

Spring 2008  
Volume 30, Issue 1



# *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

## **Sahara Breezes**

**Darfur Kite Festival Soars**

## **Back To Basics**

**Experts Start at the Beginning**

**German Gibson Girl**

**iQuad Interview**

**Build A Barndoor**

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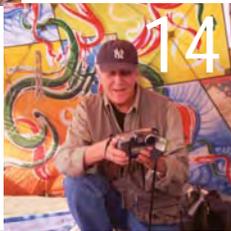
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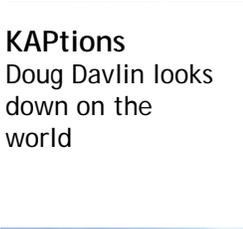


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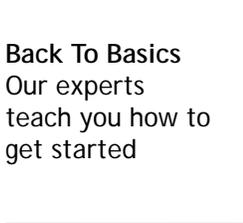


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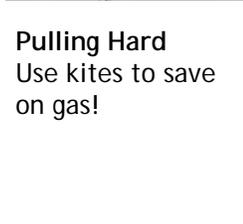


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# AKA DIRECTORY

## american kitefliers

### association

Mel Hickman, Executive Director  
Mailing: P.O. Box 1614, Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Phone/Fax: 800/252-2550  
Web: [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org)  
E-mail: [xd@aka.kite.org](mailto:xd@aka.kite.org)

### officers and executive committee

Gary Engvall, President  
11 Hornbeam Drive, Cranston, RI 02921  
401/942-3606 [president@aka.kite.org](mailto:president@aka.kite.org)

Jon Burkhardt, First Vice President  
10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac MD 20854  
301/424-6976 [vp1@aka.kite.org](mailto:vp1@aka.kite.org)

Gayle Woodul, Second Vice President  
106 Main Street, Marble Falls, TX 78654  
830/598-2414 [vp2@aka.kite.org](mailto:vp2@aka.kite.org)

Kelly Mayhew, Treasurer  
5055 Seminary Road, Apt. 903  
Alexandria, VA 22311  
703/566-1941 [treasurer@aka.kite.org](mailto:treasurer@aka.kite.org)

Sharon Champie, Secretary  
113 Leland Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707/545-6737 [secretary@aka.kite.org](mailto:secretary@aka.kite.org)

Jim Cosca, Director at Large  
13106 Parkridge Circle, Fort Washington, MD 20744  
301/292-4849 [dal4@aka.kite.org](mailto:dal4@aka.kite.org)

Deb Lenzen, Director at Large  
P.O. Box 351, Garrison, ND 58540  
701/463-2661 [dal5@aka.kite.org](mailto:dal5@aka.kite.org)

Steve Santos, Director at Large  
25 W. Wrentham Road, Cumberland, RI 02864  
401/658-0649 [dal6@aka.kite.org](mailto:dal6@aka.kite.org)

Richard Dermer, Director at Large  
1121 W. Eskridge Place  
Stillwater, OK 74075  
405/372-6127 [dal7@aka.kite.org](mailto:dal7@aka.kite.org)

## convention management

Maggie Vohs, Convention Manager  
Cameo Management Solutions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 410, Otis, OR 97368  
Phone: 541/994-4252  
Fax: 541/994-3459

Web: [www.cameomanagement.com](http://www.cameomanagement.com)  
E-mail: [convention@aka.kite.org](mailto:convention@aka.kite.org)

## KITING magazine

Phil Broder, Editor  
Mailing: 904 Bayview Road, Rio Grande, NJ 08242  
Phone: 609/465-6575  
E-mail: [kiting.ed@aka.kite.org](mailto:kiting.ed@aka.kite.org)

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## aka committees

### education & public service

Web/Internet Outreach Chuck Sigal 510/524-3459  
National Kite Month Rick Hawkins 713/305-6777  
Kite Records Ted Manekin 716/639-7679  
Education Terry Cornell 407/657-4114

### festivals / competitions

Fighter Kites Sharon Champie 707/545-6737  
Kitemaking Steve Ferrel 610/395-3560  
Sport Kites Jim Barber 360/289-4915  
World Championships David Gomberg 541/996-3083  
Kite Art Paul Fieber 608/271-8265

### administration

Ways & Means Kelly Mayhew 703/566-1941  
Contract Services Gayle Woodul 830/598-2414  
Safety & Insurance Jerry McGuire 513/831-8379  
By-laws Ted Manekin 716/639-7679  
Archives & Records Mel Hickman 800/252-2550  
Elections Al Sparling 630/369-9682  
Nominations Kathy Brinnehl 630/271-0765

### promotion & membership

Membership Jim Hodges 703/405-6211  
Renewal and Retention Mel Hickman 800/252-2550  
International Linda Sanders +61/885-562696

### annual meeting

Convention Rob Cembalest 512/554-5933  
Fly Market Ron Lindner 636/677-3029  
Mass Ascensions Al Sparling 630/369-9682  
Workshops Sis Vogel 641/236-6923  
Auction Mel Hickman 800/252-2550  
Kitemaking Steve Ferrel 610/395-3560  
Fighter/Rokkakus Sharon Champie 707/545-6737  
Indoor Flying Gayle Woodul 830/598-2414  
Sport Kites TBA



Summer issue deadline: April 15  
Autumn issue deadline: July 15  
Winter issue deadline: October 15  
Spring issue deadline: January 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.

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Hi everybody. When it is really quiet and you don't hear much from your favorite Board Members, it means we are very busy talking back and forth. There are Board members who call me on Skype (Voice Over Internet Protocol) every day just to let me know what they think and offer suggestions on how to get things done.

Jim Barber's Sport Kite Committee submitted two addenda to the Sport Kite Rules Appendix, saying that backup CD's may be submitted for ballet routines and detailing Music Failure Penalties. Those were discussed by e-mail and approved by the Board in its Regular Meeting in January.

Applying for trademarks for the AKA logo and the NKM logo were discussed. The whole idea was to encourage AKA members to make things with the AKA logo on them. After much Board discussion it was decided that the logos were adequately protected by copyright under the Berne Convention. Now, the best thing that could happen would be for so many AKA members to make so many things with the AKA logo on them that the Board has to talk about considering a licensing fee for further use of the AKA logo.

By now you should be seeing new content on the AKA website. *Kiting* Editor Phil Broder and Webmaster Chuck Sigal are putting their heads together to take pictures and text that don't fit in the magazine and add them to the AKA website.

The AKA has a great KiteTalk Forum on the AKA website where people go in and exchange ideas. The great thing about the Forum is that all the talk about one subject is threaded together so it is easy to follow a conversation. The KiteTalk Forum is easy to get to from the AKA website. At the top of the Welcome page, click on Kite Talk Forum. If you haven't already registered for the Forum, you can register by making up a name and a password.

Great ideas have come out of the Kite Talk Forum. I have been saying that I want to open up the process

of how the AKA does things as much as the process can stand. Cliff Quinn from Coopersberg, PA, expressed an idea in the Forum that the agenda for upcoming Board Meetings be available to AKA Members on the Forum. Now it's there. There is a thread in the Members Only section that has the agenda for the next Board meeting. It is edited as the agenda gets adjusted prior to the meeting.

Sam Pokail from Brockton, MA, used the Forum to call a Board Member's attention to a Non-Profit section of YouTube. We are now looking at ways of putting video content there that will promote the AKA.

Sam also took the time to produce a new edition of the AKA By-laws, with a Table of Contents and consistent headers and formatting throughout the document. It is a great read, thrilling stuff. His edition is not yet the official AKA version, but Ted Manekin and the By-laws Committee have seen it and will have it for Member approval at the Annual Business Meeting in Gettysburg, PA, in September.

The Convention site at Boyds Bears is about a six hour drive from our house. We drove there on our way to Indiana from Rhode Island. The site really has a lot going for it. I took pictures of the fields (and Boyds Bears!) and put them up on Flickr at [www.flickr.com/photos/8522796@N08/sets/72157603621098014](http://www.flickr.com/photos/8522796@N08/sets/72157603621098014). If that is too hard to type, just send me an e-mail and I will send you a link. There are some great fields with great wind exposure.

By now you know that Rochester,

Minnesota, was chosen as the site of our 2009 Convention. It came down to a choice between Rochester and Milwaukee and there was spirited debate. Good arguments were made for both sites. The Board considered the flying fields at both sites, lodging costs at both sites, airfares to both sites, and how many members would have to travel how far. It was a tough decision and a close vote.

Maggie and I have still been doing our traveling thing. We made it up to Albany, NY, 200 miles away, in early January to be with the New York Kite Enthusiasts, talking and listening. We made it down to Connecticut, 100 miles away, for the ConnectiKITEERS Annual Meeting, talking and listening. As soon as this article is finished, Maggie and I are out the door again, this time heading 1,300 miles down to Florida for the Treasure Island kite festival. We will be on the Tricks Party field doing set-up and talking to the fliers. We will also be on the single line field sharing sky and listening to concerns and sharing ideas. We will also be stopping in with AKA members in Virginia and North Carolina on the way down and back.

This is your AKA. Please let your Regional Director know how we can better serve you as a member. Please take a minute to take a look at your Regional Director's report. If you think it could use improvement, send them a little write-up about something happening in your neck of the woods.

The next deadline for *KITING* is April 15, 2008. Try to find some time to write an article for *KITING*. Even if it is just a paragraph or two, write something and send it in. Check the masthead in the magazine for the e-mail addy or the postal address to send it in.

See you out there somewhere.

good heavens,  
**gary engvall**



# Interview: Recess Time With iQuad



They're quite possibly the hottest thing to hit kiteflying since the bolt of lightning that zapped Ben Franklin. When iQuad is around, you can be sure that the fun never stops and the party never ends. At events around the world, their open door policy has brought out quadline flyers in record numbers. Their kites play with unsuspecting bystanders. Their logo stickers magically appear on backs and butts (as witnessed in their new DVD, which documents their successful attempt to sticker a badge-wearing, gun-toting airport security guard). And when everyone else at last fall's AKA convention came in out of the rain, iQuad flew on through the downpour. We sat down with an iQuad quintet — John Barresi, Steve deRooy, Adrian Flanagan, David "Monkey" Hathaway, and Todd Rudolph — for a few kite-free minutes to discuss their past, their future, their dreams of lingerie, and if they plan to ever grow up.

*John Barresi, Steve deRooy, Todd Rudolph, JD Fabich, Adrian Flanagan, and David Hathaway.*



**KITING:** When did this all begin?

**John Barresi:** April '06 in Berck, France. I was judging, David was along for the ride, and we jumped into the megafly with the European teams. We got inspiration from Flic, a nine-man, loose, fun-having team. There was nothing like it in the US. We picked up Todd right away. By June we had four. At the moment we have nine team members. Six are full-time. We've got a couple of remote alternates. We can do an A team and a B team.

**KITING:** John is clearly the "front man." Is it like the Rolling Stones? Is John your Mick Jagger, in front of a talented group?

**David Hathaway:** John's our leader, but I've been on the Rev circuit for 11 years.

**JB:** One person may be in the front, but everyone on the team is important.

**DH:** We also exist to take John down a peg when he needs it.

**KITING:** Where have you gone so far?

**JB:** All over North America. Wildwood, Grand Haven, Niagara, MOTS in Milwaukee, Berkeley, Saskatchewan. We did 17 events in our first year as a team. There are 30 events scheduled for 2008, including England and Japan.

**KITING:** Why the quick success? Other teams have been together longer.

**All:** Good looks!

**DH:** Genuine enthusiasm.

**JB:** We don't have any set routines, so it's very versatile for people to understand what we're doing. And personalities.

We love to have a good time. We have an open door policy for Rev pilots.

**DH:** There are no prizes. It's great just to fly a ten hour day. And not having to practice takes the stress off.

**KITING:** Where is it going?

**JB:** We're not allowing it to become a machine on its own. Besides kite festivals, we also want to do professional show venues, outdoor concerts, balloon fests, air shows...

**DH:** Lingerie parties.

**JB:** Absolutely.

**KITING:** Have you ever had split teams to do multiple events on the same weekend?

**DH:** We nearly ended up splitting for a weekend. We tried to get two groups out of four people. It'll happen this year. That's the advantage of lots of members.

**KITING:** Who foots the bill for this party?

**JB:** We're the only Revolution-sponsored team. We're also backed by the Kite Shoppe, LaserPro, kitelife.com, and Precision Graphics. And we do our own fundraising and sell DVDs, and events help us out. We're Rev's Skunkworks





Design team. They design stuff, but we can call them up and provide hands-on feedback.

**DH:** We put five to six years of air-time onto a kite in the time that most people take to fly one year.

**KITING:** This group sitting here has a collective 56 years of experience – although that’s still just a fraction of Charlie Sotich – ranging from Adrian’s seven years to Steve’s 24 years...  
**Steve deRooy:** What have I done with my life?

**KITING:** So what’s the best part?

**DH:** One of the nicest things has been the resurgence of Rev flying. We’ve had events where there are more quads than dual-line kites.

**SD:** One of the joys is teaching a bunch of people, then walking away and seeing them fly their kites.

**JB:** Even more than seeing a new flyer, I like seeing a veteran get re-energized. To see someone re-awakened, bubbly and excited, is very cool.

**DH:** To have Lee Sedgwick, a titan of the Rev community, come fly with us is amazing.

**KITING:** Is your success hurting dual-line flying?

**DH:** People aren’t switching. Dual-line numbers aren’t dropping.

**JB:** You’ll see some crossovers.

**SD:** We’re thinking of routines with dual and quads.



**KITING:** Last words?

**JB:** We’re just a big play-house. We want nothing more than for anyone who’s the least bit tickled to come play with us.

**Todd Rudolph:** Like kids going to recess!

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# Empty Spaces In The Sky

## Rick Gardner

The skies above are blessed with the passing of my best friend, Rick Gardner. Rick passed away on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the early age of 60. He was often known as the other half of "Rob-N-Air," a well known Pairs and Stacks team with team mate, business associate, wife, love and life partner Robyne. They had been married for many years and began seriously flying in 1988. They also really enjoyed team flying as they both were on many teams over the years: "St. Elmo's Fire Drill" (with Bob and Karen Roehl and John and Elaine Cosby), "P.O.P.S." (with Al Hargus and Vicki Romanoff), "Windstars" (with Vern Balodis) and of course the first competitive quad



team, "V.V.R.R." (with Vern, Vicki and Mike Delfar). Rick competed in as many events as he possibly could register for, until we signed up for the very first Judge's Training Seminar, offered at the East Coast Championships in 1989 by Olan Turner, Mike Carroll and Red Braswell. We all felt we were novices, but took on the challenge of judging anything we weren't competing in. Rick felt judging was so important, he began a new precedent. He always requested to Head Judge the Novice Individual Precision and have a pre-fly meeting, followed by a post-fly meeting to explain challenges, pitfalls and extreme highlights, hopefully helping the flyers learn a little more about what was expected by the judges and where some of the targets were for improving. Rick also received the coveted Olan Turner Award.

Rick was known as the Swiss Army Kite Man. He always seemed to have the right tool or the logic to come

up with a solution. He started kiting early as a child with his grandfather showing him and his brothers, Doug, Gary and David, how to build a delta out of newspaper and sticks. Later in life, experimenting with larger deltas, they would let them pull them across farmland on a sled in the middle of winter. He and Doug learned in history class about the famous Cody man-lifter kite and always dreamed of making one and experimenting with the pull. He made tools for Ford Motor Company and this helped him make ingenious tools and gadgets for kiting. Rick also had many hobbies, such as, stained glass artwork, fly fishing, kayaking, RV camping, glass bead creating, and origami.

You will truly be missed!

Vern Balodis

## Ethyl Beck

The Midwest kiting community has lost one of its long-time supporters. Ethyl Beck, wife of Merritt Beck, passed away the beginning of December. She was 92 years young and literally the woman behind the man.

As the story goes, if it had not been for Ethyl's desire to purchase some handmade kites as gifts one Christmas a particular chain of events would never have occurred. Being a lifelong resident of Indiana, she'd heard of a man named Ansel Toney who made nice-looking kites. She put in a request to have one or two kites made by Mr. Toney. As time passed, Ethyl still had yet to receive the kites so she became a bit worried that they might not be finished in time. She mentioned her concern to Merritt and suggested that maybe Mr. Toney needed some help. So Merritt drove to Farmland to lend a hand. One thing led to another and the rest has become a part of kite history. Flyers from various parts of the country have come to know and cherish those special Beck kites that can be spotted from a distance.

Merritt and Ethyl have been fixtures at most of the Hoosier Kiteflier Society's events until Ethyl's health began to cause difficulties in traveling. Even with failing eyesight she could

still generate a small gathering of folks who wanted to just sit and listen to the many stories of her life both before and after meeting Merritt.

Angie Chau

## Robert Day

At age 83, Robert Day passed away December 28 of natural causes. A Seattle native, Robert was in the Signal Corps during WWII. After the war he worked for Admiral, the Fisheries Supply Co., then was a long time employee of the J.C. Penney Company. After retiring in 1987 he became an avid kite flyer and was known as "Mr. Kite."

## Tom Brailey

Fighter kite flyers have lost a true friend. In January, Tom Brailey lost his battle with heart disease. He leaves a big hole to fill in our circle of fighter kite friends and enthusiasts. He will surely be missed.

Tom was a past Region Five director of the AKA, and a past AKA Fighter Kite Committee chairman. He has written many articles for *KITING*. Tom worked with the Midwest's Bandanna Gang on many AKA workshops. He helped introduce many flyers to fighter kites and all kites in general with his on-field hands-on workshops. For over twenty years he worked hard to help others learn the joy of kites, being an original member of Western Michigan's first kite group, "Kite Club," and later with the Mid-Michigan String Stretchers. Tom was very active in the AKA, and the North American Fighter Kite Association.

Knowing Tom, he would like it very much if each of us, as fighter kite flyers, would take the time to help and teach at least one new person to enjoy our sport and our little kites. When you do this he will be smiling down on you.

Terry McPherson



Dear AKA,

It filled me with pride as a founding member of the White Horse Kite Flyers to win the Club of The Year award. With twenty odd years of doing kite festivals, fêtes, shows with workshops and displays, plus all the school talks and workshops and the talks to all sorts of groups about the joys of kiteflying it puts the icing on the cake. I know that it takes a team to carry out the promoting of kiteflying and I have been blessed with a good team at WHKF and they are still pushing kite flying out to new people.

Now that anno domini is catching me up and the days of flying large kites are nearly over, I think I will take a leaf out of Charlie Sotich's book and go in for very much smaller kites. One thing I do know that I would not have travelled so and met so many wonderful kite flyers and made so many friends. All kite flyers seem to be so friendly no matter from which part of the world they come from.

Many thanks again for the award.

Yours sincerely,  
Neil Harvey

President, White Horse Kite Flyers

*[Cheers, Neil! Hope you have a great event at Swindon this May.]*

Fellow AKA members,

Have you ever considered leaving a small bequest to the AKA in your will? I only know of one AKA member who ever did that: Ben Blinn. Many years ago he left the AKA several thousand dollars which was used to publish a small booklet, "How to Fly a Kite," which was distributed free to schools and libraries. A nice legacy, don't you think?

Here's another thought: what's going to happen to your kites when you pass on? If you have family members who would like them, fine. If not, though, rather than let them be sold for pennies on the dollar at an estate sale, why not donate them to the auction at the AKA convention? This has happened several times, and does not necessarily require formal instructions in your will. Simply tell your spouse or other beneficiary NOW, while you're thinking about it, that you would like

this to happen after your death. They can send kites, kite gear, books, etc., to the AKA any time of the year for donations to the next auction. This will benefit the organization greatly, and you know that your stuff will be going to someone who will really appreciate and fly it. Thanks for considering it.

Good winds,  
Richard Dermer  
Stillwater, OK

*[Read on, Richard....]*

Dear AKA,

Your long-time member, my husband, Howard Gordon, passed away last July. He'd had a long battle with cancer, but had managed to attend at least WSIKF every August, usually with one of our grandkids in tow, and to fly most days of the year. In his wallet, among all the important documents and many professional membership cards, I found no less than three light blue AKA Certified Kite Pilot cards. Howard was also into model trains, bicycling, magic, and other hobbies, but kiting is where his heart was.

He flew anything and everything, but the last few years weakness restricted him to Revs and fighter kites, many of which he got from Bruce Lambert.... He was a great ambassador for kiteflying and its benefits.

Since Howard can no longer renew his membership, I am enclosing a donation in his memory with thanks to you all for supporting the sport he so loved.

Gerda Gordon  
Palm Springs, CA

*[Our condolences on your loss, Gerda. We're glad to know the AKA meant so much to your husband. Thanks so much for your thoughtful gift.]*

Hello, I'm just a low member of AKA, number 107501. My wife and I have been around kiting for almost 20 years. We have been to Seaside three times, and once as a registered member to the 30<sup>th</sup> at Ocean Shores. Other than the rainy time, we seemed to enjoy the episode.

We are not avid kite flyers, but we do enjoy the WSIKF at Long Beach. 2008 will be our 19<sup>th</sup> year, and we do participate in the Mass Ascensions.

Anyhow, I must write and tell of

my appreciation for the new style magazine. There are nice type settings, good reading, neat colored pictures AND really good subject matters. I like the layouts and everything about the new magazine. Keep up the good work.

Chuck Ackerman  
Federal Way, WA

*[Glad you like it, Chuck. We're always trying to make it better. And feedback from "low members" like you helps a lot.]*

G'day. You are asking members to submit articles for the magazine. I submitted an article about three years ago and did not even get a response from the AKA let alone see it published. I included photos of high quality as well. It was a story about our club travelling from our base at Redcliffe, Queensland, attending a Horse Race Meeting in a outback country town in Western Queensland, Australia, where we put on a kite display and kite workshop for the local community.

I suppose that I am being sarcastic now by saying that half of Americans don't know where Australia is, and no one in the AKA thought it was worth printing because no one from the AKA has ever visited Queensland or knows how big our state is. I know the article was received because I requested a signature for my e-mail.

Our Club runs one of the best kite festivals in Queensland. It has won awards and attracts crowds of around 25,000 and kiteflyers from all over Australia. Check out our website, [www.redcliffekiteclub.org.au](http://www.redcliffekiteclub.org.au).

