

Summer 2007
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AKA *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



Modegi & Co. In Washington
Sleepover at Toki Camp

Turning Japanese!

National Kite Month

NABX: Vegas Buggyng

Ocean Shores Convention

John Freeman's Rockaway Bikini

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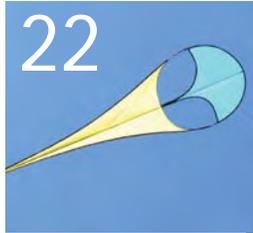
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On the cover: *The Roby Pagoda, built by Bermuda's Philip Jones, shadows the Washington Monument. Photo by David Barr.*

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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.

National Kite Month.

by Mike Dallmer



Sam Foertmeyer

Bol racing at Tinicum Park, Pennsylvania.

This year National Kite Month® registered 312 events around the world. Some events were small family flies, others were large gatherings of kites putting on shows for spectators. Many articles appeared in print around the globe, and we even had TV coverage of a few events.

I would like to thank our sponsors: the American Kitefliers Association, Kite Trade Association International, Go Fly a Kite and Into the Wind. Those who donated kites as our Grand Prizes deserve a very big thank you as they took time to hand make a kite especially for NKM. I also like to thank Rich Hawkins and Greg Lamoureux who



Phil Broder

Rosanna Rosanova and Dennis Smith get ready to fly at the Cape Henlopen Kite Festival in Delaware.

helped as part of the NKM Committee, and serving for the first time in an official capacity, my wife Cecilia; without her letter stuffing, going to the post office and helping me when things got tough, nothing would have left the office.

Here are the official winners:

- The Jerry Houk Cool T-shirt Kite for most events registered by an individual is Dale Bowden.
- Mike Shaw's Bird Kite goes to South Houston Area Recreational Kites for the most events registered – 24 – by a club.
- The Andy Selzer Fighter Kite goes to Region Eight Director, Gayle Woodul, for having the best members/ events ratio.
- A Collection of Donna Houchins Miniatures goes to Region Six's Robert Rymaszewski, for having 45 events in his Region. (Due to the rule limiting grand prizes to one per person, Region Eight would have won with 50.)
- The Terry McPherson Fighter Kite and Shirt goes to Scott Spencer with five Workshops registered (Dale Bowden had six but already won a prize).
- The Paul Fieber Square Hata Kite goes to Ian and Lisa Willoughby, randomly chosen from all the NKM events.
- And finally, the Chen Zhao Ji Sode Kite goes to Randy Fox, randomly chosen from those entering events in the under 18 category.

The random weekly winners of the Go Fly a Kite packages were: Arthur Dibble, Ron Sitnick, Douglas Roselle, Becky Philips, Dean Turnblom, Dale Bowden, Mike Shaw, Mary Ann Bursk and Dan Johnson. The weekly winners of the Into The Wind pack-

Kites showcased in a library.



Viola Selzer

ages were: Kevin Kilgoar, Ted Shaw, Mena Fiore, Bob Bell, Dale Bowden, Doug Charleville, Brian Blaeske, Leslie Davis, Paul Keeler, Monica Gray, Tom Deck, Randy Fox, Linda Yancy, Miriam Schafler, Annemarie Hughes, Jerry Fincher, Jerald Graham and Mark Morrow.

Check www.nationalkitemonth.org for all the numbers. As for education and those curious about National Kite Month®, the number of unique visitors and visits to the website have been steadily increasing. The number of hits went from 1.9 million for the first four months of 2006 to 3.2 million for the same time this year. We are getting the word of kiting out!!!

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who registered an event. Hope you had fun doing it this year, and let's make it just as good if not better next year....



A kite display in a library window.

Scott Spencer

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Wow! National Kite Month® has been a blast. I kicked off the month on the east coast at the Smithsonian Kite festival for a fantastic time with lots of great kitefliers and a whole lot of spectators visiting the Mall in DC. The second weekend Darrin and I spent at the North American Buggy Expo in Nevada; there is such a sweet joy to cruising across the landscape with just a kite and the wind for power. I finished out the rest of NKM with a different local California kite festival each week. I know many of you were just as busy and hopefully having as much fun. One last tidbit: AKA has finally been granted the trademark for National Kite Month®.

Many of our top kitemakers have already been sewing for several months in preparation for the 2007 AKA Convention in Ocean Shores, preparing beautiful works of art to grace the skies for us. This year's Convention is shaping up into an exciting time, with lots of great workshops and social activities, in addition to the Grand National competition for our kitemakers, sport kite and fighter kite fliers. The convention is a special time to commune with other kitefliers for a whole week and I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Each year, during the Convention, we honor three outstanding AKA members with lifetime achievement awards: the Steve Edeiken award honoring the "Kiteflier of the Year," the Bob Ingraham award honoring the "AKA Volunteer of the Year," and the Lee Toy award honoring the "Kite Artist of the Year". While members have always been able to nominate recipients for the first two awards, this year, for the first time, members can also nominate someone to be the recipient of the Lee Toy award. I urge all of you to participate by taking time to nominate someone to these our highest honors.

It's a pleasure to announce that for our 2008 Convention we will be going to Gettysburg, PA! As a world famous tourist destination, it's a great family vacation site that reminds us of our nation's heritage and the values that made America who we are today. Gettysburg reminds us that our nation has been built on diversity; at times that diversity has divided the country and at times that diversity has made us stronger. Our convention is a place where we celebrate the diversity in kite flying and remember that together we are stronger. The Gettysburg site is packed with everything we need: large grassy fields, with a great hotel and convention center just down the street with a room rate under \$100/night. Boyd's Bears are welcoming us to their 125 acres of private land for the flying fields and are as excited about us coming there as we are to visit them. It promises to be another great convention.

At this time each year the AKA seeks nominations for our elected positions, including the President and one-third of the Regional Directors (RDs). RDs are vital to the association and I'm often surprised how many people tell me they

are not really sure what the RD job entails. So I would like to share the following job descriptions for Regional Directors....

The Regional Directors are the central hub for AKA activity at the local level. They serve as the information conduit for all things kiting by keeping members up to date on activities in the area, responding to questions from members and nonmembers, as well as recruiting and connecting volunteers with requests for help. RDs are responsible for filing the region's quarterly report for publication in *Kiting*.

RDs are the "customer relations" department for the AKA. They are responsible for spearheading membership recruitment and retention efforts in their region. Networking with members is essential for success in this leadership role. RDs are encouraged to attend as many festivals as possible; however personal attendance at all kite festivals in the region is not possible. Networking and recruitment skills become important to ensure that the AKA has a presence and provides support to events, which the RDs cannot personally attend.

RDs represent their region on the Board of Directors (BOD). The BOD leads the association by setting the goals for the association, creating policy, making budget and benefits decisions, along with general management oversight of the nonprofit corporation that is the AKA. It is the BOD that reviews and approves all financial decisions for the association, as well as being responsible for the performance reviews of contractors. Most of this work is accomplished through e-mail in conjunction with quarterly conference calls. The BOD is accountable to the membership for the association.

BOD members may also be asked to chair or participate in AKA committees. Because of the broad view BOD members have of kiting and their familiarity with AKA policies they are the ideal committee members to help spearhead progress within our special interest groups. The effort level involved with being on an AKA committee varies with the committee.

AKA members considering running for Regional Director should be energetic and excited about sharing kiting with others, comfortable working with e-mail on a daily basis, at ease networking with members and potential members, willing to build relationships with members, comfortable soliciting volunteers to assist in the completion of their job responsibilities and be willing to go that extra mile to make the AKA a priority in their life.

If you or someone you know matches this job description please contact our nominations chair, Kathy Brinnehl, at nominations@aka.kite.org. The AKA is a 99% volunteer organization, whose strengths and accomplishments depend on each of us.

Share the joy of kiting.



Pimp my buggy! Madame President rides Dave Sabilino's chopper at NABX.

A Single Liner Goes Buggy

by José Sainz

The North American Buggy Expo (NABX) is a gathering of wind-loving kiteflying, adrenalin-seeking nuts. It takes place in the spring in Primm, Nevada, at the border of Nevada and California, south of Las Vegas. The event is staged on Ivanpah dry lake.

This event reunites a diverse “family” of friends every year to enjoy the fun of playing with the wind in every imaginable way. The strong desert winds allow people to express themselves with all kinds of kite buggies, kite boards, land sailers, boomerangs, and single line kites. Nearby Mojave Lake offers the

Charles Jackson and Caddo



opportunity to do all the kite-related water activities as well. And when the day is done, you can return to the Primm casinos just minutes away for a relaxing shower, fine dining and

comfortable night sleep. Nightly trips to Vegas are also allowed!!

Visitors to the event come from all over the USA, Canada and Mexico, and as far away as Great Britain, France, Japan, Israel, Argentina and New Zealand. Many have been coming here since the early '90s when the event was known as Spring Break Buggy Blast. Many will agree that Fran Gramkowski was the founder of the event, but he would tell you it was started by a bunch of good friends and family looking for a good time.

So, how do you get single line flyers to attend NABX? You stage the biggest international Shot-Car Racing Championships held in the entire world! Just ask event coordinators Corey Jensen and Dean Jordan, or participants Scott Skinner, Ron Gibian, Blake Pelton, Steve Bate-

man, Joe Hadzicki, Ben Dantonio, Sue and Darrin Skinner, David Culp, and Meg Albers. Look for more shot-car racing at future kite festivals and the AKA convention.

NABX is organized by Claxton Thompson, Dean Jordan and a dedicated group of board members and volunteers. You can see more pictures and read more about NABX on www.NABX.net.



Ron Gibian



In Balance

So I find myself on page 6 (instead of my old spot on the inside back page) and with a new name for the column – “In Balance.” I’m good with that. Finding some sense of balance in this world is becoming more and more difficult. Between the increasingly insane “real” world and the elemental, natural forces of nature (the wind, for instance) I am able to find some balance for myself.

I have long stated that kite flying works quicker than psychiatry, and is a lot less expensive. I’ve been teaching “Kite Chi” for years. It is about finding some personal balance in our kite flying.

How many remember “The King’s Kite Chi Challenge” at the 1989 AKA Convention in Honolulu? Stu Eisenberg won The Challenge that year, flying his Kite Chi routine in the Sport Kite Finals.

For any not yet familiar with it, here’s a brief description of Kite Chi: flying a stunter in loop, raise your hands over your head and spin around, untwisting your lines while the kite twists them.

It’s not really about your lines. I’ve noticed that with so much visual information coming at us, the neural pathways in our brains default to vision for most information. Without being aware of it, most of us

have allowed our eyes to be locked on the kite while we’re flying. I figure the neural synapses in our brains are like rutted roads. Once we get in the habit of relying on our eyes, our brains seem to forget the other senses. Spinning around distracts your eyes for a moment. Our eyes have gotten so loud, our brain can’t hear our other senses.

Given a chance, our fingers, connected to the kite through the lines, can learn the tactile language trans-



The Corey-lama at rest in the desert.

mitted down the lines, and tell us “where the kite is” and even (more importantly for traction) “where the kite is going.” It takes time to learn

by Corey Jensen

the language of the kite. It’s “touch-flying”

Involving more senses than sight is interesting. The marketplace relies heavily on visual advertising. Kites are sold by how they look (sight). Kite flying is much more about how they feel (tactile) while they’re flying. Sound (hearing) is easy. I love the way kite lines sing in praise of the wind. I love the rustle of fabric and the sound of a foil hitting the ground.

Now taste and smell are a bit more of a problem. Old-school flyers might remember the adage: For good kite flying, mayonnaise on the top and peanut butter on the bottom. Has something to do with lift and drag, I believe. That covers taste.

Finally... aroma. You know, I’ve always loved the smell of ripstop in the morning.

Many years ago my brother gave me a personal motto. I like it and have used it frequently, currently as the sig line on my internet postings. I guess Phil didn’t recognize my family tradition and changed the name of the column. So I’ll use it to close this...

“Often wrong... never in doubt.”



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Empty SPaces in the sky

Sam Urner

Long time Northern California Kite Club member Sam Urner died unexpectedly in early March. Sam loved building and flying ultra-light kites made from common household materials. Sam was a quiet guy and often came and flew without saying much. I enjoyed Sam and will miss him and his kites.

— Brian Champie

Jim King

1928-2007

Jim was regular a on the kite field at the Junction Retreat from 1990 to 2006. Jim always had an interest in kites, making them out of brown paper sacks or butcher paper, and using flour and water to make paste. He made box kites and diamonds mostly, and would tie them off at night and return the next morning to find the line was broken and the kite gone forever.

Jim and wife MaryAnn joined JOTS in Dallas, Texas, as well as AKA, upon Jim's retirement. MaryAnn recalls, "We went to every workshop we could. We were HOOKED!" They heard about the Junction Kite Retreat, and George Weber and Lois Card convinced them it was the place to be on Memorial Day weekend each year.



MaryAnn says that one of the most memorable experiences they had was their first convention, which was held in Lubbock. "We were like two kids in a candy shop, our eyes wide and we were so excited about everything."

Mary Ann says, "One of the most important things in a person's life is

to be able to find a true soul mate and share your life and dreams with that person. We knew what each other's thought with just a look . . . I love you, Jim, and sweet dreams."

— Judy Kingery

Philippe Cottenceau

1957-2006

There was the time I spent with



Philippe in Indonesia. At the end of a long day of festival kite flying, night falling, Philippe and I were seated next to one another on a bus carrying us back to our lodging. The old bus moved at a snail's pace, threading its way down a road packed with an immense throng of people returning to their homes, leaving the festival beach.

Some of the bus's kite flyers, exhausted, had their eyes closed. I had my head down, writing notes, also tired, having trouble guiding my pencil. Philippe was still alert to his surroundings.

He touched my knee, "Look, Tal," he said in an excited voice, pointing out the window at the darkening fields alongside the roadway.

Philippe smiled with delight at the tiny lights of fireflies, just a few spread out across the vast fields, only six or so, winking on and off.

At that moment on the bus moving so slowly as night fell in Indonesia, I recognized Philippe as a kite poet, a custodian and exemplar, whose small kites made so lovingly of natural materials generated precious and all too rare moments of serenity.

I pray that others will come

forward to travel the path Philippe has shown us, seeking their own personal means by which this small, tranquil light of Philippe's fireflies will continue to breathe nature's and his special life-force into our kite community.

— Tal Streeter

John Eddyhausen

I first met John on a flying field in Ft. Worth. Karen and I hit it off immediately with John. He traveled with us to numerous events like Rockport, Oklahoma City, Abilene, and New Orleans. John was a R/C junkie before discovering kiting. He went into this new hobby-sport like he did everything in life, FULL STEAM AHEAD. He served as regional director and president of Jewels of the Sky and was always there to support the JOTS events. John always had his smart and loyal dog with him at our kite events.

I'll never forget the time we were in Oklahoma City for a festival, John was off buggying somewhere. In the late afternoon someone informed me that John was down and out of his buggy on the south end of the field. I got in my van and went to get him. As it turned out he was jerked out of the buggy and broke his hip. He was only 75 at the time. He spent a weeks in the hospital and recuperating, then was back on the flying field. In the later years his knees could not support, so he would grab someone to launch his kite, then sat down in his lawn chair and flew.

There are not enough words to say about all the things we did and the good times we had together. I do and will continue to miss him, as many of his kite flying friends.



Inside Oregon

by Ronda Brewer

It had been a full year of preparation by the Lincoln City Visitors and Convention Bureau (LCVCB), the Lincoln City Kite Friendship Association (LCKFA), The Kite Shoppe, Elmer's Flag and Banners, and many other volunteers and contributors. Finally, it was almost time for the 2007 Lincoln City Indoor Kite Festival to begin.

On Friday, March 30, I arrived at the Taft High School building to find there were many volunteers and kites already there. In the gymnasium, I was surprised at how noisy it was with the voices of the volunteers plus the sound of a scissor lift moving around the floor. The massive effort of turning a high school gym into a performance arena was well underway, with Lee and Debbie Park directing the troop of volunteers.

Whew, there were still lots to do and so little time until the festival was to officially start.

In the end, I was amazed at the transformation that had taken place. Colorful dots of various sizes hung in front of the black fabric backdrop to liven up the dense dark material. Lights hung from the ceiling, others were along the sides of the gym and the rest were placed



Alan Cunningham

Ronda Brewer

on the floor in front of the backdrop. What a difference it made in the intensity of the bright dots.

When it was all ready, Lee and Debbie gave final instructions to the invited fliers who would be performing in the weekend's four productions set to Beatle tunes. Performers included John Barressi, Penny Lingenfelter, Alan Cunningham, Lam Hoac, Scott Weider, Jeff Reed, Andy Becker, Todd Rudolph, David Hathaway, Scott Davis, and Wayne Turner. Other supporting performers were Amy Doran, Donna Wendt, Jerimy Colbert, Zachary Colbert, Sam Colbert, Shannon Herth, and myself.

A fresh flurry of activity finally wrapped up the pre-festival preparations. At 4PM the doors were opened. As the spectators drifted into the gym, kites test flew their kites on the newly transformed stage. In between routines, Bob Wendt manned the microphone to present each flier and did a wonderful job of keeping the audience well informed.

The evening performance was an audio-visual delight. The Parks were the glue to the production and once again Lincoln City was honored and pleased to present one of the premier productions of the entire indoor kiting world. Music, kites, props, costumes, performers, and action combined for a nostalgic revisit for many in the crowd to days of our youth and memories long forgotten. Did we really dress like that?

Saturday started out wet and rainy. . . excellent weather for an indoor event at a beach location! The day was filled with two scheduled musical performances, the Indoor Competition, individual performances, indoor kite flying lessons, kid's free kite making, food, kite vendors, and the Lincoln City Visitor and Convention staff selling raffle tickets and festival shirts. It was a whirlwind of activity for families and visitors to enjoy on a rainy day at the beautiful but stormy Oregon coast.

