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Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



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- KAPtions with Carl Hanson
- Kites On Ice
- Chinese Kitemaker Chen Zhao Ji

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COVER PHOTO -

Claudio Capelli's beautifully painted Edo kite. Claudio is from Cervia, Italy - where he organizes the Italian International Kite Festival. Claudio is a painter, sculptor, and musician - as well as a kite maker.

Photo by Phil Broder - taken at Kites On Ice.

Graphic design by Lynda Kott.



The President's Page

David Gomberg



These are challenging times for the Association. But challenges present opportunities. I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to you about what we are doing, some changes we're considering, and about the problems we are trying to overcome.

What do you think about increasing the number of pages in KITING from 36 to 48? So much of what now goes into the publication is "boilerplate" — store lists, officer lists, clubs and calendar plus regional reports and boring letter from me. A one-third increase in pages would allow us to double the amount of feature articles, stories and plans. Essentially we are talking about changing from a newsletter to a magazine.

Right now, your Board is giving this issue careful consideration. However, one tradeoff is to cut back from six issues a year to four, at least at first. I will talk more about this KITING question later in my column, but first let me try and put it in context.

AKA is facing a serious short term financial crisis and we need your help.

When I took over as President in January, I learned that we had just \$5,000 in the bank. Five years ago, we had nearly ten times that amount. But membership is down by over 25%, the cost of KITING has risen dramatically, and compensation for our contractors has increased significantly. So we have been losing money steadily.

For the first quarter of 2001, we expect to bring in roughly \$7,000 a month in dues and advertising revenue. But during the same period, we expect to spend about \$12,000 a month on KITING, insurance, and payments to contractors. Things normally improve in the Spring, and we usually make up the "winter shortfall" with income from the Auction and Convention. But Treasure Island fell more than \$8,000 below budget.

OK — so we are making seven a month and spending twelve and we only have five in the bank. It doesn't take an Alan Greenspan to tell us that we have a problem. That's why I've started sending personal letters to you, starting with people who have been members the longest, asking you to make a financial contribution to the Association.

Here is what your Board is doing to address the long term problems and short term crisis.

- We have temporarily eliminated the color from inside KITING, saving \$1700 an issue.
- We've initiated the Monthly Raffles which are generating \$1000 a month.
- We have started a major membership recruitment effort and for the first time in over a year, earned more new members this month than we lost.
- We have arranged for more than 50,000 membership applications to be inserted in kite products. We have made arrangements to invite 1,000 subscribers to *KiteLines* who are not currently AKA members to join. And we are reaching out to the emerging kitesurfing community as a source of members and advertising revenue.
- We now have the only kite publication in America and are working toward a 20% increase in ad revenue.

- All of our contracts with staff will be re-negotiated this year. We are currently completing the first performance reviews of these contractors to take place in more than three years.

- And we are changing the way we budget the convention to insure that Billings will finish in the black.

AKA has a plan and a vision. We can get back to 5,000 members and stabilize our finances. We can give you a better magazine for less money. We can give you a good, cost-effective convention that makes

money. And we can keep the AKA a strong, vibrant, fun and productive part of the kiting movement.

How can you help? Don't wait to get a personal letter from the President; send a donation to the Association! If you can send \$100, that would be ideal. But if not, consider sending \$50 or \$25 or \$10. **Contributions are tax deductible.** Every contributor of more than \$100 will receive a special "AKA Angel" pin. Anyone sending \$250 or more will also be entered into a drawing for a free lifetime AKA membership.

There are other things you can do to help us through this crisis.

- Recruit members. Remember that 500 new members equals \$15,000. It isn't all profit, but by spreading the cost of our executive director, newsletter editor, and convention manager over more dues payers, we become stronger in the long run.
- Buy raffle tickets. Buy LOTS of raffle tickets! They don't cost much and the prizes are great! It is the same as making a contribution except that you have the chance to win something very cool!
- If you are renewing, consider a 3-year membership or signing on as a "sponsor".
- Talk to your favorite kite store or manufacturer. If they once advertised in *KiteLines* or *American Kite*, ask them why they don't advertise in KITING. And if already advertise with us, thank them!
- If your club or event sponsors a cause, consider making the AKA your cause this year. Think how much event insurance will cost you in the future if AKA goes away.

I said in my first President's column that this is an amazing organization filled with wonderful and talented people capable of great things. Working together, we are certainly capable of saving our Association.

Now, let's talk about the magazine again. I look at challenges as opportunities to make improvements. If we can put more real content, more color, and more interesting articles into a larger magazine, then AKA is offering you a better product. Sadly, the other quarterly US magazines have gone away. Perhaps AKA can fill that void.

The financial consequences are pretty straight-forward. If we mail you four times instead of six, we save \$20,000 a year. Printing costs over the year go down as well. And a better magazine gives us a better chance to sell more ads. This is a big decision for your Board and they need your help to make it. And remember, there is always the potential to return to a bi-monthly schedule once we complete the upgrade.

In the meanwhile, we can augment KITING with the new bi-monthly E-affiliates News! This is an electronic "newsletter" emailed to all members, past members, and interested kites free. If you know someone who is enthused with kiting but not yet ready to join, sign them up on our web page to receive the E-News.

The other big event right around the corner is National Kite Month. The AKA and the Kite Trade Association coordinate this focused

(continued on page 11)

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A LETTER TO THE READERS OF *Kite Lines*

My dear friends,

Maybe word has reached you, but this is to make a formal statement: *Kite Lines* has ceased publication as of the end of the year 2000, after 24 years in business.

It is impossible to express how deeply I regret this. But we had no choice. The kite industry has been unable to provide the magazine with enough advertising revenue and subscriber volume to sustain it. We recognize that many of our readers welcomed the arrival of *Kite Lines* on their doorsteps, and we are sorry we can no longer provide that pleasure.

Over the past two years, as we saw the downtrend developing, we studied every possible alternative. We tried every technique to increase income, reduce expenses, and work harder, all the usual. But in the end it became clear that none of these mattered, that the market base was just not there – even if we could have chosen to lower the high editorial standards that were our hallmark.

You will notice that I use the word “we” above, which includes loyal staff, friends and contributors. The staff had gradually decreased. But up until March of 1999 it included my husband, Mel. His death was a personal trauma as well as a loss to the magazine. But in case you wondered, it was not the chief precipitating event in the cessation of *Kite Lines*.

I want to thank the many people who made the magazine what it was. Space prohibits listing them all by name. However, I am grateful beyond words to everyone for the energy and love we shared in the unique collaboration that was *Kite Lines*.

I have decided to operate the *Kite Lines* Bookstore, which now appears on the Internet at two sites: www.kitelife.com and www.gombergkites.com under the care of Mike Gillard and David Gomberg, respectively. I encourage readers to visit the sites regularly to keep up with new offerings. The KiteLife site carries, in addition to the Bookstore, a bimonthly selection of classic articles from early issues of *Kite Lines*. It is hoped that in the future the site will carry more and newer material.

I encourage all *Kite Lines* readers to support the American Kitefliers Association, which has kindly offered me this space to speak to you.

It's my intention to stay involved in kiting as much as I can – and to keep my eyes on the sky, where the joy of kites will never fade.

Best breezes,

Valerie Govig

P.S. My post office moved and changed my box number. Please contact me from now on at:

Kite Lines Bookstore
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Strength Through Diversity A Guide To National Kite Month 2001

By Phil Broder

One of my favorite things about kiteflying is its remarkable variety. There's no single type of kite that's right or wrong, there are hundreds of different varieties. The only limitations are those of the kitemaker's imagination, and that when you tie a string to it the kite has to fly. So too is National Kite Month: a diverse collection of kite events, organized by an even more diverse collection of kitefliers.

NKM features some big events in big places. It kicked off with the venerable Smithsonian Kite Festival in Washington DC, and includes the Maryland International Kite Expo in Ocean City, MD, the Little Acorns Festival in Miami Beach, and a new event in Huntington Beach, CA, the American Lung Association's Free To Breathe Kite Festival.

But while the big events may get the TV coverage, it's the nearly 200 smaller events that reach into every corner of the country. It's Archie Stewart going to Pickering Middle School in Lynn, MA, to teach about “Kites and the Far East” and the South Dakota Art Museum's kite festival. It's the kite buggy enthusiasts on the beaches of Galveston for the International Kite Festival. And it is clubs in Charlotte, Topeka, Boston, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Chicago having fun flies. Of course, if you're hungry after all this flying, stop by one of the Shari's Restaurants in Washington State to have a meal while you enjoy kite displays and videos set up by Elizabeth King.

Every kite event, big or small, received help with publicity, so that we can reach as many “non-kiters” as possible with a message of airborne fun. One goal of NKM is to sign up 150 new AKA members, which shouldn't be hard to do with so many dedicated fliers pitching in.

There are a lot of incentives to do something for NKM2001. The club that hosts the most events wins a Felix Cartegena bubble machine; the club that signs up the most new AKA members takes home some creations by Ron Gibian and Scott Hampton. And anyone who recruits a new AKA member will be eligible to win a 9-cell kite made by Glen and Tanna Haynes.

It's not too late to put together an NKM event. Even the smallest fun fly, or classroom talk, or indoor fly, or kite art display counts. Just register the event on the NKM website (accessible from the AKA site at www.aka.kite.org); it's free and takes two minutes. You'll also find a complete calendar of NKM events on the website, so you'll know all the best places to go to find friends to fly with.

Of course, none of this works if you don't get out and put a kite in the air. So clean out your kite closet, find some old favorites, take a few friends, and head out to your nearest National Kite Month event for a look at kiteflying's diversity.

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Terry Murray - Sandston, VA

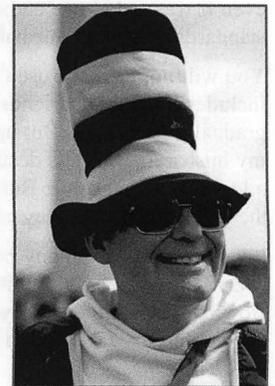
I met Terry Murray on the kite field at Dorey Park in Richmond, Virginia. It was January 1, 1995. He was struggling with a pre-graphite "Tracker." Even from a distance, it was easy to see he was a beginner; but it was also apparent that he was determined to get the hang of the unruly monster. As the afternoon wore on, I watched from the corner of my eye and realized that this newcomer was learning the basics in spite of his inexperience. Toward the end of the afternoon, I walked the 100 or so yards between us to say hello. Anyone who knows Terry now - knows he is open, friendly, and easy to talk to, but then - let's say it was all I could do to keep him from running away. When I suggested that he come to meet the other fliers, Terry focused his eyes on the ground. "Oh no," he protested, "you are all too good. I'd just mess everybody up." He got my standard recruiting speech - about the Smithsonian, the AKA, the Eastern League, the Nationals, the festivals, the competitions, and the friends all across the country who were waiting to meet him. I must have hit a nerve somewhere because he reluctantly agreed to accompany me to the big field. He met some other fliers that day and seemed to sense that he belonged.

He soon began flying regularly, constantly - in the morning on his way to work, in the evening, on his way home, and all through each entire weekend. His wife, Debbie, eventually named his pairs team because he was always "Late For Supper." His learning curve took on a vertical slant and his skills soon surpassed our own. Terry is a talented machinist and he employed those skills to produce a variety of kite tools and sculptures which he distributed with reckless generosity. He hunted the best fliers around, soaking up their secrets. He recruited a pairs partner and, together, they constructed a classic routine based on the James Bond movies. They wore tuxedos on the field and closed the gig with a dramatic gunshot. Most of his friends don't know the degree of intensity he poured into his new hobby. Terry shot miles of video



tape and spent countless hours dubbing in uncannily appropriate music. Those videos now form the archives of the Richmond Air Force. His competitive nature soon drove him into the Masters class, Individual and Pairs, Dual line and Quad, and Practice, Practice, Practice were his watchwords. When Terry took over the Old Dominion SKC with Phil Napier, the event took on a flavor competitors came to appreciate. Terry focused on every detail until the event ran as smoothly as any competition in the Eastern League. East Coast kitefliers have come to realize that things are done right when Terry is in charge and the attendance figures prove it.

The Murray household has become a mecca for the Richmond kiting community. Wednesday night meetings are held on Tuesday to accommodate the unpredictable nature of kitefliers. A plan to experiment with sewing grew out of the early sessions. Terry attacked this aspect of kiting with his usual intensity by first producing some remarkable creations, then recruiting Phil, Bruce, David, Adrienne and Merle, Richmond Air Force apprentices, who are now threatening to outstrip their teacher. As a direct result of Terry's enthusiasm and drive, the RAF is producing some unique and eye-catching pieces, all of which are earmarked for numerous, planned events on the RAF calendar for 2001. Like many others across the country, Terry Murray brought his considerable talents to the kiting community where he made an impact which promises to spark significantly greater interest in our uncommon passion. I believe there are more "Terrys" standing on the edges of your fields and I challenge each of you to make the walk. It was the best 100 yard stroll I ever made.



Charles Stonestreet of Richmond, VA writes *Flight Zone*, and offers us an inside look at our fellow AKA members.

Photo of Terry by David Hansen



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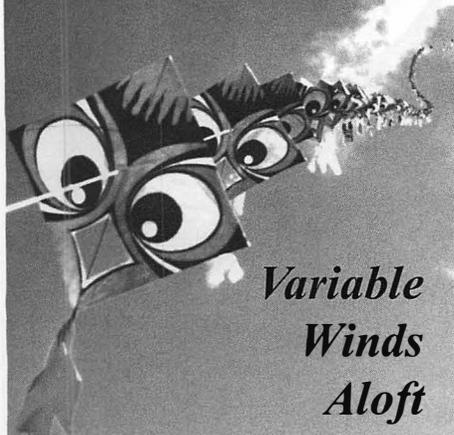
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Letters to the AKA

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Variable Winds Aloft

An Offer to Members...

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Magnussen Monolith

Report by Mary Bos

As the first dawn of the new Millennium breaks (the 2001 theme music starts), morning rays fall on a new black shape on an otherwise blank hillside. There is a monolith sitting in the middle of Kite Hill, Seattle – foretelling of possible new intelligence among kitefliers, or possibly an extra-terrestrial message to kitefliers? (Fade out music).