Regards,  
David White  
President, Redcliffe Kite Club

*[I can't speak for my editorial predecessors, David, but I promise to respond to every e-mail, letter, and phone call I receive. Everyone should check the submission guidelines on the AKA website. Sometimes e-mails with attachments vanish into the ether of the AKA's e-mail system, so if you send something with pictures and don't hear from me, try sending it again without the attachments, and we can work on the problem. And Queensland is on Australia's lovely northeast coast, right?]*

# National Kite Month: Free Pins!

What does it take to be a participant in the National Kite Month Program? It's a simple question with lots of answers. To begin to answer the question you have to understand exactly what National Kite Month is. In 1999 the American Kitefliers Association and the Kite Trade Association International began a program to promote kiting during April. The *Nationalkitemonth.org* website was launched and as they say, the rest is history. The website is a collection of kiting resources for AKA members and the general public. On the site you will find a calendar that publicizes events all over the country and around the world during April. The events range from simple kite safety or other informational bulletin boards, kite displays and kite making programs to fun flys and festivals.

AKA members are asked to take part in their local area to make the program a nationwide success. Information on how to conduct these activities can be found on the website. The added bonus — besides the smiles on the kids' faces — from being able to take part in this celebration is the chance to win prizes. This year our long-term sponsors Go Fly A Kite and Into The Wind are joined by NewTech



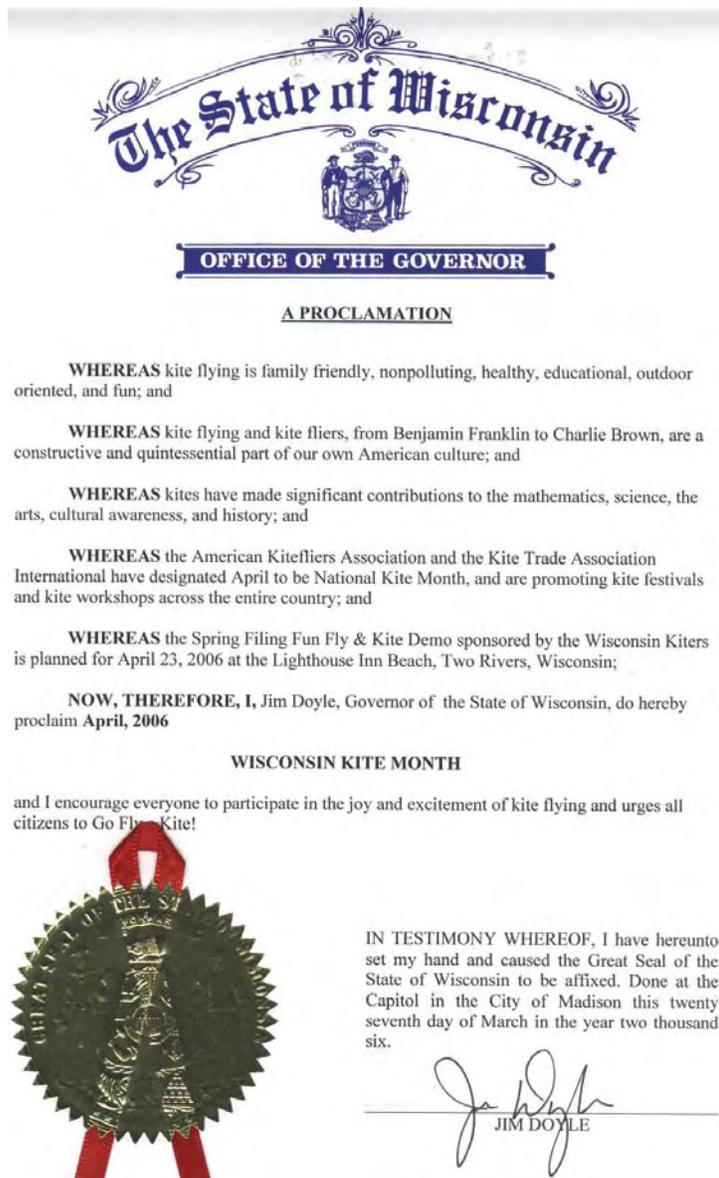
[www.nationalkitemonth.org](http://www.nationalkitemonth.org)

Kites. Each time you register an event your name is put into a drawing for prizes donated by our sponsors. We will start the drawings in March and continue each week through April. The earlier you register and the more events you're advertising the better your chances of winning. In years past we have awarded bumper stickers to all of the participants registering events. This year we have taken it up a few notches. The committee has designed a limited edition pin that can be worn or added to your collection. Separate colored pins will denote your participation in the general activities, workshops, proclamations, or events organized and conducted by someone under 18 years of age categories. There is also a pin for our special helpers who register multiple events. Pin quantities are limited, so register early!

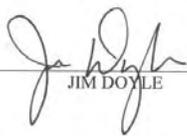
Many local youth programs are looking for activities that they can do in the spring. You can direct the leadership of these programs to the website to organize an activity. As a flyer you can also take part in the kitemaking programs by gathering the local club to put on a fun fly to show the different aspects of kiting.

In 2005 an organized effort to get official recognition of the activities of kitefliers was begun. Local government was asked to declare April to be National Kite Month in their area to show support for the activities that were being conducted. This year we are expanding the program to attempt to gather proclamations from the small towns to the big cities and even the State and Federal level. In 2007 Premier Kites and Gomberg Kite Productions International donated several kites to the winning entries. Zach Gordon added a single line airplane kite to his collection by submitting his proclamation from Oak Lawn, IL, and Melissa Bachman with the Berks County Parks Department became the owner of a large Premier Delta. Leslie Davis is the proud owner of a large Premier Delta after submitting her Louisiana Proclamation. She is the Organizer of the Kite Fest Louisiana that takes place near Baton Rouge every year.

This year we are working towards doubling the Proclamation count by using local residents to assist us in requesting a proclamation for their state. You are also encouraged to download the sample Proclamation from the



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty seventh day of March in the year two thousand six.

  
JIM DOYLE



# Affiliated Clubs

## Alabama

Field Of Strings  
Hartsell, AL  
Sandy Smith 256/796-9069  
mcrowrx@gmail.com

## California

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Colorado

Foothills Kite Club  
Denver, CO  
Kathy Wolfe 970/302-9722  
w1ndyw3b@hotmail.com  
www.foothillskiteclub.com

## Connecticut

Connectikites  
Hamden, CT  
Richard Bromley 203/288-1582  
info@connectikites.org  
www.connectikites.org/

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

## Florida

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

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

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

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

## Georgia

Suburban Atlanta Kite Enthusiasts  
Jonesboro, GA  
Harlan Groover 770/471-7923  
hgroover@mindspring.com  
www.atlantakites.org

## Illinois

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

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

## Indiana

Hoosier Kitefliers Society  
Russiaville, IN  
Clint Eaton  
flyn4line@yahoo.com www.  
hoosierkite.org

## Kansas

Topeka Kite Fliers  
Topeka, KS  
Bob Homan 785/273-3715  
bjhoman@msn.com

## Kentucky

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

## Louisiana

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

## Massachusetts

Kites Over New England  
Billerica, MA  
Susanne Boyle 978/256-8205  
just\_fly@comcast.net  
www.kone.org

## Maryland

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

## Maryland Kite Society

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

## Michigan

Back 2 The Wind Kite Club  
Portage, MI  
David Bush 269/377-9421  
www.back2thewind.com

## Mid-Michigan String Stretchers

Ada, MI  
Ken Blain 616/676-5980  
kblain@dnx.net

## Tri-State Windriders

Coldwater, MI  
John Arnold  
jsarnold@cpbu.com  
www.tristatwindriders.com

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

## Minnesota

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

## Missouri

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

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

## North Carolina

Corolla Island Airheads  
Southern Shores NC  
Cathy Shook 252/255-3054  
info@ciakiteclub.com  
www.ciakiteclub.org

## Wings Across Carolina Kiting

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

## North Dakota

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

## Nebraska

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

## New Jersey

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

Liberty High Spirits Of 14B  
Rochelle Park, NJ  
Kurtis Jones 201/489-7186  
oparadis@verizon.net  
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/  
lho14b

## New York

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

## Kites in Central New York Skies

Blossvale, NY  
Rich Belcastro  
skyraidr@twcny.rr.com

## New York Kite Enthusiasts

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

## Ohio

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

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

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

## Oklahoma

Tulsa WindRiders  
Tulsa, OK  
Larry Stiles 918/630-9334  
cgabrel@swbell.net

## Oregon

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

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

Northwest Sport Kite League  
Rainier, OR  
Doug Lommel 503/556-2244  
pres@nwskl.org  
www.nwskl.org

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

## Pennsylvania

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

## Keystone Kites

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

## Lehigh Valley Kite Society

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

## Puerto Rico

Tradewinds Kite Club  
Isabela, PR  
John Cosby 269/873-1458  
pegasuspairs@yahoo.com

## Texas

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

## Coastal Bend Sky Pirates

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

## Dallas Area Kitefliers Organization

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

Jewels of the Sky Kitefliers  
Plano, TX  
Dick Bell  
972/423-3630  
jots@tx.rr.com

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

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

## Wind Weavers

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

## Virginia

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

## Washington

Whidbey Island Kite Flyers  
Coupeville, WA  
Lisa Root 360/678-7052  
lroot0208@aol.com  
www.whidbeykiteclub.org

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

Westport Windriders  
Tacoma, WA  
Marla Miller 253/752-7051  
region10@aka.kite.org  
www.westportwindriders.org

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

Ben Franklin Kite Society  
Richland, WA  
Larry Zilar 509627-6751  
zilarlm@charter.net

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

Lilac City Wind Chasers  
Spokane, WA  
Bea Murphy 509/327-7974  
cxbil@aol.com

River City Fliers  
Vancouver, WA  
Scott Ralston 360/624-2266  
scotralston@comcast.net

## Wisconsin

Wisconsin Kites  
Germantown, WI  
Bob Rymaszeewski 414/416-6789  
info@chromatickites.com  
www.wisconsinkitesclub.com

Kite Society of Wisconsin & Illinois  
Milwaukee, WI  
Jeffrey Kataoka 414/277-9121  
thekswi@yahoo.com

# AKA News

## Argentina

Barriletes A Toda Costa  
Buenos Aires  
Gustavo Sonzogni  
gsonzogni@fibertel.com.ar  
www.batoco.org

## Canada

British Columbia Kitefliers Assn.  
Vancouver, BC  
Jeremy Perceval 604/594-3155  
perceval@dccnet.com  
www.bcka.bc.ca

Niagara Windriders Kite Club  
Port Colborne, ON  
Bob N. White 905/834-9325  
bwhite@niagara.com  
www.windriders.niagara.com/

## India

All India Kite Flying Association  
Lucknow  
Anand Kishore Saxena  
saxena004@yahoo.co.in

## Indonesia

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

## Land of 10,000 Lakes and 1 Annual Convention

Where can you fly kites alongside hundreds of like-minded folks, and get the best healthcare in America? That would be Rochester, Minnesota, which was chosen over Milwaukee as the site of the AKA's 2009 convention and Grand Nationals. While you're in town, drop by the renowned Mayo Clinic for a check-up.

## Top Teams Invade France

It's only a month until the world's top sport kite teams head to Berck-sur-mer, France, for the World Sport Kite Championships. The event is held in Berck every other year, and was last won by the now-retired Team Cutting Edge. Carrying on Washington State's tradition of team excellence this time out will be 6th Sense, joined by California's AirZone; they were the top teams at last fall's AKA Grand Nationals.

Trying to end the American reign will be Japan's Team Air-Rex and Team Ninja, Germany's Respect and Watnu, France's 04 and Startair, Great Britain's Scratch Bunnies and Flame, Spain's XALOC, Argentina's Freaksteam, Colombia's Atemoc and Equipo 2600, and a team from China. Of the teams that competed in 2006, Air-Rex was the highest finisher (3<sup>rd</sup> place), followed by Watnu (4<sup>th</sup>), Ninja (5<sup>th</sup>) and 6th Sense (7<sup>th</sup>).



The judging panel will be made up of Jim Barber and Russ Faulk (AKA), Jurgen Schneider and Andrew Taylor (STACK), and Hideo Wakuzawa (AJSKA). Monica Barber will be the field director, and Tracy Erzin will keep score.

Three days of ballet and precision competition begin on April 8. Follow the event at [www.worldsportkite.com](http://www.worldsportkite.com), look for updates on the KiteTalk Forum, and of course, you'll find complete coverage in the next issue of KITING.

## Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

Moving? Changed your address? New e-mail? Updating details on an event? Now you can send all your updates and changes to one address: [UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org](mailto:UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org).

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

Calendar

March 21-23, 2008

East Coast Rev Clinic  
Wildwood, NJ  
Brad Weiner  
856/229-3745

<http://ec.revclinic.com>

March 22, 2008

BASKL @ Berkeley  
Cesar Chavez Park  
Berkeley, CA  
Tracy Erzin  
925/228-1983

[www.baskl.org](http://www.baskl.org)

March 28-30, 2008

Lincoln City Indoor Fest  
Taft High School  
Lincoln City, OR  
Maggie Conrad  
541/996-1273

April 5, 2008

Arvada Kite Fest  
Ferruffino Park  
Arvada, CO  
Dudley Weiland  
303/422-2450

April 5-6, 2008

Airwaves Kite Fest  
VOA Park  
Cincinnati, OH  
Jerry McGuire  
513/703-1088

Cloudbuster Kite Fest

Mitchell Park Resort  
Perrin, TX  
Doris Reed  
940/798-4615

April 25-27, 2008

MIKE/MASKC  
Ocean City, MD  
Beatrix Pelton  
732/822 4884

May 2-4, 2008

Atlantic Coast Kite Festival  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Chris Stankus  
757/4265359

May 3-4, 2008

Kites Over Lake Storey  
Galesburg, IL  
Mary Turnquist  
309/345-3604

May 3, 2008

BASKL @ Baylands  
Baylands Park  
Sunnyvale, CA  
Tracy Erzin  
925/228-1983  
[www.baskl.org](http://www.baskl.org)

May 10, 2008

Kites Over Grinnell  
Ahrens Park  
Grinnell, IA  
Dick & Sis Vogel  
641/990-0801

May 10-11, 2008

Tulsa Festival of Kites  
Tulsa, OK  
Larry Stiles  
918/630-9334

May 17, 2008

BASKL @ Crissy Field  
San Francisco, CA  
Tracy Erzin  
925/228-1983  
[www.baskl.org](http://www.baskl.org)

May 23-26, 2008

Wildwoods Int'l Kite Fest  
Wildwood, NJ  
Beatrix Pelton  
732/822 4884

May 31- June 1, 2008

Breeze On The Bay Fest  
Harbor Park  
East Tawas, MI  
Jack Quinn  
989/362-4615



It is hard to believe that it has been twenty years since I fell in love with kites. I was very lucky that my good friend, Mike Mulroy, turned me onto a Hawaiian Team Kite, and gave me a copy of *American Kite Magazine*. Then on a ski trip to Salt Lake City I found a newly opened kite store; there I spent time with the owner, bought my first sport kite, and not long after I knew this was something I wanted to do as a career. I think it was just fate. After returning home I saw a “for rent” sign in a small shop window in town, and so I stopped to speak with the landlord. Within a month I opened a kite shop, Kites & Fun Things. Needless to say my friends thought I was crazy! I began to learn about different products to sell in the store, and in 1988, during my first Kite Trade Association

show in Florida, gained even greater knowledge. While teaching myself to fly sport kites, I quickly realized a better kite was needed for the low wind conditions in Michigan. I determined a lighter and stiffer frame would help. My first sport kite was designed with a friend, Bill Kildow, who knew his way around a sewing machine. I named it the Sky Burner, and that was the beginning of Sky Burner Kites.

My initial goal was to develop new framing techniques. It was not easy back then to find light, yet durable materials. After producing thousands of kites, I was eventually turned on to a wrapped carbon tube manufacturer that I worked with to develop and design G-Force Tubes. Sky Burner was one of the first companies to use tapered tubes in production model kites, and from there we produced Black Diamond Tubes. I was always a fan of Sky Shark Tubes, and after a few years I was approached by its owner, Erez Borowsky, who asked me to take over the kite industry portion of his business. My wife Marieanne and I decided to take him up on his offer, and now years later, we own Sky Shark Tubes.

While our business was developing I competed locally and nationally, in the process promoting Sky Burner Kites. The competition circuit was really popular back then. I enjoyed the competitions, and did quite well considering there were many great flyers

during that time. Throughout the early years, Mike Mulroy and I competed in pairs, winning several national events. I also learned to love ballet flying by watching the editor of *SKQ Magazine*, the late Chris Batdorff. I found him very inspirational. Whether flying indoors or outdoors, capturing the freedom of expression through flying kites truly brings extra meaning to my life. It is a true form of entertainment for all. The evolution of new things being done with kites is continuous. The more you fly, the more you learn. I love this sport because one can always improve.

In the beginning, there were far more small kite manufacturers in the United States. There were also many more kites stores promoting the sport.



It was really a time of expansion and learning. One of the highlights for Marieanne and I was in 1991 when the original Sky Burner was voted kite of the year by *Kite Lines Magazine*. Over the years I have designed and manufactured several more sport kites. In addition, I have manufactured sport kites designed by others, such as designs by the late David Bui, named the Phoenix and the Tika. Quality has always been an important part of Sky Burner Kites and I believe that this is why we still exist. I have worked many years with my good friend Wayne Brunjes, who has co-designed many of the sport kites Sky Burner Kites has built, as well as the ones that have been designed for Premier Kites. I





always enjoy the creative process of designing and sewing new prototypes; however, my skill set is not in repetitive sewing and so I have always sought the best people to sew our sails. Throughout the years we have worked with many quality sail makers, but when we

were introduced to Pam Kirk and Mike Dennis of Heads Up Kites we all just clicked. They are truly some of the most talented people Sky Burner Kites has worked with, and it has been a great relationship both professionally and personally.

Framing kites is the most time consuming thing I do. If you own a kite that says "Sky Burner Kites" on it, it has been personally framed by me. I cannot begin to fathom how many thousands of kites I have constructed. It is my job, but it is so much more. The people I have met, the friends I have made, and the places I have travelled have made it all worthwhile.

Every year there is something innovative to learn which takes me in new directions. This last year was very special because I moved into the world of single line kites. When I am not on the sport kite field, I love hanging out with my good friends on the single line side. Their designs and creativity have always intrigued me. I was invited to Malaysia last year for a kite festival; there I



met a wonderful kite enthusiast and designer, named Ceewan. He had some very interesting kite designs, one of which I brought back to Michigan with me. This design inspired me to create the Geo Pointer, which is an 18' kite that I submitted into the kitemaker's competition at the 2007 AKA Grand Nationals. This was a great challenge for me because the Geo Pointer required a large amount of material and space. To make it competition worthy I had to really think through every step and make sure it was done right the first time. Of course, one always hopes that it will fly well too, and in the end it all turned out great. The most rewarding aspect was the accolades I received from the other kitemakers, some of whom are much more experienced in single line kite building. They have been an inspiration to me to continue to create even more new designs. My roots are with sport kites, and I will always be a part of that. Fortunately, I have

found the single line world very comfortable as well. It is a bridge I plan to continue to cross back and forth for many years to come.

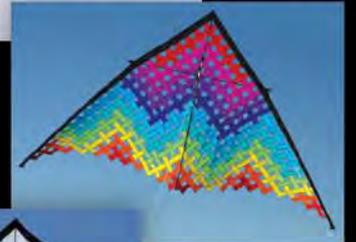


From the mind of master kite designers to the end of your line, Premier brings the ultimate flying experience to you. Rise above the ordinary; fly the extraordinary!

Langkawi Pointer  
*Ceevan*



Crimson Giant Flying Fish  
*Juergen Ellinghaus*



Rainbow Waterfall Mesh Delta  
*Willi Koch*



Tribal Shield  
*Carsten Domann*



Quilted Strata Delta  
*Barbara Meyer*

quality product since 1983



PREMIER KITES

www.premierkites.com  
toll free 1-888-416-0174

# Voices From The Vault

## Tal Streeter

by Patti Gibbons

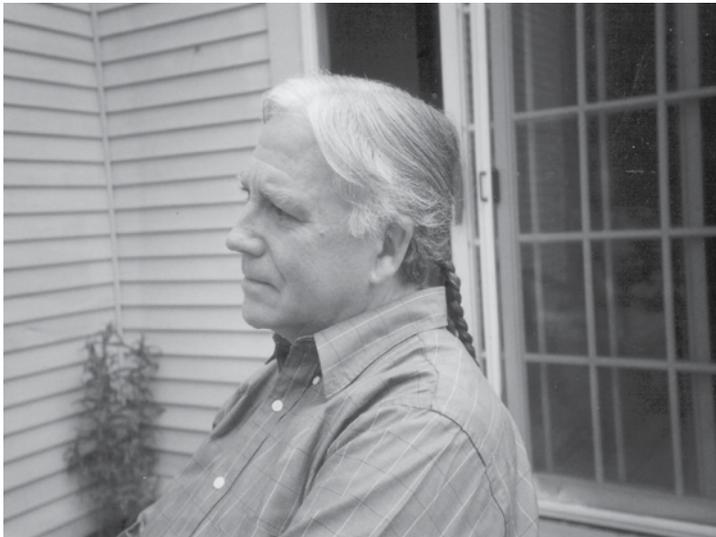
photos courtesy of the Drachen Foundation

If the kite world employed recruiters to scout talent, Tal Streeter's impressive curriculum vitae might scare them off or skyrocket Streeter to the top of the draft. Kinetic sculptor, painter, and master kite maker, Tal Streeter holds an advanced degree in design and sculpture and has instructed fine art course at MIT and SUNY. Known for large-scale sculptures, his work has been exhibited in (and literally outside of) prestigious museums and galleries around the country such as New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Luckily kite headhunters don't exist and no one meddles with people interested in joining the kite world. Streeter found his kiting niche in his own time.

Streeter bumped into the kite world through his sculpture work. "I came to kites out of sculpture because sculpture is so hard-edged and heavy...I couldn't make things more gentle. Later when I did large environments inside I often had unstructured cloth with fans blowing it very lightly" to lighten the feel of the piece. His sculptures reminded him of kites and inspired him to learn more about the form. His quest for kite knowledge set him on something of a kite odyssey, which resulted in travels to exotic locations, the publication of several kite books, and of course, a deeper understanding and appreciation of kites as personal artistic forms.

