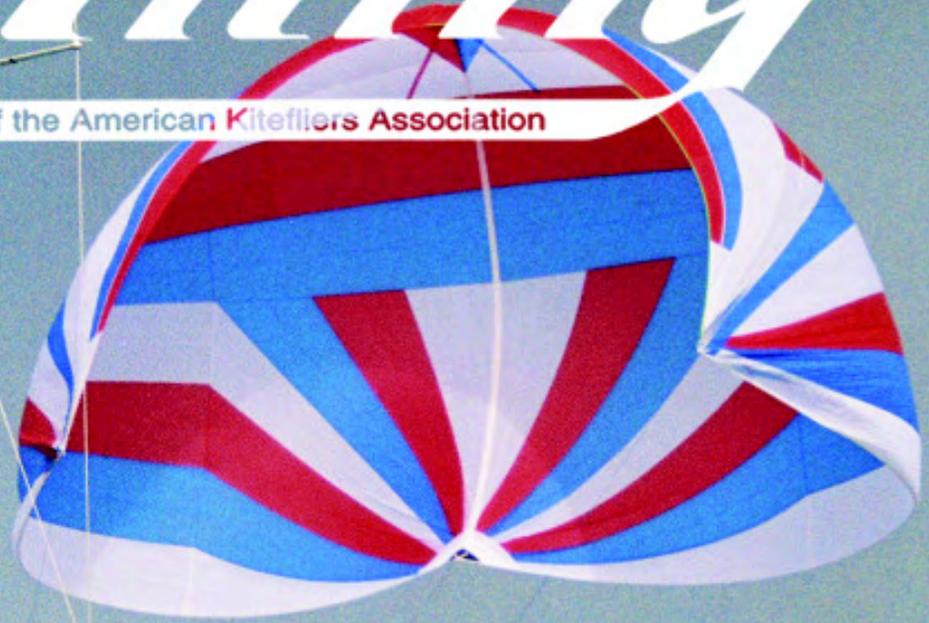




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Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



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National Kite Month

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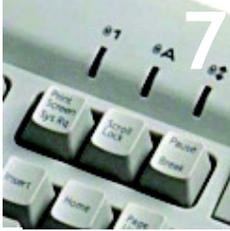
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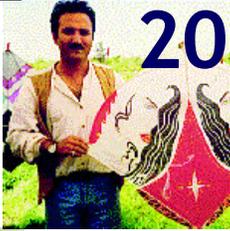
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Summer issue deadline: April 15
 Autumn issue deadline: July 15
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 Spring issue deadline: January 15

Founded in 1964 by Robert M. Ingraham, the American Kitefliers Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites.



The Dallmers receive the Edeiken Award trophy the week after the Des Moines convention from '05 winner Pete Dolphin and Erin Edeiken.

Edeiken Thank You

Cel and I are deeply honored and humbled to receive the 2006 Edeiken Award. Looking at the names that are on it, we are even more awed to think that the selection committee chose us to be included in the list. We would like to thank those that nominated us and the Award Committee for selecting us.

We spent the last 30 years in kiting and it never gets old, we really love what we do. We've met a lot of people who we consider friends and their creations keep this exciting. It never gets boring. Another reason we love what we do is the family aspect; no matter how young or old you are, there is always something for you to do.

Thanks so very much for this honor!!!

*Mike and Cecilia Dallmer
Philadelphia PA*

Loving the Midwest

The other night I was looking at some photos taken at Iowa's convention. I was so pleased with the number of first attendees. It was told that we ran out of first-timer ribbons. Also, I had a chance to see others who I haven't seen since Kites on Ice in Wisconsin. Iowa may not have the appeal that Niagara Falls has, and that's OK. The AKA gave a chance to those who lived closer to attend the event, and that is why we move the site. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to fly kites with those came to the event and look forward to the next Convention in one of the Central regions.

*Pete Dolphin
Oaklyn, NJ*

Editor: Always good to see you, Pete. Remember your last kiting trip to Iowa, for Kites Over Burlington in 2000? The

AKA Convention rotates from Central to Western to Eastern regions. The 2007 Convention is in Ocean Shores, Washington, and in 2008 we're headed back to a yet-to-be-decided spot on the East Coast. 2009 is back in the center of the country, and locations in Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as Des Moines, have all expressed interest.

Windless Vs. Indoors

The World Kite Museum chose "Windless Kites" as the title for its wonderful January 13-15, 2007 indoor kite event. Windless Kites or Windless Kite Flying/Competition is a most felicitous denomination for the fast growing indoor kiting specialty.

The AKA has been using "Sport Kites" as an overall title for indoor competitions. That should change to "Windless Kite Flying/Competition." The name "Sport Kites" has been reserved exclusively for multiple line kites. Thus, single line kites do not fit in "Sport-Kite-Indoor-Competitions."

That is not just nit-picking semantics. "Sport Kites" brings Sport Kites to the competitions. It brings judges who are Sport Kites. And it brings Sport Kites' fans and relatives of the Sport Kites, pilots and judges, all of whom think, know, admire and cheer the wonderful skills and tricks performed by the Sport Kite pilots. Single liners, such as fighters, do not have much of a chance in such an overwhelming (and possibly biased) Sport Kites environment. Therefore, one finds only the occasional, lonely single-liner in the indoor arenas.

The AKA should adopt this year's World Kite Museum's Windless Event as a prototype for Nationals as well as for events around the country. It included

all kites, competitions, demos, hot tricks, open flying and workshop. The AKA needs not be, or appear to be, discriminatory. Beside, "Windless" sounds better than "indoors."

*Nelson Borelli
Woodstock, IL*

Back In The Fold

I feel eager to reinstate myself as a member of the AKA.

Enclosed is my check with application and a photocopy of my last issue of *Kitelines* dated in the fall of 1980.

Twenty-seven years ago. My, how time does fly! (The pun is intentional).

I am surprised however as to the current price of *Kitelines* (\$30) compared to \$9 annually.

I would welcome a notice of existing world records as I am interested in attempting at least two different approaches for milestones next year.

If you could inform me in your estimation of the wisest and ablest current kitefliers that would also be appreciated.

Sincerely, and forever flying,
*Robert Reichert
Lawrence, MA*

Editor: Welcome back, Robert! We've been wondering where you'd gone. While you were away, there were some changes. Kitelines folded its wings, and the AKA's magazine is now known simply as Kiting. And yes, the price has gone up a little. By my calculations, \$9 in 1980 would equal \$22.86 in 2005 (the last year for which inflation figures are available). The cost of an AKA membership was \$30 in 2005, but that got you not only the magazine but all the other benefits, including insurance coverage. Even at \$35, it's still cheaper than dinner and a movie. Kiteflying records are monitored by the Kite Records Committee (see page 2), and to a lesser extent, by the good folks at Guinness. And who are the wisest and ablest kitefliers? Oh no, we know better than to open that can of worms! I'm sure that most of the AKA's members consider themselves the wisest and ablest... just ask them! But there's no shortage of wisdom and ability in your local club, Kites Over New England.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Winter found me at the Kite Trade Association International Trade Show and Convention in Albuquerque. The KTAI is an important partner of the AKA and many of their members are some of our strongest supporters. The KTAI has been nice enough to invite the AKA to participate in their Trade Show for many years now. Darrin and I staffed the booth for the AKA where we distributed 2500 AKA membership flyers to the participants to take home and pass along to their customers. We also handed out six flavors of Hershey's Kisses.

For most of us in the AKA kiting is a hobby, a passionate hobby, but a hobby nonetheless. In the KTAI kites are business but just as passionate an endeavor. These are people who believe kites add enough value to our lives to make selling kites how they earn their living. The week proved that business or hobby, kite people are kite people. The camaraderie and good spirits were in abundance the whole week.

The trade show was two days, with on-field demonstration flying on the days before and after the show, giving four full days of fun and business. The flying was at the Albuquerque Balloon Festival field where participants could try out the latest kites that were on display in the exhibit hall. It's a great opportunity for many kite store owners who can't make it out to festivals during the year because they are too busy selling kites to people like us.

The KTAI made some significant changes this year by simplifying their organization. Instead of the tiered membership structure they used to have, now they have just one type of membership and all members in the association get to vote. The aim was to reduce barriers to participation and encourage any legitimate kite business to be part of the process. The new organization is leaner and more nimble with lots of ideas to address the commercial side of the kiting industry. Many of you have wondered how David Gomberg was keeping busy since his retirement as the AKA President last October; well, wonder no longer and the next time you see him be sure to congratulate him on being president of the KTAI (again).

The AKA was honored for the third time in 12 years by the KTAI with the Best Kite Festival award for our convention. This year there was a twist; it was the mass ascensions at our convention that were explicitly named. So a big congratulation to our mass ascension coordinator Al Sparling and his crew for their efforts. Here are all the winners from this years KTAI awards.

- ✓ Best 2006 Kite: Gomberg Kites Dopero
- ✓ Best 2006 Non-Kite Product: William Mark X-Launcher
- ✓ Best Booth: Go Fly A Kite
- ✓ Best New Product: Gomberg Kites WindStinger Pole

- ✓ Best Manufacturer Promotion: Gomberg Kites Mega Flag
- ✓ Best Retail Promotion: Into The Wind Catalog
- ✓ David Checkley Award: Billy Jones
- ✓ Manufacturer of the Year: Revolution Enterprises
- ✓ Outstanding Kite Festival: AKA Convention Ascensions
- ✓ Retailer of the Year: Catch The Wind's Flying Things

The KTAI and AKA have been partners in National Kite Month since it's inception and this year NKM is shaping up into a fantastic event. National Kite Month is March 31 - April 30 and once again, there will be weekly drawings for great prizes. So get your events registered at www.nationalkitemonth.org, and please thank the prize donors for NKM every chance you get: Into the Wind, Go Fly a Kite, Jerry Houk, Donna Houchins, Mike Shaw, Andy Selzer, Paul Fieber and Terry McPherson.

We have some new event organizers participating in NKM this year. Goin' Postal (www.goinpostal.com), a national packing and shipping franchise of over 200 stores, has decided to celebrate National Kite Month with us. Every year Goin' Postal organizes and carries out various family-oriented not-for-profit events in their towns and this year

it's National Kite Month! All of the stores are armed with a copy of our event organizers manual to help them plan their festival. Press releases for the events will feature the AKA and our mission. If you'd like to get involved with these great new festivals contact your Regional Director for more information.

The Board continues to work diligently for you. We are close to selecting a location for the 2008 convention after a long and exhaustive hunt. Big thanks to everyone who suggested sites

and measured potential fields for us. Finding locations with space for 5 flying fields, affordable hotels and convention facilities is no easy task. Approximately five out of every six sites we look at turn out not to have the facilities we need. Help from our members locating those unique sites that fit our needs is an important part of the process.

We have had a change on the Board of Directors this quarter. Please welcome Ben Dantonio as the acting AKA Region Twelve Director. Ben has been active in both local kiting activities in Southern California and the AKA. Ben is excited and looks forward to seeing all of you on the kite field. Ben takes over for Wayne Brooks, who resigned for personal reasons in January. I would like to thank Wayne for his service to the Association and wish good winds to him.

Kiting is a passion best shared; invite someone to join you and your kites on your next kiting adventure!



Susan Skinner and Al Sparling helped organize the Outstanding Kite Festival of 2006.

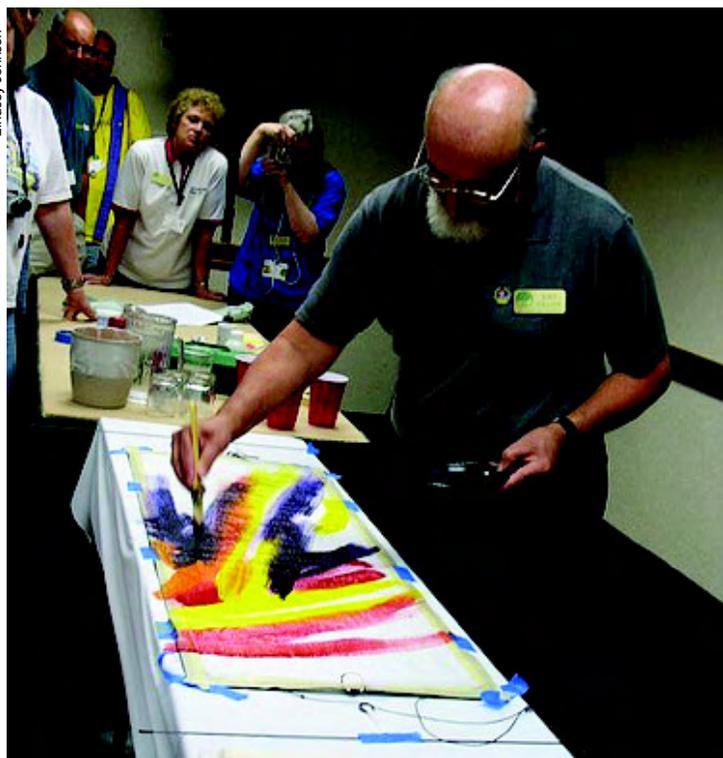
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Painting Acrylic On Nylon

by John Pollock

Painting on kites is not a replacement for appliqué, nor is it something new. Kitemakers have been painting on kites for hundreds of years, but painting on nylon has presented problems. What makes painting on nylon in this way special is its lasting quality. A few years ago I was seeking a method of painting on kite material would result in a more permanent kite than one made from painted paper. After several trials and errors, I came on this method that allows the acrylic paint to adhere and remain flexible on the fabric. I have since found that I am not the only artist/kitemaker that has been using this method, but it has made a big difference in the appearance of my kites.

The product that has made the difference is GAC 900, an acrylic medium made by Golden Acrylics. GAC 900 is made to produce fabric paints from acrylic paints. When this product is added to acrylic paint in a 50/50 ratio and heat set when dry, the paint remains flexible.



Lindsey Johnson

I have been using this method of painting on nylon for about three years, and it has allowed me to create images on kites that are in reality paintings. I can change the value of a color within an area or even change the color itself. I can create the illusion of form and contrast. If I use the right colors and paint them in the right order, I can even create an image that is translucent and glows whether the sun is striking it from the front or the back.

Supplies

I prefer to paint on three quarter ounce ripstop fabric but on larger kites I have used one and a half ounce white ripstop nylon. I have not at this time experimented with



Lindsey Johnson

specific brands of fabric. Be sure that the fabric is two inches wider in both directions than the stretcher bars described below.

The GAC 900 works with any brand of acrylic, but I do advise the use of quality brands. Recently I have been using Golden fluid acrylics and have liked the results. I suggest Golden Acrylics, Liquitex Artist Color, M. Graham and Co., Winsor and Newton, or Grumbacher.

I recommend selecting colors that are the most transparent; the colors will glow when light is coming through it from the back. Opaque colors will lose their intensity, as not as much light will shine through them. Most paint brands will have information on the transparency of their colors. Colors I suggest include Cadmium Yellow Light, Hansa Yellow, Magenta, Quinacridone Crimson, Alizarin Crimson, Phthalo Blue, Prussian Blue and Dioxazine Purple.

continued on page 38

IN BALANCE

by Corey Jensen

This new column, "In Balance," marks the return to *Kiting* of the kiteflying world's philosopher-king, Corey Jensen. He is a past president of the AKA and the owner of WindPower Sports in Nevada.

Howdy Family. It's been awhile since the last time my words graced these pages. I've missed it. Mom would say that absence makes the heart grow fonder. I thought that absence makes the heart go wander. . . . We'll see.

Gripped by the icy fingers of winter, without as many opportunities to fly kites, I find myself recalling the past few years and the great kite moments I've had. From the boisterous AKA gatherings each fall, to the alone times out on the playa where I can commune with wind, every time I fly kites I feel more in balance. It's not what kite I'm flying. It's not who I might be flying with. Not even this or that event. I

think it is the connection between my soul and nature that I find through the wind.

I learned to see the wind when I was a kid, flying big compound box kites and lifting banners that would ripple in the breezes. Like the goblet that becomes the two faces, one day I suddenly saw not ripples of fabric, but waves of wind.

The further I delve into this sport/hobby/passion/game the more I discover that sight alone cannot reveal. Sure the kites can be beautiful, as works of art and as flying devices. But it goes beyond that. The tactile connection through the kite lines, being able to "touch" the wind, adds to the beauty and expands the imagination.

And that is just the kites. . .the stuff. Kite people are even more incredible. Folks I never would have had a chance to meet and get to know. Some, quite frankly, I probably would not have wanted to, except a silly kite

forged a bond that superseded everything else. Political, ethnic, social differences suddenly melted away and we all found common ground.

Let's face it, many of us are somewhat "odd ducks," being adults (at least age-wise), flying kites (considered by lay-people to be children's toys). How marvelous to find we are members of a whole "flock."

After 30 years of doing this organized kite thing, introducing someone to the joys of kiting for the first time is still a thrill. That is another thing we all have in common.

In 1980, at my first AKA convention, Bob Ingraham told me the reason why he had started this club. The simplicity and the purity have resounded in my heart ever since. "I just like to fly kites with my friends"

That's it. That's why I'm here. And the reason I am so grateful to all of you, the members of the AKA, for being my kiteflying friends.

EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Dan Buob

1957-2007

The Edwall, WA, resident was a three-year member of the AKA, and flew with the Lilac City Wind Chasers. Dan and his boys loved flying kites with Grandpa Bill Lester. Dan was working on making his own kite train. Bill always said when he had one of trains up he was fishing for angels, and now has a special one to guide it.

Nancy M. Spencer

1931-2006

I find it hard to talk about Mom without including Dad. They were a team, not just a couple.

Mom and Dad got into kiting some years after me. I was giving Dad kites as presents. They found it interesting that I'd come home with a smile on my face after kiting events and thought this must be something interesting.

When I first started making kites I would not let Mom teach me her seamstress tricks. I had to figure it out

for myself. That's the way I am. Mom was an experienced seamstress and hated not being involved. Then Dad decided to start making kites, he would cut the fabric, have Mom sew it, then he would frame and bridle the gems. This led to a small cottage industry called Shur-Flyte Kites. Sales of their kites paid for the expenses to go to kite events.

I loved when she would call and ask me how to sew a particular detail on a kite. "Geez Mom, you're the seamstress, figure it out". Then I'd give her the explanation of how I would do it., how others have done it, and then she would ask "what's the best way?" Answer: "What ever works for you Mom."

They were two of the original members of the Greater Delaware Valley Kite Society, predecessor to the South Jersey Kite Flyers. They attended their first AKA convention in 1983. They attended many of the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships from 1985 on. They earned many Smithsonian kite festival awards. They were avid supporters of the Sunfest Kite event in Ocean City.



Mom didn't fly kites too often, due to physical problems, but she was always there on the sidelines or boardwalk educating the public about what was going on. I can still hear her yelling from the sidelines, because Dad's staked-off kite was misbehaving and he was too busy talking to someone else to notice.

Mom sewed thousands of kites, deltas and seagulls mostly for their craft fair business. Many personal kites were made as co-op projects. She and Dad had a flare for adapting their personal and past experiences into whimsical and serious flights of fancy.

— Scott Spencer

Navigating Online Forums

by Gary Engvall

There are several online Forums where people gather to discuss kite topics. These Forums are available to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection. Forums are a new and different idea to many people. Like kite flying, they can be as intimidating as they are alluring. Like kite flying, there are lots of great people ready to make the learning curve as easy as possible.

