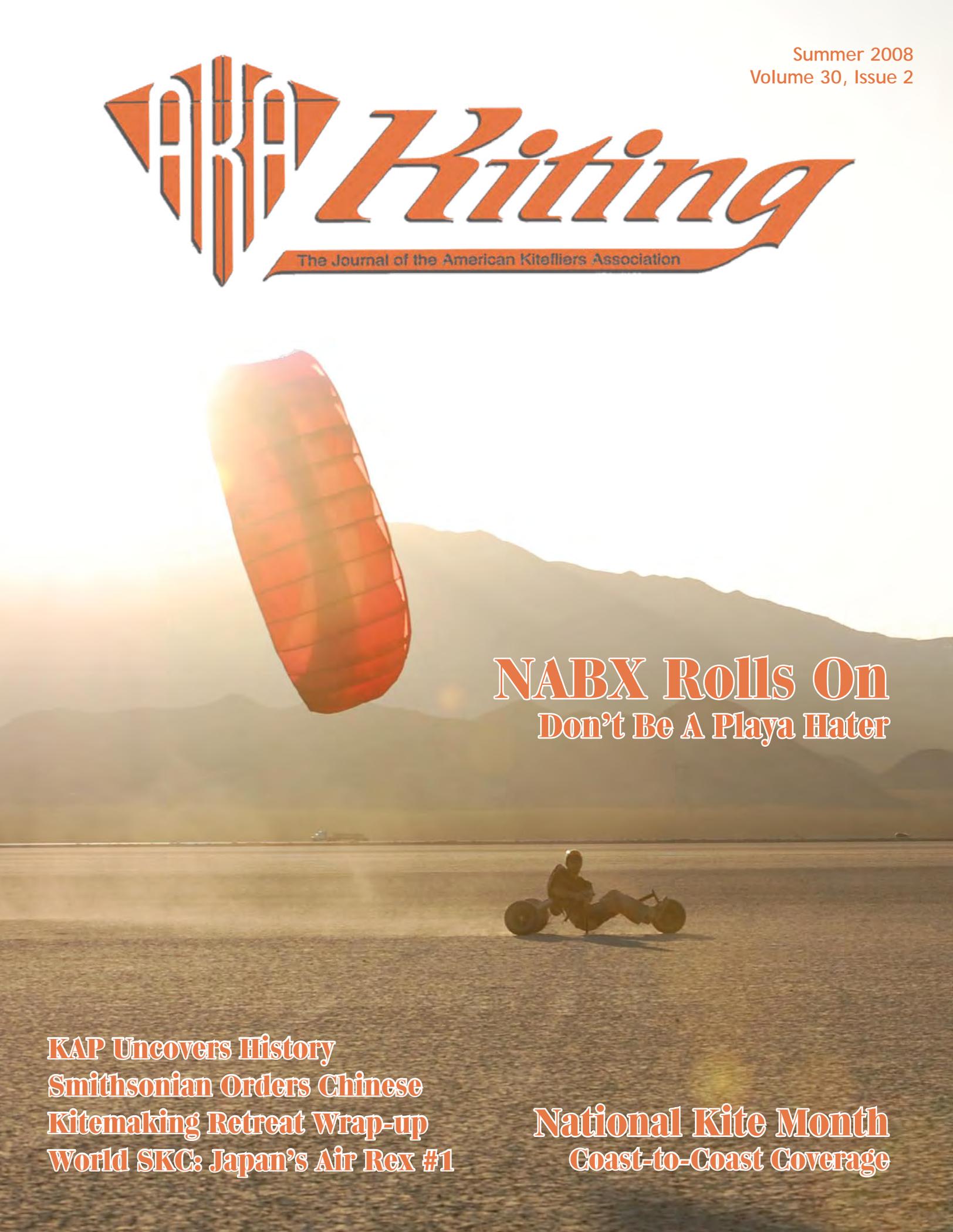


Summer 2008
Volume 30, Issue 2

A large, vibrant orange kite is flying in the sky against a bright, hazy background of mountains and a flat, sandy landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the distance, a person is riding a motorcycle on the flat ground.

AKA *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

NABX Rolls On Don't Be A Playa Hater

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at the North American Buggy
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- > Steve Edeiken: 25 Years After The Fall
- > 41 Years In The AKA

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Kiting is published quarterly by the American Kitefliers Association and distributed free to members. Please contact the editor for information on submissions, advertising, and deadlines.

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

Send address changes to
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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

As my wife Maggie and I get around to various kite festivals, we often hear people say that we must be doing a lot more traveling now with all of the obligations that come with being AKA President. The truth is that we are doing pretty much the same traveling we have always done. There are kite festivals that we have been attending and supporting for more than a decade that we just can't imagine not going to. In any case, the AKA travel budget is very limited, and we will tap into it only for festivals that we could not otherwise do.

It is not the traveling, it is the writing. Between the President's column here, articles for KiteLife.com on the web, keeping up with the KiteTalk Forum and other Forums, and a thousand e-mails a month, it is nearly a full-time job just with the writing.

In March we drove from Rhode Island to be a part of the Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat (MAKR) in Oregon, Illinois. The first people we saw there were Steve and Dyana Ploof from Texas! Team Larkey (Linda, Randy and Ryan) had a surprise banner kit for me to sew. It had an AKA logo on it! This is great. The more things people make with the AKA logo in it the more the word gets out there about the AKA!

In early March we sent a survey to Novice and Experienced sport kite competitors. It was very well received and the response was good. All responses (without the names) were posted on the AKA KiteTalk Forum. Many members said that it was great just to be asked what they thought. Thank you to everyone who responded. Your answers will help shape the future of Sport Kite competition.

The Sport Kite survey was so well received that Jon Burkhardt and Sam Poikail went to work designing a survey that could go out to the entire AKA Membership. Designing a survey is challenging enough. Figuring out how to tabulate all the answers can be even tougher. We have that all worked out. Coming soon to an e-mail inbox near you will be a link to a Survey about the AKA. Please take

the five or ten minutes required to fill it out and send it. Most of it is multiple-choice. There are a couple of essay questions where Members can wax eloquent. Names will not be recorded, but IP addresses will be checked for multiple entries. If you don't have a computer or e-mail or any of that, there is no escape. We will be mailing Surveys to the Members that prefer to participate that way. This is your AKA. We work for you. We want to know what we should be doing better, more of or less of.

Something that has been heard over and over again from members is disappointment that they never knew something was available from the AKA, or something they did not know the AKA did. There is a long list of things the AKA does, has, and makes available. Wouldn't it be great if every AKA member knew how to access everything that would make their kiting experience better? We are working on it. There is a new Members Handbook in process. Don't hesitate to contact your Regional Director and let them know what you think should be in the Handbook.

Have you seen the Convention Countdown on the AKA website? There is already a Countdown in the top right corner of the Welcome page of the AKA website at www.aka.kite.org.

We have a brand new way of conducting Board business. We have been doing teleconferencing at the cost of roughly 11 cents a second. Do the math and that is roughly 50

cents per minute per person, times a 21-member Board. Yes, that adds up fast. Yes, there are free teleconferencing options. Domestically, they are great. We haven't found one that does international calls. Voice-Over-Internet is great, and it's cheap, but it only works for people with computers with broadband Internet access. Sam Poikail from Brockton, Massachusetts came up with a terrific service that does VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) AND toll telephone AND toll-free telephone. The cost is \$75 per month. There are still some kinks to work out, but the cost is great. The best part is that any AKA Member with a computer and Skype can join the Board Meeting at no cost. Before this, any member wishing to be part of the meeting had to bear the approximately \$30 per hour cost. Now, even people without Skype on a computer can join the call for whatever it costs them to call the number. For more information, contact your Regional Director.

We were fortunate this year to get back to the Smithsonian Institution Kite Festival in Washington, DC. AKA Regional Director Will Smoot and I joined forces and we put up two EZ-Ups with custom "AKA" sides. Drake Smith had the great idea of putting the "Kite Doctor" supplies in our spot. We had a crowd of people all day long. Will and I spent a very fulfilling day fixing kites, answering questions and handing out membership applications.

There are those that say that this sort of thing, playing 'locally' (500 miles from home) isn't doing AKA business and diverts a President's attention away from more national issues. I say that being able to spend quality time, one-on-one, with four Past Presidents of the AKA, including the first one, is time well spent.

When I started doing this I was a person and a kiteflier. With any luck, when this is over, I'll still be a person and a kiteflier. Until then I am going to give this job everything I have and love every minute of it.

Good heavens,
gary engvall



NABX: Playa Powered

photos by Chris Schultz, Tim Baxmeyer, Sharon Musto, and Dave Dickerson

by Sharon Musto

It had been eight years or more since I'd flown traction, but bugging on a dry lake bed was something I had always wanted to experience. I finally got my chance this year at NABX.

Thrilled to leave the snow behind me, I flew to Las Vegas, rented an SUV, picked up a few groceries and headed for Primm, an easy 45 minute drive. I hooked up with a veteran SBBB/NABX participant, my friend Bud Taylor from Alberta, and he led the way to buggy paradise! The lake bed was alive with all sorts of sails and wind-powered wheels: skimbats, kite-wings, blokarts, buggies, mountain boards and more. The wind was up, the weather was fabulous, and riding on that lake bed was Sensational with a capital S! I discovered the "aoxomoxoa" I'd only read about before.

Sunsets were spectacular with the Clark Mountain Range silhouetted against a blazing sky. With the clear sky and new moon that weekend, it was gloriously dark. Some participants continued flying late into the night with their illuminated buggies, helmets and kites.

As former Region 13 Director, I'm always interested in meeting the international fliers. This year there was a good-sized group from across Canada, as well as fliers from Israel and the UK. Will Mckean and "Stupid Dave" Roberts from the UK got some wild air off the ramp, as did Alex Brown on his landboard. I wonder how that'd go over with a tandem setup! Errrrr, maybe not! The Canadian contingent had hoped to enter a couple of teams in the Team Enduros but they never came about — just Short Circuit races on Friday.

Check www.nabx.net for full race results.



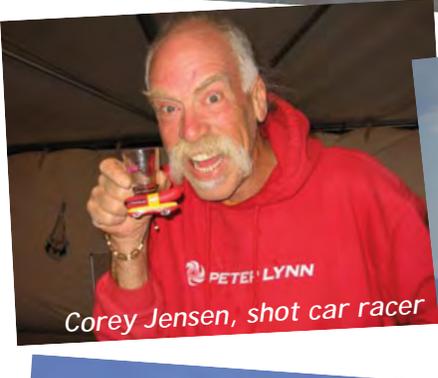
Racing in the wind might be serious business, but racing in the big white tent was something else entirely! Whether or not one came prepared with a shot car, Corey Jensen generously shared his (the shot cars, not the Bushmill's)! Evenings in the tent were loosely organized and quieter than I imagined but maybe some of the regular rowdies were unable to make it this year.

The one and only BBQ chef, Mike Jura, was unable to attend this year. The new head chef, "Scooter" Suter, did a fine job under the circumstances, preparing an Italian meal for 200 on the playa on Saturday. Sunday afternoon saw fewer than a third of the participants show up for the group photo, myself included. I'm optimistic that next year will see a new and improved "schedule." Gotta admit, though, as a first timer I thoroughly enjoyed the entire Mojave experience and look forward to my next opportunity to pop a tire on the playa!





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Corey Jensen, shot car racer



Spencer tutors first-timer Emma



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HISTORY LESSON

Tracking Down History by Ali Fujino photos courtesy of the Drachen Foundation

The e-mail came in late one night, December 19, 2007. It was from kite enthusiast and collector, Michael Hagen of Chico, California. It was a community e-mail, sent to the three directors of kite museums. It read:

"I have been approached by the family of Edna May Sauls, wife of Honea 'Harry' C. Sauls the developer of the Sauls Barrage kite used during WWII to protect ships from aircraft attacks. Mrs. Sauls has stated she thinks it might be fun to sell Mr. Sauls collection of sketches, manufacturing plans and all the other papers he had saved through his 40+ years of experimenting with kites. I would love to have these myself, but they would then be accessible to only a few people again. I have suggested that they might be able to donate them to one of the non-profit kite museums or information repositories and maybe obtain a tax write-off for some family member of greater value than a sale of the materials on eBay."

At this time, no one knew the extent of the collection.

Excited about the possibility there were still some stories, documents and history left of Harry Sauls to be recorded, I could hardly wait until the next morning to make a call to Michael Hagen. Unfortunately, I miscalculated the time and called him at the dawn's

crack, 6:45am! A friendly woman answered the phone and assured me that she would find Michael and give him my number.

As a veteran collector and preservationist of history, (I started working for the Smithsonian when I was 19), I realized that wasting time is one's worst enemy in the preservation of anything important. Quickly calculating Mrs. Sauls age, I realized at 95, she could be gone in a day or week or month. If any of the three museums were interested in investigating what possibly could exist of Harry's kiting archive, it had to be done quickly.

Since Michael was the contact to Mrs. Sauls through her nephew Ronn, it was up to Michael to talk with him and explain that the Drachen Foundation was interested in interviewing her and viewing Harry's archive. Michael

had met Ronn through his local bank, and over conversation he discovered that Ronn had an "interesting kite relative." That relative was Harry Sauls.

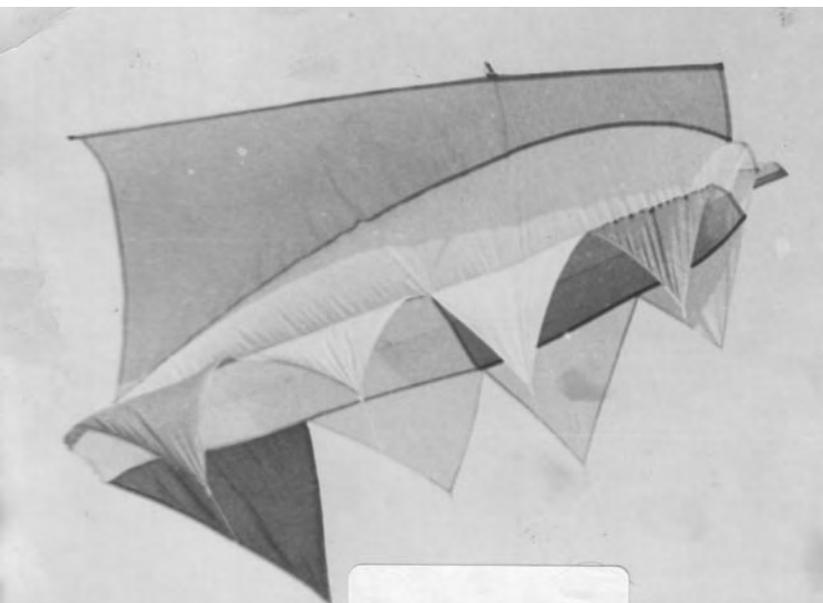
Michael was extremely committed to getting the collection, with the consent of the Sauls family, to that of a public organization. After being

a part of the largest kite auction in 1996, and watching how bidders took apart the world's most singly held kite collection of Samuel Franklin Cody and scattered it all over the world, keeping history in one place and making it accessible to all was the most important focus for Sauls or any collection.

Many, many e-mails were exchanged over the month of December, and although everyone was interested and agreeable to a meeting, the winter holidays made scheduling impossible. It wasn't until mid-January that an appointment could be made. Michael was the most dedicated of all involved, working through four people (including myself) to get a date secured.

Presenting all my credentials and Drachen's intent, a meeting was scheduled for early February. For Drachen it meant a flight from Seattle to Sacramento, then a one-hour drive north to Yuba City.

I met Michael Hagen at the home



of Edna May Sauls' nephew and setting up a video camera, we taped an hour and a half interview. Edna was incredibly sharp and articulate, able to recall most of the life she shared with Harry, and in doing so, detailed the character of a man who in his life, did something extraordinary. It is this oral history interview that gives life to that of Harry Sauls. Through the last four decades, we have been able to document his success with the barrage kite, but little was known about the personality and character of the man who designed and built the barrage kite.

For many years, we've known Harry Sauls to be... "the designer of the naval Barrage Kite, who died of a heart attack on December 2nd, 1988 at the age of 90 in North Miami Beach, Florida. He was born and grew up in a large family in North Carolina. His formal education was brief, but his natural mechanical abilities were considerable. After his discharge from the Marines in 1920, he raised poultry in California and hung around the car races in Los Angeles, where balloons carried advertising banners. He noticed that they would go down in heavy winds, just when the crowds arrived and decided the cure was a kite. 'Having built kites all my life since a kid, I decided to give it a try.' He based his design on examples seen at the Smithsonian. After much work and many mistakes, he developed his methods and began advertising for Carroll's Follies, Silver Foam Soap, 7-Up, and others. He employed 16 people and 7 sewing machines. The Sauls kite underwent extensive testing by the Navy before it was adopted in 1941 to fly from ships on cables to ward off enemy dive-bombers. The Sauls Vangrow Company was formed in Dayton, Ohio to manufacture the kites. The Navy ordered 3,300 of them at a total cost of \$543,000. Production ran from February 1943 to January 1945. The Sauls VKS-1 was 10 feet x 14 feet x 27 feet and used 24 yards of 35" waterproofed cotton over spruce spars and weighed 21 pounds. In 1942 he married Edna May White and in 1946 they moved to Florida where Harry helped engineers survey the North Miami Beach area. Harry then went into building and real estate. He also kept tinkering with kites, and became one of the first members of AKA in

1964. He was active in the Gold Coast Chapter of the AKA along with Jack Aymar, Dom Jalbert, Odell Miller and Walter Scott. He was featured on the cover of *Kite Tales* (predecessor of *Kite Lines*) for two successive issues in 1966. In 1983, the Maryland Kite Society awarded Sauls their Honorary Order of the Kite Award for his Naval Barrage Kite, 'thought to be one of the most important military uses of a kite.' Notes from conversations then show both the achievements and the modesty of Harry Sauls, who said, 'I've never gone into kites scientifically. I just know I can build a good kite and I do it and that's it.' Sauls is survived by his wife and by the trees and flowers of the Harry and Edna May Sauls Park a block from his home.

