



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



After The Fall

25 Years Since
Steve Edeiken

- Steve Lamb: I Was There
- Corey Jensen: The Early Days
- Erin Edeiken: On Father's Day
- David Comberg: Big Kite Safety
- Judy Neuger: Remembering Steve
- Andrew Beattie: My Own Accident



**New Jersey Top To Bottom
Hoffman/Quinn Circular Box Kite
K-Files: Robert Brasington**

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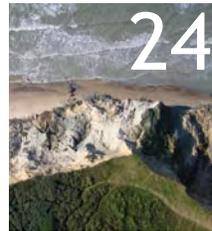


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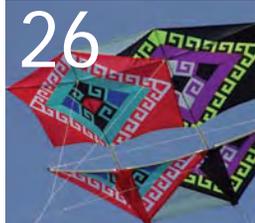


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25 Years After
Steve Edeiken
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On the cover: *Wing Nuts* (Andrew Albosta, Will Smoot, Laura Stonestreet, and Doug Coates) compete at the New Jersey Sport Kite Championships at Liberty State Park

Coming in the WINTER issue...

- > AKA's 31st Convention
- > Dieppe, France
- > Long Beach, Washington

This logo means you'll find additional content at www.aka.kite.org/Kiting+



Lincoln City

On the Oregon Coast

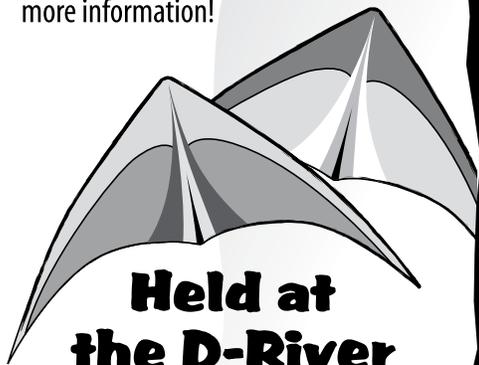
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Winter issue deadline: October 15
Spring issue deadline: January 15
Summer issue deadline: April 15
Autumn issue deadline: July 15

Send address changes to
UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org

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

CONVENTION 2008 - GETTYSBURG, PA

Come fly into history with us, September 22-27. By the time you get this, you will probably either be packing for Convention or on your way there. I will look forward to seeing you there.

Convention is five days crammed full of every kite event imaginable. It's hard to find the time to do everything. If you are a first-timer, please feel welcome and make yourself known. We all look forward to meeting you.

For those who have heard the corn rumors, here is the scoop. Boyd's Bears plants a corn maze every year. At the request of the AKA last year, they moved the corn maze to another section of the property so that all the AKA flying fields could be close together. There is no loss of area, there will still be plenty of room for full-sized fields.

For those that are unable to make Convention this year, you will be missed. But Dean Turnblom in Idaho has a great idea. How about every AKA Member who can't get to Convention this year flies a kite on Saturday morning of Convention? On September 27, go out and fly a kite and be with us at Convention in spirit. Thanks, Dean.

Next *Kiting* deadline is October 15. Send the Editor your Convention pictures and reflections!

CONVENTION 2010

It is not too early to be thinking about Convention 2010. Got any ideas? We are already talking about possible sites. Denver has been mentioned, plus Albuquerque NM, and Seaside OR. Where would you like to go in 2010? Please contact your Regional Director with thoughts and ideas for 2010.

SURVEY SAYS!

Okay, I'm not Richard Dawson, or even Richard Karn. The AKA Member Surveys are back. 859 people responded to the survey. That is just shy of the 25% that we were hoping for. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill it out. Apologies to those who tried and couldn't get it to work for them.

FINDING AKA MEMBERS

One of the things the survey shows is

that members wish there were better ways to find each other. The AKA Kite Talk Forum is a great way to hook up with other kitefliers and get information about all kinds of kites. A few folks have some problems logging on to the Forum. One suggestion is to choose to log on for a greater length of time. Another suggestion is to contact AKA Webmaster Chuck Sigal at webmaster@aka.kite.org and get help sorting out any problems logging on.

NET DIRECTORY

On the AKA website, in the Club House, in Directories, there is a Net Directory where AKA Members can look up other Members by AKA Region or by state, or by country. It is also possible to search by a portion of their name. There is also the E-Directory. It is an Electronic Directory program for your computer. It is a free download from the AKA website and updates to keep it current are frequently available.

The AKA Membership and Fact Book is still available in printed form by special order. Call the AKA Executive Director at 800/252-2550 to get one.

ELECTIONS

It's that time again. It is time to elect Regional Directors and an AKA President. Please, vote for the person who best reflects your idea of how the AKA should run. But please vote. Your Regional Director is on the Board of Directors for the AKA. These are the people who make the day-to-day decisions of how to run your AKA. They decide AKA policy.

The election closes Tuesday, September 16. This magazine publishes September 1. This reminder might indeed come just before the voting deadline, but please do your best to vote.

TALK TO ME

There have been at least three instances in the last month where people were sure that they had sent e-mail to the president@aka.kite.org address and I didn't get the e-mail. If you have e-mailed me and not gotten an answer, send it again. I am also on

Skype several hours almost every day. Communication between us has never been easier. Call me, Skype me, e-mail me or join us in the Forum.

LOCAL PRESENCE

A frequent comment on the survey was that the AKA should have more of a presence at local festivals. We're working on it. We've prototyped some canopy sides, fabric signs, and 6-foot banners. The signs have pockets for AKA applications and other trifold AKA publications.

A KINDER, GENTLER, MORE USER-FRIENDLY AKA

In the last year we have made Board meetings more accessible to AKA members than they have ever been before. Any member can pick up a phone or click a mouse and be on the Board meeting conference call. Details for joining the calls are in the Club House on the AKA website. It's easy to use and it costs the AKA about the same in a year as it used to for one conference call. Summaries of Board meetings are now posted in the KiteTalk Forum. They are usually there within a week of the Board Meeting. That is a lot faster than waiting 90 days for Meeting Minutes to be approved at the following quarterly Board Meeting before being posted on the AKA website. Ideas come in a lot of shapes and sizes from many sources. We at AKA have done our best this year to insure that every idea got a hearing, and every gripe got a discussion.

This is your AKA. We want to be as responsive to you as we can possibly be. We want to help you to be as involved as you want to be in this wonderful activity of kite flying.

Thanks for letting me be your AKA President. I have learned a lot about this job, and earned a new respect for everyone who has ever had it. As long as I have it, I am going to give this job everything I have and love every minute of it.

See you out there somewhere.

Good heavens,

gary engvall

K-Mail

Dear Phil,

AKA President Engvall said we should send you articles for the magazine. The middle of April was my 41st anniversary as a member of AKA. And there is no current member who was a member when I joined.

The attached letter from Bob Ingraham was in response to my inquiry after seeing the AKA article in the Elks Magazine for April 1967. As soon as I received Bob's letter, I joined and have been a member ever since. I corresponded with Bob for years and in the early seventies joined him in Dallas for a kite event at the Olla Podrida. We also had a great time with he and Hazel at the AKA National Convention in Lubbock. My last letter from him was January 1st, 1995. At the Tulsa Convention we all flew our Ingraham Deltas as we learned of his death.

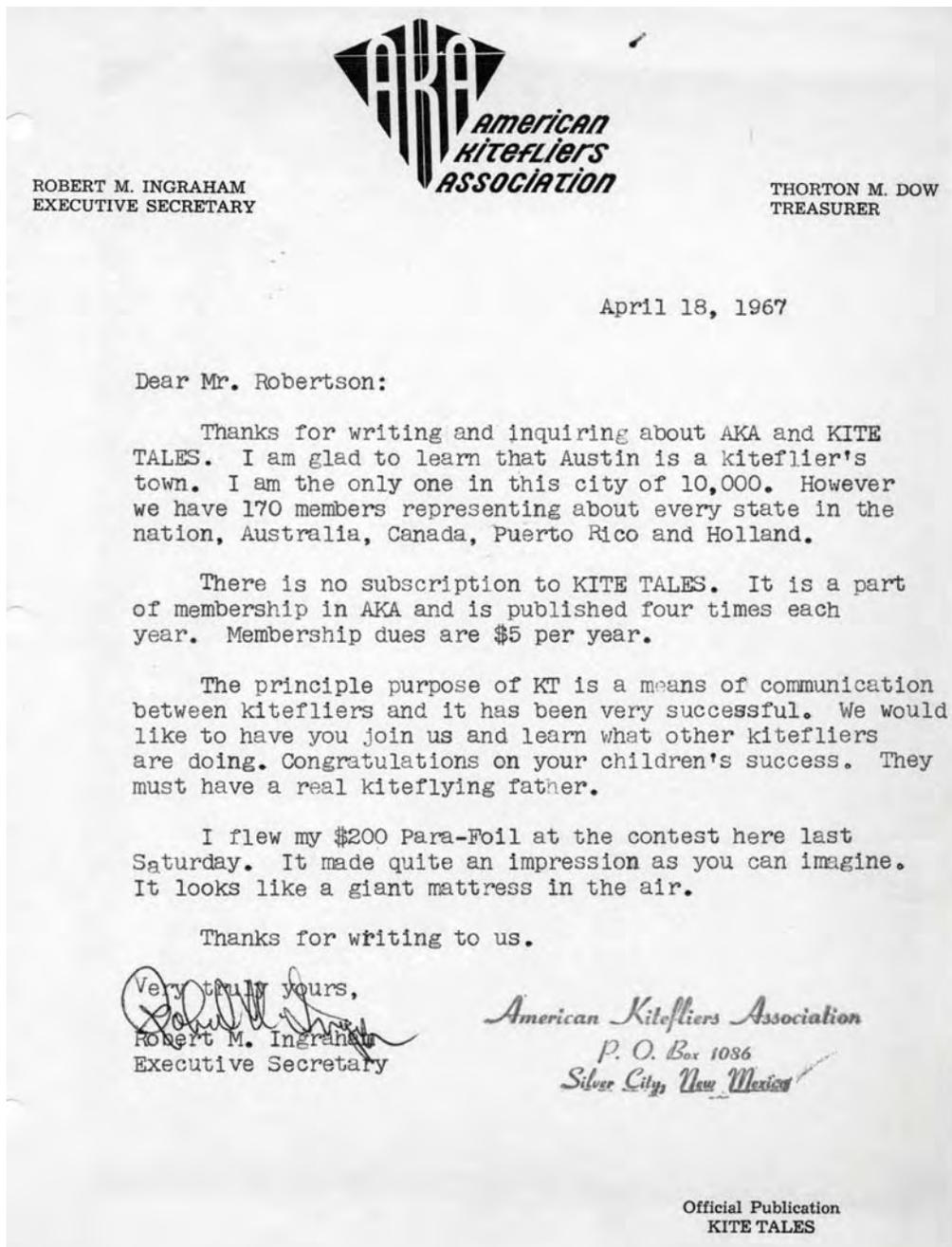
I have been making kites for the last 72 years. I have participated in the 80-year-old Zilker Kite Festival for the last 46 years. My kids, grandkids, and now a great grandkid come to Zilker. And I have led an all-city Kite Workshop and Show for the last 26 years and Summitt Elementary School's kites at "Summitt Soaring Skyward" for the last 17. We have participated in the Annual Junction Kitemakers' Retreat for the past 18 years.

Kiting has been an important part of our family for all these years. That April '67 letter from Bob led us to new heights in this wonderful activity.

Thanks for the great magazine you edit. It is a far cry from the memorable mimeographed publication we enjoyed in 1967.

Sincerely yours,

Richard S. Robertson
Austin, TX



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Don Guick's spiky balls

Art Ross and Kerry St. Dennis

Bev Dockrill

Barry Poulter and Deb Lenzen

Art Ross

**Windscape
Kite Festival
Swift Current,
Saskatchewan
June 21-22, 2008**

photos by
Deb Lenzen

2008 Sport Kite Conference

Central

Experienced Individual Ballet

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Dallas Oliver | 4 |
| 2 Michael Boswell | 3 |

Experienced Individual Precision

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Michael Boswell | 4 |
| 2 Dallas Oliver | 3 |

Experienced Multiline Ballet

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 William Seward | 8 |
|------------------|---|

Experienced Multiline Precision

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 William Seward | 6 |
|------------------|---|

Novice Individual Ballet

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 William Seward | 9 |
| 2 Deontae Boswell | 4 |
| 3 Roger Horne | 3 |

Novice Individual Precision

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 William Seward | 7 |
| 2 Roger Horne | 3 |

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 Bruce Kenkel | 5 |
| 2 Ryan Larkey | 2 |

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 Roger Horne | 3 |
|---------------|---|

Midwest

Experienced Individual Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Steve Rothwell | 17 |
| 2 David Bush | 15 |
| 3 Tom Deck | 8 |
| 3 Paul Koepke | 8 |

Experienced Individual Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Steve Rothwell | 17 |
| 2 David Bush | 16 |
| 3 Paul Koepke | 9 |
| 3 Tom Deck | 6 |

Experienced Multiline Ballet

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Alison Newman | 3 |
|-----------------|---|

Experienced Multiline Precision

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Alison Newman | 3 |
|-----------------|---|

Experienced Pairs Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Sky Jesters | 12 |
| 2 Blues Brothers | 11 |
| 3 Dad and Son | 3 |
| 3 Expletive Deleted | 3 |

Experienced Pairs Precision

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Blues Brothers | 12 |
| 2 Sky Jesters | 11 |
| 3 Dad and Son | 3 |
| 3 Expletive Deleted | 3 |

Experienced Team Ballet

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Three Stooges | 3 |
|-----------------|---|

Experienced Team Precision

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Three Stooges | 3 |
|-----------------|---|

Masters Individual Ballet

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Zachary Gordon | 20 |
| 2 Joshua Gordon | 13 |
| 3 Dan Newman | 13 |
| 4 Spencer Schubbe | 10 |
| 5 Jon Trennepohl | 8 |

Masters Individual Precision

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Zachary Gordon | 21 |
| 2 Spencer Schubbe | 12 |
| 3 Dan Newman | 10 |
| 4 Joshua Gordon | 6 |
| 5 John E. Arnold | 3 |

Masters Multiline Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Zachary Gordon | 15 |
| 2 Alison Newman | 6 |
| 3 Jon Trennepohl | 3 |

Masters Multiline Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Zachary Gordon | 14 |
| 2 Alison Newman | 6 |

Masters Pairs Ballet

| | |
|----------------|----|
| 1 O2 | 10 |
| 2 Eos | 8 |
| 3 Fire And Ice | 6 |

Masters Pairs Precision

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 O2 | 9 |
| 2 Fire and Ice | 6 |
| 3 Eos | 4 |

Masters Team Ballet

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 Chicago Fire | 3 |
|----------------|---|

Masters Team Precision

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 Chicago Fire | 3 |
|----------------|---|

Novice Individual Ballet

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1 Eliazbeth Gordon | 23 |
| 2 David Gibson | 13 |
| 3 Bud Gibson | 12 |
| 4 Rolen Carpenter | 6 |
| 4 John M. Arnold | 5 |

Novice Individual Precision

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1 Eliazbeth Gordon | 26 |
| 2 David Gibson | 17 |
| 3 Bud Gibson | 14 |
| 4 Rolen Carpenter | 6 |
| 4 John M. Arnold | 4 |

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Nelson Borelli | 11 |
| 2 Chris Rizzuto | 8 |
| 3 Jon Trennepohl | 4 |
| 4 Jace Arnold | 3 |
| 5 Dale Bowden | 3 |

Open Team Train

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 O2 | 4 |
| 2 Sky Jesters | 3 |

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 Something Old, Something New | 3 |
|--------------------------------|---|

Open Pairs Multiline Precision

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 Something Old, Something New | 3 |
|--------------------------------|---|

Northeast

Experienced Individual Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Gary Quinton | 15 |
| 2 Mike Dioguardo | 12 |
| 3 Glenn Davison | 7 |
| 4 Lisa Stambaugh | 6 |
| 5 Karl Berg | 4 |

Experienced Individual Precision

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 Lisa Stambaugh | 9 |
| 2 Mike Dioguardo | 5 |
| 3 Lee Hetherington | 3 |

Experienced Multiline Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Gary Quinton | 17 |
| 2 Archie Stewart | 16 |
| 3 Lee Hetherington | 11 |
| 4 Patti Tinkham | 10 |
| 5 Arthur St. Pierre | 6 |

Experienced Multiline Precision

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 Wen Jeng | 4 |
| 2 Lee Hetherington | 3 |
| 3 Greg Lamoureux | 2 |

Experienced Pairs Ballet

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 A Nice Pear | 3 |
| 1 Alaska | 3 |
| 3 Odyssey | 1 |

