arrange and hang large kite exhibits in the Pacific Science Center, Washington State Convention Center, Bellevue Tower, and Northwest Folk Life Festival for both WKA and the World Kite Museum.

Tom was an AKA Edeiken Award recipient. He helped both the Drachen Foundation and the World Kite Museum with research. Most of all, Tom was kind and helpful to people flying kites around him. In fact, you probably saw Tom helping others more often than flying his own kites.

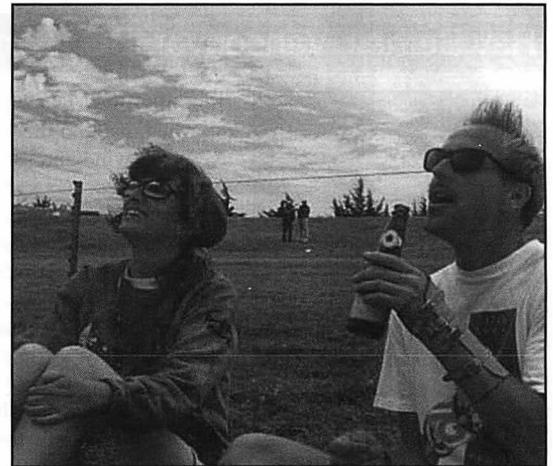
When you miss Tom Sisson, put on one orange sock, and one green, add a straw hat and a pair of crazy colored happy pants, and help someone fly a kite.

*The WKA has established a Kites 4 Kids corner in the World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame in Tom Sisson's memory. Donations can be made to the Museum, PO Box 964, Long Beach, WA 98631.*

*Photo and information about Tom Sisson were provided by Kay Buesing and the World Kite Museum. Photo below was taken at WSSKC in 1996..*



## Empty Places in the Sky



## Paul DeHope

Farewell to my best friend and life mate; Paul DeHope, a master class stunt kite flyer, lost the battle with aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on December 30th, 1999. He was 45 years old. Paul treated his illness as a competition, losing was not an option. Paul was a well rounded kite flyer. He loved rokkaku battles with Mel Edlund and Jim Solner. Our campsite was easily found by the black and yellow rotator kite bouncing around in the wind attached to a banner pole.

At dawn Paul and I would be at the flying field. He wanted to be the first one there. His energy was boundless. Paul was a natural athlete and a talented musician. He flew with heart and soul. His timing was perfect to the beat. The black and yellow California Wasp was his favorite power tool. The California Wasp expressed Paul's athletic abilities to his fullest potential. Paul flew individual ballet, masters pairs ballet (Team Zipp Zapp, with Melinda Ellis), and masters team ballet (Team Swarm). Team Swarm members were Kerry Haines and Dan Brown. Together, these three put on a powerful performance.

Paul's other interests included bird watching with the Seattle Audubon Society, extreme snow skiing, ice climbing, rock climbing, scuba diving, and sailing on his Hobie Cat.

Paul's celebration of life was held at his home town on Vashon Island January 6, 2000. The chapel was packed to overflow as a testament to this special man's life. Thank you to all our kite flying friends for your show of love and support during the saddest of times for Paul's family and myself. Paul's sharp wit and unique sense of humor will always be with us.

Rest in Peace, Conan.

Love, Sherock (Melinda Ellis)

As an added note to Paul's courage: Paul continued to work, ski, and fly kites up until he was admitted into the hospital October 28, 1999. I brought him home a week before Christmas and 10 days later, Paul died in my arms. He had to be told to go home.

*Photo above by Brian Champie.*

# Flight Zone AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

## Ray Bethell, Vancouver, BC, Canada



Hour after hour he stands — bare to the waist, back to the wind, sun ablaze overhead; wind and sand, heat or cold, fatigue and curious spectators fail to interrupt his concentration. Ray Bethell guides his matched kites through intricate patterns, controlling three dual line kites with exquisite accuracy. A Mapleleaf split, a starburst, then, almost casually, a triple refuel — curiosity turns to amazement and morphs to awe as the show continues. The audience stands transfixed then tires and drifts to another activity but

Ray flies on, awaiting the next wave of spectators and exploring the wind window for a new pattern to trace across the sky.

I knew Ray only by reputation until we met at the Nationals at Long Beach, Washington. I had been assigned as field director for the Open Innovative Event. Ray came striding across the beach toward me. "Mr. Field Director," he called, beckoning. Patiently, Ray explained that he needed only a tap on his shoulder to signal the beginning of his music. At 70 plus years, Ray is a miracle of conditioning and endurance but his talents extend beyond the mechanics of flying. It isn't remarkable that he flies to music, that he hits his cues on the beat, that the movements of those kites evoke deep emotions, not remarkable until you realize that Ray is almost totally deaf. "I hear the music in my head," he says. Ray brings more to kiting than technique. He brings creativity and a strong love of people, all of which blends into an astonishing show, a presentation in demand around the globe. He came to kiting late, in his fifties. He spotted a few fliers with stacks of Hyperkites while on holiday in Hawaii. The kites spoke to him in a strange, new way and he invested \$208.00 in a pack of six. Back home in Vancouver, he and his son worked for many hours, attempting to launch the stack with no success. His son gave up in disgust but Ray stayed on, studying the situation with the same persistent curiosity that he

brought to bear in his job as a millwright. He puzzled with the problem until a sudden burst of insight revealed that the bridle points were trapped beneath the lower spreaders. {Greatness springs from humble beginnings, Ray.} A simple correction launched a new career when those birds soared aloft.

Hours of practice turned into weeks, weeks to months, and months to years as his fascination gained strength. He taught himself to fly a dual line kite with one hand, then one in each hand and then three at once. People noticed, sponsors appeared, events beckoned and Ray flew on. Today, Ray Bethell is in demand around the world. Europe, Asia, Australia, North America, wherever event organizers stir their magic brew, the first invitations always include Ray as honored guest. Why does he keep at it? He has the awards, the recognition, three World Records, accolades and testimonials. "No problem," says Ray, "I love my job and I love people. Everywhere I go, men, women, and children seem to understand what I do. I taught a man to fly who had no body from the waist down, and a helicopter pilot, paralyzed from a crash. A man in Singapore gave me his hat. He spoke no English but his meaning was clear. He gave a gift in return for the gift he received. I still wear that hat today as a reminder that I speak a universal language which allows me to relate to people across the world. I know of no other activity that allows such a high level of communication between people of diverse backgrounds, customs, and languages." Salute, mate.



Charles Stonestreet of Richmond, VA offers us an inside look at our fellow AKA members.



## Membership Application

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Family Members \_\_\_\_\_  
 Charge (Visa//MasterCard) # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

My local club \_\_\_\_\_

03/00 Kiting

**For information call  
800-AKA-2550**

Membership Dues	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	Amount
INDIVIDUAL <i>Kiting</i> via 3rd class mail	\$30	\$58	\$86	_____
ADDITIONAL FAMILY per person				
relatives living in same household	4	8	12	_____
U.S. 1st CLASS MAIL add	8	15	22	_____
SPONSOR <i>Kiting</i> via 1st class mail				
includes tax deductible contribution	100	200	300	_____

International Members please add postage as follows:

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

**TOTAL REMITTANCE** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send this form with your payment to:

**American Kitefliers Association**  
 352 Hungerford Drive  
 Rockville, MD 20850-4117 USA

## MEMBER NOTICE

Membership dues for the American Kitefliers Association were increased this year. The new rates are effective on April 1, 2000. If you want to save a few dollars, all renewals received before April 1 may be prepaid at the old rate. The old rates are \$25 for one year, \$48 for two years, and \$71 for three years. The new rates are reflected in the membership form on the preceding page. All other charges have remained the same at this time.



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual AKA Convention and Grand Nationals is planned for Treasure Island, Florida October 2 - 7, 2000

report by Maureen Poscillico, Convention Manager

Fun, sun and sea turtles—these words are synonymous with Treasure Island. And, the kitefliers of AKA will be up to their knees in sand and surf this coming October. The City of Treasure Island along with the Chamber of Commerce welcomes the American Kitefliers Association with great enthusiasm and support. We will be able to walk right outside our hotel rooms and onto the beach to the flying fields—every kitefliers dream!

The 23rd Annual Grand National Convention and Competition will be held from Monday afternoon, October 2 through Saturday, October 7, 2000. Seminars and workshops will begin on Tuesday morning and continue each morning through Saturday. **The Admiral Farragut Academy**, 2.3 miles from the Bilmar Beach Resort, has agreed to let the AKA use their gymnasium for indoor fly activities. The convention hotels are **The Thunderbird Beach Resort (800-367-BIRD)** **The Bilmar Beach Resort (800-826-9724)**, **Holiday Inn Treasure Island (727-367-2761)** and **The Ramada Inn Treasure Island (727-360-7051)**. All hotels are located on the beach. The convention rate is \$80 (plus tax) per night.

If you are considering flying to this year's convention the **closest airport is the Tampa/St. Petersburg International Airport**. Additional airline information and car rental information will be posted on the web site as it becomes available and in the next issue of Kiting. If you have any questions about these items, please contact me.

Peter Betancourt has volunteered his time to pull together this year's workshop schedule and is already soliciting a number of renowned kitefliers to share their expertise. If you have a talent you'd like to share, contact Peter Betancourt at [peter@sportkite.com](mailto:peter@sportkite.com). Some people who have already signed include: Brian Smith of Quadrifoil doing a Kite Surfing Workshop; Sam Ritter and Lee Sedgwick stacking Quads and Pairs Flying; Steve LaPorte on Quadline Ballet and 3-D Sail Sewing including plans for a Spikey Ball; Dave Gomberg and Ron Gibian also have some surprises in store for us.

Dean Jordan will be heading up our Festival Flying Field this year. I am sure he could use your help! He can be reached at [AhClem0013@aol.com](mailto:AhClem0013@aol.com) or call him at 352-372-2021.

If you sponsored a trophy category last year and would like to do it again this year, now is the time to contact me. Trophy sponsorships will be the responsibility of the various event chairpersons. I will forward your information to these individuals if you still would like to sponsor that particular category.

**Congratulations to Jeremy Johannesen of Glenmont, NY for submitting the winning 2000 AKA Convention Logo.** We would also like to thank Gregg Mazzotta of Stoneham, MA and Rick Longhurst of Essex Ontario Canada. We appreciate the time and efforts that each contestant took.

You want something fresh.  
You want something smart.  
You want it by Friday.



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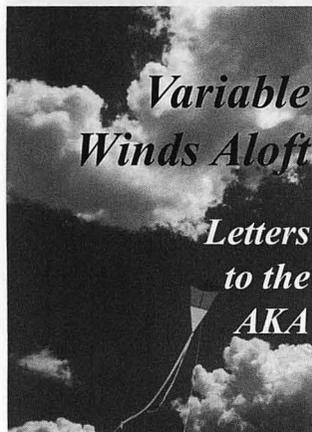
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## AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

### NASA World's Biggest Parafoil?

World's biggest parafoil, they claim, developed as a chute for an emergency escape vehicle from the proposed space station. Wonder if you know of a bigger parafoil out there...

[http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/assembly/elements/x38/x-38\\_2000.html](http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/assembly/elements/x38/x-38_2000.html)

Jim Martin  
WACKOS

*Here is some of what you will find on the NASA website. -ed*

### NASA X-38 TEAM FLIES LARGEST PARAFOL PARACHUTE IN HISTORY

A team developing a prototype International Space Station "lifeboat" called the X-38 Crew Return Vehicle successfully flew the largest parafoil parachute in history last week at the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, as they released a parachute with an area almost one and a half times as big as the wings of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet.

The unmanned January 19 parafoil test was part of the development of a re-entry system for the X-38 spacecraft. With an innovative combination of old and new technology and a streamlined development, the goal of the X-38 team is to develop a new human spacecraft for a fraction of the cost of any past program. Plans are to develop and build four operational X-38-based International Space Station Crew Return Vehicles for less than half of what it cost to manufacture a single Space Shuttle orbiter. The X-38 may become the first new U.S. human spacecraft to fly to and from space in more than 20 years. The parafoil recently tested in Arizona has a span of 143 feet and a total surface area of 7,500 square feet, making it the largest parafoil in the world.

"I think this is a world's record for a parafoil and it is a significant milestone and accomplishment for NASA," said John Muratore, who is leading the X-38 Crew Return

Vehicle Project. "It puts us a major step closer toward our goal of providing the space station with the most flexible crew return option. This parafoil has the size and all the features to enable it to be used for returning humans from space."

For the test, an 18,000-pound pallet, simulating the actual X-38, was dropped from the back of a C-130 aircraft at an altitude of 21,500 feet. A 28-foot diameter extraction parachute pulled the test platform from the aircraft at an air speed of 130 mph to begin the flight test. Once out of the aircraft, a newly designed 80-foot diameter drogue parachute stabilized and slowed the platform to a vertical airspeed of 62 miles per hour and enabled the parafoil to begin a five-stage deployment process. During its 11-minute long flight, the parafoil slowed the test pallet to a gentle vertical landing speed of less than eight miles per hour.

"This parafoil is so big there is no way that it can all deploy at once," said Brian Anderson, X-38 Project Manager. "Because of its size, the dynamic forces on the parachute's structure are phenomenal." The size of the parafoil posed technical challenges for the X-38 team. One problem encountered in past tests has been to ensure that the parachute opens evenly. To solve this and make certain that the parachute opens symmetrically and rapidly, the team developed a revolutionary self-sealing floor vent system on the parafoil's underside. During the recent test, the parafoil opened to its full size in only 30 seconds. The parafoil was stitched together at Pioneer Aerospace's facility in Columbia, Mississippi. Because of its unprecedented size and strength, personnel at Pioneer nicknamed the parafoil "Sampson." A unique ripstop nylon material, customized stitching and other safety devices incorporated into the parafoil make the parachute not only the world's largest but also among the strongest.

The test was the 30th large-scale flight test conducted to support development of the parafoil, although this was the largest and most comprehensive test to date. In addition to tests at Yuma, four large-scale atmospheric flight tests of prototype X-38 vehicles have been completed at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in California using a smaller 1,676.8-square-meter (5,500-square-foot) parafoil. For those tests, increasingly complex X-38 vehicles have been launched from a B-52 carrier aircraft at increasingly higher altitudes. More such tests are planned during the next year and a half, leading up to a space flight test of the X-38 in 2002, when an unmanned vehicle now under construction at NASA's Johnson Space Center will be



*Against the backdrop of the mountains near Yuma, Arizona, the world's largest parafoil glides to Earth during a January 19 flight test conducted by the team developing NASA's X-38 prototype space station "lifeboat." - photo from NASA.*

released in orbit by the space shuttle to fly back to Earth.

The record-setting parafoil will be tested at Yuma again this spring and will then be integrated with one of the X-38 vehicles at Dryden for a test flight there late this year.

James Hartsfield  
Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX  
(281) 483-5111

*Okay, what is the metric lifting surface? -ed*

### Those Toronto Fliers!

I am writing this letter as a mostly disinterested third party (but hopefully future flyer). My husband flies kites, and our family enjoys kiting events immensely. I'm writing to point out an oversight in the last issue of Kiting. I read your magazine fairly thoroughly, and was dismayed to find no recognition for the Canadian fliers from region 5 (or anywhere else for that matter). Possibly, the new Region 5 director is unaware that the Toronto area fliers have chosen Region 5 for their home region. Looking at the Muncie standings, it looks like it was Lam Hoac week! He won MIB and Stunt kite making, was second in MQB, and if indoor flying had been a sanctioned event, he would have won 2 more events. Aerial Assault, Mike Lin and Drew Davidson won MPB by a large margin. Lam, Mike, Drew, Chris, and all the Canadian fliers I have met are great people! They are excited about kiting, very friendly (will invite you into their homes), and love to fly.

## MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

They are among the nicest kites I know, and from where I stand, the omission of their achievements could be a mere oversight or smell of sour grapes. Please publish this letter so they can be recognized for their achievements and we don't look like "the ugly Americans" we can be so easily mistaken for.

Sincerely,  
Julie Schrantz St. Johns, MI

*We had intended to have better coverage of the sport kite competition in our last issue of KITING. My apologies to all who competed. Regarding the Region 5 thing, I think you better contact the guy below. -ed*

**From the desk of the President...**

Quote of the Month — this was a response to a comment that AKA must be neglecting some aspect of it's overall mission... "The AKA is you and me, simply an organization of fliers, staffed by volunteers who are doing their best to give all of the help they can to the rest of the membership. If the AKA has neglected you in some way, or refused your offers of help, please let me know." - Mike Gillard, Chairman, AKA Festivals and Competition Committee, Director - Region 5 (OH/MI).

Adam G. Grow  
AKA President

*Okay, okay, now where does Toronto belong, to Canada, or to Mike? -ed*

**Weather or Not...**

Regarding Stormy's or anyone's kite altitude record-breaking attempts (Noted in the Volume 21, #6, November 1999 issue of the AKA Kiting Journal as "12,471' for kites set in 1898 by National Weather Service), you might wish to put this information into the mix:

The 13th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica (from 1913, this edition is considered to be one of the best written and most authoritative of all Britannica editions—which I regard as a staple in my kite library as it covers a period of history when kites were singularly important in the west) notes:

"There is no difficulty about raising a kite to a vertical height of one or even two miles on suitable days, but heights exceeding three miles are seldom reached. On the 29th of November 1905 at Lindenberg, the Prussian Aeronautical Observatory, the upper one of a train of six kites attained an altitude of just four miles. The total lifting surface of these six kites was nearly 300 sq.ft., and the length of wire a little over nine miles. The kites are

invariably flown on a steel wire line, for the hindrance to obtaining great heights is not due so much to the weight of the line as to the wind pressure upon it, and thus it becomes of great importance to use a material that possesses the greatest possible strength, combined with the smallest possible size. Steel piano wire meets this requirement, for a wire of 1/32nd in. diameter will weigh about 16 lb. to the mile, and stand a strain of some 250-280 lb. before it breaks."

This Britannica entry is by William H. Dine, who also wrote the entry on anemometers.

Let's see. That's going to require a little more line on Stormy's reel, 21,121 ft., at the minimum, to break the record—or maybe there's yet another record to be uncovered out there?

The Britannica article preceding that of "Kite-Flying," "Kite, Falco milvus," also draws my interest:

Ever wonder where, how or why our paper birds came to take the name of the Falco milvus, Kite? Has it ever occurred to anyone to wonder why our western paper birds didn't come to be known as bluebirds, wrens, or robins?

Kites, the original birds, the 13th Britannica entry notes, were "...once probably the most familiar bird of prey in Great Britain, and now one of the rarest. Three or four hundred years ago foreigners were struck with its abundance in the streets of London."

"John Wolley," the 13th Britannica article continues, "has well remarked of the modern Londoners that few who see the paper toys hovering over the parks in fine days of summer, have any idea that the bird from which they derive their name used to float all day in hot weather high over the heads of their ancestors."