-Valerie Govig, *Kite Lines Magazine*, Summer 1989 (Vol. 7 No. 3)

Harry was the true "tinkerer," one who dreamed out loud and in real-time. He built what he "thought," inventions which ranged from a special hospital bed, to that kite which was known as an anti-aircraft device flown from merchant ships in World War II. He held many professional jobs, but

his favorite one was his days working about the house "building things." Edna's interview gives her own loving perception and account of how she didn't mind working in order to support Harry and what he did best.

Judging from the sound of her voice, it told me how much she loved and cared for this man, and even though some of his ideas did not bring forth much to their account, she knew and appreciated that this is what he did best. She spent her entire life supporting his efforts, and this is why living history is important.

Edna gave to the Drachen Foundation an album of what she personally felt was a profile of Harry and their life together. This collection of photographs is being scanned and entered into the Drachen database and will be released on our web site by the end of the year.

The connection with the kite community has been made and in time, Edna will go through her belongings and perhaps will bring to public light more documentation on Harry's work.

To listen to Edna talk about Harry and her life with him, visit www.drachen.org/aboutkites/personalities.



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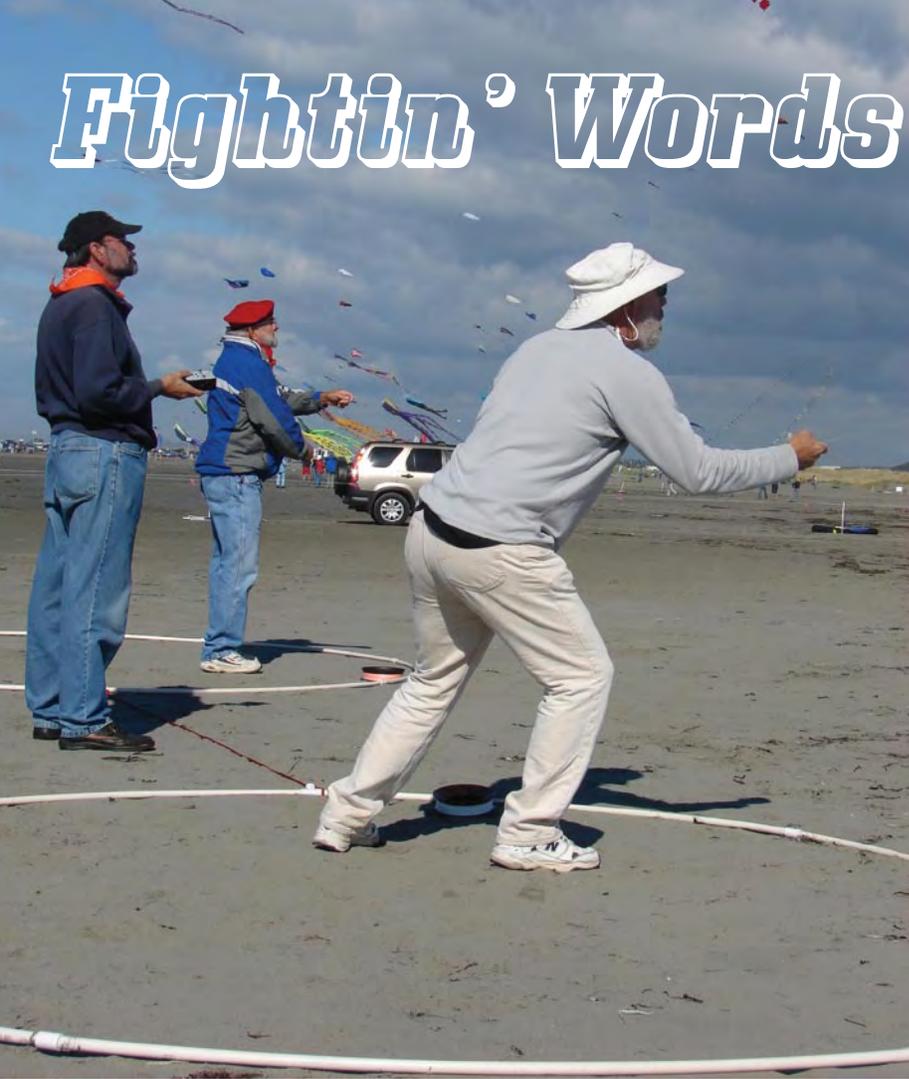
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AKA NEWS

Don't Hate... Nominate!
It's time for nominations for the next election. Positions up for election are President, and Regional Director for Regions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11. Get your nominations in to nominations@aka.kite.org by July 31. Also, if you'd like to propose any changes in the AKA's by-laws, make your proposals to bylaws@aka.kite.org as soon as possible.

Fightin' Words

by Steve Bateman



Fighter kite line touch competition is one kite activity that most fliers have heard of, but few have actually competed in. Many people can keep a fighter in the air, but feel overwhelmed and at a disadvantage when flying head to head with someone else. This article is intended to give some important tips to these beginner fliers, mainly to keep fliers from beating themselves in competition. In a future article I will write about actual kite maneuvering that can be used to win some points, as well as techniques for line handling.

If I had to name just one thing that less experienced fliers could do to prevent crashing, it would be to keep the spool close. By this I mean the spool of line needs to be in a position to let out line whenever needed. If using a halo type spool, it needs to be directly below one's hands, and it has to stay there. It also needs to be angled toward the hands, thus allowing the line to easily come off. I cannot count the number of times I have seen a competitor run out of loose available line. All of a sudden the reel pulls on the line, causing the kite to crash and the point to be lost. If the reel is below one's hands, this can't happen.

The choice of reel is important too. Halo type spools, with one side sloped to allow line to pay out, are the kind to get. The Indian type spools that you stick one end in the ground, where line plays off one end, are more likely to snag your line and have a smaller range of angles in which the line can easily play off.

Avoid line tangles! Wrap up loose line on your reel

between points. This is especially important when the ground has items that could snag your line (tall crabgrass comes to mind). If the line is on the reel it cannot get tangled. Suddenly realizing that there is a large rat's nest in your line is likely to interfere with the handling of the line, and can distract your mind from what you are doing. If you do not have the time to wrap up your line or are flying in high wind, draw the excess line out into long loops downwind. This will minimize the chance of the slack line gathering together.

If the ground has lots of debris, clear it from your flying area. Most event organizers will do this, but that doesn't mean it will be to your liking. Sand usually has feathers and seaweed to clear away, and grass can have any kind of debris. Look out for grass that sticks up more than the surrounding grass. If given a choice of which ring to compete in, choose the one that will be less likely to snag your line.

Wear clothing that will not snag your line. Take off your watch. If conditions are suitable, take off your jacket and shoes. The last thing you want is your shoelaces or your Velcro wrist closure on your jacket to grab your line.

Be sure you have enough line on your spool. I usually fly with at least 450' of line, but prefer to have 900' on my spool. That does not mean I will fly my kite 900 feet away, but it allows me to cut out tangled parts and still know that I will not run out of line during the line touch.

The type of line you fly on is important. Many of us are flying on 10-20# fishing Spectra, usually PowerPro brand. It has minimal stretch and allows the kite to fly in lighter winds with more speed. Once you fly with Spectra, flying on cotton line can feel like flying with a rubber band. Fishing Spectra has a light wax coating that minimizes tangles, but it does require a stronger grip to keep it from slipping through your fingers. If you still fly on cotton line, it should have a very light wax coating on it. Either rig up a pot of molten wax for your line to run through (threading the line through a piece of vinyl tubing to squeeze the wax off), or rub a piece of wax on the line (a long process, and not as good). I've always used simple canning paraffin wax, but I've heard some people use or mix it with beeswax. If you need to tie line back together after a break, use a blood knot. It has a low profile and is quite strong.

The last tip is to get yourself a climber's bag of chalk, tied around your waist, and dip your fingers in it whenever you feel the line could slide more easily through them. This is especially important when flying in humid air, as slightly moist fingers will cause the line to skitter or jump as you are trying to let out line smoothly. Hopefully you will not pick up a habit of using it when you don't need to, like I have. It can be somewhat addictive.

The best tip I can give you is to fly! If you know there is a competition coming up, get out there and practice.

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K-MAIL

Just finished cover to covering the latest *Kiting*—excellent, as usual. I am wondering why you almost never credit the photographers? Seems to me that would be good thing—for us and the photographers!

*John Freeman
Parksville, British Columbia*

[Thanks, John, and good question! Whenever possible, I try to credit photographers, but the simple truth is that most of the photos Kiting receives don't arrive with any information about the photographer. If you don't put your name on it, we can't credit you. Also, I take a lot of the pictures myself, and to spare you from having to read my name over and over, I leave it off.]

I'm writing to clear up the issue of world record mega flies using Revolution kites.

From Region One, Greg Lamoureux correctly reported that we lofted 29 Revs into the sky at Treasure Island. This is the new North American record, which iQuad will attempt to surpass at events around the continent throughout 2008.

From Region Thirteen, Linda Sanders also correctly reported a megafly of 48 Revs at the Tokyo Bay Flight Party last October. This is the World record, which will be attacked at events in Uchinada, Japan and in Bristol, UK later this year.

It's been really great to see so much renewed excitement over these amazing kites, and the whole iQuad team is looking forward to seeing the coming year unfold.

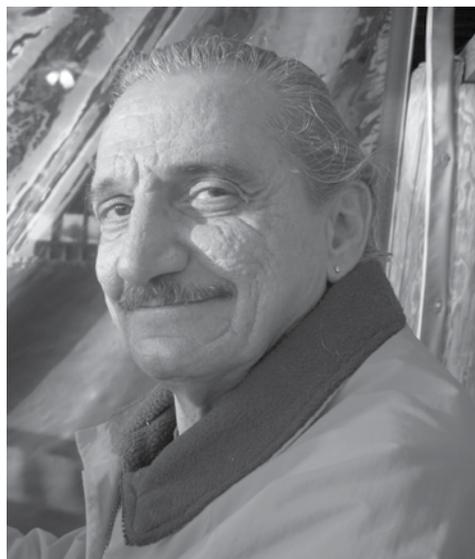
*John Barresi
Portland, Oregon*

[Thanks for that clarification. With all those quad-lines, will there also be an attempt at the "World's Biggest Kite Line Tangle" record?]

EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Ralph Offredo

Ralph made his greatest mark not as a flyer, or as a kite maker, but on the microphone. A regular fixture on the Sky Festivals production team, Ralph's announcing first became known at the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships in Wildwood, then at the Mid Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships in Ocean City, MD and the Philadelphia Kite Festival. Ralph went on to become the voice of the Eastern League, announcing in events in Miami, New York, Sandy Hook, NJ and Jekyll Island, GA. He announced with Robert



Hawkins at Klig's event. He announced with Dennis Smith, Tom Mason, Ron Gibian and Paul Reynolds. If you worked a mike on the East coast, you probably worked it with Ralph.

It was during the early days of sport kite competitions that Ralph really developed a style for announcers, introducing flyers, plugging sponsors, anticipating the Field Judge and setting the tempo for a sport kite competition. He had an understanding for making a competition flow and was appreciated by many a head judge and event coordinator.

His laughter and wry sense of humor on the mike were missed the past few years. Ralph, due to health reasons chose to stay away from kiting. He was very proud and never liked letting a friend down. The last time in Wildwood he apologized for missing a few years. Ralph never let anyone down. He was one of the most loyal people I've ever known.

— Roger Chewning

Rick O'Shea

Rick O'Shea brought kitemaking and kiteflying to the people of Jacksonville, Florida, despite having to overcome quadriplegia. He was per-

haps best known for KiteRigger's Kite Shop, which he and a partner operated from 1988 for about five years.

He instituted programs with the Duval County public schools where children had Kite Days, making and flying their own kites. Rick also organized kite festivals throughout the city and at the beaches, and hosted a convention of the American Kitefliers Association in 1991.

"Flying kites is a way to reach for the heavens," he once said.



Jacksonville Times-Union



Growing up on a farm in Illinois didn't leave much time for recreation but like most other children I did fly a kite occasionally. Unfortunately as I grew up other things took a higher priority and kite flying faded into the past. High school and college became my main focus, ultimately graduating with a degree in electrical engineering. Working, getting married and having a family became the center of my attention, and kites, while not forgotten, remained a dim memory. Then one day in 1980 I stopped in Judy Neuger's kite shop and suddenly an old flame was rekindled. The entire kiting universe had expanded and I was

amazed at the variety of kites that had been developed over the years. Needless to say kiting immediately became one of my main leisure activities. At this point I was motivated to make a few kites out of Tyvek. I went to my first national convention at Columbus, Ohio, in 1983 and that opened my eyes to what kite makers were doing and that became an important part of my kiting experience.

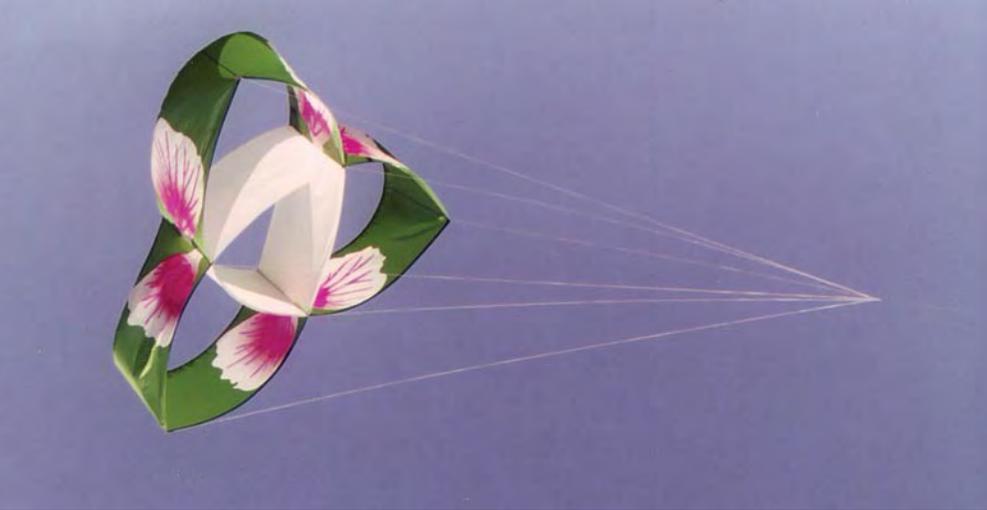
I find that one of the benefits of flying a kite is that it releases built-up stress. Just watching the kite in the air instills a certain serenity that puts a person at peace with the world. The kite is also a piece of art that decorates the sky. This leads to kitemaking as a form of self-expression that not only adds beauty to the world but sends a message to all who look at the kite. Another aspect of kitemaking that gives me a great sense of satisfaction is that it allows me to apply a variety of my engineering skills to the design and construction to the kite. The combination of all of these factors makes the

time and effort that goes into making a kite worthwhile.

An important part of kitemaking that I am keenly interested in is the inspiration for the type of kite or the artwork that decorates the kite. In my case the theme often involves people or faces, plants and animals or finally a religious symbol. Some of my kites incorporate more than one of these elements.

In my case the natural progression was to enter my kites into the kitemaking competition. This allowed me to see how my work compares to that made by the top kite builders. Of course there is also the excitement that comes with any competition. This has then led me to becoming a judge





for the competition. There is a great deal of satisfaction to be gained from comparing the skill and imagination of the very best kite makers.

There are other aspects of kiting that keep me involved. First of all there are the people. I have found kite flyers to be friendly folks who are eager to help and show concern and support for others in time of need. Along the lines of people there is one activity that gives me as much pleasure as anything I do in the kiting world: putting on kitemaking workshops for children. Generally this means that several hundred children each year are exposed to the kitemaking experience. It is a thrill for me to watch young people decorate a kite, help them finish construction of their own creation and then take it out into the field and fly it for the first time. From this resource will come the serious kite fliers of the future and potential members of the AKA.



In the Spring '08 K-files column, two kites made by Premier Kites were mistakenly attributed to Jon Trennepohl. KITING apologizes for the error.

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Voices From The Vault

Masaaki Modegi

by Patti Gibbons

photos courtesy of the Drachen Foundation

Fathers know best, and often sons follow in their footsteps out of admiration and shared curiosities. Masaaki Modegi tips his hat to his famous kite-collecting father, the late Shingo Modegi, and built upon his dad's love of kites to amass a pretty impressive body of work of his own. President of the Japanese Kiting Association, Kite Museum director, and good spirited friend of all kitefliers, Masaaki Modegi continues to hold the strings that his father passed to him many years ago.

work of a soon-to-be Picasso in any art school talent show. In kite circles, Shingo Modegi was famous not for making kites, but revered for his knack of collecting fine samples of original, well-made, and beautiful kite work. As Shingo often quipped, "Babe Ruth never made any bat."

When Masaaki was a child, he didn't realize his dad had such a strong interest in kites. Dad was just dad and kites didn't factor into his definition of his father. It wasn't until

he noticed that his dad's restaurant was literally wallpapered floor to ceiling with kites that Masaaki began recognizing his dad's fanatical kiting passion.

Masaaki remembers the early days of the Japanese Kite Association through his father's involvement in club activities. In the early 1970s, Shingo and fourteen others, got together and

signed the hobby group's first charter. Popular with mass appeal, the club rapidly grew its membership to over 500 members within the first year. Masaaki believes his father got involved in kiting for fun and always managed to have fun when he was around kites and fellow fliers.