Masters Individual Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Ron Graziano | 52 |
| 2 Shawn Tinkham | 45 |
| 3 Patti Tinkham | 39 |
| 4 Michael Moore | 24 |
| 5 Douglas Coates | 15 |

Masters Individual Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Ron Graziano | 44 |
| 2 Shawn Tinkham | 39 |
| 3 Patti Tinkham | 26 |
| 4 Michael Moore | 21 |
| 5 Douglas Coates | 13 |

Masters Multiline Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Shawn Tinkham | 28 |
| 2 Dennis Smith | 19 |
| 3 Karl Berg | 13 |
| 4 Douglas Coates | 7 |
| 5 Archie Stewart | 3 |

Masters Multiline Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Shawn Tinkham | 18 |
| 2 Douglas Coates | 15 |
| 3 Karl Berg | 11 |

Masters Pairs Ballet

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1 Full Throttle | 23 |
| 2 Skywalkers | 14 |
| 3 Stang | 10 |

Masters Pairs Precision

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1 Full Throttle | 15 |
| 2 Stang | 5 |

Masters Team Ballet

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1 Smitty & The Girls | 13 |
|----------------------|----|

Novice Individual Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Jackie Maciel | 33 |
| 2 Dick Maciel | 26 |
| 3 Robert Benton | 25 |
| 4 Wen Jeng | 18 |
| 5 Ian Willoughby | 13 |

Novice Individual Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Jackie Maciel | 34 |
| 2 Wen Jeng | 27 |
| 3 Robert Benton | 26 |
| 4 Dick Maciel | 21 |
| 5 Gabriel Little | 17 |

Open Team Train

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Heaven Help Us | 18 |
| 2 That's My Line | 11 |

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1 Torrey Lindemann | 15 |
| 2 Shawn Tinkham | 14 |
| 3 Steve Santos | 12 |
| 4 Michael Moore | 11 |
| 5 Berard, Pauly | 10 |

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Jackie Maciel | 9 |
|-----------------|---|

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 Damn Yankee Quad | 6 |
| 2 Airplay | 5 |
| 3 B# | 4 |

Northwest

Experienced Individual Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Jennifer Brown | 40 |
| 2 Tristan Underwood | 28 |
| 3 Doug Lommel | 25 |
| 4 John Farrell | 21 |
| 5 Jim Landers | 17 |

Experienced Individual Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Jennifer Brown | 39 |
| 2 Doug Lommel | 37 |
| 3 John Farrell | 28 |
| 4 Ray Underwood | 23 |
| 5 Jim Landers | 16 |

Experienced Multiline Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Jennifer Brown | 42 |
| 2 Amy Doran | 39 |
| 3 Tristan Underwood | 31 |
| 4 Doug Lommel | 27 |
| 5 Ray Underwood | 24 |

Experienced Multiline Precision

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Jennifer Brown | 36 |
| 2 Amy Doran | 23 |
| 3 Tristan Underwood | 22 |
| 4 Jim Landers | 22 |
| 5 Doug Lommel | 21 |

Experienced Pairs Ballet

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1 Double Trouble | 11 |
| 2 Dos Amigos | 3 |
| 2 Redhot Reflections | 3 |

Experienced Pairs Precision

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Cloud-Dancers | 6 |
| 2 Dos Amigos | 3 |

Final Standings

Masters Individual Ballet

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1 Jerry Cannon | 21 |
| 2 Daniel Haigh | 15 |
| 3 Lisa Root | 15 |
| 4 Wayne Turner | 11 |
| 5 Marcia Cannon | 10 |

Masters Individual Precision

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Lam Hoac | 12 |
| 2 Andrew Cimburek | 10 |
| 3 Daniel Haigh | 6 |
| 4 Wayne Turner | 5 |
| 5 John Barresi | 4 |

Masters Multiline Ballet

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 Lam Hoac | 8 |
| 2 John Barresi | 5 |
| 3 David Hathaway | 3 |
| 3 Wayne Turner | 3 |

Masters Multiline Precision

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 Lam Hoac | 9 |
| 2 John Barresi | 4 |
| 3 David Hathaway | 3 |
| 3 Wayne Turner | 3 |

Masters Pairs Ballet

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Last Flight Out | 12 |
| 2 Wing'N It | 6 |

Masters Pairs Precision

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 1 Wing'N It | 12 |
| 2 Fly By Nite | 8 |

Masters Team Ballet

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 6th Sense | 7 |
| 2 Snowbirds | 3 |

Masters Team Precision

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 6th Sense | 7 |
| 2 Snowbirds | 3 |

Novice Individual Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Amy Doran | 34 |
| 2 Michael Dirk | 23 |
| 3 David Bradley | 19 |
| 4 Shannon Underwood | 18 |
| 5 Jeremy Franklin | 17 |

Novice Individual Precision

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Amy Doran | 30 |
| 2 David Bradley | 22 |
| 3 Michael Dirk | 21 |
| 4 Shannon Underwood | 16 |
| 5 Patti LaValley | 10 |

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Tristan Underwood | 55 |
| 2 Bud Hayes | 55 |
| 3 Amy Doran | 53 |
| 3 David Bradley | 38 |
| 5 David Hathaway | 37 |

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Amy Doran | 24 |
| 2 Jennifer Brown | 19 |
| 3 Conor Brown | 9 |
| 4 Lisa Root | 3 |

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 Double Trouble | 9 |
| 2 DnA | 6 |
| 3 Furious George | 4 |
| 3 Quadamigos | 4 |

Open Pairs Multiline Precision

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 DnA | 3 |
| 1 Furious George | 3 |

Pacific

Experienced Individual Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Dan Burnham | 20 |
| 2 Sandra McCall | 6 |
| 3 Dennis Gemberling | 3 |

Experienced Individual Precision

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Dan Burnham | 19 |
| 2 Sandra McCall | 3 |
| 2 Dennis Gemberling | 3 |

Experienced Multiline Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Mark Quirnbach | 36 |
| 2 Dan Burnham | 25 |
| 3 Francisco Navarro | 19 |
| 4 Jeff Erzin | 17 |
| 5 Aaron Champie | 13 |

Experienced Multiline Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Mark Quirnbach | 30 |
| 2 Dan Burnham | 23 |
| 3 Aaron Champie | 10 |
| 4 Anthony Carl | 9 |
| 5 Jeff Erzin | 9 |

Experienced Pairs Ballet

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 Dos Furias | 3 |
|--------------|---|

Experienced Pairs Precision

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 Dos Furias | 3 |
|--------------|---|

Masters Individual Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Aaron Champie | 28 |
| 2 John Gillespie | 27 |
| 3 Francisco Navarro | 20 |
| 4 Miquel Rodriguez | 11 |
| 5 Wayne Fu | 6 |

Masters Individual Precision

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Aaron Champie | 31 |
| 2 John Gillespie | 23 |
| 3 Francisco Navarro | 22 |
| 4 Miquel Rodriguez | 10 |
| 5 Wayne Fu | 5 |

Masters Team Ballet

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 AirZone Flight Team | 9 |
|-----------------------|---|

Masters Team Precision

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 AirZone Flight Team | 6 |
|-----------------------|---|

Novice Individual Ballet

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Larry Paul Carter | 3 |
| 1 McCall, Sandra | 3 |

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Francisco Navarro | 7 |
| 2 Aaron Champie | 6 |
| 3 Mark Quirnbach | 5 |
| 4 Dan Burnham | 4 |
| 5 Jeff Erzin | 3 |

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Crash and Burn | 17 |
|------------------|----|

Open Pairs Multiline Precision

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Crash and Burn | 15 |
|------------------|----|

Southeast

Experienced Individual Ballet

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1 Richard Mervine | 39 |
| 2 Norman "Doug" Charleville | 30 |
| 3 William Sturdy | 28 |
| 4 Spencer Meeks | 25 |
| 5 Doug Hood | 22 |

Experienced Individual Precision

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1 Norman "Doug" Charleville | 39 |
| 2 William Sturdy | 33 |
| 3 Richard Mervine | 28 |
| 4 Spencer Meeks | 27 |
| 5 William Smoot | 27 |

Experienced Multiline Ballet

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1 Norman "Doug" Charleville | 26 |
| 2 David Ashworth | 24 |
| 3 William Sturdy | 24 |
| 4 Spencer Meeks | 18 |
| 5 David Meeks | 14 |

Experienced Multiline Precision

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1 Cath Shook | 17 |
| 2 Norman "Doug" Charleville | 12 |
| 3 David Ashworth | 11 |
| 4 Spencer Meeks | 7 |
| 5 Rob Autrey | 6 |

Experienced Pairs Ballet

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 1 Fusion | 21 |
| 2 Wing Nuts | 18 |
| 3 Flight Risk | 18 |

Experienced Pairs Precision

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 1 Flight Risk | 15 |
| 2 Wing Nuts | 13 |

Experienced Team Ballet

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 Team Wing Nuts | 5 |
| 2 Loose Screws | 3 |

Experienced Team Precision

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 Team Wing Nuts | 8 |
| 2 Loose Screws | 3 |

Masters Individual Ballet

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Paul DeBakker | 37 |
| 2 Robbie Boerth | 30 |
| 3 Lisa Willoughby | 26 |
| 4 Marc Conklin | 14 |
| 5 Todd Haymans | 12 |

Masters Individual Precision

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Rjobbie Boerth | 24 |
| 2 Paul DeBakker | 22 |
| 3 Marc Conklin | 20 |
| 4 Todd Haymans | 16 |
| 5 Lisa Willoughby | 15 |

Masters Multiline Ballet

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Paul LaMasters | 13 |
| 2 Jim Cosca | 9 |
| 3 Paul DeBakker | 3 |
| 4 Michael Mosman | 1 |

Masters Pairs Ballet

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Airborne Virus | 6 |
| 2 Rainman Forrest | 4 |

Masters Pairs Precision

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Airborne Virus | 6 |
| 2 Rainman Forrest | 4 |

Novice Individual Ballet

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Evelyn Rossbach | 17 |
| 2 Adam Weiner | 14 |
| 3 Charlie Butler | 11 |
| 4 William Sturdy | 5 |
| 5 Allyson Butler | 4 |

Novice Individual Precision

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 James Sturdy | 18 |
| 2 Evelyn Rossbach | 14 |
| 3 Charlie Butler | 11 |
| 4 William Sturdy | 6 |
| 5 Allyson Butler | 3 |

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Paul DeBakker | 24 |
| 2 William Sturdy | 7 |
| 3 Michael Mosman | 4 |
| 4 David Ashworth | 3 |
| 5 Paul LaMasters | 2 |

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1 Andrew Albosta | 14 |
| 2 Charles Stonestreet | 13 |
| 3 Norman "Doug" Charleville | 9 |
| 4 Robbie Boerth | 5 |
| 5 Paul LaMasters | 3 |

Open Team Train

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Trained Monkeys | 4 |
| 2 OldenBads | 3 |

The competition season ran from August 1, 2007, to July 31, 2008. The top five finishers in each discipline received invitations to the Grand National Competition at the AKA Convention in Gettysburg.

For complete results, visit the Festivals page at www.aka.kite.org.

CONVENTION PREVIEW



Put several hundred kitefliers together in one place. Stir in competition, workshops, raffles, auctions, pins, and prizes. Add a healthy shot of fun. Shake well, and garnish with new friends. That's either a recipe for another great AKA Convention, or the start of a wild night of shotcar racing.

After the Early Bird Reception on Monday, September 22, things really get rolling on Tuesday morning. Workshops start the day – and each day thereafter – with lots of options for you to choose from. They include:

- From Kites to a Practical Flying Machine: The Wright Brothers and the Invention of the Airplane
- Introduction to Fighter Kite Competition ...The Basics
- Organizing a Low Cost Kite Festival for Kids of All Ages Try Indoor Flying
- Basic Classroom Kite: Sled Building 101
- Parachuting Teddies: a Discussion Group to Exchange Ideas
- Kite Aerial Photography and Digital Processing
- Make a Fighter Kite
- Kite Festival Photography



Arthur Dibble's Ted Berets are excited to visit Boyd's Bears.

- Bears, Rubber Ducks & Candy, OH MY!!!! How to drop just about whatever you want!!!
- Kite Sewing 101
- Rock Your Rok!!
- How to Grow a Kite Festival In a Small Market
- Kitemaking Art and Design
- How to Use the AKA Logo in Projects

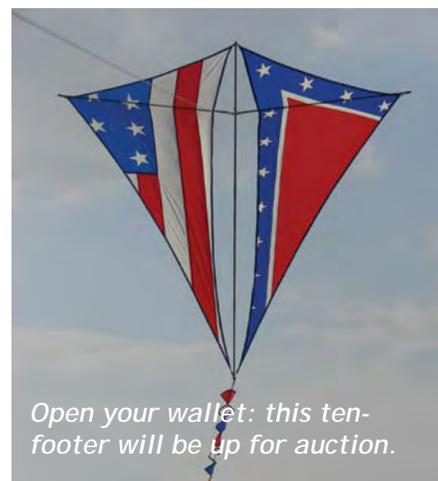
For a complete schedule of all workshops, visit www.aka.kite.org, or look in your program after you register.

Sport kite competition begins after lunch on Tuesday. Invitations have been sent out, and the top competitors will go head to head in all disciplines. Competition continues on Wednesday and Friday.

Fighters get into the action on Wednesday as well. There'll be three days of skills and line touch events. Anyone's welcome, whether you're a seasoned veteran or competing for the first time.

Don't worry, the kitemakers aren't left out of the competition scene. The comprehensive kitemaker's competition runs on Wednesday and Thursday. In an arrangement similar to last year's rain-out in Ocean Shores, this year's competition begins with a day of indoor judging of craftsmanship and structural design. Outdoor judging of flight and visual appeal will be on Day Two.

If you're not having enough fun yet, don't forget that each day brings a new mass ascension. If you want to collect a full set of pins, you'll need to have a sport kite, cellular kite, rokkaku or fighter, soft kite, and a delta.



Friday concludes with the Great Kite Auction, a chance to pick up tiny treasures, massive bargains, and things you just can't live without.

Saturday has everything you've come to expect: rokkaku battles, Hot Tricks shoot-out, demonstrations of all sorts of flying, and a few surprises. One new event is the Ground Display Challenge. Entries will be judged in two categories – Best Banner and Best Overall Display – by the public, so you'll have to pull out all the stops to impress the people of Gettysburg. The day concludes with the banquet, as prizes are given out, awards are bestowed, and friendships are cemented.

It's a good recipe for a great week. Now all we need is you. It's not too late to sign up. Register online at the AKA website, and be sure to check the KiteTalk Forum for ride sharing, roommates, and late updates.



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Going to Gettysburg? Check the AKA's KiteTalk Forum for the latest info, including schedule updates, workshops, special give-aways and raffles, ride-sharing, and things to do around the area!

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Fightin' Words

Prepping For Competition by Steve Bateman

In my last contribution I wrote about line handling tips and equipment choices that will help keep fliers from beating themselves. This article is intended for someone practicing for a line touch competition. The activities described are those that I engage in, particularly before the big competition in Long Beach, WA.

First, some more tips on line handling. I think most fliers take line in a hand over hand manner. When one hand releases to reach up and grab the line, make sure that the fingers point toward yourself as your hand goes up. If the fingers are "out" or not trailing behind the hand, they may snag the line. This type of snag tends to lead to cuts of the pinky fingers during the next reach.

Say the kite is flying to the left side, and you are pulling line in. If the wind is strong, the wind will push the line downwind into your right hand as you reach for the line, potentially causing your hand to get snagged on the line. Your right hand should reach out (downwind) more than normal to avoid the wind blown line, in addition to having your fingers trail behind.

Now for some flying exercises that you can do when you're flying by yourself. One thing I do is let out a lot of line, like 300 feet, and simply pull it back in. This can be done with the kite flying upward, or to the left or right. Because the kite does not pull very much, the casual reader of this might think this is very easy. But what you are looking to improve is endurance, and speed. Focus on a consistent rate of pull, reaching and pulling as far as comfortable. To really work the muscles I like to reach out far and pull in further than normal. The rate of line retrieval should be as fast as you can without snagging the line or hurting yourself in other ways (we all have our own level of coordination...). Focus on leaving the fingers behind as your released hand reaches upward to grab the line. Be careful not to pile the line all in one place; this is the only time where you should walk around your spool.

You should practice flying horizontally to the left, changing direction to fly horizontally to the right, and so on. Do this as low as conditions and your skill level permit. Horizontal flight is the single best skill to have in competition. It will help you get out of an over point when you have to fly low, and it will get you under your opponent during an under point. You may have to stop and start a horizontal pass when the kite leans toward the ground. This is either due to the kite not being tuned for perfect straight line flight, or more often, there are ground effects dragging the kite downward.

