

May 2000  
Volume 22, Issue 3  
\$4.00

# Kiting

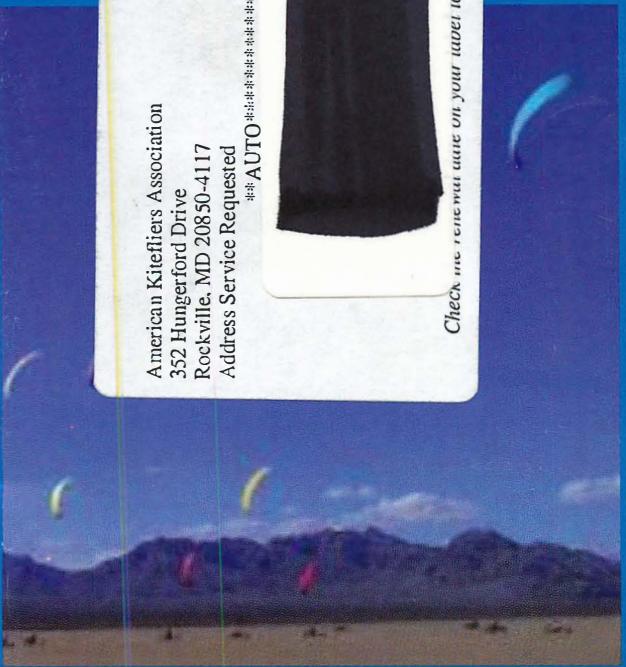
The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

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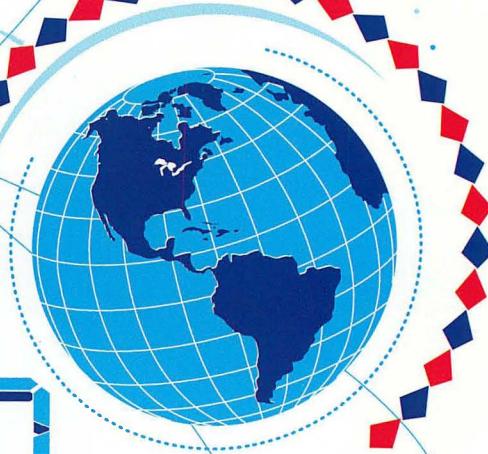
**Inside "KITING"...**

- ...Smithsonian
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- ...K-Files - Bob & Charmayne Umbowers
- ...KAPtions with Jon Traer
- ...AKA National Convention Registration

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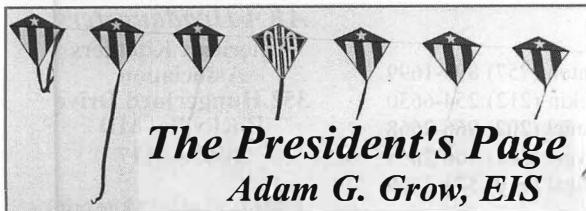
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Shipping will be done via UPS Ground. Actual shipping and handling charges will apply to all orders. If you are sending a check you can call the AKA Store for estimated shipping and handling charges.

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## In Search of Happiness

There are regular requests from our membership about why the AKA Convention is held at any one particular location and why not in their hometown? Why does it always have to be on the west coast or the east coast? And, why not have the convention at some other time of the year besides September or October? In particular, why not during the summer when their children are out of school so the whole family can attend the event? These are good questions that need documented answers. This is my attempt at it.

Let's first take a look at what the annual AKA Convention involves in terms of space needs — as a total event overall. The convention is a five-day event (Tuesday - Saturday) and does require some extra time for travel. Registration packets, along with merchandise orders, are prepared for 400-500+ people that seem to trickle in all week for this event. So, we need a dedicated room that is big enough to hold about 60 people at one time, plus all the registration materials and all the convention supplies. Auction items are also gathered during this time so we also need a room big enough to hold all the donations and it must be able to be locked, as should be the registration area.

Workshops are held every morning, usually six at a time, from 9:00 a.m. till noon. These cover topics of everything from how to fly kites to making kites, seminars for doing things better to why aren't things done my way, and lots of committee meetings on special areas of interest. In five days, there is something like 60 seminars/workshops held; some are inside and some are outside. The indoor workshops need meeting rooms big enough to hold at least 30 people each, sometimes more than 50. No fewer than four large meeting rooms are needed every morning. In the evenings there are also at least two open discussion forums that take place with space needs to seat at least 100 people in each. There is also adequate showroom space needed for three full days for the kite art gallery — and now the miniature kite gallery. Room space is also needed for the pin challenge for one evening. The Annual AKA Business Meeting requires a meeting room large enough to seat at least 300 people in a theater style. The Fly Market is held Thursday - Saturday noon and usually has 20 -30 booths (10' X 10') for merchants. This must be in addressed space that can be locked down when the Fly Market is not open for business.

The afternoons at the Convention are reserved for kite flying. After all, isn't that supposed to be one of the reasons why we go to a "kite convention?" Mass ascensions of various kites are held everyday at one o'clock. These have become the biggest pin events of the convention; more than 100 kites are entered every afternoon. This event requires one big open kite field. In years past, it has completely taken over the Festival Field, which needs to be about 800' X 400'. The Festival Field events feature every kind of kite imaginable, and some you can't. Also, impromptu kite shows and games are open to all registered attendees every afternoon. The National Kite Makers Competitions are held over two days



and requires at least a 400' X 400' field. However, in the past, this event has been hosted on the Festival Field, as have the individual and team rokkaku battles on Friday and Saturday. Fighter kites are very popular and now require a dedicated kite field, at least 300' x 300', for the many exciting fighter kite competitions and demonstrations that go on every afternoon.

Next, we have the big one — the National Sport Kite Championships. This involves dozens of invited adept sport kite flyers from all over the U.S. in the final event of the kite season. Sport kite competitions are held every afternoon and due to the multitude of ever-expanding new categories and events, some of these events start in the morning and go until late in the evening. Sport kite events require four separate fields, each about 400' x 400', and must include enough space for staging kites in and out from any direction.

Least I not forget the buggy events, this program is at least two days long and has planetary space requirements — the more the better and with as few obstructions as possible. And what is a kite festival without big kites like flow forms, an octopus or two, a giant gecko, and monster sky sweepers; even more space is needed! All of it is needed every afternoon. On a positive note, all of the field space can also be used for the night fly events without interruption.

But not all of the kiting events are held outdoors. Indoor kite flying competitions are now very popular and this requires a gymnasium size area with high ceilings. I'm almost afraid to say it, but this year in Treasure Island, there will also be kite surfing on the water. How far can we go?

And finally, the AKA has two large meal functions: the AKA Auction on Friday night and the Awards Banquet on Saturday night. Each of these features a sit-down dinner for 500+ people and requires a very large banquet room with full catering facilities.

Okay, that takes care of the convention space and the field space requirements. Now where do the conventioneers stay? Figure enough hotel space for 400 people, but most will be doubling up. If everyone stays at one location, this would be about 200 hotel rooms, more or less. The AKA Board of Directors mandates that the hotel rooms must be less than \$99 per night (tax is optional).

Ideally, the hotel, convention hall, gymnasium, and the kite fields should be adjacent to each other or at least within close walking distance. Most AKA members think the convention space and the flying fields should be free.

So, there you have it, everything at a site that the AKA needs in order to have a kite convention. Well, not everything — that is just the beginning. There is a host of other factors that must be considered when reviewing potential sites to hold the AKA Convention. This is the list which I use when reviewing a potential site (see list on page 3).

If you know of a location near you that has the space and it can score well on all of criteria above, please let me know where it is. I will make sure that someone on the Annual Meeting Committee checks it out. Because of our convention size and price range, it has been my experience that most of the cities in the U.S. which are interested in hosting the AKA Convention have populations in the 50,000- 200,000 range.

East coast, west coast, or somewhere in the middle? When I got started in the AKA, I couldn't figure out why the convention had to be on the coast, other than those areas generally have good winds in the fall. If an event is

## AKA Directory

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Founder of the American Kitefliers Association - Robert Ingraham

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

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held on either coast that means everyone has to drive or fly a long way basically in one direction to get there. That is because one side has land with people and the other side has water with no people. If the site is somewhere in the middle, then members can come to the convention from all directions. Muncie demonstrated this idea very well. It turns out the "coast only" concept was fostered in the Board of Directors by the geographical layout of the Sport Kite Commission regions. There are six sport kite regions in the U.S. and 12 AKA regions. However, no Sport Kite Commissioners vote for the Convention site location, only the AKA Regional Directors can do. The AKA By-Laws state that the Annual Convention is supposed to move around the country each year, but it doesn't say where or when. If you know of a suitable convention site in your region and would like to see it come there, contact your Regional Director and tell him/her about it. The AKA Regional Directors represent you and your best interest in kiting. Sound off and be heard! Better yet, run for the Regional Director's position.

Finally, what about the time of year? In this case the AKA By-Laws are very clear about having the annual convention during the months of September or October. In a nutshell, the main reason why the convention is held during that time is because it is the end of the season for most kiting competitions and the Grand National Championships are held at the convention. Sport Kite fliers are invited based on the total points they accumulate during the year. The point cut off is late August and invitations are sent out the first of September. If we move the convention up into the summer, we will have to cut out this competition. Also, the winds are generally more consistent during the early fall months. For most of the locations that we go to it is past their peak season, so hotel rates are cheaper. This topic was brought up at the last Annual Meeting and the membership overwhelming voted to keep the September/October dates.

Still, some of you will say these reasons are not good enough. September and October are school months and this limits the ability of families with children to attend the convention. Here are a few the dilemmas I see in doing a summer convention. Most schools end in mid-June and many start up again in mid-August. So to be absolutely fair to everyone across the country, the only time available for a summer convention when most of the children are out of school would be the 60 days between June 15 and August 15. This is the peak time for summer vacations. Most places with space large enough to accommodate the kite convention are booked with baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, golf, and swimming tournaments. How many AKA families have children involved in these sports too? At a kite convention, we would have to compete with these other activities for hotel rooms, banquet facilities, and kite flying space. Beach locations are completely out of the question because the sun bathers generally take over the beaches completely in the summer. Beach hotels charge a premium for their rooms (\$150+ per day, if you can find one.) Also, this is the hottest time of the year (90+ degrees F) for almost anywhere in the USA, and in most places I am familiar with, there is little or no wind on most days, and there are lots of bugs. Be that as it may, I am not saying it cannot be done. The AKA just has to change its priorities, modify the convention's format, and decide what events could be held and when. Better yet, why not come to the next Annual Meeting and let your ideas be heard.

Remember, this is an association of kite enthusiasts and kiting is supposed to be fun.

Adam

## THE LIST

1. Date(s) site is available.
2. Expected weather and wind conditions for a site in September /October.
3. Estimated AKA member attendance (we should expect at least 400 people to attend a convention at any site. Everything else below is dependent on that number).
4. Site Logistics:
  - distance of convention site to nearest commercial airport
  - scheduled public transportation (bus/van) availability & cost
  - rental car availability and cost
  - distance of flying field to hotels
  - distance of flying field to convention facility
  - distance of convention facility to hotels
  - bus needs, availability and cost
5. Kite field availability and suitability:
  - amount of usable flat open space
  - layouts (block, strip, unjoined fields)
  - field condition
  - alternate usage (soccer, baseball, etc.)
  - field obstructions (fences, trees, buildings, power lines, etc.)
  - permits required
  - cost for field usage
  - available services & cost (tents, toilets, garbage, music systems, electricity)
  - on-site parking
  - use restrictions
  - indoor kite flying facility availability & cost
  - water space for kiting availability
6. Host hotel:
  - quality of hotel
  - room cost/night
  - state and hotel tax %
  - number of rooms available
  - required room block # for free facilities
  - hotel parking fees
  - other area hotel availability & cost
7. Convention facility:
  - associated with hotel (yes, no)
  - number, size and cost for workshop meeting rooms
  - size and cost for general meeting space
  - size and cost for fly market space
  - size and cost for banquet facilities
8. Food service:
  - estimated cost for banquet food
  - estimated cost for box lunches
  - sufficient restaurant availability and capacity near hotel
9. Site support:
  - area community population
  - site security for AKA members
  - community support & interest in kiting
  - community assistance availability
10. AKA opportunities in area:
  - community news media and area coverage
  - local kite clubs & # active members
  - # AKA members in AKA Region
  - # AKA members within 400 miles of site
  - area population for potential new members
  - educational opportunities for AKA
  - recreation and shopping activities offered in area
11. Estimated registration cost.
12. Optional:
  - previous AKA experience with a site
  - previous AKA experience with a hotel
  - other factors (perhaps unique to a particular site)

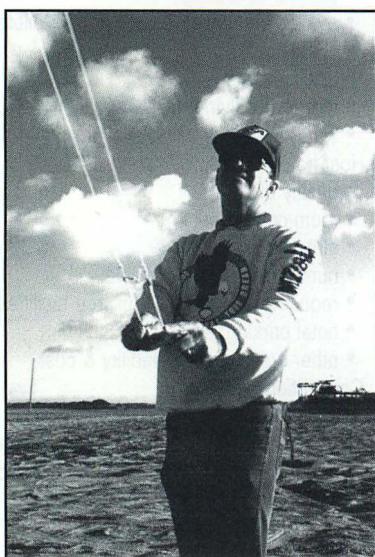
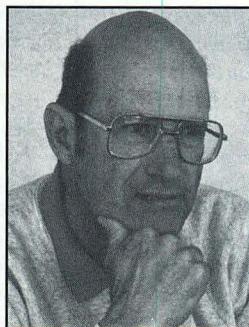
# Flight Zone

AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

## Ron Reich, Tucson, Arizona

His reputation preceded him to the east coast. He was someone who was making unusual things happen with that strange new stunt kite. When he arrived at Wildwood, New Jersey with the Top of the Line Team, he justified his reputation with new ideas that launched hundreds of dreams and he proved it with his character by touching the lives of countless individuals, patiently explaining the details of control, team flying, equipment adjustments and a myriad of other details. One of my early encounters with Ron was at Wildwood.

I was headed onto the field for my usual, indifferent routine when he walked by with a group of admirers. "Say, Ron, I'm up next. Have you got any hot tips?" He stepped toward me and looked out at the field intently. Then he turned and said, "Those are East Coast judges and they like ground touches. If you have any in your routine, really nail them." And, for me, that typifies Ron Reich. He is the complete competitor, familiar with every detail, generous with his knowledge, his advice, and his time. It was Mother's Day, 1985 at Mission Bay Park in San Diego, California when preparedness met opportunity. Ron and his wife were out for a walk when he saw four men flying a different kind of kite. They were controlling the movements of the kites and flying in synchronized formation. Ron stretched out on the grass and watched intently for more than an hour. He was fascinated by the vertical and horizontal threads and he visualized multiple patterns that would lend themselves to the



movements of the kites. When the show ended, Ron knew that he had to explore this new challenge. He didn't approach the fliers though. Predictably, Ron did his own research. He contacted numerous kite shops in the area, looking for the special kite he had seen until he found Don Tabor who was making Hawaiian Team kites in his living room. The meeting marked a significant moment in kiting history. Ron ordered a kite on the spot and returned on the day of delivery. The two walked to a nearby beach for the first lesson where Ron picked up the basics so quickly Don asked, "Are you sure you've never flown before?" Soon

Ron was back at the park; this time asking to be schooled in the principles of team flying. The student quickly became the teacher. Over the next six years, every first place trophy in the country was at risk to Ron Reich and the Top of the Line team. They planted the seeds of maneuverable kite flying from coast to coast and around the world. So exquisite were their routines that multitudes of adults were moved to tears; I am one of them. Ron is now retired from competition but still involved in kiting. His project, KIDS (Kiting Information & Demonstration Seminars), is pointed at school-aged children. The goal is to teach children how to make kites from common household materials and he is gradually pulling the information together for another book. Why does someone remain involved in kiting after they have done it all? Generosity and emotion according to Ron. He says kiting is rich in people who are generous with their time, knowledge, energy, and resources.

One person flying a single kite in a perfect sky can touch the hearts and raise the spirits of innumerable people. Any activity with such depth is surely destined to grow far beyond its present status.



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



## Membership Application

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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May / June 2000

## Executive Director Mel Hickman



## AKA MEMBERS AKA

If you have decided sanctioning is for you, there are three plans that, followed correctly, will assure that "everyone is flying in the same sky."

PLAN A - go to the website and enter the details of the event on the calendar and then ask that the event be sanctioned. Just follow the instructions.

PLAN B - Fax the sanction request form to either Jeff Cleaves (the wonderful young man who coordinates sanctioning for AKA) at 707-982-7498 or to the 800-252-2550 number at the AKA office.

PLAN C - Call Jeff (the wonderful young man who coordinates sanctioning for AKA but doesn't go skittering all over the Alps) directly at 860-223-0001 and give him the details.

And now, for the big PULEEZ! If at all possible, please get your sanctioning request in at least six weeks ahead of time. We have actually received requests after the event is over. Six weeks gives everyone plenty of time to notice your event on the calendar and for all the paper work to find its proper resting site.

### KUDOS WHERE KUDOS BELONG

I haven't given out any XDC (eXecutive Director Commendation) Awards lately, but one is definitely due for Terry Sansom. Over the last couple of years, Terry has coordinated the Kite Arch project for the annual AKA Auction. He solicits kites for the arch from kiters around the world, coordinates the actual assembly of the arch, helps fly it at the convention, and then watches as his project generates thousands of dollars of revenue at the auction.

Last year, Terry himself made fifty kites for the arch using an idea from each of the fifty state flags for the kites. A lot of work, a lot of time, a lot of support for the AKA. Thanks for all of it, Terry.

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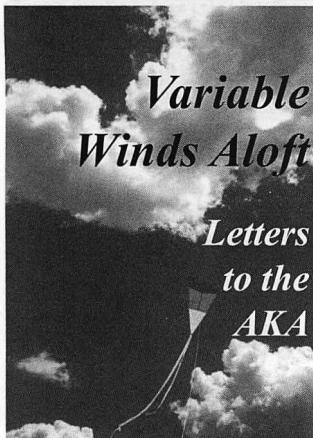
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Fellow Kite Fliers:

Do you want to promote kite flying? Do you want to promote kite flying because you believe that it is an exciting, rewarding, expressive and often a physical way to spend time with your family and friends in the great outdoors.

I believe a way to excite the youth of today is to bring kiting to each and everyone of them in a place that they spend so much time already... school. I also believe that the way to bring it to them is to excite their teachers first... for they have great influence upon their young minds. To this end I have embarked upon a mission, that mission being to create a national kite education curriculum and **I need your help**. Oh, by the way if you didn't already know, I am the new AKA Education Committee Chairman.