Masaaki grew up witness to the JKA's growth and looking back, he remembers when the club expanded to the point that it needed to turn inward and organize. During this coming of age, the club elected officers, scheduled regular monthly meetings, and published official rule books for competitions. Yet even today, the crowning jewels in the group's event calendar remain the same: the well-celebrated New Years festival, an international

festival in May, and an autumn festival to hold everyone over until the next year.

Masaaki, like his father, actively heads the Japanese Kiting Association. He works tirelessly for the club and keeps a bustling event calendar. Something of a kiting Clark Kent, he travels to club events and types up reports for the association's monthly newsletter. Masaaki's schedule rivals a traveling salesman's traveling itinerary. He finds himself at two or three kite events a week and jokes that he finds it easier to go to another country to rest at a kite event than to find quiet time on Japanese flying fields. For his home team, Masaaki gives speeches and takes photographs at local events to get the scoop for the newspaper editor. This informal post confuses some people — many mistake him as a professional photojournalist rather than a talented amateur shutterbug.

When Masaaki isn't traveling on the kite circuit, he's plenty busy at the Kite Museum. The museum, *Tako no hakubutsakan*, honorably holds the title as the world's oldest kite-only museum. It was established by his father in 1977 after he met a child who had never seen a kite. Masaaki says you have to be determined when building a collection to keep its focus solely on kite-related items. He takes great pride in keeping a narrow collection focus. The museum showcases outstanding pieces by kite artists, flawless examples of traditional Japanese kites, along with samples of international kites that tell the story of foreign lands.

Curator Masaaki adds to his father's collection and displays the museum's kites in two main exhibitions a year. During summer months Masaaki puts on a kid-focused exhibition and highlights "cartoon" kites from the collection. In the wintertime Masaaki selects "happy" kites to help celebrate the seasons. This biannual schedule is often juggled a bit to squeeze in eye-popping new arrivals from his international travels.



Modegi-san and Mikio Toki.

As a child Masaaki remembers flying kites only during the traditional Japanese kite flying season. To ring in the New Year, Japanese children take to their rooftops to fill the sky with small kites during the holiday season. Masaaki remembers his father waking him on a cold night from his cozy bed to fly a rokkaku from their rooftop. Good times were had during the frosty night and dreams of kite fun started to seep in.

Throughout his lifetime, Masaaki's dad amassed an impressive kite collection and actively saved samples of those that caught his eye and tickled his senses. Like a fine art collector, his father might have been all thumbs with a palette and oil paints, but his highly refined eye could spot the

Masaaki recognizes the difficulties in keeping his doors open and has politely declined offers from Tokyo's mayor to transfer control of the museum over to the municipality. As many non-profit museum directors know, it is hard to keep private museums solvent, especially during unsteady economic times. Masaaki's commitment to retaining the reigns has tightened his partnership with his father's restaurant Taimeiken. The family's thriving upscale restaurant underwrites the museum and helps cover the gaps in the organization's operating budget. Together business and culture thrive and keep a father's dream alive.



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.



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80th Zilker Park Kite Festival March 2, 2008 Austin, TX



Kathy Nixie cleaned up!



Otto M. Budig Airwaves Kite Festival April 5-6, 2008 Cincinnati, OH

photos by Rebekah Matthews, Kathy Moore and Rebecca Messmer



Aerial Inquiry

What's your favorite kite shop?

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

Next issue's question is, *Who's your choice for AKA Volunteer of the Year, and why?*

Our favorite kite shop is Kites Unlimited in Atlantic Beach, NC. The shop carries a variety of single line, dual line and quad kites. There is always something new try and something old to admire. The Dixons are welcoming and make their shop "the" place to visit with kiting friends. We find it a place you just can't stay away from. They hold a weekly fun fly on the beach, weather permitting. And, of course, there is the annual Carolina Kite Festival in October.

Karen Mault

Kitesville, North Redington Beach, Florida; central contact point for TWO local clubs, sponsoring quarterly events, running an annual kite festival, stocking repair parts, recruiting new AKA members... and oh yeah, they sell kites.

Terry Cornell

I am based in France, with very few kite shops 100 miles around. So my favorite kite shop is internet and especially eBay. Fair prices!

Bernard Fourniere

Gombergkites is my choice since they carry the kites I'm interested in and also have a lot of information on how to fly them safely. It's not exactly a shop in the old fashioned sense of the word but I can look till I'm in information overload.

Rick Hawkins

There are only two places that I buy anything from.

1. The Kite Shoppe. Theresa makes the best 120' line sets ever, and her customer service is unbelievable.
2. Revolution Enterprises. I buy directly from Rev just because there are no local kite shops here in Spokane, WA. So I have to fuel my Rev addiction from California.

Spence Watson

The Black Swamp Air Force always believed in keep our kite shop local, rather than buying from the internet. So our favorite local kite shop was called Wings on the Wind. It was started by club members and kite enthusiasts. And even if you were not in the market to buy one, you were always welcome to stop by and talk about kites and the hobby.

Kevin Kilgoar

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Peter Lake

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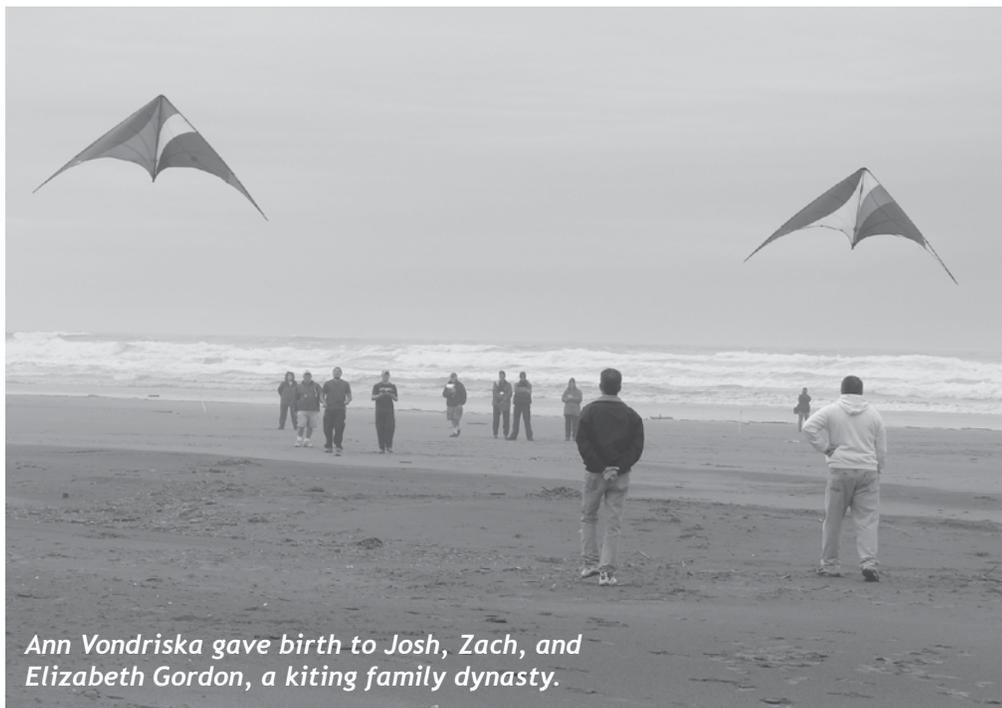
Family Matters by Ann Vondriska

We all have lives that are busy, technical, complicated and stressed. We have televisions in our cars and headphones in our ears. Our sedentary lifestyles are making us sick. We are spending less time together as families and wonder how we will be able to keep it all together in today's fast-paced world.

In looking for ways to have family time and relax, many of us have taken a weekend trek to a kite festival. It might have been the large inflatable that we saw from the road, or an article in the local paper that drew us there. Once there, we became enamored with the sights, colors and motions of the beautiful single line kites, watching the fighter kites or seeing a sport kite ballet for the first time. Don't underestimate the power of this initial experience!

There are so many different types of kites that it's easy to find something to interest even the youngest of fliers. How about flying a sport kite? The world of sport kiting offers so many different opportunities for growth as well as enough diversity to keep the whole family occupied.

Sport kiting fulfills a myriad of needs that children have. Young flyers are outside, away from the television set and getting exercise. They learn to interact with the wind, feeling its power and the effect it has on a kite sail. For teens, one of the most com-



Ann Vondriska gave birth to Josh, Zach, and Elizabeth Gordon, a kiting family dynasty.

mon activities is playing video games. Yes, those games teach hand-eye coordination, but so does kiting. Especially when the kids are learning the more technical aspects of sport kiting such as learning to fly a solid precision maneuver (talk about geometry!) or when they move onto tricking. The even bigger bonus is that they can wear their headphones and express themselves through their music, either for fun or while working on a kite ballet.

If your family chooses to take sport kiting to a competitive level, the

experiences of public performance can help with self-esteem and confidence. Success is great and will bolster their desire to continue to perform. Failure also has its lessons and most of the time, with support from both the family and mentors from the kiting community, the flyer will get right back out on the field and try again.

All members of the family may not be interested in flying kites, but there are other things they can do. Ask any festival organizer about the need for volunteers to help with anything from line judges to field directors, to shadow judging, pit bossing, fund-raising or helping out under the tent! You certainly don't need to know how to fly to perform any of those tasks. How about organizing a festival yourself?

Is it easy to keep a family together under any circumstances? Not really! But sharing a common hobby is one uncommon way to do it! The highs and the lows, successes and failures, the travel and gaining an extended family make sport kiting the family passion.

After all, there is nothing more rewarding than spending a day outdoors with your family sharing the joys of sport kiting!



JULY 11-13

**FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT:**

MARLA MILLER

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Randy Tom



This Rev is British, not Swiss.



Team 180° Go catches a gecko.



Kite Party 6
February 23-24, 2008
Huntington Beach, CA
photos by John Chilese
<http://community.webshots.com/user/chilese.j>



Jim Streatly and his Gibian pocket rocket.



Kite Party organizer Dave Shenkman



Ken McNeill and the new Blue Moon 61/49.



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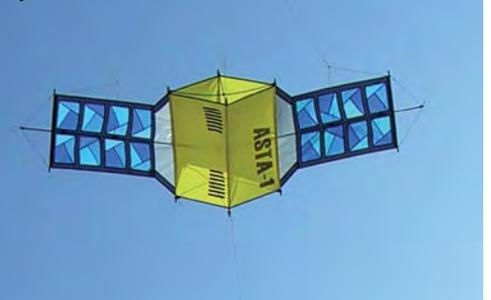
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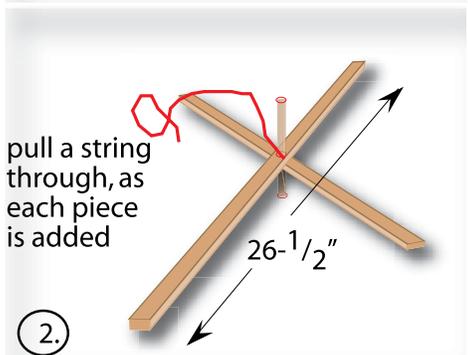
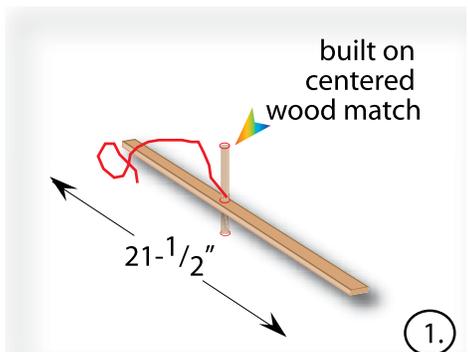
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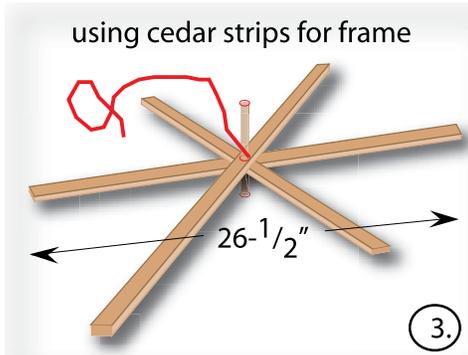
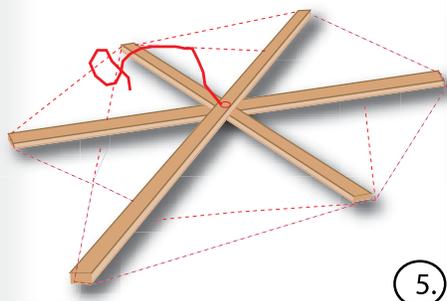


KITE PLAN
 TRADITIONAL TOBAGO BY PAUL LAMASTERS

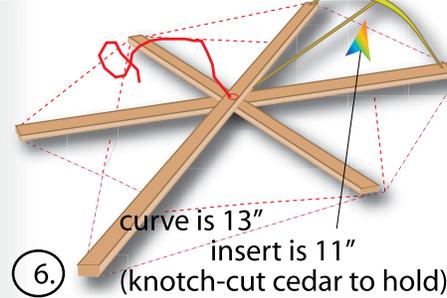


4. adjust & center spars,

add line around the parameter



add bamboo hummer supports



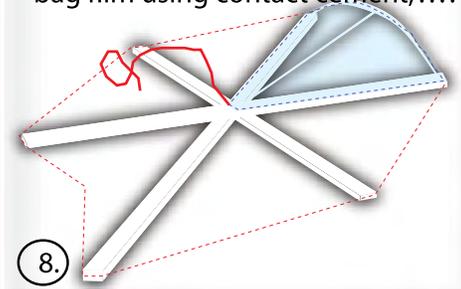
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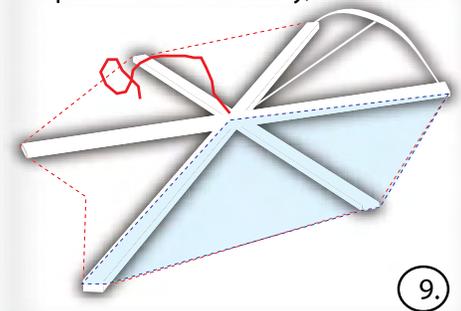
reinforce open areas, if that is necessary for your sized kite



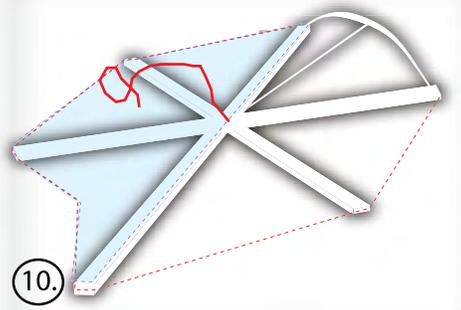
trim to size and then adhere trash bag film using contact cement,....



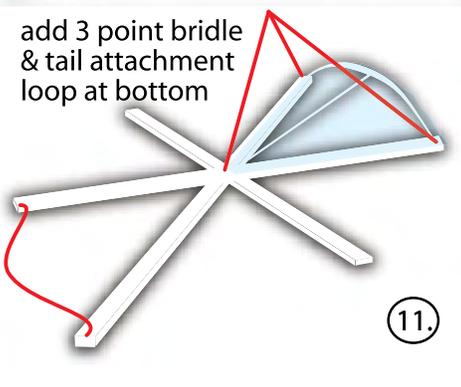
3 pieces are necessary,



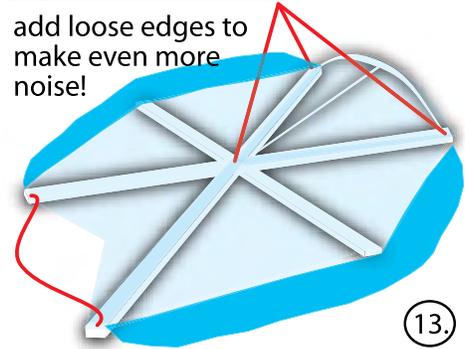
to complete the sail.



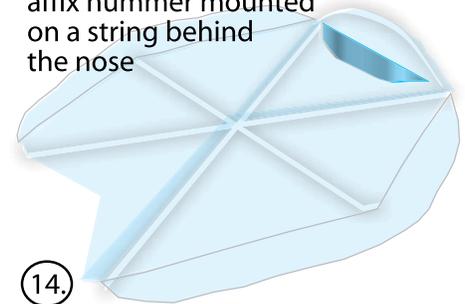
add 3 point bridle & tail attachment loop at bottom



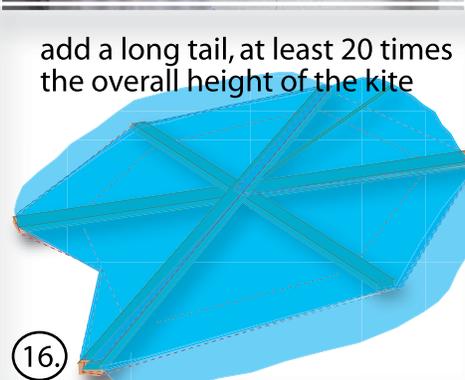
add loose edges to make even more noise!



affix hummer mounted on a string behind the nose



add a long tail, at least 20 times the overall height of the kite



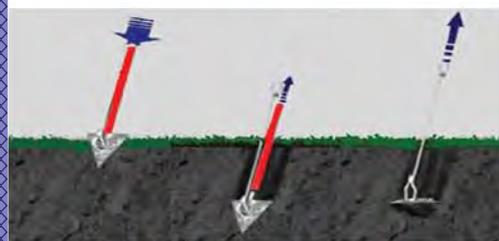
Reusable 3" Kite Anchor With Retrieval Cable



30" Long 1/8" galvanized aircraft cable - Tie Off 36" Long 1/8" galvanized aircraft cable - Retrieval

Made of high quality 11 gauge galvanized steel, American Earth Anchor's 3-inch anchor combines superior pullout resistance, ease of installation (5 Minutes) will have you flying faster than other anchors and a retrieval cable for reusability at a very affordable price. Depending on soil conditions the distinctive design of the 3-inch anchor provides up to **1,500 lbs.** of holding power in sand.

