

Winter 2007  
Volume 29, Issue 4

# AKA *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



## **AKA's 30<sup>th</sup>**

**All Wet in Ocean Shores**  
**Kitemaking: Pollock Redux**  
**KAPping the Convention**  
**The Face of Sport Kiting's Future?**

**Over The Falls in Niagara**  
**Bell's Cygnet Anniversary**  
**Dieppe's Mardi Gras in the Sky**  
**Bogotá, WSIKE, Antigua**

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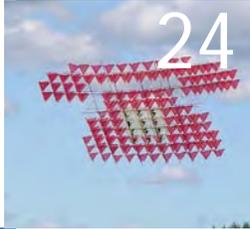
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Summer issue deadline: April 15  
Autumn issue deadline: July 15  
Winter issue deadline: October 15

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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.

# Colombian High by Mike Agner



When my friend, Gary Mark, phoned me about my attending a kite festival in Bogotá, Colombia, c'mon - I was skeptical to say the least! After conversations with others who had been there and corresponding with the festival organizer, Ines Elvira Uribe, I decided to add a new level of adventure to my travels!

Bogotá is a city of seven million people and sits at an altitude of 3,000 meters. Year-round temperatures vary little with a range of 40-65 degrees and there is no change of seasons. The people of Colombia have a passion for kites and everywhere I went, there were flyers of all ages. Ms. Uribe puts

it this way, " We organized this festival in 1993 and have held it every year since. We have two big objectives: to show our country to the world through the kite flyers who attend and to show our people that kite flying is a serious business but can be done by old people who are like children. In addition, we believe that kite-flying is important for finding

a better life and to keep our environment."

While my flight arrived on time, traffic nightmares similar to those in New York City delayed the arrival of the guy who was to take me to the hotel. Clearing customs was easy but standing at the curb in front of a wildly busy airport with two fifty-pound kite bags, and not being able to transfer much of my limited Spanish into their dialect, made my two hour wait interesting. OK, so it was MORE than interesting. And did I tell you that my international phone wouldn't make international calls? The adven-

ture had begun!

The festival had actually begun two weeks earlier, in Medellín, where the organizers assemble kite flyers from all over the world. They travel around the country doing workshops and kite demonstrations. When I joined the group in Bogotá, I was told the event was to be held in a very large park and that the actual flying would take place in an amphitheater, surrounded by stadium seating for 6,000 people. Can you imagine what I was thinking?

The day of the festival dawns (sort of) with rain and no wind. It gets better. Not to be dismayed, these Colombian flyers took turns running their kites the length of the stadium. The crowd cheered them on. I was asked to bring "big" kites so you can imagine what I was thinking, looking at the giant manta ray still in the bag. But these flyers were determined to put on a show. By 3:00, the rain had stopped and there was a bit of wind. I spread that ray out on the ground, the wind inflated it and holding on to just the bridle, I got lucky and it popped into the air. The crowd went wild and I was able to make one pass (run? at 9,000' altitude?). It was definitely a new definition of "high" and an experience I will never forget.

## The Antigua Adventure Continues

This year we grew our numbers to 10 for the Tropiketers Annual Kite Week on the beautiful island of Antigua. Again, Mr. Calvin Pilgrim, founder of the Tropiketers Kite Club organized four different kite events and three days of island recreation, ending with a five-hour catamaran cruise complete with snorkeling and flying on our own private lagoon!

I was joined by Jim Cosca, Steve Santos, Pauly Berard, Beth Bowen, Art St. Pierre, and Jan and Doug Coates, all from New England, and Cathy and Mike Esposito from California. As we experienced last year, everyone was treated royally! We were met at the airport by the Minister of Tourism's Secretary and local media, then whisked through customs and delivered to our top-notch accommodations to fly for a while and catch sunset at Jolly Harbor beach.

Our first event was a fun fly at beautiful Buccaneer Cove. Sun, sparking white beach sand, crystal clear turquoise ocean and steady breezes were the

*continued on page 11*



by Sue Moskowitz

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As the song goes, what a long strange trip this has been. Before this year I had never considered being President of the AKA. This is the last place I ever thought I would be. I am a kite flyer first, and everything else second. I am a one-dimensional person: I do kites. Thank you to everyone who encouraged me to take this on and to everyone who thought enough of me to make me President of this great Association. I will do my best to be worthy of your confidence.

I am a grunt, a worker bee. I am much more of a results person than a process person. I am usually the guy who is on the outside getting the deed done while everyone else is inside discussing how it should be done. Working with Boards and committees is a stretch for me, it is not my strong suit. But I think I can bring a nuts-and-bolts reality to the discussions.

I attended my first Board meeting ever on Tuesday morning at the Convention. That is both good news and bad news. In some schools of thought, a person wanting to be President of an Association should have been involved in its proceedings for a long time prior to being elected. On the other hand, someone who has been an outsider for their entire tenure brings a fresh perspective on how things can be managed. The point that should be made is that the impression gleaned from my first Board meeting is that the Board of the AKA is made up of hard-working, high-minded and well-intended people striving to do their best for the Association.

One of my goals for this year is to make the process as open and informative as it can possibly be. There are a few things the Board deals with that need to be "closely held" for many reasons. But many more things can and should be available to you, the everyday AKA members, so that you can give evaluative and critical input to your Regional Directors. Your Regional Director wants to hear from you. Be part of the process and keep them apprised of what you are doing in your corner of the Region. Stay tuned to the KiteTalk Forum on the AKA website to be up-to-date on the latest goings on.

Just a reminder, many of you have promised me e-mails. I am looking forward to what you have to say. We are fresh from a Convention in Ocean Shores, WA. That makes this the perfect time to start planning for our next Convention in Gettysburg, PA. In Gettysburg in 2008, let's

put on a Sport Kite Nationals worthy of its name. Let's start now identifying and recruiting people who can Judge and Field Direct and Pit Boss. The more people, especially non-competitors, who can commit to being field staff for one or two events, the more it will free up the people who end up working almost every event in which they are not competing. Anybody can be a Pit Boss and it is a great way to meet people from all over the country.

The folks who ran the Kitemaker's Competition in Ocean Shores need to be commended for thinking outside the box. Moving all the static judging indoors on a rainy day really moved things along. It was great for the judges and for most of the competitors. But, as with any decision, there were downsides. Moving it that far away from the Sport Kite Competition meant that "crossover" people, folks competing in both Comprehensives and Sport Kite, had to make some difficult, and expensive, choices.

My goal for next year is: everyone who gets to pay, gets to play. Let's find a way for everyone to play. There are

many people who come to Convention and pay registration fees like everyone else, and then spend their whole Convention serving other AKA members.

This is your AKA. Be as much a part of it as you have the time and interest to be. The folks who have volunteered for the jobs of decision makers for the Association are ready to do their best to craft and shape the Association so it best serves the majority of its

members. Be part of the process. Communicate with your Regional Director. If for any reason you are uncomfortable talking with your Regional Director, talk to another Regional Director. RD's are people who generously give of their time because they believe in kite flying and want to share it with everyone. They want to hear from you. Write an article for *Kiting*. Even if it is just a paragraph or two, write something and send it in. The next deadline for *Kiting* is January 15, 2008. Check the masthead in the magazine for the e-mail addy or the snail mail address to send it to.

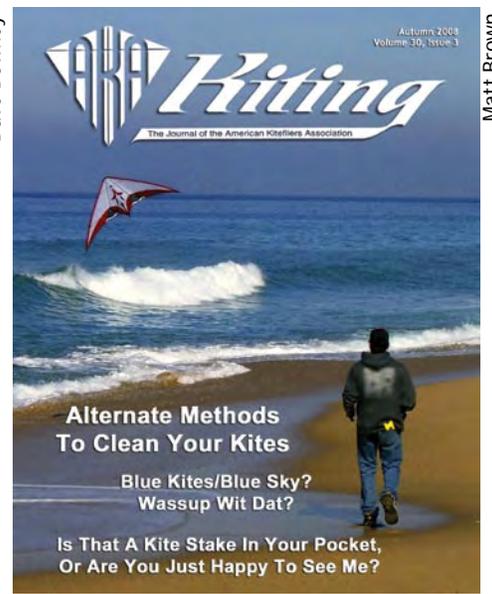
See you out there somewhere!

good heavens,  
gary engvall



# Cover Me

During September, a group of kitefliers/photographers hatched a plan in an online forum to come up with great photos that could be used on the cover of *KITING*. John Chilese took their photos and made mock covers out of them. A few of the often-hilarious results are shown here.



# The Sporting Life

## Being Judgemental

by Ruth Polifrone

Do you want to feel needed? Do you want to be appreciated? Do you have a sense of adventure? Do you want to be a better competitor? Do you want the best "seat" in the house?

Here is a suggestion that will fulfill all of these needs; volunteer to help out as a sport kite judge. The Chief Judge at an event will be happy to set you up on a panel as a shadow judge. This will give you the experience of judging without the pressure of having your score count.

Once you've decided to give judging a try, go to the AKA website. In the Publications section you'll find Rule Books. Here you'll find the International Sport Kite Competition Rules. It's filled with essential information for judges and competitors.



Here are a few basic guidelines for judges:

- Arrive on time for your assignment.
- Take a bathroom break before judging. It usually takes longer to run a discipline than you think it will.
- Bring whatever you think you will need onto the field and place your supplies in an out-of-the-way location. This includes water, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, windbreaker, etc.
- Move with the flyer. It's important to stand behind the flyer to get the proper perspective for judging. Moving with the flyer also keeps you out of the way of the flyer and field director.
- Know your limits. If you are not comfortable judging a discipline, ask to make a switch.
- Encouraging words are appreciated following the completion of the discipline, especially by novice flyers. Strive to be a positive influence. If you were impressed by a routine, let the flyer know. This is especially important to novice flyers, but Experienced and Masters flyers also like to be complimented on a job well done.
- Be honest if a flyer asks what you saw. If you can't remember the flyer, say so. Give praise where it is due, and be gentle with constructive criticism.
- Not everyone is comfortable judging. There are many other volunteer opportunities at kite festivals. Just ask.
- Be the judge that you would like to have standing behind you.
- Have fun out there!

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# Empty Spaces In The Sky

## Monty Weston

Watching Mary Poppins is easy. Being Mary Poppins is not. Monty Weston left our world to fly up with our kites on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. She was not just another businesswoman in Seal Beach. She owned the Up Up & Away Kites store, organized a float in the city's Christmas parade and was of course, Mary Poppins each year. During National Kite Month, she again donned the "Kite Lady" getup and went to schools to share kiting with children.

Along with son Randy, she orga-



nized the Seal Beach Kite Festival and made it successful for 11 years.

Devoting herself to sharing, Monty

used kites to put smiles on peoples faces that would soon match her own. Unable to contain her passion for kiting, she was often seen skipping on the sand on "Kite Club Sunday" when the club members would unroll and fly their favorites. Like most of us, she also found great joy in sitting on the beach, holding a single kite, and watching it float in the sky.

The story is the same. The names of the kite people who drive the enthusiasm are different. Monty will be remembered as one who drove it like a freight train. Just without all the noise.

- Janis Sabic and Glen Rothstein



## Paul Hines

With great sadness I tell you of Paul Hines passing on October 13<sup>th</sup> at age 78. Paul was relatively new to serious kiting. His interest began during the spring and summer of 2003, primarily in the area of Kite Aerial Photography. Paul had heard of the guy who flew kites nearly every day at our local Rockfield Park, and he sought my advice on buying kites, materials, and kite clubs. He soon became a member of AKA, WOW and MKS. That year, he attended his first AKA convention in Dayton, Ohio. After Paul's Dayton experience he went full throttle, trying his hand at sport kites, building kites and helping children make kites at many local events. He was co-sponsor and organizer of the very successful

Bel Air, MD, Kite Festival. He and his wife Emily could always be found at the Smithsonian Kite Festival, and at the Ocean City Sunfest event, helping out wherever needed. Paul's last festival, which he helped to organize, was at Harford Community College on September 15. On that day he was there, flying his white "ghost delta," and his favorite red, white and blue kites from a wheelchair. He will be greatly missed.

- Al Ault

## Howard Gordon

Howard Gordon of Palm Springs, CA, passed away in July. He had been an AKA member for nearly 20 years.

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Return to Kiting

# Niagara: Falling Up

by Gary Mark  
photos by Don Brownridge,  
Carlos Simoes, and Gary Mark



Some of the world's premier kitefliers brought their aerial artistry to Western New York's Niagara region on September 27 - 30. This fourth edition of the Niagara International Kite Festival was once again catered to the kites thanks to the tireless organization of Meg Albers and her crew of volunteers. Ample social opportunities allowed local fliers and kite tourists to mingle with the extensive list of international kite guests and featured fliers each day.

The theme for this year's kite festival was "Connecting the Past, Present, and Future with a Kite String" and the program highlighted the myths, the history, and the time-honored tradition of daredevils lured to majestic Niagara Falls.

This four-day event began with two days of attempts to connect the USA and Canada with an arch of kites, and also

the challenge of the Homan Walsh 1848 kite contest/re-enactment. Both days, moist weather and lack of winds stymied attempts to cross the Niagara gorge but kites certainly seized the opportunity to fly their kites in the unpredict-

able winds of Terrapin Point, a spectacular location situated between American and Horseshoe Falls.

Friday afternoon featured a rokkaku workshop taught by Makado Ohye, working with bamboo and washi to create authentic Japanese kites. Then, a sumptuous barbecue dinner fed kite fliers just prior to a lively benefit auction held for flier Charles (A.J.) Jackson of Texas, who lost his possessions in a recent fire.

On the Saturday and Sunday, festival activities were held at Reservoir State Park in Lewiston. Kites of all descriptions were amply represented each day on the enormous flying. Multiple show kites shared the sky with artistic kites. Sport kites dazzled spectators, while various historical kites were brought out for display. Power kites weaved through the back field while fighter kites were demonstrated. In the event tents, static displays of kite history, kite aerial photography, miniature kites and kite stamps educated the public, while hundreds of kids workshop kites were assembled. The kite store also had brisk



Makado Ohye

Iqbal Husain





business as the warm cooperative weather brought out an eager audience.

Saturday night's banquet was held in the vast, gothic lobby of Buffalo's Central Train Station, which is being restored from its 30 year vacancy. This venue was chosen to permit indoor kite performances and house the multi-piece jazz ensemble that entertained the guests.

Highlights of the festival included the sport kite teams Windjammers, iQuad and Team Skyburner; the marvelous kite trains of Iqbal Husain; the butterfly kite mass ascensions of Kelvin Woods, and large kite displays of the Berkeley Kite Wranglers, Team No Limits and the Royal City Fun Flyers from Ontario.

Because of the remarkable public response and improved support this year, the Niagara Tourism Convention Corporation and Sky's the Limit have committed to continue to make this festival an annual event as it offers enormous potential for growth in both the kite world and the regional community.

Iqbal Husain; the butterfly kite mass ascensions of Kelvin Woods, and large kite displays of the Berkeley Kite Wranglers, Team No Limits and the Royal City Fun Flyers from Ontario.



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www.atlantakites.org

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

### Antigua continued from page 3

order of the day. We flew single line and sport kites for most of the afternoon, a truly “island style” event! The next evening was the Indoor Kite Flying Exposition. Demonstrations and routines were performed while Paulie and company made 50 indoor style kites for the children, which were a big hit. Next on the agenda was one of the two big events. The Freeman Village Festival was co-sponsored by the Girl Guides of Antigua (Antigua’s version of Girl Scouts) and was the only competition on the schedule. Prizes were given for kite building and flying. Cathy, Mike, and Paulie made an additional 100 kites with the children. A great day was had by all.

The last event was held at scenic Devil’s Bridge, attended by hundreds of locals, most whom had never seen anything like the giant kites we were flying. They were all truly amazed by the Revolution and the dual-line flying exhibitions. Even our driver, Mr. Linden Joseph caught the bug and became a Rev flyer. We gave him one our kites to fly so he can join our team next year!

Flying until sunset on the most gorgeous tropical beaches, home cooked Caribbean cuisine, smiles and amazement of the most gentle island people is what you can expect if you join us on our next Caribbean adventure!

# AKA News

## Election Results

It’s true, the AKA’s election ended up in a dead tie: both David Gomberg and Rob Cembalest had four votes! But Gary Engvall had 54.9% of the 1,166 ballots returned, and is now the AKA President.

In regional elections, Greg Lamoureux got 58% of Region One’s votes. Todd Little ran unopposed in Region Two. In Region Three, Will Smoot got 51.8% of the votes. Terry Cornell ran unopposed in Region 4, as did Ben Dantonio in Region 12. In 2008, Regions Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, and Eleven will choose regional directors.

## New Postal Rates

Want to make a contribution to the AKA? Just move overseas! The oft-maligned US Postal Service got one right with their new international rates. Now, all international mail is via air (goodbye, surface mail!), but at the surface mail prices. That means that overseas members get their copies of *Kiting* faster, for less money.

## New RDs in 9 and 11

In October both Brian Champie in Region Eleven and John Barresi in Region Nine resigned their positions as Regional Director. They have been replaced by John Gillespie and Amy Doran, respectively.

January 1, 2008

New Year’s Day Fly  
Mission Bay Park  
San Diego  
Bill Pietrusza  
858/587-8738

February 2-3, 2008

SPI Kite Fest  
South Padre Island, TX  
Bill Doan  
956/761-1248

February 23, 2008

BASKL Indoor 2  
Foothill Middle School  
Walnut Hill, CA  
Tracy Erzin  
925/228-1983

March 2, 2008

Zilker Park Kite Festival  
Austin, TX  
Bunnie Twidwell  
512/339-0412

No matter where you live, no matter what you fly,  
Masaaki Modegi’s foil expresses our sentiments...  
Peace On Earth.



March 7-9, 2008

Midwest Area Kitemakers  
Retreat (MAKR)  
Northern Illinois University  
Oregon, IL  
Barbara Meyer  
763/424-2571

March 8-9, 2008

Mid-Florida Regional Sport  
Kite Championships  
Sand Key State Park  
St. Augustine, FL  
Terry Cornell  
763/424-2571

**Check the event  
calendar at  
[www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org)  
for updated info and  
more events!**

Calendar

# K-FILES



“Would your children like a kite?” was the innocent question from a work colleague back in 1994. Maxine had been given a free promotional kite the day before, and thought it would be the source of much fun and fascination for my three youngsters. It didn’t quite work out as anticipated. The children loved the trip to the local playing fields, but were completely unimpressed by the kite. However, I was hooked and a subsequent trip to the local kite shop only increased my fascination.