What I am requesting is that you compile a list of all the kite flying educators and demonstrators that are in your club or area so that they can contribute in some way to this project. Possibilities for contribution are time and energy (I know that is a big one) or by submitting information that they already use in their classroom and/or demonstrations (reference materials, favorite kite plans, lesson plans, presentations, etc.).

I would love to talk to you directly to hear your ideas on this great opportunity to promote the sport we all love.

Enclosed please find my contact information and a proposed outline.

Dave Barresi  
907 Briarwood Street  
Reidsville, NC 37320  
336-342-2829  
E-mail: [BarresiD@RCC.CC.NC.US](mailto:BarresiD@RCC.CC.NC.US)

Thank you for your time.

Dave Barresi

AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

### Dear AKA

I am proud to be a member of AKA. I believe that they are an important part of kite flying. AKA also gives all the members a hub (so to speak) that we can all come together in a unified fashion for the betterment of kite flying. It gives the sport direction and purpose. It protects its membership with sanctioned functions and insurance for those functions. It inspires the membership to reach out and do better each time we fly or participate in a kite related activity. It also gives us contacts that may be of help in our own plans or a particular club's plans.

Thank you for being there.

Ethel Fargusson  
Decatur, IL

### Greetings, all!

I used to compete regionally and nationally in the early 1990s while based in NJ, and for a while worked with editor Susan Batdorff on Stunt Kite Quarterly Magazine, writing as "Billy Bob." We're now living in NC, making art, traveling when we can, and flying kites on rather rare occasions. Having spent the last eight years together, we finally decided to get married in September of 1999! Any "oldsters" remember us? Drop a line!

Bob & Susan Hanson (nee Batdorff)  
[rhanson@cconnect.net](mailto:rhanson@cconnect.net)  
New Bern, NC

### Inaccurate Reporting

One more time—it's a great looking issue of Kiting. But hey—I can't just sit here and let Kevin get away with a slight inaccuracy.

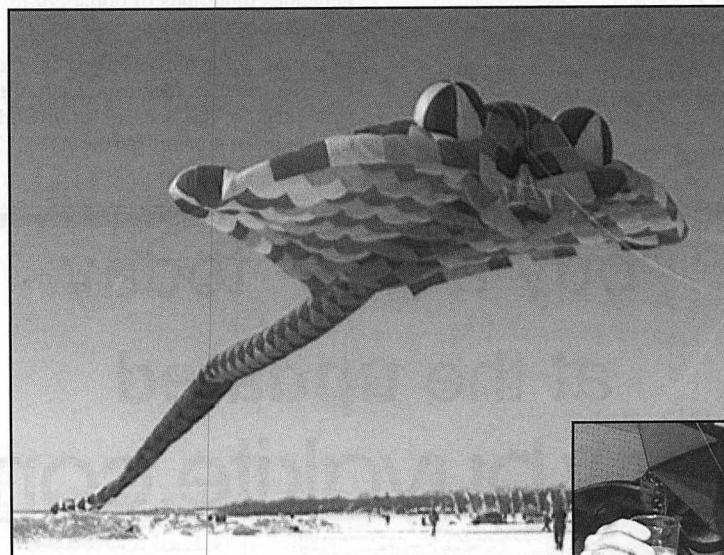
It's a good article about the Maryland Kite Retreat. And, by the way, I've wanted to attend it for several years now. But, "the first major kite making retreat of the new millennium?" I don't think so! Our Oregon Kitemakers Retreat was wonderful; eighty-four attendees, ten instructors, including Charlie Sotich, Scott Hampton, Barry Poulter (from England,) and seven other great teachers from the upper left hand corner of the country. And—three weeks before MKR. And we're not even mentioning the national poll that voted OKR's food as the best at any retreat—anywhere!

In fairness to Kevin, I'm sure it was an editing mistake made after he turned in the article. There's no doubt in my mind he originally wrote "the first major kite making retreat of the new millennium east of the Appalachian Mountains."

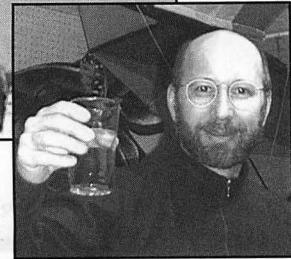
Keep up the good work people—and I sure wish I could attend the MKR!

John Freeman  
Hillsboro, OR

*What Kevin actually said was that he was the first person to report on a kite retreat in the new Millennium. -ed*



The MegaRay has landed. Yves Laforest has brought the behemoth to America. The MegaRay is the world's largest kite and was designed and built by Peter Lynn. Photos by Gary and Maggie Engvall.



MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS

*Empty Places in the Sky*

## Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon / Kite Event

In October 1999, the 2nd through the 10th, Wind Dancer Unlimited, Inc. based in Oregon, was invited to the Albuquerque, New Mexico Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. We were there to sell our products and put on a kite display. We ran some ads inviting the public to join us and have a

"Fun Fly" during this event, hoping to introduce a lot of folks to the sport of kiting. We did not expect to have a large turn out of serious kite fliers as the dates conflicted with the AKA Convention. We did however have a respectable turn out and were able to fly on four of the days of the event.

There was a 90 foot Trilobite, an Octopus and a 110 ft. Centipede in the air, as well as a 50 foot Crown. I flew a stack of 25 Trilbys, and had others fly them. There were many other kites, all shapes and sizes in the air on the days we had the wind to fly.

We considered the event to have been a success, as did the promoters. We are invited back to the 2000 event. We are hoping that it will catch on and attract a lot more kite fliers. The caller that phoned the Region 9 representative with a report of NO kite event must have been there on a NO wind day. He also reported that there was no kids kite building classes, when in fact we had four classes and gave away approximately 500 free kites to those who attended the classes. We had our own fliers on hand, as well as an internationally known manufacturer doing demonstrations and free lessons.

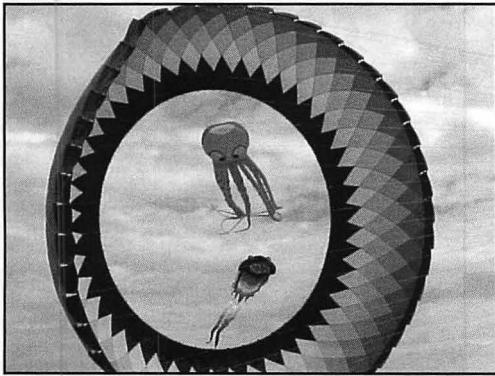
The dates for the next Albuquerque Fiesta are October 7th through the 15th. Maybe you can join us and put more kiting in New Mexico.

Best winds always,  
Bill Storey

*Kites and balloons seem to make a unique friendship around wind conditions. Thanks for the photos and update. -ed.*

*Top to Bottom:*  
*Crown, Octopus and Trilobite flying at the Fiesta. Wind Dancer Unlimited's ground display; Balloons ready for lift off in the morning; and, finally, T-Rex reigns.*  
*Photos by Wind Dancer Unltd.*

Send your comments, letters and photos to:  
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Morrisville, PA 19067  
or, send an E-mail to:  
skyfestivals@earthlink.net



## Gary Pittman

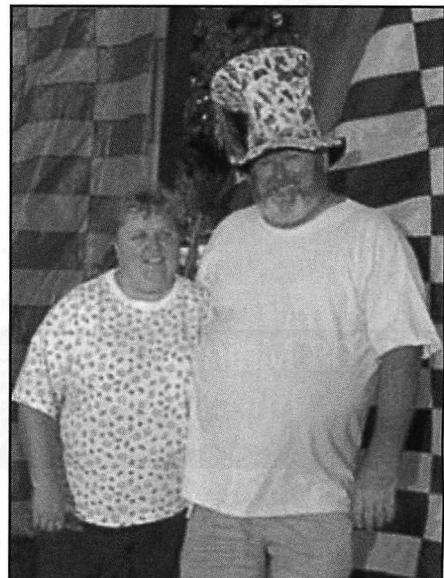
I am sad to announce that Gary Pittman passed away this past month. Gary was a pillar in the kiting community. Gary is survived by his wife, Amy, his son, Kevin, and his daughter, Amber.

I remember when Gary first got involved in kiting, and how enthusiastic he and Amy were with their new found passion. They came to Wind Wizards on a regular basis to quench their thirst for more kite knowledge.

Gary and Amy owned their own business specializing in wallpaper. They would show their clients their kites and their pictures, and even took some of them right outside to try sport kites. Gary was always eager to teach others to fly stunt kites. He would set up a "learn to fly" session at every kite event without ever being asked. For Gary, the joy of kite flying was sharing it with a new flyer. He would laugh jovially, and often had a fun hat on as he watched new flyers eyes light up as he relived his own enthusiasm through the new flyer. Gary was responsible for getting many people involved in Kiting and will be missed.

Last month the Kansas City Kite Club elected Gary Pittman to be the President. He was respected as a leader by his peers. For questions and more information on any event effected by this tragedy, please call Bill Sheridan at 816-363-2141. Please send your cards and support to: Amy Pittman, 915 Edgemere, Olathe, KS 66061.

Thanks, Chris M. Moore

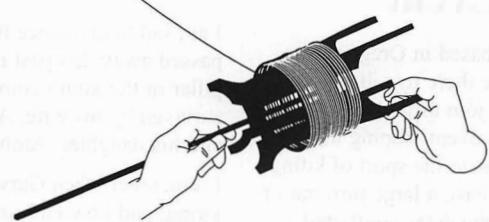


*Gary & Amy Pittman*

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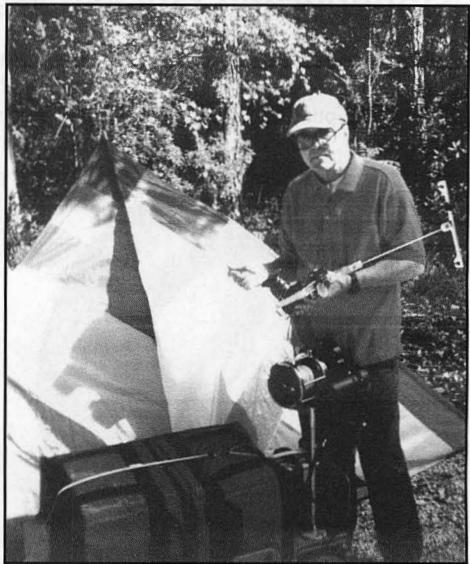
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*Kiting*

## kaptions



*Jon Traer -  
How I Got Started  
(The Hard Way)*

A little more than four years ago I'd never heard of KAP. Beginning as a child I'd often thought to myself how unique it would be to make aerial photographs using a kite, but as an adult, only once did I make the "mistake" of mentioning this thought to my wife. As a whimsical 1996 Christmas present (accompanied by the "I pity the crazy" look) she gave me a disposable camera, a small kite, kite line, and a note that said "Go for it!" With that challenge, I started secretly experimenting.... with absolutely no idea where to start. I tried attaching cameras to various kite "parts" (tail, bridals, spars). A few months and many crashes later, I had a system that at least worked. This "system" was an old, and by then, battle scarred" 35mm Kodak point and shoot camera. It was connected to a gimbal mount on the flying line of a Flowform 8. The rig required an additional line that would trip the shutter when pulled! Pulling the "shutter line" often resulted in torque that gave my early pictures very cockeyed horizons, but the images were amazingly clear, and that alone encouraged me to go further. I next moved to a wooden boxlike cradle that hung from the kite line by a pendulum. It had radio controls for shutter release and camera pans. Images were even better and most horizons level. Feeling confident that I had succeeded in meeting my wife's challenge, it was a very humiliating experience to learn that I in fact had not "invented" KAP. Perhaps worse was to learn

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*photo by Cliff Pennell*



that I was more than one hundred years behind the curve with my "invention," and that today there are literally hundreds of active KAPers around the world using much more advanced techniques and equipment than I'd developed!

Discovering other KAPers existed was a blessing. Fellow KAPers such as Steve Eisenhauer, Brooks Leffler, Craig Wilson, Chris Benton and the late Rodney Thomsen, have all answered my numerous questions. They have all generously shared ideas, sources for materials, and prior publications regarding KAP. Without the help of these KAPers, it would have taken me more than a lifetime to progress much beyond the "wooden cradle stage" I had devised on my own. Because their information sharing was so appreciated by me personally, I too plan to share with others who have an interest. My advice; don't try to reinvent the wheel...contact a KAPER if you're interested in this area. It will save you time, money, and let you enjoy aerial imaging from a kite with much less hassle!

Though still a neophyte at KAP, I have grown quite comfortable with the more refined cameras, aluminum cradles and the larger kites I currently use. While I still enjoy making improvements on cradle designs and building cradles for other KAPers, my future goal is developing my own photographic technique. The accompanying photos (above), I think, illustrate the "low-level aerial perspective" that is perhaps best captured by KAP.

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# SBBB 2000

*Spring Break Buggy Blast - Ivanpah Dry Lake*

Each spring, buggy enthusiasts head to the dry lakes of Nevada and California for the annual Spring Break Buggy Blast. This year the largest group of pilots assembled to date, with over 120 registering. Above, 68 pilots answered the horn for the start of the 50 mile, 20 lap Enuro Race. After 2 hours and 40 minutes off race competition, Johan Versloot of the Netherlands crossed the finish line first (below). Fran Gramkowski, SBBB organizer, prepares registration with help from sailing partners Dave and Patty Town of New Jersey. The tent was a big help given the unusual rains at this years event.

Photos by Bob Hogan.



Nop Velthuizen from Holland brought his Bean kites and hi-tech buggy to the desert. The buggy features independent rear suspension and leading link Springer front end (shown on the lower left). Jon Matteson from Kent, Washington brought this Libre buggy home with him. You can see the contrast in designs when placed next to his Peter Lynn Competition buggy, still the best all around freestyle ride of choice for many. With more weight forward, and a wider wheelbase, the stability at high speed in the Libre converts many. Peter Lynn has a similar frame design which is very stable, however the seat in the Libre is more comfortable. Photos and notes by Steve Irby.

# Spring Break Buggy Blast

Ivanpah & Roach Dry Lakes, Primm Nevada

## Circuit Race Results

Sunday, March 12, 2000

1 Matt Hurrell	
2 Steve Bateman	
3 Dean Jordan	
4 Eddy Petranek	
5 Luk Stanek	
6 Troy Gunn	
7 Joao Carlos Riberiro	
8 Steve Kent	
9 Francisco Galamba	

## Endurance Race Results

Friday, March 10, 2000

1 Johan Versluit	20 laps
2 Eddy Petranek	20 laps
3 John Beun	20 laps
4 Alp Yuecel	20 laps
5 Marc Bregman	20 laps
6 Rolan Fellieter	20 laps
7 Luk Stanek	19 laps
8 Alviro Chifflet	18 laps
9 Dana Dumond	18 laps
10 Steve Bateman	18 laps
11 Jurgen Haesen	18 laps
12 Bernd Wyss	17 laps
13 Ute Nissen	17 laps
14 Bob Childs	17 laps
15 Garry Box	16 laps
16 Dave Dyer	16 laps
17 Nop Velthuizen	16 laps
18 Rolf Schafer	16 laps
19 Troy Gunn	16 laps
20 Larry Stiles	16 laps
21 Mark Fraiser	16 laps
22 Randy Okert	16 laps
23 Bruce Kenkel	16 laps
24 Steve Kent	15 laps
25 Claxton Thompson	14 laps
26 Cal Yuen	13 laps
27 Richard Liu	13 laps
28 Tim Cleveland	13 laps
29 Martin Blais	13 laps
30 John Ruggiero	13 laps
31 Frank Keller	12 laps
32 Marchel Voogd	12 laps
33 Tim Suby	11 laps
34 Claudia Costa	11 laps
35 Torsten Gramm	11 laps
36 Joao Carlos Riberiro	11 laps
37 Chris Shultz	11 laps
38 Robert Cembalest	11 laps
39 Brett Kilekas	11 laps
40 Michel Feteris	11 laps
41 Dean Jordan	10 laps
42 Peter B. Hugger	10 laps
43 Kevin Lee	8 laps
44 Eric Brackenbury	8 laps
45 John Matteson	7 laps

## Hello, Phone Booth

By Dave & Sherrie Arnold

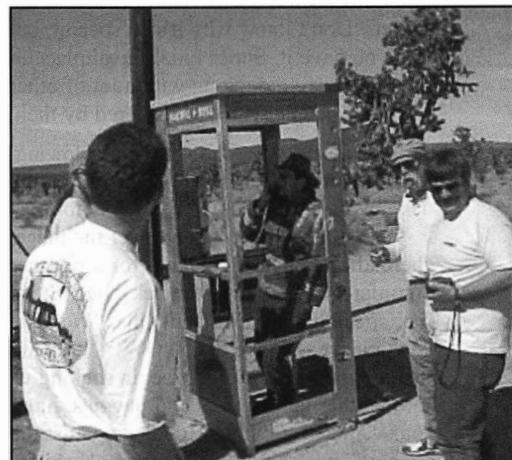
When it rains in the desert, you find diversions. This year at the Spring Break Buggy Blast in Primm, Nevada, a few rainy days gave us the opportunity to take some side trips. One of those was a trip to the Mojave Desert Phone Booth.

Two questions:

- 1 - Why is there a phone booth in the desert?
- 2 - Why would you want to go there?

Back in the fall, we saw a story about the phone booth on the NBC Nightly News. They told the story of the lonely phone booth in the Mojave National Preserve that had once served a mining operation. The mine was abandoned many years ago, but the phone booth remained. A worldwide grass roots campaign to get people to call the booth generated the interest.

From the news story, we knew it was somewhere between the dry lakebeds of El Mirage in California and Lake Ivanpah in Nevada. A little internet research resulted in GPS coordinates, a high-resolution aerial photo, and very vague directions to the booth.



*Hello, Hello - Is there anybody out there?  
The line builds at the booth.*

Fast forward to Ivanpah - rain drops on the ground, and we are off to see the wizard in the booth. A couple of misguided turns and a helpful Park Service Ranger with a really good map (those really help!), and we were at the booth. The 4 wheel drive SUV we were in proved useful, but a Crown Victoria made the off road trip as well (read 'sand yacht' Captain John Tavolacci and First Mate Eileen).

The phone booth was as described; no glass, messages all over, and in the middle of nowhere (12 miles off the paved road with many stops for cows). It was so much fun the first time, we didn't hesitate when buggier Freeman Register and sidekick Dean Jordan begged us to take them.

Much easier to find this time! In two

separate trips to the booth, we logged over 80 calls from around the U.S. and the world. Many calls were from France due to a recently published article; they wanted to know how big the phone "cabin" really was.