During the course of Streeter's long involvement in organized kiting, people passed him a clipboard or two and wrangled him into the judge's corner. In hindsight, organizers might recognize the squareness of that peg. Streeter "doesn't like competitions"

and "really doesn't feel critical about any kite that anybody makes." In fact, Streeter insists, "I don't have any problem flying a dime store kite. I love flying those. I love finding out what that personality is about." Streeter believes "it is no one's role to judge" kitemaking and if kites are made with sincerity "you could be trying to measure that sincerity to some extent." Not quite an "A for effort" mantra, but certainly a more inclusive approach to evaluation than any spelling teacher offers in American classrooms.



Streeter recognizes that "invention in art is very, very important" yet inventors are scarce. Very few will come up with revolutionary ideas and create something as culture spinning as the PC, fire, or penicillin. "The rest of us may add a little" and say, invent the Mac, create tiki lanterns, or develop chewable Flintstone multivitamins. These second steps, for Streeter, are steps on the road of artistic evolution and are most interesting when they showcase an inner aspect of the creator's personality. In kite terms, Streeter gets excited when kitemakers "allow their personalities to enter their kite making." Streeter urges kite makers to "look to yourself to make something personal. Everyone is unique." If astronomy interests you, Streeter would delight seeing you incorporate celestial imagery into kites

rather than stock images you found in a kitemaking pattern book. Streeter believes people have the potential to create extraordinary forms when they bring underlying connections to their core personality. "To me kites are the tip of the iceberg. They are the small point of everything that you are. They are a piece of what you are, and these other pieces are the things that are underneath that pyramid. Art is the thing that finally give these kites their real qualities."

Art and visual grandeur aside, Streeter recognizes the fun in kites. Recalling when he first got involved with organized kiting, "the word 'kite' had an aura about it that people associated with childhood and play. I think that [association] is still there." Tapping into this pleasure is essential to Streeter. "Playfulness is very hard for us to do...we are so concerned with doing the right thing and being serious and certainly kites are connected to play and they relax that element of seriousness." Knowing Streeter's sentiments, one might guess that "have fun," "enjoy the day," and "play freely" land on his daily to-do list. How nice is that? It is so pleasant to know that personal unstructured enjoyment is on equal footing with taking out the trash, balancing the checkbook, and working towards a corporate promotion. For Streeter, the goal is to "have a rich, full life that is meaningful to yourself and helpful to others...and somewhere, strangely enough, kites can play a very big role in that."

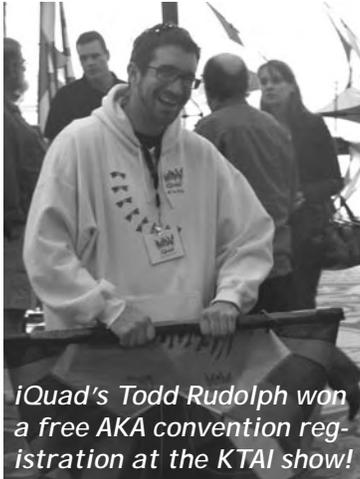
Several chatty kitefliers let the tape spin and recorded their memories and thoughts about kites, kitefliers, and the great big sky for the World Kite Museum's oral history archive project. Interested in telling your stories? Would you like to hear what other fliers say? Got time to interview special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

# AKA 31<sup>st</sup> Convention Logo Contest

Our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention will be in historic Gettysburg, PA, from September 22-27. Would you like to join hundreds of your kiteflying friends at your convention in this beautiful part of our country with absolutely no registration fee? We will award a free registration to the AKA member who submits the winning logo design for the 2008 Convention.

The logo design will be used on the convention patch, pin, shirts and other convention materials. Your design must look good in formats ranging from 1" to 10". Remember, simple color schemes translate best for silkscreen, cloisonné and embroidery — as well as help keep our production cost down. Make sure your design incorporates the red AKA logo, convention year, city and state. The winning design will look good in color, in black and white, be scalable, and suitable for many uses.

You may be required to submit alternative versions if necessary. Please submit your original design, preferably using vector graphics, to [Annual\\_meeting@aka.kite.org](mailto:Annual_meeting@aka.kite.org) or by mail to Rob Cembalest. All entries must be original artwork of the AKA member entrant, received no later than April 11, 2008, and become the property of the American Kitefliers Association. Let's see what our creative members come up with this year.



*iQuad's Todd Rudolph won a free AKA convention registration at the KTAI show!*

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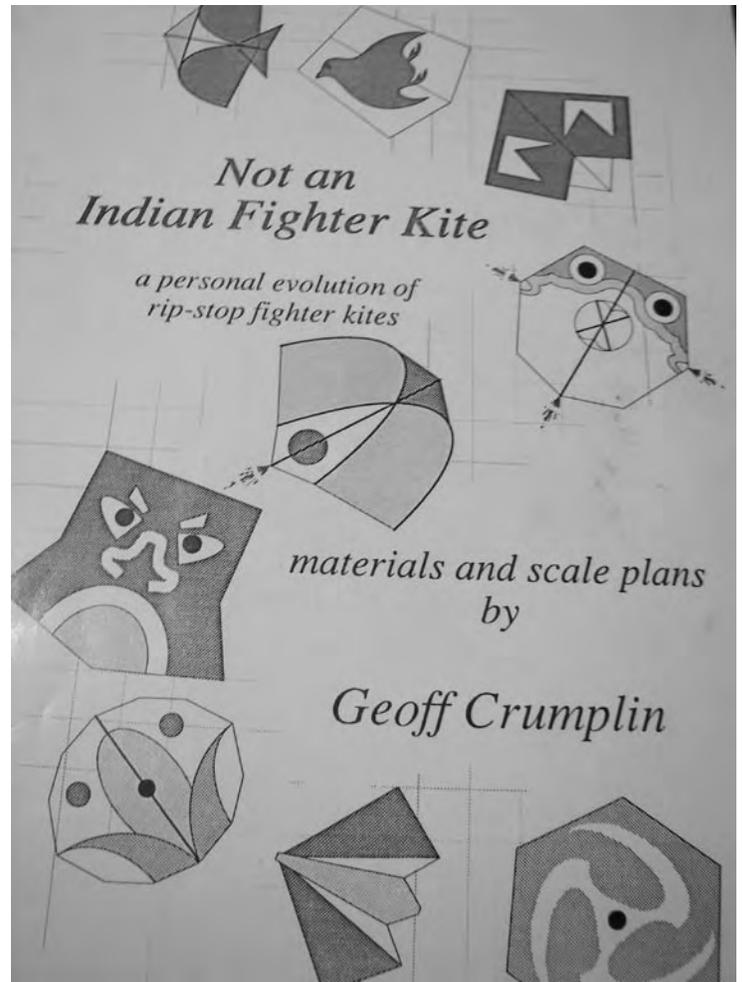
# Fightin' Words

by Tom Brailey

We all remember those old TV commercials by some catchy little phrase that seems to remain in our minds forever. "Things go better" with that famous soft drink, or "Where's the Beef" bring back images of some fast food favorites. There is a fighter kite book out there called *Not an Indian Fighter Kite* that also stirs up memories of a famous automotive commercial of a few years ago.

The title says it all. When most people think of fighter kites, images of small Indian fighters seem to be fixed in our minds while other fighters kites from around the world tend to be forgotten. This book was written by Geoff Crumplin and has several modifications of kites built by Philippe Gaillot and Martyn Lawrence. It allows us some insight on how other builders worldwide view the various designs that we've placed on the lower end of the scale over the years. It also shows us how adaptable these designs are to the modern day building materials. Many of us have tried the Buka, or maybe even a Korean, but how many can say they've built a Hata or a Fugu? While the dimensions in the book are mainly in metrics, most experimenters are more than happy to try their hand at adapting or reducing the size to see if they can still retain the quality of controlled flight and gain that little extra competitive edge.

I look at my own involvement with fighters: all those years spent working with Indian style fighters and forgetting that experimenting with other styles may be far more rewarding than tweaking the already proven designs of others. There was one competitive flyer who made the statement that a Buka could never beat an Indian, only to lose four out of five points that same day to a newly reworked



Carl Anderson  
and 300 holes.

and modified Buka. The only way to find your own little niche in the fighter kite world is to experiment, experiment, experiment. Those of us that have made the transition from sport kites into building fighter kites know that the cost of twenty fighters can still be far less than building just one high-end sport or single-line static kite.

I think there are times we need to sit back and look at all aspects of building a new kite. Will that three-legged bridle work just a bit better in a horizontal sweep if I move the upper attaching points out a  $\frac{1}{8}$ ”? Will the spin rate be affected if I move the bow spar up or down in size? What can I do to make my design work a bit better in that howling gale we were forced to fly in last week? Did you happen to catch a picture of Carl "Gumby" Anderson's Western-style Indian kite with 300 holes punched into the sail?

This article was written to remind you that while the Western adaptation of the classic Indian Fighter kite has proven itself year after year, it isn't the only option out there. Take a peek at the Brazilian, Afghan Star or even the Mini Roc. We are lucky to have access to hundreds of websites that are loaded with designs that we might have dismissed at first sight. Some of those Old World designs may be just the ticket to a remake with modern day materials. Who knows, you may come up with the next hot kite on the competition field, or maybe just become the envy of your fellow fun fliers. Remember experiment, experiment, experiment.

# Aerial Inquiry

What's the one event you MUST go to in 2008?

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 May 1. We'll feature your answers in the next issue, and ask a new question.

Next issue's question is, "What's your favorite kite shop?"

WSIKF 2008! I had so much fun at WSIKF 2007, and placed three times. This year will be even better!

*Spence Watson*

MAKR!!!! The Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat. Although I built kites before I started attending in 1994, being around other addicts and fabulous teachers really gave me the push to continue, excel, and find my own style.

*Barbara Meyer*

The 2008 AKA/Nationals in Gettysburg, PA. I attended in 2005 and 2006, but could not get to Ocean Shores, WA, in 2007. Hope to see some great kites, we are busy making kites for the kitemaking competition, AND hope to get an invite to fly stunt kites in NIP and NIB.

*Jackie Maciel*

Fort Worden Kitemaking conference. I have been to a few kite making conferences, but this was my first and thereby has a special place in my heart.

*Dave Butler*

I must say Ft. Worden also. Dave Butler has been there and done it. I hope to realize the same feeling. The Fort is on my can't miss list, because I will be teaching a class. However, I am humbled that the organization has accepted my project and look forward to what I cherish the most, sharing the knowledge that all fellow kites have taught me that I can pass on. It may seem small but is a big part of kiting for me.

*Cliff Quinn*

The AKA Convention/Nationals — to fly and vie with the best kite folks from all over the country!

*Jim Martin*

The Great Lakes Kite Festival in Grand Haven, MI. It was the first festival that Sam and I attended and we'll be there every year until Steve Negen and the staff at Mackinaw Kites call it quits. Which is hopefully never...

*Ann Ritter*

The absolute MUST of 2008 is the AKA Convention at Gettysburg. The historic area and a nice mix of kites and kiting events, this will be the BEST convention ever.

*Kevin Kilgoar*

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Into The Wind works  
the KTAI show.

# The Sporting Life

## Line 'Em Up

by Bill Rogers

**W**hat line length and strength should I use? Good question! This is one person's opinion; your mileage may vary.

### Line Length

For precision flying, I recommend at least 120 feet. 140 to 150 feet is preferable if the field size and wind conditions allow. You want to paint as big a picture as possible of the precision figure, and certain figures are much easier to complete if you fly on longer lines.

In light wind conditions, you may want to go a bit shorter because you will be backing up, and want to have that extra bit to back up and not hit the back line, especially if the field is not regulation size.

For ballet I still prefer 120 or more feet of line. Some like shorter lines, but I wouldn't recommend going shorter than 100 feet. Again, you are trying to paint the sky and you have a much bigger canvas with longer lines.

If having several line lengths is impractical (yes, lines are expensive) I recommend using a base of 100 or 120 feet, with 10 - 20 foot extensions. The extensions should be one weight class higher. For example, if you are flying on 150# line, your extensions should be 300#. Having extensions is good too if the wind dies off a bit, dropping the extensions can gain you lift and speed to your kite. Much quicker than switching complete line sets.

Line length is of course determined by field size also. In the Northwest we fly regulation size fields almost always, but I know that not everyone has that luxury. If you have to fly on a small field, go down to 80 feet of line for ballet and 100 to 120 feet for precision. I would only do this if necessary.

### Line Weight

Again for competition, and if you can afford it, I recommend having line weights of 90#, 150# and 300#. Some like to use 50# line, but the slight gain in wind range is outweighed by the better chance of the line breaking if the wind picks up during your routine. There is little that is more frustrating in competition than watching your kite spiral

to the ground because you broke a line, especially since it is an easily preventable situation.

Typically you will want to use 90# line for your SUL and UL kites. For your Standard kite you can start on 90# line, but I recommend that only for the low end of its wind range. After that, switch to 150# line. Of course if your kite pulls like a truck in 6 mph of wind, you may want to switch to 150# line right away.

To extend the range of your standard kite, that is what the 300# line is for. Heavy line is not for fear of breaking the line, but to cause drag and slow the kite down. Also going from 120 feet to 140 feet of line can help slow the kite down. We have actually flown on 160 feet of 500# line to help slow our vented kites down when the wind was ballistic. Not the set-up of choice, but it is amazing how much line weight and length can affect the speed of the kite.

How about for pairs and teams? What weights and lengths should I use? For SUL and UL kites, I recommend 90# line, never 50# line. If you wrap lines, or hit a line, the danger of breaking a line is not worth it. For the standard kite we start with 150# line and if the wind is up we will switch to 300# line. Some of that is kite-dependant, some kites don't like 300# line very well. Most will pick it up with no noticeable problems.

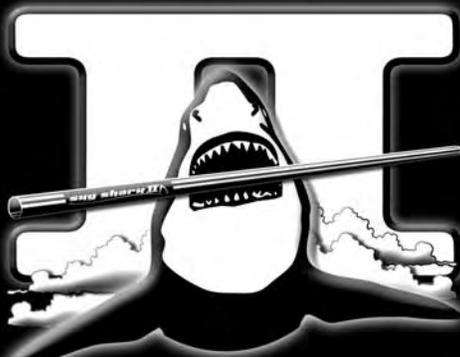
For lengths, we fly on 140 feet if the field is regulation size and the wind is decent for the kite chosen. If we are at the bottom end of the wind range of the kite being used, we will pull our 20 foot extensions. It can make a difference on how well the kite flies in lighter wind, and again gives you a little extra room for backing up during your routine.

How about recreational trick flying? For trick flying I prefer 70-80 feet of line and generally use the same rule of thumb about weights, although for SUL light wind flying, 50# can be nice. Some people prefer shorter lines but I like to have a bit of length for multiples of tricks coming down the window like insanes, cascades, etc. Shorter lines can help when learning tricks though, so you can more easily see what the kite and lines are doing.

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# HISTORY LESSON

## Wound Up by Scott Skinner

photos courtesy of the Drachen Foundation



*Indian winders*

Winders can tell the story of the kites they fly; the use of the beautiful stool/winder combination from Thailand is charming and ingenious. Can anyone really appreciate the form of an Indian winder until it is seen in the lightening-quick hands of an expert? Or the sheer utility of a line basket, as seen in Nagasaki, where the glass-coated lines of the heavy kites are so brutally coarse? The winders are not as interesting as the kites they fly, but they help

They are as diverse as the kites they fly. They are simple, they are complex — a product of their environment. They are an integral part of kite flying as the objects closest to the kite flier's hand — the kite reel.

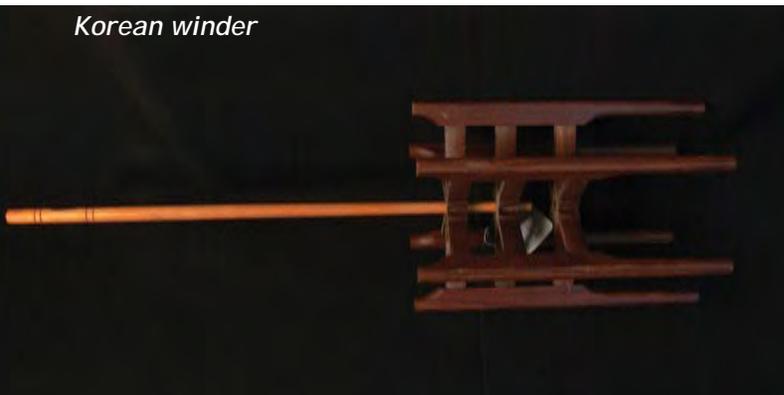
Like the kites they fly, kite winders are a blend of form and function; for stunningly fast lineout and retrieval, look no further than the Korean winder. With the deep-sky flying of his "Victory Star" kite, Stormy Weathers' pie plate winder can't be improved. Like a sample of the kites in the Drachen Foundation's collection, winders too, are contemporary and traditional, antique and new, crude and sophisticated. Here is an accessory that can be just a length of bamboo or a 5" stick with line wound around it like the miniature Guatemalan kite winder, or it can have the guts of a fishing reel or bicycle hub. Even a motor drive can hold kite line.

to tell the whole story. Without an idea of how a kite is flown, we might be misled as to its function, its environment, and even its social significance. They tell of the personalities of kite flyers as well. In a very real way, they are a direct connection to kite flyers that have come before.



*Contemporary winders*

*Korean winder*



*Chinese winders*



*Thai winding stool*



*Japanese winders*

# KITE PLAN

## ROD BEAMGUARD'S AMERICAN BARN DOOR

*Hitting*+

### Materials

- » kite skin (cut to final dimensions)
- » lacing (2), 1/4" x 6"
- » circles (2), 6" diam., 3.9 oz. Dacron
- » vinyl end caps (4)
- » edge binding, 3/4 oz. nylon 2" x 210"
- » internal ferrules (3)
- » pockets (4), 1 1/4" x 4 1/2", 3.9 oz. Dacron
- » arrow nocks (2)
- » spar sleeves (2), 1 1/4" x 2", 3.9 oz. Dacron
- » line, 34' 4" x 100# Dacron
- » spars (6), A20 filament wound epoxy tubing
- » aluminum ring, 1/2" diameter
- » fabric square, 2" x 2" of 3/4oz. white nylon with adhesive backing
- » snap swivels (2)
- » line, 18" x 250# Dacron

The dimensions of this kite have been chosen to minimize the number of spar sections needed while making the maximum use of 60" wide fabric. Do not make your skin larger than these dimensions.

Use 60" wide 3/4 oz. ripstop fabric from which you will cut a piece 53" wide by 57" long. If you piece together two or more pieces, the finished skin must be a rectangle 53" x 57". Do any appliqué work that you would like to do or otherwise decorate your kite skin. Remember that you will be using the outer 1/2" of each edge in a hem. The "x" at the top of the arrow marked 40" approximates the spot where you will eventually place a patch and burn holes in the fabric for the bridle line to pass through. You might take this



into consideration when decorating or doing appliqué. You will also lose space for patches at each corner.

Reinforce the corners using the 6" circles of 3.9 oz. Dacron. If you do this correctly and are careful, you can do three corners with one circle. Slide a circle under one corner with the "bad" side of the circle against the kite skin. Place the point of the corner on the center of the circle. Draw a mark on the edge of the circle where the edge of the skin meets the edges of the circle. Carefully cut this pie shaped wedge out of the circle.

Place the pie-shaped wedge in position with the bad side against the bad side of the kite skin and the point of the wedge at the point of the corner. Sew from edge to edge along the curve of the wedge using your favorite stitch. Repeat this procedure with the other five corners.

Sew on the edge binding in the order (1,2,3...) shown in Figure 2. Use your favorite stitch. I like decorative stitches for this purpose.

Now is the time to do pockets for the spars. Lay out the kite skin face down and draw lines on the reinforcing patches so that they match with where the spars will be (Fig. 2). Do not draw lines on the backside of the kite skin. Using the four strips of 3.9 oz., fold over to form a pocket (Fig. 3). You should notice that

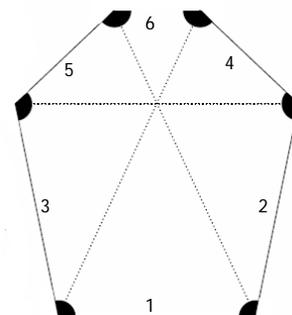
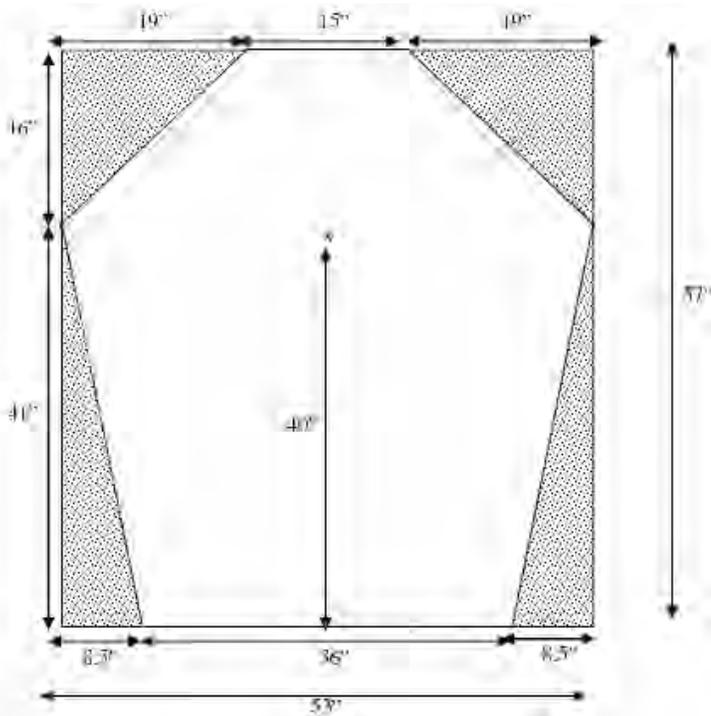
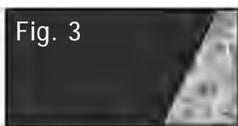


Fig. 2

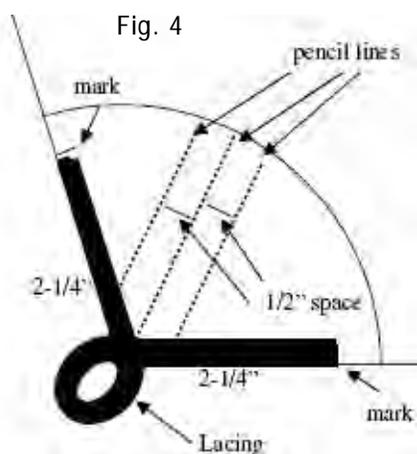
the angled ends are different. Two are angled in one direction and two in the other direction. Use one of each to make pairs of pockets, one pair for the top corners and one for the spreader. For the top two corners, center the pocket over the line you have drawn and stitch down.