The next two years were spent building and flying sport kites, but a trip to the Australian Sport Kite Championships in 1996 introduced me to the world of handcrafted single line kites. It seemed a logical step to build some for myself and within a short time I had a collection of stable flying, but fairly ordinary looking kites.

I spent many hours sketching graphics on scrap paper, before I came up with a style that satisfied me. “Balanced asymmetry” is probably a good description of my design style, and a current key feature is the inclusion of a white blaze with black striping in each individual kite.

My early efforts were cautious, but a chance meeting at the Adelaide International Kite Festival in the late 1990s changed everything. Scott Skinner was the featured guest, and

he walked past me one afternoon as I was flying a Genki I had designed. “That’s a really lovely kite” he said. Initially, I suspected he was being diplomatic, but he later asked if he could buy it from me. That brief en-

# KEVIN SANDERS



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by Rainer Hoffmann



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toll free: 1-888-318-3600

counter gave me the confidence to consolidate my style, and to consider participating in more festivals as a single line flyer.

My first overseas festival was the Washington State International Kite Festival in 2000. Unfortunately, I was recovering from a serious illness in the lead up to the event, so my kite bag didn't contain very many of my new designs. But the people I met were apparently impressed with what I had at the time, and were extremely encouraging to me. So buoyed by this encouragement, on my return to Australia I started transforming more of the designs in my sketch book into actual kites. Friendships formed at that first event ended up being firm and long lasting, and the subsequent opportunities I have had can be directly linked to those friendships.



*Kevin taught his Shard kite at the Ft. Worden Kitemakers Retreat earlier this year.*

Since that first solo trip in 2000, my wife and I have traveled to many kite events around the world. Everywhere we've been, more and more wonderful kite makers and flyers have become an encouragement, a source of inspiration, a fountain of kite making knowledge, a melting pot of ideas and importantly, much loved members of our ever growing kite family. And fortunately for me, people continue to be impressed by the products of my imagination and my ability to transform these into real flying objects.

Examples of my work can now be found as far afield as Finland, New Zealand, Canada, Korea, USA, Malaysia, Germany, Hong Kong, UK, and Japan as well as Australia.

## Nancy Lockwood

by Patti Gibbons

photos courtesy of the World Kite Museum

Native to the Buckeye State, Nancy Lockwood has spent most of her life chasing the American dream around the greater Cleveland metro area. After raising six children and a long career in journalism, Nancy caught the kite bug and welcomed a little color into her world. Ace kite maker, team flier, and friend to everyone she meets, Nancy Lockwood's kite odyssey has enriched her life and help to keep her forever young. As many kitefliers can readily confirm, "Peter Pan is not the only boy not to grow up. There is a child inside everyone of us." Nancy's inner child is certainly familiar with kite lines and fabric tails.

In the 1980s, recently divorced and involuntarily downsized out of the rapidly shrinking world of journalism, Nancy found herself in a blue period. Down and disoriented Nancy could have tossed in the towel, but instead kept her chin up and remained open to friendly suggestions. In efforts to ease her woes, her good pal Harry Gregory shared his favorite stress-busting technique and said, "Let's go fly a kite." Nancy was game, so Harry grabbed the Hi-Flier that decorated his wall and the two went flying. From time to time Harry let out a little string when he needed to unwind and cast frustrations to the wind. Nancy enjoyed her kite release and time spent flying with Harry. A short time later, the two discovered the Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites through a newspaper ad and went to one of the club's day-long kite events in Cleveland. They met people, and "it's just been up from there on out." Nancy looks back on that time and realizes "I sort of reorganized myself and reinvented myself" through kiting.

Coinciding with Nancy's entry onto the Cleveland-area kite circuit, her younger brother, a sail maker, visited from North Carolina and plunked a huge box of ripstop nylon scraps on her table and said, "'Here, do something with this.'" Nancy opened the box, fingered through the colorful swag, and let her imagination percolate. The fabric booty was perfect for kite

making. Nancy's first creation was a Chinese three-stick kite sporting an American quilt design. Nancy was pleasantly pleased with her patchwork creation and began her journey into kitemaking.

Calling upon her Pennsylvania Dutch heritage, Nancy researched the group's traditional graphic images and incorporated symbols of good fortune and friendship into her early kites. Her inaugural line of windsocks sported traditional Dutch motifs and caught the eye of a friend who asked to buy the friendship sock. Caught a little off guard, Nancy admitted, "I never thought of selling them." Her

professional seamstress, Nancy learned as a young girl "what was excellent, what was good, and what was acceptable" sewing. Nancy attended county fairs with her grandmother who pointed out subtleties that made blue ribbon work a cut above the rest. Her grandmother's instructions and input taught Nancy to how sew anything. Motherhood and years of making Halloween costumes, curtains, school clothes, and quilts, helped Nancy master her grandmother's teachings. This background at the foot pedal of a Singer came in handy as Nancy experimented with kite making. Nancy recalls approaching "windsocks the same



*Nancy gives a lesson on Chinese kites at a Cleveland school.*

friend replied, "Well you better start thinking of selling them. How much do you want for one?" Unaccustomed and a foreigner to the handmade kite economy, Nancy turned to her friend — a seasoned veteran of the arts and crafts circuit — for pricing advice. Nancy aced her lesson in handcraft valuation and sold her first windsock to her friend, with of course, an amity discount. Soon after her first sale, Nancy tapped into a steady market at craft fairs, art stores, kite shops, and word of mouth custom-design orders.

Nancy recalls learning kitemaking techniques through observation and trial and error. Granddaughter to a

way I did with kid toys and stuffed animals." Once she got an idea for a kite she'd sketch a general outline and start to piece it together from her imagination, generally using forgiving material like Tyvek. In the early days complicated figures, such as her Uncle Sam windsock, took months of tinkering to get the scale and pocket openings just right. But with each project Nancy picked up some technical tricks that shortened the time she spent hunched over the drawing board. "Challenges...helped me figure out what to do next."

While Nancy certainly excels in kite making, she more than dabbles

in making kite accessories. It's not uncommon for Nancy to pick up the phone and hear, "Are you the lady who makes the feathers?" Generally within a short chat, she picks up on the caller's vision and constructs colorful feathers and banners that sport team logos, fliers' names, or whatever messages folks need. When the AKA put a call out for feather designs, Nancy submitted three entries, one of which won the contest. Nancy doesn't guard her sewing techniques as some white-knuckled bakers clutch onto family recipes, rather she enjoys spreading the word and sharing her knowledge. Pre-Internet, Nancy reached many when she published a detailed feather-making instructional article in *American Kite Magazine*. Fliers from countless flying fields tried her advice and Nancy is forever thrilled when people send her pictures of their creations or pull her aside at events to show off their handiwork.

Nancy's sewing proficiency, along with her native art sensibilities have given her a leg up in kite making ventures. She recognizes her natural "eye for art" but short history in formal art training. Aside from afternoon art classes taken at a local museum as a girl and training in journalistic photography in college, the graphic arts did not dominate Nancy's word-driven professional life. Kiting's loop-the-loop reach nurtured her latent creative talents and put her skills to work.

Early on, Nancy made her way to nearby kite festivals and events. Being a bit of a social butterfly, Nancy quickly made friends through kiting and found herself adding extra pages to her address book. Outside the regional events she attends regularly, Nancy has been known to pick up and go to events far from her home base. When she's not sending postcards home from kiting events, it's very likely that she's lending her time at kite workshops. Besides hosting "make it, take it" workshops at club-sponsored events and being a nurse in the kite hospital, Nancy also brings the world of kiting to the public through her touring workshops. Nancy and friends regularly host kite making workshops at schools and local libraries, and when interest exists, they tailor sessions to include lectures on kite history.

For Nancy, kites are never far from her mind, and admittedly, her mind is filled with "meaningful moments with kites." Nancy's participation in the kiting community has been a two way street, with Nancy forever giving back to other kites. For Nancy, it's the camaraderie that feeds her. "It is just so special. I think that is what I've enjoyed the most about getting into this entire world...walk up to somebody at a festival, say 'hi' and you've got a hug."

Several chatty kitefliers let the tape spin and recorded their memories and thoughts about kites, kitefliers, and the great big sky for the World Kite Museum's oral history archive project. Interested in telling your stories? Would you like to hear what other fliers say? Got time to interview special people in your local clubs or friends in far away places? Contact the Museum if you'd like to learn more about the oral history tapes at [info@worldkitemuseum.com](mailto:info@worldkitemuseum.com).



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*The IKE crew of Jeff Fafje, Ken Krueger, and Mike Kory in action.*



*Jeff Hale's banners*

# Mots Festival & Kites Over Lake Michigan



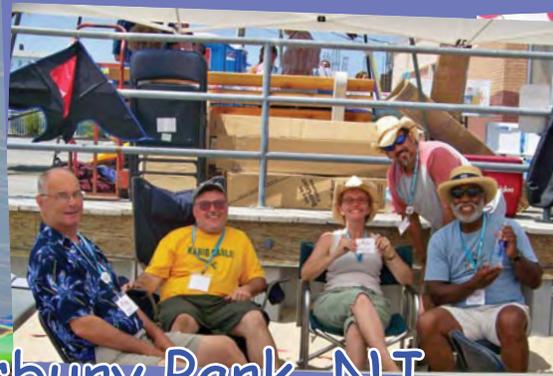
*Jogging to Kites Over Lake Michigan*



*photos by Barbara Meyer and Margaret Murphy*



*Jeff Burka and Dennis Mayhew launch a ray.*



# Asbury Park, NJ, Kite Festival



*Pauly Berard*



*Beatrix Pelton and Mike VanMeers*



*Don Pignolet and Mike VanMeers*

*photos by Kelly Mayhew*

# Aerial Inquiry

What's at the top of your holiday wish list?

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

Next issue's question is, "What's the one event you MUST go to in 2008?"

I want the kitemaking skills of Pete or José or Marty, the flying skills of Lam or John or Hunter, the mini skills of Charley, the kite collection of Jim and Laura or Grumpy or Mike or the other Mike, and half the travel of David and Susan.

Jim Martin

A Bazzar Rev Flames, and some bloody wind!!!!

Spence Watson

I once found a beach on the Oregon Coast that provided solitude, gentle breezes, fog filtered sunlight, and blissful serenity. I would ask for that serenity in a bottle.

Mel Hickman

As usual, I want world peace and a Ray Bethell ground stake. Not necessarily in that order.

Phil Broder

## Submission Guidelines

*Kiting* encourages everyone to contribute. Here are some basic guidelines for articles and photos.

### Photos

High resolution color digital photos are preferred. Pictures taken on cell phone cameras or on digital cameras set on VGA are generally unacceptable. Photo prints can be mailed to the editor; please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like them returned. Sorry, we can not print photos taken from the websites of other publications (such as newspapers).

### Articles

There's a lot happening in the kiteflying world, and unless you tell us about it, it'll go largely unnoticed. If you have any questions about whether something is worth writing about, please contact the editor. In general, most articles are between 300 and 1000 words, depending on how many photos are available. The preferred format for submissions is Microsoft Word, but other formats may be acceptable; check with the editor. We can not guarantee that all submissions will be published.

### Letters to the Editor

Got a short something to say? Letters to the editor are always welcome. Letters may be edited for length.

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# Fightin' Words

by Sharon Champie

## GETTING STARTED

You've been noticing the fighter kite flyers for awhile. They always look like they are having a ball flying their weird little kites in amazing ways and having strange looking competitions off to the side at festivals. You're interested in trying it out for yourself. You might even have a fighter kite someone gave you but you have no idea how they make the kites go where they want or how you can get started flying them yourself. Well, if you've ever successfully flown a single line kite of any kind, you already know how to fly a fighter! Put a tail on a fighter to steady it and slow down its responses and you'll see what I mean. The same basic pulling and releasing of tension that you use to keep any kite from tipping and diving are exactly the same in the steering of fighter kites. The only difference is you use the pulling and releasing of tension to cause tipping and diving. When you want to change the direction of flight, you release the tension by letting a little line out through your fingers, the kite tips, pointing in a new direction.

Quickly pull on the line, applying tension again, and voila!, the kite is flying where you want it to go. If it is diving straight toward the ground, release tension, the kite stops diving, loses stability and instantly starts turning. When it is pointing anywhere but towards earth, you quickly pull the line and the kite will shoot off in the new direction. If you keep steadily pulling in line hand over hand the kite will continue in the new direction. With practice you'll soon be able to track back and forth at will across the wind window using this technique.

Because you will be continuously drawing in and letting out line to control the direction of the kite, you need to be sure your line feeds off the reel smoothly and does not become tangled. You can use a traditional Indian style reel by sticking it handle first in the ground at an angle near and a little behind you, but I like the Yoyo or Gator type winder. These have one flat side and one flared side that feeds the line to your hand. Lay this reel flat side down right between your feet, do not move your feet while flying and you'll have better luck with keeping tangles out of your line. Tangles make it very hard to smoothly let line out and pull line in, so do everything you can to keep the line flowing freely.

## IS IT ME OR IS IT THE KITE?

You've tried all the techniques above and had a terrible time getting the hang of it. If your fighter just won't fly straight or won't even fly at all, it might not be your flying abilities that are the problem. One way to find out for sure is to ask another fighter flyer if you can try one of their slower kites. If you can get some control over this other kite, then it might be that your own kite needs a bit of adjustment. Tuning a fighter is not difficult if you just remember that on these small kites, tiny adjustments make a big difference. If the problem is the kite just spins and won't track even though there is plenty but not too much wind, first make sure there is a slight bow in the spine near the nose. With a bamboo spine you do this by gently pressing it over your knee or the top of your head. With a carbon spine there will be some sort of tensioner device. In either case just a little bit of bend will make a lot of difference. If that doesn't improve the tracking, try moving the tow point on the bridle down by tiny increments toward the tail. Test fly after each 1/8" move. If the kite is too stable and won't tip at all, move the tow point up toward the nose a tiny bit at a time. When you find the sweet spot for the tow point, you probably won't have to adjust it again as long as you stick to using the kite in about the same amount of wind each time you fly.

The hardest way to learn is to try to do it all by yourself, but with these few tips you can get a feel for how it's done, and get enough confidence in yourself that it will be easier to approach another fighter flyer for help. Go make friends with a fighter; you'll be glad you did!



*Steve Bateman and Darrin Skinner both use the "winder at your feet" method.*

# Kite Books

## *The Making of Japanese Kites: Tradition, Beauty and Creation*

by Masaaki Modegi



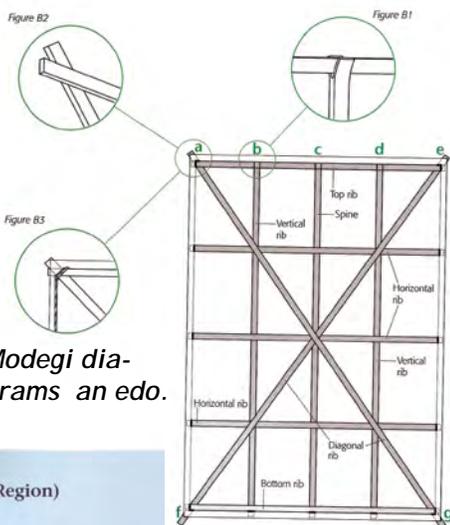
### *The Making of Japanese Kites*

Tradition, Beauty and Creation

Masaaki Modegi

Masaaki Modegi is a living treasure trove of kite knowledge. Chairman of the Japan Kite Association and director of the Tokyo Kite Museum, he became a kite collector and researcher under the influence of his father. In this new book, Modegi-san unravels the mystery and tradition of Japanese kites and gives instruction on the tools, materials, and techniques involved in Japanese kitemaking. Beginning with a brief history and overview

of Japanese kites, Modegi examines the characteristics and significance of particular styles, explains how to fly, and where to see Japanese kites. Included are detailed instructions on building each type of kite for beginner, intermediate, and advanced kite makers.

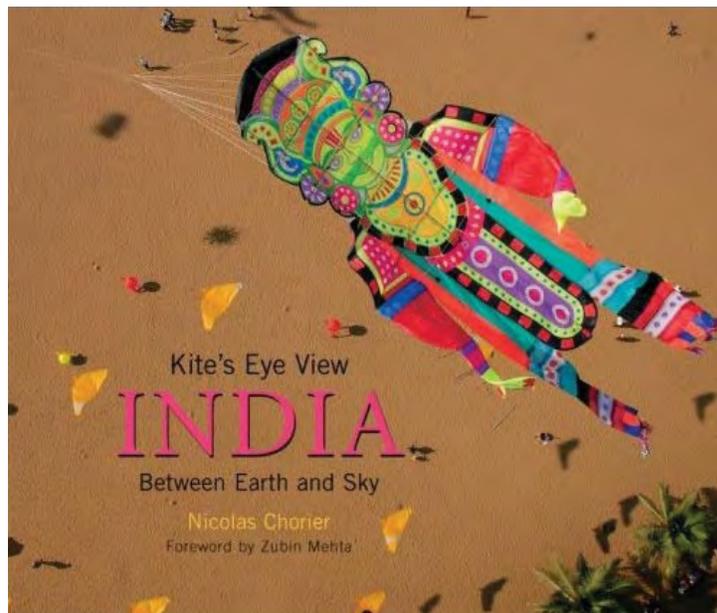


Modegi diagrams an edo.

Aizu Tojin-dako ("Foreigner" Kite of Aizu Region)



Whether you have an interest in splitting bamboo and painting images of samurai on washi paper, or just want a better understanding of the origins of many modern kites and kiting traditions, this reasonably-priced paperback is a good place to start.