Meanwhile, the newly elected AKA Regional Director is working at a kite shop 150 miles to the west, unaware of any untoward motions to Kite Hill. Next thing she knows, Phil Broder from the Midwest is emailing a picture asking what is going on here. Phil may not know Seattle like I do, but things like this happen frequently (though not on Kite Hill). At first, I thought Hammering Man (a piece of public art in downtown Seattle) had misplaced his spike. Seattleites decorate their public art with clothing, flowers, accessories, or in the case of Hammering Man, a ball and chain around his leg.

So I call various informants in Seattle about this phenomenon. The boys at a very well known Seattle kite place knew nothing about it. They asked what the shape was. Now if anything is planted in the middle of the Kite Hill, would you ask what the shape was?

Seems at the base of the hill near the shore of Lake Washington, some nuclear submarine tail fins are planted to look like a sub is facing out toward the lake. I wonder what the message is – take that, you suburbs – keep your cars on your side of the lake? (Seattle ranks number one in rush hour traffic congestion).

I described the oblong boxy shaped monolith, and they didn't know anything about it. It seems it did not make the Seattle news until Wednesday, the 3rd. Why is it, everywhere else knows about what is going on in your neighborhood before you do? The boys said they would investigate and get back.

The next day in my local newspaper, it is reported the Monolith had "mysteriously" disappeared, just as it had mysteriously appeared. No tire tracks or other marks on the turf. Just the turf replaced with a row of burned down candles in place of the monolith and a rose left between the candles. Nice to know there are some like-minded kite types retaking back the Kite Hill for those high fliers. I wasn't going to need to organize a

Teddy Roosevelt Rough Rider sortie to take back the hill for kite fliers everywhere. Whew!

But... (there is always a but) the monolith reappeared on an island in Green Lake. Green Lake is about 5 miles away and is another city park. I guess the ducks were supposed to listen to the message or maybe deliver the message. I thought, that's a good place. The dogs can't visit, the graffiti types will need to get wet to visit, and all can enjoy from many angles.

Just when Seattle and the ducks were settling down to a long winters drizzle, the original culprits came forth and wanted their monolith back. They hadn't intended to unveil their identities, but they didn't appreciate the new statement their monolith made. They didn't move it to the new location. I think the rest of Seattle was looking forward to the monolith moving to a park near them sometime soon. Certainly better than stealing the local dairy's eight foot fiberglass cow and putting it in some park or fountain.

So the city of Seattle retrieved the monolith and has it in storage. The intent is for the monolith to return back to Kite Hill with a more "permanent" base of concrete. Allegedly, the monolith will be removed in mid-March when the kite fliers return back to regain possession of the hill.

Dave Gomberg thinks it would make a good kite anchor. I wonder what the "owners" would think of that? I may have to try that in one of my sorties over to Seattle. Guess I'll have to watch the weather patterns. If I can see a good easterly forming, drive to Kite Hill and launch a lifter with the monolith as my anchor. Perhaps I'll call the newspapers and TV stations to show what a good or not so good anchor the monolith will become. Hey, Dave, want to come up and fly from the monolith? Maybe we could make the kite a raffle item for the next kite auction? Own one of the kites flown from the famous Seattle Kite Hill Monolith?

Look in next issue's Region 10 column to see if the monolith really left kite hill.

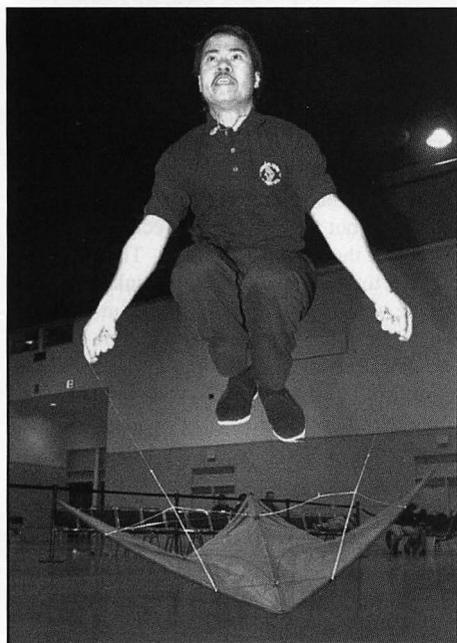
Mary Bos is the current Region 10 AKA Director. She formerly lived in Seattle near Green Lake, but not too far from Kite Hill. After enduring all of the traffic congestion she could stand, she moved to near Ocean Shores, where traffic is less, rain is more, and there is kiteflying year round.

1st Night Providence (RI) 2001

by Steve Santos

A winter blizzard was about to blow through Newport while a cast of indoor kite fliers was assembling to prepare for an indoor kite venue. High Flyers Flight Company produced "Indoor Kite Ballet" as part of Providence's 1st Night Celebration on New Year's Eve. The event featured indoor kite "ballet" demonstrations throughout the evening with an "indoor kite making clinic" for children from 6 - 8pm. The team was billed as the "High Flyers Flight Team" and was composed of some of the best indoor kite fliers in North America. Lam Hoac was our featured flier as the National Indoor Champion, with support by a cast lead by Dodd Gross, Paul Berard, Brian Vanderslice, Torrey Lindemann, John Ruggiero, Peter McMasters, Steve Letourneau and Scott Weider. The venue was located in one of three large exhibition halls in the RI Convention Center. There were

dozens of other acts ongoing within the Center. Spectator crowds were high, in the hundreds, for each of the six evening performances.



Kite activities started with a procession through the streets of Providence. The procession began at the RICC and we walked, and flew, our kites to the front of Providence's City Hall. Torrey Lindemann was part of the grand opening and offered a choreographed demo just outside City Hall. The kite making clinic at the RICC was prepared to make 200 kites and we had 200+ done within the first hour. Kids flew their kites in a large open area within the Exhibit Hall just next to our venue while the "pros" demonstrated in the staged area. All of the performers offered excellent choreographed routines. At one point in his routine, Lam Hoac wrapped his kite up his arms and started to jump rope with his kite. Over and over he jumped over the kite exciting the crowd. In fact, Lam flew a different choreographed routine every time out.

Torrey had command of "behind the back flying" and had flew several exciting routines. The "Sliceman" performed six clean routines, occasionally featuring his large quadfoil within his indoor routine. Dodd started each "set" while the crowd began to fill up. We had strong performances throughout the evening by Peter McMasters, John Ruggiero, Paul Berard, Steve Letourneau and Scott Weider. Scott was also our on-site cameraman. Each set ended with Lam Hoac, our featured flier. He regularly flew to large crowds, occasionally with standing room only. We all gathered to celebrate at the Seaview Inn in Newport following the festivities and were out at Brenton Point flying our kites on New Years Day! I have a feeling we'll be back and in a bigger way next year. Come and join us in Providence, RI!

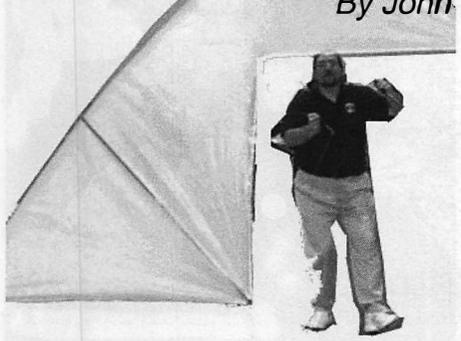
For more pictures go to the "events" link in High Flyers Web store at www.buyakite.com.

Above, Lam Hoac jumping rope with his kite. Below, Brian (Sliceman) Vanderslice working a foil in front of big crowds. Torrey Lindemann (top right) flying a Synergy Deca. On the opposite page, John Ruggiero with a Rev. Photos by Scott Weider.



Getting Started With Indoor Flying

By John Ruggiero



Indoor flying is different from flying outdoors. Beside the obvious lack of wind, the techniques used to control the kite are different. Flying indoors will benefit even the most experienced outdoor flier. When the wind dies in the middle of your routine, you will know how to handle the kite. This can mean the difference between wood and walking.

Some people have more fun flying indoors than out. I'm one of them. I tell people it's my only chance to be graceful. When the vagaries of the wind are eliminated, the kite becomes a dancing partner. I suppose it is the same for the best fliers outdoors, but indoor flying brings this out in many people.

So, how do you get started? The first step is to find a big, empty windless space. Remember that you can't feel a breeze until it gets over three miles per hour. You want zero wind. I started in an old factory building that was the size of an aircraft hanger. A good alternative is any indoor basketball court. Try your local schools, community centers, or even warehouses. If there is a small airport in the area, empty hangers are great. The ultimate indoor space is the Hindenburg Hanger in Lakehurst, NJ with two hundred foot ceilings!

Once you have explained to the caretakers that you will not be using big fans, make sure you are wearing appropriate shoes. Nothing ticks off the custodian of a gym faster than black shoe marks on the floor! If you know what you are doing indoors, a demonstration goes a long way toward getting the space.

Ok, you have your gym-friendly shoes on in the local basketball court and you're ready to try it. What now? I fly quad-line, mostly Revolution kites, indoors so that's what I'll try to describe. I am not sponsored by anyone. Use a Rev 1.5 if you have one. A Rev 1 is good, too. Best of all is the new Indoor Rev (obviously). If you are using an outdoor Rev, take off the bridle and attach the lines to the top and bottom of the vertical spars. The top lines should be about six inches longer than the bottom lines for a Rev 1.5. Replace all the spars with the lightest ones you can find. The line length should be as long as you can make it without hitting the ceiling or lights. Use long "ultralight" or indoor handles.

Lean your kite against a wall with no obstructions above you or the kite (like the hoops and backboards). Pick up the handles and walk backwards to the end of the lines. The easiest thing to do with a Rev is an "Up and Over". This is when you send the kite straight over your head, turn around and fly it on the opposite side from where you started. Launch into an Up and Over from the wall by briskly pulling the tops of the handles while walking backwards. As the kite goes over your head, turn around and extend your arms, the kite will glide if you gave it enough energy. When the kite starts to head toward the floor, turn it ninety degrees so the leading edge is vertical. Fly the kite around you in a 360. Flying in a 360 is easier if the top of the kite (the wingtip furthest from the floor) is closer to you than the bottom.

Once you have mastered these basics, the rest is easy. Use an Up and Over to recover whenever you get into trouble. It gives you some time to reposition yourself and get the kite under control. Try reversing direction and flying backward. If the kite is too fast or will not fly backward, shorten the bottom lines or lengthen the top. I find I like a lot more "brakes" indoors than out.

At first indoor flying is quite a workout. Be prepared to sweat. As you get a feel for it, it takes less and less effort. The important part is to have fun.

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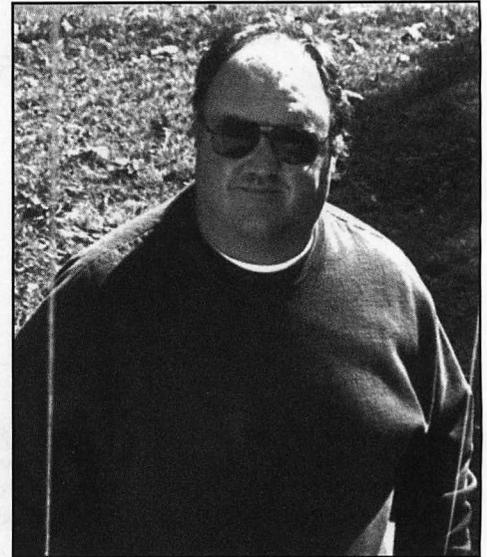
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photo by Cliff Pennell

kaptions



Carl Hanson

I've enjoyed doing KAP for over seven years now and I think it is the greatest invention since sliced bread.

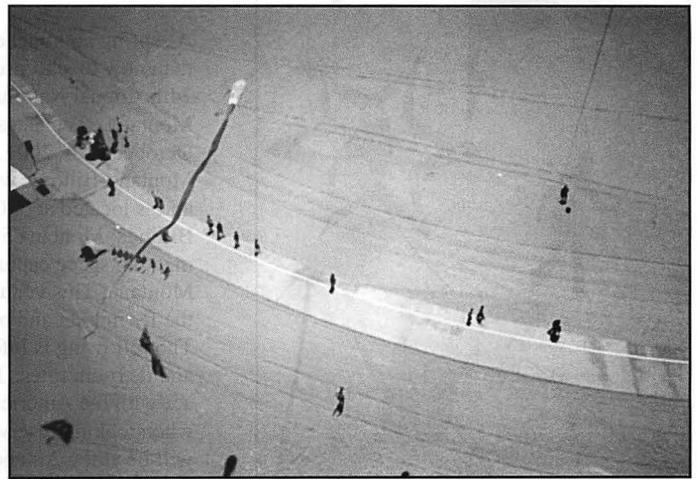
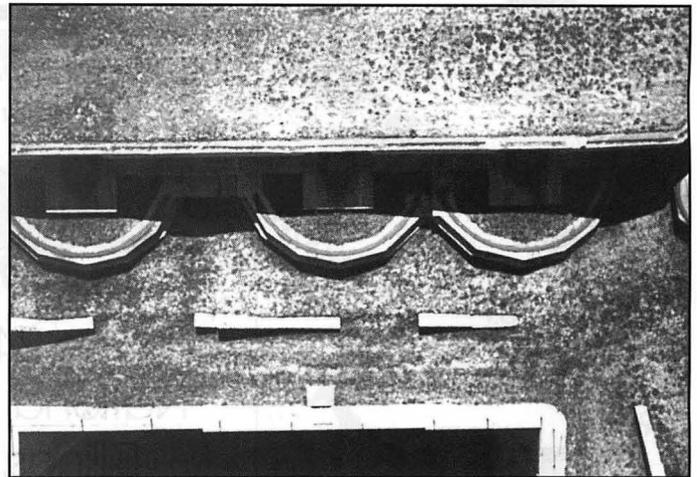
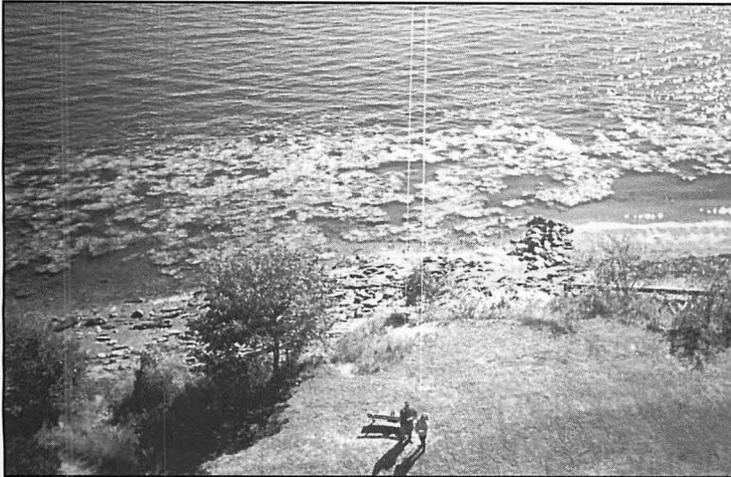
Not a day goes by where I am not in my workshop tinkering with my equipment trying to build a proverbial "better aerial mousetrap".