You should practice spinning the kite low, as low as your skill and conditions allow. To spin the kite, you need to release line, but to maintain a certain height for the kite, you also need to vary the tension on the line as you release it. In lighter winds the line can be held fast, with the hand moving back and forth to vary the tension. In even lighter winds the line will have to be taken in, also with varying tension. More tension is given to the kite as the kite comes around the bottom of the spin, less as the kite goes over the top of the spin.

The kite can also be made to change direction in the middle of the spin. If the kite is spinning clockwise, as the

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nose of the kite reaches two o'clock or so, slightly jerk the line and release. The kite should spin the other way. This is a very handy skill in competition.

Practice flying your kite on the edge. Get a feel for what the kite does on the sides and overhead. How far overhead does your kite go? Practice keeping it there, and work out those neck muscles! Nothing gets me more tired in competition than keeping my head cocked back looking straight up. Learn the completely different timing your kite has when it is directly overhead. You will have to anticipate where your kite is headed and pull sooner to get it going in the desired direction. Take your hat off in competition, the point is more important than avoiding three minutes of sun (ok, to me it is!).

Lastly, search out and fly in wind that you are not used to flying in. I live in light wind San Diego, so I have to drive to find wind similar in strength to wind found in the northwest. You will probably find that your favorite kite does not fly very well in wind faster or slower than you are used to flying it in. If wind conditions are turbulent, fly conservatively. Just because you have flown six inches off the ground elsewhere, does not mean you can do that everywhere. Obvious wind obstructions like trees, and seemingly innocuous things like sand texture can make the wind turbulent, and might only make a difference at certain wind speeds. Take the time before a competition to fly the field in order to search out these "wind obstacles."



Steve Bateman is the current AKA National Line Touch Champion. He has also won or tied for 1st three of the past four years at the Fighter Kite World Cup held at Long Beach, WA, each August during the Washington State International Kite Festival.

Congratulations to the 2008 Fighter Kite standings leaders: Felix Durairaj (Western States, Open Line Touch), Jay Bell (Western States, Open Skills), Rod Wickenheizer (Mid States, Novice Line Touch), Lynn Berry, (Mid States, Novice Skills), Carl Anderson (Mid States, Experienced Line Touch and Experienced Skills), Lisa Stambaugh (Eastern States, Novice Line Touch), and Andy Selzer (Eastern States, Experienced Line Touch). Look for complete 2008 Fighter Kite Standings at www.aka.kite.org, on the Festivals page.

EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Bob Crumpler

On June 9th the strings were cut for Topeka Kite Flier Bob Crumpler, at age 66. Bob had many adventures in his short life. He had an opinion on about everything but he was also a good listener. Kiting was not just flying, but it was the people, the friendships made. He was one of the reasons my family enjoyed kiting. Bob was one of



the few kilters with his picture on the cover of *Kiting*. In the last 15 years he loved flying kites with tails, not just 50', or 100' or even 150', he flew with 300' tails he made on 125' lines. We flew pairs whenever we could and took up a good portion of the flying field, and Bob would just grin. He was also known for his colorful banners. No one could duplicate his sewing techniques. I drove him to many festivals across the Midwest, from Topeka to Omaha, Des Moines, Columbia, Kansas City, Calloway, Angel Fire, Lahoma, and Tulsa. And in all these many hours of driving, he never told the same story twice. His passion was people, and kiting brought many across his path. Bob, good winds, keep flying those tails and keep grinning.

Bob Homan

Mary Shaffer

Mary Shaffer, my girlfriend for many years, has been very sick, and in early July she passed away. She was not really a flier even though she had a tattoo of a kite on her, but she was the person who believed in me when I started all of this, forever telling me to go and have fun when she got too sick to come to events or even just come watch me fly. We spent many hours together at the hospital this last year just talking about the events that I had just come back from, so she knew all of you in a way. As a favor to both me and her memory I would ask for you all the next time you're out and looking to the sky to give a thought to her.

Ben Dantonio



Kiting for me started back in 1990 after a chance trip to the west coast of Washington State. Tracey and I were there on a business/ pleasure trip, with full intentions of surfing (real surfing) my way down the coast to San Francisco. We got as far as Long Beach and that is where the colour and motion of modern kiting bit me, just like surfing did over 25 years earlier. With a Revolution, a Hawaiian Team and Tracey with a Stinger under our arms we finally got back to England where we were living at the time. Quickly we found a world of kiting existed there as well, and so the long term passion for kiting was established.

On finally returning home to our beloved Tasmania we formally set up our business of making two-line steerable kites. The adjunct to that was the

pastime of single line kites. Just like the dual line kites, the passion for this bit as well and with time a style and colour profile developed and is still on the march today.

The influence that shapes these pieces is predominantly Gothic styling. Whether it be architecture, the perceived darkness or even modernist makeup (facial), the gothic seems to



Tracey flying Angels Play With Sin

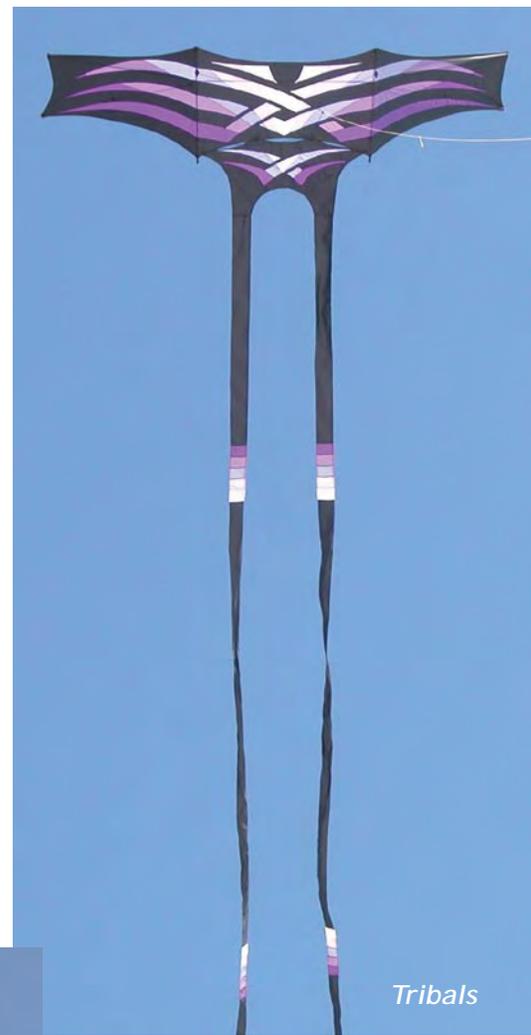


Recovering The Satellites



find its way into the design in one form or another. I have found over the years that the design process is far simpler with curves, achieving better natural tension over a frame and these results in less framing and generally lighter kites.

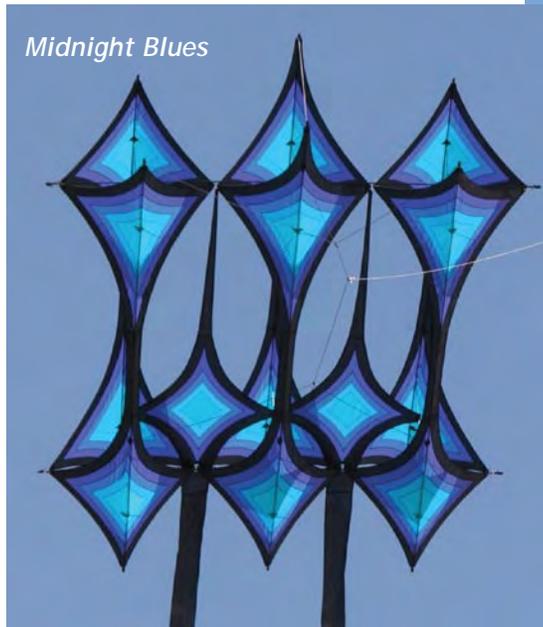
We live on the east coast of the island, just outside a small fishing village, and constantly surrounded by the native flora and fauna. We have built a large garden in the middle of 25 acres of bush. Life is a constant mix of kitemaking, the absolute love and delight of gardening and travel to kite events around the world. I take this as the norm, and I suppose we all see our life as passé but in retrospect maybe we are luckier than many.



Tribals



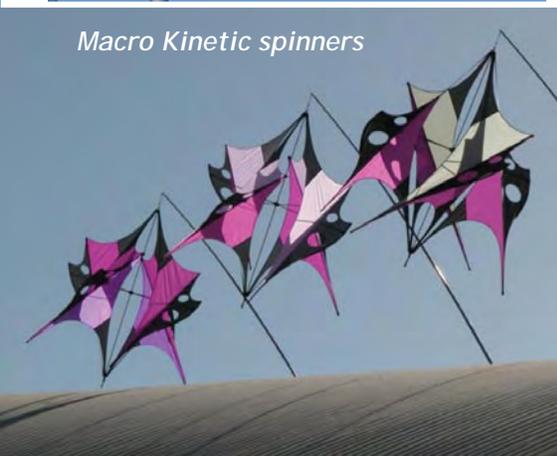
Five Diamonds



Midnight Blues



Heart of Darkness



Macro Kinetic spinners



Ravenswing



Voices From The Vault

Bobby Stanfield

by Patti Gibbons

photos courtesy of the Drachen Foundation

It's only a matter of time until a born craftsman finds kiting. From there it's just a blink of an eye until kites tease out the native artist waiting to dance in the sky. Such is the story of Bobby Stanfield's journey into kiting. Born with nimble hands and a mind for design, Stanfield tapped into kiting as an adult and discovered a little outlet for his huge talent.

Son of a nurse and a Baptist minister, brother to five siblings, Bobby grew up in the sunnier southeastern states, mainly Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. As a child Bobby preferred balls to books, action to rest, and creating things from his imagination over following the tidy letters spelled out on tattered shop class blueprints. A little bit of rebel, but mainly a spunky kid, Bobby wheeled through his childhood days and can remember more fun times than hard times.

Like many master kite designers, childhood was a time to ease into life but not necessarily a time punctuated

by kites. For Bobby, kiting highlights came later, and as a kid he remembers very few kite experiences. One stand-out memory happened when twelve-year-old Bobby toiled to build a jumbo kite for the town kite contest. The prize for smallest kite didn't interest him, he longed for the largest kite trophy. He collected bamboo shoots from the creek, scavenged bits of string from packages around the house, and crafted a nearly nine-foot tall rokkaku that was simply too large to fit in the family car. Bobby walked his colossal kite to the contest and, unfortunately, it got scraped up along the way. The winner was only a modest four-foot brownbag barn door kite made by the trophy holder's over-involved father. Bobby was angered by the sham yet fascinated by the simple kite. He tucked the memory away and called it back up later in adulthood when kite tales looped back into his life.

While working in a professional cabinetry shop Bobby stumbled onto a life-enriching opportunity. Between large millwork orders the easygoing boss let everyone ride the clock and use the shop tools to make furniture, toys, or whatever personal projects people wanted to tackle. Stuck for ideas during a downtime patch, the itchy Bobby listened when an "old man in the shop said, 'Why don't you go fly a kite?'" Bobby thought, "you know, I could build one of those barn door kites from years ago." Twenty minutes later he had a kite and was flying it behind the shop. By the next day all cabinetmakers had kites and shop work was temporarily roofless. Bobby "never looked back" and charged headlong into a life with kites.

Bitten by the kitemaking bug, Bobby quickly amassed a stable of paper kites. One afternoon his wife came home with festively colored fabric and said, "What do you think of it?" Being an honest man, Bobby confessed "Well, it's kind of wild, isn't it? What are you going to do with it?" A coach by nature, his wife responded, "Whatcha going to do with it? I'm tired of looking at brown paper. You're going to



build a cloth kite." This leftfield idea caught Bobby off guard. Not knowing how to sew, he hadn't thought much past sticks and paper. Bobby's wife didn't fuss with his lack of sewing skills and said, "Use glue." Around this time Bobby's kitemaking expanded to French military kites and other kites in the Pelham classic kite book that caught his attention. Looking back, his wife's nudge heralded what he calls the "cotton and poplar wood phase" of his kitemaking career.

As Bobby's kitemaking skills grew, so did his kiting network. He met people in the AKA and club membership opened new doors. Bobby remembers meeting Charlie Henderson early on, and Charlie invited him to participate in contests at Stone Mountain, Georgia. Ultracompetitive to the core, Bobby vowed to become a winner and record breaker at Stone Mountain. As he was sizing up the competition, Bobby heard from several people that Adrian Conn was the best kite maker around. Immediately, Bobby knew, "I'm gonna take him on!" In preparation, Bobby worked on a special kite for seven months and packed it up with him on his first AKA convention trip to San Diego. During this time, the legend grew. Bobby imagined Conn to be a "seven-foot tall giant" but was "...surprised when it turned out he



was 4'11", barely 100 pounds and the sweetest guy in the world."

Months of honing his competitive bravado went unneeded for his meeting with Adrian Conn-, and Bobby quickly learned that "kiting is loaded with wonderful...down to earth, sincere people." Over the years Bobby has remained impressed by the goodwill in kiting circles and fondly recalls how kite friendships helped soothed the sting of emotionally rough periods in his life. World round, the camaraderie he's experienced is consistent and genuine, making kiting both irresistible and comforting for Stanfield.

Long after Bobby's formative Kraft paper days, he reached for high tech materials and let himself experiment. His tinkering evolved into intricate, yet streamlined cellular kites. "My first love is lightness, so I build clean kites...that fly in the widest range of winds." By streamlining construction Bobby guesses that his kites "have a look that lends itself to flight...and takes on a look of its own." When fine tuning his designs and selecting color swatches, Bobby listens to his moods and pulls confident blues, hopeful

yellows, and fired up reds together to express the feelings he has during the kitemaking process. For Stanfield, it is "a combination of things give [his] kites a certain look."

Bobby recognizes beauty and art in kitemaking. For him, well-designed kites are more than accomplished handiwork, they can be bona fide works of art. For him, simply put, "art is something that comes from the heart, head, within." Though over time, Bobby has encountered traditional art critics who pigeonhole kites "as a hobby or craft show stuff."

Bobby doesn't fault the shortsightedness of conventional critics but urges these types to open their minds and consider kitemaking as fine art. For him, he wonders if they aren't perhaps slightly overprotective of their intellectual egos to allow the sometime whimsical toy canvas to fly alongside Whistler's Mother or the Mona Lisa. Stanfield likens the situation to his blah feelings for rap music. He doesn't necessarily care to listen to rap music, but recognizes its poetic backbone. For Bobby, just because he doesn't like it doesn't mean it isn't art.



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Kite Books



Painting With Light and Air: Appliqué Designs on Translucent Fabric by William Farber and Jara Krivanek

There have been some great workshops at kitemakers retreats and AKA Conventions on applique technique, but those sessions have only reached a tiny audience. For the rest of the masses, yearning to appliqué, kitemaker Bill Farber and fabric designer Jara Krivanek have teamed up to offer this guide to appliquéing kites.

The book covers areas like design principles, development and assembly of applique panels in ripstop nylon, sewing technology and techniques, tools and tips, fixing mistakes, and a step by step guide to designing and stitching of a translucent applique panel. It also has plans for building a rokkaku and Farber's version of a rectangular kaku dako.

Kite art fans will appreciate the full color gallery of over 20 kites. Farber and Krivanek do beautiful work, and it's easy to understand from the photos how they use fabric layering to create new colors.

Farber's paneling technique can be a bit hard to follow, especially for those who've learned more traditional appliqué methods. Experienced kitebuilders may find themselves having to unlearn a few things if they try using the Farber method.

Farber – currently living in Australia – is working out the details of his American sales plan. For now, you can purchase the 95-page book through his website, http://members.iinet.net.au/~wef_associates/.

Der Drachendesigner Richard Steiff by Walter Diem

Germany's Richard Steiff may be better known for creating one of the first teddy bears, but kitemakers know him for his Roloplan and other kites that came from the Steiff toy factory.

Walter Diem says, "Some years ago I got copies of an old photograph album of the Steiff family with lot of photos Richard Steiff had made of his "Roloplan" and aerial photographs with this kite. Some pictures showed unknown or forgotten kites, designed by Richard Steiff, but never produced. I thought we should try to reproduce these kites and asked well-known German Roloplan specialists Werner Ahlgrim and Wolfram Wannrich to assist me by planning and sewing the kites. We had only the black and white photographs from the album, nearly 100 years old, darkened, unsharp, with no scale of how big the kites were. But I think we did a real good job. All the characteristic details of a "Roloplan" can be found in these new kites. They are replicas with great authenticity."