"But an evil time soon came upon the species...and in a very few years it seems to have been exterminated throughout the greater part of England."

There you have it, to my satisfaction, at least, a rather primary piece involving this great love of ours, kites and kite lore, though long neglected, reclaiming its place in our kite history books, along with what may presently be the world's standing record for "highest kite," sustained by evidence of fair enough weight to be taken seriously.

Tal Streeter  
Verbank, NY

*Stormy's reel looked like a lot of work. One can only imagine the mechanical details of this experiment. -ed*

**Kiteman Productions**

I thought you might like to see a photo I took during a performance at Universal Studios Florida new park Islands Of Adventure. This photo was taken during the finale of our six foot diamond trains. The fire you see is from ten radio controlled pyro "gerbs". Also, these trains had over six hundred feet of electroluminescent cable that surrounded each kite and traveled down through our 100 foot tails in five different colors. This effect does not show well while the pyro is burning.

It was a first showing many of our new effects including: 300 watt onboard halogen spot lights, high powered 180 degree strobe lights, "popcorn" lights, laser comet pyro and five barges of fireworks. If you would like to see more contact us at: 877-KITEMAN.

Bruce Flora  
Orlando, FL

**MidWest Kite Clubs**

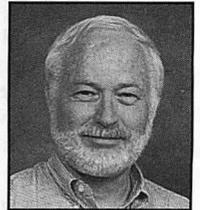
*(In response to Dick Reed's letter to KITING)*

There are organized kite clubs (in the region, from east to west) in Burlington, in the Waterloo area, in the Sioux City area and in Council Bluffs / Omaha areas. If you are able to travel, we invite you to visit us. We'd be happy to share sport kite ideas and tips with you. Once you get the hang of it, we'd encourage you to start a club in the Des Moines area. I do know there are several kite fliers in the Des Moines area.

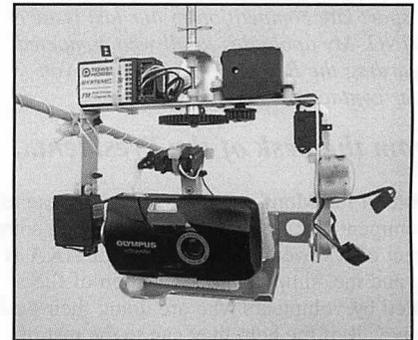
Bob Webb, President  
Wind Rhythm Kite Club  
LeMars, IA

Send your comments, letters and photos to:  
AKA KITING  
232 W. Trenton Avenue  
Morrisville, PA 19067  
or, send an E-mail to:  
skyfestivals@earthlink.net

# kaptions

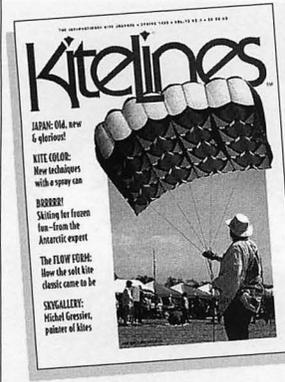
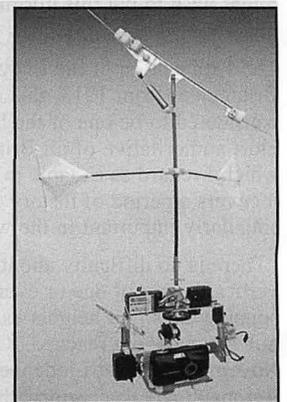


**Bob Brown**  
West Palm Beach, Florida



Here is the rig that Brooks Leffler constructed for me, under pressure, since it was a deviation from his normal Picavet suspension rigs. Note the shock absorber on the top of the pendulum for damping fore and aft movement. This idea was "borrowed" from Craig Wilson. Also, note the two fins, or dihedrals. The use of these was after a design used by Christian Becot of France. Brooks' wonderful workmanship and attention to detail make this rig a real pleasure to use. The closeup view of the rig reveals the elegant simplicity and superb workmanship of Brooks Leffler. Brooks built the rig for my Fuji DL-400 camera but I have since become very fond of the Olympus Stylus. Here you see the rig temporarily modified for the Stylus, a tiny point and shoot that takes superb sharp pictures.

To see your work profiled in *KITING*, please contact Craig Wilson 7210 Harvest Hill Road Madison, WI 53717. Please do not send photos via e-mail. Send 5-6 of your finest kite aerial photos along with a photo of yourself and a statement detailing your aerial experiences, technical advice, favorite kap adventure, equipment construction, or clever technique.



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—TAL STREETER, AMERICAN SCULPTOR AND KITE AUTHORITY

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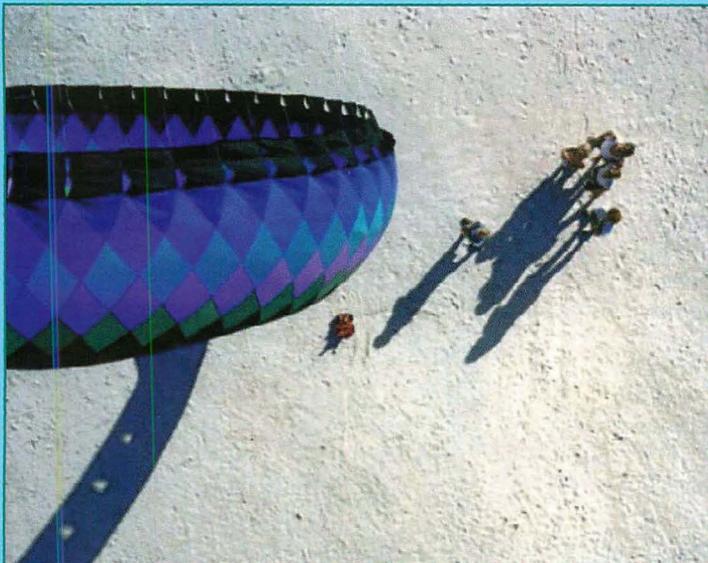
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photo by Cliff Pennell



This image shows how the different perspective offered by the kite camera can make a statement. In this case the observers and the vertical angle from about 40 feet up emphasize the size of the rotating bol. The camera was an Olympus Stylus. The film Kodak Gold ISO 200 and the lifter a Flowform 30.



Residential docks in Belleair Beach, Florida.



This shot was taken from about 300 feet looking to the northwest. The rainbow flowform is owned by Marv Harris. The camera was an Olympus Stylus and the film Kodak Gold ISO 200. The kite lifting the camera was a Sutton Flowform 30. A distant observer was used to place the camera at the same altitude as the large Flowform kite in the picture.

*I have always liked things that fly. As boys, my cousin and I built and tested endless variations of model gliders and gas powered model airplanes. My dad took flying lessons under the GI Bill and I rode with him as a small boy in Piper Cubs. I went to college to become a geographer, and when I was able to, I obtained a pilot's license. After serving in the Navy, I moved to South Florida and have worked in the field of geographic information systems for the last 32 years. I have added a glider rating to my pilot's license, and in the last year or so, discovered Kite Aerial Photography.*

*I started researching the topic and found Charles Benton's fantastic web site, <http://www-archfp.ced.berkeley.edu/kap/> on KAP and learned a lot by studying it. I spoke briefly with Craig Wilson at the Little Acorn's Kite Festival and was impressed with the practicality of his pendulum rig. Not wanting to reinvent the wheel I turned to one of the gurus in the field, Brooks Leffler, who advised me and assisted me by making my present rig.*

*I plan on retiring in three years and devoting a lot more time to KAP and my other interests. Kite Aerial Photography is a perfect combination of things that fly, photography, and enjoying a view of the earth from a perspective that few get to see. In addition, it is a way of sharing that experience with others through the photographs. I am pleased to share my beginnings in KAP on my web site at <http://www.bbbrown.com/bbbrown/kap.html> and here in KITING.*



Every year Lake Worth, Florida holds a street painting festival. Nearly 500 artists work for two days to create incredible temporary works of art in chalk on the asphalt. If there was an event that was created just for KAP this is it. Tricky though with buildings and wires to navigate.



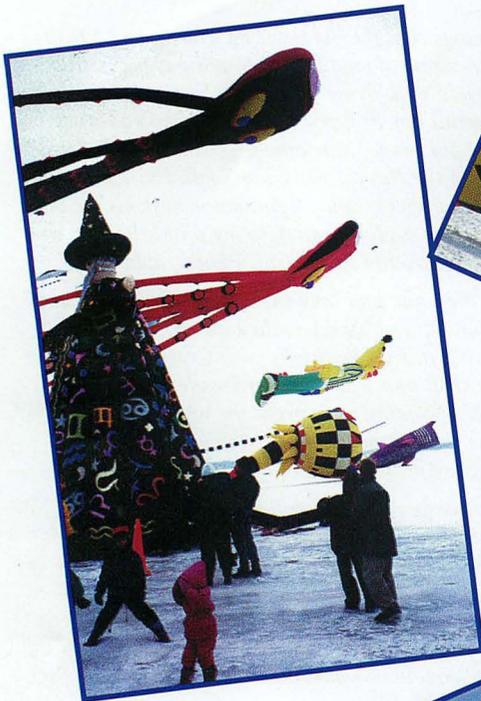
# Kites On Ice



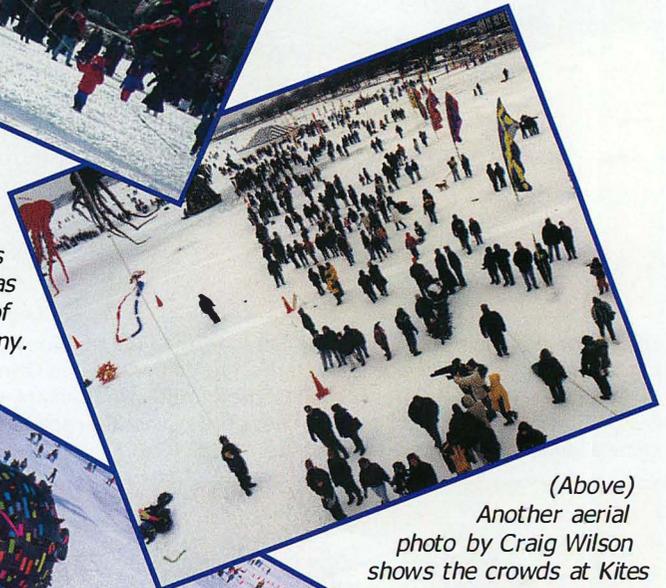
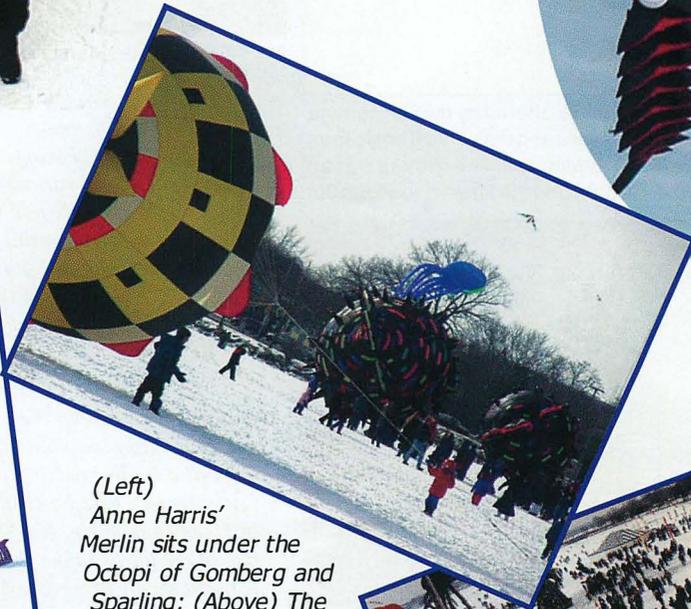
(Left) An aerial self-portrait photo by Craig Wilson, accompanied by (left to right), daughter, Madeleine, wife, Betsy, Governor Tommy Thompson, his Security dude- Dave Klocek, Linda Underwood of Madison Festivals and David Gomberg.



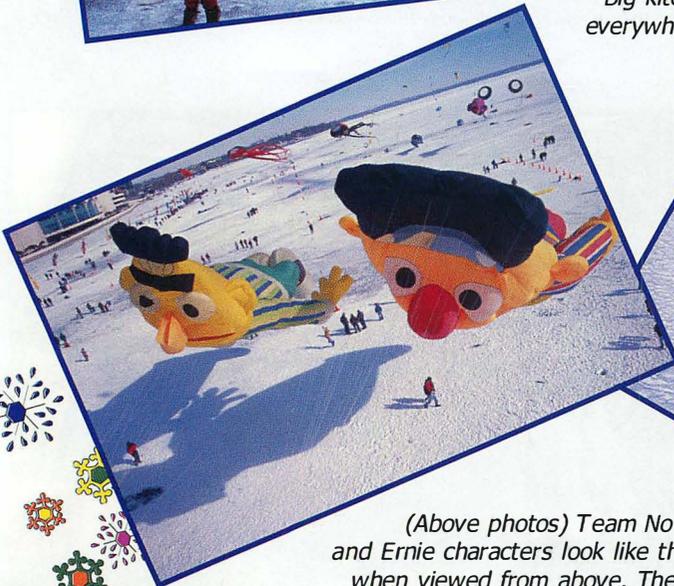
(Above) Frank Schwimann's delta and line ornaments. Frank was one of many international guests at the festival



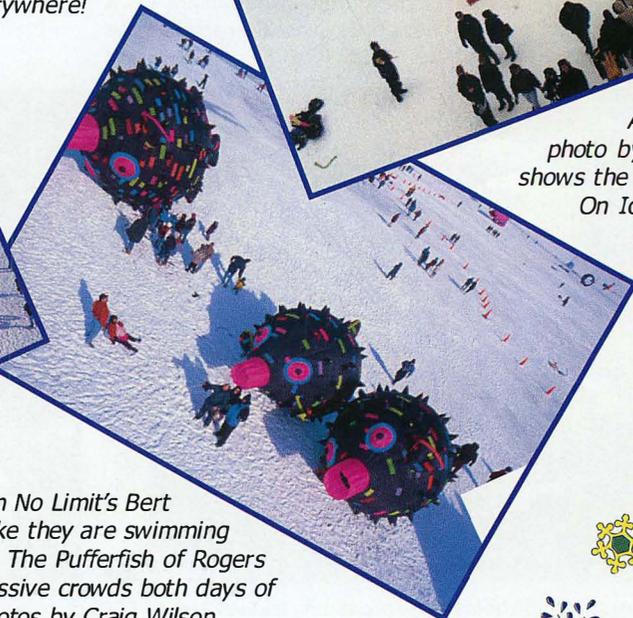
(Left) Anne Harris' Merlin sits under the Octopi of Gomberg and Sparling; (Above) The Pufferfish of Yves LaForest and Jack Rogers attracted crowds all day as did the big yellow ball of Team No Limit of Germany. Big kites were everywhere!



(Above) Another aerial photo by Craig Wilson shows the crowds at Kites On Ice. That's Craig standing alone bottom left in the photo, working the crowds.



(Above photos) Team No Limit's Bert and Ernie characters look like they are swimming when viewed from above. The Pufferfish of Rogers and LaForest attracted massive crowds both days of the festival. Aerial photos by Craig Wilson.



# Kites On Ice 2000 *by Jerry Houk*

For many kite flyers winter is a time to think back and reflect on the past and start building for the future. We work on new kites, new equipment, new routines and so on. Here in the Midwest, February is a month when people are involved in winter sports or spend a lot of time in shopping malls. The farthest thing from their minds is kite flying. That's a spring ritual. In fact, I have lots of people ask me "will kites fly in winter?"

Well, thanks to people like Craig Wilson of Madison, Wisconsin people are starting to sit up and take notice of kites as a year round activity in a big way. Four years ago Craig took a trip to Europe and witnessed one of their large kite festivals and was so impressed with what he saw that he went home to Madison and tried to sell the idea of holding one there. The city was already looking for a way to bring people together during this time of year, but with KITES? They had never heard of such a thing, and were really skeptical that such an event would work at all, especially on a frozen lake. Well, Craig was persistent and found a non-profit organization called Madison Festivals, Inc, a group committed to supporting events that stimulated cultural and economic activity in downtown Madison. And that's how Kites On Ice was born.



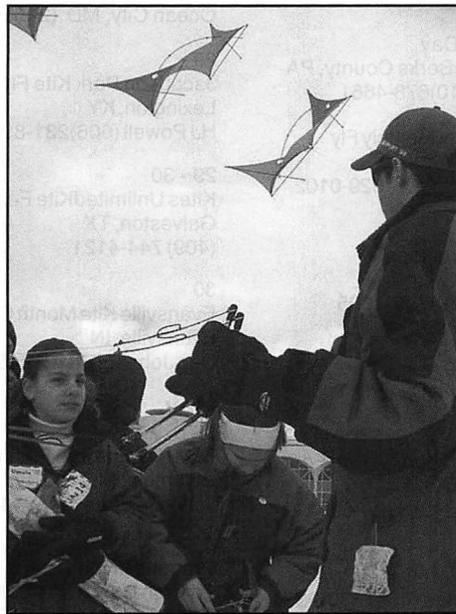
Kites On Ice just celebrated its second year and it just seems to be getting bigger and better. In fact it is already one of the largest festivals anywhere. The people of Madison have come out by the thousands to see the large kites and invited quests. Last year's attendance drew in 25,000 people and this year's festival had an estimated 65,000 to 75,000. Kite flyers from all around the United States were invited to show off their kites and kite flying skills. It has also taken on an international flavor with invited guests from Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

For those not inclined to venture out on the ice, the Frank Lloyd Wright Convention

Center served as one big warming house filled with kite displays, kite making workshops and indoor kite flying. This event has drawn the largest crowd ever held there. With its huge glass windows, it offered a full panoramic view of the festivities below and offered a cozy view of the night fly and fireworks.

One couple that attended last year returned this year, after a trip to a local Madison hat store, dressed in carnival attire. A couple of cross-country skiers and mountain bikers were observed working their way through the crowds, and a couple of airplanes were seen circling for a closer look. Others brought their entire families, some being pulled in wagons and of course, sleds.

The kite booth set up on the ice was doing a brisk business both days, as well as local sponsors indoors. This event probably



wouldn't have gotten off the ground without the full support of the business community. Sponsors names were visible on large rokkakus leaning against the large refreshment tent on the ice, when they weren't airborne.

I think it is fair to say that of all the invited guests, too many to name here, Ray Bethel stole the hearts of all that attended. Ray is deaf, and the crowd was asked to wave their hands in appreciation. To see the thousands of Madison people, young and old, waving their arms was enough to bring tears to anyone's eyes. I believe they are hooked on kites, and Kites On Ice will continue to be a "Huge Success".