IDEAL FOR SECURING:
Kites - Canopies - Inflatable's and other beach items!



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Aviation Archaeology

Kiting⁺

by Ric Gillespie
photos courtesy of TIGHAR



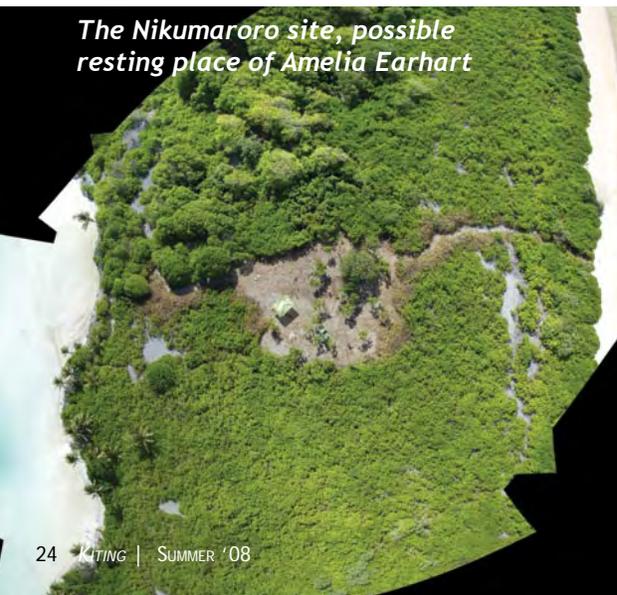
Setting up off Nikumaroro

Nikumaroro is not at the end of the world, but on a clear day you can see the edge from there. The uninhabited South Pacific atoll is one of the most remote spots on the planet and it is where a growing body of archaeological evidence suggests vanished aviator Amelia Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan met their fate as castaways, classically marooned on a desert island. Kite aerial photography (KAP) is playing a major role in mapping and assessing that evidence.

As executive director of The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR, pronounced “tiger”) and the leader of nine archaeological search expeditions to Nikumaroro, I had often wished for a good bird’s eye view of the island to help us in planning, mapping and evaluating our work. The island is simply too far away from everywhere to make photography from aircraft practical, so we got creative.

In 1991 we tried attaching a video camera to a kite but the resulting imagery was only useful for inducing nausea. It did that very efficiently. In 1997, at considerable hassle

The Nikumaroro site, possible resting place of Amelia Earhart



and expense, we brought along a two-passenger ultra-light aircraft on the five-day, thousand-mile voyage from Fiji, but the seas proved to be too rough to even assemble the aircraft, let

alone launch it. By 2001, satellite imagery was commercially available — a huge step forward for planning and managing that year’s expedition, but the resolution wasn’t good enough for detailed site analysis. Fortune smiled on us during our time at the island that year when a small helicopter from a commercial tuna fishing ship stopped by and we were able to bum a ride. We got some spectacular video but a one-time tour around the island was not the answer. What we needed was a way to get on-demand, near real-time, low level, high resolution still photos of areas of archaeological interest. Having that kind of capability in a place like Nikumaroro seemed like an impossible dream.

So when KAP expert Dave Wheeler approached us in the spring of 2007 with an idea for an aerial photography system for the expedition we were planning for that summer — using a kite no less — my first reaction was, “Been there. Done that. Got the barf bag.” But Dave insisted that this was something different and offered to demonstrate the system at our expedition planning meeting in Delaware in May. He showed up with a fascinating presentation and an impressive KAP rig, but Delaware failed to provide the needed wind and the demonstration never really, uh, got off the ground. Still, it was apparent that the system had real promise. Dave and KAP pioneer Brooks Leffler were generously offering to set us up with what amounted to a turnkey operation. All we would need to supply was the camera. I decided to add KAP to the new technologies we would try on the expedition.

The choice of camera would be important. The tropical island environment is notoriously hard on equipment and most of our kite flying would be over either hard coral or salt water. We decided on the Olympus Stylus 770 SW. The camera is advertised as being waterproof down to thirty-three feet and able to resist the shock of being dropped from a height of five feet. A camera that could double as a fishing line sinker or a hammer sounded like a good idea. Just the same, camera shops being in short supply on Nikumaroro, we brought along three of them.

Several of our team members volunteered to train as KAP specialists but that never quite happened.



They ended up learning the skill and art of Kite Aerial Photography by trial and error on the job. Even so, there were no crashes, no equipment was broken and they got 90% of the imagery they went after. The photos they took gave us unprecedented search and site management capability during the expedition and are now proving invaluable in the post-expedition mapping and analysis of what-was-found-where.

Soon after our return from the South Pacific, another ideal archaeological application for KAP arose, this time in the opposite direction across the North Atlantic. A P-38 "Lightning" World War Two fighter unexpectedly emerged from the sands of a beach in Wales where it had lain buried and forgotten for sixty-five years. We immediately recognized the need for an archaeological survey of the aircraft as a first step toward its recovery and preservation.

In the water off Wales



Speed and secrecy were of the essence because, sadly, the looting of historic aircraft crash sites is a problem worldwide. Within three weeks of first learning of the discovery, we had a survey team on the ground and in the water collecting data, making measurements, assessing corrosion levels, and using KAP to document the site.

We found the aircraft to be in remarkably good condition with most its structure and

components still intact - a rare find indeed, especially given that it was not deep in a Third World jungle but on a popular public beach in the United Kingdom. Eventually and inevitably, word of the discovery leaked out. At that point it became important to shine the brightest possible media light on the project to let everyone know that the aircraft was the subject of a professional archaeological study and was being closely monitored - and once again, KAP proved to be a vital tool. We put out a press release accompanied by a stunning KAP image

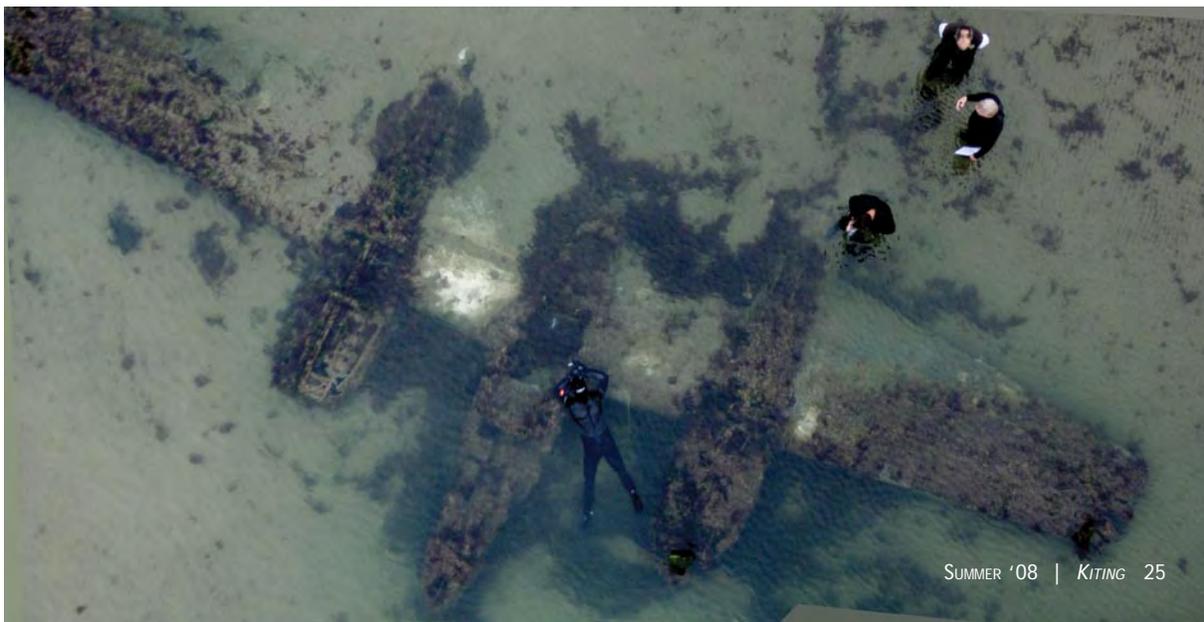


The Maid of Harlech

of the wreck taken during our survey. That photo became "the shot seen 'round the world" when it was picked up and reproduced by dozens of newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and abroad. Today the Lightning, now famous as "The Maid of Harlech," is safely back beneath the sand awaiting recovery in the near future.

In the space of a year, the use of Kite Aerial Photography by TIGHAR has grown from a gift-horse experiment to one of our most valued tools. Of course, KAP is not appropriate for projects where the work area is not visible from overhead, and there are times when too little or too much wind defeats the system. Also, just getting to the sort of places where we use KAP can be something of an adventure. Although the camera itself is very rugged, the cradle that carries it aloft is rather delicate and easily damaged in transit. We're currently developing specialized cases for transporting the KAP system safely to where it's needed.

TIGHAR is indebted to Dave Wheeler and Brooks Leffler for introducing us to KAP. Dave is now an active member of our research team and combines individual KAP photos into impressive panoramas that further enhance the imagery's usefulness. To learn more about TIGHAR's projects, visit our website at www.tighar.org.

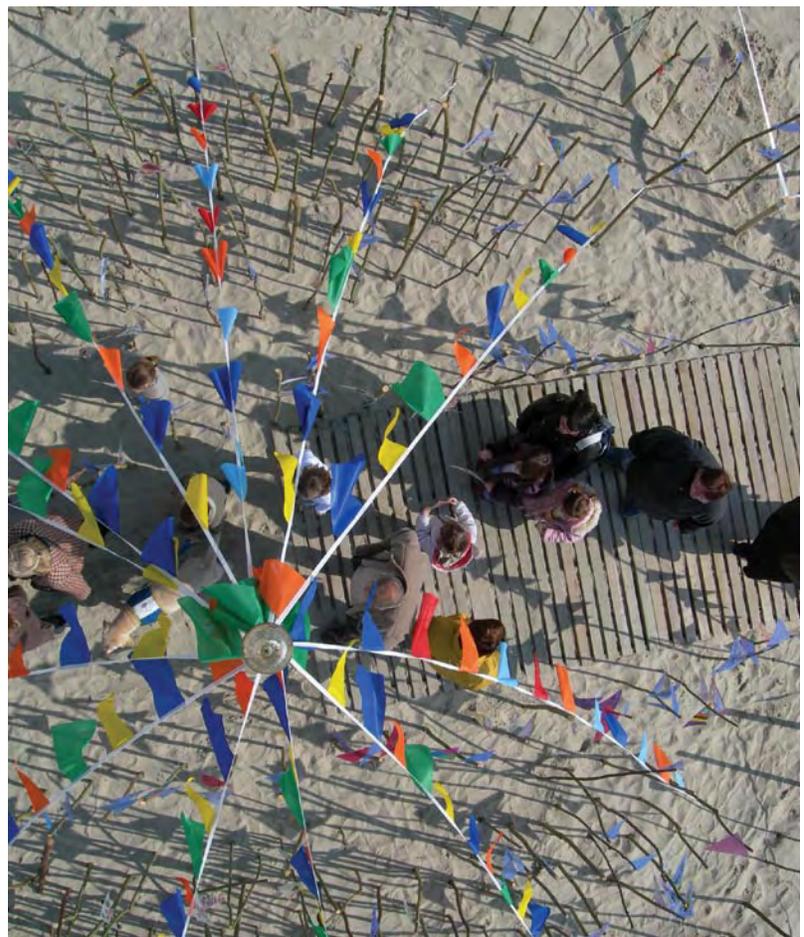
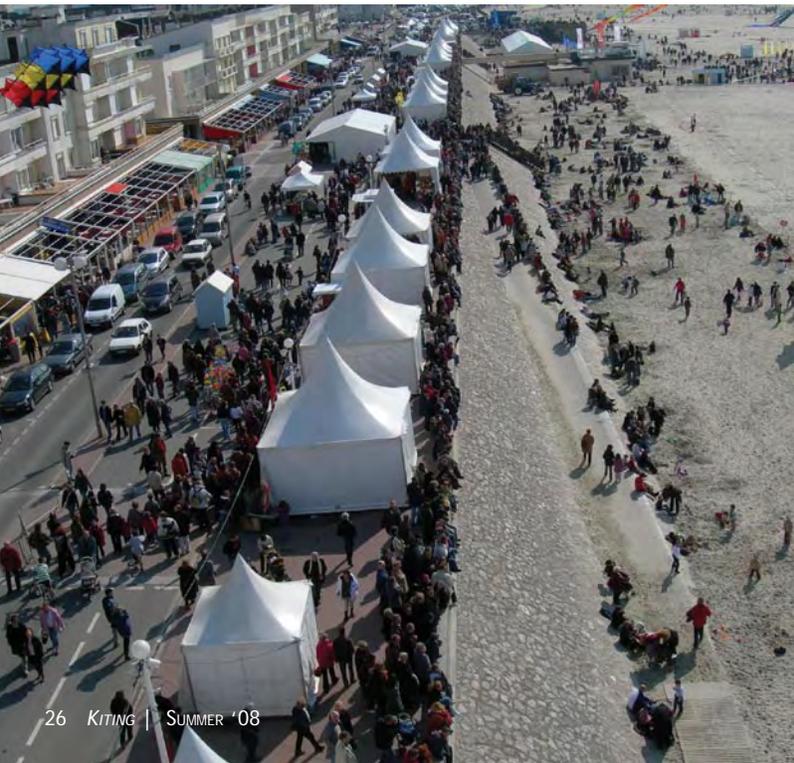




KAPTIONS

GERHARD & DANIELA ZITZMANN

In this issue we present photos by Austria's Gerhard and Daniela Zitzmann, taken at this spring's Rencontres Internationales de Cerfs-Volants de Berck-sur-Mer. All photos were taken with a Canon Powershot G9. For more of their "luftbildfotografie", visit www.drachenwelt.at.





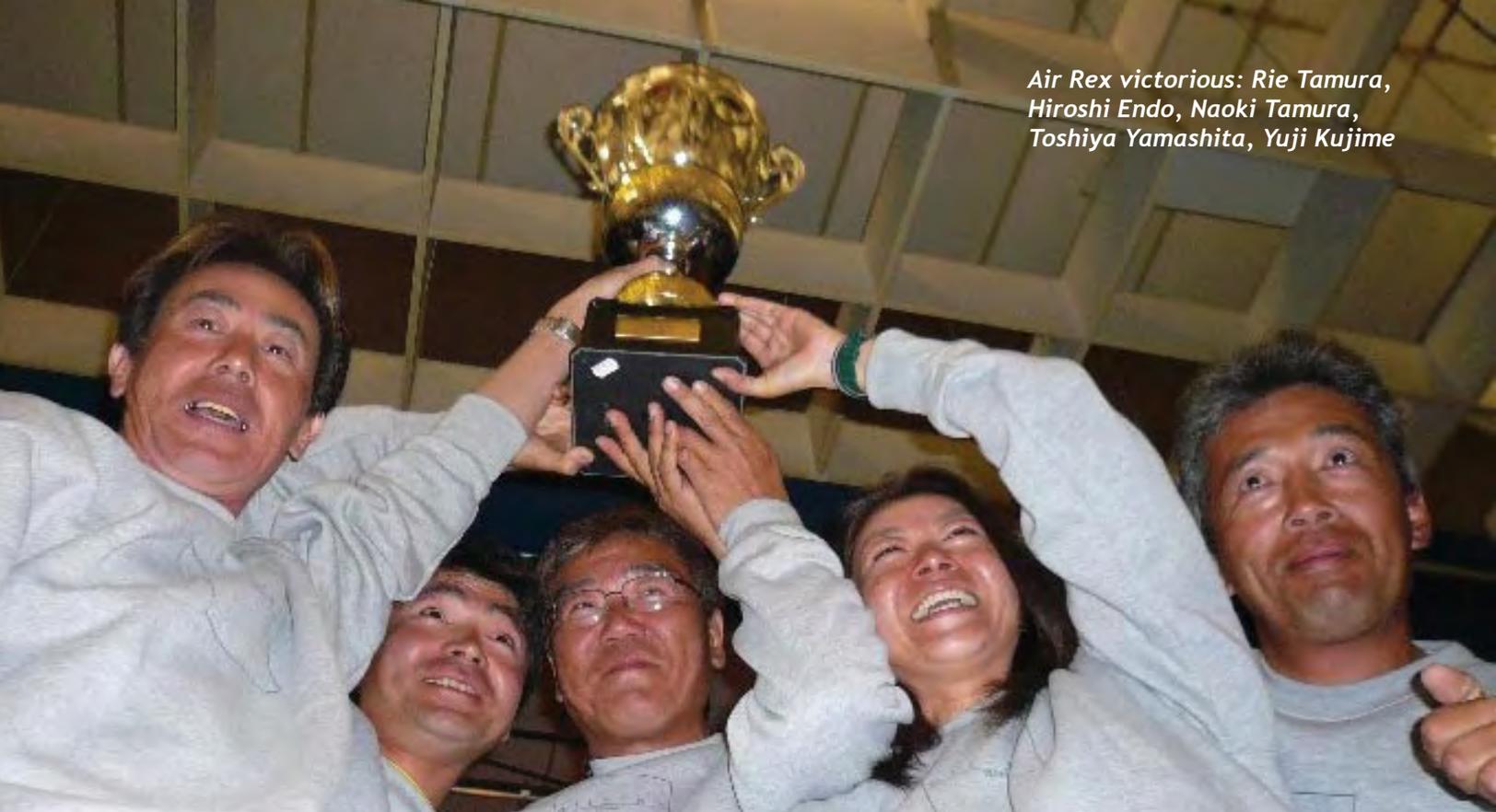
Gerhard Zitzmann



Berck's double-deck carousel



Air Rex victorious: Rie Tamura, Hiroshi Endo, Naoki Tamura, Toshiya Yamashita, Yuji Kujime



The View From The Podium

6th Sense's Bill Rogers At the World Championships

The World Sport Kite Championship was in the middle of the Berck kite festival, April 5-13, 2008. The festival is a huge event with single line, dual line, multiline, whatever line kites in the air. The WSKC is part of this festival every other year on the even years. The competition is held on Tuesday through Thursday with a precision and ballet discipline held each day.