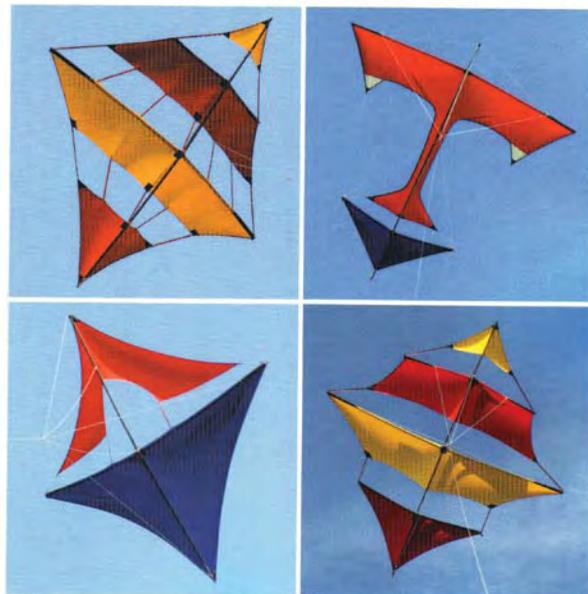
After a thorough introduction of Steiff, Diem provides very detailed building descriptions of 17 models. Numerous photos and diagrams of each kite make it easy to follow the plans.

The book is written in German, but for experienced builders (especially with the help of Web-based translation programs) the sketches and pictures are guidance enough to rebuild the kites.

To order the 192-page book, contact Walter Diem directly at diemhamburg@t-online.de. Cost is € 23.50, including shipping.

Walter Diem

Der Drachendesigner **RICHARD STEIFF**



17 unbekannte Drachen
in originalnahen Nachbauten

AKA NEWS

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR MEMBERSHIP SURVEYS

by Jon Burkhardt, Gary Engvall, Mel Hickman, Jim Hodges, Jim Martin, Jr. and Sam Poikail

AKA recently conducted its largest-ever membership survey. From May 16 through June 30, 2008, members were urged to complete the survey, either by Internet or by mail. A total of 859 members completed the survey, representing 24.2 percent of AKA's current June 30 membership. We consider this to be a great response, particularly for a survey primarily administered through the Internet. (Because the survey respondents self-selected themselves, their responses are not necessarily representative of all of AKA's members.)

According to the survey, the "typical AKA member" is male, about 52 years old, and has been flying kites for 30 years. Thus far, there has been a widely untapped reservoir of potential kitefliers among females and youths.

AKA members who responded were, in general, highly satisfied with AKA: 69 percent would continue their membership as long as possible, 42 percent said that they were very satisfied with AKA, and 68 percent would recommend membership in AKA to a friend. These are strongly positive results.

What respondents liked best about AKA was *Kiting* (69 percent), the people involved (48 percent), and going to festivals (34 percent). When asked what they liked least about AKA, 35 percent said that they liked everything about AKA, 33 percent said the politics, and 25 percent had a variety of other answers.

Some of the most frequent suggestions for improving AKA involved lowering the intensity of AKA politics, making it easier for newcomers to become part of the organization, providing more publicity for AKA, improving the website, working more closely with manufacturers and local kite clubs, more contact with their regional directors, and recruiting younger members. There are some wonderful suggestions for improving the Convention, *Kiting*, and the website. Some of the more interesting ideas for improvements included "Free beer" and "Would like to have a lifetime membership or longer."

One respondent noted, "I think that this survey goes a long way into at least showing that AKA cares about our satisfaction, and it will be interesting to see what comes of it." AKA's Board of Directors is now sorting through the more than 160 pages of responses to see which of these ideas can be most readily implemented. In the coming months, more information on the survey results will be made available at the Convention in Gettysburg, the Winter issue of *Kiting*, and the AKA website.

AI Aerial Inquiry Who's your choice for AKA Volunteer of the Year?

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

Next issue's question is, *Where in Regions 9-12 would you like to have the 2010 Convention?*

I would nominate Rick Hawkins. This year Rick has tirelessly devoted many hours of time to NKM. I mostly watched in awe, in my office, or at his organized events.

Gordon Steele

I'll mention Scott E. Spencer. He has been helping the AKA in many ways for many years. He is now coordinating a group in making items for the AKA convention auction. He also stepped up at last year's annual meeting to temporarily fill a board vacancy.

Todd Little

Rick Hawkins. He was behind a huge increase in the Kite Month events with his area having almost twice as many as the next. He hustled this year when it came to the National Kite Month job. A big reason for the huge increase in events this year was due to his hard work. If you look at the listings Region Eight has almost twice as many events as the next closest region and most of them are listed by Rick. I see him out flying kites and spreading the word all over town. We gave him a hard time last year when he was on the Houston TV news twice in the same weekend with different stations and then finished the year with his picture in the international news flying his gecko with downtown Houston in the background. I am proud to call him a friend and know how hard he works to promote kite flying.

Keith Stewart

I'll second Scott E Spencer!!! He does so much for kiting and the AKA.

Mike Dallmer

I think all the volunteers spending some (a lot?) of their time for AKA are doing a good job. But I will grant this award to my Region Thirteen director, Linda Sanders. She is doing a great job to keep us informed and involved and to promote the Region Thirteen. Well done Linda !

Bernard Fourniere

Modesty prevents me from giving an honest answer!

Jim Martin

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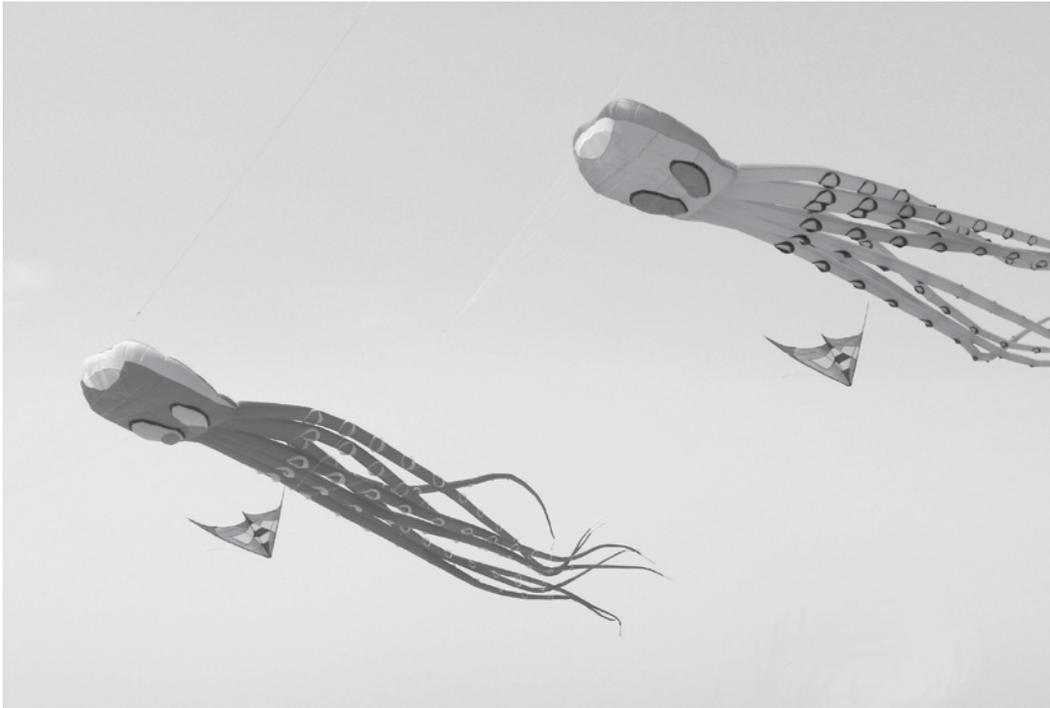
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The Sporting Life

The Case For Contrast by Russ Faulk



Worse than a lack of contrast, however, is disconnected contrast. If there is a dramatic change in the music and the flying does not reflect it at all, the choreography will likely be judged as lacking. Likewise, the choreography should be judged as confusing (to put it nicely) if the same passage of music repeats multiple times without change, and the kite is thrashing about the sky one time and sleeping to a lullaby another.

It can be tempting to combine two pieces of music in order to force some desirable contrast. This all too frequently appears unnatural, especially if the musical differences literally split the routine into two parts. Contrast in kite ballet works best when the music has an ebb and flow.

Believe contrast – interpretive flying that juxtaposes slow and fast, graceful and precise or subtle and dynamic – is the most differentiating characteristic of a great sport kite ballet. Contrast is a key element that can elevate competent flying to a level that is truly engrossing.

Developing a routine with this characteristic begins where any ballet begins: music selection. Select a piece of music with distinctive passages, and then emphasize the variations with the choreography and the flying. Pace, mood and volume changes are all opportunities to show good choreography and strong execution by differentiating the temperament of the flying. Demonstrating contrast attuned to opportunities in the music can make it clear to everyone watching there is not only a real plan for what they are seeing (choreography), but also real control over the kite (execution). Judges and spectators alike will take notice.

Move forward on the field to slow the kite for the appropriate passages of music. Back up quickly to accelerate the kite for dynamic passages. Vary the kite's movements between rounded and angular paths. Even individual moves that only fill a moment can contribute to contrast. An axel can be slow and graceful or quick and snappy. A landing can float to the ground or stab the earth. A ninety-degree turn can be executed softly with a push turn using one arm, or briskly with a combination turn using both arms. These examples and many more can support contrast as an important element of a ballet.

Glide between the emotions, the volume and the pace, and it will grab the judges and the audience by the scruffs of their necks and really hold their attention.

Should the routine incorporate tricks? Yes. Must they match the music and fit in the plan? Absolutely. Should the choreography basics be covered like landings and flying the entire sky? Of course. All of these things matter, but for me it is the contrast that makes a routine truly compelling.

Russ Faulk is a current member of the AKA Sport Kite Committee and the International Rule Book Committee with over 12 years experience in individual, pairs and team sport kite competition.

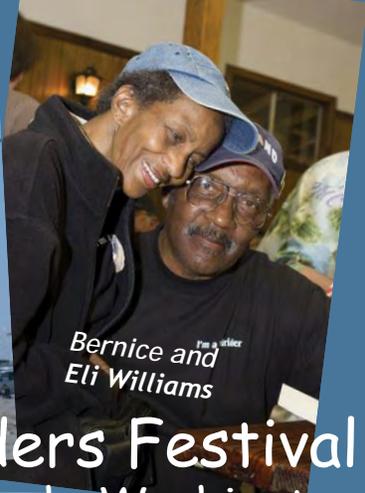


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Bernice and Eli Williams

Westport Windriders Festival Grayland Beach, Washington July 11-13, 2008



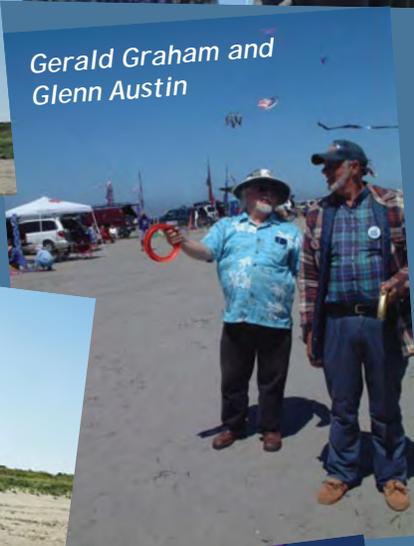
Arnold and Aurora Authement



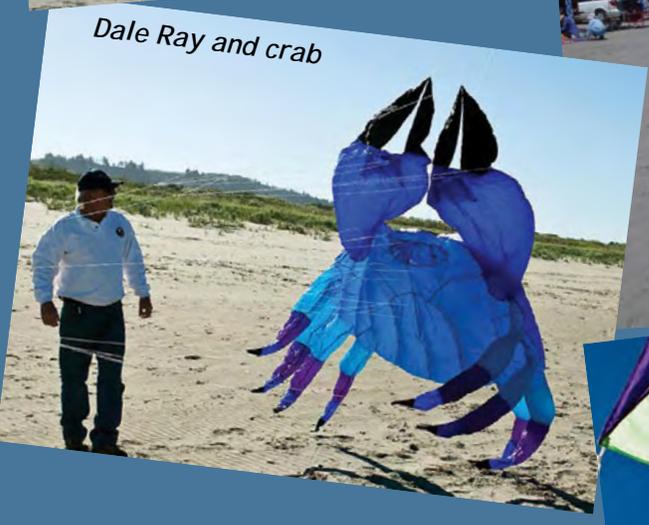
Ron and Mike Button



A flowform from Canada



Gerald Graham and Glenn Austin



Dale Ray and crab



Mike Button's train

photos by Ron Miller

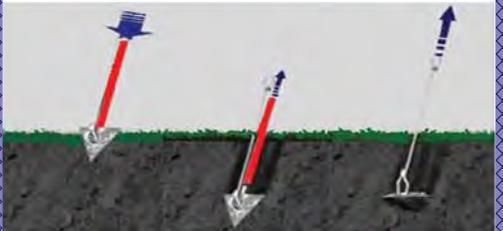
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KITE PLAN

CIRCLE BOX KITE BY CLIFF QUINN

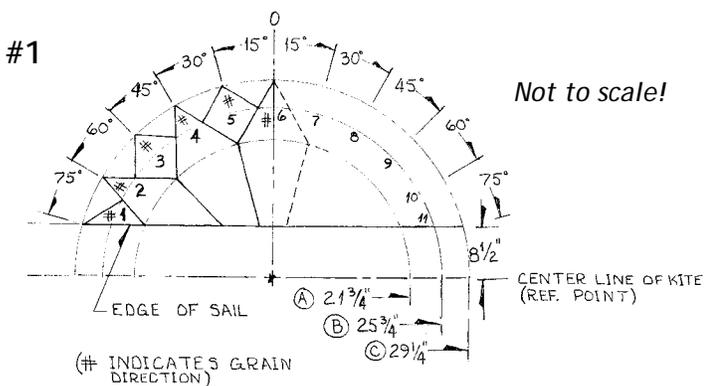
Some time ago I was surfing European kite sites and came across the "Circle Box Kite" designed by Rainer Hoffman of Germany. DIY plans are published in a magazine *Kites & Friends*.

I decided to download the plan and put it on a back burner for a rainy day. And there it stayed until I received a call from the Keystone Kites to present a workshop. Keystone wanted an unusual shape, preferably a cellular design, low cost, a kite to be completed in a weekend workshop and an easy kite to assemble plus a good flyer in a wide wind range.

With limited time and many commitments, I searched my backburner stuff and zeroed in on the "Circle Box." I wish I could lay claim to its design but can't. I can, however, take credit for many significant changes to make the construction very easy and to improve its flight characteristics. I urge you to accept the challenge and make this magnificent kite.

Materials

- 2 epoxy tube spars - FL 248 (16¼" each)
- 7 internal ferrules - .248" F.G.
- 6½ epoxy tube spars - E 40 (6 @ 32.5" and 1 @ 16.25")
- 22 vinyl end caps - .250" diameter
- 6 yards bungi shock cord - 3/32" diameter
- 1 yard 3.9 oz. Black Dacron - 4" wide
- 2 Ripstop tape w/adhesive backing (2" wide X 8 yd. rolls)
- 8 ¾" wide ¾ oz. Ripstop strips
- 4 end caps - arrow knocks w/.248" I.D. hole
- 3 1" pieces shrink tube - 1" diameter
- 4 ¾ oz. Ripstop nylon (kite requires 1 yd. per color)
- 2¼ yds. ¼" grosgrain ribbon (black)
- 6" 1/8" vinyl tubing
- bridle material - 150# test



Template Layout

1. Draw 2 parallel lines 8.5" apart as shown
2. Draw 3 arcs - A @ 21.75"R -- B @ 25.75"R -- C @ 29.25"R
3. Draw quadrant lines as shown (15" apart)
4. Draw intersecting lines to form individual panels
5. *Cut out sail panels. Draw entire sail on one piece of material then cut out all 11 pieces. Precision is important. Make template for 8 triangle cell panels. Select your color graphics. Place templates on fabric with grain aligned with quadrant lines.