## *Kite's Eye View: India: Between Earth and Sky* by Nicolas Chorier

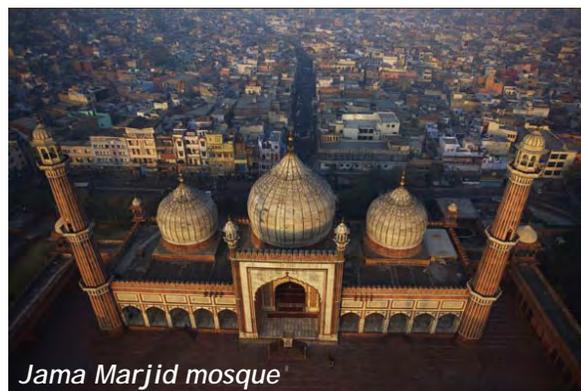
You know this is a special book just by holding it; at 5½ pounds, it's a considerable volume. And French kite aerial photographer Nicolas Chorier has filled it with amazing images from a country rich not only in kiteflying, but in history, architecture, and people. Traveling throughout all of India – not just the oft-seen places like the Taj Mahal – he brings back overhead images of a place teetering between its mogul and British past and its technological future.



Practicing the martial art kalaripayattu on the beach.

Aerial photography is prohibited in India, so this book is one of the first to show the country from the air. It showcases spectacular views of Meh-rangarh Fort, Pushkar, Chit-torgarh, and

the beaches of Kerala. Accompanying the text is Chorier's anecdotal take on his Indian odyssey. If you're a lover of kite aerial photography, India, architecture, or just beautiful scenery, this is a book you'll want on your coffee table.



Jama Masjid mosque

# KITE PLAN

## JIM MARTIN'S PLAYING CARD MINI

Miniature della portas are a bit more complex than some minis, but offer you a very adjustable kite for a wider wind range, including being very good for flying outdoors in "real wind." This one is based on a Bicycle brand playing card as a template most people can lay their hands on.

### Materials/tools:

- Tissue paper
- Wok Brush (or other easy-splitting bamboo)
- Sewing thread
- Needle
- Glue
- Scissors
- Hobby knife
- OPTIONAL: Pens, markers, inkjet copier/scanner, tape

First, the graphics:

OPTIONAL STEP: Lay a card out on an inkjet copier/printer. Make a copy of the card onto 8½"x11" paper. **DO NOT MOVE THE CARD; LEAVE IT ON THE COPIER/PRINTER UNTOUCHED.** Next, cut out a piece of tissue paper an inch or two bigger than the card on all sides. Using cellophane tape, tape the tissue onto the copy of your card, taping down all edges and corners — do not overlap the card image (figure 1). Now, put the copy-and-sail back into the hopper and copy the card again — this will print it onto the tissue. You can use this technique to get any image onto your tissue paper sail when you make more kites. You can also print images straight from a computer.

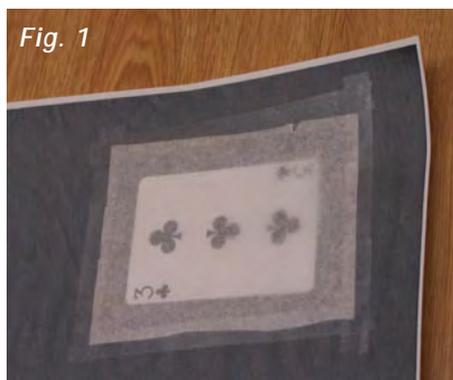


Fig. 1

**WARNING:** Do NOT use this technique with laser printers/copiers; they use heat to set the toner. Heat will do to bad things to the sticky tape inside your machine. I've never had any problems with this technique on ink-jets, but "The author makes no warranties, express or implied, that this technique will not damage your printer/copier. If you try it, jets of molten plastic and fire will spray all over everything and then your printer will explode, and I warned you so don't even think about suing me." It's always worked for me, though...

Alternately, take one of your playing cards and trace around it onto the tissue, then use pencils/pens to trace or draw the card onto the sail. Or use colorful paper and leave it blank!

Cut out your sail carefully and set aside. There is no hem allowance!

Now, for some sticks. Get a bamboo wok brush, available in Asian markets, etc. If you don't have one of those nearby, get a friend in the Big City to buy you one (they run under \$5 locally.) If all else fails, send a SASE to Jim Martin, 713 Sebrana Pl., Charlotte, NC, 28211, and I'll send you a couple of sticks from one of mine to get you started. For some reason this bamboo is wonderfully easy to split into very thin sticks.

Take one "stick" from the brush and start splitting it lengthwise with the hobby knife. Split it in half, then in half again, etc. (Splitting near the edge generally doesn't work as well.) This may take a couple of tries until you get the hang of it, then it's easy. You want thin little sticks of bamboo about as big as a mechanical pencil's lead, or a bit under 2 mm

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Fig. 2

$1/16$ " — this is not an exact measurement, if it looks about right for a stick in this sized kite, it probably is. It needs to be an inch or more longer than the diagonal distance across your sail.

Next cut out some tail strips, from tissue paper, about  $1/4$ " wide and 10" or so long. A paper cutter is nice for this, otherwise use scissors.

Now let's put it all together. Take your sticks and run them through your finger carefully using a bit of pressure to put just a bit of curve in the stick. Not essential, but it makes the kite easier to tune and fly.

Using glue (I like Aleene's Original Tacky Glue, available in the sewing/craft section of many stores selling such stuff: regular white glue is a bit "wet" but works too.) Put a little glue on a piece of scrap paper, and run one of the sticks through the glue to pick up a thin bead along the convex (outside) of the curve, then smear the glue thin and evenly on the stick with your finger. Quickly press the stick onto the back of the sail diagonally from corner to corner, let the glue set for a few seconds then trim off the bits of your stick that jut out past the sail. Repeat with the second stick, from the other two corners and crossing the first stick near the middle (fig. 2).

Optionally, take bits of scrap tissue and glue them over the sticks at the corners and in the middle where they cross, to reinforce the kite a bit. Trim any excess (fig. 3).



Fig. 3

Now for the bridle.

This will be an adjustable three-legged bridle; we'll do the forward legs first.

Thread your needle and poke through the sail from the front, next to one stick at the leading edge of your kite. From the back, poke back through the sail on the other side of the same stick then tie a knot on the front of the kite — you've got the thread tied around a stick near one corner.



Fig. 4

Now do the same at the other leading edge corner, leaving a length of thread running from one corner of the leading edge to the other. Leave enough thread between the corners to reach to the middle of the kite (fig. 4).

For the rear leg, take a piece of thread about 10" long, and tie a small loop in one end. Lark-head the loop onto the forward portion of the bridle. Thread the other end of the line onto your needle and attach it to the



Fig. 5

point where the sticks cross at the center of the kite. Tie the thread off, leaving about  $5\frac{3}{4}$ " of thread between the center of the kite and the larkhead onto the forward bridle (fig. 5).

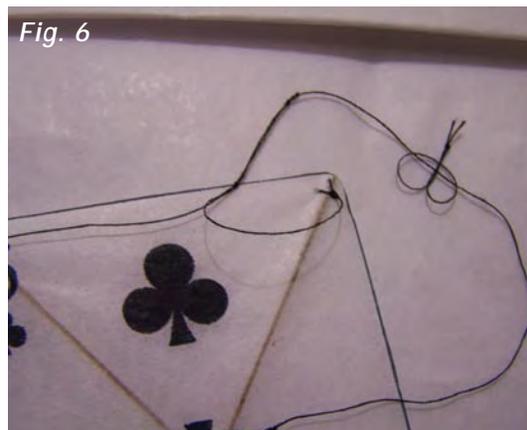


Fig. 6

Finally, tie a small loop of thread and larkhead it onto the rear bridle — this is your tow point, and for now cinch it down about  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " from the forward bridle (fig. 6).

Note that the bridle is adjustable by sliding the larkheads around, just like a big kite!

Finally, attach the tails. With needle and thread, attach a length of thread to the trailing edge corners, using the same technique as we used to attach the forward bridle. Next, just like the tow point loop, attach a loop of thread to the tail line. Now take your tail material prepared earlier and glue a couple of strands onto the little tail loop (fig. 7). Crumple the tail up a bit for extra drag or you can easily tear off a bit of the tail if you seem to have too much weight and drag back there.



Fig. 7

When you fly the kite the first time, you will probably need to adjust the larkhead on the forward bridle to correct for left or right spins, and the tow point to get the lift right. The tail should be centered, but can be adjusted to keep the kite flying straight if needed.

These kites do well outdoors in gentle-to-moderate breezes, or can be flown from a "flying stick" in the traditional mini-kite fashion.

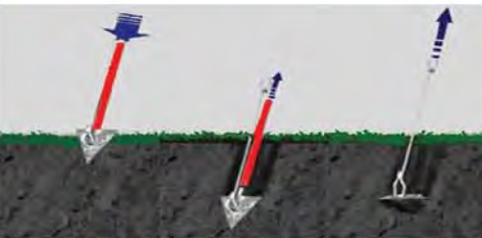
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# HISTORY LESSON Bell's Baddeck Bash

It's a long way to the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck, Nova Scotia — almost as far east as you can go on the North American continent. But if you can get most of the way there, like many participants of this year's Dieppe (Canada) International Kite Festival, then the four-hour drive to Baddeck is well worth it.

Through the efforts of organizer Gary Mark of the Canadian Kite Federation and the Bell Museum's staff, those interested attended a two day gathering honoring the centennial of the flight of Bell's historic Cygnet kite.

Situated in the heart of Cape Breton Island, Baddeck still offers the same breathtaking scenery and open space that appealed to Bell when he chose to establish a year-round residence there in 1885. Interested in manned-flight, Bell chose the tetrahedral-shaped cell as a model for its stability and safety. In 1907, Bell formed the Aerial Experimental Association and employed Baddeck townspeople to help in the construction of the silk and spruce cells needed to create his large kites.

The first manned flight of the 3,339-celled Cygnet, designed for the purpose of lifting man in controlled flight ended unsuccessfully, as the kite was destroyed after a rough water landing in December 1907. However, this kite, still the largest cellular kite ever constructed, was a zenith in Bell's kite experiments and eventually led to the Aerial Experimental Association's flight of the Silver Dart airplane in Baddeck only two years later.

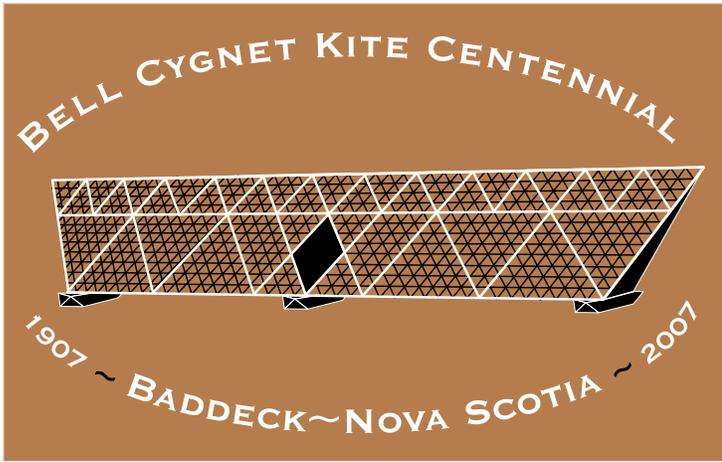
Kite fliers gathered at the museum theater for welcoming remarks by great-grandson Hugh Bell Muller, a formal presentation by museum interpreter Rosalind Ingraham, and some kite-specific remarks by Drachen Foundation founder Scott Skinner. Time was spent touring the extensive museum and a wonderful dinner reception followed. The following day, kite fliers got the rare opportunity to fly kites on the same fields where Bell experimented and flew his tetrahedral kites a century ago, and walk the hallowed grounds of the family estate that Bell named "Beinn Bhreagh", Gaelic for 'beautiful mountain'. Toronto artist Amos Latteier flew a 190-celled tetrahedral kite that he built in the shape of a telephone.

From the warm reception from Bell's descendants, it is hoped that this event becomes a biannual undertaking for attendees of the Dieppe International Kite Festival, since kite fliers recognize that the long trip to the Canadian Maritimes is a small price to pay for a special visit to one of the world's kite shrines.



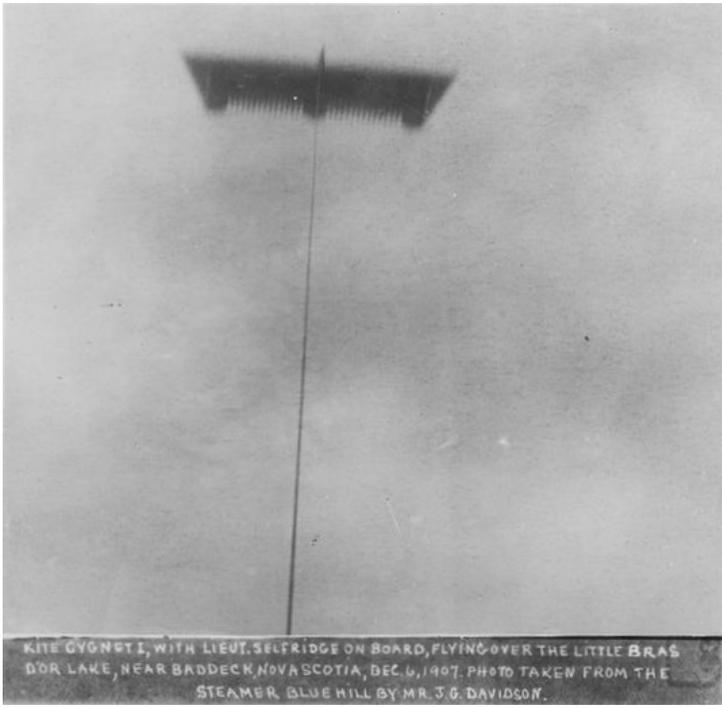
Kitefliers in front of Alexander Graham Bell's Beinn Bhreagh Hall.

Gary Mark



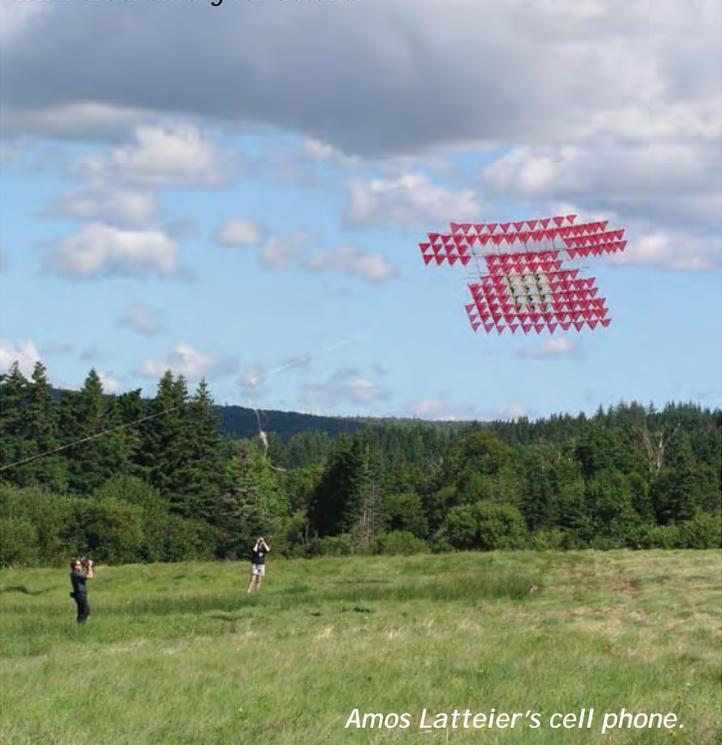
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Gary Mark

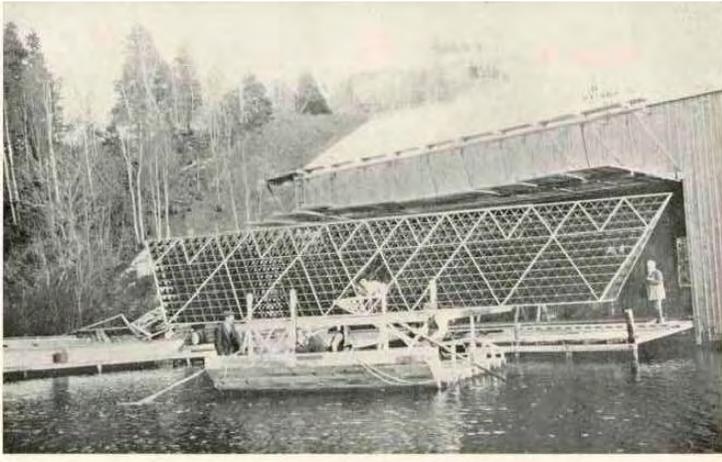


Cliff Quinn's Double Star, one of the smaller cellular kites to fly over Baddeck.

Gary Mark



Amos Latteier's cell phone.



FRONT VIEW OF THE CYGNET, SHOWING THE MANHOLE IN THE CENTER  
The dimensions of the kite are: 13 meters from side to side on the top, and 10 meters at the bottom; oblique height, 3 meters; depth from fore-to-aft at the bottom, 3 meters

# Mardi Gras In The Sky

by Phil Broder

I love bumping into people in airports. It's a pleasant surprise, and it gives you something to do for a little while. Bumping into my friends Mearl and Adrienne Balmer in the Newark Airport, on the way to Dieppe, New Brunswick, was one of those happy accidents. Bumping into all of Carencro, Louisiana, in the same place turned out to be even happier.

By way of explanation, Dieppe (known as "L'etoile d'Acadie" — the star of Acadia) and Carencro (west of Baton Rouge, in the heart of Cajun country) are sister cities. The Dieppe organizers had invited a delegation from Carencro to visit the area. We learned this as we sat on the tarmac, strapped into a puddlejumper jet for a two hour flight. Eavesdropping on the people behind me, I realized that the mayor of Carencro and his city council were to my rear. "We're going to Dieppe for a kite festival," Mayor Glenn Brasseaux told me. "What a funny coincidence," said Mearl, Adrienne, and I simultaneously. And so the party began, with a planeload of 22 Carencro-ites.

Throughout the week, we'd bump into the Cajuns here and there. The kites — a who's who of international kiteflying, including José Sainz, Scott Skinner, David Gomberg, John Pollock, Meg Albers, Paul LaMasters, Don Mock, and Al Sparling (USA), Robert Trepanier and Sharon Musto (Canada), Gerard Clement and Térése Uguen (France), the Karl and Sarah Longbottom (England), Colin Mortimer (South Africa),

Robert Brasington (Tasmania), Bill Farber (Australia), Bas Vreeswijk (Netherlands), Olivier Reymond (Switzerland), Edoardo Borghetti (Italy), Michael Goddard (Wales), Anke Sauer (Germany), Team Mangalore (India), and many more — would gather for a leisurely breakfast in the hotel, then head over to a lovely riverside soccer park just before lunch. We'd fly kites all afternoon, have a late dinner, and then adjourn to the bar. And more often than not, that's where we'd find the entire population of Carencro.