For the two corners at the sides (the ends of the spreader), do not center the pocket on the line you have drawn. Use the line as a guide only. Place the pocket as close to the corner as possible. The folded end will be about 1/4" above the line at the edge of the kite. The open end will be about 1/4" above the line.

On each bottom corner, attach a 6" length of lacing to form a loop at the tip of the corner (Fig. 4). Be sure to do both corners the same. Ignore the other pencil lines at this point. They will be used in the next step. Measure 2 1/4" from the corner along each edge of the kite and make a mark.

Place one end of a piece of lacing at one of the marks you just made. Lay the lacing flat on the edge binding



and against the edge of the kite skin. It may help to use tape to hold the lacing in place while you sew. Sew between the end of the lacing and the edge of the skin at the corner. Give the lacing a half twist and place the other end at the other mark you made. Lay the lacing down to the corner and sew down.

Now is the time to add a sleeve to the bottom corners to help guide the spars. Draw two more lines parallel to and 1/2" from the line you have already drawn on each of the bottom reinforcing patches. Place the 2" edge of the 1 1/4" x 2" sleeve along one of the lines. Run a line of stitching 1/8" from the edge of the sleeve. Repeating with the other 2" edge should give you a raised sleeve through which your spar will pass.

### Spreader

Before starting on spar assembly, make sure all the spars are the same length. If they are not, cut whatever is necessary from each rod to make it so. You should not have to cut the shortest rod.

Now we do some test fitting. Without using any glue, join two A20 rods with a ferrule and place a vinyl end cap on one end of the rod. Insert the end with the vinyl end cap into a pocket at one side of the kite. Pull the fabric tight from the opposite corner of the kite and push the spar towards the opposite corner so the spar bows about 1" out of a straight line in the center of the kite. Place a mark on the spreader to mark the point at which the free end of the spar crosses the end of the pocket on which you are pulling.

Measure the distance from the mark you just made to the closest end of the spar. It should be about 12-13".

Divide this measurement by two. Write this number down in the margin of this page. This is the amount that you will cut off one end of each rod.

Take the rods apart and remove the end cap and the ferrule. Mark this distance you have written in the margin of this page on one end of each A20 rod. If you have done this correctly, these marks should be the same distance from the ends of the rods.

Use a saw to cut the short 6-7" ends off. Be careful not to cut too much off. It is always easier to cut or sand a little more off than to try to add length back to the rod. Using the two long sections, glue a vinyl end cap on one end of each rod. Glue a ferrule into the other end of one of the rods.

For the vertical spars, find two equal lengths of A20. On one end of each rod, glue a vinyl end cap. On the other end, glue an internal ferrule. Find the last two A20 rods of equal length. On one end of each rod, glue an arrow nock.

### Bowlines and Tension Lines

Prepare the bowline. Cut off a 60" piece of 100# line. Make marks on the line 7" from each end. At each end tie a loop with the mark at the center of the loop. If you have beeswax, rub it into the line of the loop. This helps prevent slipping when in use.

You will tie a Prusik knot in the loop at each end and slide the knots onto the spreader. Put the spreader in place on the kite.

Now for the tension lines. Cut two lengths of 100# line, 26" long. 9" from one end make a mark and tie a loop as you did for the bowline. Again, use beeswax on the loop if you have it available. Use a secure knot to tie the other end to the loop in the lacing at the lower corner of the kite. I use a double sheet bend (Fig. 5) since it does not extend beyond the loop and joins two lines of different diameters securely.

In the loop, tie a Prusik knot and slip it onto a spar with an arrow nock and slide the nock through



the sleeve. Insert the open end of the lower rod onto the ferrule in the upper rod. Insert the vinyl end cap into the pocket at the top of the kite. Place the tension line through the nock and slide the Prusik knot up the spar to tighten the fabric. Repeat this process with the other vertical spar. The two installed spars should form an "X" and at this point the kite skin should be taught throughout.

### Bridles

Near the top of each vertical spar, mark the location where you will use a hot iron to make holes for the bridle lines to pass through. Locate points that will not be on the vinyl end caps but will be on each side of the spar. Remember that the bridle line will pass through the face of the kite, both layers of the pocket fabric, around the spar,

*continued on page 25*

# Oregon Kitemakers Retreat

## Rockaway Beach, OR

### January 11-13

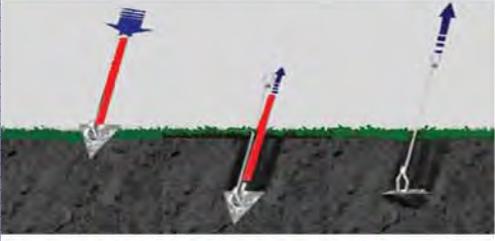
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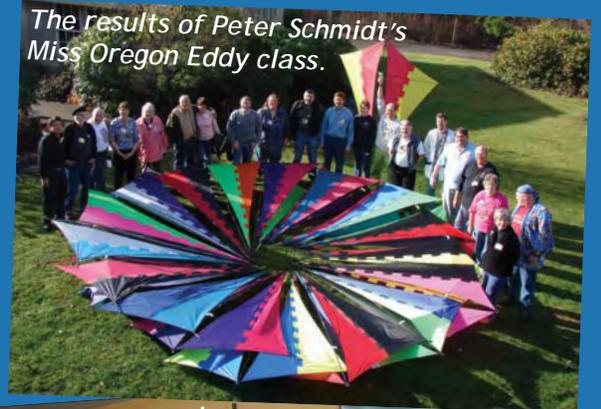
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The results of Peter Schmidt's Miss Oregon Eddy class.



Cari King dries paint.



Peter Schmidt helps Richard Hurd with his eddy.



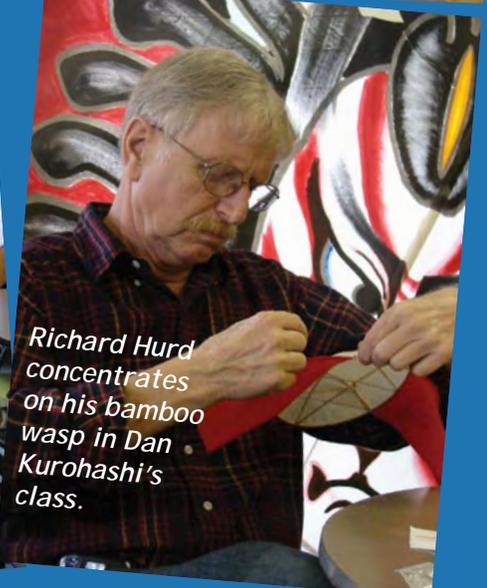
A finished rokkaku from Sam King's class.



Rod Thrall contemplates his next move on Ronda Brewer's Jordan Airform.



Alan Fossum's Jordan Airfrog.



Richard Hurd concentrates on his bamboo wasp in Dan Kurohashi's class.

## KITE PLAN continued

and back through the second set of holes to the front of the kite. The spreader pockets do not need holes.

At the lower ends of the vertical spars, you also need to mark the location for holes in the center of the sleeves guiding the vertical spars. Place the holes in the middle of each sleeve, one hole on each side of the rod.

Determine the location of the reinforcing patch for the bridle in the center of the kite face by noting where the two vertical spars cross. Make dots above and below the junction.

Remove all spars. Remove the paper backing from the 2" x 2" square white patch and position the patch over the dots so the dots are on a diagonal of the patch. Sew around the edge of the patch with a zigzag stitch.

Remember that at the top two spar pockets and the bottom two spar sleeves you will need to melt holes from both the front and back of the kite. On the face of the kite, the holes should be closer together than on the back side of the kite. You will also melt two holes in the white 2" x 2" Dacron patch at this point. Make sure that the holes are large enough to thread the bridle lines through.

Reinsert the spars into the pockets on the kite. The spreader should be placed between the kite skin and the crossed vertical spars.

Here comes the most difficult part. The American barn door kite originally had a 5-leg bridle. That is what we will use. The bridle points are shown in Figure 6. Single lines will go from 1 to 2 and 3 to 4 with the attachment to a bridle ring somewhere in the middle. A single line will go from 5 directly to the ring. Number 5 is the hardest to set correctly.

Cut two pieces of line each 117" long, one each for the lines from 1 to 2 and 3 to 4. Make pencil marks on each line 4" from each end and a more permanent mark 42" from the ends that will be placed at 1 and 3.

At hole 1, run the end of one line closest to the 42" mark through hole 1 from the front of the kite to the backside and then through the other hole back to the front of the kite. Tie a loop using a secure knot so that the mark you made 4" from the end of the line is centered on the spar at the back of the kite. A bowline works well but I prefer an overhand knot to form a loop. Run the other end of the line through the hole at 2 and tie in the same way. Repeat with the other line for holes 3 and 4.

Larkshead both lines onto the aluminum ring so the other mark you made at 42" on each line is in the center of the knot.

And now for the center bridle leg (#5). Cut a length

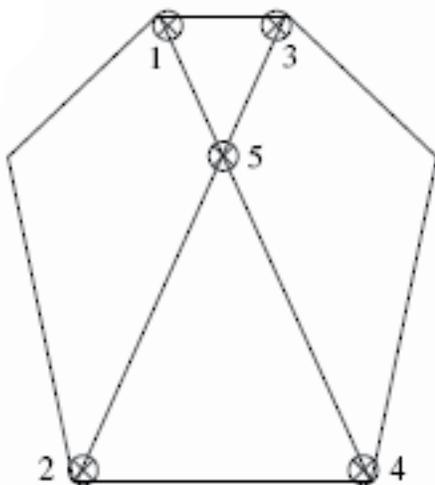


Fig. 6

of line 60" long. This will leave about 6" of line left over which we will use shortly. Make a mark 3" from one end of the line and another mark 18" from the other end.

Thread the end of the line with the 3" mark through a hole in the center reinforcing patch from the front of the kite to the back, around all three spars (but not the bow line), and through the other hole back to the front of the kite. As you did with the other lines, tie a secure knot so that the 3" mark is behind the spars. Locate the other mark you made at 18" from the other end. Tie an overhand knot 1" long so that the mark is at the end of the loop.

Make sure the spreader is bowed. Run the loose end of the line through the aluminum ring and back to the loop you just tied. Run the line through the loop, pull the aluminum ring away from the face of the kite until all five bridle lines are taut. Tie the loose end of bridle 5 to the loop in the line. I use a half hitch slip knot that will be easy to remove and readjust.

Take the 18" length of 250# Dacron line and tie an overhand knot to form a loop. Larkshead this loop to the aluminum ring. This line will be the point of attachment of your flying line to the kite.

Now add the tails. I use fringe-cut ribbon tails 3" wide and about five times the height of the kite. Make one tail for each of the bottom corners. I attach them to the kite with a snap swivel by attaching the snap to the line on the back of the kite where the bridle line goes around the spar sleeve at the bottom corners.

### Adjusting the Bridles

If all was done well in putting the kite together, the bridle legs 1-4 should be no problem. Obviously you move the ring up or down the line in 1/4" increments depending on the strength of the wind.

To set the center leg, be sure the spreader is bowed. Hold the bridle ring so legs 1-4 are fully extended. If leg 5 is either too loose or too tight, adjust by untying the knot and retying. Repeat moving the knot until all five legs are taut at the same time. If you change the amount of bow in the spreader, you will need to reset leg 5. I use a gold metallic pen to mark a reference point on my spreader and then adjust from there for wind conditions.

### Disassembly and Storage

Release the bow line so the spreader can get closer to being straight (As long as both ends of the spreader are in the spar pockets, it will have a bow).

Remove the two vertical spars. Remember the tension line will still be attached to the spar at the bottom corners of the kite.

Lay all spars parallel to the spreader, spread the tails along the spreader, and roll everything up.

Rod Beamguard of Vancouver, WA, taught this design at the 2008 Oregon Kitemakers Retreat. A more detailed version of this plan is available at [www.aka.kite.org/kiting+](http://www.aka.kite.org/kiting+). For questions, contact Rod at [kylfevr@wa-net.com](mailto:kylfevr@wa-net.com).

# Gibson Mädchen

by Frits Sauvé



Most kites nowadays have heard of the Gibson Girl kite. The name originates from the work of the American illustrator Charles Dana Gibson, who worked for different magazines from 1890 to around 1920. Gibson gave the female figures in his illustrations a strong S-curve torso. The Gibson Girl is a nickname given to the British-American emergency transmitter, used in airplanes in WWII, because of the strong S-curved midpart of the outer box of the transmitter. The S-curve in the box makes it easier to hold it between the knees while broadcasting. The emergency transmitter was put in every fighting plane and was later used in boats. However, kites do not use the name for the transmitter but for the kite that came with the radio, together with other accessories for broadcasting.

The kite was made to take up an antenna for broadcasting an emergency signal. The antenna, which also served as the flying line, was rolled out by a line winder that was ingeniously built into the radio. The Germans developed an emergency transmitter in 1930 and followed with an improved version (called the NS2) in 1941. When the British shot down an airplane in 1941 above the English Channel, the plane's equipment was studied and handed over to the Americans. Soon, the emergency transmitter set was born.

## A German Gibson Girl?

Much of the German war material was

destroyed after 1945, including most of the NS2 transmitters. Nowadays, only a few of them are in the possession of amateur radio collectors. The transmitter also had a kite to lift the antenna, and was used at windspeeds of 6 m/sec and up. For lower windspeeds, or no wind, an antenna balloon was used. The German kite is even harder to find.

## Luck and Attention

In 2005 an old kite was offered through a well-known internet auction site. The kite appeared to be very similar to the kite that came with the German NS2. A quick investigation and thorough questioning brought me to the conclusion it was indeed a German Gibson Girl kite. A group of historic kite enthusiasts pooled resources to ensure the kite would be preserved for posterity, yet still be accessible to interested members of the kiting community and the public. The team approach paid off, and the kite was secured by the group. In 2007 the "miracle" was repeated when another German WWII kite was offered and the same team was successful again.

## Simple and Ingenious

The kite is a box kite with two cells and a pair of wings. The kite has no bridle; the flying line/antenna is directly connected to a fixed point on the front corner of the upper box. The British-American version has no wings and two fixing points for different wind speeds.

The kite has a height of 99 cm. Both cells have a height of 33 cm and each side has a width of 35.5 cm. The spacing between the cells is 33 cm. Both triangular wings are the same height as the kite (99 cm) and on the lower part of the top cell the width of the wings is 24 cm. On one side of the top cell, as well as on the bag that came with the kite, sketches and an explanatory text show how the kite is assembled. The original cloth was impregnated to prevent the kite becoming too heavy in rain or if briefly dropped into the water.

All wood in the frame is beech. In each corner of each cell, a 7 mm upright is mounted in a closed sleeve. These uprights have the same length as the cells' height, so there is no upright running from cell to cell, although the sleeves run over the total height and are visible as a connection in between the cells. On the left and right side, the wings are attached to these sleeves.

All metal parts are aluminum, soldered if needed. On each of the eight upright sticks, a metal tube can slide over them. The tube is a round-bended, small metal plate that ends up in a two-layer fixing point that is connected with



*Central block in the upper cell shows the four spreaders and hinges. The horizontal wing stick is also visible.*

*NS2 transmitter with built-in winder*



Lower connecting block showing the small spring and tension screw.

a second tube. This second tube has a flattened end. Both parts are connected with a rivet in such a way they can turn like a hinge. The total hinge (rounded metal plate, rivet and flattened tube) can slide over the stick and comes out of the sleeve through a buttonhole. A nail with rounded top, driven through the stick just above the buttonhole, prevents the hinge from sliding too much to the outer edge of the cell. The hinge can easily slide into the cell, which needs to be possible when one of the 7 mm sticks is broken. The stick can be taken out through a second buttonhole that is made in each of the eight sleeve edges a few millimetres before the sleeve ends on each of the cell edges. The inner diameter of the free tube end is 7.5 mm.

In each cell, from each of the hinges, four 7 mm sticks are connected with a central connecting block. A total of eight sticks spreads out two boxes. The kite has two of these blocks, which are bent and soldered metal sheets. Each block has a rectangular hole in the center to slide through the main center stick. On each of the four corners of the central blocks, a hinged tube (similar to the ones in the cells' corners) is fixed with rivets. These tubes catch the eight sticks that run from each corner. The central stick, also made of beechwood and measuring 12 x 7.5 mm, can slide through the two rectangular holes. On one side a nail fixes the stick in the top cell, on the other side a simple spring prevents the stick from sliding back after having passed this spring. On the spring side of the lower part, an extra tension screw prevents the kite from collapsing when the spring breaks or gets loose and can give the central stick extra tension if the cloth gets too loose. Finally, a 7 mm round stick stretches both wings. The stick fits into two simple pocket holes and runs through a metal connector made of wire, fixed on the central vertical stick. The kite is now ready to fly. While this is a simple and in-



Assembly instructions.

genious construction, it's not so simple to rebuild, because the metal parts need to be made by a specialist.

### Who Built It?

The complete radioset was delivered by Friese und Höpfner Gerätebau from Potsdam Germany, who built the emergency transmitter NS2. Friese und Höpfner had subcontractors for parts of the set, so the question remains: "Who built the kite?" One cannot say for sure, but when looking at the details in the kite there is a great similarity with the Roloplan kites made by the toy company Steiff. I have in my collection a number of original Steiff kites, Roloplan and Adler, and used this material to compare the choice of material and the techniques used to built the NS2 kite. The similarity is remarkable. Does this mean Steiff has built these kites? We cannot say for 100% sure and Steiff is not really answering the question. They say that no proof of this can be found in their archives. It is acceptable to assume Steiff has built this kite and emotional reasons make it difficult to admit this. Having built military equipment in WWII in Germany is something not all Germans are proud of. I personally think it is important to prefer history over emotion. It takes time, generations even, to get there. This needs further investigation.

### How Does It Fly?

Flying an old kite of which only two are known today is a risky thing to do. Isn't the wood too dry to fly? Does the old cloth tear under wind pressure? And, more importantly, does it make sense to fly an old kite? What do I gain, besides a lot of extra heartbeats?

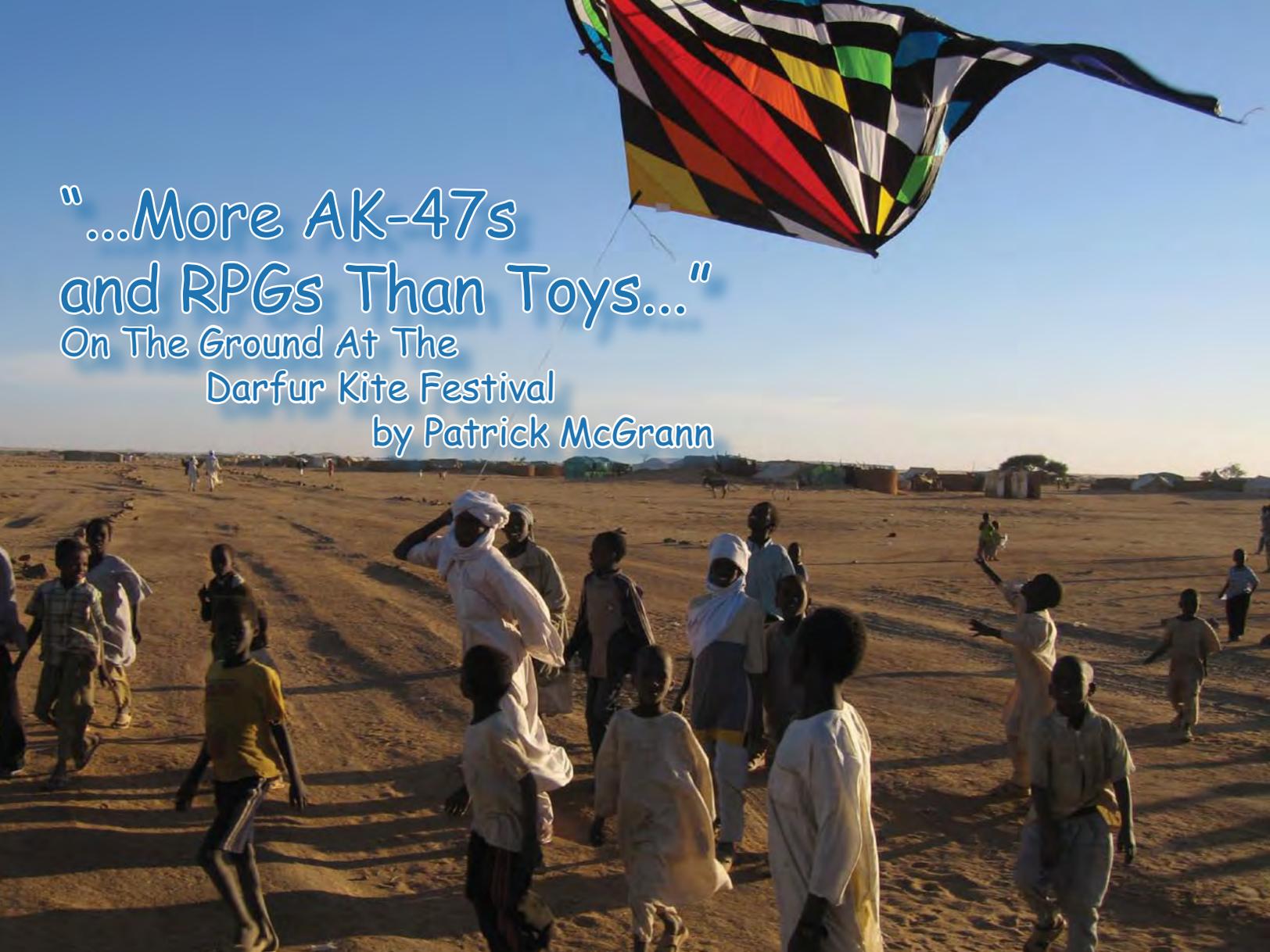
Please, never copy my behavior!