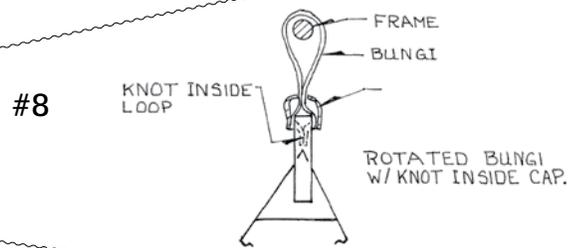
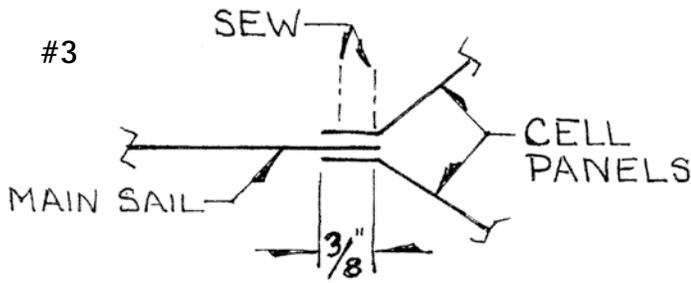
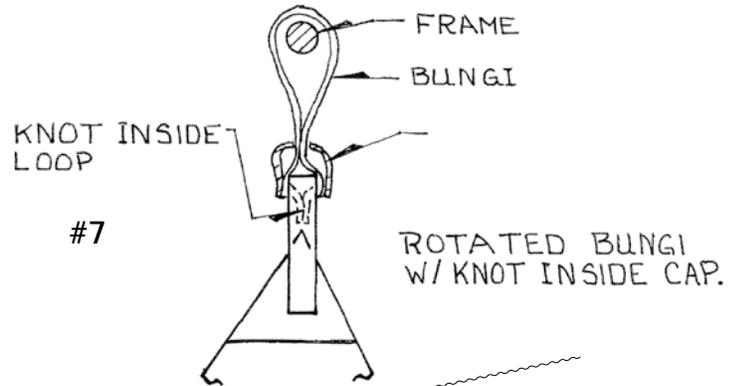
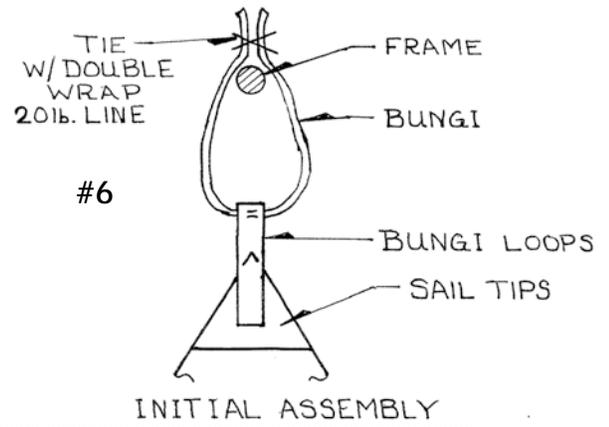
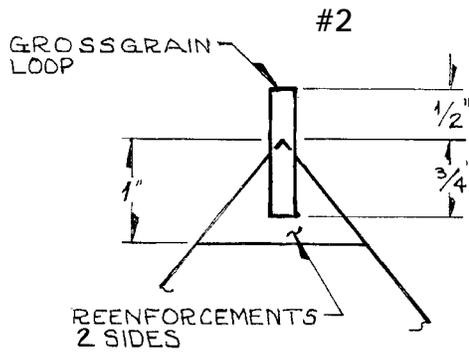


Construction Details

- Make templates (Illus. # 1)
- Make 3/8" tape strips - 60" long
- Make reinforcements (Illus.# 2)
- Cut out all panels (see grain direction) (Illus. # 1 & # 4)
- Attach re-enforcements on both sides of panels # 2,4,6,8,10 & four cell panels.
- Join panels # 2,4,6,8,10 (butt edges) using 3/8" RSN adhesive tape
- Join panels # 1,3,5,7,9,11 (overlap 3/16") using 3/8" RSN adhesive tape
- Turn sail over and apply tape to opposite side
- Attach grosgrain loops on all tips except 1,11 (Illus. # 2)
- Sew all tape with two straight stitch lines at edges
- Lay sewn panel flat, trim inner edge straight
- Repeat above process for other half of kite
- Edge bind triangular panels on short sides with ¾ oz. RSN
- Attach 4 triangular panels to main sail (start at end, overlap in center)
- (Use DS tape or hot tacking) Cover joint with RSN tape and sew (Illus. # 3)
- Repeat on other main sail
- Attach both main sails with grosgrain at tips of triangular panels (Illus. #5)
- Attach grosgrain loops on tips of panels 1,11
- Prepare spars - 6 full length with internal ferrules - 1 @ 16.25" with ferrule - 2 @ 16.25" X FL 248
- Prepare Bungi cord - 22 pieces @ 12" lengths
- Assemble hoop frame
- Using Bungi (22 pieces) attach sail to frame - use equal tension at all points (Illus.# 6)
- Remove sail, trim Bungi - rotate knot into grosgrain

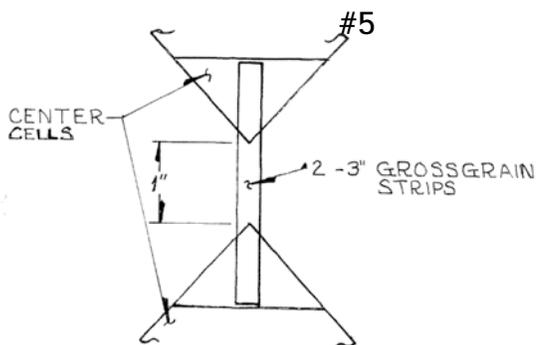
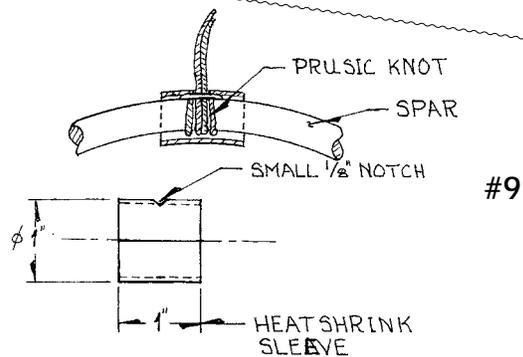
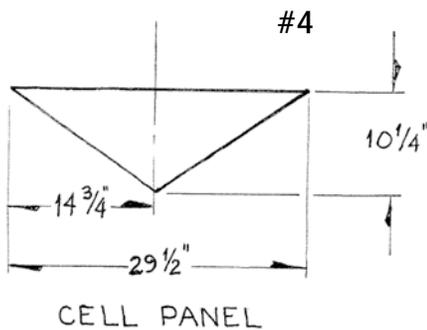
loop cover with vinyl cap (Illus.# 7)
 Install vinyl sleeve on 1, 11 Bungi loops (Illus.# 8)

- Make bridle attachment and tail pigtails (Prussik knots covered with heat shrink tubing). Mount bridle @ 10 and 2 o'clock - Tail @ 6 o'clock on frame (Illus.# 9)
- Make tail of choice (slight drag is important) (2 1/2" wide X 30' long)
- Make two point bridle loop 8' to Tow Point



Flying Tips

- Bridle pigtail location is approximately 10 and 2 o'clock. Slide up or down for wind conditions.
- Tail must create some drag for stable flight.
- Use 100# test line for medium wind.
- If frame becomes egg shape in heavy wind, slide bridle attachment towards top.
- Wind range 5 to 15 MPH.



Kiting + See www.aka.kite.org/Kiting+ for enlarged diagrams!



KAPTIONS

SUSIE AND JIM ABER

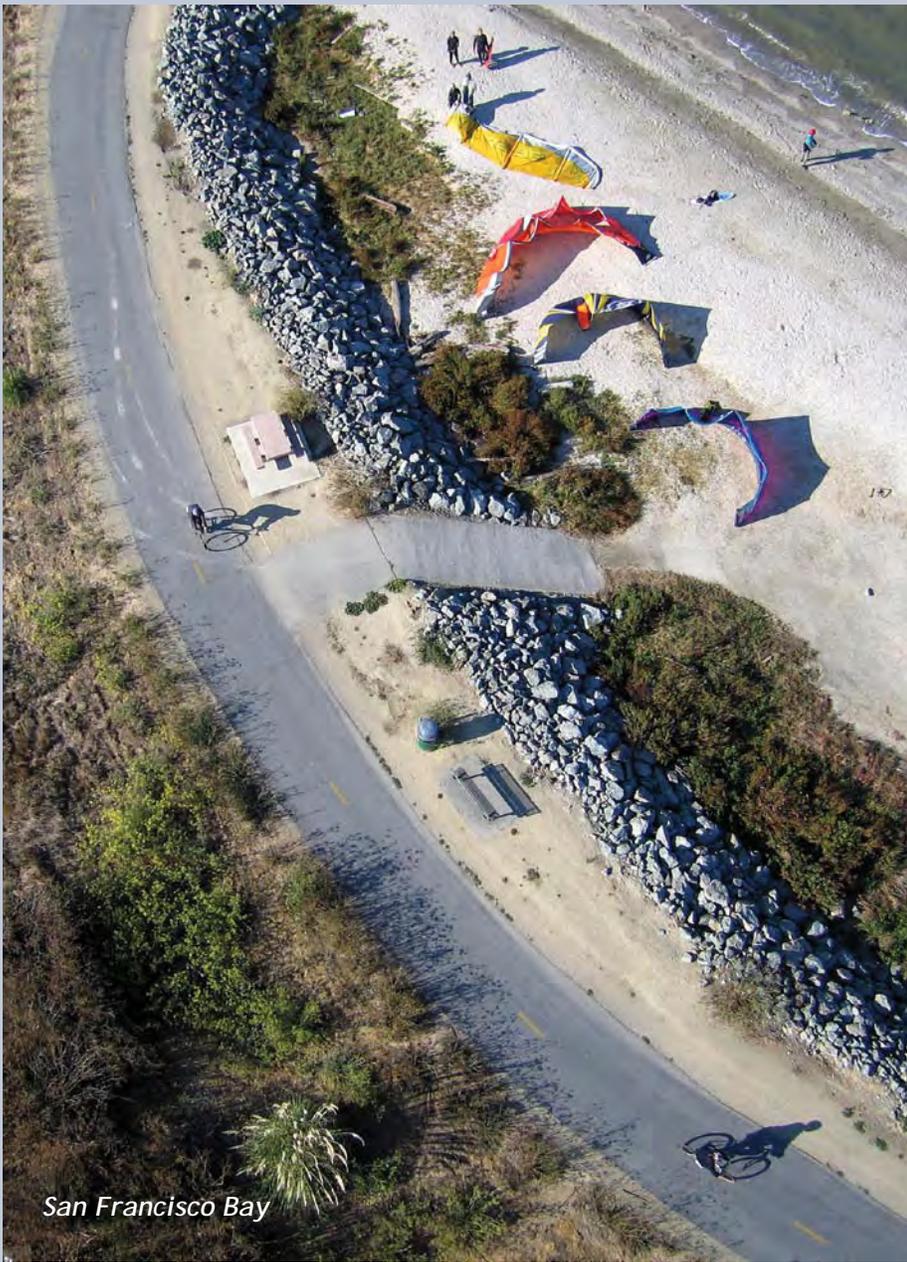
KAP is both a hobby and a professional endeavor for us. We have been KAPPING for more than a decade in all portions of the coterminous United States and in several countries of northern and central Europe. Originally inspired by Chris Benton's website and operating KAP rigs built by Brooks Leffler, we learned a great deal about techniques and methods from KAPiCA/02 and KAPiCA/06 conferences.

We work as a team: Jim flies the kite, while Susie operates the radio control for the camera rig. Our favorite type of kite is the rokkaku, a high flier and powerful lifter. Beginning with film cameras in 1996, we started using both film and digital cameras in 2001, and since 2005 we employ digital cameras exclusively. When shooting a site, we attempt to take pictures of the target object or area from all directions and heights, generally 100-500 feet above the ground, in order to capture full coverage relative to the sun position, shadows, and other aspects of the scene.

We have applied KAP for diverse educational and scientific projects ranging from archaeology to wetland environments. KAP allows us to depict the world from low vantage points, in large scales, and at high resolutions that are difficult or impossible to

achieve by other aerial means. Our goal is to reveal the intrinsic beauty of natural and cultural environments. This effort was recognized in 2005, when we won the Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge photography award from the National Science Foundation (see Estonian bog). For further information, see www.geospectra.net/kite/kaphome.htm and <http://academic.emporia.edu/aberjame/airphoto/>





San Francisco Bay



Beckov Castle ruins, Slovakia

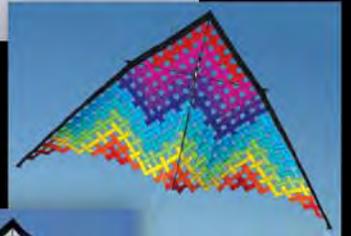
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A Slice Of Turkey

by Halit Cebeci

photos by Erhan Bay and Halit Cebeci



Kite flying is very popular here. During the spring and summer you can easily see many hexagon kites over the cities of Turkey. Our traditional kite is a hexagon. We use paper and wooden sticks. In the south it is possible to find reeds, so they use reeds instead of wooden stick. You can find how we build the Turkish hexagon kite at www.ucurtmaplanlari.com/3citaliplani.htm.

Turkey's climate is very suitable for kite flying. Especially during the spring, summer and autumn we have very stable but strong wind. In the South, near the Mediterranean, the wind is perfect for kite flying. Kite surfing is

getting very popular and there are some specific locations where people meet for it. But many people don't know any other kites beside the hexagon. The modern materials are not so available in the market, so we have to import from abroad.

During the spring and autumn, the local cities organize kite festivals. These festivals are not specifically kite festivals, but combined with some cultural activities like folk dance shows, concerts, exhibitions, etc. One of them was Kucukcekmece kite festival this year. Kucukcekmece is a part of Istanbul. There were only eight kitefliers from different cities of Europe. It was very interesting for Turks to see a stunt team.



Edos by Holland's Albert Trink at Kucukcekmece





Seagull Kite Club (Martı Uçurtma Kulübü) is the only non-profit kite organization in Turkey. It was founded in 1999 to keep the traditional kite culture and improve knowledge about kites in the country. The club was founded by Halit Cebeci and Ferruh Baysu. Halit is the president of the club and an engineer. Ferruh is an IT specialist.

The number of active members is increasing day by day, but with 818 members the club is one of the biggest in the world. Every year it helps to organize a kite festival in a different city.

Club members regularly meet on Sundays and fly kites together in the different cities. Club members are informed

about all the kiting activities via e-mail. The club doesn't ask any membership fee.

Active members of the club are invited to the international festivals all over the world. They have joined many festivals in France, India, Holland, Lebanon, China, and Italy.

In 2007 the first Turkish kite booklet *Uçurtma Planları* was prepared by the club and published by Hurriyet, Turkey's best-selling newspaper. The booklet contains basic kite information and plans.

The club also supports sport kites. There are a number of dual or four-line fliers. The first dual line team started to flying in 2006. All the competition rulebooks were translated into Turkish and published in the club forum website, www.ucurtmakulubu.com/forum.



Edos by Holland's Albert Trink at Kucukcekmece



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Great Lakes,

Great Fun by Mary Hoffman

Jerry McGuire

Our first kite festival of the season, Michigan Kitefest (formerly John and Elaine Cosby's awesome event) was ready to go. We had been planning for months, so many things to do. Had we forgotten anything? Too late, time was up! With help from Richland Township Park in Richland, MI, we have been able to continue to put on a great kite flying event each year on the second weekend of June. The park is wonderful, with an extremely large open, flat, well-maintained field, great facilities and a concession stand for hungry fliers. This year was perfect. We had wind! I mean really great wind. As kite fliers you know what I mean. Midwest fliers learn very early on how to fly in low-wind or even no-wind conditions. We have had times where we've had to



Paul Koepke and Kathy Brinnehl on Warren Dunes

fly indoor kites outdoors! But not this year, this year's event winds were variable but hey, wind is wind. We had big kites floating in the air; Chicago Fire on the field, fighter kites fighting, awesome pairs and great individual fliers and the best support team ever. We also received two new AKA members into the family. Like I said – it was perfect.

Then it was done.

But not over...

Two weeks later, we did it again! On the last weekend of June we started the 1st Warren Dunes Kitefest. This event came about completely by accident. We received an e-mail from a Michigan Department of Natural Resources officer asking what it would take to set up an event at the beach where he worked. Dave Bush and I read the e-mail,

looked at each other and said, "What the heck? Let's do it!" We went "bare bones" for this competition - no dinner, no fancy awards, just compete for points and have a great time.

What did we do with the walkie-talkies? Where did you put the frog? Are you sure we packed everything? This time we were off to Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer, MI. The car was packed with everything we needed for the kite competition. Somehow Dave and I managed to squeeze two tables, a 10'x20' canopy, a bag full of kites, a banner, two windsocks, a hanging frog, two folding chairs, a box full of score sheets and other needed paperwork, a cooler, a tarp and ourselves into our Chevy Cobalt. How? It boggles the mind.

The Michigan DNR people set up the flying field for us; it was huge and right on the beach of Lake Michigan. This kite competition may have started by accident but with everyone's help and support we were able to create this

The Bandana Gang at the Michigan Kitefest



event with very little planning or money. We had blue sky, white sand and a rainbow of beautiful fighter, single-line, dual-line and quad-line kites in the air. Everyone met for pizza at a little restaurant down the road from the park on Sunday afternoon to relax and announce the winners. Our Kitefest went off without a hitch. We even added another new AKA member to the bunch! With help from everyone, we managed to put another festival on the map.