The competition was held in the early afternoon. Bill Rogers, the head judge, organized the performance judges, the boundary monitors, and the supporting staff. It was a close competition but Novice was won by Amy Doran from



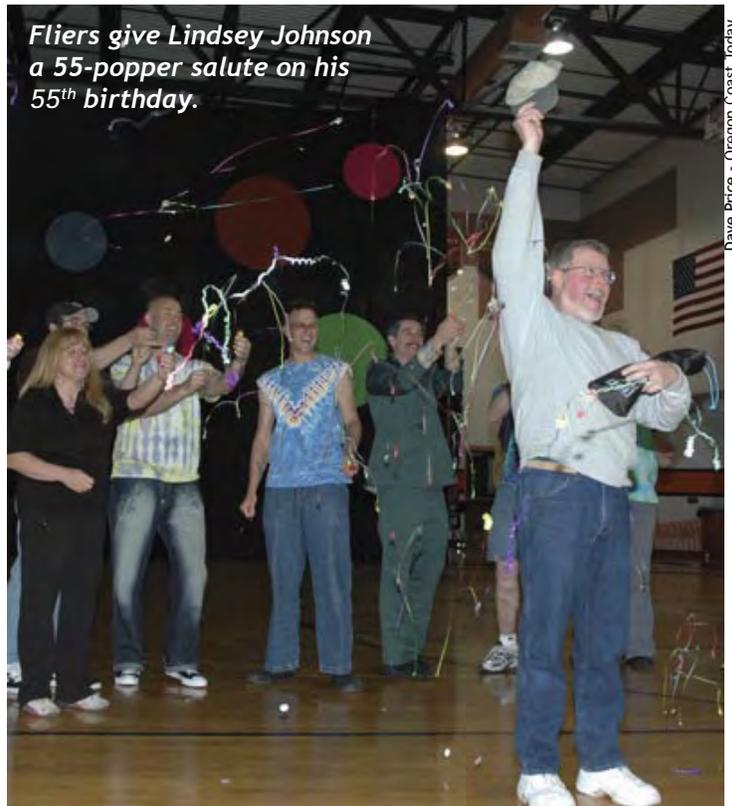
Jeff Reed

Ronda Brewer

Bend, Oregon, and the Masters Champion was Scott Weider from Rhode Island. The LCVCB provided the custom blown glass floats that were placed on the trophy bases. Day two ended with the realization that the festival had been a success so far and we had one short day left to this wonderful weekend.

Sunday's weather was gorgeous and it was difficult to be indoors when the winds outside were calling our names. Several fliers were caught flying their kites on the school's sports field and had to be encouraged to get back inside. Like the kites, the visitors and locals were equally eager to enjoy the outdoors. The crowds were lighter than expected but the event went on as planned. Sunday concluded in the

Fliers give Lindsey Johnson a 55-popper salute on his 55th birthday.



Dave Price - Oregon Coast Today

Ronda Brewer



Scott Weider

afternoon with the final musical extravaganza. Then, it was time to tear down, pack up and clean up the facilities.

We left knowing this had been an event we were thankful to have been involved with and we were already making plans for the 2008 Lincoln City Indoor Kite Festival.

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Sporting Life

by Terry Cornell

Are you a member of an active, vibrant kite club looking for a fun group activity to fill an open spot in the calendar? Are you the member of a somewhat dormant club in need of a kick start? Are you a flier with no club in your area and you want to get together with other local fliers? Organizing a Regional Competition might just be the thing.

A Regional Competition is among the smallest of formal competitive kiting events, but it can easily become one of the most rewarding events you've ever been involved in. A Regional can serve whatever need your local fliers may have.

You can organize a Regional for as many good reasons as you can think of. One particular new Regional that kicked off two years ago in the Southeast Conference embraced two major goals:

- To present first-time Novice Class fliers with a no-stress competitive experience complete with positive inbrief and detailed, individual debrief.

- To bring two major Kite Clubs together for a low-frills scrimmage in preparation for the meat of that year's competition schedule.

This modest Regional event attracted six new Novice Class fliers. Of those six, one gent just showed up, borrowed a kite, and won the NIB discipline. As I recall, he did well at that year's AKA Grand Nationals also.

The scope of a Regional can be whatever the organizer wishes it to be, as long as it serves the needs of potential competitors. It can be as simple as the area's dual-line and multi-line competitors meeting at a certain beach or inland park with a boombox for music. It can resemble a small-scale kite festival held in conjunction with a Parks and Recreation Department complete with sound tent, flying lessons, face painting, etc. It can be anywhere in between. As a potential event organizer, your Regional can be sized to accomplish as many or as

few general kiting goals as your flying population will find useful.

If you've done your front-end research and determined that you are going to make your Regional available to the general public, AKA sanctioning is a wise investment at bargain prices. If you are using public land through a partnership with the local Parks and Recreation Department, having the insurance in hand early on will put them at ease and perhaps get them more actively involved in the community relations aspect of your event. For your competitors, sanctioning is important because they can earn points toward the invitation to AKA Grand Nationals.

Depending on the size and scope of your Regional it may be attractive to recruit sponsors from within kiting and from local businesses. My past experience with sponsors is that they are very supportive of Regional competitions and will help make your event a success in some pleasantly unexpected ways. If you obtain sponsorships, be certain to show your appreciation by prominently

identifying them. Display logos and such on your official paperwork, and display any banners that they provide at your venue.

Competition is one of the core goals. In keeping with the grass-roots flavor of a Regional, make it easy for competitors to want to come to your event and have fun. Consider:

- keep your registration fees nominal; a flat fee of \$10 to enter as many disciplines as a competitor wishes is very attractive.

- free registration for first-timers
- offer the disciplines that your local fliers compete in and interesting new disciplines such as Multiline Pairs.
- offer Open class or combined events for your experienced competitors, and reserve Novice Class events for your first-time competitors if Novice-friendly is one of your goals.

- include the fun stuff, like Hot Tricks and Mystery Ballet.

A Regional Competition is a grand way to extend a dynamic kite club or

to energize a sleepy Club. In these times of decreased competitive flier numbers and fewer major competitions, a Regional is a good tool which benefits your established fliers while growing the sport by attracting first time Novices.

You've just got to love a win-win scenario.

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Call of the Buffalo Moon

Kiting is not just for kids – for us, it has become a lifelong adventure.

We both flew kites as kids, but it was the discovery of sport kites in 1989 that brought us back to kiting. Our first sport kite competition was at Myrtle Beach where we met Pete DiGiacomo and the What's Up team. Glen had read about Pete holding the kite speed record. What a great experience!

We also found a “real” kite store. We came home with a Revolution, a Firedart and at least 25 back issues of several kite magazines. Sport kite competitions got top billing on our vacation list. We learned of a local kite club, Sky Pilots in Reading, PA, and it was there that we heard about the kite building workshops put on by Maryland Kite Society. 1991 was the first of countless workshops that we attended. The information that has been shared by so many of our friends has helped to shape our kite making into what it is today.

So many kite builders have brought different techniques from their own personal backgrounds. Ours was in custom fishing rod building. Having been a part of a custom fishing rod

business for many years, we were able to utilize components from that business to enhance our kites and accessories. We used material from synthetic fishing rod handles to make custom dual and quad line handles that we shared

with many of our friends. We also saw an application for tapered spars made from fishing rod blanks so that the frames of our kites would be lighter in weight and more flexible, using either fiberglass or carbon graphite wherever the use was most appropriate. We introduced thread wrapping to many builders by using wraps to reinforce the ferrules that we made for our spars, turning what was once the weakest part of the spar into the strongest, and we also added decorative thread wraps on exposed sparring to coordinate with the color scheme of a kite. The soft framing fixtures that we use help us to hold bridle points on kites when the spars are removed and



also act as a joining piece where spars intersect.

We started competing at different times. Glen competed first with a rokkaku at the 1993 Smithsonian Kite Festival and won his category as a novice builder. Tanna competed the following year at an AKA convention, also with a rokkaku, and won the Novice Kitebuilder of the Year award. After that, we volunteered to judge and work at the registration table for the kite building competition at almost every convention so that we could learn more about building by seeing what other people were doing.

In 1996, at the AKA convention in Santa Monica, Tanna won first place

Tanna's Lady of the Maori Sea



in traditional kites with “Lady of the Clouds” and also won Grand Champion. At the 1998 convention in Ocean Shores, both of us competed – Glen in the cellular and delta category and Tanna in the bowed category. Each of us won a first place, Glen with his cellular piece, “Maori Cody” and Tanna with “Lady of the Maori Sea,” which went on to win a second Grand Champion award.

We have since competed at the Smithsonian Kite Festival several times, with Tanna winning first place in the figure kite category and a Beauty in the Air award with a Chinese slim sand swallow in 1999 and the cooperative award in 2000 with the Crane - Cory kite, a wedding present to our nephew and his wife based on a small Mikio Toki edo. Our most recent cooperative kite, "Call of the Buffalo



Pretty strong: the Haynes' threadwrapping technique

kite or why they chose a graphic, and to encourage them to build more and compete again. But, the best thing about the kite community is the wonderful people that we've met. It is great to travel all over the world to events, knowing that even if we do not know anyone there, we still have kiting in common with others in attendance. It is a universal language that



Glen's Maori Cody

Moon", is currently on display at the Billings, Montana, airport's Lewis and Clark exhibition.

There are many things that we enjoy about this kiting thing that we do. We love to help judge kites, talking to competitors to learn more about them and what they do when building their kites. It is great to talk to the newer competitors, trying to give them confidence to tell the judging teams what made them build a particular

crosses all barriers - including age, ability, and language for that matter. We have spent a week or more at some events, not knowing a common lan-



Chinese Slim Sand Swallow

guage with which to communicate, and yet we all speak *kite*. We come away from each trip having made new friends and learning something new each time. In some cases, those friends turn into extended family members. The biggest joy of being a part of the kiting world is the sharing.

Our adventure continues.



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Wayne Hosking

by Patti Gibbons
photos courtesy World Kite Museum

Walk into a bookstore and take a look around. Between the obligatory cappuccino bar and book-of-the-month kiosk are pages chronicling the imagination of countless authors, showcasing everything under the sun. You name it, its there—Napoleonic history for novices, tax preparation for expatriates, gardening for lefties, salsa dancing for lovers, and of course any store worth its chops (at least in the eyes of an AKA member) is bound to have a decent kite book selection. A giant in the kite section, Wayne Hosking's body of work justly takes up a fair share of shelf real estate. The prolific kite writer instructs, inspires, and illustrates kiting like few others can. Author, teacher, teacher of teachers, and ace flier, Hosking has tugged on his fair share of kite strings over the years while helping countless others pull their own lines.

Native Aussie Wayne Hosking grew up skipping stones into the ocean and enjoyed the perks of living under the Southern Cross until he moved overseas in his early adulthood. Although kites weren't commonplace in Australia when he was coming up, Wayne recalls making a kite or two with friends from salvaged household materials. Brown paper sacks were repurposed as skins, twill package ties were saved on mail day, and somehow the chil-

dren got their mothers to donate spent stockings and bed sheets for tails. When they got enough raw materials they began tinkering and in the end assembled a communal kite. The kite turned out to be a tank. They had to break a sweat to get it to fly but victory was theirs, albeit for a brief moment in the sun.

Wayne left kites in the skies of his childhood and didn't think much of them until the mid-'70s when his wife reintroduced him to kiting. She was on the lookout for a couples activity. Disco lessons, macramé, and fondue cooking lessons didn't quite make the cut, but kiting piqued her interest. She scoured the library and checked out a couple kite books. Wayne was warm to her idea and they found kite making a pleasant pastime. Like a maverick chef, he recalls using pictures in the books as general guides rather than their exacting patterns to make his

first kites. His boyhood triumphs of making kites from found materials resurfaced and Wayne dipped into the trash bag to make many of his early kites.

The kiting bug bit Wayne and his wife and their pastime soon evolved to making



kites for sale. The cottage industry tinkers did pretty well with their weekend forays to the craft markets; Wayne remembers selling over 300 kites at a single fair. These sorts of orders didn't lead to a rock star lifestyle, but the business venture kept the couple afloat when Wayne was downsized out of his day job. He remembers they, "didn't make a living off it but we made an existence." For three years Wayne and his wife "supplied all of Australia with kites."

The merchant role eventually evolved into the role of kite mentor. Three to five days a week Wayne packed his kiting trick bag and headed to area schools to teach the art of kite fighting. Students took to the sport rapidly and word traveled. Wayne's date book filled up quickly as schoolchildren took to the skies to compete with kites. This person-to-person tutelage was a tremendous amount of fun and it helped promote the Hoskings' kite ventures. Soon, Wayne's passion for kiting broke out of the schoolyard and he spearheaded a kite festival. The festival drew 20,000 people and subsequent events expanded rapidly. The Hoskings eventually moved to America, seeking treatment for their daughter's cerebral palsy in Michigan. Wayne remembers his new neighbors thought he needed a straitjacket after they watched him fly a red kite through a snowstorm. Contrary to the



whispers, Wayne enjoyed the Zen of flying amid the relentless flurries. Inclement weather aside, Wayne was surprised to learn that average people he spoke with in the US didn't know much about kites.

The Midwestern snows finally stopped and the drifts melted away. Wayne's winter flies didn't sustain him. The emotional toll of moving to the opposite side of the continent and caring for a special needs child weighed heavily on Wayne and after about a year he realized he himself needed to see a doctor. The doctor suggested medication or removing himself from his stressors to overcome his depression. Happy pills weren't Wayne's panacea and he couldn't quit his job, so he battled the blue period his own way. He headed downstairs to the basement and wrote. His first kite book sold 6,000 copies.

Writing *Kites Aussie Style* did more than counterbalance a stressful time in Wayne's life, it redirected his kiting efforts and helped connect him with fliers from distant corners. Paul Garber



and Dom Jalbert sought him out after they got their hands on his book while countless other fliers were introduced to kiting after stumbling upon his material. With a virtual kiting Renaissance on the horizon, Wayne's writing contributed to the rise of organized kiting in the country.

Wayne's overall involvement with organized kiting picked up along with his book sales. He found out about the AKA and began attending festivals. Not too long after getting his first AKA



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membership card, kiting took him overseas. He began traveling internationally to promote and participate in kiting adventures. The Hoskings went on Dave Checkley's tour of the Far East and his wife won the Black Ships Festival in Japan.

These overseas trips stuck with Wayne and eventually found their way to the page. Wayne's book *Asian Kites* started with firsthand visits to Malaysia. He met the Malaysian kite flying

team at the Junction Kite Retreat and took them up on their kind invitation to visit their flying fields. Notepad close at hand, Wayne studied their traditions as he enjoyed making new friends and flying new kites. The consummate student of kites also put on the teacher's cap while

visiting. He taught kitemaking workshops as a way to share his knowledge. He remembers, against his protests, that he was allowed only to work with teachers and that he had "to sweep the kids away with a broom."

Wayne's Malaysian trip sparked some historical questions. While watching their traditional use of kites for fishing and sailing he began questioning the widespread belief that the kite is native to China. Wayne's observations made him wonder if the Malay-

sians had in fact flown the world's first kite. Perhaps an early sail escaped, flew free, and inspired an anonymous Malaysian to create the first kite? To check up on his theory Wayne visited a Malaysian library. Using his pocket dictionary to translate, Wayne poured through the materials. Although he didn't find the kiting Rosetta Stone on his trip, he holds open the possibility that the Malaysians made the world's first kite.

International experiences may have wowed him, but Wayne never lost interest in helping spread the joys of kiting locally. Back in the US he took kites to the classrooms. Although Wayne encountered some resistance from school administrators, eventually he taught kite making and kite flying in over 200 schools, colleges, and community organizations. But teaching students wasn't all he was good at doing. Wayne also taught teachers. For four years he enjoyed spending part of his summers at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston showing teachers ways to incorporate kiting into their lesson plans. Wayne enjoys working with classroom teachers and wrote *Flights of Imagination*, a textbook for science teachers that uses kites to teach aerodynamics and science principles. Although he got a paltry \$300 for the book and doesn't receive a penny in royalties, he relishes knowing the resource is out there for educators.

Before Wayne sat down for his oral history interview in 1997, he toted a tape recorder to Francis Rogallo's home and interviewed the kiting giant for the World Kite Museum's oral history program. In the years since, Wayne continues to fly and has authored over a half a dozen new kite books.

EVENT CALENDAR

AKA sanctioned events
are listed in **BOLD**

June 15-17

Rogallo Kite Festival
Jockey's Ridge State Park
Nags Head, NC
Cory Davies
252/441-4127



Dave Butler

June 24

Brigantine Fighter Kite Fest
Brigantine, NJ
Andy Selzer
856/728-8870

June 30 - July 1

LibertyFest Kite Fest
Mitch Park
Edmond, OK
Terry Officer
405/341-5477

July 20-22

North Coast Stunt Kite Games
Maumee Bay State Park
Oregon, OH
Kevin Kilgoar
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www.bsaf.org

July 27-29

Kites Over Branch County
Creal Soccer Complex
Coldwater, MI
Suzette Arnold
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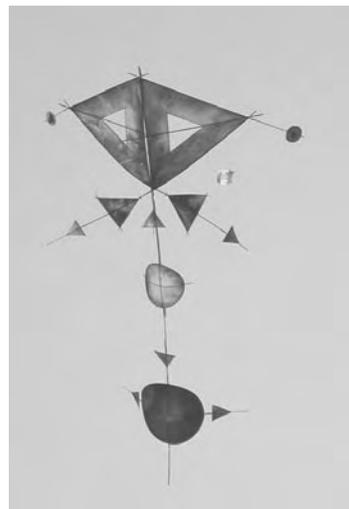
June 16-17

Perry Farm Kite Festival
Bourbonnais, IL
Sarah Winkel
815/933-9905
www.btpd.org

June 23-24

Old Dominion SKC
Dorey Park
Richmond, VA
Marc Conklin
804/347-6241
www.richmondairforce.com

Lincoln City Kite Festival
D River Wayside State Park
Lincoln City, OR
Barton Howe
541/557-1110
www.oregoncoast.org



Dave Butler



**Check the event calendar
at www.aka.kite.org for
updated info!**

Dave Butler

August 11

Fly To The Sky
BF Goodrich plant
Ft. Wayne, IN
Joe Stemen
260/747-9524

September 1-2

Bristol Int'l Kite Festival
Bristol, Great Britain
Avril Baker
info@ac-pr.co.uk

August 15-19

Dieppe Int'l Kite Festival
Dover Park
Dieppe, New Brunswick
Jake LeBlanc
506/877-7830
www.cerf-volant.ca

August 20-26

Washington State Int'l
Kite Fest
Long Beach, WA
www.kitefestival.com



Doug Jones

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.

