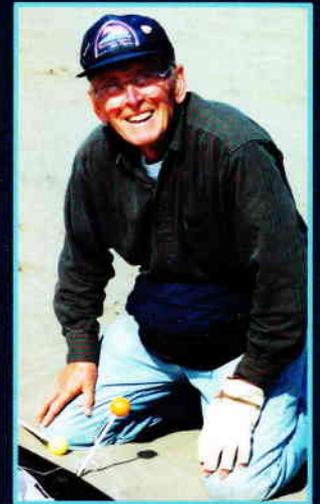




Winter 2002
Volume 23, Issue 5
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Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



Sam Huston and his Grand Champion winner, "Celtic Knot"



Inside *Kiting*

Convention Coverage

Plans: Tails, Para-Bear Rig

History: Marconi

Flying for Freedom

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Inside back cover: WSIKF photo gallery

Cover Photos: "Celtic Knot" and creator Sam Huston by Cliff Pennell

Editor: Mike Gillard

Graphic design: Susan Shampo



The President's Page

David Gomberg

What an extraordinary year this has been for the Association.

In January when the new Board took office, we learned that we didn't have enough money to cover the winter cash-flow commitments. A request sent to 1000 of our longest term members generated over \$12,000 in contributions and kept the AKA solvent. We are now issuing "AKA Angel" pins to everyone that sent (or sends) \$100 or more.

In February and March, we took a number of steps to improve administration and reduce costs. All our contractors received the first evaluations in several years. Difficult decisions were made to bid out some of the tasks. We also decided to make changes in *Kiting* that ultimately resulted in the shift to a larger quarterly magazine from a bi-monthly newsletter. Mailing costs were reduced, preparation time was improved, while the total number of pages sent to you annually actually increased.

In April, National Kite Month exploded. We went from 175 registered events the previous year to more than 380. Each festival, fun fly or workshop was an opportunity to bring kiting to a new audience. We also began to seriously pursue sponsorship funding for NKM administrative expenses. We contracted with a "grant hunter" who agreed to work for the AKA on a straight commission basis.

The new AKA online raffle hit full stride by early spring and your response to our monthly big prizes has been astounding. So far this year, we have generated over \$25,000 in ticket sales. To support the raffles, I began a monthly electronic letter to all members that have given us email addresses. That report has evolved into a regular "Presidential Update" on news and Association information between issues of *Kiting*.

By summer, your committees were concluding work on a number of long-standing projects. After four years of negotiation with our partners in Europe and Japan, a new International Sport Kite Rulebook was completed. The Kitemaking Rules Committee implemented new categories and clarifications. Our Kite Festival Organizing manual was completely overhauled. And both the Traction Committee and the Fighter Kite Committee completed the first review and update of their respective books in over eight years.

I personally made an effort to attend as many events as possible and have waved the AKA flag so far this year at 25 different festivals including three overseas and one in Canada. In late October I broke the 100,000 barrier for air miles traveled in 2001 – all without touching the President's Travel Account.

Membership growth has been a primary concern and we identified a five week period starting in August as "Get a Member Month". At the end of last year, AKA was losing 100 members a month. Now, I am pleased to say, we are growing again. Elsewhere in this issue is a list of top recruiters for the Association, and we have thanked everyone that attracted at least three new members with an "I Got Three" pin. Our top club for new members was the Florida Kitesurfing Association.

The attention of Association leadership was beginning to focus on our National Convention when September 11th changed all of our lives. Four large events had been scheduled the following weekend and their organizers called AKA for advice.



Think back to that terrible day and imagine what it was like to be a Board member trying to decide the best thing to do. None of us knew what we might face in the next few days. But ultimately, we decided to urge events to go forward and for members to create new ones. Flying kites and spending time with friends is what we do, and we resolved that terrorism would not prevail by forcing us from the sky. Hundreds of impromptu "Freedom Flies" sprang up across the country and we received letters from fellow fliers around the globe who had joined us in a statement of solidarity and fellowship. In those dark days, I must tell you that I have never been as proud of your Association.

Finally, in October we gathered in Billings for our annual convention. The choice of Montana, made by the previous Board, had been controversial because of the expense of air tickets to the area and the lack

of a large member base in the Mountain States. But once the decision was made, this year's leadership worked hard to insure that the event was well organized and fun. While attendance was the lowest in more than ten years, it was a special and intimate gathering for those who came.

So that is where we stand as the year begins to wind down. I want to thank all of you for your part in AKA's success this year, and for honoring me with another term as your president.

Where do we go next??

Membership growth continues to be a top administrative priority. More members means a more solid financial base and a better opportunity to support other important programs. We want to be the organization that every serious kiter wants to belong to. And we know that we do that best by offering real value for your dues investment.

AKA will be striving to continue to improve *Kiting Magazine*. We are looking for more feature articles, more event stories, and more kite plans. We are also looking to network our magazine and web page more effectively so that added photos or more detail on articles can be found online. We know that not all members are on the internet, but if we give everyone more for their membership dues, then everyone will benefit.

Speaking of benefits and the internet, we are now implementing a plan to publish specialty E-newsletters for members focused on special interest kiting. That means a regular mailing filled with information about Kitemaking, Sport Kites, Fighters and Roks, and Traction (both buggies and boards). The idea is to provide you with the information you want on the topics that interest you most — and in more detail than we could include in the magazine. We also plan to publish all of our rule books and manuals online for free download by members.

We are continuing to work on providing more support in the traction community. Buggy events were expanded in Billings and look for kite boarding when the convention goes to Ocean City next year.

So let's call that a Presidential year-in-review and a peek at the future of AKA. Good things are going on because lots of good people are working to make them happen. Thanks for being part of this great Association.

Have fun out there!

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AKA NEWS AKA NEWS AKA NEWS AKA NEWS AKA NEWS AKA NEWS

Request For Proposal (RFP)

By Betty Hirschmann
Contracts Chair

As reported in the last issue of *Kiting*, Roger Chewning has stepped down as Editor. The Board of Directors have appointed Mike Gillard as the Interim Editor, but it is now time to start the search for a permanent Editor.

One major aspect of the Editor job is recruiting advertisers, as part of the compensation for the job is based on ad commissions. Other significant duties for the Editor position involve layout, production and distribution of a 60 page quality magazine, recruiting people to write about festivals, organizing content, kite plans, and securing feature articles.

If this is a job that you feel you are qualified to take on, the RFP is now available. Interested parties can secure a copy of the RFP by getting in touch with me by:

- mail at 1024 Linwood Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108,
- e-mail at secretary@aka.kite.org, or
- phone at 856-854-5520.

Once you receive the RFP, it will be due back to me by January 30, 2002. A final decision on the Editor position will be made at the Board of Directors meeting on March 27, 2002.

AKA 2001 Election Results

By Betty Hirschmann

A total of 1,070 ballots were received, about 28% of the eligible members— a much higher participation than any previous election. The previous record was 10% participation! Due to the tri-fold letter format used this year, the cost of the election process was reduced dramatically.

Also, this tri-fold format enabled the Elections Committee to keep the identity of the voter private. After working with my own ballot, I developed a method for removing the name label without seeing the voters choices. Once the label was removed, the ballots were batched and shipped to Billings for counting at the Convention.

These are the results of the election as reported at the Convention:

Regional Directors

Region 1 – Steve Santos 100
Bob Hogan 71

Region 2 – Mike Dallmer 75
Alice Hayden 56

Region 3 – Bruce Hartman 45
Drake Smith 21

Region 4 – Jim Martin 66
Gary Resnick 32

Region 5 – Tom Brailey 87

Region 8 – Gayle Woodul 100

President

David Gomberg: 1,023
Jon Burkhardt: 4
Terry Murray: 3
Corey Jensen: 2
Stretch Tucker: 2
Richard Dermer: 2
Pat Franks: 2
Susan Gomberg: 1
Sue Moskowitz: 1
Robert Auchincloss: 1
James Martin II: 1
Larry Stiles: 1
Jim Cosca: 1
Kelsey Hayes: 1
Charlie Brown: 1

2002 Executive Committee

At the conclusion of the annual election, a new Executive Committee was approved by the members at the Annual meeting.

President Gomberg nominated Chuck Sigal as First Vice President and Kevin Shannon as Second Vice President. Al Sparling will return as Treasurer and Betty Hirschmann as Secretary.

Joining Phil Broder as Directors at Large are Susan Skinner and Bob Hogan. Each Executive Committee member also chairs a major committee.

Tanna Haynes, Brooks Leffler and Jon Burkhardt joined the Board last year to address specific tasks. Those tasks complete, they plan to spend more time on the kite field and less in meetings. Mike Gillard has also left the Board to fill an interim position as newsletter editor. AKA thanks all of them for their service to the Association.

(Editor's note: Regional Directors are elected from their regions; Executive Committee members are nominated by the president and then approved by the membership. As a result of a Bylaw amendment approved in Billings, The Executive Committee now takes office a week after the convention rather than at the beginning of the following year.)

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The Great Kite Raffle I Got Three!!

The great raffle prizes keep coming on strong, leaving a string of delighted winners in the wake of the monthly drawings. For the price of a \$5.00 raffle ticket, these happy folks won great prizes in the last few months:

- **Bob Hogan**, a pair of Kevin Shannon Rokkakus, as featured in the Neiman-Marcus catalog. \$2,000 value.
- **Dee Taylor**, the Ultimate Single Line package, \$1,350 value.
- **Don Jaspers**, a pair of Sutton 252 Flowforms, \$1,900 value.
- **Dave Cannell**, a giant stack of Dynakites, \$1,400 value.

Great prizes are lined up for the next several months. On Christmas Day, a lucky member will be awarded a set of custom sport kites from Prism Designs, worth \$1,600.

Always want a huge show kite? Toss five bucks into the pot for a chance at winning your choice of Peter Lynn inflatables. The drawing is to be held January 11. Win this jewel and stage your own kite festival whenever you please!

For details, or to buy tickets, go to the AKA website at www.aka.kite.org, or call 800-252-2550.

Question: What does any enthusiast organization need in order to better serve its members?

Answer: MORE MEMBERS!

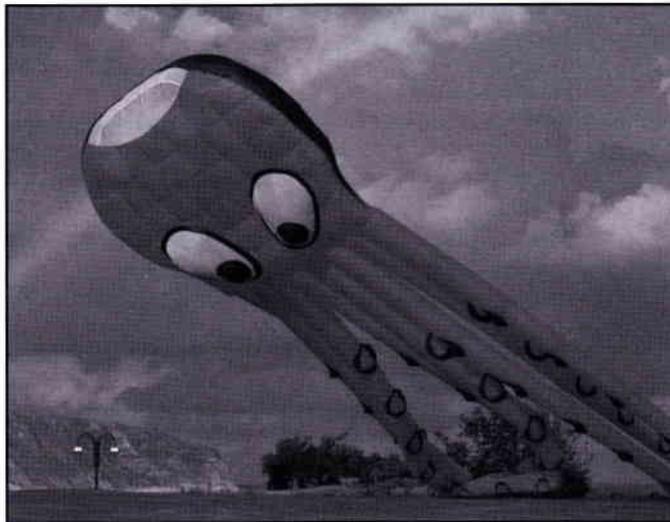
The "I Got Three" program is designed to recognize people and companies that take this ideal to heart, and have helped the AKA return to very positive membership trends. Here are the 2001 members of the IG3 Club, with number of new member recruitments:

- 38: Gayle Woodul
- 36: High Flyers Kite Co.
- 24: Gomberg Kite Productions
- 19: Roger Chewning
- 17: Sea Side Kites
- 12: Glen Rothstein
- 9: KONE

- 8: Forsbergs, NYKE, Sue Letourneau
 - 7: Highline Kites
 - 6: BASKL, Cutting Edge Kites, Into The Wind NKM
 - 5: Betty Hirschmann, "Friend", Jim Martin, Kitelines, Lehigh Valley, Phil Broder, Troy Gunn
 - 4: Alice Hayden, Brooks Leffler, Glowing In The Wind
Brad Martin, Charles Bojarski, Duane Beard, FKA, Frank Seidita, Go Fly A Kite, GWTW-CA, Kite Studio, Kitelife, Kites Unlimited, Lilac City Wind, Lindners, MLD Associates, SDKC, Windchasers, Aire Affair
 - 3: Archie Hayde, Bob Rymaszewski, Charlie Stonestreet, Dermer, Don Murphy, Drake Smith Fish Creek, John Pollock, Kendall Stiles, Marjorie Taylor, Mike Polifrone, Rob Robinson Savannah Sails
- The period from August 19 to September 21 was designated "Get A Member Month", with prizes awarded in these categories:

- Top Individual Recruiter: Gayle Woodul (17 new members!) won gift certificates from Gone With the Wind and Hang 'em High.
- Top Retailer: Sea Side Kites (7), won a free ad in *Kiting*. (Gomberg Kite Productions had 8 new members, but deferred to Sea Side).
- Top Club: Florida Kitesurfing Association (4 new members) won a Thrall Banner.
- Regional Director: Mary Bos of Reg. 10 (31 new members) won an Engvall Rokkaku.
- Random Recruiter: Genny Forsberg was selected, and won a Fijet Quad. Her recruit, Candy Oslow, won a Groet G-Fighter.

Great job by Betty Hirschmann and Jim Martin in putting together this fun promotion that really helped bring a lot of new folks "into the flock".



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- Don't distribute my name outside AKA

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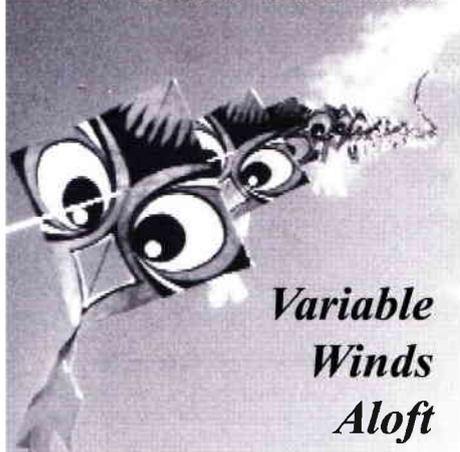
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Letters to the AKA



Variable Winds Aloft

For The Birds.....

Just had to share this with AKA members:

Ban on kites is meant to protect birds

By Stephanie Finucane

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Published in the Thursday, August 2nd, 2001
edition of the *San Diego Union-Tribune*

OCEANO - For now, you can't fly a kite at the popular Oceano dunes in San Luis Obispo County because it may scare some birds. To avoid frightening snowy plovers and least terns - two species of protected shorebirds - the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area has been declared a no-kite zone.

Ambrose Simas, a great-grandfather from Oceano, found that out when he took an 8-year-old neighbor boy to the state beach a couple of weeks ago. "We were flying a kite, and we were told to bring that kite in," Simas told Oceano Community Services District officials during a recent board meeting.

The Oceano man said he's been flying kites on the beach for years, first with his children, then with his grandchildren and now with his great-grandchildren. He knew nothing about the ban on kites and was shocked when he was approached by a ranger and told to stop what he thought was a harmless activity. "It was up in the air. It wasn't hitting anything," Simas said of the kite.

But harm still could have been done, explained Andrew Zilke, chief ranger of the Oceano Dunes park. Plovers and terns could mistake a high-flying kite for a hovering bird of prey, Zilke said, and that could lead the shore-birds to abandon their nests. He said the month-old ban is in effect along a five-mile stretch of beach.

Biologists with the state Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service both called for the ban on kites, which has been in place since the end of June.

"We have no choice other than to agree to that in order to stay open, period," said Zilke, who appeared before the Oceano Community Services District board last week to give an update on state park activities.

The kite prohibition is in effect during nesting season, which runs from March 1 through Sept. 30. That also happens to be the peak-use period for the park, where kite flying has been a popular activity.

Rangers are redirecting kite fliers to other beach areas. The ban on kites comes at a time when environmentalists are considering suing the state, alleging it failed to protect the snowy plover at the vehicular recreation area. They contend that off-road drivers are bothering the birds and interfering with their nesting.

Monitoring of the snowy plovers shows this has not been a good year for the birds. Of the 50 chicks born through late July, only one so far has fledged, which means it survived long enough to leave the nest. "The nesting success is very high, and the hatching success is very high, but the fledgling success is very low," Zilke said. Biologists believe many of the chicks have fallen victim to loggerhead shrikes, which are predatory birds. The state is going to have to consider a predation management plan, Zilke said, though the shrikes - which are at risk of becoming a threatened species - would not be killed. That leaves trapping and relocating as the only option.

As for Simas, he hasn't flown a kite since his recent encounter with the ranger. He's not sure where he'll go now. "It's ridiculous," he said. "They have more people out there trying to count eggs and birds than people trying to damage things."

Guess we can look forward to "no-kite" zones everywhere, eventually. After all, it ain't hard to find somebody or something that's afraid of kites, especially right in the middle of their precious off-road vehicle area. Can't run over somebody's kid, if there's a dang kite flier standing in the way!

Mike Dooley

San Diego, CA

Thoughts From a First-timer..

Big Sky Montana was the backdrop for one of the most memorable weeks of my life. As a first time convention attendee, I had no idea what to expect. I thought that maybe I would be able to fly a few kites, meet a few people, and learn a little bit more about the fine art of kite making.

The last thing I ever expected was to find a sense of family and to be welcomed so generously into the kite world that I have long admired.

So many people are responsible for making the AKA National Convention a week to remember.

Don Murphy and Bruce Kenkel, my companions to Billings, gave me the great idea to ask for signatures of fellow convention attendees. It was a great way to begin to meet people. Scott Skinner recommended getting out on the field and flying as much as I could. Hundreds of images now fill my mind because of that suggestion. Mary & John Gabby and Mike Shaw were my kite making mentors via E-mail who made it possible for me to attend the convention as a competing kite maker. That my little train of hexes was so well received is due to their kindness, expertise, and support.



The judges during the comprehensive judging were very gentle and affirming to this novice and made the process a very positive experience. And the chance to share the sky with Charlie Dunton, Jon Burkhardt, and other kite making heroes of mine at the Little Bighorn National Monument was a sacred moment I will never forget.

From drinks Monday night with Mike Gillard and Chuck Sigal through a Saturday night photo opportunity with Brian Champie, the good times never ceased. The early bird reception fed us in true cowboy style. The workshops were all outstanding. The sport kite flying was a dream to watch. Buggies and bols, squids and spinsocks...this convention had it all. Anyone who did not make the journey to Billings missed a grand party on the prairie with the majestic Rockies as a picturesque backdrop. They missed the sunshine and sweet winds. They missed a flying field filled with friends. Little did I know what was waiting for me. Thank you Montana. Thank you AKA.

Deb Lenzen
Garrison, ND

photo of Deb's hexes by Phil Broder

Letters to the Editor are always welcome. They may be edited for length and/or clarity. Please include your name and address, anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. Send to kiting.ed@aka.kite.org or mail to:

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Michael Dallmer (215) 722-4092
sjkf@geocities.com

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

REGION THREE

Maryland Kite Society
c/o Jon & Karen Burkhardt
10113 Lloyd Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 424-6976
burkhard@intr.net

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

Winds And Rainbows
3718 Cumberland St N.W.
Washington, DC 20016
(202) 514-5942
rdaniel@his.com

Wings Over Washington (WOW)
2805 Hunter Mill Road
Oakton, VA 22124
www.kites.org/WOW/
Harold Ames
(540) 775-5174

REGION FOUR

Suburban Atlanta Kite Enthusiasts
8257 Winston Way
Jonesboro, GA
(404) 471-7923
hgroover@mindspring.com

Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub
1916 Castle Bay Court
Oldsmar, FL 34677
Claxton A. Thompson
(813) 891-0301
www.tiskk.net

Wings Across Carolina Kiting &
Okra Society (WACKOS)
Marty Groet (704) 596-5312
Box 37289
Charlotte, NC 28237
www.wackos.org

REGION FIVE

4 Seasons Kite Club
317 Boyne Street
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
tig@tdi.net

Kazoo Stringfellows
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 Springgreene
Ada, MI 49301
(616) 676-5980
spacioussky@grgig.net

Ohio Society for the Elevation of
Kites (OSEK);
10228 Winthrop Rd.
Streetsboro, OH 44241
Harry Gregory (330) 274-2818
osek-cleve@adelphia.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
www.mnkites.org

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

Wisconsin Kiteers
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
kimdave9@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
prairiewinds@neb.rr.com

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@cpro.com

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@worlnet.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
 mtpta@whidbey.net

REGION ELEVEN

Bay Area Sport Kite League
 2381 Nobili Ave.
 San ta Clara, CA 95051
 (408) 554-8399
 www.baskl.org
 info@baskl.org

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. Emeilta Avenue #1100
 Mesa, AZ 85202
 Dave Evans (480) 610-0201
 azfreeflyer@aol.com

Hawaii Kiteflyers 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

San Diego Kite Club
 PO Box 7977, San Diego, CA 92167
 kytebum@inetworld.net
 Jim Skryja (858) 272-3461

Sport Kite Club of America
 PO Box 5216
 Playa Del Ray, CA 90293
 Russ Colbert (310) 822-9550
 epickites@aol.com

REGION THIRTEEN

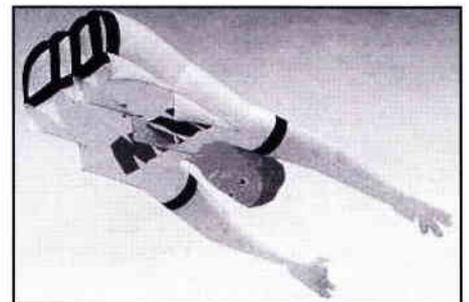
Federation Quebecoise
 Du Cerf-Volant
 4545 Ave. Pierre-de-Coubertin
 CP1000, Succesale M
 Montreal, PQ H1V3R2
 (514) 252-2032
 cerfvol@fqjv.qc.ca

Club Profile....