*Left, Torrey Lindemann talks to local school children about quadline kites and competition flying. Far left, the Dekorators from the UK flew relentlessly and entertained the crowds along with Chicago Fire, Team Staff, Ray Bethell, Torrey Lindemann, and Lam Hoac.*

*I've put together a web page containing some photos of the miniature kite gallery from Kites On Ice in Madison, WI:  
<http://members.aol.com/davisong/miniatures.htm>  
Hope you like it.  
Glenn Davison*

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## KITEEVENTS

### March

3 - 5  
**Gone With The Wind Classic**  
Tybee Island, GA  
**Savannah Sails (912) 232-7201**

4  
Great Lakes Kite Society Auction  
Depew, NY  
Mike Decker (716) 683-8596

KONE Indoor FLY  
Marblehead Mass  
John Ruggiero (781) 631-1438

Spring Kite Tune-up  
Nantasket Beach, MA  
Seaside Kites (781) 925-3277

4 - 5  
Connectikiter's Kite Retreat  
Milford, CT  
Peg Bumett (888) 988-8747

4 - 7  
Elmer's Rendezvous  
El Mirage Dry Lake, Adelanto, CA  
Corey Jensen (702) 220-4340

8 - 13  
**Spring Break Buggy Blast**  
Ivanpah and Roach Dry Lakes  
Nevada/California  
Fran Gramkowski (856) 429-5735

10 - 12  
**Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference**  
Port Townsend, WA  
Sam Zeiler (206) 368-9569

Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat  
Oregon, IL  
Pam Hodges (651) 735-5373

12  
72nd Annual Zilker Park Kite Festival  
Austin, TX  
Dorsey Twidwell (512) 471-5511

18  
Kites Over Texarkana  
Texarkana, TX  
Allan Wren (870) 779-1805

13th Annual Spiro Mounds Kite Fest  
Spiro, OK  
Dennis Peterson (918) 962-5141

18 - 19  
Central Kite League Festival  
Champions Awards Ceremony  
Wichita Falls, TX (940) 691-8522

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

19  
St. Patrick's Day Fly  
Cottage Grove, MN  
Bradley Klages (612) 866-9055

St. Patrick's Day Fly  
Buffalo, NY  
Mike Decker (716) 834-2879

24 - 26  
Westlake Kite Festival  
Lahoma, OK  
Pam Thomason (580) 796-2359

25  
Smithsonian Kite Festival  
Washington, DC  
Margo Brown (301) 890-1178

March 31 - April 2  
Outer Banks SKC  
Nags Head, NC  
Kitty Hawk Kites (252) 441-4124

### April

1  
April Fool's Day Fly  
Shakopee, MN  
Brad Klages (612) 866-9055

Tennessee Riverpark Kitefly  
Chattanooga, TN  
Chuck Jones (423) 267-5858

2  
Go Fly A Kite Day  
Leesport, PA, Berks County, PA  
Carl Leisey (610) 678-4661

Sonoma County Monthly Fly  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Arnold Stellema (707) 529-0102

8  
Kites Over Texarkana  
Texarkana, TX  
Allan Wren (870) 779-1805

Renfrew Fun Fly  
Waynesboro, PA  
Bill Flohr (717) 762-8492

8 - 9  
7th Annual Bluebonnet Kite Fest  
San Marcos, TX  
Beverly Voth (512) 392-2699

9  
Chili Feed at Fort Casey, WA  
Four Winds Kites (425) 339-9334

15  
Indianapolis Kite Month Celebration  
Indianapolis, IN  
Danna Korak (317) 849-5986

Flint Kite Fest 2000  
Flint, MI  
John Davis (810) 736-4037

Great St. John's Kite Festival  
Annapolis, MD  
Ron Young (410) 254-4265

Harker Heights Kite Festival  
Harker Heights, TX  
Carolyn Weir (409) 744-6008

15 - 16  
2nd Annual Kites for CASA Kite Fly  
Hays, KS  
Lisa Beedy (785) 628-8641

New England "KiteMania 2000"  
Newport, RI  
Steve Santos (401) 846-3262

Little Acorns International Kite Festival, Miami Beach, FL  
Linda Gelinias (888) 298-9815

16  
Earth Day Fly  
Brooklyn Park, MN  
Brad Klages (612) 941-1321

22  
Peaceful Bend Kite Fly  
St. Louis, MO  
Katie Knott (573) 775-3000

22 - 23  
Jewels of the Sky Festival  
Lewisville, TX  
Dick Bell (972) 423-3630

Workshop with Deb Cooley  
World Kite Museum, Long Beach, WA (360) 642-4020

28 - 30  
**Maryland International Kite Expo (Mid Atlantic SKC)**  
Ocean City, MD (215) 736-3715

29  
Jacobson Park Kite Fly  
Lexington, KY  
HJ Powell (606) 231-8906

29 - 30  
Kites Unlimited Kite Fest 2000  
Galveston, TX  
(409) 744-4121

30  
Evansville Kite Month Celebration  
Evansville, IN  
Dan Johnson (812) 845-2927

**May**  
5 - 6  
**KBXR Columbia Festival of Kites**  
Columbia, MO  
John Grisham (573) 443-2506

6  
Dragons In the Clouds  
Towson University, Baltimore, MD  
Asian Arts / Culture (410) 830-2807

Great St. Louis Kite Festival  
St. Louis, MO  
Wendy Sept (314) 727-9500

Sullivan County Community College Kite Day  
J. Johannesen (518) 437-0404

Stunt Kite Competition  
Ocean Shores, WA  
Cutting Edge (360) 289-0667

6 - 7  
Belmar Kite Classic  
Belmar, NJ  
Fly Away Kites 732-280-8084

7  
Ansel Tony Memorial Kite Fly  
Parker City, IN  
Mike Bragg (765) 453-2977

Family Fun Fly  
Jull, MA  
Seaside Kites (781) 925-3277

Olan Turner Kite Day  
Langhorne, PA  
Marianne Gump (215) 757-0571

12 - 14  
Texas State Kite Fest  
Rockport Beach, TX  
Jeff Howard (918) 426-5908

13  
Habitat for Humanity Mendicino Kite Festival, Fort Bragg, CA  
Chuck Greenberg (707) 964-0942

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

13 - 14  
**KONE Regional Kitefest / SKC**  
Nahant Beach, Lynn, MA  
Tim Boyle (978) 667-1841

Mill Run Kite Fly (Mothers Day)  
Hillard, OH  
sealexander@postbox.esu.k12.oh.us

Mother's Day Fun Fly at 10th Street boat launch, Everett, WA  
Four Winds Kites (425) 339-9334

20  
**Sound Winds Kite Festival**  
Hammonasset St. Pk., Madison, CT  
Jef Cleaves (860) 223-0001

Boston Kite Festival  
Franklin Park, Boston, MA

21  
Applewood Little 500  
Anderson, IN  
D. Sheppard (765) 643-1253

Camp Hill Kite Festival  
Camp Hill, PA  
Kurt Eby 717-939-5222

26 - 29  
**Wildwood International Kite Festival**, plus the 3rd Great International Miniature Kite Contest  
Wildwood, NJ  
Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715

Skydance Sakakawea Kite Festival  
Garrison, ND  
Deb Lenzen (701) 463-2661

28  
San Ramon Art & Wind Festival  
San Ramon, CA  
Kim Giuliano (925) 275-2307

To list your event in **KITING** use the easy form provided on the AKA website at [www.aka.kite.org/cgi-bin/aka\\_calendar.ksh](http://www.aka.kite.org/cgi-bin/aka_calendar.ksh)

Include the name, activities, dates, location, contact information.

March / April 2000

## KITE LINES IN CYBERSPACE

*Kite Lines* will enter cyberspace on April 1st, 2000. This is no April Fool's joke folks. The international kite journal you've known and loved for 23 years is taking this big step in cooperation with [Kitelife.com](http://Kitelife.com), the internet kite magazine. [Kitelife.com](http://Kitelife.com), is partnering with *Kite Lines* Magazine, to start another kiting e-zine called "Kite Lines Online." The new e-zine will feature articles from 23 years of archived kite material in a new bimonthly Internet publication. *Kite Lines* will appear in alternate months with [Kitelife.com](http://Kitelife.com). For example, you will read *Kitelife* on March 1st, *Kite Lines* on April 1st, *Kitelife* on May 1st, *Kite Lines* on June 1st, and so on.

Only previously published *Kite Lines* articles will appear online. Readers will get a selection of 3 or more choice items from early, out-of-print issues of the magazine. All of these stories, plans, techniques and in-depth features have lain dormant, unknown to the larger kite community for too long. Now they will get a new life. All are guaranteed to still be relevant and worth reading, often treating subjects and concerns that are "hot issues" right now.

Kite Lines Online is in no way a substitute for the printed magazine containing current news. This online publishing is a new and separate project and does not fulfill any subscriptions. The printed form of *Kite Lines Magazine* will continue as it has always, reflecting the constant panorama of change that we relish as part of kiting.

[Kitelife.com](http://Kitelife.com) will also be hosting the exceptional Kite Lines Bookstore with full e-commerce capabilities. The Kite Lines Bookstore is well established as the largest source of kiting books and publications on the planet. Now this great resource will be just a click away. The Bookstore goes "live" with the publication of the next issue of [Kitelife.com](http://Kitelife.com), on March 1.

The first issue of Kite Lines Online will publish the evening of March 30. If you have access to the internet, circle your calendar for April 1st and punch up this address on your computer: <http://www.kitelife.com>

Valerie Govig is the Publisher-Editor of *Kite Lines Magazine* and Mike Gillard is the Editor/Publisher of *KiteLife.com*, the Internet Magazine.

# TORI TAKO

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ph(206)632-6151

An advertisement for Goodwinds Kites. It features various kite designs and silhouettes of people flying kites. The text includes the phone number (206)632-6151, the slogan "A little something for everybody!", and the text "New designs for 2000!". At the bottom, it says "Give us a call and ask for our free brochure!" and provides the address: 3333 Wallingford Ave. N. Seattle, Wa. 98103. The Goodwinds Kites logo is also present.

ph(206)632-6151

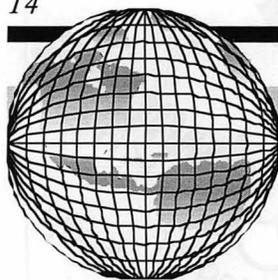
# Goodwinds<sup>®</sup> Kites

A little something for everybody!

New designs for 2000!

Give us a call and ask for our free brochure!

3333 Wallingford Ave. N.  
Seattle, Wa. 98103  
ph(206)632-6151



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## KTAI Trade Show

Rachel Hughes Reporting



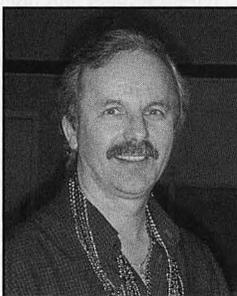
The trade show was a day shorter than previously but an extra "fly" day was added so that more people could demonstrate the products. The show itself offers the usual exchange of products and

services from manufacturer to retailers, as well as a lot of educational material. One of my favorite parts of the educational seminars is the Retail Idea Exchange. Here retailers share ideas of what worked well for them in their store and what they might recommend for others. This is more than just product information, but ideas on lighting, display and employee training. Retailers realize that the sharing of ideas is a great tool. Manufacturers also have a similar exchange at the show.

The Trade show itself offers many new products. This has grown in the past years and there is a lot more for the retail stores to choose from. Kites are the primary focus, with kites ranging from a Go Fly A Kite delta to an Active People Quadrifoil. Time should be spent by the retailer trying out the products at the designated demo areas, and by asking questions in order to figure out what their particular needs will be for the upcoming year. There are a number of kite related products, which are becoming increasingly popular at the Trade show. Kite surfboards, innovative winders, crazy character windsocks, and stunt kite gadgets are a few relatively new areas.

One of the exciting new developments in Kiting is the adoption of National Kite Month which will run in April (March 25 – April 30). This is being promoted by the KTAI and AKA. Information on National Kite Month, as well as listings for upcoming events can be found on their website at [NationalKiteMonth@KiteTrade.org](mailto:NationalKiteMonth@KiteTrade.org).

New KTAI President Brian Smith of Active People looks forward to working with the AKA to promote National Kite Month.



### New Officers

President  
Brian Smith - Active People

Vice-President  
Lolly Hadzicki-Ryno - Revolution Enterprises

Secretary-Treasurer  
Julie King - Tori Tako

Immediate Past President  
David Gomberg - Gomberg Kite Productions

Directors  
Rachel Hughes - Rehoboth Sport and Kite Co.  
Monica Barber - Cutting Edge Kites  
Regis McCann - Nova Design Group Ltd.  
Gail Crosby - Four Winds Kite Shop  
Richard Kligman - Klig's Kites  
Jim Christianson - go fly a kite, Inc.

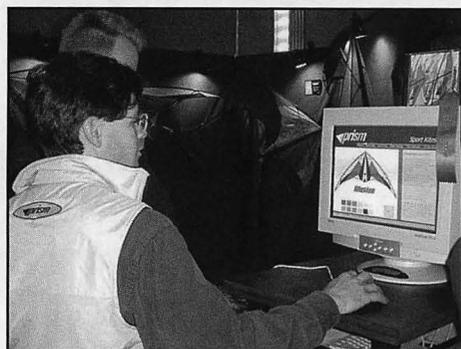
Alternates  
Wayne Glenn - The Kite Company  
Mark Reed Prism Designs  
Craig Stratton - Coast Kites

Executive Director  
Maggie Vohs  
Kite Trade Association International  
PO Box 115, Rose Lodge, OR 97372-0115  
P: 541/994-3453  
F: 541/994-3459  
E: [ExDir@KiteTrade.org](mailto:ExDir@KiteTrade.org)



Lolly Hadzicki-Ryno presents Dave Gomberg the prestigious David Checkley award for National Kite Month.

The Kite Trade Show was hopping! Below, the "go fly a kite" booth dominated the entrance; Jeanne Merry of Cobra Kites talking with old friends and customers Sue Moskowitz and Steve Santos; the New Tech Sports booth and all of their new designs; Mark Reed of Prism, demonstrating products via the computer.



January / February 2000

aka world aka world aka

## 1999 KTAI Awards

*Retailer of the Year-USA*  
Great Winds Kite Shop  
Seattle, WA, USA

*Retailer of the Year- non-USA*  
The Kite Store Ltd.  
UNITED KINGDOM

*Excellence in Manufacturing - USA*  
Prism Designs  
Seattle, WA, USA

*Excellence in Manufacturing - non-USA*  
Flexifoil International  
UNITED KINGDOM

*Best New Kite of 1999*  
Pop Can Kite  
Goodwinds Kites®  
Seattle, WA, USA

*Best New Kite Related Product of 1999*  
Wind Wheels  
go fly a kite, Inc.  
East Haddam, CT, USA

*Best New Product Introduced at the Show*  
KiteSurfer  
ACTIVE PEOPLE  
Kanata, Ontario, CANADA

*Best Website 1999*  
[www.kitelife.com](http://www.kitelife.com)  
Kitelife.com  
Columbus, OH, USA

*Best Media Presentation for 1999*  
Power Trip Video  
Flexifoil International  
UNITED KINGDOM

*Best Retail Catalogue for 1999*  
Into The Wind  
Boulder, CO, USA

*Best Wholesale/Mfg. Catalogue for 1999*  
go fly a kite, Inc.  
East Haddam, CT, USA

*Cris Batdorf Award - Best Magazine*  
KITING  
American Kitefliers Association, USA

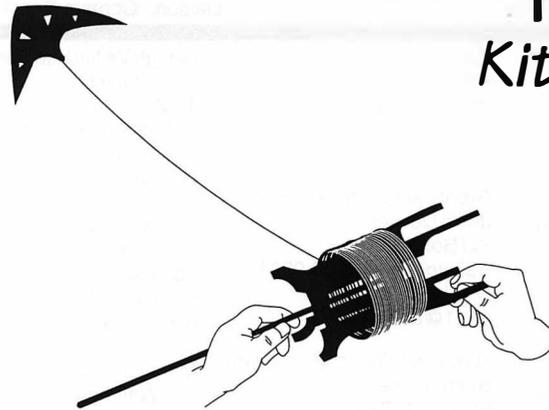
*Outstanding Kite Festival in 1999*  
Washington State International Kite  
Festival  
Long Beach, WA, USA

*David M. Checkley Award*  
David Gomberg - Kite Month  
Gomberg Kite Productions Int'l. Inc.  
Otis, OR, USA

*Best Booth*  
In The Breeze  
Bend, OR, USA

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or  
1-888-581-9213 order only / 1-949-581-6937 customer service

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610-395-3560 800-KITE-991  
[kbiferrl@fast.net](mailto:kbiferrl@fast.net)

# AKA Affiliated Clubs

Club Affiliation costs \$25 a year, and may be sent to the AKA c/o Mel Hickman. For information contact the AKA at 1-800-252-2550, or contact: Robyne Gardner, AKA Club Liaison. Contact Robyne at (419) 734-5880 or by e-mail at clubs@aka.kite.org

4 Seasons Kite Club  
Patrick Franks  
317 Boyne Street  
New Hudson, MI 48165  
(248) 486-5277  
eye2sky@prodigy.net

Associated Oregon Kitefliers  
Steve O'Brien  
PO Box 25616  
Portland, OR 97298  
(541) 935-5408  
obrien@presys.com

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

Black Swamp Air Force  
Terry Gerweck  
P.O. Box 13334  
Toledo, OH 43613  
(734) 243-0919  
tlg@tdi.net

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

Cloud Chasers Kite Club  
Richard Brumleve  
3 Anna Lane  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 787-8065  
rsbgolfer@aol.com

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

Crescent City Kitefliers  
Sandra M. Harris  
1813 Edinburg Street  
Metairie, LA 70001  
(504) 835-0280  
marshallsr@hotmail.com

Federation Quebecoise  
Du Cerf-Volant  
4545 Ave. Pierre-de-Coubertin  
CP1000, Succursale M  
Montreal, PQ H1V3R2  
(514) 252-2032  
cerfvol@fqjv.qc.ca

Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club  
Paul Shirey  
235 Jolly Hill Road  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065  
(724) 295-0645  
aerostar@nauticom.net

Foothills Kite Club  
Donald Nash  
7035 W. 32nd Place  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033  
(303) 205-9020  
kitedaddy@hotmail.com

Gateway Kite Club  
Kim Schenken  
8606 Ardelia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63114  
(314) 429-4182

Great Lakes Kitefliers Society  
(Mike Decker)  
PO Box 331  
Buffalo, NY 14205-0331  
(716) 834-2879  
gkls1@aol.com

Hawaii Kitefliers Association  
Brian Hirose  
PO Box 11722  
Honolulu, HI 96828  
(808) 732-6249  
hiroseb@hawaii.rr.com

Hoosier Kitefliers Society  
Michael Bragg  
PO Box 6881  
Kokomo, IN 46904-6881  
(765) 453-2977  
pratt4@gateway.net