In addition to experimenting with different aerial camera techniques (remote control shutter trigger devices, delayed action clock timers, cameras attached to stunt kites and video), over the past three years I wrote a "how to" book on the subject which will be out in print by mid-June of this year from Dorrance Publishing.

Like many AKA members who own many kites, I love building an aerial camera rig each time I find a good new or used camera that I'd love to get airborne. I've built about six so far.

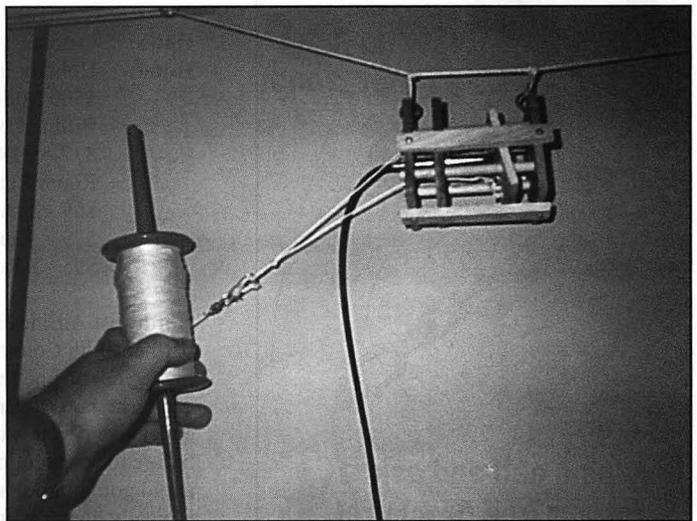
I've had numerous technical difficulties with my RC aerial rigs. I put that equipment on the back burner and started building string activated shutter triggers that run along the length of the main kite line of my 10ft. Delta-Conyne (see self-portrait photo).

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



I built a small wooden cage with a sliding bearing platform that rests on top of the button of my 40-inch cable release. With a gentle tug of the line, the platform presses down on the cable release button, which shoots out the pin at the other end, which is aligned and secured over the shutter. The rig is attached to a pendulum, which is bracketed to the kite line.

I went a few steps further with this technique by building a string-activated device for my Polaroid camera. One good pull of the line and the picture slips out and dangles in mid-air in front of the camera 50 to 100 feet up. The instant photo remains gripped and secure while I reel in the lines to remove the photo and see it develop instantly in front of me. A real crowd-pleasing activity.



Photos - Sears port, Maine with sister Julie, photo taken with a line trigger device (top left); Canon Mounts at Ft. Knox, Maine, photo taken with line trigger device (top right); Gasworks Park and bicyclists, using a clock timer device (center left); Long Beach, CA at the sport kite competition and festival (center right); Oceanfront property Sunset Beach using a Futuba remote control and Olympus Infinity Junior camera (botom left); Line trigger device (above).

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Convention Manager Report
Maurenn Posillico

The 24th Annual National Convention Billings, Montana

As spring approaches, there is no better time than now to start preparing for this year's 24th Annual National Convention in Billings, Montana. The dates for this year's event are October 1 - 6, 2001. The Holiday Inn Grand Montana-Billings will be hosting our event and is located at 5500 Midland Road, Billings, Montana 59101. The endless meeting space captures the "big sky" spirit of Montana. This venue will keep all seminars, the fly market and banquets under one roof. The following is information about the hotel and its room rates. Be sure to indicate you are with the American Kitefliers Association when making reservations. The field events will be at the Amend Park, a short 2-3 minutes from the hotel.

Dates: October 1 - 6, 2001
Hotel: Holiday Inn Grand Montana
5500 Midland Road
Billings, MT 59101
877-55GRAND
Room Rates:
\$69 - 2 Doubles / 1 Queen
\$79 - King
\$95 - 2-Room Suite

Northwest Airlines is our official airlines and partners with Continental. It is suggested you make your airline reservations as soon as you can. The fares to Billings can be very expensive if you wait until a month or so before the convention. It's suggested you avoid going through Denver since the fares are typically higher going through there. It's recommended you consider connecting through Minneapolis or Salt Lake City for less expensive fares.

Airline: Northwest/KLM/Continental
Meetings Services Desk: 800-328-1111 M-F 7:30a-7:30p (CT)

All seminars, banquets, fly market, and business meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana. The annual business

meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 3.

If you are going to donate an item to the auction, contact Charm Lindner at (636) 677-3029 for more information. Ron Lindner is in charge of the Fly Market. Contact him at your earliest convenience so you can be included. This year's fly market

will have some exciting changes. Don't be left out! Scott Skinner will be in charge of the Kite Art Gallery as well as Members' Choice.

The City of Billings will be hosting our welcome reception on Monday evening, October 1, from 6 to 9pm at the Billings Airport. It will be in conjunction with the end of their kite exhibit that has been ongoing. Terri Lee from Billings will be coordinating all the arrangements. She has indicated that the reception will feature an assortment of hors d'oeuvres donated by local restaurants. There will also be an assortment of raffle items that the AKA will be able to reap the benefits from.

Attractions around Billings are many. Plan to stay a few extra days, and enjoy "Big Sky Country."

The Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is the site of the June 25, 1876 battle between the U.S. Army's seventh cavalry, guided by Crow and Arikara scouts, and several bands of Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho. Taught for years as Custer's Last Stand, the park is symbolic of the plight of our Native American culture. After the battle of the Little Bighorn, many of the plains tribes nomadic lifestyles changed forever.

In Montana, everyone has a few wild neighbors. We're not talking about neighbors who throw all-night parties; we're referring to antelope, elk, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, eagles, trumpeter swans, bears, wolves, and more. In fact, Montana has a greater variety of wildlife than any other state in the lower 48.

If you like to fish, you can wade, float or fish the world's most famous fishing streams: Rock Creek and the Stillwater, Boulder, Musselshell, Big Horn and Yellowstone Rivers. Big Horn, Cooney Dam and Deadman's Basin Reservoirs overflow with blue ribbon fish.

Billings is the gateway to our nation's legendary western heritage. Over a century of cowboys, Indians, rustlers and Custer still dominate the galleries, museums, cabins, mansions and historic sites within the "Magic City." Plan to join in the fun!

AKA Raffle Update!

by Al Sparling

We have a winner! Mark Groshens of Cambridge, ON is the winner of the first monthly AKA raffle. He is now the proud owner of a Bulldog foil and 45' Spinsock, courtesy of Catch the Wind. His ticket was drawn at the closing dinner of "Kites On Ice" by a little blonde four-year-old girl to an accordion fanfare in a German restaurant. We will have a second winner by the time you read this and someone will have won a 28' Gomberg Crown Bol. Both are great prizes! In March, the raffle item is a complete buggy package with four kites courtesy of Active People. You can still get in on this raffle and win this wonderful buggy package. In April, you can buy tickets for a flock of Joel Scholz designed pelican or flamingo bird kites, manufactured and donated by Go Fly A Kite. For May, we will be featuring a set of eight banners from Wind Feather Banners which when flown together form a large American flag - a perfect ground display for those festivals in early July!

Looking over this list of prizes, I come to one conclusion - every winner will be as excited as Mark Groshens was when I called him to tell him he had won. So, if you need a little excitement in your life, go to the website, www.aka.kite.org, or call our Executive Director at (800) 252-2550 and buy some raffle tickets. This is a great way to support the AKA and have some fun while you do it. So, take a chance at becoming the envy of all of your friends - and buy more tickets!

President's Page (continued)

media blitz on kite flying. It isn't too late to add an event to the NKM calendar or recruit a new member as part of our Kite Month outreach plans. Remember there are prizes for the club that gets the most events or members, and that every time you recruit someone, you qualify for a prize drawing as well!

The bottom line is that your Association is working hard and wants to keep you informed of the issues and developments. Thanks for being a part of what we do.

Over the next two months, I plan to be at Fort Worden in Washington, Zilker in Austin, the Smithsonian, Miami Beach, Galveston, and Great Lakes. I've got a little trip to France sandwiched in as well. I look forward to talking with a lot of you about the AKA. And one last thing - remember to have fun out there!

David Gandy

Fighter Kite & Rokkaku Rules Update

Report by Andy Selzer

As most members know, the fighter kite rules have not been updated in some years. This article will be dealing with some of the more significant changes in the upcoming rulebook. Right at the beginning you will notice that the pilot flying area now includes 12 foot squares as well as circles, and the distance between them has been expanded to ten feet instead of six feet. Perhaps one of the most significant changes has been the incorporation of random point alteration for matches between pairs of flyers. What this means is instead of a predetermined flight order of points and a known top, bottom, top alternation, the head judge will use a coin flip for a more random choice of match points. The overall effect is to eliminate an unfair advantage to a more experienced flyer by setting of line lengths and kite tuning between points.

With the use of more Mylar kite skins, a problem with transparent kites has arisen. Transparent kites will not be allowed, and as always the opinion of the head judge is final.

You will notice a section on no-shows for matches. While trying to be lenient, guide-

lines are set for a judge to use to move the match along.

Since the last rulebook the official AKA position on the use of cutting lines at sanctioned events has changed. The AKA does not allow cutting battles at these events for public safety reasons.

For Rokkaku battles the addition of two different point scoring systems has been incorporated into the new rulebook. One system gives the flyer/team a point for each downed kite and additional points for being one of the last five kites in the round. The other bases points solely on descending order of finish in the round. With both systems judges have set guidelines to watch out for sandbagging. Importantly judges and participants must conduct themselves in a safe and sportsmanship like manner.

Yes, Spring will be around the corner shortly so let us get those kites ready for the upcoming season. And remember to keep those kites dancin' in the wind.

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Fighters - Wind Sprints
Kids Kitemaking
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Just east of Woodfield Mall
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KITEVENTS

March

24
HKS Spring Sewing Workshop
Indianapolis, IN
Danna Korak (317) 849-5986

Kites Over Texarkana
Texarkana, TX (Eagle Acres Ranch)
Tommy Adams (870) 774-2670

SciTech Festival
Pittsburgh, PA
Boop Baumgartner (412) 647-3436

Smithsonian Kite Festival
Theme – "2001 – A Kite Odyssey"
Washington, DC
Smithsonian (202) 357-2700

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

24 - 25
Anthem Days Kite Festival
Phoenix, AZ
JoAnn Grabe (520) 232-1033

25
Merced Kite Fun Fly
Merced, CA
Jim Strealay (209) 725-9258

31
Kite Day at W. H. Sommer Park
Peoria, IL
Valerie Marek (309) 691-8423

Pensacola Beach Fun Fly
Pensacola, FL
Diane Bicker (850) 932-7799

31- April 1
World Kite Museum Workshop –
Get Dizzy With Kites; Nicolas
Wadsworth – Rotating Box Kites
Long Beach, WA (360) 642-4020

April

1
April Fools Fly
Plainfield, IN
Clark Shute (317) 272-0187

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

Lone Star Fun Fly
DeSoto, TX
Warren Harris (972) 230-3936

7
Bloomington Spring Tune-up
Bloomington, IN
Mark Kunoff (812) 336-3543

Southern California Open
Fiesta Island, San Diego, CA
Santee Bush (909) 734-2513

7 - 8
8th Annual Bluebonnet Kite Fest
San Marcos, TX
Debbie Lawrence (512) 396-2846

Kitemania 2001
AKA Region 1 Meeting
Newport, RI
Steve Santos (401) 658-0649

7 - 9
Kite Surfing Camp
Hatteras Island, NC
Chris Moore (800)334-4777, ext. 46

14
Harker Heights Kite Festival
Harker Heights, TX
Carolyn Weir (409) 744-6008

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

14 - 16
Kite Surfing Camp
Hatteras Island, NC
Chris Moore (800)334-4777, ext. 46

15
5th Annual Cedar Hill Kite Fest
Cedar Hill, TX at Valley Ridge Park
Sandra Martin (972) 291-5130

20 - 22
Little Acorns Int'l Kite Festival
Miami Beach, FL (South Beach)
Linda Gelinias (863) 298-8748

21
BASKL – Baylands
Sunnyvale, CA
brian@kitefart.com

Peaceful Bend Kite Fly
1 1/2 hours south of St. Louis, MO
Katie Knott (573) 775-3000

21 - 22
Jewels of the Sky Kite Festival
(WS)(FF) Lewisville, TX
Dick Bell (972) 423-3630

22
Earth Day Fly
Brooklyn Park, MN
Brad Klages (612) 866-9055

27 - 29
Bourbonnais Kite Festival
Bourbonnais, IL
Michele Courtney (815) 935-5665

Maryland International Kite Expo
Mid Atlantic SKC
Ocean City, MD
Kite Loft (410) 289-7855

28
Coffeyville Kite Festival
Coffeyville, KS
Collette Lemons rokman@ionet.net

Flying for a Cure (American Cancer
Society); Charlton, MA
Connie Hovey (508) 248-9966

Great St. Louis Kite Festival
St. Louis, MO
Cecil Cook (636) 928-1288

International Kite Festival
Galveston, TX (raindate April 29)
MCM (409)766-7774

Monthly Scheduled Club Activities - Flies

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

Kansas City Kite Club
2nd Sunday of the month Club flies
Johnson County CC,
Overland Park, KS
(913) 894-5483

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 Immanuel Medical
Center, Omaha, NE
Club fly 2nd Sunday of every month
at Immanuel Field, 72nd and
Sorenson Pkwy
Bruce Kenkel (402) 330-7271

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

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

Ohio Society for Elevation of Kites
2nd Sunday of every month,
Edgewater Park, Cleveland, OH
Harry Gregory (330) 274-2818

Pierce County Kiteflyers 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
2nd Saturday of the month
Mission Bay (south of the Hilton)
Jim Skryja (858) 272-3461

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

Sky Pilots Kite Club
3rd Sunday of the month
Schuykill Valley Elementary School
Leesport, Pa
Carl Leisey (610) 678-4661

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

Sport Kite Club of America
Every Sunday at Playa Del Rey
Beach in Playa Del Rey, CA
Russ Colbert (310) 822-9550

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 Beach approach in
Grayland, WA; potluck
Creda Axton (360) 491-3229

Wings Over Washington
First Sunday of the Month Fly
Washington Monument,
Washington, DC
Harold Ames (540) 775-5174

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.