What is a Forum? A Forum is like e-mail,

except *The American Kitefliers Association Kite Talk Forum* that it is

necessary to go somewhere to get the mail instead of it being sent to you automatically. A Forum is not a Chat Room. It doesn't work in 'real time.' Somebody 'posts' a comment or question. When others 'log on' and see the post, they can then post answers or ask questions. Forums can be wonderful tools for discussion. Most Forums can be read just by going to them, without requiring you to Register or Log In. Reading posts can be a great way to become acquainted with Forums before becoming directly involved. It is known as 'lurking' and many people lurk on Groups and Forums and Newsgroups.

How do I learn about using a Forum? Every Forum has a FAQ, a section of Frequently Asked Questions. This should be read by every new user! All of what is in this article is explained in much greater detail, and specific to each Forum, on the Forum's FAQ.

How do I get to a Forum? Start your internet browser to go visit a Forum just like a web page. To get to the AKA Kite Talk Forum, click on the Kite Talk Forum button at www.aka.kite.org.

There's a similar button at www.kitebuilder.com for the Kitebuilders Forum. The Gone With The Wind forum is at www.gwtw-kites.com/forum/.

How do you post on a Forum? In order to post a User needs to Register. The Registration form

on each Forum will ask the User to fill in a Username and Password. These can be whatever the User chooses, or makes up, as long as no one else is already using the same Username.



Okay, you did all that. Now, how do you post? The most frequently used method of Posting is to Reply to a Post that you are reading. In the window that displays the Post, simply click on the Reply button, and a new window will appear in which you can compose a Reply.

The other way to Post is to start a new Topic. That means to find, and click on, the 'New Topic' button. A new

window will pop up, asking you to name the Topic and compose the first Post.

Whichever method you choose, you can type your Post in the window. Then you can click on the 'Preview' button to double-check it before it is Submitted. There is a 'Submit' button in both the Preview pane and the Compose pane. You can submit the Post from either window. Then it is up on the Forum for everyone to see.

Navigation

There are many topics, or boards, on a Forum and it is easy to forget where you are. There is a Status Bar across the top which tells the User what board they are reading at any given time. A popular topic can run for many pages on a Board. It is often a good idea to read all the way to the end of the posts on a board before Replying to one.

Avatars

Forums allow Users to set up Avatars, or pictures, that are automatically put next to their posts. This makes it easy for people reading the

Forum to identify who wrote the post. There are ready-made Avatars available within the Forum to choose from and use. Most Forums allow the User to use their own Avatar as well. To use an Avatar, find the User Profile page. This is easy to set up in the 'Profile' section of most Forums. To do it in the AKA Kite Talk Forum, first click on the 'message

center' button. Then, on the new page, on the left side, click on 'Avatar'. On the Kitebuilders Forum click on the 'Profile' button at the top of the page. This brings up a page where all aspects of a Users profile can be entered or modified. If you go to this page, DON'T PANIC! There are a gazillion things that can be set here.

Signatures

Forums, like e-mail programs, allow Users to set up a signature, or 'Sig', that is automatically placed at the end of each of their Posts. This can be anything the User wants. This is easy to set up in the 'Profile' section of most Forums. To do it in the AKA Kite Talk Forum, first click on the 'message center' button. Then, on the new page, on the left side, click on 'Signature'. On the Kitebuilders Forum click on the 'Profile' button at the top of the page.

AKA Kite Talk Forum

Probably the best place to start is with the AKA Kite Talk Forum. As with most Forums, it can be read without registering or logging in. At the top right of the Kite Talk Forum page is a link to either Register, or to Log In. (Note: normally, when using the AKA web site, your Username is your AKA Member Number, and your Password is your e-mail address. That DOES NOT APPLY to the Kite Talk Forum.) For your Username, make up a name. This will be the name by which everyone will know you and refer to you on the Forum. Some folks use their names, some make up names. Reading the Forum before Registering will familiarize you with Username choices that others have made. Again, you can read the Forum without Registering, but you must Register in order to post, or write anything. Next, make up a password you can remember.

Kitebuilders Forum

The Kitebuilders Forum is hosted by Steve Ferrel of Kite Studio. The Kitebuilders Forum was my first experience with Forums and it has consistently been a good experience. There

continued on page 10

NATIONAL KITE MONTH

This year's National Kite Month will take place from March 31 till April 30, giving us five fantastic weekends of kiteflying happening throughout the world. People will be celebrating the art, sport and educational aspects of our hobby. You are invited to participate in these events but you must let people know about these events. Go to www.nationalkitemonth.org and register your event or help someone who is running an event. The deadline to register your events is April 25, 2007. National Kite Month is the largest outreach campaign for the American Kitefliers Association and the Kite Trade Association International.

National Kite Month is sponsored by the American Kitefliers Association, Kite Trade Association International, Into the Wind and Go Fly a Kite.

What to register? Anything having to do with kites or kite flying. It can be a major kite festival, a small local fly, a get-together of kite flyers, hanging of kites in a school or library, someone giving a talk about kites, club meeting or events, kite slide show, etc. You get the idea, anything dealing with our pastime. Once you get your event together, register it, and we can start publicizing it and get you in the running for fantastic prizes.

Our goal this year is to register 600 events but we cannot do this without your help. Plan, schedule and register your events on the National Kite Month Website. This year there will be all kinds of prizes, and once you register you are automatically entered for weekly drawings that will start in March and end the last weekend of April. The prizes were donated by Into the Wind and Go Fly a Kite. There will be

Grand Prizes for:

- most events registered by an individual
- most events registered by a club
- most events in a region
- under 18 running an event
- most Kite Workshops.

Kitemakers who are committed to making prize kites are: Jerry Houk, Donna Houchins, Mike Shaw, Andy Selzer, Paul Fieber and Terry McPherson. Grand Prize winners will be limited to one per person. Back by popular demand, registered events will also each receive four "I (Heart) Kite" bumper stickers.

While you are registering your event, check out all the resources that are available to you on the www.nationalkitemonth.org website. There is:

- ✓ what is National Kite Month
- ✓ resources for teachers
- ✓ kite fun for kids
- ✓ kite history
- ✓ *Kite Events Organizer's Manual*
- ✓ 10 Commandments of Kiting
- ✓ help to organize an event, faq's
- ✓ where to buy kites
- ✓ kite plans.

Got a question that needs an answer, contact Mike Dallmer admin@NationalKiteMonth.org or 215/722-4092. While you are at the website you can also download and print the posters that won our NKM contest, designed by Gregg Mazzotta (at left) and Jennifer Teichman (at right). You can print out as many of these posters as you need and hang them all over, the more the merrier. You can also purchase pre-printed 16" x 20" posters from the AKA's CafePress store for a small fee.

So get those events registered and spread the word of our fantastic hobby.

NKM Proclamations

by Rick Hawkins

What does it take to be a participant in National Kite Month? It's a simple question with lots of answers. To begin to answer the question you have to understand exactly what National Kite Month is. In 1999 the American Kitefliers Association and the Kite Trade Association International began a program to promote kiting during April. The www.Nationalkitemonth.org website was launched as a collection of information for AKA members and the public. On the site you'll find a calendar publicizing events all over the country. The added bonus besides the smiles on the kids' faces from being able to take part in this celebration is the chance to win prizes. Each time you register an event your name is put into a drawing for prizes.

In 2005 an organized effort to get official recognition of the activities of kitefliers was begun. Local governments were asked to declare April to be National Kite Month in their area to show support for the activities that were being conducted. After garnering 23 proclamations last year, this

National Kite Month

April 2007

AKA

KTAI

go fly a kite

Event: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Sponsor: _____

© GREGG MAZZOTTA

year we are expanding the attempt to gather proclamations from throughout the Country.

This year we will be requesting the Proclamations on the state level and asking for the assistance of members to sponsor their State request. To assist in requesting a proclamation an information packet is available for download at the NKM website. The packet includes a sample letter of introduction along with a press release and the sample Proclamation. You may use these directly or submit your own. There are several methods used to request your Proclamation depending on your local requirements. The easiest is to check your local Government website for instructions. Larger cities require a 45-60 day advance notice to process your requests so you should allow plenty of time to complete the process. When requesting the Proclamation you might also ask if a second copy is available to be retained by the club. You may also be able to request a formal presentation instead of mailing it to you. If you choose to have a photo opportunity you will want to notify the local press or provide your own photographer to use the event as an additional way to advertise your NKM activities. You might also make available a copy of the Proclamation to local Visitors Centers and Chamber of Commerce offices to make people aware of kiting activities in the area. You might be surprised at the help that's available if you just ask. Remember, kiting is a family friendly, non-polluting, healthy educational, outdoor oriented and fun activity.

Don't forget to e-mail proclamations@Nationalkitemonth.org to register the receipt of your Proclamation. You may e-mail a file copy of the proclamation to enter the contest and then at the completion of your activities submit the original for use in the display at the National Convention. The Original Proclamations may be returned after the convention if requested.





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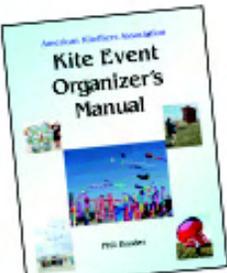
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Kite Event Organizer's Manual \$7.49



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FLYSPOTS

Lynn Shores and Nahant Beach

by Gregg Mazzotta

This new column takes a quick look at your favorite places to fly. If you'd like to submit a Flyspot, contact Phil Broder at kiting.ed@aka.kite.org or 609/465-6575 for details.

If you are into kiteboarding, bugging, kite skateboarding and kiteflying then make a trip to the Lynn Shores and Nahant Beach, not far from Boston, Massachusetts. Three connected beaches are open year round, dawn to dusk, with public swimming at Long Beach. There is a \$3 parking fee.



An expansive seascape can be viewed from over four miles of public waterfront. A promenade extends along the two-mile length of the two reservations at the edge of Nahant Bay and is available year round for activities such as walking, jogging, rollerblading and bicycling. What makes this place so special for kite bugging and kite skateboarding is the long and wide vast areas of smooth hard-packed sand exposed at low tide. Buggiers and skateboarders can quickly reach high speeds. Kitefliers benefit from unobstructed winds from all directions. After Labor Day the beach is deserted, giving kite flyers access to the whole beach! For more information on Lynn Shores and Nahant Beach Reservation go to www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/lynnshores.htm.



Online Forums, continued

are many friendly and talented people there of all skill levels who are more than happy to help people of all skill levels. Near the top right of the Welcome page of the Kitebuilder Forum is a button to click on to Register.

Gone With the Wind Forum

In the GWTW Forum, clicking on "Do I have to Register?" takes you directly to the FAQ! It is frequented mostly by multi-line sport kite builders and flyers. This is a great place to discuss the latest trick, or how to accomplish a certain trick.

Code, HTML and all that scary stuff

Okay, you've been reading the posts on some of the Forums and it's apparent that sometimes people quote just part of someone's post to show what they are answering. Or some people include pictures in their post, or set up links to other pages. The first thing to know is that you can post perfectly well and you can get good use out of any Forum without knowing code or HTML. But, if you want to know how to use it to enhance your posts, it is there in the FAQ. For the most part, quoting posts and using links is as easy as clicking on a button in the Compose

window. It is done differently on different Forums.

Forums are a lot like kite flying. If everyone knew how easy and fun it was, everyone would be doing it. Like kite flying, getting in there and getting your hands dirty is the best way to experience everything it has to offer. In a short article, it isn't easy to include all the 'ins and outs' that make using a Forum easy and fun. There is a web page at: <http://members.cox.net/kiter/forum.shtml> that covers these topics in more detail. There are also links there to take you directly to the Forums when you click on them.

AKA NEWS

Your Own Cover Photo

Would you like to see your kite, or your face – or your kids, grandkids, pets' faces – or whatever you choose on the cover of *Kiting*? Now you can, with new Custom Covers. All you need is a digital photo at least 9" x 12" and \$30, and the AKA can create a one-of-a-kind framed color magazine cover for you. It will feature the *Kiting* masthead over your photo, as well as any text you choose. Need to surprise someone on their birthday? Make a nice award for someone in your club? A Christmas present they'll never forget? Contact Mel Hickman at xd@aka.kite.org or 800/252-2550 to place your order today.



fields and the host hotel are within walking distance of one another. The Shilo Inn Suites will host our lodging, Pre-Registration, Welcome Reception, Bag Raffle (though you KNOW Marla will be everywhere!), Workshops and our newest event, the Evening Meet and Greet! All the other programs including Onsite Registration, Auction, Fly Mart, Kite Gallery, Indoor Fly, Business Meeting, Auction and Awards Banquet will be held at the new Ocean Shores Convention Center.

Competitions will be on the beautiful beaches of Ocean Shores. You can even see some of the fields from the Shilo Inn Suites! The next issue of *Kiting* will have your convention registration form and complete details on the event. For those of you who love the ease and convenience of registering online, internet registration will open

the same time as the magazine is delivered.

Keep tuned to the AKA website, where we will be adding new details, including RV Park information, tourism-related sites and additional information on travel from Seattle or Portland.

- www.shiloinns.com/Washington/ocean_Shores.html
- www.oceanshoresconventioncenter.com/floorplans.aspx

Way Cool Workshops

Please consider sharing your expertise at the convention by teaching a workshop session. Perhaps you are skilled at festival organization or festival fundraising. Maybe public relations is your forte. Do you have skills that you can share in fighter kite, sport kite, or single line flying? Do you know someone who would be perfect to teach a session? Contact Deb Lenzen at workshops@aka.kite.org with your ideas.

Convention Turns 30

Make your plans today to attend the hottest kiting event of the year: AKA's 30th Annual Grand National Competition and Convention, October 1-6. For those of you already thinking of autumn, you may want to visit some of the websites for our convention in Ocean Shores, Washington.

All convention programs, flying

Aerial Inquiry

What was the first kite you flew this spring?

E-mail your answer (25 words or less, please) to kiting.ed@aka.kite.org by May 1. We'll feature your answers in the next issue and on the KiteTalk Forum, and ask a new question.



Membership Application

- New Member Register me as a Member Merchant
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My primary interest is: all kinds of kites single-line kites multi-line kites

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Blowing Your Own Horn

by Arnold Stellema

Announcing a kite festival is a bit like juggling cats: even if you know how to juggle, the cats have a mind of their own. At any typical moment, you're cueing music, thanking sponsors, and rearranging the schedule, all while trying to say something interesting about each of the kites and fliers. People walk up constantly and ask questions (sometimes while you are talking on the mic!) and you direct them to kids kitemaking, tell them the candy drop is scheduled for 2:00, or reassure them that yes indeed the teams will fly once more this afternoon. You get handed scraps of paper that say things like "don't forget to plug the raffle/AKA/t-shirt sales." By halfway through the day you have CDs piled everywhere, notes scribbled on anything that won't blow away, and several clipboards holding the really important things like sponsor lists and the schedule. As such, at any given time most announcers are only half paying attention to the words coming out of their mouth. Frightening, isn't it?

It's true, we are often winging it, making up whatever comes to mind in order to talk long enough for the CD to cue and the flyer to start.

Sometimes it's easy. If you know the flyer well, most announcers can do a great job of emphasizing the difficulty of what the public is seeing and touting the accomplishments of the kiter. Often, however, the only thing the announcer knows about the flier is her name. This leads to wonderfully informative commentaries like, "And it appears Mary is flying a Prism Kite. Those kites are made in the USA, right up in Seattle." Experienced sport kite fliers who travel to many festivals are practiced at this and provide a bio that highlights their experiences in kiting, competitive accomplishments and sponsors. A quick read-through and the announcer has the tools to help the audience recognize what a privilege it is to be able to watch this flier, because if they weren't here, they would be somewhere else competing

and drowning in ribbons and trophies.

When it comes to handcrafted kites and kitemakers, very few travel with a bio. As a result the announcer makes things up and offers brilliant observations like, "Great use of color, that kite really stands out in the sky!" We can do better. I have spent enough time sitting in bars with kitemakers to know we are not quiet and unopinionated. We are passionate about what we do and most of us believe that we bring something to the creative process that makes our kites unique. We are only too happy to bend your ear for an hour or two about our



creations. Yet on the festival field we put our kites in the air and let them speak for themselves. Meanwhile the announcer is desperately trying to find things to say!

So write your own bio. First things first: lose the first person. I know it seems strange to write about yourself in third person, but you won't be reading it. Keep the paragraphs of text to a minimum; most announcers prefer to talk as opposed to reading. Bullet points with facts and accomplishments work much better. The announcer can pick and choose weaving a story in their own voice. Plus when you come out again later in the day they can choose different facts and keep the commentary interesting to those who watch the whole day.

For those who are very accomplished, long lists of years and awards

are tedious and hard to announce. Two or three highlights convey the scale of accomplishments much better. List retreats you have taught; this gives the announcer a chance to plug the kitemaking workshops happening in your area. If you travel, be sure to include a list of countries you have been invited to fly in. Spectators often have no idea how developed the world kite community is and finding out you were invited to France or Malaysia, or that you spent a week in Denmark, or went on a kitemakers tour of Japan is both impressive and interesting.

Write bios for your kites. If possible, print a thumbnail of the kite to help the announcer recognize it. Keep in mind that depending on wind and the field layout sometimes the announcer is on the side of the field and all they can see is the edge of your kite. Again, bullet points are best: name of the kite, year it was made, awards it won, inspiration for the design. Now, add some gee-whiz stuff for the audience. How many layers of fabric in the applique? How many hours of sewing? How many feet of

bridle on the edo? How many hundreds of dollars of spars in the big cellular? These facts bring the kite to life for the audience and help them understand what a labor of love this is to you. Mary Gabby once told me there were "seven football fields of thread" in just one kite — that's a fun fact. Your kite has a story to tell, and you can help the announcer tell it. You don't need to feel like you're bragging, the announcer will

brag for you! All you need to do is spend a few minutes at home putting a handful of facts together. Then when the announcer builds you up as the world's greatest kitemaker all you need to do is put on your best "awww schucks" expression.

You spend hundreds of hours making kites, shouldn't you spend a little time making sure everyone truly appreciates them? The first step to being famous is to declare yourself famous, then tell everyone who will listen.





Surrealism on painted nylon: the colorful work of Quebec's Jacques Letourneau.



I did not have any experience in the world of kites, but it was a great pleasure for me to discover this world. I am an art teacher, and when I retired I was looking for a new medium. I live near a very good "kite boutique," so I thought I could paint kites. After researching, I discovered a technique to paint on nylon, with appropriate matériels. I have been doing this for five years and it became my favorite hobby.

My favorite subjects are the seasons, time, figures and an atmosphere of surrealism. I like that my drawings can suggest different meaning for the people who look at them. The form of the kite inspires the design.

My way of working is:

1. Choose the kite: rokkaku, eddy, or stunt kite.



2. Conception of the design in a small size that I enlarge with a projector.
3. For a single line kite, I build the kite, then I paint it.
4. For the stunt kites I partially build them, then paint them, and at last I do the finishing.

The fabric is $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce ripstop chirkara nylon, and some time icarex $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, washed with acetone to clean off dirt and oil.

I like very much to mix techniques for the color application. I use brushes, sponges, airbrush, and fingers. I also use an ink "resist," similar to batik. I paint the areas I want to remain uncoated with a hot wax, then apply paint. Finally, I melt the wax to leave unaltered areas. Sometimes I've used masking tape or gum arabic on areas that I want to keep from being altered by the next layer of color. Like rubber cement, you can peel it off when you're done. A variety of materi-

als with interesting mask patterns, like feathers and lace, are also used.

The paint I am using is transparent Pebeo's setacolor. The light can be seen through it, so I have to work on a light table to see the thickness of the paint I apply. The shadings are made with different thicknesses of color. Colors need to be built up in successive layers to get



the desired level of saturation.