In the end, we didn't do that much to get the festivals going. They happened because the fliers and those who love fliers made them happen. What did we ever do to deserve

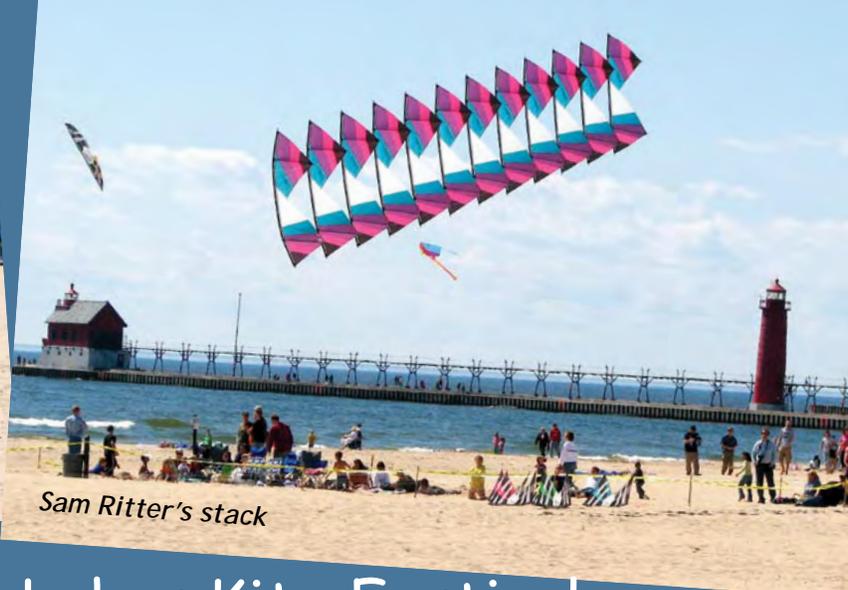
such wonderful friends? Thank you to everyone who watched kites, flew kites or wanted to.

Kathie Deck and Ann Vondriska





Lee Sedgwick



Sam Ritter's stack

Great Lakes Kite Festival

Grand Haven, Michigan
May 16-18, 2008

photos by Ben Dantonio and Tena Luben



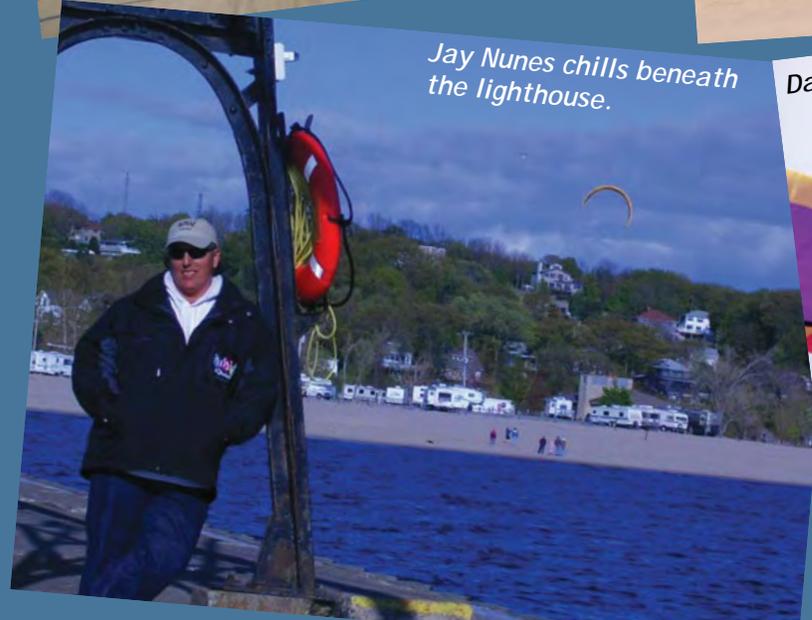
iQuad's arch



The Chicago Fire play with two strings while iQuad plays with four.



Sam Ritter indoors



Jay Nunes chills beneath the lighthouse.



Dave Bush's Thor's Hammer

What A Long Strange Trip It's Been

Wildwoods International Kite Fest

Wildwood, New Jersey

May 26-29, 2008



Ron Gibian's genki and Phil Broder's marconi



Torrey Lindemann

Ah, Wildwood. Huge beaches (big enough to practically require a camel to get to the ocean). Scenic wildlife (that will steal your French fries if you're not careful). Delicious food (all of it deep-fried, made of sugar, or both). Great wind (that smells faintly of low tide). Festive Memorial Day crowds jamming the Boardwalk (and road-raging drivers jamming the streets). Girls in tiny bikinis (and men in tighter Speedos). In its 22nd year, the Wildwoods International Kite Fest just keeps getting better and better.

This year brought kilters from afar, including Phillip McConnachie, Scott Hampton, Ron Gibian, Ronda Brewer, Lindsey Johnson, iQuad, José Sainz, and kilters from near, like Pete Dolphin, Cliff Quinn, Mike Mosman, and most of the Eastern League. They were greeted by a huge new Wildwoods sign on the Boardwalk, and the usual wide open fields, massive indoor flying arena, up and down winds, and warnings to watch the tram cars.

On Saturday, McConnachie launched a topless mermaid, which flew for most of the day over hordes of bikini and thong-clad beachgoers. But clearly someone was offended, for on Sunday McConnachie slipped a coconut-shell bra on the kite, for family-friendly flying.

Sunday night's banquet was a tie-dyed psychedelic purple-hazed affair. Some of the kilters can remember the Sixties, others were actually there.

For more than two decades, from Roger Chewning to Beatrix Pelton, Wildwood continues to be a wildly fun — but sometimes strange — trip.



Rosanne Rosanova and Dennis Smith



This is what the brown acid will do: Ron Gibian, Beatrix Pelton, Sandy Gibian and Roger Chewning.



John Baressi, Steven deRooy, Mike Kory, and Barry Poulter

Shawn Tinkham and Lisa Willoughby

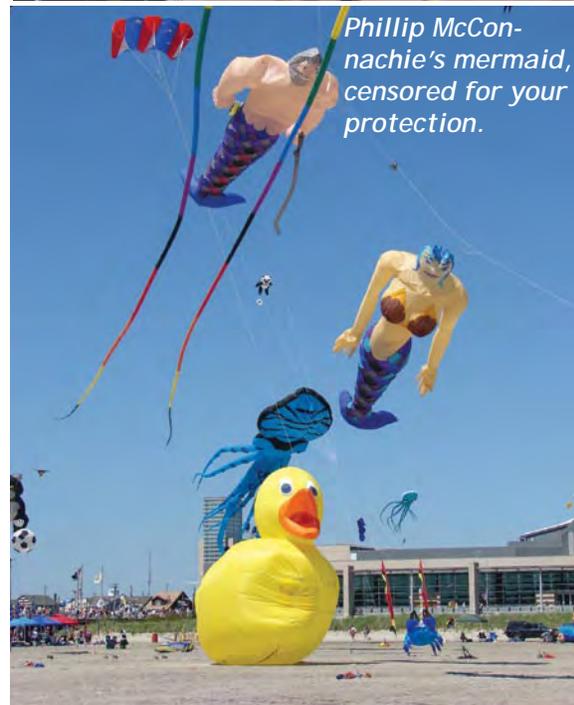




Mike Mosman and "Phase Shift"



Barbara Birnman holds onto a rainbow.



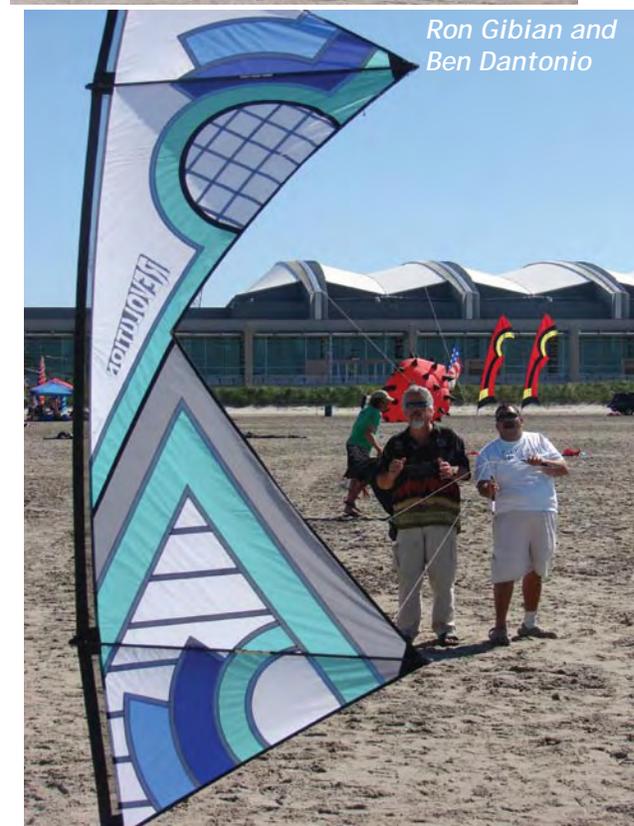
Phillip McConnachie's mermaid, censored for your protection.



Rev celebrates two decades.



Phillip McConnachie



Ron Gibian and Ben Dantonio



photos by Pete Dolphin and Phil Broder



Ian and Lisa Willoughby



Revolutionary!

At the Wildwoods International Kite Festival, 33 Rev flyers teamed up to set a new North American megafly record. Here's how they – John Barresi, Steve DeRooy, David

Step #1: On my command, unleash Hell! John Baressi calls the plays.



“Monkey” Hathaway, Ben Dantonio, Barry “Bazzar” Poulter, Mike Kory, Jay Nunes, Adrian Flanagan, J.D. Fabich, Kelly Mayhew, Drew Sikora, Steve Rovida, Anthony Lauriello, Brad Weiner, Alden Miller, Steve Pigeon, Sherri Pigeon, Angela Del Vecchio, Paul Dugard, Laura Berg, Jim Cosca, Mike Mosman, Paul LaMasters, Dennis Hawley, Jeff King, Joseph Dillen, Scott Weider, Darren Weider, Tom Butler, Dave Ashworth, Rich Comas, Jesse Robinson, and Greg Rothermel – did it.



Step #2: Everybody launch, and then hold still.



Step #4: Just like NASCAR, follow the guy in front of you through the turns.

Step #3: Concentrate...



Brigantine Fighter Kite Open

Brigantine, New Jersey
June 23-25, 2008

Jeremiah Alves helps Rick Mingeram launch.

Jim Davis readies himself for the obstacle course.



Rick Mingeram tries to knock the cup off the pole.



Wing Nuts



Todd Little's winning foil.



Heaven Help Us takes the train to Jersey City.



Ron Jakubowicz's OLO



A no-sew delta conyne by Dick Maciel.



Give us your tired, your poor, and your Harold Ames.



Gary Engvall and Karl Berg are Heaven Help Us.

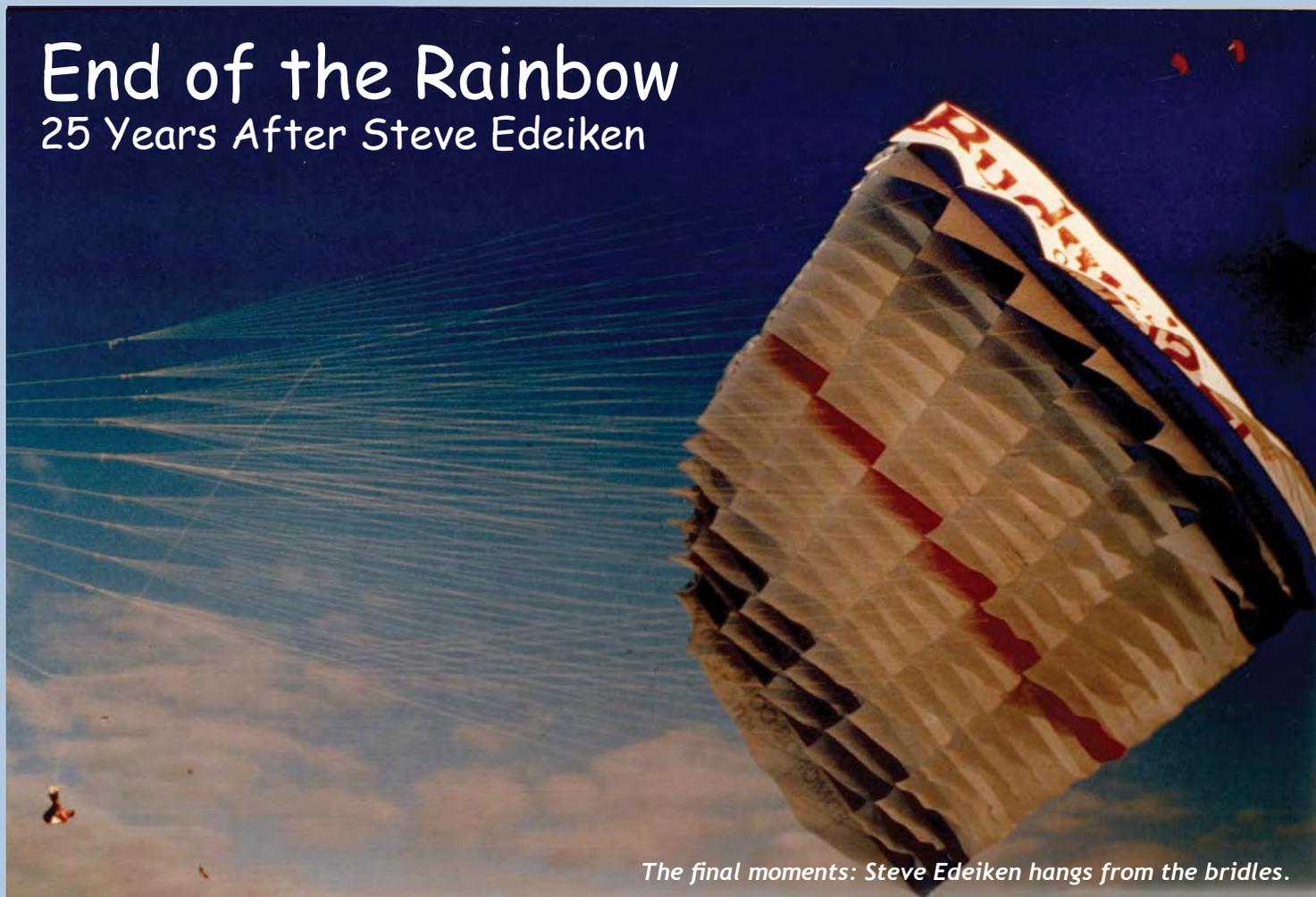
New Jersey Sport Kite Championships

Liberty State Park, New Jersey
July 19-20, 2008

There might not be a more historic place to fly kites than Liberty State Park, adjacent to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and directly across the river from New York City's Ground Zero. A few fliers tried to leave their mark on kiting history by winning big. Shawn Tinkham swept the Masters quad-line events, and his pairs teammate Ron Graziano did the same in Masters dual-line events. Wen Jeng pulled off victories in a trio of disciplines. And Andrew Albosta morphed into 007 – or was that Maxwell Smart? – to win Open Unlimited. In the event's first-ever kitemaking competition, Todd Little's butterfly foil won the Kitemaker's Choice award, and Phil Broder's fish delta was the Judge's Choice, winning a \$100 cash prize donated by Mike Mosman.

End of the Rainbow

25 Years After Steve Edeiken



The final moments: Steve Edeiken hangs from the bridles.

Long Beach, Washington, August 1983. The legendary founder of the Rainbow Kite Company, a husband and father, a kiting visionary, tries to launch the world's largest kite. After a day of failed attempts, the kite rests deflated on the beach. But as Steve Edeiken walks amidst the bridles, the fickle wind inflates the kite and sends it skyward. A loop of bridle wraps around his ankle, and Edeiken is yanked aloft. He is able to free himself but not hold on, and as a horrified crowd watches he falls to the beach. An ambulance rushes him to the hospital, but Steve Edeiken is dead.

It's been 25 years since the accident that claimed Edeiken. His name lives on as the highest award the AKA gives out each year. But what do we remember of him? And have we learned anything? In this special section, six people

reflect on Steve Edeiken. Corey Jensen and Judy Neuger recall their friend. Steve Lamb remembers what it was like to be on the beach that day. Andrew Beattie compares his own recent accident to Steve's. David Gomberg examines the evolution of big kite safety. And Erin Edeiken, only three years old at the time of Steve's death, reminisces about Father's Day.