28 - 29
Evansville Kite Month Celebration
Angel Mounds State Park
Dan Johnson (812) 845-2927

28 - 30
Kite Surfing Camp
Hatteras Island, NC
Chris Moore (800)334-4777, ext. 46

May

5
Belmont Shore Sport Kite Challenge
Belmont Shore, CA
Santee Bush (909) 734-2513

Colonel Murray Kite Festival
Valparaiso, IN
Mark Jaeger (219) 926-6777

Kite Day in the Park
Easton, PA
Glenn Bachman (610) 332-LVKS

Sullivan County Kite Festival
Albany, NY
NYKite@yahoo.com

5 - 6
Ansel Toney Memorial Kite Fly
AMA, Muncie, IN
Mark Kunoff (812) 336-3543

Belmar Kite Festival
Belmar, NJ
Tony Esposito (732) 280-8084

3rd Annual Kites for CASA Kite Fly
Hays, KS
Cl. Lisa Beedy (785) 628-8641

Mississippi Gulf Coast Kite Fest
Long Beach, MS
Sharon Bouffanie (228) 863-9195

KBXR Columbia Festival of Kites
Columbia, MO
John Grimshaw (573) 443-2506

5 - 7
Kite Surfing Clinic
Hatteras Island, NC
Chris Moore (800)334-4777, ext. 46

6
Free to Breathe Kite Festival
Huntington Beach, CA
(714) 536-3630

Olan Turner Kite Day
Core Creek Park, Langhorne, PA
Maryann Gump (215) 757-0571

12
7th Annual Kites in the Sky "99"
Omaha, NE
Randy Fox (402) 597-3653

Kiwanis Kite Fly
St. Louis Park, MN
Julie Renner (952) 935-8239

KONE Regional Competition &
Festival; Nahant Beach, NH
Tim Boyle (978) 667-1841

12 - 13
Tulsa Festival of Kites
Tulsa, OK
Larry Stiles (918) 835-0844

13
Habitat for Humanity Kite Fair
Fort Bragg, CA
Chet Anderson (707) 937-2263

13 - 14
Mothers Day @ Mill Run
Hillard, OH
Tree Alexander (614) 876-4573

18 - 20
White Rock Kite Fest
White Rock, NM
Sam Pedregon (719) 545-5619

19
Georgetown International Kite
Festival; Georgetown, KY
Bill Lowrey (502) 853-1575

Southwinds Kite Festival
Madison, CT
Cheryl Lucas (203) 723-0755

19 - 20
Texas State Kite Championships
Rockport, TX
Dano Wright (361) 442-4608

20
Camp Hill Kite Festival
Camp Hill, PA
Todd Little (717) 975-2852

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

25 - 28
Junction "2000" Kite Makers
Gathering; Junction, TX
Judy Kingery (915) 692-5927

US Open Kiteboarding Invitational
Corpus Christi, TX
Jeff Howard (361) 643-0862

Wildwoods International Kite
Festival; East Coast SKC; World
Indoor Competition
Wildwood, NJ
Sky Festivals (215) 736-3715

26 - 28
Skydance Sakakawea Kite Festival
Garrison, ND
Deb Lenzen (701) 463-2661

Spring Buggy Blitz
Lake Alvord, Fields, OR
Morrie Williams (360) 268-0318

27
Thunder Bay Kite Fly
Thunder Bay, Ontario
Julie Renner (952) 935-8239

27 - 28
San Ramon Kite Festival
San Ramon, CA

JUNE

2
Twisted Lines Kite Festival
Topeka, KS
Bob Homan (785) 273-3715

6
Transportation Day
Evansville, IN
Dan Johnson (812) 845-2927

8 - 10
BASKC
Boston, MA
Greg Lamoureux (617) 925-2357

9
Jamestown Kite Fly
Jamestown, ND
Mike Gee (701) 252-5611

9 - 10
AMA Hobby Expo
Muncie, IN
Mark Kunoff (812) 336-3543

16
BASKL - Martinez, CA

16 - 17
Sky Circus
Ned Brown Woods, Schaumburg, IL
Alan Sparling (630) 369-9682

17
Summer Solstice / Father's Day Fly
White Bear Lake, MN
Brad Klages (612) 866-9055

23
Indiana Factory Shops Fun Fly
Daleville, IN
Dewayne Sheppard (765) 643-1253

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Dave Lombard (203) 732-5243
info@connectikites.org

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(610) 332-LVKS
LVKS@lehighvalleykitesociety.org

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spkc4u@aol.com

South Jersey Kite Flyers
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cthompson@techforce.com

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New Hudson, MI 48165
Patrick Franks (248) 486-5277
prfranks@bigplanet.com

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

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

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

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

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

REGION SIX

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

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

Hoosier Kitefliers Society
8113 Talliho Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46256
Danny Johnson (812) 845-2927
dannyjohnson@cinergy.com

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

Minnesota Kite Society
PO Box 580016
Minneapolis, MN 55458

Western Illinois Winddevils
209 N. Ward Street
Macomb, IL 61455
Heather McMeekan
309-836-8701
www.winddevils.kitelife.com

Wisconsin Kites
3266 S. 44th Street
Greenfields, WI 53219
(414) 329-9825

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

REGION SEVEN

Foothills Kite Club
7035 W. 32nd Place
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Donald Nash (303) 205-9020
FHKC@webtv.net

Gateway Kite Club
8606 Ardelia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63114
Kim Schenken (314) 429-4182
kimndave9@earthlink.net

Kansas City Kite Club
6 NW 67th Street
Gladstone, MO 64118
kckiteclub.home.att.net

Midwest Winds Kitefliers Club
PO Box 3770
Omaha, NE 68103-0770
Bruce Kenkel (402) 330-7271
kenkel31@radiks.net

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

Topeka Kite Flyers
800 Grand Court
Topeka, KS 66606
<http://www.crosswinds.net/~tkf/>

REGION EIGHT

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

Jewels Of The Sky Kite Assn.
(JOTS) Dick Bell
2320 Yeager Street
Fort Worth, TX 76112
(214) 321-3678
KNixie@aol.com

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

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

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

Wind Weavers
Judy Kingery (915) 692-5927
1118 Barrow
Abilene, TX 79605
JGKingery@aol.com

REGION NINE

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

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

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

REGION TEN

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

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

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

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

SCI-FI
1911 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
4winds@eskimo.com

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

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

Whidbey Island Kite Flyers
PO Box 1320
Coupeville, WA 98239
mttpa@whidbey.net

REGION ELEVEN

Bay Area Sport Kite League
7510 Corrinne Street
San Ramon, CA 94583
(925) 829-0683
bask@skinner.com

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

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

Northern California Kite Club
7510 Corrinne Street
San Ramon, CA 94583-
(925) 829-0683
www.kiteart.com/nckc/nckc.htm

REGION TWELVE

Arizona Free Flyers
1727 W. Emeita Avenue #1100
Mesa, AZ 85202
Dave Evans (480) 610-0201
azfreeflyer@aol.com

Hawaii Kitefliers Association
Roy Morisada
(808) 947-7097

Route 66 Kite Club
Thomas M. Manson
4422 W. El Camino Drive
Glendale, AZ 85302
(480) 891-8042
www.tmsquared.com/R66KC.htm

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Jim Skryja (858) 272-3461

Sport Kite Club of America
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Playa Del Ray, CA 90293
Russ Colbert (310) 822-9550
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REGION THIRTEEN

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



Congratulations Alice!



Ooops!

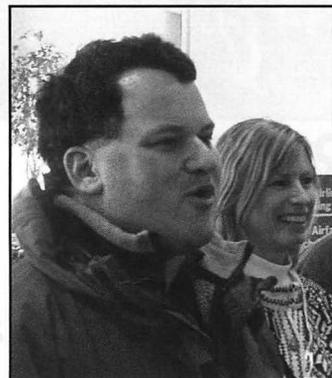
In our convention coverage in the last issue, we inadvertently missed announcing some key awards presented at the AKA National Convention in Treasure Island this past October. Hats off to the following members!

**Regional Director
of the Year**
Alice Hayden

Volunteer of the Year
Phil Broder

Robert Ingraham Award
Richard Dermer

Lee Toy Circle Award
George Peters

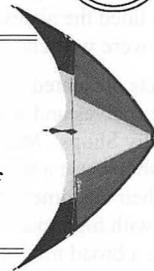


Phil Broder with Linda Underwood at Kites On Ice - as usual working the event.

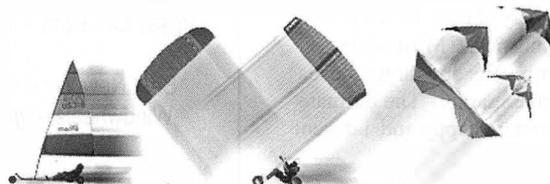
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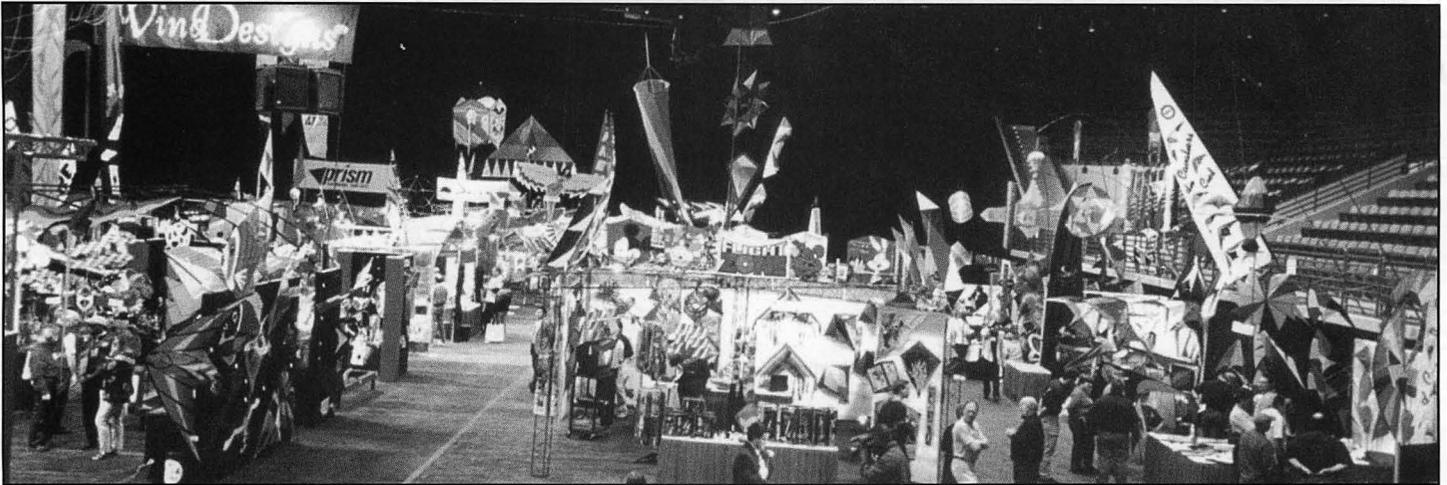
Shop: 702-220-4340

Fax: 702-365-8381

Toll Free: 888-225-9664

Website: www.windpowersports.com

E-mail: info@windpowersports.com



Rolling Toward Success!

Primm Nevada, 45 miles southwest of Las Vegas was the center of the universe for the 13th Annual Kite Trade Association International January 15-20. Kite trade people met to exhibit and inspect the newest products available for 2001. More than a hundred booths filled with exhibitors and their products occupied the arena of the Buffalo Bill Casino in Primm. An exquisite array of colorful products met the eyes of buyers as they entered the exhibit. New products as well as long term sellers lined the aisles. Papers were rattled and orders were written.

Products presented fell into the categories that fill the shelves and walls of many Kite and Specialty Shops. Merchandise purchased by retail shops, use a wide range of criteria to meet their customers needs. For instance, shops with high tourist traffic are going to feature a broad mix of products to cover the broad interest of their customers. Beach shops may feature Kite Surf Boards and dual line kites. In-city shops may choose to sell a mix of toys, kites and windsocks. Most shops know their customer profile and target those products that serve that market. The ultimate goal is to make customers happy and a decent profit at the same time.

KTAI convenes every year to give retail shops the opportunity to see a presentation of manufacturers and distributors new products. Awards for the most outstanding products, promotions and members are awarded each year.

Report by Kathy Goodwind

Photos by Todd Hostetter and Kathy Goodwind



2000 KTAI Awards

Retailer of the Year (USA) -
High Flyers Flight Company, Inc.
Newport, RI, USA

Best New Kite -
Flashlite - Prism Design, Inc.

Best New Kite Related Product -
Prism CD Rom - Prism Design, Inc.

Best New Wind Related Product -
Windwheels - go fly a kite, Inc.