The competitors are mostly brought in on Friday and do demos Saturday and Sunday, along with other invited teams, pairs, and quadline teams. We compete during the week, demos again the next weekend and then fly out the following Monday. It is a very well-organized event with the festival providing lunch near the field every day for hundreds of people.

After the demos on the weekend we all knew that Air Rex from Japan was going to be the favored team to win. Their 5-person ballet was incredible with their flying skills and spacing being very good. Wind for the demos on Saturday started out a little strong but mellowed out and became laboratory grade for most of the day, making for some very nice demos from all the teams.

As a side note, the crowds at Berck are huge. When the wind is nice and the weather is decent, it is a huge draw for the town. The town becomes very crowded, and the beach is full of people checking out the kites. Very nice change from most festivals in the US.

The wind Sunday was not as favorable. The wind started offshore, which is a very bad thing at Berck. There are several buildings not too far from the beach and they really mess up the wind if it is offshore. The wind switched

to onshore after a while and picked up. Then the rain started. Then there was hail mixed in. Then there was some snow mixed in. By then the crowd had disappeared and they cancelled the rest of the demos. The snow continued throughout the day and into the evening, and by morning there was a coating of snow on the beach. I have seen a lot of things at Berck, but this is the first time I have seen snow there.

Monday is a practice day for the teams. The beach at Berck is huge when the tide is out, so there was plenty of room for all to prepare. The teams competing were: 6th Sense (USA), Air Rex (Japan), AirZone (USA), Atemoc (Columbia), Equipo 2600 (Columbia), Flame (UK), Freaks Team (Argentina), Les Tatoueurs du Ciel (France), Ninja (Japan), O4 (France), Scratch Bunnies (UK), Start' Air (France), and Watnu (Germany). The judges were Chief Judge Andrew Taylor and Jurgen Schneider (STACK), Jim Barber and Russ Faulk (AKA) and Seiji Kato (AJSKA). The Field Director was Monica Barber and the Scorekeeper was Tracy Erzin.

Tuesday the wind started light and variable in the morning, coming offshore when there was wind. Many, many calls for "Wind Check" from the early teams. After the seventh team the wind switch happened and the wind became very nice off the water. This decent wind (albeit at times light) lasted throughout the rest of the day. We flew sixth and got the last of the bad wind in precision. In ballet that afternoon, my teammate Wayne flew $\frac{2}{3}$ of the routine with his lower spreader broken (on an SUL). He did a very nice job. I hadn't even noticed it until the end.

At the end of the day, the top scores were Air Rex, O4,



6th Sense

Scratch Bunnies, Start'Air and Watnu. 6th Sense was in sixth place and the American team AirZone was in 11th. Wednesday the wind was almost a carbon copy of the previous day, with many calls for wind check from the early teams, with the Scratch Bunnies calling for a wind check over and over. Again the wind switched halfway through, so an early draw in the order made a big difference in your wind conditions. Fortunately for us we had a late draw and had decent wind in both precision and ballet.

There was a protest by the Scratch Bunnies, which went in their favor, and they got to re-fly their precision freestyle. This was the first protest in the history of the WSKC, but as we were to find out, not the last. At the end of the day the top scores were Air Rex, O4, Start'Air, Watnu and 6th Sense. AirZone moved up two spots into ninth place. I felt Wednesday was the best of the ballets with some very nice routines from all the teams.

Thursday, again the wind started offshore. We had another late draw in the flight order, which when we first found out on Monday we weren't real fond of, but found out quickly that was a good place to be in. The wind quickly became onshore though and most of the teams got decent wind for both precision and ballet.

There was another protest this day, by Freaks Team. They flew two of their three figures in reverse and there was some confusion about this. They got a zero for the second figure, but fortunately the judges had also scored the figure, just in case. They won the protest and got their score back, which they were very happy about.

Friday was more typical Berck winds, starting strong in the morning and staying that way. We flew a vented kite for our demo, which we didn't fly at all in competition.

Friday night, after much impatient waiting, they announced the placings. When they got to fourth place and hadn't announced our name yet, it was a very cool moment to know we were going to be on the podium. The final standings were: Air Rex, O4, 6th Sense, Ninja, Scratch Bunnies, Watnu, Start'Air, Flame, AirZone, Equipo 2600, Freaks Team, Atemoc, and Les Tatoueurs du Ciel.



6th is 3rd: Bill Rogers, Dan Haigh, and Wayne Turner

Air Zone: Aaron Champie, Wayne Fu, Darrin Skinner, Ulysses Villanueva, John Gillespie, Francisco Navarro

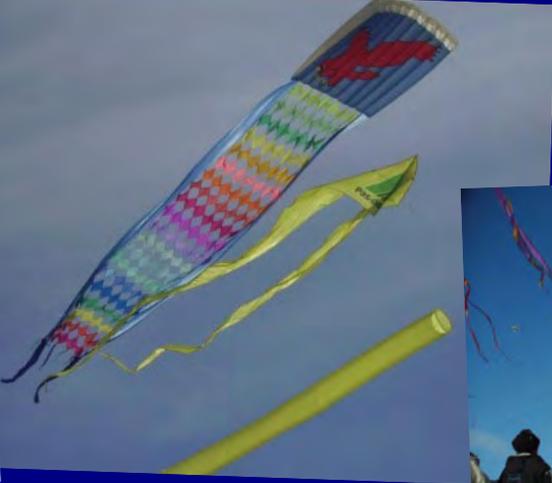
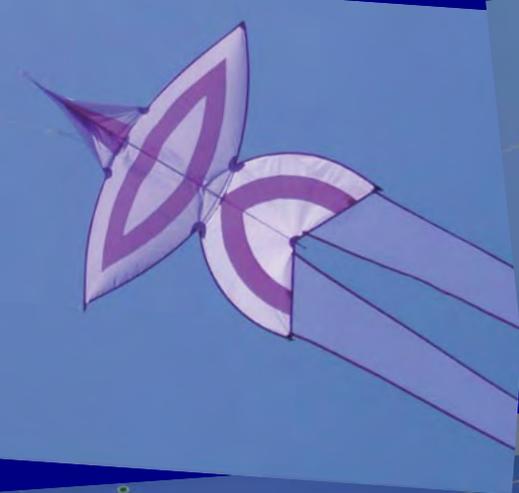


Saturday, more vented demos, then Sunday was a very nice day with nice light onshore winds. The teams had a chance to show their stuff one more day in decent wind, which was a nice way to end the festival.

This was a great festival and competition, which was run very well. The staff did a great job, with Andy Taylor showing why they picked him as Chief Judge. A big thanks to the staff, organizer Gérard Clément, David Gomberg and all the teams for putting on a great show.

2008 World Sport Kite Championship Final Scores

1	Air-Rex	80.53
2	O4	74.27
3	6th Sense	72.00
4	Ninja	71.13
5	Scratch Bunnies	70.74
6	Watnu	70.35
7	Start'Air	69.91
8	Flame	64.65
9	AirZone Flight Team	64.13
10	Equipo 2600	63.84
11	Freaks Team	63.37
12	Atemoc	62.92
13	Les Tatoueurs du Ciel	58.73



Rencontres Internationales de Cerfs-Volants de Berck-sur-Mer, France

photos by Van Olmen Ivo,
Doug Jones, Russ Faulk,
Bernard Fourniere, and
Gerhard Zitzmann





Harold Ames



42nd Smithsonian Kite Festival "Brush Strokes In The Sky"

March 29, 2008 Washington, DC

photos by Andrew Albosta and Phil Broder



Jim Johannesen



Kaziah Hall's tribute to Haile Selassie



Switzerland's Olivier Reymond's Tibetan monk



Bermuda's Phillip Jones sets up the Mao crown



Jiehua Sun readies his 1st prize-winning dragon

Phillip Jones' Mao crown



A side view of Mike Mosman's Phase Shift



Thailand Turns Ten

by Jim Martin

Kiting+

photos by Bee, Wen-Fu Tsai, and Jim Martin

Thailand's biennial gathering of kitefliers has become one of the favorite gatherings for kites around the Pacific Rim. This year, for the 10th celebration of the festival, kitemakers and fliers from over a dozen countries filled the skies over King Rama VI's Summer Palace grounds.

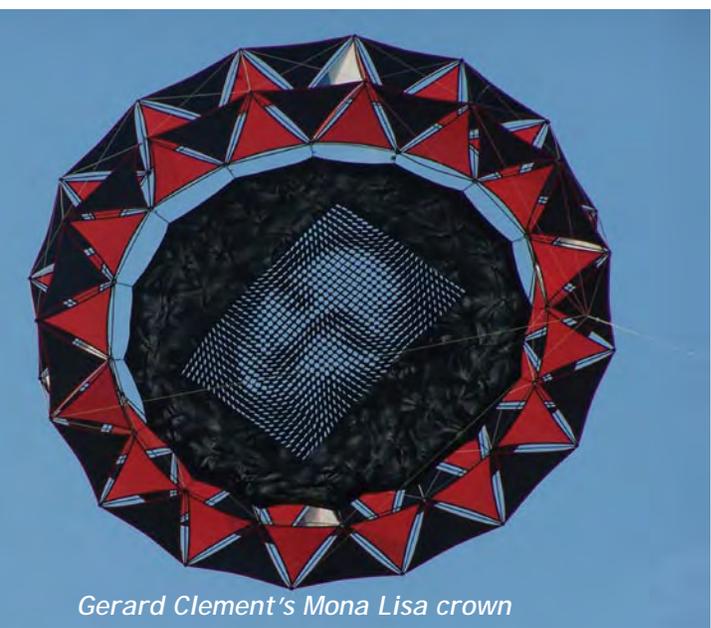
The festival was a marvelous blend of traditional kites and modern designs. The Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries sent a kite team with traditional Chinese kites and modern designs, many celebrating the upcoming Beijing Olympics. The Cambodian's brought beautifully painted kites representing Angkor Wat. The Korean team flew huge kite trains, and kites from all across Thailand waged traditional battles between the Chula and Pak-pao kites, as well as flying amazing cellular kites.

The festival also saw several new designs by New Zealand's Peter Lynn, including his Cuttlefish and Serpent kites. Pedro and Esteban Gonzalez of Spain displayed their beautiful opera mask kites, and Australia's Kevin and Linda Sanders shared their skills with beautiful ground

pieces and kites. Teams from France, Germany and the USA colored the sky with a variety of show kites, including a giant octopus display spearheaded by David and Susan Gomberg. Space



Taiwan's Wen-Fu Tsai's squid train



Gerard Clement's Mona Lisa crown



Peter Lynn's new cuttlefish





doesn't permit mention of all the amazing kites that flew, nor the amazing folks who flew them.

As always, though, the highlight of the Thailand International Kite Festival was the warm welcome offered by the people of Thailand. From Ron and Baew Spaulding, Andy and the Kite Crew, and the folks who turned out to share in the festival, to the lady who checked your passport at the airport, the guys at the tailor shop and the cabbie who took you from the Grand Palace back to the hotel, the people of Bangkok and Cha-am more than lived up to the Thai people's reputation for friendliness and charm.

The only disappointment is that the festival only takes place every two years – that's too long to wait for another chance to color the Thai skies!



The Singha Beer kite



Germany's Holm Struck and his Nappo Nuvo class.



Barbara Meyer



Cliff Quinn

20th Midwest Area
Kitemakers Retreat
March 7-9, 2008
Oregon, Illinois
photos by Holm Struck



Sleepless Near Seattle

by John Freeman

photos by Ralf Maserski, Bob Matteo and Holm Struck



Kind of reminds you of a bad comedy routine—I'm going to go five days with very little sleep because I want to enjoy myself. OK, so we didn't have fun because we lost sleep, but rather in spite of losing sleep. Sure, I know

that you younger folk think nothing of it, but we of the geriatric persuasion do think about it, provided we can stay awake long enough to think.

It all started at 4:30 Wednesday morning with that nasty noise called an alarm clock. Seldom hear one of those since retirement, and never liked it before retirement. I haven't changed my mind. But 4:30 it was, as we were to leave the house at 5:15 to catch the first ferry off the island. We always know going in that sleep during the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference is a rare thing. Oh sure, the hours are all still there, it's just that this is one of those times when there are much better things to do than sleep.

The fun begins on arrival. We'll start in here, where Marla Miller and her crew of incredibles already have the raffle process well under way. The arrival of good stuff is only beginning, but already there is more than I can afford tickets for! And it is hard to pay attention to the things already on display because the room is churning with old friends who you never see often enough. Can't make up for all the lost time now — but we'll give it a try.

Over now to Bob and Maura Alford's precisely organized registration tables. I know, it only takes 23 seconds to receive your plastic bag with all the necessities, but I want to linger much longer and visit. I know, I know, the folks lining up behind me want their turn too.

All right, off we go to House 11, where Anne Huston, in her usual quietly efficient way has the big table groaning under the weight of good stuff to eat. Anne tends to sort of fade into the woodwork, reappearing now and then with more platters of food, but seeing her again is worth the trip. It is pretty hard to beat a big house, with piles of good food, the walls bulging at the seams because it is stuffed with the finest folks in the land — kitemakers, of course.

Sure there were classes. I was fortunate enough to teach one of them. I only do it because it's the most fun I have ever had. And now we have three wonderful kites that we didn't have before. There is icing on the cake. I just can't decide which is the cake, and which is the icing — the classes, or the visiting and comparing notes with old and new friends.

What can I say about meal-time? Food at the Fort has always been a commodity of unpredictable quality. The food is always something you

can write home about — just some years what you say in the letter is quite different from other years. This year had high points and low points. One sort of expects that when you are being fed by the caterer with the lowest bid. Apparently the unchangeable fact is, if you want reliably good food at a kitemaking event, go to OKR (Oregon Kitemakers Retreat). Just the same — we only go to meals so we won't



Bob Matteo and Paul Horner with a tensigrity glider

Mike Dallmer's bol class



Ralf Maserski and Allen Taylor





Rod Beamguard and Holm Struck

miss the raffle, and that doesn't depend on the food quality — that depends on Marla quality. And that never changes!

So, two and a half days of workshops, presented by 24 kitemaking teachers from around the world, leave one with a huge dilemma — which classes to choose! Every year we hear the same complaint — I couldn't take all the classes I wanted to. Too many to choose from. Ranging from the absolutely necessary Beginning Kitemaking Class — a half day of essentials and tips from Gerry Pennell, all the way to a full two day class building a Don Mock Mockfoil, with every degree of complication between the two.

Another glorious weekend, filled with fraternizing with the world's finest folks, punctuated by classes with the cream of the world's kitemaker/teacher crop. Who wouldn't give up a little sleep for that?



A Ken Conrad digitally-printed ohashi

Maryland Kite Society Retreat by Will Smoot

photos by Andy Burchfield



Adrienne Balmer

A packed room of busy sewers attended this year's Maryland Kite Society kitemaking workshop in Frederick, MD, on February 15-18. Under the able leadership of Karen and John Burkhardt, Adam Grow, and Drake Smith, MKS put on another challenging and frolicking weekend. AKA President and master builder, Gary Engvall, guided participants in a superb replica of the 1970's Mirage (Cellta) kite. John Burkhardt led an eager group in the design and making of a scaled-down version of his beautiful Saruga kite. Drake Smith presented a new version of a Star Train kite. Karen Burkhardt led an artistic group of jewelry makers in personalized designs of one of her unique reptilian pins. Kevin Shannon and Mike Mosman finished off some AKA Convention-bound Civil War battle rokkaku's. Some just showed up for the annual fun and camaraderie. As usual, good food, a spirited auction, and a daily abundance of



Gary Engvall



renewed acquaintances and laughter broke up the long days of humming sewing machines and the sweet smell of burning bungee! If you are looking for a great way to warm up a cold eastern winter, be sure to sign up for next year's event.



Karen Burkhardt's class

Florida Fog Fest

by Sherri Pigeon



Although it's called the 11th Treasure Island Kite Festival it was a first for Steve and me. When we took over ownership of Kitesville USA we also inherited the Treasure Island Festival. Although we had been involved with some smaller festivals with the Sunset Flyers Kite Club we underestimated the enormous task of this long-standing festival.

It began with a meeting at the kite shop with Gary Resnick and Jay Nunes. Suggestions were flying around the office like kites on a windy day. The St. Augustine Sport Kite Club had lost their beach due to erosion and was already on board with bringing their sport kite competition over to the Gulf Coast.

It began to take the shape of a mega festival with a call to John Barresi and Team iQuad. Before we knew it we had several members of iQuad coming and the buzz of breaking the record for the North American Rev Mega fly had fliers from all over the country booking rooms at the host hotel.

The Wednesday before the festival Jay's airport shuttle service began and didn't stop until days after the festival. Friday evening started with ice cream and night flying. The host hotel was cozy and with everyone's room surrounding the courtyard that gave us a gathering place for socializing all night long. Saturday began with a little drizzle but the winds were there. Scott Weider took his place in the announcer's booth and the Tampa Army Cadet Corps took their position on the field as they presented the colors to the playing of the National Anthem. John Barresi and Steve De Rooy honored our country and the troops by flying their red, white and blue Revs. It was a touching tribute and you couldn't help but shed a tear.