October 7, 2001 — The airport in Billings, MT is full of kitefliers waiting for their departing flights after the AKA Convention. The US has started attacks against Afghanistan, and the mood is tense in the airport. Fliers watch the beginning of a grim-faced President Bush as he begins his address to the American people. Through the White House window behind the president, we see flashes of movement. What the heck is that? Kites!

We silently thanked the Wings Over Washington club for cheering us up. For years, WOW has staged monthly club flies on the mall in Washington; on that Sunday hundreds of millions worldwide caught a glimpse of their kites.



WOW has a current roster of 85 members, whose interests cover every aspect of the kiting sport. Perhaps their most visible item is "Captain WOW", a 28' Martin Lester "Top Half" built from a kit in 1996. This beauty flies at all East Coast festivals, and always draws a crowd.

In addition to the monthly club flies, WOW sends a strong contingent to festivals virtually every weekend of the year.

Last year, the club started a Kitebuilders Guild to further the skills of experienced kitebuilders, as well as bring new builders on board. Their monthly kite crafting sessions have led to many wonderful new creations taking wing.

Learn more about Wings Over Washington by visiting their website (www.kites.org/wow) or by contacting club president Harold Ames at kitesqid@kitemail.com.



Shirone Edo by Kazuo Tamura, owned by the club

Would you like to see your club profiled in a future issue of Kiting? Send your information to kiting.ed@aka.kite.org

TEAM FLYING • KITE MAKING WORKSHOPS • INDOOR FLYING • HISTORICAL EXHIBITS

KITES ON ICE

A Wisconsin Winter Kite Festival
February 2 & 3, 2002
Madison, Wisconsin



**Monona Terrace
 & Lake Monona**
10 am - 4 pm



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Charter
 COMMUNICATIONSSM

A WIRED WORLD COMPANY



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TARGET



Benefiting
 WISCONSIN
 Women's Health
 FOUNDATION, INC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.madfest.org
 OR CALL 608-278-9666

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<http://www.monmouth.com/flyaway>

flyaway@monmouth.com

1-800-29KITES

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photo by Cliff Pennell

kaptions

George Malina

"All of my recent photographs have been taken using a rig based heavily on Brooks Leffler's "Monopost III" rig design. Published in the Summer 1998 issue of the aerial eye, it is perfect for the lightweight, fixed-focus cameras that I have used. Its sturdy design also lends itself very well to traveling.

With only two and a half years "under the rig", I cannot compete with the technical competence of many of the others featured in KAPtions. Instead, I'd like to share with you a couple of things that I may do differently than most others. While not necessarily the best for all, they work for me.

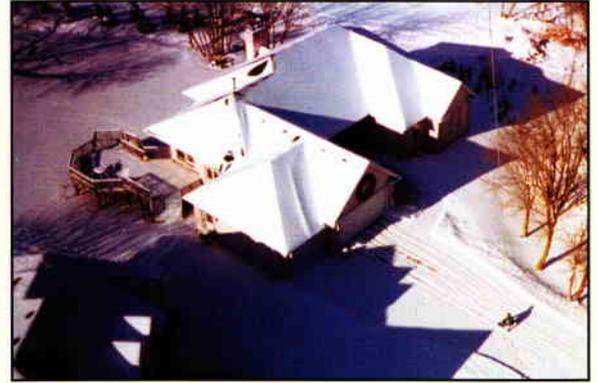
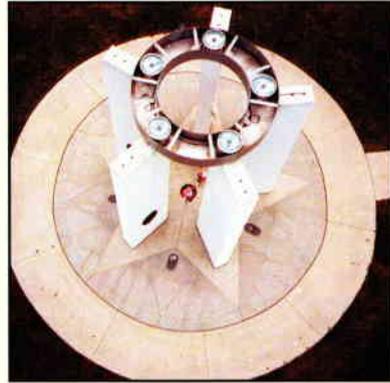
I use APS film, due to its smaller size allowing for construction of more compact and lightweight cameras. Despite the smaller negative, I have had great results with enlargements to 8 by 10". The ability to communicate with the photo-finishing lab through magnetic coding on the film helps ensure the best pictures possible.

I also use a film scanner and imaging software to get the most out of my KAP photos. Working with the high-resolution scanner I am able to center the subject, rotate to adjust the horizon, zoom in, adjust contrast and color with the software. This is, after all, a visual hobby that was meant to be shared. It won't make a bad picture good but it will allow you to present the best of your efforts.

I have just begun experimenting with wireless video feed from the rig to help me properly aim the camera. I chose the model LWA13 from wirelessvideocameras.com that has an airborne weight of 4 ounces, including the 9 volt battery. So far, the results have been encouraging. My challenge at this point is to make the receiver, its 12 volt battery and the hand-held TV that I use as a monitor more portable so that I can move around more freely as I take pictures. Watch my website at www.kitekam.com for updates."

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.



Above left: *I was impressed with the Millennium Carillon Bell Tower in Naperville, Illinois the first time I saw it in the summer of 2000. Rising to a height of nearly 160 ft., its 72 bronze bells cover six full octaves making it one of four Grand Carillons in the world. Sutton Flow Form 30, Fujifilm Nexia 800 speed APS film*

Above middle: *My part-time KAP helpers, George and Collin, stand in the middle of the Vietnam Memorial at the bank of the Fox River in Aurora, Illinois. If the designers had known it would be viewed from above, I wonder if they might have made the light fixture more attractive? Greens Cody Ultralight2, Kodak Advantix 400 speed APS film*

Above right: *Inspired in part by my attendance at the 2001 Kites on Ice Festival, I captured a picture of my house after a light dusting of snow. To me, the early morning shadows combined with the snow patterns created by the wind on the roof make this shot much more interesting than a ground level picture. Greens Stratoscoop2, Kodak Advantix 400 speed APS film*



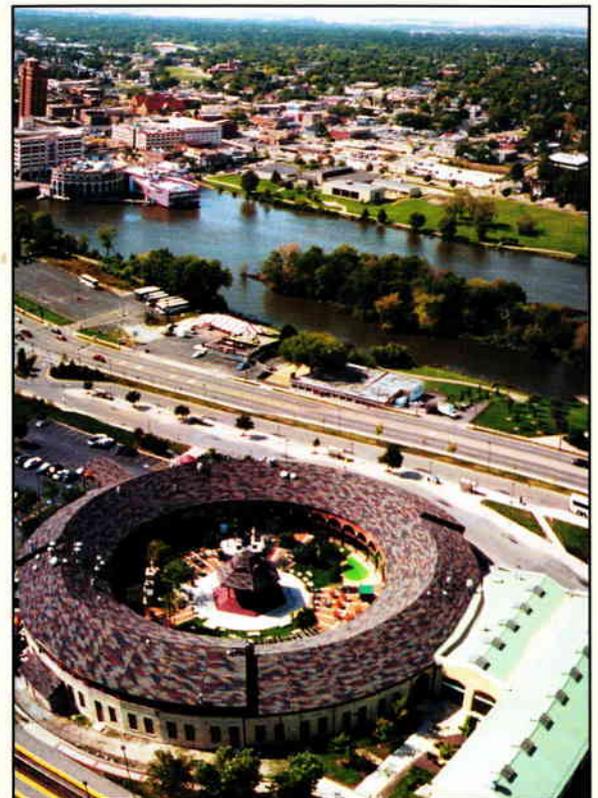
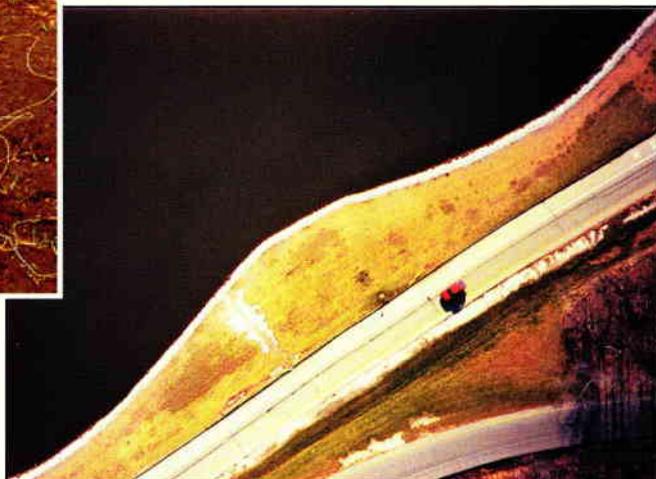
Right: *I feel a bond between kite aerial photography and farming that has helped to develop my interest in barns and farms as KAP subjects. While I'm unable to precisely explain it, perhaps it has something to do with working with nature to obtain the desired results. Randy Tom Hornet Rokkaku, Kodak Advantix 400 speed APS film*

Below: *Actually two digital shots "stitched" together, the foreground shows Walter Payton's Roundhouse facility while downtown Aurora is in the background. Sutton Flow Form 30, Fujifilm Nexia 400 speed APS film.*



Left : *A picture of myself with my son, George, taking his first KAP shot.*

Below center: *Seen from above, the ordinary becomes interesting. The shadow of the red car and the white bank of one of the ponds at Fermi laboratory in Batavia, Illinois contrast nicely with the late fall vegetation. Sutton Flow Form 30, Fujifilm Nexia 400 speed APS film*



Fliers from Newport to Beijing joined in spirit on September 16th to mourn the tragedy that had forever changed our lives, our country, and our world. And by joining together and doing what we do, fly kites, we strengthened our resolve not to let that change. We flew, we talked, we hugged, and we felt better knowing that we were not alone. Clockwise from left:

Cleveland Kite Festival, photo Mike Gillard; Uncle Sam leads a parade of youngsters in Sacramento, photo: Jim Streatly; Newport Fliers and Forrest Cary's patriotic banners, photo: Dan Carey; Beijing, China, photo: unknown; Freedom fliers in Winnipeg, photo: Don Quick; the Twin Towers in happier times, photo: Dave & Sherrie Arnold. Facing page, flags encircle a banner with names of the victims of September 11th, photo: Dan Carey



FLYING FOR FREEDOM

by Phil Broder

SEPTEMBER 16, 2001

Kites Over Burlington was scheduled for four days after September 11. And as the NFL and NCAA cancelled games and watching became the national pastime, I had to wonder if we should have a kite festival at all.

One AKA Board member works in the Pentagon, but was safe. Other AKA members had lost family members on the hijacked planes, and in the World Trade Center collapse. Would flying kites be appropriate? Would anyone come?

But we've turned to kites in times of trouble before. I'm the guy who showed up in Ocean City a few hours after getting fired from my job, because I had nothing else to do. So why not fly kites? It's what we do. It's who we are. And as a bonus, we could thumb our noses at our enemies, the terrorist-sheltering Afghan government that had declared kiteflying to be "useless and an obstacle to education."

The AKA Board debated how to handle the questions from our members, the call went out through an e-mail. Fly kites this weekend. Red, white, and blue kites if you've got 'em, any other kind if you don't. Just get something up in the air. If you're holding a string, you can't hold a gun or bomb.

And we soon found that others felt like we did. OSEK's Cleveland Kite Fest became a Freedom Fly. So did the festival in Sacramento. Other clubs added their voices to the chorus. And then, to my surprise, the messages started coming from overseas. Several

clubs in France said they'd be flying with us. So were kites in Belgium, in Holland, and in England. A huge Freedom Fly was hastily organized in India. Another was put on in South Africa. And Japan. And the Ukraine. And terrorism-torn Israel. Across the globe, kitefliers stepped up and voiced their sorrow for America, and flew kites in solidarity. It was an awesome thing.

Does it end with one weekend? I hope not. Why shouldn't we fly kites for peace all the time? Why can't every day be "One Sky, One

World?" If we teach more people to have fun with kites, aren't we teaching peace? On a flying field or beach, do you hate someone because of their race or religion? As your kite rises into the blue sky, aren't we flying to freedom, not just for it?

As we go to press, CBS News is showing footage of jubilant Afghans flying fighter kites in downtown Kabul. See, Freedom DOES fly!



KITEVENTS

JANUARY

1
New Year's Day Fly
Washington Monument, Washington, DC
kitesquid@kitemail.com

New Year's Fly & Potluck
Lakeville, MN
Craig Christensen (612)435-7406

SDKC New Year's Day Fly
Marriner's Point, San Diego, CA

13 - 18
KTAI Convention & Trade Show
Clearwater, FL
www.kitetrade.org

18 - 20
Treasure Island Stunt Kite
Championships & Kite Festival
Treasure Island, FL, Sandy Fowler
sales@kitesville.com
1-727 596-3431

19
Lake Harriet Winterfest
Minneapolis, MN
Jerry Houk (651)488-7314

19 - 20
Terry's Frozen Thingy
Maumee Bay State Park, Oregon, OH
Terry Gerwick
tlg@tdi.net
(734)243-0919

27
Frosty Fingers Kite Fly
St. Paul, MN
Ken Wilkowski (651) 536-8552

FEBRUARY

1 - 3
Kites On Ice
Lake Monona, Madison, WI
Linda Underwood (608)278-9666
madfest@madfest.org

*First Annual Two-Stop SoCal
Fighter Kite Tour (FATS SoCal
Fighter Tour)*

Steve Bateman 858-450-5657
geokite@excite.com

16
SPI Kite Festival
South Padre Island, TX
Robert Blatnik
lepco@ies.net

23
Minnesota Kite Society Annual
Meeting & Auction
Yuuan-Ming Hsu (651)931-7548

MARCH

1 - 3
Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference; Port Townsend, WA
Guest Presenters - Robert Brasington, Scott Hampton, Rick Miller, George Peters, etc.
Sam Zeiler (206) 368-9569
kitemakers@nestscape.net

8-10
Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat
Oregon, IL
Barbara Meyer 763-424-2571
makr@kitelife.com

17
MKS St. Patrick's Day Fly
Cottage Grove, MN

APRIL

2 - 8
Spring Break Buggy Blast
Ivanpah Dry Lake, CA
WWW.sbbb.net

6
Fool's Day Fly
Shakopee, MN

Brad Klages (612)866-9055

20
Dixie Escalante Kite Festival
St. George, UT
Royce Jones
435-673-3297
dekitefestival@yahoo.com

20-21
Georgetown Kite Festival
Cardome Center
Georgetown, KY
Bill Lowry
502-863-1575x44

Elephant Butte Kite Festival
Elephant Butte, NM
Margot Magnum
800-657-9188
mmarine@zianet.com

27
Kiting, Just For Fun
Community Park
Idaho Falls, ID
Dean Turnblom
208-524-5551

27 - 28
Maryland International Kite Festival & Mid Atlantic SKC
Ocean City, MD
Sky Festivals (215)736-3715

Monthly Scheduled Club Activities

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

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

San Diego Kite Club
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
3rd 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 info.

Coming Attractions....

Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference 2002

by Steve Millsbaugh

The 19th annual Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference will take place on March 1-3, 2002. We have returned to our traditional first weekend of March. We had moved to the second weekend due to some scheduling conflicts with other events at the Fort Worden Conference Center, but now realize that this put us in conflict with the Midwest Area Kite Retreat.

The location is the historic Fort Worden State Park Conference Center in Port Townsend, Washington, USA. This former Army base is now maintained by the Washington State Parks Department, and has been home to 18 years of kitemaking gatherings. From its humble beginnings in a single room, the conference has grown to encompass most of the available classrooms at the center. Meals and lodging are available, and prices are reasonable.

With 22 instructors joining us from 5 countries and 9 states, the conference offers an exceptional range of learning experiences for kitemakers of every skill level. Small or large, simple or intricate, taped or sewn, kite or accessory, craft or art, take your pick and there is a class for you. It's an opportunity to learn, share information, socialize, and make new kite flying friends. The Drachen Foundation will be participating again this year by co-sponsoring Anna Rubin and the Zimmermans, and joining us at the Fort to promote their paper kite contest.

While there is plenty to choose from, classes are limited in size and early registration is advised. Instructions for getting on the mailing list follow at the end of this article. You can also find additional information at www.kitemakers.org.

Here, in alphabetical order, is the list of teachers for 2002.

Robert Brasington, St. Helens, Tasmania; Diane Butler, Tigard, Oregon; Dave Christenson, Westport, Washington; Deb Cooley, Lincoln City, Oregon; John Freeman, Parksville, British Columbia, Canada; Karen Gustavson, Solvang, California; Scott Hampton, Sandy, Utah; Kathy Horn, Lindenwood, Illinois; Sam Huston, Kent, Washington; Dan Kurahashi, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada; Rick Miller, Silver City, New Mexico; Sharon Musto, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Gerry Pennell, Olympia, Washington; George Peters, Boulder, Colorado; George A. Peters, Seattle, Washington; Barry Poulter, Tacoma, Washington; Anna Rubin, Maria Rain, Austria; Terry Sansom, Wimberly City, Texas; Randy Shannon, Flagstaff, Arizona; Charlie Sotich, Chicago, Illinois; and Rolf & Claudia Zimmermann, Bad Salzuflen, Germany.

To receive information when available (November 2001), please mail, phone, fax, or e-mail your name, etc., to:

Fort Worden Kitemakers
c/o Sam Zeiler
10716 Palatine Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98133-8727
Tel: (206) 368-9569
Fax: (206) 365-9104
e-mail: kitemakers@netscape.net

NOTE: If you attended the 2001 conference, you are already on the mailing list for the 2002 Conference, and will automatically receive information and registration forms in November 2001.

National Kite Month....

NKM '02 Aims For 400

Why not 400? Why can't we have 400 events for National Kite Month '02? It's winter now, which means it's time to start planning for April, and the next National Kite Month. After the wildly successful 378 events of NKM '01, with some advance planning we should be able to reach the 400 event plateau next spring.

NKM '02 kicks off the day after Easter, April 1, and runs through the next five weekends, ending May 5. It includes several big festivals - the Maryland International Kite Expo, Little Acorns Festival, and Perry Farm Kite Fest - but the strength of NKM lies in smaller local events. Last year the Rogue Valley Windchasers set up dozens of events, ranging from kite art displays in local banks and office buildings to club flies at Earth Day beach cleanups. On the opposite side of the country, Archie Stewart did 11 indoor flying demos at Boston youth centers. There were kitesurfing classes in North Carolina, sport kite lessons in Iowa, club flies on nude beaches in California, and kitemaking for kids in Texas. NKM events appeared on CNN, NBC, and in newspapers from coast to coast.

Once again, there will be incredible prizes for event organizers and clubs who organize events. The new *Kite Event Organizer's Manual* is available as a free download from the AKA website. The NKM team stands ready to help you publicize your event. All you have to do is look around your community and see how you can help spread the gospel of kiteflying.

It doesn't have to be a huge festival. Regularly scheduled club flies count. Kids kitemaking classes count. Classroom lectures count. Sewing workshops count. Kite art displays count. Just figure out the details of where, when, and who, look up the address of your local newspaper or TV station in the phone book, and then go to www.kitetrade.org/NationalKiteMonth to register your event. It's quick, it's free, and it gets the wheels of the NKM machine rolling towards 400 events.



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AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA MEMBERS AKA

Member Profile

Joshua and Zachary Gordon

There's no age requirement to join the AKA, but a lot of Midwest sport kite competitors wish there were. Then they wouldn't have to worry about being embarrassed by the Brothers Gordon. Joshua, age 14, and Zachary, age 9, both from Algonquin IL, have been tearing through the competition in the 18 months that they've been flying kites, and usually leave an event – including the Nationals in Billings – with an armful of trophies.

The brothers got into kiting on the beaches of southwestern Michigan, where other fliers would loan them kites. Josh entered a competition in July 2000, and Zach followed two months later. Zach split the cost of his first Rev with his mother, spending 26 weeks of allowance for the kite.

As the boys steamrolled the Midwest Conference, more experienced fliers couldn't help but notice. They were soon adopted by the Chicago Fire, getting flying advice and learning new tricks from America's best sport kite team. Zach also started flying dual-line kites, so he could fly pairs with his older brother. It wasn't long before they also caught the eye of Ken McNeill at Blue Moon Kites. By the end of the summer 2001, Josh and Zach were spon-



sored by Blue Moon, and writing an on-line diary for Blue Moon's website.

Both boys qualified to compete in Novice Individual Ballet and Precision at Billings, as well as in Experienced Pairs Ballet and Precision. Zach also qualified for Experienced Quad Ballet, and Josh for Open Freestyle. In strong winds, Josh flew to 3rd in NIB, and also took 3rd in Freestyle (flying a kite from his waist for the first time). Zach was 4th in EQB, even though he had to fly from his butt to keep from being dragged off the field. Flying together as the Wind Devils, they took 3rd in EPP.

But the young fliers really left their mark on the Hot Tricks Shootout. Both brothers won their first round matchups, and Zach made it all the way to the finals. He relied on a new trick, the Double Whanger Zing Zanger Flippy Flop, where he flew a Rev while the Chicago Fire's Russ Faulk held him upside down. Zach used the move to slam dunk veteran Ron Despojado in the final round, winning the Hot Tricks Shootout over some of America's best trick fliers.

What's next for the AKA's youngest champions? Besides a winter of academics and music lessons, they're learning how to make kites from McNeill, practicing new moves with the Fire, and getting ready for next year in Ocean City. - Phil Broder

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eKiting - Coming to an Email message near you!

“Expand our channels of communication with the AKA membership...” is how AKA President David Gomberg describes the goal of eKiting. Currently our print publication Kiting goes out to the membership on a quarterly basis. The AKA wants to provide an additional benefit of membership by delivering timely, interesting information to you in the months between issues of Kiting. We plan to do this electronically, using electronic mail (e-mail), passing along just the content that you want to read.