They'd go off on a media tour of Fundy National Park or other New Brunswick hotspots, we'd assemble 1000 kids kites. Their zydeco band played at the Seafood Festival, we flew in a rok battle on live TV. They went shopping, we did sport kite demos. The Mayor wanted to learn to fly a stunt kite, and Joe Meaux of Louisiana's Red Stick Kiteers taught him. Everyone cringed as the kite lawn-darted repeatedly.

In between there were memorable moments. Setting up a rok battle so that everyone launched on a cue from the CBC-TV truck was difficult, but we pulled it off. And the crowd loved it when the Pepsi sponsor kite was cut loose, drifted away, and kept on drifting... last seen at an altitude



Robert Brasington's cathedral window deltas.

of 100 meters, headed northeast across the Canadian Maritimes. The demos put on by the Windjammers flying stacks and Jean Lamoureux and Jean LaMire flying multiple sport kites dazzled everyone. There were, of course, spectacular kites all around, but Brasington's kinetic spinners and Uguen's bird garden were equally eye-catching.

And there was night fly which will be talked about for years. After a perfect sunset, the wind stayed tasty. Kites rose and skylights swept back and forth. But you had to be standing in just the right spot, with either a flashlight or a camera flash, to see Tinkerbell. Olivier Reymond used reflective tape on a red delta to create the fairy, and the effect was only visible with direct light from underneath. Organizers estimate 20,000 people attended the night fly.

Every good festival ends with a banquet, and it was there that we met our friends from Carencro again. It seems that among their number were the two top chefs from Prejean's Restaurant in Lafayette, Louisiana, and they wanted to cook up a little something using whatever they could find locally. So the week ended with nearly 200 of us stuffing ourselves full of shrimp bisque, crab and lobster cakes, cornflake-breaded haddock in a Jack Daniels crème sauce, smothered corn, potatoes Lyonnaise, Acadiana bread pudding, and bananas Foster.

That meal alone was worth the trip. Mayor Brasseaux ended the festivities by making the members of the festival committee honorary citizens of Carencro, and reminding them that their taxes were due in three months.

Which brings us back to where we started, on an airplane, just me (and José Sainz this time) and 22 politicians, musicians, chefs, and upstanding citizens from a little town in Louisiana, swapping kite pins and making plans to recreate what they saw in Canada in Cajun country sometime soon.

A Michael Goddard star.



India's Team Mangalore salutes world peace.





In the "Mardi Gras In The Sky" kitemakers competition, Bas Vreeswijk of the Netherlands took first (left), José Sainz (center) second, and Australia's Bill Farber (right) third. Vreeswijk won a trip to next year's festival in Dieppe, France.



Paul LaMasters' kitemaking entry.



Sharon Musto's kitemaking entry.



Térèse Uguen's bird garden.



A Robert Brasington train

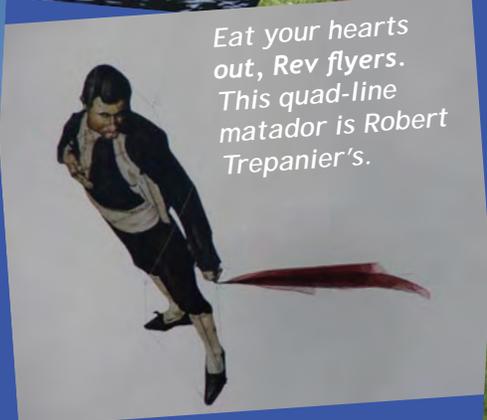


Marc Duguay's Lindbergh edo.

Edoardo Borghatti's sailing ship.



A Robert Trepanier beauty.



Eat your hearts out, Rev flyers. This quad-line matador is Robert Trepanier's.

The Windjammers were a crowd favorite.



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## Kiteman Blows Up

by Bruce Flora

A 17' delta with remote-fired pyrotechnics at Hard Rock Park.

As always I am thankful for the amazing opportunities we have had with my small company, Kiteman Productions, over the years to promote and expose kiting around the world. For those of you who have never heard of us we specialize in producing and performing kite shows flying our own custom dual line kites behind vehicles, mostly watercraft.

We use a variety of launching systems depending on the type of kite we are flying. All of our launch systems are designed to allow us to launch our kites on cue, in any wind direction (or without wind). Our "line pay out" system

allows the kite pilot (who is strapped down facing reverse on a vehicle) to steer our kites through our harness/pulley/quick release system while the vehicle takes the load. Our kites are much too large and powerful for the pilot to hold on without the harness system. So, for every new kite we design for a new show, we have to also design a launch system. Our systems, after over 17 years of shows with these systems (we did shows for over five years without the help of these systems) are 99.9% reliable which says a lot for those of you who understand what it takes to consistently launch your kites.

So, lets look at some of our recent projects. Many years ago we greeted the Disney Magic cruise ship with ten boats flying five stack diamond kites as



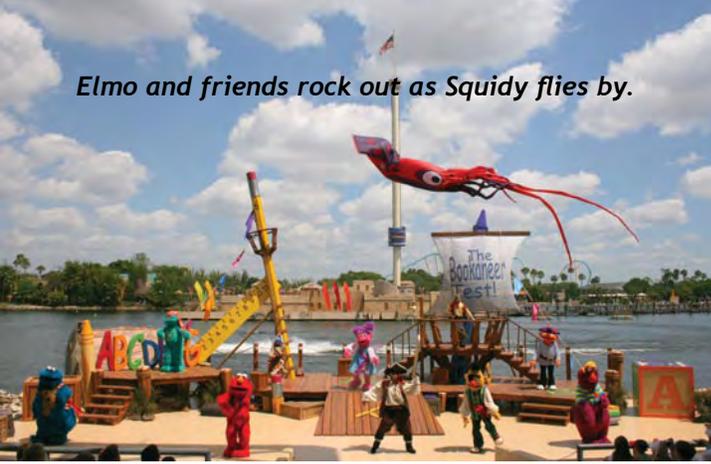
Bon voyage, Disney Magic!

it arrived in harbor from Italy where it was constructed. So it was no surprise that when Disney Cruise Line wanted to test out a Los Angeles/Mexico Riviera cruise, they asked us to escort the ship out of LA harbor on its maiden cruise. We flew 23 of our pilots and



A 5-stack springs from its launcher.

*Elmo and friends rock out as Squidy flies by.*



Sesame Street Workshop called "Squidy". Squidy is a giant dual line (all our kites must be dual line in order to control around corners) squid kite. This is a hybrid framed inflatable kite that has a 10' wingspan and is 62' long. It was launched on cue directly behind the shore-based stage from a launcher designed specifically for this kite. These kind of shows are performed two to three times a day for 186 days straight. We also had two 17' wingspan delta "fish" kites in this show.

Over the past seven years our kites have been flown every day at Tokyo Disney Sea and at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka. All kite pilots and drivers have graduated from our eight week training program and are employees of the two theme parks. The sail designs and styles of the kites have changed over the years but the kites keep on flying. Imagine how great these fliers are after doing this in full time for all these years.

Last year we developed another hybrid framed inflatable dual line kite for a summer Aladdin show at Tokyo Disney Sea. This kite was the character Jafar. The design is based on a delta kite, has a 14' wingspan, and is 80' long. Two kites were made and delivered along with a short training program. Jonathan Palmer provided additional training on this challenging flying prop. This kite flew out of a cave on a floating barge after the lines ripped down a fabric curtain that was concealing the kite. It was a great surprise launch and the star of the show.

One of our most popular products are our night shows. We have been performing since 1993 with onboard lighting and fireworks. We have developed many new technologies over the years that allow us to provide brighter and longer-lasting effects. These shows are performed both for theme parks shows and for corporate events. Our most significant advances have been in developing lighter-weight onboard computer/receivers that allow us to use more fireworks and effects on the kite. Our new 17' wingspan delta kites, developed by Bob Bono, can now carry five minutes of continuous firework effects! These kites are amazing and our pilots (after the initial fear is overcome) love the feeling of power that come from flying a "rocket powered" kite. (There is really no thrust but it sure looks like it.)

This month we performed demo tests for our next project at the new Hard Rock Park in Myrtle Beach, SC, opening in April. We will be providing kite pilot/drivers to perform in a nighttime lagoon show with a single 17' delta kite. This kite will have our onboard computer/receiver pyro firing system that will fire pyro gerbs (see photo) on cue during an emotional classic rock tune while fireworks, lasers and water fountains surround the lagoon. We will be looking for kite pilot candidates in January.

I know, what we do sound like fun, it is fun but our shows are a lot of work also. We have worked at this for over twenty years to be able to do this safely and consistently. Our pilots and drivers have hundreds and hundreds of hours of experience. We are thankful however to be able to share our love of kites with the large number of people who see us in these unique venues. Around the world we estimate that about 70,000 people see our kites in the air every single day. It is our hope that this exposure will excite people to make a kite, buy a kite and especially spend more time with their families and friends and kites!

drivers to Los Angeles and flew our kites for over an hour in rough seas.

We have just finished our fourth season of seasonal shows for Sea World of Florida. Our most recent show "Elmo and the Boonkaneers," featured a custom creation of ours developed for

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# Some People's Kids

by Rick White

I am sure that the late, great, Charles M. Schulz had no idea what he was birthing in 1950, when he met Richard Curran as a young kid and started a cartoon strip about him. I am pretty sure that was the way it started. I am speaking of course of the Charlie Brown strip called

Peanuts. The resemblance they have to each other is uncanny. At least when it comes to their kite flying styles.



Richard Curran

I am sure that the kite eating tree grew not far from Richard's home where he was raised. He has carried that theme with him for a while now. At the local kite fly in and around the Seattle area, he is always hands down the winner of the coveted "Charlie Brown" award. Most of us try and avoid trees if we can. But it has only become evident lately that he has been trying hard to win the award all along.

I was wondering why Richard was so sad last year at the 2006 Washington State International Kite Festival. This year it became clear why. There are no trees at the beach! This year he was noticeably much happier, because he brought his own tree. It was the center piece of his camp. Who else would bring a tree to a kite festival? It all became clear when he went out to the first Mass Ascension and he carried the tree out to the field. Yes, he got his pin for having a flat and bowed kite in the air. There's nothing in the rules that says it can't be in a tree! I believe he got all four Mass Ascension pins this year, with the aid of his tree.



David Glasson

The "pièce de résistance" came when the fire department came and removed the kite from the tree for him. David Glasson, the finance director for the city of Long Beach, also makes time to be one of their volunteer fireman. He was a good sport, and set the whole thing up.

All of this boils down to having fun and showing people a good time. And that, after all, is what kite flying is all about. Having fun, flying kites! Staying mentally healthy! Although in Richard's case that might not be the best example...

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# KAPTIONS

## Member's Choice Winners

At the end of the Convention at Ocean Shores the members join together to celebrate battles won during the previous week. For Kite Aerial Photographers the competition is just beginning. As members gathered at this year's banquet they were presented with 32 aerial photographs from 13 AKA KAPers from which to choose their favorite. The quality of the competition was probably the best seen to date so the choice was not easy.

This year's winning photograph was taken by Doug Davlin of Pike's Peak, CO. This was Doug's first year competing. Doug's picture of the InterContinental Le Moana, a resort in Bora Bora, must have had everyone dreaming for the beautiful waters and sunny skies depicted in Doug's image. Doug and his wife Ginni had won their trip to Tahiti at KAPiCA/06 (see Spring '07 issue). The trip had been donated by Pierre Lesage, who was last year's Member's Choice winner with a photo also from Bora Bora.



Only the first place picture is honored at the banquet, but Second place was a photograph from Peter Dolphin called "Trees and Shadows." There was a three way tie for third place between Dan Brinnehl's "Rainbow Ray," another image from Peter Dolphin called "Lotus Blossom in Argentina," and Dave Wheeler's "Currituck Light at Sunset."

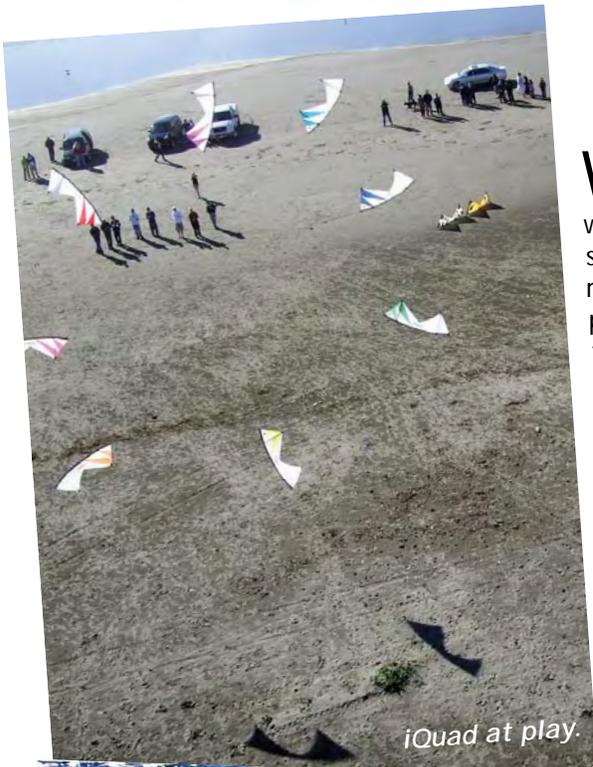




# AKA CONVENTION



Workshop coordinator  
Deb Lenzen.



Quad at play.

What will you remember about the AKA's 30<sup>th</sup> annual convention? The days of cerulean blue skies, perfect winds off the ocean, and hundreds of kites in the sky? The days of dark gray skies, vicious winds off the ocean, and drenched kiterers huddling inside their raincoats? Twenty giant octopus soaring overhead, or a wispy 11-year-old scampering around the indoor arena with a Rev in tow? Sport kite competitions in the rain, or a kitemakers competition inside the convention center? A quad-line kite selling for more than \$2500 at auction, or a packed room building free fighter kites? The premiere of *The Kite Runner*, or of Masaaki Modegi's new book? A town with three kite shops, or a town with no stop lights? Wet or dry, sun or storm, inside and out, Ocean Shores was a memorable week.



Lee Sedgwick stacks 'em up.



The record-setting octopile takes shape.

Kite aerial photography by (clockwise from top) Pete Dolphin, Rick White, Brooks Leffler, and Pete Dolphin.



Francisco Navarro, Aaron Champie, and Mark Quirnbach



Cath Shook



Man In Black: Jim Barber



Donna Houchins



Bob Wendt



Mike Delfar



Cal Yuen



Lady In Red: Monica Barber



Sandra McCall

Show Us Your Raingear!

## That Was The Wet Week That Was

by Maggie Vohs

You have probably already heard the buzz about the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Ocean Shores — but if you weren't there, you really missed a show! Though each convention is unique, with special qualities of its own, the 30<sup>th</sup> annual convention really marked itself in history with two events that many of us will not soon forget.

The premiere of the movie *The Kite Runner* was held exclusively for AKA members at the local cinema in Ocean Shores — a first for the AKA and for Ocean Shores! As you may know, *The Kite Runner*, which chronicles the lives of two children in war-racked Afghanistan is controversial to say the least — and AKA members were the first to view the movie.

In addition to the movie, AKA members were fortunate to witness a world record-breaking event; 20 octopus kites in the sky at the same time! If you were there, you know how spectacular and magical it was to see those 20 kites, not to mention the fact that they were surrounded by hundreds of others.

Each morning the workshops would spill over with people excited and energized by the quality of presenters and programs. Every evening a different program was held at the Ocean Shores Convention Center (OSCC) and attendees were entertained with a cornucopia of events. Oh, and did we mention it

rained a couple of days? No problem for AKA kitefliers; in a bold move several outdoor events were held in the "very AKA convention friendly" OSCC. We found ourselves with two mass ascensions, kitemaking judging and even the Hot Tricks Shootout in the convention center.

Monday night the AKA opening reception was held at the OSCC, and sponsored by area restaurants. Friends and new acquaintances used the time to reconnect and share their passion for kiting. Tuesday night was the Competition

Indoor Fly which was enjoyed by everyone. On Thursday night we had the opening of The Fly Market and Kite Gallery; featuring the beautiful kitemaking of Teizo Hashimoto. On Friday, the Great Kite Auction; which featured one-of-a-kind items and treasures from all over the world was easily one of the week's highlights and is the largest fundraiser for the AKA. The Saturday night Awards Banquet recognized and honored the best of the best in the week-long flying events. During the Awards program, Darin Skinner again did a fabulous Powerpoint presentation that featured pictures from archives and the current week's events. By Sunday morning members were making their plans for departure and promising to be in Gettysburg, PA, where the AKA will hold their 31<sup>st</sup> annual event, September 22-27, 2008. Mark your calendar NOW!



Vic Eshpeter at The Kite Runner premiere.