Jewels Of The Sky Kites  
Assn. (JOTS) Dick Bell  
1520 Amazon  
Plano, TX 75075  
(972) 423-3630  
dickbell@netcom.com

Kansas City Kite Club  
Chris Moore  
10900 N. Kenwood  
Kansas City, MO 64155  
(816) 734-4003

Kazoo Stringfellows  
John Cosby  
PO Box 2241  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2241  
(616) 345-5432  
elainejohncosby@yahoo.com

Keystone Kites  
Todd Little  
832 Meadow Lane  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 939-5222  
kites@paonline.com

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

Kites Over New England  
Bob Hogan  
156 Carver Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
(978) 256-8205  
info@kone.org

Las Vegas Kite Club  
3111 S. Valley View A-116  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
(702) 458-7536

Lavender Winds  
Brian Bradley  
2234 Santa Maria Dr.  
Pittsburg, CA 94565  
(510) 797-6997  
kitebear@aol.com

Lehigh Valley Kite Society  
Joyce Quinn  
16 West 3rd Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(610) 332-5857  
curlylvks@aol.com

Lilac City Wind Chasers  
Bill Lester  
3524 W. Kiernan  
Spokane, WA 99205-2138  
blester@ix.netcom.com

Maryland Kite Society  
Joe Whitmore  
3626 Robin Air Court  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
(410) 437-0554  
marylandkites@hotmail.com

Mid-Michigan Kite Club  
John Davis  
5241 E. Coldwater Rd., #227  
Flint, MI 48506  
(810) 736-4037  
kitewiz289@aol.com

Mid-Michigan String  
Stretchers (M2S2)  
Ken Blain  
349 Springgreene  
Ada, MI 49301  
(616) 676-5980  
spacioussky@grgig.net

Midwest Winds Kitefliers  
Club (Todd Petrick)  
PO Box 3770  
Omaha, NE 68103-0770  
(402) 551-3372  
dubl2ee@aol.com

Minnesota Kite Society  
PO Box 580016  
Minneapolis, MN 55458

New York Kite Enthusiasts  
Jeremy Johannesen  
2 Maple Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208  
(518) 437-0404  
nykites@yahoo.com

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

Northern California Kite Club  
Derrol Hammer  
148 Eureka Way  
Tracy, CA 95376  
(209) 835-6478  
hammer1@11n1.gov

Northwest Buggy Pilots Assn.  
Morrie & Kelci Williams  
P.O. Box 1358  
Westport, WA 98595-1358  
(360) 268-0318  
williams@techline.com

Ohio Society for the Elevation  
of Kites (OSEK)  
Harry Gregory  
10228 Winthrop Rd.  
Streetsboro, OH 44241  
(330) 274-2818  
flyinfre@apk.net

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

Prairie Winds Kite Club  
Wayne Patton  
P. O. Box 29775  
Lincoln, NE 68529  
(402) 438-0807

Richmond Air Force  
Charles Stonestreet  
3646 Grovewood Road  
Richmond, VA 23234  
(804) 271-4433  
rafl@aol.com

Rogue Valley Windchasers  
Archie Clay  
220 Dunlop Lane  
Grants Pass, OR 97527  
(541) 862-2258  
archie@cpros.com

Route 66 Kite Club  
Thomas M. Manson  
4422 W. El Camino Drive  
Glendale, AZ 85302  
(480) 891-8042  
Thomas.Manson@ARZ.boeing.com

San Diego Kite Club  
Roger A. McComb  
PO Box 7977  
San Diego, CA 92167  
(858) 858-3461

Sky Pilots Kite Club  
Carl Leisey  
640 Fairmount Avenue  
Wernersville, PA 19565  
(610) 678-4661  
spkc4u@aol.com

South Jersey Kite Flyers  
Michael Dallmer  
P.O. Box 32  
Collingswood, NJ 08108  
(215) 722-4092  
sjkf@geocities.com

Southern Oregon Aire Riders  
Mike Godfrey  
P.O. Box 390  
Gold Hill, OR 97525  
(541) 855-9359

Susquehanna River Rats  
Bryan Janis  
29 Cool Creek Manor Drive  
Wrightsville, PA 17368  
(717) 252-0835  
suskiteco@cplx.net

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

Treasure Island Sport Kite  
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1916 Castle Bay Court  
Oldsmar, FL 34677  
(813) 891-0301  
cthompson@techforce.com

Tulsa WindRiders  
Collette Lemons  
P.O. Box 562  
Glenpool, OK 74033  
(918) 322-9630  
rokman@sprintmail.com

Washington Kitefliers  
Association  
Pacific Science Center  
200 2nd Ave N  
Seattle, WA 98109  
Rob Pratt (360) 956-1513  
robcp@worlnet.att.net

Westport Windriders  
Creda Axton (360) 491-3229  
4004 Wiggins Road SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
aderc@msn.com

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

Wind Dancers  
Gloria Harmon  
Rt 3, Box 86A  
Waxahachie, TX 75167  
(972) 938-3954

Wind Rhythm Kite Club  
Bob Webb (712) 546-8050  
921 1st Avenue SE  
LeMars, IA 51031

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

Wings Across Carolina Kiting  
& Okra Society (WACKOS)  
Marty Groet (704) 596-5312  
Box 37289  
Charlotte, NC 28237  
Email: jmartjr@aol.com  
http://home.att.net/~wackkites/index.html

Wings Over Washington  
(WOW) c/o Dennis Hawley  
2805 Hunter Mill Road  
Oakton, VA 22124  
kitesrus2@aol.com  
301-776-9004.

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

# WACKOS

Report by Jim Martin

The Wings Across Carolina Kiting and Okra Society, Charlotte, North Carolina's only active club for kite makers and fliers, has announced the first recipient of the WACKOS Kiter of the Year Award. At the WACKOS 1st Annual Dinner Party and Awards Banquet, held last Saturday at the Bayou Kitchen in Charlotte, the award was presented to Marty Groet.

The award was presented by Jim Martin, Jr., who praised Groet for his commitment to the club and his warmth and sincere friendship to all those who have flown with the WACKOS in their first year. Martin said, "Marty, you are the one who keeps most of us coming back — in spite of the rest of us!"

Marty Groet was among the founders of the WACKOS, attended 6 of the 7 official kite events at which WACKOS was represented and was a consistent and supportive presence at the club's twice-monthly flying days. Marty is the leader of the WACKOS in their challenge with the Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub (TISKK, of Treasure Island, FL) to see which club could fly the most fighter kites on a single branching line (WACKOS currently lead by a comfortable margin 21 - 12). Groet is an accomplished kite maker, with many members of WACKOS owning and flying his G-Fighter kites. His variation on Peter Lynn's Tri-D design was the hit of the Cellular and Box Kite Mass Ascension at Carolina Kite Fest this year, and his club banners are a central part of every WACKOS get-together.

He also organized and led the first WACKOS workshop, where members and friends made mini-banners to decorate the flying field, as well as created and maintained the club's web site. The selection of Marty Groet as the first WACKOS Kiter of the Year was unanimous by the other members of the club.

For further information, contact Jim Martin, Public Information Officer, by reply e-mail. For more information on the WACKOS, local kiting, and the Great Fighter Challenge visit our web site at: <http://home.att.net/~wackites/index.html>. WACKOS is open to any flier or kite enthusiast, and meets regularly at Frank Liske Park, weather permitting.

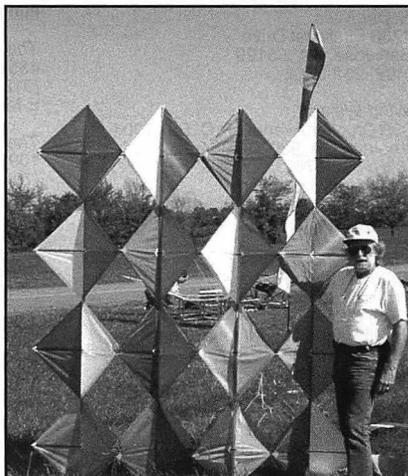
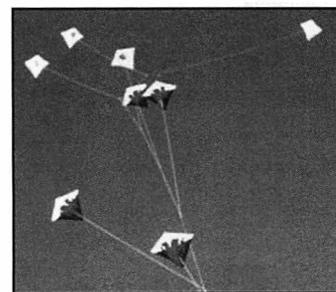


Photo above from Jim Martin.  
Photo to right from Rick Beaman.

## WACKOS / TISKK CHALLENGE

We have a little challenge going with the WACKOS in North Carolina. TISKK has flown 12 independent fighters on a single control line and the WACKOS have flown 21. We would welcome any other clubs to join this challenge. I want to know if there is a record for this kind of flying. I understand *Kitelines Magazine* holds any acknowledged records but I have not received a response from them. We are calling this a "flock" of fighters. Can anybody help?

Rick Beaman  
Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub



### 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  
Indoorfly, 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  
Carrs Mill 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  
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*Bill Ochse and Maggie Vohs, two dedicated kite trade industry leaders who have worked to introduce thousands to Kiting. Bill (King of the Wind) is the founder of the Kite Loft in Ocean City, MD and Maggie is the Executive Director of the KTAI.*



## Fighters

Next, I started building and testing. The first test was made out of shopping bags and carbon fiber rods. I accidentally built this fighter upside down. It flew well, but it didn't look right. It was just starting to get cold around here when I rebuilt it right side up. At the first indoor fly of the season I found myself with a newly built fighter made

# Indoor Fighter Kite Plans

By Paul Berard

The inspiration for this kite started with a kite I built using shopping bags and carbon fiber rods. It was made using an article in "Kitelines" Magazine, (Spring 1993, Vol. 10, NO. 1) called "Family of Fighters" by Ed Alden. I've never meet Ed, but he sure is into the math and the details, highly recommended reading for all fighter builders and designers.

I started flying indoor dual-line kites five years ago. Being a kite builder, I was excited about learning all there was to know about designing kites that flew well indoors. It's then I found out that not many people knew all that much about the subject and I couldn't rely on my kite library for much help. But, I did have an opportunity to fly once a month in Marblehead, Massachusetts at the Kites Over New England club flies. These flies are a great place for kites to socialize, share knowledge, and fly in the dead of New England's winter. Everyone shares their kites to teach others how to fly. I love the look on someone's face when they realize they can fly indoors, too.

That brings me to the Indoor fighters. I wasn't in that good of shape to be running around all night flying a dual-line kite and a quad-line kite seemed to me to be too much to learn. It was during a hurricane, at the Newport Festival, that I saw Peter Lee fly a fighter kite indoors. I was stunned by his performance. I had to get to know more about fighters. It was summer, so I had to settle for outdoor fighter flying. I bought a few inexpensive fighters and proceeded to teach myself how to fly. At the time there weren't many people flying fighters in New England, so I bought a couple of fighter books and read everything I could get my hands on. It was then that I got a copy of the "Kitelines" magazine with the article written by Ed Alden. All things changed after that, Ed had done the math, and some of it I could make sense of.

from 1/2 oz. Icarex. There was a gleam in my eye that soon turned into a tear. Not really knowing much about the designing aspect of fighters, I painfully became aware that I had used a much larger carbon bow than would be needed for indoor flying. The results of that first quick pull on the spectra flying line was a deep cut into my finger, and so, it was back to the drawing-board for me. The difference was now I was on my own. I had used up all the written resources I could get my hands on, so it was onto the TLAR (that looks about right) method of kite building. I haven't included many building methods in this plan. The reason was that I felt if we all did it the same way, we would never find those small differences in each others thinking process that leads to innovation. I encourage all to experiment with kites and methods of building. You'll be surprised how much fun you can have!

The dimensions shown are for a finished kite (add hem allowances if you make one from cloth). I have made this kite from 1/2 oz. Icarex, Mylar tissue, Orcon, and a numerous other kinds of lightweight Mylar film mostly used in gift preparation.

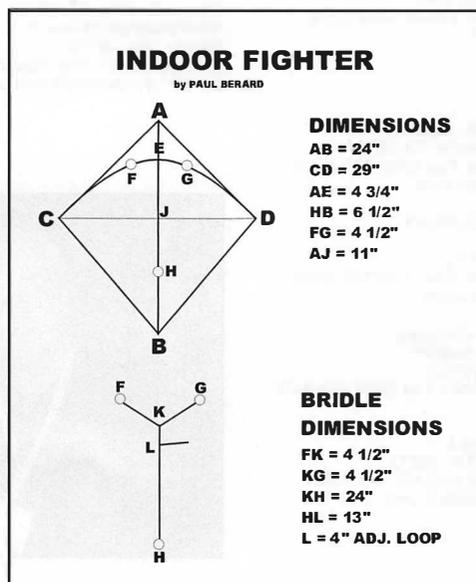
For spars, I use a .08 micro-carbon fiber rod for the spine, and a .05 micro-carbon fiber for the bow. I use 1/16" diameter vinyl end caps

to cover the ends of the rods. You can cut these vinyl end caps as short as possible to save weight and use the extra pieces to be cut up and used for bridle stops later on. You can tape, sew, or use glue in the construction. I've tried them all with good results. On cloth models, I sew a ribbon on the diagonal at the intersection of the bow and the spine. On the Mylar models, I either tape the spars in place or use a small vinyl piece at the intersection and then tape them down.

The bridle points "F, G, H" are usually reinforced on the back of the kite with tape. I then make a 1/4" diameter bridle clearance hole so the bridle doesn't pull the fabric when flying. Small pieces of vinyl end caps are glued at points "F, G, H". I use two pieces at each location and leave a small space in between them so as to hold the bridle line from sliding. I use a three-point bridle so as to gain more maneuverability when flying indoors. I use 30 lb. Dacron as bridle line. The bridle consists of three pieces of line. The first is the bow line "F, K, G". This line is not adjustable but needs to be tied securely to the bow line to keep the proper dimensions. (NOTE: There is a large amount of force put on a fighter's bridle and bridle points.) The next line is the spine line "K, L, H". I tie an overhand loop at each end on this line. At the first loop (K), I use a lark's head knot to attach the spine line to the bow line. This makes the "K" point adjustable. Once you have this done, mark the center of the bow line with a marker. This mark may not be exact but you can use it as a reference point for adjusting later. Lock the lark's head onto the line opening up the overhand loop on the spine line until you feel the knot reverse and lock. To unlock this knot pull the bowline straight and the knot should reverse and unlock for adjusting. Now tie the other end of the spine line to the spine with a lark's head knot or any other you feel comfortable with. Make a large loop using an overhand knot from a 4" piece of line. This will be used as an adjustable bridle point after you attach it to the spine line using a lark's head knot as per dimensions "K, H/ H, L". Mark the spine line at this point and use the mark as a reference point for adjusting. Please experiment on your bridle point. It usually helps me learn how things effect a kite's performance and it is much easier to understand than reading it in a book somewhere.

For flying line I use 35 feet of 30 lb. Spectra line. I use a piece soft foam about 3" long as a winder and I attach the line to the winder so if you step on it won't trip you up.

The only modification I make to this kite design is in beginner workshops where I change the bow spar to 1/16" diameter



fiberglass and the spine to a .06 carbon-fiber rod. This makes the kite a lot slower and easier to fly, also a small crepe paper tail can be used to balance slight building errors.

Tip: for doing trick moves like the guys outdoors add a small amount of modeling clay at point "B" for momentum in flat spins.

Go out there and build something fun and let me know how you make out!

Paul Berard (paulkite@ici.net)  
28 Watson St. Woonsocket, RI 02895

## A Slice of Life

By Tom Humphrey

*Every normal man must be tempted, at times, to spit on his hands, hoist the skull and crossbones, and begin slitting throats. - H.L. Mencken*

There are moments in life when we find a new challenge and a chance to see things differently. I've been competing with fighter kites for several years. In the states, the game is to touch your opponent's line from above or below. In the rest of the world, the game is to use Manjha, or cutting line, to cut your rival's line and control the skies. I've never flown a cutting duel until now.

The Northwest Fighter Kite Association held its January meeting at Gasworks Park, on Lake Union in Seattle. On this cool, sunny day the good spirits of the group were stronger than the wind. With little or nothing to hold up our kites we had a one-point single elimination competition. The X-factor in such a competition is luck. All points were line touch from above. My competitive nature is strong. I warmed up well, and I won in the first round. In the second round Richard Hurd and the X-Factor plotted against me. Making a move to escape Rich, my line encountered a couple walking up the path to the hilltop. I had to avoid them, and Rich had my line! Defeat, frustration, and elimination! I swore at the X-Factor and congratulated Rich. There are few things as big as my ego and to satisfy it I wanted to go kite to kite with Rich and win back my pride. Once the competition was over, Rich and Brian Johnsen flew kites on Manjha for a cutting demonstration. We watched as the kites were flown far out over the lake. Sadly, before they could engage, Brian's kite drifted free. He had not cleaned all the glass from the end of the Manjha where it was tied to the kite and had cut his own bridle at the tow point. The kite fell to the lake in a slow spiral of disgrace.

As the day ended the flyers drifted away. Finally there were only Rich, Steve Childers and I. Rich still wanted to fly a cutting duel, and he gave me a golden opportunity. Bring it

on, Rich! It was time to hoist the skull and crossbones, and begin slitting throats!

Anywhere else in the world, to fly a fighter is a challenge to others; send up a kite and prove to me that I'm not master of the skies! Here in the sweet land of litigation, liability issues limit the use of Manjha. We were responsible. Steve kept an eye out for spectators and warned away anyone who got too close. Rich and I each picked up an Indonesian fighter made of tissue paper and bamboo, tied them onto cutting line, and launched into a dying wind.

To cut another kite, your line must be moving faster, exert more pressure, and of course, the Manjha you use must be of equal or better quality. All that I know about cutting duels I've learned from two sources: the first is reading everything I can about fighter kiting and the second source was several entertaining talks with Johnny Hsiung. I went with Johnny's experience. He told me there are two techniques of line cutting. The first is release cutting: freely playing out line when the lines are in contact, so that the wind pushes the kite back fast enough to cut a slower moving line. The other method is pull cutting - driving your kite fast enough to make the cut from above or below. To cut from below, your line moves toward your opponent's kite. To cut from above, your line moves away from your opponent's kite.

I flew with the reel stuck into the ground at my feet, and handled the Manjha with my fingers. I'm used to flying that way, and I'll gladly bleed for tradition. Besides, I get a better feel for line contact through my fingers. By contrast, Rich flew directly from the reel - his fingers were not on the line. It avoids Manjha wounds, and gives you a good way to let line out quickly, which is the way to release cut. Release cutting is more efficient. Rich has developed the skill of winding on to the reel to maneuver his kite. A skilled flyer can maneuver very quickly, moving the kite from side to side, or climbing and diving in a straight line right from the reel. Cutting duels have little in common with line touch. The goal is different and the strategy is not simply to maneuver, but to take into account the flyer's style, the wind speed and the quality of Manjha you both are using. You need to attack the line, not just touch it!