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, or post it to the KiteTalk Forum, by August 1. We'll feature your answers in the next issue, and ask a new question. Next issue's question is, "What's the one kite that's ALWAYS in your bag?"

The first kites I flew this spring were a Benson Fusion (standard), a Peter Betancourt AMI-UL, and a self made 6 foot rokkaku. I flew them on March 30th at the 2008 AKA Convention site in Gettysburg.

Todd Little

I fly my kites all year round from the cold of the winter to the hot of the summer, but the first spring kite I would say is my Premier sled 32.

Anthony Lauriello

I flew small paper bird kites indoors while I was perfecting them for use at a kids workshop for a local theater. Oh, and I flew a modern version of a Maori bird kite, 12' wingspan that I built.

Barbara Meyer

I flew a double box delta (Barbara Meyer version) from Premier, one of the large fish (also from Premier), a Premier Mega Sled 81, and a Revolution Baressi Series quad-line the first day I went out. Oh, and it was all on the dunes of Jockeys Ridge!

Jim Hodges

So, do Southern Hemisphere members have to wait until September? As we say here... unfair, koala bear!

Linda Sanders

FLYSPOTS Wildwood, NJ

Yes, the sand goes on forever. From the boardwalk to the water, it's almost ¼ mile. Which means that all the sunbathers trek right on by, leaving lots and lots of open space for kites. Wildwood may be the Mecca of American kiteflying, a place where everyone has to make a pilgrimage at least once. The beach is massive, which is why it's hosted the Wildwoods International Kite Festival and East Coast Sport Kite Championships on Memorial Day weekend



for 22 years. The convention center also offers an ideal indoor flying space.

But your Wildwood experience isn't complete without a ride on the tram car. Hop off to get your fill of America's best boardwalk food, watch the old men play bocce at the Italian Social Club, or ride the rollercoasters at Morey's Piers. You can even catch a first-run movie on a giant 56' screen on the beach. Make the pilgrimage. Bring kites, buggies, and an appetite.

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Fightin' Words

Fighter kites are by far the most popular kites in the world, so it's not surprising that they have caught on here. What is surprising is that it took so long.

For as long as 2000 years fighters have been the national hobby of countries all over the world. Indian kites are almost exclusively fighters. The kites themselves have come down through the centuries virtually unchanged. They are still mostly all made in the traditional diamond shape with a single spine and a single bow made of bamboo. They all have tissue paper skins with the only differences being variations in the size of the kites and the types of tissue used. They are flown off the roof tops on long glass powder-coated lines. On the big holidays there can be thousands of them in the sky at the same time flying at incredibly long distances, over 3000 feet out at times. The object of the traditional fights being to cut all the other kites out of the sky, the flyer will maneuver his kite until it crosses the line of another and he will begin sawing away, yanking on his line until the friction cuts the line and sends the opponent's kite drifting away. The flyer with the last kite in the sky is the winner and becomes the hero of the festival.

Here in the United States over just the past decade there has evolved a very untraditional twist on this centuries old game. An unconventional and distinctly American style of fighter flying is being seen more and more on fields around the country. This style is variously called "Short Line" or "Line Touch" or just "American Style". The American style kites still have the generally diamond shape but are now being built of high tech materials. Skins are made of orcon, icarex and many different polyfilms, and spines and bows are carbon fiber. Fighter fanatics with engineering brains and Yankee ingenuity have applied endless experimentation to all facets of design and materials in the simple-looking kites, to the point where unheard of performance is being achieved. Startling improvements in speed, horizontal tracking, spinning and the ability to fly deep into the sides of the wind window have been amazing to see.

They are perfectly suited to the style of flying that has been evolving along with them.

Much of the evolution was spurred along by a small avid group of fighter enthusiasts in the Pacific Northwest, who in 1997 formed the Northwest Fighter Kite Association. This group found that the interest in fact had spread across America and on to Germany, Australia, Israel and beyond. Today they are known as the North American Fighter Kite Association and have a website at www.nafka.net.

At about the same time in 1997 the newly formed AKA Fighter Kite and Rokkaku Committee convened and started working on a set of rules to go along with these American style fighter kites. They worked closely with NFKA and came up with the basic rules that are in use today. The form of the game still pays symbolic homage to the traditions but the rules are distinctly our own. Instead of flying from actual



Steve Bateman with an American tradition: orcon and polyfilm sail, microcarbon sparring, and a 5-point bridle.

roof tops, the flyer would now stand within a 10' diameter ring. He must not step outside the ring, it being the equivalent to stepping off the roof. He would fly one-on-one against a single opponent who would be standing 10 feet away in his own ring. The American style flyer would also fly on much shorter lines. Where the Indian flyers

by Sharon Champie

will often fly on up to 3000 feet of line, we seldom let out more than 200 feet, usually competing at less than 100 feet. This makes for a very exciting, fast-moving combat situation that relies on quick reflexes and severely tests kite and flyer alike.

We never use the glass powder coated line called manjha that is used in traditional fighter competitions. In fact, it is specifically prohibited by the AKA for use in any sanctioned event except in a controlled line cutting demonstration. Instead we use either lightly waxed cotton carpet thread or other lightweight spectra lines. We do not seek to cut the opponents line, rather we symbolically count coup by touching the top or bottom of their line with ours, scoring points. If the judge calls a "top point" the flyers will attempt to maneuver their kites in such a way to fly over the opponent's line and touch the top of it with their line. A "bottom point" is just the opposite." Typically a pair will fly three to five such tangles in a match. Everyone in the competition will fly matches against everyone else and the winner will be the one with the most points at the end.

For more information on line touch rules and other games played with American style fighter kites look at the AKA Fighter Kite and Rokkaku Rulebook on the AKA website www.aka.kite.org/data/download/pdf/FighterKite&RokkakuRuleBook.pdf

A wonderful website for everything about building, flying, and tuning fighters is Fighter Kite Central <http://fighterkitecentral.com/>. Here you will also find a great forum devoted to all things fighter.

Every year NAFKA hosts a delightful week of fighter activities culminating in the two day Line Touch World Cup Championship held at the Washington State International Kite Festival. Nearly two dozen of the best of the best gather each year to vie for the honor of taking home a gorgeous silver cup and one of kite artist Ralph Resnick's beautifully decorated fighter kites. Many more will be gathering to talk fighters, fly fighters, make fighters and show off the latest innovations in our own American style fighter kites. You could almost call it a tradition.

HISTORY LESSON

Cahiers: Au Fil des Vents

by Scott Skinner



Fiercely independent, Cottenceau was one of the first contemporary kite makers to really explore the Malay and Indonesian kite traditions and traveled throughout Asia to observe and discover kite traditions. His writing attentively written and carefully detailed, he reported on his travels in addition to revisiting the kite traditions of Europe and presented ideas that pushed others to serious research.

The first issue of *Cahiers* (February 2002) focuses on kites in China, de-

The volume details the origins of this kite in France and the origins of the art and popular imagery used to decorate them. The full color pages, offered in the center of the book, offer a variety of hand painted and printed designs, displaying gorgeous examples with delightful humor.

Once experienced, the innovative painting and story style of these kites and their decorations are difficult to forget. Sometimes advertising popular products of the time, many times political in nature, many printing companies at the time had produced these kite sails to showcase their printing quality. Occasionally, they will surface at antique book fairs and auctions.

Like the *Cahiers* volumes, *Au fil des Vents*' special edition newsletter is also full of gracefully written information and elegant layout. Offering charming poetry about the appeal of the kite, essays on kites in education, and research of kite cultures in Columbia, Vietnam and Indonesia, each page conveys both the magical allure and seriousness of Cottenceau's approach to kiting.

Small gems like Cottenceau's publications are the unexpected treasures of any archive. With Philippe's passing they become even more treasured.



Philippe Cottenceau

The Drachen Foundation recently placed a database of its library archive online for the public to view. With prized volumes and many information-heavy reference books, easily overlooked in the Drachen Foundation Archive are three small volumes of poetry, prose, and pictures lovingly compiled by Philippe Cottenceau. Cottenceau, who recently passed away, was a celebrated kite maker respected worldwide for his interesting and ephemeral flying creations.

Founder of French kite association, *Au fil des Vents*, Cottenceau worked zealously with the ambition to promote what he sees as a magical object, "with all its rich historical associations and its capacity to inspire wonder." Through *Au fil des Vents*, he directed the publication of a semi-regular newsletter recording his and others' kite research abroad as well as three very special volumes.

The volumes Cottenceau published through *Au fil des Vents*, *Cahiers: Au fil des Vents issues one and two* (printed in Cottenceau's native French) and the special edition of *Au fil des Vents* newsletter are composed of insight, historical information and commentary and were beautifully laid out and organized by Cottenceau.

tailoring the rise of this country's popular tradition, includes a survey of the contemporary kite scene in China, the kites of Lingzhi, and recounts the "Legend of the White Snake." Delightful annotation and stunning photographs add charm to its elegant layout.

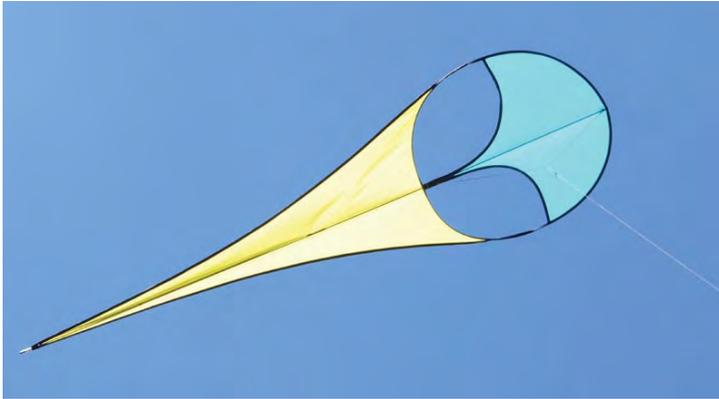
In the second issue (April 2003), Cottenceau and writer Jean-Pierre Ollive focused on the significance of the "pear shaped" kites of Europe. First dated around the fifteenth century, the familiar shape of the pear-top shows up in many parts of Europe and was made of paper, sporting a variety of hand painted designs and motifs.



KITE PLAN

The Rockaway Bikini

by John Freeman



This kite was designed especially for the Oregon Kitemakers Retreat 2007. It was inspired by a picture I saw of a kite by Normand Girard, a wonderfully innovative kiter from Quebec. If you run into any problems, or have questions, drop me a line at Marzlie@shaw.ca.

Parts List

- 2 .2100" X 4' spar
- 2 .060" X 4' spar
- 1 .2100" ferrule
- 1 .2100" nock
- 1 .2100" end cap with hole
- 3 .075" ferrule
- 2 sail piece
- 30 feet—1" edge binding
- 2 4 ½" X ½" hook Velcro
- 2 2 ½" X ½" fuzzy Velcro
- 1 1" X 5" 3.9 oz. dacron
- 1 1" X 4" 3.9 oz. dacron
- 1 bottom reinforcing patch
- 1 1" X 1" reinforcing patch with adhesive
- 1 bridle
- 1 tension line

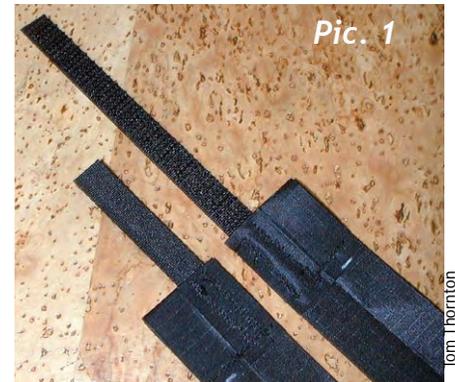
Using the gridded drawing, draw out full- sized templates for the skin. The grid is two inch squares. Note that the drawing is for half the sail—flip your drawing over to draw the other side, or fold the fabric and place the drawing center line on the fold. Butcher paper works just fine. Cut out the two skin pieces in your choice of colors.

You will need about thirty feet of one inch wide ¾ oz.

fabric for your edge binding. Begin by folding your edge binding in half and creasing it well. First sew the edge binding on the two long sides of the long sail piece. Next sew it on the two short edges of the smaller piece. These will be much more difficult because they are curved. Go slowly, an inch or so at a time. Remember that there really are no curves — just a lot of very short straight lines. The remaining two edges also get edge bound, but the binding is also a spar sleeve, so it requires extra attention.

Creating the Spar Sleeves

1. Cut two pieces of edge binding 48 inches long. Mark one inch from each end and fold over and crease.
2. Hold the folds in place with a little piece of sailmakers' tape. Sew down very close to the edge. Your pieces are now 46" long.
3. Now fold the pieces in half longways, and crease thoroughly. Make sure the folded over ends are on the inside.
4. Fold in half to mark the middle of each piece. Mark on the inside and outside.
5. Find the 4 ½" pieces of "hook" Velcro. Cut two pieces of sailmakers tape about an inch long. On the outside of the strip with the extra markings, stick the Velcro with the tape to each end, hook side down, on one side of the binding strip. Make sure they are both on the same side. Sew the Velcro to the edge binding. Do the same on the other strip with the two 2½" pieces of fuzzy Velcro. Fuzzy side up. See picture 1 to see how these will look.
6. Fold both sails at the edges that haven't been edge bound yet. Crease to mark the center. Mark with a pencil.
7. Lay out inside up the sleeve strip with the 4 ½" Velcro.



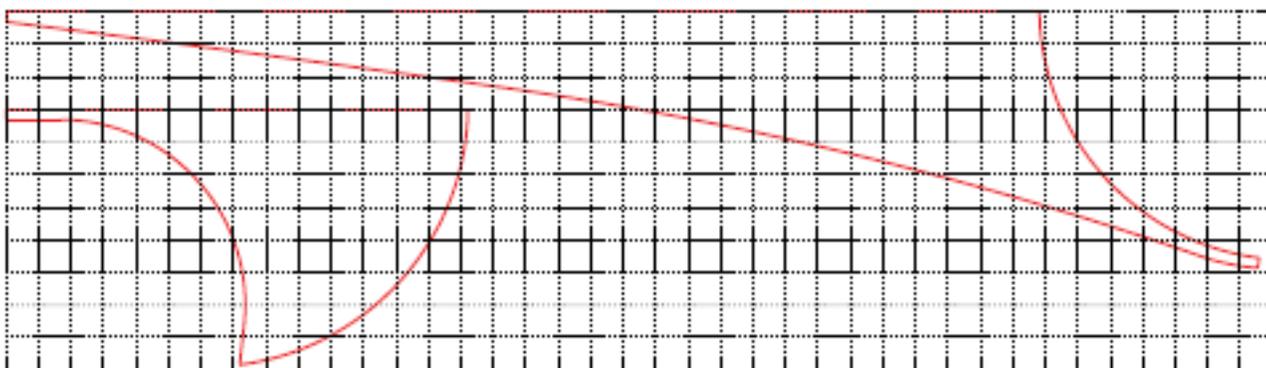
Pic. 1

Tom Thomson

Stick a small (½") piece of sailmakers tape in the center at the edge opposite the Velcro pieces.

8. Stick the top sail panel to that piece of tape,

Lindsey Johnson





Sam and Cari King flank John Freeman

with the centers lined up and the edge of the sail at the center fold of the strip.

9. With the strip open sew the sail to the edge binding strip on the four inches between the marks. Sew about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge of the strip. Back stitch at both ends.

10. Fold the edge binding strip closed. Starting at your pencil marks one inch apart on the face of the strip, sew the sleeve

both ways from the middle, $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge. (Do not try to sew too close to the edge as you run the risk of not catching the other side of the binding.) This leaves a 1" space open on the back side of the kite. Back stitch at both ends of each seam.

11. Position the bottom sail panel inside the edge binding piece with the center lines on both aligned. Start at the middle again and sew the binding on, then go back to the middle and sew the other direction. This ensures that the sleeve will remain centered on the sail.

The Hard Part Is Over!

Make a one inch square reinforcing patch of 3.9 ounce Dacron. Stick it to the top sail in the center just below the upper spar sleeve on the back of the skin. I use 3M Very High Bond adhesive, so the patch requires no sewing. I hate extra things showing on the kite face! If you don't have access to this stuff you may need to sew this patch on.

Make a reinforcing patch for the end of the tail. Make it also of Dacron, and from the very tip up the kite about three inches. Sew it on the back of the skin.

Make two pieces of 1" wide Dacron tape, one 5" long and one 4" long. Sew them together at the edges with one end of each even. This will be a sleeve for the spine. See picture 2. Sew the single thickness end to the center of the bottom sail, on the back side of the sail, overlapping the spar sleeve with the shorter piece facing away from the kite. Sew carefully very close to each side of the spar sleeve.

Lay out the two sail pieces face down. With the 1" wide sleeve you just made laying on the back of the top sail, carefully space the two sail pieces $2\frac{1}{2}$ " apart. Tape the



Pic. 2

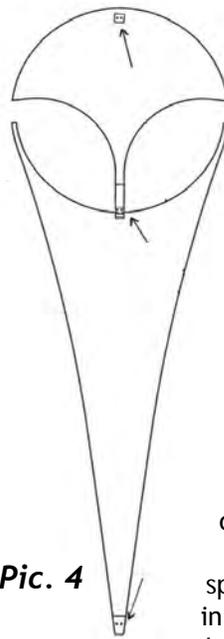
spine sleeve in place and sew it to the top sail. Sew carefully on top of the seams you already made. See picture 3.

The End of the Sewing

Burn pairs of holes in three places: the reinforcing patch at the nose, the spine sleeve in the center, and the reinforcing piece on the tail. Make them about $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart. See picture 4.

Tie an 8" long loop in a piece of line. Cut the line so the overall length, including the loop, is 24". Feed the loose end through the holes in the tail piece — front to back, then back to front. Tie a bowline, leaving only enough slack to make a small loop on the front.

On one full 4' length of .060" solid carbon rod, glue a ferrule on each end. On another full length .060" spar, use fine sandpaper to slightly round and smooth each end.