# 30<sup>TH</sup> AKA CONVENTION

## Grand National Results: Fighter Kites

### Experienced Skills

- 1 Steve Bateman
- 2 Johnny Hsuing
- 3 Darrin Skinner
- 4 Sharon Champie
- 5 Jay Bell
- 6 Nelson Borelli
- 7 Jeremy Terpening
- 8 Bruce Jarvie
- 9 Carl Anderson
- 10 Bill Schumacher

### Experienced Line Touch

- 1 Steve Bateman
- 2 Johnny Hsuing
- 3 Carl Anderson
- 4 Sharon Champie
- 5 Darrin Skinner
- 6 Bill Schumacher
- 7 Bruce Jarvie
- 8 Jeremy Terpening
- 9 Jay Bell
- 10 Nelson Borelli

### Novice Skills

- 1 Carol Jarvie
- 2 Cat Gabrel
- 3 Francisco Navarro

### Novice Line Touch

- 1 Francisco Navarro
- 2 Cat Gabrel
- 3 Randy Fox

**Rokkaku battles cancelled due to rain**



## Miniature Kite Challenge

### Smallest

- |                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| 1 Jim Martin     | .49"  |
| 2 Susan Skinner  | .56"  |
| 3 Donna Houchins | .938" |

### Flight

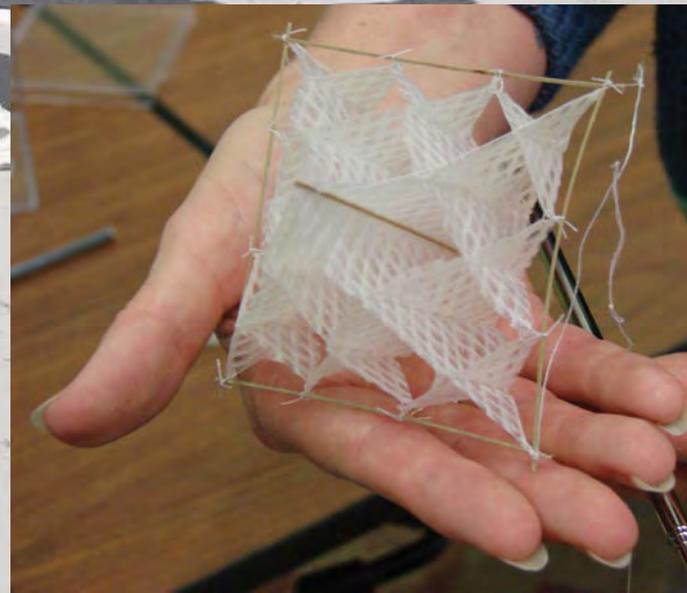
- 1 Susan Skinner (Pansies)
- 2 Susan Skinner (Blue Rose)
- 3 Jim Martin (Butterfly)

### Beauty

- 1 Susan Skinner (Pansies)
- 2 Donna Houchins (Dragon)
- 3 Donna Houchins (Horse)

### Originality

- 1 Donna Houchins (Dragon)
- 2 Donna Houchins (Horse)
- 3 Jim Martin (We Lose)



# 30<sup>TH</sup> AKA CONVENTION



## Edeiken Award

We are writing to nominate for AKA's highest honor, one of our most passionate members.

He is passionate about all kinds of kites and has sold them for more than 30 years. Eschewing mass marketing and Internet techniques, he prefers to teach customers one at a time.

When power kiting first appeared, he embraced the new venue and became a leader in the buggy community.

In an Association of individuals and occasional characters, our nominee stands out more than others. Perhaps it is his big booming voice that he uses to announce at events or auctions or business meetings. Perhaps it is his searing, poignant, and occasionally bawdy stories. Perhaps it is because he wore loud, unique, colorful clothing before anyone else did. Or perhaps it was because he occasionally wore no clothing at all....



*The Corey-lama in repose.*

It is frightening to think that this nominee may be a trend setter and role model among kites. But the truth is that we all emulate him in many ways.

Our nominee has been a driving force in the AKA — especially when we needed to get bylaws changes adopted quickly. He led the Association for a year when no one else wanted the job and now holds what he says is our highest office: past president.

We are proud to nominate for the Steve Edeiken Award, Mr. .... well, I'm not sure whose name badge he is wearing tonight, but his name is Corey Jensen.

*- David and Susan Gomberg, AI Sparling*

## Ingraham Award

We are writing to nominate for the Bob Ingraham Award, one of AKA's most familiar faces.

In the earliest years of the Association, things we now take for granted were set down as format, policy, and procedures. Our Nominee served as a Regional Director for what was then Region Four, for four years. He also acted as First Vice President under Red Braswell and then Bevan Brown.

Our nominee assisted in drafting and then revising our Bylaws. He has since served as the AKA's pro-forma parliamentarian.

As the Association evolved, so did our rules. Our nominee has been appointed the Chair of the Bylaws Committee for over 15 years.

And finally, our nominee has attended Conventions. He has attended each and every of our Conventions. Only two people in the history of AKA have accomplished this record.

For his thoughtful, active, and ongoing support of the Association, covering twenty-seven years, and still going strong, we are pleased to nominate Ted Manekin.



*Ted Manekin*

## Regional Director of the Year

*Linda Sanders, Region Thirteen*

## Volunteer of the Year

*Richard Dermer*

## Club of the Year

*White Horse Kite Flyers*



*White Horse Kite Flyer Doug Jones with Past President Susan Skinner.*

Linda Sanders

## Lee Toy Circle Award

Ron Gibian's body of work stands among the greatest kitebuilders of our age. The kites speak for themselves. Innovative in form and construction, they are meticulously built and precisely put together. Signature shapes like the Astroglide and Stratoglide are as much a part of our kiting lexicon as deltas and rokkakus. Ron's unique graphic style is bold and distinctive, yet through many different iterations it remains instantly recognizable. There is nothing quite as impressive as a group of themed kites in the sky, and with Ron's work you can organize the spectacle by shape, color or graphic style. I have had the privilege of seeing it done multiple ways at the same festival. Each of these presentations draws you in to different aspects of his work and makes you appreciate the kites again and again. That is the hallmark of true artistry.

I have never met anyone so relentlessly encouraging and positive toward upcoming kitemakers. Whether on the microphone, on the judging field or with the K-Files column, he works tirelessly to bring along the next generation of kitemakers and to recognize those who are achieving kitemaking success.

*- Arnold Stellema, Ronda Brewer, Jeff Erzlin*



# 30<sup>TH</sup> AKA CONVENTION

## Grand National Results: Sport Kites

### Open Ind. Indoor Ballet

1 Shawn Tinkham	83.467
2 John Barresi	82.867
3 Tristan Underwood	81.417
4 Wayne Turner	80.067
5 Jon Trennepohl	78.917
6 Bud Hayes	71.783
7 Patty Tinkham	68.967
8 Aaron Champie	62.533
9 Francisco Navarro	61.617
10 Douglas Coates	51.267

### Open Ind. Outdoor Unlimited

1 Amy Doran	80.100
2 Jeff McCown	77.100
3 Jennifer Brown	75.189
4 Donna McCown	72.067
5 Charles Stonestreet	70.689
6 Lam Hoac	68.711

### Open Team Train Ballet

1 O <sub>2</sub>	76.200
2 Heaven Help Us	70.867

### Novice Individual Precision

1 Tristan Underwood	72.667
2 Shannon Underwood	71.100
3 Elizabeth Gordon	50.500
4 William Seward	43.667
5 Amy Doran	32.067

### Novice Individual Ballet

1 Tristan Underwood	65.267
2 Elizabeth Gordon	56.600
3 Amy Doran	55.600
4 Shannon Underwood	53.400
5 Sandra McCall	49.133
6 William Seward	45.800

### Experienced Individual Precision

1 Jennifer Brown	64.967
2 Francisco Navarro	61.067
3 William Hendrickson	60.500
4 Donna Houchins	58.667
5 Jim Landers	55.567
6 Doug Lommel	53.367
7 Richard Mervine	50.833
8 Douglas Coates	49.400
9 Dan Burnham	47.000
10 Bob Bell	41.967
11 Ray Underwood	35.667

### Experienced Individual Ballet

1 William Hendrickson	70.200
2 Richard Mervine	69.933
3 Gordon Fry	67.333
4 Francisco Navarro	65.067
5 Donna Houchins	64.867
6 Jennifer Brown	64.867
7 Jim Landers	63.800
8 Dan Burnham	61.600
9 Bob Bell	59.600

### Exp. Ind. Multi-line Precision

1 Alison Newman	64.033
2 Mark Quirnbach	64.000
3 Adrian Flanagan	63.067
4 Jennifer Brown	60.967
5 Dan Burnham	60.000
6 Aaron Champie	50.867
7 Jim Landers	48.167
8 Cath Shook	48.067
9 Francisco Navarro	41.167

### Exp. Ind. Multi-line Ballet

1 Adrian Flanagan	74.733
2 Mark Quirnbach	69.933
3 Alison Newman	67.067
4 Dan Burnham	61.733
5 Amy Doran	61.333
6 Jennifer Brown	59.200
7 Jim Landers	58.733
8 William Seward	56.400
9 Francisco Navarro	56.133
10 Aaron Champie	53.667
11 Cath Shook	53.467
12 Charles Stonestreet	52.133

### Experienced Pairs Precision

1 Dos Furias	59.633
2 Wing Nuts	57.767
3 MJB	52.367
4 Dos Amigos	51.867
5 SOHR	51.133

### Experienced Pairs Ballet

1 Double Trouble	67.600
2 Dos Amigos	58.667
3 Wing Nuts	56.800
4 Dos Furias	54.867
5 MJB	54.067

### Masters Individual Precision

1 Daniel Haigh	76.500
2 Jeff McCown	74.833
3 Patty Tinkham	72.633
4 Joshua Gordon	72.567
5 Wayne Turner	71.233
6 John Barresi	70.833
7 Dan Newman	70.400
8 Zachary Gordon	70.000
9 John Gillespie	66.300
10 Shawn Tinkham	66.167
11 Aaron Champie	64.533
12 Darrin Skinner	63.200

### Masters Individual Ballet

1 Zachary Gordon	84.800
2 Shawn Tinkham	84.667
3 Daniel Haigh	81.467
4 Wayne Turner	78.467
5 John Barresi	77.733
6 Joshua Gordon	76.200
7 Dan Newman	75.933
8 Patty Tinkham	74.000
9 Lisa Root	72.800
10 Miguel Rodriguez	71.733
11 Aaron Champie	68.400
12 Jeff McCown	66.600
13 John Gillespie	58.067

### Mast. Ind. Multi-line Precision

1 John Barresi	80.433
2 Zachary Gordon	80.267
3 Shawn Tinkham	76.633
4 David Hathaway	73.333
5 Cal Yuen	69.967
6 Wayne Turner	64.000
7 Karl Berg	63.400

### Masters Ind. Multi-line Ballet

1 John Barresi	88.600
2 Zachary Gordon	85.733
3 Shawn Tinkham	85.600
4 David Hathaway	82.800
5 Cal Yuen	75.000
6 Douglas Coates	68.067
7 Wayne Turner	66.533
8 Karl Berg	53.400

### Masters Pairs Precision

1 Fly By Night	86.200
2 EOS	84.300
3 Wind Junkies	79.300
4 O <sub>2</sub>	78.500
5 Full Throttle	74.800
6 Wing'N It	60.033



## Chat With A Champion



William Seward

### Masters Pairs Ballet

1 EOS	90.333
2 Full Throttle	85.267
3 Fly By Night	84.133
4 O <sub>2</sub>	83.400
5 Wind Junkies	79.200
6 Wing'N It	72.667

### Masters Team Precision

1 6 <sup>th</sup> Sense	82.800
2 Airzone Flight Team	71.067

### Masters Team Ballet

1 6 <sup>th</sup> Sense	80.200
2 Smitty & The Girls	63.467
3 Airzone Flight Team	63.200



Jon Trennepohl

Tristan Underwood looks like he might be 75 pounds soaking wet, which he was most of the week in Ocean Shores. Despite that, the Novice Class sport kite flyer from Langley, British Columbia, caused a stir in Ocean Shores by sweeping the Novice events (including beating his mother) and taking third place in Indoor Ballet. His routines included tricks that many Masters can't do. Is he the future face of sport kite flying? We asked the young champ a few questions....

**Kiting:** *You're how old? And you've been flying how long?*

**Tristan:** I am 11 years old. I have been flying dual for seven years and multi-line for one year.

**Kiting:** *Did you expect to win at Ocean Shores?*

**Tristan:** I hoped to do well because I think I won every Ballet competition that I entered in the Northwest. I lost once in precision to my Mom. I was first in the league for indoor. I was very happy to come in third at Nationals. The next nationals I go to, I want to win.

**Kiting:** *You've been beating your parents all year. How are they taking it?*

**Tristan:** They don't really care. They are proud of me. My Dad beats me at precision in Experienced class and I plan on really working on that. We beat each other at multi line.

**Kiting:** *In your ballet, you used tricked that some Masters can't do. Do other flyers want you to move up?*

**Tristan:** I have already moved up to Experienced class. My plan is to move up to Masters next year. I think other flyers wanted me to move up because they thought I was too good for novice.

**Kiting:** *Which did you learn first, trick flying or precision moves like square corners and straight lines?*

**Tristan:** I learned trick flying first. I thought the tricks were cool. I am working harder on my precision now though.

**Kiting:** *Indoors, you're moving across the floor twice as fast as anyone else. How did you develop*



An indoor blur: Tristan Underwood

*your indoor style?*

**Tristan:** I wanted to be different. I wanted to be able to do outdoor tricks indoors. I am working on slow stuff with a Rev indoors.

**Kiting:** *There've been a lot of great young flyers who were out of the sport by the time they got their driver's licenses. How long can your success last?*

**Tristan:** It's hard to know the future. For us it is a whole family hobby. My younger brother Cailan, who is seven years old, started to compete this year. I think as long as we are enjoying ourselves we will keep going. We are even starting an Underwood team for next year.

**Kiting:** *You hear that, Chicago Fire? Time to give Elizabeth Gordon a team shirt, and get Woody Wolf onto the practice field!*



Tristan learns a thing or two about pin trading from Corey Jensen.



# 30<sup>TH</sup> AKA CONVENTION

## Grand National Results: Kitemaker's

<b>Grand Champion</b>	John Pollock (Bowed)
<b>Highest Score</b>	
- Visual Appeal	John Pollock 9.13 (Bowed)
- Flight	Jon Trennepohl 8.40 (Bowed)
- Craftsmanship	John Pollock 9.37 (Flat)
- Structural Design	Tom McAllister 8.53 (Cellular)

<b>Most Innovative</b>	Mark Engbaum
<b>Mixed Media</b>	Sam, Cari, and Alexa King
<b>Special Recognition</b>	John and Marzlie Freeman Phil Broder

<b>Novice</b>	<b>Cooperative</b>
1 John Trennepohl	1 Jon Trennepohl, Pam Kirk, & Mike Dennis
2 Sam King	2 David & Diane Butler
3 Kevin Sanders	3 Cliff & Gerry Pennell

UFO	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Lee Sedgwick	8.33	6.50	8.37	7.47	30.67
2 Rich Durant	6.83	4.17	7.33	7.07	35.40

FIGURE	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Ron Gibian	8.70	7.50	9.17	8.37	33.73
J & M Freeman	7.83	7.20	7.93	6.90	29.87
2 Gerry Pennell	7.70	7.27	7.47	6.80	29.23
3 Don Guick	7.80	7.63	6.57	6.60	28.60
Ray Bojarski	7.53	7.00	7.07	6.77	28.37
Brian Champie	7.10	6.40	7.43	7.43	28.37

ROKKAKU	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Alexa King	8.83	7.43	8.73	6.83	31.83
2 Sam King	8.60	7.40	8.60	6.90	31.50
3 Mike Shaw	8.20	7.33	7.70	7.00	30.23
H Thomas/PCKA	7.50	7.23	7.60	6.43	28.77
Randy Fox	7.30	7.27	6.93	7.00	28.50
Ray Bojarski	7.03	7.17	7.43	6.73	28.37
Miriam Schafler	7.33	7.03	6.37	6.13	26.87
Don Guick	6.77	7.03	6.57	6.17	26.53
Mary Farrell	6.67	6.63	7.00	6.23	26.53
Barry Poulter	0.00	0.00	8.27	7.10	15.37

FLAT	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 John Pollock	8.60	6.97	9.37	7.27	32.30
2 Sam King	8.73	7.70	8.70	7.00	32.13
3 Deb Lenzen	8.33	7.60	8.77	7.13	31.83
Cari King	7.97	7.80	8.30	7.03	31.30
J & M Freeman	8.10	7.47	8.13	6.87	30.57
Alexa King	8.40	7.17	7.73	6.97	30.27
Ray Bojarski	7.57	7.50	7.57	6.67	29.30
Phil Broder	7.77	6.93	7.67	6.67	29.03
Bob Matteo	7.03	6.80	7.23	6.67	27.73
Don Guick	7.07	7.63	5.87	6.47	27.03
Paul Horner	0.00	0.00	7.67	7.47	15.13
Barry Poulter	0.00	0.00	8.17	6.80	14.97

ARCH	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Frank Terepka	7.93	7.13	7.47	7.10	29.63
2 Jim Martin	7.37	7.33	7.30	7.33	29.33
Hall & Bernhauer	7.37	6.77	7.40	6.73	28.27

SKY DISPLAY	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
C & G Pennell	8.63	7.53	8.03	6.97	31.17
1 Jerry Graham	7.83	7.43	7.33	6.77	29.37
Barry Poulter	0.00	0.00	8.00	7.27	15.27

DELTA	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Doug LaRock	8.27	7.47	9.30	7.90	32.93
C & G Pennell	7.90	7.10	8.20	6.93	30.13
2 Douglas Coates	7.80	7.33	7.33	6.70	29.17
3 Ray Bojarski	7.17	7.13	7.63	6.97	28.90
Peter Ross	7.23	7.27	6.77	6.37	27.63
Barb Hall	6.97	7.17	6.73	6.37	27.23
Don Guick	6.93	6.93	6.57	6.37	26.80

SPORT KITE	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
Trennepohl/Kirk/Dennis	8.07	7.87	9.20	8.40	33.53
1 Lam Hoac	7.83	8.13	9.03	8.27	33.27
2 Kevin Sanders	7.40	7.77	8.63	7.57	31.37
C & E Shook	8.13	7.17	8.93	6.80	31.03
3 Donna Houchins	7.53	7.60	8.20	7.63	30.97
Todd Rudolph	7.83	7.37	8.27	6.70	30.17
Amy Doran	7.57	7.27	7.70	6.70	29.23
David Colbert	7.23	7.03	7.43	6.73	28.43

FIGHTER	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Steve Bateman	7.97	8.17	9.00	8.00	33.13
2 Bill Schumacher	7.33	7.50	7.90	7.20	29.93
3 Carl Anderson	6.80	7.77	7.17	6.93	28.67
Jeremy Terpening	6.57	7.53	6.23	6.57	26.90

CELLULAR/DIMENSIONAL	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Tom McAllister	8.37	8.10	9.30	8.53	34.30
2 Phil Broder	8.47	7.57	8.00	7.27	31.30
J & M Freeman	7.73	7.80	8.40	7.20	31.13
C & G Pennell	8.10	7.60	8.40	6.90	31.00
D & B Wendt	8.00	7.73	7.97	6.67	30.37
3 Peter Ross	8.10	7.17	7.60	7.00	29.87
Scott Spencer	7.00	7.57	7.33	7.00	28.90
Ray Bojarski	7.37	6.93	7.43	6.93	28.67
Dave Colbert	7.43	7.07	6.83	6.73	28.07
Don Guick	7.27	7.27	6.87	6.60	28.00
Jerald Graham	7.17	6.83	7.03	6.67	27.70
Ralph Stockbridge	7.10	6.83	6.90	6.73	27.57
Mark Engbaum	0.00	0.00	8.43	7.77	16.20

TRAIN	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Bob Lockhart	8.53	8.00	8.63	7.27	32.43
2 Kevin Sanders	8.73	7.00	9.17	7.40	32.30
3 Mark Engbaum	8.40	7.93	8.03	7.20	31.57
Bill Schumacher	6.90	6.43	7.27	6.83	27.43

BOWED	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 John Pollock	9.13	8.00	9.07	8.13	34.33
2 Barry Poulter	9.03	7.97	9.07	8.00	34.07
3 Jon Trennepohl	8.90	8.40	8.40	8.03	33.73
D & D Butler	8.40	7.93	8.77	7.70	32.80
C & G Pennell	9.10	7.27	8.63	7.23	32.23
Paul Horner	8.80	7.47	8.43	7.43	32.13
Kevin Sanders	7.73	7.57	8.90	7.80	32.00
Ray Bojarski	8.40	7.87	7.33	7.23	30.83
J & M Freeman	7.93	7.27	8.47	7.17	30.83
Cari King	8.03	7.37	7.97	7.07	30.43
Mike Shaw	7.90	7.57	7.60	6.93	30.00
Scott Spencer	7.17	7.57	7.77	7.03	29.53
Bob Matteo	7.63	7.20	7.43	6.63	28.90
Donna Wendt	7.43	7.20	7.40	6.80	28.83
Miriam Schafler	7.10	7.13	6.77	6.53	27.53
Jean Reed	7.07	6.73	6.93	6.70	27.43
Don Guick	0.00	0.00	7.00	6.83	13.83

SOFT	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Sam King	8.77	7.83	8.67	7.53	32.80
2 Kevin Sanders	8.23	7.73	8.70	7.67	32.33
3 Alexa King	8.70	7.80	8.43	7.07	32.00
J & M Freeman	8.57	7.17	8.30	7.17	31.20
Deb Cooley	8.10	7.30	7.93	7.33	30.67
Miriam Schafler	7.77	7.20	7.00	6.37	28.33



Sam King's 2<sup>nd</sup> place rokkaku



Dean Jordan and Jenny Cook launch an octopus.