We are currently planning four “flavors” of our electronic newsletter: kitemaking & single line kites, sport kites, fighter kites and traction kiting. You can sign up for as many or as few as you like. The plan is to distribute them midway between issues of Kiting.

So, how do you sign up? Hop on to the Internet, open your web browser and point it to: <http://www.aka.kite.org/data/members/newsletters.html>

This web address is within the AKA Clubhouse, a member’s only area. To enter the Clubhouse you will need:

Username: (your membership number)

Password: (your e-mail address, all lower case)

Your AKA membership (pilot license) number is located on your “AKA Certified Kite Pilot” card and also on the mailing address of your copy of “Kiting” next to the expiration date. If you have not given us your e-mail address or it has changed since you joined, you will not be able to access the Clubhouse until your record has been updated. Please send e-mail to the AKA’s Executive Director (xd@aka.kite.org) asking that your current e-mail address be added to your member record.

About two thirds of the AKA membership have provided e-mail addresses to the association. For those of you who have an e-mail address but have not provided it to the AKA and would like to receive these electronic newsletters, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

AKA members without Internet access are not left out. If you have a computer with a modem in it, there are free Internet services available to you. One such service is called Net Zero. You can contact them at 1-800-333-3633 to request an installation CD. If you don’t have a computer, most public libraries provide free Internet access. Sign on to one of the PC’s at the library and visit a website such as Hotmail.com or Yahoo.com to sign up for a free e-mail account.

Do you have a friend or colleague who is not an AKA member but would like to receive electronic information about what’s happening in kiting? Have them go to the AKA website (<http://www.aka.kite.org>) and register for our E-Affiliate Program. They will receive an electronic newsletter chock full of the latest information on the AKA and the programs and events that are available.

I’m excited at the opportunities that lie ahead. If you have topics that you would like to see covered in our electronic newsletters or would like to submit articles of interest for publication, please feel free to contact me via e-mail (dal6@aka.kite.org).

Bob Hogan

Moved? Changed E-mail? Contact the XD!

Editor’s Notebook

This issue marks the start of a new era for “Kiting”, an era without the wonderful leadership of Roger Chewning. Over the last five years, Roger took the publication from a 26-page black and white newsletter to a 44-page color magazine. All AKA members owe Roger a big Thank You for the constant improvement that took place during his watch.

This is the first of the two issues that I am currently contracted to edit, and I hope that you enjoy it. We have some great things in mind for future issues, including several new features. Additionally, we receive more photos than we can sometimes fit in, and articles that run too long to include in their entirety. To provide a further service to members, we will have web-only content with the web address listed in each article. The magazine, the “eKiting Newsletters”, and the web-only content will allow us to greatly increase communication between members. Isn’t that what belonging to a club is all about?

To accomplish these ideas and make the magazine bigger and better, we need material and advertisers. If you can help with either, let us know!

Mike Gillard

Thank Heaven for Angels!

When the AKA needed help, the membership responded. Every contribution was appreciated. Here is a special thank you to the more than 103 “AKA Angels” who sent at least \$100 and earned a limited-edition Angel pin.



If you haven’t received your pin yet, please let the office know. And if there are more Angels out there, we still have pins...

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

Northwest Conference

We have just returned from the Nationals in Billings, Montana where the Northwest had the largest turn out in the sport kite competition. Everyone from the Northwest appreciated the hospitality and warm weather of Billings even though a cold front chose to come through on the days of competition with winds gusting from zero to 28 during many performances. The Northwest's presence was felt at awards time. In the Masters class, Reid Wolcott placed 1st in MIP and Rick and Reid took 1st in MPP. In the Experienced classes, Wayne Turner placed 1st and Scott Davis 2nd in EIP and Bud Hayes placed 2nd with Scott Davis 3rd in EIB. Bill Rodgers and Scott Davis took 1st in both EPB and EPP and Jerry and Marcia Cannon placed 2nd in EPB. The Team 6th Sense with Bill, Scott and Wayne Turner placed 1st in both ETB and ETP. In Novice class, Steve Buck placed 1st in NIB and 3rd in NIP, Vicki Casal placed 2nd in NIB and Daniel Haigh placed 2nd in NIP. Penny Lingenfelter placed 2nd in OIF and also in the Indoor competition. In the buggy racing, Eli Anderson placed 1st in the circuit racing and 3rd in pursuit. A good time was had by all as we enjoyed the camaraderie with fliers from across the United States.

While the Nationals were the last event of 2001, we have already completed four events for the 2002 season. All of the above Novice and Experienced competitors have moved up and are now competing in a higher class. The first event of the year was also a first time competition sponsored by Erv Crosby of Four Winds Kite Shop and held on the Navy Base at Everett, WA. We are expecting this event to grow as the hospitality, winds and location have the makings for a great annual event.

We started off the competition year with events at Everett, Ocean Shores, Seaside and Whidbey Island. The current leaders for our conference are Reid Wolcott in MIB, Mike Huff in MIP, John Barresi in MQB and MQP, R.A.W. Power in MPB and MPP and Team 6th Sense in MTB and MTP. In the Experienced class Marjorie Taylor is leading in both EIB and EIP, Moon Kushner in EQB, Kelly Crompton in EQP and Wing N It is leading in both EPB and EPP. Michael Boyle is leading in NIP but there is a three way tie in NIB among Moon Kushner, Terry Nuzzo and Allen Taylor and Team O.L.I.P. is first in OTT. We are all looking forward to our annual training weekend this Winter.

Mike and Terri Huff
Northwest Sport Kite Commissioners

Midwest Conference

Winter has hit the Midwest and the AKA 2001 Grand Nationals in Billings is now part of the history books. Our conference had some notable performances. Lam Hoac took 11 Awards back to Canada including People's Choice in Kitemaking. He came in first in MIP and MIQB, second in MIQP, and third in MIB. Lam continues to grow and excel in everything that he attempts in kiting.

The Chicago Fire won both Masters Team Precision and Ballet. The team is expanding its achievements in other areas. Pyro is a Masters Pair made up of Russ Faulk and Eric Wolff. They took second in Precision and third in Ballet. Dan Brinnehl came in third in MIP. Dan and sister Kathy are competing this season as "Co-Pilots" in Masters Pairs disciplines.

The Wind Devils, Zach and Josh Gordon, got a trophy for third place in Experienced Pairs Precision. Zach turned the Hot Tricks Shoot Out upside-

down, while Josh brought home the wood in NIB and Individual Freestyle. They are flying the 2002 season under the name EOS. Chicago seems to be the area to watch for Sport Kiting in the 2002 season.

Bill Schumacher, Vicki Proudfoot and Spencer Schubbe helped round out the Midwest Sport Kite presence in Billings. And the Midwest Conference owes much thanks to Phil Broder for keeping events alive and growing back at home.

*Craig Rodgerson
Midwest Sport Kite Commissioner*

Southeast Conference

On Saturday night, or early Sunday morning, after the banquet at the AKA convention the word went out: Richmond Rules! Members of the Richmond Air Force brought home from Billings a total of 6 trophies from both the Sport Kite Competition and the Comprehensive Competition. Also one prize was won at the Pin Challenge. This was the icing on the cake after a full week of sightseeing at Yellowstone Park and Little Big Horn, attending workshops, competing, renewing old friendships, and making new friends.

Two weeks later, the first competition of the new kite year was held on Jockey's Ridge, North Carolina. The view and the ocean wind make the trek up the hill worth the effort. Fliers from the Northeast and Southeast Conference gathered for more competition and fun on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the veterans, several new competitors tried their hand at competition on the Beginners field.

The next two Eastern League competitions will be held in the Southeast. In November there will be a competition at Tybee Island, Georgia. In January, competitors will eagerly escape winter and travel to Treasure Island, Florida for the annual competition held on the beach.

*Laura Stonestreet
Southeast Conference Commissioner*

Pacific Conference

The Pacific Conference 2002 is off to a rousing start with three competitions since Labor Day; the Golden Gate Challenge in San Francisco and two events in So. California. The GGC saw the return of a number of competitors from past seasons as well as a raft of first-timers who all promise to return for the continuation of the season next Spring.

Pacific competitors represented their conference well, returning from Billings with 11 trophies and boasting of a great time in spite of lame jokes about snow ... like it couldn't have happened. Despojado kept his shorts ON during Thursday's sub-freezing wind-chill while most of us were huddling near the Kettle Korn bucket!

Now it's time to reflect on the season past and the moments we shared with our extended family, to start editing new music for our next killer routines, and to anticipate the fun we'll have next year when we pick up where we left off. Safe and happy holidays to everyone.

*Susan Shampo
Pacific Sport Kite Commissioner*

Central Conference

Congratulations to all the central conference sport kite competitors! The sport kite fliers of regions seven and eight have set a new AKA Convention world record! This record is not one that should be duplicated by other conferences. Before reading any further, go to the AKA website and look at the 2001 AKA Convention, sport kite competition results. Once there, find the sport kite winners from the central conference, then return here and read the rest of this report (no cheating).

Back to the central conference report! Did you notice that there weren't any winners from the central conference? Want to find out why? Glad you're interested!

Let's find out why, by playing the game, "Who wants to be a AKA convention sport kite competitor", shall we!

Here are the million-dollar questions and answers, as to why there were no winners from the Central conference at the 2001 Billings convention:

1. Were the central conference sport kite competitors, that awful? NO!
2. Did they all crash before finishing their routines? NO!
3. Did they all get disqualified for failing to bribe the judges? NO!
4. Did they all slip in Antelope droppings, hit their heads, and suffered massive kite flying amnesia, which caused them to forget how to fly their kites? NO!
5. Were they paid "not to fly", by the other competitors, because they're just too darn good? NO!
6. Were they all abducted by aliens, on their way to Billings? MAYBE!

ANSWER:

The reason there were no central conference sport kite winners at the 2001 Billings convention is that NONE of the sport kite competitors that qualified to compete at the convention attended the convention.

Like I stated earlier, this AKA convention world record, shouldn't be attempted by any other conference! The Central conference's world record is unbreakable, so don't even try! <grin>

*Troy Gunn
Central Sport Kite Commissioner*

Northeast Conference

We have a new commissioner for the Northeast. Adena Schutzberg will have a report in the next issue.



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Tips and Techniques....

TUBE TAILS AND RIBBON TAILS

by John & Mary Gabby

At first glance, it seems like a striped tail is a great way to use up small scraps of fabric—just cut the scraps into squares, sew them end to end and make a tube tail. In reality this is extremely hard to do. For the bands to meet smoothly and evenly, all the cuts and all the stitching must be perfectly parallel and perfectly perpendicular. I have made over a dozen tube tails and am still learning something new each time. Here are my secrets so far.

STRIP PIECING

Build panels of stripes, then cut the panels into strips. Sew the strips end to end, then sew the long strips into tubes. Cut the stripe pieces for the panels from 5 to 15 inches wide. The cut width of the stripes can vary but all of the cuts must be parallel to each other and perpendicular to the edge of the roll. If you do not stay parallel and perpendicular, the panels get out of square, material is wasted and the bands won't line up.

Hint #1. If some of your fabric is 42" wide and some is 54" wide, cut a 54" length off the 42" roll and turn it sideways to cut the stripes.

Hint #2. Build the panels no longer than your cutting table and longest metal ruler. We use 2 conference tables (6 ft and 8 ft) from Office Max, topped with Masonite. A cheaper alternative to a long aluminum ruler is steel strip stock from Home Depot. Put strips of sticky-back felt on one side.

FLOPPED SEAM

The flopped seam is the easiest seam to use for piecing kite fabric. It is often mistakenly called a felled seam. A true felled seam has both raw edges enclosed. If you examine a pair of Levi's brand jeans you will see the difference. The inseam is felled, the outer seam is more like a flopped seam. A true felled seam is difficult to sew well and tricky to calculate the seam allowances. True felled seams are mainly used on sport kites. For tails, the wearability of flopped seams has proven very satisfactory. Use good, bonded-nylon thread and the seams will outlast the fabric.

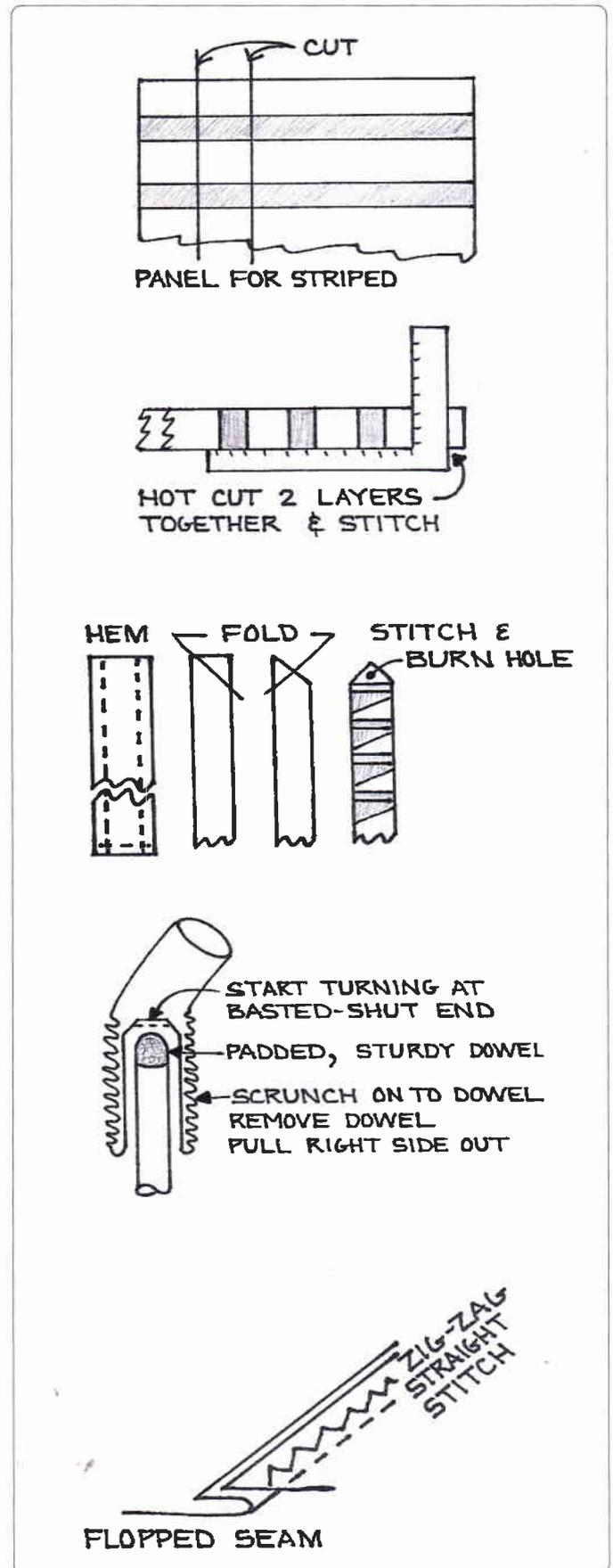
To make the flopped seam, sew 2 stripes together with a very narrow seam allowance—1/4" or less. Open the fabric flat, flop over both seam allowances to one side. (You can iron the seams open if you wish.) Stitch the seam allowances down flat with a zig-zag. Strive to keep all the seams on one side of the panel and flopped in the same direction. I do this by always keeping the wrong side up and always adding the new stripe to the underside of the panel.

CUT PANELS INTO STRIPS

For sport kite tube tails, cut strips from 7-1/2 to 12 inches wide. Trim the cleanest edge even and perpendicular to the stitching. Make a marking template from a strip of poster board for repeatability of measurements. Cut the panel into strips.

SEW THE STRIPS END TO END

This is one of the most difficult parts. If everything is not perpendicular and parallel, you will get a funny kink in the strip and the bands on the finished tail will not line up. A metal right angle is indispensable. Place the strips to be joined right sides together with one edge of both strips aligned with the leg of the right angle. Hot cut the



edges together near the seam line to baste them. (Thanks George Ham, we learned this from you!) Stitch the seam, open, flop and stitch flat.

Finished tube tails for sport kites can be from 30' to 90' long. Ray Bethell's tails are cut at 7-1/2" wide and 70' and 95' long, but the ends do not fully inflate. Sew a 2" strip of Dacron across the top end, and hem the bottom ends. Sew the long strips into a tube. Stitch the length twice using straight stitch.

TURNING THE TUBE

You can curse and pick at the tail until your hands cramp and the crackling fabric drives your spouse crazy—or you can try this method. Using your strong thread doubled, hand baste the bottom end closed using big (1/2") stitches. Make the stitches snug but not tight and knot the ends very securely. Pad the end of a 6' wooden closet dowel with a pair of socks. Start turning the tail inside out at the bottom end. Place the inside-out basted-shut end on the padded end of the dowel. Scrunch the rest of the tail through itself onto the wooden dowel. Remove the dowel and finish turning the tail. Undo the basting stitches.

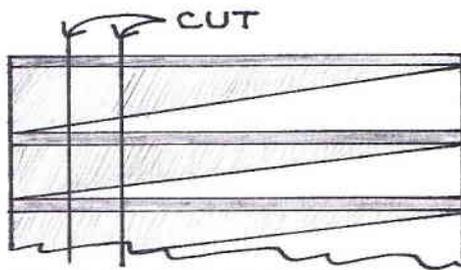
FINISHING THE TOP

Turn and stitch a 3/4"-1" cuff in the Dacron, leaving an unstitched gap of about 1". To make the opening extra round and stiff, insert a length of .080 inch diameter weed-eater line. No need to secure or tie the ends, just cut the line about 2" longer than the circumference of the tail and let the ends overlap. Stitch the gap closed. To get the three point bridle evenly spaced, use a strip of paper. Using the seam line for reference, mark the strip of paper with the exact finished circumference of the tube. Fold and mark the strip of paper into thirds. On one end, fold and mark one of the 1/3 ends in half again. Place this 1/6 mark on the seam line. Now mark the location of the three points. Burn three holes through the Dacron. Do not use eyelets. Larks head three lengths of 80 lb line through the holes, then tie the 6 ends together in a single overhand knot.

RIBBON TAILS

For ribbon tails cut strips from 2-1/2 to 4 inches wide. Instead of sewing into a tube, single fold and hem both edges. With practice you can start the fold then just hold your hands in one position, put the pedal down and sew until your bobbin runs out. To finish the top, fold one corner down diagonally and then the other. Stitch the triangle and burn a hole for the flying line

An interesting variation on the ribbon tail is the Transition Tail. We first saw it made by Scott Spencer at the Tulsa convention in '95. Cut the rectangular panels diagonally into triangles before sewing the panels.



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P.A.W.S. Parachute and Pack...

By Mike Dallmer

P.A.W.S. is a squad of Parachuting Teddy Bears that travel with the Dallmers to various Kiting events. They number about 20 and range in weight from $\frac{1}{2}$ pound up to 8 pounds with chutes measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot to 11 feet in diameter. Most of these Teddy Bears have round Parachutes but two have Ram Air Chutes.

The P.A.W.S. Parachute is made up of 14 sections called gores. Each animal is a different size so you have to alter the harness to fit the desired application. This design is meant for something weighing 1 - 2 pounds; it can be sized up or down, depending upon the weight of the object you are dropping.