Pic. 4

Use a hole punch to punch a small hole very near the closed end of a .2100" vinyl end cap. Push another ferrule to fit the .060" spars through the hole. See picture 5.

Insert the .060" spar with ferrules into the lower sail sleeve. Insert the plain .060" spar into the upper sail sleeve, passing it through the end cap/ferrule fitting at the one inch opening in the middle. This spar is the most vulnerable to breakage, so using the plain spar makes it easier to replace if that happens.

On one full 4' length of .2100" carbon tube, glue a ferrule on one end. On another full length .2100" glue a nock on one end.

Slide the plain end of the .2100" spar with the ferrule through the sleeve in the middle of the kite and plug it into the nose fitting.

Make a Prussic knot in the big loop on the piece of line at the tail and slip it over the other .2100" spar. Slip the nock end through the loop of line on the reinforcing piece on the tail. Plug the spar into the ferrule. Slip the tension line through the nock and tighten by sliding the prussic knot up the spine.

Cut a piece of line for the bridle about 6' long. Tie one end of the bridle line through the nose holes and the other through the center sleeve holes, going around the spine just as you did for the tail-tension line.

Cut another piece of line about a foot long, and tie it into a loop. Larkshead the flying line attachment loop to the main bridle.

You are now the proud builder of the Rockaway Bikini.



Pic. 3



Pic. 5



My better half Nicole got me started in kitting in the late '80s and soon after I had ideas of attaching a camera to a kite. Thinking I would be the first, I'd be the inventor of what is now known today as KAP. Oh well!

I'd never seen a KAP rig other than the one in Pelham's Penguin Book of Kites. A Plexi-glass duplicate was made, and then a small photographic ball-head was fastened to it. As

for a camera, at the time my lightest one was a new Canon T-90. With some basic electronic background, I used a pair of walkie-talkies to trigger the camera.

But now a day, it's video downlink directly from a Nikon Coolpix 8400.



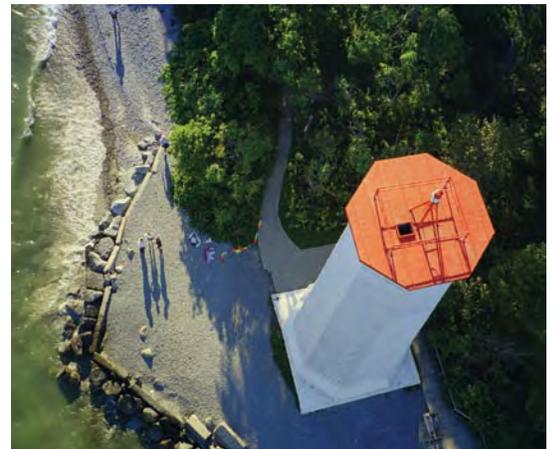
Other than wanting a better camera, I'm very happy with my KAP results.

Mostly I'm keeping KAP as a hobby

and refusing any kind of paying jobs. But in a couple of circumstances, I have used KAP within my work, once in a Newfoundland archeological site and the other in the high Arctic natural history site doing stereo photography.

I haven't used a two-camera stereo set-up since my last Arctic trip in '96, but I still have an interest in stereo photography. But now, after a first and second edit of my images, I do a third edit looking for stereo pairs. I check for clues in and around objects where the camera might have moved sideways between 2 shots. The only problem with this method is the people on the ground moving around and not staying put.

I should be re-designing a new smaller rig and controller box instead of building more festival show kites. My current set-up has traveled with me to across Canada, the high Arctic, KAPiCa02, KAPiSco04, China and now maybe Australia later this year.



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Top left: *At Play*; St. Lawrence River, Varennes, Quebec
Top right: *Sandcastle*; Presqu'île Provincial Park, Ontario
Center left: *Bunchrew House Hotel*, Inverness, Scotland. To view this stereo pair, cross your eyes and stare at the center of the image.
Center right: *Lighthouse*; Presqu'île Provincial Park, Ontario
Bottom right: *Classic Fire Engine*, Avonmore, Ontario

Yahoos in Texas

by David Gomberg

Yahoo, for all you dudes, is Texas talk. And you just thought it was a search engine.... Everything is Texas is bigger. At their kite festivals, they have big fields, big crowds, and big fun. And nowhere is that more true than Zilker Park. With the possible exception of Smithsonian, I don't believe I've ever seen as many kites in the air at a US event.



David Gomberg

For anyone not familiar with this Austin tradition, kites have been gathering in a riverside park for 79 straight years now. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Exchange Club, "Zilker" is the longest running kite festival in the country. For all of these years, the Exchange Club of Austin has been celebrating children, families, and the arrival of Spring to Central Texas with a gathering that has changed remarkably little. Back in 1929, the contests included largest, smallest, most unusual, and strongest puller. And although the styles have changed, today those

same contests are held and judged by the same rules.

The thing I think I enjoy most about Zilker is the sense that it has been going on so long. Generations come out to the park. Parents who came as small children now bring their own kids to renew the tradition. Kitemasters who got their start over in the children's kitemaking tent. Kids line up and make kites from instructors who learned the process by going through the line themselves years before.

A relatively new addition has been the Large Kite Field. Large kites have become a mainstay, anchoring the far end of the flying zone and making the event visible from miles away. This year, field 'integrity' was the best ever, with volunteers keeping onlookers, kids, and smaller kites out of the display area.

It was a gusty, bouncy, blustery, put-them-up, crash them, untangle them, launch-them-again day in Austin. But the sun was shining and the crowds were happy and we had plenty of good help and a well-secured, safe flying area.



David Gomberg

The Texicans always go out of their way to make everyone feel welcome and appreciated. The main organizers are Bunnie and Dorsey Twidwell.

If anyone has doubts about the resiliency of kite festivals or the enthusiasm of people that attend them, they need to come down here and see how good, and how long a festival can go. Put it on your calendar – the second Sunday in March – for next year, or the year after, or the year after that....



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Customer sent us this picture and wrote:

The beauty of yours (anchor system) is this-- quick, and easy to get in the ground and flying. I was flying 20-30 minutes before the other kite heads. Also, after the fly, the first day, I dug a small hole, and buried the anchor lines!!!! I put a small piece of flagging tape on them for location the next day. Hell, we were packed up and gone way before any of the others, as they couldn't leave theirs overnight, as they would be gone that night. The next day, we just hooked up and flew. Everyone else was still digging again. From **Barry-Texas**

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Wishes Come True

by David Gomberg



You start with a stunning tropical destination.

Add warm and gracious hospitality, a perfect flying field, and effective promotion and organization. Mix in a classy cross-section of interna-

tional kites. And then polish it off with an important and worthwhile cause. What you get is Kites and Wishes in Guam.

For three years, I've been privileged to participate in this event designed as a fundraiser for the Make a Wish program of Guam. Make a Wish, as most of you know, raises funds and organizes "wishes" for kids with a terminal illness. Blue banners ringed the flying field, each containing the name of one of the local "Wish Kids". You had to stop and think hard about the fact that there were nearly 150 banners.

Now understand that Guam is about as far as you can get from the "mainland" and still be in the USA. This is where America's day begins. The trip took 22 hours, crossed the date line, connected through Japan, and landed at two in the morning. But it makes you feel pretty special when a representative of the Governor's office is there in the middle of the night to greet you at the gate and whisk you through customs.

Everywhere we went on the island, people were familiar with the kite festival. We performed at schools, participated in warm-up shows, and were interviewed by newspapers and radio.

Special treatment is the hallmark of island hospitality. Our room in the Outrigger hotel was luxurious and the staff friendly and exceptionally helpful. It is hard to imagine you are still in the States when the people refuse to take tips. Hospitality? In five days, I think we enjoyed 25 meals. Sometimes, the lunch would end so we could go to dinner!! "When do we eat??" became a running gag.

The field is a grassy plain at the edge of a pristine white beach. Once, 30,000 US Marines had come ashore on this same beach to reclaim the island and faced fierce resistance from the Imperial Japanese. Now we were there flying with a contingent of Japanese kites and sharing the field as close friends.

Actually, 11 national teams participated in Kite for Wishes this year. We began just two years earlier with three

teams. But Guam is within easy reach of Australia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bali, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan. Each presented their distinctive kiting culture in what is quickly becoming a world class "Pacific Rim" kite gathering. Other nations on the field included Canada, Germany and the USA, as well as a contingent of Guam kites.

Kites and Wishes is a special event. You fly for peace on an old battlefield. You fly for kids who aren't there to fly themselves. You fly for a large, appreciative audience on a perfect field. The festival is growing and each year, more nations and more fliers arrive to be part of the fun.

Ray Bethell and I have a private little joke. When we find ourselves at an event where the wind is cold or turbulent, the field too small, the organization imperfect, or the hotel less than it

might be, we share a quick wink and observe that "It isn't Guam".



Congresswoman
Madeleine Bordallo

Ray Bethell



Maryland Int'l Kite Expo & Mid-Atlantic Sport Kite Championship

Ocean City, MD

April 27-29, 2007

Cliff Quinn and Dennis Mayhew's OLO.



Jon Burkhardt



NKM Coordinator Mike Dallmer says, "Let them eat candy!"



Cath and Eliot Shook are the Corolla Island Airheads.



Ron Graziano



Edd Brooks



Pete Dolphin



William Sturdy



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photos by
Phil Broder



Ft. Worden Kitemakers Conference

by Ron Miller

photos courtesy Washington Kitefliers Association

After all these years of kitemaking at Fort Worden, near Port Townsend, WA, we had another great 3½ days of classes. For some time

there have been requests to have classes involving bigger and more detailed projects. This year Ken McNeill taught a two-day class to build sport kite. Georgean Curran offered a “No-Sew Noodle” kite scheduled for 1½ days. The people that signed up for those classes wanted to spend quality time making their kite and not try to jam a 12 or 16-hour project into eight hours plus a late night. It’s nice to know that the members of the Fort Worden Planning Committee are not afraid of change.

This kitemaking conference has been going on now for 24 years and my regret is that I didn’t know about it until the eighth year. Through the years of being involved in kiting, I have seen so many things change, such as materials, techniques, and shapes. It will be interesting to see how kitemaking will change in the next decade. Just when you

think you have seen all possible shapes and variations of kites, up pops something new and wonderful.

Fort Worden has done a great job in providing a class schedule with well-diversified projects to meet the changing times. Gerry Pennell always steps up to the plate and teaches “Beginning Sewing” for those who are excited about learning kitemaking by using a sewing machine. Dan Kurahashi offers projects using washi & bamboo for those wanting to get a sense of “the old way.” Charlie Sotich brought another new miniature kite project, and by the end of the class his students using their imaginations to do variations of the theme. That’s what it’s about.

Guest teachers come from all over the world and bring so many great ideas. This year Ralf Maserski and Holm Struck from Germany offered up a Pentagon kite and historical Eddy kite, respectfully. Kevin Sanders, from Australia, taught a class with a different than normal shape.

One of the good things at this event is watching the students with their newly completed kites coming out of class with that great big grin on their face and looking up to the sky and with that look on their face that says, “I’m going to fly my new kite.”

Kathy Goodwind



Brian Champie



Gary Engvall



Scott Hartley, the big raffle winner



Dave Butler



Ralf Maserski



Mark Engbaum and Don Guick



Donna Wendt





Cliff and Joyce Quinn



Paul Fieber



Korean Wave Train class



Elmon Morrison builds a malard



Ralf Dietrich won Joann Weber's kite



Members of the Kitebuilder's Forum meet offline

Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat

by Grant Lovett
photos courtesy Rob Pratt, Grant Lovett, Rick Agar and Ralf Dietrich



For 19 years, the second weekend in March has signaled the Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat in Oregon, Illinois. This year's there were a flock of bird-themed classes including the Malard, taught by Ralf Dietrich of Denmark, a Snowy Owl kite by Paul Fieber and a Penguin Banner class by Betsy Agar and Sandi McGuire. There was also a choice of train classes, with Pauly Berard teaching an indoor train class and Cliff Pennell teaching his outdoor Korean Wave train. Two There was a Washi paper and wood Edo with watercolor by Charm Lindner, and a woodblock carving/repeat pattern printing technique on a modified Edo taught by JoAnn Weber. Other classes included Dropping Things from a Kite by Jerry Houk, Sedgwickube and Small Tumbling Boxes co-taught by Dave Ellis and Grant Lovett, Tiki Mask delta derivative by Barbara Meyer, Circular Miniature kite by Charlie Sotich and a Structural Details class taught by Cliff Quinn. Keep an eye on www.makr.info for information on next year's 20th anniversary retreat.

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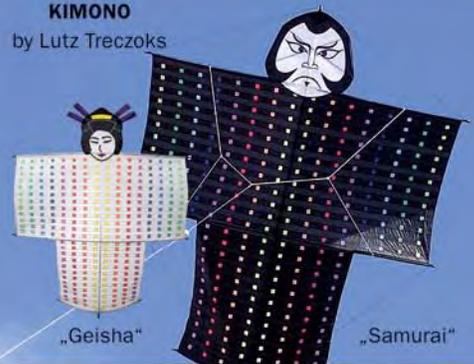
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My Visit To Toki Camp

by Greg Kono

Mikio Toki is one of the finest contemporary kite makers in Japan, and has showcased his talent in exhibitions and demonstrations throughout the world. Having studied graphic design in school, Toki learned about Edo kites from kite maker Katsuhisa Ota and has worked over 30 years to keep the traditional Edo kite form alive.

guest to stay at Toki's new home.

Toki's kite studio is located in a separate building, with large sliding glass doors and windows that allow an abundance of sun light. A third building stores bamboo and other materials.

Mrs. Toki prepared a delicious Sukiyaki dinner on my first night's stay, making it a warm welcome.

Work Begins

We started the kite-making process of laminating the washi (Japanese hand-made paper) to the silk. We first trimmed the washi and prepared the silk by tacking it to a board, wetting it with water, then brushing out all the air bubbles and wrinkles.

The next step was preparing the nori paste (a type of rice glue). Three brushes were used in the laminating process: one for spreading water (mizubake), another for spreading the nori paste (noribake) and a courser wallpaper brush for getting out the wrinkles and air bubbles.

The final step was transferring the



Checking bamboo for symmetry

washi onto the silk. This was done by picking up the end of the washi paper with a bamboo stick, lifting it, then placing it on top of the silk. The air bubbles were then brushed out and the washi-silk paper was left to dry for a day.

Once the kite paper dried, the painting process began. Originally I planned to leave it white, but was told that white is symbolic of death. Sumi ink (traditional Japanese ink used in Sumi-E painting) and colored dyes are used in creating the brightly colored sails often typifying pictures of historical persons, old stories, and famous Kabuki actors. I chose to paint a simple rising sun design depicting the sunrise I had viewed earlier at Hitosumatsu beach.

Bamboo

Madake (Japanese timber bamboo) is the species used by Toki for making kites. These bamboos are capable of reaching heights of 72 feet and diameters of four to six inches. Toki harvests the bamboo between late September through November when it is least likely to be infested with bugs. Toki prefers 2-3 years old bamboo, mature enough to reach full strength but not too old to be full of scars or damaged from the elements.

Bamboo can be split dry or green, but must be allowed to dry at least six months before kite making (a year



Maasaki Modegi and Toki at the Tokyo Kite Museum

Traditional Edo kites are rectangular in form with an elaborately painted sail and multiple bridle lines. The length of the bridle lines are typically 20 times or greater than the height of the kite, without a tail, and a long "Unari", known as the hummer — a long bamboo pole pulled tight to create a bow which produces a low pitch hum in the wind. Edo kites have been made the same way for hundreds of years.

Thanks to a grant by the Drachen Foundation, I spent five amazing days in February with Mikio Toki, learning the art of building traditional Japanese Edo kites and experiencing a glimpse of Japanese culture.

My Arrival

I arrived at Narita Airport on February 2nd. Toki was there to greet me. From there we headed west to his home in a rural area of Chiba, about 1½ hours away. Small rice fields surround the home. I had the honor of being the first international



Toki preps silk

or longer is even better). Some kites are known to be made from recycled bamboo salvaged from torn down farm houses dating back over a century.

Heat-treating the bamboo for five to ten minutes over charcoal brings the oil to the surface. Rubbing the oil off with a rag produces a polished finish. This process reduces the moisture and increases the strength in the bamboo.

Tools

Toki uses very few power tools, adhering to the traditional methods of working the bamboo with simple hand tools. He cuts it to length with a bamboo saw and uses a froe (thick-bladed hatchet) for splitting. By applying pressure left or right to guide the split, he is able to form straight and even thickness strips. It is easiest to split bamboo into halves each time until obtaining desired widths.



Toki's edo aloft

Toki checks the symmetry by bending the bamboo and observing the profile by his naked eye. He fine tunes and tapers the strip with a block plane or shaves it by pulling the strip against the sharp blade of the froe.

Brass Fittings

Normally, bamboo spars are joined together using hemp string. Brass fittings are now being utilized to allow for the kite to be easily disassembled for travel. Modern fittings are made from brass tubing shaped with a hammer and disc sander to conform to the oval

profile of the split bamboo. The fittings are secured to the bamboo with rivets or wingnuts.

Assembly

Top and bottom spars are attached first. The sail is folded over string on sides to prevent the edges from tearing. Side spars are added next. Glued leather patches are used to reinforce bridle points. When adding the diagonal cross spars the right side is always placed over the left. This is based on the tradition of wearing kimonos. The sides are reversed only when the person dies and is wearing their funeral kimono. The hummer (unari) is made from an un-split section of bamboo. A plastic tape is tied over the end and pulled tight to create a bow. The hummer is attached to the top of the kite with rubber bands and produces a low pitch hum in the wind.

Bridles

Bridle harnesses are made with a rope-making tool. The harness is used to splice the individual lines into rows, then columns, and finally into a single tow point. The long bridles are not only for beauty of an Edo kite, but serve the purpose of adding drag to the kite to help stabilize it in place of a tail. Toki and I attached the lines by staking the kite to the ground and tying the lines around a nearby telephone pole. The individual bridle lines are fed through a leather bridle plate to keep track of them and prevent tangling. A bamboo stick placed near the tow point is used to prevent twisting.

Adjusting for Flight

We drove back to Hitotsumatsu beach to test fly our finished kite. It took us a few attempts to get the kite to stay in the air, but after a few minutes of adjusting the lines, the kite stabilized and flew motionless against the cloudy sky. What a sight to see!