Each color must be heat set before the next layer is applied. You need the hottest temperature you can get without melting the nylon. To fix the color I cook them in the oven at 290° - 325° for five minutes.

The next step for me will be to create my own form of kite.



AFFILIATED CLUBS

For club information or to update your club, contact clubs@aka.kite.org or 800/252-2550. For specific information about club activities, please contact each club directly.

Alabama

Field Of Strings
Baileyton, AL
35019
Sandy Smith 256/796-9069
smsmith@corrcomm.net

California

Candy And Kites Kite Club
Bodega Bay, CA
David Love 707/875-3777
david@candyandkites.com

N. American Fighter Kite Assn.
Granada Hills, CA
Gina Hsiung 818/366-4852
ghsiung@csun.edu
www.fighterkites.org

Up Up And Away Kite Club
Los Alamitos, CA
Janis Sabic 562/431-1746
jay.janis@verizon.net

Bay Area Sport Kite League
Martinez, CA
Tracy Erzin
info@baskl.org
www.baskl.org

San Diego Kite Club
San Diego, CA
Bill Pietrusza 619/466-2219
president@sandiegokiteclub.com
www.sandiegokiteclub.com

Northern California Kite Club
San Ramon, CA
Brian Champie 925/829-0683
bchampie@earthlink.net
www.kitefart.com/nckc/
index.htm

Colorado

Foothills Kite Club
Denver, CO
Kathy Wolfe 303/477-4157
flyawaykat7@aol.com
www.foothillskiteclub.com

Connecticut

Connectikites
Ansonia, CT
Dave Lombard 203/732-5243
info@connectikites.org
www.connectikites.org/

Harkness Stuntkites
Uncasville, CT
James Stuhler
kitestu@wmconnect.com

Florida

Sunset Flyers
Clearwater, FL
Steve Pigeon 727/461-6689
sunsetflyers@msn.com

Treasure Island Sport Kite Klub
Dade City, FL
Gary Resnick 352/588-4202
garyresnick@earthlink.net
www.kites.org/tiskk

St. Augustine Sport Kite Club
Saint Augustine, FL
Rob Autrey
pyroflyer@hotmail.com
www.saskc.net

Central Florida Cloud Chasers
The Villages, FL
Barbara Hall 352/259-9768
bahkiter@thevillages.net

Illinois

Illinois Kite Enthusiasts
Champaign, IL
kitemike@gmail.com
www.ikeclub.org

Chicagoland Sky Liners
Chicago, IL
Charlie Sotich 773/735-7353
http://thebigkiteguy.com/
skyliners/index.html

Indiana

Hoosier Kitefliers Society
Russiaville, IN
Dick Claycomb 765/348-3711
daclaycomb@hotmail.com
www.hoosierkite.org

Kansas

Topeka Kite Fliers
Topeka, KS
Bob Homan
bjhoman@msn.com
www.crosswinds.net/~tkf/

Kentucky

Kitefliers In Central Kentucky
Winchester, KY
Byron Bell 859/987-3563
jandb500@yahoo.com

Louisiana

Red Stick Kites
Zachary, LA
Joseph Meaux 225/654-5180
redstickkites@aol.com
www.redstickkites.com

Massachusetts

Kites Over New England
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Susanne Boyle 978/256-8205
just_fly@comcast.net
www.kone.org

Maryland

Wings Over Washington
Germantown, MD
Barbara Birnman 301/972-9289
pr122624@box-p.nih.gov
www.wowkiteclub.com

Maryland Kite Society
Potomac, MD
Jon Burkhardt 301/424-6976
takokichi@comcast.net
www.mdkites.org

Michigan

Mid-Michigan String Stretchers
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Ken Blain 616/676-5980
kblain@dnx.net

Tri-State Windriders
Coldwater, MI
John Arnold
jsarnold@cpbu.com
www.tristatewindriders.com

Kazoo Stringfellows
Kalamazoo, MI
John Cosby 269/345-5432
elainejohncosby@yahoo.com

4 Seasons Kite Club
Walled Lake, MI
Lynn Gipson 248/505-6212
lynnieg1943@comcast.net
www.4skc.com

Minnesota

Minnesota Kite Society
Minneapolis, MN
Ken Wilkowski 763/536-8552
info@mnkites.org
www.mnkites.org/

Missouri

Kansas City Kite Club
Blue Springs, MO
Linda Larkey
webmaster@kckiteclub.org
www.kckiteclub.org

Gateway Kite Club
Washington, MO
Donna Houchins
gatewaykites@gmail.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/gkc-stl/

North Carolina

Wings Across Carolina Kiting
And Okra Society
Charlotte, NC
Jim Martin 704/535-4696
JMartJr@carolina.rr.com
www.wackos.org

North Dakota

Wings On Strings Kite Club
Jamestown, ND
Mike Gee
cdodson@csicable.net
www.wingsonstrings.org

Nebraska

Midwest Winds Kitefliers Club
Omaha, NE
Bruce Kenkel
kenkel31@cox.net
www.midwestwindkitefliers.org

New Jersey

South Jersey Kite Flyers
Collingswood, NJ
Mike Dallmer 215/722-4092
mikedallmer@comcast.net
www.geocities.com/sjkf-geo

Liberty High Spirits Of 14B
Rochelle Park, NJ
Kurtis Jones 201/489-7186
oparadis@verizon.net
http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/lhso14b

New York

Great Lakes Kitefliers Society
Buffalo, NY
Russell Kelly 716/649-5364
kitemanruss@yahoo.com
www.flyglks.com

New York Kite Enthusiasts
East Berne, NY
Jeremy Johannesen 518/872-0990
nykites@yahoo.com
www.nyke.org

Ohio

PIGS Aloft
Cincinnati, OH
Jerry McGuire 513/831-8379
weflykites@cinci.rr.com

Black Swamp Air Force
Perrysburg, OH
Kevin Kilgoar
bsaf@adelphia.net
www.bsaf.org

Ohio Society for the
Elevation of Kites
Poland, OH
Tom Kear 330/757-2568
osek-cleve@adelphia.net
www.osekleveland.org

Oklahoma

Tulsa WindRiders
Tulsa, OK
Larry Stiles 918/630-9334

cgabrel@swbell.net

www.whidbeykiteclub.org

Oregon

Lady Kiteflyers
Eugene, OR
Miriam Schafner 541/344-2113
mirnate@aol.com

Associated Oregon Kitefliers
Portland, OR
Deb Cooley 541/996-4627
tucoolkites@earthlink.net

Rogue Valley Windchasers
Rogue River, OR
Randy Fabich 541/582-4220
windchasers@charter.net
www.windchasers.org

Pennsylvania

Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club
Baden, PA
Con Engels 724/869-4488
conengels@kitemail.com
www.windstarkites.com/
FlyPghKiteClub.htm

Keystone Kites
Camp Hill, PA
Todd Little 717/975-2852
rokkaku6@aol.com
www.keystonekites.com

Lehigh Valley Kite Society
Lehigh Valley, PA
Paul Keeler 610/865-0375
info@lehighvalleykitesociety.org
www.lehighvalleykitesociety.org

Texas

Wind Weavers
Abilene, TX
Judy Kingery 915/692-5927
judyabilene@aol.com

S. Padre Island Kite Enthusiasts
Harlingen, TX
Jeff McCown
dmccown@rgv.rr.com
www.pirates.dwebz.net

Central Texas Cloud Chasers
Marble Falls, TX
Gayle Woodul
drgayle@tstar.net

South Houston Area
Recreational Kites
Pearland, TX
Spence Wikel 281/992-9291
kiteshark@flash.net
www.kiteshark.org

Coastal Bend Sky Pirates
Rockport, TX
Dano Wright 361/790-0011
dano@windsongkite.com
www.skypiratesonline.org

Dallas Area Kitefliers
Organization
Rowlett, TX
Trung Tran 972/412-1273
dakousa@gmail.com
www.dako.us

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Richmond Air Force
Richmond, VA
Charles Stonestreet 804/271-4433
rafl@mindspring.com
www.richmondairforce.com

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Whidbey Island Kite Flyers
Coupeville, WA
Lisa Root 360/678-7052
root0208@aol.com

Lavender Winds
Ocean Park, WA
Brian Bradley 360/665-2538
kitebear@aol.com
http://members.aol.com/
kitebear

North Coast Sky Painters
Ocean Shores, WA
Monica Barber 360/289-4889
flying@cuttingedgekites.com

Northwest Sport Kite League
Ocean Shores, WA
Jim Landers 509/679-3444
pres@nwskl.org
www.nwskl.org

Westport Windriders
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Bary Crites 360/491-8605
bearkites@aol.com
www.westportwindriders.org

Pierce County Kiteflyers Assn.
Puyallup, WA
Scott Davis 253/847-8201
prez@pcka.org
www.pcka.org

Ben Franklin Kite Society
Richland, WA
Larry Zilar 509/627-6751
zilarlm@charter.net

Washington Kitefliers Assn.
Seattle, WA
Sylvia Bernauer 425/822-4605
www.WKA-Kiteflyers.org

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Bill Cox 509/327-7974
cxbil@aol.com

River City Fliers
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www.windriders.niagara.com/

Indonesia

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North Jakarta
James A. Kekenusa
kekenusa@rad.net.id

United Kingdom
White Horse Kite Flyers
Swindon
Dave Robinson
info@whkf.org.uk
www.whkf.org.uk

EVENT CALENDAR

AKA sanctioned events
are listed in **BOLD**

March 24

Indoor Kite Fly
Nat'l Air & Space Mus.
Washington, DC
Margo Brown
301/890-1178

March 31

Smithsonian Kite Fest
Washington Monument
Washington, DC
Jon Burkhardt
301/424-6976
www.kitefestival.org

March 31 - April 1

Cloudbuster Kite Fest
Mitchell RV Park
Perrin, TX
Doris Reed
940/798-4615
mitchellrvpk@yahoo.com

Kite Fest Louisiane'
West Baton Rouge
Soccer Complex
Port Allen, LA
Leslie Davis
225/667-3911
kitefest@bellsouth.net

Lincoln City Indoor Fest
Taft High School
Lincoln City, OR
800/452-2151
events@lincolncity.org

April 7

Roseville Kite Festival
Buljan Park
Roseville, CA
Bob Bell
916/722-2922
sohr1@comcast.net

April 14

Arvada Kite Day
Ferrufino Park
Arvada, CO
Mike Shaw
303/232-0950
mwray.shaw@comcast.net

April 14-15

Airwaves Kite Festival
VOA Park
Cincinnati, OH
Jerry McGuire
513/703-1088
weflykites@cinci.rr.com

April 21

BASKL Competition
Baylands Park
Sunnyvale, CA
John Gillespie
415/927 7430
jgg@marindv.com

April 21-22

Great N. TX Kite Fest
Valley Ridge Park
Cedar Hill, TX
Gloria Harmon
972/880-0520
kitemobile2@sbcglobal.net

April 27-29

Morro Bay Kite Festival
Morro Bay, CA
Shaun Farmer
805/772-0113

MD Int'l Kite Expo and

Mid-Atlantic SKC
Ocean City, MD
Beatrix Pelton
732/822 4884
bfpelton@yahoo.com

April 28

BASKL Fighter Comp.
Caesar Chavez Park
Berkeley, CA
John Gillespie
415/927 7430
jgg@marindv.com

May 5

Kites Over Grinnell
Grinnell, IA
Dick and Sis Vogel
641/990-0801
dicknsis@yahoo.com

Kite Day In The Park
Louise Moore Park
Easton, PA
Paul Keeler
610/865-0375

May 5-6

Kites Over Lake Storey
Galesburg, IL
Mary Turnquist
309/345-3604
www.ci.galesburg.il.us.com

Northwest SKC
West Delta Park
Portland, OR

360/695-9646
theresa@thekiteshoppe.com

May 19

BASKL Competition
Crissy Field, GGNRA
San Francisco, CA
John Gillespie
415/927 7430
jgg@marindv.com

May 20

GLKS Paint The Sky
LaSalle Park
Buffalo, NY
Russell W. Kelly
716/649-5364
kitemanruss@yahoo.com

May 25-28

Skydance Sakakawea
Kite Festival
Ft. Stevenson Park
Garrison, ND
Deb Lenzen
701/463-2661
skydance@rtc.coop

Wildwoods Int'l Kite Fest
and East Coast SKC

Wildwood, NJ
Beatrix Pelton
732/822 4884
bfpelton@yahoo.com

Junction Kitemaker's
Retreat

Texas Tech University
Junction, TX
Judy Kingery
325/692-5927
Judyabilene@aol.com

June 2-3

Tawas Bay Kite Fest
East Tawas, MI
Mike Modrzynski
989/362-8643
mike@tawas.com

**Check the event calendars at www.aka.kite.org
and www.nationalkitemonth.org for updated info!**

AKA sanctioning is available for kite events within the United States and Canada. AKA sanctioning means that AKA members are involved in the administration of the event, that the AKA endorses and approves the event and that those involved in staging and supervising the event qualify for limited coverage under the AKA's liability insurance policy.

Coverage limits:

- \$1,000,000 per occurrence (\$100,000 for non-member claimants)
- Fire legal liability: \$300,000
- Traction kiting activities such as, but not limited to, kite surfing, buggying, and kite skiing are excluded from coverage.

AKA sanctioning is awarded for a kite event of a specific date and time or, through the club affiliation fee, for recurring club events for which the Chair and activities remain constant. A standard certificate of coverage is available upon request.

Sanctioning is automatically nullified by an illegal action by the sponsor or Chair as regards the sanctioned event.

News releases or announcements may not indicate that AKA approves or endorses an event unless and until sanctioning has been granted in writing.

AKA strongly recommends that events have participants sign a waiver and release of liability. It will not affect the level of coverage, but will add another layer of protection for event organizers and participants.

AKA sanctioning costs \$75. Find additional information at www.aka.kite.org/sanction.shtml or by calling 800/AKA-2550.

THE SPORTING LIFE

Hi, I'm Jim Barber from Team Cutting Edge, 2005 and 2006 World Champions. I've recently been assigned the position of Chairperson of the AKA Sport Kite Committee, and along with the position came the request that I submit occasional articles to one of my favorite magazines, AKA's *Kiting*. As I ponder over what I should write about, it became clear that it is going to have to be competitive kite flying, and mostly pairs/team competitive flying, as that is where my level of expertise lies. I have taught several classes on pairs/team flying, some at AKA Conventions, some for the North West Sport Kite League. I have also worked with several pairs and teams on the beach helping them to take that next step to be more competitive.

When I first started out in 1994 with Team Don't Panic!, it was customary for other competitors not to share their knowledge and that you learned by your mistakes, some of which you just kept making over and over again. It took a lot longer then for competitors to get better at their craft, as there was no videos available, few books, and little help from fellow competitors.

Then I met Brian Champie at Berkeley, and oh my gosh, he was showing other fliers how to do things like wing tip landings, axles, and other tricks just coming into the arena. He spent some time showing me how to do the Black Hole, an impressive name for a wing tip landing done with a lot of authority. I then showed the rest of the team how to do it, and it completely changed how we wrote our routines, and how we approached them, now knowing we could land at any time and anywhere in the window. We became more competitive overnight, and flew with a lot more confidence. I was so impressed with the way that Brian helped us that I have carried on the tradition ever since, I am very hopeful that I have made as much of an impact for other fliers as Brian made for me.

One of the first questions I often get asked in my classes is if I was putting together a team, how would I pick the other members? Lots of people are surprised when I say I don't really look at flying ability, or for past experience in team flying. The person will need good solid basic flying technique, but more important, the willingness to learn. What I do look for is commitment, personality, and shared likeness of goals.

The first decision made is "what are the goals for this team? Are we working to do demos, or experienced level regional competitions with an eye on possibly going to the AKA Grand Nationals, or



Jim Barber flanked by teammates Rick Wolcott and Jerry Cannon.

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going all out in Masters with the hope of winning the AKAGN and going to the World Championships. Starting with the same goal for the team removes a lot of chance for possible clashes later. Once this decision is made, I can look for people that have the same goal.

Next is personality. Am I putting people together in a pressure cooker (believe me, in large arenas such as Berck-sur-mer, France, where there are 200,000 people or more, television cameras, and other media all watching you, it is a pressure cooker) that under stress are going to explode at each other? I have seen huge arguments on the field during competitions, some bad enough that the fliers refused to fly with each other again. So, I look at the personalities, spend a lot of time talking with the people and trying to get a feel for how they approach stressful situations, and I watch them while they are on the competition field so I can see how they react when things go wrong (and believe me, for a team, things are always just waiting to go wrong).

Third is commitment. Does the flier have the time and willingness to make the commitment to whatever goal the team opts for. They need to take their time with this one, checking with family members, spouses, and pets to make sure that the practice schedule needed to reach the teams goal will be acceptable. It can be very frustrating to spend months together working on timing, spacing, speed control and other team skills to have a flier tell you that they are getting a lot of flack at home and will either have to practice less, or quit the team. It's best to cover as much of this as possible before practices begin.

Team flying can be one of the most rewarding things a flier can do. You work very hard together, and you share the failures and successes as a team. Once it all starts to gel, when the hours put in start to show with good results you will often be shaking hands and hugging each other. Sharing a big victory with team members has always been much more fulfilling then the victories I achieved solo flying. Your team members all know how much hard work and time went into the victory, you don't need to try to explain it, they all have the same feeling.

Team Cutting Edge also had a simple rule: if there was a mistake that cost us a position, the team made the mistake, not an individual flier, and when there was a success, the team succeeded, not an individual flier. In team flying, catastrophes are always just waiting to happen, there are so many more lurking problems than when you are flying solo, so it is good for all the personalities to shoulder blame and success together. No yelling at someone for not being where they were supposed to during a performance, or kites crashing into each other because someones brain took a momentary vacation at the wrong time. It was the team, not the person. This is just something that worked well for us, kept a lot of slouching shoulders from happening. Now, if someone is often not where they are supposed to be, then you need to address that, I'm talking about the occasional "oops" during competitions. Hopefully with lots of solid practices, these become less and less.

Now, there's lots of things we can talk about from here.

- How to have good quality practices?
- How to choose kites?
- Flying staggered or the same length lines, and how long should they be?
- How to decide who flies in what position, and who calls.
- How to call, how to develop timing so everyone is turning at the same time.

There are many more areas that we can talk about in future articles. I'd like to do is have you, the readers, send any questions you may have, and we can cover them as a large group so more people may benefit from the discussion.

E-mail your questions to sportkite@aka.kite.org, and we'll answer them in the next issue.

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Fightin' Words

by Jay Bell

We all like to see kites in the media whether it's in a car advertisement on TV, in the plot of a book, or as part of the action in a movie. In addition, we are always looking for "hooks" to get other people interested in our sport. Well, a fairly recent book included kites as a major part of the storyline and is affording a great opportunity to further interest in kites for the general public.

technic State University, San Jose State University, and California State University East Bay have assigned their incoming freshmen to read the book and join study groups to discuss it's core messages. Through the Drachen Foundation, I was fortunate enough to be asked to present kite workshops to coincide with these book stud-

ies. My artist wife, Kathy, agreed to play a major role in the "make-it"

part of the workshops.

The schools purchased 30 Fusion fighter kites, relatively inexpensive North American style fighters, designed by Bruce Lambert and produced in India. The kites come unbridled and benefit from some tape reinforcement. In the workshop, partici-

pants learned about fighter kites and the related competitions worldwide and were shown examples of fighters from a wide variety of countries. They were also told about competitions in other countries, which often includes flying medium to large sized fighters on long glass-coated lines. The goal is to cut the lines of the other fliers, until one's kite is the only one in the sky. It was then explained how fighter kites have morphed in North America to use smaller kites, on shorter uncoated lines against a single opponent at a time. The goal in North America is for each

competitor to be the first to contact the top or bottom of the other flier's line. In the workshop, participants were then led through the steps of reinforcing, bridling, and table tuning their Fusion fighters. Following this, everyone went to a flying field to see a demonstration of how fighter kites are flown and have a chance to fly their own. Other members of the student body, staff, faculty, and the general public were also invited to watch the outdoor demonstration.