Edeiken Family photos courtesy of Erin Edeiken



The Pied Piper of Venice Beach: Steve Edeiken (far right) attracts a crowd.

It's hard to believe that 25 years have passed. I'm left with memories that are full of wonderful impressions of Steve and the people he and his kites touched within the kiting community.

I initially met Steve through my relatives. My husband's first cousin is married to Steve's aunt. I had been in the retail kite business for a bit when they told me about Steve at a family gathering. Using that as an introduction, I met with Steve, probably at an AKA convention. I remember him being a very vital person who was extremely excited about kiting. He had high energy, was huge on ideas and was an excellent, meticulous craftsman. After our initial meeting he made a large diamond stunter for me with my retail store's logo.

I still have that kite, but I put my custom Rainbow stunt kite set with Halloween images into an AKA auction. If I remember correctly, Frank Alonso, at that time head of Spectra Star Kites, bought the six for \$300.

I also remember another AKA event, held shortly after Steve died. There was much talk of Steve and such sadness. And I remember Cindy Edeiken bravely showing up.

The kiting community was made better because of people like Steve. His award honors those people each year.



A custom Rainbow stunter made for Judy Neuger

A longtime kite retailer, Judy Neuger owns Kites On A Roll in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Steve Lamb of Catch The Wind in Lincoln City, OR, was on the beach to witness Steve Edeiken's accident. Warning: his recollections are graphic and may be upsetting to some readers. They are published here to provide a historical record, and so that other kilters can learn from the accident.

Steve had stopped by for a visit on his way up to Long Beach, which is about a two and a half hour drive north from Lincoln City. He was very excited about his latest project, the Braswell Stars he was making at the Rainbow Kite Company. One of my more joyous kite memories is of Steve flying seven of these kites on this day, each on a thirty or forty foot leash attached to a single main line. These are fairly large multi-faceted cellular kites that are star-shaped. Relaxing on the line causes them to tumble, and pulling on the line causes them to track along in the direction their flat side is facing. With several hundred feet of line out, with a nice, steady breeze, Steve would feed out a lot of line, and the seven Braswells would all tumble randomly. When he resumed tension, sure enough, they would all start tracking, each one pointed a different way. It would look completely crazy, just a riot, and Steve couldn't stop laughing. He was absolutely delighted by the spectacle.

Of course, Steve was looking forward to getting up North to help direct the launch of Harry Osborne's mammoth parafoil. He was partnering with Doug Hagaman in that effort. Doug, of course, was probably the world's best parafoil man, at the time, both as a maker, and as a flyer. I had missed out on the original launch attempt in August, which had to be cancelled, and, at the time, had felt lucky that I would have a chance to see the "world's largest kite" after all. Arriving at Long Beach and walking down the entry road

that bisects the beach to view this thing was not a disappointment. I had been told the dimensions, but in real life this thing was ridiculously large, beyond belief. Not that it could cover two-thirds of a football field, but that its cell openings simply towered over the volunteers that would try to hold them open in a near non-existent breeze. Twenty-five feet high? If not that tall, it surely seems like it in my memory. Utterly colossal.

My immediate reaction was that this was obviously the most dangerous kite I had ever seen. I did not want to be near that thing if it ever took off, and I definitely wanted to be safely on the upwind side. There were two dump trucks acting as anchors with a very large chain between them, a chain large enough that one would not think the two trucks playing tug-o-war could even begin to break it. The kite rope itself was maybe three inches in diameter. I remember thinking it didn't look strong enough, given the kite's size.

I stationed myself well off toward the ocean side, with my video camera mounted on its tripod and aimed down wind at the spectacle. I remember too, that I wanted to be well away from the flying rope should it snap back like a giant rubber band when it broke. My hope was that some seri-

Setting up at Long Beach





ous engineering calculations had been done on this whole enterprise. My video shows many of the foiled launch attempts. With the wind barely moving, the volunteers who were stationed in front of each cell would hopefully hold them off the ground, and let them fill up. The kite would then inflate. The most successful attempts would always see the kite lift one side off the ground, stand on the opposite side, and veer down to the ground in a massive collapse that would require all of the volunteers pulling the mounds of fabric back into position.

Steve and Doug would stand amidst the bridle lines, directing the volunteers, one for the right, one for the left. They would put weight on key bridle lines to try to direct the evenness of the inflation process. I remember being rather shocked at the small size of the bridling extending up to the kite's fins. Was it 500# test? Maybe less... maybe significantly less. At any rate, it became obvious that a number of these lines were popping loose from the kite and dangling from their attachment point lower down on the bridle. And it was one of these lines that wrapped itself around Steve's ankle.

After numerous attempts at launching, I decided it was time for a restroom break with the most recent failure. I knew it would be awhile before another launch could be tried, and the wind seemed as listless as ever. I had spoken to both Steve and Doug during the lulls after the crashes, and remember neither one of them being very optimistic that this thing could be launched. Still excited, but both were being very professional. How it was determined that these two somehow had the necessary expertise to direct this launch, I don't know. But

if not them, who? To my knowledge, Steve was not particularly a parafoil man, nor a flyer of giant kites. Doug, the parafoil expert, had probably never flown a kite larger than 300 square feet. This kite was maybe a hundred times as large.

As I emerged, from the restrooms immediately behind the sand dune at the edge of the beach, I heard the equivalent of a 747 taking off. It was the kite. My first reaction was shock that the crew had so quickly regained a takeoff mode, but apparently their practice all afternoon had paid off. I missed the spectacle of Steve being snatched up, dangling for his life, and yelling down at Harry Osborne, "What do I do now, Harry?" His last words. Harry's answer: "Hang on!" This was related to me by Harry himself in the waiting room of the Long Beach Hospital before we got the official word about Steve.

What I witnessed was the single most amazing kite spectacle seen by anyone before or since — the world's largest kite, flying just as planned, just as the concept born in the mind of Dom Jalbert, proved its capability as surely as the Wright Brothers wing predicted the 747 this thing sounded like when it took off. The kite was aloft for at least two minutes. If there is any justice, it should be listed by the Guinness people

Two years, earlier, my friendship with Steve was cemented during the AKA convention in Houston, 1981. It was here, too, that Steve and Dom Jalbert, the inventor of the parafoil, spent some time together. Dom was the grand old man of kiting, a revered figure. And Steve took great pleasure in talking kites with him. I know, both Steve and Doug were wanting to see this kite fly for Dom as much as anything.

And now it was flying, it was holding. And I was the only one at Long Beach that was blissfully unaware of someone's life literally dangling by a thread. A moment forever preserved in a double-page spread in the November 1983 issue of *Life Magazine*. I missed that scene, and (I've always been glad), my camera missed it as well.

Suddenly, I saw a human form fall from the kite. I thought, oh, no, the kite has scooped up its crew of volunteers, and now will be raining them

down on the beach, horrible, horrible! And as soon as Steve's weight was removed, the kite started oscillating left, turning upward in a giant U-turn and back to the right, in full 747 roaring mode as it did so. Out of control, like a rampaging force of nature far beyond any human direction. Then suddenly, like a cannon shot, the line exploded. I saw it fire into the center of the kite, and the whole, vast expanse of nylon sailed downwind like a beast, suddenly free from its restraints. And just as suddenly, all was quiet, with the dune grass draped with nylon.

The falling figure now did not seem real. I even asked a girl nearby, "Did you see someone fall from the kite?" No, she hadn't. Of course not. Okay, I thought, maybe I only saw what I feared I might see. I never really thought Steve and Doug were in the danger zone, so much as the volunteers at the mouths of the cells. But as I approached the beach I saw a small crowd, grouped in the middle of the field. I pushed my way through, and saw CPR was being administered to a lifeless figure. I had to see if I knew the victim, and then, unbelievably, I saw it was Steve.

Steve was scooped off to the hospital where those of us who knew him gathered. I of course, found it completely inexplicable that Steve was the one caught by the kite. He was out of the way, safely in front. How could it be him? But all of the others had the experience of witnessing directly. They couldn't understand that my perspective missed the details of his entanglement, of his desperate, slipping grip. And then, as we were waiting for the verdict from the doctors, a nurse says Steve's wife Cindy is on the phone. And somehow, I'm the one handed the phone, and trying to describe what I've seen. I told Cindy it might be possible that someone could survive the fall Steve had taken. (I was probably the only one there that could harbor that hope based on what I had seen.) As soon as I hung up, the doctor was back. Way too soon if there was any hope. And as quickly, I was back on the phone with Cindy.

Both Harry and Doug felt terrible guilt. I remember Harry saying he felt as responsible for Steve's death as if he had taken a gun and shot him. No,

none of us felt it was like that, but we could understand Harry's feelings. The kite later was consumed by fire when the barn it was stored in burnt to the ground. When I saw Harry afterward, it was clear he was glad it was gone. He never had wanted to see it again.

Doug was completely devastated. Why Steve and not him? Doug came to work for me the following year, flying

Erin Edeiken is Steve's daughter. She is currently making a film about her father and kiteflying.

Unlike most people, for me Father's Day normally requires a handful of phone calls and none of which are to my own dad, whom you might have known as Steve. My annual routine, instead, consists of calling my wonderful and beloved stepdad George, followed by my dad Steve's best friend Scott (who was my first stand-in dad before my mom got remarried), followed by dad's dad, then my mom's dad, and then maybe some dads of close friends, with whom I've managed to create relationships with over the years. The telephone is quite obviously a convenient and easy way to stay in touch with your loved ones, especially on holidays... but how do you tell someone "Happy Father's Day" when they're dead?

During my childhood in Venice, my tradition was to buy a balloon and a note card. I would talk to my dad, literally, by writing him a letter, affixing it to the balloon and sending it off into the sky. When I was 7, my mom, my sister and I moved to Massachusetts, leaving Venice and my childhood traditions behind. My new home, Worcester - an industrial city of factories, colleges, and hospitals - was the polar opposite of Venice. Not only was it New England, but also no one in Worcester had ever heard of my dad, let alone knew him. And no one in Worcester knew a thing about kites. Then suddenly, I was too old to believe that a balloon could bridge the gap between heaven and earth, and I stopped reaching out to my dad all together.

It was Father's Day, 2005 (I was 24 years old) when I realized that not since I was a little kid in Venice had I made a real effort to connect with my dad. So it was in a serendipitous and timely fashion, when I learned on that Father's Day that the Brooklyn pier, not far from my own house, was hosting a children's kite festival. My boyfriend at the time and I decided to head down. I didn't have a kite, nor did I know what to expect when I got there, I just knew I couldn't ignore the coincidence of the event. When we arrived, I was filled with nostalgia for my childhood. The smell of the ocean was pungent and the sky was filled with dozens upon dozens of small white paper kites. They were beautiful - all handmade and being flown by kids. Rather than make my own though, I opted for what was easier and bought a "real" plastic kite instead. I saw a man selling them nearby and assumed his kites would perform as well as those paper kites made by kids. Within seconds of launching my kite it swiftly darted out over the ocean, then immediately pulled to the right, took a sharp nose-dive, and finally crashed into the crowd of children standing on the pier. I was so embarrassed. I made the walk of shame through the crowd profusely apologizing, collected my plastic kite, and tried again. The second, third, fourth

and building his parafoils while running my little shop in the A-Frame outside of Newport, Oregon. We spent many hours rehashing what went wrong. What could have been done? And then Doug, too, passed on eleven years later, simply and mysteriously not waking up one morning at the age of 39. I often wonder if he ended up falling off that kite too.

and fifth attempts all ended with the same result - immediate crash and burn. Finally, my boyfriend, who was there as my moral support, turned to me and said "What's the matter with you? Isn't this in your blood?"

In retrospect, I can see I was wrong to assume there was no connection between the kite and its maker. I didn't learn this, however, until having spent time with kite flyers in my adult years. I can now look up at a sky filled with kites and see how each one has been infused with the love and spirit of its maker. In this way, a kite may act as a sort of mirror, reflecting the character of the person holding the other end of the line. My own inner spirit of kiting had been dormant for years and this is what I was lacking on that Father's Day in 2005. But since my visits to Des Moines and Wildwood I have been reawakened, remembering that kiting isn't simply an activity, it's a way of life. And for every flyer I have had the pleasure to know, I've gained a deeper understanding of my dad, and the spirit he embodied.

As the daughter of Steve Edeiken, people might think that kite flying is second nature to me, or at the very least, that kites have played an active role in my 27 years of life. But the truth is, I'm technically a terrible kite flyer. After numerous tutorials with professional kites, generous enough to lend me their kites and expertise, I'm no better for it (some of you may recall that I almost flew a parafoil into the power lines at the 2006 AKA convention). And, yes, I have tried unsuccessfully to fly stunt kites, both the old and the new. I do not speak the language of bridles and sail clips, my arms flail about in the least controlled and graceful way imaginable and I'm convinced that no matter what I do, my kite is bound to crash into someone. And yet, there is nothing more satisfying than flying. Because my dad was passionate about kites, a basic love them had been instilled within me a very long time ago, and now the kites have returned the favor by amplifying my love for him. I don't need a telephone to communicate with my dad, and I don't need it to be Father's Day to think of him. Now when I fly, like my kite, I am uplifted. Kiting is not something that is simply ingrained in my DNA, but rather, ingrained in my heart.



In February, Great Britain's Andrew Beattie was helping to launch a giant kite at the Kuwait Kite Festival. While letting a bridle line drag him across the sand, he was lofted into the sky. As the kite rose and the angle of the line increased, he started to slide, and then let go. He sprained both ankles and fractured his elbow. You can find more photos at www.tug.com/blog/Three_Flags/Fall/.

I know very little about what happened to Steve. As I understand it, he got caught in the bridle at launch. Lifted high. Fell from a great height. Little has changed.

The only way to build kites that are very large, strong enough to take the load yet light enough to fly is to use many lines. We try to avoid having too many people in amongst those lines, but there are still people there. The tension in each line is more than any human could overcome singlehanded. We are at the mercy of the wind which is invisible and unpredictable. We are flying kites which we have no ability to stop. Lines still tangle round things. Lines still twang and snap, changing tension and position faster than we can react.

My own experience was very similar to Steve's. We believe that he was tangled. I simply misjudged the moment to let go of the line. We both got lifted unintentionally. My error was due to stupidity and showing off. We don't know why Steve fell. Personally, I was sliding down the line and in that split second, my brain told me that I had no choice but to try to jump. For me, it was a trained response. I made that decision so fast that I didn't even burn my fingers.

The only way that I could have been saved is if we had driven the anchor vehicle towards the kite, to make the line slack. Even with 20/20 hindsight, we didn't have time to do that. In any event, I didn't even think of that plan until the next day.

I have thought through my predicament many times. The only significant difference between my fall and Steve's was the distance from the anchor. If I had been near the kite instead of near the anchor, I would be just as dead.

photos by Dhari and Najwa from the Al-Farsi Kites Team Media Committee



Andrew helps launch the kite.



Getting dragged across the desert.



In an instant, fun turns to disaster.



Andrew lets go.



Beattie was lucky to walk away from this with only two sprained ankles and a fractured elbow.

Corey Jensen, of WindPower Sports in Las Vegas, received the AKA's Edeiken Award in 2007.

I first meet Steve in the late 70's on the beach in Venice, California, flying a 6-pack of his then-new Rainbow Stunt Kites. Unbelievably he had a business making and selling them right there in Venice. I made note of this guy and even helped get his kites into a few outlets.

The 1980 AKA convention in Seattle was the first "event" I attended and Steve was there. At a time when few people took kites seriously, Steve did. He had some sort of vision of what kiting could become. He saw more clearly than most just what potential there was in kiting, both as a business and metaphor for life.

By 1981 I was living in the Bay Area and working full-time in kites. I made numerous business trips to SoCal and Steve and Cindy were often gracious in allowing me to crash on their couch. I remember accompanying Steve on a scouting trip to one of the Santa Monica beachfront hotels to determine the suitability for a future AKA convention site. I remember how he took it seriously, but would grin and chuckle when the VP of Sales & Marketing wasn't nearby.



Besides taking the future of kiting seriously, I believe Steve was the first "serious" kiter to take me seriously. He saw beyond the goof and offered a validation that I sorely needed at the time.

The power of his vision. The strength of his personality. The goodness in his heart. There was a lot to admire and respect in Steve Edeiken. Receiving the Edeiken Award at last year's AKA convention brought many of these same memories back. I am humbled.



Sam Broder

My first serious kite was a twelve-stack of Rainbows. Those kites changed my life. Like many others, I was stunned at Steve's passing, was grateful for what he gave me, and mourned all that he might have done if given more years to do it.

Susan and my first date was a trip to the beach to fly those Rainbows. And now we own the largest kite in the world - one of the three 10,000 square foot MegaFlags.