Material Needed:

Bear or other fearless creature, 1-2lb. in weight

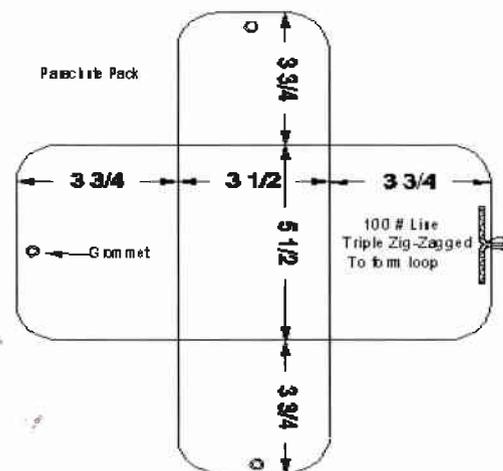
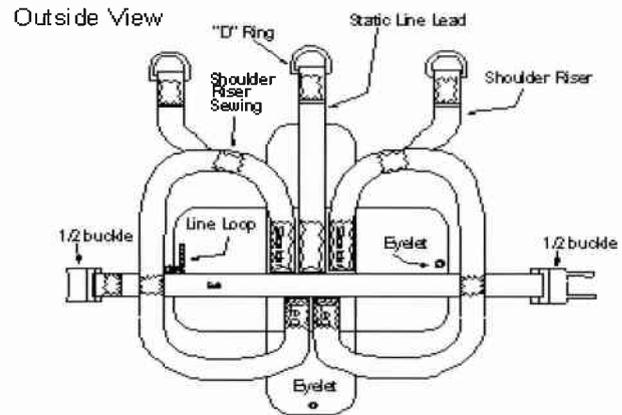
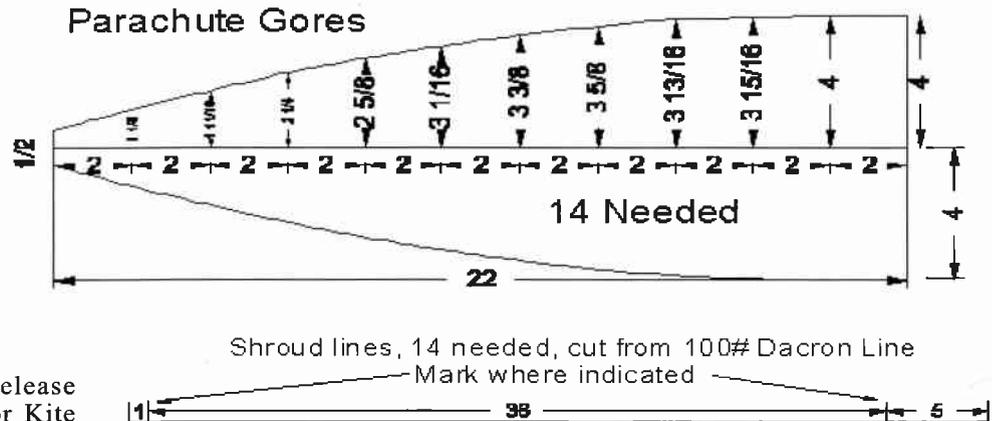
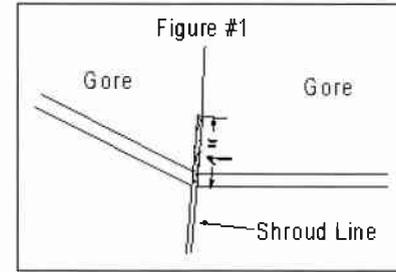
- 1 - Bear Bomber's Parachute Release Mechanism (Black's Downrigger or Kite Release Clip, STK#. RL-99)
- 2.5 yd. 1" Flat Webbing
- 1-Quick Release Buckle for 1" Webbing.
- 1-1" Cotter Pin (Stainless Steel if available)
- 3- 1" "D" Rings
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 0.063" Styrene
- 4- Size 3 Snap Swivels
- 1 ft. $\frac{1}{4}$ " flat elastic
- 60 ft 100lb. Dacron Line
- 45" Ripcord (1/4" gross grain or Bias Tape)
- 3 yd Parachute Ripstop (not the crisp stuff)
- 3- Small Grommets
- 1/3 yd pack cloth or other suitable fabric for the Parachute Pack

Cutting: (Patterns are shown without seam allowances, all measurements are in inches)

Assembly:

Chute

- 1) Sew together the 14 gores to make the chute.
- 2) Hem bottom of chute.
- 3) Lay chute flat.
- 4) Hot cut center hole using a can that is slightly larger than existing hole.
- 5) Sew the 14 shroud lines to chute (figure #1)
 - a) Line up the 1" mark on a shroud line to the bottom edge where 2 gores meet.
 - b) Sew through the shroud line using a triple zigzag stitch. Make sure to set the zigzag a little wider than the width of the line.
 - c) Repeat for other 13 shroud lines.
- 6) Gather 7 adjacent shroud lines at 5" mark.
- 7) Tie overhand knot at the 5" mark.



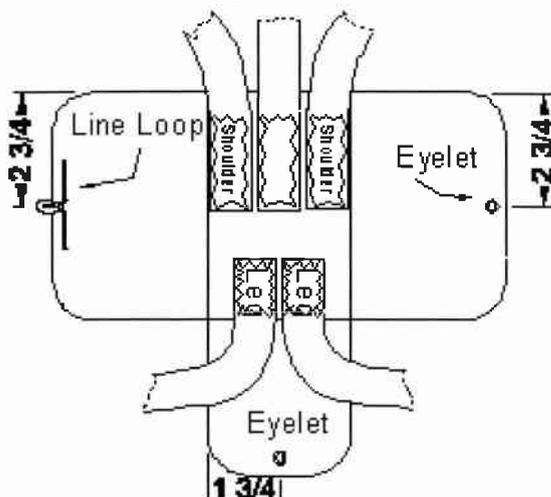
- 8) Slip one of the Snap Swivels over 3 shroud lines.
- 9) Tie knot past the Snap Swivel using all 7-shroud lines.
- 10) Super Glue to set permanently.
- 11) Hot cut off excess.
- 12) Repeat for other 7 shroud lines.



Parachute Pack with Harness (this takes a lot of fitting)

- 1) Edge Parachute Pack accordingly.
- 2) Sew Styrene sheet to center inside of Parachute Pack. I use a Triple Zigzag Stitch.
- 3) Make Belt to fit around Teddy Bear's waist using the 1" Webbing and Quick Release Buckle.
- 4) Attach belt to outside of Parachute Pack making sure the Quick Release Buckle is centered on belly and that the Pack is centered on Teddy Bear's back.
- 5) Static Line Lead

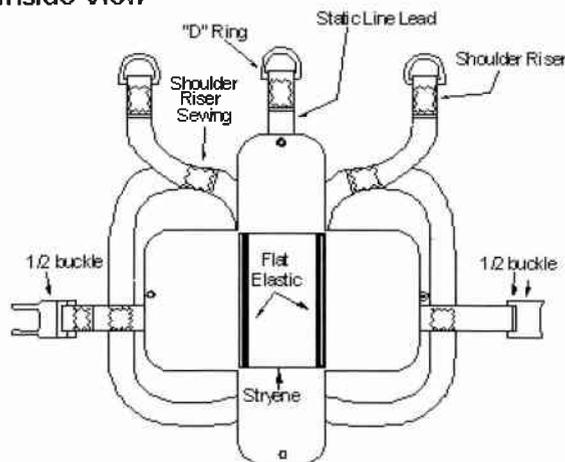
Figure # 2



- a) Sew one of the "D" rings to 1" Webbing.
- b) Measure from the top of the belt, where it is attached to the Parachute Pack, to the top of the Teddy Bear's head, add 2 inches, cut webbing.
- c) Sew this to the location as indicated in drawing.
- 6) Sew one end of 1" Webbing to outside of Parachute Pack where referred to in drawing (Outside view) as "Leg".

- 7) Place pack on Teddy Bear.
- 8) Fit webbing to location referred to as "Shoulder"
- 9) Remove Parachute Pack and sew Webbing to pack.
- 10) Repeat for other side.
- 11) Place Parachute Pack back on Teddy Bear making sure the legs and shoulders are properly in harness and buckling belt buckle.

Inside View



- 12) Look at front of Teddy Bear, centering buckle.
- 13) Mark where the shoulder/leg webbing goes under the belt. (Pinning makes this easy).
- 14) Remove Parachute Pack from Teddy Bear and sew where marked / pinned.
- 15) Replace Parachute Pack on Teddy Bear.

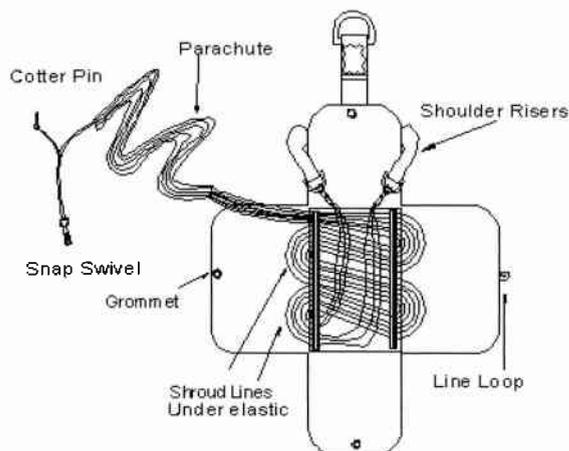
- 16) Put a finger in each side of the harness, at the shoulders, and find where the Teddy Bear hangs perpendicular to ground, mark this spot on each side.
- 17) Sew a "D" Ring to webbing.
- 18) Cut 7" long.
- 19) Using about 1" of webbing, sew to mark at shoulder so Teddy Bear hangs correctly.
- 20) Repeat for other side.

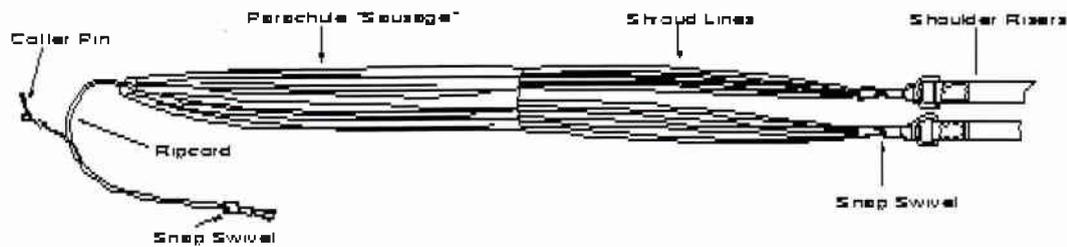
21) Grommet & Line Loop (Fig. #2, belt removed for clarity)

- a) Sew a piece of 100 # Dacron on one of the side flaps of the Parachute Pack to form a loop, illustrated in Figure # 2
- b) Install a grommet in the other 3 flaps, centered lengthwise and 1/4" from edge.

22) Shroud Line Retaining Elastic:

- a) On the inside of Parachute Pack (the side with the piece of Styrene), sew top edge of the 1 ft. long 1/4" flat elastic to the upper left hand corner, sew only about 1/4"
- b) Sew the same piece to the lower left hand corner.
- c) Cut.
- d) Repeat for right side.
- e) Attach snap swivels containing parachute to each "D" Ring.





Ripcord:

- 1) Hot cut both ends of 45" long 1/4" wide grosgrain or bias tape.
- 2) Feed one end through a Snap Swivel.
- 3) Sew to fasten Snap Swivel.
- 4) Tie Larks Head Knot in an 8" piece of 100 lb. Dacron Line.
- 5) Thread Cotter Pin onto Larks Head Knot
- 6) Sew empty end of line to 1/4" grosgrain 15" from Snap Swivel End.

Safety:

- 1) Print out "Remove Before Launch"
- 2) Attach this to the remaining Snap Swivel

Packing the P.A.W.S. Parachute:

- 1) Place Pack with Parachute on back of VERY BRAVE TEDDY BEAR
- 2) Insert empty end of Ripcord into Parachute down to the edge where the Shroud Lines attach.
- 3) Gather all Shroud Lines near chute in one hand.
- 4) With other hand form Parachute into "Sausage".
- 5) Fold Parachute "Sausage" into a size that will fit into Parachute Pack.
- 6) Kneel on folded Parachute or have someone hold it for you.
- 7) Feed Shroud Lines under 1/4" Elastic as Illustrated.
- 8) Place Folded Parachute on top of elastic, with Ripcord coming out near Static Line Lead Parachute Pack flap.
- 9) Fold the large Parachute Pack flap containing the Line Loop over the Parachute.
- 10) Fold the other large Parachute Pack flap containing a Grommet over the Parachute making sure to feed loop thru Grommet.
- 11) Fold bottom Flap over Parachute, feeding Line Loop thru Grommet.
- 12) Fold top flap over Parachute, feeding Line Loop thru Grommet.
- 13) Attach Snap Swivel from Safety to Line Loop.
- 14) Feed Cotter Pin into Line Loop, only the straight part however.
- 15) Attach Bear Bomber's Parachute Release Mechanism to kite line.
- 16) Attach Static Line "D" Ring to the Bear Bomber's Parachute Release Mechanism.
- 17) Test for drop when line is tugged; if too hard or easy adjust by turning adjustment nut.
- 18) Attach Snap Swivel from Ripcord to Kite Line near the Bear Bomber's Parachute Release Mechanism.

19) Remove Safety.

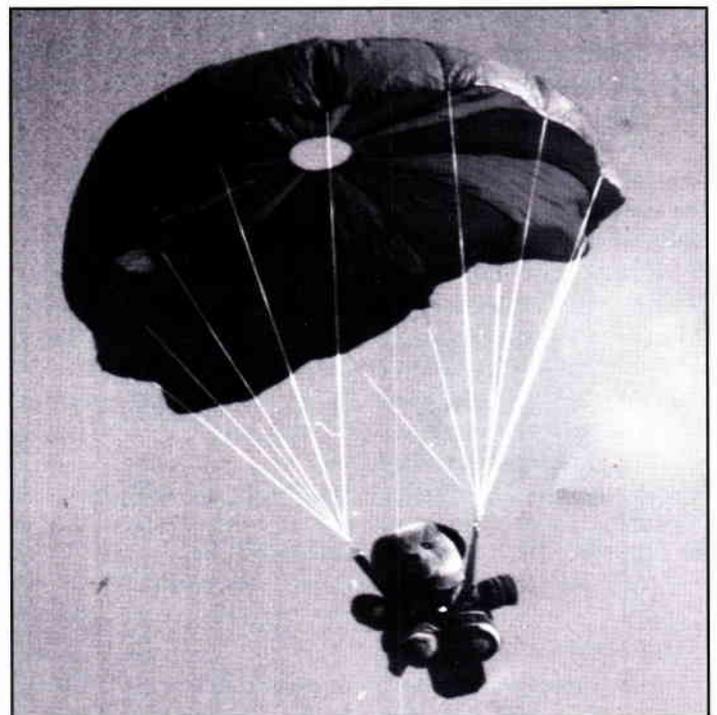
- 20) Raise Kite/ VERY BRAVE TEDDY BEAR to desired altitude.
- 21) Tug kite line sharply for VERY BRAVE TEDDY BEAR to release from kite line.
- 22) RUN like heck to get VERY BRAVE TEDDY BEAR.

HAVE A BALL..... Up with kites – down with bears (but only with a Chute)

Acknowledgments:

- 1) I'd like to thank John Barker from England for all the help and guidance through the years; he is keeper of *B.M.I.S.S., the Bearly Made It Skydivers Squad* and writer of *Roman Candles*.
- 1) Hugh Andrew for the "*Big Book of Parachuting Teddy Bears*".
- 2) Andy Gelinas for turning me on to the Black's Downrigger or Kite Release Clip

Make. Dullman



Bridging the Atlantic with Wireless Signals

Marconi Receives Aerial Assistance From a Kite

by Bob White

My life-long love of kites combines a passion for flying and building with an intense interest in history. Sometimes the record on kite events is clear, but more often it contains incomplete areas or erroneous assumptions about the real story of their amazing contributions to technology and science.

Every time I try to satisfy my desire to fill in the gaps I find that it is necessary to go back to source materials in order to truly learn about the kite event. Each project requires research into the person, the era in which he lived, and the context for the use of the kite. Invariably, I find myself being pulled across time by the line of the historical kite into a "personal relationship" with the kiter. Each of these "forensic kiting forays" involves more time and the pursuit of more resources than could ever be imagined at the outset. The pull of the historical kite becomes real.

So it was with my interest in Guglielmo Marconi. His use of a kite to help receive the first trans-Atlantic wireless signal is well-noted in many books, but none of the details sought by serious kites can easily be found.

For me the Marconi kite quest started in 1996 with three simple questions:

- Why did he use a kite as a tool to lift the aerial?
- Why did he choose one particular type of kite?
- How did he become so acquainted with kites that he would rely on one for such a critical event?

Since that time, the journey to find answers has taken me on travels of several thousand kilometres. I have visited Signal Hill, worked in the archive conservation areas of museums, photographed and measured artifacts, interviewed experts, and acquired source materials from the era. Globally, I have exchanged hundreds of e-mails and made several new friends while chasing the facts.

The fully researched story of "Mr. Marconi's Kites" will soon be ready for publication. It spans a period of 26 years in Marconi's career. The account will detail the use of different types of kites, contain original photographs, provide a complete bibliography of references and include accurate plans for replicas of the kite used at Signal Hill and others employed by Marconi.

December 12, 2001 will be the 100th anniversary of the major milestone of bridging the Atlantic with a wireless signal. Here is a salute to the role of one of the kites that helped to launch the global wireless communication system that we rely on today.

He leaned against the large kite on the leeward side of its sail. Taking brief



shelter from the biting wind that whipped constant and cold, William Holbrook glanced down from Signal Hill (photo above) towards the St. John's harbour. To the west and north the sky was a slate grey. It was unlikely that the near gale force winds would soon abate. He looked out from behind the momentary shelter of the kite toward Mr. Paget as he came forward from discussion with Mr. Marconi and Mr. Kemp.

Here he was, working quite unexpectedly, in the midst of Guglielmo Marconi's team of wireless communicators. He marvelled at the men and their determination to defy distance with strange equipment and an idea that was difficult to fully comprehend.

A seasonally unemployed cooper's apprentice, Holbrook had been hired to help move equipment crates from the harbour to the top of Signal Hill, a large promontory of rock overlooking the vast Atlantic Ocean on one side and the protected harbour of St. John's on the other. After helping to move the crates from the SS Sardinian, Mr. Marconi had asked him to stay on and help raise the balloons and kites which were intended to lift a long wire aerial. He had explained to Holbrook that an attempt was to be made to grab wireless signals from the air; signals that were being sent a distance of over 2100 miles from a transmitter at the Poldhu station in Cornwall, England.

"All right," said Paget, "let's try again." Holbrook changed places and moved out to pick up the kite line fifty feet downwind. He and the others pulled. The heavy cord went taut, the kite rose and pitched wildly from side to side. Tumultuous winds, a constant feature of Signal Hill, made it difficult to steady the kite and maintain the required altitude for the aerial. The aerial wire was attached to the kite at one end and to a ground plate in the earth at the other. Flying the kite with this extra anchor point and in these strong winds was an



Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland - December 12, 1901

National Archives of Canada

From left to right: Guglielmo Marconi, unknown, P.W. Paget, William Holbrook, George Stevens Kemp

continued from page 25

arduous task. Assisted by George Kemp, Paget and other local labourers, Holbrook's arms ached with the strain of the large kite.

The kitefliers hung on in the cold wind. Marconi and Kemp entered the building and closed the door. Inside, a wireless receiving device, known as a coherer, was attached to a wire running through the window frame and to the wavering and unsteady aerial suspended by the kite. In the warmth by the wood stove, with the wind howling outside, Marconi and Kemp listened intently for a signal transmitted from the far shore of the Atlantic.

The kite continued to buck in the strong wind. It pulled roughly against Holbrook's grip. Today, December 12, 1901 was only half over. Already his hands hurt through the gloves as he clutched doggedly to the line. He would be glad for his daily pay of \$1.00 that Mr. Marconi personally presented at the end of work.

Inside, Marconi picked up a candlestick-type telephone receiver. He held it close to his ear and listened for the signal that he believed could span the Atlantic. It had not been detected on the previous day. The tension was palpable, but the wireless pioneers remained calm and intent, fervently hoping for a sound.

Then, out of the ether, faint but distinguishable – came the sound of three dots – the International Morse Code signal for the letter "S". The pre-arranged signal was audible over the static also sounding in the receiver. There it was again. Marconi quietly passed the receiver to George Kemp.

He listened. Once more the signal came and Kemp nodded.

Outside the kite with trailing aerial continued to pull and move from side to side anchored by Holbrook and two other St. John's men, Jim Hohan and Peter Edstrom, working with Paget. The Atlantic had been crossed by a wireless signal! It had reached the aerial held aloft by the kite. Nations of the world were bound closer by communication than ever before.



Marconi Kite
Provincial Archives - Newfoundland and Labrador

The plan to bridge the Atlantic by wireless was not hastily conceived. Marconi had presented his vision to the Company in early 1900 and undertook steps to achieve the goal over the course of the next two years. Like most bold plans there were setbacks on the road to achievement.

The Marconi Company was a mere three years old. It had been formed on July 20, 1897. It was vested with the first patent ever granted for a wireless communication system and was striving to maintain a lead in the field.

Marconi's wireless system attracted much attention. Scientists and investors in other nations saw enormous business potential. They

began pursuing wireless innovation using other systems that were not protected by the patent. Being able to reliably span significant distances without wire connections was the issue that lay at the heart of establishing dominance in the marketplace.

Marconi's ability to span greater distances grew with improved instruments, spark power and aerial arrays. He was convinced that wave transmissions were not limited to line of sight. Even though he was able to demonstrate reception over the horizon at a record distance of 225 miles, there was still much scepticism among members of the scientific community that longer distances could be bridged.

Nevertheless, Marconi moved ahead with planning for what he called "the big thing". At the same time, work was carried out by the Company to earn money by the adoption of wireless communication over shorter ranges.

The resources of the company were directed to building the largest transmitting station ever attempted, located at Poldhu in Cornwall, England. Marconi aimed for transmissions to and from a station being built in Cape Cod, MA. The stations were designed with the best engineering knowledge of his staff. They would attempt to span an incredible distance of 3,176 miles.

A pair of autumn gales played havoc with Marconi's plan. First the complicated Poldhu aerial tower array was laid flat on September 17, 1901. The Poldhu towers were more simply rebuilt to ready the system for trial. Then a second gale demolished the Cape Cod station in October.

With time marching on and company funds very low, thoughts of rebuilding the American station were abandoned. Marconi's fear of being overtaken by German competitors forced development of another plan – find a site on the Western side of the Atlantic

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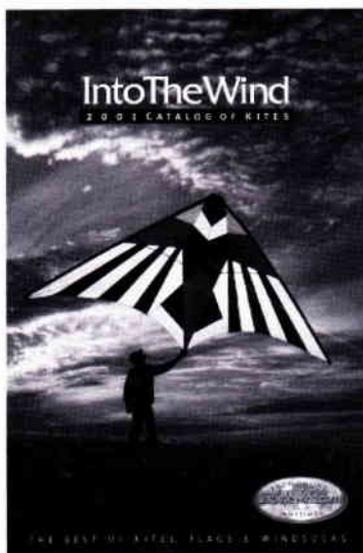
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that was closer to Poldhu. A signal crossing of a shorter trans-Atlantic distance would still secure his Company's hold on the wireless market.

Marconi settled on the point of nearest landfall to Cornwall - the eastern most tip of Newfoundland and its capital, St. John's. The distance was 2,170 miles, more than 1,000 miles closer than Cape Cod, but still a very formidable distance, especially with no stationary aerial array in place.

Marconi's mind turned to methods that he had employed a number of times before. Kites and hydrogen balloons had been successfully used to provide height for aerials in earlier transmission situations. A supply of both was quickly ordered from a trusted supplier.