As with most legends, all details aren't clear and the journey is part of the mystique. Next time you are at a kite event, maybe there will be a "phone booth" near you.

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## Traction Kiting

### ...on a roll

by Dean Jordan

As kitesurfing continues to grow, spurring all kinds of growth in new kite designs, I find myself increasingly thankful for that wonder of wonders, the kite buggy. Maybe it's just me, but there is something to be said for being able to throw your whole kit in a bag, hop in the car, or on a plane, and arrive somewhere where the wind is blowing and roll, roll, roll.

After flying via Newark (I live in Florida, remember), Freeman Register and I finally ended up in Las Vegas. Our flight was delayed, and somehow we had rented a car from an off airport location, which by the time we got there, was closed. No matter, with the absolute maximum allowable amount of baggage, we were met by Claxton Thompson from Oldsmar, Florida. Claxton, who builds his own buggy and had found a way to travel with even more luggage than either of us, rented a Ford Ranger which was already full.

Somehow, with the use of kite line and bungies we managed to get all of our gear in or on the vehicle. Whew! We didn't have a room reservation but thought that we wouldn't need one. Oops! Every motel from there to Baker was booked. We rode down to Primm (Roach Dry Lake) and camped for the night.

The next morning we had to go back to the city and get our car. "A brand new Ford Focus for you Mr. Jordan and Mr. Register." "Thank

you, Enterprise." For some reason the southern coast of California was getting an above average amount of rain, so much it was getting far enough inland to reach the desert dry lakes. We eyed the dark sky as we headed off to El Mirage at last. Time to get serious.

El Mirage Dry Lake. When we left Florida, it was closed from the above average rain in the area. It looked strange with large dark areas that might have meant moisture, but we saw the Rangers right away, and they assured us that it was mostly dry, but warned us to avoid any wet areas. We asked them if they'd seen the kite flyers, and they said, "they're in the usual spot." We drive over to Walt's Cove and heard the news that Jeff Howard had broken his wrist in an accident that did not involve a kite. Too bad.

We set out to build our stuff while trying to figure out what the weather was going to do. The general consensus is it is not going to rain tonight, but WILL rain on Sunday. Bummer! Looks like the Ecco Beer Challenge is scratched. Uncertain weather and the champ and co-organizer being hurt, has brought the level down a bit here. But wait! The wind arrives just as we get our buggies together.

This year I'm using a custom widened, but standard length, Peter Lynn comp buggy. Sweet. Not picking the wind speed correctly in my over-enthusiastic state, I pull out a 5m 2005 and take off. POW, over 40mph! Yikes! I've got to slow down! Grab a C-2 and BAP, I hit 40 again. Finally, I get out a C-1 which I pretty much stick with for the rest of the afternoon. El Mirage. Heaven on earth for the buggier. Don't know why it's so special, but there you have it. Super Fine! Great place to camp, which we did, along with a lot of other people who had gathered by then.

Sunday. We woke up, the wind was blowing, and barely had coffee before I was out on the lake bed again. The day went way too fast with clouds like crazy all over the place, when, after gathering together for a weather conference in Eddy Petranek's bus, Steve Kent sticks his head in, and yells, "We have to leave the lake bed, NOW!" Rushing outside, giant drops of rain begin soaking us as we gather up our kites and buggies, jump in our vehicles and bolt. Huddled against the far "shore" we tried to make a plan. Head for Baker? Some say yes, others are undecided. It's still raining. After a late lunch, some of us head up toward Death Valley to look at Silver Dry Lake. It is breathtaking. It is maybe six miles long and several miles wide, with parts going right up to some small mountains. It looks smooth, and also very wet.

Back at El Mirage, some of the group have parked by the side of the road overlooking the lake. Corey drives away. I convince Steve Kent and Steve

Bateman to come with us up the road. We climb a long incline up over a rise where we see a startling vista from another world, a world of grand vistas so different from the south where I usually travel. Wide open grey sky with, would you believe it, a rainbow! Ahhh, we all sigh. Hey, what's that at the end of the rainbow? As we draw closer, what looks like a ghost town, appears way out there on the playa. Leaving the road behind, we realize we've found another dry lake, smaller, but gasp, dry! As we drive up to this little

Mexican villa, we realize it's not raining, and this would be a great place to buggy. Hey, but

what the heck is this place? Strange, too perfect, picture perfect in fact, all of us doing the theme for twilight zone, when it hits us all at once. Movie Set! Typical day in the life for your average kite buggy travelin' man.

About this time, we spot the Coreylama's van. We all are excited at our good fortune of meeting again, drag our buggy gear out, and off we go. For some reason, this mountain right next to Solaro on the west, blocked off the weather leaving us windy and dry! How do we do it? We all buggy'd till dark, and got a close up look at the little village in the middle of nowhere built just for us. Heavy sigh as we all pile into the travel trailer and crack open some cold ones. It wasn't long before we were all huddled in our sleeping bags dreaming of windy days.

Monday. Wake up early, coffee, sunrise, wind. There we were, the four of us. Steve Bateman and Corey Jensen departed in the night. Can't believe our good fortune as we get our gear together and take off for an adventure. The winds are up and down, so we didn't stray too far from camp. Meanwhile, we have to check out the village in the middle of nowhere.

There were people there now, and it looked like they were tearing it down. We find out it is a set for the movie 'Mr. T and the Girls' being directed by Robert Altman in current production. Pretty cool we think.

It's time to head for Ivanpah and take back our lake. After a leisurely trip over the mountains we arrive. The weather is not looking good and we don't see that many kites. We run into Fran right away, and then Dave and Sherrie Arnold who were glad to see us.

## Spring Break Buggy Blast and more...

The Challenge 2000 Parakart World Cup buggy event is taking place. We're glad to see all the new faces at our second buggy nirvana.

Not much is going on, so we go to our hotel and then off to the Hanging Tree to find out beer has gone up! It now cost \$.75 for a draft beer and \$2.00 for imports! Outrageous!

Tuesday. The next day winds are light, but they finally come up enough for the Europeans to run their races. They have two. At first I was thrilled to watch them, as I've never seen

a buggy race before, having always been in each one I've ever been to. Lots and lots of racers, women, too. They all line up, the race starts and they take off on a long cross wind reach, then way far away they start back on a slight upwind reach, then pretty soon they're on another downwind reach, and at the start-finish line (the only hard corner) they change direction slightly and go cross wind again.

The races last 20 minutes.

The buggys they use look real cool. They are low, long, and black. They look more racey than ours, as they usually carry a number on the side, which looks lots more

official than the little dinky numbers we use. They go real fast, too. All in all, it looked like they were having a real good time. I'm hopeful next year we can join forces for some more racing action.

Wednesday. Back to the Ivanpah. We see it's rained hard everywhere. The lake looks deserted, but when we drive out there it's dry.

Fran Gramkowski, our esteemed Godfather, has got the place well organized with a giant tent, several white boards, tables, chairs, piles of t-shirts, stickers, and almost everything else you need to have a great event. Currently the 800 square foot tent is filled with buggies.

We take this time to check out the Libre buggies and other esoteric craft. Long, wide and low. Lots of mass. Some people have taken to carrying a piece of PVC pipe over their rear axle that they fill with sand!

We check out some home built buggies and see that on Martin Blais' (Albuquerque, NM) buggy, he has embroidered SBBB 2000 in his seat back cover. Pretty sharp! Almost everyone has left though, and it is cold and still rainy, so we decide to call it a day.

Thursday. The weather people have predicted high winds. Fran adjusts the schedule to have the Enduro today. Meeting at noon, race at 13:00. What a fantastic crowd! I've never seen so many new faces or racers in one place. It is a fantastic showing, and everyone eager to get going. The wind, however has other things in mind. In the end we start the race, but Fran calls it after only one person manages to make a lap. We could not get any wind. We all hung around waiting, but it didn't come. After a while, the wind did come up, and pretty good. I was flying my C-2 on short lines and hitting 40 mph pretty good. In the end, we sailed until dark.

Friday. This was the day we were going to try to have the Enduro race, and the race meeting was scheduled for noon. We have a rule that says you are disqualified if you don't attend. Somehow or another we make it for the race meeting. The wind is sporadic, but Fran is going to go ahead and have a 13:30 start time.

The race starts with 68 pilots. I flew a C-2 on short lines anticipating the high desert winds that my years of desert experience told me were going to come. For some reason I could not figure out, I could not get moving. I cranked that kite up and down, back and forth. I was left in the dust. I hadn't even gotten to the first marker when people begin to lap me. Larry Stiles from Oklahoma zipped right by me flying the same kind of kite. I kept smelling rubber. Hmmm. I realized that somehow or another, the front wheel was not turning freely. After what seemed like forever,

to the pits. Meanwhile, the real racers fly by.

Johan Verslois from the Netherlands was just so dang fast flying a 4.2 C-Quad, and riding his stretched and modified PL comp. Close behind was my teammate Eddy Petranek from Idaho, flying an XL, and really carrying some speed. As usual, Marc Bregman from the Netherlands was right in there on his Libre buggy, flying a very sweet looking Libre 5 meter. I don't know how many times these guys passed me, but I was really getting tired of it, that's for sure. Finally, after some 2 hours and 40 minutes, Johan won and blessedly, the race was over.

This is my fourth year racing in the Enduro, and I've only managed to actually finish, well, once. It is a grueling race where anything can happen. It is a test of merit and anyone can say that finishing is truly an accomplishment.

Well once again, I've managed to write more than there is space to fill. I want to tell you about the circuit racing, which was very exciting, but you'll have to get that off the web page. I want to mention that Fran has bought the domain name and we will be using the page for all sorts of buggy news, etc., so check there often.

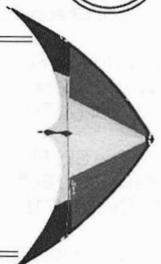
## <http://sbbb.net>

I made it into the pits. My trusty pit crew, headed by Rick Kinnaird, flew into action. We changed out my front end and off I went. Or so I thought. Now something was wrong with this front tire. I'd put new skins on all my stuff so I'd have spares, since I know how grueling this race can be, but something was wrong with my valve stem. It was hitting the front fork. I was afraid that it would break and I'd be left on the far side of the track with no spare. Back to the pit. Tire change. Now we have the spacers in wrong, have to come back

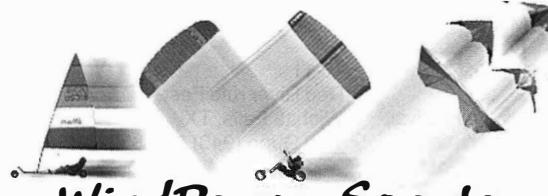
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# KITEVENTS

## MAY

19-21  
White Rock Kite Fest  
White Rock, NM.  
Sam Pedregon (719) 545-5619

20  
Great Boston Kite Festival  
Boston, MA  
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

South Winds Kite Festival  
Hammonassett State Park,  
Madison, CT  
Dave Lombard (860) 344-6200

Feathers 'n Flight  
French Regional Park  
Plymouth, MN  
Paul Koepke (612) 729-7675

BASKL at Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA  
(925) 829-0683

Bubbles, Bikes & Kites  
Krull Park, Olcott, NY  
Mike Decker (716) 834-2879

20 - 21  
Texas State Kite Fest  
Rockport Beach, TX  
Sammy Williams (512) 729-2780

World Kite Museum workshop  
Wings With Wow - Deborah Cooley  
(360) 642-4020

Applewood Little 500  
Applewood Center, Anderson, IN  
Dewayne Sheppard (765) 643-1253

Camp Hill Kite Festival  
Keystone Kiters, Camp Hill, PA  
Todd Little (717) 975-2852

Paint The Sky Fly  
LaSalle Park, Buffalo, NY  
Mike Decker (716) 834-2879

Washington Kitefliers Association  
Herb Andrews (253) 627-1653

26-29  
Junction "2000" Kite Makers  
Gathering, Junction, TX  
Judy Kingery (915) 692-5927

Wildwood International Kite Festival,  
East Coast Stunt Kite Championships,  
Wild Wheels Buggy Blast,  
World Indoor Kite Competition, and  
the Great Miniature Kite Contest  
sponsored by Drachen  
Wildwood, NJ  
Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715

NWBPA Spring Buggy Blitz  
Alvord Desert, Fields, OR  
Mike Eason (425) 334-0362

San Ramon Wind Festival  
San Ramon, CA  
(925) 829-0683

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

## JUNE

1  
Anchorage 2000 Kite Festival  
Anchorage, AK  
Pat Jensen (907) 270-4386

1 - 4  
Buggy Boogie Spring Thang  
El Mirage Dry Lake, Adelanto, CA  
Corey Jensen (702) 255-0570

2 - 4  
Aerospace America Airshow  
Oklahoma City, OK  
David Burns (405) 722-2818

Twisted Lines Kite Festival  
Topeka, KS  
Bob Homan (785) 273-3715

3  
Jamestown Kite Fly  
Jamestown, ND  
Mike Gee (701) 252-5611

National Trails Day  
Southington, CT  
Gary Engvall (401) 942-3606

Children's Festival  
Hyde Park, Niagara Falls, NY  
Mike Decker (716) 834-2879

3 - 4  
Sky Circus  
Schaumburg, IL  
Alan Sparling (630) 369-9682

Transportation Day  
Evansville Museum of Arts &  
Sciences  
Dan Johnson (812) 845-2927

Ocean Shores International Kite  
Challenge, Ocean Shores, WA  
Mary Bos (360) 289-0667

9 - 11  
Boston Area Stunt Kite  
Championships, Carson Beach, MA  
Eric Babilewicz (401) 647-2146

10-11  
Red River Kite Fest  
Wichita Falls, TX  
Troy Gunn (940) 691-8522

AMA Hobby Expo  
Muncie, IN  
Dewayne Sheppard (765) 643-1253

11  
Red, White & Blue Fly  
Waterford, CT  
Dave Lombard (203) 732-5243

16 - 17  
Relay for Life Benefit & Night Fly  
Anderson, IN  
Dewayne Sheppard (765) 643-1253

17  
KONE Pigs Can Fly  
Colt State Park, Bristol, RI  
Ralph Reed (978) 937-8290

17 - 18  
3rd Annual Angel Fire Kite Festival  
Angel Fire, NM  
Sam Pedregon (719) 545-5619

Ohio Games  
Bowling Green, OH  
Wings on the Wind

World Kite Museum workshop  
Marbling Kites - Georange Curran  
(360) 642-4020

18  
Summer Solstice / Father's Day Fly  
White Bear Lake, MN  
Brad Klages (612) 866-9055

Annual Father's Day Fly  
Niagara Falls, NY  
Mike Decker (716) 834-2879

24  
Wheels, Wings & Water  
Whitney Park, St. Cloud, MN  
Mike Nelson (320) 866-9055

24 - 25  
Old Dominion Stunt Kite Championships, Richmond, VA  
Terry Murray (804) 328-0742

Northwest Stunt Kite Championships, Long Beach, WA  
Genny Forsberg (503) 357-7557

Kite Fair - 25th Annual Kaposia  
Days Festival, St. Paul, MN  
Joseph Miller (651) 455-4595

## JULY

1-2  
Libertyfest Kite Fest  
Edmond, OK (Lake Arcadia)  
David Burns (405) 722-2818

KONE Red White & Blue  
Lynn, MA

4  
Stunt Kite Festival  
Blaine, MN  
Rosedale Air Traffic (651) 631-3150

7- 9  
Newport 2000 Kite Festival  
Newport, RI  
Steve Santos (401) 658-0649

Windrider Kite Festival/Stunt Kite  
Championships  
Grayland Beach, WA  
Barry Crites (360) 491-8605

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

8  
Long Beach Sport Kite Classic  
Long Beach, CA  
(626) 282-5142

9  
Jetty Island Kite Fly  
Everett, WA  
Four Winds Shop (425) 339-9334

Andover Family Funfest  
Andover, MN  
Nancy DeSteno (763) 434-0931

15  
Cambridge Fun Fly (MKS)  
Cambridge, MN  
Brad Klages (612) 866-9055

15 - 21  
World Sport Kite Championships  
Langkawi, Malaysia  
Richard Dermer (405) 372-6127

South County Balloon Festival  
Kingston, RI  
Forrest Cary (401) 789-4503

16  
Dave DeBolt Memorial Kite Fly  
Parker City, IN  
Dewayne Sheppard (765) 643-1253

30  
Everett Kite Festival  
Naval Station, Everett, WA

## AUGUST

5  
KONE Summer Blowout  
Lynn, MA

Flying Colors Kite Festival (MKS)  
Maplewood, MN  
Paul Koepke (952) 833-5085

11 - 13  
Oklahoma City Balloon-Kite Festival  
Oklahoma City, OK  
David Burns (405) 722-2818

Summer Heat Hot-Air Balloon  
Festival, Muncie, IN  
Michelle McCallister (765) 284-2700

19  
NYKE Great Northern Balloon Fest  
Grenville, NY  
Jeremy Johannessen (518) 437-0404

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.