We spent the rest of the afternoon sightseeing in Tokyo, visiting the Tokyo Kite Museum of Japanese Kite Association President, Masaaki Modegi. We also checked out bamboo knives and chisels at Toku Hans Department



Greg Kono helps launch Toki's edo

Store. My final evening at the Toki's was spent with a few of their friends for dinner, drinking sake and singing karaoke.

Conclusion

Edo kite making has remained unchanged for hundreds of years, requiring vast amounts of various skills and patience. This experience has increased my appreciation for traditional kite making and inspired me to hone my skills working with bamboo and washi and combine it with my own artwork and kite making.

Internet Resources

www.konodesign.com/tokicamp2007.html
<http://homepage1.nifty.com/mikiotoki/english1.htm>
www.drachen.org/journals/a12/Mikio-Toki.pdf



Greg Kono's edo, featuring an aerial photo of his Alki Avenue neighborhood in Seattle

Veni Vedi Volavi I Came I Saw I Flew Kites



by Dave and Diane Butler

Cervia, Italy. Painted kites from Claudio Capelli and Guisepppe and Franca Cacoza. Hand made paper and bamboo, asymmetrical kites by Therese Yguen and Daniela Zitzman. Kinetic kites from Germany and Switzerland and others. Ground displays by Robert and Helene Valkenburgh and Eric Auroraott. New celluars by people like Engelbert Simon and Carmen Görtz. Quilting from Eli and Shula Shavit from Israel and Fausto Marrocu from Sardinia. Huge inflatables by Peter Lynn and others. A new kite from José Sainz. Fighter kites with Stafford Wallace and Gerhard Zitzmann, and lots and lots of stunters. Too many amazing kites to remember and regretably too many names of wonderful people as well.

This was our first European kite festival, and many of you are probably smiling knowingly. The nudge to go there came from Don and Jean Mock, and we are grateful to them for it. If you haven't been there, Cervia (on the northeast coast of Italy) is an art kite festival. There is no competition,

just lots of examples of innovation and beauty in the air. They break all our rules, and do it magnificently. The air was thick with kites I had never seen before, and the sky was a mélange of color and shapes and things to wonder at. The atmosphere is festive and the kilters wish to meet and celebrate with people from around the world. There was also music and dancing every night, either on the beach or among the kilters (not to mention the "Night of Miracles" with the lighted ground displays and fireworks). I also have to say that the street food was much better than anything I can find here (the fresh, flash-fried, mixed fish was incredible, as was a sandwich called the piadina).

Now that I have raved sufficiently, I would recommend that anyone who has not done so, try to get to Cervia, or another European festival. It will re-energize you, get you thinking about other ways of making kites, excite you

and make you new friends. If you can't get to Europe, then try a more European-feeling festival in North America like Canada's Dieppe but by all means get to a non-US festival. By the way, yes, we will be going back to Cervia. Maybe we will see you there.



Dave Butler



On this German kite, the propellers drive a roll of optical fabric, producing ever-changing patterns.



A rokkaku by Italian festival organizer Claudio Capelli.



A rokkaku by Australia's William Farber.



Tannenbaum by Engelbert Simon and Carmen Görtz



José Sainz with a kite made of paper and bamboo.

The work of Israel's Eli and Shula Shavit.

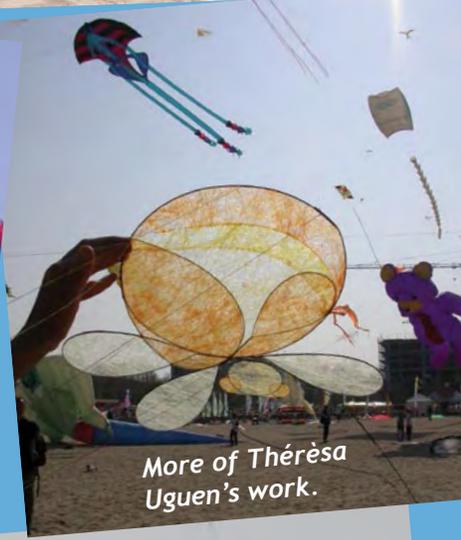


A star by Sardinia's Fausto Marrocu.

photos by Dave Butler



Some asymmetry by Thérèse Uguen.



More of Thérèse Uguen's work.



What Happens In France... by Linda Sanders

If you've been to Berck Sur Mer before, you'll already know of the magnificent beach, looking out over the English Channel, which stretches for miles even at high tide.

This was our first visit to Europe's opening kite event for the 2007 season, spreading over ten days with two full weekends of flying and friend-making. Kevin still insists that for our 25th wedding anniversary he was taking his wife to Paris, when we both knew that we really just wanted to be on a beach, amongst other kite fliers, doing what we thoroughly enjoy. Berck did not disappoint.

We'd heard that Gérard Clément was looking to BEAT the previous World Record for number of octopus kites in the sky at once. The last record was set in Thailand last year, where the group managed a total of 12. This time, Gérard wanted more, MORE!

Starting with our arrival on Friday, we fell in

love with the place. Our landlady was delightfully French provincial in her fashion sense and our hotel room felt like part of a large home rather than a hotel. (Complete with two cozy single beds – well, after 25 years...? – and a low bathroom ceiling which is still well-remembered for delivering mild concussions on that first night!)

We had two full days on the first weekend, followed by a slower start on each of Monday and Tuesday. Full days meant 9:30AM to about 6:30PM on the beach, fighting gusty winds. Octopus went up, octopus came down, and every tentacle wanted to go in different directions with every up and down. It was non-stop de-tangling in the imposing shadow of the megaflag kite from the AlFarsi kite team.

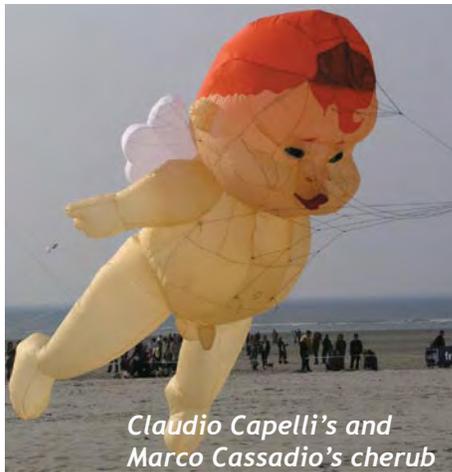
TV and radio interviewers scurried about, looking for someone interesting to talk to. I was collared early on by French Radio, but with only high school French from years ago, my interview was pretty much one-sided....

Wednesday, in need of a well-earned break, Kevin and I joined a group of KAP enthusiasts on a drive up the coastline. We were treated to magnificent views of the White Cliffs of Dover, the brisk Arctic winds at Fort d'Ambleteuse,

a picnic at Cap Gris Nez and finally, a walk around Calais to enjoy the tulips in full bloom. (In our absence, my Berck sources tell me that an oversized octopus took off across the beach during one squall, complete with the heavy concrete anchors in tow!

Thursday - quelle horreur! (Not really... just a madhouse!) Thousands of school children thronged over the beach, disregarding marked zones, running with their newly-made constructions, weaving themselves into tangled mayhem. But all the while, laughing. Children don't hide their feelings, have you noticed? The beach was certainly full of joy that day.

Friday, the start of the Easter break, saw the beach shrouded in a thick foggy FOG. Not much to be done when you can't see what's on the end of your string, but it didn't stop people trying! Friday was also Banquet Night where fliers got the chance to catch up with each other and be totally relaxed. No pressure to keep kites aloft here. Unless you were the "Crazy Drivers" Revolution kite team! Their impromptu indoor flying display gave the dancers a rest. Can anyone tell me again how I ended up leading the conga



Claudio Capelli's and Marco Cassadio's cherub



Kevin Sanders and kites

A KAP look at the record-setting octopile.



line? Gérard lived up to his promise and threw me around the dance floor just as he'd done in Thailand the year before. (That one dance was well worth the 30+ hours it took to make it to Berck...)

The biggest weekend I've ever seen for kite flying was Easter. Three FULL-ON days of wind, tangled octopus legs (for me), sand, more wind, and mass upon mass of colour all the way up the beach. Everywhere I turned there was colour. And not just at great heights. These 500 or so kite fliers all KNEW what the crowds wanted to see. Colour on the ground with wind gardens and ground displays (the turtles trudging up the beach were not to be missed), the labyrinth, the music-inspired stunt & quadline kite team displays, the ingenious single-line displays and the mega-team stunt flying - I lost count of how many, but it was definitely more than fingers on my hands...!

Could the best part have been the Grand Parade mid-day on Sunday? Parades are always fun to watch, but to be actually IN one and have people waving at YOU is a most humbling experience. The kite fliers were encouraged to carry and wave their banners as they walked, marching girls



Linda Sanders, underwear on backwards, April Fool!

Gary Mark

Linda Sanders



Trudging turtles by Dirk Krüger

twirled their batons, oom-pa-pah bands played, and the percussionists kept the beat. We brought traffic to a standstill in Rue Carnot. Shop keepers even came out to cheer and applaud. In this town at least, the locals were PLEASED to have

kite fliers filling their beach, and cafés, and restaurants, and late-night bars. At some point over the weekend, the new World Record for Octopus kites was set (ready for the next challenge?) at an amazing 19. Doing some quick arithmetic here, that makes 152 tentacles, all 80 feet or longer. Every octopus wrangler earned their stripes that weekend.

By the way, April Fool's Day fell on that first weekend. For the record, I swore it was because of my jet-lag, but I found I'd dressed in a rush that morning, and put my thermal underwear on backwards. Okay... laugh away.

Other memories of Berck...

- With little remembered French, I mimed to Michel Boucard if I might borrow his hammer on Day One... he looked puzzled...! Try it in front of a mirror.
- Gérard's pink octopus became an amputee, then received

a quick sew-job transplant in the tent on the Esplanade.

- Team AIFarsi's megaflag received life-saving suturing in the tent on the Esplanade.
- Language barrier? - what language barrier! Learn the important phrases and mime the rest.
- Our French Bus Driver who believed we understood him, when we only recognised the word "Berck."
- The United Nations of Kite Fliers. The melting pot for diverse cultures, languages and habits. The carnival atmosphere.
- Chandeliers in the beer tent. Such class.
- The dogs. And what they left behind.
- Cars parked so tightly, even up on the pavements. Smart Cars - which look like roller skates.
- Scarves. Real men DO wear them. Especially in Berck when it's cold.
- Boulangeries and Patisseries with freshly-baked baguettes.
- THE CHOCOLATE SHOPS.
- Pastel-shade beach huts, delivered by fork-lift tractors.
- Cheaply-priced wine.
- Shopping for bargains with Euros €.
- A hillside picnic, in France, eating baguettes, fromages, jambon and sipping vin rouge.
- "Je suis fatigué."



Linda Sanders



Peter Lynn makes repairs

Gary Mark

Linda Sanders

- Standing room only in the spectator areas— 100,000 people each of the weekend days.
- The game of cricket being introduced into the history of Berck's kite festival.
- Monday - the last Festival day - from about 4PM, anarchy on the beach as public swarmed through.
- We're going to Paris for some R & R!



Dirk Krüger's wedding bears

Linda Sanders



Weifang: Kiting's Olympics

© 山东中烟

Weifang's opening ceremonies

by Jim Martin Jr.

In April, I joined the Gomberg Kite Productions crew – David and Susan Gomberg, George Emmons, Wayne Brooks, Darryl Water, Scott Shevlin, Mike and Sheila Hale, Jerry and Sandy McGuire, Mike and Lisa Yang, and Bill and Marylu Sonntag – on a journey to China for the 24th Weifang Kite Festival. Weifang, the World Kite Capitol, is the legendary birthplace of kite flying and home of the World Kite Museum. In recent years, Weifang has built a number of beautiful new parks, dotting the sky with kites on any given day. But when April rolls around, Weifang kite-folks pull out all the stops.

Picture kites from dozens of countries bringing amazing traditional and modern kites and colorful national costumes. Picture an Olympics-like opening ceremonies with delegations marching into the stadium, popular music stars, fireworks and thousands of cheering fans. Picture a flying field crowded not only with kites and fliers, but thousands of spectators, many of whom bring their own kites to add to the show. Imagine people asking if they could have their picture taken with you, the kite celebrity from the USA, all day long. Now you are starting to get an idea of what flying in Weifang is all about!

Our gang of kites also enjoyed a tour of China, seeing (and flying kites at) such landmarks as Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City (where kite flying, we were politely but firmly informed, is forbidden, so pull them down please!),

the spicy-hot city of Chongqing, the beautiful Three Gorges area of the Yangtze River and the modern bustling city of Shanghai.

Mr. Sui Shude made sure we were well taken care of and saw as much of the country as you could see in a few days. Thanks, Shude!

For more photos, visit http://public.fotki.com/JMARTJR/kite_fests/weifang-china-trip/general-pictures/, or see http://public.fotki.com/JMartJr/kite_fests/weifang-china-trip/kap-at-weifang-festival/ for kite aerial photos.



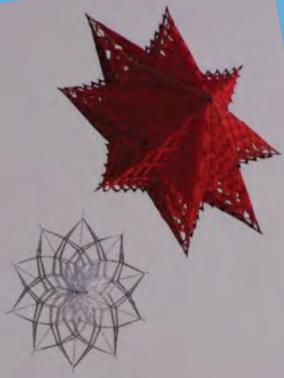
Jim Martin flies on the Emperor's Bridge.



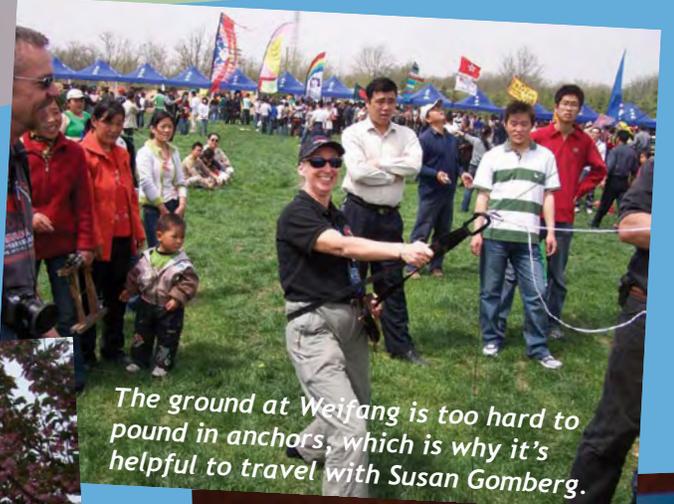
David Gomberg does the forbidden in the Forbidden City.



Soon to be a collector's item: a Beijing 2008 Olympic kite.



photos by Jim Martin Jr. and Jerry McGuire



The ground at Weifang is too hard to pound in anchors, which is why it's helpful to travel with Susan Gomberg.



Jim Martin at the opening ceremonies.



A Weifang kite shop



Tour guide Sui Shude





This year the AKA Convention is XXX! That's right, it's our 30th annual national convention, on the beach in beautiful Ocean Shores, WA. Join us from October 1-6 for what should be one of the largest gatherings of kites on the continent.

Register with the form in this magazine, or do it online at www.aka.kite.org.

Annual Member's Meeting

The annual business meeting of the American Kitefliers Association will be on Wednesday, October 3rd.

Fighter Kites & Rokkaku Battles

We are planning something for fighter kite fliers for every day of the Convention. Join us for the Fighter Kite Grand Nationals, including Novice and Experienced class competition with both Line Touch and Skills categories, plus the Rokkaku competition, with both individual and team events. The "Rok Battle" is always one of the highlights of the Convention. Any attendee who pays a full registration (no day passes) may participate regardless of your skill level. If you are new to fighter kites stop by the field for learn-to-fly tips.

In addition to the on-field activities, there will be two fighter kite workshops for your enjoyment. Plus, the not-to-be-missed Fighter Kite Symposium is your chance to talk with the fighter kite committee to share your ideas for change, improvement and how to keep the growth of fighters on course.

Sport Kite and Indoor Competition

The AKA's best sport kite fliers will compete on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the Sport Kite Grand Nationals. Competition participation is by invitation only. For each of the 21 disciplines the top five competitors from our six sport kite conferences will receive invites to demonstrate their skill. Check the AKA website after August 1 for the final standings.

Invitations are mailed to the invited competitors but you don't have to wait for it to arrive to RSVP to your conference commissioner. Just send them an e-mail. Letting your conference commissioner know as soon as possible you will be attending and your availability to volunteer helps with scheduling and organizing the event.

The Indoor fly on Tuesday night is always popular and anyone is welcome to fly a demo after the competition. The sport kite symposium is a long-standing tradition that every sport kite flier should attend. It's an important opportunity to find out what the sport kite committee has been discussing and to share your ideas

with them. Hot Tricks Shoot-out is open to any Convention attendee on a first come, space available basis.

Comprehensive Kitemakers Competition

You've had a year to prepare, and now it's time to show off. Bring your best homemade kites to be judged on flight, visual appeal, craftsmanship, and structural design. We'll start with a pre-competition meeting to go over procedures and rules. After the competition, there will be a debriefing session to review the event and get your feedback. Make sure to download a rulebook from the PUBLICATIONS page at www.aka.kite.org. One change this year is that ground judging will precede flight judging.

The categories of kites will once again be Figure, Soft & Flexible, Bowed, Delta, Fighter, Sport Kite, Rokkaku, Train & Centipede, Cellular & Dimensional, Flat, Arches & Ribbons, UFO, and Sky Display, with separate prizes for Cooperative kites, Novice kitemakers, Traditional Materials, Mixed Media, and Innovation. The two top prizes are the Grand Champion (selected by the judges), and Member's Choice (voted on by convention attendees).

Workshops

A full slate of workshops will be offered at Ocean Shores, with sessions being held mornings and afternoons to give attendees the chance to learn as much as possible about the wonderful world of kites.

Early workshop commitments include Rick Kinnaird doing a follow up to his very well-received workshop at Des Moines entitled, "What do Parafoils and Box Kites have in common, or, How many sticks does a parafoil have?" It would be an examination of the problems that both designs are trying to solve and a discussion of making really large kites.

iQuad will be offering quad pairs and team instruction on the beach. The focus of the presentation will be to introduce people to the basic calls which make quad flying as a group so easy, and show them how much fun it can be.