All necessary receiving equipment assembled, Marconi, George Kemp and William Paget sailed from Liverpool on November 26, 1901 aboard a freighter bound for St. John's. The passage was rough, a harbinger of the brutal north Atlantic winds that buffet Newfoundland from November through late spring each year.

Arriving in Newfoundland on Friday, December 6, Marconi announced to the local papers that he was there to test transmissions to ships out on the Atlantic that were nearing the North American shore. He attracted attention wherever he went but continued to do his best to shield his true intentions from his competitors.

He met with local dignitaries on Dec. 7, and after touring potential sites for his apparatus he selected Signal Hill. It had been used for over 400 years as a signal post for ships at sea. The height of the hill, its remote location by the ocean, and available space for an equipment room in an unused, old army hospital was perfect.

On Monday, Dec. 9, material was relocated from the ship to the facility atop Signal Hill. Receiving equipment, aerial wire, six kites, two hydrogen balloon skins and twenty-five cylinders of hydrogen gas were moved by the crew of local men hired by Marconi. Zinc plates were installed in the earth near the hospital building to act as the necessary ground for the aerial.

On Tuesday testing began. One kite was raised with 600 feet of aerial wire to ensure that the system would function. A cable was sent to Poldhu instructing that signal transmission should begin the next day, Dec. 11, 1901.

On Wednesday, in foggy conditions, a balloon, 14 feet in diameter and holding 1000 cubic feet of hydrogen, was tested. The wind suddenly increased with an approaching weather system. The balloon tore away and was lost into the Atlantic Ocean. Thus, it was determined that the kites would be most likely to withstand the elements.

On Thursday, Dec. 12 a kite was raised to 400 feet, trailing an aerial attached to the ground point. George Kemp described the winds in his detailed diary as "...a gusty gale..." Due to the high velocity they flew at a lower altitude than the previous day. The first kite up broke away in the strong winds and carried into the water at the foot of the cliffs. Another was launched and bobbed in the tumultuous winds at the crown of the hill.

Across the ocean in Cornwall the Poldhu station again began transmitting the pre-arranged Morse telegraph signal "s" - three dots - at precisely 3 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time, December 12. In St. John's it was 11:30 a.m.

For over an hour the kite darted to and fro in the wind. Marconi's crew attempted to hold the kite borne aerial wire at a constant elevation so as to

maximize the possibility of receiving a signal. It was an immense struggle for the men, battered by the cold and straining against the full force of gale force winds.

Since the aerial fluctuated wildly, Marconi could not use the intended receiving device to give full proof of any signal reception. A Morse recorder, which was capable of receiving signals and inking them on a strip of paper, would not work with the unstable antenna. Marconi improvised and used a telephone receiver, listening intently. At 12:30 p.m., Newfoundland time, he distinctly heard three faint clicks in the receiver. After hearing it for a second time, he passed the receiver to Kemp for confirmation.

Writing in his journal, Marconi described the important milestone in communications history this way:

"Kemp heard the same thing that I did, and I knew then that I was absolutely right in my anticipation. Electric waves which had been sent out from Poldhu had traversed the Atlantic. Serenely ignoring the curvature of the earth which so many doubters considered would be a fatal obstacle. ... Distance had been overcome, and further developments of the sending and receiving apparatus were all that were required."

Later that afternoon, at 1:10 p.m., additional signals were received. Around 1:45 the kite dropped for a short time as the wind declined. William Holwell and the others flying the kite were invited inside to warm themselves and have some hot cocoa. Holwell noted to his son Harold, many years later, that Marconi seemed very calm and was pleased to receive the quiet congratulations of the men from St. John's. Shortly after 2:00 p.m. the wind came up strong and again the kite was raised for the final time that afternoon. At 2:20 an-

other set of signals was received.

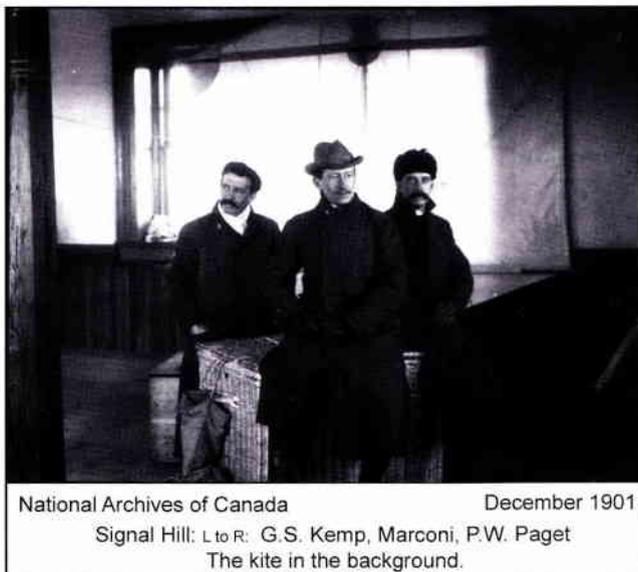
The testing resumed on Thursday Dec. 13 in a gale accompanied by snow and bitter cold. Signals were detected at 1:38 p.m. Once more, the following day, Friday, December 14, signals were received on at least one occasion although there is no published record of the time.

Only two people had heard the signals through the receiver. None had been recorded on the Morse inker device. Marconi debated about releasing the news. Finally he decided to visit the Governor of Newfoundland and advised him of his success. Cables were sent to the British Government, the Italian government, the Russian Admiralty and to key scientific friends. Marconi also cabled the London Times and New York Herald. The news spread quickly. Around the world the press heralded the story of the event. The focus was on the triumph of wireless and the rudimentary electronic equipment that had achieved the feat.

The kites were quietly packed in shipping crates and sent back to the Marconi Company in Chelmsford, England. Their role completed, they went into storage.

Here are some documented facts about the kites used in the trans-Atlantic wireless project:

- There were six kites in the kit brought to St. John's. They may have been of varying sizes since there is mention of one kite being 9 feet (275 cm) tall. Others measure out at about 6'2" in height.



National Archives of Canada December 1901
Signal Hill: L to R: G.S. Kemp, Marconi, P.W. Paget
The kite in the background.

Sport Kites — Big Sky, Big Action

by Mike Gillard

In the months leading up to the Billings convention, I was a little concerned about several aspects of the upcoming Grand Nationals sport kite competitions. We knew that the attendance at Billings was going to be much lower than previous conventions; would this seriously affect our competition?

The quick answer is NO. While overall convention registration was almost 50% lower than recent ones, the sport kite fields, especially in the individual events, were very healthy.

My other concerns were put to rest early Tuesday morning when the Skinners, Chuck Sigal and myself went to the field for a preliminary inspection. In previous years, we have had to lunge into frantic activity to correct a multitude of goofups — everything from half-sized arenas to dime-store sound systems. No such problems this year! John Pollock, Adam Grow and crew did a simply sensational job of creating the perfect environment for our national championships. The fields were spec-size, well-marked, and laid out perfectly. Even the “Command and Control Center” was perfect — situated on a grassy knoll between the two fields. Even the sound system was perfect — a zillion watts pumping through the two largest speakers I’ve ever seen. Perfection. That morning, I knew that we were going to have a winner of a Grand Nationals!

At the start of the day on Wednesday, it was stressed to all competitors and officials that the setup time guidelines would be followed to the letter — with the uncertain weather forecasts, we wanted to ensure the completion of the competitions. Working together, we not only completed them, we actually finished each of the three days of competitions well ahead of schedule! This allowed competitors to get away from the comp field and go have fun with



friends, both old and new. You can bet that this same approach will be taken at future Grand Nationals — Man does not live by competitions alone!

The individual dual-line events marked some of the toughest competition seen in years. Novice class saw ten solid competitors squaring off for battle. In ballet, Steve Buck took a tight win. One of the top performances in any class was turned in by Patty Tinkham in precision. Her freestyle routine was one of the best I have seen this year; it reminded me of the late, great David Bui’s wonderful routines — full of style, flow, and grace.

In experienced, the tightest scrap of the meet was in ballet. Shawn Tinkham got the nod by the tightest of margins. How close was this field? The top three were separated by .9, the top TEN were separated by only 10 points. In precision, Wayne Turner flew well

and got the win.

In Masters, teen phenom Reid Wolcott smoked ‘em, taking a solid and popular victory over old hands Champie and Hoac. In precision, Lam continued his dominating ways (the guy won a total of 12 trophies!) with a convincing win.



Quad events saw the “Kings of Quad”, Lam Hoac and Ron Despojado, splitting the two Masters disciplines. In Experienced, Vince Maranta took a hard-fought victory in ballet, with Shawn Tinkham winning precision.

In pairs, 6th Sense swept the Experienced class disciplines. Masters class saw KFAN getting the nod in ballet, and RAW Power putting the others to shame in precision.

The team events lacked in quantity, though certainly did not lack in quality. The Experienced class team 6th Sense showed rapidly-developing skills, and will be a credit to Masters class next year. In Masters, the Chicago Fire swept both disciplines, though team UP-GO came oh-so-close in ballet. UP-GO has really come on strong this year; their ballet features world-class choreography, it was only a few small slips in execution that prevented them from claiming their first nationals win. Watch for them to go all the way next year.

Team train saw KFAN take a convincing win; in Freestyle, Ron Despojado dominated.

The Hot Tricks Shootout competition was spread over three days, with the semis and finals being held on the main festival field on Saturday before a large, appreciative audience. Nine-year-old Zachary Gordon topped Ron Despojado in the final, with a great display of showmanship. Being a cute kid definitely has its advantages, as several of the grumbling oldsters who tasted defeat in the earlier rounds finally figured out.

When all was said and done, this was a tremendous Grand Nationals. All disciplines ran on time (oops, early!), with a total lack of controversy. A cooperative spirit seemed to run through the whole event; great displays of teamwork and sportsmanship were in evidence throughout the festivities.

See you all in Ocean City!

Conference Grand Nationals Results

1. Northwest Conference	38
2. Northeast Conference	26
3. Midwest Conference	22
4. Pacific Conference	19
5. Central Conference	0

Photos: Top, “Kings of Quad”, left, Chicago Fire on a tear. Both by Darrin Skinner.

Sport Kite Grand Nationals Results

Experienced Individual Ballet

1	Shawn Tinkham	71.333
2	Bud Hayes	70.533
3	Scott J. Davis	69.600
4	Spencer Schubbe	66.933
5	Jerry Cannon	66.600
6	David Hansen	66.267
7	Wayne Turner	65.867
8	Kathy Brinnehl	65.600
9	Adena Schutzberg	65.533
10	Ari Contzius	63.267
11	Arnold Stellema	61.933
12	William Schumacher	60.267
13	Dan Burnham	51.467

Experienced Individual Precision

1	Wayne Turner	65.100
2	Scott J. Davis	63.433
3	David Hansen	61.667
4	Shawn Tinkham	60.633
5	Ari Contzius	59.700
6	Peter Kouklamanis	59.200
7	Kathy Brinnehl	57.533
8	Spencer Schubbe	53.167
9	Jerry Cannon	52.033
10	Dan Burnham	42.933
11	William Schumacher	36.900
12	Arnold Stellema	DQ

Experienced Individual Quad-line Ballet

1	Vince Maranta	74.400
2	Shawn Tinkham	73.267
3	Phil Kalenowsky	72.200
4	Zachary Gordon	65.000
5	Dan Burnham	63.267
6	Bob Hogan	59.800
7	William Schumacher	54.933
8	Laura Stonestreet	50.467

Experienced Individual Quad-line Precision

1	Shawn Tinkham	69.900
2	Phil Kalenowsky	68.833
3	Vince Maranta	62.800
4	Dan Burnham	45.967
5	Bob Hogan	32.333
6	William Schumacher	31.067

Experienced Pairs Ballet

1	6th Sense	72.000
2	Last Flight Out	64.000
3	RAFLS	51.867
4	Wind Devils	46.533

Experienced Pairs Precision

1	6th Sense	63.700
2	RAFLS	48.967
3	Wind Devils	12.700

Experienced Team Ballet

1	Team 6th Sense	71.400
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Experienced Team Precision

1	Team 6th Sense	65.650
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Masters Individual Ballet

1	Reid Wolcott	85.933
2	Brian Champie	80.600
3	Lam Hoac	80.200
4	Susan Shampo	79.267
5	Miguel Rodriguez	78.667
6	Ron Graziano	78.333
7	Michael Moore	74.133
8	Bill Rodgers	67.467

Masters Individual Precision

1	Lam Hoac	73.367
2	Ron Graziano	67.633
3	Dan Brinnel	66.567
4	Eric Wolf	61.233
5	Michael Moore	59.767
6	Mike Huff	59.700
7	Miguel Rodriguez	57.433
8	Susan Shampo	56.700
9	Brian Champie	56.400

Masters Individual Quad-line Ballet

1	Lam Hoac	86.333
2	Ron Despojado	85.067
3	Susan Shampo	75.800
4	Peter Kouklamanis	72.533
5	Monica Orso	71.133
6	Eric Wolf	57.800
7	Charles Stonestreet	56.333

Masters Individual Quad-line Precision

1	Ron Despojado	71.767
2	Lam Hoac	70.433
3	Peter Kouklamanis	65.533
4	Susan Shampo	60.400
5	Monica Orso	54.967

Masters Pairs Ballet

1	KFAN	80.200
2	Sound Check	78.333
3	Pyro	76.867
4	Avispados	76.067
5	Air Flow	65.333
6	R.A.W. Power	DQ

Masters Pairs Precision

1	R.A.W. Power	78.350
2	Pyro	73.083
3	Avispados	69.583
4	Sound Check	68.533
5	KFAN	50.183
6	Air Flow	50.083



Masters Team Ballet

1	Chicago Fire	75.000
2	UP-GO	72.333

Masters Team Precision

1	Chicago Fire	72.167
2	UP-GO	57.267

Novice Individual Ballet

1	Steve Buck	73.600
2	Vicki Casal	70.733
3	Joshua Gordon	69.800
4	Aaron Champie	67.867
5	Patty Tinkham	67.400
6	Zachary Gordon	63.267
7	Linda Hayes	62.733
8	Mearl Balmer	58.800
9	Vicki Proudfoot	52.133
10	Robin Sutherland	41.600

Novice Individual Precision

1	Patty Tinkham	69.767
2	Daniel Haigh	58.867
3	Steve Buck	57.900
4	Vicki Casal	56.433
5	Joshua Gordon	53.833
6	Zachary Gordon	51.467
7	Aaron Champie	50.367
8	Mearl Balmer	49.933
9	Vicki Proudfoot	42.567
10	Charles Stewart	39.167
11	Robin Sutherland	35.933

Open Individual Freestyle

1	Ron Despojado	83.373
2	Penny Lingenfelter	67.493
3	Joshua Gordon	64.523

Open Team Train Ballet

1	KFAN (t)	76.200
2	Pelican Brothers	50.867

Event Organizer: Mike Gillard

Chief Judge: Darrin Skinner

Coordinators: Tom Brailey, Susan Skinner

Scorekeeper: Chuck Sigal

Kitemakers' Competition

Joe Paterno won number 324 did it with a team that was down 27-9 in the third. Against reports that he and his team were washed up, and predictions for the worst season in PSU history, the players fought hard in the shadow of Mount Nittany and proudly soaked their coach in the end with five gallons of Gatorade. With strong determination, positive attitude, and inextinguishable spirit, the Lions defeated Ohio State 29-27 and made Joe Paterno the winningest coach ever.

During the press conference after the game, Joe was almost at a loss for words but I bet inside he felt this was one of the best games of his career. Doesn't it feel good when the underdog wins?

You are probably now asking yourself what in the world is Steve smoking to be writing about football in a Kiting magazine. Well, if you listened to the comments made by many AKA members and read the newsgroup postings on rec.kites, you heard it forecasted that this year's 24th annual convention in Montana would be the worst in AKA history – just like the predictions by the critical Penn State "fans." For the 215+ of you who made the journey, climbed the mountains, and searched for the lion's roar in Yellowstone Park, you can all show your pictures to the doubters and brag about attending one of the best AKA conventions ever! Billings was host to beautiful weather, gorgeous landscapes, and outstanding flying fields. And no, there was not a single snowflake to wash us out.

I was in charge of the Comprehensive Kitemaking Competition this year and it was competed by members with spirit exceeding the levels at Penn State. Sixty-four kites were entered – of which twenty-six were made by novices. Like the Lions winning with a freshman quarterback, this year's competition was a success to all the novices. Every one of them took home an award. We ran each of our thirteen categories and were successful in handing out trophies for all of them. Sam Huston took home the biggest award as this year's Grand National Champion as well as other trophies for placing in several categories. Special Recognition is an award that is given at the discretion of the judges and is awarded to a

today and he



kitemaker exhibiting exemplary qualities. This year the recipient was John Pollock. John showed the judges energized spirit, inspiration, and excellence – and on top of that he was in charge of field

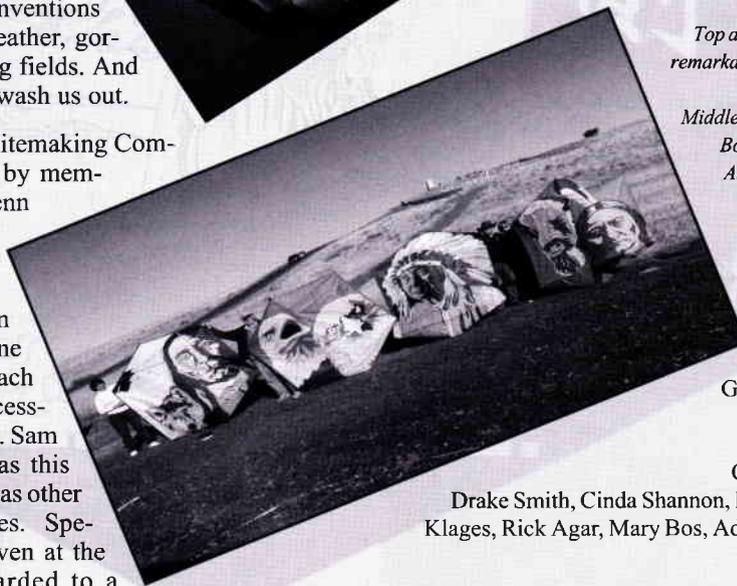
operations for the entire convention. Mary Gabby entered and won several categories AND took home the award for the Highest Flight score with her bowed kite – "Pacific Sunset." The top score for Visual Appeal went to novice Deb Lenzen and her beautiful train: "Native Tribute" and Lam Hoac took home many awards, two of the most honorary: Highest Score in Craftsmanship and Highest Score in Structural Design. There were many more winners and I encourage you to review the scores in this edition of *Kiting* as well as AKA's web site. If you see any of the competitors on your local flying fields, applaud them with the appreciation they deserve.

Joe found it difficult to point at individual players; he attributed his success to the team as a whole. I also find it difficult to point out and

congratulate individual AKA members. Each of you who contributed your time by volunteering either as part of the judging staff or by participating in the competition deserve all my gratitude. Without you the convention would not be possible.

The AKA has a good team of players and it has an even greater team of fans. Thank you to all the volunteers for making it such a wonderful organization to be part of. Yes, I am a Penn State fan, but I am a bigger AKA fan. Let's hear the AKA roar with positive predictions for next year as we journey east.

Steve Ferrel,
Head Judge



Photos:

Top and background: Lam Hoac's remarkable "Member's Choice" winning rokkaku

Middle: Sam Ritter's top-placing rokkaku

Bottom: Charlie Dunton's Native American train at Little Big Horn

Judges:

Kevin Shannon, Jon Burkhardt, Debbie Von Bokkern, Tom McAlister, Sue Sedgwick, Ralph Gore, Jerry Houk, Paul Fieber, Charlie Dunton

Crew:

Drake Smith, Cinda Shannon, Maria Taylor, Ed Grys, Brad Klages, Rick Agar, Mary Bos, Adam Grow, John Gabby.

Kitemaking Results

SPECIAL AWARDS

Mixed Media

Barb Hall, Figure Kite

Best Use of Traditional Materials

John Pollock

Most Innovative

Lam Hoac

Novice Kitebuilder

1 Elmon Morrison	29.07
2 Betty Hirschmann	28.90

Special Recognition

John Pollock

Highest Score in Flight

Mary Gabby 8.50

Highest Score in Visual Appeal

Deb Lenzen 8.83

Highest Score in Craftsmanship

Lam Hoac 9.23

Highest Score in Structural Design

Lam Hoac 8.77

Grand National Champion

Sam Huston 34.07

Soft Kites

Meyer	31.80
Ritter	30.80
Spencer	28.63
Gee	28.38
Stellema	24.80

Figure Kites

Freeman	32.20
McCune	29.87
Stellema	27.75
Hall	27.47
Spencer	26.42

Bowed Kites

Huston	34.07
Balmer	32.91
Gabby	32.12
Lockhart	31.38
Meyer	31.03
Pollock	30.90
Gee	30.83



Billings logo compliments of Monica Orso

Hall	29.85
Stellema	27.29
Spencer	27.20
Torrence	24.80

Flat Kites

Gabby	31.25
Balmer	30.73
Dodson	28.97
Stellema	28.87
Spencer	28.43

Train Kites

Pollock	32.63
Lenzen	32.20
Torrence	27.63

Sport Kites

Hoac	33.49
Fincher	30.73
Grow	30.57
Spencer	29.70

Arch Kites

Woods	31.93
Meyer	31.53
Gabby	31.10
Hall	29.78

Line Art

Huston	33.00
Gee	29.10
Gabby	28.93
Pollock	28.07
Spencer	27.53

Cellular Kites

Shenk	32.88
Pollock	31.47
Spencer	28.30

Delta Kites

Meyer	33.35
Stellema	29.95

Rokkaku Kites

Ritter	33.60
Hoac	33.22
Spencer	29.27
Morrison	29.07
Stellema	28.37

Fighter Kites

Jarvie	29.82
Selzer	29.57
Schumacher	29.57
McPherson	28.92
Hirschmann	28.90

Cooperative Kites

Herzog	31.03
SJKF	30.22
Gabby	29.72
Little	29.69
Herzog	29.67
Spencer & Co.	29.60



2000 AKA Grand Champion, Bobby Stanfield

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Robert M. Ingraham Award

The 2001 winner of the Robert M. Ingraham award, for lifetime service to the AKA, is Bob Price, of Burtonsville, Maryland. Bob was a very early member of the AKA, when it consisted only of a mailing list, and is one of only three members who attended every convention through 2000. (Sadly, he was unable to attend this year's gathering due to illness.)