May / June 2000

21 - 27  
Washington State International Kite Festival  
Long Beach, WA

26  
Bloomington Back To School Fly  
Bloomington, IN (812) 336-3543

## SEPTEMBER

1 - 3  
Wright Patterson AFB Museum Kite Festival,  
Dayton, OH, Mike Bragg (765) 453-2977

2  
Golden Gate Challenge  
Ocean Beach, San Francisco, CA

Stacked Kite Megafly  
Lynn, WA

9  
ConnectKiters Against the Night Fly  
West Haven, CT

Westlake Fall Fun Fly  
Lahoma, OK (580) 796-2359

Preston Chili Cook-off, Quilt Show & Kite Fly  
Pasco, WA, Marleen Zilar (509) 627-6404

Southwestern Bell Plano Balloon Fest  
Plano, TX, Troy Gunn (940) 691-8522

9 - 10  
Cleveland Kite Festival  
Edgewater Park, Cleveland, OH  
Harry Gregory (330) 274-2818

Mill Run Kite Festival & Picnic  
Hillard, OH - Forest Alexander (614) 876-4573

10  
SCI-FI  
Greenbanks Winery, Whidby Island, WA  
Four Winds (425) 339-9334

16  
Merritt Beck Kite Reunion  
Daleville, IN  
Dewayne Sheppard (765) 643-1253

16 - 17  
Kites Over Burlington  
Burlington, IA - Phil Broder (319) 753-3436

23  
3M Harvest Fly  
Hartford City, IN  
Dick Claycomb (765) 348-3711

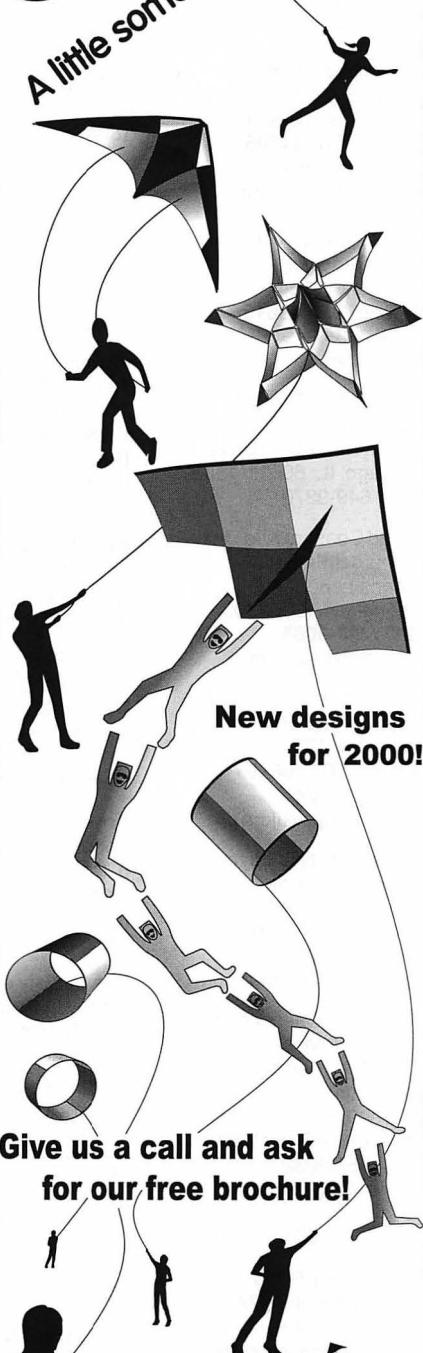
29 - October 1  
Sunfest  
Ocean City, MD - Kite Loft (410) 289-7855

30  
Kokomo Fun Fly & Cookout  
Kokomo, IN, Mike Bragg (765) 453-2977

ph(206)632-6151

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# 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	Gateway Kite Club Kim Schenken 8606 Ardelia Avenue St. Louis, MO 63114 (314)429-4182	Lehigh Valley Kite Society Joyce Quinn 16 West 3rd Street Bethlehem, PA 18015 (610) 332-5857 curlylvks@aol.com	Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites (OSEK) Harry Gregory 10228 Winthrop Rd. Streetsboro, OH 44241 (330) 274-2818 flyinfre@apk.net	The Alamo Kiteflyers Outfit (TAKO) Leona Clark 1348 Timberwood Trail New Braunfels, TX 78132 (210) 609-2002
Associated Oregon Kitefliers Steve O'Brien PO Box 25616 Portland, OR 97298 (541) 935-5408 obrien@presys.com	Great Lakes Kitefliers Society (Mike Decker) PO Box 331 Buffalo, NY 14205-0331 (716) 834-2879 glks1@aol.com	Lilac City Wind Chasers Bill Lester 3524 W. Kiernan Spokane, WA 99205-2138 blester@ix.netcom.com	Pierce County Kitefliers c/o Mainframe Kite Shop 3340 East 11th Street Tacoma, WA 98421 (253) 927-8779 CBAKites@webtv.net	Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub (Claxton A. Thompson) 1916 Castle Bay Court Oldsmar, FL 34677 (813) 891-0301 cthompson@techforce.com
Bay Area Sport Kite League Chuck Sigal 643 Jackson Street Albany, CA 94706 (510) 524-3459 baskl@skinner.com	Hawaii Kiteflyers Association Brian Hirose PO Box 11722 Honolulu, HI 96828 (808) 732-6249 hiroseb@hawaii.rr.com	Maryland Kite Society Joe Whitmore 3626 Robin Air Court Pasadena, MD 21122 (410) 437-0554 marylandkites@hotmail.com	Prairie Winds Kite Club Wayne Patton P. O. Box 29775 Lincoln, NE 68529 (402) 438-0807	Tulsa WindRiders Collette Lemons P.O. Box 562 Glenpool, OK 74033 (918) 322-9630 rokman@sprintmail.com
Black Swamp Air Force Terry Gerweck P.O. Box 13334 Toledo, OH 43613 (734) 243-0919 tlg@tdi.net	Hoosier Kitefliers Society Michael Bragg PO Box 6881 Kokomo, IN 46904-6881 (765) 453-2977 pratt4@gateway.net	Mid-Michigan Kite Club John Davis 5241 E. Coldwater Rd., #227 Flint, MI 48506 (810) 736-4037 kitewiz289@aol.com	Richmond Air Force Charles Stonestreet 3646 Grovewood Road Richmond, VA 23234 (804) 271-4433 rafl@aol.com	Washington Kitefliers Association Pacific Science Center 200 2nd Ave N Seattle, WA 98109 Rob Pratt (360) 956-1513 robcp@worlhet.att.net
Chicagoland Sky Liners Nelson Borelli 910 N. Lakeshore Drive Chicago, IL 60611-1533 (312) 649-9270	Jewels Of The Sky Kiters Assn. (JOTS) Dick Bell 1520 Amazon Plano, TX 75075 (972) 423-3630 dickbell@netcom.com	Mid-Michigan String Stretchers (M2S2) Ken Blain 349 Springgreen Ada, MI 49301 (616) 676-5980 spaciouskky@grgig.net	Rogue Valley Windchasers Archie Clay 220 Dunlop Lane Grants Pass, OR 97527 (541) 862-2258 archie@cpros.com	Westport Windriders Creda Axton (360) 491-3229 4004 Wiggins Road SE Olympia, WA 98501 aderc@msn.com
Cloud Chasers Kite Club Richard Brumleve 3 Anna Lane Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 787-8065 rsbgolfer@aol.com	Kansas City Kite Club Chris Moore 10900 N. Kenwood Kansas City, MO 64155 (816) 734-4003	Midwest Winds Kitefliers Club (Todd Petrick) PO Box 3770 Omaha, NE 68103-0770 (402) 551-3372 dubl2ee@aol.com	Route 66 Kite Club Thomas M. Manson 4422 W. El Camino Drive Glendale, AZ 85302 (480) 891-8042 Thomas.Manson@ARZ.boeing.com	Wichita Windjammers Kite Club / Mark Monroe 120 N. Hillside Wichita, KS 67214 (316) 945-0516
Connectikiters Dave Lombard P. O. Box 270 Ansonia, CT 06401 (203) 732-5243 info@connectikiters.org	Kazoo Stringfellows John Cosby PO Box 2241 Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2241 (616) 345-5432 elainejohncosby@yahoo.com	Minnesota Kite Society PO Box 580016 Minneapolis, MN 55458	San Diego Kite Club Roger A. McComb PO Box 7977 San Diego, CA 92167 (858) 858-3461	Wind Dancers Gloria Harmon Rt 3, Box 86A Waxahachie, TX 75167 (972) 938-3954
Crescent City Kiteflyers Sandra M. Harris 1813 Edinburgh Street Metairie, LA 70001 (504) 835-0280 marshallsr@hotmail.com	Keystone Kiters Todd Little 832 Meadow Lane Camp Hill, PA 17011 (717) 939-5222 kites@paonline.com	New York Kite Enthusiasts Jeremy Johannesen 2 Maple Avenue Albany, NY 12208 (518) 437-0404 nykiters@yahoo.com	Sky Pilots Kite Club Carl Leisey 640 Fairmount Avenue Wernersville, PA 19565 (610) 678-4661 spkc4u@aol.com	Wind Rhythm Kite Club Bob Webb (712) 546-8050 921 1st Avenue SE LeMars, IA 51031
Federation Quebecoise Du Cerf-Volant 4545 Ave. Pierre-de-Coubertin CP1000, Succursale M Montreal, PQ H1V3R2 (514) 252-2032 cerfvol@fqjv.qc.ca	Kite Society of Wisconsin Jeffrey C. Kataoka 2266 N. Prospect Ave, #501 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 962-6336	North Coast Sky Painters Rich Miller P. O. Box 2336 Aberdeen, WA 98520-0381 crabble@olyinet.com	South Jersey Kite Flyers Michael Dallmer P.O. Box 32 Collingswood, NJ 08108 (215) 722-4092 sjkf@geocities.com	Wind Weavers Judy Kingery (915) 692-5927 1118 Barrow Abilene, TX 79605
Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club Paul Shirey 235 Jolly Hill Road Natrona Heights, PA 15065 (724) 295-0645 aerostar@nauticom.net	Kites Over New England Bob Hogan 156 Carver Road Plymouth, MA 02360 (978) 256-8205 info@kone.org	Northern California Kite Club Derrol Hammer 148 Eureka Way Tracy, CA 95376 (209) 835-6478 hammer1@11n1.gov	Southern Oregon Aire Riders Mike Godfrey P.O. Box 390 Gold Hill, OR 97525 (541) 855-9359	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/~wackites/index.html
Foothills Kite Club Donald Nash 7035 W. 32nd Place Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 (303) 205-9020 kitedaddy@hotmail.com	Las Vegas Kite Club 3111 S. Valley View A-116 Las Vegas, NV 89102 (702) 458-7536	Northwest Buggy Pilots Assn. Morrie & Kelci Williams P.O. Box 1358 Westport, WA 98595-1358 (360) 268-0318 williams@techline.com	Susquehanna River Rats Bryan Janis 29 Cool Creek Manor Drive Wrightsville, PA 17368 (717) 252-0835 suskiteco@cplx.net	Wings Over Washington (WOW) c/o Dennis Hawley 2805 Hunter Mill Road Oakton, VA 22124 kitesrus2@aol.com 301-776-9004.
	Lavender Winds Brian Bradley 2234 Santa Maria Dr. Pittsburg, CA 94565 (510) 797-6997 kitebear@aol.com			Wisconsin Kiters Bob Rymaszewski 10615 West Greenwood Tr. Milwaukee, WI 53224 (414) 329-9825

## Monthly Scheduled Club Activities - Flys

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)  
May 2, June 6, July 11

Kites Over New England  
1st Saturday of the month, all year  
Nahant Causeway, Lynn, MA  
September through May -  
1st Saturday of the month Indoor fly,  
Marblehead High Gym, 6-9pm  
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 '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)  
Clubfly following Sunday  
Randy Fox (402) 330-7271

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

Northwest Buggy Pilots Association  
4th Saturday every month at  
Wash-Away Beach, Grayland, WA.  
Morrie Williams (360) 268-0318

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

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

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

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

South Jersey Kite Flyers  
2nd Sunday of the month  
Gloucester County College  
Mike Dallmer - 215-722-4092

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

Topeka Kitefliers  
First & Third Sunday of the month  
Governor's Mansion, Topeka, KS  
Bob Homan (785) 273-3715

Wings Across Carolina Kiting and  
Okra Society (WACKOS)  
1st and 3rd Saturday of the month  
Frank Liske Park, between  
Harrisburg and Concord, NC  
Jim Martin (704) 535-4696  
(JMArtJr@aol.com)

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

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

## KITE TIP by Steve Riehle

### Let's Check Our Bridles!

Sometime it's important to review what we assume we know. Consider the simple preparation of a kite for flight. When launching a single line kite, its bridle setting may not be right for today's wind. Perhaps the towing ring has slipped, the bridle is twisted, or it's "hung up". Any of these situations can degrade a kite's balance and performance.

A kite must be positioned at a correct angle into the wind to achieve maximum lift and stability. The bridle setting determines this angle. Therefore, we need to be alert to tuning an adjustable bridle for various wind conditions. On smaller kites, any change will be small, sometimes, as little as one-quarter of an inch. On larger kites the adjustment range is wider. Bridle adjustments should be in small experimental increments until the "magic balance spot" is located that gives optimum lift and stability. Experiment by slightly lowering the tow point when flying in marginally light wind. In heavier winds slightly raising the tow point may help. But different kite designs respond differently to tuning, so feel free to experiment. What works for one kite may not necessarily work for another kite.

Before attaching the flying line, evaluate the position of the tow point by holding the kite downwind by its bridle. Move your fingers up and down the bridle in search of the position that gives the kite maximum lift. A setting too high will cause some kites to "overfly" beyond a 90 degree line angle or to be unstable. A tow point set too low will prevent a kite from climbing to its normal altitude. (For a point of reference a generic tow point location on the bridle may be marked with a felt pen.)

Always note the current wind speed before selecting and launching a kite. If a kite is rated for wind range of say 5 to 15 MPH, the kite will fly best a mid-range wind speed of about 10 MPH. This kite technically may fly in winds of 5 MPH or at 15 MPH, but the experience probably will be more work than fun. Think of the statistical bell-shaped curve as an illustration of kite performance in various wind speeds. The maximum performance in mid-range wind speed is shown by the height of the bell-shaped curve, and performance tapers off toward higher and lower wind speeds. Do your own judging of a kite's wind range. Many manufacturers are overly optimistic about the wind ranges they claim for their kites.

These suggestions are elementary, but many experienced kiters ignore them during haste. Carefully evaluating wind conditions, setting up your kite properly, and tuning an adjustable bridle will ensure maximum flight performance and pleasure. It's also wise to save and periodically review the instructions from the kite's manufacturer.

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# Ten Penny Wind Banner and PVC Pole

*by Adam Grow*

This Japanese style banner and pole are veritable "low tech" items. When completely set up, the banner is 3-dimensional (when used with the T fitting), remains open despite the wind conditions, and freely rotates with changing wind directions. When placed over a piece of iron rebar, the free standing PVC pole is portable, strong and flexible. I have had them up in 25 mph winds with no problem. A lady at the AKA Convention went so far as to call this contraption "elegant." I like that.

This project is simple and inexpensive to make. The pole is made of PVC pipe and the head piece parts include a short wood dowel, vinyl tubing, fiberglass rod, and standard PVC fittings that can be purchased at a hardware store for less than \$5. The banner can be made of any material, however, I like to use 1.5 oz. rip-stop nylon because of the bold colors, it's inexpensive and easy to work with.

## Tools & Equipment:

- hand drill
- hand saw
- sewing machine
- marking pencil
- knife
- vise
- 1/2" and 3/16" drill bits
- sandpaper (100 grit)

## Materials List:

- Banner Pole:
- 3/16 inch fiberglass rod - 16 inches long
- 3/16 inch plastic end cap (fits onto fiberglass rod on one end)
- 3/4 inch PVC pipe - 10 foot long
- 1/2 inch PVC pipe - 2 feet
- PVC reducer "" x 3/4" (threaded outside "") end)
- PVC "" T fitting
- 1/8 inch wood dowel - 3 inches long
- 1/8 inch ID braided PVC flexible tubing - 1 inch
- Wine cork (cork, or plastic type)
- 10 U.S. pennies - 1 ounce weight
- PVC cleaner, primer, and cement
- Super glue
- 3/8 inch iron rebar - 30 inches long

## Banner:

- 1 yard of fabric or rip-stop
- 6 inches x 60 inches banner cloth (200 denier)
- 2 pieces 4 inch x 5 inch banner cloth
- 30 inches - nylon gross-grain tape (2 inch)
- 18 inches - nylon gross-grain tape (3/4 inch)
- sewing thread (I use nylon thread)

## Pole Construction

Standard PVC pipe generally comes in 10 foot lengths. First, decide if you want to pack your pole(s) in a standard 6 foot [cut pipe into two sections] or 4 foot [cut pipe into three sections] kite bag. I make my banners either 80" or 120" tall so I use 40-inch lengths to make either a two or three section poles.

Cut the 3/4" PVC pipe into two 60-inch sections or three 40-inch (1 meter) sections. Smooth off the cut ends of the PVC with sand paper.

Cut the "" PVC pipe into four 6-inch pieces. Smooth off the cut ends

of the PVC with sand paper. On two of these (one if making a two section pole,) saw a lengthwise slit through one side. This will allow the "" PVC to be squeezed together so that it can fit inside the 3/4" PVC section. Thus, it becomes a dowel that holds two sections together. If the PVC dowel is too wide, use some coarse sand paper to further open the slit. The PVC dowel should fit snugly into the 3/4" PVC pipe. Mark the 6" PVC dowels halfway at 3" and smooth both ends with sand paper.

Clean and apply PVC primer to the outside on one half of the PVC dowel and inside one end of 3/4" PVC section. Apply PVC glue to the primed dowel and slide this half into the primed end of the 3/4" PVC section. Note: PV glue sets up very quickly so you must work fast. Let this dry for a few minutes. If you are making a three section pole, repeat this step again on one other 3/4" PVC section. With the PVC dowel glued in place, this allows the pole sections to be fitted together or pulled apart for storage.

The top pivot head holds the banner open and allows free rotation of the banner around the pole. Basically, this device is just a PVC "" T fitting rotating atop a "" x 3/4" reducer fitting.

Cut the wine cork to 1 inch. In the top horizontal end of the T fitting, push the 1" piece of wine cork into the T until it fits completely in the middle. Drill a "" hole in the center of the cork - making sure not to drill through the T fitting.

Put a dab of glue on one end of the wood dowel (3" x "" long) and place this end thru the bottom of the T fitting and into the hole in cork. Push the wood dowel in until it stops at the top of the T fitting. Next, at the center of the T fitting on the horizontal side drill a 3/16" hole thru the side of the T, cork, wood dowel, and out the other side of the T. Clean out the hole. On the 16" piece of sold 3/16" fiberglass rod, put a bit of glue on about 1/8 inch of one end and push this thru the hole to lock the wood dowel, cork and T in place. The end of the rod should be flush with the T fitting. Add a bit of glue to the intersection of the T and fiberglass rod. Put the plastic end cap on the free end of the fiberglass rod - if not tight use a drop of glue to secure it.

The T fitting with the secured wood dowel is placed over and into the "" hole of the threaded PVC reducer fitting. With the T fitting on top of the reducer, slip the piece of braided PVC tubing onto the wood dowel's free end. Do not push the vinyl tubing too far up into the reducer or the T will not rotate. A spot of glue on the braided tubing and the wood dowel will prevent them from coming apart.

The 'horns' on the ends of the T are made with the other two 6" pieces of "" PVC pipe. Do not glue. Streamers are attached to these horns.

Option: The banner can be made without the T fitting and wine cork by substituting a 3/4" PVC end cap with a non-threaded "" to 3/4" PVC reducer. Place the reducer inside the end cap and push into place. It should fit snugly in the end cap. This easily fits over the "" x 3/4" threaded reducer fitting. Insert the wood dowel and drill a hole through the pieces and then lock them together with fiberglass rod as described above.

The pivoting head unit will be placed on top section of the 3/4" PVC pole and pushed into place. There is no need to glue it onto the pole as it will stay in place whatever the wind conditions. Also, by not gluing allows it together will all the units to be taken apart for easier storage.