Best Website -
www.gombergkites.com
Gomberg Kite Productions International

Best Video Presentation -
Catch The Magic -
Nova Design Group, Ltd.

Best Retail Catalog (Internet or Magazine) -
Into The Wind - www.intothewind.com

Best Wholesale/Mfg. Catalog
Premier Kites 2000

Outstanding Kite Festival in 2000 -
Kites on Ice - Madison, WI, USA

Excellence in Manufacturing (USA) -
Premier Kites - Hyattsville, MD

Wholesaler Of The Year
Kitesville USA - Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Cris Batdorf Award - Best Magazine,
Publication or Electronic Periodical -
Kiting - American Kitefliers Association

David M. Checkley Award -
Most Significant Contribution to the Industry
David & Susan Gomberg

Spring 2001

KITE TRADE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL



Brian Champie selling Marianne Trennepohl a membership? - photo by David Gomberg

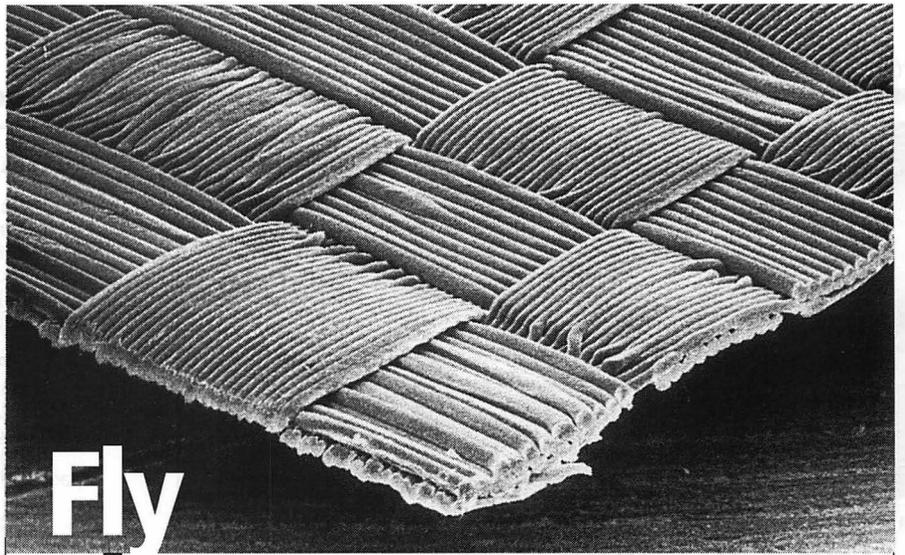
KTAI Awards continued...

Best Booth - *Go fly a kite, Inc.*

Best New Product Introduced at the Show -
Air Burst Rocket - *William Mark* -
Claremont, CA, USA



Kite and Buggy demonstration at KTAI



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April, 28+29 2001

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Indoor Flies Workshops

SPORT & FIGHTER KITE COMPETITIONS

CONTACT: Michele Courtney
459 N. Kennedy Dr.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
815-933-9905

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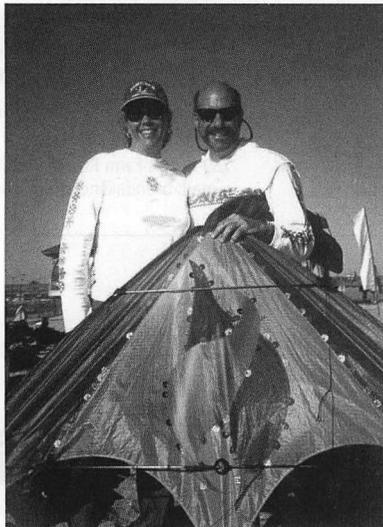
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"Who's On First..." Commissioner Reports

Southeast Conference

Three events have already been held in the Southeast Conference this season. In October, the second of two Outer Banks Sport Kite Competitions in the year 2000 was held. In addition to the usual competition events, beginners events took place on Saturday and Sunday. John Cook flew on Saturday. Beth Watson and Lowell Wexler flew on Sunday. Winds, as usual, on Jockey's Ridge were capricious. Very light on Saturday, and heavy on Sunday. All three participants in the beginner event left with big smiles on their faces and lots of good competition tips from Chris Moore, Jim Cosca, and Chris Schultz.



Beth Watson and Lowell Wexler

Beth and Lowell joined us in Georgia for the Georgia International Stunt Kite Competition (see photo). The third competition of the season was held in January at Treasure Island, FL, site of the 2000 AKA Convention. The heat had been turned down some, but lots of shorts were still seen on fliers.

The Richmond Air Force has had a major impact on all three competitions, taking home lots of "wood" and demonstrating their sewing skills in ground displays.



Richmond Air Force and friends line dancing in front of their ground display.

AKA Sport Kite Commissioners

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San Diego, CA 92110
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Northeast

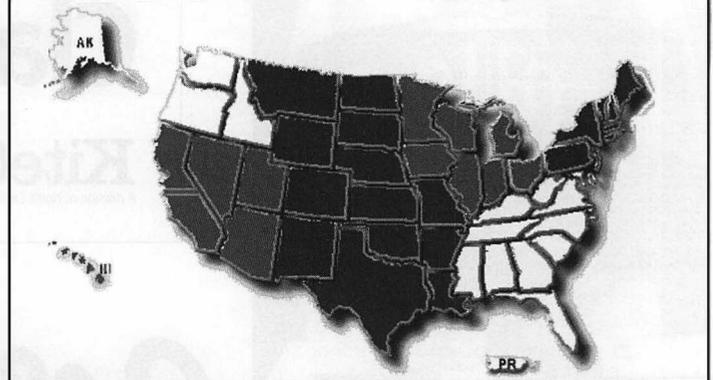
Forrest Cary
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Wakefield, RI 02879
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ne_conf@aka.kite.org

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(940)691-8522
cen_conf@aka.kite.org

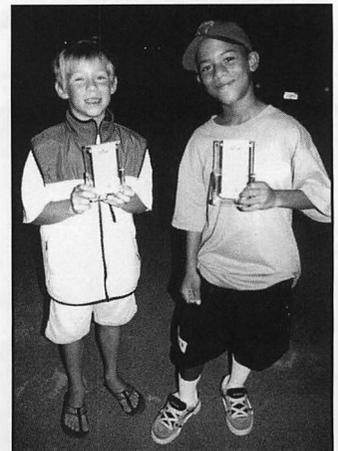
Southeast

Laura Stonestreet
3646 Grovewood Rd.
Richmond, VA 23234
(804)271-4433
se_conf@aka.kite.org



Pacific Conference

Not much happening on the competition scene these past few months though there was one event since last report. SCSKL's first competition at Seal Beach took place on October 14 in (lack of) breeze that was reminiscent of the previous week in Treasure Island. At least it wasn't as HOT. The highlight of that day for me was seeing two new competitors take their places in the winner's circle: 11 year-old Eric Evans started flying quad about six weeks prior to the event and took third place among a field of five in Experienced Quad Ballet, and 10-year-old Alex Herzog came in second in Freestyle. Both fliers had fun and say they'll be back to give us grownups a hard time staying ahead of them.



Alex (left) and Eric with their awards!

Photo by Allen Stroh

The first events for the calendar year will be March 17th, BASKL at Berkeley and April 7th, the Southern California Open on Fiesta Island, San Diego. The San Diego Kite Club is sponsoring the AKA's suggested Flight Training activities and hopes to gain some new members for SDKC and AKA and new competitors for SCSKL.

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

Sport Kite News

Mike Gillard, SKC Chair

The Sport Kite Committee has been hard at work over the winter. A major task was to redo the "AKA Appendix", in an effort to make our rules more clear and easier to access. This appendix will be updated as needs arise. The latest version is always available on the AKA website. The latest Appendix is printed below. We strongly encourage you to insert a copy of this appendix into your rulebook.

The second phase of the International Rule Book is nearing completion. The "IRB Judge's Book" will provide expanded explanations of the IRB items and several new procedures that we feel will help advance the sport. The final part of the IRB, the "Compulsory Book", will be started soon.

When these pieces are complete, we will retire the present 4th edition rule book which has served us well, but is getting quite dated.

AKA Appendix (Revised 01/01)

This appendix contains additional AKA-specific information not covered in the previous Definitions, Rules, and Guidelines.

When researching specific topics within the AKA rulebook, it is recommended that you first review the most recent appendix; then the IRB, then the AKA 4th Edition Rule Book. Updates to this Appendix will be published in *KITING* and on the AKA website. This appendix (and its future revisions) supersedes any conflicting information in the AKA 4th Edition Rulebook. It is the competitor's responsibility to acquire the most current version of this document.

1. Wind speeds

The following table indicates minimum and maximum wind speeds for classes not covered in the International Sport Kite Rules:

Experienced Class	Minimum – 4 kph (2 mph)
	Maximum – 45 kph (28 mph)
Team Train	Minimum – 7 kph (4 mph)
	Maximum – 30 kph (18 mph)

2. Pair/Team Registration

In order to comply with Rule J, pairs and teams must register their base member composition with their AKA Sport Kite Conference Commissioner within seven days of the first event in which they compete.

3. Skill Levels

In reference to Definition C, the AKA recognizes the following skill levels:

- Novice: Beginners in sport kite competitions who do not feel ready to compete in a higher class. Novices may compete as a member of a pair or team.
- Experienced: Competitors who have a lot of competition experience and/or who have attained a higher

skill level than the majority of competitors in the Novice class.

- Masters: Competitors who have the necessary skills and experience to compete against the very best.
- Open: Open to all competitors, regardless of their skill level in other disciplines.

4. Precision Disciplines

All precision disciplines at the AKA Grand Nationals will be flown Standard format. While event organizers are free to continue to use League format, in the interest of best preparing competitors for the Grand Nationals, they are strongly encouraged to use Standard format for all precision disciplines.

5. Revision of Rule B.1. "Moving Up"

If, during a season, an individual or team, in either discipline, places in the top three in their competition conference, AND accumulates more than 25 points (as reported on the AKA website at the conclusion of the season), they will be required to move up to at least the next higher class at the beginning of the next season. (Competitors in the Masters class are the very best and as such can not move any higher)*

6. Clarification of IRB, Section 1, Article E:

"A Class is one, two, or more specified disciplines at the same skill level; the same competitor must complete all the disciplines. e.g. Master Individual Dual-Line Ballet plus Masters Individual Precision combine to form the Masters Individual Dual-line class.

AKA competitors will not be required to compete in all disciplines in their class, unless specified by the promoter of an event. Any points or other awards may be granted to competitors who complete only one discipline."

7. Requests for Change or Clarification

Any such requests should be made by contacting the AKA Sport Kite Committee.

*This rule becomes applicable on August 1, 2001; for events contested during the 2000/2001 season.

Sport Kite Committee

CHAIR

Mike Gillard <mike@kitelife.com>

ASSISTANT CHAIR

Chuck Sigal <cjs@Albany-Hill.com>

CHAIR, CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS

Susan Shampo <KiteGal@san.rr.com>

- Phil Napier <pnapier@hsc.vcu.edu>,
 Michael Moore <FSRF37A@prodigy.com>,
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 Troy Gunn <TKOGunn@webtv.net>
 Craig Rodgerson <craig@acmediner.com>
 Terri and Mike Huff <mthuff@techline.com>

The advertisement shows a Netscape browser window with the URL <http://www.intothewind.com/>. The browser title is "Netscape: Into The Wind: Kites, Windssocks, Flags, Banners, Stunt Kites, Toys, Kites". The main text in the browser window reads: "Now the best kites in the air are also online. www.intothewind.com". Below this, it says: "Ask for our free 80-page catalog of kites, windssocks and more. Into The Wind, 1408-D Pearl St. Boulder, Colorado 80302 Phone: 303-449-5356 Toll-Free: 800-541-0314". To the right is a cover of the "IntoTheWind 2000 CATALOG OF KITES" featuring a wind turbine and a kite. At the bottom left is a circular logo that says "TWENTY YEARS IntoTheWind IN THE SKY".

The Mechanical Kites of Chen Zhao Ji

By Glenn Davison

Chen Zhao Ji is a Professional Kite Artist from Xian of Shannxi province China. He was the featured artist at the *Kites on Ice* winter festival in Madison, Wisconsin on February 2-3 where he displayed and discussed his unique kites.

Chen Zhao Ji was born in Weifang of Shandong province- the old City of Kites and graduated from the Xian Artistic College. He specializes in mechanical kites and has won more than 25 medals in national competitions.

According to Scott Skinner of the Drachen Foundation, "Mr. Chen demonstrates a complete mastery of bamboo and silk and combines a family tradition of fine painting to complete these small masterpieces of kite making art. ... The kites exhibited in Monona Terrace demonstrate the best of their mechanical kite making as well as showing the refinement of Mr. Chen's traditional kite making skill."

Q: Chen Zhao Ji, how long have you been making mechanical kites?

A: I made my first mechanical dragon kite in 1987. Since then I've made dozens of traditional Chinese kites including birds, butterflies, bugs, goldfish, turtles, bats, and many more. Last year I made a new dragon kite which incorporates a windmill as ball inside the dragon's mouth. The single windmill drives the movement of the jaw, tongue, eyes, eyebrow, antenna, and whiskers. There are total of seven moving parts. The dragon's eyes move left and right, the eyelashes go up and down, the tongue slashes left and right, the mouth opens and closes, and the antennas whirl. When the kite is flying, all of the features move at the same time and they're all powered by the wind. Children love it.



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 Ph.: 858.679.5785 Fax: 858.679.5788 <http://www.revkites.com>

Q: You are considered by many people to be one of the top ten kite builders in the world. You are also the first to visit Kites On Ice from China, so we are very pleased to have you come to the USA. Do you travel often to exhibit your kites?

A: No, actually this is the first time I've been outside of China but I'm enjoying my visit and I'm flattered by all of the attention.

Q: Your kites are marvels of craftsmanship, design, engineering, and originality. Your attention to detail is amazing. Tell me, how do you make your kites?