Some genki graffiti by John and Marzlie Freeman.

Doug LaRock's humongous 1<sup>st</sup> place delta



# AKA Convention XXXX

A Robert Brasington train.



Brian Champie, a.k.a. Thor

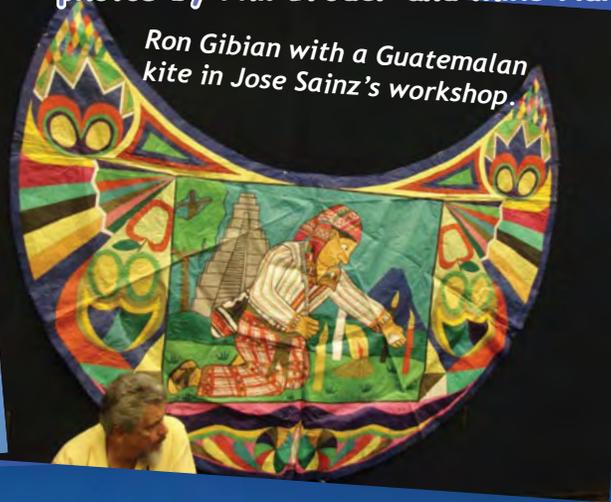


photos by Phil Broder and Mike Hale

Cari King's hata



Ron Gibian with a Guatemalan kite in Jose Sainz's workshop.



Martin Lester



iQuad's "come play with us" policy resulted in this quadline megateam.



Alexa King's 3<sup>rd</sup> place foil.



# REGIONAL REPORTS



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End of term: 2010

Hello from your Region One Director, and thank you for your support. As we move forward, I wanted to start with recognizing our region. One of the interesting things is that we have six kite clubs in our region, Connecticutiters, Great Lakes Kitefliers Society, Harkness Stuntkiters, Kites In Central New York Skies, and New York Kite Enthusiasts. For our sport kite enthusiasts, contact the AKA's Northeast Conference Commissioner via e-mail to [ne\\_conf@aka.kite.org](mailto:ne_conf@aka.kite.org). Not to be confused with our Eastern League Sport Kite Association, at [www.easternleague.net](http://www.easternleague.net).

Region One was well represented

at the American Kitefliers Association National Conference in Ocean Shores, WA, by Douglas Coates, Jackie Lamoureux, Patty and Shawn Tinkham, Gary Engvall, Dennis Smith, and Karl Berg.

When someone asks, "Why should I join the AKA?" tell them that when you visit your local kite store you should make sure you let them know, with pride, you are a member of the AKA and ask for you AKA discount.

Winston Churchill once said "Kites are highest against the wind, not with it." Do you have a favorite saying or quote you would like to share?

This is your region. I am looking forward to representing you as Region One to AKA. If you would like a note about your club, or event mentioned, send the information to [Region1@aka.kite.org](mailto:Region1@aka.kite.org). See you on the field!

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

You may have seen my e-mail a while back, but I want to remind you that there is a new addition to the AKA Forum. The KiteTalk Forum is a place where you can go to read conversations (threads) about all different aspects of kiting. You can post responses and carry on conversations in the forum. Region Two now has its own area of the forum – the first region to do so! This area can be used for posting of information for regional activities, information, and just general chatting. Other regions can stop by here to check on what we're doing, too.



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End of term: 2010

Please note that to see the "Members Only" area of the forum, you need to sign up with a forum ID and a password of your choosing. Of course I'll still be available to pass on information by e-mail, but now be sure to check the forum too.

In addition to the AKA Forum, there are other kite-related forums on the Internet. Steve Ferrel, owner of the Kite Studio, in Wescosville, PA, maintains a forum at [Kitebuilder.com](http://Kitebuilder.com). This forum is geared more toward making kites, but any kite subject is fair game. Steve, with some input from Cliff Quinn, designed a small banner for forum participants to build and to fly when they're out on the flying field, to help them identify each other. The plan should be available for download by the time you read this. Each banner can be personalized. Forum members can put their name on the bottom section and a blank white section is for your imagination. Additionally, each banner is a single piece to a puzzle. Banners will fit together with Velcro. When forum members get together at a festival, the banners can be "put together" to form one large display.

The Keystone Kites are working on something special for their winter



*The Eastern League cleaned up in Ocean Shores.*



Alice Hayden

retreat. It may involve several sessions instead of the usual one day event. The project is expected to tie in to a special event to take place at the 2008 AKA Convention.

South Jersey Kite Flyers were busy at the annual convention. Living up to their billing as the 2006 AKA Club of the Year, their members helped out in many areas. The club once again sponsored a mass ascension pin and the sport kite category trophy in the kitemaking competition. And to top it off, their members won many awards! Congratulations to Pete Dolphin for his rookie KAP work, a second and third place People's Choice Awards were well deserved. Phil Broder placed second in the cellular category and received a special recognition award for his announcing prowess. And Phil's Double Hata and banner donations to the auction brought in an astonishing amount. Coming up this winter, Scott Spencer will be presenting a workshop of a four foot tall Eddy kite with a woven crest in the center.

Cliff Quinn says that he had great fun at the convention. He and Deb Von Bokern conducted a workshop

there titled "What Judges Look For." The session was so popular that it was standing room only. The workshop was scheduled to run for two sessions; however the topic was covered in the first session. It was then decided to continue and discuss all aspects of kite building. Topics

included fabric, sparring, structure designs, tools, equipment, tapes, adhesives, and building techniques. The audience was so interested that they asked to continue after a quick lunch break. Everybody shared their knowledge and that's what makes our hobby so successful.

I've heard from Dorit Avnir, a kiter who is in training for a Masters degree in art psychotherapy. Dorit is planning to write a thesis on the effects and potential benefits of kitemaking and flying as a method of therapy, specifically within a psychiatric population. As this project unfolds, Dorit will be more than happy to inform us of any developments and share the experience with the kiting community. I'll pass along any news of this as the project develops.

Finally, Alice Hayden and Glenn Davidson were part of a group of people hired to help do kitemaking and flying on top of the Port Authority in NYC. In the words of Alice, "It was pretty awesome."

and gone, summer has blown by in the blink of an eye! The Wings Over Washington WOWsters, and the Richmond Air Force have been as busy as ever through the summer, as usual holding down the fort here "at home" in Region Three, but also traveling around to events in Regions Two, Four, and elsewhere.

This summer WOWsters and RAF could be found in attendance at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Wright Brothers Kite Festival in Kill Devil Hills, NC; the Mile High Kite Festival at Beech Mountain, NC, where the W.A.C.K.O.S. joined in; the New Jersey Sport Kite Championship (NJSKC) at Liberty State Park, NJ; the Asbury Park Kite Festival in NJ; the annual Irvington Grape Stomp at White Fences Winery, Irvington, VA; the Middletown Kite Festival, MD; the New York Kite Festival at Rockaway Beach, NY; the Edinburg Ole Time Festival, Edinburg, VA; the second Coyner Springs Kite Fly near Waynesboro, VA; a fun fly at Harford Community College's Family Fun Weekend, Bel Air, MD; the Richmond/Washington Regional Sport Kite Championship, Spotsylvania, VA; and another of Region Three's biggest festivals — the 30th Annual Sunfest Kite Festival in Ocean City, MD! Not to forget — Canada's Dieppe International Kite Festival and the AKA Convention, as well! On top of all that, we've had some really good First Sunday Flies at the Washington Monument and Dorey Park, Richmond.



**Region 3 ~ Mid-Atlantic**

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**Will Smoot**

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Waynesboro VA 22980

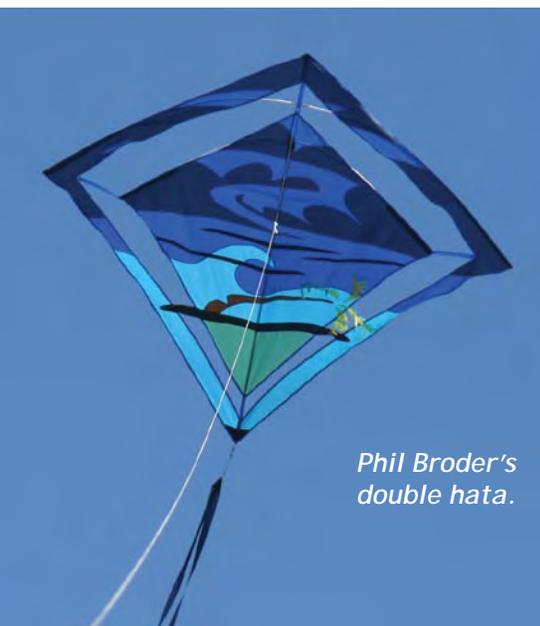
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End of term: 2010

Greetings ladies and gentlemen; as your new Region Three Director I would like to thank you for your support. If you did not vote for me I would like a chance to become YOUR representative. Everyone is invited to contact me with ideas about things you want your association to do. Whether it is a renewed emphasis on something we have been doing, or a new idea, if you don't share it I can't help you with it. I said I would like to increase festivals throughout the year and we already have an invitation to support one in November, in West Virginia. For more information on upcoming activities please check the AKA calendar and the club calendars.

Well, another quarter has come



*Phil Broder's double hata.*



*SunFest: where fun begins!*

Kelly Mayhew  
 Like the Boy Scouts, kilters should strive to always be prepared, as you never know what might happen at an event. Of note this summer, shade canopies were blown over by gusts, a large spikey ball ground bouncer pulled its anchor and went for a wild ride at Rockaway, and, despite Mike Van Meers' assurances that it would mostly pass by, the crowd at Sunfest got heavily rained on for about an hour. That didn't stop the fun though with Rev games during the day and the GO FLY band at night, not to mention the night fly. Come to think of it, we got rained on and that spikey ball almost pulled loose again during a sudden squall while we were enjoying some casual weekend flying at Sandy Point this summer! You just never know!

To return to the original point: it has been one busy summer of kiting! And we're still going strong! As we slip into fall, WOWsters expect to be attending the Sailwinds III Kite Festival at Cambridge on Maryland's eastern shore; the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia's Buddy Walk/Festival in Fairfax, VA; the Kensington Kite Festival, MD; the Shenandoah Valley Hot Air Balloon and Wine Festival, Long Branch, VA; and the Second Annual Cape Fear Kite Festival at Wrightsville Beach, NC. WOW and RAF are looking at a new festival near Inwood, WV and many members will be at the Outer Banks Sport Kite Competition at the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kitty Hawk, NC. Things should calm down for us in November, but during the "off season," WOW is hoping to have a kite-making workshop or two, and also hoping to get in some indoor flying. WOW

is planning their annual picnic in January and RAF is planning their Gift Exchange for the early New Year and possibly a kite or banner making workshop. Lastly, keep some time open for the annual Maryland Kite Society retreat in February. Fortunately, winters in Region Three are generally mild enough

to not entirely preclude kiting, so we expect to be out and about keeping kites in the air here and there until things ramp up again next March.

Thanks to Jeff King and Kelly Mayhew for contributing to this report.

Finally I would like to thank Doug Charleville for his service to the region and the association over the past three years. He has been very active in supporting kilters and kite flying. It says a lot to me about his success that three of us wanted to follow in his footsteps. Next time you see him shake his hand and let him know how you feel.

**Challenge the wind!**



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 End of Term: 2010



*Florida's Gary Resnick made the long journey to Dieppe, New Brunswick, and then got all his chicks in a row.*



Hello there everyone, and Happy Holidays to you all!

I want to thank Mike Agner for his recently completed run as Region Four Director. I also want to thank Susan Skinner for her own service as our AKA President. These two nice folks did what they thought best at what we elected them to do, and I myself think that's all anyone can ask for. Thank you, Mike and Susan!

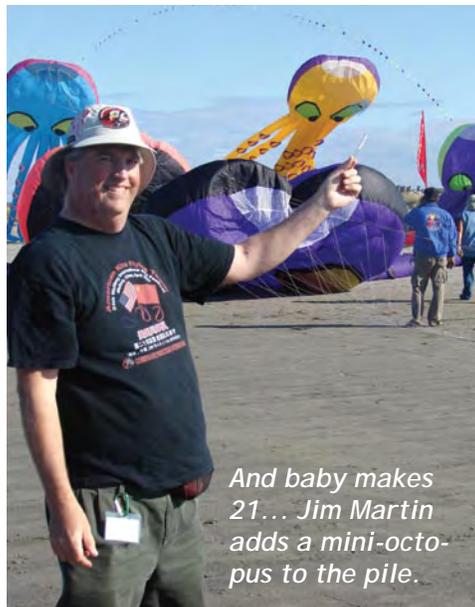
Locally, some of us have been busy organizing events for the rest of us to visit and fly kites at. October saw the latest edition of the Outer Banks Sport Kite Competition in Nag's Head,

NC, and the Sunset Flyers Fall Festival in Clearwater, FL. In early November, some of us headed back to North Carolina for the Cape Fear Kite Festival in Wrightsville Beach. Organizers, thanks for all that you do to make our kiting experiences at your events good ones.

Looking forward into first quarter 2008, pack your sunscreen and make plans now to go fly sport kites at the St. Augustine Sport Kite Classic, and to go fly anything you want at the Treasure Island Kite Festival behind the Bill-Mar Hotel in Treasure Island, FL. Good stuff!

Now let's talk about Member benefits for a moment. I'd like to invite all of you to visit the AKA KiteTalk Forum; down in the Members Only section you will find the Region Four Forum! I have asked for this special little corner of the KiteTalk Forum for one main purpose, and that is to make it easier to talk amongst ourselves about kiting in Region Four. Region Four is a pretty big chunk of real estate. We are blessed with a longer-than-average flying season, the most flyable beach area of all the Regions, and many other attributes that make kiting such a pleasurable hobby/sport/obsession to share with so many others. It only makes sense to me that we have one more line of communication to share the love, and this is it.

As your Regional Director, I am your voice to the AKA Board of Directors. If we don't talk to one another as frequently as we can, I am not going to be as effective in that role as I can or should be. Therefore, I look to be using this Forum to find out what's both-



*And baby makes 21... Jim Martin adds a mini-octopus to the pile.*

ering you, what's making you happy, or anything that affects the quality of your kiting experience in your own corner of Region Four.

Be well, and go fly something!



### Region 5 ~ Great Lakes MI-OH

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End of term: 2008

Having returned from the AKA Convention in Ocean Shores, WA a few days before writing this, I am still in a "kiting mood." Even though it rained all but one and one half days out of six while we were in Ocean Shores, spending time with friends, both old and new, seeing the great kites, observing fantastic performances, attending interesting workshops, and participating in a world record Giant Octopus fly made the week another one to remember. I am not yet ready to get back to the "real world." Region Five was well represented at the convention, as were most of our region's registered kite clubs. And Region Five members who entered the flying and building competitions did quite well and are to be congratulated. Carl Anderson, Bob Lockhart, Peter Ross, Bill Schumacher, Jon Trennepohl and Frank Terepka all came home with awards. Some of these folks won in more than one category. Next year the AKA Annual Convention will be held within a one day drive of most all of Region Five, in Gettysburg, PA. So, begin now to make your plans to attend the conven-

*This low-aspect beauty from Michigan's Jon Trennepohl snagged him the prize as top novice.*



tion in 2008. You will have a blast.

Several events took place since my last report. Kevin Kilgore and the members of Black Swamp Air Force sponsored three days of fun flying and hanging out with friends on July 20-22 at Maumee State Park in Oregon, OH. The North Coast Stunt Kite Games is a very popular event that many fliers make sure they do not miss. The weather was great, the evening meal delicious, and it was obvious that many folks had a great time at the auction. We are already looking forward to next year.