## Banner Construction:

You may use any type of cloth for the banner. I have experimented with a lot of cloth and settled on 1.5 oz. rip-stop nylon. This fabric is cheap

## THE GREAT KITE AUCTION DONOR FORM

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

Donor/Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Item Name \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Value \_\_\_\_\_ Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Item Name \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Value \_\_\_\_\_ Description \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP.

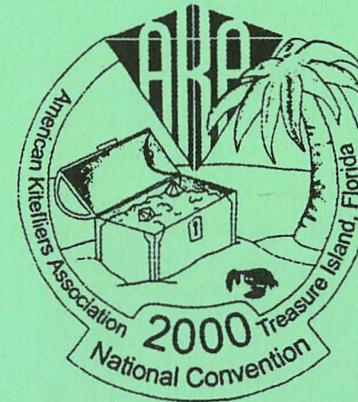
I am willing to help with:

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

### PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING WHERE APPLICABLE

- This is my first AKA Convention.
- I would like vegetarian meals.
- I plan to enter Indoor Fly.
- I plan to enter the Kite Makers' Competition.
- I plan to arrive in Treasure Island on (date) \_\_\_\_\_.
- I plan to attend the Monday evening reception (Details to Follow).

## American Kitefliers Association



AMERICAN KITEFLIERS  
ASSOCIATION  
23RD NATIONAL  
CONVENTION, FESTIVAL &  
COMPETITION  
OCTOBER 2 - 7, 2000  
REGISTRATION FORM

Johnson Promotions, Inc.  
Convention Management  
C/O Maureen Posillico, Project Manager  
2017 Victoria Drive  
Stafford, Virginia 22554  
540-288-9417  
Fax: 540-720-1329  
Corporate: 703-777-8577

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

For General Information & Registration  
Questions Contact:

Maureen Posillico, Project Manager  
2017 Victoria Dr., Stafford, VA 22554  
Phone: (540)288-9417 Fax (540)720-1329,  
e-mail: JPEventsMP@aol.com

## CONVENTION INFO TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA

**GENERAL:** This year's National Convention is being hosted in Treasure Island, Florida. The City Of Treasure Island, Bilmar Beach Resort, Thunderbird Beach Resort, T.I. Ramada Inn & T.I. Holiday Inn are excited about our visit and are pulling out all the stops to insure a successful event for the AKA.

**LODGING:** Hotel Reservations are to be made by contacting the hotel of choice at the given telephone numbers: Bilmar Beach Resort: 800-826-9724, Thunderbird Beach Resort 800-367-BIRD, T.I. Holiday Inn 727-367-2761 or T.I. Ramada Inn 727-360-051. All four hotels are offering an \$80 per night plus tax run-of-the- house room rate. Reserve early for the best rooms. The hotels are located on the beach which is where the flying field will be.

**CAMPING:** Fort DeSoto State Park (727-866-2484) has camping available on a first-come, first-served basis. Camping is also available at Indian Rocks Beach RV Resort (727-596-7743).

**AIR TRAVEL:** For those who are traveling by airplane, the Tampa International Airport services this area. It takes about 30 minutes from the Tampa International Airport to get to Treasure Island. Group discounts are available through the following airline:

U.S. Airways Gold File No. 93691493  
Call toll-free (877)874-7687

**CAR RENTAL:** Hertz is the official car rental company. To make reservations, call (800)544-0058  
Refer to Meeting #022L0119

**BANQUET TICKETS:** There are only 500 tickets available for the Auction and Awards Banquets. You are encouraged to purchase your tickets early. Tickets will be available to those with full or basic registrations first.

### REGISTRATION FEES

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

Register by Aug 31: \$150

Register after Aug 31: \$175 \*Registrations must be received before Sept 10, or you must register at the convention.

**Basic Registration:** All of the above without lunches.

Register by Aug 31: \$135

Register after Aug: \$155 \*Registrations must be received before Sept 10, or you must register at the convention.

**One-Day Registration:** No lunches, No banquets.

Circle Day(s): Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

Register by Aug 31: \$ 65

Register after Aug 31: \$ 75 \*Registrations must be received before Sept 10, or you must register at the convention.

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

### PLEASE NOTE REGISTRATION DEADLINES!

#### SPECIALTY ITEMS FOR SALE

**Cloisonne Logo Pin.** \$5

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

**Short-sleeved T-shirt — Logo screen printed on front.**

[M L XL \$15] [2XL \$17]

**Long-sleeved T-shirt — Logo screen printed on front.**

[M L XL \$18] [2XL \$20]

**Sweatshirt — Logo screen printed on front.**

[M L XL \$21] [2XL \$23]

**Polo Shirt Embroidered logo on left chest.**

[M L XL \$26] [2XL \$28]

**Denim Button-down Shirt w/embroidered logo**

[M L XL \$35] [2XL \$37]

### Registration Form

(Use separate form for each registrant)

Sign up for:

	How Many	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cloisonne Logo Pin \$5 each		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 1999 Logo Patch \$4 each		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-sleeved T-shirt Please Circle [M L XL \$15] [2XL \$17]		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Long Sleeved T-shirt Please Circle [M L XL \$18] [2XL \$20]		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt Please Circle [M L XL \$21] [2XL \$23]		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Embroidered Polo Shirt Please Circle [M L XL \$26] [2XL \$28]		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Embroidered Denim Shirt Please Circle [M L XL \$35] [2XL \$37]		\$ _____

Method of Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Check	Total: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover

Credit Card #

Exp. date

Name on Credit Card

Signature

DATE

Name

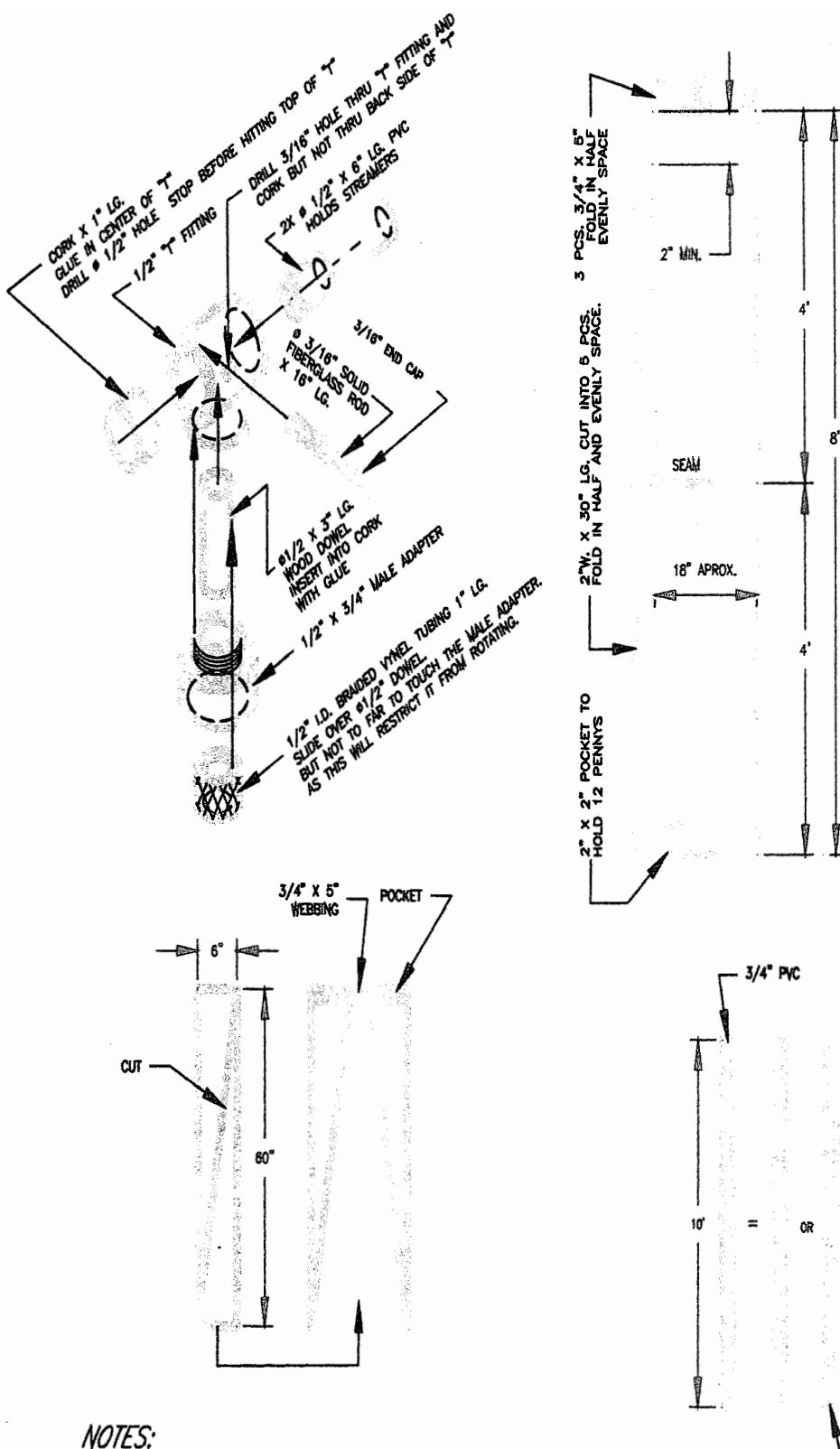
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City, State, Zip, Country

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Mail Registration to:  
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**Maureen Posillico, Project Manager**  
**2017 Victoria Drive**  
**Stafford, Virginia 22554**  
**U.S.A.**  
**Fax: 540-720-1329**  
**E-mail: JPEventsMP@aol.com**

**NOTES:**

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE INCHES.
2. DRAWINGS NOT TO SCALE.
3. ALL PVC IS SCHEDULE (SCH) 40
4. DRAWN BY: SCOTT E. SPENCER

(buy C-grade), easy to work with, and the colors are bold, full and vibrant.

Cut two pieces of cloth 17 inches wide and sew them together end-to-end to make the finished banner no more than 8 feet in length. Make a double-folded " hem around all four sides and sew in place. I like to use a triple zig-zag stick for this. When finished the banner should be 15 inches wide and approximately 8 feet long. (Note: if you don't want a seam and you have the material, you can cut an 8 foot banner out of one piece of cloth and do an applique. Or, you can be creative and cut up strips of different fabric and sew them together as stripes). Onto the lower inside corner (next to where the pole will be), sew a 2" x 2" piece of fabric as a small pocket that can hold 10 pennies.

Cut the 2 inch wide gross-grain tape into 5-inch pieces. Space each of these evenly along the inside (by to the penny pocket) long edge of the banner, leaving a 1.5 inch gap on the top piece so that it will not interfere with the pivot head. Fold each in half and sew onto the hemmed seam.

Cut the 3/4 inch wide gross-grain tape into three 5-inch pieces and one 3-inch piece. Space the three pieces evenly along the top edge of the banner. Fold each in half and sew them onto the hemmed seam. On the top outside corner, stitch the gross-grain piece together, allowing just enough room to slide the end cap located on the end of the fiberglass rod thru it.

Cut the 6 inch piece of banner cloth diagonally in half to make two long streamers. Sew the ends of the remaining piece of 3/4 inch gross-grain to the large angle corner of each streamer. Fold this end of the now connected streamers over enough to fit around the 6 inch piece of " PVC and sew a sleeve pocket. Do this for both streamers.

Put the pole sections together to make a 10' pole. To put the banner on the pole, starting at the bottom, slip the pole thru the loops along the long edge. Next, slip the fiberglass rod on the pivot head thru the 3 top loops. Place the pivot head onto the top of the pole and push together tightly - they should lock in position. Place a 6" piece of " PVC pipe in each sleeve and push each into the sides of the T fitting. The piece of gross-grain straps the streamers together preventing it from slipping off the pivot head.

The banner pole can then be placed over the iron rebar stake driven into the ground (10 inches). Put the pennies in the pocket to keep the bottom edge from sliding up the pole during stronger winds. Get your camera and take a picture.

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

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Email: [kitessb@aol.com](mailto:kitessb@aol.com)

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[www.rehobothkite.com](http://www.rehobothkite.com)

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Savannah, GA 31401  
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## Illinois

**The Kite Harbor**  
435 E. Illinois, Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 321-5483, Fax (312) 321-5484  
Email: [kitehbr@interaccess.com](mailto:kitehbr@interaccess.com)

**The Kite Harbor #2**  
109 N. Marion, Oak Park, IL 60301  
(708) 848-4907  
[homepage@interaccess.com/~kitehbr](http://homepage@interaccess.com/~kitehbr)

**Stanton Hobby Shop**  
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[www.velocity-sports.com](http://www.velocity-sports.com)

## Indiana

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Email: [playwind@compuserve.com](mailto:playwind@compuserve.com)

**Tether Point Kites**  
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## Kansas

**Kansas Kite Connection**  
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Great Bend, KS 67503-4110  
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(212) 472-2623, Fax (212) 472-2998

**Buffalo Kite Company**  
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<http://members.aol.com/MBOXKITE/index1.html>

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[www.solarwindskites.com](http://www.solarwindskites.com)

**North Carolina**

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(828) 665-4472, (828) 665-4206

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Atlantic Beach, NC 28512-2278  
(252) 247-7011, Fax (252) 247-0282

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**Six Months Before AKA'S  
23rd Annual Convention and  
Grand Nationals  
In Treasure Island, Florida  
October 2-7, 2000**

report by Maureen Poscillico, Convention Manager

This year's convention is going to be very exciting and will bring some unique challenges. This convention will have many differences from previous efforts, but change can be a good thing.

To most, if not all flyers, the number one criteria for a successful event is the flying field. We are fortunate enough to have a great flying field—right outside your hotel door and on the ocean.

Since the hotels have limited space available, there will be probably only two workshops at any time going on and the attendance will be limited. We are looking at the possibility of having some seminars/workshops on the flying field. Peter Betancourt is working on this year's workshop schedule. If you have a talent you'd like to share at this year's convention, contact Peter Betancourt at [peter@sportkite.com](mailto:peter@sportkite.com).

Treasure Island does not offer a facility large enough to accommodate a banquet. We have located a facility 8 miles from the hotel area to host our banquets. The banquet facility will only accommodate 500 for dinner. It's important that you consider early registration. We will provide shuttle service to this facility and need to know who will need transportation.

Trophy sponsors are currently being solicited by Mike Gillard. If you are interested, or would like to have the Board consider adding a new trophy category, please contact [Mike@kitelines.com](mailto:Mike@kitelines.com).

The Fly Market will be a block from the Bilmar Hotel off the beach at the Treasure Island Community Center. It is in walking distance. Ron Lindner will once again chair the fly market and can be reached at (636) 376-6055, or email [Charon@tmain.net](mailto:Charon@tmain.net).

Indoor Fly will be off-site at The Admiral Farragut Academy, 2.3 miles from the Bilmar Beach Resort. Shuttle service will be provided but you must sign up in advance for it.

The Annual Business Meeting, usually held on Tuesday evening, will be held Thursday morning (9-11).

All convention hotels are located on the beach. The convention room rate is \$80 (plus tax) per night. The convention hotels are:

Thunderbird Beach Resort (800-367-BIRD)  
The Bilmar Beach Resort (800-826-9724)  
Holiday Inn Treasure Island (813-367-2761)  
Ramada Inn Treasure Island (727-360-7051)

12000

The closest airport is the Tampa/St. Petersburg International Airport. US Airways has been designated as the official carrier for the convention. The airlines agree to offer an exclusive low fare for attendees which is 5% discount off First or Envoy and any published promotional round trip fare. A 10% discount off unrestricted coach fares will apply with 7-day advance reservations and ticketing required. Plan ahead and receive an additional 5% discount by ticketing 60 days or more prior to departure. These discounts cannot be combined with other discounts or promotions. To obtain these discounts you or your professional travel consultant must call:

US Airways (toll free) 877-874-7687 (Gold File No. 93691493).

Hertz is the official car rental company for AKA's convention. They are offering free unlimited mileage one week before and through one week after the convention, but are subject to car and fleet availability. At the time of reserving your car the AKA rates will be compared to Hertz published rates to assure our attendees receive the best comparable rate. Hertz rental fliers will be issued in your confirmation packets. To make your reservations contact:

The Hertz Meeting Sales Desk 800-654-2240 (Meeting #022L0119).



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**AKA Sport Kite Commissioners**

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**Midwest**

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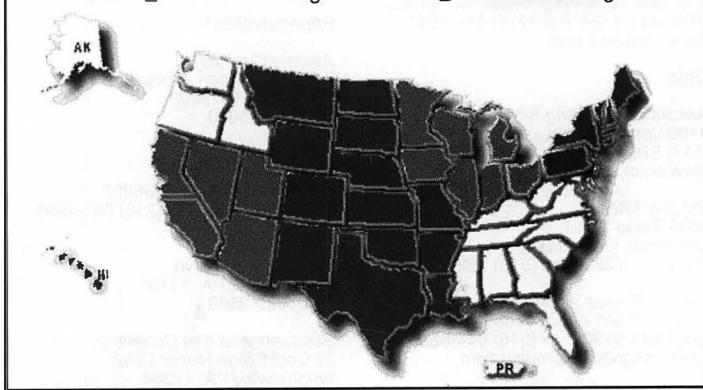
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**AKA SPORT KITE RULES COMMITTEE**

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

### Central Conference Report

At the time of this writing, two sport kite competitions have already taken place (South Padre Island & Westlake Kite Festivals).

After moving up from the Experienced class, Team Austin EOL makes their first bid for Masters class superiority, winning the Masters Team disciplines at SPI. Their routine was very clean! Another new team has formed. Team SPI (South Padre Island), competed for their first time at the SPI Festival. This four person team shook off the first time competition jitters and flew a very simple but nice routine! This team looks to have the talent and desire to improve. Look out Team TKO & Austin EOL!



*Team S.P.I. team members are: Jeff McCown, Donna Shearmire, Claudia Steen and Robert Blatnik.*  
Photo by Eddie Zihlman

While out at the Spring Break Buggy Blast at Ivanpah Dry Lake bed in NV/CA, during the month of March, Jeff Howard was being towed on a mountain board, when he fell and broke his arm. Jeff suffered a compound fracture. Get well soon Jeff. I guess Jeff is human after all!

At the Westlake Kite Festival, Brett Stewart was very impressive in both the Intermediate dual line and Open Quadline disciplines, winning both classes! Brett was most impressive with his Quad precision performance! Brett demonstrated coin tosses, axels and complete control. Brett flew a quad line as well as anyone I've seen!