Old kites are there to be studied, looked at, enjoyed, learned from, copied and preserved for the future, but not to be flown for fun. But, weak and curious as I am, I could not resist the little voice inside of me and I decided to fly it.

The kite is a little slanted because of being stored, forgotten, in a ceiling for 50 years. The original flying line was a 1 mm twisted steel antenna wire, 65 meters long. An original antenna line winder for the NS2 was in my collection, on loan from a good kite friend, but I decided not to use this. Finally, the kite was flown on a 1 mm hemp line with a careful kite flyer on one end and a precious piece of history up in the air on the other end. As expected, it didn't fly as well as the Germans had designed it to. I made some very quick pictures then took the kite down fast to store it safely.

I do realize an article is never completed and a study neverending. I apologize for any errors or misconceptions. If you have relevant information or if you want to discuss this publication, you can contact me at any time in the Netherlands at [sauve.lief@chello.nl](mailto:sauve.lief@chello.nl).





"...More AK-47s  
and RPGs Than Toys..."  
On The Ground At The  
Darfur Kite Festival  
by Patrick McGrann

**K**itegang, a charitable kite enterprise with a year of making and giving away kites under its belt, recently decided to move beyond its original approach of focusing on orphanages and impoverished schools in Africa and try something a bit more ambitious. So with non-profit partners on the ground, such as SOS Children's Villages and the United Nations, Kitegang organized the first-ever Darfur Kite Festival, as a way for some of the 1,000,000+ children of Darfur to augment their educational and inspirational needs, as only flying a kite can provide. After all, what better for kids to do in a desert refugee camp with nothing but time and wind?

To achieve this, Kitegang collaborated with volunteers from the Minnesota Kite Society (MKS) and partners from around the world to assemble the thousands of kites necessary to make an impact. Throughout the fall, MKS helped Kitegang design a variety of sled kites that could withstand the varying wind speeds of the Sahara, while also be easily assembled by children and their parents in an unforgiving environment. The next challenge was finding a suitable material that was tough enough to stand up to almost constant abuse, and in turn reassure children who've become far too accustomed to disappointment. To answer this call, DuPont Graphics saved the day, donating enough Tyvek to manufacture in excess of 10,000 kites. And while the sheer volume

of the material was appreciated, it was the tough nature of the high density polyethylene fibers – being as light as paper and stronger than fabric – that was the real value. Yet to help balance out the sleds, as well as the skies, the project was also fortunate enough to receive further kites and art from around the globe. Schools in Ethiopia, Kenya, and the United States sent kites, while Avia, Drachen, Kites On A Roll, and World Wind Kites all donated further materials to the refugee children. In terms of art to decorate the larger kites, submissions came in from students residing in over a dozen countries around the globe, including China, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Russia, and the USA. Add to this donated video cameras, Web help, and more than a little encouragement from near and far and Kitegang was well on its way.

Now from the start, things on the ground were not particularly easy. The United Nations was helpful in flying in all of the materials to the refugee camps straddling the Chad-Sudan frontier, but the regional security situation was always dicey at best. For example, Kitegang's simple efforts to bring a small dose of hope and inspiration to the children here were interrupted by the complex interplay of rebel incursions, counter-incursions, and predictable re-incursion of rebel forces. But no matter the threat of violence, the kites were always welcomed by the communities one and



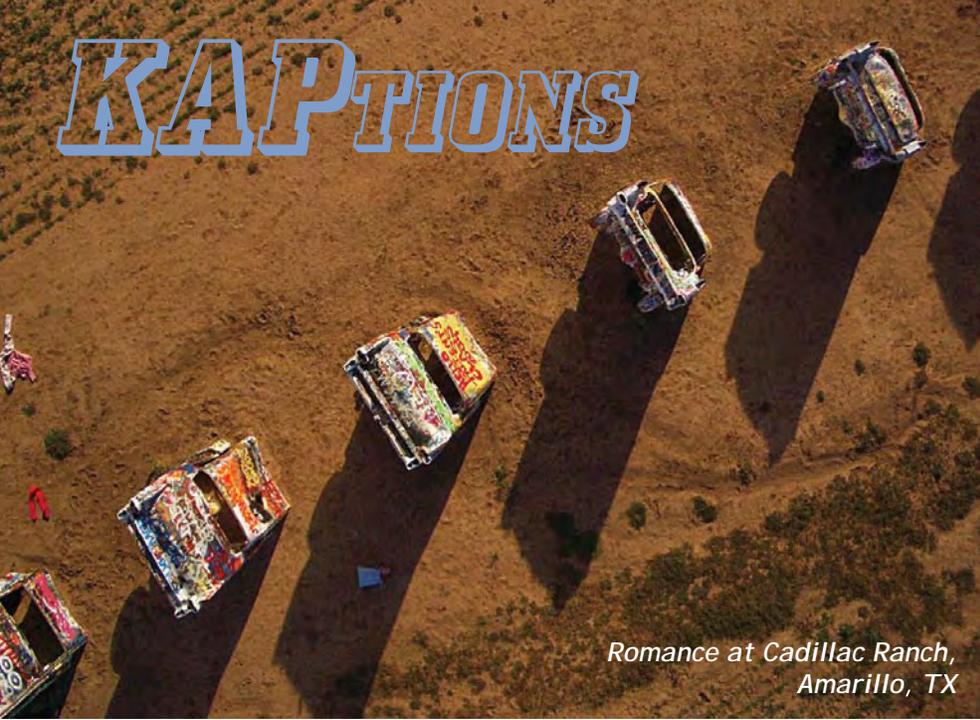
all as a disarming force of sorts. Indeed of the 17,000 children Kitegang was working with in Oure Cassoni refugee camp, surprisingly none had ever seen a kite before. (The was true for the most part with the adults as well.) Consequently, no matter what was going on throughout the region, people were always eager to stop what-

ever they were doing and join our kite projects. Be it harvesting millet stalks to use as sticks on the kites, helping the children draw patterns on the Tyvek, or simply flying a kite for the first time, refugees young and old certainly enjoyed the joy of kites as a way to begin to heal their emotional scars and help address their inspirational needs.

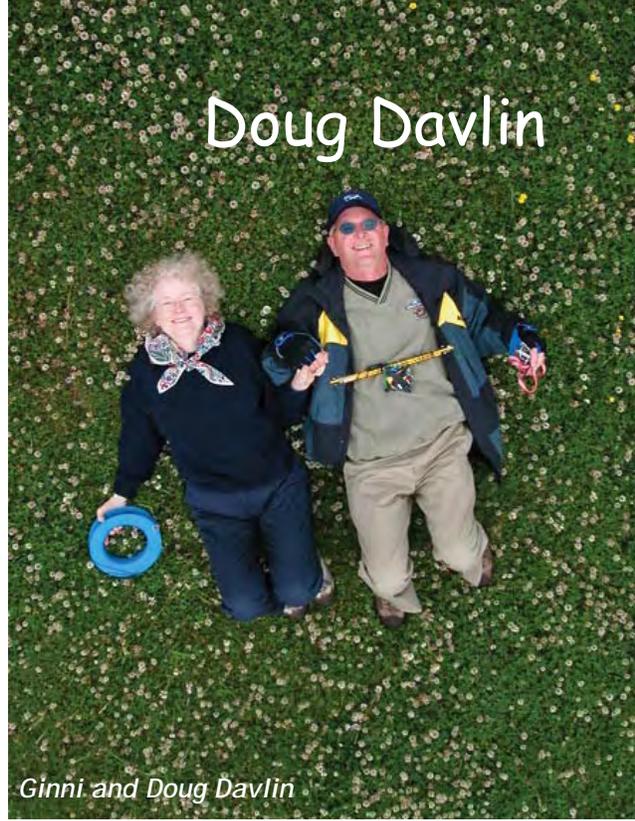
So after the fact, what does everyone in Chad and Sudan have to say about the Darfur Kite Festival? "Why aren't you doing more?" was the common refrain. It seems they understood that prior to Kitegang's arrival there were more AK-47s and RPGs than toys to influence 17,000 kids. And now as Kitegang's project winds down until next year, that ratio is clearly in favor of fun. Or to paraphrase the words of the top UN official in Chad visiting the program, "We need to not just provide food and shelter to these children, but also smiles - the future depends on it." Consequently, even with all of the unforeseen challenges, kites certainly succeeded in helping change how thousands of refugees and humanitarians alike view the horizon.



# KAPTIONS



*Romance at Cadillac Ranch,  
Amarillo, TX*



*Ginni and Doug Davlin*

Scott Haefner

Kite aerial photography is so much more than hanging a camera from a kite and taking pictures. It is a challenge to select the kite to match the wind and to fly the kite and camera rig safely. It is an adventure to travel to rare and exotic places, such as Scotland, Mexico and French Polynesia. It is an art and a craft to build a rig as light and as functional as possible. It is a delight to behold not only your own pictures but those of fellow KAPers. It is the few moments of terror as you watch your camera and kite perform a death spiral. It is frustration to see that everything is perfect, but your batteries are dead . . . even your "spare" ones! It is an honor to be among so many great and talented people, people who are willing to share their expertise, share their homes, and share their lives. It is pride to know that our peers appreciate our efforts. It is fun and it is magical when it all comes together.

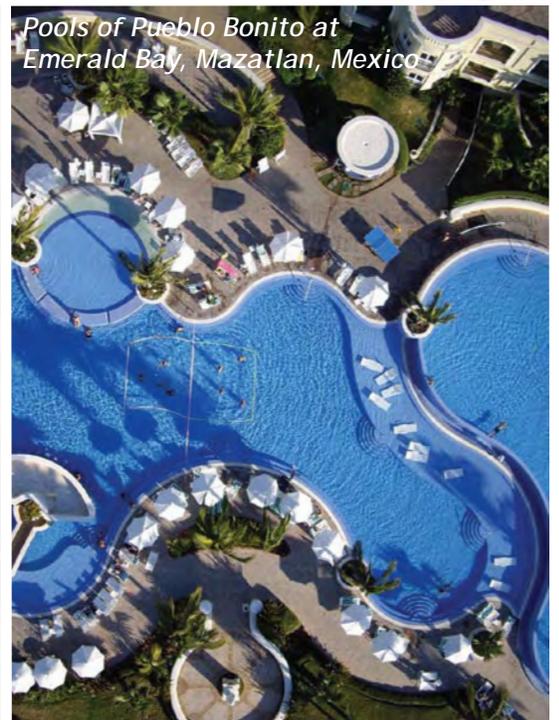
If ever there was an elixir for life, it is KAPing.



*Slain's Castle,  
Scotland*



*Waiting for the loo, Arizona*



*Pools of Pueblo Bonito at  
Emerald Bay, Mazatlan, Mexico*

# Takos In Idaho

by Micki Kawakami

It might not have seemed like kite weather on December 29. The temperature was around 20°F, snow fell occasionally and covered the ground, and streets were icy. Nonetheless, Idahoans made octopus kites at the Portneuf District Library in Chubbuck, Idaho, to fly on New Years Day above Idaho State University.

When I started building kites it was a temporary project to learn to make as many Asian kites as I could. I wanted to use traditional materials such as paper and bamboo. I wanted to make green kites, recycling whenever possible. Simple goals, yes? I did not intend to hold kitemaking workshops all over Idaho, nor hold an annual kite festival. Three years and more than 400 kites later, however, kites are a growing facet of my existence.



I've built kites with a blind man, with socially challenged teenagers and their court-appointed advocates, with five-year-olds and 75-year-olds, with cancer survivors and cancer patients, and with veterans from the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current wars. Sharing what I learn is the most fulfilling aspect of learning how to build kites. No matter how well I prepare, I always learn something new from the students or other kites. Kitemaking is one of those forgiving arts — sometimes the errors turn out to be assets or new ways of doing things.

My most recent workshop was purely selfish: I wanted to build a Japanese kite from which the Japanese word for kite stemmed. I wanted to build a tako.

And, I wanted to enact the Japanese custom of flying kites for good fortune on New Years Day. Stuck in my memory is a painting of hundreds lining a beach in Japan flying kites on New Years Day, bundled up against the cold, faces uplifted. It doesn't get any better than that. I figure we have two opportunities to fly, once on January 1 and again on Chinese New Year.

The Library has hosted many kitemaking workshops over the past three years. We've made the classic delta, a Malay, a Philippine saranggola for Chubbuck's sister city Corella Bohol in the Philippines, patriotic kites for the Veterans of Foreign Wars memorial fly, and Tom Tinney's miniature kimonono kite. With grants from the Idaho Commission on the Arts and from the Pocatello/Chubbuck Convention and Visitors Bureau, and with volunteers from The Sky's The Limit!, the workshops and the resulting kites have been free of charge.

Included among this workshop group were the ISU student body president, the ISU Junior Civitan Club president, a teacher's aide from nearby American Falls, a young couple who travel throughout the US and fly kites, and a library intern. An AARP volunteer, Gene Wiggers, videotaped the event for the local online newspaper, and posted an interview about current and upcoming Idaho State Kite Festival events for 2008 at [www.journalnet.com](http://www.journalnet.com) (local videos: kites with Micki).

We made these octopus kites from a bright blue RUFFIES RE-CYCLE 30 gallon trash bag, and used bamboo blinds for spars. Some followed through with an octopus design, while others transformed their kites into aliens, op art, or Happy New Year signs in English and Japanese calligraphy. Assembly of the basic tako took about an hour in a group setting. This is a very forgiving kite which flies easily in light wind, and even those with broken spars (wind pockets and gusts are part of Idaho winds,



and kites fall out of the sky as though shot, which is hard on delicate bamboo) could be put up again.

We inadvertently had a taste of winter kiting at the First Annual Idaho State Kite Festival last October, when it snowed in Pocatello — on October 6 no less. A few hardy souls joined the sledgers on the hill and flew kites. Tom Tinney, our guest miniature kite instructor from Coeur d'Alene, assured us that if we let out six feet of line we could claim to have flown at ISKF 2007! With the gusts we had to work with, it was a challenge.

Ever since, I've been hunting for a better flying field in Pocatello, closer to the sky and farther from buildings and obstructions. After testing many parks in the Pocatello-Chubbuck area, we ended up on New Year's Day back at ISU Bartz Field, the site of the first annual ISKF — again with sledgers! The sunshine was brilliant and the temperatures climbed valiantly from 3° to 20°. For a couple hours we had that magical line of kites intent on flying, faces upturned — but I was so jacked about DOING it I forgot to photograph it! My mental pictures are great though, and we'll be out again on Chinese New Year, February 7!







have, which ones would be nice to have, and which ones you will never use. At a minimum the machine has to be able to sew a straight stitch. For decorative techniques, you may want a zigzag machine. I challenge you to finish a kite in the testing process. For long service life, look for machines with a metal frame and gears.

If you get a used machine, I recommend that you get it serviced before you try to sew with it. If a machine has been stored for any length of time, the lubricants can gum up and make the machine unusable. As most service centers adjust sewing machines to sew cotton fabrics and threads, I recommend that you give the technician your thread, needles, and fabric for use in adjusting the machine. Then be sure to test the machine yourself, using your thread, needles and fabric BEFORE you take it home. The technician can then quickly adjust your machine if there are any errors. Whether you buy new or used, read the owner's manual. This alleviates most problems.



If you will be using the machine on other fabrics, you may find yourself adjusting the bottom thread tension often. To save time and frustration factor, you may consider buying a second bobbin case. Set one for kite sewing and the second for other sewing. Make sure the cases are marked in some way. Bernina makes a black latch case while the standard bobbin cases have a silver latch, making it easy to tell them apart.

Selecting a sewing machine does not have to be a scary process. Just keep in mind the type of sewing you will be doing, the features you desire, and service available in your area. You will be sewing award-winning kites in no time.

*Harold "Kitesquid" Ames is an award-winning kitemaker, and a prolific poster on the Kite-builder's Forum.*



## Sticks For All Seasons

by Jon Trennepohl

Have you ever wondered what those sticks are made of that are in your kite? Here are the most commonly used: wood, bamboo, fiberglass, pultruded carbon or wrapped carbon.

Wood is commonly used in kites in the form of dowels of different diameters. They work well in small and miniature kites but the down side is they can warp due to moisture. The quality of the wood dictates the durability.

Bamboo — which is considered a woody grass — is used in kitemaking around the world. Most of the time it is split into flat strips and cut to length to use as a framing material. It is very strong and has its own unique flex.

Moving on to man-made spars, if it has a hole in the center it is called a tube and if it is solid it is a rod. Fiberglass rods typically are heavier and very flexible. The smaller diameter rods are used a lot for battens and applications where curves are used. The fiberglass tube is stiffer and comes in varying diameters and wall thicknesses. It usually is joined together with external ferrules and will

take a lot of wind and abuse before breaking.

Pultruded carbon rods and tubes are used more and more often in kitemaking. It is more expensive but gives the kites larger wind ranges due to less weight and more stiffness.

The solid carbon we use today is called micro carbon. It can run in size anywhere from .020" to .125". These smaller sizes are used for battens, standoffs and the building of many unusual shaped kites that need light and stiff framing applications. The larger diameter carbon rods are used for internal ferrules and very stiff framing needs.

Pultruded carbon tubes are a lot like the fiberglass tubes in that they come in a wide variety of diameters. The big difference between carbon and fiberglass tube characteristics is the carbon tubes will be much stiffer and lighter than a fiberglass tube of the same diameter. Micro carbon rods and tubes always use external ferrules to join. It is definitely not always easy to tell the difference between carbon and fiberglass. Usually, if you look at the end of the tube, a fiberglass tube or rod will have a whiter or light grey cast to it. Fiberglass also feels and looks more grainy.

Finally, we move on to wrapped carbon tubes. These can be either straight or tapered. They are the most expen-



sive to make and are handmade on mandrels. The weight and stiffness are determined by the amount of wraps. For example, a 5pt is a five ply tapered tube. A wrapped tube that is only a 2 ply tapered would be very light and stiff but not as durable. It would be meant for very light wind flying as opposed to the 5pt that would be much more durable and stiff creating a much broader wind range. These are the lightest tubes versus stiffness. You will often find them in high end sport and single line kites. The weight and stiffness adds to the overall performance of a kite. These tubes are joined with internal ferrules.

The type of framing material used by the manufacturer in producing kites is affected by cost factors and performance. In many instances you can change the flight characteristics and wind range by upgrading or changing the framing materials.

*Jon Trennepohl owns Sky Shark Tubes and Sky Burner Kites.*



Your equipment: Kites, line, line winders, anchoring devices, the KAP controlling gear, and cameras. Keep it all in good condition.

Your kiteflying skills: The most important part of KAP is the kite and your skills as a kiteflier. Before lifting your camera be sure that you are able to control the kite and can recover from any periods of instability that all kites can encounter.

excitement and distractions it is easy to forget to turn the camera on or to tighten one of the fasteners locking the rig to the line. Develop good KAP habits, establish a mental checklist that you follow each time you lift your camera.

Your decision-making skills: Having KAP remain a good and fun experience comes down in large part to selecting the right kite and line for the wind and site conditions. When you are lifting a payload with your kite you multiply greatly the chances of a bad outcome to any unexpected failure in your judgment or the equipment.

Start slowly. Find an open area away from people and other kites for your first few tries. Take your time, working and thinking carefully as you assemble your kite and connect your camera and rig to the kite line. With all the

*Craig Wilson is a much-published kite aerial photographer and the author of Hanging By A Thread.*

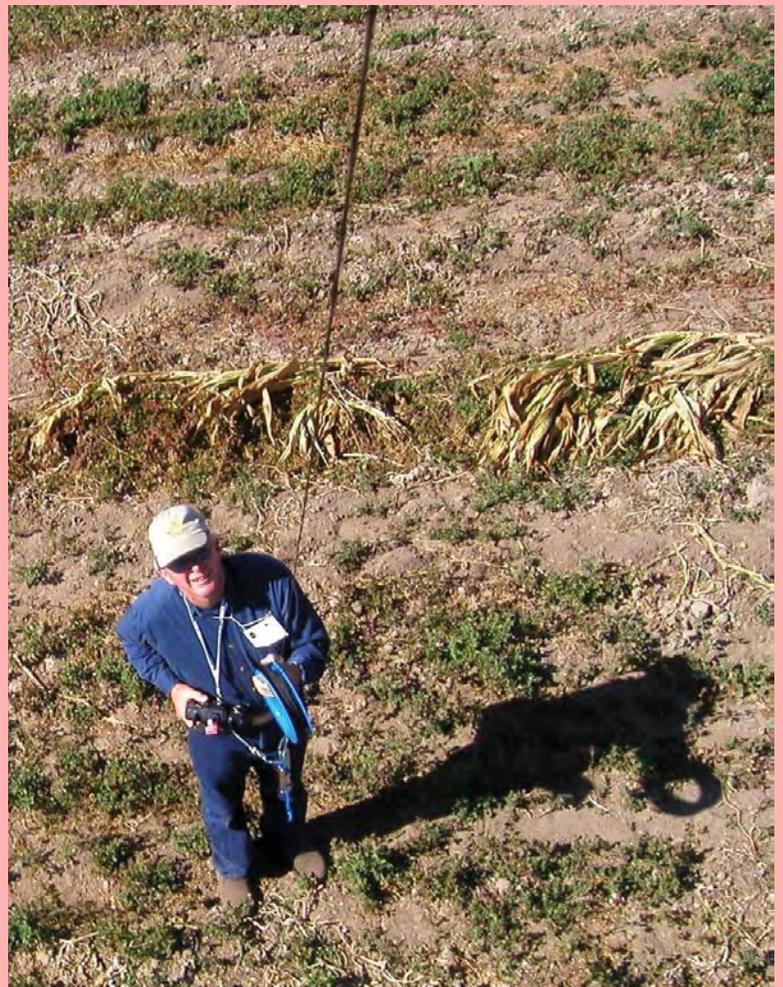
## Primed For KAP

by Craig Wilson

As with nearly every sport or activity it's a good idea to study up a bit before you give it a try. Finding out something about the equipment and techniques that others are using before you begin may not only save you a lot of time and frustration but perhaps might even save you from having to replace damaged equipment. If you are interested in giving kite aerial photography (KAP) a try, then the places to see results others are getting, ask questions about equipment and techniques, and to cultivate some new friendships are two very important KAP related internet sites. The first, [www.flickr.com/groups/kiteaerialphotography/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/kiteaerialphotography/) is the meeting place of more than 620 members sharing photos and stories, and a great place to start. The other important site is a discussion forum where technical aspects of KAP and equipment are shared and questions answered, <http://arch.ced.berkeley.edu/kap2/php/wind/discuss/>

Moving from talking about it to actually doing it can be an exciting but often nerve racking and intimidating step.