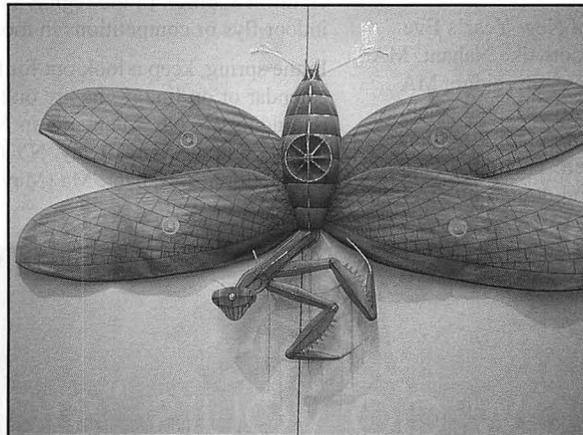
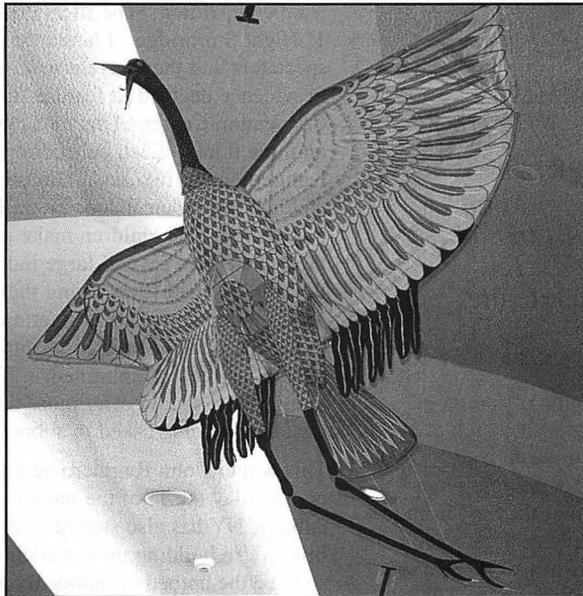
A: I use a four-part construction technique. The first part is framing. I carefully select my bamboo, and dry it for one year before I split it. The bamboo must be lightweight, strong, and flexible. Then I use carpenter's glue and hemp to bond the frame together. The second part is the surface. I use silk that is thin and strong and apply starch to finish it. The purpose of using starch is to make the surface easier to paint and make the surface less porous. The third part is to paint the surface with watercolors. I use a toothbrush to make the various color transitions. This method gives the finished painting an air brushed effect but it is much less expensive. The fourth part is to fly the kite. This is the fun part, for no matter how pretty the kite may be, it's not a kite unless it flies.

Q: How long does this process take?

A: The white crane took me three months to build. All of the construction of my kites is done exclusively by hand. I do not use electric drills, saws, or any motorized tools.

Q: I see that you've placed chairs in front of each of the kites you have on display. Why?

A: The chairs allow people to step up to the kite so that they can gently blow air onto the windmill. That's what makes the kite move. The air movement is what makes the kite come alive.



Q: Do you have a large workshop?

A: No, I do all the kite construction in my apartment. My workshop is only about 10 feet by 10 feet.

Q: It must be very crowded with kites!

A: (laughs) yes, it is. I also have a wife and a son.

Q: Do you test fly a kite before you paint it?

A: Not really. These are traditional designs, so I am confident that every kite that I made will fly. Some fly better than others and a few require simple adjustments before they fly just right.

Q: What characteristics do you suggest for others who wish to become top kite builders?

A: You must be able to paint well, and most importantly, you need patience, you must be able to sit on a cold bench for a long time.

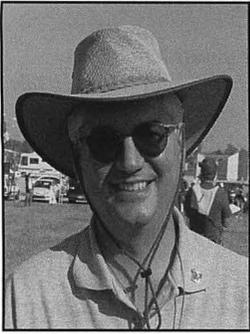
Chen Zhao Ji can be reached in China at czjczj007@cnuninet.com or by telephone at: 011-86-29-627-8117 in Xian city.

Translation to English was done by Yuan-Ming Hsu of St. Paul, MN whose email is yuanming.hsu@health.state.mn.us



(Opposite Page) The Master with his dragon; (Top left) This crane moves it's head and opens its beak while it flies; (center) Preying Mantis; (Bottom) "Peach Boy" riding a crane; (above) the mechanical workings of one of Chen's kites.

All photos by Glenn Davison or Jody McCann.



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CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY*

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(End of term - 2001)

Region 1 had a tough loss this winter with the passing of former Region 1 Director, Jeff "Sarge" Cleaves. This loss will be felt at every major New England event. "Sarge" found a way to get actively involved in many of our events and had a passion for getting things right. At Newport, Sarge and I would be "attached at the hip" from the Wednesday night before, until the Monday after the event. He helped execute the plan and he did execute his responsibilities well. He will be truly missed by all of us in New England!

This year "kiting" took a major role at several area New Year's Eve celebrations, as well as local favorite kite flying spots like Nahant, MA and at Brenton Point in Newport, RI. Cities such as Sturbridge, MA and Providence, RI brought "kiting" into their family oriented celebrations. Glenn Davison led a troupe of New England indoor kite fliers, many from KONE such as Bruce and Jesse Kapsten. This father and son team that has been competing on the circuit and doing quite well in

team competition. The fliers demonstrated in a gymnasium as a part of 1st Night Sturbridge. I heard that this activity attracted a few hundred spectators and they were also teaching kids to fly indoor kites. Providence decided to feature "kiting" in their main venue, the RI Convention Center. This monster building houses nine huge ballrooms on three floors. Each ballroom was split into two areas, which each featured one or two acts. Our area had a third "open" fly area for the children after their indoor kitemaking workshop. Paul Berard and their crew helped 200 children make indoor flying kites. Mixed within these kids were several large indoor miniature stacks, made by Paul Berard. We had fliers flying these stacks throughout the entire facility. The main demo area was stationed off and roughly 45 x 75 feet. All of the fliers found line lengths up to 15 feet worked very well. The ceiling height was unlimited. There is an article within this issue of kiting and it should offer more detail on this exciting new event. We are already being asked to submit proposals for next year.

This winter, John Ruggiero again has scheduled the regular indoor flys on Saturday the 1st of the month. Jeremy Johannesen of NYKE in Albany, NY has also started a regularly scheduled indoor fly! Little by little we're building up our talent for indoor kite flying. Region 1 will soon be the hotbed of indoor flying in AKA. John deserves a lot of the credit in addition to the region's event coordinators who have included indoor flys or competitions in most of our New England events.

In the spring, keep a look out for the upcoming events on our AKA calendar or on-line if you are on the NEKITE email list. Events worth reminding are NE Kitemania in Newport, RI (April 7,8), the Sullivan County Kite Fest in Albany, NY (May 5th) and the KONE Regional Competition in Nahant, Ma (May 12th). Also, Soundwinds 3 (May

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19th), BASKC "Boston 2001" in Boston MA (June 8-10) and Newport 2001 Kite Festival, in Newport, RI (July 13-15).

The Region 1 meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on Sunday, April 8th as part of NE Kitemania in Newport, RI at the Seaview Inn. Until then we'll see you out on the flying fields!

Good winds to all!



*Region 2
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(End of term - 2001)

Ok, it's turning out to be a real winter for a change in Region 2. But where were all you fair weather kite flyers on New Years Day when we went to fly at Liberty State Park in the gorgeous winter sun? Okay, and a foot or so of snow. But really the flying was lovely once you stomped down a place to set your goods and chattel. Check out the photo at right.

I hear that Lee and Sue Sedgwick and the Erie area people are enjoying the ice flying at Long Pond or Viking Pier. Word was that Long Pond was just a little rough, but smoother than Viking Pier, thanks to the Kite Ice Flyers and the Ice Fishermen.

What great workshops this winter! Keystone Kites are having a bol workshop with our own Kevin Shannon. Remember to use a strong enough swivel on them. Even though they are only 5' or so across, we've witnessed a number of bols breaking loose by snapping their swivels in a strong gust of wind. And an aerial photography workshop with Brooks Leffler at the MKS Retreat! Just wait for all the new KAP photos in KITING and on the Region 2 Web site. Plus, there is Joann Weber's painted kites workshop, also at MKS. The ConnectiKites' workshop is happening the beginning of March with a Star Kite by Rich Michna, a rotating box with Your's Truly, a large banner with Gary Engvall and a miniature box with Paul Berard. Did you all finish something new to compete with at the Smithsonian on March 24th? I expect to be helping with registration again. And if they aren't quite done yet, remember the Nationals in Billings. You know that as well as the various kite categories in the Comprehensives competition, there is a special Novice Kite Builder award, where you don't compete against the seasoned kite makers, but all the other beginners. And you know the old adage: "You Have To Be In It To Win It."

Our snow bunnies headed to Treasure Island again for fun in the sun and showed us proud with Dennis Smith taking 1st in MQB, Monica Orso taking 3rd in MQB as well as 2nd in OQP, Lisa Willoughby finishing 3rd in both MIB and MIP, Rich Courmettes taking 2nd in EQB. Now, what are all those letters, Doctor's degrees or diseases? A last letter of 'B' means Ballet of some sort, a last letter of 'P' means Precision. The 1st letter indicates the class (Masters, Experienced or Novice...or 'O'pen). A 'Q' in the middle means Quad and the I/P/T means Individual, Pairs or Team. But no matter what your letters are, good work guys!



Now, we have a new 'one time' event happening in Region 2 this June. Too late for National Kite Month (sorry Phil), but Eastern League competitor Charles Stewart and novice kite builder Dorothy Ross have decided to get married and celebrate with a wedding Reception Fly. Many of the High Spirits will be there to support the happy couple and Charles thinks that it would be a Great place for a Beginners Class for their non-kiting friends and relatives. To quote Charles, "There will be lots of non-flyers there who surely will not be able to resist trying kite flying. Can you get an AKA Beginners class kit for June 17th?" What a great idea! Eh, Betty (membership secretary), do we send membership packets to bridal consultants now?

*A Challenge From South Jersey Kite Flyers
to the AKA and Its Affiliated Clubs*

Ask not what the AKA can do for you, ask what "you" can do for the AKA. The South Jersey Kite Flyers (SJKF) have done just that. We know that if the AKA wasn't in existence when we formed our club, we would not have the members or local enthusiasm we have without a national organization that has kept the one individual lone flier interested in a hobby, sport, artistic expression, scientific experimentation, and/or "just" the pure joy of the making and flying of heavier than air tethered objects.

In gratefulness of the AKA's maintaining a consistent foundation throughout the years, we in SJKF have supported the AKA both financially and by participating in various kite festivals.

Some of the fashions in which SJKF and its members are supporting the AKA are:

- We donate 25% of our monthly business meeting's 50-50 directly to the AKA; to our knowledge we are the only club doing this;
- We are spending \$50.00 a month on the new AKA Raffles;
- We co-sponsored the opening night reception party at the 1997 Wildwood II AKA Convention;
- Andy Selzer organized and ran the Fighter Kite and Rokkaku competitions at the 2000 Treasure Island AKA Convention;
- Scott E. Spencer served as Workshop Coordinator at the 1997 Wildwood II AKA Convention, and he worked as the Decoration Coordinator for the Auction and Peoples Choice presentations at the 2000 Treasure Island AKA Convention;

- Betty Hirschmann participated in Auction Receiving and Auction Accounting, and was the Peoples Choice Field Coordinator at the 2000 Treasure Island AKA Convention. Additionally, while serving in her capacity as the AKA Secretary for the past six years, she takes the minutes at two Board Meetings and the Annual Business Meeting at the AKA Convention;
- Since 1997, SJKF has sponsored a trophy category at the Grand National competitions at the AKA Convention in either Sport Kiting, Comprehensive Kite Making or Fighters, and we will continue to do so.
- Russ Mozier shared his interest in postage stamps which have kites on them by offering to put on workshops at the Convention.

While it may appear that we are tooting our own horn by what is written above we are not saying that our club is better than your club (although we are very proud of our club and what we do). Our intent in writing this article is to offer ideas on how clubs can help support our "parent" organization. We understand that other clubs support the AKA dollar wise and in their own unique ways, and we ask that you drop KITING a line to share your experiences. The AKA is only as strong as its members and it needs your HELP!



**Region 5
Great Lakes**

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(End of term - 2002)



Hi 5 clowning around at the Two Paws Festival - photo by Mike Gillard

Greetings, Ohioans and Michiganders! Spring is almost here, and I am sure that you are looking forward to it as much as I am. Region 5 has lots on tap for the first part of the season, but first I want to talk about several issues that impact us all.

First, we NEED members! Here is a sobering statistic: in January, we lost twice as many members as we gained, posting a net loss of three members for the month. I wish I could report that this is an aberration; unfortunately, this trend has been going on for several years. Is our sport any less "cool" than it was in the growth years? We need to take the time to introduce new folks to the hobby, and let them know of the great value that AKA membership represents. These are exciting times for the AKA, and a boost in membership will allow the Association to do bigger and better things. Go out there and snag a new member.

Next, please think about registering an event or other kite activity for National Kite Month. The AKA site has a lot of good resources to help

you put together a classroom kite building class; or simply register a fun fly. It takes a minute to register your event at the AKA site, and the more events we register, the greater publicity kiting will get in the mainstream media. I don't think that kiting should be kept a secret! Greater coverage equals an easier time attracting funding for festivals, which equals more festivals, which equals more fun. You get the idea!

The month of May will feature several events that should be fun. Muncie, Indiana is not in Region 5, but all of those who attended the '99 Convention remember how wonderful the site was for kiting. On May 5-6, Mark Kunoff and the Hoosier Kitefliers will host the Ansel Toney Memorial Festival. This fest will have it all - full sport kite comps, single-line activities, fighters, roks, etc. Two weeks later, Grand Haven, MI will host the 13th annual Great Lakes Kite Festival. Long known as a great spectacle, this one has been a must-attend for many Region 5 folks.

Please keep me posted on your kiting activities, and I especially like to hear about events. I'll forward info to the rest of the Region via e-mail. Oh, if you do not have your e-mail registered with the AKA, drop me a note at mike@kitelife.com and I'll get you added. It's a great tool to keep you in touch with kiting activities in the region.