The Kite Runner gives us the opportunity to see kites in the media and get others interested in our sport. And it's not over yet. San Jose State University received permission to produce a play based on the book, to be performed in late February and early March 2007. And Dreamworks is turning the book into a movie to be released in November 2007, with considerable technical advice from our kiting community's own Basir Beria. Read the book, see the movie, and use both to further our sport.



Cal Poly University



Cal Poly University

The book is *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, an Afghani-American who has included fighter kites in the plot. Early chapters of the book tell of Amir, a well-to-do young person in Afghanistan and his servant/friend, Hassan. One aspect of their relationship is Amir's skill at cutting other fighter kites out of the sky in competition matched with Hassan's skill at running after the falling kites as trophies for Amir. One fateful day, Amir has won a contest and Hassan has run down the last fighter kite cut out of the sky by Amir. At this point, Amir witnesses a confrontation between Hassan and some cruel boys. Amir is faced with deciding how to respond and, in doing so, discovers one of the book's primary messages: "A decision at a fork in life's road can have a lasting impact on a person's life and the lives of others."

Based on the popularity of the book and it's focus on a variety of social, political, and psychological aspects, some communities and colleges have chosen to employ it as a centerpiece for community-wide and/or campus-wide book studies. In central California, California Poly-

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CIRCOFLEX BY DAVID ELLIS

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Kites In Afghanistan, Part 2 by Elizabeth Ames

I thought I had had a bad day. Things had not gone well at work, and I arrived home completely drained and discouraged. Trying desperately to come up with something to fix for dinner and looking at the overflowing laundry basket, I paid little attention to the package on the counter. The self-study books I had ordered must have arrived. Great, the last thing I wanted do was something else related to work.

I was in the back of the house when Harold asked if I remembered when we had sent the kites to Afghanistan. It was a couple of months ago. Oh no, I thought. We must have addressed it incorrectly and that package must be the returned kites just now getting back to us. "You need to come open this," he said. Huh? Curious, I headed back to the kitchen.

The return label indicated a Scott Sinclair and an APO address. Was that the same person to whom we had mailed the kites? Opening the package, I was immediately overcome. An

and women putting their lives on the line daily, in a foreign land, taking the time to fly a flag for us, when all we had done was send a few kites their way. Such a small thing we did, such a big thing that they do, and they're thanking us! Talk about putting things in perspective. Strengthened by their grateful attitude, I continued the rest of the evening, humbled, thankful, and renewed in my own courage.

We, in turn, want to thank Jim Hodges of Sky Jewels Kite Shop. When we told him that we wanted to send kites to Afghanistan, he sold us the kites at his cost and sent a number of kites on his own. We couldn't have done it without him.



American flag, folded in crisp military manner, lay inside. Underneath was a handwritten note from Captain Scott Sinclair on behalf of Lieutenant Colonel Chris R. Toner, Commanding Officer, and Command Sergeant Major Jose Vega, thanking us for the kites we had sent. Along with the flag was the certificate indicating that the enclosed flag had flown over the Army base at Orgun-E, Afghanistan, in our honor.

Wow, I thought I had had a rough day. Here were these men

We salute those men and women whose character shines so brightly in the face of adversity. Should you like to send some kites, the address is:
 Chris R. Toner, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
 Commanding
 Department of the Army
 Task Force Catamount, 2-87 Infantry
 Forward Operating Base Orgun, Afghanistan
 APO, AE 09354

KiteShip Gains Traction On Water

photos courtesy of KiteShip Corp./ David Culp



If you could cut 30% off of what you pay at the pump every year, would you? Would you shave a third off your biggest utility bill each month? And would you be willing to fly a kite to do it?

Dave Culp is. Only he's flying Very Large Free Flying Sails (VLFFS), and he's trying to do it from gas-guzzlers like oil tankers, cargo ships, and cruise liners. The UC-Davis and Stanford-educated engineer and boatbuilder recognized that commercial shipping companies spend a small fortune on fuel costs, and that the high-sulphur fuel they burn is some of the dirtiest on the planet. A University of Delaware study found the world's trade fleet uses 280 million tons of fuel annually, double the amount used by all of Germany. The answer, Culp thinks, lies with a clean, time-tested solution: kite power.

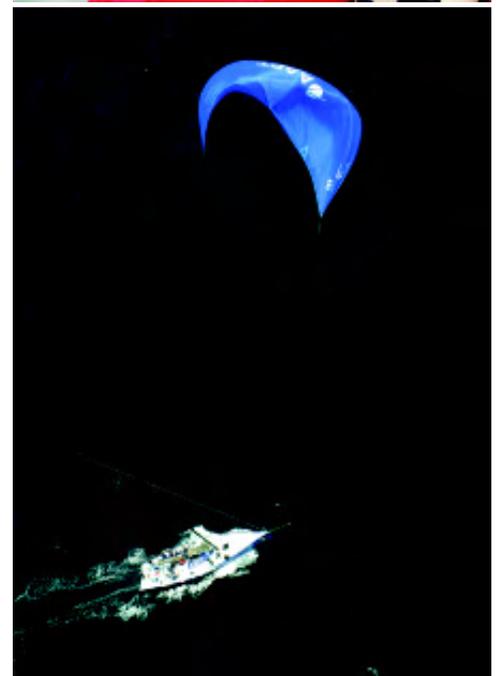
Powering ships with wind is nothing new, of course. Englishman George Pocock was powering carriages in 1826, and Samuel Cody kitesailed the English Channel in 1903. But traditional sailing ships are limited by simple physics: it's impossible to build a mast tall enough to take advantage of stronger winds higher up. Sailing ships also have high labor costs, and their masts make dockside unloading by crane challenging. Internal combustion's consistency let ships run on tighter schedules at higher speeds, unplagued by doldrums, storms, and shortages of mast-height trees.

So what makes windpower attractive again? Besides the rising cost of petroleum, and tighter governmental pollution regulations, modern materials have allowed the creation of jumbo kites that can fly high above boats.

Culp sold his first design effort, a 30' kite-powered world

record-seeking speed sailboat, to an English kite manufacturer in 1978. Since then, he's designed and built several high-speed sailboats that utilized kites instead of traditional spinnakers. Teaming up with kite traction pioneer Dean Jordan, the fledgling KiteShip Corporation's efforts brought them to New Zealand in 2002. During practice for the Louis Vuitton Cup (the regatta used to select the challenger for the America's Cup), Team Oracle shocked the staid yachting community by popping out a KiteShip-designed kitesail. Although it was more psychological warfare than anything (the kite was never used in actual racing), a corner had been turned. Yacht racers hardly blink at VLFFS anymore, and KiteShip's brand of Outleader kites are now distributed worldwide for offshore racing.

Along the way, the California-based KiteShip bagged a pair of Guinness world records. On December 6, 2004, they used a 420 m² (4521 ft²) kite to propel an 18,740 pound yacht near Sydney, Australia, the largest kite ever used to pull a vehicle of any kind. Two years previous, they were recognized for pulling the largest vessel of any kind with a kite, when a 70 m² (750 ft²) kite pulled a 55,115 pound America's Cup class yacht at a speed of seven knots for 45 minutes at Auckland, New Zealand. More recently, KiteShip took first prize in the Transportation category of the California Clean Tech Open, an entrepreneurial competition for new environmentally-friendly





technologies.

The next step was to go really big. Culp and the Navy-educated Jordan began looking at ways to power larger vessels. Kites had obvious financial advantages. First, they can be used in tandem with engines, creating a sort of nautical Prius that uses between 10 and 35 percent less fuel. But they can also be easily retrofitted onto existing ships. There's no need to build new kite-powered ships, or even to attach masts to old ones; KiteShip's sails can be attached to older ships with minimum cost.

A German company, SkySails, is now actively testing kites of 80 to 160 m² aboard an 800 ton buoy tender, the MS Beaufort. The test vessel has reached speeds of 5 knots under kite power alone. With financial backing from the German government and European Union, SkySails is aiming for the European-dominated commercial cargo shipping market.

KiteShip has a different idea: cruise ships. As soon as this summer, KiteShip and Adventurer Cruise Ships will use an 8000 ft² kite to power the 187-foot-long, 924 ton Adventurer 2. And the two companies are already looking at the flagship, the 650' Big Red Boat II, all 38,000 tons of her.

But why stop at just Planet Earth? Culp would like to move from big red boats to small red planets. KiteShip is exploring ways to power remote-operated vehicles on the surface of Mars. Tethered flight could give scientists better opportunities to expand the range of a Mars Rover. And from there it's a small step to using solar sails to make the leap to interstellar travel.



The German company SkySails tests a kite on the 800 ton MS Beaufort in the North Sea.

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Q&A with KiteShip's Dave Culp

Kiting: Why wind power? It hasn't been practical since the days of the Cutty Sark, right?

Dave Culp, President, KiteShip Corporation: Wind has moved cargo for humanity for more than 5000 years. Sure there's been a 100-year hiatus while oil was cheap, but those days may be ending. Surprisingly, the "age of sail" did not end because wind ships were slow, or labor intensive. The difference was scheduling; a clipper ship might arrive at market weeks earlier than her powered counterpart, but she also might arrive later. It was punctuality, the ability to sail to a rigid schedule, where powered ships drove wind ships to extinction. Modern vessels carry engines and sails both, and use their sails when they can, throttling back to save enough fuel to more than pay for the sailing rig.

Were you a sailor first, or a kiteflier? And when did you put the two together?

My background is sailing; the first kite I flew as an adult was designed to pull an early amphibious kite buggy. My education and early interest was in sail craft design and construction. Early on I got interested in high speed, high powered sailboats. I saw kites as a clever way to make sailing rigs non-heeling, thus potentially more powerful than "regular" sails. I literally had an "ah-ha!" moment at a boat show, when I realized the comprehensive advantages kites have over sails as regards their potential power, lack of weight and simplicity. That there was an entire sport of stunt kiting was of little interest to me, beyond that it provided ready-made kites suitable for pulling boats!

Dean Jordan has a long and colorful history in kiting and the AKA. What's his role in this project?

I met Dean through intermediaries, Andrew Beattie and Cory Jensen. I was working with an investor to develop bigger and bigger kites for sail boats and needed a kite designer/builder to build a 30 m² foil kite. Dean had the combination of skill, knowledge and "can-do" attitude I was looking for, so we hired him to build a kite. His only stipulation was that he be included in the first testing of his kite. In this way, we got to

know each other well, and found that we shared not only similarly twisted senses of humor, but also an unshakable belief in the future of large traction kiting. Dean came aboard KiteShip Corporation full-time in 2002, is now full partner and a major shareholder in the organization.



Dave Culp, President of KiteShip

Is working with Oracle on the Louis Vuitton Cup your biggest venture into kitesailing so far?

We were honored to land the contract from Oracle – to invent a race-legal spinnaker sail which was also a free-flying kite. The sail not only had to be legally a "spinnaker," it also had to be a true kite, flying free of the boat on multiple lines with complete control. Oh, and it had to beat anything its size in any waters, despite more than 150 years of continual development of conventional spinnakers, by the best and highest paid sailmakers on the planet. We had eight weeks to do this. We eventually built a kite capable of full stunting control, plus major depower, plus a simplified method of launch and recovery, unassisted in deep water during a major sailboat race. In two-boat testing against professional sailors aboard identical boats, we consistently beat them for boat speed. Dean and I developed this new kite into a business building and selling racing kites for conventional yacht racing. In the last 2½ years, we have sold more than \$300,000 worth of racing kites through distributors all over the world, including a world record 420 m² (4500 ft²) kite, the largest traction kite ever built. In a contract to investigate the potential for ancient kites being used for construction (on land), we also created what we believe may be the largest 100% silk kite ever built, at 980 ft².

And how do you go from racing yachts to putting sails on cruise ships and cargo vessels?

Racing yacht kites were always meant to be a bridge to ship-pulling. Oracle gave us the opportunity to move from 300 ft² kites to 5000 ft² kites at a single stroke, and building a business doing so helps to pay the bills. KiteShip has always planned to build 50,000 ft² kites for ships. Our name is our mission statement. In the 1980s and early '90s the technology was there, but materials science largely wasn't (these were the days of dacron flying lines and fiberglass spars, remember?). More to the point, a surge of interest in wind ships from the early 1980's was dashed—with disastrous



results to many businesses and investors – when the bottom dropped out of oil prices in 1982. As time passed and our “hobby” continued, it came to me that the last pieces were falling into place; kevlar and spectra lines and reinforcements, and carbon fiber spars and battens were bringing the potential for very large, strong and very lightweight structures into the realm of possibility. Computer power became affordable, and then dirt cheap. Exceedingly clever designers like Bruno Legaignoux and Peter Lynn were discovering simple and elegant control systems requiring less than tons of brute force to steer giant kites. All that needed to fall into place was a financial “business space”; an opportunity for wind power to become financially feasible against petroleum engines, and we’d have a chance to prove just how much stronger and cheaper kite power could be. It is apparent that these times are upon us. Today there is huge financial pressure to reduce the cost of sea transportation. Fuel purchases have become the largest portion of the operating costs for the 90,000 ships on the world’s oceans, topping more than 2 billion gallons in 2006.

5000 m²! You’re the anti-Sotich! How much power are we talking about?
A 5,000 m² kite will cover an American football field. It is nearly ten times the wing area of a 747 airliner. A kite this size, in strong winds, will generate more than 100 tons of pull. We will use 2" diameter spectra mooring cables as flying line.

The German government has invested in the SkySails project. Do you see the American government helping in the development of kitepower?
European and American governments work markedly differently in their support of new technology. We have had good success applying for—and winning—US Government contracts for R&D work; results of which we’ve readily repurpose to kite sailing. We’ve been invited to apply for more of the same. The US Navy, for instance, is determined to reduce its petroleum use, and kite power for its vast fleet of support ships is one place they and Congress, are taking a hard look at even today.

The auto industry has used the racing world as a testing ground for new technologies that eventually find their way into production-model cars. The kinds of kites you’re building obviously require some specialized, high strength materials. Do you foresee some trickle down from what you’re doing into the realm of everyday kiteflying?

We are developing materials sciences and techniques for making very large kites light and strong. At the same time we are developing very large shapes which are self-supporting, without inflated chambers or other spars of any sort. Both these concepts may find use in smaller kites, but probably not in their present form. We do expect a certain amount of “filter down” to yacht-sized kites, and look forward to the day when yachts shed their old-fashioned masts and kites take their rightful place as sole power for nearly all sailboats.

Kites on Mars... what are your plans for kiting beyond this planet?

Today we’re focusing on Earth ocean kiting, but we see kiting opportunities in space as well. Mars is windy, and wind-powered exploration robots are already in the works. We want to build a robotic kite buggy, which could solve the twin problems of tipping over (hard to right a land sailer without people!) and of comprehensive course control. To this end we are designing new types of self-launching kites able to take the harsh realities of Martian deserts, and buggies which can continue on either right side up or upside down. KiteShip is also looking at “twin foil” kiting; using the different velocity of air (and other planetary atmosphere!) at different altitudes to connect two kites together with a very long tether, capable of sailing far above the ground. This technology has applications from maintaining the position of high-altitude radio and telephone transmission airships to the exploration of gas giant planets like Jupiter and Saturn.



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Customer sent us this picture and wrote:

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KITE HISTORY

Giant Kites of Guatemala

by Renea Nelson

While visiting the village of Sumpango, Guatemala, in 2003, to investigate their Dia de los Santos kite tradition, the Drachen Foundation found a kitemaking culture steeped in tradition and pride, as the Mayan Indian culture continues their tradition in kiting.

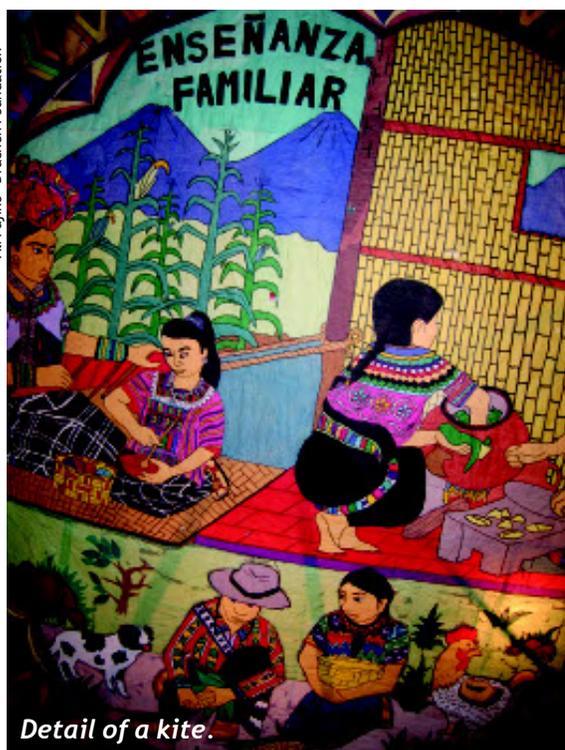
The giant kites of Guatemala, or barriletes gigantes, are a labor of the plight of the Indians. The tradition can be tracked to the end of the 1400s, when they made and flew their kites to honor their ancestors and rid the area of evil spirits on All Saints' Day. They now create and fly their kites to show pride in their Mayan Indian heritage and send a quiet protest to the government that regulates and neglects Indian culture, as the government imposes barriers on Indian language, religious practice, and tradition.

Up to 40 feet in diameter, these circular kites are made of hand cut pieces of colored tissue paper, arranged and glued to "construct" a story. Each kite is composed of thousands of tissue papers and gallons of white glue, costing around four hundred dollars to construct.

Villagers travel to the south coast of Guatemala to collect bamboo for spars; wire and rope hold the kites together. Groups of Sumpango residents collaborate to make each kite. The standard ten foot kite takes 15 people up to a month and a half to design, create, and assemble, depending on how complicated the design is.

The designs show the importance of Mayan traditional life — a mother braiding her daughter's hair, people working their land, women in traditional clothing as colorful as the kites. The words communicate their troubles, one exclaiming, "Respect our lives, it's the basis of peace." Others object to government atrocities.

The pieces photographed here are among only about 1,000 kites that have been completed in Sumpango over the last 65 years. Most of these kites are still stored in homes throughout the village. After viewing the kite tradition in Sumpango in 2003, the Drachen Foundation wanted to incorporate some of these kites into their collection for the purpose of exhibition to educate others about the tradition and plight of the Mayans. Though this village does not typically sell their kite artifacts, as they are considered village property, the foundation was honored with three kites to incorporate into its collection.



Jose Sainz - Drachen Foundation

Ali Fujino - Drachen Foundation

Detail of a kite.

After the kites reached DF offices, director Ali Fujino spent a number of hours devising a way to make these delicate treasures safe and capable of travel and display. A paper backing was applied to reinforce the kite sails for durability. In place of bamboo spars, wooden dowels were used as a way to "break down" the sparring system for travel.

In the past four years, these kites have been exhibited in the halls of many area community libraries, schools and museums, many times in conjunction with a lecture and Guatemalan children's kite making workshops. They are beginning to show wear, but the cultural awareness and appreciation for Mayan heritage that they supply far exceeds any desire to keep them pristine.