KAP can be broken down to three components:



Doug Davlin



# Your First Kite Ballet

by Ron Graziano

So you've decided to give ballet competition a try. Good for you! There's no better way in kiting to have fun, challenge yourself, and meet a great group of people. You'll find that preparation goes a long way toward giving you a leg up, so here's a quick overview of how to make your first ballet experience a good one.

### Music

Music selection is the most important and (for me) the most difficult part of the process. Music we enjoy listening to isn't always the best choice for kite ballet. What you should look for is music that has a great deal of variety — slow parts, fast parts, soft and loud parts. We refer to these as opportunities in the music, i.e. opportunities to do something interesting in your routine. Pieces that musically take the listener on a journey lend themselves well to ballet — they draw the spectators in, give them a few thrills, and end memorably. This is why so many experienced competitors gravitate toward movie scores or classical music for ballet.

### Choreography

Now that you have a good piece of music, you need to build a kite routine around it. For your first routine, keep it simple. Listen to the music (a lot), make note of where the various opportunities are, and make those your landmarks in the music. Plan to do something interesting with your kite at those points. Between those points, make the flying fit the music — clean, round figures for soft parts; corners on hard beats; and maybe some stalls and landings at stopping points in the music. If you know any tricks, include them only if you're dead certain you can hit them well 99% of the time, and they really fit the music. Also, don't get tunnel vision and do all your flying directly downwind — using the whole sky is important. Write down your routine in some form to help you remember it; I like to use graph paper and draw out the routine in 10- to 30-second blocks.



John Chilrese

### Practice and Preparation

Grab the boom box or your iPod, get out there, and fly your routine a lot. Try it in as many different wind conditions as you can, and adjust it if some things that looked good on paper don't work in the air. Have contingency plans for light and howling winds — remember, the wind is rarely perfect in competition. In my experience, the better you know your routine and your music, the better prepared you'll be to handle the inevitable curves that the wind and weather throw at you on the competition field.

Most of all, remember to have fun!

*Ron Graziano is a multiple-time Masters Ballet and Precision champion in both the Eastern League and AKA.*



# Combat Fundamentals

by David Gomberg

Western style Rokkaku "battles" are usually organized for either individuals or teams. The size of the kites is specified within certain ranges; only certain types of flying line are allowed; and flying is limited to a designated area for safety.

The object is to ground other kites using your line, your kite, or the wind. Once your kite is cut or touches the

ground for any reason, you are out. There are three basic techniques for grounding an opponent's kite. The most effective strategy may combine all three tactics.

**Cutting:** Any experienced kite flier knows that flying lines can easily slice through each other given the proper circumstances. In a Rok battle, it's your job to create those circumstances. When two lines come in contact, the one moving the fastest will cut, melt, or burn the other. The

object is to concentrate the friction in one particular point on an opposing line. Often you will see teams methodically pumping in an effort to saw through an opponent's line.

**Tipping:** Another effective battle technique involves contacting an opposing kite with your flying line. By catching one of the kite's corners and then quickly moving position, you are often able to tip or up-end an opponent. If they are close to the ground, in poor field position, or just not



John Chilcote

– or lack of it – to ground an opponent. Battles are not always fought under ideal circumstances. If the wind is light, simply staying airborne may be enough to win as everyone else backs up to the field boundaries in an effort to generate lift. They will run out of space and come down. If you're smart, you won't.

**Battle Strategy:** Positioning is everything. That includes positioning to take full advantage of strong or light winds, positioning to attack or retreat, and positioning to avoid major tangles. Before you launch at the beginning of the battle, give some thought to the wind conditions.

If winds are light, stay as far downwind as possible so you have room to back-up and gain altitude. Use a long line to get as much height during the launch as possible and be able

to reel-in later to maintain altitude. If winds are heavy, position yourself upwind so you have room to move forward and drop into the fight. Use a shorter line so you can reel-out to make contact.

Try to avoid multi-kite engagements that increase your risk of getting tangled or boxed in. Your chances of cutting or fighting your way out of that kind of a mess are rare. What's more likely is that someone will wrap a line around your bridles and you will all go down together.

Don't hang back in a corner waiting for someone else to clear the skies, either. You don't win battles or the respect of your opponents by running away. Look for opportunities and then attack! Besides, many contests will eventually disqualify contestants who continue to avoid combat.

Finally, don't let an opponent's line contact your kite. Maintain the initiative. The best position to be in is to be on the attack, not on the defensive.

*David Gomberg won the AKA individual rokkaku championship in 2001 and 2006, and the team battle in 2002.*

particularly good at recovering, this may put them out of the fight. Tipping is the easiest and safest way to ground someone.

**Using Wind:** A more sophisticated technique involves using the wind



## Overseas Adventures

by Linda Sanders

A kite festival overseas? Exciting, or scary?

**CHECK LIST** – track everything.

**ASK** the organisers if you might participate. What kites you'll bring, who's travelling.

**DATES** – when exactly? When to arrive and depart? (In case you'll be sharing ground transport with other internationals.)

**ACCOMMODATION?** – sometimes included.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS** - how to get from airport to accommodation, organisers often help.

**RESEARCH DESTINATION** – library or internet, learn indigenous cultures, what's acceptable behaviour and clothing.

When in Rome....?

**PASSPORT** – must have. Apply weeks in advance. Store safely, tell someone else where.

**VISA** – some destinations need it stamped in your Passport. Allows you IN and OUT of some countries. Answer questions thoroughly, clearly, seriously. Can't board aircraft with wrong paperwork.

**TRAVEL AGENT** – find one you trust. Ask questions.

**COPIES** – make two photocopies of Passport, Visa stamp, air ticket, destination contact info, travel insurance, credit

card. Store copies in different places - inside suitcase, inside carry-on luggage. Carry spare passport photos. **FOREIGN CURRENCY** – can buy cash from your bank (cheaper), carry back-up credit card. Travellers Cheques useless on kite field. Exchange unspent money at airport on departure.

**LUGGAGE** – sturdy. Airport baggage handlers often rough. Name tags on everything – even your spouse! How many pieces allowed, how big/heavy? Airlines vary. Distinctive markings like coloured ribbons or unique name tags make your bags easier to see.

**CELL PHONE** – will yours work outside your home country?

**PACKING** – start well in advance. Pack for destination's weather. Weigh suitcase, then take out half. Won't need it. Destination will have shops.

**CARRY ON** luggage – Less is best. A book, reading glasses, distance glasses, sunglasses, candy, toothbrush, comb, iPod, meds, pen (the crossword!), neck/back cushions, all travel documents, accommodation address, cash for airport coffee lounges (most accept US\$, giving local money change), spare clothes for landing, NO liquids more than small amounts.

**DEPARTURE** – Aeroplanes won't wait - arrive early for check-in. Travel Agent can help.

**SECURITY** – knives, scissors, sharps NOT allowed in carry-

on, okay in suitcase. Wear slip on shoes. Keep separate any metal items (belts, phones, keys) for checking.

**IMMIGRATION** – fill in paperwork when waiting to leave airport NOT when plane lands.

**DURING FLIGHT** – adjust watch to destination time. Live to that clock, now. Sleep when cabin lights dim, don't disturb others.

Avoid too much alcohol, drink plenty of water, stretch limbs, visit bathroom for exercise, quiet talking, no shouting, enjoy movies or music. Air stewards aren't slaves! Be kind.

**LANDED?** Empty seat pocket and overhead bin, follow others, queue for Immigration. Answer questions honestly.

**CUSTOMS** – collect all bags from carousel (are they yours?), queue for Customs. Do not leave luggage unattended ever. Answer questions honestly.

**LOST BAGS?** Report calmly to lost luggage counter, then hope.

**ARRIVALS HALL** – many strange faces. Look for YOUR name if someone's meeting you. If unsure, Enquiries counter can help.

**ABOVE ALL?** – stay calm, act rationally, smile, speak in friendly tones, remember manners. You're an ambassador for your country.



*From her South Australia home, world traveler Linda Sanders will journey more than 11,000 miles to get to the AKA Convention in Gettysburg.*



## Kite Terrestrial Photography

by John Chilese

For taking pictures of kites, a digital camera needs at least a 3X optical zoom (digital zoom is worthless) and it should cost at least \$300. By doing this, you will automatically get a pretty good camera.

For most of us, a 6 megapixel camera is plenty. Just realize what is important to you. If you shoot far away subjects, you might want a larger zoom lens (6X, 8X). Ask questions, read reviews on the Internet, try out a friend's camera. And when you decide which camera to buy, also buy two sets of spare batteries and a larger memory card. The one the manufacturers give you with the camera is way too small to be practical. So go out and get ready to spend about \$400 for

digital "stuff". Then we can take some pictures.

I am going to keep this very simple and present you with a list of what I do to capture a kite picture:

- Shoot late in the afternoon (last two hours of sunlight)
- Have the kite backlit (kite is between the sun and you)
- Have the pilot stall the kite 5 to 20 feet off the ground or simply fly at the wind window's edge
- Take picture with the kite up close (fill the screen) and pilot in the distance
- Have the kite crossing the horizon line of the background
- Avoid "busy" backgrounds like trees and buildings, other kites are fine
- Shoot up at the kite
- Take lots of pictures.

There are other "guidelines" but those should get you started. The biggest problem with less expensive digital cameras is "shutter lag." This problem is handled by having the kite stalled and pre-setting the camera by pushing the shutter button halfway down to lock the focus and charge up the CCD (which captures the image). This way when you push the button, the lag time of the camera will be less than ¼ second and the kite is holding its position in the stall.

As you practice and start seeing your results, you can vary what you do to get your desired effect. For me, I want the kite

to fill the screen and be the center of focus. If the pilot is in the shot, that is a bonus. The main thing for me is that the kite looks like it's flying. It's in the air. It's above the viewer and that is how we usually see a kite when we are flying. Don't shoot the kite below you and on the ground. It trivializes the kite.

When you have downloaded your pictures, you will see that at least half of them are garbage. Throw them in the trash. If they are all bad, go out and shoot some more. You will then be ready to present the photo in its best light. Every photo I take goes through what is called Post-Processing, using Adobe PhotoShop or Elements software. I will crop the photo down to the composition I like, edit the photo using Level or Color Adjust to expand the black/white levels and possibly use a Sharpening Filter to make the photo snap into clarity. Sometimes I will rotate the photo to make the horizon line horizontal. Beyond that, one can add or subtract subject matter by overlaying multiple images.

Kite photography is still photography. Digital cameras are just another tool to be used by any craftsman. You'll only be as good as you wish.

*John Chilese's photos have been published in numerous magazines and catalogs. See more of his work at <http://community.webshots.com/user/chilesej>. A longer version of this article appeared in the December 2003 issue of [kitelife.com](http://www.kitelife.com).*



John Chilese

Kite Unlimited began serving the kiting public in 1985 and decided to thank their customers with an annual gathering in 1988. This event has proven to be a customer favorite for gathering together to fly and enjoy others flying all types of kites. The weather is mild and the crowds are gone and this makes the event a kite flyers dream.



The site is a barrier island on the North Carolina coast and there isn't a better site in the world. Kite celebrities are usually in attendance to add spice and share knowledge. The sponsorship by Kites Unlimited has eliminated the need to vend on the beach and this also makes the event a pure kite-flying weekend. The event is tailored to fun for all. Kid's kite making and flying; special flies; lots of mass associations; no competitions; center stage for anyone with skill or courage; all are welcome to come and have fun.

Special thanks to Randy Tom and Ray Wong for conducting a sewing seminar on Friday where a dozen sewers made complex hats in a fish design intended to expose them to all the opportunities to be found in appliqué technique. The attendees affectionately called the all-day session "The Sweat Shop." A special mass ascension was held on Sunday where six of the 12 kites were flown. Great job everybody!

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Carolina Kite Fest was held on October 27-28 at the Sheraton Resort in Atlantic Beach. The event was very successful even with badly needed rain on Saturday morning. As the rain cleared the flyers came out to join the hardy Ben Danto-

nio of Revolution who had defied the elements and flew in the rain. The fun flying started and all scheduled events were put on hold. Al Sparling got the Octopus up with very wet tails due to the small beach and unfavorable wind direction. We still loved it. Frank Morril of Go Fly A Kite flew the Randy Tom- Sponge Bob- Giant kite beside the Octopus in the air and the ocean. The Bay Area Sundowners flew a nice routine and everyone got some center stage time.

Saturday night the awesome night fly was dry and windless. Doug L'Hommedieu of Charlotte outdid us all with a cube with lively lights inside. Frank Nosal's Big Black made a great ground display. Most of the rest of us just looked cute with our kite lights on our bodies.

Sunday was wonderful. The sky was blue with an assortment of clouds to enhance viewing and picture-taking enjoyment. The offshore wind was mostly adequate and sometimes bumpy. Mass ascensions were held for nine different types of single line kites plus quad lines. The Sky Skimmers by Jeri Dixon set a new record of 16-19 kites flown (depending on who was counting). Six of the workshop fish hats flew with one wearing a custom eye patch. Al Sparling flew the Octopus and the Big Grey Cat with assistance from Bob Snow and his Triangulation pilot.

To celebrate the 20 years of the festival a call was made to fly vintage kites and many came forward. We saw Peter Powells, Trlbys, Hawaiian Team and North Shore Radicals, lots of White Cloud Dragons, Kites of the Four Winds feather deltas, Go Fly a Kite Octopus from the early 1980's, Neptune Fish from Joel Scholtz, a Pumpkin Skywave from Shanti, Hyperkites from Randy Tom, custom kites from Rick Tuttle, plus many more.

Unfortunately we lost a vintage 16' Jerry Sinotte Big Black Delta in a line crossing accident. "Big Black" was watched by all as it sailed over the horizon with tails, flag and windsock line laundry proudly displayed. Thanks to Frank and family this kite had been flown at 19 of our 20 festivals.

The Bay Area Sundowners flew several routines to the delight of the crowd. With the exception of the candy drops nothing is as popular as the Sundowners. Beginning and advanced quad-line lessons were held by Revolution's Ben Dantonio while dual-line lessons were led by Frank of Go Fly a Kite.

Thanks to all who attended and participated in this event. The volunteers make the event possible. Special thanks to Ross King for 20 years of wonderful assistance and invaluable help and counsel. The new location at the Sheraton worked well and thanks to the management and staff. See you next year on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October at the Sheraton.



# Big Savings At The Pump

The world's first commercial ship powered in part by a giant kite is recording fuel savings of between 10 and 15 percent midway into its maiden voyage across the Atlantic.

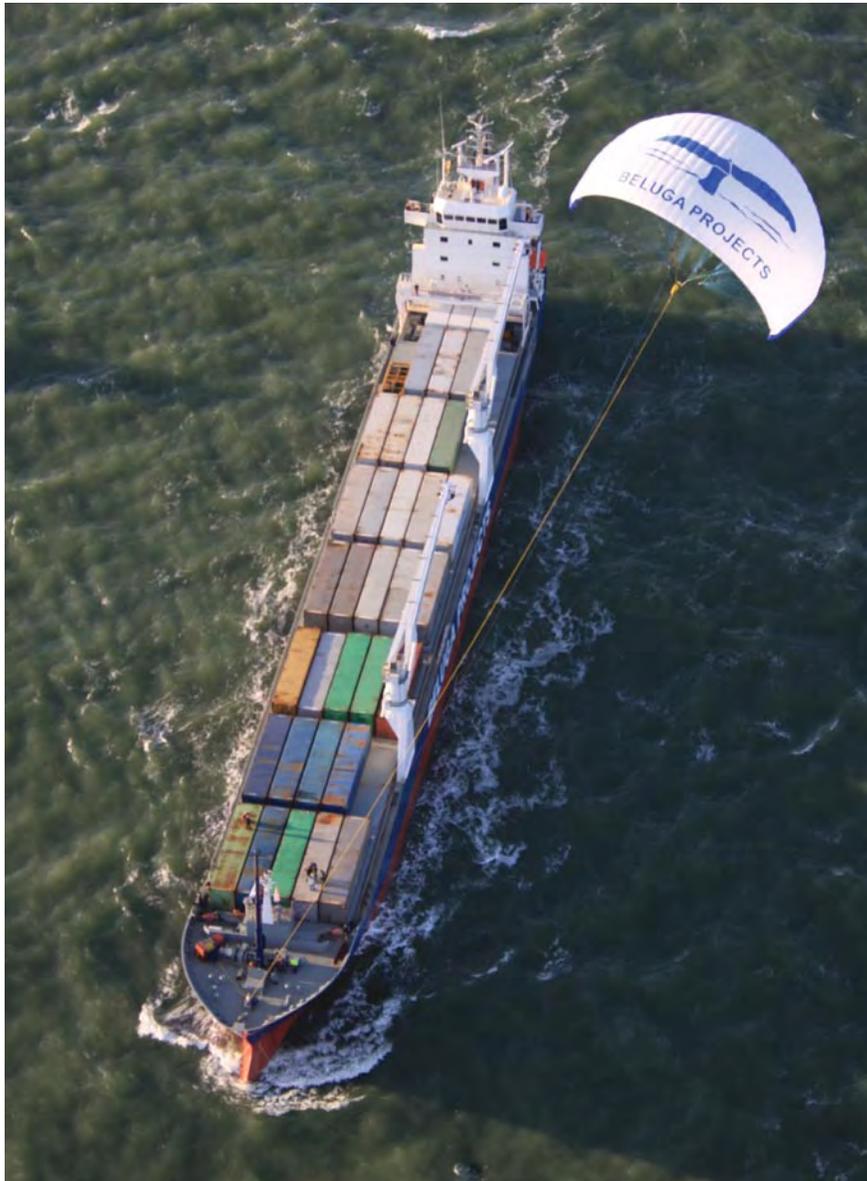
The 10,000-tonne 'MS Beluga SkySails' left Germany on January 22 for Venezuela and its computer-guided kite system was only fully deployed after it reached the trade winds near the Azores, said Verena Frank, Beluga Shipping's SkySails project manager.

The 10 to 15 percent reduction in bunker fuel consumption, which amounts to \$1,000 to \$1,500 per day savings, is in line with projections made by the shipping company and SkySails.

The SkySail system, which is also designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions, had never before been used on a ship as large. "Everything has worked out as we had planned," said Frank. "There's still a lot of testing, adjusting and experimenting taking place. The aim is to have the kite operational for about 50 percent of the entire first journey."

Once the bugs have been ironed out and the crew's expertise with the 500,000-euro (\$745,000) high-tech system improves, fuel savings are projected to be up to 20 percent. The 160-square meter kite, which flies up to 300 meters above the surface to catch more powerful winds, tugs the 132-meter long ship forward and assists the engines.

The world's 50,000 merchant ships, which carry 90 percent of traded goods from oil, gas, coal, and grains to electronic goods, emit 800 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. That's about five percent of the world's total.



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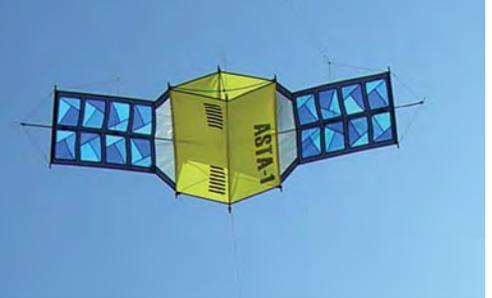
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toll free: 1-888-318-3600

# Windless Kite Festival

Long Beach, WA

January 18-20

photos by Ron Miller, Jerry Cannon, and Rachel Day



Paul deBakker



Lam Hoac



After Corey Jensen, Jerry Cannon might be the best-dressed man in the AKA.

Penny Lingenfelter helps out Eli Patterson.



Wayne Turner



Jeff Reed

Fashion's anti-Cannon, Scott Davis



Penny Lingenfelter flying blind.



Jennifer Brown



Leaping Lam Hoac

# KTAI Turns Twenty by David Gomberg



100 exhibitors. Larger players like Premier, Spectra Sports, New Tech, and Mile High emerged. What's Up imported kites from designers in Europe and Asia. Larger off-shore manufacturers exhibited

The Kite Trade Association has just completed their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

Twenty years. It is remarkable to look back on where they started and where they have come to. In the early years, a small group of builders, entrepreneurs, and dreamers began to meet during the AKA convention. They had a notion that they might be more than

a few sellers of kites, but an actual industry.

The Association was formed in 1983 and held their first independent convention at San Diego in 1988. Go Fly and Top of the Line were

dominant merchandisers. A number of independent designers like Joel Sholz, Kathy Goodwind, and Reza Ragheb offered their wares. Flexifoil, Action Kites, and Hyperkites were on site. The Gombergs promoted a new book on dual-line flying. And a new company with an odd four-line kite bought a booth and introduced the name Revolution.

Over the next dozen years, the KTA grew and the show offered more than

and a good number of overseas retailers attended. KTA became KTAI — Kite Trade Association International. At one time, we had five magazines vying for advertising and circulation.

Those were the “boom” years we all remember fondly. Since then, the trade has seen some re-trenchment. Many independent designers began to work with larger manufacturers. Kite stores in tourist destinations diversified into toys and apparel. Smaller shops struggled. Kite surfing centered in surf shops rather than kite stores.

The Internet spawned a new retail sector which often focused on price and drew advanced fliers away from local vendors. Some wondered aloud about the health of the industry and the future of the Association.

KTAI today is smaller and tougher than ten years ago. Twenty-five exhibitors offered products to about 50 buying firms at the convention in Portland, OR. The good news is that's a 10-15% increase over 2007. Those that survived the “boom” are smarter, better business people, and provide products, service, and support much superior to what was seen before. The show



HQ Tim Baxmeyer takes an order.

focused as much on networking and education as on buying and selling.