Gotta fly!

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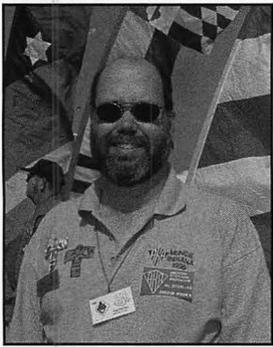
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I am sitting here at my keyboard, reflecting on the past two months. Kiting for me has very little to do with competition, demos, or even the huge kites that I fly these days. People attract me to kiting. Most of the people involved with kiting are warm, openhearted and fun loving, and no one epitomizes this more than Lois DeBolt. The reason that I bring this up is that we came very close to losing Lois the end of last year. It turns out that Lois was being poisoned by carbon monoxide over the course of several months and her doctor attributed her problems to age related illness. Lois drove herself to the hospital in another town and asked for a CO blood level test. The levels were quite high and she would not have lasted much longer in her house. She now has a new furnace and a CO detector, and is slowly recovering. I certainly hope to see her at more events this season, and I hope for a full recovery. Please send her a card or give her a call. Let her know we care.

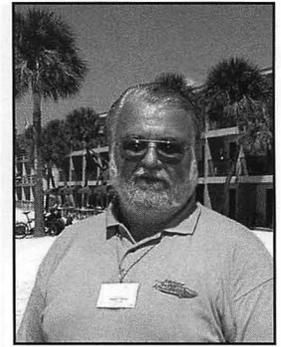
There are some new events this spring. The Perry Farm Kite Festival in Bourbonnais, IL is on April 28 and 29. Bourbonnais is about an hour south of Chicago, and Perry Farm is a large park with open fields, no trees, power lines or soccer goals. Michele Courtney (815-933-9905), who is coordinating the festival for the park district, assures me that they already own most of the things needed to put on a festival. They want to have a sport kite competition, a single line fun fly, an indoor fly and a variety of demos. They also have already booked a Caribbean band for Saturday night. This looks to be a large new event with a decent sized budget, which is already planning to be an annual event.

The second event is the very next weekend in Muncie, IN. Mark Kunoff is running the "Ansel Toney Memorial Kite Festival." This event has been seriously revamped from the older single line fly and will feature sport kite competition as well as a single line fly. Mark has been working on this for months and I anticipate a great festival. I know many people may complain about two events so close together, but please remember how few large events Region Six has had lately and suck it up and attend both. New events need encouragement to continue. It's early in the season and you should still be energetic enough to make it to both events.

Talking about competitions, Sky Circus will have one of the few Comprehensive Kite Making competitions in the Midwest. The Chicago area event will also feature an invited master kite maker, Rokkaku battles, candy drops, demos and a fun fly. So head on out to Busse Woods in Rolling Meadows, IL on June 16 and 17.

I am going to close with my often-stated quote that there are few enough kite fliers and we cannot afford to fight amongst ourselves. Whatever type of kite you fly, please be courteous to those around and help spread the joy of kiting!

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(End of term - 2002)



Hello Region! National Kite Month has started, and it looks like it is going to be a really busy month. Our local club, The Midwest Winds Kitefliers are putting on two flies, one kite-making workshop and school program and talks at local organizations. Please email me with any information on events so I can let people know what is going on in the rest of our region.

The Great Kite Raffle is going strong. We have had a lot of interest. There are great items each month, so make sure you check out the AKA Website and look over the items and help support the AKA.

I'm looking forward to a couple of flies up North. The first is April 28, in Brookings, South Dakota. Tilly Laskey is working with the Drachen Foundation to put up an exhibit, planning workshops and putting on the flies. Hope some of you can make it up this way.

Another event will be the 9th Annual Skydome Sakakawea Kite Festival at Ft. Stevenson State Park in Garrison, North Dakota. This event has turned out to be quite a fly. Deb Lenzen has worked hard to organize this fly and it is well attended. I'm looking forward to getting up there and fly with everyone in this area.

As I get more information on these flies and others, I will forward it onto everyone that I have addresses for. If you change your email address, or get one, please send it on to me, so I can add it to my list.

I'm looking forward to a new year of flying. I just can't wait to hang my kite up in a new tree somewhere in the Region, or get yanked out of the buggy on a different field. I'm looking forward to meeting new kite members. We're always looking for new members to be part of all this FUN! See you next month!

GUNN POINTS

If you've ever wondered, how a hot tricks shootout is organized, here's a page that explains it all:

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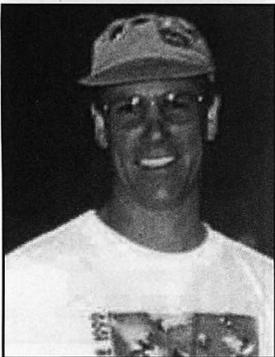
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(End of term 2002)

Dave Young of Tulsa sent in this report: "My good friend, E. W. Redmond has been consecutively flying and logging his flights for 1,096 days. That's three years, rain or shine, and in yesterdays case, after a six-inch snowfall. So, a few of us invited ourselves over to his studio to help him celebrate, to make some team tie-dyes, and to usher out the old year and bring in the new. He has been making kites for most of his life, so any time a group shows up at his place, we make kites. Lately he has been working on a train of eleven by eleven inch square kites flown on the diamond with a really nice 'face' graphic. Since E. W. has been making this particular style, I've been inclined to make a fighter from it, but just didn't get the chance until yesterday. Simply made from high-density polyethylene, thin bamboo for the spine, and matchstick bamboo for the spar, two fighters were produced to take advantage of the large indoor flying space. My good friend Jay made one, and I the other. When we were finished, we attached about 20 feet of # 30 crochet thread to the bridle and to the other end we attached some folded paper tassels to let us know where the end was. Both kites flew beautifully, but we needed to maintain a slow backward pace to produce the desired spins and fast directional movement we all love in line touch. My good friend Larry, Jay, E. W., my eight-year-old son Ryan, and I all flew inside and absolutely loved it".

E. W. Redmond has been consecutively flying and logging his flights for over three years now, never missing a day. He is starting on his 4th year. He hand builds these kites, flies them, gives the kite to the witness, and has the witness sign his logbook. Way to go E.W.! Now that is the love of kite building and flying.



Lahoma Winter Retreat - January 6, 2001 Pam Thomason (my lovely wife) hosted a workshop. Pam taught Jeff Howard's appliqué technique on a 5' wind feather. Each participant designed their own artwork, and then by using appliqué, created their own wind feathers. Attending were Dave Young, Larry Stiles, E. W. Redman, Terry and Francine Officer, Jay, Brett Stewart, and myself. Everyone had a good time.

Has Your Kite Tugged You Lately?

Region 9
Intermountain

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(End of term - 2003)



The Oregon Kitemakers Retreat was held in Rockaway Beach, Oregon January 19-21st. As a first time attendee I had heard many great reviews and I certainly wasn't disappointed. Ken Tuminia and his hard working committee of volunteers put together an outstanding line up of instructors with a variety of classes to please everyone. The food was great, the raffles marvelous, and the classes superb.

Included in the weekends classes and instructors were Scott Spencer teaching his Ripstop weaving technique, Gail Lindsay with her Afghani round Fighter kite, and Dan Kurahashi teaching a variety of classes from bamboo splitting to a class on how to build a Sode Dako. Dan (photo above) even took time to take the beginning sewing class so it's hard to day what he will be up to next. Don Mock, well-known Northwest flier taught a class on building a fighter kite, Rob Pratt, another north westerner taught a class on quilting a Della Porta. Scott Hampton was back once again, teaching his Ripstop painting techniques and giving a class on Conehead yard art. Students got to choose one of three Coneheads to create and take home with them. Barb Wright taught her ever popular Hopi coat class. There was even a banner making class with Cindy Thrall teaching a variation of her Floating Diamond banner, an Anchored diamond. Deb Cooley from Lincoln City rounded out the weekend with a 3D Dragon windsock class. I probably should have gotten one of those kits.

It was a wonderful weekend of renewing old friendships, making new ones and learning from a world class lineup of instructors. One fellow, Paul Stulz, made the journey up from Grants Pass to try his hand at kite making for the first time. He took the beginners sewing class on Friday, completed a Don Mock fighter on Friday evening, completed his Gail Lindsay Afghani fighter on Saturday (and if you took a look at the appliqué you would never believe he is a beginner) and I believe took home a Deb Cooley Dragon on Sunday - a tribute to his determination and the great instructors that were at the retreat. For those of you that compete in kite building you might want to watch this guy.

At the beginning I said this was my first OKR, I don't think it is going to be my last. Thanks to the OKR committee for organizing a wonderful retreat.



Region 10 Northwest

AK-WA

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(End of term - 2003)



Hi all! It's January and misting heavy outside again. This is a good time for overhauling the kites for spring and summer kite flying. I've been opening up kites, cleaning the sand out of them, checking stitching, sticks, bags, and bridles, then refolding them back up for March winds and summer breezes.

You may have heard about the "mysterious" monolith on Kite Hill in Magnuson Park in Seattle. The short story is this monolith appeared during the night of December 31st to greet the January 1st dawn of the new Millennium. Then it disappeared January 3rd to a location about 5 miles away on an island in Green Lake. It seems the original culprits were not the moving culprits. The original culprits came forward to convince the Seattle Parks department to move it "temporarily" back to Kite Hill. It is supposed to go away mid-March. Hmm... maybe I should organize a lifter fly-in and move it over to the unleashed dog area. I KNOW the dogs would just appreciate it more than kite fliers.

It is a good time for kite making retreats right now. The Fort Worden Kitemakers retreat is March 9th through the 11th. It is always a good time to see kite-flying friends.

Speaking of friends, the Northwest lost a great kite-flying friend in December. Harold Writer passed on, he is sorely missed by all. Kay Woodring is recovering nicely from her surgery. Please send her good wishes. If you have attended any Northwest kite festivals, Mike and Kay put on quite a show with their sewn creations.

Several new sport kite pairs and teams are rumored up here. The Northwest Sport Kite League (NWSKL) is sponsoring a seminar with Ron Reich on March 30th through April 1st in Ocean Shores. Check at www.nwskl.org for more information or other sport kiting events.

The Washington Kitefliers Association is setting up their Web site. I don't have their address, but once I do, I will list it on the Region 10 page on the AKA Website.

It is time to register your events for National Kite Month. Phil Broder is itching to have more events than ever. He has issued a challenge to this region to get out there and show we have a lot of kite flying fun here. Too bad National Kite Month didn't start earlier - I would personally hold a publicized event to challenge that monolith in Magnuson Park.

It is time to mark Billings down on the calendar. Start emailing me with ideas about where to meet for a caravan to Billings for Nationals.

Stumped for a birthday present? Give an AKA membership. Even if someone duplicates the gift, it just means you get kiting news for a longer time. Till March, keep the wind at your back and don't fly in easterlies if you live on the Pacific Coast.

GUNN POINTS

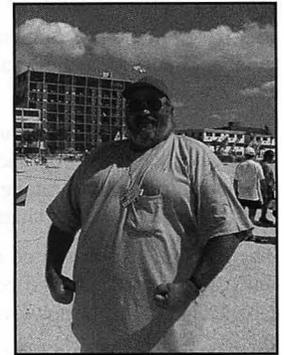
Here's an amazing list of kite plans that I stumbled upon. I believe Andrew Beattie has put this list together (thanks Andrew). Please share this list with all your kite building buddies.
Kite plans from A to Z: <http://www.plans.kite.com/>

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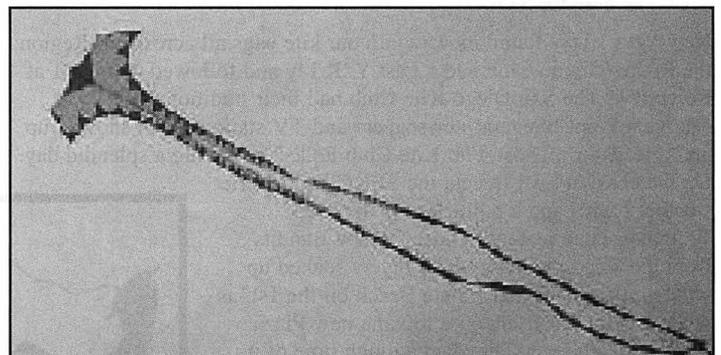
Empty Places in the Sky

In October Tom Caldwell passed away. Tom a retired judge was known for his whimsical home built kites made from common garage and hardware store parts. He was a regular at WSIKF and attended most Bay Area kiting events. If you attended the Golden Gate Challenge last September you saw him flying his gigantic Spinning Janny. That thing must have been 10 feet at the opening and 20 feet long. I'm glad I went over to check it out and had a conversation with him.

Winter passed slowly with unusually light winds and scattered fun.

The NCKC and SDKC November road trip to Baja Mexico was another huge success! The thirty or so kites that went enjoyed smooth winds, fun shopping and great eating. The group had a cooperative Thanksgiving feast that was truly incredible. One interesting thing happened while we were decorating the skies of Mexico. The Resort Sales Manager was infected with our passion and is excited about putting an international festival together at the resort complete with a competition and great prizes!

The NCKC Christmas party was well attended and thanks to the donations from folks like Dan at Gone With The Wind and Nathan Sendan, just to mention a couple. The Raffle was a great success and everyone left with arm loads of goodies. Nathan Sendan built and donated this beautiful Swallow Tail kite. And my oldest son Aaron out bid us all for the privileged to take it home. Thanks Nathan!



There is a new pin in town! At the January SoCoMe fly, Arnold Stellema, co-founder of the club, unveiled the pins with a surprise presentation to each attendee as they arrived. Arnold also is the editor of the NCKC newsletter, a NCKC manager and a welcome new energy to Bay Area kiting. The new pins come in three colors and are in a fighter kite shape. Good luck getting a green one!