Bob served as AKA President in 1988, when he had the difficult task of rebuilding the organization following an inept management company. An early computer aficionado, he created the first data base for the AKA membership. Following his presidency, he voluntarily continued to handle membership records for several years until the overwhelming work load led to the hiring of an Executive Director. In addition, Bob created the AKA archives, filling multiple filing cabinets with historical data from the first twenty years of the organization's history.

Following his retirement from an active leadership role, Bob has continued to support the AKA, working as a volunteer in multiple capacities at each convention, actively participating in each annual meeting, and happily sharing his vast knowledge of kiting lore. He has written many articles, first for *Kite Tales* and then for *Kiting*, over the years. On the field, he is best known for flying his large rhomboid box kite with a harness made from a World War II bomb sight.

In short, Bob Price exemplifies the meaning of the Robert Ingraham award, given to "Kitefliers, who, during their lifetime career in kiting, have exemplified outstanding volunteerism and service to the American Kitefliers Association, and who, in the true spirit of Robert Ingraham, have given unselfishly of their time to help the AKA and promote kiting in general."

Bob Price writes:

"It is almost worth not coming to the convention! I want to express my appreciation for the Robert M. Ingraham award and the cards from well wishers. It is almost like the wooden nickels! I really missed flying my good old box kite for the convention and the HAWK-VULTURE IV is feeling very abused, rolled up on the shelf in the MOHO, all ready to fly, all ready to travel, and not allowed to.

The moral of the story, as is said, is do not grow old and get Lyme disease at the same time.

I am looking forward to a wonderful 25th convention at Ocean City and hope to see you there.

Bob Price

Thanks From Billings

Thank you, AKA friends, for coming to Billings, Montana and making our Big Sky the most beautiful it's ever been. The first time ever kite flight over Pompey's Pillar was historical, and the energy everyone brought with them flowed through a perfect week, culminating with another historical event, the first time kites have been flown over the Little Bighorn Battlefield. The wind direction made Charles Dunton, Deb, Jon, Drake and everyone else's Native-themed kites go directly over the monument. Very strong medicine was at work the entire week.

I want to thank all who had faith in the entire 3 1/2 year project. From the conception of the Sky, Wind, World Kite Exhibit at our Billings Logan Airport through the end of the AKA convention, AKA members assisted, donated, suggested, coerced, convinced, consoled and then reveled in a perfect project that I feel honored to have helped facilitate.

Thank you Maureen, thank you Adam and Jon and Drake and Charles, thank you David and Susie and Phil and Tanna and Glen and Cinda and Don and Scott and Steve and Maria. Thank you Charlie and Glenn for the miniature kites we gave our city park employees that helped so much with the fields.

Mel, Steve, Al, Betty, Richard, Chuck - the list of people that deserve thank you's goes on and on. Including our own John Pollock, Jim Davis, Tom and Pat, Bill, Suzanne and a local list I will be thanking again. Please come back!! You are special people and all honorary Montanans.

Terry Zee Lee was one of the forces leading to our successful convention in Billings.



Buggy Races

Tuesday morning did not look promising. Cool, overcast and no wind. Well, we're here and the field looks nice so we wait. Later in the day, the wind comes up. Gusty but better than nothing. We managed to get in three circuit races and hoped for better the next day. Wednesday was not much better in fact we had drizzling rain and it was colder. In the face of this we held two more circuit races and squeezed in the pursuit races. Overall, we had a good time and the weather turned out beautiful for the rest of our stay. This was the first time we ran our races using the F.I.S.L.Y. rules format and it went well. The race results are as follows:

Circuit Races:

- 1st Eli Anderson
- 2nd Luk Stanek
- 3rd Richard 'Buggy Bison' Ridgeway

Pursuit Races:

- 1st Luk Stanek
- 2nd Richard 'Buggy Bison' Ridgeway
- 3rd Eli Anderson

Pin Challenge

On Tuesday evening pin enthusiasts met at the host hotel, the Holiday Inn Grand Montana, for the Pin Challenge. Sharing a room with the Miniature Kite Challenge proved to be fun for all. Attendees got to see the best of both of these diverse kite activities. Beginning the challenge was the awarding of pins for the five largest displays. The winners were, Vic Eshpeter, 4,005; Richard White, 920; Robert Pratt, 675; Jack Judd, 600; and Annie Huston, 350. As you can see, there was a wide range of pins on display.

The next awards went to the five best displays based on creativity, beauty, and innovation. Kite pin judges, Beth Bowen, Mike Polifrone, Ruth Polifrone, and Art St. Pierre were impressed with the creativity of this group. Barbara Meyer was voted best dressed wearing a kite shirt studded with kite pins, a hat with kite pins on the band, a belt with kite pins, and a belt buckle of kite pins. Ginny Hansen, following thorough on her convention theme of, "Small, but Perfect," tied for second place with a small, yet tasteful pin display. The other second place winner was Barbara Hall with a vest with an outline of America containing pins from each of the places she has flown kites. Vic Eshpeter took fourth with his outline of America in red, white, and blue, containing among other kite pins, pins from conventions he has attended. Marvin Nauman took third with his innovative display.

Kite pin bingo was played, giving all attendees a chance to garner a coveted kite pin. This gathering of kite pin enthusiasts agreed that all in attendance had a good time.

Workshops at the Convention

by Glenn Davison



If historians look back on the history of kiting, they have many events to consider. The Wright Brothers, Alexander Graham Bell, and the 25 workshops that were held in Billings, Montana. There were five workshops per day for five days and all of the presenters did an excellent job. Here are the titles:

Kite Battles of Shirone, Kite Collectibles, Lights for Night Flight Digital Editing of Kite Music, Quadline Choreography, Paper Kite Building, Judges Explain Kite Building, Giant Kites and

How to Fly Them, Parachuting Teddy Bears, Weird Stuff that Flies, Ten Applique Techniques, Little Festival Feathers, Buggies and Kite Traction, Cameras Aloft, Spray Painting on Kites, Build a Fighter Kite, Rokkaku Battle Strategy & Tactics, Flight Training Retrospective, Build a Miniature Bird Kite, Kites in the Classroom

Bob Woods said that we did a "really good job in Billings, the workshops were great." Steve Santos (Director of AKA Region 1) called them "all well-attended clinics" and Charlie Sotich said "I attended five very fine workshops." Steve Ferrel reports "You did a fantastic job. I've been attending since 1994 and I think that the seminars this year were the best organized ever". Many people seemed to agree.

I enjoyed them myself. Not only did I organize them for others, but I chose topics that I'd like to hear about. Even so, I couldn't attend them all. Did anyone see me pacing back and forth between two workshops? That was because I liked them all and wanted to be in two places at once. When I buy my next TV I'm definitely a candidate for the "Picture within picture."

Many workshops were nearly full. Take the fighter kite workshop for example. We had only three open seats with four people in the back of the room who were "just watching." In the words of Bob Woods, "the fighter kite workshop was top notch." I definitely agree because my fighter kite flew on the first try. Woody said "mine too."

Thanks to the workshop presenters: *Scott Skinner, Charlie Sotich, Richard Dermer, Steve Ferrel, Jon Burkhardt, John Pollock, Terry McPherson, Bill Schumacher, Dave*

Gomberg, Al Sparling, Brooks Leffler, Ron Despojado, Bob Hogan, Adena Schutzberg, Scott E. Spencer, Bruce Kenkel, Glenn Davison, Mary Gabby, Kathy Goodwind. Special thanks to Maureen Posillico.

How can we top this next year? Come to Ocean City, Maryland to find out! Only future historians will know for sure.



Above left: Brooks Leffler's "Cameras Aloft" class. Above: A packed house makes great little fighter kites. Glenn Davison photos.

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Edeiken Award.....

Those of us fortunate enough to have flown kites with Steve Edeiken miss him not just for his excellence in kitemaking and kiteflying, but also for his generosity and kindness with all kitefliers. For their outstanding achievements in all these areas, it is our great honor to nominate Glen and Tanna Haynes for the 2001 Edeiken Award, the American Kitefliers Association's recognition as Kitefliers of the Year.

At most recent AKA conventions, the first official smiles you've received on behalf of AKA have come from Glen and Tanna. As more recent AKA members than some of us, they recognized that one good way to get to know "the rest of the gang" was to be among the first to say hello each year. So they volunteered to work the registration desk. Despite the amount of work required at registration, they've continued to assist with that job with warmth and style, volunteering to extend a great big welcome to all registrants. And then their smiles are often the last we see as well: they are almost always the last kitefliers, to leave, always providing helping hands when breaking down festival fields, tents, and other displays. Another example of their generosity is the special name badges for first-time convention attendees and foreign guests, sometimes made by the Haynes at their own expense as a special gift to AKA.

Glen got his first kite as a Christmas present from the family dog. Having been bitten, not by the dog but by the kite bug, Glen and Tanna were soon traveling to as many kite events as possible up and down the East Coast. At



Glen's light-wind Cody with a Maori design was among the highest scoring kites, taking first place in the cellular category at the Ocean Shores convention.

Both Glen and Tanna have added a wealth of ideas to the kite making lexicon. Adapting techniques more known to fishermen, they have broadened the horizons for all of us with tapered rods, thread wrapping, soft foam fixtures, and flyrod hardware. They've been constant teachers of these innovations, and their passion for excellence in their own kites has been a real inspiration to the rest of us.

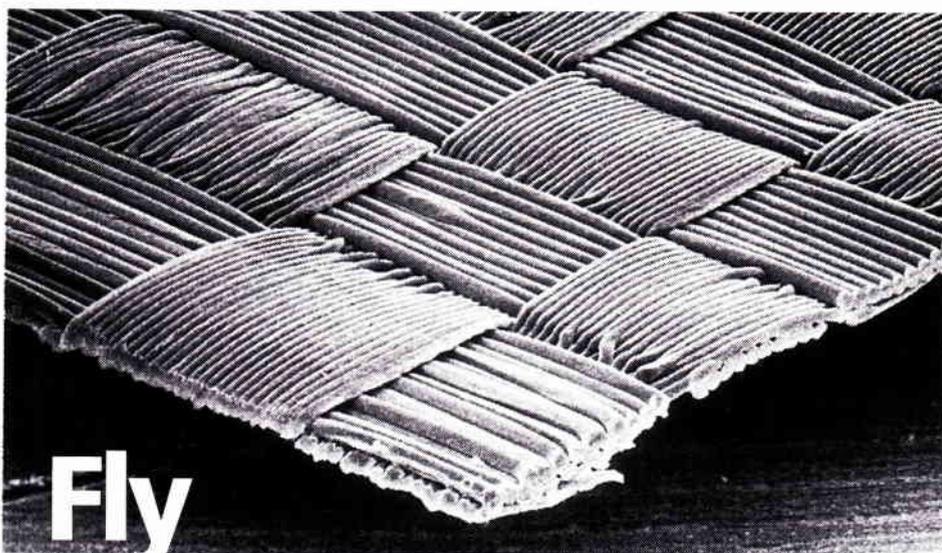
Glen and Tanna are always there to help kitefliers and the world of kite flying. Besides their many volunteer activities, Glen and Tanna have taken on some of the most crucial positions in the American Kitefliers Association: Treasurer, Chair of the Convention Committee, and Director at Large. Their time and energy has also been most generously given for local clubs and local community kite events, including many sponsored by the Keystone Kites and the Maryland Kite Society, and high-profile events such as the Smithsonian Kite Festivals and the Newport Kite Festivals. They have often taught classes at AKA Conventions and retreats sponsored by the Keystone Kites and the Maryland Kite Society. When not actively engaged in judging kite competitions, most of their time on the kite field is spent teaching and encouraging others to be more successful with their own kites. Their techniques have been shared not only in this country, but in other interesting kite venues such as Japan, New Zealand, France, and Canada.

Glen and Tanna bring a positive attitude and a willingness to share to all meetings and events. They provide thought-provoking questions in a friendly manner, and always seek solutions rather than just focusing on problems.

We wish that Steve Edeiken were still with us to share his many talents. But AKA is indeed fortunate to have Glen and Tanna Haynes to carry on the traditions of excellence, friendship, caring, and sharing that Steve personified.

- Nomination by Jon Burkhardt

Photo by Brooks Leffler



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Above: Bear Tooth Pass
Right: the hotel lobby, decked out for the convention, had ample space for indoor flying.



Above left: Buffalo doing buffalo stuff
Above: Old Faithful in Yellowstone
Photos: Bob Hogan



2001 AKA National Convention Billings, Montana October 1-6, 2001



Below: Susan Skinner and Chuck Sigal appear unruffled and bundled in the scorekeeper's tent while outside, volunteers helped keep it from blowing away during a day that didn't lack for wind or weather.

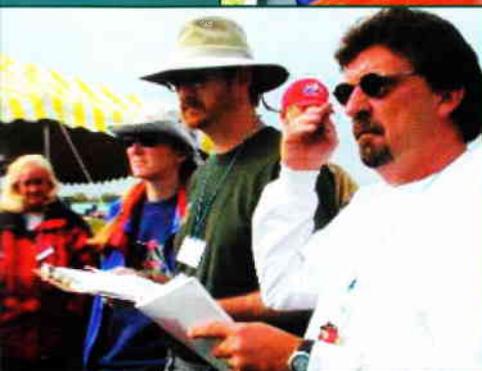
Photo: Darrin Skinner



The process of painting Japanese kites demonstrated in the hotel lobby by Mikio Toki-san of the Japan Kite Association.
Photo: Chris Dodson



Photo: Darrin Skinner



L-R: Gayle Woodul, Sue Skinner, Darrin Skinner, Mike Gillard in a pilots meeting. Despite Mike's insistence, no one saluted back the whole week! Photo: Bob Hogan

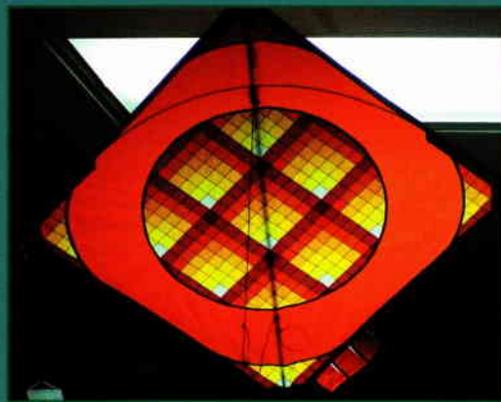
Photo: Bob Hogan



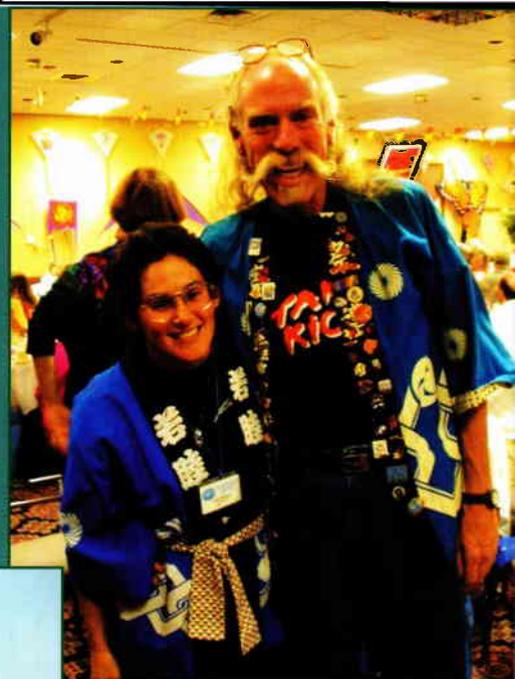
L-R: Sue Sedgwick, Lee Sedgwick and Sam Ritter fly their Rev Stacks.
Photo: Darrin Skinner



Left: The view from the other side.
Photo: Mike Gee



Scott Spencer fighter
Photo: Darrin Skinner



Adena Schutzberg and Corey Jensen compare notes on the best places to get a Hapi coat. Photo: Bob Hogan



Above: Friday night's hearty banquet was served buffet-style. Left: Dave auctions Pete Dolphin's beard, this year retrofitted with a tail. Its new owner, Scott Skinner agreed to wear it some time over the next 12 months!
Photos: Bob Hogan



A giant, green squid dwarfs tents, banners and a distant Montana bluff.
Photo: Mike Gillard



Indoor Competitors (L-R): Jerry Cannon, Lam Hoac, Penny Lingenfelter, Sam Ritter, Mike Moore, Steve Buck and Wayne Turner. Photo: Bob Hogan

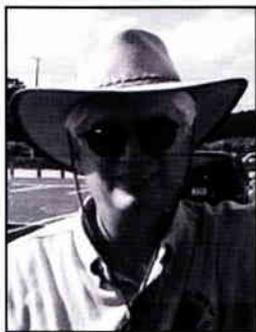


Above: The Running of the Bols
Photo: Bob Hogan

Below: Ron Despojado takes second in Hot Tricks to the upside-down Zachary Gordon. Zach had help from his pals, Chicago Fire.
Photo: Darrin Skinner



Above: Voting in the Hot Tricks Shootout is almost as much fun as competing. Looks like the 2s have it! Photo: Bob Hogan



Region 1
New England
CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY

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(End of term - 2004)

Late summer and Fall were very active in New England with kite flies such as the South County Balloon festival. Kite fliers are basically invited guests. You have a field to demo and fly, which is separate from the public. There are choreographed ballets offered during demo periods throughout the weekend. They have a great craft fair and excellent aerial show all weekend. Many AKA members and sport kite fliers have visited this event and demonstrated for the appreciative crowd. Kudos to Eric and Forrest for keeping this one going and getting kites into the public eye!

On September 15th many fellow AKA members organized "Freedom Flies" on Phil Broder's suggestion. As your regional director, I encouraged people and clubs to join this effort by flying red, white and blue or the good old American flag on your kites. The result was a series of flies throughout the region. I'd like to personally thank each and every one of you who participated in this patriotic event! In fact I plan on organizing, each month, a patriotic "Freedom Fly" at Brenton Point State Park in RI. The flies will occur the 2nd Saturday of each month beginning with November 10th. I hope that many more of you will do the same and help get kite flies organized in your community in a show of support for the USA. Pick the best day or date and organize a fly. Ask people to fly the good old Red, White & Blue! What better way to show support!

Some of our members ventured out west to a great convention in Billings, Montana. Glenn Davison coordinated the convention clinics and did a great job. I happened to be re-elected to a new 3 year term. Thanks Folks! Dave Gomberg named me the Regional Director of the Year. Thanks Dave! Fighter Kite fliers Bob Woods and Mike Dioguardo placed in their respective events. Joan Woods placed in kite making. Ron Graziano, Peter Kouklamanis, Patty Tinkham and Shawn Tinkham all placed in sport kite competition. Glenn managed to place in Fighter Kites and Rokkaku Battle. Great job folks!

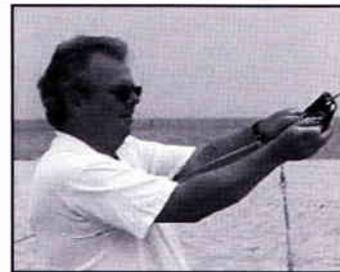
I want to thank all of our members in your support of the AKA. Our region has grown the most within AKA in the last year and I know it's due to all of your efforts. Clubs, members, kite shops, individuals all doing their share and promoting what we all love, kite flying! And the AKA! People like Dave and Carol Lombard, along with Jim and Peggy Burnett of the Connecticut kites, out there organizing kite events for many years, never losing interest! Then folks like Jeremy Johanessen and his NYKE club, a newer kite group that is just kite crazy, organizing kite events, indoor flies and support of AKA! The kite club KONE, Great Lakes, Seaside Kites, High Flyers Flight Company all help support growth in our region! Five out of the top ten AKA recruiters came from our region! I've mentioned some of them above and the list includes Sue Letourneau of Fall River who coordinated the AKA promotional booth at Newport 2001.

Look for upcoming events such as the Connecticut Kitemaking Workshop, Kitemania 2002 Newport in April (19-21), regular scheduled indoor flies in Marblehead, MA and Seymour CT. You can check on them in the AKA web site Calendar or within Kiting. If you still need help call or email me direct! By the way, start thinking about reserving rooms in Newport, RI for our July (12-14) event! See you next year and a few more as your regional director! Again, thanks to all who had confidence in me!

Region 2
Northeast

NJ-PA-NY (lower)

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(End of term - 2004)



Hello Fellow Kitefliers and welcome to my first regional report. It may take me a short time to get up to speed, so please be a little patient. I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me and really like to thank Alice Hayden for a job well done the past 3 years.

Here are some parting words from Alice: "Well, my 3 year term has come to an end. Mike, who volunteered to run, has won. You've all been great and I know that you will support Mike as much as he will support you. I will still see many of you at most of the local events as I still fly kites.