In the fall of 2006, a team from the Drachen Foundation again traveled again to the village of Sumpango, this time to document the Day of the Saints celebration and the giant tissue paper kites. At a gathering of nearly 50,000 Indian residents (and a few foreigners,) Drachen was able to interview and visit with kitemakers about the celebrations. Even more apparent than the first visit was the use of these kites as a "billboard" of communication to the government, as these works of art and protest proudly proclaim, "the persecution of the Mayan Indian is not OK."

Endeavoring to maintain interest in these kites will ensure the con-



Sumpango kitemakers at work.



tinuance of the tradition of kite making in Guatemala, as Sumpango kitemakers strive for awareness. As one Guatemalan kitemaker expressed, "It's the only thing I can think of that permits me to revisit my Indian culture, combining my mind and my soul and my skills."

In his article "Mayan Kite Fliers Send Aloft a Message of Pride," Jerry Large of the *Seattle Times* wrote, "When kites fly in Sumpango, the people who make them soar, too."

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Bill Lockhart

by Patti Gibbons

The halls of academia are traditionally dotted with some pomp, a little circumstance, splashes of ivy, along with heavy doses of lab assignments and long-winded lectures. Kite strings, ripstop nylon, leading edges, and handmade reels just don't find a ready place in most visions of college life and higher education—unless Bill Lockhart is doing the grading. Studio art and design professor emeriti Bill Lockhart nurtured many young minds and later found kite tutorials to be an ideal blackboard to convey his lessons.

After college, Bill taught elementary art school classes. With solid teaching experience under his belt, Bill went off to grad school in Pennsylvania, but his roots brought him home. He joined the faculty at Texas Tech University and shared his love of art, sculpture, and metalworking with the generations of college students interested in learning studio arts. Bill enjoyed his calling and “I thought I would teach until I had to retire, but when I got involved with kites I decided to retire early.”

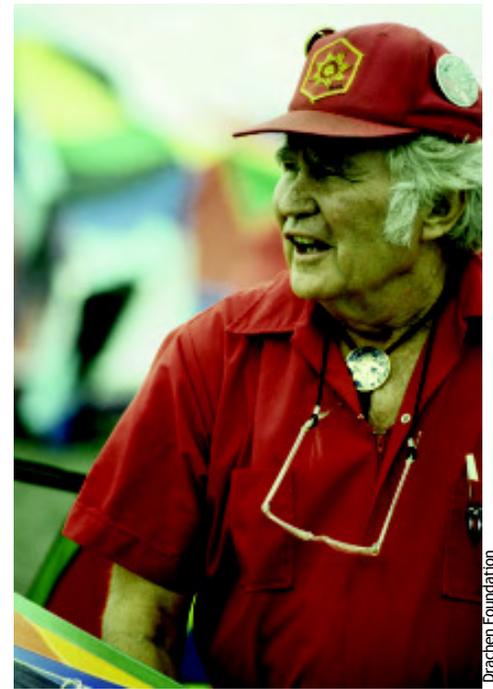
Bill didn't disappear completely from campus life once kitesnags snagged him. Teaching, learning and sharing are as much a part of him as creating and kite flying. Well into retirement, Bill continues to teach. For years he led the country's only graduate level kitemaking course. Reflecting on his early retirement, “I don't think I ever left teaching...[in kiting] you are still working with people, you are still sharing what you know.”

As a child, Bill occasionally found kite patterns in *Boys' Life* magazine and amused himself with handmade kites. He preferred parafoils like the Sutton flow form kite because the stick-less design was handy and readily transportable. The neighborhood kids sometimes tired of simply sending kites up to zig zag across the sky and turned to kite experimentation. At about age nine or ten, Bill built a barn door kite complete with a long tail. They twisted kerosene-soaked cotton wads around the tail and before the kite ascended out of reach, they lit the tail.

Spellbinding perhaps, but recalling this adventure with adult vision makes Bill shudder and realize some lucky fortune watched over his juvenile follies. Their small town of 250 didn't have a fire department, and if that aerial fire ball had tumbled down it would have “...burned the whole darn town down, but as a kid I never thought of a kite coming down.”

Bill grew out of childhood without incidents of mayhem and infernos and tucked kite memories in a sweet place in his young heart. He didn't think much about kite flying or building for many years until his granddaughter was born. To broaden her childhood playtime adventures beyond the dollhouse, Bill bought her a kite. They enjoyed flying together and soon the teacher in Bill pulled out the craft supplies for an impromptu kite building lesson. While she enjoyed their kiting romps, kites lured Bill beyond recreational enjoyment and sparked a new chapter in his life.

Bill was windswept and after a stop in a kite shop in Houston, he was officially agog with the technological advancements in modern kite building. Fiberglass rods and ripstop nylon boggled Bill and set his design wheels in motion. Excitedly, he'd opened new doors and set out to learn all he could about modern kitemaking. Initially Bill budgeted six months to learn all there is to know about kites. From the outset of his research



Drachen Foundation

he knew he wouldn't invent a new kite form, but with his art background he knew he could make visually interesting objects. His direction wasn't invention but rather creative exploration on a new type of blank canvas.

Something about the media suits Bill, and he's managed to marry his love of aviation, building, and visual arts together to create unique and well-built kites. “I want a kite that looks good, has my mark or thumbprint on it. I want a kite that flies exceptionally well and looks great in the sky. I mean that is what I try to do.” Bill enjoys creating kite “families” where each kite is different but shares a color, pattern, or visual theme with those in its group. These visual relatives please Bill, “I like this, it is sort of mine.” The only downside is, “Every time I build a kite, the real problem comes when I think of a 100 others I could be building. I think of variations and I sometimes have to force myself to finish this one.”

As an artist Bill worked to promote his art in galleries and exhibitions. With his kites, Bill hasn't knocked himself out to get show billings. “Unless you are hanging it in the sky and it has air in it, it's not worth a dang anywhere else. No matter how great the kites are on the wall, they do



Drachen Foundation

not show like they do when they are in the sky. I guess I haven't been overly concerned with the exhibition of kites as I have worried to fly the kites."

Similar to his feelings for public adulation and display, Bill doesn't weigh kite competitions too heavily either. "Competition is great if you win but if you don't, what the heck." Bill's ego is in check and he understands that judging is subjective. Winning doesn't excite him, but creating and having a place to bring his creations to does. "I have one goal with my kites. I want to show up each year with new and exciting kites. As long as I do that I have had the kind of exhibit exposure that I want."

Kite building competitions lured Bill into organized kiting, but meeting people and their kites tops the list of reasons Bill stays active in kiting. "When I got into kites, I didn't know there were a lot of people in kiting who never built kites, in fact I would judge that serious kite builders were probably only 25%" of the AKA convention attendees. In Bill's early trips to AKA conventions he focused on competitions, but eventually began to look forward to the conventions for social reasons. "There are a few people in kiting that I wish did something else, but there's still an awful lot of great people in kiting that give a lot of themselves not for political or other gain, but because they enjoy giving to people." The teacher in Bill naturally enjoys seeing people taking time to show newcomers the ropes and is forever impressed with the open and helpful spirit that surfaces on the convention flying fields. "People take time to help somebody they don't know, not because they are important or because their kite is great." Atop a long list of heroes, Bill points to Scott

Skinner as the consummate kite coach, noting that he encourages newcomers, and "finds something interesting in their kite, encourages them to keep building...I see so much of that [on the flying fields]."

The warm feelings Bill kindled at AKA conventions soon encouraged him to attend international kite events and he found that he greatly enjoys meeting fliers from around the world. "People I consider close friends live in China. I don't speak their language and they don't speak mine. The only language we talk is kites and we can appreciate each other's kites and appreciate flying together ... Kiting has opened that kind of world. It is a fraternity, a family, there's something about it that makes it really great."

Globetrotting has brought Bill friendship and warmed his heart, but it also led to the creation of the world's greatest kite workshop. While on a trip to Malaysia with Betty Street, overseas fliers wanted to get the two American fliers to teach western kitemaking workshops. Betty suggested that interested parties make their way to Junction, Texas, for a comprehensive workshop. The idea was a homerun. The first Junction International Kite Retreat drew about 50 people and some of the subsequent retreats needed to limit attendance to about 125 people. For a decade, Bill and Betty led kitemaking sessions and coached attendees on ways to tap their creative cores. Junction attracted many repeat students, perhaps because it "is a very special place to work—isolated and a great place to fly."

For Bill, kite flying and this sort of outdoor serenity is essential to his emotional well-being. "Nature became a very important part of my life in the sense that I can be locked up in concrete for so long, but I know I have to be outdoors too. If I don't, I lose what little sanity I've got." For him, kiting is connective and transcendental. "When I fly my kite the earth, the sky and I are one."



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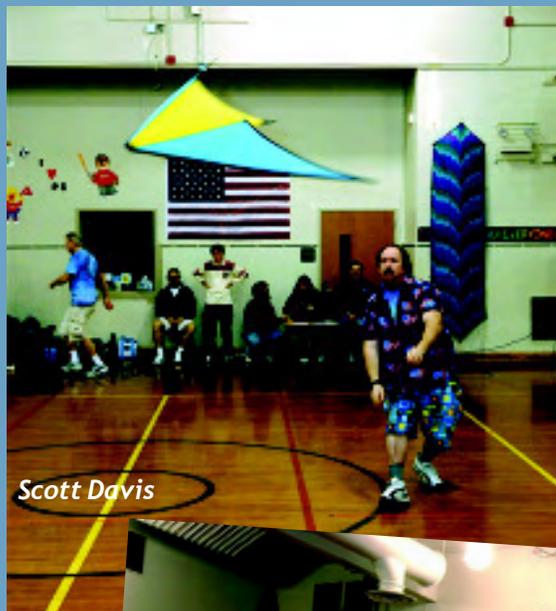
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Nine
report on
page 47



Jennifer Brown



Alan Cunningham

photos by
Christopher
Spence



Wayne Turner



Wayne Turner



Sailwinds East

by Jeff King



Kelly Mayhew



Dennis Hawley adds to the menagerie.

Kelly Mayhew

Quite a few WOWsters and RAFsters made it to Maryland's Eastern Shore on October 15th for the First Sailwinds East Kite Festival in Cambridge. The Dorchester Office of Tourism-sponsored festival was held at Sailwinds East Park on the Choptank River, a small but lovely venue for flying. If you've ever driven east on Route 50 to Ocean City, you've likely seen the park and the tell-tale sail-like canopy for the Visitors Center as you crossed the Choptank River Bridge.

The winds were a bit up and down but the sun was out and the sky was blue, making for a gorgeous and enjoyable fall day to be outdoors flying and taking in the beautiful views on the

scenic river. A berm between the flying areas provided a great place to set up some of the big ground displays and kites we know and love.

No surprise, the octopoda were the stars of the day. Kelly Mayhew and Dennis Hawley were there with "Olo", and Jeff Burka had "Bob" in the air, too. The two colorful octopus kites flown one above the other were a spectacular sight and a big hit with everyone at the festival, as were the other big and colorful kites in the air.

Also a welcome addition to any kiting event, Jim Hodges and Barbara (Sky Jewels) had their booth set up to sell kites and had good sales for the day. Jim Cosca set up a large Premier banner display and joined in the flying, putting a double delta conyne, as well as a giant eel and alligator in the air.

He also did quite a bit of sport kite flying, including some pairs flying with Sue Lennon.

As with most any kite festival or fun fly, a variety of kites filled

the sky — large, small, single-, double-, and quad-lines — punctuated by equally colorful ground displays. The organizers did a nice job with this event. It's a nice venue with clean facilities available, a food vendor was on site all day, there was kite building for the kids, and they even provided a few trophies for some informal competitions (most unique, longest kite, and stunt kite flying).

The stunt kite flying competition was very informal; just fly your kite for two minutes and have fun! Jeff King won the competition, with Evelyn Rossbach and Charlie Mohr taking second and third, respectively. It was an informal "competition", to be sure, but also quite fun!

The Tourism Office hopes this will be an annual event (so do we!). In fact, turn out was so good for this one that next year they're holding two events!



Sky Jewels is open for business!

Kelly Mayhew



Jeff Burka reels in an eel.

Kelly Mayhew

KAPiCA/06

by David Deiderich

As a relatively new KAPER, I was excited to attend the 2006 international convention of kite aerial photography. From October 29 to November 2, a group of 44 kite aerial photographers from 15 states and eight countries gathered for KAPiCA/06. Organized by Brooks Leffler and Peter Bults, this year's event was held at the beautiful Asilomar Conference Center, in Pacific Grove, California.

Things kicked off with presentations detailing two approaches to recreating a famous kite aerial photograph, "San Francisco in Ruins." The photo, taken in 1906 by George Lawrence, depicted San Francisco shortly after the devastating earthquake and fire. Scott Haefner provided details of his recreation of Lawrence's panorama using a custom-rigged 35mm camera suspended from a rokkaku. Working from a boat in the middle of San Francisco Bay, Scott was able to successfully re-shoot the photograph using contemporary kite aerial photography techniques. A side by side comparison of the 1906 and 2006 photo-

graphs indicated that the project was a great success. Next, Ron Klein displayed his photograph, shot using an exact replica of Lawrence's 22" x 55" panoramic camera. Due to the size and weight of the special single-shot camera, it was determined that a KAP system could not be used and a helicopter was used instead.

Henry Jebe displayed a handbuilt scaled down replica of the Lawrence circuit camera. Everyone marveled over the craftsmanship and detail of the camera. Henry hoped to fly the camera during the convention, but light winds prevented it.

On the second day, Professor James Aber from Emporia State University presented his KAP studies of the Cheyenne Bottoms wetlands in central Kansas and peat bogs in Estonia. His KAP provided a new aerial perspective that had not been previously seen by local scientists. Professor Charles Benton of the University of California detailed his hidden ecologies research project. This included vividly colored photographs of various salt evaporation



Henry Jebe's historic replica



The KAPiCA/06 crew gathers in Asilomar.



Dave Wheeler demonstrates his fashionable lime green KAP rig.

ponds in San Francisco Bay. The variations in color and texture were fascinating and beautiful.

Oceanographer and whale photographer Oscar Frey presented his research on humpback whale behavior in the Mexican Pacific. Specifically, his interest was the reactions of humpback whales with boats conducting whale watch tours. His KAP provided a unique aerial perspective to study the interaction of whales and tourists. Oscar commented that KAP allowed him to take low level photographs

without alarming the whales.

All of the attendees were in awe of the beautiful KAP shown by Pierre Lesage. Pierre is fortunate enough to live and work in some of the most beautiful locations like Tahiti and Bora Bora, and he uses his KAP to promote tourism to these destinations.

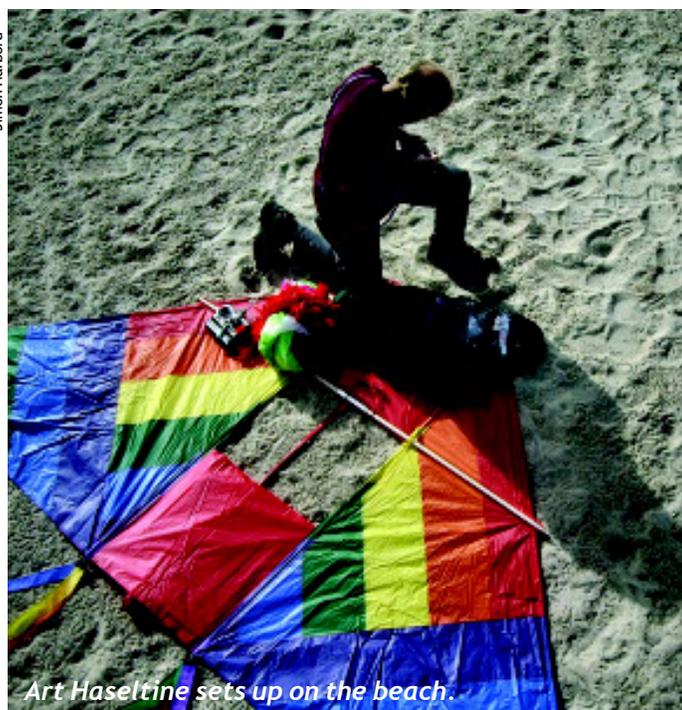
A slideshow of images by professional photographer Michael Melford included the first kite aerial photograph that will be published in *National Geographic*. Michael also shared tips on photographic techniques and processing of image files.

The third day was devoted to KAP equipment. Peter Van Erkel shared his extensive knowledge of battery types,

power supplies and chargers. James Gentles used several picavet designs and weights to demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of various design configurations. Next, Simon Harbord gave a brief history of autoKAP. Topics ranged from rubberband triggered rigs to electronic rigs. Simon also demonstrated pole aerial photography using a lightweight carbon fiber fishing pole. The pole was a big hit with the crowd.

Brooks Leffler briefly discussed various kite lines, handles, gloves and tails. Peter Bults shared his knowledge of KAP kites including modifying Sutton Flowforms for KAP. Among the other KAP kites highlighted were the rokakku and dopero.

Simon Harbord



Art Haseltine sets up on the beach.

As the day progressed, the complexity of the rig designs increased. David Wheeler demonstrated a very cool, circular, lime green KAP rig. David's complex design incorporated a microcomputer to take multi-shot panorama photos while automatically keeping the rig level. While still under development, the rig has great potential.

Jean Christophe Humez demonstrated an ingenious design that was capable of locking the camera onto several targets. His tabletop demonstration utilizing a toy house, car and clown was amazing. His second design was capable of remotely triggering the camera shutter by transmitting a sound

up the kite line.

Not to be outdone by his brother, Oliver Humez demonstrated an ambitious project that he calls a "Web Server WIFI Linux KAP Rig." His complex rig included full remote control and a video downlink that could be controlled from any web-based computer. Everyone in the room with a laptop logged on and started taking photos from his rig. Someday, it may be possible for anyone with access to the Internet to remotely control a KAP rig halfway around the world. Finally, Scott Armitage exhibited his incredible rig, built with extremely lightweight but

strong carbon fiber/kevlar components. The computer-controlled rig was fully automated, including battery monitor, wind speed indicator and a video downlink.

A modified Game Boy is used to control the rig.

James Aber was awarded first place for the best kite aerial photograph taken during the event. His panorama photograph closely resembled another George Lawrence photograph of the Pacific Grove coastline.

The final day of meetings included several post-

processing discussions. Scott Haefner described how he makes bubble panoramas, Michael Melford explained raw image processing and Carlo Didier discussed working with Photoshop CS.

Overall KAPiCA/06 was a huge success. The outstanding images shown at the convention inspired us all to get outside and go KAPing. Our thanks go out to Brooks Leffler and Peter Bults, and all the other folks who organized this event.



Bonjour Pierre Lesage!

Mike Jones



Pierre Lesage's view of Santa Cruz.