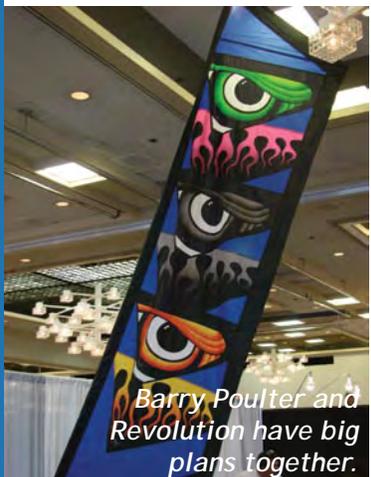
For over 10 years, KTAI has provided a free booth to AKA in order to promote cooperation and interaction between merchants and more serious fliers.

Major awards for Best Retailer went to Unique Flying Objects in Wisconsin. Best Manufacturer was Premier. Best Promotion was Team iQuad. And the Checkley Lifetime Achievement Award went to George Emmons of Into the Wind.

Next January, KTAI heads to Florida and will make some serious choices of whether to stand alone or try to merge with a larger trade show. The kite industry

continues to evolve. The options are provocative and the results interesting for those that buy kites rather than sell them.

Check out the KTAI at [www.Kite-Trade.org](http://www.Kite-Trade.org).



Barry Poulter and Revolution have big plans together.



Mark Reed of Prism gets in some stilt time.



Mel Hickman holds down the AKA booth.

# REGIONAL REPORTS



**Region 1 ~ New England**  
CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY  
**Greg Lamoureux**  
293 Nantasket Avenue  
Hull, MA 02045  
781/925-3277  
[region1@aka.kite.org](mailto:region1@aka.kite.org)  
End of term: 2010

As I write this report the snow is falling and I am so looking forward to spring. Region One had some great holiday parties: Jackie and I attended KONE's party held in November at Wollaston Beach where we got to fly kites and eat great food, then to the Connecticuters party in early December for great food again, a grab bag that was fun and a viewing of some awesome slides of events old and new. As we enter 2008 please post all your events on the AKA events calendar, [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org). This is a great way to promote your event, and have a central location for all of Region One event information.

Several New Year's Day flies had to be postponed here in New England due to the weather, but there was a fly in Nahant the following Saturday. Tony Heesch and Petra in Maine moved

their event and pot luck to the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. The folks in upstate New York celebrated the first day of 2008 as noted by Thom Shanken, "It's a quiet day here at Shanken central, but we did take advantage of an early morning wind to head out into the mud and snow and loft our first kite of the year (Ashton's 'Jolly Roger' diamond, aaargh!)." The Kites in CNY Skies held their annual winter Tug Hill NY Snowkite Basecamp Tour event. And from the Ocean State, we heard from Dick and Jackie Maciel: "Dick and I were out at Colt Park in Bristol, RI, on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. When we got there the wind was sweet, 7-9 mph from the west over the water. The temps were in the upper 40's!!! Flew some Christmas presents, some kites Dick finished building and my stunt kite, until the wind died about 2PM. So we put away the kites, brought out the binoculars and bird book and went looking for the wintering ducks that visit."

Clubs have been busy with workshops. The New York Kite Enthusiasts held a Cliff Quinn Modern Marconi Workshop on January 5-6, and the ConnecticutKITERS workshop is tentatively March 2, building a Catherine's Wheel.

Tony Heesch is working with the program manager of the Girl Scouts to create a kite day in May. Thom Shanken in New York is working with "Kites Over Fort Ontario." Mark your calendars for May 31<sup>st</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup> for events at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Thom said "THESE DATES ARE NOW SET IN STONE (albeit soft stone, but stone nonetheless)." Jeremy Johannesen of the New York Kite Enthusiasts has scheduled the Sullivan County Kite Festival May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gary Quinton from Kites Over New England has scheduled the Seafood Megafly for Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>. Gary Engvall has scheduled the Hammonasset Kite Festival May 17-18. And the Boston Area Sport Kite Show (BASKS) is scheduled for June 7-8. The Great Lakes Kitefliers Society will open their events in April with the Annual Kite Auction. Their next event "Paint the Sky" is in May. Check the AKA website or with your local kite club for details.

In the world of sport kite competition, the Eastern League ([www.easternleague.net](http://www.easternleague.net)) has voted Shawn Tinkham and Doug Charleville as the 2008 flier representatives. Congratulations to both!

April is National Kite Month. Let's see if we can re-gain our standing as the most active region with scheduled events. Ask your children's school to host a kite day, send a proclamation to your town's mayor, ask the governors of our regional states to declare "April is National Kite Month."

The Treasure Island Kite Festival and SASKC were held January 19-20. Region One was well represented for SASKC by Jackie and Dick Maciel, Ron Graziano, Shawn Tinkham and Patty Tinkham, Stephanie Hebert, Art and Beth St. Pierre, Doug Coates, and Dennis Smith. Check the Eastern League web site for results. The iQuad team held a Mega Fly for quad-line kites. The new record for Revolution Quad line flown and performing is 29, yes twenty-nine. *[Ed. note: that number is disputed in the Region Thirteen report.]*

For us folks who are the Baby Boomer Generation, there was a great article in the January-February AARP magazine. "Flowin' in the wind" is about kiteboarding in North Carolina's Outer Banks.

For details about what is happening in the Region's Clubs, contact: Connecticuters [www.connectikiters.org](http://www.connectikiters.org), Great Lakes Kitefliers Society [www.flyglks.com](http://www.flyglks.com), Harkness Stuntkiters [kitestu@wmconnect.com](mailto:kitestu@wmconnect.com), Kites In Central New York Skies [www.angelfire.com/ny5/kitesincnyskies](http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/kitesincnyskies), Kites Over New England [www.kone.org](http://www.kone.org), New York Kite Enthusiasts [www.nyke.org](http://www.nyke.org), with the most central location being the AKA Calendar of Events.

Greetings and salutations, kilters! Here's what's new in Region Two: Glenn Davison and Paul Berard did an indoor flying performance for First Night Hazleton (PA) on New Years Eve.

Jack Mangas had a great year-end party. Stationed in Japan, he and the Revolution kite team NAVY ROAD made mochi, or Japanese pounded rice cakes. He was also delivered a red and

Bill Coons' grand-daughter Abby helped out at the NYKE marconi workshop, and even got sewing lessons from Cliff Quinn.



Bill Coons



**Region 2 ~ Northeast**  
 NJ-PA-(lower) NY  
**Todd Little**  
 832 Meadow Lane  
 Camp Hill, PA 17011  
 717/975-2852  
[region2@aka.kite.org](mailto:region2@aka.kite.org)  
 End of term: 2010

black Barrasi from his wife and a new kite bag from his dad. Thanks for serving, Jack!

The Keystone Kites have, by this time, completed their annual winter workshop. They made a set of unique rokkakus for the 2008 AKA Convention in Gettysburg. These special kites, in conjunction with another set being made south of the Mason-Dixon Line, will be featured in a special event at the convention and then will be donated to the convention auction. Be sure to attend and participate in the Battle of Gettysburg, 2008!

SJKF had a great turnout at their holiday party, with over 50% of their membership in attendance. I heard that the children had an especially good time. And SJKF already has plans in motion to do something special at the Wildwood Kite Festival this sum-



*Flat Stanley*

mer. It looks like the Friday Night Social will be taking place with a different (secret) theme.

Sadly, in December the officers of Lehigh Valley Kite Society voted to disband the 16-year-old kite club in Eastern PA. Although strong in visibility with their large ground display and reputation for hosting many kids kite builds every year, the manpower to accomplish these things has dwindled to a few individuals. No one was willing to lead LVKS into 2008. Members of LVKS who wish to remain active in kiting will, however, be able to join forces with a new Pennsylvania club to their north. The Pocono Kite Symphony is in the process of formation and will be ready to fly by spring of this year.

Alice Hayden and Mark Virgilio received a visitor in the mail just before Christmas. Their niece Katie sent a class project named Flat Stanley to visit. Alice and Mark used the opportunity to take Flat Stanley to fly kites, although being made of paper, he was in danger of being bridled and flown himself! He survived his blustery day at the beach and returned to Katie with a fine tale to tell.

You may know I am a fan of "The



*Wicked kite, Todd!*

Wizard of Oz" and have made several Oz-themed kites. I was fortunate enough to have a kite chosen as one of the juried pieces for an exhibit at the New England School of Art & Design at Suffolk University in Boston. It was called "Ozspirations: New Art Inspired by The Wizard of Oz," marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of L. Frank Baum's classic series of books. My kite was chosen as the piece that was shown on the materials promoting the show and university's website. It was great to have Archie Stewart and Lisa Willoughby join me and my daughter Gwendolyn at the artists reception.



**Region 3 ~ Mid-Atlantic**  
 DC-DE-MD-VA-WV  
**Will Smoot**  
 444 Augusta Farms Rd.  
 Waynesboro VA 22980  
 540/471-4949  
[region3@aka.kite.org](mailto:region3@aka.kite.org)  
 End of term: 2010

The fall was pretty quiet in Region Three and the winter months look to be quiet too. The usual First Sunday fly for RAF and WOW at their respective fields has continued to have fair weather, even for the New Years Day events. In November a few of the Region Three members headed south to Wrightsville, NC, for the Cape Fear Kite Festival. You can find more of that over in the Region Four report. Wings Over Washington organized a kite building workshop for a no-sew version of a multi-line kite and the terrific flying Dunton-Taylor. RAF also held a sewing workshop to generate a few dozen of the club mini-banners. After a few sewing machine problems everyone made good progress. The end of the day was capped off with the annual Holiday Chili Feast and gift exchange. MKS has their February kite building retreat scheduled and by the time you get this issue it will be history. WOW found a place to hold indoor flying and met frequently in preparation for their annual visit to the Air and Space Museum near Dulles Airport, where they fly kites around and between historical aircraft.

Beginning in March the activity level picks up with a few small festivals supported by RAF and WOW, and the last Saturday of the month (March 29) is the Smithsonian Kite Festival. You can get more information at [www.kitefestival.org](http://www.kitefestival.org). April is National Kite

Month and there are festivals everywhere. Check the AKA Kite Event calendar to find one near you, or to add yours to the list. Check out at the NKM website at [www.nationalkite-month.org](http://www.nationalkite-month.org).

That's all I have for you now. Please feel free to contact me any time. E-mail, snail-mail, telephone, or find me on a kite field.



**Region 4 ~ Southeast**  
 AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN  
**Terry "Teecee" Cornell**  
 3440 N. Goldenrod Road #1014  
 Winter Park FL 32792  
 407/657-4114  
[region4@aka.kite.org](mailto:region4@aka.kite.org)  
 End of Term: 2010

Hello there, Region Four! Best of the New Year to you all from me and Kathy!

As we all know, the holidays are a time when kitefliers get especially creative about reasons to go fly a kite. I recently received a note from Kathy Shook up in the Outer Banks; the CIA kite club held a small gathering on New Year's Eve over by the Currituck Beach Light public access. By small she means Jeff May, her husband Eliot and herself. Always good hearing from you, Cath.

From Karen Mault in Morehead City, NC: "The day was warm and sunny and the winds were ideal. A group of about a dozen kite flyers convened on the beach to welcome in the New Year. This was the

scene on the main beach at Atlantic Beach, NC. The sky was soon filled with color as kites of many types ascended. There were Suttons, rokkakus, dragons, inflatable kites, ghost deltas, a cody, and a bow kite, some with line laundry attached. When the single line kites were up and anchored, the stunt kites appeared. Revolutions, parafoils, delta stunters and diamond stunters. It didn't take long for a crowd to gather, enjoying the warm weather and the show. The gathering was initiated by Don and Jeri Dixon of Kites Unlimited, Atlantic Beach, NC." Thanks for the good news from AB, Karen!

Trying to reason with hurricane season... We had some late-season tropical activity last fall, and our Atlantic coast from Daytona to lower South Carolina lost a lot of flyable beach. From what I've heard, St. Augustine and Tybee Island were hit especially hard. In talking to Rob Austry of St. Augustine, that south section of Anastasia State Park where the 2004 SASKC was held is gone. Time and tide wait for no man, even kitefliers.



*I say, I say, that must be Rick Tuttle's kite strutting over Atlantic Beach.*



Speaking of tide, the Atlantic coast of Florida also had a bout of red tide late last year. "What's red tide?" you ask. No, the team from Alabama is the Crimson Tide. Red tide is a toxic algae growth, and when it washes up onto the beaches it causes respiratory discomfort, watery eyes, and other unpleasant health symptoms that will ruin a day's kiting in a hurry. The good thing about red tide though, is that it drove Dave and Spencer Meeks from Daytona inland to fly with newly minted member Jeff Rector and myself at the Dewey L. Boster Sports Complex in Deltona, FL. Always a pleasure to fly with the Meeks boys!

And that's it for this issue. Be well, stay safe, and go fly something!

Unfortunately, I again find the need to open my report with sad news. Just prior to the holidays Region Five lost another dedicated supporter of kiting and the AKA, Rick Gardner. Rick and Robyne have supported kiting as sport kite competition participants and judges for many years. I am going to miss chatting with Rick at events and seeing him on the field flying or judging. Just after the holidays, Tom Brailey passed away. He was my predecessor as Region Five Director, and a great supporter of kiting in our area.

I must confess, I was in Florida over the holidays, so I have yet to put a kite in a cold sky this winter. I hear that there were a few brave Region Five kites who attended kite flies in December and early January. Black Swamp Air Force (BSAF), Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites (OSEK), and P.I.G.S. Aloft have continued their monthly flies, and held New Years Day

events. I encourage you to check the calendar at [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org) and get out to one of these club events.

Of course there were also indoor activities to satisfy your craving to build a new kite and for socializing with fellow kites. For example, by the time you read this OSEK will have held a Kite Building Mini-Retreat on February 9-10 in Euclid, OH. Master kitemaker Cliff Quinn was scheduled to be on hand to lead the participants in building a cellular kite.

If you're involved in a kiting event in the upcoming months, be certain that it gets listed in the AKA calendar. And if I can be of any assistance, please e-mail me or give me a call. The following Region Five events have confirmed dates at the time of this writing:

The Airwaves Kite Fest will be held in West Chester Township, just north of Cincinnati, on April 5- 6. After last year's Saturday rainout and very cold temperatures on Sunday, the Airwaves sponsors decided to schedule a raindate this year. If the weather does not cooperate, the event will be postponed until the following weekend, April 12-13. Contact me if you are interested in attending since a few special arrangements are being planned for AKA members who attend.

On April 26 OSEK is hosting Mill



**Region 5 ~ Great Lakes**  
MI - OH

**Jerry McGuire**  
5031 Mallet Hill Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45244  
513/831-8379  
[region5@aka.kite.org](mailto:region5@aka.kite.org)  
End of Term: 2008

Creek Metroparks Kite Festival at Mahoning County Experimental farm in Canfield, OH. Children's games and kids kitemaking will be put on by the park district. A fun fly, kite art exhibit, kitemaking competition and a kids fly are also scheduled. Tom Kear ([kite-info@osekcleveland.org](mailto:kite-info@osekcleveland.org) or 330/757-2568) will be happy to provide more information on this event.

Tawas Bay on Lake Huron will be the site of the second annual Breeze on the Bay Kite Fest. May 31 - June 1 are the dates and Harbor Park (on the beach) on US 23 in East Tawas, MI is the location. A fun fly, work shops, kids fly, kids kitemaking and kite surfing are among the activities. Get in touch with Jack Quinn ([kitemanjacks@aol.com](mailto:kitemanjacks@aol.com) or 989/362-4615) for details.

Back 2 the Wind kite club will be hosting the Michigan Kitefest on June 13-15 at Richland Township Park in Richland, MI. This is an annual competition with indoor, sport kite and fighter kite events on the schedule. There is also plenty of room for single line kites to join in the fun.

The ever popular North Coast Games is on the schedule again this year. It will be held at the usual location, Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, OH, from July 18-20. BASF folks describe "The Games" as "the Woodstock of kite flying. No BIG NAME guests, no organized events, and no competitions of any kind, PERIOD". Maybe that is why we all enjoy the weekend so much and they continually get a good turnout for "The Games."

This will be the second year for sport kite competitions at the Flag City Kitefest in Findlay, OH. It will be held at Emery Adams Park on August 16-17 in conjunction with the Flag City Balloon Fest.

So, mark your calendar for these events. I hope to see you there. Share your experience by inviting your kiter friends to attend with you. Also invite them to join the AKA.

And remember...its all about putting smiles of faces.



**Region 6 ~ Midwest**  
IA-IL-IN-MN-WI

**Robert Rymaszewski**  
3266 S. 44th Street  
Greenfield, WI 53219  
414/329 9825  
[region6@aka.kite.org](mailto:region6@aka.kite.org)  
End of term: 2008

Hello from Region Six. The 2008 kite flying season began with the Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois' Cool Fool Kite Festival at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee, WI, on New Years Day. Thanks to the kite flyers who ventured out into the cold, the event received coverage on two local news broadcasts. Upcoming events for the KSWI include the Time Warner Cable Family Kite Festival on May 24-25 at Veteran's Park, the Outta Site Kite Flight on June 7-8 at Kennedy Park in Kenosha, WI, and Wings on Strings Kite Festival on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Experimental Aircraft Association Airventure Museum grounds in Oshkosh, WI.

The Minnesota Kite Society members didn't let the cold weather keep their spirits down as they not only took part in a New Years kite fly but also the Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival on January 12<sup>th</sup> near Minneapolis, MN,



*Minnesota's Barbara Meyer builds a barndoor at the Oregon Kitemakers Retreat in January.*

the Frosty Fingers Kite Fly on January 27<sup>th</sup> near Saint Paul, MN, and the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Color The Wind Kite Festival in Clear Lake, IA, on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Future events for the members of MKS include participation at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat (MAKR). on March 7-9 at Northern Illinois University's Loreda Taft campus in Oregon, IL. Rumor has it the pirates will be coming ashore there, matey!

The Wisconsin Kites Kite Club held their annual Holiday party and raffle on January 13<sup>th</sup> in Fond du Lac with good attendance from the membership. By the time you read this the inaugural Kites on the River kite festival will have taken place in Two Rivers, WI. Organizer Chow Chong is also responsible for bringing the annual "Kites Over Lake Michigan" kite festival to the area and hopefully this event will fare as well. The Kites also participated in Shiverfest in Fall River, WI on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Kites Over The Bay" took place on February 9-10 on the ice in Fish Creek, WI. Upcoming events for the Wisconsin Kites include the Heart of Wisconsin Kite Festival on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Portage, the Shawano Kite Festival on June 21<sup>st</sup> and the Dodge County Kite Round-up on July 19-20.

The members of the Illinois Kite Enthusiasts will no doubt be participating at kite festivals throughout the region. Thanks to club president Mike Kory this club has produced a quad-line line stunt kite demo team that's fun to watch. Expect to see the red I.K.E. shirts at the Pontiac Rec Plex in Pontiac, IL on May 31 - June 1. Other Illinois festivals of note include Mayor Daley's Kids and Kites celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museum of Science and Industry at the museum grounds in Chicago on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Frontier Kite Festival at Frontier Sports Complex in Naperville, IL on June 7-8. Dick and Sis Vogel host Kites Over Grinnell in Iowa on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This is an event that I always hear good things about.

Congratulations go out to new Hoosier Kite Society president Clint Eaton. Please check the Hoosier Kite Society's web page for updates to their schedule.

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



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

**Donald Murphy**

9104 Charles Street

Omaha, NE 68114

402/391-8503

[region7@aka.kite.org](mailto:region7@aka.kite.org)

End of term: 2008

As I sit here listening to the weather men talk about -10° temps, all I can think about is the ice fly coming up in February at Clear Lake, IA. But then, it's better to think about jumping on a plane for Florida in three days, which I'm really looking forward to. I have been working on my calendar for this year and it is already filling up. National Kite Month looks to be really busy. As you hold your events, please write a little story about the fly and send it to me for the next issue of *KITING*.

We have a new group on the Board of Directors with lots of new ideas. Keep checking the AKA web site and the KiteTalk Forum for updates on flies and events in the area. We are always looking for ways to save money and to keep the members informed. If you have any ideas please forward them to me. I would like to know how the region feels about the AKA and what you would like to see happen with the AKA.

Jody from the

Foothills Kite Club in Colorado writes: "On April 5, Arvada Festival Commission and the Foothill Kite Club will host the sixth annual kite festival. It will be held at the Robby Ferrufino Park. The Foothills Kite Club will be demonstrating kite flying and judging the kite competitions. These competitions are for ages 10 & under and 11 & over and there are four categories to win trophies: highest kite, smallest kite, largest kite and most visually appealing kite. John Gabby will be the announcer, coming up from Colorado Springs. Along with the kite competitions, there are other fun activities including: jumping castles, face painter, balloon animal maker, caricature artist, drawings through-out the day for prizes and many more exciting activities."

The Kansas City Kite Club sends this: "As well as other smaller kiting events, the Kansas City Kite Club is looking forward to two major events this spring. The KCKC, in conjunction with Longview Community College, will be presenting the MCC-Longview Community College 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flights of Fancy Festival, Saturday, April 19. Last year over 5000 attended this event featuring large show kites, traction kiting, single line, dual and quad kites. This event also included candy drops and children's kitemaking — 2008 is going to be bigger. Special guests will include Don and Betty Murphy. Please join us at this fabulous event.

"The 2008 KCKC Smithville Lake Kiteboarding Festival will be May 23-26, three fun filled days of the fastest growing water sport: kite boarding. This event is held over Memorial Day weekend and is geared to anyone who kiteboards or is interested in learn-

*The Flights of Fancy Festival comes to Kansas City in April.*



Sean Beaver

ing more about this incredible sport. The event is an all weekend no format event. Just three days of kite flying, camping, friends, and fun. This year we will have a few special guests and professionals that will be camping with us sharing the experience. Tent campsites are located at Camp Branch Park on Smithville lakes east side. Please RSVP if you will be camping so we can have an accurate headcount. Sites are near the water! Check [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/smithville/smithville\\_home.htm](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/smithville/smithville_home.htm) for camping info. Highlights will include Professional Cabrinha Rider Chris Butzen, kitesurfing, land buggies, stunt kite exhibitions and large kite displays, prizes, raffle, and games. Beginners are welcome, kites will be camping/cooking as a group at the lake. Meet new friends with kites for all ages. If you play a musical instrument, bring it for the evening jam sessions. Have questions or need more information about either event? Visit our website at [www.kckiteclub.org](http://www.kckiteclub.org)."