Finally the time came to fight. Taking Johnny's advice, I went for a release cut. When I felt line contact, I turned the kite upward and let the line slip freely through my hands, risking a cut from the glass-coated line. I released a heartbeat before Rich did. His kite drifted free, landing in a bush just at the lake's edge. Rich pulled in his line, and Steve retrieved the kite. Having won, the kite

would be mine by tradition, but I let Steve take it. To the world at large, a fighter kite is a disposable object, and you spend your money on good quality cutting line.

With less light and wind left, Rich put up one more kite in challenge. This time we were farther out - and with less wind I decided to go for a pulling cut. I got above him and made a power dive into Rich's line, pulling sharply when I felt contact. Rich was cut again, and his kite drifted to a watery grave in Lake Union. Manjha is biodegradable - it loses the ability to cut anything when it gets wet. We picked up all the Manjha (except what fell into Lake Union) and left the field clean.

I've played the cutting game, and I came away undefeated. The kite I used will have a place of honor in my collection. Thank you Johnny Hsiung for the benefit of your experience! Even though the average child in India would cut me down in a heartbeat, I owned the sky that evening. Rich was graceful in defeat, even pleased. Was he sandbagging me? Only time will tell, but in the meantime I'm undefeated in cutting duels, and my ego is living large.

## Waxed Lines Stuck together?

A tip from Bruce Jarvie

If you have heavily waxed line and wish it to be less so, you might try this. Here is a suggestion from Terry McPherson that I use. I bought some waxed linen from Joe Vaughn a couple of years ago. It was so over waxed that I had a candle. I had to force it off the halo after a month in a car trunk. A corrective help for this or other over waxing is to rewind the line onto another spool (or throw it all on the ground and wind it back onto the halo) while the winding hand is filled with talcum powder and a tighter than normal full hand grip of the line. The winding hand becomes the talc dispenser cup. Refilling of the hand with talc is needed every couple hundred feet. This is sort of a manual variation of how you cold candle wax a line only for the opposite results. Repeat this after using the line a while. Eventually the talc seems to work into the wax and helps minimize some of the excessive stickiness. Much of the talc ends up on the ground, so I recommend this operation be done outdoors, downwind from the barbeque. Nothing works for long if an over waxed line is left to cook in a hot trunk over the summer! Sure eliminates loose lines in the trunk though.



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## "Who's On First..."

### NORTHWEST

A Winter workshop for all kite flyers who are interested in judging, field work and league competitions will be held at the Ocean Shores Community Club on April 1st and 2nd. Discussions will be lead by Eric Forsberg and Robin Haas.

On Saturday, May 6, our first one day kite competition will be held at Ocean Shores. Contact Jim or Monica Barber (Cutting Edge Kite Shop) at (360) 289-0667 or flying@cuttingedgekites.com for information.

On December 30, a long-time competitor and friend from the N.W. Conference, Paul DeHope passed away. He competed in master class as an individual, pair, and as a team member. We will all miss Paul, his sense of humor, and his competitiveness.

As a result of the Winter workshop, we are anticipating several additional one-day kite competitions this year. A complete schedule should be available by next issue.

### PACIFIC

Bert Tanaka presented a well-attended judging workshop on January 15 for the San Diego Kite Club. It is the first in a series to get more people involved with competitive events. For more information contact kitegal@san.rr.com.

BASKL'S judging seminar (February 19) will feature Ron Despojado on judging quads, Chuck Sigal on new and proposed International rules, and Dan Buxton, who will cover judging in general. Brian Champie is in charge of muffins!

BASKL (contact Darrin Skinner, (408)554-8399) will open the calendar year of events on March 18 in Berkeley and SCSKL (contact Larry Bush, (909)214-6062) plans to follow suit on the 25th in San Diego.

For additional upcoming events information and reports, stay tuned.

### MIDWEST

Sitting with a warm beverage, I realize there is nothing to report from the frozen Midwest. So start making plans for these events to be held in upcoming warmer times:

\*April 15 Flint, Michigan Kite Festival (competition for Most Fun). (Second year...Lots of stuff for kids, come and show off!)

\*April 29 - 30 Kite Fest River Oaks Park (Kalamazoo, MI) details TBA.

The Region 5 website is up and running, thanks to the folks at KiteLife.com. The URL is <http://www.kitelife.com/aka5/>. Please send information regarding any upcoming Midwest competitions or festivals to me at [craig@kitelife.com](mailto:craig@kitelife.com) and it will be posted to the calendar.

### CENTRAL

The 2000 competition season is shaping up to be a good one! Masters champion Shane Snowden is currently working on a new ballet routine that will knock your socks off. Although I won't tell you what new music Shane has chosen, I will tell you that Shane's new music is a movie theme that is cop / spy related. Everyone will just have to wait and see!

Team TKO will be attempting a comeback this year. The team will have three returning original members (David Burns, Jerry Hershey and myself) and will be adding a new member, Shane Snowden.

You can help out in a big way by volunteering as a judge, field director or pit boss at every sport-kite competition you attend. If you don't know how, we will teach you! Your assistance at these competitions is greatly appreciated!

Check out my festivals calendar for a kite event near you at <http://members.tripod.com/~TKOGunn1/kitecalender.htm>.



Chuck Sigal, Chair, IRBC  
Eric Forsberg, IRBC  
Joel Brown  
Bob Childs  
David Gomberg  
Michael Moore  
Phil Napier  
Sue Sedgwick  
John Ruggiero  
Susan Shampo

AKA SPORT KITE RULES COMMITTEE



David Hansen with a Jack-A-Rok

**SOUTHEAST**

The Southeast Region has already hosted two competitions this season. The first was at Tybee Island, GA – the Georgia International Stunt Kite Competition (GISKC) November 13-14, 1999, and the second at Treasure Island, FL – Treasure Island Stunt Kite Competition (TISKC) January 15-16, 2000.

There were two new Novice competitors at GISKC. One has a familiar name to kiting and the other is a newcomer to our kiting world. After accompanying her husband, Rich Javens, to kite competitions too numerous to mention, Kathy Javens has decided to test the waters of competition and flew Novice Precision and Ballet. The other new Novice competitor is David Hansen, a member of the Richmond Air Force (Richmond, VA) kite club and creator and webmaster of the club's website. David flew in the Novice Precision class.

Stay tuned for news about Treasure Island and upcoming events in the next issue.

Organizers and event scorekeepers - remember to e-mail those results to: [scores@aka.kite.org](mailto:scores@aka.kite.org)  
 Flyers - send your scores, photos and other information to your regional commissioner.



**Advice on Kite Advice**

Now that I've completed my second year as a kite flier and have moved up to Intermediate in competitive circles, I'd like to reflect on what I learned in the past year. If my first year was about the mouth open wonder of kites and kite people, my second year was about making sense of all the great advice that has come my way.

I'd like to think that my club in New England is unique in its combination of kite passions, opinions and quantity of advice to new fliers. But based on what I've seen this past year, most clubs seem to share this eclectic, healthy mix. "You've got to try bugging." "Quad line kites are the best!" "I'll teach you to axel!" "You don't have to buy your kite – you can make one - I'll show you!" "You need longer lines." "Adjust the bridle." "Read this book." "Shadow judge." "Stretch your lines." "Come help out with kite-making for kids." There's a lot of advice out there! And, like the Internet, you need to sift through it to make it useful. So, here's my advice on kite advice.

Tip #1: Listen to EVERYBODY. Listen to people who fly the same kite style you do – and those who don't. Listen to experienced people, and those just beginning. Listen to people who make kites. Listen to people who fly in teams – and those who fly alone. Listen to indoor fliers and outdoor fliers. Listen to single line fliers - and dual and quad fliers, too. And, buggiers. Advice from kite fliers is free, so take it all in.

Tip #2: Choose which advice you want to try. You can't possibly try out every piece of advice you get, so you must be choosy. How do you pick? My rule is to pick advice that I understand, that makes sense. "Longer lines mean a bigger window and a slower kite – that'll make precision easier." That made sense to me. I promise to try other advice as I learn more and it makes more sense.

Tip #3: Try it out! No advice will help if you don't try it AND evaluate if it works for you. And, while you are trying out other people's suggestions, test some of your own ideas. It took me a while to realize that I could experiment with things that sounded goofy and learn quite a lot. Be brave, the worst thing that will happen is you learn something you don't want to try again!

Tip #4: Use tips when YOU are ready. About four different people have taught me to axel. All the explanations were a bit different, and, to be honest, I couldn't get my hands to do what they said quite right. But that was months ago. Last night I read Dave Gomberg's explanation of how to do an axel. It made sense for the first time! So, I went to the park and voila, I axeled! I'm sure all the lessons I'd had in past helped, I just wasn't quite ready for them. "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." Be patient.

Tip #5: Be selfish about how you use advice. It's tough when you are on the beach and you are informed that you have the "wrong" kite or the "wrong" adjustment or the "wrong" lines. I learned about this from Brandon, who I think is nine, at Narragansett. He came to the event ready to fly ballet. And everyone, including Scott Weider, was encouraging him to fly precision, too. He stood his ground: No, he only wanted to fly ballet. He decided to fly his Beetle. A more experienced flier suggested he use something bigger, with longer lines. No, it was his choice and he knew the kite he wanted to fly. I sometimes don't have that kind of self-confidence, but I wish I did. In the end we are all responsible for ourselves, in kite flying and in life.

Soak in all the advice you can get, and make it work for you. And, maybe that's good advice for life, too.

*Adena Schutzberg lives in Somerville, MA, and gets lots of advice from the members of Kites Over New England.*

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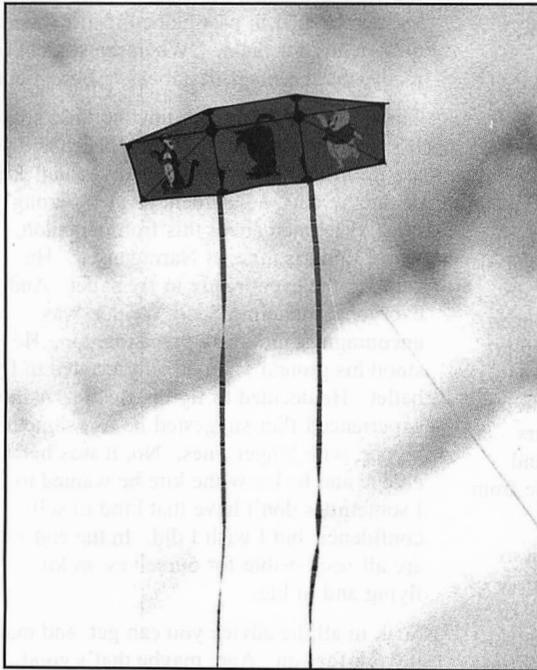
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## Genki Building Instructions:

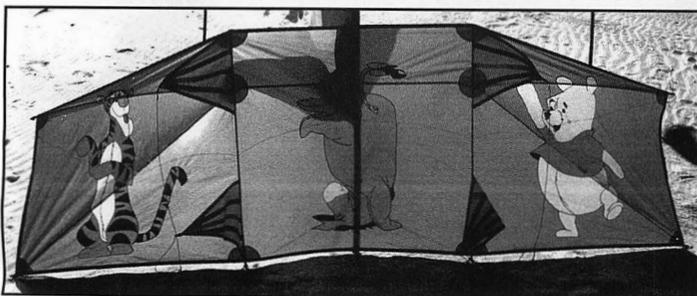


# GENKI KITE -

plans by Mike Dallmer

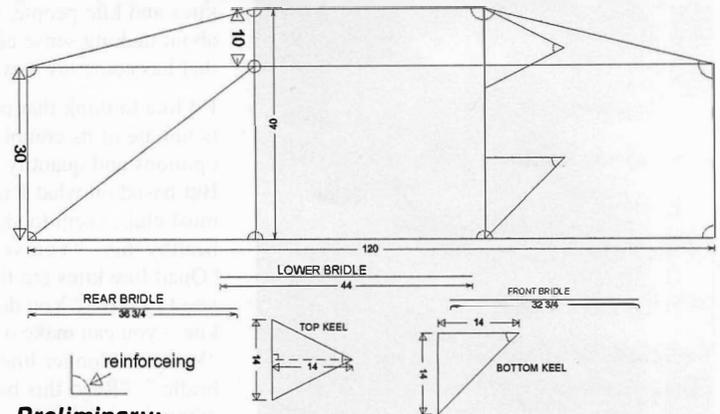


When I first decided to build this kite I was looking for a low wind, steady flying kite that could be staked and left to fly all day. What resulted was better than my expectations with a wind range up to 20 mph. The plans that follows were created for a workshop that I gave as part of a continuing series of workshops offered by South Jersey Kite Flyers. They are tested and proven to work, however anyone with problems can feel free to contact me. I recommend that graphics be put on the sail after it is cut out but before assembly so that all the necessary reinforcing patches can be color-coordinated. Good luck and good building.



### Cut out:

- 1) Sail. All measurements are in inches.
- 2) Reinforcements, they are based on a 3" diameter circle.
- 3) 2" x 14 yd strip for edging binding.
- 4) 2" x 35" strip for bridle loops.
- 5) 2" x 30" strip for pockets. Cut into 2 " long pieces.

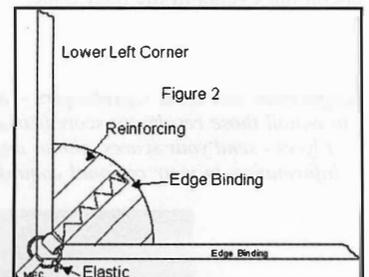
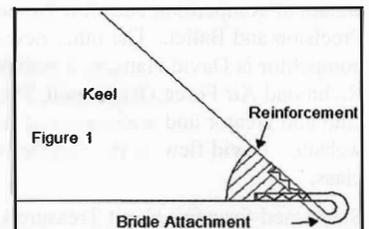


### Preliminary:

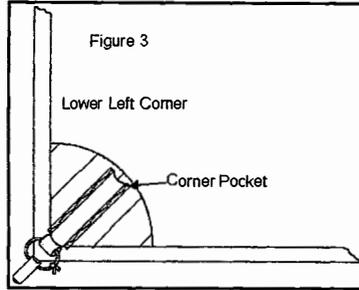
- 1) Edge Binding:
  - A) Fold each edge of 2" x 14 yd over approximately 3/8". I do this by ironing.
  - B) Then fold this in half, iron it again. This makes a double fold tape.
- 2) Bridle loops:
  - A) Fold the 2" x 35" strip in half lengthwise.
  - B) Fold it in half again.
  - C) Fold it in half, again.
  - D) Fold it again half, winding up with a strip approximately " wide.
  - E) Sew a straight stitch the entire length of this.
  - F) Cut four 4 1/2" lengths. This makes the bridle attachments.

### Assembly:

- 1) Sew Reinforcements where located on drawings.
  - A) Make sure that when the Reinforcements are sewn on to the Keels that one Reinforcement is sewn to each side of the Keel.
- 2) Sew Edge Binding around entire edge of Sail. Start in the center of one of the 1" Marks (where spars will eventually be located).
- 3) Sew bridle attachments to the Keel, onto the Reinforcement (**Figure 1**):
  - A) Fold in half lengthwise.
  - B) Line up along edge of Keel leaving " exposed for bridle attachment.
  - C) Sew onto Keel using triple zigzag.
- 4) Sew Edge Binding on all four Keels, making sure bridle attachment points are exposed. Do not put Edge Binding where the Keel will be sewn into Sail (1/2" mark).
- 5) Lower Sail Corners:
  - A) Thread 1 Machined End Cap (.1800) onto a piece of 5" long 3/32" Elastic.
  - B) Tie ends together.
  - C) Thread a 4" piece of Edge Binding through loop in elastic.
  - D) Fold in half.
  - E) Sew onto a lower corner of Sail pointing towards top center; make sure you are sewing on side with reinforcement. See **Figure 2**

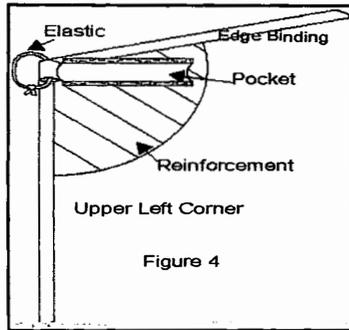


- F) REPEAT steps A – E for other corner.
- G) Fold 8 of the 2" x 2" strips so you wind up with 2" x 1" pockets
- H) Sew the 1" sides on edges.
- I) Attach to Sail over Reinforcement so that it covers the edge binding holding the elastic, elevate it a little so that the spar fits in it. **See Figure 3**



6) Upper Sail Corners:

- A) Same as Lower Sail Corner except no Machined End Caps are used and the Edge Binding points to center of sail. **See Figure 4**

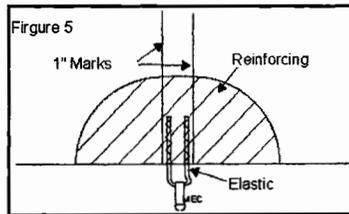


7) Tip Spreader Center Pocket:

- A) Take 2 more of the 2" x 1" pockets and sew them on Reinforcement #6 with open end pointing towards Reinforcements 2 & 4.

8) Spine End Caps:

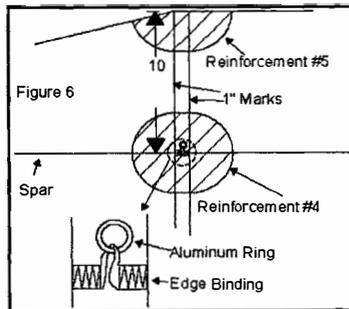
- A) Thread 1 Machined End Cap (1800) onto a piece of 5" long 3/32" elastic.
- B) Sew this onto the bottom of the Sail between the 1" marks leaving about 1/2" exposed on each side. I use a triple zigzag stitch. Sew this in the front side of Sail. **See Figure 5.**



- C) Repeat for other side.

9) Spreader Spar Holders:

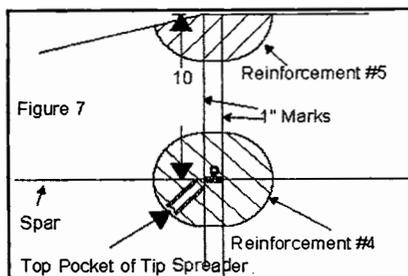
- A) Take 1" of Edge Binding and thread it through one of the 1" aluminum rings.
- B) Measure 10" down from the top of the sail at the 1" marks. This should fall in the center of reinforcing #4.
- C) Sew the edge binding between the 1" marks, 1/2" on each end. **See Figure 6**



- D) Repeat for other side.

10) Top Pocket of Tip Spreader: **See Figure 7**

- A) Take a piece of the 2" wide strip and cut it 2" long.
- B) Fold all edges over 1/2".
- C) Position this on reinforcement #4 so that it points towards reinforcement #6, and is 10" from the top of the sail.
- D) Sew 3 sides leaving the 1" pointing towards reinforcement #6 open.
- E) Repeat for other side.