Pierre Lesage

Oregon Kitemakers Retreat

January brought the 14th Oregon Kitemakers Retreat to Rockaway Beach. Classes this year included Dave Butler's miniature cellular kite, Brian Champie's Sentinel, puppy chew toy line laundry by David Ellis, the Rockaway Bikini from John Freeman (look for the plan for this kite in a future issue of *Kiting!*), fish and frog windsocks by Larry and Cheryl Gleckner, Sonny Hamner's indoor diamond, Sam Kings's Tri-D delta, Sharon Musto's dreamcatcher kite, the Korean wave train by Cliff Pennell, Barry Poulter's Fire Star Hex, a lesson in basic kite building from Gerry Pennell, and the Nappo-Nuva (featured in the Retreat's logo) by Germany's Holm Struck. Check www.kitemakersretreat.com for the scoop on 2008's retreat.



photos by
Sharon Musto
and Judy Brown



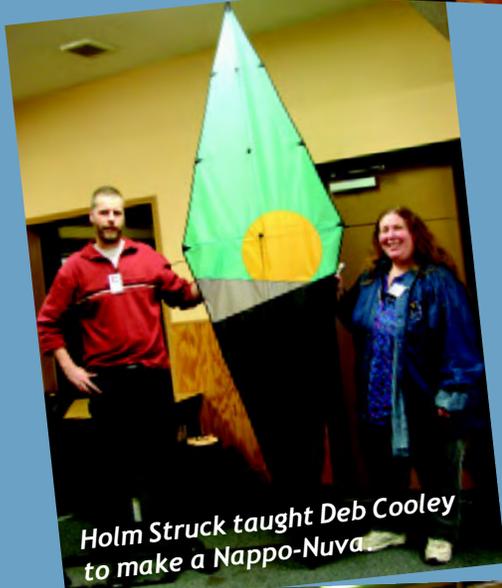
First-timers Jason Cross and Amy Doran did beautiful work on Sonny Hamner's diamond.



David Harper learned to build this Fire star Hex from Barry Poulter.



Scott Hartley with his dreamcatcher kite.



Holm Struck taught Deb Cooley to make a Nappo-Nuva.



Brian Champie with his pupil Amy Doran and her Sentinel.



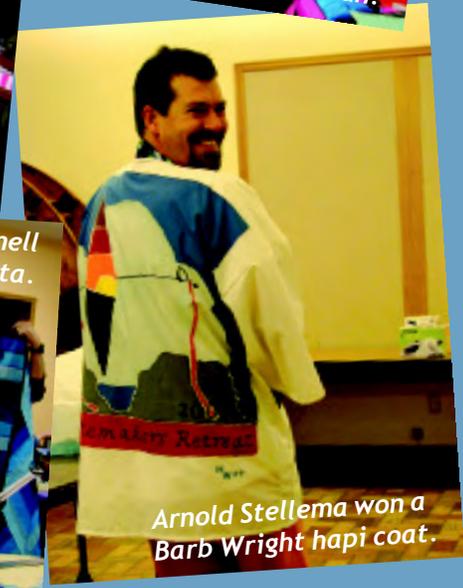
Sam King and his students, Marzlie and John Freeman.



Wayne Pattison works on a Fire Star Hex.



Gerry and Cliff Pennell made this Tri-D delta.



Arnold Stellema won a Barb Wright hapi coat.



Maryland Kite Building Retreat

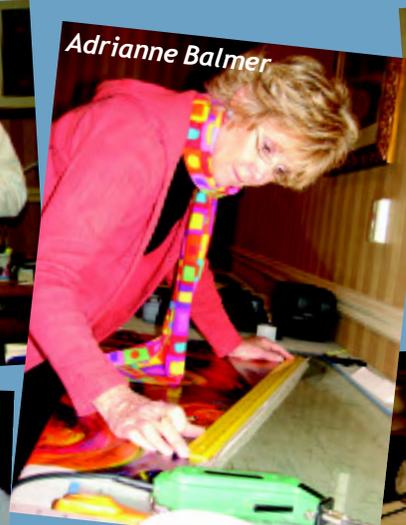
Kitemakers gathered in icy Frederick, MD, on Presidents Day weekend for the annual kitebuilding retreat of the Maryland Kite Society. A pair of former AKA Grand Champions topped the bill: John Pollock taught painting skills and built a small Ohashi-style kite, and Cliff Quinn helped everyone build a marconi. Jon Burkhardt and Drake Smith taught a pennant banner, Felix Cartagena added a no-sew project, and Karen Burkhardt set up a beading circle for a bracelet-making project.



Mearl Balmer



Ralph Gore



Adrienne Balmer



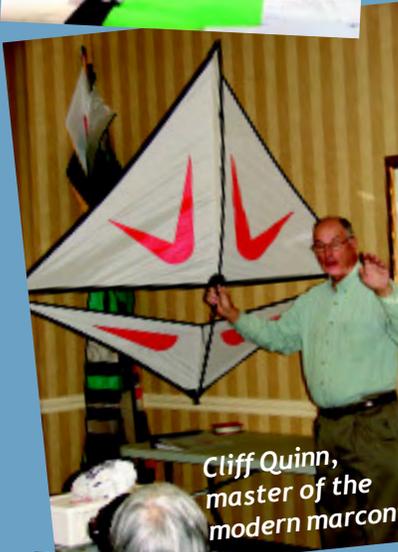
King Harold Ames



Paul LaMaster



Paul Keeler



Cliff Quinn, master of the modern marconi



Dave Ashworth



John Pollock



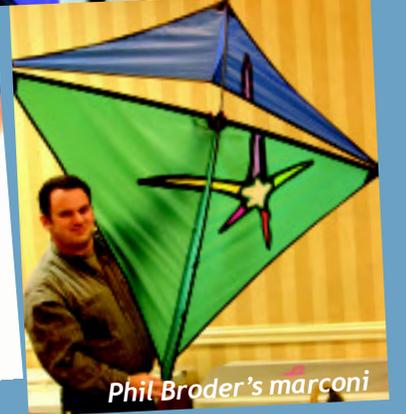
Terry Lee



Paul Hines and Andy Burchfield cut wings.



Ed and Maria Charest get help from Cliff Quinn assembling their marconi.



Phil Broder's marconi

photos by Phil Broder

KAPTIONS

DAVID WHEELER

Some years ago I developed a panorama of Old Lyme Shores, CT, and sold a few copies to people in the community. I was looking for a way to update that shot in 2005 when I heard about KAP. I thought that would be perfect; an aerial panorama would be far more interesting than the ground view and if more homes were in the shot, more homeowners would want to buy the picture.

So I built myself a KAP rig to hold an old digital camera. The rig was designed to turn the camera at different angles and shoot a series of pictures I could stitch together later. When it was finished, the rig worked well but nothing else did. I knew nothing about flying kites or how to get good images from the air. So when my annual trip to Old Lyme Shores arrived, I couldn't even get the kite to lift the rig.

After that initial failure, I did some research on the web and found some outstanding sites with a wealth of information about KAP. A month

later I was visiting the Outer Banks in North Carolina. This time I was



equipped with a proper kite and a better idea of how to handle it. It was incredibly exciting to watch the camera rig actually pulled skyward for the first time. And when it came back with pictures onboard, I couldn't wait to see the results.

Well, as exciting as it was to get the pictures, they weren't quite what I expected. There were gaps in the coverage that prevented me from stitching together the wide-angle view I wanted. Still, a couple of the individual frames were kind of interesting.

For the next year I continued to refine the rig's design and study techniques others had developed for KAP. I found new stitching software that worked better, learned about better kites for KAP and practiced flying my kites and KAP rig as often as I could.

By the summer of 2006 I was ready to return to Old Lyme Shores and put all this KAP experience to the test. It all came together one sunny afternoon with a silky smooth 5-knot breeze blowing across Long Island Sound. My Dopero 104 kite, designed specifically for KAP, floated gracefully up





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on the wind and lifted the camera rig about 50 yards above the beach. It hung there, seemingly motionless, for about 15 minutes as the camera captured the view from all directions. This time everything worked perfectly! And finally, thanks to KAP, I've got the stunning aerial beach panorama I wanted. The best part, though, is when people see it and ask me, "How did you do that?"

1. "David Wheeler" by Lisa Wheeler
2. "Tommy's Girl"
Autokap with Canon 300D camera and GentLED Auto trigger
Dopero 104 kite
3. "Old Lyme Shores"
Composite from autokap rig with Pentax Optio 330
Dopero 104 kite
4. "Rowboats"
Autokap with Pentax Optio 330
Dopero 104 kite
5. "Kite Invasion"



- Single-frame image from autokap rig with Pentax Optio 330 78" Rokkaku kite
6. "Pond"
Autokap with Canon 300D and GentLED Auto
Dopero 104 kite
 - 7.



Pollock adds color, from light to dark, to reach the final design show on the next page.



Kite Plan, continued from page 5

In addition to GAC 900, the other paint additive you'll need is a clear polymer medium varnish (matte or gloss) to make the colors more transparent and as a final varnish.

Other necessary materials or equipment:

- Artist canvas stretcher frames- four are needed (two of each length) to make a rectangular frame (available at art supply stores)
- Acrylic paint brushes, your choice of size
- Palette or small plastic plates for paint mixing
- Palette knife or plastic spoon for stirring paint
- Containers for water- plastic cups, etc.
- Paper towel
- Hair dryer and extension cord
- Iron and ironing board
- Staple gun or tacks

Creating Your Image

One of the beauties of painting on a kite is that one is not limited by the type of image that can be created. One can make an image that is nothing but shapes and colors, one that is an abstracted form, one that is expressionistic, or one that is more representational or realistic. Remember that the kite will be flying 100 to 300 feet away from you. Don't get carried away with small objects or too much detail.

Think about composition when creating the image. Make sure that your image has Unity, Dominance, Balance, Movement and Contrast. When painting the image be sure that you pay attention to color harmony and value.

Draw your image actual size on paper and make corrections and additions as the image develops. After

the image is completed transfer it to the fabric. To do the transfer, simply lay the white fabric over the image, tape in place to avoid movement and draw the image onto the fabric using a fine point permanent marker. The marker lines will remain when completing the preparation of the fabric.

Preparation of Fabric

Method One: Wash the fabric using a strong detergent like Oxyclean or other grease-removing agents. Run the fabric through four to six wash cycles before letting the machine run through the rinse cycle. I suggest that the fabric be ran through the rinse cycle at least two times to remove the soap. This will remove not only any oils but also some of the coating on the fabric. The advantage of this method is that the pores of the fabric have been opened up and the first coating of paint will permeate the fabric and create better adhesion. The disadvantage of this method is that the fabric will slightly shrink and pucker.

Method Two: In a well-ventilated area, scrub the surface of the fabric using denatured alcohol. Allow this to dry. The advantage of this method is that the fabric does not shrink and retains its smooth flat surface. The disadvantage of this method is that the paint does not penetrate the surface of the material as much, and you must have a well-ventilated area to use the alcohol.

Stretching of Fabric

Assemble the stretcher frames to make a rectangle frame and make sure that the corners are square. Lay the slightly damp fabric on a stretcher bar frame and start stapling or tacking the fabric to the outside edges of the frame. Do this by tacking the center of

one side, then move to the center of the opposite side, then one of the remaining sides and then its opposite side. Continue by tacking about every four to six inches from the center to the corners and by moving from one side to the opposite side as described with the first tacking. As this is done the fabric should be pulled snug but not tight. The fabric will shrink as it dries. Be careful not to stretch it too tight as some fabrics do stretch and shrink quit a bit.

The first coat of paint is going to partially penetrate the surface of the fabric. Stretching the fabric on a frame as described above will result in fewer problems. If using method one of preparing the fabric, the fabric may be stretched right after washing. If using method two, get the fabric wet and wring it out with your hands.

If the fabric is not going to be stretched on a frame, the working surface must be prepared for a mess. As stated above, the first coat of paint is going to partially penetrate the fabric. This can result in paint going onto the surface under the fabric. Having the fabric on a glass surface makes clean-up easier. Drying time is also longer if the fabric is resting on a surface.



Stretch your nylon onto a frame, then add your design.

Painting Suggestions

The first coat of paint will penetrate the surface. If a more precise painted look is desired, or if there are problems in the colors bleeding, coat the fabric with a 50/50 mixture of GAC 900 and Clear Polymer Medium and allow it to dry. This will seal the surface of the fabric. Colors may be thinned and made more transparent either by adding a little water or by adding a 50/50 mixture of GAC 900 and Clear Polymer Medium. Each will have its own look. The water results in the paint developing spots of color. The polymer medium results in a smoother gradation of color.

Be sure to keep your layers of paint thin. Thick paint on the surface of the fabric would be less flexible and could crack or peel. Use paints thinly like would be done with watercolors. The



David Gomberg

white of the fabric, like in watercolor, is the white used to make tints of the color. To make a color lighter, paint it on thinner. Adding white to the paint will result in making it more opaque and the color may get lost when the kite is in the air. Paint from light to dark. Painting one color over another will make the first darker even if the second color is lighter. Pay attention to contrasts as the image is painted. If two connecting areas are different in color but the same in value, the image will get lost. Step back and look at the image from a distance. Does the image stand out? If not, try increasing the contrast.

Final Coating

When the image has been completed, you may want to give the fabric a final protective coating of a 50/50 mixture of GAC 900 and Clear Polymer Medium/Varnish and allow it to dry. This will add more weight to the kite skin, and you may want to do this only if the painted areas are very thin. Use only Polymer Varnishes for the final coating. Some other varnishes made for acrylic paints appear to be less flexible and more brittle.

Heat Setting

I recommend the use the heat setting processes described in the Golden Acrylic information, available at www.goldenpaints.com. They advise using one of the heat setting methods if the fabric is to be washed. Although it might be unusual to wash a kite, a kite does go through a lot of abuse. I use a hot iron with a Teflon pad and iron directly on the back of the painted fabric. One should be aware of any hazards that could result in putting heat to this painted nylon surface. An iron that is too hot may melt the fabric. Golden Acrylics advises that the heat-setting process will release low levels of formaldehyde; therefore it is imperative that adequate ventilation be provided. You can also use a household clothes dryer, set on high, for 40-50 minutes.

After Painting

The surface of the paint does remain somewhat tacky even when dry and wants to adhere to the table surface when face down during sewing. This is not too bad but it does help to hold the fabric up when it is going through the sewing machine. Sand also wants to stick to the surface of the painting. Carry a large soft brush when you are at the beach. Try to avoid the surface of the painting scraping against any abrasive surface. A Golden Acrylics representative advised not to fly the kite in temperature below 50 degrees as the painted surface would become more brittle. I recommend that the painted surface only be used on a kite that can be carefully rolled. A wrinkled up skin when the kite is stored may result in damage to the image.

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Maximum Carry-On

by Andrew Beattie

Thursday: The Plan

Recently, in response to the threat that someone might blow up an aircraft with a mixture of contact lens solution and toothpaste, the British authorities restricted to size of hand baggage to a paltry 45cm x 35cm x 15cm.

I wrote to Samsonite asking if they might build a case that fitted precisely within that measurement with no extra fittings so that we could carry the maximum amount in the allotted space. They didn't get the clue. They wrote back listing existing cases that are smaller than the limit.

But good news! At lunchtime today they announced that they will raise the arbitrary limit to 56cm x 45cm x 25cm. And we are off to fly kites in Austria tomorrow evening. So we need to pack as many soft kites and lines as we can into that space. Everything is crushable, we just need to get the size and shape right. We decided to make our own luggage.



But we have a dilemma. Hard cases and boxes are heavy. Soft bags tend to bulge towards a sphere shape when packed hard. So we took a page out of Peter Lynn's bridling book and built bags with internal bridling. They are as light as possible and they are a bit fiddly to pack round the internal lines, but they provide maximum capacity and

minimum weight within the regulation size and shape. They balloon out slightly beyond the regulation guide but with 8kg of kites inside you can squish them a bit to make them fit.

Friday: Carry-on Victory!

We had loads of fun with the bags.

First of all, you need to understand that these bags do not look small. They are bright red and as you can see in the picture with our anonymous model, they are more than sufficient to hide one's modesty.

So, we get to Heathrow. We didn't show the bags to check-in. We were saving the fun for security.

There was a huge queue to get through security. It stretched all the way across the building. The first official wasn't security at all. They have "information" people in bright yellow sweatshirts with question marks. Clearly, they were the "soft" end of the process, to tell you what would and wouldn't be permitted further on. They had a luggage gauge. We were keen to check the bag and they were amused and surprised to see how neatly it fit.

So we queued for another 20 minutes or so. We were half-way through the zig-zag section when we were singled out by security. They pulled us out of the queue and said that the bags were too big. We dropped the bag into their gauge and they were immediately satisfied. They apologised and directed us down a side passage, short-cutting the rest of the queue where we showed our boarding cards and passports.

Next we we put our gear on the conveyor for the x-ray. They immediately objected and refused to let us through. Having proved our legality only two minutes before (but round the corner), we protested, stating that the size was OK. The guy at the x-ray machine said that the bags should go through the machine so that we didn't hold up the queue, but called a supervisor to deal with us.

The supervisor had clearly spent all day dealing



with customers who were irate about the rules and was slightly surprised when my first words were "take me to your guage." She clearly expected that the guage would prove that our luggage was too big and that she could then send us back. It was most satisfying to once again drop the bag into the guage and then proceed to the departure lounge, undefeated.

Monday: Back Home

We had an great weekend flying on an island in the middle of the Danube as it passes through Vienna.

The hand luggage included Neptune (shown below, bottom right), two small pilots, most of the lines, a 34m tubular tail and all our clothes. The bags did exactly what we needed them to do. They carried a full 8kg of gear each without difficulty and passed the security restrictions at every challenge. In retrospect, it would have been nicer if they had handles, bigger openings with zips and were a colour other than "look-at-me red".



Kite Trade Association International Show and Convention



photos by
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Hello Region One. Let me start by saying thank you for letting me serve you and represent you. It's been way too much fun flying kites and getting to know you all, even the folks I haven't met. Some of you have called or e-mailed me over the last two years. Please feel free to call or drop me an e-mail anytime. It doesn't always have to be about kites.

Don't forget National Kite Month is coming, so get out there and have some events. Our NKM poster was designed by our very own Gregg Mazzotta again. Way to go Gregg, keep up the good work my friend. I'm told there will be lots of prizes this year so be sure to register your events at www.nationalkitemonth.org.

It's been a funky winter to say the least. You all know it's hard flying kites in New England in the winter. The folks who went to First Night Boston said they had a great time. Our friend Glenn Davison has been teaching kite building to kids all over our region this winter. I'm not sure how many of you have even been up to the Blue Hills Observatory. Glenn and Archie Stewart have given kite workshops up there, and let me tell you this place has a lot of kite history behind it. Plus it has a view of Boston second to none. Don McCasland is the Program Director and Kite Specialist up on the hill. Don's a cool guy and knows more about kites than just about anyone I know. Not to

mention he always has something good for lunch.

It's just about time to break out any new kites you may have made over the winter and if you're like me it's time to shake out the kite bags and try to fix the ones you broke last year. I want to stress kite safety again this coming season, so please be careful. You all know the public often has no clue what kind of damage a kite line can do to a person. I'm sure most of you know a wet line is even more of a danger for those of you who are beach fliers.

Keep a look out for the date for the KONE Regional event. This is the place for the new guys and gals to show off your stuff and learn from the pros. Look for this info and more at www.kone.org.

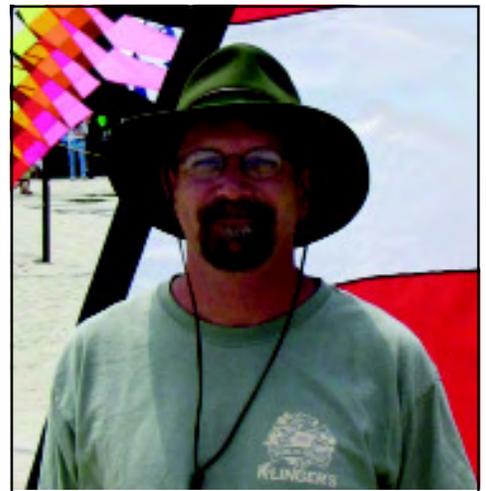
If I don't see you soon I'll be seeing you someplace in the future for sure. Remember kites are cool so keep looking up.

Greetings and salutations, kilters! Well, the weather finally turned cold, but we got in quite a bit of nice flying weather before winter really set in. Here's an update on some regional activities during this slower time.