The Midwest Winds Kitefliers in Omaha, will hold their spring fly at the LaVista Soccer Complex on April 27. If it doesn't rain like it did for the last two flies, we will have kite demos, kite give-a-ways and candy drops for the kids. The candy drops have become a big hit and very popular with our visitors. We have several other flies in the area and are still working on a big event in the fall. Check out our web page for more info at [www.midwest-windskitefliers.org](http://www.midwest-windskitefliers.org).

I'm looking forward to the warmer weather and the spring start of the kite season. I'm ready to get out and fly with everyone this year. Don't forget to sign up your events for NKM and be safe.

Enjoy the sky.

*Two smart girls: Donna Oliver and Coatie Woodul beat the heat in Granbury.*



**Region 8 ~ South Central**  
AR-LA-NM-OK-TX  
**Gayle Woodul**  
106 Main Street  
Marble Falls, TX 78654  
830/598-2414  
[region8@aka.kite.org](mailto:region8@aka.kite.org)  
End of term: 2008

Hey Region Eighters! If you haven't done so already, get the vans loaded and the kites repacked; it's time to hit the road for kite season! Okay, let's be real — "kite season" never really stopped, but I've got to have a great opener!

We've had both a competition and a fun fly at South Padre Island over the past few months! The November comp was sponsored by Windchasers Kites, and the February fun fly by B & S Kites. The members of the South Padre Island Kite Enthusiasts (SPIKE) club do an excellent job of pulling things together and really welcoming the out-of-town kites as well as the Winter Texans! Our thanks for ALL that you do! Plus, it's PADRE! 'Nuf said??? Speaking of great locations, Thanksgiving week once again brought in kites from all over the country to Galveston, Texas!

We had a tremendous fun fly festival just south of Fort Worth in Granbury last October hosted by Family Fun Kites. Owner Steph Gaines, along with Donna and Dallas Oliver from DAKO (Dallas Area Kitefliers Organization), worked like maniacs to get this incred-

ible festival rolling! Proceeds from this event were generously donated to the county Children's Services agency. In 2006, there was barely enough wind at this event to rustle a banner. This year, the steady 25 gusting to 40 was a real challenge. We were all feeling pretty wimpy until the paratroopers who were scheduled to fly in for an opening ceremony called to say that they "don't jump when the winds are over 40!" Over 40? YIKES!

As always, sincere appreciation goes out to the myriad of invisible folks who make it possible for us to just show up and enjoy the sky after your week, months, and even years of planning! In this group, I have to also include the early morning crews who make sure that the inflatables are up, the banners are in place, and the fields are set up. Then, at the end of the day, I always see some kites hang around to help everyone else get packed up. It takes a lot of unsung heroes to make this kind of magic look so easy! Thank you!

Keep looking up!

*Sport kite competitors at South Padre Island.*



After a short pause so we could all catch our breath, and have sewing machines serviced, Region Nine is gearing up for the start of the 2008 festivals and competitions.

The Fourth Annual Up the River Indoor Kite Festival will take place in Arlington, OR, on February 16-17. This festival has always been a favorite of mine. If you plan on attending, don't blink as you are driving through town. Arlington is small, but the hospitality is BIG and they put on a great indoor event. For more information go to [www.honkernet.net/visitarlington/UP-THERIVERKITES.htm](http://www.honkernet.net/visitarlington/UP-THERIVERKITES.htm)



**Region 9 ~ Intermountain  
ID-MT-OR**

**Amy "Mousie" Doran**  
1680 NE Cackler Lane  
Bend, OR 97701  
541/480-1579  
[region9@aka.kite.org](mailto:region9@aka.kite.org)  
End of Term: 2008

I am looking forward to attending the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference, March 13-16 in Port Townsend, WA. I was lucky enough to win a scholarship to this event this year so I will go soak up as much information from the masters as I can possibly retain. For more information go to [www.kitemakers.org](http://www.kitemakers.org).

The Lincoln City Indoor Festival and NWSKA competitions will take place March 28-30 at Taft High School in Lincoln City, OR. Master Fliers such as Lam Hoac, Penny Lingenfelter, and Bud Hayes as well as other favorites will attend. iQuad team leader John Barresi and cofounder David Hathaway will bring the Revolution team indoors

which is quite a sight to see. Debbie and Lee Park will grace us with incredible flying that will drop jaws and make your heart skip a beat. Four years ago, when I was lucky enough to attend this festival it consisted of a small group of fliers and spectators. There was plenty of room to stretch out in the bleachers. Last year, it was standing room only. I highly recommend this event. You will not be disappointed. I am looking forward to spending the weekend with a great group of organizers and fliers, and I hope you will join us. The more the merrier. For more information see [www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/indoor-kite-2007.php](http://www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/indoor-kite-2007.php).

Idaho Falls will also host their second kite making workshop of the season. The last workshop held at a local church was a huge success, so another is in the works to be held in March. For updates and information please contact Roy Hanson at [Royter678@msn.com](mailto:Royter678@msn.com). Idaho Falls will also gearing up for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Kiting Just for Fun event. Last year, this event pulled a thousand people in to enjoy the Idaho winds and some great fun. Dean Turnblom, owner of Sunrise Kites, is the organizer and sponsor of this event. This event is usually held the last week in April, with competitions and great fun for all ages. For more information contact Sunrise Kites at 208/524-5552.

CCP's Annual Kite Festival will take place in Helena, Montana on May 4. Reports of beautiful surroundings and National coverage, this festival sounds like a must. For more information go to <http://missouririver.visitmt.com/categories/moreinfo.asp?IDRRRecordID=8793&siteid=92>. Well, now... that should certainly keep you busy.

A little birdie (Ronda Brewer) told me that the Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat was a huge success. Lots of fun, late nights, great kites, and even an impromptu frog kite was seen. I certainly wish I had been there with you all, but time restraints and work prevented that. *[Ed. note: Amy, you missed some of the best food I've had at a kiting event. Nice job on meals, Twin Rocks Friends Camp, and on desserts and snacks, Deb Cooley and Ken Tuminia!]*

Ok, I promised I wouldn't write a long report, and here I am again. OOPS! But there is so much going on here in Region Nine it's a bit hard to keep it all to yourself. I hope you all have safe travels, health, and warm winds at your backs.

*[Ed. note: And congratulations to the Bend, OR, police department, which broke up a burglary ring, recovering all of Amy's stolen kites!]*



**Region 10 ~ Northwest**

**AK - WA**  
**Marla Miller**  
5440 N. 49th Street  
Tacoma, WA 98407  
253/752-7051  
[region10@aka.kite.org](mailto:region10@aka.kite.org)  
End of Term: 2009

Happy New Year! Good heavens, 2008, I can remember being 13 and thinking I would not be alive in 2000. It's nice to be wrong.

The "Flat Stanley" kite with me in the picture belongs to Bob Umbowers. It was his Christmas gift made by his wife Charmayne. They just let me pose with Stanley. If you don't know the story of Flat Stanley ask a grade school teacher or student.

I want to share a story about a high school student in our region who has surprised me (and I love to be surprised). This young man is in his first year of high school and is kind of quiet and always polite. He needed some help with indoor flying. While being in the rush of Christmas time, few people were available, but Scotty Davis and Wayne Turner to the rescue. The high school Kristian Slater attends let him



*Idaho Falls kitemakers*

use the gym for his science project. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that Kristian has used kites for his science project and the first year that I heard about it. Six of us met at his school on a Monday evening. Then the test began. The report he is doing would be on how the wingspan of the sport kite affects the ability to perform an axel. Kristian's first year project was testing the pull of a single line kite. He used four different kites. The second year was the pull on a delta, but with windsocks attached. And we wonder what the youth of today are doing? I was very impressed with his project and very thankful that he called me. Take a bow Kristian! Next time you see him ask him how the project turned out.

You think this might be a slow time of year. I just was lucky enough to represent AKA at the 20<sup>th</sup> KTAI show in Portland. It is amazing watching people show up with large containers, coming from all parts of the world. An empty room overnight turns in to a showcase of kites, banners, flags and toys. Mel Hickman and I spent two days talking with folks about AKA, signing up new members, renewing some familiar members and selling a few raffle tickets. Oh surprise. Did you all know that we have a raffle ticket available to you for one dollar? The winner will receive registration to the convention in Gettysburg in September. If you would like one or more, just let me know. It was nice to see friends that we don't get to see that often and to see them at work with their trade.

Ron and I are working on the 25<sup>th</sup> Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference. Looking forward to our guest the Robinsons and the Morgans from England.

The Robinsons help me with the raffle. There's that word "raffle" again. Surprise, there's a ticket for Fort Worden 2009, you know the routine.

Soon the start of the flying season will begin. We will be working with the wristbands again. I started with the wristbands, eventually hoping we will all have nametags for everyone at every event. It is just an easy way to have some control on the fields for safety reasons. The wristband gives us the right to be on the fields, which we already have but it also gives us the right to politely ask people who do not belong on the flying fields to step to the other side. Some of the festivals are getting so large and some of the non-flying public just wants to be up close. Sometimes, too close! Or the child who thinks they can dig to China in the middle of the field on the beach. This is all for safety, not just for people but for our kites. We have all seen these types of things happen, so now we need to be a little more aware and take polite action. Step off the field once and awhile to help a new flyer and encourage them to become part of the kite flying sport. Share your copy of *KITING*.

The other "biggy" for AKA and myself this September is that the AKA is being recognized for the second time at the festival in Dieppe, France. There are 36 invited countries and the festival last for 10 days. It is so wonderful to see fellow kite flyers who we only get a chance to see there. The sky comes alive with wonderful creations that have come to life from these fantastic kitemaker's dreams. There is also special entertainment; last time it was the Maori dancers and stilt walkers performing daily. What a

treat! It is such an honor to represent the AKA. This year John and Diana Pollack, Cliff Quinn, Sam and Cari King, Alexa King, Mark Engbaum and Gary Goodenough will all be attending. We will all be representing AKA. If you are interested in attending now is the time to plan.



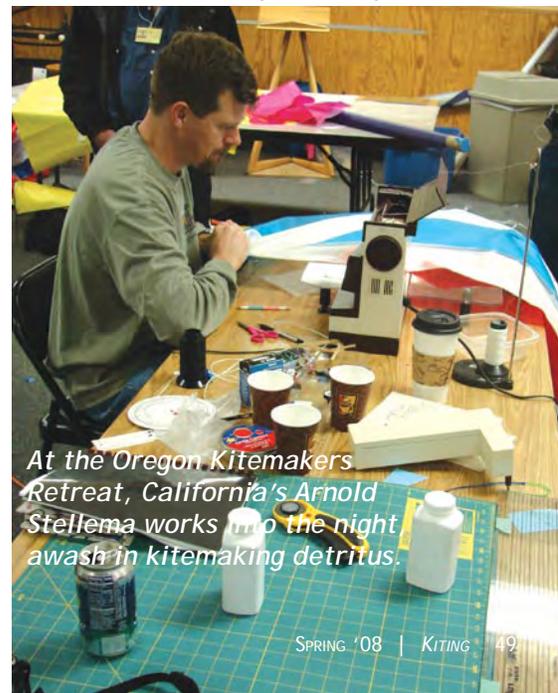
**Region 11 ~ N. California**  
 Northern CA-NV  
**John Gillespie**  
 577 Magnolia Avenue  
 Larkspur, CA 94939  
 415/927-7430  
*region11@aka.kite.org*  
 End of Term: 2008

Gentle breezes. We celebrate the wind, but also learn to respect it. On January 4, my roof was blown off. It knocked over my weather station just after recording a gust over 60 knots. Vented weather for sure. No one was hurt, and I'll keep the local roofer in business.

The Bay Area Sport Kite League's schedule is in full swing. Their second Indoor fly was held February 23 in Walnut Creek.

Back by popular demand, Carl Robertshaw is coming from England to

Wayne Turner, Scott Davis, and Kristian Slater



At the Oregon Kitemakers Retreat, California's Arnold Stellema works into the night awash in kitemaking detritus.

put on a Sport Kite Clinic, March 1-2. Carl will help you improve your flying skills. You can come try out your new-found skills at the first outdoor competition at Cesar Chavez park in Berkeley on Saturday, March 22, and at Baylands in Santa Clara on May 3. Visit [www.baskl.org](http://www.baskl.org) for all the latest event schedules. These meets hold friendly competitions for fighters, dual-line and quad-line kites. Novices are welcome; it's another chance to learn something new.

One popular long-running event is Roseville Kite Festival in early April. Bob and (not-Bob) Dean Bell put on a fun family-oriented festival. Check the AKA calendar for events near you.

Team AirZone will be traveling to France in April to compete in the bi-annual World Sport Kite Championships for teams. The team includes Darrin Skinner, Aaron Champie, Francisco Navarro and John Gillespie. They will be joined by 6<sup>th</sup> Sense from Region 10.

Don't forget to support your local kite shops. You can check for the location of an AKA Merchant Member in your area by visiting the AKA web site. You may even get a discount.



### Region 12 ~ Southwest

Southern CA-AZ-HI

**Ben Dantonio**

10793 Jamacha Blvd #5

Spring Valley CA 91978

619/750-8770

[region12@aka.kite.org](mailto:region12@aka.kite.org)

End of Term: 2009



*Kevin Heredia  
with a very  
cool trophy.*

Hello all and welcome. I hope all had a good holiday and all is well. As for me, it's real hard for things to be bad when you fly a kite for a living.

The New Year Fighter Kite Challenge here in San Diego was a huge success for all and lots of fun. Steve Bateman took home the main trophy and young Kevin Heredia showed what happens when your dad owns a kite store. Special thanks to Kite Country here in San Diego for everything. On New Year's Day the San Diego Kite Club was out in force with lots of good food and prizes and the company of many who just love to fly. You know I even saw Team Too Much Fun out there and Mike Kory of the famous iQuad team, Hector, and the Fosters and with all this talent all I could say is WOW! If you've never made the New Years Day Fly here in San Diego mark your calendars for next year. If you look at the photos you'll see Sam working on her style for flying with her family, Team Too Much Fun.



*Upside-down  
handles... who  
hasn't made  
that mistake  
before?*

From there I went up to Portland and flew with iQuad, and in spite of rain, cold, and even a tornado they once again lived up to their motto "we fly no matter what." The vendors who braved it all at KTAI were not disappointed by this event and to top it all off they got to see the new products they will be filling their shops up with this coming year.

Well, as I pack my bag for Treasure Island I ask all to remember this is your organization, and as such I'd like to hear from you to get your input. If I'm in town on the second Saturday of each month you can find me with the San Diego Kite Club at their monthly fly and we would love to have you come fly with us. Good winds.



### Region 13 ~ International

**Linda Sanders**

P. O. Box 758

Willunga SA 5172 AUSTRALIA

(+61) 885-562696

[region13@aka.kite.org](mailto:region13@aka.kite.org)

End of Term: 2009

Region Thirteen can promise SUPERB weather every day... somewhere on the globe. South America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and all tropical countries in between love the wind down from summer. Imagine Christmas Day being warm, with perfect winds for kite flying? Maybe it's one of those things you ought to do before...?

News from Canada: the new President at BCKA is Cal Yuen, with Ray Bethell continuing as VP-at-large.



Chris Chambers' Swedish parabears catch up on the latest news from Great Britain.

Chris Chambers

Their Christmas dinner sounded delicious! Beryl Isaacs (Calgary, Alberta), spends winters in South Padre Island, Texas, sent a photo of Jeff McCown's new delta. Who else sees spots?

The Niagara Windriders Kitefliers Association fly at Lakeview Park, Port Colborne, Ontario, and we've all been invited to join them on the last Sunday, April through October. Will it be warmer by then?

The February project for the White Horse Kite Flyers workshop was Karl Longbottom's bird. Their next kite gathering is March 9th at Barbury Castle. How's the wind there, folks?

Psst... Early heads-up for Swindon Kite Festival 2008 — dates are May 10-11 at Lydiard Park. A big thank you to all the WHKF members for my sweatshirt, pin and patches! Got to wait for winter so I can wear it!

Neil Edwards, Manchester UK says "...we will make the Convention but it's hard fitting everything in. All the reports indicate it is THE place to go if your passion and life revolve around kites"... TRUE! Convention is also a great place to share yourself and your talents. For others, it's an extra stamp in the passport.

Advance notice: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India for their 19th International Kite Festival, mid-January 2009. Dilip Kapadia did invite me to the 2008 event, even offered accommodation, meals, and local transportation, but

Beryl Isaacs

timing wasn't good for me. Dilip says, "January 14 every year is a Red Letter Day for all kite enthusiasts in India" It's THE day for community kite flying. For anyone seeking a deeper understanding of kites and culture, Ahmedabad is worth doing. Plan well ahead though. Details? E-mail me.

Update from Portugal:

WISSA Ice and Snow Sailing World Championships is promoted as the "oldest, best known event of its kind", and the 2008 dates were February 10-16. See more at [www.wissa2008.org](http://www.wissa2008.org). Kite flying: it's a universal language

Now to France April 16-20, for Houlgate Plein Vent. Houlgate is described as "a small, historic Normandy town full of charm" and [houlgateplein-vent@wanadoo.fr](mailto:houlgateplein-vent@wanadoo.fr) is how you find out more.

Chris Chambers, who's at 60°N in Sweden, "today it's about +2°C getting to -18°C at night" but still managed to fly Brit Elklund, a flying Elk.

More exciting news for travel hopefuls: Australia hosts some fabulous kite festivals, with two in the first half of the year... March 22-23 is the Adelaide International Kite Festival, then May 17-18 is the Redcliffe KiteFest in Clontarf, Queensland. Excellent time of year to be travelling, and beaches must be seen to be believed!

John Barresi performed at the Red Bull Air races in Perth, Australia, and at the Tokyo Bay Flight Party where 48 Revs all flew at once. Jaw-dropping.

(See YouTube videos at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqBYmc8yUhc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqBYmc8yUhc) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wJxHSokN8k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wJxHSokN8k).)

Robert Brasington, in Tasmania with Christmas temperatures of 25°C (that's 77°F!), location Binalong Bay Beach, reported flying conditions as "sublime!" Across the ditch to New Zealand, Robert Van Weers has something new... see his "clownsock", [www.softkites.com/](http://www.softkites.com/).



Tasmania's Robert Brasington had new toys out on Christmas.

Robert Brasington

Norm Rubin, Toronto, sent cheers. Andrew Beattie, UK, proposed Region Thirteeners continue to boost AKA membership. And Peter Lynn told how he'd slept through a visit by the Fire Department while tree stumps smoldered on his spare block.

Finally... apologies to Don and Alice Guick of Alberta. I forgot to say we'd met at Ocean Shores. So many faces, many new to me, I was bound to miss a couple.

Until next time, less talk... more fly!

Patrick McGrann

One last look at the Darfur Kite Festival.



Jeff McCown's delta



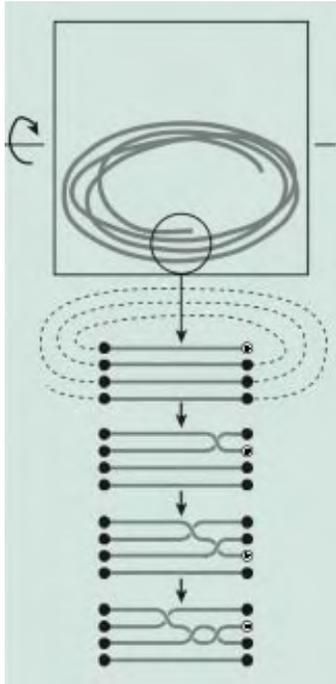


# Kiting

people+places+things

## Keystone Kites Ready For Civil War

At their January retreat, Pennsylvania's Keystone Kites began preparations for war. It seems they're building a number of "Union blue" rokkakus, while another club below the Mason-Dixon line is making a matching set of "Confederate grey" roks. They'll battle it out in the skies over Gettysburg in September before auctioning off the kites. If we were to lay odds, we'd have to favor whichever side shows up with bigger artillery.



## Tied Up In Knots

Anyone who's ever gently placed a neatly coiled line into a kite bag, only to find that six months later it's become a bird's nest, will understand. And now science has proven it: if something can get tangled up, it will. Biophysicists Dorian Raymer and Douglas Smith of the University of California at San Diego have discovered that knots form surprisingly fast throughout nature. By tumbling a length of rope inside a box (as shown in the diagram at left), they found that it first coiled up, and then its free ends swiveled around the coils, tracing a random path among them. Their study produced 120 different, distinct knots in the rope. Their work has applications in genetics, as knots can form randomly in strands of DNA, hampering duplication and genetic expression. (Almost a decade ago, scientists discovered enzymes that undo knots in DNA. Sadly, these are still unavailable at your local kite shop.) For more on knot research, check the December 22/29, 2007, issue of *Science News*.



Mike "Damn Yankee" Mosman

## Disaster du Jour

Residents of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, are determined to welcome imminent spring with the traditional festival of Basant, notwithstanding a ban on kite flying. The skies have begun wearing a colorful look with plentiful kites as the basant, slated for the end of March, closes in. The sale of kites and string has picked up all across the city. Illegal sale of chemical-coated string is also reported. Children especially are keen to buy such string for having an edge over ordinary string. Some people consider kite flying a good sport but some think otherwise. Salman Akhtar, a student, said kite flying should be encouraged as it was an affordable recreation for those having limited resources. However, a motorist declared kite flying an unsafe activity. He suggested people should welcome spring in a healthy manner instead of basant which claims

several lives every year. A social worker said chemical-coated string posed serious threat to the lives of pedestrians and motorcyclists as it could slit throats.



## An Edeiken and an Oscar

Some guys have all the luck. In January, David Gomberg answered a casting call for the film "The Burning Plain," shooting in Portland, OR. The Edeiken Award winner spent a day holding a wineglass, which was refilled repeatedly by Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron. David suffered through 20 takes with one of the world's most beautiful women, and was paid \$73.40 for his troubles.



Not Mrs. David Gomberg



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