September 11th has irrevocably changed one of our region's local flying spots, but it has served to tighten the bonds of the kiting community. And if Liberty State Park will look different, it will serve to remind us that our liberty & freedom comes at a cost and shouldn't be taken for granted. Many of the Liberty High Spirits of 14B (LHSO14B) were at Belmar for the Freedom Fly the following weekend, to hug, to heal, to fly and give thanks. They were joined by many of the SJKF, LVKS and Eastern Leaguers like the Tinkhams and Rich Courmettes. We flew to the Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America, Amazing Grace and Taps to name a few. We had some of the largest turnouts at a kite event in Belmar that I'd ever seen and as each new song began, the crowds applauded.

Speaking of Belmar, the New Jersey Sport Kite Championships were to be held that weekend but in light of what happened it was decided to postpone them. Talks are under way and the first weekend in May is a tentative date for the NJSKC; I'll keep you informed as more news arrives.

The Sky Pilots Kite Club report in with having done seven workshops this year and building over 400 kites; next year Berks County will be celebrating it's 250th Anniversary and on April 20, 2002 there will be a parade. The Sky Pilots would like to have float in the parade; if any club in region 2 would like to help or have any ideas please contact Carl Leisey (610-678-4661 or SPKC4U@aol.com). The Keystone Kites will be having a one-day retreat building "some sort of laundry"; late January, for more info contact Todd Little (717-975-2852 or Rokkaku6@aol.com). Lehigh Valley Kite Society has a busy calendar with all kinds of flies and workshops planned. Don't forget their "First Sunday Fly" at Louise Moore Park. LHSO14B is very active with activities happening almost every weekend at Liberty State Park, NJ. They recently combined One Sky One World with a World Trade Center Memorial Fly. South Jersey Kite Flyers just held their 7th Anniversary Bash and has their 5th holiday Party, December 9th. For more information contact Cecilia Dallmer (215-722-4092 or dallmers@aol.com)

The 2001 Billings Convention is over and things are starting to shape up for next year's to be held in Ocean City, Maryland. To help accommodate the Convention, Sunfest is only going to be three days next year. Those from Region 2 who placed in either the Comprehensive Kitemaking or Sport Kite Grand Nationals held at the Billings AKA Convention were: Betty Hirschmann, Ed Shenk, Andy Selzer, Scott Spencer, Mike Moore, Team UP-GO and SJKF (cooperative). Big congratulations also go out to Glen and Tanna Haynes for winning the Steve Eideken award - great job!!!

If you have news or an event happening and would like to see it here please contact me mdallmer@arserrc.gov or 215-722-4092



Region 3
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 region3@aka.kite.org
 (End of term - 2004)

Greetings from Richmond! I guess it's appropriate to begin my first director's report by thanking the folks who put me here. For one reason or another, I got the nod, and I hope I don't let any of you down.

Now, with that out of the way, I'd like to send big congratulations to all of the Region Three folks who did well in at the national Convention in Billings. I know that the Richmond Air Force came home with a reasonably large bunch of Nationals "Wood." The folks who went whom I've spoken to enjoyed themselves very much. Special nods go to David Hansen for his third place finish in EIP, RAFLS for their EPB and EPP performances, and Adrienne Balmer for bringing home not one, but two second place kite making awards.

As I'm writing, the Outer Banks Sport Kite Competition is taking place, but by the time you read this, we'll all be gearing up for the Treasure Island event in Florida. So, keeping the weird time thing in mind, I'd like to try and do a little catching up while all of this is fresh in my mind.

I'm not sure about the rest of the country, but the summertime tends to slow things down in Richmond as folks take family vacations and the temperature and humidity rises. Coming off of an extremely busy Spring Festival Season and a wonderfully successful Old Dominion Sport Kite Championships, the Richmond Air Force trekked back to Orange County, Virginia, to take part in the Annual Fourth of July Celebration at the Willow Grove Inn. Even though the wind was typical for a Virginia Summer Day (in the words of our Lady Poobah, "Variable and non-existent"), we did our best to show the folks what kiting is all about. To be honest, I think we got the better end of the deal when the fireworks display began. I can't wait until the Fourth gets back to being a weekend holiday. Thursday morning comes much too early after such a late evening.

In August the RAF returned to New Point Campground in Mathews, Virginia, for the second New Point Kite Festival. Thanks must go to Pete Omer for talking the Websters into having us. Can you really beat a weekend's worth of camping on the Chesapeake Bay in exchange for flying kites all day? The only thing that could make it better is if the thunderstorms would stay away. Pete, see what you can do about that for next year, okay?

Somewhere in the middle of all this, Terry Murray and David Hansen made the run to the Outer Banks to help Amy Thompson and the gang at Kitty Hawk Kites with the Wright Kite Festival. And the good news is that this year Chris Moore didn't break his ankle. Also, congratulations to Harold and Elizabeth Ames of Wings Over Washington on their September nuptials.

OBKSC 2001, at least by the account I got from Terry Murray, was a success. I was away with family obligations, so I missed the beautiful weather and the opportunity to see all of our friends from up north who made the trip down the coast. Jockey's Ridge has got to be the best spot on the planet to fly a kite, so it only makes sense to have a kite festival there. I'm glad to see more folks taking the time to support events like this.

Even as the weather cools off there's plenty of kite flying fun on the way. RAF, WOW, and MKS all host a monthly club fun fly, which are great opportunities to make new friends and to see or fly new kites. WOW and RAF usually hold theirs on the first Sunday of the month. MKS takes place on the

third Sunday. RAF also hosts a monthly sewing workshop in a wonderful space that is open to anyone (usually on the third Sunday). To be sure, check the club websites and the AKA web calendar for more details on all of the upcoming events.

As far as competitions go, next up on the calendar is the Georgia International Sport Kite Championships in November followed by the Treasure Island Sport Kite Championships in January. Happy Holidays!



Region 4
Southeast
 AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN
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 (End of term - 2004)

I've been elected to a full term as Regional Director. Thanks! Also, thanks to Gary Resnick for being a candidate. Had I not run, I'd have been Gary's campaign manager. He's a great kiter and a great guy, always willing to share his passion and knowledge about kiting. His willingness to make himself available as a candidate is typical of his commitment, and I know you join me in a salute to him.

In other news, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Kite Club is growing impressively. Sharon Bouffanie and MGCKC have built a dynamic and active club. Check out their new web page: <http://homepages.about.com/gulfcoastkites/gulfcoastkiteclub/>

Over in Atlanta, SAKE had an impressive showing at the AKA Convention. Says Steve, "The club took home five 'pieces of wood' (or hunks of marble!). Would've been six if Harlan had kept up with Chuck Jones from Scenic City Kite Club in fighter kite competition, or if I hadn't wasted too much line trying to get Gomberg during the rokkaku battle. But five for any club is good, even if I do say so myself." Also from SAKE, Harlan Groover led a successful kite workshop at the school for troubled youth — it must've been successful: he's been invited back.

The TISKK October Fly at Ft. Desoto Park was a good time, though rain threatened and winds were, ummmm, brisk! The flying was capped by the traditional Pot Luck meal. (Gary Resnick says there was pickled okra available for more courageous diners — he suspects a WACKOS spy. I am going on record here categorically denying EVERYTHING.) Paul and Annette Brainard shared Paul's incredible kites and some wonderful home-made bread. Rich Kraus and family were there, hoisting his cow herd. Neil Johnson brought out the whole Johnson clan. Rick Beaman brought his mom, Nan.

Daughter Kathren and I enjoyed flying with the Carolina Kite Gypsies at Myrtle Beach. As a tropical storm rolled by, gusty winds lifted patriotic kites and lifters with flags into the sky. (Hats off to the turkey fryers and other food-fixers!)

Kites Unlimited's Carolina Kite Fest featured the Bay Area Sundowners and Mr. Gomberg's Bag O' Big Stuff — Hunter Brown showed up, so I was shamed into leaving my quad stuff in the bag. Hey Don, another great time!

As the deadline hits, I'm awaiting word about the Outer Banks Sport Kite Championships. I'll post info on the web page hometown.aol.com/jimakareg4 when I get it, and will include it in my next column for those of you who are not computerized.

Thanks to all who helped recruit AKA members during Get A Member Month! A prize was awarded specifically for our region, a "Birth of Venus

Rok" and matching Twisty Tail. The winners, drawn at random by Mr. Hickman, were Get In The Wind in Destin, Florida. Congratulations!

Just after writing my last article, I got a note from Bruce Flora of Kiteman Productions in Orlando. He'd just finished projects in Japan for Disney and Universal, installing kite elements into the permanent shows. I hope Bruce will write us an article about that. I hear there are some great pictures!

Mark your calendars for the Treasure Island Sport Kite Competition and Festival Jan. 19, 20 and 21. Todd Copeland reminds me this is the first Eastern League competition of the year. The KTAI will have their show in Clearwater Jan. 14-18. If you're doing the KTAI Show, why not stay and show your wares at TISKC?

The WACKOS recently presented their Kiter of the Year Award for 2000. (WACKOS are many things – prompt is not one of them.) Air Marshall Marty Groet, 1999's winner, presented the award, handing the winner some fine speechifying and a plaque from Reid Smith and Recognition Plus. I am too modest to mention the winner's name – but thanks, guys. I appreciate it.



Region 5 Great Lakes

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(End of term - 2002)

As you might have guessed from the new picture at the header of this article, there have been some changes made. The former Director of Region 5 Mike Gillard has moved up to a higher position in AKA. Mike has agreed to take on the task of publishing the next two issues of *Kiting Magazine*. As a contractor of the AKA he was no longer able to sit on the Board of Directors. On October 3rd I was elected to fill the vacancy left by Mike's upward move. I feel it is a privilege to serve one of the strongest regions in AKA and I look forward to meeting most of you at various events throughout the next year.

I'm writing this in the middle of October for an early December publishing date. If I seem vague on some points it's because they haven't even happened yet. The AKA Board has made the decision to publish *Kiting Magazine* on a four issue a year basis. The feeling is that this will give the editor a longer time frame to work from, and give him/her access to more articles to produce a magazine with more pages and content.

Several Region 5 members were lucky enough to be able to attend the AKA Convention in Billings Montana. There was a lot of speculation about how well the convention would fare as compared to others in the past. To summarize the outcome in one word: "WOW". Yes the numbers were down from prior years, but the people that did attend were very happy with a week well spent out in Big Sky Country – a job well done by all that gave of their time and energy.

The region was also blessed with another full calendar of events this year. Our region has some of the larger events on the AKA schedule. We have the Great Lakes Kite Fest, The Air Force Museum Festival, the Cleveland Kite Fest and The North Coast Stunt Kite Games just to mention a few. These events have drawn thousands of people into the world of kiting over the years and still continue to grow. In looking back on the year, the Air Force Museum fly is one really that sticks out in my mind. The History of Kiting display put together by Nancy Lockwood, Harry Gregory and the

gang at OSEK was amazing. The score keeping by Rick and Robyn Gardner, and the announcing for three busy fields of activities by the amazing Al Hargus shows just a small sample of the talent we are lucky to have in our midst. Thank you again for all your hard work.

We are in the planning stages for the 2003 AKA National Convention to be held in Dayton. The work on building a strong foundation has already begun. If there is a job that you feel you'd like to work at or a seminar that you would like to hold, please feel free to contact me at akaregion5@hotmail.com and I will pass the information on to the powers that be. Let's all work together to show the AKA and the world that Region 5 is still the leader it has always been.



Region 6 Midwest

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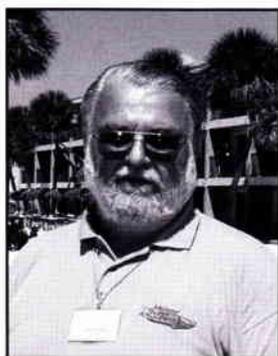
This is my first regional report of my sixth and final year as the Region Six director. Soon the nominations committee will be searching the countryside for people interested in representing this region on the AKA board. I would like to encourage each of you to consider running for the board of directors. If I was not also the Treasurer and did not have a job that required substantial overtime, I would be seriously considering running for a third term. However, I am retiring as Region 6 Director and making a place for one of you. If you are interested in more information on the position, please let me know.

Now back to one of my pet peeves. There are not enough kitefliers for us to create divisions amongst ourselves. As I have traveled around the region, I have noticed that the clubs and events that are growing are those that include both sport and single line fliers. By inclusion, I mean that activities and/or competitions are planned for both. I do not mean that the dominant group of fliers just provides a corner of a field for "them". Kiting as a whole is too small for it to survive this type of attitude. It is past time that we all work together to expand kiting in general, not just our particular niche.

Now for some good news! By my next regional report I expect to be able to announce the formation of a new competition in the Chicago area. This event is still in the formative stages, but will hopefully have something for everyone. Plan on this event happening in June or July of next year.

One of the premier kiting events in the nation is fast approaching in Madison, WI. Kites on Ice will once again bring in fliers from around the world and provide us all with the opportunity to see kites and meet kite fliers that we would otherwise never get the chance to see. KOI is an opportunity that you should not miss, so put on some warm clothes the first weekend in February and come out and play.

I have been encouraged this past year by several new events in the region, by some growth in membership and by some good publicity for kiting in general. We seem to have found the bottom of the pullback in kiting and started a rebound. Now we need to keep up the momentum and help expand kiting. Each of you can help by teaching workshops, running events or just attending as many events as possible and flying as many kites as possible. Anything that you can do to increase the visibility of kites and kiting will help and if each of us does a little, we will all benefit.



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Hello Region 7,

Regretfully, Kite season has come to an end for our region. Since the last issue, We attended the Callaway Kite Festival in Callaway, Nebraska on Labor Day Weekend. It was a great Festival with about 100 fliers from the region. Special guests included Scott Skinner from Colorado. Scott brought a very special young flier from Yokohama, Japan. Ken Odagawa, age 24, is the son of Aki Odagawa, owner of "Kite World" virtual Kite store. He is a JKA member & supporter of sport kite fliers visiting Japan. Ken started flying at age 8. He is still in college with a job at Cisco Systems in the future. Ken enjoyed his visit to the U.S. and spent time in Colorado, Nebraska, and Washington. As usual in Callaway, we enjoyed great flying, great food, and great camaraderie.

On September 15, I attended "Kites over Burlington" in Burlington, IA. Following the events of Sept. 11, Phil Broder worked very diligently to keep the Festival alive. Even with the sadness in our Nation, it was redeveloped to be a Red, White, and Blue fly. It was a great success. Phil organized a great festival that was well attended by many accomplished flyers.

September 30, Bruce Kenkel from Omaha, and I started out for Billings, MT. We stopped along the way to pick up ND flyer Deb Lenzen. We three arrived in Billings early Monday morning to a breathtaking view of the city. The reception dinner on Monday night was put on by Terry Lee and it was terrific. Included was a chuckwagon dinner and live entertainment. We enjoyed the large kite display at the Airport that included Kites built by many renowned kitebuilders. This was a beautiful display – not to be missed! We experienced four of the most beautiful flying days ever for a convention. A highlight of the week was a side trip to the Custer Battlefield Memorial Park. Deb Lenzen of Garrison, ND was invited to fly her 2nd place winning train kites representing various Native American Symbols. Deb was assisted by John and Mary Gabby of CO. Other kite builders were also invited and the event was witnessed by a Native American Elder. This was an emotional and uplifting experience for all of us.

The Kite Auction was very successful. My kite budget has once again been tapped out. It made us very proud that the Arch of 27 kites made and donated by my home club of Midwest Winds Kiteflyers was auctioned for \$400.00. Even though the number of people attending the Convention this year was lower than usual, the Auction still raised over \$18,000 for the AKA.

The Awards Banquet on Saturday night was a lot of fun, especially because there were several winners from Region 7. Here are the results: Elmon Morrison - Special Award in Novice Kite building; Deb Lenzen - Highest score in Visual, 2nd place in Train Kites; Mike Gee - 2nd place line art; Chris Dodson - 3rd place flat kite; Mary Gabby - Highest score in Flight; Mary & John Gabby - 3rd place in Bowed Kites, 1st place in Flat Kites, 3rd place in Arch Kites, 3rd place in Line art, 3rd place in co-operative kites. Way to go Region 7!!! We're all very proud of you. This was a great Convention and it

was sad that more people didn't attend. Hope to see more at Ocean City, MD next year.

Finally, the last fly of the season for us was Saturday Oct. 13 at the Pumpkin Festival and Dakota Kite Festival in Webster, SD. Our hosts, Paul & Karen Johnson made our visit most enjoyable. We flew at the City Airport. Attending were Mike Gee and family, Chris Dodson and sons, Deb Lenzen, Betty and myself. We managed to put on a great show and everyone there said they really enjoyed it – even though we had to compete with the Pumpkin Catapulting Contest. We all enjoyed the Big Sky and Big Wind of South Dakota.

Just a reminder to all of you. Please get your schedules for the upcoming year to me as soon as possible, so I can get the information on the web site. Keep me informed, so I can keep you informed.

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The Oklahoma Balloon Fest, in mid-August, was incredible. Okay – the hot air balloons were impressive; but we had lots of kite fighters, some beautiful single-lines flying, and the Oklahoma City Kiteers provided us with hours of team flying entertainment. The Oklahoma Buggiers and Troy Gunn even showed us some "traction action", and the Dermers had the best pizzas that were ever created delivered to the field for all of the kites. Although we occasionally cleared the skies for either parachutists or a sporadic rain, it was a wonderful weekend for everyone. Thanks to the folks from Texas and even Arkansas (I LOVE Marie & Mike!) who brought sky toys to share with everyone.

The following weekend, Dodd Gross came to Galveston to teach a "Flight School" class. Spence Wikel organized the event without a hitch, which had about 16 attendees. The weekend delivered lots of sun, sand, wind, a live band, a master kite instructor, and lots of folks all sharing their love of kiting! What more could you ask for? Everyone got to brush up their technique on tricks, precision, fighters, duals, quads, ultra lights, and even got in some bugging! Thanks to Dodd Gross, Chris at New Tech, and Spence for pulling together this event which everyone enjoyed!

Throughout the region, "Freedom Flies" filled the air the troubled weekend of September 15th & 16th. Our patriotic memorial statements were well received and appreciated by the public. I got reports from all over the 5 state area of passers-by honking, waving, and giving the "thumbs-up" as they drove by the flying fields. Some folks even pulled their cars over and parked to approach the fliers and ask about the "Freedom Fly" and to offer their own encouragement and support. A personal note of appreciation to everyone who participated in a "Freedom Fly" - anywhere.

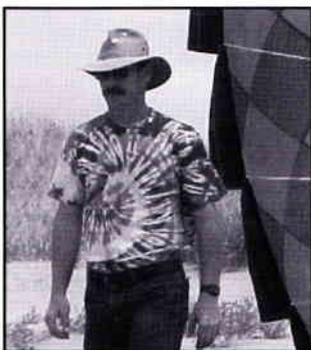
On September 21st, we approached the Plano Balloon Fest cautiously, since it was so soon after the national devastation. Organizer Troy Gunn brought in Austin End Of The Line (EOL) kite team to help with the event and to provide entertainment. Eddie Zihlman and EOL set up a beautiful row of red,

white, and blue banners which made quite a statement. Both the Austin and Dallas area kites brought some magnificent single line art to fly at the event. The kites provided not only single, dual, and quad performances; but also had extensive flight training on each for the general public. Additionally, EOL brought their Bol collection so that we could exhaust the spectators (not to mention ourselves!) with Bol races. Although the FAA had grounded the hot air balloons, they were able to inflate while tethered, and provided a beautiful light show for everyone. In the evenings, live concerts and a fireworks show gave us the opportunity to just sit and enjoy being entertained by others. We met a lot of new friends and were all privileged to help share some smiles, fun, and pride with others after so much recent shock and sorrow.

The convention in Billings was tremendous fun and I was pleased to see so many attendees from region 8 there! Not to dismiss my regional "family", I most enjoyed getting the opportunity to visit with people from the other regions. You all already know this, but what a wonderful organization we have! I look forward to seeing everyone again next year. Thanks to all who came to Billings and contributed to making it such a great gathering!

On the same weekend as convention, the region had a festival in Harker Heights, near Killeen, Texas. Kites Unlimited of Galveston and Austin EOL were invited to come and provide entertainment for the "Star Fest". A couple of 252's on 300-foot lines worked as attention getters to draw in the crowds, while EOL provided both team and individual demos throughout the day. Bol races kept the kids, of ALL ages, involved in the action on the flying field. A local photographer learned – the HARD way – to never stand in the middle of the flying field during a candy drop! He was warned, but he wanted to be in the middle of the action to capture it all... no problem. Well, he captured it, all right. He learned better, as the trampling mass of kids fast approached him with fire in their eyes!

Once again, thanks to everyone involved in these activities or any other area or local kite flies. Locally, regionally, and even nationally, you've once again proven yourselves to be a special group of people with an immovable spirit of goodness and sharing. Know that it shows and is contagious to others.



Region 9 Intermountain

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WOW! What a season it has been. From the first "official" festival of the year, the Puffin in Cannon Beach, OR., to the final fun fly in Albuquerque, NM, it has been a busy time.

Since last we met the pickup has logged over 7000 miles traveling to festivals all over the region and beyond. From Brookings to Berkeley to Manzanita and beyond we have had a busy time and have enjoyed flying with many of the folks in the region on numerous occasions.

We spent another wonderful weekend as guests of the Port of Brookings Harbor in Brookings, OR, helping to put on the show for the spectators. This is a wonderful festival with each of the flyers being an invited guest. It is a

tough place to fly the big bear but we managed to get him in the air for both days. The Rogue Valley Windchasers were once again in attendance giving a helping hand to all the flyers.