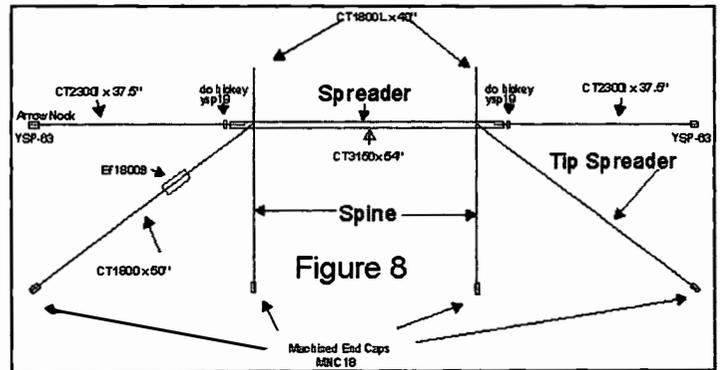


11) Finishing Sail

- A) On the front side of the Sail run a length of Seamstick (1/4" wide double-faced tape) from the top to the bottom on the outside of one of a set of 1" marks.
- B) Place the Top Keel over the tape aligning the sewing marks. Make sure the top of the Keel aligns with the top of the Sail.
- C) Repeat from Bottom Keel lining up the bottom of both.
- D) Place Seamstick over the Keels.
- E) Fold over the Sail lining up the 1" marks.
- F) Sew using a straight stitch including the top.
- G) Remove Seamstick.
- H) Repeat for other set of 1" marks.

12) Frame:

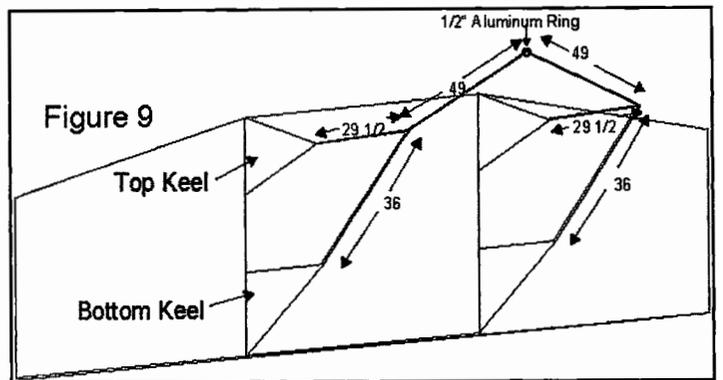
- A) Assemble frame as shown in Figure 8. Make sure that CT3150 is centered and through the Spreader Spar Holders.
- B) Insert the .1800 Spines into pockets formed by 1" marks.



13) Bridle the kite as shown in Figure 9, it is called a Compound Bridle.

14) BowLine:

- A) Tie a loop in one end of a 14' piece of 100# bridle line
- B) Hook loop onto Arrow Nock (YSP-63).
- C) Run this thru the Line Tensioner.
- D) Pass the free end over other Arrow Nock.
- E) Tie off to Line Tensioner.
- F) Adjust so the Spreader is bowed backwards about 8".



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SJKF (sjkf@geocities.com)

Do you have kite plans that you would like to share?  
KITING is interested. Please contact us!

## Maryland Kite Retreat 2000

*Report by Kevin Shannon*

Fifty-eight kite makers arrived in Beltsville, MD over Valentine's weekend to participate in the first major kite making retreat of the new millennium. Hosted by the Maryland Kite Society, this gathering of enthusiasts differs from other workshops in that all of the classes take place in one room. This creates a unique opportunity for the dispersal of information and an intoxicating sense of a giant party. As a presentation takes place, the hum of sewing machines can be heard in the background. People come and go as to their interest in whatever is going on. Small groups gather to discuss ideas or problems or just to enjoy the moment.

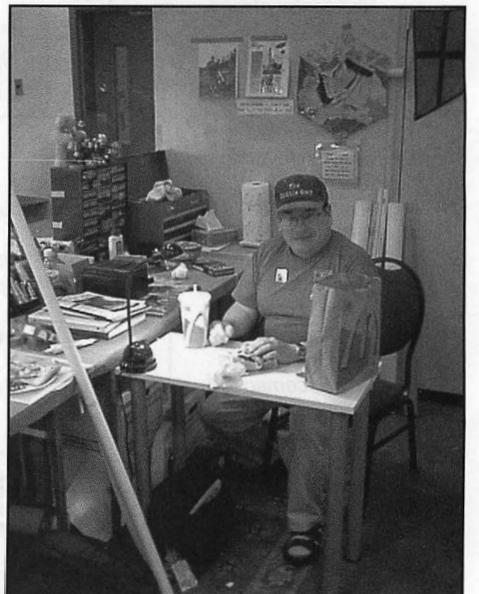
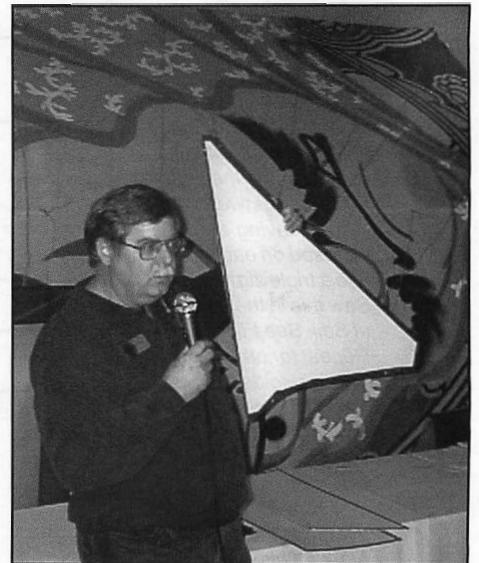
This year's special invited guests were Sam Huston, of Kent Washington and Charlie Dunton, of Yorktown, Virginia. Sam brought his expertise in the no-sew method of kite construction. The genki kite project was a perfect introduction to this alternative construction technique. Charlie taught a seminar on an updated version of the Dunton-Taylor delta-conyone kite. This kite has been proven to fly well in all wind conditions and has long been a favorite for altitude sprint contests.

Other projects were presented by Harold Ames, Bill Bigge, Jon Burkhardt, Steve and Tony Ferrel, Adam Grow, Alice Hayden, Steve Millner, Pete Rondeau, and Kevin Shannon. The variety of projects and the expertise of the teachers allowed each student to take home a bag full of finished projects.

Next years MKS Retreat is already in the planing stages. If you would like to join us, contact Cinda Shannon at 717-243-7913.



*Above, MKS Shepherd Kevin Shannon and Drake Smith, introduce guest kitemaker Sam Huston. Below Charlie Dunton teaching a delta-conyone construction. Below a lunching Felix Cartegena makes himself at home.*  
Photos by Kurt Eby.



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# TREASURE ISLAND

## STUNT KITE CHAMPIONSHIPS

JANUARY 14 -16, 2000

TREASURE ISLAND, FL



In October of 2000, the American Kitefliers Association is bringing the Grand Nationals to the wide, white beaches of Treasure Island. Above, Bob Anderson's geosock made an appearance. That's one of Bob's large parafoils to the left as well. Even the Mayors (left) get in the act with their annual rokkaku battle. Mayor Leon Atkinson of Treasure Island (left) fell in competition this year to Maderia Beach mayor Tom De Cesare (shown in the center). Gary Resnick made the rokkaku seen left and below. The children are not doing a line dance, but awaiting a parachuting bear (parabear).

Photos by Bob Pebly

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Congratulations to Lam Hoac, winner of an unprecedented six 1st places at AKA 1999 using LaserPro™ flyline.

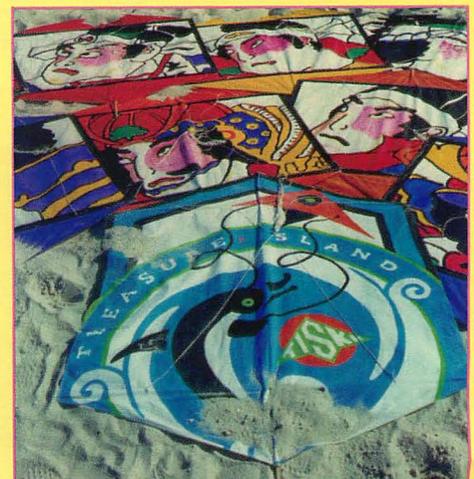
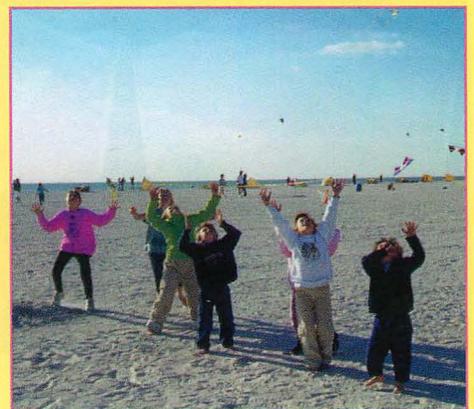
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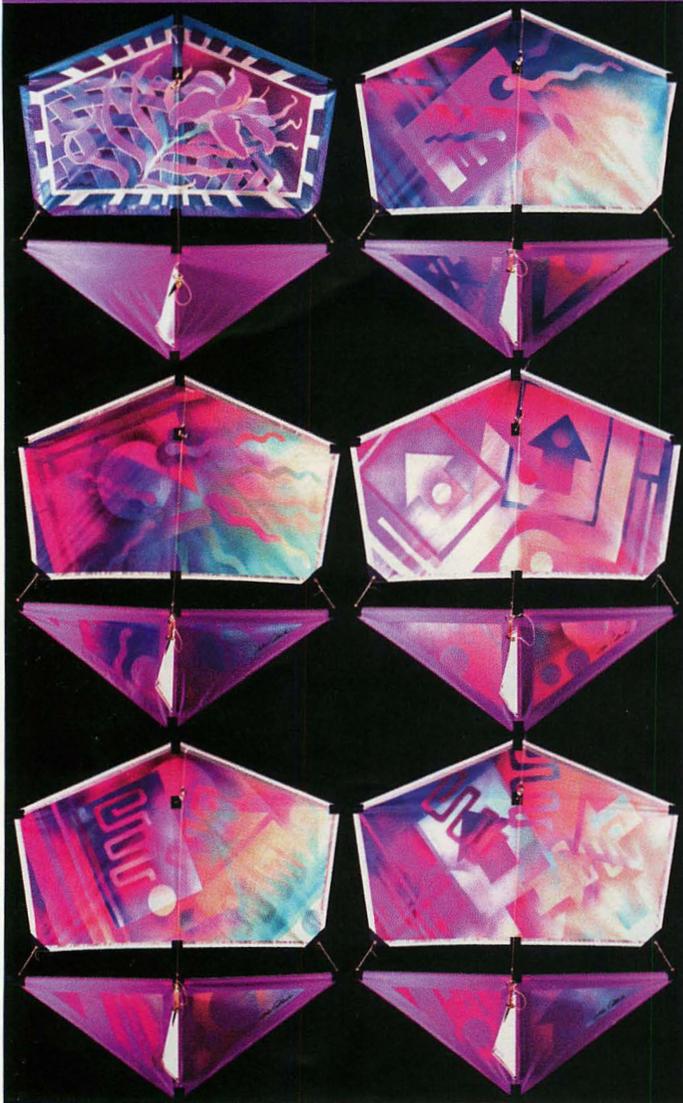
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# K-FILES

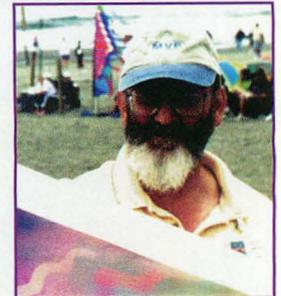
*Pollock, John*



Above a series of John's favorite kite, the roller, top left is called *Weave Lily*; Below, a winged cellular kite, "*Urbanized*" hangs at the *Sky, Wind, and World kite exhibit in Billings, MT*; and right, "*Left With and Without*" directions taking flight. Photos from John Pollock.



Like many others, I enjoyed the mysteries of kites as a child and spent many hours flying my Jolly Roger kite. Each year that simple "eddy kite" had to be a Jolly Roger, and it seemed to fly better than any other kite in the neighborhood. As the years went by, my interests and demands moved elsewhere. As an adult I did make a couple of kites, but I always felt uncomfortable going out to fly them. After all, that was kid stuff!



What brought me back into kiting was discovering the magic of stunt kites. While on a trip about eight years ago to one of my art exhibitions in Colorado, I had purchased a small inexpensive stunt kite. I think it was \$50, and I thought that was outrageous at the time. I don't know how many times I dove that kite hard into the ground, but it held up and I learned to fly it reasonably well. What entertainment that was for only 50 dollars! I was hooked and wanted to start building my own kites, but the nearest kite material shop was 600 miles away. My first stunt kite was crude, and made with wooden dowels, vinyl tubing and regular nylon from the fabric store. But the kite did fly. I started looking for books, magazines and sources of supply. Some how I came across Kite Studio and their early publication *Kite Builders International*. Now I had some real information and real materials. My first kites were stunt kites, which I still enjoy flying, and I occasionally build new ones.

My creative need, however, turned me to single line kites. I started with facet or simple cell kites. I then looked for a type of kite on which I could use some of my artistic abilities; after all, I was an artist. I wanted a kite that had a lot of surface that could be painted, was an easy flier, but not a real common kite. I found that kite in the Roller. Many of my kites have since become more complicated, and for now I have combined the flat surfaces with celled shapes.



My kites are influenced by my art in my knowledge of color, form, and composition. Like my paintings, my kites are created with a balance of formal and informal elements. I'm sure, that as time goes by, my kites will find a way of influencing my painting. They have already become an expression of my art.

I have not at this point selected a particular style of kite to specialize in. I feel that there are too many wonderful types of kites, and I enjoy the excitement in trying new and different ones. When looking through the kite magazines or books on kiting, I look for the unusual or unique. I enjoy the works of many kite makers, and people like Bobby Stanfield, Ron and Sandy Gibian, Scott Hampton, Steve Brockett, and Tony Ferrel have caught my attention. One thing that has been a great lesson and help to me, and that I can not get out of magazines and books, is that I can learn more about kite building by looking at the back of a kite.

I look on kite making as a cycle with at least five components. The first stage is the self-driven need to make a kite. The second is the planning stage of the kite. This stage may include designing a totally original kite, altering a design from a known kite, or even working from a kite

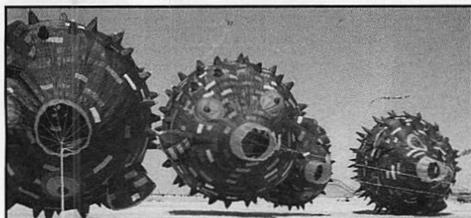
pattern. This stage also includes selecting materials that are appropriate for the kite, available and affordable. The third stage of the kite is the physical part of measuring, cutting, and assembling. The fourth stage is the testing and refining of the kite. The fifth stage is enjoying the aspects of flying the kite creation. "Don't you have enough kites?" is a common question asked by my wife or others. They don't seem to understand that when the last stage is complete, the first one starts over.

I have only been able to attend two big kite events so far. These were the Smithsonian Kite Festival a few years ago and the Washington State International Kite Festival this last year. Fortunately I was able to play a part in the Sky Wind and World Kite Exhibition assembled for the airport in Billings, Montana. The one thing that I found out in my limited exposure to kiting is that kite makers not only make wonderful kites, they are wonderful giving people.

Kite making and flying is no longer a hobby, it is a passion, and like my art, it is something that I have to do. My plans are try to make kiting events more a part of my schedule, to see many more fantastic kites, and to meet many more wonderful people. Oh! And to make more kites.

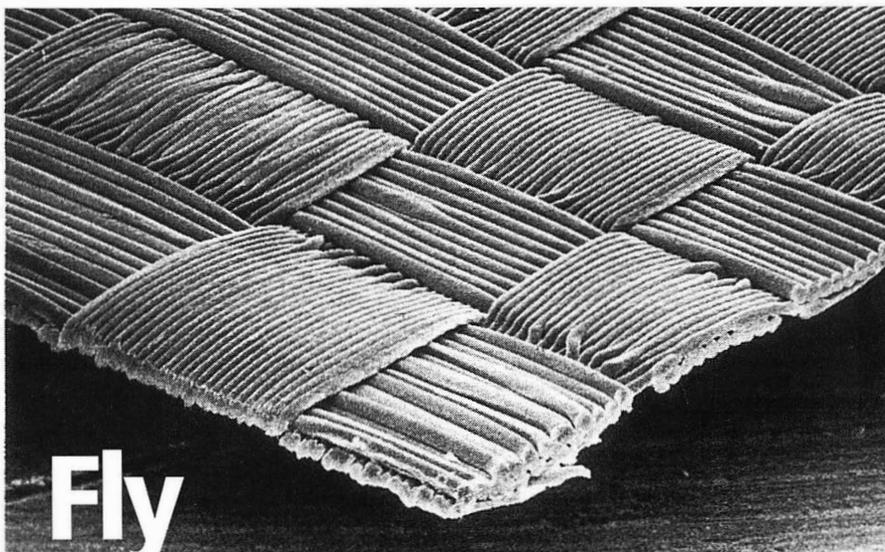
*John Pollock is a Professor of art at Montana State University-Billings, where he has taught since 1974. Through the years he has established a reputation as an artist by working in the media of lithography and watercolor and has received several awards in both areas.*

*Art works by Mr. Pollock have been published in the American Artist magazine and in two books by Rockport Publishers of Gloucester, MA. The books are titled, The Best of Watercolor 2, and Painting Composition. Numerous art collections also contain his artworks, including the IBM Corporation and the New York City Library Permanent Collection.*



### **AKA Kitemaking Competition Committee**

*Steve Ferrel - Chairman  
Jon Burkhardt, Karen Burkhardt,  
Ron Gibian, David Gomberg,  
Adam Grow and Kevin Shannon*

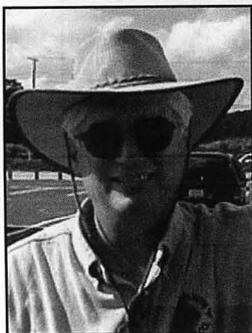


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(end of term - 2001)

It's the middle of winter and I'm sitting indoors with an outdoor wind chill of 20 below. However, kiting is still fresh in our minds with the above-average temperatures we had prior to January. What a winter! Many Region One members participated in many New Year's Eve celebrations at our favorite outdoor spots. There were four kite venues in Rhode Island at Providence's First Night! A steady crowd of several hundred interested onlookers were present for two - 45 minute evening presentations in an "indoor style" venue located in a downtown city location.

The next evening, New Year's Eve, a group of about twenty kite fliers from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts flew their "butterfly" kites in the annual procession through the streets of Providence. We flew past the City Hall and were announced by Providence's Mayor Cianci. After that, we went into the cozy confines of the Rhode Island Convention Center for "strolling" demos from 7-9PM. Paul Berard made miniature kites for everyone. What a way to bring in the new year!