Team TKO made their comeback debut at the Westlake Festival with impressive performances in Team Ballet and Precision. Not bad considering this team hasn't flown competition or practiced together since 1997. Look for the team to compete at the AKA Nationals. Remember, if you're not an AKA member and you compete in sport kite competitions, you won't receive AKA qualifying points for an invite to the AKA Grand Nationals. Check out the AKA scores page on the website (<http://www aka.kite.org>) for complete results for South Padre Island and the Westlake Kite Festivals.

### Southeast Conference Report

Treasure Island, FL in January - what more can be said, except white sand and blue gulf water, and the site of the AKA Convention in 2000. Start making your plans now to attend!

The Gone With The Wind Stunt Kite Competition was held at Tybee Island, GA the first weekend of March. This festival is put on by Pat and T.C. Powers. There were a number of first time competitors flying with their feet in the water sometimes and the lighthouse behind their kites. Veijo Panu and his wife Marilyn are not new to competitions at Tybee Island, but deserve a big round of applause for their loyalty to kiting and all the support they offer to the organizers of events at Tybee Island. The Wackos (featured in the March issue) put on quite a show with their single line display.

Spring is a busy season for kiters in the Southeast. The Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition was held on Jockey's Ridge in Nags Head, NC on April 1 (no fooling) and April 2. The last weekend of April will find competitors in Ocean City, MD for MASKC. Out of the conference, over Memorial Day weekend, the annual gathering at "Mecca" will occur (translated as Wildwood). And, not technically a "spring" event, in June, the ODSKC will be held at Dorey Park in Richmond, VA. This is an unusual event as it is the only Southeast event held on grass.

### Northwest Conference Report

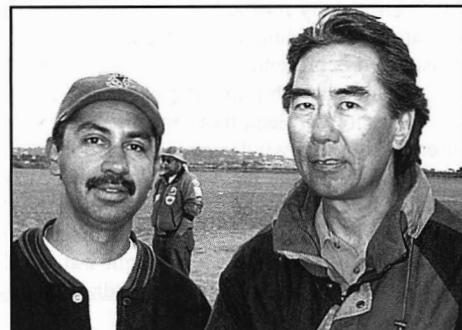
The first event of National Kiting Month for the Northwest Region was a sport kiting workshop held at Ocean Shores, Washington on April 1st and 2nd. Saturday morning started out with the "Ins and Outs of Judging" followed by a shadow judging session on the beach in the afternoon under blue skies and 25 m.p.h. winds. It was well attended by a majority of the Northwest Region competition flyers as well as other A.K.A. members who are interested in helping. Sunday morning started off with a session on the duties of field director, pit boss and line judges. The remainder of the morning was spent on how to prepare kites, lines and bridles for competition. After lunch we had a round table discussion on how to prepare a winning routine for ballet and precision. The remainder of the day was spent discussing "How do we add additional events to the Northwest Regions calendar?". An unanimous decision was made for establishing a Northwest Competition League with events put on and funded by the flyers for the flyers. It was made clear that these small one day events would not interfere with any of the existing festivals. Assignments were delegated for developing a charter, equipment needed and officers to support this organization.

tion. The next meeting was set for Sunday, May 7th at the Ocean Shores Community Club at 9:30 a.m.

The first competition of the year, sponsored by Cutting Edge Kites will be held at Ocean Shores on Saturday, May 6th.



*Two pairs at the Southern California Open - "Wing 'N It" - Lisa and Bud Root., and "Zapalotes" - Larry Navarro and Bert Tanaka.*  
Photos by Sandee and Larry Bush of Aire Affairs.



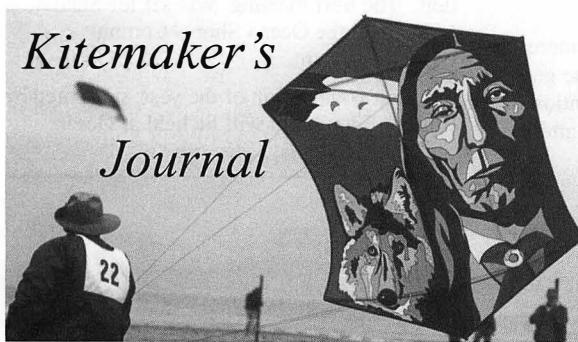
### Pacific Conference Report

Both the Bay Area and Southern California Sport Kite Leagues have welcomed 2000 with the addition of Hot Tricks, renewing rivalries between the Big Whacker Brian Champie, the new kid me, and Quadfather Ron Despojado. This event is a real crowd pleaser and lots of fun to compete in, too. Our leagues are continuing to run Quadline Precision and SCSKL has also added Pairs Precision. Guess who'll have a leg up qualifying for the next International Competition! Check the web for more upcoming event news - [www baskl.org](http://www baskl.org) and [www homestead com/scskl](http://www homestead com/scskl)

*Fly4Fun!  
Susan Shampo  
kitegal@san.rr.com*

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





## Kite Art News

The Kite Art Committee, now chaired by Scott Skinner, has been reorganized (placed under the AKA Education Chair, Phil Broder) and slimmed down (to what Scott considers a workable number of about five people). Scott asks that ideas for the committee be channeled through committee members geographically situated across the US: Jose Sainz and Ron Gibian, West Coast; Scott, Mountain states; Joanne Weber, Great Plains states; and Meg Albers, Northeast.

My chief priority for the Kite Art committee is to continue to recognize kite art accomplishment with the Lee Toy Circle of Friends Award. This award is presented at the AKA National Convention and exposes the AKA membership to a particular artist's work. It is my hope that this exposure will lead more members to expressing their creativity through kites and wind-related art. Additionally, the Kite Art Committee will organize the AKA Kite Art Gallery to display one aspect of kite art. The Committee will be deciding the theme of this year's Kite Art Gallery in April and May and members' input is solicited. If you know an artist/kite maker who might want to share his or her work at the Convention, email me at [scott@drachen.org](mailto:scott@drachen.org) so that I can present a proposal to the Committee.

### Now for news:

Kite enthusiasts in the East should be advised that artist/sculptor/writer, Tal Streeter will display a number of works at the LongHouseReserve in East Hampton, New York, beginning in mid-May. The exhibit, *The Sky Begins at our Feet*, will include a number of Streeter's sculptures, photographs, and kites, and places his work in the context of the title. Tal Streeter has been an important influence to any kite maker that has made a rokkaku or other Japanese kite. His books, *The Art of the Japanese Kite* and *A Kite Journey Through India*, are indispensable to historian, hobbyist, or traveler. Information can be obtained on line at [info@longhouse.org](mailto:info@longhouse.org).

The Drachen Foundation has presented a gift of 11 art kites to Germany's Art Kite Museum in Detmold. To celebrate the museum's grand opening on 1 April, The Foundation asked a number of noted American kite artists to produce one or two five-foot Eddy kites, all of which would be framed by Bobby Stanfield in his "21st Century" style. This was an attempt to provide the museum with a recognized American kite with contemporary sails. The kites were presented with the understanding that they may be flown, displayed, or sold to raise funds for the museum. The Foundation promises photos.

Please contact me at [scott@drachen.org](mailto:scott@drachen.org) if you know of any upcoming kite art events.

## SEW WHAT?!

*John & Mary Gabby*

*John and Mary Gabby (Windependent) have written up some tips for beginners. This article covers thread and tension, and includes pointers they have learned through trial and error. They welcome discussions of their ideas. If you wish to correspond with them, their email address is (Windependent@pcisys.net).*

### THREAD

It is not worth your time to use cheap thread. It is not strong enough, tends to tangle, makes fuzz in your machine and can collect unsightly pillballs on the finished project. The worst thread you can use for kite sewing is serger cone thread or the 3/\$1.00 spools. This thread is best used for garments, not kites, and then only for basting or serging. Better threads to use are Coats & Clark or Metrosene. Some people also like Guttermen, but it seems to tangle worse for me. These threads are readily available and come in hundreds of colors. Best of all for kites, is bonded nylon or polyester sailmaker's thread. It is strong and slick and is available from kite fabric suppliers. Color selection is limited. I have also experimented with clear nylon thread, like fishing line, sold on serger cones at Wal-Mart. It is annoying to work with, and probably will not last as well as Coats and Clarks.

### TENSION

Different threads might require different tension settings on the sewing machine. Set the bobbin tension first, then adjust the upper tension. Many sewing machine shops do not really understand tension. We have had "experts" set the tension using our bonded nylon bobbin with thin, fuzzy serger cone thread in the top. Another expert tightened the bobbin so it barely fed—but at least the stitching puckered evenly on both sides of the fabric. Somewhere along the line they will blame the ripstop. In reality, you can see tension problems on ripstop better than on any other fabric, especially with a zig-zag stitch. If you do not have a walking foot, adjust the tension as close as you can on crisp cotton and do the final adjustment with ripstop. If you are having trouble adjusting or maintaining even tension, the first thing to do is make sure the thread is feeding smoothly. Toward the end of a cone, it sometimes feeds unevenly. Start a new cone and use the old cone for winding bobbins.

Next, check for globs of lint stuck in the machine. Dust it out thoroughly with a stiff little brush. Run a matchbook cover or index card through the upper thread tension plates. This is particularly important in the newer Pfaff's. Canned air and blowing is best avoided. It can blow the lint deep into the machine causing other problems. Use it as a last resort before taking the machine to the shop.

If you have never been able to adjust the upper tension far enough, it might be because some machines have a coarse setting hidden inside the machine, and a fine setting knob for you to use. Read the instructions, keep trying and good luck.

### SNIPPETS

Sewing machines should hum. If your machine is making squeaky or scraping noises, it probably needs oiling. Sew through some scrap cotton before going back to sewing your kite.

If the machine makes a popping sound, the needle may be dull or too big. Some people say every new project deserves a new needle. If you keep making bird nest tangles, change the needle, it might be slightly bent. Also check for stray bits of trapped thread with your lint brush.

# Smithsonian Kite Festival

## Vignettes from the Year 2000

by Jon Burkhardt

Is there too much of a good thing? Official US Park Service estimates put the number of visitors on the Mall at the Smithsonian Kite Festival at 55,000 persons. (Of course, probably as many of them were there for the magnificent cherry blossoms as for the kites, but it was a heck of a crowd.) We had just one food service station, only 6 porta-potties, and more than one-hour waits for either one. Who knew that kiteflying could become such an exercise in self-control?

Great stuff in the air. One year we'll find ways to give prizes to everyone who flies. Lots of really inventive and beautiful pieces this year. One of the nicest kites I've ever seen lost by one point and didn't get any prize (but will at future festivals, I'm sure). We had several ties, including one for the top prize, which was decided by flight scores. Congratulations to Eric Wolff of Chicago who put on a magnificent flight display, including two 360s — in opposite directions.

The competition for Theme and Costume awards is getting more and more intense. For the second year in a row, Felix Cartagena walked off with the theme award, making him the Smithsonian Kite Festival's man of the last century and the current century of flight. We also had Superwoman, Flower Girl, fighter pilots, and a number of other wonderful costumed fliers.

Groups are also more in attendance — Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and schools. These cooperative entries are becoming grander and more interesting each year.

Does standing on the speakers stand (constructed mostly of metal) with a wireless microphone as a thunderstorm approaches make one a lightning rod? I didn't want to find out, and didn't, thank goodness. We rushed through the awards ceremony, didn't announce quite all the awards we had, but managed to depart before the big boomers fried anyone. An altogether much too exciting ending to an otherwise lovely festival.



## Indoor Kite Flying! National Air & Space Museum (NASM)

By Margo Brown  
Kite Events Coordinator

Kite Day at NASM is held each year in March. This year Kite Day featured indoor kite flying for the first time! NASM's Education Department sponsors Kite Day for the public with speakers, exhibitors and kite making.

Air & Space is the most popular museum in the world with 20,000-30,000 visitors each day. Kite Day is one of their most popular public events, and this year the public was awed by the indoor kite flying of Mark Ricketts, Tim Elverston, Seth Abramson, Torrey Lindemann, and Bill Bigge (photo above). Single and quad line kites weighing less than 3 ounces were flown among the museum's artifacts in the Air Transportation Gallery. The indoor flying team impressed both the visitors and the museum staff with their flying routines, which were set to music. With the kites flying, even the static displays of the aircraft seemed to be mobile again.

Kite Day and its activities are free to all who enter NASM. Kite making is popular, and the kite volunteers estimated that they helped make 700-800 kites with the visitors in a five hour period. This year the feed back from the public included numerous favorable comments, including suggestions that the indoor flying be done every weekend!

AKA members helping with the program were Adam Grow, Margo Brown, Bevan Brown, Jon Burkhardt, Drake Smith, Charlie Dunton (with his Flying Ladies Rok), Tanna Haynes and Bill Bigge (photo below - note Bill Bigge is missing from both photos).



Felix Cartegena - Man of Two Centuries! Felix won the Theme award for the second straight year.

# Smithsonian Kite Festival



Mike Dallmer's entry in Box / Cellular  
- photo Jon Burkhardt

## TOP PRIZES

Theme Award - Felix Cartagena, Newark, DE  
People's Choice - Ed Shenk, Lancaster, PA  
Family Award - Johannesen Family Medusa, NY  
Highest Overall Score(89) Eric Wolff, Chicago, IL

## CHILDREN'S AWARDS

### 15 & Under

Delta / Flexible - Allison Holmes, Spartanburg, SC  
Single Surface - Katherine Spurlock, Fairfax, VA  
Beauty In The Air - Tom Morgan, Potomac, MD  
Joint Effort - Sherry VanMeers, Gaithersburg, MD

## CHILDREN'S AGE GROUP RIBBONS

### 11 & Under

Cobra Den Pack #681, Arlington, VA  
Dan Donahue, Arlington, VA

Isilay Davaz, Arlington, VA

### 12 TO 15

Mark Banks, Alexandria, VA  
Katherine Spurlock, Fairfax, VA  
Rose Morgan, Potomac, MD

## ADULT KITEMAKERS (OVER 16 YEARS)

Bowed Kites - Kenny Sesker, U. Marlboro, MD  
Box/Cellular - Ken McNeill, Lenoir, NC  
Fighter - Andy Selzer, Sicklerville, NJ  
Flat Kites - Art Cross, Westfield, NJ

Multi-Line - Russ Faulk, Elmhurst, IL  
Rokkaku - William Kenny, Higganum, CT  
Unclassified Flying Objects (UFOs) -  
Paul Berard, Woonsocket, RI  
Joint - Harold Ames/Paul Lamasters, VA

## MASTER KITEMAKER AWARDS

Bowed Kites - Richard Miller, Crofton, MD  
Box/Cellular - Ed Shenk, Lancaster, PA  
Delta & Flexible - Rich Koons, Lebanon, PA  
Flat Kites - Tony Reiser, Bethlehem, PA  
Multi-Line - Eric Wolff, Chicago, IL  
Rokkaku - Lou Behrman, Ambler, PA  
Soft - John Warder, Geneva, NY  
Joint - Glen & Tanna Haynes, New Tripoli, PA

## SPECIAL AWARDS

Aerodynamics - Russ Faulk, Elmhurst, IL  
Beauty - Glen & Tanna Haynes, New Tripoli, PA  
Costume - Eckels Family, Bethesda, MD  
Figure - Dan Donahoe, Arlington, VA  
Funniest - Felix Cartagena, Newark, DE  
Ingenuity - Harold Ames/Paul Lamasters, VA  
Patriotic - Ed Shenk, Lancaster, PA  
Eastern/Asian Kite - Todd Little, Camp Hill, PA  
Special Recognition - Tony Reiser, Bethlehem, PA  
Rokkaku Challenge - Lehigh Valley Kite Society  
Ground Display - Lehigh Valley Kite Society

## AGE GROUP RIBBONS FOR ADULTS

16 TO 59 - Eric Wolff, Chicago, IL  
16 TO 59 - Ed Shenk, Lancaster, PA  
16 TO 59 - Russ Faulk, Elmhurst, IL  
Senior - James Ribar, Milford, NJ  
Senior - Tony Reiser, Bethlehem, PA  
Senior - Barb Hall, Absecon, NJ

*Photos facing page (starting top left going clockwise): Glenn Haynes walking off with a winner that he and his wife Tanna built; Tony Reiser's received special recognition for this winner in the flat kite category; Laurel Eckel, winner of the costume award; the Cherry blossoms in full bloom; Kenny Sesker with his Wiley Coyote; Rich Miller's Bathing Lady; and artist Steve Jozsa's painted dragon.*

*On the cover, Dan Flintjer's cody lifts off in front of the Washington Monument.*

*Photos compliments of Jon Burkhardt.*

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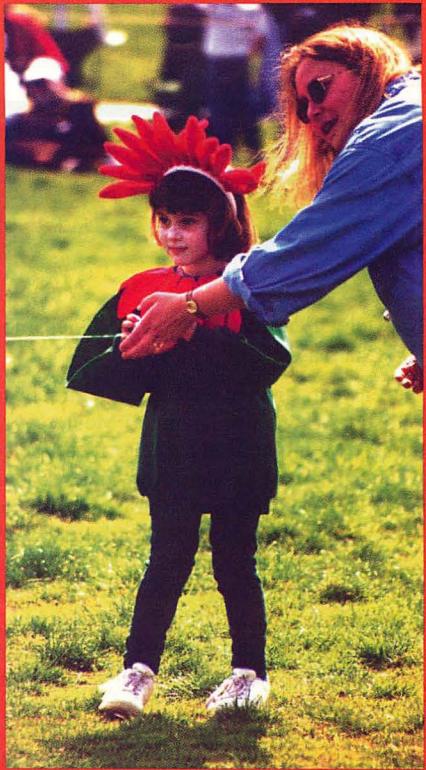
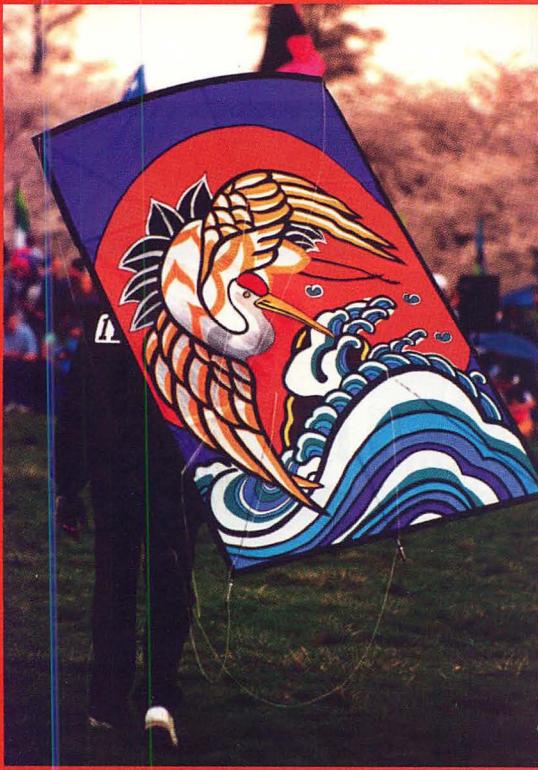


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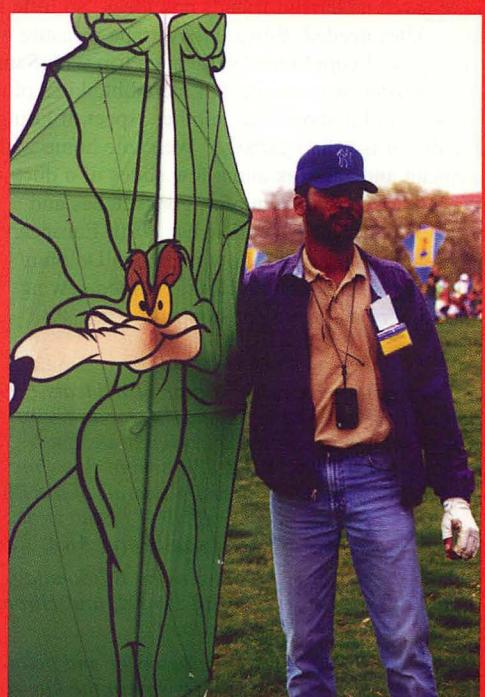


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## *Smithsonian Kite Festival*



# K-FILES

*Bob & Charmayne*

Not Bob Umbowers. Not Charmayne Umbowers. It's us, Bob and Charmayne.