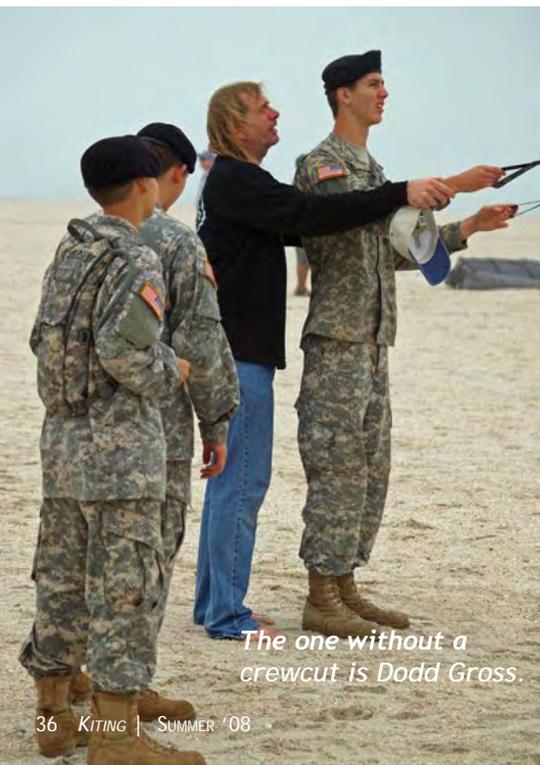
By noon time the kites were flying, iQuad was entertaining the crowds, competition had begun and Dodd Gross was teaching the cadets some flying skills. As the day rolled by the fog rolled in, at some

points throughout the day the only thing you could see were the kite lines and the kites would peek out from the fog just long enough to let us know they were there. Just when you think it couldn't get any worse a tornado warning was issued for the area and in a matter of minutes an entire festival was packed away and everyone was safely in the hotel watching a typical Florida storm ravage the beach.

We all enjoyed a great meal at the banquet and the most entertaining auction I've ever seen. Scott was really at his best holding on to the dual line kites and showing us how good they would fade and axle. We even had a guest appearance from Dennis Smith to auction off the New Tech Air Guitar as only Dennis can.

Sunday brought clear skies and high winds. As usually Gary Resnick's candy drops were a big hit with the kids. As noon approached announcements were made that we were going to attempt to break the North American Rev Mega Fly Record. Everyone scrambled to assemble their Revs and head out on to the field. It was an awesome site to see 29 Revs of all colors gracing the skies. One wave from numbers 1 to 29 and the record was shattered!

Also through out the weekend there were power kite demos and you could hop on a buggy and be taken for a ride. Fighter kites were on the scene as well. There were a lot of aspects of kiting present on the beach for all to enjoy. For Steve and me it was a learning experience and the chance to meet others in the kiting world that we had only read about on the kiting forums or magazines. We look forward to next year.



The one without a crewcut is Dodd Gross.



East Coast Rev Clinic 2008
WILDWOOD, NJ



John Barresi and Charles Stewart.



If Paul LaMaster gets one more person involved, everybody can have their own string!



John Barresi meets the locals: first-time Rev flyer Noreen Cicero.



John Barresi gives Ian Willoughby some pointers.



Ron Jakubowicz



Logo by Jeff Erzin



The high water mark of the Civil War. Chamberlain's stand on Little Round Top. Pickett's charge. Lincoln's address. Join us in Gettysburg from September 22-27 for what should be one of the largest gatherings of kites on the continent. Register with the form in this magazine, or do it online at www.aka.kite.org.

Annual Member's Meeting

The annual business meeting of the American Kitefliers Association will be on Wednesday, September 24. And one lucky attendee will win a handcrafted kite by Deb Lenzen.

Great Kite Auction

What is the most fun you can have indoors with kites while eating a great dinner? It's the Great Kite Auction. We are lining up for another fantastic Auction with many one-of-kind fabulous finds waiting for the attendees. Our kitemakers who have participated in this year's auction project will wow you with their creations. Many generous individuals, kite artists, store owners, manufacturers and wholesalers have contributed treasures to make this the best Auction ever.

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

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

Sport Kite and Indoor Competition

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

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

The Indoor fly on Tuesday night is always popular and anyone is welcome to fly a demo after the competition. The sport kite symposium is a long-standing tradition that every sport kite flier should attend. It's an important opportunity to find out what the sport kite committee has been discussing and to share your ideas with them. Hot Tricks Shoot-out is open to any Convention attendee on a first come, space available basis.

Fighter Kites & Rokkaku Battles

The Fighter Kite Committee is looking forward to a great time at Gettysburg. We'll have Fighter Kite activities happening every day of the week and Rokkaku Battles planned for Saturday. The Fighter group is also sponsoring a new fun competition. We're calling it a "Turkey Shoot". It will be a come one come all affair open to anyone and running all afternoon. We've ordered some Archery targets with life size turkeys on them that will be mounted 100' downwind. The challenge is for anyone with any single line kite with a 24" or less spine to try to paste their kite on the target within a two minute time limit. We're hoping to have a fun game where people can come and go and try as many times they please with no signups and no stressful time commitments. There will be prizes for those that successfully "shoot" the turkey.

Comprehensive Kitemakers Competition

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

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

Workshops

There's a workshop for all tastes in Gettysburg. Parabear expert Arthur Dibble will be covering the finer points of parachuting bears and other kite-borne critters. Andy Selzer will help you build a fighter kite. David Gomberg offers an indoor/outdoor workshop on big kite flying. And bring your sewing machine for the convention's first-ever sewing workshop, where Phil Broder and Andy Burchfield will help you make and take a pennant banner.

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

Ground Display Challenge

Here's a new event! Set up your best ground display on Saturday, and let the people decide who's is #1. Prizes will be awarded for Best Banner(s) and Best Overall Display.

Fly Market

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

Kite Art Gallery

The Kite Art Committee is pleased to announce that Glen and Tanna Haynes will be the featured artists this year. This duo has been building kites since 1992 and will be exhibiting a variety of their collection, including "Lady of the Clouds," and "Lady of the Maori Sea," two past Grand National Champions, and a first place winner "Maori Cody." You will be able to look at the fittings and examine the details that are a signature statement of their kites. There will also be an area set up where you can see how thread wrapping is done and how it is used in the building of their kites, both in the practical usage and also to cosmetically add to the overall appearance of their kites.

The Edeiken Kiteflier of the Year Award

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

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

For complete award criteria and nomination information, visit the FESTIVALS - ANNUAL CONVENTION - AWARDS page at www.aka.kite.org. Nominations are due by August 31. Contact Gary Engvall at 401/942-3606 or e-mail EdeikenAward@aka.kite.org.

The Robert M. Ingraham Award

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

For complete award criteria and nomination information, visit the FESTIVALS - ANNUAL CONVENTION - AWARDS page at www.aka.kite.org. Nominations are due by August 15. Contact Gary Engvall at 401/942-3606 or e-mail IngrahamAward@aka.kite.org.

The Lee Toy Kite Artist of the Year Award

The Lee Toy Memorial Award will be presented at the annual convention to a member selected as the "Kite Artist of the Year." This recognizes an artist's body of original work or their commitment to kites as art as well as their ability to inspire others in recognizing the uniqueness of kites as art. The Artist of the

Year demonstrates a willingness to teach, explore and innovate in promoting kites within the AKA membership or the broader community. The recipient also shows a clear generosity of spirit and willingness to share his or her energies in promoting kites as an art form.

For complete award criteria and nomination information, visit the FESTIVALS - ANNUAL CONVENTION - AWARDS page at www.aka.kite.org. Nominations are due by August 31. Contact Gary Engvall at 401/942-3606 or e-mail ToyAward@aka.kite.org.



REGIONAL REPORTS



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 End of term: 2010

The last Region One report was written with snow falling, today the sun is out, and spring is here and summer is just around the corner.

Throughout the Region we have had many activities. Our fellow AKA'ers flew in Maine at Bug Light, in New Hampshire at Goffstown, and in Massachusetts there were several indoor flies in Dedham. Kites for kids

workshops have been held throughout the region with Archie Stewart, Greg Lamoureux, Paul Berard, and Thom Shanken in upstate New York. In Connecticut, Scott Weider organized the first of many Rev Mega Flies. Additionally, Colt Park in Rhode Island hosted a Deltas and Diamonds kite day.

National Kite Month has again been a great success with 32 events at every conceivable venue. Kite flies, workshops, and kites for kids programs have dotted the sky with color and made spring seem to come a little faster. Three of our regional members performed at the Smithsonian Indoor Kite program. John Ruggiero, Paul Berard, and Archie Stewart wowwed the audience.

Looking ahead, there are many scheduled events throughout our region: Sullivan County, Cherry Valley International Kite Festival, Hammonasset Kite Festival, the Newport Kite

webmaster has added a "Countdown to Convention" at the top right of the Welcome page of the AKA website. Click the icon and see how fast the dates are approaching. Make your reservations now to avoid that last minute panic looking for rooms.

For information on your local kite clubs check page 10 of *Kiting*.



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 End of term: 2010

Greetings and salutations, kilters! Here's what's new in Region Two:

Brad Weiner reports that his first ever Rev Clinic held in Wildwood in March was a rousing success. It was held over Easter weekend, so some who wished to attend could not. But there may be plans to repeat this event, so keep your eyes peeled.

This year the Drachen Foundation presented a grant of \$2250 to Temple University to research kite power generation. The project was to allow engineering students to attempt to develop a tethered kite model that will extract energy from the wind. Kites were to be designed, built, and tested at a high altitude where the wind blows continually and reliably. In addition, the grantees sponsored a kite design competition for high school and college participants during Temple



The sun shines on National Kite Month in Maine.



Celebrating National Kite Month in New York.

Festival, the Niagara International Kite Festival and many others. The competition season is in full flight. To date the Boston Area Sport Kite Championship (BASKC) is scheduled for August. With gas prices increasing at an alarming rate, competitor registrations are needed to make these events a success.

There is much excitement for the 31st National Convention to be held in Gettysburg, PA, and it is fast approaching. Our AKA

University's Engineers Week (February 19-23). Eighteen teams of four students, totaling about 75 freshman engineering students, built kites that were judged by Andy Selzer, Gaylord Olson, and Sam Foertmeyer for their endurance to remain aloft. John Barresi and Steve DeRooy of Team iQuad, still in the Philadelphia area after their appearance at the East Coast Rev Clinic, made a wonderful impression on the Temple students and their faculty advisers, Professors Chen and Miller. Don Polec of local ABC-TV affiliate WPVI Channel 6 was there and the event was featured on his "Don Polec's World" segment on TV.

On April 13th, 20,000 people of all ages flocked to Philadelphia's Fairmont Park for Sakura Sunday, a major family event for the Delaware Valley region, and the main event of the Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival to benefit the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia. The South Jersey Kite Flyers were positioned just off the stage where Mayor Michael Nutter addressed the crowd and the Tamagawa University Taiko Drummers and Dancers performed. The crowd overflowed to such an extent that bol races were out of the question. SJKF mounted one of Don Pignolet's and Michael Petty's 20' fish onto one of Mike Dallmer's 32' poles which the kids transformed into a gigantic piñata. Almost 80 kids kites were built.



Pocono Kite Symphony's new delta variant.

The Keystone Kites are gearing up for their annual Summer Retreat. This year, the project will be a Circle Box Kite, originally designed by Rainer Hoffman of Germany and presented by Cliff Quinn. The dates are August 2-3 and registration is \$50. Class size is limited. The registration deadline is July 3rd. A reliable sewing machine and basic sewing skills are required. As always, this event will be held at the Camp Hill Borough Hall, near Harrisburg, PA. For more about this event, call or e-mail me and I'll get you the information you need.

The new club in the Region is Pocono Kite Symphony (PKS.) They have gotten under way with some fanfare. Along with the Lehigh Valley Kite Society, PKS spent the weekend of April 12-13 at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. They built kites for kids and showed their expanded LVKS/PKS ground display both days that weekend. PKS has held several workshops with six or seven people participating in making new five foot feather flags and two new large banner flags bearing the new PKS Logo to add to the LVKS ground display. LVKS, PKS, and the Northampton County Parks & Recreation Department also continued the tradition of Kite Day in the Park. This was the 18th annual Kite Day in the



Cliff Quinn and his circular box kite.

Park held the first Saturday in May at Louise Moore Park, in Easton, PA. PKS invites you to come "break wind" with them, but I suggest you go anyway!

And speaking of Wildwood, SJKF hosted Scott Hampton at the Wildwood Kite Festival this year by throwing another great Friday Night Social. I'm not sure how many years in a row this is, but it's a long streak. SJKF's monthly meetings will be traveling again this summer, as the library where they meet is closed on summer Sundays. Plans are to hold meetings at Midway, the Dallmer's vacation spot, and at Fort Mott State Park. I also hear that SJKF will be building something that is sure to get a few laughs for the auction at Gettysburg.

This issue of *Kiting* brings you all the information about Convention. This year it will be held in Gettysburg PA, which is a pretty short drive for most Region Three members. I plan to get there Monday for the Boyd's' Bear drop that has been discussed, and the Early-Bird reception. Please plan to come. You don't have to be a competitor or builder or buggy rider to enjoy the week.

From January through March activity was building in our region and for National Kite Month there were at least two events every weekend, and three in a couple of cases. The colder months were good for socializing and sewing as folks found at



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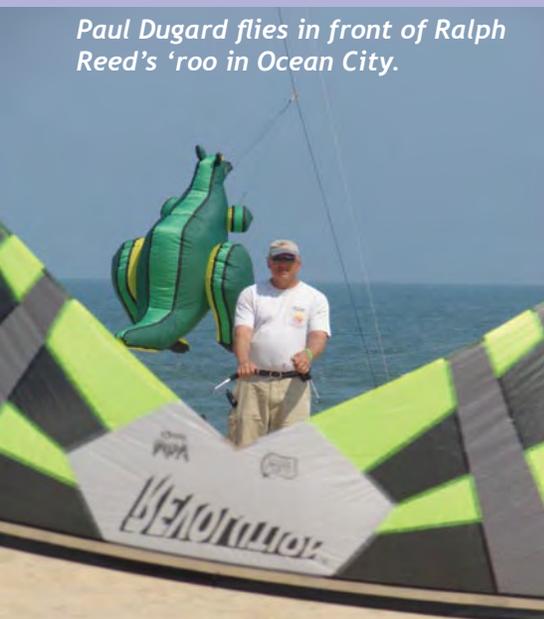
Celebrating National Kite Month in Lexington, VA.

the RAF Christmas Chili Feast, which followed a Mini-banner sewing workshop led by Adrienne Balmer. MKS held their annual Sewing Workshop with at least three kite-related projects and one non-kite project. Leaders were the Burkhardts, Adam Grow, Drake Smith and Gary Engvall with some side activities from Kevin Shannon and Mike Mosman. WOW held their Picnic and a fly at Sandy Point in January with a lot of 4-line flying.

In March the RAF held their annual Dorey Kids Fest on their home field, and used the opportunity to get their new festival techniques tuned up and discover which kites still needed a little work after staying in the bag most of the winter. In Washington, DC, the WOW club held an event for the Children's Inn at NIH, and the annual indoor fly at the National Air and Space Museum with many visiting fliers. The last Saturday of March is one of the biggest festivals and the beginning of NKM with the 42nd annual Smithsonian Kite Festival. AKA President Gary Engvall, and your regional Director, ran the Kite Hospital all day and were able to get lots of kites back in the air.

NKM — take a deep breath and

Paul Dugard flies in front of Ralph Reed's 'roo in Ocean City.



keep flying — Solomon's Island, MD — Frederick County, VA Kite Flying Frenzy — Bel Air, MD — Goucher College — Used Kiteboard and Gear Swap in Annapolis — Blue Ridge Kite Festival in Salem, VA — and last but definitely not least MIKE/MASKC at Ocean City, MD. The kitebuilders competition returned this year along with rokkaku and fighter kite competition. There isn't much of a let-up in May with an event three of the four weekends to include the Atlantic Coast Kite Festival, which this year has been expanded to include not only Virginia Beach, but the City of Portsmouth. The end of the month is the granddaddy of competitions at Wildwood, NJ. (I know it isn't technically in our region but it is real close and well attended by Region Three members).

June has the last sport kite competition of the Southeast Region for the season when fliers gather in Richmond for the Old Dominion Sport Kite Festival. The winds are light, the temperatures high, but the tradition of treating the fliers well continues. There are still several festivals in June and July, and kiteflying as entertainment during wine festivals has become quite popular judging from the number of requests received.

August and September already have a few festivals scheduled and of course there is convention the last week of September. Check the calendars and the AKA website for more information. If you are having an event don't forget to list it on the AKA calendar as early as possible.

The Board of Directors handled a number of items of business at the April quarterly meeting and you can find the results of that meeting on the AKA forums and hopefully elsewhere in this issue. If you have an interest in what is discussed the AKA KiteTalk Forum has a section in the Member's Only area listing topics discussed by the board, or suggested for the board to discuss. The agenda for the summer meeting will be posted there as it develops. Please stay in touch; I can't represent you if I don't hear from you.

I hope to see you on a kite field somewhere and most definitely at this year's convention. (Contributions to this article from Adrienne and Mearl Balmer, Barbara Birnman and Paul La-master are gratefully acknowledged).



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Greetings to all from Region Four. Spring is upon us again, and all types of kites are in the air!

January brought us the annual Treasure Island Kite Festival, and whooooo boy what a sight to see behind the Bil-Mar Hotel! The Eastern League was back in TI thanks to a relocated St. Augustine Sport Kite Classic, and it was great to have those folks on the Gulf Coast for a change. Also on the big beach: iQuad, in all their multiline glory! What a spectacle those fellas make, so go see them when they arrive at a flying field near you.