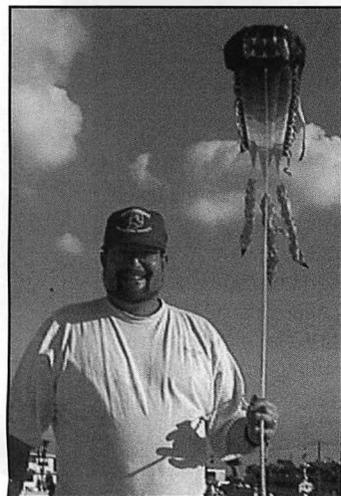
Regarding the future of indoor flying, Region One member John Ruggiero has become chair of the indoor sport kite sub-committee. Please send John your thoughts if you have any ideas. You can also voice your ideas at the regional meeting held at this year's NE Kitemania 2000 (April). Expect a mailing in February!

Many are doing their part to keep kiting interest growing in our frigid region. A few to note: John Ruggiero and Greg Lamoureux organizing indoor kite flies in Massachusetts; Bob Hogan and Glenn Davison doing workshops; and, Jeremy Johannesen of the NYKE (New York Kite Enthusiasts) club for all his great work getting kiting going strong in New York State. You can help Jeremy by attending the Sullivan County Kite Festival on May 6th!

Looking ahead, there are lots of great events. Check them out at the AKA or KONE calendars on the web. In fact, Gary Engvall also has a great web site with a calendar of events. A few noteworthy ones you shouldn't miss are Sound Winds Kite Festival in May (CT) and Boston Area Stunt Kite Championships in June (MA). If you haven't booked your hotels for Newport 2000 in July (RI), contact them now. See you out at one or all of these fine events!

Good winds to all!

Region 1 kite activist Gary Engvall in Treasure Island.  
Photo by Richard Beaman.



Winter has been a time of kite parties, indoor flies and club kite building. Last Saturday, we went to Jones Beach to fly with family and friends. The sun was bright, the surf pounding and the winds quite good. We put up a decent size arch by the time everyone added their arch pieces. I love the color they add to the skies. Then we flew assorted single lines and stunt kites amongst the snow and sand. It was about as good as a 40 degree day in the winter can get in New York.

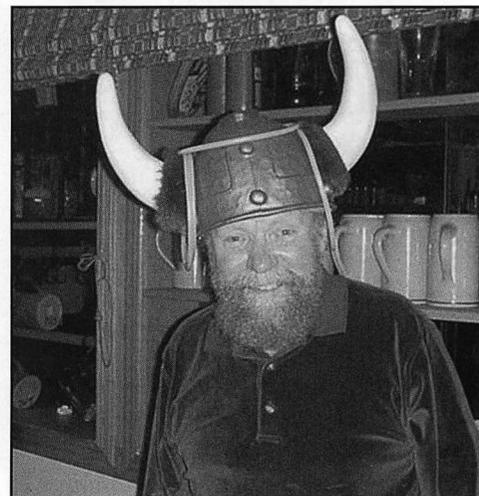
Speaking of color on the landscape, this year both Lehigh Valley Kite Society and the Keystone Kiteers had January banner building workshops. We look forward to seeing the clubs displaying their colors this summer.

LVKS has had a banner year for spreading the word of kiting (no pun intended). They have reported that they helped over 1600 children build kites at their various kite-building workshops. The Franklin Institute Science Museum has contracted with the club to exhibit kites in their Ben Franklin restaurant. It is an ambitious endeavor for kites from the ceiling, banners celebrating the Institute and the display kites, a showcase by the restaurant entrance and a miniature display. The goal is to have the kites on display change every 3 months. Only LVKS members may participate in the display, but everyone is welcome to join the club.

I have met a few new members online when they requested information about running kite festivals and kite building workshops. I hope you all know that a number of the AKA manuals and books, such as *Kites In The Classroom*, the *AKA Kite Events Manual* and the *International Sport Kite Competition Rules* are available for free online perusal. You can still order hard copy versions if you want. *Kites In The Classroom* is a must for anyone working with children.

I am preparing to do a workshop this weekend on wack & stack for eddy arches at the Maryland Kite Society Retreat, head to Germany for business and come home to do a dragon kite and line spinner workshop for the ConnectKITERs. After that it is the Smithsonian Kite Festival and the Kite Season for the North East. Hope to see you all at some event of another.

Past President,  
Pete Dolphin of  
Oakland, NJ was a  
recent guest at the  
Kites On Ice  
festival in  
Madison, WI.  
Here's Mr.D  
promoting his new  
ring toss game.





**Region 4  
Southeast**

*AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN*

**Bob Peibly**

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(end of term - 2001)

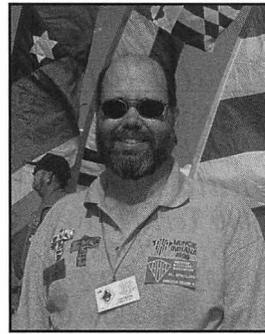
As I write this, I've just returned from Treasure Island, the first stunt kite competition of the new millinium century. Once again, Florida in January held mass appeal for kiteflyers from all over the Northeast eager to escape the winter cold. For those of us coming up from the Southern parts of Florida though, please leave the cold behind next year. A cold front moving through Florida brought strong, gusty onshore winds to Treasure Island Friday and Saturday. Bright sunshine warmed things up quickly and by Sunday the winds swung around and came smoothly off the Gulf, just in time for the second Mayor's Rokaku Challenge. Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub (TISKK) member Gary Resnick outdid himself this year and made a dozen beautifully painted rokaku's for the challenge pitting the defending hometown champion, Mayor Leon Atkinson of Treasure Island, with other local mayors. During the spirited fight, Mayor Atkinson showed his winning technique from last year as he cut several foes from the sky. Back-to-back championships were not to be, though, as Mayor Tom De Cesare, of Madeira Beach, cut Mayor Atkinson from the sky to claim the championship. Look for Gary's roks to make an appearance in April in Miami for another round of fights, this time between school students and their principals.

Friday's 15-20mph winds (gusting higher) provided fun for the buggy crowd (yours truly included) despite the unclean wind direction. A petition to tear down all hotels over 2 stories was considered, but given the impact on the convention this fall, the idea was abandoned. An overpowered buggy pilot or two did some Wright brother's impersonations in unexpected wind gusts and have the road rash to prove it - how are the knees & elbows Jason?

On Saturday, the gusty onshore wind over the hotels made flying the big kites difficult to the point that I had to tease Gary Engvall about what he wasn't going to fly next. Figuring that three strikes make an out (an Octopus, Trilobyte and 252 Flowform), Gary gave up and took a seat only to notice that even his "GE" banners had snapped in half as if to fly at half mast in mourning for their owner's troubles.

In other miscellaneous festival notes, Gary Resnick & Andy Gelinas delighted children at the festival with multiple candy drops, parabears and the inaugural drop of Rick Beamon's paradragon. A highly anticipated comeback by TISKK in the TISKK vs. WACKOS flock of fighters challenge failed to materialize - maybe at Tybee? Bob Anderson drew quite a crowd on Sunday with a one third tail section of the world's largest geosock.

Looking to the future, the Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition takes place the first weekend in April and the Little Acorns festival on Miami Beach takes place April 14-16. Also, it's not too early to start making plans for the AKA convention this fall as it comes to our region on Treasure Island in October.



**Region 6  
Midwest**

*IA-IL-IN-MN-WI*

**Alan Sparling**

1497 Fairway Drive, #102  
Naperville, IL 60563  
630-369-9682 Tel  
region6@aka.kite.org  
(end of term - 2002)

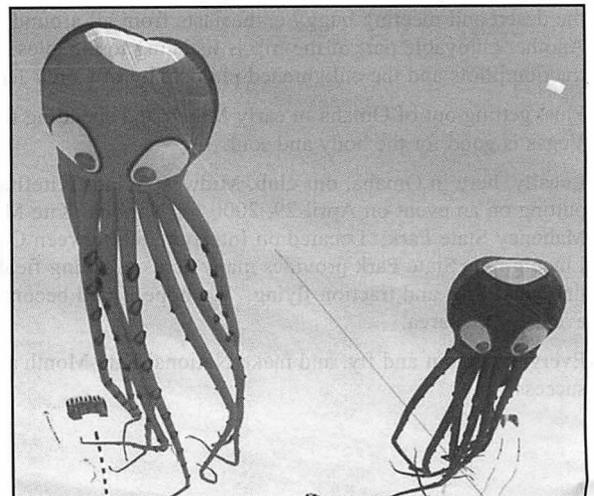
Well, it's the year 2000 and the appropriate phrase seems to be "Apocalypse Not". So much for the destruction of much of my last year by the panic merchants. Now that Y2K is behind us, my life is returning to normal, well at least as normal as I get.

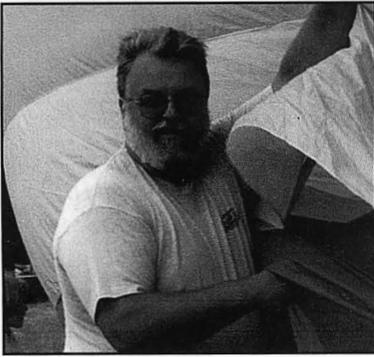
The last two months have been quiet for me, at least as far as kiting is concerned. I only attended one festival, The Cool Fools Fly in Milwaukee. Although the winds were light, the temperature was quite warm for the time of year and there was a good turn out of both kiter and spectators. This was my first chance to fly my Sky Foil with the new 100 foot tube tails, although we only used one and Scott Fischer and a friend did the running. A very pleasant day in the end, for once without the chance of frostbite.

As we are all looking to Spring, I urge everyone to get together and put on a National Kite Month event, no matter how small. The more events we can get started, the more new friends we can make for kiting and we can start a new expansion. I am tired of events and stores disappearing with little replacing them. It is past time that we stop accepting the fact that kiting is at best stagnating and get to work starting a new wave of growth. As a means of helping the events that I can attend, I have purchased a Gomberg Sky Foil with three 100' long snake tails and a Peter Lynn Octopus to go with the Bulldog foil and Spinsock that I won at convention. Ok, they aren't just to help attract spectators to festivals, they are a heck of a lot of fun too. Fun aside though, if you know that I am coming to your event, please think about reserving some space for these kites where they can be seen by passersby. Let's use the attraction of large kites to grow your event.

By now it must be obvious that I really don't know what to write this time, I have been spending most of my time with the tail end of the Y2K nonsense and with getting my Mothers house ready for sale. Lets hope for an early Spring with rain only during the week and smooth steady winds on the weekends. Well, I can dream can't I?

**AL'S  
NEW  
TOY!**





**Region 7**  
**Great Plains**  
 CO-KS-MO-ND-  
 NE-SD-UT-WY  
**Donald Murphy**  
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 La Vista, NE 68128  
 402-339-5849 Tel  
 region7@aka.kite.org  
 (end of term - 2002)

Hello Region 7! Now that the winds have settled and the election of Regional Director has been corrected, I would like to thank everyone for electing me as your new Regional Director.

I have come to the conclusion that a computer is a major necessity in kiting. Just about 85% of all my contacts in the region have been by E-mail. I have received, on the average, 4 to 5 e-mail messages a day from our region and other parts of the country, since I went on line in mid January. It has been a great way to keep in contact with everyone, and receive information about kiting in general. Be sure you send me information on flies and people in your area. Please help me to stay informed on what's happening out there.

Chris Moore, our past Director, is probably enjoying his retirement from the Board. However, he is still very busy with the Kansas City Kite Club and Wind Wizards. He has already contacted me about 2 flies in his area. (The Old Northeast Kite Festival held on April 29 and Prairie Winds Kite Festival in Kansas City, Kansas on May 19 - 21). Thank you, Chris for all your work in the past.

Gary and Amy Pittman have been keeping me up to date on their area, working hard on a Region 7 Web page.

John and Mary Gabby in Colorado Springs have been busy with the news of a possible AKA convention in the year 2001. I have received several comments on the area as a possible site. Guess we'll just have to see if it works out.

This coming year is already looking quite busy. It seems like every club in the area is booking a fly in April to recognize National Kite Month. I plan on attending as many as possible, but let me know how the flies in your area go.

Right now I'm in the process of preparing for my annual trip to the dry lakebeds in Ivanpah for the Spring Break Buggy Blast (SBBB)! It's a great way to start off the flying season, with a buggy ride across the desert and meeting buggy enthusiasts from all around the world. Another enjoyable part of the trip is listening to the tales of other traction pilots and the enlightened philosophy of Corey Jensen.

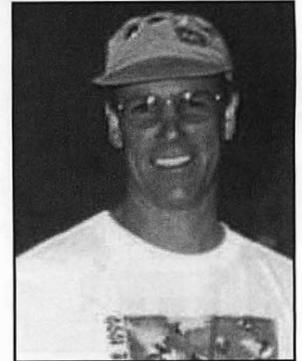
Plus, getting out of Omaha in early March and spending time in Las Vegas is good for the body and soul.

Locally, here in Omaha, our club, Midwest Winds Kitefliers, is putting on an event on April 29, 2000 for National Kite Month at Mahoney State Park. Located on Interstate 80 between Omaha and Lincoln, this State Park provides many acres of flying field for single line, dual line, and traction flying. We hope it will become a popular event for this area.

Everyone go out and fly, and make National Kite Month a great success!

**Region 8**  
**South Central**

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 580-796-2359 Tel  
 region8@aka.kite.org  
 (End of term 2002)



As I sit here ready to write my report it's January 2000, I sure am glad my new Jeff Howard kite was Y2K compliant as it has yet to crash. The only event to report on was The Dead Bird Buggy Bash - Thanksgiving in Galveston and my good friend Collette Lemons was good enough to send me a report on it. Thanks Collette.

"I want to start out by clearing up a few misconceptions about this event. Some people think it is just about buggies and it really is much more than that. It is everything that is perfect in an event. Imagine miles of clear beaches for fast bugging and good winds off the water to fill our power kites and cool us in the warm sun. Smiling people waving as we speed by - wishing they were us flying down the beach. A wide variety of kites and some home made buggies, some good fender ideas...so many notes to compare and so little time. This year we even had kite surfing and I think it sparked some interest amongst the buggy crowd.

Imagine a shoreline with kites as the leading edge that spanned the entire camp area and more. An amazing collection of such color and variety that it never fails to awe the best of us. Most of these kites are being flown by their creators and that makes it even more special. There were huge Airforms (I could not resist buying one to take home) rainbows of kite trains, flamingo kites, striped cats and of course, the Yellow Rose. They decorated the sky all weekend.

I also saw a few more dual line kites this year. I think they really add to the event and every year we get a few more.

But this event is more than just kites. This event is about a few guys treating us to Wild Chili and cornbread one day, and a great barbecue the next. It is about sitting around the hot tub having a drink, swapping tall stories and laughing until our sides hurt. It is thirty people trying to find a restaurant on Thanksgiving, and all settling for the Black-Eyed Pea because it was the only place that would take us in. It is making some Koreans feel at home with our group and having a few laughs with them. I have to admit to corrupting a few of them. Most of all, it is about people and having fun - and giving thanks for being a part of a wonderful thing. I was glad to see those of you who made it and I hope to see you again next year. For those who couldn't be there... you missed another good one. Hope you can make it sometime."

All this happened without being an organized event!

**GUNN POINTS**

Troy may no longer be Regional Director, but he continues to send us hotspots on the Internet. Here is another Gunn Point -

"Check out this 3-D kite simulation. Hans jansen OP De Har sent this to me:  
<http://utopia.knoware.nl/users/pr-stack/3dpage.htm>"



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 (end of term - 2000)

I am looking out my window in mid-December watching it rain and rain. Yet, I feel a sense of anticipation stirring. In 1999, my neighbor tells me we had 180 inches of rain, a new record. But I am feeling excited. January is coming. Sure, accompanying it will be rain and frost and sleet and even snow on the beach. But the big January event will be the Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat held each year in Rockaway Beach.

Thursday finally arrived. We loaded up the pickup with fabric and other kitemaking supplies and headed over to the Friends Twin Rocks Camp. Banners were already flying when we arrived. In the meeting-house, kites were being set up in an impromptu gallery. My Oregon coast January blues were lifted. Sam (Chairperson of O.K.R., Emcee and self-styled wearer of weird clothes) and Barb Wright (Registration and organizer) were there, greeting each participant as old friends. Deb Cooley, in charge of instructors was making sure her teachers were well cared for. Soon, I was munching a homemade brownie care of Judy Brown (Hospitality) and smiling. We felt like we were home again.

Perhaps this is what is so special about the Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat. Not the instructors, who are exceptional, nor the classes, which are creative, useful and fun, but that special relaxed feeling that you are among friends sharing your joy and theirs in the simple magic of kitemaking. The Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat committee, including Ken Tumminia (in charge of T shirts and pins), Jeremy



Scott Hampton (above) was a third year instructor at the Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat. Some of his Yardbirds look longingly to the world outside and their freedom.

Photos by Harry La Vine of S.O.A.R. (Southern Oregon Air Riders).

Colbert (who conducts the spectacular raffles) and Diane Weber (promotions and club liason) deserve special recognition.

For the next three days we wandered about as in a dream of color, excitement and discovery. On the first day, Sue Clark, who also taught two classes in color, pulled some plans and fabric from her magic hat to teach a last minute line-art class. The "Cody War" Tubes (named by the students) turned out great. In another room, Gerry Pennell taught Basic Sewing while downstairs Georgean Curran's class was learning marbling on Tyvek, silk and ripstop.

That's just for starters. Valerie James' students built cordura kite bags; Dave Colbert's class built a 7' Delta; and Brian Johnsen's class built Buka Dako fighters. Ever seen those cool rotating boxes flying? Barry Crites' students all have one now. Three instructors traveled far to teach at the retreat. Scott Hampton, a third year O.K.R. veteran, brought his incredible Yardbirds; Charlie Sotich, from Chicago focused us on the world of miniature kites; and Barry Poulter traveled all the way from Sussex, England to teach Celtic Knot design on beautiful fan kites.

The food was great, the people were wonderful and the kites were incredible. Thank you O.K.R. Now I have to wait another year.