John and Suzette Arnold and their many helpers did another "bang up job" with the July 27- 29 Kites Over Branch County event in Coldwater, MI. Stunt kite competitions, fighter kite competitions and single line flying activities kept attendees and spectators entertained throughout the weekend. To set the record straight, yes, it was my Manta Ray that went over the fence that surrounds the prison when the wind shifted. No, the guards did not shoot it down. I was able to pull it back before it came completely down. It was another very nice, and occasionally exciting, event in Coldwater.

The Flag City Kite Fest was held August 18-19 in Findlay, OH, in conjunction with the Flag City Balloon Fest. This was the first time for this competition. And some sport kite competitors traveled many miles to get to Findlay and pick up competition points. Saturday was a beautiful day with not much wind. A nice crowd



*A few of the faces in Bob Lockhart's first place train.*

stopped by to watch the competitions, and enjoy the kites and other displays. It rained during the night and the competitions finished up on Sunday in cloudy skies and stronger winds. Spencer Schubbe organized and promoted this event. I hear that the sponsors are already planning for next year.

I need to apologize to the members of the Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites for not mentioning the Cleveland Kite Festival in the last issue of *Kiting*. This annual festival was held September 8-9 at Lake Front State Park. I heard from several folks that OSEK staged another very successful event. On the shores of Lake Erie, the location of this festival is usually blessed with decent wind and quite a number of spectators.

Thanks to the organizers, sponsors and volunteers who made all of the Region Five events a success in 2007. Be assured that your dedication and efforts are appreciated by the AKA and

the many kite fliers who attend your festivals. Great work!

Now is time to begin planning for the 2008 kiting activities. A reminder to sponsors and promoters, get your event dates decided upon. And post them on the AKA Calendar early to ensure that your event is listed on the event calendar in *Kiting*. This also helps to avoid conflicts with other area festivals. Speaking of events in 2008, the Fourth Annual Airwaves Kite Fest will be held at VOA Park just North of Cincinnati on April 5-6, 2008.

I hope to see you on a kite field soon. Remember...it's all about putting smiles on faces.

Hello from Region Six. Convention 2007 is one for the books and some familiar names did well in the sport kite competition. Zach Gordon, Josh Gordon, Elizabeth Gordon, Mike Delfar, Dan Newman and Alison Newman all had to make room in their luggage for some awards. Congratulations!

Back in the Midwest things have been busy, with the Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois holding their 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Frank Mots International Kite Festival. This year's guest fliers included iQuad, who entertained the crowds with their unique routines. Quad line flying appears to be gaining in popularity thanks to their efforts and those of other groups like the fliers from the Illinois Kite Enthusiasts,

who also had Revolutions in the air. Other fliers included Yves Laforest with one of the largest inflatable star kites I've ever seen. The KSWI kicks off 2008 with the Cool Fool Kite Festival on January 1<sup>st</sup> at Milwaukee's Veterans Park. The Time Warner Family Kite Festival returns on May 24-25 at Veteran's Park for more Milwaukee skyline color.

Not only were the Illinois Kite Enthusiasts at events in Wisconsin but they also took part in festivals in Michigan and around their home state of Illinois. Some of those festivals included Naperville last June where fliers flew to live music and witnessed mother nature's variety when storms bordered the flying fields. Pontiac also proved to be a promising new event with a variety of kites and kites in attendance, and Dekalb where Al Sparling rolled out the barrel (very large ground bouncer) and Daryl Waters surprised us with a visit from Michigan adding his Peter Lynn octopus kite to help form a four kite "octopile." Look for the talented quad-line kites and



*Al Sparling gets barrel-rolled in DeKalb.*

other members of IKE to visit festivals throughout the region in 2008.

The Minnesota Kite Society's Flying Colors met with bad weather this year but I'm sure that hasn't dampened this groups spirits. They'll be starting their year with the Lake Harriet Winterfest on January 12<sup>th</sup> and will no doubt be in good attendance at Larry and Kay Day's Color The Wind kite festival in Clear Lake, Iowa on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The town's population definitely comes out to check out all the kite-related activities at this event. A photo taken from the festival has even graced the cover of the local phone book!

The Wisconsin Kites have been busy with events like the Dodge County Kite Round-Up this past summer. They also took part in Kites Over Lake Michigan in Two Rivers, WI, this past Labor Day weekend. In the two years that this event has been around, organizer Chow Chong has helped it grow into a



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End of term: 2008

first class kite get together. The Kites also took part in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-City United Way kite fly and kick off in Marinette, WI. The Wisconsin Kites start off 2008 with a holiday party on January 13th in Fondulac, Wisconsin and follow that by participating in Kites Over The Bay in Fish Creek on February 9-10. Kites Over The Bay has proven to be a favorite for participants. Speaking of favorite events for participants, let's not forget that the Midwest Area Kitemaker's Retreat (MAKR) returns to Northern Illinois University on the banks of the Rock River in Oregon, Illinois on March 7-9.

Have a great holiday season and keep looking up!



**Region 7 ~ Great Plains**  
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End of term: 2008

**Hello Region Seven!**

We have come to the end of our kiting year. Fall is here, and winter is not far behind it. We tried to have our last event today, the Midwest Winds "One Sky, One World" Fall Festival. But sorry to say, we were rained out. Oh well, there's always next year.

Since our last article, we have attended some fun events. On Labor Day Weekend, we attended Kite Fest in Callaway, NE. It was a great weekend with wonderful weather, and great winds. We had many kite flyers there from all over the region. Members of

the KCKC help to put lots of color in the sky and on the ground displays. Attached is a note we received from a visitor:

*"I'm just writing to say THANKS SO MUCH for a most rewarding Sunday afternoon. Rosemary and I had never been to a kite flight event, and were amazed at the size, variety, style, and acrobatics of the kites we were seeing and about kiting in general. A friend and I also got to help a guy from Kansas City take a couple of his huge kites down and pack 'em away. We loved it when the guy with the stunt kite let the little girls on the blanket pretend to fly his kite. What joy for them, and what amusement for all the adults in the area. We came back to Broken Bow telling all our friends what a grand afternoon they missed.*

*Thanks again.*

*Don & Rosemary Davis*  
*Broken Bow, NE*

It's nice to know that the spectators are able to become part of the kiting experience.

On September 8, we attended the Prairie Winds Kite Festival in Jackson, MN. It was sponsored by the Prairie Ecology Bus Center. Chrystal Dunker, the director, has organized this event for the education and enrichment of the community in this area. It was attended by many area families. Many of the kids were able to make their own kites, and fly them on the tarmac of the area airport.

The FHKC of Denver hosted an exhibit at the Denver Public Library for a month-long exhibit of Colorado kite artists George Peters,



**Mike Shaw and Deb Lenzen**  
**add to their trophy cases.**

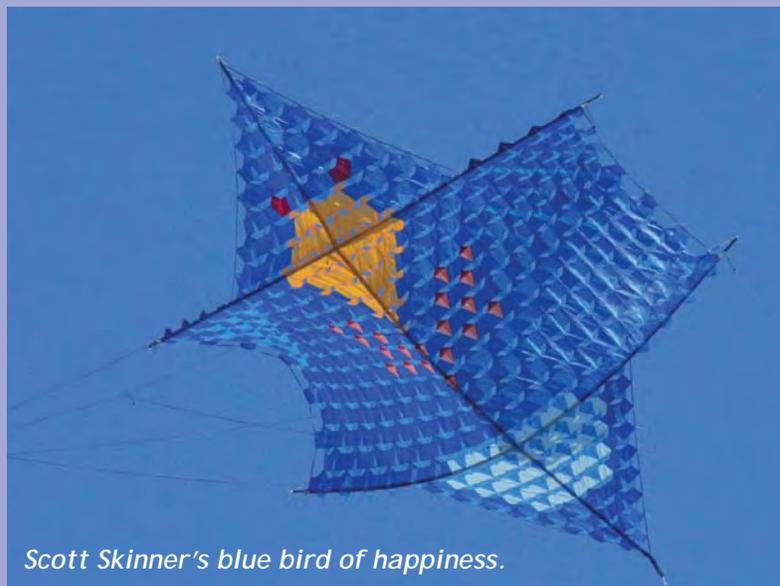
Melanie Walker, Jane Parker-Ambrose and the late Reza Ragheb. It also featured aerial sculpture by the Rocky Mountain School for the Arts.

We were unable to attend Convention this year, however, we were proud of our members who attended and won trophies. Mike Shaw took a third place in Rokkaku and Deb Lenzen took a third place in Flat. Deb Lenzen served as convention workshop coordinator. From what we hear, she and the other workshop instructors did a great job. Randy Fox won a third place trophy in Novice Fighter Kites. Congratulations to all the new Board Members, and to the new President. We are looking forward to a new and exciting year with the AKA.

Randy Fox sent us his impressions of the Convention:

"Just back from convention and still feeling the high. Being a kite-maker myself, spent most of my time at the kite making activities. Because of the predicted rain, we did the ground judging inside at the convention center. It turned out to be a great

Rick White



**Scott Skinner's blue bird of happiness.**

way to see all the kites assembled and talk with other builders without the distraction of kites blowing away or the surf pounding in the background. Weather was clear on the second day so flight judging occurred as scheduled and wow, did we see some kites! Never saw so many different types of kites fly so well all on the same day! My kite didn't take any awards but I have a really nice kite to fly. I built a replacement for my royal fox rokkaku. The last one has stood up well to 12 years of flying, rokkaku battles, trees, thorny bushes, and even a river. Hopefully, this one will last as well. I spent Friday with the fighter kite folks. What a fun group of people! I ended up taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place in novice line-touch and picked up a lot of hints on how to do better. Looking forward to next year. Hope to see you in Gettysburg!"

To all of you out there, please send us all your kiting news of upcoming events. We want to be sure to get all these events on our schedule so that we can let others in the region know about them.

Soon, it will be cold and icy. Our first event of 2008 will be the Color the Wind Kite Festival in Clear Lake, IA, in February. Try to come to this one, its well worth braving the cold. Lots of space to fly and great people to fly with.

Until next time...enjoy the sky!

As we stomp on into 2008, be sure to check the AKA Calendar on the website for events in the Region. Plus, when you're planning a vacation trip, look to see if there are any kiting events near your destination area or even on the journey! If you don't have internet access to check the calendar, ask a friend! As we go to press, I just don't have firm dates or I'd list them all right here! I KNOW we're doing the B&S Kites South Padre Island Fun Fly on the weekend of February 2-3; Zilker Park in Austin, TX, on the first Sunday in March; and the Junction Kitemakers' Retreat on Memorial Day weekend, Friday through Monday, in South Central TX. Unfortunately, dates for everything else this year are not yet specified.

Although we only have a few sport kite comps in the Region, we have GREAT competitors! The 2007 season saw Individual fliers: Bill Seward, Ben



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 End of term: 2008

Gray, Deontae Boswell, Katie Gray, Henry Kitchens, Guy Blatnik, Dallas Oliver, Donna McCown, Jeff McCown, and Roger Horne. In Pairs competitions, we saw: Boswell Boys, Windchasers, and Wind Junkies. For Team, we had both Austin EOL (End Of the Line) and Team SPI (South Padre Island). In addition to "The Usual Suspects" in Region Eight, you may notice some new names on the competition line up! Isn't it great??? A special congratulations to NEW competitors Katie Gray, Deontae Boswell, Ben Gray, and Henry Kitchens for not only jumping in locally but qualifying nationally! You all knocked our socks off!

Thanks again to the organizers, sponsors, field markers, field crew, judges, field coordinators, M/C's, equip-

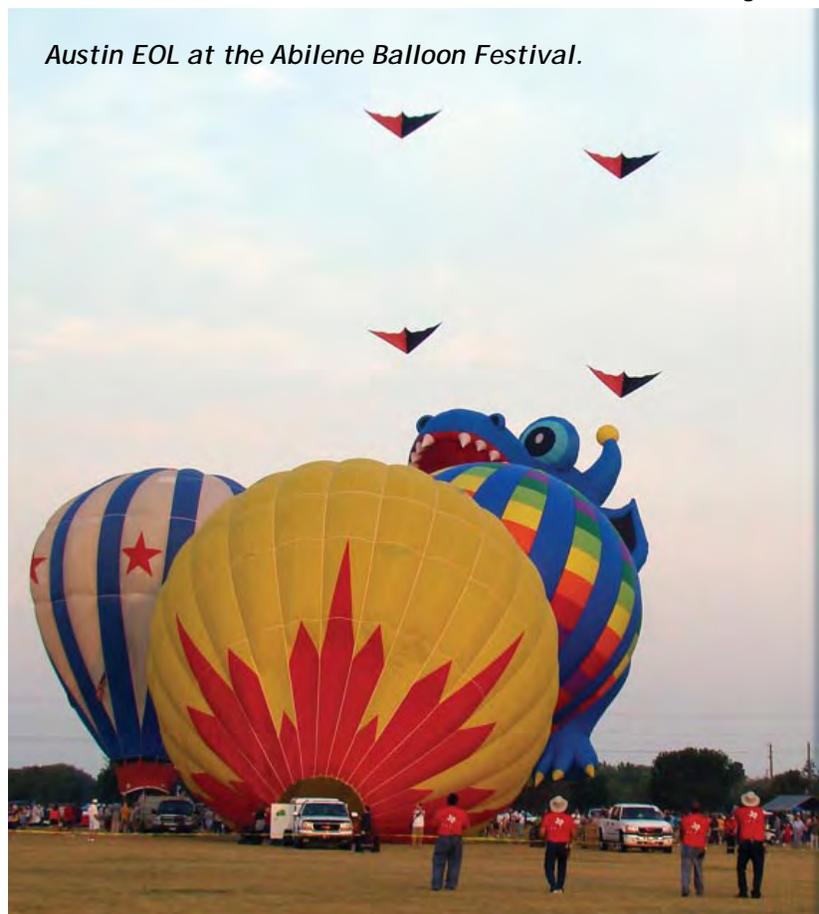
ment suppliers, scorekeepers, oh, you know, the MYRIAD "behind the scenes" folks! YOU make it all possible for the competitors to compete, for the public to come and get exposure to kiting and learn how to appreciate kiting, and for the kites to get together to have festivals and competitions! If ONLY it were as easy as just showing up and flying kites! We all know that the background work is what can make or break an event! Big thanks to everyone who put in the months, and sometimes years of work to make these seemingly spontaneous festivals run so smoothly!

As always, the AKA convention was non-stop activity! Although rains threatened us almost every morning, the organizers of each venue managed to keep everything on schedule! I was pleased that, due to weather, the first day of comprehensive kitemaking was moved indoors.

Everyone in Region Eight knows that I USED to be famous for sending out e-mails entitled "This Month in Region 8" and "This Weekend in Region 8". You also know that, due to organizers' canceling events and not telling me until AFTER I sent a reminder to the Region, I had to stop. Soooo... if you'd like to have an e-mail sent to the Region announcing YOUR event, just let me know - I'll be happy to send it! Instead of doing it auto-

Glen Moyer

*Austin EOL at the Abilene Balloon Festival.*





*Cat Gabrel warms up her fighter.*

matically, I'll need a request from the event organizer or point of contact before sending a notice to the Region. Please make sure that the information is correct and complete.

Keep looking up!

Fall is upon us, and with the changes of fall have come other changes as well. Kites have been washed and put away. Awards have been placed proudly in special places to enjoy. Sewing machines are beginning to buzz with new ideas and



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End of Term: 2008

designs. The cooler crisp air has hit the Region Nine area, a region that has been graced with the ideas and energy of Mr. John Barresi for the past couple of years. So with changes in the works, John has decided to put his energy into the now well-known iQuad Team. This internationally-recognized team has been entertaining crowds from Padre Island to Niagara Falls to Milwaukee. With the new energy it has created, it leaves John and co-founder David Hathaway quite busy promoting the art of quad kite team flying. So there you have it, and here I am, honored to have been asked to take the position of Region Nine director.

I am a newbie to this great AKA family. It was a great discovery to stumble upon the Lincoln City Kite Festival four years ago. Since then I have met many creative and knowledgeable people. Being a former fine arts student, I had always used the canvas as my palette. It never occurred to me that two years later I would attempt to transfer my artwork onto the skin of a kite.

In the past few years, I discovered the many different aspects of kiting: sport kite competition, the challenge of kite making, festival organizing, and teaching children to build kites here in the Central Oregon area. I have organized the Bend Kite Festival which drew a crowd of 1000 people at a first time event. You can be assured that this festival will now be an annual celebration in late April here in Bend. I made a decision to learn about all the elements of kiting instead of concentrating on just one. Of course this decision at times has had me running in circles, but the outcome of that has been good. I hope to share my enthusiasm and energy to keeping you informed, as well as bringing on a new generation of fliers and kitemakers as well.

The Washington State International Kite Festival was a great time for all. One rainy day washed us out but fliers came out as soon as the last raindrop hit. Our own Ellen Pardee handed off her well-deserved Super Senior Award to another of our regions finest, Glenda Kleppin. Congratulations to both ladies for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Region Nine was well represented at the AKA convention by master kite

makers as well as many new novice kitemakers. The sport kite competitions were running consistently all week with Region Nine pilots scrambling to make it to their next competition at the next field down. John Baressi won Masters Precision for the fourth year in a row, and brought home the Masters Ballet championship. Some weird Charlie Chaplin guy managed to land in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Open Outdoor Individual Freestyle. If you can figure out who that is I will hand over a mustache.

The Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival in October was well attended with beautiful weather and winds this year, a far cry from the wet weather that bore down on it last year. Though the high tides were a bit of a challenge, wet shoes were set aside and pant



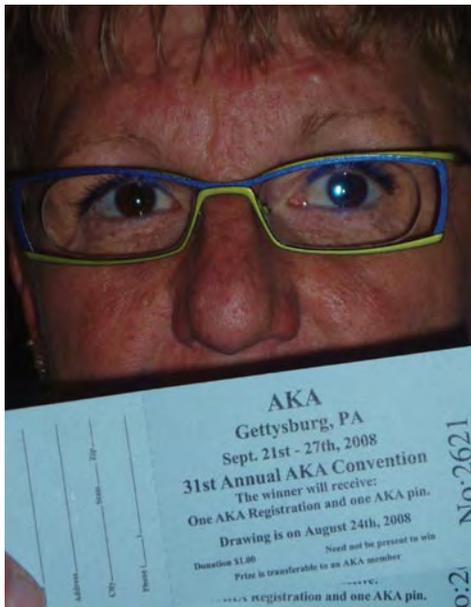
*Montana's John Pollock won Grand Chamion with his bowed kite, but this flat self-portrait won top prize for craftsmanship.*

cuffs full of seaweed were rolled up and forgotten. iQuad, Penny Lingenfelter, David and Susan Gomberg, Dancing Al Washington, Lam Hoac, Barry Poulter, as well as Linda and Kevin Sanders kept crowds in awe all weekend. I am sure a bit of giggling was had watching some of us trying to stay afloat, but it was all great fun. Field Director Ronda Brewer, kept things running smoothly, along with Bob Wendt doing his wonderful commentary, while Deb Cooley, Miss President of the Oregon Kite Association lead the children's kitemaking classes. The kids had quite a time showing off

their grand creations under sunny skies filled with fantastic kites.