Congrats to Steve and Sherri Pigeon of Kitesville for a job well done. You DO know you've got to top this year next year, don't you?

We in Region Four are fortunate to have almost the largest amount of beach in the entire AKA, and some of that beach surrounds our offshore friends in Puerto Rico. Here's a note from John and Elaine Cosby for your reading pleasure!

"I guess after a year of being here — and since we represent half of the AKA membership in Puerto Rico — it's probably time we introduced ourselves and to give you a heads up about what we're doing down here.

"We — John and Elaine Cosby, the pairs team Pegasus — have been in Region Five and flown in the Midwest Conference for many years. We've pro-

duced kite festivals and competitions in Michigan and been part of festivals all over the Midwest for more than 20 years. Now we live in PR.

"Next weekend we'll have our "Kite Kamp" mini-festival at Middles Beach in northwest PR, near Isabela.

"This is a preview of a full festival we're planning for the first weekend of March, 2009. In addition to our pairs kite team, Pegasus, we have three more champion sport kite flyers joining us from the Midwest for the weekend. As plans go forward for 2009, we would love to invite and have flyers from Region Four join us as well. It's really easy to get to northwest PR from the East Coast flying into Aguadilla.

"Our plan is to use the appeal and entertainment of a kite festival on the beach to highlight the importance of recycling and the huge value of the beaches and the ocean. Activities we have come to take for granted at festivals in the States — sport kite demonstrations in particular — are unfamiliar here on the island. Next weekend's event is an opportunity for residents and potential sponsors to get a taste of what we do.

"You'll hear more about us and from us as things proceed.

See ya on the beach (we hope)!"
[Check out the Cosby's cool beach bar and John's kite aerial photography at <http://ola-lolas.com/>].

Fast forward from memories of winter past to April and National Kite Month. The southeast contributed 30 events throughout the Region for NKM this year. Big thanks to everyone who

put a kite event on their local schedule to celebrate kites and those who fly them. Wear your NKM pins with pride!

Convention is in Gettysburg this year. For those who track such things, at this writing there are 159 days and counting. I know this because there is now a countdown clock in the upper right hand corner of the AKA Home page courtesy of our esteemed Webmaster Chuck Sigal.

And now, it's time to go fly something. Next time you do go flying though, take a friend with you. Some of the best folks you'll ever meet are the ones holding a kite string... or two... or four.... Be well, all!

Hello Region Five kilters.

Spring's first AKA sanctioned event in Region Five went off with a bang on April 5-6. The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation Kite Fest (aka, Airwaves) had great weather both days. Unfortunately, it was preceded by about a week of rain. So the area for parking was very limited. But this did not stop the spectators from attending. The total attendance was estimated by the chairman of the festival committee at around 25,000. After last year's cold temperature, rain, and 30 mph winds, WGUC 90.9, West Chester Township, Metroparks of Butler County and P.I.G.S. Aloft were thrilled with weather and the turnout. A Saturday evening meal, compliments of P.I.G.S. Aloft, was attended by the festival committee and 70 AKA members and their families.

The North Coast Stunt Kite Games will again be held at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, OH on July 18 - 20. This is a great location on the shores of Lake Erie. Contact Kevin Kilgoar at bsaf@adelphia.net for more information.

Back 2 the Wind kite club will be hosting the Michigan Kitefest on June 13-15 at Richland Township Park in Richland,



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End of term: 2008

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 kilters to join in the fun.

Dave Bush is also organizing Warren Dunes Kitefest and Competition on June 28-29. The event will be held in Sawyer, MI, on the beach. This will be a no frills sanctioned competition for dual-line, quad-line, fighter kites and stacks. It sounds like there will also be room for single-liners. Right, Dave? Please see www.back2thewind.com for more information.

The previously planned sport kite competitions at the Flag City Kitefest in Findlay, OH have been canceled because of a conflict with another competition event in an adjoining region. The Flag City Balloon Fest is still planned for August 16-17 at Emery Adams Park. Spencer Schubbe is attempting to find another kite club to come and fly at the 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. And if I can be of any assistance, please email me or give me a call.

It is now time to make arrangements to attend the AKA Annual Convention in Gettysburg. It is not very far for most Region Five members.

Thinking inside the box at the Green Hill Kite Festival in Roanoke, VA.



So, let's all go and show off our "kite junk". It will be great fun.

A request... please support your AKA by signing up a new member. It takes a financially sound AKA to provide the insurance that kite clubs and sponsors of sanctioned kiting events rely upon. Without the insurance that is provided through AKA for club activities and sanctioned events many kite clubs and event sponsors would not be provided the use of parks and other facilities. Financial success of the AKA is dependent upon new and renewal memberships. So, ask a kiting friend to join the AKA.

And remember... it's all about putting smiles of faces.



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Hello from Region Six. By the time you read this, another National Kite Month will have passed with members in our region hosting no fewer than 42 events! Wisconsin alone was responsible for 19; makes me proud to be a citizen of the Badger State.

The Hoosier Kitefliers Society elected Clint Eaton as their new president. Congratulations, Clint! The HKS held their 11th annual Col. Murray Kite Festival on May 2-3. They will also be hosting the Indiana Trick Clinic and Fun Fly at the Academy of Model Aeronautics grounds in Muncie on August 30-31.

The Illinois Kite Enthusiasts now feature the "180 Go!" quad line stunt team at some of the events they participate at throughout the region. You can check them out at the Pontiac Kite Festival on May 31 and June 1 in Pontiac, IL, and the Naperville Kite



Clear Lake, Iowa, isn't as much fun for kite-flying once summer arrives!

Festival on June 7-8 at Frontier Park. Another IKE event worth checking out is the 3rd annual DeKalb Kite Festival at Northern Illinois University on September 13-14.

The Minnesota Kite Society took part in large numbers at the annual Color The Wind kite festival in Clear Lake, Iowa. This year's event hosted by Larry and Kay Day drew big crowds due to sunny skies and good winds. The MKS will participate in the Bloomington - Izumi Sister City Kite Day on May 10 at the Valley View play fields in Bloomington and hold their Summer Solstice Fly on June 21 at Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake.

The Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois hosts a variety of events throughout the year. On June 7-8 the Outta Site Kite Flight takes place at Kennedy Park in Kenosha, WI. The annual Wings on Strings Kite Festival at Pioneer Airport near the EAA Air-venture Museum in Oshkosh, WI, will brighten the skies on June 21. For those of you who have never visited the EAA it's worth checking out. The Chicago Botanical Gardens Kite Festival comes to Glencoe on August 9-10, and the 30th annual Frank Mots International Kite Festival will be held at Veteran's Park on Milwaukee's lake-front on September 13-14.

The Wisconsin Kitefliers have some fun events on their calendar including the Shawano Fun Fly on June 21 and the Dodge County Kite Round-up held July 18 though the 20 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds near Beaver Dam, WI. The Round-up always has good participation from club members.

Until next time, have fun out there!

Hello Region Seven. The kiting season is officially here. We have begun the year with two very special events.

In February, we attended the Color the Wind Festival in Clear Lake, IA. Hosted by Larry and Kay Day, this event gets better each year. The sky was beautiful and it was noted in the local paper that there were 200 kites in the sky. The temperature was cold, but not unbearable. There were hundreds of visitors and the day was a great success. We want to thank all the hard working volunteers that made this event so much fun. There is just nothing like seeing all those kites out there in that huge blue sky with



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Bob Ryan

that huge white lake underneath. The colors are breathtaking.

On April 19, we attended the Flights of Fancy Kite Festival in Lee's Summit, MO, hosted by the Kansas City Kite Club. The day started out very cloudy, gloomy and cold. But as promised by Sean Beaver, there would be sun by noon. Lo and behold, at 11:55 the clouds parted and the blue sky appeared. Sean is a great event planner, but we didn't know he had that kind of a connection.

Linda Larkey wrote about the event: "The Second MCC-Longview Flights of Fancy was held April 19, 2008. Just a day before the festival the professional grounds were roped off from the two public fields amid light showers. Arrivals of special guests were delayed because of rain. The morning of the festival dawned cold and overcast. But nothing deterred the festival. One of the fabulous things about flying with the Kansas City Kite Club is our ability to fly as a group. Kiteers show up early to help set Festival Ground display, and help tear down. Team Larkey's Fan Bans and Buddy Banners were arranged about the Festival grounds, Sean Beaver's Beaver Banners were set along the edge of the professional flying field. Jeff Hale had his mighty Wall of Banners gracing the main walkway. The flying field was the well maintained grass of MCC-Longview College; in

excellent shape, but hiding thousands of dollars of fiber optics as well as high voltage underground electrical lines. Large kite flyers eased their vehicles through the wet field. Everyone else carried their equipment in. College grounds-keepers carefully diagramed the grounds — each stake going into the ground outside of the professional field had to be OK'ed. Thirty minutes before the festival started the sun broke through the clouds, the temperature rose to the high sixties, and kites filled the air. Al Sparling had one of the first kites up. Don Murphy supervised his big kites going up. Trafton Creemer was one of the outstanding volunteers for big kite wrangler duty. KCKC members Don Larkie, Trafton Creemer, Doug Hoffman, and Ryan Larkey all helped with the candy drops using Don Larkie's Black and White Pilot and a custom candy bag. The candy drops were popular enough to be divided into age groups. They were able to be dropped fairly quickly employing a carabiner pulley system that ferried the candy bag to dropping height without lowering the kite. After the grounds dried up a bit Susie Gilson organized bol races with the new club bols made by Bill Timmerman. Kids and adults alike were surprised at the powerful pull of the gentle winds. Winds ranged from 5 to 10 mph throughout the day, with only a few brief lulls. John Roberts dressed

in a pirate costume to talk to the kids about kiting. Many kids had their pictures taken with the swashbuckling Johnny. Andy Heimericks had his penguins and huge pink pig on display. Rich Ritter had the honor of first getting a kite stuck in the Charlie Brown Tree. Kite Historians Tomas and Jill Cross displayed kite memorabilia, and a local remote control airplane group gave indoor flying demos. The remote control group was late in setting up, so opportunist Ryan Larkey broke out an indoor kite to keep the crowds entertained. Jessie Piacenza, Ken and Terri Wible manned the KCKC information tent answering questions and selling tickets for kite raffles. Kids were also treated to kite making, bubble blowing, sand art, and a special inflatable area."

The rest of the year is very busy. We have many events planned and are looking forward to seeing many of you at your events. Start planning for our Nebraska favorite, Callaway on Labor Day weekend.

Enjoy the sky!

Hello Region Eight and visitors! A HUGE thanks to everyone who got events registered with National Kite Month! Plus, another HUGE thanks to Rick Hawkins for the enormous task of managing the files and keeping National Kite Month on track and organized! As usual, because we get SO hot SO fast "down heah", we've had a lot of spring kiting events, many on the same weekends. Once the temperatures cruise to over 100°, the winds tend to drop and the breezes just aren't enough to matter. Therefore, we try to pack everything we can into the spring and early summer.

In case you missed anything, here's a quick wrap up. Dano Wright and the Sky Pirates organized the Great Texas (Consolidated) Kite Club Fly in Rockport. B&S Kites hosted an enormous Fun Fly at South Padre Island with lots of special out-of-town kiteers in attendance. For the 26th year, Richard Robertson organized a make and take workshop and informational day at the Northwest Rec Center in Austin. The 80th (yes - 80th!) Annual Zilker Park Kite Fest in Austin. The 2nd Annual San Antonio Kite Festival & Dog Fair entitled "A Fest of Tails" served as the catalyst to kick The Alamo Kite Outfit (TAKO) kite

Another look at Color The Wind Festival in Clear Lake, Iowa.





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 End of term: 2008

club back into action (many thanks to Ray Knox and to George and Gary Powell, the driving forces behind the event and the club formation!). In Oklahoma, Dennis Peterson once again invited kilters into the Spiro Mounds Archeological Center for the 21st year. In Hulbert, OK, the Western Hills Guest Ranch at Sequoyah State Park held kitemaking at their family fun day. For a second year, the Elzie Odum Library in Arlington held a kite fest. Despite local flooding, Linda and Steve Rogers made sure that the Eureka Springs, AR, festival went on. A local fun fly at

Melissa and Derek Sutherland



the Mineola (TX) Nature Preserve. Another Arkansas event in Siloam Springs, the 6th Annual. In Las Vegas, NM, Storie Lake State Park had a wonderful kite fest, as did the 4th Annual Whitewater Mesa fun fly in Glenwood, NM. The Mitchell Resort & RV Park in Perrin, TX, hosted their 3rd Annual

Cloud Buster event. Portland, TX, had a repeat of their kite fest. And Kite Festival Louisiana in Port Allen was a big success for their fourth year!

Think that's it for Region Eight? HA! The Great North Texas Kite Fest of Cedar Hills was abbreviated to only one day this year (they'll be back!).

Kathie Nixie made sure that the Highland Bayou Park in LaMarque, TX, had its return event, as did Cannon AFB in New Mexico. In southern New Mexico, Phil Safier organized the Playas Landsailing & Kite Buggy Event. The Ruidoso, NM, Kite Fest hosted by the DeFoor's. Harlingen, TX, had a new kite exhibit this year. The 7th Annual Wind Festival in Edgewood, NM. White Rock Lake in Dallas. The Tulsa 14th Annual Wind Riders Fest. The

Bill and Kitty Seward



to attend the Twisted Lines Competition in Topeka while other folks head to Rockport, TX, to attend Audrey's Fly supporting Down's Syndrome during first weekend in June! (No wonder we're all pooped!)

Ben and Cory Gray



12th Annual Los Alamos, NM, Arts Council Kite Fest. Kilters performed at Boat Regattas in both Round Rock and Irving, TX. Of course, the Junction Kite Makers' Retreat was also on the schedule. Some Region Eight kilters crossed the line

What's coming up next? Don't even think we're done! More will be added, so be sure to check the AKA calendar and also Troy Gunn's Central Conference calendar, but right now I know about: kite demos are welcomed at the Summer Balloon Festival in Waxahachie/Midlothian, TX, on June 20-22; Terry Officer hosts the 15th Annual LibertyFest in Edmond, OK, on June

28-29; and September 13th sees the Sister Cities 9th Annual Kite Fest in Shawnee, OK. Make plans to attend the AKA Convention in Gettysburg in late September. And mark your calendars now for the Tulsa Air and Space Museum Kite Fest on October 11 and the 3rd Annual Kites Over Granbury, TX, on October 18-19.

Thanks to everyone who pulls these events together, and make it appear that they all "just fall into place"! They don't! Thank you!

Keep looking up!



Region 9 ~ Intermountain

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End of Term: 2008

I have been told by my kindergartners that when you wear your pajamas inside out, it snows. So whoever it is PLEASE stop that. We are still waiting for the weather to turn warmer and the summer breezes to really settle in here in Region Nine. But while waiting for spring to really hit, we have been extremely busy with indoor activities.

First off a fantastic weekend at the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Retreat made my head spin with all the information I absorbed. What a fantastic place to have this event. Up in the Olympic Peninsula of Washington in the only actual rainforest in North America. A special thanks to the Fort Worden family for giving me a scholarship to attend. I came away with a

lot of great information, as well as a bigger family.

My trip to the Lincoln City Indoor was complete with Lincoln City Indoor Festival weather. A little rain, ice, snow, at the beach and even a white out on the Santiam Pass. I would have to say that the weather cooperated quite nicely for the indoor festival. The Festival itself was quite a success with over 500 spectators in attendance on Saturday afternoon alone. Debbie and Lee Parks of Aerial Productions choreographed the hour-long show "Bellissimo, a Celebration of Life." There were seven national champions in attendance to compete and entertain, as well as some new faces. I have to give a thumbs up to the up and coming. This group is already making their mark in the Northwest Sport Kite League. Names such as Dick Curran, Toby Arndt, Connor Doran and David Bradley will be ones to watch for, or for some of us, ones to watch out for! Great to have you all with us! A big hand to Lincoln City's event coordinator Maggie Conrad. She and her team did a fantastic job of putting this event together. We look forward to the next one!

I took a quick trip up to Mount Vernon to the Tulip Festival to fly with iQuad, as well as other fliers that came to paint the sky to match the fields of incredible flowers. This is a really great venue to fly at. The crowds are constant, and the fliers are very relaxed and truly happy to see each other after a long winter.

Be sure to add this one to your calendar! The Lincoln City Summer Festival on June 28-29 is a very popular event for every sort of kite you can imagine, including Oodles of Octopus! Be sure to watch for these giant creatures! For more information go to www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/kites-summer.php

Safe traveling to all of you. I look forward to seeing you on the beach.

Summer? Sitting here beginning my article, in April, is interesting. It is snowing and hailing out and I am trying to think summer. Aren't we all? Bring on the sun and the perfect winds for flying.

Fort Worden is over. Oh, what fun we had. Paul Morgan building a snow man, Helen Morgan teaching her class, and David and Janet Robinson working



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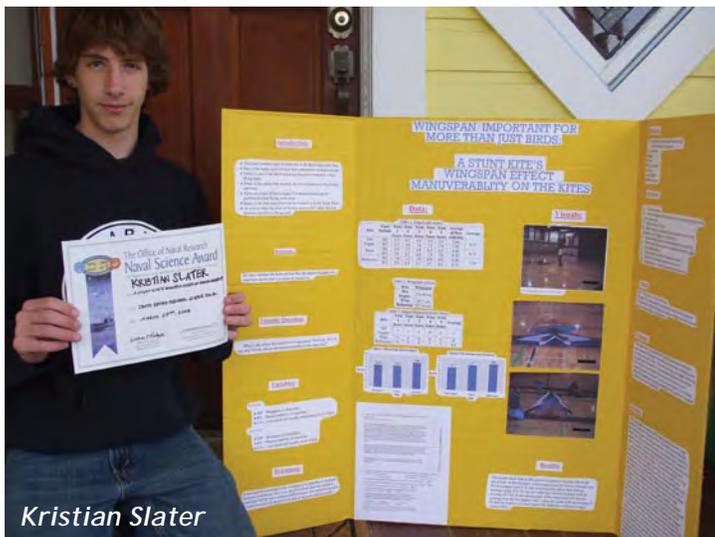
End of Term: 2009

their bums off on the raffle. A really big thank you to them for the laughs, teaching and helping. I need all the help I can get.