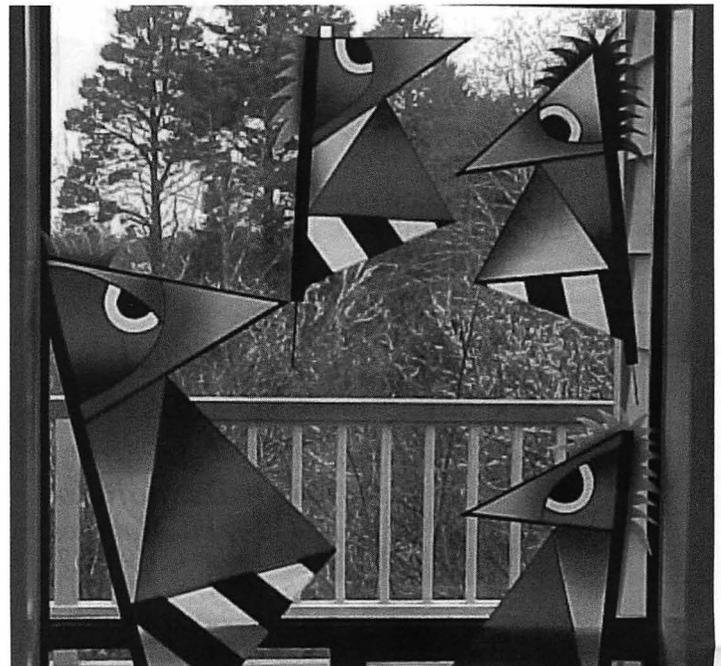
BURLEY'S RAINBOW

Ma and Pa pulled colors  
 from their bags  
 of tricks, and  
 Sent them sailing  
 on the wind,  
 A dance  
 of rainbows  
 At their  
 fingertips.

DEB

She weaves her  
 magic flight and  
 She casts them soaring  
 cloudward,  
  
 Her laughter  
 charms the breezes  
 that keep her charges  
 dancing to her song.

Poems by Iris L. Loehr



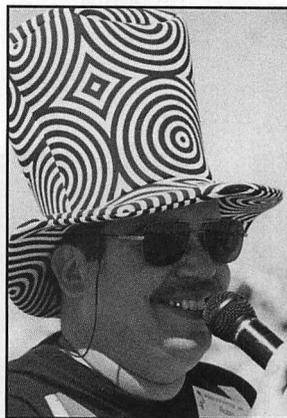
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**Drake Smith**  
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region3@aka.kite.org  
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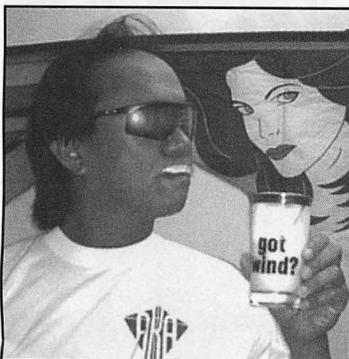
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**Mike Gillard**  
1450 Fullen Road  
Columbus, OH 43229  
614-848-4967- Tel  
region5@aka.kite.org  
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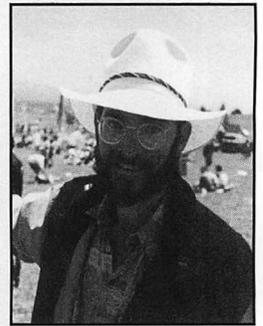


**Region 12**  
**Southwest**

Southern CA-AZ-HI  
**Ron Despojado**  
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La Jolla, CA 92037  
619-587-8738 Tel  
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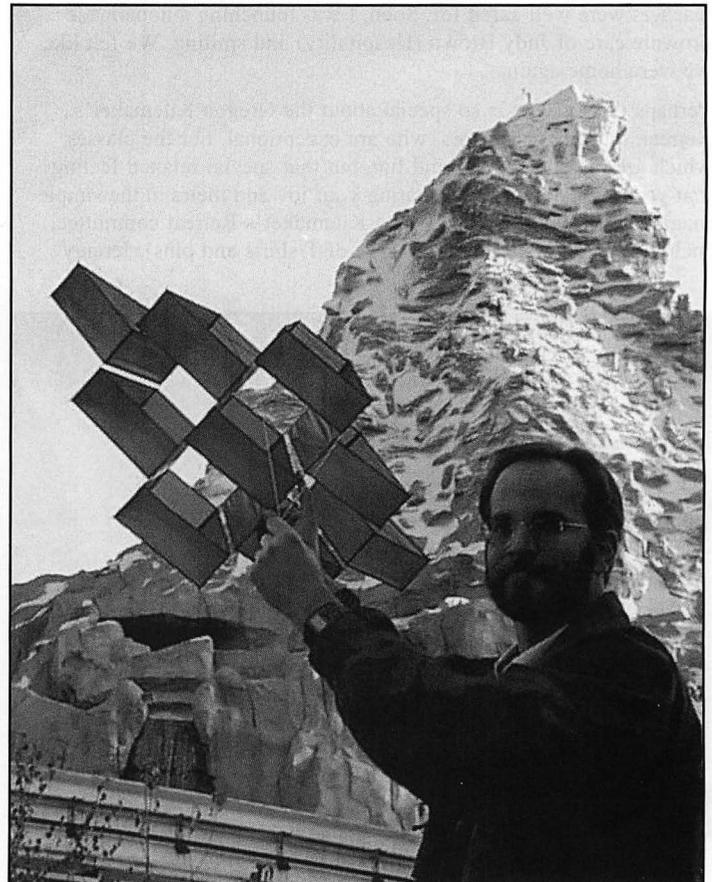
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**N. California**

Monterey County North-NV  
**Tom McAlister**  
6809 Del Monte Ave.  
Richmond View, CA 94805  
(510) 235-5483  
region11@aka.kite.org  
(end of term - 2000)



Gung Hay Fat Choy, or "Happy New Year" in Chinese. After just getting over the year 2000 celebration I am looking at a Chinese New Year celebration this coming weekend, February 5-6. On the Chinese lunar calendar this is the year of the Dragon so I am sure that you can expect to see many Chinese Centipede Dragons at kite festivals across the country. Although the Dragon Centipedes are not for beginning kite fliers they are not as difficult to fly as they look. If you have always wanted a Centipede Dragon this has to be the year to add one to your kite collection. If you get a centipede and need help with it, just give us a holler and we'll help you tune it for flight.

If all you think about is traction kiting then you are probably getting ready for the Spring Break Buggy Blast at Ivanpah on March 8-13. SBBB 2000 will have a 30' x 60' tent set up to use as headquarters. The tent has sides that will provide a spot out of the wind to socialize, have pre-race meetings, and conduct the great SBBB cookout although we



Tom (Kiteevil) at Disneyland on New Year's Eve (trying to fly a kite over the Matterhorn). Later the next day, Tom tries to fly over the Grand Canyon! Next month, who knows what Tom will try!

still do not know whom the celebrity menu planners and cooks will be. An emergency radio frequency will be set up and monitored to ensure safety and to send someone out to help disabled buggers. If you have a two-way radio be sure to bring it along; the radios will also be useful to help monitor the races. For more SBBB information contact: [sbbb.net](http://sbbb.net) or call Fran Gramkowski at (856) 429-5735.

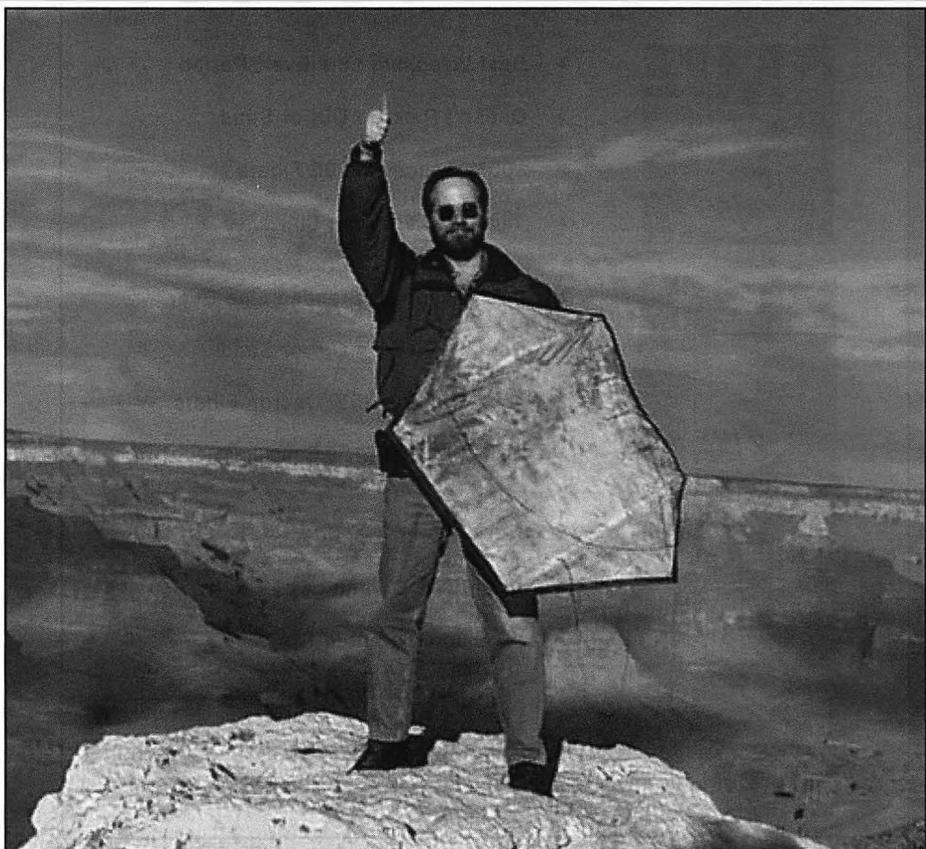
A pre-buggy blast event is planned at El Mirage Dry Lake. The El Mirage area has some great "off-road bugging" including a mountain to climb and many trails with jumps. If I don't make it to the SBBB try to put on a few miles for me and remember to take plenty of water, play safely, and to be nice to the other kids.

February 19 is the 4th Bay Area Sport Kite League Judging Seminar. Guest presenters at this year's seminar will be Ron Despojado, Dan Buxton, and Chuck Sigal. Chuck will provide an overview of the new international rules; Dan will cover judging dual-line and team, while Ron will focus on quad-line judging. The seminar will take place at 2070 Allston Way, Suite 200, Berkeley.

Single-line kite builders ought to know that BASKL will be giving an award for the best handcrafted single-line kite at each BASKL event of 2000. The first event of the season is March 18 in Berkeley and the second is on April 15 at Baylands Park in Sunnyvale.

If we don't see each other at one of the BASKL events, I hope to see you at the Lee Toy Fly in San Francisco in April or at the San Ramon Art and Wind Fest in May.

Viva Las Cometas! A hora yo practico mi espanol solo un poco. Perhaps next issue I will try Italian!



Two Southern Californians at Kites On Ice - Ron Gibian and Lisa Schirmer - lucky for them it was relatively warm.

Photo by Roger Chewning

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**TOP 10 WAYS  
TO CELEBRATE  
NATIONAL KITE  
MONTH**

- #10 - Fly Garber target kites at the Washington Monument – war vets will think Japanese are attacking again!
- #9 - Get your Christmas shopping done really early at an AKA Member Merchant's shop.
- #8 - Organize a night fly near a trailer park and wait for the sheriff to investigate UFOs.
- #7 - Fly barefoot at Illinois Tollway Authority maintenance yard – pretend all that salt and sand is Wildwood.
- #6 - Practice kite aerial photography at a nude beach.
- #5 - Phone the nearest domed stadium and ask how much it would cost for you and your buddies to have a quick indoor fly.
- #4 - It's an election year... Democrats versus Republicans rok battle!
- #3 - Stick it to America On-Line – use those annoying CDs they send you as line laundry.
- #2 - Create a new tourist attraction – start working on your own "World's Largest Ball of String."

And the #1 way to celebrate National Kite Month... Get out there! Because if you don't celebrate National Kite Month, the Gomberg Mafia will come looking for you.

And a few other less wacky (but incredibly worthwhile) ideas...

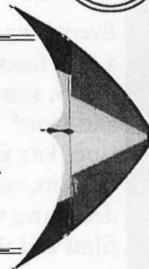
- Offer to do a kiteflying demo at your child's school.
- Use the curriculum at [www.kitetrade.org](http://www.kitetrade.org)
- Bet another kite club that your club can register more NKM events.
- Build garbage bag sled kites with kids in your neighborhood.
- Do a kite demo at a nursing home.
- Create a kite display at City Hall.
- Invite a newspaper photographer to come fly with you.
- Get nostalgic, and fly something that's been buried in the bottom of your bag.
- Organize a kiteflying picnic.
- Teach a learn-to-fly sport kite class at a community college.
- Put a string into the hands of a complete stranger.

National Kite Month kicks off at the Smithsonian Kite Festival and rolls on through April and encompasses more than 200 events. No matter how big or small the event, you can register it online at [www.kitetrade.org/NationalKiteMonth/event\\_reg.shtml](http://www.kitetrade.org/NationalKiteMonth/event_reg.shtml). And, Gomberg Kite Productions has offered a 10' parachute to the AKA Regional Director whose region leads the way in registered events.

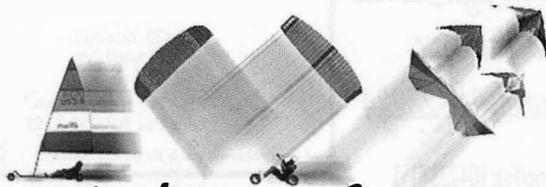
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# National Kite Month

## March 25 – April 30

### Event Registration Form

Primary Type of Event:

- Outdoor Festival / Fly** (check any scheduled elements)
  - A fun fly
  - Sport Kite Competition
  - Kitemaking Competition
  - Fighter kite competition
  - Sport Kite Demos
  - Rokkaku Battles
  - Outdoor Kid's Kitemaking Class
- Indoor Fly** including:
  - Ballet Competition
  - Indoor Flying Workshop & Demos
- Kid's Kitemaking Class**
  - At a grade school
  - Other location
- Kite Building Workshop / Class Weekend Retreat**
- Retail Store Reception**
- Other Event**

Is this a New Event? yes  no

Would you like information on AKA sanctioning? yes  no

**Register Today!**

Name of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Times \_\_\_\_\_

Event Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code & Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Full Mailing Address of Local Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

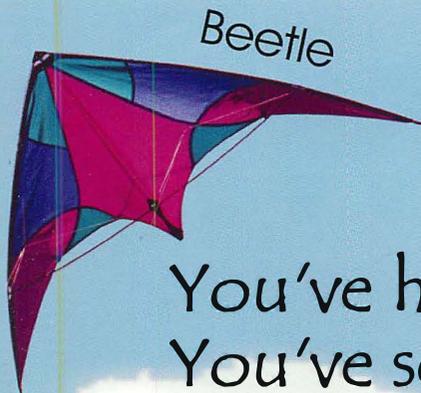
Name and Full Mailing Address of Local TV Station \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

American  
Kitefliers  
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Mail this form to: National Kite Month, 442 E. Club Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262  
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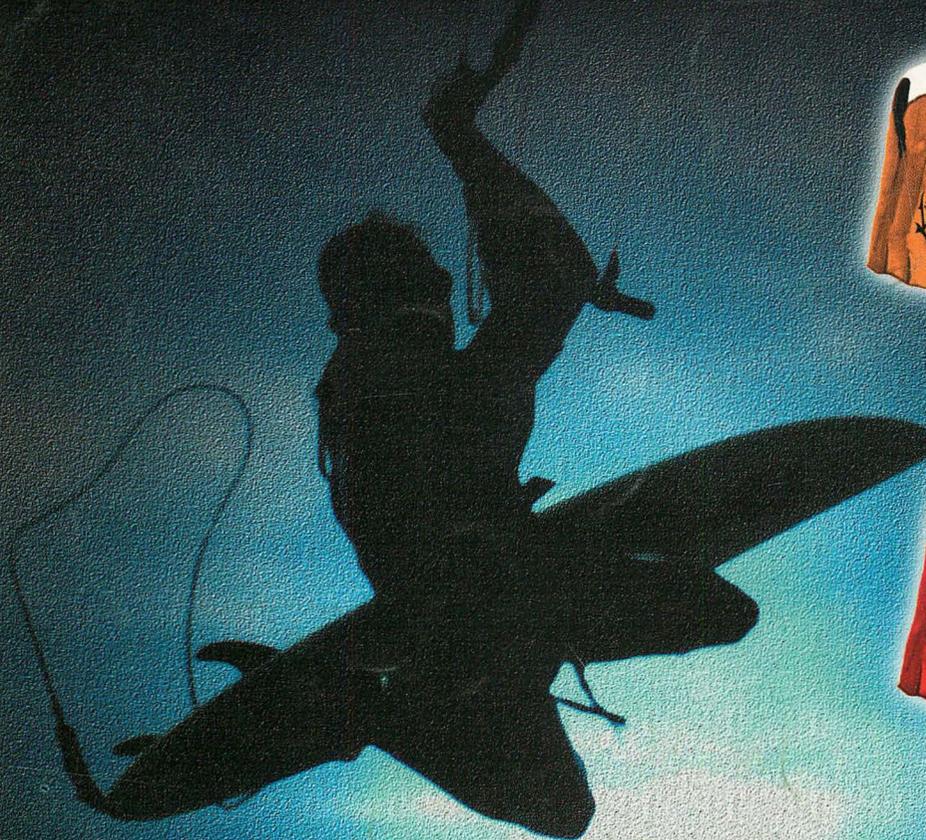
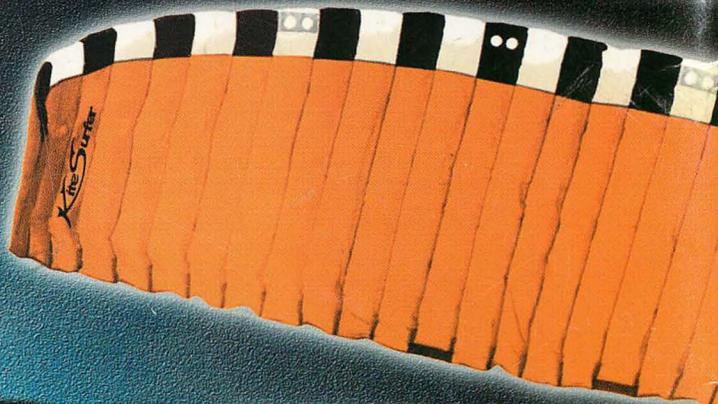
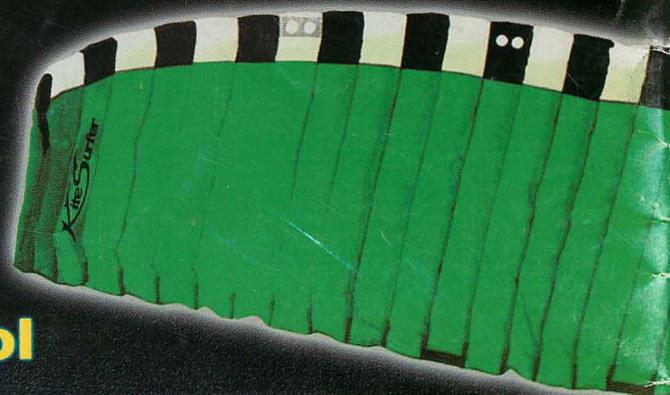
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