For kitemakers, workshops will be held that explain each of the four judging criteria used to judge the comprehensive kitemaking competition. John Freeman will present a session sharing his knowledge of quilting techniques used in kitemaking. Scott Skinner, José Sainz, Barry Poulter and Ron Gibian will share their technical information and good humor in a roundtable discussion about kite craftsmanship.

A complete list of workshops will be available at www.aka.kite.org. If there is a workshop you would like to see or a presentation you would like to offer please contact Deb Lenzen at workshops@aka.kite.org.

Great Kite Auction

What is the most fun you can have indoors with kites while eating a great dinner? It's the Great Kite Auction. We are lining up for another fantastic Auction with many one-of-kind fabulous finds waiting for the attendees. Our kitemakers who have participated

in this year's auction project will wow you with their creations. Many generous individuals, kite artists, store owners, manufacturers and wholesalers have contributed treasures to make this the best Auction ever.

The Great Kite Auction is divided into four parts. The Bag Raffle begins on Wednesday, where everyone has a chance to take home a treasure. Friday's festivities start with the silent auction, where all sorts of kites and kite related items can be bid on. The cash and carry section is available for those who need instant gratification and just can't wait for the silent auction to end. The piece-de-resistance of the night is the loud auction, offering fantastic art pieces, one-of-a-kind collector items, outstanding kite deals and entertaining auctioneers and crew.

We need your help to make this the best Auction ever. Remember to bid high and bid often. Bring your credit card or check book, and every dollar you pay above the market value of the item is tax deductible!

Fly Market

Our marketplace where kite and accessory manufacturers, retailers and crafts people can vend their wares. The Fly Market is open to all registered members as well as the general public. Contact Ron Lindner at flymarket@aka.kite.org to reserve a booth.

Posters

Help publicize the convention! You can download a free 30th convention poster at www.aka.kite.org/data/download/pdf/Posters/AKAconv2007.pdf. The poster – as well as the convention logo – were designed by Jeff Erzín.

Kite Art Gallery

Kay Buesing is putting together a terrific gallery exhibit featuring the last master kitemaker of Tokyo, Teizo Hashimoto. Be sure to see the washi paper and bamboo artistry of Hashimoto-san.

The Edeiken Kiteflier of the Year Award

The Steve Edeiken Memorial Award is the highest recognition given to a member by the AKA. Steve – a respected and active AKA member – was killed in a tragic accident in 1983. The AKA established the award in his honor a year later.

The award's recipient will be a person who has shown friendly, loving, fair, even-handed concern for people in general, but kitefliers in particular; kiteflying in general, but for craftsmanship and technical developments in particular; communication in general, but for leading and participating in kite events in particular. These criteria best exemplify the character of Steve Edeiken.

For complete award criteria and nomination information, visit the FESTIVALS - ANNUAL CONVENTION - AWARDS page at www.aka.kite.org. Nominations are due by August 31. Contact Sue Skinner at 408/554-8399 or e-mail EdeikenAward@aka.kite.org.

The Robert M. Ingraham Award

Robert Ingraham founded the AKA in 1964. He originally gave this award to outstanding kites from the American southwest. After his death, the AKA changed the award to commemorate "Kitefliers who have exemplified outstanding volunteerism and service to the AKA, and who, in the true spirit of Robert Ingraham, have given unselfishly of their time to help the AKA and promote kiting in general."

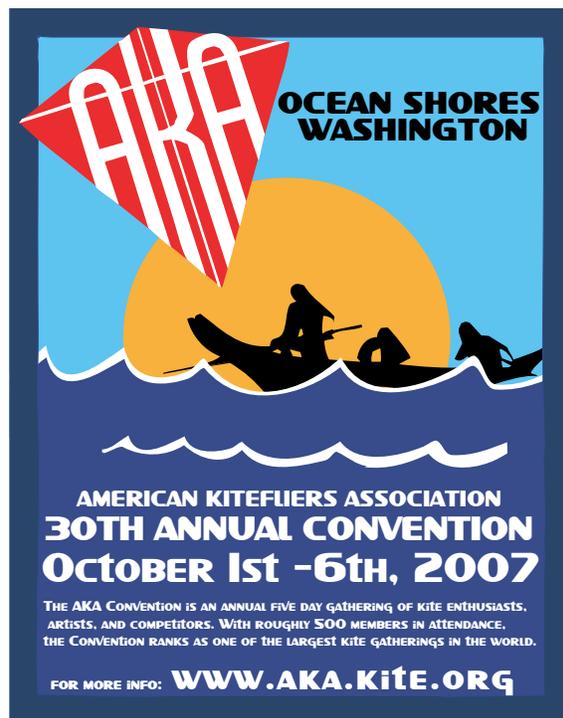
For complete award criteria and nomination information, visit the FESTIVALS - ANNUAL CONVENTION - AWARDS page at www.aka.kite.org. Nominations are due by August 31. Contact Darrin Skinner at 408/313-6657 or e-mail IngrahamAward@aka.kite.org.

The Lee Toy Kite Artist of the Year Award

Kite vagabond, author, artist and beloved kiter, Lee Toy filled the world with his creative energies, enormous talent, kindness, good humor and zest for life. Born in California and raised there and in Wisconsin, Lee worked in several artistic mediums and kite styles with an emphasis on fighter kites. Viewing kite flying as a metaphor for life, he promoted the joy of kiting around the world. His true gift was inspiring others to explore the wide world of kites and to see them as authentic art forms. His small book, *Flight Patterns*, gave wise insights with several excellent plans. Lee passed away in late 1992 and is still missed terribly by his family and many kite friends.

The Lee Toy Memorial Award will be presented at the annual convention to a member selected as the "Kite Artist of the Year." This recognizes an artist's body of original work or their commitment to kites as art as well as their ability to inspire others in recognizing the uniqueness of kites as art. The Artist of the Year demonstrates a willingness to teach, explore and innovate in promoting kites within the AKA membership or the broader community. The recipient also shows a clear generosity of spirit and willingness to share his or her energies in promoting kites as an art form.

For complete award criteria and nomination information, visit the FESTIVALS - ANNUAL CONVENTION - AWARDS page at www.aka.kite.org. Nominations are due by August 31. Contact Sue Skinner at 408/554-8399 or e-mail ToyAward@aka.kite.org.



Japan WOW! at Smithsonian

Washington, DC

March 31, 2007



Adrienne Balmer's theme prize winner



Debbie Wilkens, Debbie Carney, and Judi Loscomb won the costume prize.

Bermuda's Philip Jones won 1st in the Kitemaker competition, as well as a special prize for ingenuity, with his Roby Pagoda.



Yoshizo Sakuraba won the Grand Prize Award.



Kaziah Hall's winner, from the West Indian American Kitefliers Association.

Drake Smith and Jon Burkhardt



Kaziah Hall won 1st in the Master Kite-maker competition.

photos by
Phil Broder
and David
Barr

Doug Charville's patriotic quad-line.



Allan Robb's ground display

Maasaki Modegi teaches the art of woodblock printing.



Andy Burchfield flies in front of the World War II Memorial.

REGIONAL REPORTS



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End of term: 2007

Another kite season is rolling along and things in region one are just super. Thanks to everyone who put on a National Kite Month Event this year. Some changes are being made to event schedules this year and they are as follows; The Newport Kite Festival is now July 14, 15th BASKC is now Aug. 10 - 12 at Millennium Park in Boston and the KONE Regional is now being held on Oct 13th in Nahant. This year Larry and Tracy Smith are having the Capriccio Festival of Kites on Sept 8th in Ogunquit, ME. Don't miss this one it's my favorite.

The rumor mill has someone from Region One running for President of the AKA. I can't let the cat out of the bag but I know you all know this person. The Convention this year is at Ocean Shores WA. and should be a great place to fly kites and have fun.

I would like to thank everyone who came to the Region One Party / Workshops and Round Table Discus-



*Chuck Donaldson
and Archie Stewart*

sion held at VFW Post 2094. We had an awesome time. The workshops and discussion were great, not to mention all the great food everyone brought.

Chuck Donaldson and Archie Stewart flew a replica of the Blue Hill Clayton-Hargrave box kite recently, the first time in a century that such a kite's been airborne. The 6'x6x'2' kite weighed in at 18 pounds, made of spruce, cotton, bone glue, shoe thread, and iron wire. The original is on display at the Boston Museum of Science.

That's all I have for this report. The kite season is springing into action and I will have more kite events to write about soon. Better days are coming.



Region 2 ~ Northeast
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End of term: 2007

Greetings and salutations, kiter! Here's what's new in Region Two....

Following up on their successful winter retreat, the 2007 Keystone Kiteers August kite building retreat project will be a 30 ft² parafoil. This class will be taught by Kevin Shannon, who is well known for award-winning examples of this type of kite. The retreat will be August 3-5. A reliable sewing machine and basic sewing skills are required. The retreat will once again be held at the Camp Hill Borough Hall,

in Camp Hill, PA. Class size is limited and the registration deadline is July 3rd. For more information, call Cinda Shannon at 717/243-7913, or see their web page at www.KeystoneKiteers.com.

The SJKF schedule was full in April and May, with events taking place every week. Members got their chance to pick and choose what events they wished to attend. For instance, in Bensalem, PA, there were at least 100 kids who came to get the kites given away by the township for their annual kite day. Many SJKF members were there with many big kites, from sleds to rokkakus. Chris Levesque reports that his family made and flew a kite at this event. This counted towards his goal to fly a kite every day in April, even if just for five minutes. And by now everyone has enjoyed an Italian Dinner opening night party hosted by SJKF at Wildwood. SJKF also held a Bol building workshop where 16 bols were built. Thanks to Scott Spencer and the Ed Spencer Sunshine Fund for donating most of the fabric for this project. I heard that over 100 yards of material were used! The club is also raffling off two rooms for their 13th Annual Birthday Bash to be held October 14th at the Montego Bay hotel and resort in North Wildwood. There are a limited number of tickets available and the two winners each receive a room for three nights plus a few meals. The only condition is that the winner must open their door to SJKF for the Bash!

LVKS has been busy. In January they held a Genki seminar, presented by Paul Keeler, where about 18 kite flying enthusiasts worked towards creating their own 6' genki. A few of them showed up for our scheduled Winter Fly in February, only to find the park was closed due to snow. They were looking forward to "sledding" across that snow but never got the chance. And recently, LVKS held its 17th Annual Kite Day In The Park scheduled for May 5th. This event was held at Louise Moore Park, Easton, PA. The club has also been scheduling local kite flying and building events to be held over the next few months. In addition to local events, they are looking forward to building kites for kids at some of the major East Coast events.

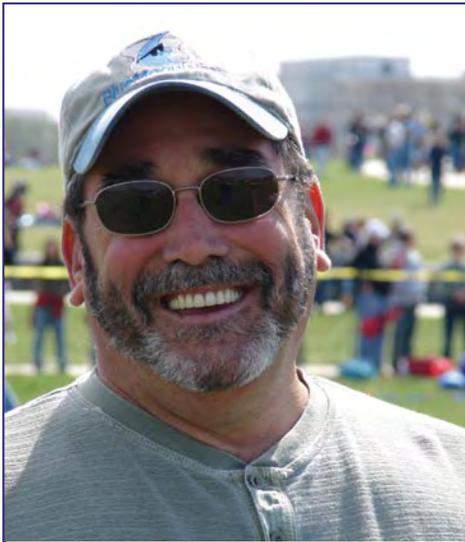
Phil Broder has been working

proactively with the Stone Harbor, NJ, city council and the NJ Fish & Wildlife Division on a management plan for Stone Harbor Point. Because it's wide open sand with no sunbathers, it's a great spot for buggying and kite surfing. But it's also home to some endangered birds, and kites ruffle their feathers, so the official US Fish & Wildlife Service doctrine is to ban all kite flying within 200 meters of their nests. Phil has been involved in the planning process, explaining to the biologists what kite surfing is. The end result is still pending, but they'll probably have a seasonal ban on buggies, and kite surfing will be restricted to certain areas. They're still talking about making kite surfers register with the police department, but Phil is fighting that. Phil feels that AKA members need to look at the places they fly, get involved, and make sure that governments understand kite flying, instead of just imposing knee-jerk bans on kites.

Phil also wrote an article about using kites as a tool to teach about wind and meteorology. The article was just published (and on the cover) of *The Interpreter*, a magazine of the National Association for Interpretation, a professional society for environmental, museum and park educators. The cover photo was of Paul Fieber's "Mound Builders" della porta. The magazine goes out to over 3000 people, about 99% of whom are not kite fliers.

Sunday April 29th saw the running of the 3rd annual Williamsburg kite festival. Held each April in Brooklyn's McCarren Park, the festival is a fund raiser for the P.S. 132 PTA. The festival featured face painting, food, crafts, and kites. Charles Stewart showed the PTA how to make Eddy kites and they made and sold five hundred kites. Ron Jakubowicz and Felicia Mosery wowed the festival crowd with a large Frog lifted by a power Sled. A large Delta with a sixty foot banner tail was a crowd pleaser as well. The weather was good and the crowds seemed to enjoy the offerings.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that the 2008 AKA convention will be held in Region Two! Gettysburg will be the site of next year's annual meeting and Grand Nationals. As President of the Keystone Kites, I look forward to helping the new Region Two Director host the AKA in my home state.



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 End of term: 2007

Hi everyone. National Kite Month has come and gone and with it a very active month of kiting. Not that we are going to stop because April is gone. There are many events scheduled throughout the summer. Check out the kite clubs and AKA websites and come out and join us.

We kicked off the NKM celebration early, with a festival in Richmond, VA. The weather was great and Dorey Park saw one of its largest turnouts. Kids and kites were everywhere enjoying the day. Next on our calendar was the Virginia Beach Kite Festival on 7 April. Due to very unusual weather, we had temperatures in the 30s and heavy snow so the event was cancelled. Folks didn't let that stop their

fun though, as they visited some local (indoor!) attractions and went to Chris Stankus' (Jackites) home for an after-festival party. Last but not least, I made it up to Ocean City, MD, for the MIKE/MASKC celebration. Everyone seemed to have a great time despite sometimes challenging wind conditions.

I am going to be a bit lazy this edition and let you do the most of the talking. So here is some input from other events in the region....

Andrew Sager, nine-year-old W.O.W. member: "Japan Kite Association workshop - I liked how the Japanese people were really helpful when you were making your kite. I also liked how they gave me another kite that could fly indoors. Smithsonian Festival on the National Mall - I had fun flying Jim Cosca's poison dart frog kite. I ran out of line because the kite was so good! I got interviewed two times, once by Voice of America and once by American University. They asked me what it felt like flying a kite. I said I was proud because of getting the kite up so high ... and running out of line was really cool, too."

Bill Taylor: "The RAF was represented at the Seaford Elementary School kite fly on March 30. The 4th grade classes gathered with their parents and teachers for the event - about 100 attendees. I helped them and flew some of my kites to show them a variety. It was a great experience to fly with the kids and to help them out, mostly letting them know to fly INTO the wind, not with it, or just around in circles. From all the laughter, the event went off well."

Stoney Stonestreet: "Winchester, VA, was surrounded by rain showers on April 14 but the storms kept their distance until late afternoon. Despite light and erratic winds, the Richmond Air Force managed to fly foils, sport kites, and single lines throughout the afternoon and finished with Bol Races. New RAF fliers, Laure Manette, and Emily and Mike Rose, fit right into the scheme of the afternoon activities while Marc Conklin, Lawrence Levine, Charles and Laura Stonestreet, Phil Napier, Jeff May, and Don Thomas kept kites in the air. Will Smoot spun the musical program

Maribel Charleville



Virginia may be for lovers, but Virginia Beach is for sledders.



Jim Podlasek launched a tribute to those killed at Virginia Tech, with 32 maroon and orange ribbons tied to his line.

and kept up a steady stream of kite jargon throughout the day. It turned out to be a very satisfying festival in spite of the threatening weather.”

Al Ault: “The day was forecast for heavy rain, but it turned out to be partly cloudy with 5 to 7 mph winds for the 2nd Annual Bel Air Kite Festival. Estimated attendance was 1000 - 1200 and the 30+ acre field was full of kite flyers and spectators. Our stock of 110 entry level kites was gone by noon; our stock of free loaner kites (70) was out all day; and the food vendor sent out for more supplies four times. Many thanks to the large number of AKA members who made the day possible and to WOW for furnishing the sound system - Jeff and Joyce King, Kelly Mayhew and Dennis Hawley, Paul and Emily Hines and family, Larry and Laura Magnani, The Town of Bel Air and the Public Works Dept., and last, but not least my daughter and grandson, Becky and AJ Magnani, and my best friend, Evelyn Rossbach. I would also

of the Gan Hayed Nursery School in Washington, DC, for the second year. I taught a little about kite basics as well as showing many different kite styles. There was even enough space for a quick turn with my indoor stunt kite. The highlight of the talk was the inflation of some of the larger kites. There was a Peter Lynn Gecko, which the kids really enjoyed being able to touch and feel. There was also a 10’ soccer ball bouncer that got everyone’s attention. I enjoy sharing my kites with youngsters, because they’re not shy about showing enthusiasm. I also know that kiting is a hobby that can keep them connected to those feeling for years to come.”

Jeff May: “The 5th Annual Rural Retreat Virginia Kite Festival moved to the hilltop above the town giving us greater room and better facilities. In addition, the kites could be seen several miles away. We had great wind with cool temperatures. The festival brought out over 300 people and attracted several families off I-81 who were trying to figure out what was happening. We are staying closer to home over the next few weeks at the Coyner Springs kite fly in Waynesboro, VA, on May 5 and the second annual Quetzal Kite Festival in Fluvanna on May 19.”

Jeff King: “WoW News! WoW fliers took part in the 2007 Polar Bear Plunge & Bluster By The Bay Festival at Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, MD, on

like to acknowledge the many AKA members who made the trek from central PA and northern VA to demonstrate their skills and to assist the many new fliers.”

Daniel Parker: “On April 18th I met with three classes

January 29th. The Plunge and Festival raise money for the Maryland Special Olympics. In March, WoWsters turned out for a Sunday fly on March 11th at the Washington Monument for a news and photo op with the Washington Post.