Eleven years ago we were given a rainbow diamond kite for Christmas as we were going to Monterey's aquarium. A friend thought we might need a kite to fly at the beach. While waiting for the aquarium to open, we wandered into Windborne Kites. Wow! We were stunned. Bob is an avid reader so while I was admiring the kites, he looked at books. We actually left without buying anything. Back home when we discovered the book he wanted was not available in Gig Harbor we found Great Winds Kite Shop in Seattle. Not only did Ken Conrad sell us "The Penguin Book of Kites" but signed us up for Ft. Worden Kitemakers Conference, too. We made the little delta in David Pelham's book but it was nearly the end of a marriage that hadn't even happened yet! We discovered that I have to touch to understand and Bob makes miniatures as a first step in nearly all of our kite projects. We have also learned I must work in metric, too, not just Bob!

During our first two years we bought more books, built a Tri-d box, flares, a hex roller, subscribed to kite magazines, joined several kite organizations. We built a "Chinese" butterfly from carbon and ripstop, flew it all summer and then entered it at WSIKF and came in dead last. We made 27 Hip Pocket Hybrids for a class of 1<sup>st</sup> graders for Christmas. We built my polka dotted Eddy Wonder Bread kite, a small Cody War kite, a Marconi jib and Bob learned to split bamboo for tissue paper fighters and we discovered the beauty of Chinese kites in the air. The kite bug had bitten us badly!

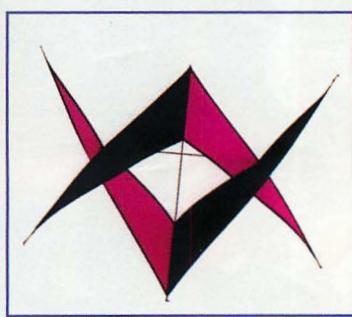
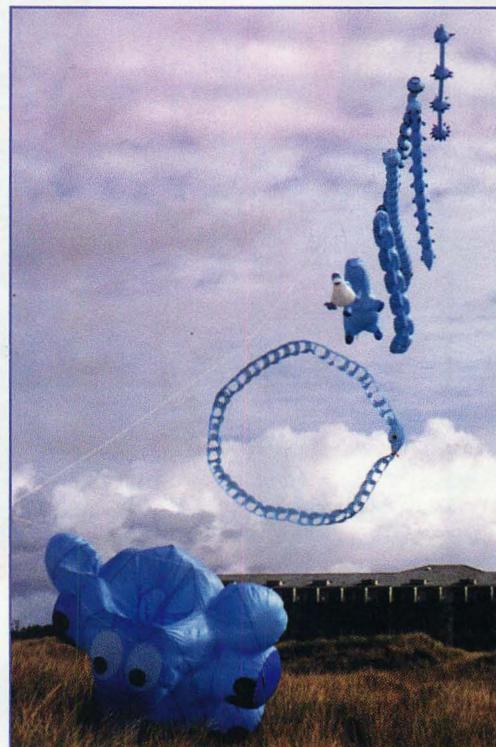
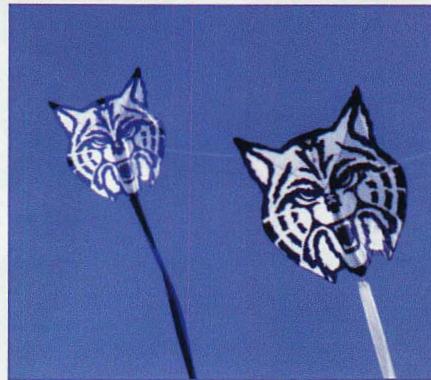
We soon started traveling with our kite hobby. Our trips have given us terrific friends and ideas. So little time, so many kites needed. Beware: have tape measure and camera, will copy! Our 1996 Fanoe trip with Sam and Anne Huston was wonderful: incredible kites plus new friends. And it showed us another aspect of kiting: line laundry or is it line garbage? We came home with a little elephant and a T-Rex and a few slides of a duck. We talked to Bernd Knupfer, got sketches and measurements for his corkscrew. With European ideas and the soon to follow infamous Dolphin/Gomberg blue parachute cloth, I started sewing line laundry and have not stopped!

*Top Left going clockwise: A pair of Wildcats ('99), Bob and Charmayne in Uchinada, Japan ('99), Star Woman (round kite), an original design by Bob, named the "X" kite ('98), School Bus (line laundry) and the Blue Elephant and all of the Blue Stuff (line laundry) at Ocean Shores AKA.*



*Photos by Bill Sonntag, Cliff Pennel, and Hiromi Endo.*

*On the cover and below, the Blue Elephant greets you in the kite room.*



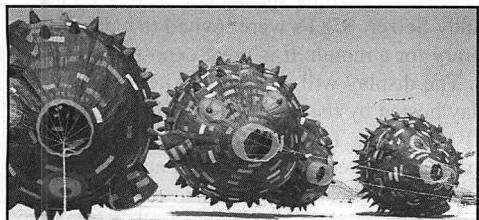
May / June 2000



## Umbowers

We have come a loooong way since our first two little kites. We make bigger kites and historical replicas in modern materials. I actually win an occasional competition, we are privileged to teach now at Ft. Worden. We help children make, repair and fly their kites, and we share our passion with anyone who stops by. All this came about due to kite people like David Gomberg, Jose Sainz, Tom Sisson, Ken and Suzanne, and Scott Skinner naming a few Americans on a long international list, plus of course, the beach walkers who stop by and say "oh, I like your kite."

Our favorite kiting times are those when we go to the ocean to simply fly. We put up our big kites and line laundry. Play with the little cat kites, experiment with the newly built stuff, fly fighters. We enjoy the sun and breeze, each other and other kiters who may be there also, and the beautiful colors we put in the sky. Some of the first kites we made back in 1989 still fly. Faded old ladies but most beloved. That little diamond kite and our blue ripstop nylon delta? They hang in the kite room, reminding us of our start in kiting. To us, kiting means friends and pleasure.



### AKA Kitemaking Competition Committee

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Jon Burkhardt, Karen Burkhardt,  
Ron Gibian, David Gomberg,  
Adam Grow and Kevin Shannon

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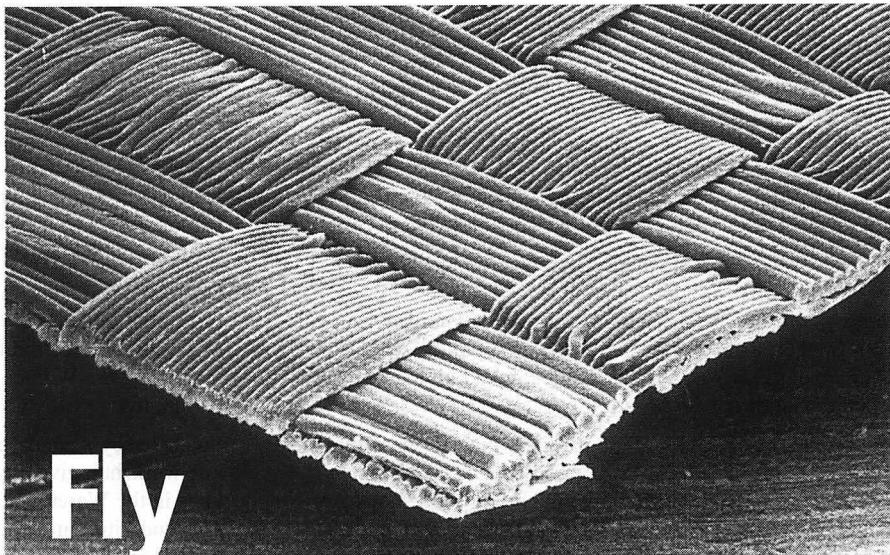
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(End of term - 2001)

It's March and folks are thinking kites once again in New England! It's funny how most "good-weather" avid kitefliers may think of April as the start of good weather for kite flying, the average person thinks March. There's generally strong wind and a cool breeze. Strong wind is good for kites, right? Not always! We just finished a full winter of indoor kite competitions, flys, and the well-attended clinics. Speaking of clinics, it seems that kite making is really getting popular. People have a real interest in increasing their knowledge of kites and even making their own. If just for the challenge of it! This is a good thing! And in that regard I'd like to thank a special bunch of kite fliers in a well-organized club based out of Connecticut. They call themselves the Connectikiters.

When I think of Connectikiters I think of fun people who love to fly kites and have a real good time doing it! I think of a kite club that always was quite active. This year, long time members Peg Burnett, and Dave and Carol Lombard, helped to coordinate the well-attended "ConnectKITERS Workshop 2000". Great job to all of you great folks. Gary Engvall gave a Rokkaku presentation; Paul Berard took many folks through his mini-eddy train lesson; Mildred Hayden presented concepts for Hapi Coats; Steve Ferrel, from The Kite Studio, helped with all the supplies; and Alice Hayden (Region 2 Director), who is an active Connectikiter, led the Dragon Kite and Helix Line Junk classes. I want to thank Alice Hayden for her help in Region One! Sounds like it's going to be a regularly scheduled event. Another Connectikiter that requires kudos is Cheryl Lucas. Cheryl organizes the Sound Winds Kite Festival in May (CT). You'll be reading about that event in the next newsletter.

Jackie from Seaside Kites supplied coffee and donuts at MDC facilities in Hull, MA for a kite tune up fly. Organizer Greg Lamoureux got to finish his KONE banner and Glenn Davison finished a Genki. Other attendees Gary Quinton and Archie Stewart, along with many other New England fliers, tuned up their kites for the upcoming National Kite Month.

Speaking of National Kite Month, our region is well represented by having nine official NKM events. Archie Stewart, instructor extraordinaire, is running children's kitebuilding workshops April 18 through 22. The man is an iron man at kite making clinics, maybe, he's going for some kind of record. Good job Archie!

By the way, don't forget to attend the Sullivan County Kite Festival on May 6th, the Boston Area Stunt Kite Championships in June (MA), and the Newport Kite Festival in July (RI)! We have a very active spring season. There are many regional events. Check the AKA calendar as most of our regional events are listed! As a member of NEKITE, one can obtain a list of events updated weekly by Ralph Reed. He's one heck of a calendar organizer. If you need any help with events in new England, check with me at my Regional Director email address. Or, go on line to the AKA web site!

See you out at one or all of our fine events in New England! Good winds to all!



*Region 2  
Northeast*  
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region2@aka.kite.org  
(End of term - 2001)

Kite Season in getting off to a full swing here in Region 2. All our clubs have wrapped up their winter workshop schedules and are getting on with the business of flying kites.

I am just back from the Smithsonian Kite Festival. I always consider the Smithsonian the beginning of my outdoor kite season and this was another great year for the Smithsonian. We had lovely weather most of the day, with the weather breaking into a shower of cherry blossom petals as Jon Burkhardt finished giving out the final awards. The kites were as varied as the Mona Lisa Rokakku to the Woman in the Yellow Bikini or Monica Orso's tight laced kite with cd spinners. Some of Region 2's best talents were there in force and when not helping with setup, breakdown, registration or judging, they took home some wood, too. Tanna and Glenn Haynes collaborated on a wonderful ripstop version of a traditional Japanese kite, the one with the crane over the wave. But there was nothing traditional in the thread-wrapped spars, which are Glenn's trademark, or the nice pocket construction holding the frame to the kite. The graphics were striking and the orange sun and purple sky behind the white crane seemed to glow in the sun as they won Most Beautiful-In-The-Sky and Best Joint-Effort. Lou Behrman's rokakku in purple, black and blue was another adaptation of Amish style quilting pattern taking the Rokkaku comprehensives. Tony Reiser's win in the flat category was a striking oriental design in black, red, gold and white. Andy Selzer's fighter won the fighter kite comprehensive. Was that due to his exceptional handling of the kite or the kite's exceptional flight characteristics (I want to learn that cobra maneuver!). Rich Koons borrowed some of Kurt Eby's paints to create some interesting ripstop for his winning Dutton-Tailor Delta. Several clubs had ground displays, but our Lehigh Valley took the club honors.

Ms. Matched is busy practicing for competition and getting ready for a trip to the Little Acorns Kite Festival in Miami and Ocean City's M.I.K.E. In addition to competing and judging at M.I.K.E., I'm helping organizing the Women In Kiting portion of the festival. This is going to be fun, too.

South Jersey's annual meeting ended with a special concerning fighter kite workshop given by Andy Selzer. SJF's were invited to hang their kites in the Waretown Library for a month. It is great exposure for the club and kiting in general. The display will end with a kite building workshop and flying display hosted by the SJF. During March, Russ Mozier organized the SJF workshop, Tri-County Community Action Agency's Head Start program at Bridgeton High School, and that was an exciting day at Basto Village with a great flying field.

Pennsylvania's Sky Pilot's Kite Club had their Go Fly A Kite Day with flying, a tent display, and club bake sale to raise funds.

Lehigh Valley's Day in the Park (Louise Moore Park) will be on May 5<sup>th</sup>. If it is anything like last year, it will be a day not to miss. This is a great family fun fly with activities for all, both public and kite flyers. And, the Olan Turner Kite Day in Langhorne, PA (Core Creek Park) follows on the next day, featuring the South Jersey Kite Flyers and other area clubs.

*Region 3  
Mid-Atlantic  
DC-DE-MD-VA-WV*

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(End of term - 2001)



Hello! That faint noise you hear is the sound of my ears popping as I am elevated into the stratosphere of AKA officialdom. Sucked into the vacuum left by Jon Burkhardt, into the vacuum left in Jon Burkhardt's shoes... Whew! Well, I think I'd better stop stretching for the right imagery and talk about kites.

First, a little bit about me. I spend a lot of time on computers, and have several internet connections and email accounts, so lots of email is fine with me. I have a short attention span and a life filled with constant interruptions, so be persistent - if it looks like I forgot something, just remind me, please. I read physics and math books for relaxation. I can dish it out and I can take it. I will never stab you in the back; you will always see it coming. I can find humor in most any situation, and love to brainstorm, like a rock skipping across a quiet pond. I get along with kite fliers everywhere (even Kenisky), and have never found a language barrier I couldn't overcome with a kite, or a copy of Kitelines. (And speaking of Kitelines... when I go, I want to go down the wind like Mel did.) I have four kids. I am still married. I have a government job, DSL, a Vanagon full of kites, and a 16ft tall Blue Warrior Edo in my garage. Life is good.

I started off this year by attending a Y2Kitefly on New Years' Day, hosted by WOW (Wings Over Washington). A nice day with light breezes, soon to be swept away by snow and some wicked wind chill later in January. At the end of the day we had the opportunity to tour the facilities of Premier Kites, with a warehouse full of kites, kite parts, patterns, and prototypes to admire. I have great respect for anyone with the energy and discipline to make a steady business in kite making. I'm pretty sure that if I tried to make a living at kite making, my hobby impulses would soon overcome all hopes of making a payroll, and I'd end up penniless, with a whole bunch of used kites, living at some campground. At the beach... (Hmmm, perhaps I should reconsider this....)

Kite calendars. Already the weekends are filling up. The first calendar conflicts of the new Millenium have occurred, with multiple events scheduled somewhat unavoidably on the same weekend. I remember when I started kiting, I would usually find out about a festival or workshop too late to squeeze it into the schedule. So one thing I can do is try to make sure that events get onto the club web pages, that the club calendars do agree with each other, and that annual schedule conflicts are at least confronted. My goal will be to get the word out early, coordinate dates well in advance so that

we can all get out to more events, and the clubs can interact more at each other's events throughout the year. The AKA website calendar can now be accessed by any member, and anyone can post an event rather painlessly, so it's no longer an excuse not to know what's coming up.

After a series of snafus and program modifications, the Maryland Kite Society Winter Retreat was a grand success, resulting in a rich assortment of new Sam Huston Genki's, Dunton-Taylor Boxes, and a general consensus for a Tetra Workshop later on this summer. At this writing we are getting ready for the 34th Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival, closely followed by the Great Kite Festival at St John's in Annapolis (3rd Saturday in April), and MIKE, the Maryland International Kite Expo (4th weekend in April). Get those calendars filled in. Support the longest running expansion of the US economy by 1) paying a kid to mow the lawn while you go fly kites, 2) buying a Premier kite just to have one in your bag to give to the kid that inevitably comes up to you on the field, kiteless, and 3) buying a nice kite from one of the dwindling number of custom builders before they all starve to death. They all deserve your support.

I will see you on the kite field. Cheers.

## Supplies for the Modern Kite Builder

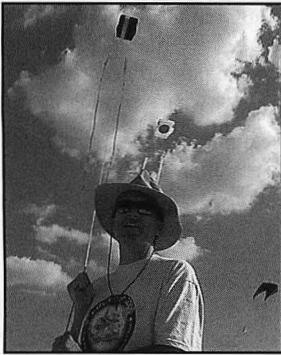
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## *Region 4 Southeast*

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

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(End of term - 2001)



So there I was, a couple days past deadline, wondering what the heck I was going to write for Kiting this issue. I'd been swamped at work and barely flown the previous two months. Just when I thought I had nothing to write about, it came along - one of those perfect kite flying days that normally exist only in your dreams.