Kid's kitemaking at Fort Lewis Army base, with Glenda and Jerry from PCKA, Scott and Kristian Slater and Carl Williamson. Carl provided the kite kits and the group did 250 kites. At the end of the day the workers at the base were tearing the booths down around us and we just keep making kites with the kids, until no child was left. A good experience and it is always great to help the families of our servicemen and women. Some of the children were waiting for their parents to return from Iraq.

Then, Al Councilman, Glenn Austin, Scott and Kristian Slater, Glenda Klippen, Jerry Graham and myself made kites at our little friend Malina Kamel's school. So there were 120 new kites flying at the end of the day.

All this wrapped up with an enjoyable week at the Pacific Science Center, for their Spring Fling. Had a good display of kites hanging and some of Charlie Sotich's kites for the kids to fly. Lots of great help from kitefliers Sylvia



Kristian Slater

sent out (via email) about your event, send me the information and I can pass it on to the entire region.

Coming up are Westport/Grayland Beach (the guest flyer will be Mike Button), Orting, Pacific Beach and of course the "biggie," Long Beach and their guest will be Olivier Reymond from Switzerland.

Hope to see lots of

Burnauer, Al Councilman, Charmayne Umbower, Ken Conrad, Glenda Kleppin and Jerry Graham. Also, the Drachen Foundation and Gas Works Kite Shop, for supplying pamphlets, stickers and kite flying information to pass out. I cannot thank all of these people enough for stepping up and giving of their time.

Are you starting to see a pattern here? It is called "volunteering." Volunteer, a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service. With all of the summer festivals and fun flies coming up, why not think about donating some of your time? We all want to fly and have fun, but there is a lot of work behind the scenes. Not saying that you need to spend all your time working, how about helping put up ropes for the flying fields, doing a kid's kite workshop or teach someone how to fly? Even an hour so someone else can have lunch? Got some time? Speak up!

This summer is filling up fast with kite festivals, meetings and fun flies. Please check the AKA calendar for all these events. If you want a message

kite friends and greet new members to our region.

Kristian Slater received an A+ on his science project in December, "A Stunt Kite's Wingspan's Effect on Maneuverability." Then he received an award at the South Sound Science Fair in March, from the Office of Naval Research. I wonder what he is going to do next? Who would have thought about doing something with kites for their science project? We are proud of you Kristian. Keep up the good work and volunteering. I bet I know who will be taking my place as regional director someday.

With all that we do, I must say something for "Kite Fashion". The picture of the kite boots was taken at Fort Worden. What a find at Dieppe four years ago. Walking down the street window shopping, I just about jumped through the window when I saw them. So every now and then the girls put on the kite boots to go to one of our favorite events. Watch for the boots to appear at an event near you.

Until next time, safe flying and most of all have FUN!



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This past spring Team AirZone (San Francisco Bay Area, www.teamairzone.com) and Sixth Sense (Washington State, home.comcast.net/~kiteaddict/6thsense.htm) represented the AKA at the World Sport Kite Team Championships in France. Sixth Sense finished 3rd and Team AirZone finished 9th. Sixth Sense announced that they will be taking time off of the competitive circuit, so if you were thinking of putting a team together, this would be an excellent time to do so.

The second annual Santa Cruz Kite Festival sponsored by the Bay Area Sport Kite League is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2008. You're invited to join all your fellow Bay Area fliers at a great beach venue, with dual and quad line demonstrations, kite making, bol races, rokkaku battles and large inflatable kites.

BASKL (www.baskl.org) will be finishing up their competitive season with a meet at Martinez on June 21, and the West Coast Kite Championships are in Berkeley on July 26-27. BASKL welcomes all skill levels of dual-line, quad-line and fighter kite fliers. Come out and watch, or even better try your hand at competing for prizes, prestige and perks.

See you on the kite field.





Brian Champie anchors a UFO at Kite Party in Huntington Beach.

because they just make me laugh.

Some out-of-region stuff that I just wanted to touch on because for me they will be burned in my memory forever are Kuwait and Smithsonian. I had the honor of being asked to come to Kuwait and fly big kites, and fly big kites we did, with a bit of Rev madness thrown in for good measure. In Kuwait we flew the three largest kites in the world, and it just took my breath away when they were all up there together. The hosts were just unreal in the way they treated us. I was also invited to go to Smithsonian for the first time this year and the feeling of flying at the nation's capital was just so great and the crowd from WOW just

John Chilese
As always, here I am to share the places and things in kiting in and out



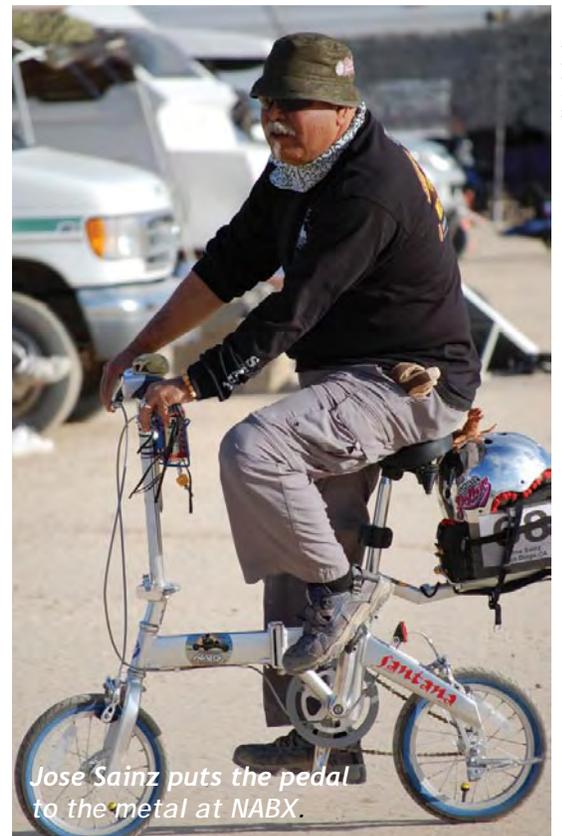
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End of Term: 2009

of my region and it has been busy. The two big ones here at home for me were Kite Party at Huntington Beach, CA, which was as always loads of fun. Dave Shenkman at Kite Connection just knows how to show a good time to both the public and the fliers and his beach is just the bomb for flying. Then when you add iQuad, Team Too Much Fun, the Fosters and all the rest of the Rev Family how can it not be a hit? Plus this event gives back in the form of special little side events for those who need it and I want to say thank you to Dave and the guys from Go Fly for making this possible. If you have not been to Kite Party you are missing a great event.

So from the beach of SoCal to the high desert for NABX, and as per the norm the buggies were out in force and what a blast had by all. This year I got the best and fastest runs I've ever had. The crowds were good and the weather was a dream with good winds that just stayed all day which gave some super runs across the dry lake bed. Plus so many great friends that I never see enough of

always make me feel right at home.

This is your report so if you have news please share it with me. As always the San Diego kite club meets the second Saturday each month and we'd love to have you.



Jose Sainz puts the pedal to the metal at NABX.

Chris Schultz



Region 13 ~ International

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End of Term: 2009

Region Thirteen — never a dull moment for OUR corners of the world! From death-defying leaps in Kuwait to near-death experiences in Thailand, we Internationals take our kite flying seriously. Let's see what we have...

CANADA — Wind Climbers Kite Club confirm the 12th Dumfries Kitefest, Cambridge, ON, is on Sunday, June 1. Need more information or a ride to the event? Check www.geocities.com/Cosmosseum/Track/8336/dumfries.html Such a friendly bunch!

Bob White, Vaino Raun and everyone at www.windriders.niagara.com/events.html says "join us in 2008"

Ray Bethell turned 80 recently, but isn't retiring just yet. We saw him in Guam working hard for the "Make a Wish Foundation" kite festival. He spoke to me in the Mexican restaurant. "Heard you singing, thank God I'm deaf!", with a glint in his eye.

AUSTRALIA — Kevin and I took part in the 10th Thailand International Kite Festival in March, along with AKA members Wen-Fu Tsai (Taiwan), Ray and Rosemary McCully and Peter Lynn (New Zealand), Bob Cruikshanks (UK) and Mikio Toki (Japan)! Kevin didn't let a lunchtime allergic reaction keep in hospital! He was back on the field trying to injure himself, again.

Adelaide's 11th International Kite Festival enjoyed fantastic weather and huge crowds over Easter, with the promise they'll continue to build the program for 2009.

PAKISTAN — From Amir Muhammad: the Basant Kite Festival, Lahore City, has been banned since 2005, but with the election of a new government in February, there are hopes the ban will be lifted. Kites may fly once more!

ITALY — Giacomo Borghi's "Levant'e Vento" event in Tuscany was held March 28-29, with kites, rugby, volleyball, Frisbees, tennis and aeroplane models! Two days of wonderful sunshine, and happy smiles.

FRANCE— New member Bernard Fournière is bissextile, meaning born on 29 February! He'll be joining the AKA tent-staff at Dieppe Kite Festival in September, to help with translations. Thanks Bernard. AKA members can help out in many unique ways!

Berck-sur-mer has been and gone for another year. In 2007 we enjoyed fair, sunny, ideal weather. This

year's event began with SNOW ON THE BEACH!, but cleared to sunny skies for the World Sport Kite Championships, with first place taken by a superb Japanese team of five fliers. <http://video.aol.com/video-detail/air-rex-at-the-world-sport-kite-championships-2008/505540871?cid=acvs1>.

INDONESIA — two Jakarta Kite Fliers As-

sociation members may be at AKA Convention in Gettysburg later in September. Wonder if they'll bring Janggan kites with them? The ones with 200 foot tails? www.asahi-net.or.jp/~ET3M-TKKW/scrap-11.html for your dose of kite history.

JAMAICA — kites have cost \$216 million in repairs to the power system because of kite tails tangling in power lines. Ouch! Not so much when you calculate the exchange rate to be about USD \$3,000!

UK - "Assaulted in Thailand" — Bob Cruikshanks fell victim, and enjoyed the rest. Hot work!

AKA Convention is planning a bear-dropping workshop by Arthur Dibble. Arthur was involved in the UK World Record attempt where 101 bears were lifted for the challenge; one coward wouldn't let go and one had a nasty accident, meaning the current record stands at 99. Attention Gettysburg volunteer teddies... be at the ready!

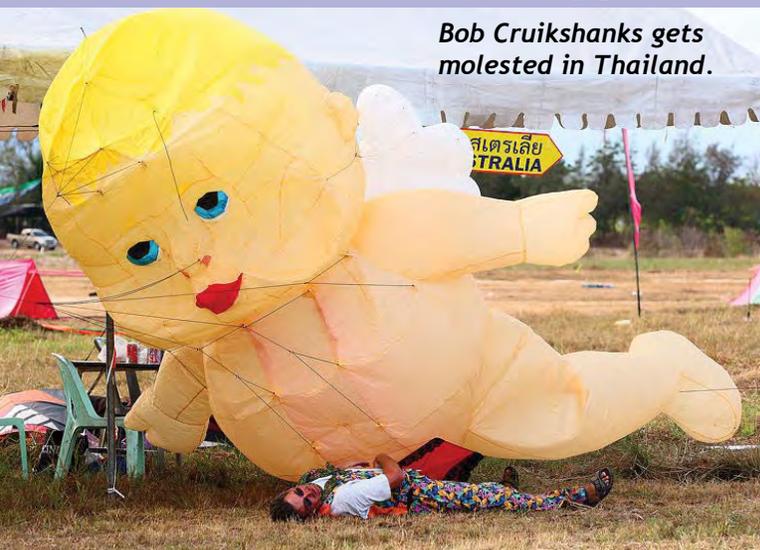
Latest on Andrew Beattie's broken bone / sprained joint... he's getting better and working on strength and dexterity. Having injured his right elbow must make many everyday tasks a pain in the ear?

INDIA - Ujalshah, Chairman of Gujarat Kitefliers Association has started making miniature kites. The age-old question: is size REALLY important?

Yes, I'm packing my suitcase now. See you in three months. Now go! Less talk ... more fly!



Bernard Fournière



Bob Cruikshanks gets molested in Thailand.



Ujal Made Kite
Size : 2 cm x 3 cm
Date : 11/04/08
ujalshah@sify.com

Flying Giants In Kuwait

Kiting⁺ by Jim Martin

When I first flew GKPI's "Mega Flag," I was awed to see this giant kite in the sky and knew I would never see a bigger show on a kite field. Abdulrahman Al-Farsi, of Kuwait, had a different thought. One world-record kite is awe-inspiring: imagine three flying together!

So, last February, kite fliers converged on Kuwait with a mission: to fly the three co-record-holders together. Having cleared customs — with the expected delays you get when you tell customs officials your 500 lb. crate contains 1 (one) kite — we headed out for the field.

We had three flying days scheduled. The first day, a dust storm swept in, with howling winds. It was not weather to fly the mega kites, but soon the field was dotted with other kites, large and small. France's Team AWITA France lofted a swarm of deltas



began to take damage. So flying was over for that day, and stitching began. We had to get the kites fixed

and ready to fly;; we had one more day to fly them all together!

Our final day saw perfect gentle breezes, and the race was on to finish repairs. With sunset about an hour away, the giant kites were finally all ready and laid out to fly. First one and then the other slowly inflated and began to climb. But as

climbed slowly into the air. Spectators cheered; cars on the highway beside the field pulled over, horns blowing and passengers pulling out cameras — but all was quiet on the field between the three flying giants. We were awed by the spectacle, and moved by the knowledge that fliers from all over the world, from different cultures and beliefs, could come together and make kite history.

Then the spell was broken with cries of "We did it!" in several languages, and the celebration began. Old and new friends hugged one another, pictures were taken, and as the sun set, the kites sank back to the sand. Even knowing we'd be packing up hundreds of pounds of kites in the dark didn't bother us. Much!



and the Al-Farsi team flew show kites. Fliers from Kuwait, New Zealand and America took advantage of the strong winds to do some power-kiting.

The next day, the dust cleared and winds were somewhat better. Masaaki Modegi and his team set up the Japanese Mega Moon kite on one end of the field, David and Susan Gomberg's group readied the Mega Flag at the other and the Al-Farsi Team set up their kite in between. All three kites flew, but not at the same time, and as the wind picked up, all three kites

one went up, the fading winds were dropping another. We began to wonder if we were never going to achieve what we'd traveled so far and worked so hard to accomplish.

Then it happened. The breeze locked in perfectly, and 30,000 square feet of kites

Jim Martin imitates Betsy Ross.



David Gomberg



Kiting

people+places+things

Playing Dress-Up

When did kiteflying become a costume party? Pictures of people in strange outfits keep appearing in the *Kiting* inbox. For instance, there's this shot of Superman. Ever notice that you never see Ron Miller around when Superman appears? Or the Easter Bunny? Strange....

Or Maharajah Andy Selzer. It seems that 40 years ago, an Indian potentate challenged Delaware's governor to a kite fight. The Guv sent Lt. Governor Gene Bookhammer in his place, the substitute won the battle, and the Great Delaware Kite Festival has happened on Good Friday ever since. For the 40th anniversary, the part of the middle-aged male politician was played by Lisa Willoughby. And Andy Selzer was cast in the role of the Maharajah. Just like in 1968, the Lt. Guv won the battle, this time in front of a crowd that included the real Bookhammer and Senator Tom Carper.



Helm Struck

Overheard At Smithsonian

Andy Burchfield: "Hey, when did Julie Gelinas get married?"
 Patrick Callahan: "She's not married."
 Andy: "She is! On her MySpace page, there are all these pictures of her wedding."
 Patrick: "Dude, she's starring in 'Tony & Tina's Wedding.' She gets married five nights a week."

The Pontiff, The Mouse, And The House That Ruth Built

One kite manufacturer was having the best week ever in April. First, 250 Jackite Dove of Peace kites took flight in New York's Yankee Stadium as part of Pope Benedect XVI's mass. A few days later, Jackite Create-a-Birds flew at Disney's Wild Kingdom during the 10th anniversary celebration. How many kitemakers do you know who've been blessed by the Pope and the Mouse?

Disaster Du Jour

Here's proof that just because you've got an Edeiken Award on your mantel doesn't mean you're immune to "Charlie Brown's disease." AKA Vice President Jon Burkhardt was involved in a media photo shoot outside the National Air and Space Museum in March. In his words, "We went out to shoot some action pictures; I put up my kite from the 2004 Lewis and Clark kite exhibit at the Billings, Montana, airport, the kite entitled "Where the Mountain Lion Sleeps," which is the Native American name for Pompey's Pillar, the place where Clark carved his initials to show Lewis that Clark had been there. Since the National Park Service had closed off the grassy area in the middle of the National Mall to try to grow a little grass before spring, we could only fly on the walkways next to the trees. The kite went up nicely, but a vicious gust broke the swivel on the flying line and the kite perched on the top of a very tall tree by the Museum. A number of fruitless attempts were made to lift the kite out with one of Gary Engvall's rokkakus. The kite eventually slipped down among the branches, low enough so that the combination of a ladder and a long pole was able to pull it down the rest of the way. No damage done to what I'd consider a "show kite," but the bridles were torn. Certainly, one of kiteflying's sternest lessons is that of humility. Just when you think you know what you're doing with a kite...."





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