“Next came the Second Fun Fly at Solomons Island, MD, and the Sailwinds II Kite Festival on Maryland’s eastern shore at Cambridge. Fields at Solomons were soggy and winds were squirrely, but fliers managed to put on a good show and lots of kites were made and flown by the ever-welcome younger visitors. The next day, WoW pilots braved frigid temperatures and 30 mph winds at Sailwinds II. Skies were blue, but it was cold and blustery and fliers took turns flying and taking breaks behind a hastily erected windbreak. There was still a decent local turnout despite the conditions. Take that, Mother Nature! The “just for fun” sport kite competition was a hit again with Richard Mervine first, Todd Stevick second, and Mike Mosman and Jeff King tying for third. The still-young Sailwinds Festival is so popular that the Chamber of Commerce hosts it twice a year!

“March 24th saw the WoW gang at the National Air and Space Museum’s Family Day in Washington, DC. We ran an information table, provided displays, demonstrated indoor flying, and hosted some of our friends from Japan who demonstrated kite making techniques. The indoor flying was one of the most popular things at Family Day. The WoW fliers had a blast flying for the crowds, and the whole day was well punctuated by stellar performances by the visiting Scotty Weider and Paulie Berard. Thanks for coming to fly with us, guys!

“31 March was the 41st Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival. WoW turned out in force, but were pleased to have so many visiting clubs and other fliers from all over. The festival was marked with fabulous ground displays, competitions, and demonstrations for the thousands upon thousands of visitors in DC that day.”

Thanks to everyone who flew and submitted their stories. Sorry I couldn’t include it all. Keep on flying, having fun, and sharing kiting with others. See you around the flying fields!

Laura Stonestreet



Bol races at Richmond’s Dorey Park



Region 4 ~ Southeast
AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN

Mike Agner

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End of Term: 2007

I had the good fortune to be invited to fly at a huge festival in Berk, France where we managed to get 19 octopus in the air. We flew on a huge beach on the English Channel, attended by literally hundreds of thousands. Here's some other region news:

Allison Holmes and her dad Chuck of Spartanburg, SC, participated in the Smithsonian Kite Festival. Both entered Della Portas in the competition. They came in second in the Rokkaku battle with their team "Charlie Don't Run". The team name is in honor of Charlie Henderson, a well-known immobile kite winder maker from Decatur, GA and Chuck's father-in-law.

From Harlan Groover: "The members of SAKE will make the trip to Clayton, GA, to assist them with their festival. Steve Cseplo and I will fly pairs, open team train, and fighter kite demonstrations as well as single line and sport kite. Also planned for the next few months is making kites for kids and flying demonstrations at Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park on the 4th Saturday in May, several kites for kids in suburban Atlanta schools, the Asian Cultural Experience in July at the Botanical Gardens, and Japan Fest at Stone Mountain in September. Just trying to promote kiting."

From Terry Cornell: "The inaugural Mid-Florida Regional Sport Kite

Championships were held on March 10th at Sand Key County Park in Clearwater, FL. This novice-friendly Eastern League event was officiated over in grand style by Chief Judge Jay Nunes and was attended by the cream of Florida's sport kite competitors. In attendance were Master's Class fliers Rob Autrey and Ted Goodman from SASKC, flying both individually and as the always-popular pair Rainman Forrest. Experienced Class fliers Robbie Boerth and Terry Cornell (TeeCee) from Orlando also flew individually and as the pair Flight Risk, and Novice Class flier Dave Meeks of the SASKC Daytona branch rounded out the competitor field. The success stories from MFRSKC feature the two first-time competitors Kareem Abdul Mohammed (dual line) from Miami and Sherri Pigeon (multi-line) from Sunset Flyers of Clearwater. Both of these good people turned in a pretty good ballet routine, and we certainly expect to see them calling "In" for a good number of years to come. Open Multiline Ballet at MFRSKC was flown by Rob Autrey and Dave Meeks. A big "thank ya!" to MFRSKC's sponsors; Air Oeuvre Sport Kites, GKPI, and Sky Shark, and an even bigger "thank ya!" to Sunset Flyers of Clearwater, the host club!"

From Cori Davies at Kitty Hawk Kites: "The weekend of March 31st-April 1st was a busy one for Kitty Hawk Kites. The Fly Into Spring Kite Festival took place on Jockey's Ridge State Park, had great winds, great weather, and record-breaking attendance. What better way to kick off spring, and National Kite Month? The two-day event featured kite flying experts from Kitty Hawk Kites, along with the help of Jim Hodges. Children's games, and kitemaking also took place at the Nags Head Kitty Hawk Kites store. In Fort Walton Beach, FL, the 3rd Annual Beach Kite Festival took place. Saturday was a great day, sunny, warm, and windy! Despite some rainy weather Sunday, John Harris took a flight on a tandem paraglider while thousands of spectators looked on. Spectators and spring breakers came to see the spectacular show put on by Kitty Hawk Kites and Kelly Mayhew and Dennis Hawley of Larger Than Life Kites. Among some of their spectacular kites were a scuba diver, octopus, and bears. Craig Young

from Kitty Hawk Kites was on hand as well to teach stunt kite lessons and do kite buggy demos."

From Gary Resnick: "The first 3+ months have been busy ones in the Tampa Bay area. It all started with the Treasure Island Kite Festival back in January. This was followed by the first Sand Key Winter Kite Festival in March. Sherri and Steve Pigeon got off to a great start with a promise of many more to come. TISKK received two calls on the same day for kite help from two different towns. Luckily the events were on different days. We joined up with the Sunset Fliers for the Safety Harbor Seafood Festival Early March. The weather sure dampened the seafood fest but it did not stop the kites from flying. We all got to spend the next day or two drying out our kites. The second call came from the Pier Aquarium in St. Petersburg requesting kites the following week for their 10th annual Beach Splash. A bunch of us spent three nearly windless hours helping kids build sled kites. The day ended with the wind coming up and some of the more determined kids being rewarded by seeing their kites take to the sky. A special thanks to Carl "Gumby" Anderson for helping out. An unfortunate bit of timing had the Beach Splash falling on the same day as the First Mid Florida Regional Stunt Kite Championship which took place at Sand Key. Another great start with great promise for more in the future. You can bet I won't miss the next one. While Spring usually brings kilters back outside members of TISKK and the Sunset Fliers headed indoors on April 7th for the first indoor fly for these parts since the AKA was in town back in 2000. What a great time! It did not seem to matter that most of us had no clue what we were doing, it was just plain fun."



Mike Agner chilling out in Berk.

© Gary Mark



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 End of term: 2008

Sandi and I returned last night from a visit to China that included the Weifang International Kite Festival, attended by thousands upon thousands of kitefliers and spectators. What a marvelous experience. If given the opportunity you must go. The people and kites are wonderful. But now back home, I am enjoying my blue sky, my clean air, and my soft bed.

At last count there were 11 events registered for National Kite Month in Region Five, two in Michigan and nine in Ohio. The only AKA sanctioned event, the 3rd Annual Airwaves Kite Fest, was held April 14-15 in West Chester, OH. After a having a near perfect day for the media on April 1 to promote the festival, the weather did not quite cooperate on the days of the main event. It rained all day on Saturday and that day's activities were canceled. Except for the evening dinner where about 80 AKA members and guests were in attendance, Saturday was a "wash-out".

Randy and Linda Larkey drove all the way to Cincinnati from Missouri to display their banners at Airwaves. Also there were Grant Lovett, Angie Chau, Clark Shute, and Dick & Terry Claycomb came from Indiana, Paul Keopke, Kathy Brinnehl, Zack, Josh and Elizabeth Gordon, Dan and Anne Brinnehl and Mike Kory were there from Illinois. Mike Delfar and Dan Newman

attended from Wisconsin, Dave Bush and Mary Hoffman from Michigan and Ben Dantonio from California. In attendance from Ohio were Dorothy and Gene Lewandowski, Nancy Lockwood and Harry Gregory from Cleveland, Tree Alexander and Tom Lavender from Columbus, Dean and Vicki Proudfoot from Tiro, and Frank and Barb Seidita from Youngstown.

Gee, all of this talent on site and it rained all day. Yes, there were a few committed kitefliers who braved the elements before seeking shelter in the kite display building. During the rain on Saturday, Ben Dantonio from California was asked if he was planning to fly home early because of the weather. His reply was "of course not, I'm have a great time hanging out with my friends." As many of you know, kiting is really about people.

By noon on Sunday the weather had improved. Chicago Fire, Eos, Fire and Ice and others kept those who braved the chilly winds entertained all afternoon. Linda Larkey's banners, along with ground displays by several others, added great color to the festivities. Because of the high wind, the giant inflatable kites stayed in their bags but a few mid-sized inflatables added to the sky candy. Representatives from Revolution Kites showed folks how to fly quads and several volunteers taught dual line flying to many first timers. Over 200 kids built kites in the workshop. So although the weather was not very cooperative, about a thousand or so spectators, and 80 plus AKA fliers had an enjoyable experience at Airwaves. Thanks to WGUC 90.9, West Chester Township and P.I.G.S. Aloft for their efforts in putting together this early spring event.

So what is currently scheduled for the coming months in Region Five? On



The stars come out at Airwaves.

June 16 -17 the Father's Day Kite Fly is planned at Mill Run Park in Hilliard, OH. This annual Father's Day fun fly is organized by Tree Alexander.

The Black Swamp Air Force has scheduled the North Coast Stunt Kite Games for July 20-22. This event will be held, as usual, at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, OH. And, as advertised, there are no competitions, just hanging out with friends, old and new. Then, on July 27-29, the Tri-State Wind Riders are holding the annual Kites Over Branch County in Coldwater, MI.

Event organizers, please send me a summary after your festival so we can share your experiences with others in the region who could not attend, and get them interested for next year.

I am looking forward to seeing you on a kite field. Remember... it is all about putting smiles on faces.



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 End of term: 2008

Hello from Region Six. First off I'd like to welcome the Illinois Kite Enthusiasts to the list of kite clubs that are AKA affiliated.

The Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat took place this past March in Oregon, IL, with attendees taking part in classes, enjoying the scenic Rock River and eating some of the best food you'll find at a function of this kind. The theme was "Birds of a Feather" and even had some folks doing the "Chicken Dance" during the Saturday night festivities. Make an effort to add MAKR to your calendar in 2008.

The month of April was National Kite Month and members throughout the region took part in related activi-



The Chicaco Fire at Airwaves.

ties including workshops, kite flies, kites in classrooms, kite displays and a kite swap meet. Wisconsin Kiter Art Hass conducted a workshop on a two winged box kite at the Community Center in Little Chute, WI on April 7th. AKA member Brian Blaeske hosted the first annual Banshee Kite Swap at Haven Wood Environmental Center in Milwaukee, WI on April 14th. All together, the region hosted a total of forty-six events, twenty-three of which were in Wisconsin. Fourteen of the Wisconsin events were listed by Dale Bowden. Way to go Dale!

The Month of May started out with one of the busiest weekends of the kite season with Kites Over Lake Story, Mayor Daley's Kids and Kites, Kites Over Grinnell, the Neenah High Fun Fly and the Ansel Toney Fly all taking place.

The Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois has a busy schedule with the Outta Site Kite Flight at Kenosha Park in Kenosha, WI on June 2-3, the Fireworks Kite Festival at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee, WI on July 3rd, the Chicago Botanical Garden Kite Festival in Glencoe, IL on August 11-12 and the 29th annual Frank Mots International Kite Festival at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee on September 8-9.

The Wisconsin Kites Kite Club will take part in the "Up, Up and Away" Kite Fly on June 16th in Shawano, WI, the second annual "Kites over Lake Michigan" Kite Festival in Two Rivers, WI on September 1-2 and the second annual DeKalb Kite Festival on September 16th at the campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

The Hoosier Kitefliers Society plays host to the Indiana Trick Clinic and Fun Fly on September 1-2 at the Academy of Model Aeronautics in Muncie. The same facility hosts the Merritt Beck Kite Reunion on September 29th.

Members of the Minnesota Kite Society will take part in the International Kite Festival that's part of this year's Flint Hills International Children's Festival held in downtown St. Paul. The event includes kite displays, kite flying demonstrations and kite making for families.

Special thanks to Art Hass and Brian Blaeske for sending contributions to this report. Until next time, take care and keep your eyes to the sky.



**Region 7 ~ Great Plains
CO-KS-MO-ND-NE-SD-UT-WY**

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End of term: 2008

This will be a first for me since I began this job as your Regional Director. It will be completely compiled of snippets from members out there in our region. A Great big thank-you to all of you who sent in articles.

Richard Keeney of KS writes, "My family and I attended the Kite Fest at Longview Community College. There was an overwhelming turnout. Grand-kids had a great time. I wanted to get some KAP shots but there were just too many kites in a given area. Still working up KAP for use with Community Emergency Response Teams in the Greater Kansas City Area.

Lori Fussell of Jackson Hole, WY,

writes, "I'm a new member of AKA and a competitive figure skater. I've been teaching myself how to fly Prism 3-D indoor kite so that I can skate with it on the ice. I competed at the US Adult Figure Skating Championships in the Ladies Interpretive Class 3 event. This is an event that judges skaters on both showmanship/ entertainment and skating skills, for ladies aged 36-45. Props are allowed, as long as they don't touch the ice. Hence...the kite! I skated as Charlie Brown to the song "The Kite" from the musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" and flew my Prism. I won a gold medal! There were 18 skaters entered in the event. Videos are posted at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZwU2wy7v9Q. Now all I need is someone who can really teach me how to fly that kite on skates. I'd love to be able to do more "kiting" tricks..."

Jon Gabby of CO writes "The fly in Arvada was great with well over three thousand folks in attendance. April 14 dawned bright and sunny and by the time we left the Springs for Arvada there wasn't a trace of the day before! Snow melts fast in Colorado. Highs in the mid to upper sixties during the day. A great day with 8 to 12 mph wind all day...kind of why we took up kiting in the first place...a truly great community event. This once small fly has turned into a real happening. This weekend we have a premier event sponsored by the El Paso County Parks and Recreation folks. The event at the Fountain Nature Center will be primarily a family event with Donald Nash coming down from Denver to work with kids kite building. Scott Skinner has installed a Japanese kite exhibit at the center. This event could well grow legs and become another great community event."

Betty Murphy



Bruce Kenkel flying indoors at the Sac Air Museum.

Jason Stotter of Boulder, CO writes, "I attended a fly in Arvada, CO with beautiful blue skies and lots of grinning kids and adults on April 17th. No snow that day, but the kites were going up and coming down in the variable wind most of the afternoon. I saw many kids around the field with kite sleds they painted and assembled in a kite building activity. I have never attended this fly before; and it was beautiful to see the kites fling over views of the Rockies in the distance."

Ron Lindner of MO writes, "The Gateway Kite Club helped the St. Louis Art Museum put on a very successful kite building and kite fly. Over 200 kids made kites in the museum. This is the 2nd year they have sponsored this and it keeps growing. Tina Bushie, Sue Clament and Donna Houchins were the driving force behind it all. Charm Lindner helped in the Museum. The rest of us flew what we could in the 0 to 50 mph winds. Are we having fun yet?"

Sean Beaver from KCKC writes, "NKM in Region 7 took on epic proportions with the Kansas City Kite Club's amazing events. As Club President, I feel the club has worked hard and is an inspiring and artistic gift to the local community. The first ever "Flights of Fancy" Kite and Model Airplane Festival drew over 4000 people. April 21 saw winds at Longview Community College at 17-20mph with temps near 80°. There was a huge experienced flyers area as well as a public flying area. The event had a children's activities tent and kite making area. Candy drops were unlike anything we have seen in years. The KCKC did an outstanding job and trust me you'll want to attend this event next year. Did I forget to mention Don and Betty Murphy were the special guest flyers!"

Todd Copeland writes, "I recently attended Dixie Escalante Kite Festival in St. George, UT. It supported children reading books and each child that completed certain goals received a free kite (I heard that they gave away about 400 kites this year). Hundreds of kids were flying single line kites. They also hosted a small precision competition which was sponsored by a kite store from Cedar City, UT. Prizes were awarded and everyone had a great time. Many new flyers in the Cedar City area!"

Bob Homan of Topeka writes, "

April has been a very good month to promote kiting in our community. Elmer Burnnett lined up a scout troop to build sleds on a stormy evening, John Marr kept us busy with a couple local elementary schools with a show and fly. We hosted kite building sessions at the rescue mission."

Chris Turner from Powerkiting writes "The Meadows subdivision in Castle Rock, CO, asked Into the Wind if we could join them for some advertising of their festival and newly opened neighborhood. Dean Densmore and I went down to Castle Rock on April 19th to do a TV interview, and also displayed some of the newest kites that Into the Wind is carrying. There were some local girls who flew a Rocky Mountain delta conyne and one of George Peters' dragonfly kites."

On April 14, our local club, Midwest Winds Kitefliers, held a fly at the Sac Air Museum at Mahoney State Park. We were there to help promote the Drachen Foundation exhibit. It was a wonderful exhibit with an informative historical display of kiting. On April 29, our club held their 5th Annual Spring Festival at the LaVista Soccer Fields. It was a well attended event with kite giveaways, candy drops, hot weather and some tired and dusty overcooked fliers. But, we had a great day.

I just want to remind you all of the Callaway Kite Festival in Callaway, NE on Labor Day Weekend. We are planning for a large attendance of fliers and spectators this year. Hope to see you there.

Enjoy the sky!



Region 8 ~ South Central

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End of term: 2008

If I had to sum up the Spring '07 kiting season in Region Eight in a word, that word would be "fluid"! We had mainstay events drop off of the calendar (including Westlake in Oklahoma and even Lifenet in Dallas!); and new, local kite fests popping up all over! As much as we mourn the cancellations of recurrent festivals, it's also encouraging to be contacted by so many local schools, libraries, and Parks & Rec Departments in an effort to incorporate kiting entertainment and education into their curriculum, celebrations,

and programs! I dearly appreciate all of the kilters throughout the Region who coordinated with these smaller venues and acted as the local points of contact and "AKA eyes on the ground" for their events! It's invaluable to have a local kiter or club who can work with folks to ensure safety and maximum enjoyment for everyone at these local events. We had a few weekends with multiple events, large and small, on the calendar which re-



Marshall Harris, Leslie and Joe Meaux



South Padre Island Trlbys

quired our regional kites to just “pack the van and pick a direction”!