Actually, I did have St. Patrick's Day weekend marked on the calendar for quite some time. The moon and tides lined up just right to make low tide a foot lower than normal in the afternoon. All that was left was to hope for the right conditions. Saturday turned out to be a wash, but the forecast for Sunday looked good, if the rain would stay away. Sunday morning it was cloudy, overcast and raining. The wind was there, if the rain would just clear. Low tide was approaching fast and things were beginning to look bleak, but just in time, the rain finally stopped. I shoved in the rest of my lunch, and hurried off to the beach.

It turns out the rain and clouds had done me a huge favor. The normally crowded beach was empty except for the local surfer's, and the wind was coming in off the water at 18-20, smoother than microwaved butter. As I set up my gear as quickly as possible, I could already feel it - this was the kind of day my trusty C1 was made for. I was off and flying down the packed tidal sand with nothing but wide open beach in sight. Soon the miles were melting away up and down the beach with the wind and kite locked in tune. It was one of those days where you don't turn at the end of a run, you lock that foot peg over hard, spin and fishtail while carving a wall of sand through the air; like a slalom water skier before rocketing back down the beach. As time and the miles wore on, the tide began coming back in with an occasional freak wave pinching me between the water and the wall of sand above the hard pack. I knew my time was just about up as waves became unavoidable almost every pass down the beach.

As I packed up my gear, the rains returned lightly, closing the book on a slice of heaven. Along with my buggy, I was completely soaked and encrusted with sand. The only thing that would take longer to remove than that sand was the smile on my face. Even a few Portuguese Man-O-War jellyfish stings, including one across my lip, couldn't wipe that stupid smile off my face. I'm still smiling now... buggy on!



Anne Harris' dinosaur invading Miami at Little Acorns. Photo by Andy Gelinas.

## *Region 5 Great Lakes*

*MI-OH*

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(End of term - 2002)

Greetings, Ohioans and Michiganders. As I write this, we have finally shaken off the effects of winter, and good flying weather is here. It's about time, I say!

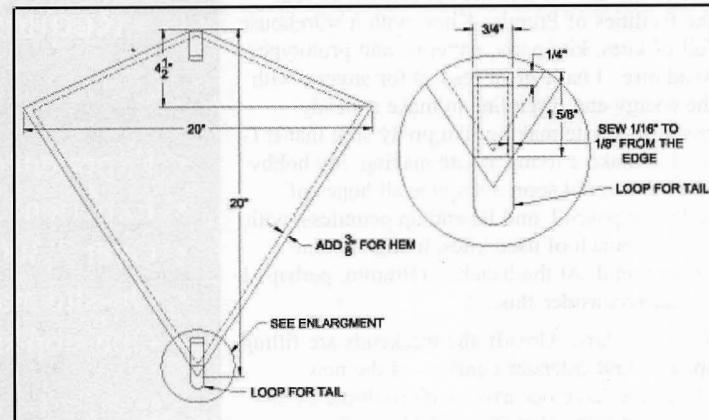
I am happy to report that the AKA Arch Project has moved to Region 5. Terry Sansom of Texas did a super job of getting the project off the ground, managing it for the last two years and producing spectacular kite arches that graced the skies at the last two conventions. The arches were then sold at the AKA auction and raised large amounts of money for the organization. The Ohio Society For The Elevation of Kites, led by Nancy Lockwood, are putting this year's Arch Project together with sponsorship from "Wings On The Wind" of Bowling Green, OH.

I encourage all of the clubs and individual kiters in the region to contribute kite sails to the project. The diagram is pictured below. Details are available at <http://junior.apk.net/~flyinfr/arch.htm>, or by calling Nancy at 330-274-2818.

There are plenty of events on tap for the spring. Here are a few:

- May 7 Frankenmuth Kite Fly
- May 19-21 Great Lakes Kite Festival
- June 17-18 2-Paws Kite Thingy

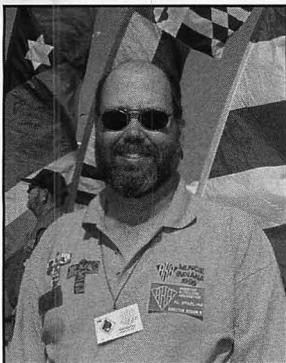
Look for details at the AKA site, or in this month's calendar. I'm looking forward to seeing you in the sky.



### **GUNN POINTS**

This is the information website for The 1st World Sport Kite Championships that will be held in Malaysia, July 15-21. It lists all the competitors, judges, and compulsories. It contains information about Malaysia and the festival.

<http://home.datacomm.ch/desmodus/wskc2000/index.html>



**Region 6  
Midwest**  
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(End of term - 2002)

Some of you may have been wondering where in the heck I've been the first part of this year. Well, in January I found out that Lucent was going to spin off the group that I worked for and that it was imperative in order to preserve my retirement benefits that I find a new job in Lucent. I did and I started the new job on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, unfortunately since the old job was also for Lucent, I have been effectively working two jobs during the transition. To add to the mix, I have also helped my mother move into retirement housing and suffered a lightening hit during a freak winter storm. I have just got a new answering machine and repaired the computer. The fax machine still works, but the integrated answering machine does not. So, if you leave a message on 630-369-9504 the machine will happily take the message and forward it to phone message limbo. I can't get the answering machine to turn off or change the message, but I don't want to buy a new fax machine right now. So, please use the 369-9504 number only for faxes. Needless to say, no answering machine, no computer, and working very long hours, have made me almost impossible to reach.

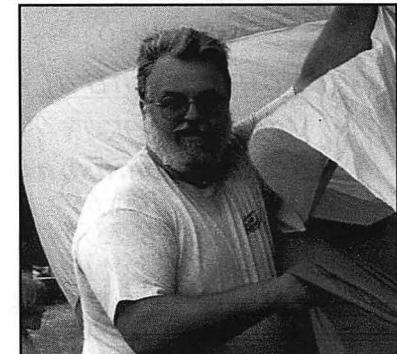
However, I now have an operational computer, answering machine and I expect that the long work hours will cease very soon. Now that I have a working computer again, I will be updating the Region Six web page.

I had to cancel my MAKR reservation, but I hear that the kite making retreat was yet again a wonderful time. I am ashamed to admit that I cannot find my notes on what went on and I leave for the kite festival in Berck, France in less than an hour. It will have to suffice to state that this is one of my favorite ways of not getting any sleep for a weekend. Great people, great classes, and great food make this an event not to miss. Well, maybe next year.

I did attend Kites On Ice. It amazes me that in two years Craig Wilson and Madison Festivals have created one of the premier kiting events in the United States. Although I was working a good bit of the time, I snuck off and flew my new Octopus for the first time. It flew wonderful, looked great, and David and Susan Gomberg ended up having to watch it most of the time. Man, you buy a couple of kites from a person and you think that you can impose on them for services like that.

Thanks Susan and Dave! The event was hugely well attended by both kite fliers and the public. If you did not attend this year, you should make definite plans for next.

As I said, I have been out of touch, but that should be at an end. You should expect to be seeing a lot of me around the region this summer and I hope to be caught up with my Regional Directors job soon. My apologies for I hope the last time.



**Region 7  
Great Plains**  
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(End of term - 2002)

Greetings to all of you from Region 7. It appears to be Spring here in Nebraska, but it's hard to tell, we hardly had any winter. But we're not complaining, because we are ready to do some kiting.

I have recently returned from a week in California and Nevada for SBBB. On my return, I was notified of the sad news of Gary Pittman passing away. He was recently elected President of the KSKC and was putting together a web page of all kiting events in Region 7 and 8, including a list of kite clubs and members in the area. Gary was a great asset to kiting and a lot of help to me. He will be missed greatly by many and I hope others will carry on his work in the Kansas City area. Our sympathy goes out to Gary's family and friends.

Early on, it was announced that the 2001 AKA national convention was going to be held in Colorado Springs. We started mobilizing the troops and solidifying plans. Then came the news that Colorado Springs was a no-go. The good news is that the 2001 AKA convention is still a possibility for the first time ever in Region 7. Plans are being worked on for Billings, Montana to be the host city. We'll keep you informed.

The SBBB was great, for most of us. The only real sad note was Jeff Howard's accident on the mountainboard. With a broken arm, Jeff was unable to stay at SBBB, and we all missed his presence and skill at the events. I hope he heals fast and is back out there soon. This year was the best blast ever! Fran Gramkowski did one heck of a job putting this event together. There was a large group of buggiers from Europe this year, making this event even bigger. Betty Suhr, Kite Mom of the Desert, with the help of other lady volunteers, put together one of the biggest barbecues for all the masses. Food was prepared for Friday night supper and Saturday lunch. People wished this was offered for every meal. Betty enjoyed it, but was glad when it was over. I know I am looking forward to it again next year. It provided a great opportunity to meet and socialize with all the kiters, American and foreign. All our thanks to Fran for making this so much fun and so well organized for all the participants.

National Kite Month is in full swing. Several events are scheduled in the area. We have been in a long drought, but it seems like when you bring out your kites, it brings on the rain. It would be great if someone from each event would send me a report of the event so that I could add to my next article. Help me keep in touch with what's going on out there.

And everyone, help bring the fun back into kiting!

## GUNN POINTS

Troy writes, "Here's a great How to Buggy page!"

<http://www.kites.org/jo/buggying.html>

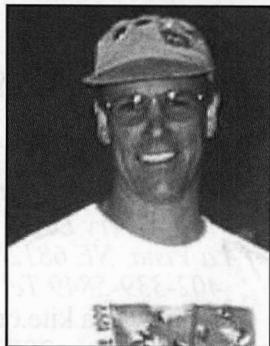
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## Region 8 South Central

AR-LA-NM-OK-TX

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(End of term 2002)



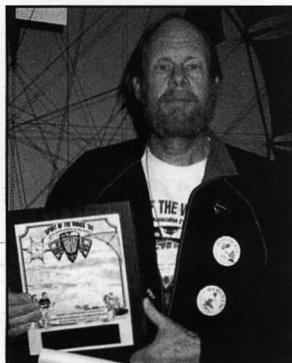
Our hearts are heavy today, as we lost a wonderful friend and fellow kite flier, Gary Pittman. Gary will be remembered by his animated hat collection and how he shared his kite passion with everyone he met. Our skies will never be the same.

On February 25th, the 18th Northwest Recreation Workshop was held. Beautiful weather on Saturday, although a little cool, as the north wind was blowing a little too much for properly flying light wind workshop kites. Nevertheless, we had a very enthusiastic group that came to see a "show and tell" in a gymnasium completely decorated with kites from the rafters and the walls, and then go to any of the five workstations to make a kite. Our handout, aimed principally at parents and teachers, contained plans, tips and information about the AKA.

The South Padre Island Kite Festival held on February 19th and 20th attracted lots of spectators. First place winners were: Stephen Froehlich (NIP), Eric Lennep (NIB), Jim Cox (IIP), Jeff McCown (IIB), Steven Ploof (EIP), Eddie Zihlman (EIB), Matt McGee (MIP), Shane Snowden (MIB), Troy Gunn, (OQB)(OQP), Ray Bethel (Innovative/Freestyle), Team TKO (OPB)(Open Team Train), and Austin E.O.L. (OTB)(OTP).

Check out the kite calendar for a listing of festivals, and check our our web page at <http://www.akaregion8.homepage.com>.

"Has your kite tugged you lately?"



## Region 9 - Intermountain

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## Region 10 Northwest

AK-WA

### **Robin Haas**

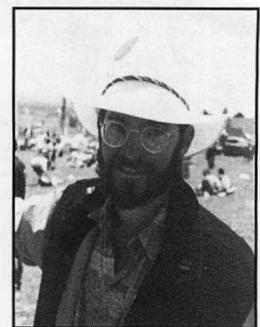
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We got a little jump on National Kite Month here in Region 11 thanks to the First Annual Windrush School Kite Festival in El Cerrito, CA. It was all Darril De La Torre's idea. Start with a three-week kite display in the school's hallways, then have a kite assembly in the school's gym on March 16, and follow that by a kite making workshop and Kite Festival on March 25, the first day of National Kite Month. The assembly included a brief history of kites and kite flying followed by an indoor flying demonstration. After the indoor demo, the lower school kids got to crawl through the entire length of a 90-ft Spin-Sock. Favorites with the kids were the Windsock crawl and Brian Champie's flying a kite indoors with his ears! Brian said he learned to fly with his ears while traveling in Colombia. I wonder what new body parts he will learn to fly with when he travels to Malaysia for the World Championships with Avispados this summer? Miguel Rodriguez and Dan Burnham also performed indoor kite demos for the kids.

On the day of Windrush School Kite Festival Jodi, Jody and Isaac Fine, led a kite-making workshop at the school while Darril got everything prepped for the festival at Chavez Park in Berkeley. What had been scheduled for a three-hour kite fly quickly turned into an all day festival including lessons, a candy drop and enough wind for everyone. Many thanks to the De La Torre and Fine families, Brian Champie, Miguel Rodriguez and Dan Burnham, and the Windrush community for helping to make this inaugural event such a great success.

The next event I have news on is the BASKL April Fool's Fly at Shoreline Park. About 20 – 30 kite fliers gathered for a day of fun flying and demonstrations. Veterans included Bill and Carolyn Paxton, who have been flying kites longer than most of us. One of the highlights was Brian Todd's amazingly delicate, jaw-dropping demo with a



*The Windrush School Kite Assembly Team:  
(Back row) Dan Burnham, Pam McAlister, Brian Champie, Jodi Fine, Lynn Rogers, Darril De La Torre; (In Front) Tom McAlister and Miguel Rodriguez.*

UL Trick Tail in near-zero winds. Another highlight (although perhaps not for him), was when Kobi Eshun fell flat on his back during an impromptu demo with his favorite collaborator, Miguel Rodriguez. Miguel (still on his feet), then performed in a pairs ballet routine with his new team partner Brian Champie. Many thanks to Brian and Ulysses for leading the charge and to the rest of the BASKL members for making the April Fool's Fun Fly happen.

On April 8, Brian Champie's third workshop in the "No Politics, No Whiners" series turned out to be something special. Presenter Nathan Sendan conducted the class where students built Lee Toy fighter kites... REAL Lee Toy Fighter kites! Most of the materials used to make the kites were actual materials from the late Leland Toy's workshop. The fabric, the fine laminated hardwood spines, and the fiberglass bow spars, all had been in storage until they were donated by his family.

In the workshop kitemakers learned to appliquéd using circles of many different sizes and colors... all cut out by Lee himself. Many circles had been previously sewn together by Lee to create different patterns. While making selections from the dozens of forms to choose from, workshop participants couldn't help but wonder what Lee had had in mind when he first cut and sewed those pieces together. While Nathan did a terrific job leading the class, it almost seemed as though Lee was also right there in the room guiding the students' hands and boosting their confidence.

Ten kites born in the workshop and most of them were in the air by the end of the day. Brian Champie heard one builder exclaim, "This is the best flying kite I own!"

If you missed this workshop, you missed a special day and a very special kite, but those lucky ten kite builders in attendance can honestly say, "Lee Toy and I worked together on a kite." None of the ten kite builders in the class or their instructor Nathan Sendan, had ever met him, but Lee was there in spirit. Having known him late in his life, I think Lee would have been pleased that even many years after his death, he is still helping people build kites. I hope to see all of you with these kites at the Lee Toy Memorial Kite Fly on April 16 at San Francisco's Marina Green so I can take a group photo of you and your Lee Toy Fighters for the next issue of "Kiting."

The San Ramon Art Wind Fest is just around the corner on May 28-29. Organizers Kim Giuliano and Brian Champie have a great schedule of kiting events for all of us to enjoy. If you want to help out, or perform demos this year, give Brian a call at (925) 829-0683.

Many thanks to Brian Champie and Kobi Eshun for their contributions to this report.

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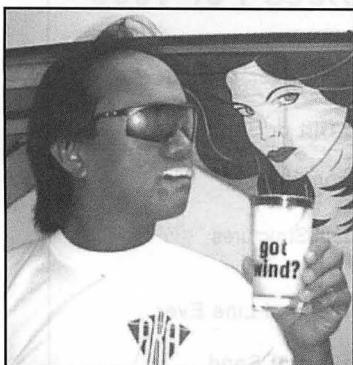
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## Region 12

### Southwest

*Southern CA-AZ-HI*

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(End of term - 2000)

Hello Region 12 members! It's been a beautiful Spring, with great weather for flying, and summer is right around the corner. It's back—that incredible urge to stay outdoors and fly our kites!

National Kite Month started out here with Aire Affair Kite Productions putting on the 5th Annual Southern California Open in San Diego. The San Diego Kite Club, with President Charlie M'Clary, made its presence known with a food concession and SDKC souvenir booth. SDKC's Greg Lawrence contacted the local media and the event was well covered. The day went well. At one point, field director Glenn Rothstein said to me, "this is scary, we're actually ahead of schedule." Larry Bush and Tom Stoner added a few flying disciplines to get us up to par with international competition. Aire Affair's Southern California Sport Kite League continues throughout the summer and fall.

In Phoenix, JoAnn Grabe spearheaded the Anthem Days Fun Fly which featured local talent, including Ron Reich, putting on demonstrations and working with children. Dave Evans put together the Dolly Sanchez Easter Egg Hunt and Kite Fly in Peoria. Tom Manson and the Route 66 Kite Club held the Plateau Park Fun Fly in Phoenix.

In California, Dave Shenkman of Huntington did his part by putting on the Huntington Beach Kite Festival just north of the famous Huntington Beach Pier. Rick Spurgeon coordinated Cub Scout Pack 394 Kite Derby in Santee. The Cielo Vista Elementary School had "Flying high With Reading and Math", mixing schooling with kiting. The San Diego Kite Club again had a day entertaining the children of the Polinski Children's Center. All of these events, and numerous others, were instrumental in making a larger awareness of kiting.

With all this happening, how can anyone have a bad day? Recently I experienced the loss of someone as close as family. At the service, the priest said "Life is a banquet, so don't starve yourself." These words have stuck in my head since then. So, forget about personal conflicts and let's go fly a kite and enjoy the day. Bon Appetit!



Miguel Rodriguez at Air Affair - winner of MIB and MIP.  
Photo by Sandee and Larry Bush

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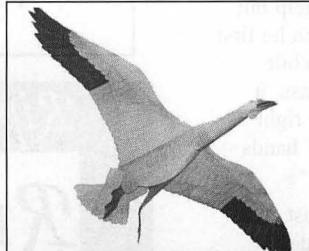


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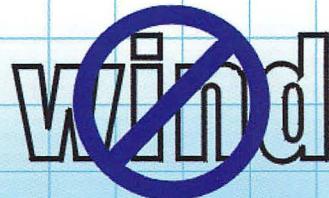
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