We attended the Berkeley festival once again this year. Beth Drake from here in Oregon was once again in attendance and flew her gorgeous kite arch to an award in the best handcrafted kite competition. In fact the Region 9 contingent brought home all the awards in the single line categories. It was a great time.

Looks like Manzanita, OR, will be holding a festival next year. The city contacted Peter Loop to see about holding a fun fly there the first weekend of August to test the waters. Peter and family, Andy and Denise Tauber, Doc Counce, the Gombergs, Doug and Linda LaRock from Yakima and the Thralls showed up. Reports were that we were stopping traffic on Hwy 101. Look for this one to show up on the schedule next year.

After a weekend off, everything just kinda blurs from there until the end of the season. We spent the week at WSIKF then attended The 1st Annual South Beach Kite Festival in Crescent City, CA. This one is organized by the Rogue Valley Windchasers and what a job they did. The only thing that went wrong all weekend long was that the tide came in on Sunday and flooded a portion of the flying field. Not to worry though, kitefliers are a resourceful bunch and we just worked around it. If you don't have plans for Labor Day weekend next year put this one on the calendar.

September found us in Eugene for the Asian Kite Festival, more of a funfly than anything else. We enjoy attending every year and flying with folks that we don't see very often. Peter Betancourt did an admirable job on the mic and kept things moving along. Next up was the Mix 96 Kitefest in Sacramento. We had a wonderful time and along with a large crew that included Larry and Debbie Smith from Grants Pass helped to assemble and launch Peter Lynn's Megabite. David Gomberg drove down with us for this one and directed the assembly on Saturday night. Ripley's Believe it or Not was there all day Sunday to interview Peter Lynn. The next weekend we were in Lincoln City for the Fall Festival. Ronda Brewer and the Kite Friendship Society do a great job every spring and fall and put on a wonderful festival.

Now it's that time of year to repair the old stuff and create new things for next year. The Annual Oregon Kitemakers retreat is coming up Jan 27-20.. This is a wonderful time to get together with some great kite makers and create your very own flying creations. There is as always a wonderful group of instructors lined up. For info, call 360-750-7772 or email orkitemkrs@aol.com. Hope to see you there.

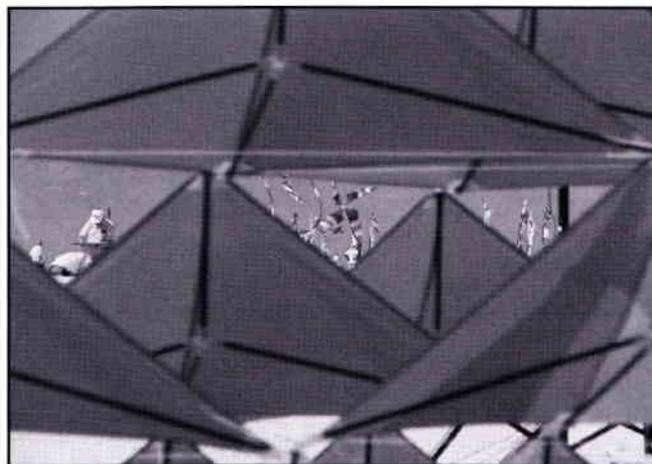


photo by Darrin Skinner



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 (End of term - 2003)

If you didn't go to Billings, you missed quite a kite event. The weather was nice (except for Wednesday), winds light to moderate, the fields nice, and the hosts gracious. The region 10 attendees came home with many awards. Sam Houston won Grand Champion Handcrafted Kite award with his blue butterfly and celtic knot noodle kite. Shake Sam's hand next time you see him, his kite flew wonderfully in the 14+ mph winds and 35 degree temperatures. Sam also won first place in Bowed with the noodle and first place in the Line Laundry category with his display of chains, twisty tubes, Catherine's Wheels.

Little Vic, as usual, cleaned up at the pin challenge. Many others were present in flying kites, swapping pins, visiting, taking pictures, and having a good time. The Northwest Sport Kites were present in the awards. Reid Wolcott won Masters Individual Ballet; Reid and his father, Rick, won Master Pairs Precision in their R.A. W. Power pair. Team 6th Sense (Scott Davis, Bud Rogers, and Wayne Turner) won Experienced Team Precision and Ballet. Scott Davis and Bud Rogers won Experienced Pairs Precision and Ballet as 6th Sense. A very new flier to the sport kite competition circuit, Marcia Cannon with her husband Jerry placed second in Experienced Pairs Ballet as the Last Flight Out. Wayne Turner won first in Experienced Individual Precision. Bud Hayes and Scott Davis won trophies in Experienced Ballet during those very trying conditions (it was 30 degrees with sprinkles) congratulations, there was very stiff competition for all places. Steve Buck and Vicki Casal won first and second place in Novice Individual Precision. Chris Casal, Mike Huff, Terry Huff, Linda Hayes, Steve Bates, and others did yeoman duty in volunteering for field positions to make the convention happen.

WSKIF was going strong on the days I attended (I missed the rainy days). Many kite displays, demonstrations, and kite lessons were going strong. Maybe next year I can attend more days. There were many large kites up near and close to the Bolstad approach, giving a feeling of a close and intimate kite flying.

Whidbey Island Kite Festival in late September had warm weather and wind! Many sport kites showed up and flew. Gerry and Cliff Pennell put on quite a single-line show. Cliff said the bears had bulked up too much while training for the teddy bear drop. The bears would pull the kite down because of their weight (read we had too light winds for the bears), so Cliff had someone throw the bear into the air; all the teddy bear catchers seemed satisfied with the "drop".

For the upcoming events, the Oregon Kitemakers Retreat is coming up in January. A great check-mating workshop to attend, good company, good food, and good classes. E-mail Rod Thrall (region9@aka.kite.org) for more information.

Yes, the Fort Worden Kitemakers Retreat is coming up, March 1, 2, and 3rd. Some of the featured teachers are: Rob Brassington (Australia), John Freeman, Scott Hampton, George Peters (Colorado), George A. Peters (Seattle), Barry Poulter, Terry Sansom (Texas), Randy Shannon (Arizona), Rolf and Claudia Zimmerman (Germany), and many more. If you are interested

you can E-mail kitemakers@netscape.net or check www.kitemakers.org for more information.

Christmas season is coming up. If you are stumped for a present, give the person a membership to the AKA. Another gift-giving idea that probably won't be duplicated by others, give a kite or kite accessory. Let others experience what you know about kiting.



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Happy New Year! You all should be very proud of yourselves. There were more events in our Region in 2001 than ever before!

August had us in Redondo Beach for the Late Summer Festival of the Kite. The First Annual Buggy Boogie Fall Thang took shape on El Mirage Dry Lake. Corey Jensen was on hand filling our minds with Corey-Ism's while New AKA members Dave & Mike Kennedy filled our stomachs with Prime Rib & Corn on the Cob - YEAH BABY! Following the tragic events on September 11th, many of us took to the skies that next weekend and Flew for Freedom. Proving that KITES DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! We were not done though. The next weekend was the annual Fall version of the Route 66/SDKC Sister Club Fly in San Diego along with the Huntington Beach Kite Tournament put on by the SCSKL.

When members came back from our National Convention in Billings, they hit Seal Beach on the 13th & 14th of October for a SCSKL Competition and 2-Day Festival. This event was an even better success than last years event. Gombert Kite Productions was on hand with Geckos, Octopi, Penguins, Bears and, of course, Susan was doing most of the work (again!). We had the Bay Area Sundowners (who brought the FOG with them) flying in what they would call "Negative Wind" and "Berkeley Light" as well. There was a beautiful 120+ Rainbow Eddy Train and Carl Hanson amazed the crowd with 2 terrific Kite Aerial Photography demos to the tune of "Weird Science". The Up, Up, and Away Kite Club, Japan American Society, Rod and Marty Milburn and J. R. Tolman were also on hand adding to the experience.

One week later we actually had to choose which event to go to! Kathy Plummer resurrected the old AVI event and renamed it the "Art in the Sky" Festival. Bullhead City AZ struggled with light winds and heavy spirit with the likes of The Gibians, The Milburns, The Arizona Free Flyers, The Route 66 Kite Club, Fighter Pilots Steve Bateman & Johnny Hsiung (to name a few), Scott Skinner, and Roger Maddy with his "Chopper" Teeth. On the ground, Carveth & Luella Kramer delighted the folks with their beautiful Banner display. A little North and a little West found the rest of us in Pismo Beach for the First Annual "Kites Over Pismo". It was a "Teaser" for the 55th Annual Clam Festival. This turned out to be an event BEYOND expectations. My fellow Region 11 Director Brian Champie brought down many members from up North and we shared an awesome weekend. The kiddies had a great time flying on field one while the heartstopping demos by "Team Too Much Fun", Bi Dance, DespoShampo, Brian Todd, Dan Whitney,

and Avispados were rippin' up field two. The astonished crowds were treated to Single Line Displays "Never Before Seen" in those parts. While Dan Whitney had the BIG Octopus and Teddy Bear struggling for position, James Warner and Bro-In-Law Greg (The Safety Crew) did not give up and relaunched the "440" while the BIG Windsock ATE THE EDDY ARCH! From AZ to CA we had it going on that weekend! Tracey & Jeff Erzin have already volunteered to come down and help with this year's event. Based on what I went through on the "Sound Balcony", this VERY good news...Thanks you Two!

On November 3rd, the Route 66 Kite Club added to the fun at a charity event hosted by the H.O.P.E. Division of the Child Crisis Center - East Valley. Imagine, using Kites to make people feel better.

Here's to a Kite-filled New Year!



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What a summer we had, I looked back at my calendar and saw that I managed some 26 events! Not all of them in region 11 but quite a few of them were.....

One memorable event was the Golden Gate Challenge. This year marked the tenth Anniversary of this popular event, The Northern California kite club with the help of the Bay Area Sport Kite league put on a class event that attracted more competitors than other large events in the area, with 9 novices, the hopes of a great new season are high. The Club made some changes this year and even managed to make a profit. One of the changes was the new trophies - printed mugs, a trophy you can actually use!

Tom McAlister deserves some attaboys for putting together this years Mix 96 fest in Elk Grove. Tom was able to get the largest kite in the world there as well as Peter Lynn to fly it complete with Dave Gomborg as Peter's helper! This kite defies description; of course I'm referring to the MEGA Ray. This monster, with its tail, is 223 feet long and 138 feet wide, with a total area of 30,774 square feet! Even photos of this baby don't tell the story, especially photos of it flying, your brain just tells you it's a big kite, not a BIG BIG kite! Rod and Cindy Thrall were down from Oregon with their kite circus as well. I don't know how Tom planned the flying cars, but that was a festival first for me!

Mix 96 is becoming a must do for us kite nuts, Tom has NO problem getting volunteers now that everyone knows it includes two great dinner parties! Thanks Tom!

I just returned from a brand new event in Pismo Beach, yes it's the end of October and we are still going to events... gotta love it! James and Kendra Warner of "Sky's the Limit" kite shop and the city of Pismo did a great job putting a fun event together, AND the BBQ wasn't bad either! PISMO - now there is a town made for a convention! The beaches there were HUGE and the sand was firm, manicured and FLAT - tons of room on the north side of the pier for fields and on the south side you can buggy for miles! AND it seems like there are a billion hotels in town too.....someone needs to look into convention facilities.....UH-O sounds like I just took on yet

another job!

Speaking of Convention! Billings was Better than Great! The weather was near perfect except for one day; Thursday it was damn cold! But it didn't snow! The fields were awesome, 50 acres of perfect grass divided into competition and demo fields with a parking lot in the middle. . perfect!

I wish I could say the same about the wind, inland swirly up and down "what was that" kind of wind.....BUT there was wind everyday! The hotel couldn't have been any better either with its huge atrium for indoor flying and gathering, a good size bar with friendly attendants complete with a gathering area just outside of the bar ...again ...Perfect. All the seminar rooms just around the corner; in one place, and on the same floor. The fly mart and banquets were right there as well. And to top it all off a good restaurant, the breakfast buffet was too good and the bacon was killer! The Shuttle was just the ticket too; driven by volunteers it made continual loops from the field only a couple miles away, and a BIG thanks to Glen Haynes for the hours he spent driving it!

I'm sure the whole story will be told elsewhere in this issue but I do want to mention Region 11 Quad flier Vince Maranta who flew one of the nicest quad ballets I have ever witnessed; for an Experienced quad first place trophy. Oh yea and another region 11 flier took home the second place trophy in Masters Ballet and that would be..... ME! :-)

Also of note, our own Chuck Sigal was nominated for the Edeiken award.... It went to Tanna and Glen Haynes but we are proud of Chuck's nomination just the same! Chuck was however awarded BASKL's spirit of kiting award this year. Congrats Chuck you deserve it! I'm sure glad I went; I enjoyed Montana and its people... I had a blast!

Watch for a new BASKL event next season! We have reserved a portion of the new Crissy Field lawn, in the completely renovated Park just west of the marina green in San Francisco. The winds aren't all that nice there but what a beautiful place to play, you're almost under the Golden Gate Bridge, the bay, Alcatraz, beaches ...sigh! May 11th - be there! BASKL's complete schedule is available at www.BASKL.org.



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Greetings and Happy New Year to all, whichever calendar you follow.

So much has happened since I wrote the last Region 13 report. I hardly know where to begin...

Thank you to all who took the time to convey thoughts and condolences in the days following the September 11th tragedies. As geographically distant as many of us are from New York and DC, these acts of terrorism have affected us all in a very real way. It is heartwarming to read about the many "Freedom Fly's" that took place the following weekend throughout North America and around the world. Red, white, and blue kites, flags, banners, and ribbons dominated.

continued on next page.....

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That weekend, the Toronto Kite Fliers held their annual Air Canada Kitefest, organized in conjunction with the Mandarin Club of Toronto. This year's event yielded an \$11,188.00 donation to the Sick Children's Hospital Foundation. The guest list focused on Canadian talent, and fortunately, kite fliers from afar were still able to make it on time (in some cases, a day later than planned, but it all worked out), despite lengthy delays at the airports. The 2001 Kitefest included a new arch project, "a great success" according to the TKF president. He added, "Hopefully at the TKF Chili Blast in November, we can launch the entire arch at once." I dunno does this strike you in the same way it did me? If so, I hope no one lit a match!

It seems to me that One Sky One World events also held a greater significance for those who participated. We had a great turnout here in Winnipeg. The menacing clouds seemed to part for our little gathering as they sprinkled only 15 minutes worth of light drizzle on us, but dumped rain and hail on other parts of the city throughout the afternoon. Magic!

Other Region 13 News: In light of all that has happened on the world scene, including airline problems, the Rotorua, New Zealand World Kite Festival 2002 has been postponed until 2004. Watch for updates later in the year.

Despite a couple of days of inclement weather, the Washington State International Kite Festival was, once again, a glorious week of camaraderie and fun in the wind (indoors too, of course). Granted, this event is not in my region but, I always look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones, including the guests and other fliers who travel great distances to participate in the festival. This year, WSIKF welcomed Mr. Modegi and Mr. and Mrs. Nakamura from Japan, Jos and Kaatje Valcke and family of Belgium, Peter Lynn and Anne & Peter Whitehead of New Zealand, Rob & Tracey Brasington from Tasmania, Felix Mottram of the UK, the Bay Area Sundowners, Tom and Jane — a honeymooning couple from the UK, and a number of fighter kite aficionados from all over North America, vying for a place of honor in the 1st Short Line Fighter Kite World Cup. (My apologies to anyone I may have inadvertently omitted.)

The Manjha Club International has organized a weekly discussion forum for fighter kite enthusiasts with internet access to chat online. Ability to communicate in French is an asset. You will also have to register a name and password with "yahoo groups". http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/manjha_club/chat If French is not your forte, consider subscribing to the NFKA fighter kite mailing list at <http://www.topica.com/lists/FighterKites/>.

Speaking of French, heartfelt wishes are extended to our friend, Yves Laforest, as he continues to recover from a terrible and unfortunate fall from scaffolding in October. Yves was putting up a kite display when he fell and shattered his heels. We know he has a great deal of strength and determination, and we look forward to seeing him back on the kite field.

I regret that I was unable to attend the annual AKA convention held this year in Billings, Montana. While attendance was lower than anticipated (for a number of reasons), the site and the weather turned out to be exceptionally good and anyone who didn't attend missed out, bigtime. Get your agendas out and pencil in: Ocean City, Maryland — first week of October, 2002.

Until next time.... Warm wishes for peace, health, good winds, and time to do the things that bring you pleasure.

"Marconi". continued from page 27

- All of the kites were of the Baden-Powell type (Capt. B.F.S. Baden-Powell: 1860-1937)
- The Marconi Company first became acquainted with the Baden-Powell kite design during a wireless assignment for the British Government during the Boer War in South Africa.
- The kites were manufactured by G.C. Spencer and Bros. Ltd., Highbury, London, England. Spencer and Company was well known supplier of balloons and kites. The company no longer exists.
- An examination of the Baden-Powell patent and comparison with an extant kite shows that some design modification was made by Spencer and Company.
- At least two of the kites broke away during the four days of flight in St. John's. One was recovered from the Captain of a fishing boat and the other from a valley on the north side of Signal Hill.
- Only two kites are known to remain from the set. One consists of only the sail; the other is complete with sail, frame and part of the bridle intact.
- The sail of the complete kite measures 183.5 cm (6' 2.4") high by 177 cm (5' 9.5") wide.
- The sails are of heavy cotton cloth. All outside edges were reinforced with linen tape and sewn with cotton thread. Five separate cloth panels were sewn together to make each kite sail.
- At key stress point locations, where the frame and bridle attached to the kite sail, additional cotton cloth reinforcing panels were sewn in place.
- Brass grommets were used to provide access points to attach the frame and bridle to the kite sail.
- The frame consists of three bamboo poles. The longeron is 199 cm (6' 6") in length and the cross spars are 215 cm (7') in length. Thus, when fully assembled, the spars extend beyond the height and width of the sale
- The bridle was made of strong hemp cordage and was attached to the kite in six places (at the outside cross spars and at mid-points where the cross spars meet the longeron).
- There is no evidence of a bowing system for the kite in any of photos, or archival documents extant.

On December 12, 2001 at precisely 12:00 p.m. E.S.T (12:30 p.m. Newfoundland time) the centenary of long distance wireless communication will be reached. The world is a very different place today because of the work of Marconi and his wireless pioneers. It was a kite that provided the critical aerial support for the amazing leap across the Atlantic Ocean.

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following in providing source documents, archival information, personal assistance and encouragement in assembling all of the materials for this portion of the tale of "Mr. Marconi's Kites":

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 - Patti Bannister, Curator - P.A.N.L. The Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's Newfoundland.
 - Don Parsons, Interpretation Specialist, Signal Hill National Historic Site of Canada - Parks Canada.
 - Mr. Hal Holbrook, St. John's, Newfoundland, For taking the time to provide me with a personal interview about the recollections of his father, William Holbrook, a kiteflier with the Marconi crew at Signal Hill.
 - Jacques Lariviere, BAE Systems Canada Inc (former Marconi Canada Inc.), Ville Saint-Laurent, Quebec
- Special thanks to my good friend and mentor Eden Maxwell, who challenges me to "look through the window" created by kites in the sky.*

*This segment of "Mr. Marconi's Kites"
© November 2001. Robert (Bob) White
Port Colborne, ON Canada*

August 20th-26th, 2007

20th Annual Washington State International Kite Festival

Long Beach, Washington



"Food Chain" Della Porta
Skip and Jan Herzog
photo: Dan Kurahashi



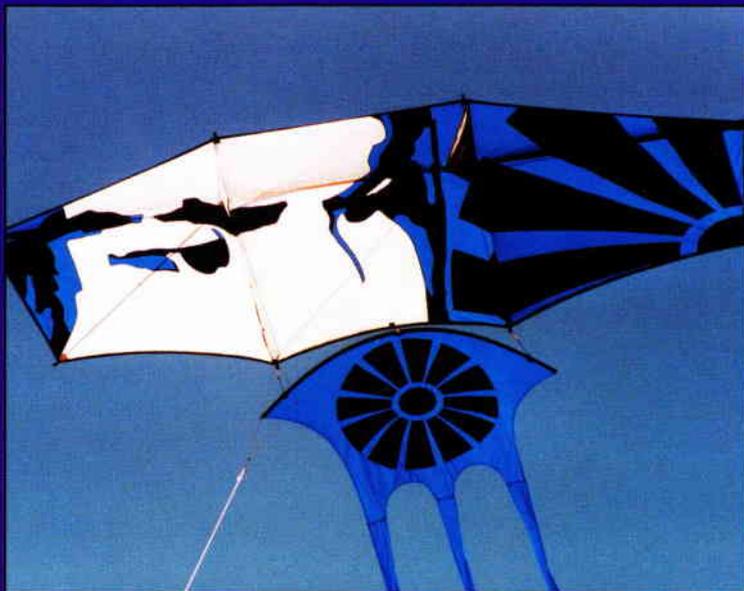
WSIKF always attracts the big stuff! The jester is by Belgian guests
Jos and Kaatje Valcke, the bear, dolphin and penguin by Peter Lynn
photo: Dan Kurahashi



"Mermaid"
Anne & Peter Whitehead
photo: Cliff Pennell



That's One Cool Kite Hat!
photo: Dan Kurahashi



Genki, owner and builder unknown, photo: Cliff Pennell



The beach scene
photo: Cliff Pennell



Kites and colors filled the sky during mass ascensions that flank what can only be termed a colorful kite!

photos: Dan Kurahashi

Joel K. Scholz

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Go Fly A Kite® is delighted to announce the addition of the Joel K. Scholz

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