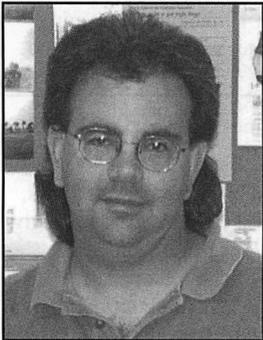
In January, I found myself in Primm, Nevada attending my first KTAI. By default I wound up representing the AKA in the AKA booth! This was my first official duty as a new AKA board member. Unsure at first,

I wound up having loads of fun. That convention hall full of kites and related temptations was great for an addict like me! Running amuck amongst the slot machines and other casino offerings was tolerable as well.

And thanks to Ron and Charm Lindner for their help too! Between the three of us we signed up and renewed many folks, passed out stacks of membership forms to retailers for inclusion in their sales bags, and informed dozens of merchants of the advertising rates in KITING!

The BASKL season started off with a spring seminar "become a kite ambassador" and our first competition is March 17 at Berkeley's Cesar Chavez Park. See <http://www.baskl.org> for the complete schedule.

Speaking of the Web, in the last issue I included my url @ hooked for my "California kiting Calendar." So after years with that isp it was sold to another company, that decided to drop three networks they had purchased - and just turned us off without notice, no recourse - grrr! My site now has a new domain, a very easy address to remember - "kitefart.com". You can find the calendar as well as more information on the Mexico road trip at that site.



Region 12 Southwest

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(End of term - 2003)

I would like to wish everyone in Region 12 a happy Spring, but as you know, ours started on January 1st!

My last article gave you some info about club and event "Happenings" within the region. I did notice, however, that the only contact info I gave you were websites. While many of you are "online," I'm sure that many of you still travel the analog way. This is OK! If you ever need information about anything, and are unable to access the Web, CALL ME! I'm here for YOU.

New Year's Day found its way into our kite bags all across our Region; the Route 66 Kite Club had a Last Y2K Fly and followed up on 1/1 at Riverview. The San Diego Kite Club had their traditional 1/1 fly at Mariners Point. Several newspapers and TV stations even showed up and referred to "Those Fun Kite Club Folks" as having a splendid day. Up the coast at Seal Beach, the SBKC had terrific weather (duh!) and a potluck to make even Wolfgang Puck jealous. Those Outlaw Bandits from the Ventura County Kite Flyers soaked up wind and sun at Oxnard State Beach on the 1st, as well. Rumor has it, they've found a new Pizza place that delivers! They had a tough time of it last year when the local Round Table closed at the end of summer. Have you ever tried calling a new place and saying your "flying kites at a park and you want pizza?" Eight out of ten times they think your joking and hang up on you. Eat Up Gang!

March 11th this year will be known as the 26th Annual Festival of the Kite in Redondo Beach. Tom Fine from The Sunshine Kite Company has really gotten the city to recognize this event. Free Kites for the kids and serious demos highlight the

day. Check out www.pierkites.com for more information. At press time, we're not sure if the Santa Barbara Kite Festival is happening in March, or not. Lack of support from local merchants has put a damper on this event. Let's hope history does not repeat itself. Rakesh from International Connections works very hard throughout the year to keep the flying spirit alive in Santa Barbara. Keep your fingers crossed.

I would like to welcome our newest Official Sanctioned Club, The Arizona Free Flyers, to our Region. It's great to have more affiliated groups out there. The AKA appreciates your support as well. Dave, Kay, and the rest of the group are helping to put on the 2nd Annual Anthem Days Festival at Del Webb's Anthem Community in Phoenix. March 24th and 25th are the dates. This will be a MAJOR event for the whole city and Kite Awareness is going to be a BIG part of it. I'm sure the Route 66 Bunch will be there as well. For more information, check out the AZ Free Flyer's website: www.delphi.com/arff. Heck, I'm even going! Shhhh, don't tell my Boss!

Two competitions are on tap for April and May. The Southern California Sport Kite League will be at San Diego's Fiesta Island on April 7th for the Southern California Open. GREAT NEWS!!! The San Diego Kite Club has agreed to help the SCSKL and oversee our Regions' first "Beginner" competition. The AKA's restructuring of the Novice and Intermediate classes last year proved to be a challenge for the league. This generosity by the SDKC will help pave the way for the future of competitions (and FUN) in our Region. Many thanks to Greg Lawrence and the rest of the SDKC. May 5th is the day when the SCSKL heads to Belmont Shores (near Long Beach) for the Belmont Shores Sport Kite Challenge. As with all SCSKL events, Field Setup is at 6am sharp... I'll be there, so should you!

If you can't make it to San Diego in April, the Route 66 Kite Club and the San Diego Kite Club is having a "Sister Club" event on May 12th. Mission Bay Park will host a Regional "East meets West" Fun Fly. If all goes well, a Night Fly is also planned.

Convention organizers are very busy putting together the details for the National Event in Billings Montana the first week of October. Frankly folks, this will be the closest convention to OUR REGION until 2004. Make every effort you can to be there, snow, or no snow.

2001 has brought us a new AKA President (all votes counted). David Gomborg has appointed his new committee chairs. Check out who can help you with what in the beginning sections of this month's issue. These people are volunteers and they do it for you and I. Make sure you use their services (and mine!) and I know they will make your events smoother and answer your questions and concerns with immense pride and support.

See you on the field...



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 (End of term - 2003)

Spring is in the air in this part of the world, and so is National Kite Month. Please register your event and let the AKA know how you and your local kite community plan to promote kiting during April.

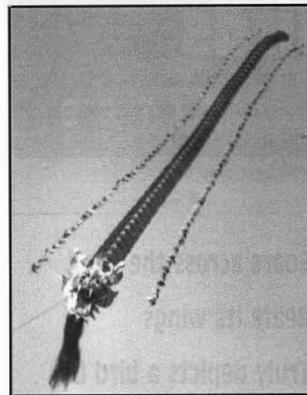
Since stepping into this role as Director of Region 13, I have received email and snail mail from all over the world. Thank you! It's wonderful to hear from fellow kite enthusiasts near and far. This month I bring you news from Australia, China, and the Ukraine.

It was springtime for our friends "down under" when the Festival of the Winds took place in Sydney, Australia, over three glorious days last November (postponed for 2 months because of the Olympic games). I was surprised to learn that kite flying is banned at world-famous Bondi Beach for the remaining 362 days of the year. Linda Sanders of Flying High Kite Company explained, "Bondi is the "in" beach for strutting your stuff, showing off your six pack, wearing your best (and skimpiest) bikini, and generally doing nothing. The soft golden sand simply gets too crowded to allow any activities other than lying on a towel drenched in sun block. The beach itself is enclosed in a small bay, so there's a limit to how many people can squeeze onto the sand and surfable waves. The local council decided that Bondi would be a "posing" beach only. Some Australian councils have totally banned ALL kites with multiple lines. Festival of the Winds is fortunate to have the support of the local council, who generously rope off a large area in a somewhat vain attempt to protect the unenlightened public from potentially dangerous kite strings." So my friends, Bondi is the place to be, but only during the second weekend in September if you plan to fly a kite. Internet users, see: www.aks.org.au for more info and photos.

A couple of days later and some 5000 miles (8000 km) northwest, the 2nd China International Dragon Dance, Dragon Boat and Dragon Kite



Kevin Sanders of South Australia pouts next to sign at Bondi Beach (some members might remember Kevin from his visit to WSIKF this past August).



International Tournament took place in Shenzheng Longgang District, China. Longgang is located on the subtropical seaside, offering warm temperatures, a scenic landscape and friendly atmosphere. Twenty-nine kite teams participated in this festival: 15 from all over China, including 4 teams from Hong Kong and Taiwan. The other 14 teams hailed from Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and as far away as Europe. Longcheng Square was the scene of judges' meetings and team practices all of Wednesday morning, followed by the opening ceremonies in the afternoon. Thursday saw most of the kite action, as the 15 domestic teams — including AKA members Yang and Lihua of Beijing — participated in the Game of the Dragon Kites and competed in the Dragon Kite competition. Winds were a bit low, but enthusiasm was sky high. Foreign teams flew and displayed their various kites. Another banquet and the closing ceremony were held in the Nanling Village Auditorium on Saturday November 16th.

I always find kite festivals to be incredibly inspiring. So too did the Tarasenko family of Kherson, Ukraine. Sergey, Elena and their twin boys, Peter and Pavel (below right) attended Kherson's annual one-day children's kite event, and caught the kite bug, bigtime. During the summer of 2000, they participated in Ukraine's Bright Sky festival in the Crimea, and won the championship for the Kherson region. This led to an invitation from the organizers of the Dieppe International Kite Festival; it was an honor to represent the Ukraine for the very first time in France. At last, an opportunity to meet other kite addicts... "adult" ones, even! Sergey presented his rotating kites, and the boys brought their flat kites, painted in the batik technique. Here, on the beaches of Normandy, the Tarasenkos joined the AKA.

Back in their hometown, with the kites they picked up in Dieppe and their own creations, the family held a small kite exhibition and offered two kite workshops. Visitors, both young and old, had never seen such a variety of kites from all over the world. Suitable materials are hard to come by in eastern Europe, but with Sergey's ideas, his "gold hands", and an abundance of motivation, the Tarasenkos are busy making new kites, organizing a small local kite group, and contemplating their next big kite festival — Cervia, Italy.

Bravo to kite enthusiasts everywhere, who delight in spreading the joy of kites in their communities. As isolated as some of us may feel we are united by our common passion. Until next time, I wish you peace, health, good winds and the time to enjoy them all.



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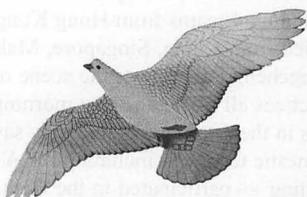
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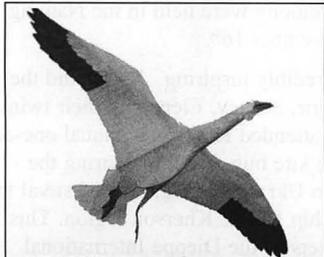
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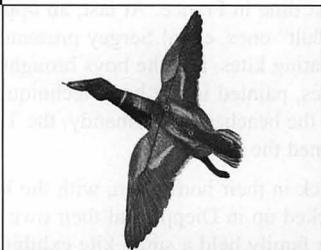
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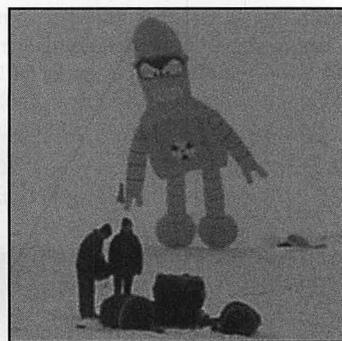
Kites On Ice

This year's "Kites On Ice" of Madison, WI was again a grand showcase of the world of kites. Giant kites and inflatables, an incredible indoor kite show designed by Mark Ricketts and Curtiss Mitchell, sport kite demos by some of the best fliers and teams in the world, a host of great kite makers and dozens of workshops geared to the public combined to entertain the thousands in attendance. A featured guest of the festival this year was Chen Zhao Ji, featured on page 22 of this issue of KITING. Hats off to Madison Festivals for another great event.

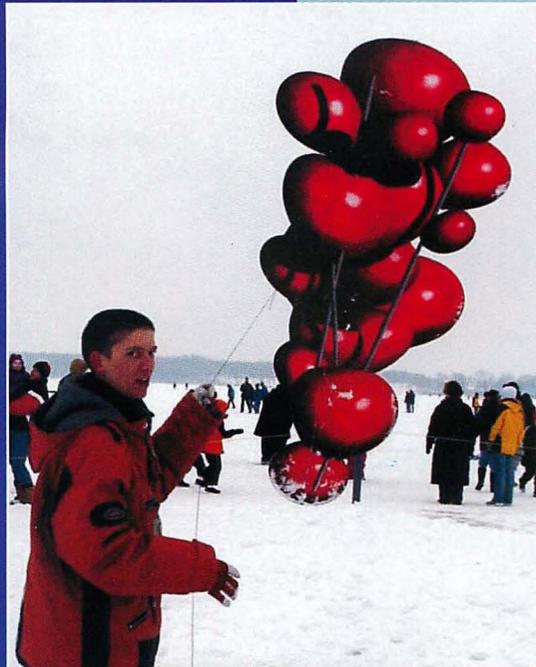


(Top left, going counter-clockwise): Scott Skinner, meditating at the morning briefing; Al Sparling sporting a new look; Steve Shapson of Mequon, WI reading the morning blessing; Scott Hampton's Coneheads have the best seats as spectators; Sven Weidhase and Andreas Schmeelke (Team No Limit) of Germany are two of the last to leave the ice - their friend isn't happy waiting, however, and Julie Underwood took over the microphone responsibilities this year!

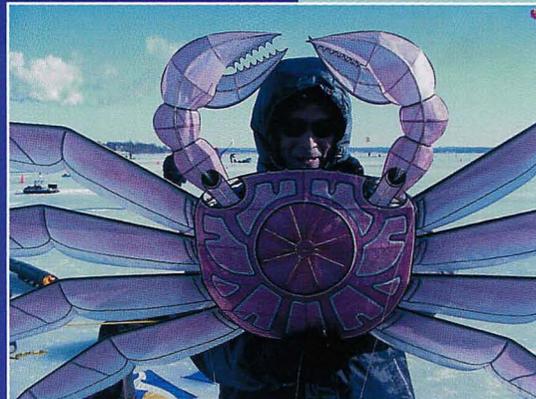
Photos by Roger Chewning and Phil Broder.



Kites On Ice



Kites on Ice
(Top left, going clockwise) - Ice Kiting is hot, and the skiers enjoyed good ice conditions; Dean Jordan Kites, they really fly; Kirsten Sauer of Germany brought some creative designs built from Tyvek; Chen Zhao Ji of Weifang, China and his incredible mechanical crab kite; Gerrard Clement of Paris and his Cathedral Window; Anke Sauer's Quadline Clown was a real entertainer; No Limit's Bert and Ernie, flanked by Yves LaForrest's kites; a Pierre Fabre spinning ground creation (No David it is not a toilet bowl plunger); and a newlyremodded Space Dummy by Pierre Fabre of Paris, France (below).



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