Spring weather was also a continuing challenge! Although the weather for Zilker during the first Sunday in March was perfect, a mysterious “dust devil” or two blew in and temporarily created havoc! Kites had to decide whether to hold down the canopies, chase after the banners, grab the loose kites, or run after the lawn chairs! I’ll admit, it was kind of creepy to look over and see the large kites on the inflatables field moving in a circular pattern around each other! Our pal from Kitelife, Dave Shattuck, even cruised in from the Great Northwest to attend Zilker ‘07! At the Cloud Buster festival in Perrin, near Abilene, everyone was ducking thunderstorms and watching out for area tornadoes on Friday evening! On the same weekend in Port Allen, LA, those of us at Kite Fest Louisiane knew that the same

weather system that had hit Perrin in North Texas was coming our way on Saturday.. we just didn’t know at exactly when! Although it was strong, the thunderstorms were short lived.. Thank goodness, there were no accidents; just a bunch of drenched kites and kites! In Mineola, near Dallas, George Weber reports that a kiting weekend was disrupted by sleet and snow... in April!

Thanks to the organizers and kites for getting their events registered for National Kite Month! Rick Hawkins has been our regional point of contact for NKM for years and does an incredible job of notifications, securing proclamations, and follow up. Thanks so much, Rick, for juggling this enormous project for the Region!

Congratulations to Katie Gray of Cedar Park, TX, for blowing us away with her first AKA competition! Even with a “crash problem” (oh, ‘fes up; we’ve ALL had them!) on her third compulsory figure, she impressed us all with her scores in precision and her ballet routine at the Kite Fest Louisiane. Remember her name; I’m sure you’ll be hearing more about Katie in the future! Veteran competitors Ben Gray, Guy Blatnik, and Windchasers (Guy Blatnik and Claudia Steen) of South Padre Island also captivated the spectators in Louisiana! Much appreciation to the organizers, staff, field crew, judges, and audience for your support of competition in Region Eight. In addition to sport kites comps, Sandra and Marshall Harris — along with Leslie and Joe Meaux of MeauxJo Kites — held a kitemakers competition. Plus, we managed to get in a round of rok battles. Congratulations to Jim Cox of Austin EOL Kite Team for being “the

last one standing” (with MY Rok... MY kite...it’s a winner!).

Keep the van and the kite bags packed, we’ve still got plenty of “kite season” left! Remember to always check the calendar for changes -- especially THIS year!

Keep looking up!



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End of term: 2009

Happenings and events in Idaho...

The Magic Winds Kite Club is stronger than ever, growing every year... Their 7th annual “Kiting Just for Fun” promises to be great this year. They are planning to have a great display up for the public, including a 40’ dragon, 23’ alligator, 23’ fish, two 8’ teddy bears, 2 Octopi, two 22’ spin socks and all the Jordans they’ll need to hold it all up! Also part of the show, a 5’ gorilla stand that will hold a balloon in his hand for kites to try to pop, a good challenge for fliers of any level.

Also, a new kite club is starting up, The Snake River Kites, sponsored by Sunrise Kites, Robinson Auto Glass and the Hampton Inn. They’ll be hosting their first events in late March.

Kiting activity in Montana...

Opening on June 1st at Billings Logan International Airport, “KITES.... Sculpture in the Sky...A Cellular Celebration.” Cellular flying sculptures borrowed from world famous kite builders will grace the main terminal in Billings Montana for a two year period. This exhibit features the work of Micheal Alvarez and Peter Malinski (from the Scott Skinner collection), Drake Smith, Rob Gibian, Sam Huston, Stuart Allen, Bobby Stansfield, John Pollock, Tony Ferrel, Steve Ferrel, Adam Grow, and more. Harold Ames has donated a



The end of the day on South Padre Island.

bevy of antique Gibson Girls and Nick D'Alto is gathering up his red cells that replicate Alexander Graham Bell's earliest tetrahedron. Margo and Bevan Brown are loaning the display a piece from their collection. La Quinta Inn and Suites in Billings is our sponsor and is providing funds for brochures and a CD, some promotion and marketing budget, and funds for kite flies and classroom kite building instruction at schools during the exhibit period. For more information, contact Terry Zee Lee Smith at 406/698-9369 or tzlee@myfastmail.com.

From Oregon...

Whatever you might say about the Lincoln City Indoor Festival, it's always an interesting experience for all concerned, so our local indoor pilots really looked forward to this "Third Annual" running of the event. As usual, Lee and Debbie Park organized and "head-lined" in the show - this year featuring a theme of "Here Comes The Sun," the music of The Beatles, and costumes of the 70s (meaning lots of Tie-Dye, plus a single Green polyester Leisure Suit). As might be expected, local Northwest pilots were there in abundance and flew both as part of the show (about 30 Beatle Tunes) and in ad hoc demo flights as well (including an iQuad demo). And out-of towners contributing their skills included Lam Hoac down from Ontario, Andy Becker in from Wisconsin, and Scott Weider from Rhode Island. All three were significant pilots in the big "Show" and the demo line-ups! Add in a single AKA sanctioned Indoor Individual Open Unlimited competition and some free-fly and "teaching" time, and there was plenty going on almost constantly, so everyone had loads of fun. Therefore, if you happen to be near the Oregon Coast in March next year, you might want to put Lincoln City on your agenda.

With two more events scheduled for Lincoln City this year, it would be a good idea to check up on their 2007 schedule: www.oregoncoast.org/pages/whats-happening.html

And on April 28th in Bend, OR, the Les Schwab Ampitheatre and the Mill District invited everyone to join in celebrating the Art of Kiting. We had International fliers and kite-teams present as well as world renowned Display fliers. There were kids kite-

making classes in the morning followed by a kids fun-fly, and the single-line, sport-kite, and team-flying demos ran throughout the day, plus at least 10 kites were given out in drawings. All fliers everywhere were welcome to come out and join in the fun.



Region 10 ~ Northwest

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End of Term: 2009

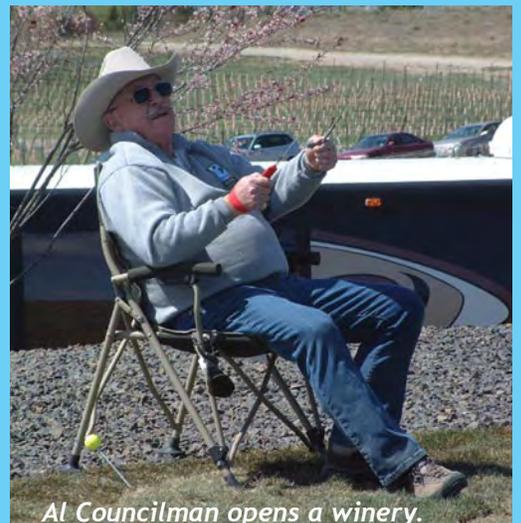
We're off and flying in Region Ten. Fort Worden seems to always start the season for us. Check out the article on Fort Worden in this magazine to learn more. My job is the raffle and once again we had a great time and had over 550 items. I not only need to thank the people who attended for their donations, but all the people that sent items who did not attend, a big thank you to you all. David and Janet Robinson and Don and Di Baggett from the UK just happened to fly in and to work the raffle. Again. What good friends and what good workers. So in return I will be going over the end of April and help them with the Swindon Kite Festival raffle. I will also be attending the Weymouth kite festival. There I should see other AKA family, Pete Dolphin who has attended this event forever, Miriam Schafler and Barbara Hall will be making their first visit for both festivals. Then before I return home I will attend a small kite event in London to help save a park. This

group does this every year to show the council that people are using the park and because I will be flying with them, they can call it an international event.

Next on the calendar was a workshop for "Kids Fun Fest" at Fort Lewis. I think that we made at least 100 kites. The kids were great and we could have used more kite kits. It was a special day. Anytime you can help a child make a kite is a good day.

Then it was off to Eastern Washington to fly kites at an opening for a new winery. Col Solare is the collaborations of two wineries, Ste. Michelle of Washington State and the Antinori family of Italy, which has been making wine for 26 generations, since 1385. Yes, that's 1385. Eli and Bernice Williams and Al Councilman accompanied Ron and myself on our long day journey that began at 4:15AM. The weather was great and the winds were not the best. We all said at the end of the day we had never worked so hard to keep kites in the air. The day with these good friends was all worth it.

Take a look at the websites for WKA, Westport Windriders Festival, PCKA Festival, Washington State International Kite Festival, Whidbey Island and Up Your Wind, check them all out. Then when you are done with all these festivals and some I am sure I did not mention, pack your bags and head to the AKA Convention right here in Region 10 at Ocean Shores in October. I know that I will be collecting some nice kites for the auction when I am in the UK. We do have a raffle tickets available for \$1 a chance to win registration. Let me know if you want one. The drawing to win this prize will be at WSIKF August 25th.



Al Councilman opens a winery.

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End of Term: 2009

March 11th the Northern California Kite Club had their spring campout. A new location was tried, Rancho Seco Park near Sacramento, and it was almost perfect for the event. The park is huge, green and clean. The rangers opened a gate to an adjacent field so we could fly kites out there. This "field" had to be three or four miles square and the wind was pretty good, a far cry from all the former locations. There were about 25 campers in attendance. Everyone there agreed to return Rancho Seco Park for the next campout.

My National Kite Month event got sprinkled on in the afternoon but the month was a great success. With hundreds of events reported, thousands were introduced to kites.

I wrote a couple times about a new event in Morro Bay. Well it happened over the weekend of April 28-29. For a first time event it was a great one with huge crowds, a great location, almost perfect winds on Saturday and happy kites spread out over a quarter mile of beach. It's been a while since I've seen happy kites, happy crowds, and happy organizers. Look for this one to be even bigger and better next year.

BASKL is working on a new full-blown kite festival in Santa Cruz (BASKL usually does league-style competitions). Scheduled for the 3rd weekend in September, the beach and board walk there is a perfect location

for a kite festival. Plans are unfolding well and it looks like this one will be another new and exciting addition to the California kite calendar. Way to go BASKL and Jeff Erzin for your efforts.



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End of Term: 2007

It's been a busy few months, but I've been going at it for sure. Yucca Valley was a blast with some real hard wind that my vented Rev 1.5 ate up. As always, the crowds really had fun with the show. Between the locals and the fliers I more than felt at home. The next day was Redondo Beach, and it was more of the same. We really revved up the crowds.

As of this writing I just got back from NABX, and the buggy world is doing well. Between Big Mike feeding us, and Kent of Wind of Change donating only the very best for the sale, I had more fun than one guy should be allowed. Even if the winds were a bit light at times the fun was off the hook.

I'm sorry that this one's a bit short because it's been a fun few months, but I'm in the process of moving out of my house. I'll keep you all informed in the next one, and remember that I need your help so send me any info you feel we all need to know.



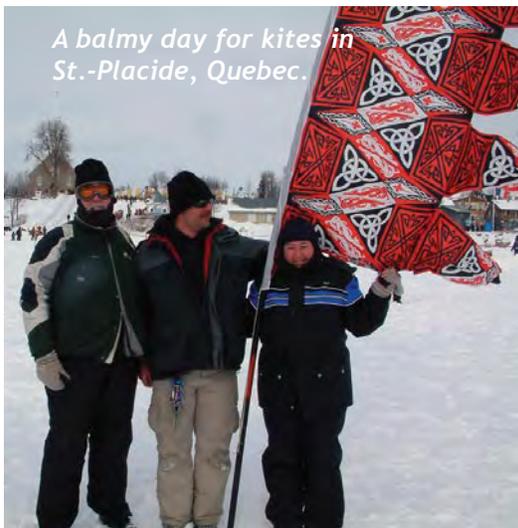
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 End of Term: 2009

Where to begin? Everyone in Region 13 has been having kite fun and they all want to be included in this report! Here goes:

Mark your calendars for 15-19 August, Dieppe Canada; the theme is Mardi Gras. More information: jake.jan@nb.sympatico.ca. Sounds like many world nations will be represented, including Australia, India, Germany, Netherlands and France!

Another must is the AKA convention in Ocean Shores WA., where vehicle parking is allowed on the beach! That's a big plus to those with loaded-up vans!

NKM started in Region 13 when Arthur Dibble, UK, proposed we should use a poster which showed the world... and Mike Dallmer agreed. So, Region 13 was granted our very own



NKM® poster design; now we truly are International. (PS Arthur suffered a heart attack on 14 April, and is comfortably recovering. Another friend on the recovery list is Doug Battaglia of Alberta, who had surgery in late March. Chin up boys, the winds will still be there when you're allowed out again!)

Michel Gagnon, Quebec wrote: "We are flying our kites almost every-day in Quebec..." and Eric Curtis, Ontario, agreed, as he and Anne Sloboda attended the Festi-Vent sur glace at St-Placide, Quebec on 17-18 February. Held on the ice of Lac des Deux Montagnes, this year wasn't as cold, but he still "wore long underwear and many layers of clothing plus a full snowmobile outdoor suit, boots, heavy mitts, a balaclava and wool hat." Carl



Bigras and Terry Thillman (Montreal) also took part, with prizes awarded to Nathalie Villeneuve, Manon Lemaire, Ginette Champagne and Daniel Allary.

In contrast, David Hathaway, Burnaby, Canada wrote in February, "John Barresi and I are in South Padre Island, Texas" to be followed by a visit to Arlington's Up The River Indoor kite fest, and on to Los Angeles for the Kite Party. I've not heard a peep from David since!

Canada again... what busy beavers they are! Don Lord from BCKA told me of "Wind, Waves and Water" to be held at White Rock, BC, 28-29 April.

An April Fool's Day event? Why not...! St. Lambert Park, Montreal featured a running of the Bols, parachuting candies, kite give-aways and included dual and quad line kites as well



as kite aerial photography. Sounds like they had great weather, too.

Sharon Musto reported a fantastic turnout to FortWhyte Alive on 22 April, with 147 sled kites built in "17°C with gusting winds and only a few spits of rain", with minutes to spare before the park gates shut. Phew.

Following rigorous bidding recently at the Fort Worden raffle, Bev Dockrill, Edmonton, now owns a Chinese Opera Lady OzFeather banner. I had 3 hours to spare one day... Enjoy, Bev.

Now, Europe! Giacomo Borghi, Italy, ran his everything-that-flies event called "Levant' eVento", 17-18 March at Viareggio Beach, Tuscany. Stafford Wallace (fighter kites), Ludovico Bertozzi (inflatables) and Edy Angelino (three stunt kites at once) joined guests from France and Greece to make this inaugural event a huge success. 2008 plans for an even bigger show!

I met Bob "Hi" Cruikshanks, UK, in Berck, who said, "It was great to meet our AKA stringpullin' director... or should that be direct-her... plus your groupie/ground-crew/bag-carrier Kevin." Bob was having way too much fun!

Weifang's 24th International Kite Festival, China, 19-23 April was attended by everyone else, except us! Jim Martin (NC, USA) was there; we've seen the photos! His grin was as wide as the Great Wall itself!

And in the Caribbean, Katherine Felix and Roger Miller, St Lucia, say they've "dusted off the ripstop and started flying again". They spent Easter sharing their kiting spirit with the St Lucia/Jamaican Association.

Anyone considering serious travel? There's a kite festival in Harden, NSW, Australia, 20 October. Get more details from Cathy Sanderson at gsa29958@bigpond.net.au.

Remember... less talk, more fly...



Kiting

people+places+things

It's Not A Kite, Exactly....

With “clean power” one of the hottest buzzwords these days, wind power looks like one solution. But where to put all those massive windmills? And how can all that infrastructure work in developing nations? From Europe’s Magenn Power comes M.A.R.S.



(Magenn Air Rotor System), a tethered power-generating turbine. Yes, it’s helium-filled, so it’s not a kite. But the spinning rotor creates a Magnus effect, generating its own lift. Bill Bigge has designed kites using the same principle. So, what exactly is that thing at the end of the 1000’ string? Stay tuned, as Magenn expects to go into production later this year.



The Blizzard-Insane

There are those among us who think that traction kiting in any form is crazy. But it seems to have found its way to the four corners of the planet, including Canada’s Island-of-the-Madeleine. There, it’s practitioners are called “the blizzard-insane.” That might be because they have to tie the knots in their lines in -77 °F temperatures. Hot toddy, anyone?



Kites Or Bread

Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, the leader of the opposition PPP Party in Pakistan’s Sindh Assembly, has condemned the government’s move of systematically demolishing poor settlements around Karachi. He said that the government was now planning to demolish Gulshan-i-Buner in Landhi to build a “kite park” there. Speaking at a protest meeting, the PPP leader assured the people that the party would resist the plan and was ready to render sacrifices to foil the government’s scheme. Recalling the role of the party in the past, he said the PPP had always made sacrifices for the cause of the downtrodden and would continue to do so in the future.

Khuhro said that “people want bread, butter and shelter, not kites.” He urged the government to construct the proposed park in Azizabad if it considers it essential, but not in a poor Pakhtoon locality.

Disaster du Jour

You don’t make an omelet without breaking a few eggs, right? Pete Dolphin has certainly flown a few kites, so sooner or later he’s bound to have an accident. This one happened on Good Friday, at the Cape Henlopen Kite Festival in Delaware. Seems a sudden gust sent Pete’s pyrodelta straight down... into the thickest, thorniest patch of briars in the park. The always resourceful Mr. Dolphin simply bided his time, until several youths came over and offered to wade into the tangle to free the kite. Unfortunately, they weren’t able to get very far. Pete finally had to bite the bullet and go in himself. The result: a few minor punctures to both the kite and Pete.



Lost In Translation

David Gomberg regales us with this conversation...

“I was in Weifang last week and was interested to hear from some of the Chinese that they were coming to a festival in the States. “Where are you going?” I asked.

“To Active Forest!”

“Active Forest?? Where is that?”

“Oh, it’s a big kite festival in America!”

“Where is it? When??”

“In May. It is in New Jersey.”

I had to think for a minute. “Active Forest. You mean... Wildwood???”



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