SJKF had their annual elections and Mike Dallmer will be returning as President (although Phil Broder's dog finished second). Joining the board this year in his first elected position as a Director at Large is Tom Morse. Andy Selzer is taking over a VP position.



Kong Xiangze and Kong Lingmin are featured in an upcoming film by New Yorkers Marcia Bujold and Michael Kellough.



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SJKF held their annual holiday Party in early December. It was well attended with 50 members showing up. In January, SJKF was in Stone Harbor building kites at the Wetlands Institute's Indoor Beach Party.

The Keystone Kilters also had a wonderful Holiday party in December, with sushi and crab legs. Yummy! They've had their winter retreat by this time. A choice of sew or no-sew box kites was being offered. Watch this space for their plans on their popular summer kite building retreat in August.

New York filmmakers Marcia Bujold and Michael Kellough continue to work on "Wind Above, Earth Below", the first comprehensive documentary about the Chinese kite. Thanks to a production grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, they were able to return to China in October to research Beijing kite history. There, they interviewed members of

the Kong family, well known for their kite building expertise. Interviewed were 87-year old Kong Xiangze, his son Kong Lingmin and grandson Kong Bingzhang. They also interviewed Ha Yiqi, who is documenting his family kite designs. He showed the filmmakers dozens of exquisite drawings and models he has been making. Ha Yiqi is writing a book about his famous family and plans to exhibit over 200 drawings in New York City.

I hear that many Region Two members are taking part in the KiteBuilder Online Forum train project. It should be interesting if they all get together and make one big train.

Stephen Millner resurrected the Polar Bear Kite Fly in Belmar, NJ, on the first Sunday in January. Don Pignolet and Mike Petty hung out their fish and their cat at 4th and Ocean Avenues. Glen Pedro arrived a few minutes later, Ron Jakubowicz strolled over from his nearby apartment and moments later, Stephen Millner arrived from down the beach. The band of SJKF kites was joined an hour later by Steve Dellaportas flying a dual line traction kite. (They noted that there are many traction kites along the New Jersey Shore who are not members of SJKF or the AKA. Steve also reports that there is a large group of kite surfers who gather at Sandy Hook NJ. Sign 'em up, guys!) Glen Pedro regaled the group with stories from the North American Buggy Expo, held at Ivanpah Dry Lake, CA, and showed pictures of an air jet traction buggy from the UK.

Hello Region Three. Seems that we stayed fairly busy this quarter. There was a good turnout of Region Three flyers at the 21st Outer Banks Sport Kite Competition in October, hosted and sponsored by Kitty Hawk Kites. In addition to the competition, there was a great display of big and little single line kites all around the competition field. Thanks to John Harris and his crew for their dedication hosting this great event.

Several Region Three members from WOW and RAF made the trek to the first Cape Fear Kite Festival held on the beach at the Shell Island Resort in Wrightsville Beach, NC, in November. It was organized by Region Four Director Mike Agner, with help from Hunter



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End of term: 2007

Brown and his folks at Blowing In The Wind. No competition, but there was plenty of flying, sport kite demos and lessons and kite making. Jim Hodges (Sky Jewels) came down and did the music, and Kurt and Faye Lisk from Get In The Wind were there with their "Aire" and "Fyre" Elements banner sets. Those are something to see!

There was a great turnout for the first Sailwinds Kite Festival in Cambridge, MD. The event was held on the water and what a view! They had lots of kites of all shapes and sizes in the air. One highlight was when an American flag streamer when up, everyone cheered! They held fun kite competitions with trophies and ribbons. They had such a great turnout they're planning two events next year.

The annual Kensington Kite Festival was held in October in Kensington, MD. Val Deale (Premier Kites) organizes this event. There was little in the way of serious flying, but the big reward for the day was when WOW volunteers made around

50 kites for the kids who came out and those kids had an absolute blast. It was really great to see so many smiles on so many little faces. WOW's next fly is at the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics at Sandy Point, MD. It should be a fun day! Live bands, crafts, pig racing, lots of media coverage and now they can add kites!! Afterwards is the WOW holiday picnic.

Richmond Air Force held their annual Too Darn Cold To Fly event on New Years Day, and it became Too Darn WET to Fly, with steady soaking rain that keep most folks at home, although a few hearty die-hards came out and showed their dedication by actually flying. . . but only for a short while.

March starts the BUSY spring event season — how time flies! Check out the club calendars and other club news on their web sites: wowkiteclub.com and www.richmondairforce.com. The 41st Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival will be Saturday, March 31st on the Washington Monument grounds. This year's theme is "Japan WOW!" The kite builder competition begins at ten and registration closes at noon. Lots of rules changes this year, so check www.kitefestival.org for details. There will be a hot tricks competition and rokkaku battle in the afternoon. Also, a week before this festival, the National Air and Space Museum is hosting an indoor fly. Who wouldn't want to fly next to Lindbergh's plane or an Apollo capsule?

April is National Kite month. Check out www.nationalkitemonth.org and see how easy it is to have your city proclaim April as Nation Kite month. Also be sure to register your events!

See you around the flying fields!



Kris Smith straightens up and flies Wright at the Outer Banks Sport Kite Championships.



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 End of Term: 2007

I can't start this article without thanking some folks, without whom, the 1st Cape Fear Kite Festival would not have been the success that it was. We all watched the weather forecast for Wrightsville Beach, NC, as the temperatures dipped into the 40's in early November but knew we could "dress for it." Curt and Faye Lisk came from Pensacola with two of their banner sets that, placed on the ocean side, were an amazing back-drop for both day's activities. Hunter and Meg Brown shared their business "savvy" and displayed the patience of Job with the kids that thronged to make kites. Gary Cane designed the website www.capefearkitefestivals.com and did a lot of the design and printing of our materials. Even though this started as



Some Region Four play.

a local festival, attended by many of the North Carolina "WACKOS," kites filled the sky with some giant displays by flyers from up and down the east coast. The names are too numerous to mention, but to each one of you we say a big "thank you"!

Jim Martin of the WACKOS wants to remind you of:

- Ft. Defiance Fly - April 18
www.fortdefiance.org
- Blue Ridge Kite Festival, April 21
- Holden Beach Day at the Docks, April 28- 29.

And Jessica Mayes says to remember the 6th annual Georgetown International Kite and Culture Festival will be held April 21-22 in central Kentucky.

Gary Resnick says, "We just finished up the 10th annual Treasure Island Kite Festival, and it was a real blast. The weather was unbelievable and the people were too. Some of this year's goings-on included fighter kite demos, bol races, rok battles, para-critters, candy drops, a mystery ballet, and sled building for kids that filled the sky with the wonderful little kites." One of this year's highlights was a children's rok battle. Gary built 35 paper and bamboo roks and each day about 15 kids took them into battle. Once the kites were tuned in the kids took the line while their parents held the kite ready. At the sound of a whistle it was total rok craziness. The first day the battle only lasted about a minute and a half. On the second day it appeared some of the kids were watching the big kids' battle that preceded theirs. There were definitely tactics at play. In the end all of the kids had a great time and the

kites were handed over to Terry McPherson to take to Michigan for a similar battle up there. The plan is to pass the kites on to other festivals and see how far they can go. All in all it was one of the most fun festivals we've had.

I also want to welcome DynaKite to Region 4. Larry Owens of Charleston, SC,



A beautiful day at Wrightsville Beach.

Judy Agner

purchased the company in December and has relocated it from its former Massachusetts home. Should be fun to have lots of DynaKite stacks down here in the South.

Until next time, good winds, good friends and good times.

Hello Region Five kites. I'm writing this upon returning from a few weeks in Florida where we had great weather and were able to fly kites on several occasions. Since arriving back in Cincinnati we have experienced unusually warm weather but it has rained almost every day. And I am experiencing symptoms of "kite flying withdrawal". I am sure that you know the feeling. By the time you read this I hope you are seeing signs of spring and have had a kite or two in the air.

So what's happening in Region Five? Most of the AKA affiliated kite clubs held their monthly flies through the winter months and plan to continue throughout the spring. If you have not stopped by these events, I would encourage you to do so. These informal activities provide a great opportunity to meet the fliers in your area and exchange knowledge and experiences. Feel free to contact the person listed on the Clubs page of this issue for information on club flies in your area.

Kevin Kilgoar, Commandant De

Facto of the Black Swamp Air Force, reports that a good time was had by all who attended the BSAF Christmas party on November 25. Charlie Sotich visited the Swamp to conduct a kite building workshop. I hear that folks who participated built a very large (by Charlie's standards) mylar eddy (close to four inches).

In early December, Marge and Malcom Umbarger organized a kite fly in Columbus in memory of Al Hargus. The event was held on December 10 at Al's favorite flying field, the Ohio School for the Blind, where he could often be found hanging on to the end of a couple kite lines. Several of Al's kiting buddies and flying partners spent a beautiful cool winter afternoon reminiscing and honoring Al. WCMH-NBC stopped by to record a video clip which was used as the introduction to that evening's news broadcast.

As spring approaches, dates are being announced for 2007 kiting events in Region Five. There have been several requests for AKA sanctioning. The earliest festival that I am aware of is the Airwaves Kite Fest scheduled for April 14-15 at VOA Park in West Chester Township, just north of Cincinnati. WGUC is again sponsoring this event. Last year attendance was estimated at close to 20,000. Don't miss this one.

The Michigan Kite Fest, to be held



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again this year in Richland, just east of Kalamazoo, is on tap for June 9-10. Sport kite and fighter kite competitions are scheduled for this event. Thanks to Dave Bush and Mary Hoffman for taking over this event from John and Elaine Cosby. This is another Region 5 festival that you should not miss.

The date for the 2007 edition of the North Coast Stunt Kite Games is July 20-22. As usual, the Games will be located at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, OH, on the shores of Lake Erie. This is a fun event where many kites come several days early and camp at the park. Contact Kevin Kilgoar for details. The Games is always a

Rick Agar and Jerry McGuire used their winter to build new fish.



relaxing, fun-filled event.

Kites Over Branch County will be held July 27-29 at the Creal Soccer Complex in Coldwater, MI. I was fortunate to attend this AKA competition event last year and had a great time. Suzette Arnold is chairing this festival.

A new festival, Tawas Bay Kite Festival, is planned for East Tawas, MI, on June 2-3. This will be a fun fly event with open flying, show kites, team demos, kiteboarding demos and night flying. The festival location is on the shore of Tawas Bay (Lake Huron). The Bay City Times and the Tawas Chamber of Commerce are sponsors.

I just looked out the window and it is getting colder and still raining. Maybe by the time you read this it will have stopped. I can't wait until spring when I hope to see you hanging on a kite line. Remember, its all about putting smiles on faces....



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End of term: 2008

Hello from Region Six. The year has begun with hope for colder weather for upcoming kite flies held on ice. The Minnesota Kite Society hosted the Frosty Fingers Kite Fly on January 28th and was represented at the Color the Wind kite festival in Clear Lake, Iowa on February 17th. Larry and Kay Day of Clear Lake have annually gathered kite fliers for one of the best winter time sky shows since the untimely demise of Kites On Ice.

The third annual Kites Over the Bay took place in Fish Creek, Wisconsin on February 10th and 11th. Last year in addition to the kites in the sky this event had a great kite display in the local town hall.

The Wisconsin Kite Club gathered in Fond du Lac for their annual holiday party and raffle. Featured on the club's calendar are a "complete your unfinished projects" workshop on March 24th at the Muskego library, the Portage County Kite Festival in Stevens Point on April 29th, and the Oz Krueger memorial fly in Beaver Dam on May 6th.

On January 1st, the Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois hosted their annual Cool Fool Kite festival. Sunny skies and good though gusty winds brought out both kite fliers and kite watchers in good numbers. KSWI will continue their "Tour de Kite 2007" with the Family Kite Festival at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee on May 26th and 27th, and the Outta Site Kite Flight on June 2nd and 3rd at Kennedy Park in Kenosha.

continued on next page

Region Six, continued

The Hoosier Kite Society held a Christmas dinner on December 2nd. Upcoming events on the HKS calendar include the Birds of Prey fly on April 21st at Cliffy Falls State Park, the 10th annual Colonel Murray Memorial Kite Festival on May 4th and 5th at Sunset Hill Farms County Park, and the Ansel Toney Memorial Kite Festival on May 5th at the AMA fields in Muncie.

Other upcoming events in our region include the annual Mayor Daley's Kids and Kites on May 5th at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago; Kites over Grinnell on May 5th in Iowa; Kites Over Lake Storey on May 5th and 6th in Galesburg, IL; the Naperville Kite Festival on June 2nd and 3rd in Naperville, IL, and the Perry Farm Kite Festival on June 9th and 10th in Bourbonnais, IL.

That's all for now, have fun and keep looking up!



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ing the annual "Color the Wind" Festival in Clear Lake, IA, on February 17th. Organizer Larry Day has called to assure us that there will be ice and wind galore for the day. Ok, Larry, but let's hope we don't have the -12° that we had last year!

Our New Year's resolution was to repair and reorganize our kite collection. Well, maybe next month. There's still plenty of time, right?

Our local club, Midwest Winds Kiteflyers, recently had our annual Christmas party. It was a well attended event, with door prizes and kite giveaways. The highlight of the evening was having the entire group gather at our home, to watch a video of the Convention in Des Moines. We admitted that we are a total group of kite geeks! But, we really enjoyed reminiscing over the wonderful week we had there. Launching the big Mega-flag was one of our favorite memories.

Be sure to check this link to the Kansas City Kite Club, <http://kckiteclub.org/newsletters.htm>. They have a growing group with lots going on, and a really nice newsletter to share with you.

Our next big area event will be our Spring Fly on April 29, at the LaVista Soccer Complex. We would love to invite any of you out there to come on

down and join us for this fly. Weather permitting, it is a very fun day on a great field.

The 15th Skydance Sakakawea Kite Festival will be May 26-28 at Fort Stevenson State Park near Garrison, ND. This event is a family-oriented fun fly coordinated by Deb Lenzen. Demonstrations, big kites, and art kites make it a good event to attend so if you need a beautiful place to fly over the Memorial Day weekend, put this event on your schedule.

Richard Keeney of Olathe, KS, sends this: "I just renewed my AKA membership for 2007 after a year's absence. Last year I spent all my recently gained retirement time volunteering with the Mid America Medical Reserve Corps and Olathe Kansas Fire Department CERT.

"This activism was brought on by my concern with the lack of Community Preparedness following Hurricane Katrina. During a year of in-depth training a 'LIGHT' came on. One of the needs for Emergency Management was factual Visual Data and Disaster Assessment that could be quickly affected and passed electronic and digitally to Local, Regional and National Incident emergency Commands.

"I began to read a great deal and experiment with the civilian use of RC/UAV Aircraft. While this was well and good (but difficult to transport in emergencies, expensive and sensitive to weather conditions) something else tried and true came to mind: KAP. With the use of Para-Foils (or Delta Conynes) and Digital Camera Rigs, an on-site Community Emergency Response Team could deliver near immediate Aerial Disaster Assessment, downloaded and transmitted via wireless PC within minutes/ when minutes count.

"I have since shared this with others such as the Director of UACT (United American Civil Task-force), a Ranking State CAP Officer and other CERT/ MRC Members. They all agree this appears to have tremendous merit for Community Emergency Response. I am now in the process of establishing a Kansas KAP Flight. A little different from an AKA Club in the fact that our flying purpose and ongoing development will be for use in Emergency Services within the Region."

Enjoy the sky!

Margaret Murphy



Mary Becker, President of the Neenah (WI) High School Kite Club, and brother Andy Becker, ring in the New Year.

It's pretty hard to think about kite flying when here in good old Omaha it's a high 2° with about three inches of snow on the ground. I know, it's much worse for those of you in Missouri and up north in our region. We feel for you all, but remember. . . soon it will be spring and we will be seeing you out on the kite field somewhere.

We have some events to look forward to this year. We will be attend-



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As I write this, even South Central Texas is in the middle of an ice storm; so it's a bit hard to get motivated to even step outside, much less go flying! Yes, I know; to the rest of the country, and even Region Eight, this sounds pretty wimpy because I KNOW you've all had it much worse! I've lived in New York, Omaha, Indianapolis, and Columbus through winters, so I've done more than my share of "digging out"! But it's true that it only takes a short time before your blood gets thinner and you no longer have a tolerance for the cold! But this weather will soon pass, and we'll all be ready for kite season!

The South Padre Island Kite Enthusiasts (SPIKE), are the only ones who have REALLY been continuously busy over the winter! They have the advantage of not only warmer weather but of "Winter Texans": an incredibly supportive group of folks who have temporarily relocated from the North. As we all know, it makes it a lot easier to have a good festival when you have such an appreciative audience! In addition to SPIKE, the South Houston Area Recreational Kites (SHARK), the Dallas Area Kitefliers Organization (DAKO), the Sky Pirates near Corpus Christi, and the Central Texas Cloud Chasers kite clubs have all been conducting regular club flys and gaining

new friends and club members!

By the time this goes to print, we'll have already done the the Great Texas Kite Club Party in Rockport, the South Padre Island fun fly in February, the Northwest Rec Center workshop in Austin, and probably even the great Zilker Park Kite Festival in Austin. But we're just getting started! Take a minute to go get your calendars and jot down these dates: Spiro Mounds in Oklahoma on the weekend of March 17th; Eureka Springs in Arkansas - March 24th; on the weekend of March 30th - April 1st, you'll have to decide between Kite Fest Louisiane in West Baton Rouge or the Cloud Busters festival in Perrin, TX. The next weekend in April brings us the Portland Wind Festival near Houston, the Cannon NM Kite Karnival, the Westlake festival in Lahom, OK: the Great North Texas Kite Festival near Dallas is on for the weekend of April 21-22, with the Kyle festival in Central Texas closing out the month on April 28th! May 5-6 weekend is the New Mexico Wind Festival in Edgewood; the 12th and 13th is the Tulsa Wind Riders Festival of Kites; back to New Mexico the following weekend for the Los Alamos fest on the 19th and 20th; then, over Memorial Day weekend, don't even THINK about being too pooped to come to the Junction Kitemakers Retreat in Central Texas!

Want to talk about June? Okay... Bentonville, AR, hosts the Aerosport Balloon Festival (with kites) on the 1st

and 2nd; Holly Beach, LA, is on the schedule for the Cajun Riviera fest on June 9-10; plus the LifeNet festival in Dallas on June 16th. Don't skip the LibertyFest in Edmond, OK, on June 30th and July 1st! In addition to these larger events, there are a myriad of local festivals on the calendar! Bear in mind that all this information is only what I have now, in mid January! Events are certain to be added or even changed as the season kicks up! ALWAYS double check with the organizers and the AKA calendar prior to an event, just in case! Which also means that organizers need to keep the calendar (and me!) updated with changes or additions! Troy Gunn has again collected the Conference event dates for a calendar so be sure to look for any last minute changes at: <http://members.tripod.com/~TKOGunn1/kitecalendar.htm>

As the season begins, I can't pass up the opportunity to again say a big "THANKS!!!" to all of the folks who organize, coordinate, mediate, negotiate, or decorate; plus to those all of you out there who pound stakes, M/C, cook lunch, entertain, secure inflatables to their vehicles, or even just bring extra popcorn or iced tea! It all makes up components of the wonderful experiences we refer to as kitefests. Know that your efforts are deeply appreciated!

Keep looking up!

New member Katy Gray in action.



Greetings from the chilly Northwest... Aye, our region has seen a very cold winter but the kitefliers are surviving!

The Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat just happened January 11-14 in Rockaway Beach. It was well attended and featured some excellent workshops by notable kite makers from all over the country.