I am giving you early notices for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon Kitemakers Retreat 2008 to be held in Rockaway Beach, OR, on January 10-13, 2008. Get your registration in early as classes fill up fast. This years lineup is fantastic and you won't want to miss it. For more information Contact [okr1@com-cast.net](mailto:okr1@com-cast.net) or visit the website at [www.kitemakersretreat.com](http://www.kitemakersretreat.com).

I wish you all fine winds and smooth running sewing machines this fall.



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End of Term: 2009

The kite guests have all gone and the laundry is done. From WSIKF to Convention we were kind of busy, but for the good. Estaban and Pedro Gonzalez were here from Spain for WSIKF. Getting ready for AKA Convention our guests were Doug Jones, Charlie Sotich, Al Sparling, Phil Broder, Rick Hawkins, Scott Spencer and Linda and Kevin Sanders from Australia. What a treat for us. "Hello" to all of them. Wonder what this has to do with an article for the magazine? Besides all the kiting talk and sharing of pictures, we did go to the Drachen Foundation for a visit. What we saw there was the most fantastic kite I think I have ever seen. It is the oldest kite to be found in the

"western world," found between the floorboards of a home in Holland. The person who found the kite took it to the kite store. What a smart person! Peter Lynn now owns the kite and has asked the Drachen Foundation for help documenting its authenticity. Ali Fujino showed us the kite. It is a Pear Top and made of paper, the tail is twine with small cuts of paper. It is decorated with small figures and a mirrored image of reindeer. I cannot tell you how exciting this was. The kite is dated 1773. Thank you to Linda, Kevin and Doug who wanted to go to Drachen. Thank you to Ali, who is always open for visitors and Peter Lynn for sharing his kite.

Ali also told me about a festival in Oaxaca, Mexico next Halloween, 2008. Bats, Spirits and Kites will be flying. Sound like a good festival not to miss. You can find out more information from the Drachen Foundation, [www.drachen.org](http://www.drachen.org).

Convention 2007 here in our region was great. My favorite thing (other than seeing kite friends) was the movie "The Kite Runner." Thanks to Phil Broder who came up with the idea to have Paramount break the movie at convention. I really recommend that when it is released at your local theater, it is a must see. Maybe we could get a group together for the opening? Thank you to the Ocean Shores Cinema for the free pop and popcorn to all who attended.

Way to go Region Ten for all the winners. Not only in Sport Kite competition, but in kitemaking. The Kings, Sam, Cari and Alexa, cleaned house on awards. Barry Poulter, received the People's Choice award. Mark Engbaum, Ray Bojarski, Bob and Donna Wendt, Jerald Graham, Doug LaRock,



Cliff and Gerry Pennell, Heather Thomas, Sylvia Bernauer and Ralph Stockbridge were among the kite makers. Bill Rogers, Daniel Haigh, Wayne Turner, Willy Hendrickson, Bud Hayes, all in sport kite division and Bud and Lisa Root for indoor. Did I forget Jennifer Brown? After a few bumps this season, she came through with flying colors! You go girl! I am sure that I have forgotten some so I apologize. You all are such a talented group to keep track of. A BIG CHEER for the people who put the fields up and take them down, for those who monitor, announce and judge. Thank you.

How can you have any more fun than this? Well, it is time to think forward to your holidays and the New Year. Is it just sneaking in way to fast this year??? Don't forget those wonderful gifts, like registration at one of the conferences, gifts from your local kite store, something from the kite museum and of course an AKA membership or renewal and raffle tickets (\$1 a chance) to win next year's registration for Gettysburg.

The New Year will be time for Beat the Bowls in Seattle, Oregon Kitemakers Retreat and then Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. Fort Worden 2008 will be March 14-16. We will be attending and hope to see several of you there. Good choices for classes again and I think that I will be selling raffle tickets (who would have thunk it?). Check out the web site [www.kitemakers.org](http://www.kitemakers.org).

Don't forget to do those repairs on your kites this winter. We all have good intentions; maybe this will be the winter to do them.

May your holidays that you celebrate be fantastic and have a Happy New Year. Until next time, fly often.



Linda Sanders



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 End of Term: 2008

Brian Champie has chosen to relinquish his post as Regional Eleven Director after serving seven years. He will continue being a big part of the Northern California kite scene. For his final act as Director, Brian nominated me to serve in 2007-2008 as his replacement. Thanks, Brian, for your service, good humor, and perseverance.

Family Day Kite Festival was held at San Francisco's Marina Green September 15-16. This small picturesque venue facing San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge packs a lot of kites and people together. Dean Jordan of KiteShip rigged a huge kite to a catamaran hull and blew past the traditional sailboats in the bay in all wind conditions. KiteShip also tried to tow a 140 ton barge with a 3000 ft<sup>2</sup> kite with mixed success. Back on land, Troy Gunn, Chris Schulz, Brian Champie,

Ron Young

*KiteShip speeding on San Francisco Bay.*



and Dave Sabalino wowed the crowd on the greens. Jim Streatly conducted the ever-popular candy drops. Rakesh Bahadur helped run some Indian-style kite flying activities.

The Bay Area Sport Kite League (BASKL) hosted their first-ever kite festival at Santa Cruz on September 22. The kiting community showed up in droves to help support the Children's Hospital of Oakland, including Team Too Much Fun from Down South, iQuad and Team Penny Lingenfelter from Up North, and from Northern California; the Bay Area Sundowners, Team Air-Zone, and many other local fliers. For those of you who don't live in California: it never rains from May through October. Every year, that is, except this one. The fields were set up, the whistles and armbands passed out, the brochures stacked and kids kitemaking supplies ready for the masses to descend on the Boardwalk and witness a sky full of inflatable kites, banners, and team flying. From listening to announcer Don King, it was indeed a great festival. Huddling under the dripping awnings, we shared special moments with the local seagulls and each other. The rain abated by early afternoon, but the wind barely picked up. The rok battle, put on by Arnold Stellema, was an exercise not in fighting skills but in light wind flying. Francisco Navarro provided six new bols for the popular bol races, highly recommended for light wind venues! iQuad proved that Revs can be made to fly in all conditions. Thanks to Jeff Erzin for all his efforts in coordinating this inaugural event. The second annual event is already in the works.

The Northern California Kite Club held their annual retreat October 19-21 near Herald, CA. It was a blend of open spaces, good friends, kite making and potluck dinners.

The next BASKL event is an indoor fly on Feb 23, 2008. Check the web site ([www.baskl.org](http://www.baskl.org)) for details.

Give a kite as a gift this holiday season to someone you just met. It might start an interesting conversation, and we may all have a new friend on the field next spring.

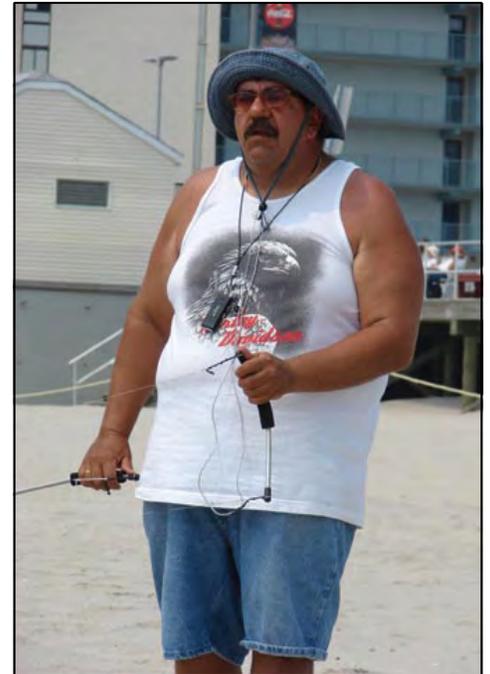


Francisco Navarro

*Santa Cruz bols.*

Hello all. I'm back again for another report and because of all the action for me at work I've been everywhere but in my region, but what fun it's been. I did manage to make the Seal Beach event where I had some octopus problems, but even with this it was a good event with lots of top notch fliers. The crowds really ate up Team Too Much Fun and all the demos really were very good. The only trouble was the octopus that got away and was caught in the parking lot, with very little damage.

Remember that the San Diego Kite Club meets the second Saturday of each month at Mission Bay Park, and they are always looking for people to



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 End of Term: 2009



Fighter kite champ Steve Bateman.

come out and play. This club's website is [www.sandiegokiteclub.com](http://www.sandiegokiteclub.com) and they always have stuff going on and would be happy to see you.

The convention was good and wet but still what fun I had with all of my friends. I have to tell you that iQuad flies no matter what. We did get a few days of good weather and made the most of it and even when it rained we all still had lots of fun with indoor stuff and workshops and just being in the company of other fliers. So remember next year we are in Gettysburg. I really hope to see lots of you there because we need each other. Also keep in mind to try to recruit new members when you can.

*[Editor's note: the southern California wildfires came very close to the Revolution offices in San Diego, but as of this writing it appears that everyone was safely evacuated and the building is undamaged.]*



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 End of Term: 2009

Three months have flown by, and we're just as busy as ever! We, meaning Region Thirteen of course. Did you know there's probably a kite festival EVERY weekend of the year somewhere in the world? And, since we're the REST of the world (other than USA) I guess that means WE are the busiest region, right?

Kevin and I spent six fantastic days in Ocean Shores at the Convention and met many Region Thirteeners including Rob Brasington of Tasmania, Phillip McConnachie of Adelaide, Canadians galore! (yes, David Hathaway, you too...) and a few Britishers. Region Thirteen also cleaned up a swag of awards. Check them out at [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org) and look out for Members' Choice Kite Accessory — yours truly, Kite Making — Kevin Sanders for Foils, Trains and Sport Kites, John and Marzlie Freeman for Special Recognition, and Regional Director of the Year — yes, Region Thirteen. Thank you all for your participation and encouragement! A special mention to the White Horse Kite Fliers of UK who received Kite Club of the Year. Fantastic efforts everyone. And yes, I'll be in Gettysburg 2008 to return the wonderful plaque, so why not make it a plan to join me there?

August showed how determination produces results; the Scouts Association succeeded in Australia with a "Guinness" World Record: 1127 kites in the air at one time, all officially counted and witnessed. Guess they've never been to WSIKF?

August also gave us Bali Kite Festival — Peter Lynn and the Australians vs. Balinese kite fever! You've not seen BIG kites until you've seen Janggans with 200' tails majestically soaring, and later carried in a procession around the field, at the same time accompanied by energetic gamelan ensembles. They happily let visitors join in, so Kevin BOUGHT his own cymbals. Optimism is a common thread; each new day is a life-bonus. Do it, at least once in your lives.

Katherine Felix of Caribbean Kite flyers is now in Barbados looking for more fliers there. Shall we all make that our next holiday destination?

Linda Sanders



Rishal's foil in Jakarta.

And down to Argentina with Gustavo. His website is [www.elalmadelpiloto.com.ar](http://www.elalmadelpiloto.com.ar) — he's inviting you to check him out.

September featured a two-day event in tropical Coolum, Queensland Australia... with the Saturday activities interrupted by rain mid-afternoon. See? Even exotic kite locations get rotten luck with weather!

Ever wondered about a kite festival in YOUR backyard? Maybe not an actual AKA Convention (think of all the excess baggage Regions 1 - 12 would have to take if they wanted to join in!) but start small with your own kite gathering and before you know it, you could grow it into something magnificent. Even oak trees start from tiny acorns!

As always, less talk...more fly....

*[Editor's note: the Dutch edos pictured in this report last issue were made by Bas Vreeswijk.]*

Linda Sanders

The gamelan ensemble brings the noise in Bali.





Anke Sauer, Germany



Gerard Clement, France



Olivier Reymond, Switzerland



Jean Lemire, Canada



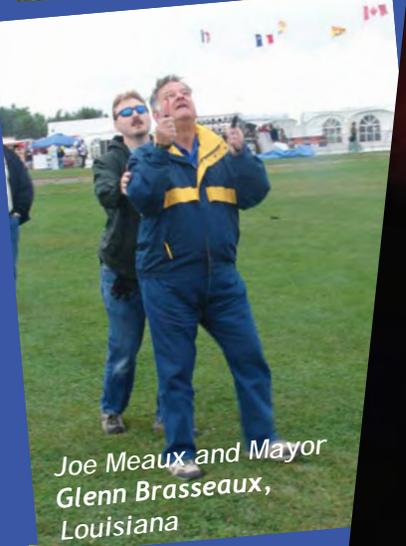
Team Mangalore, India



Robert Trepanier, Canada



Bas Vreeswijk, Netherlands



Joe Meaux and Mayor Glenn Brasseaux, Louisiana



Tinkerbelle by Olivier Reymond

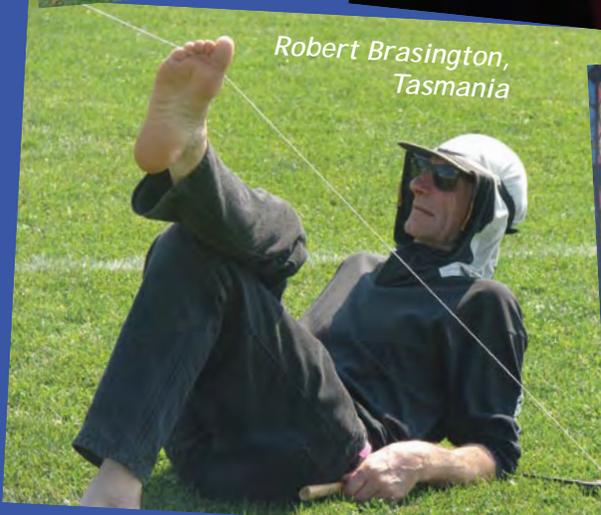
# Who's Who in Dieppe



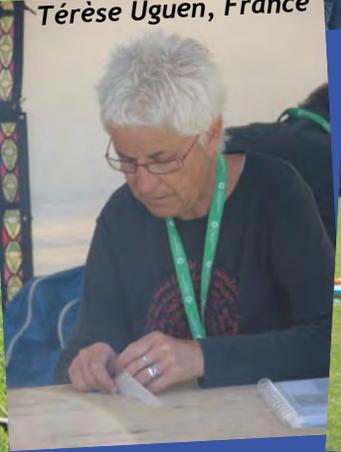
Dave Nicholl, Scotland, and Karl Longbottom, Great Britain



William Farber, Australia



Robert Brasington, Tasmania



Térèse Uguen, France



Terry Thillmann, Canada



Colin Mortimer, South Africa




# Kiting

people+places+things

## This Will End In Tears

It's been barely a year since the Federal Trade Commission recalled the "Kite Tube,"



an inflatable toy that could be towed behind a boat with riders aboard, that would lift off and fly like a kite. . . until it rolled over and slammed the riders into the water. Now, HO Sports has come forth with the WakeKite, which, according to their website, "combines kiteboarding and wakeboarding to create a new big-air experience behind the boat." WakeKite's literature comes with a lengthy release of liability and safety instructions. We'll leave it to you to make up your own mind, but remember, this sort of activity is NOT covered by any AKA insurance.



## But Will It Anchor My Octopus?

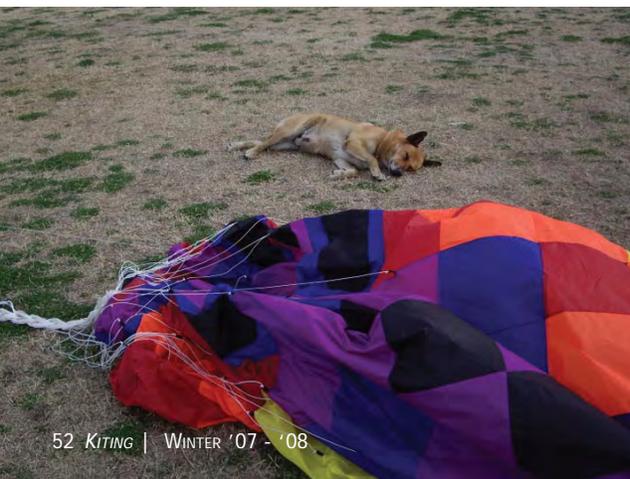
Finally, the automakers have heard our cries for a car that's cool-looking and also has room for our toys. At several car shows this year, Mazda unveiled its new concept car, the Hakaze (Japanese for "flying leaf").

The crossover SUV boasts a turbocharged engine, body styling based on flowing sand dunes, and a Bluetooth-based operating system that recognizes the driver. But best of all, the hatchback has a slide-out floor panel perfectly sized for kiteboards, kite bags, and all those long things that kites haul around. Alas, don't save your money; auto industry insiders consider the chances of actual production "slimmish."



## Disaster du Jour

Recently, while Pete Dolphin was touring possible World Cup locations in Argentina, a mysterious e-mail arrived that asked, "How do you say 'I'm sorry I killed your dog' in Spanish?" We're sure that Pete was able to place the blame squarely on David Gomberg, and that the dog was just faking it. As the photo at right proves, Pete continues to represent the AKA in the suave and debonair style for which he's always been known.





# Tethered inspiration.

Introducing the EO (expandable object) series  
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Spring 2007

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*Left: Grand Champion John Pollock  
Right: Ben Dantonio, Scott Skinner, Jose Sainz, John Barresi, Ron Gibian, Jon Burkhardt, Barry Poulter, and Joe Hadzicki (kneeling), with the Rev that sold for \$2550 in the auction.*



*Above: the Member's Choice winner, by Barry Poulter.  
Left: Ron Gibian's 1<sup>st</sup> place snail.  
Far left: this group collectively spent \$90,000 on octopus kites.*



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