Simultaneously, a little further north, I was attending the 6th annual Windless Indoor Festival where fliers gathered from all over the northwest to perform, compete and share ideas. Two featured guests made a particularly unique impact this year. Nelson Borelli (who placed 3rd at the 2006 AKA Convention for Indoor) came all the way from Illinois to show us his amazing floating fighter, which was quickly adopted and

continued on next page



Region 9 ~ Intermountain

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End of term: 2009

Region Nine, continued

used by many of the sport kite pilots, both in demonstration and competition. Also, three members of iQuad (www.iquad.us) assembled to put on an indoor team performance using Revolution kites, which might be the first time a team of three or more have performed an indoor routine in North America. On the competition front, Region Nine's own Alan Cunningham

took home 1st place honors in Open Indoor Unlimited.

Alan hosted his own event for the third year in a row, Up The River indoor festival, held a couple hours east of Portland in Arlington over the weekend of February 9-11. This event featured Paul DeBakker all the way from North Carolina, as well as other top indoor fliers from all over the Northwest including iQuad, making a return appearance indoors. For more information about this particular event, visit www.nwskl.org.

Following the trend, and setting a few of their own, the Lincoln City Indoor Festival is coming back for what will no doubt be another successful year. Lee and Debbie Park always come to arrange a spectacular indoor show utilizing most of the fliers in attendance, and you can also look forward to some tremendous performances by Scott Weider, Lam Hoac, Scott Davis, Penny Lingenfelter and others! For more information, call 800/452-2151 or visit www.oregoncoast.org.

Indeed, indoor events such as these seem to be the saving grace during our Northwest winters. One of the things I always appreciate is that they bring all of our various facets into a single venue, and always encourage skill-exchange and growth between those who fly fighter kites, dual or quad-line kites and single lines. More and more, we're seeing fliers learning from and using a wider variety of kites in their performances!



Region 10 ~ Northwest

AK-WA

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End of term: 2009

home and be bored out of our minds over endless football replays. We loaded up a couple of kites and the AKA banner and off we went to participate in a wonderful day. The rains held off, WKA cooked up some chili and hot dogs and it was perfect menu for a grand day out. I even forced — I mean offered — people the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket for the chance to win registration to AKA 2007 at Ocean Shores in October.

During the day there were a few mishaps with the kite eating trees, but

Glen LaFave



Scott Davis, fashion warrior, flying Windless in Long Beach.

OK! I will admit that I am a little compulsive. I have come to this conclusion after decorating our Christmas tree that is 10 feet tall. Not only does it have 2900 lights on it (that's Ron's fault) it has a lot of ornaments. What does this have to do with kiting? Well, I counted the kite ornaments and the total is 33, including five windsocks (thank you Scott Spencer) and three tiny feathers. [Editor: we'll feature holiday ornaments in a future issue. Send your pictures to kiting.ed@aka.kite.org].

After all the fuss and stuff of the holidays what does one do? You head to Seattle's Golden Gardens Park to an event that has taken place for 33 years. It is referred to as "Protest the Bowls," for those of us who choose not sit at

Suzanne Sadow loses to the kite eating tree at the Protest. The Bowls fly.



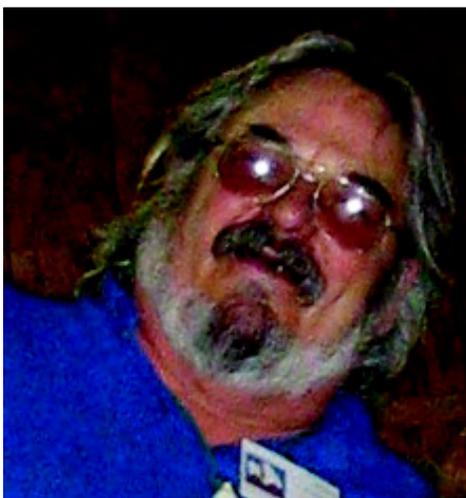
never fear: a larger than life pole appeared manned by Rick White, Launny Herriges, Dick Curran and Ken Conrad. All were saved except for one Frustrationless Flyer that chose to stay in the tree. Seeing good friends and watching a pair of eagles circling the field made for a perfect way to start the year. No, it made for fantastic way to start the year. I hope that you will all put this on your calendar for next year.

Our thoughts are turning to Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference. My job will be the big raffle. I have good word that another Phil Scarfe Fort Worden Logo kite is in the making. I am always so amazed at what is donated. The talent is unreal. Our friends the Robinsons and the Baggetts from the UK along with Chicago's Charlie Sotich will be arriving for their annual visit. I used to think they came to see me, but now I know it is to attend the best kite conference going. Our AKA Region Thirteen RD, Linda Sanders, is sending her husband Kevin to teach a class. It is a small world. This should be another great year for the conference and a lot of brilliant new kites will appear in the sky. Is this a good life or what?

The banner in my picture is a gift from the White Horse Kite Flyers in the UK. David Robinson took the picture, Roy and Hayley Broadley from Kites Up printed the picture on the fabric and sewed the banner. The "Ticket Chick" is the name that Jamie Alford (when she was very young) gave to us when running the raffle at Fort Worden. Jamie has now grown up and I am still the ticket chick. I want to thank the WHKF for such a great gift. Those are real raffle tickets on the banner, so if you've attended Fort Worden look for your name on a ticket.

Until next time, check the calendar for upcoming events and get out there and fly whenever you can.

Berkeley has always been known for great kiting but now will be known as the park in the movie "The Kite Runner." Yep, they filmed the final scenes of the movie at Caesar Chavez Park. For three days they taught about 30 children to fly kites, and transformed the park by removing the chains between the bollards, and covering the BBQs and picnic tables with huge groupings of shrubs. Then for three



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End of Term: 2009

more days, 300 movie and support people swarmed the park with equipment and trucks and huge tents filled with food. Tom McAlister and John Kahn helped with teaching the kids while Basir Beria was the movie's official kite consultant. Tom's sales truck was used in the film, but they got an actor to play Tom! Also amusing was that after teaching all these kids to fly fighters, what they filmed were their body postures, acting like they were flying kites. They will add the kites in post-

production. Same with the weather; John complained "too bad about the grey skies today" and one of the crew said "doesn't matter, we'll make the sky blue digitally." This is the first movie with kites as a pivotal role in the story and should greatly increase the awareness of fighter kites and kiting in general.

Jim Strealy reports that the Merced kite festival will be no more. He can't get enough community support and his partner Vince McMillon is moving to Hawaii to open a kite store. Jim also gave up co-organizing the Paso Robles event, which is changing to a 4-hour format on May 5th. They still plan on the killer BBQ for the fliers.

There's a new event coming to the town of Morro Bay. It's happening the last weekend of April and will include vendors in the downtown area, a parade of colors through town, kids kite stuff at a local school, and demos and big kites on the ample beach north of the rock. Morro has a HUGE rock that divides the north and south beaches with the south beach belonging to the endangered plovers. This event promises to be a stellar new event.

BASKL announced their first ever single-discipline events this season. Fighters, dual-line, and quad-line competitors will each have their own events. This should make the day go easier for the organizers and allow more time to teach new fliers and have

continued on next page



"I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille"; the Highline Kites truck on the set of The Kite Runner.

Tom McAlister

Region Eleven, continued
more fun in general, all good things. Find their full schedule at www.baskl.org.

The Berkeley Wranglers are headed to Japan with their giant octopus. Tom McAlister, John Kahn, Michael North and Dave Hoggan are on their way in April to attend two famous events. Nice invitation guys. . . wonder how I can become a wrangler?

It's never too early to plan for convention. It's going to be a west coast location this year. Ocean Shores is a great little town and the last time we were there I had a wonderful time. Most of us can drive and take all of our toys. Or it might be fun for a large group to charter a bus and party the entire way up and back AND take everything you own! And don't forget there are raffle tickets to be had that could win you a free registration for a buck. And guess what? I have a few tablets of the tickets if you want to try your luck. Start planning for the time off and how to get there for the fun.



Region 12 ~ Southwest

Southern CA-AZ-HI

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Hello everyone. For those that don't know me, my name is Ben Dantonio and I've been appointed your acting regional director. I will do my very best to keep you up to date on events and things going on in the sport as a whole, but to do this I will need some help from all of you, so keep me informed.

First is Kites Over Yucca Valley on March 10. I attended two years ago and had a lot of fun, and if all goes well I'll be there to play this year.

Second is the North American Buggy Expo (NABX) which is a buggier's dream come true: lots of space, lots of good people, and when I was there last year wind that was just great. This event starts on March 31st and runs to April 9th and is great fun for all. For more details on NABX check www.nabx.net.

Third, the Santa Barbara Kite Festival. This is a family event held in the great meadow on the campus of the Santa Barbara City College, and from my understanding this is a really nice place to fly. The date for this fly is April 15 and I will also try to make this event this year.

Fourth is the Morro Bay Festival. This is also a place that has me wanting to go out and play, so yes I hope to make this event on April 27-29.

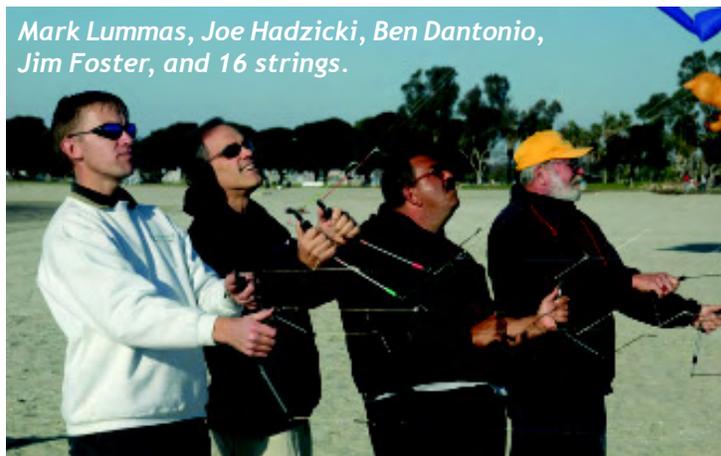
Also a reminder that the San Diego Kite Club meets the second Saturday of each month and we are always looking for more fliers to help fill the sky.

This is my first report and hopefully I'll get better at this as time goes on. If I missed your event, keep me in the loop and as always I will do my best to keep all of you in the loop as well. If you want to know where I and my employer, Revolution, will be next visit www.revkites.com and you will know where we can get together to play.



*Jose Sainz's
psychedelic rok.*

*Mark Lummas, Joe Hadzicki, Ben Dantonio,
Jim Foster, and 16 strings.*



You want to see more than just U.S. coverage, right????! Yes, it's the *American* Kitefliers Association but we all like to travel or dream about traveling to events. I've heard from such a lot of you in Region Thirteen, with messages flowing in from Arthur Dibble (UK), Barbara and Jeremy Perceval (Canada), and Orlando Ongkingco (Philippines). Then, there's Don Baggett (UK), Doug and Marilyn Battaglia (Canada), Andrew Beattie and Rod Gant (both UK), Christopher Chambers (Sweden) and James Kekenusa (Indonesia).

From Arthur Dibble: "For years now large quantities of money have been dragged out of our English pockets by the infamous Marla Miller, all in the name of kiting events and I am sure that we are all very grateful. None more so than those of us in White Horse Kite Flyers where she has helped support us at our festivals, workshops and Annual General Meeting." (The WHKF made Marla the banner shown with her picture on page 48). Arthur also reminds everyone that Swindon Festival (UK) is on again in May 2007; he'd love to see all of Region Thirteen there!

Another headline, this time from Drachen Foundation's September 2006 newsletter, "Mikio Toki an International Star." It seems that the Japanese Government recognise it too, and have conferred the honour of national treasure status on him as a valued craftsman. Looks like he'll be kept busy with the increased demands for his time and work! Region Thirteen is proud of you, Toki-san!

Region Thirteen can also lay claim to the current AKA Grand National Champion, Mr. Chen Zhao Ji from Xi'an City, China. He was recently inducted into the World Kite Museum. Mr. Chen



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 End of Term: 2009

speaks no English, I speak no Chinese. We ought to do fine on a kite field!

I've found an old kite friend, Martin Smith from Australia, and I've made some new friends. Jacques LeTourneau from Quebec told me he has retired and now enjoys painting his art on kites. Carlos Simoes took part in the Toronto Kitefliers Chili workshop on November 11 which was run by Irving Reid. Jake LeBlanc reminds us that Dieppe International Kite Fest is on in August. Chalik Campbell in Jamaica has the challenge of preparing an Easter Kite Festival; once details are finalised, they ought to be on the AKA Calendar. (Or just ask me!) And here's a call from Neil Edwards about the Toronto Kite Festival. Stay tuned, but it's expected to be 15-16 September.

From Bob Cruikshanks, UK: "I had already arranged to attend India, again, this year. Will hopefully let you have all the juicy details when I return. Am also scheduled to meet up with Team Mangalore and then join them in Mangalore for some flying on their home ground." Is anyone else a fighting fan with good stories to tell?

News in from Patagonia's International Kite Festival held on December 7 - 9 (co-ordinated with the help of BaToCo Kite Club). Gustavo Di Si tells me that this area of Argentina used to be home to the dinosaur millions of years ago. Photos taken by Polo

Madueno hint at this connection!

"We are going to Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference (22 - 25 February) and I am having trouble choosing which workshops to do," says Don Baggett. (Anyone else from Region Thirteen attend this one?) 2007 will feature at least these Region Thirteen members: Kevin Sanders from Australia (also known as "husband"!) and John Freeman, Paul Horner, and Dan Kurahashi, all from Canada, with Ralf Maserski and Holm Struck from Germany. What better way to learn techniques, especially with the teacher right there in the same room.

Did you hear? U2's Bono walked off the stage during his concerts in Australia to fly a kite! Seeing is believing, so visit http://youtube.com/watch?v=i_e0tnMY3p8, then watch for 4 minutes 48 seconds into the song. I've also heard the kite didn't behave so well at all the venues...! [Editor: This word from the news wires: During their recent sell-out tour of New Zealand, U2's front man Bono released a bird-shaped kite during the singing of their hit single "Kite". The kite flew into the path of concert-goer Claire Keam. She said, "People were saying 'that's the kite' and we jumped up and caught it. It had these huge helium balloons on it and we had to give a couple of them away because

Don't miss Dieppe in August!



Jake LeBlanc

they were too big to fit in the car." In a remarkable display of philanthropy Claire has decided against keeping the kite, and instead auctioned it off, raising \$1230 for Oxfam New Zealand.]

For all Internet-users, here are a select few links to interesting places...

- ✓ Dieppe International Kite Festival - www.cerf-volant.ca
- ✓ News from Argentina - www.batoco.org/news/
- ✓ Cervia International Kite Festival - www.artevento.com
- ✓ British kite calendar - www.kitecalendar.co.uk
- ✓ Berck-sur-Mer Int'l Kite Festival - www.cerf-volant-berck.com



Polo Madueno

And you thought kite-chasing dogs were a problem! Try flying in Patagonia!



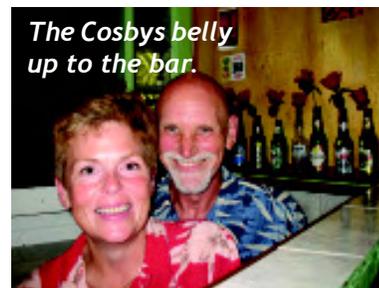
Kiting

people+places+things

and moving to Playa Shacks, Puerto Rico. Seems that long-together-but-only-married-recently couple bought a beachside bar at one of the world's best kitesurfing spots. John is busy experimenting with kite aerial photography and mixing margaritas, while Elaine finishes her education in Michigan before heading south to join him soon. Check out their blog from the bar at <http://ola-lolas.blogspot.com>.

Kite Marriage, Part 1

Just before Christmas, word came in from John and Elaine Cosby – organizers of the Two Paws Kite Fest and Mid-American Sport Kite Championships – that they were picking up



Kite Marriage, Part 2

Art St. Pierre and Beth Bowen were married in a private ceremony in late December. When you see these two love birds be sure to look at their wedding rings. They had the quad-line beauties custom made. Now they'll always have their Revs on hand.



Kite Marriage, Part 3

Andrew and Kathleen Beattie send this announcement from England: "Some years ago, Andrew was invited to fly at the Wirral Kite Festival. He was busy putting his third kite in the air when Kathleen came over to offer a helping hand. Andrew was offended because he was perfectly capable of flying his own kites and told her to piss off. Thus started a relationship that was to blossom into a romance that would play out in kite fields round the world.

"Since we would like to share the event with all our friends, we have chosen to get married at the very festival where it all started, in New Brighton Dips, Wirral, Merseyside, on June 30 and July 1. Dave Holt and Malcolm Goodman have teamed up with the local council to organise a spectacular international lineup for this year, bringing the best kitefliers in the world to Merseyside. The wedding will only be a small part of the whole weekend, so we would like to invite you to come and enjoy both. Please note:

- There will be no valet parking. If someone offers to valet park your car, it will be Dean Jordan. Do not give him your keys.
- We will be wearing t-shirts and shorts. You can wear whatever you like. Corey Jensen might be naked.
- The ceremony will be short and fun.
- There will be no formal dinner, no limousine, no head table, no printed invitations, no bridesmaids, no best man.
- There will, of course, be lots of kiteflying."



Debunking Marconi

More than a century after Guglielmo Marconi claimed he had used a kite and some copper wire on a Newfoundland hilltop to receive a trans-Atlantic radio signal, scientists are trying to debunk his claim to fame. "We're essentially setting out to prove it wrong," said Joe Craig, a physicist and director of the Marconi Radio Club. Craig and several other researchers are using a combination of modern computer technology and vintage equipment to determine whether the inventor actually heard three faint, electromagnetic clicks— the letter S in Morse code – that were transmitted from England.

A station has been set up in the St. Johns, Newfoundland, using a 150-metre antenna attached to a receiver the size of a pocketbook. A transmitter station in England sent its call letters, GB3SSS, in Morse code at 15-minute intervals. The experiment, which ended in February, is being conducted at a time when sunspot activity is as low as it was when

Marconi carried out his tests. "It's an ideal time for this type of experiment," Craig said.

Marconi won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1909 and became known as the "father of radio." "I had been absolutely right in my calculation," Marconi wrote at the time. "The electric waves . . . had traversed the Atlantic, serenely ignoring the curvature of the Earth, which so many doubters considered would be a fatal obstacle."

But in recent years, a growing number of skeptics have come forward to question Marconi's claim, saying it's more likely that he heard static or distant lightning. "As far as I'm concerned, he never heard a damn thing on Signal Hill, but he imagined he did," said John Belrose, a semi-retired radio scientist at the federal Communications Research Centre in Ottawa. "I'm not a Marconi guy. Sorry about that."

While the experiment is an attempt to settle the controversy, Zedel said questions surrounding the accomplishment will never go away. "Because he was the only who heard it, there's a little bit of mystique involved there," Zedel said, adding that he believes the Marconi's place in history will remain intact, regardless of what the experiment uncovers.



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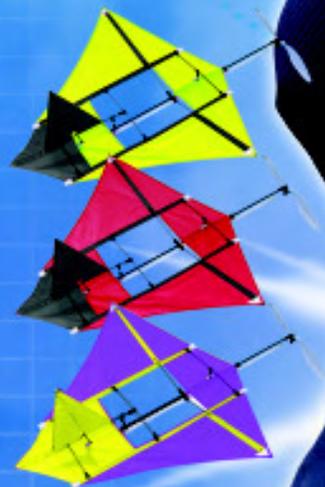
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