What has been learned about over-large kites in the past 25 years? We have refined them to pull relatively less. We've added side lines for steering and stability. We stress safety - safety - safety. And most important, we've added emergency take-down procedures so that kites can be quickly landed. One of the weaknesses of the Long Beach kite was that there was no plan on how to bring it down.

We've also learned something else: that any kite, a fighter, sport kite, or standard single-liner can be dangerous when poor judgment, curious spectators, or freakish circumstances intervene. Andrew Beattie uses the word "stupid" to explain his Kuwait accident. But he isn't a stu-

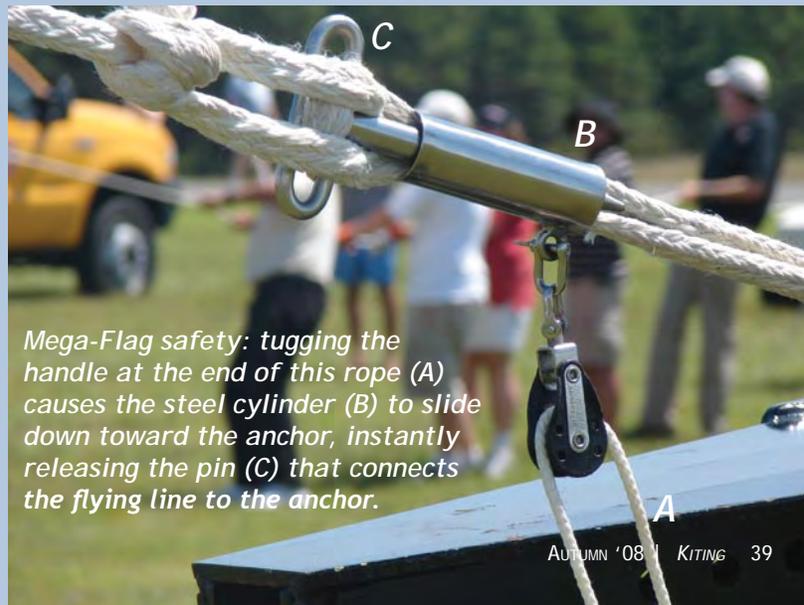
David Gomberg owns the world's largest kite and frequently teaches workshops on big kite flying.

pid guy. He simply let his joy and enthusiasm overwhelm his experience at the wrong moment. You have to respect large powerful kites and insist that everyone else around them be respectful as well.

Each of the three Mega-Flags designed by Peter Lynn of New Zealand come with a quick-release for the 20-ton spectra flying line. A second take-down line is attached to the trailing edge of the kite and connected to the anchor point (usually a heavy vehicle).

The huge kites can be brought down in less than 30 seconds by releasing the main flying line. The kite flips on its back, spills air, and settles quickly to the ground.

Like everything else we fly, the big ones have evolved in the past two decades. We've learned. And some of those lessons have been painful. But I'd like to think that Steve would be delighted - and involved - if he were with us today.



Mega-Flag safety: tugging the handle at the end of this rope (A) causes the steel cylinder (B) to slide down toward the anchor, instantly releasing the pin (C) that connects the flying line to the anchor.

REGIONAL REPORTS



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End of term: 2010

Greetings fellow kites! Here we are in the middle of summer and already we have seen many, many kite events throughout Region One.

The Hammonasset Kite Festival, in Madison, CT, hosted the first (we hope of many) Regional Competitions. The Hammonasset Regional was focused on introducing sport kite competition to the novice group. A little history of the event... The event was called Soundwinds and sponsored by Go Fly A Kite and a local hospital. Since 2004, the new event organizers have worked to focus the event on family and kids. Over the past few years the event has

become an attraction for Connecticut, maturing into a two-day festival and now offering regional competition. Kudos to Doug Coates who led the charge to put this new regional competition into operation and for making the competitive portion of the Hammonasset Kite Festival a HUGE success. There were four novice fliers at the event: Dick and Jackie Maciel from MA, Evelyn Rossbach from VA and Edward Szekeres from CT. The novices were given the opportunity to mentor with current and past National Champions. The mentors were assigned to individual novice fliers and spent the entire time preparing them for competition and answering questions. Topics discussed included kite selection, how figures are judged, music selection, knowing the rules and what judges look for. The effort offered a unique perspective to new fliers just starting out from our most seasoned flyers and judges.

Also at the regional, we offered for the first time on the east coast an Open Multiline Pairs Ballet event. Competitors were "Airplay" with Art St. Pierre and Beth Bowen, "B #" (B sharp in music terminology. This music note does not exist!) with Shawn Tinkham and Dennis Smith and "Damn Yankee Quad" with Doug Coates and Karl Berg.

As always, the kiting community

from Rhode Island shows their stuff at Brenton Point in Newport. The non-kite festival was well attended and we look forward to next years event. A well-kept secret is Colt State Park in Bristol. This is another ideal location to display your show kites.



Doug Coates and Patti Tinkham competing at Wildwood.

Moving north, the Pope John Paul II Park just south of Boston is a spectacular location to fly. The 10+ acres site is located on the Neponset River, parallel to one of the major traffic arteries in and out of Boston, which allows the kiting community to display a variety of kites. This summer also saw fun flys and festivals on the beaches of Revere, Nantasket, and Wollaston Beach. The Boston Area Kite Festival in June has become a popular event within the local Boston area and surrounding communities.

The Hampton Beach area in New Hampshire offered a fine location for our single line high-flyers in early spring to kick off the season with the annual St. Patrick's Day Fly. And in Maine, one of the best flying locations is Bug Light located just outside of Portland.

In Vermont, our kiting community has held events at local school athletic fields and hosted "Kites for Kids" programs at Crochet Mountain. which has a great venue for kite displays and sightseeing. Many of our members have been experimenting with Kite Aerial Photography to see some of the local terrain from their kite.

What can we say about upstate New York? Our most active kiting community has seized the summer months



to participate in kite events at Keene, Cazenovia, and Sullivan County along with offering kites for GE Kid's Day in Albany.

As we approach the late summer and early fall, there are still many kite events to attend. There is the Connecticuters Christmas in August Kite Fly & Pot Luck and the Boston Area Sport Kite Championships (BASKC), the Cherry Valley Kite Festival, Niagara Kite Festival, Kites Over Fort Ontario, and October is One Sky One World. Remember, always check the AKA events calendar for a kite event near you.

Do you have an event for the late summer, early fall or for the upcoming winter months? Post it on the www.aka.kite.org event calendar and let everyone have the opportunity to attend your event.

Looking ahead, convention dates are September 22nd - 27th, 2008. Have you registered yet? Have you purchased your raffle tickets for a free registration at only a dollar a chance? If not, contact me. If you already have a ticket, buy another.

One of the best parts of being regional director is being able to introduce kiting to those who have not had an opportunity to fly a kite. The Massachusetts State Head Injury Program contacted me to help with folks that have traumatic brain injuries. Kitemaking has become part of their individual rehabilitation program therapy. I would encourage every kite flyer to make an effort to get out and touch someone's life through kiting.

Look for your next "What's Up in Region One." If you have something you want to share with Region One members, please e-mail me. Thanks to Thom Shaken, Doug Coates, Don Tuff, Dave Tuttle, Ralph Reed, Steve Santos and Gary Engvall for their contributions to this report.

See you on the kite flying field.

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

At this writing, I've just returned from a weekend of HOT competition at Liberty State Park and the NJSKC. Hot Tricks, blazing fighter kite competitions, kitemaking with the hottest builders, and sizzling sport kite comps. This was followed by the gathering at Uno's for great food and an auction. Congratulations to the winners!



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By the time of this publication, the Keystone Kilters will have completed another successful summer retreat. This year Cliff Quinn presented a unique circular box kite. The Keystone Kilters will present a great event at the convention at Gettysburg. A series of rokkaku battles based on the Civil War battle will be held with rotating teams. I'm sure that a great time will be had by all.

SJKF has a few big events coming up. One is their 14th Annual Anniversary Bash taking place on October 26 at the Montego Bay Hotel and Resort in Wildwood, NJ. Also it is time for their annual Elections. The President and



two Directors at Large will be chosen. Thanks to SJKF for their "Active Forest" convention project, overseen by Scott E. Spencer. ("Active Forest" sounds like a Babelfish translation of "Wildwood").



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The last time I wrote to you we were in the middle of National Kite Month and when you get this issue it should be only a few days prior to Convention in Gettysburg. Spanning that time has been a continuation of Kite Month, two major competitions within our region, two more that are supported heavily by our region, and several more festivals. I am thrilled to find kitemaking going on in all areas of Region Three and hope to see it grow. For those of you that feel like you are alone please don't get discouraged. One gentleman and his wife went to a city park for several years before anyone else got up the courage to talk to him about kites and now that act of persistence has developed into a very active club.

The big competition in Region Three was ODSKC — Old Dominion Sport Kite Competition. Here is Marc Conklin's report: The 16th annual ODSKC was a blast! Let's face it, people don't come to Richmond for the fantastic wind conditions or balmy Caribbean-like weather, so ODSKC has to do a little more to make sure that folks enjoy their experience and want

Flag ceremony at the Quetzal Kite Festival.



Laura Stonestreet

to come back. Despite the heat, everyone had a great time. There were 35 competitors at the event, making it one of the larger competitions on the East Coast this year, with eight novices.

Thanks to the efforts of Doug Charleville and Adrienne and Mearl Balmer, competitors were kept cool and hydrated throughout the weekend. A cookout was held on Saturday night at the home of Terry Murray and Janis Worth that included an auction of only unique, hand made kites and items from award-winning kitemakers from around the country. While kite flying can be done alone, organizing a sport kite competition is definitely a team sport! I'd like to thank all the members of the Richmond Air Force and Wings Over Washington kite clubs for enthusiastically doing all the things that are necessary to make this event happen. I'd also like to thank Maggie and Gary Engvall for helping us out.

Attendance at Wildwood was good again this year with trophies going home with lots of Region Three fliers. WOW set up a display at Wildwood thanks largely to Barbara Birnman. Festivals in our Region are becoming quite popular. The WOW newsletter for July through September listed 11 events, and a mention of Nationals. RAF put on several festivals during the spring and early summer. This year the Atlantic Coast Kite Festival was expanded to two evenings and two days and four locations. Friday evening at an art Gallery in Portsmouth with an exhibit from Drachen Foundation, Saturday on the sand at Virginia Beach where the wind came over the buildings, or through the gaps

between them but the flying crew put on a show, Kitebus Festivals played music, held flag ceremonies and talked about kite flying in general. Saturday evening the working crew was invited to visit the home of Christopher Stankus of Jackites for a terrific barbecue dinner. Sunday the event moved inland to the Portsmouth city park. When the crew arrived it looked bad

because there were a lot of trees, but the wind came in from the water and blew most of the day in a favorable direction and all involved agreed at the end of the day that everything was good.

Lawrence Levine organized an event for the third year called the Quetzal Kite Festival. It was a beautiful mid-May day with blue skies and gentle winds, sometimes, and lots of wind at others. There was even a festival in the mountains of West Virginia at Canaan Resort near Davis, organized by Jim Hodges. Laura and 'Stoney' Stonestreet from the RAF helped a school close out the year with a morning event. Since the wind was very light, "1 and $\frac{8}{10}$ mph," they had to be inventive. Out came the Dunton-Taylor box and a 25 kite arch and they had kite relay races with the kids. "Many of the kids thanked us" for the experience of flying something other than a plastic delta kite.

Unfortunately a few events have been dropped this year due to scheduling conflicts. If someone asks you to help with a festival make sure you let all the AKA members know about it, and what help you might need to make it happen. There is a large pool of talented people in our Region and they will help you get up and running if only you ask. Also make sure you put your events on the AKA calendar so the members will have information, and the option of attending part or all of your event. There is some effort to provide more help to festival organizers so keep checking the AKA website for news. Speaking of the AKA website, have you looked lately? The

front page has been updated by our webmaster and numerous new features added. There is a section called "Kite Talk Forum" which you access from a button on the top of the home page. Once there you have the option to read and reply to postings by many people. If you are interested there is also a Member's Only section which will require you to create a USER NAME and a PASSWORD, but there you will find items internal to the working of the AKA. I try to check in there about once a week and in the top right I click on "Unread Threads" to see what has been posted since my last visit. If you need to get in touch with me use the Region Three e-mail address. I check e-mail daily.

I hope to see many of you at Gettysburg. This will be one of the closest events for us and will only require a few hours drive unless you are coming from the more distant corners of Region Three. It isn't the beach, but it IS like home for many fliers. There are lots of side activities to pick from, but the workshops and afternoon flying will be fabulous. About the only non-kite time I think I will have will involve a Ghost Tour after dark, and a couple of restaurants.

Challenge the wind!

Jay Nunes here reporting from Clearwater FL, Tee Cee Cornell has moved to Region Eight and can no longer serve as your director. Thank you Tee Cee for serving the AKA and all of us in Region Four.

I have received a few e-mails from folks around the Region about events and happenings...

The WACKOS' Jim Martin wrote. "WACKOS are enjoying our 10th year fooling around with kites, and are already looking forward to our 10th anniversary event next April. Our col-



Cath Shook greets Flying Smiles customers.



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 End of Term: 2008

laboration with Shelton Vineyards for a “Wine and Wind” festival earlier this year was successful in spite of “iffy” weather, and we are planning to continue and grow the event next year.” Ten years!!! Way to go guy.

Cath Shook recently opened Flying Smiles Kites shop on March 1 in North Carolina, we wish her the best of luck. She wrote, “We’re hosting Fun Flies every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11 a.m., wind/weather permitting. The historic Whale-head Club house has a Wine Tasting Event every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. and we provide a Fun Fly. We do sell plain Paper Bag kits that the children and adults can create their own art on.”

Elliot Shook has recently been invited to create a Masterpiece Kite for Revolution. His weave designs will be available for all interested flyers. Congrats Elliot.

Chuck Jones and the Scenic City Kite Club checked in. “Our annual event is the first weekend of April 2009. We usually get a handful of kiters from Huntsville and Atlanta. Then there are 300-400 attendees from Chattanooga who are seasonal kiters and families.”

And right here in my home town, Sherri Pigeon and the Sunset Flyers wrote, “The Sunset Flyers Summer Fun Fly. Steve’s New Tech Opie train

was the first of its kind and a big hit with everyone. I think it broke the record for the most octopus in the sky at 25. Sunset Flyers and TISKK (Treasure Island Sport Kite Club) once again came together for a great day of flying and food.” Thanks Sherri, that was a fun day for sure.

Steve Cseplo from Suburban Atlanta Kite Enthusiasts from Georgia wrote, “Another event SAKE has been involved with for well over a decade is Japan Fest. During it we host a kitemaking workshop where hata kits, obtained from the Tokyo Kite Museum run by Masaaki Modegi are assembled. Always fun, but a lot of work. It is coming up the last weekend in September.”

Angus Campbell is producing the first ever Jekyll Island Buggy Expo September 26 - 28th in Georgia. Go to www.CoastalWindSports.com for more information.

Scott Koenig is also Hosting a Thanksgiving Day Fly at Jockeys Ridge State Park in NC, November 27- 29.

Thanks everyone for e-mailing me with that information. Looks like a lot of events and a lot of good times. Feel free to e-mail me anytime there is something I can send out to the Region for you. It is a joy to be your Regional Director.



Elliot Shook

My first visit to Michigan this year was to the Breeze on the Bay Kite Fest in East Tawas on May 31-June 1. Two days of festivities, including a night fly, were held at Harbor Park on the Tawas Bay of Lake Huron. The event is sponsored by the Bay City Times and the local Chamber of Commerce. Jack Quinn of Kiteman Jack’s is one of the organizers. This was the second year for the kite fest and the second year



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that an “unscheduled activity” added to the highlights. Last year one of the Bandanna Gang concluded his ballet performance by falling in the bay, and this year residents along the bay reported seeing a 25’ alligator flying northeast over the boat docks. (Names of those involved have been omitted to protect the guilty).

The Michigan Kite Fest was blessed with good wind. Not always steady but much better than 2007. Quite a number of stunt kite competitors were on hand working for points, the Bandanna Gang and other fighter flyers played line touch, and Daryl Waters and I put up some big stuff. This event, organized by Dave Bush, Mary Hoffman and Back 2 the Wind Kite Club, was held on June 13 - 15 at Richland Township Park.

I understand that the first Warren Dunes Kites Fest at the state park in Sawyer, MI, was also a success. This kite fest on the shores of Lake Michigan was focused mainly on competition. Dave Bush and Mary Hoffman also organized this event. A big THANK YOU to Dave and Mary for all of their work on these Michigan events.

As I write this, the next sanctioned event in Region Five is the North Coast Games at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, OH, on July 18 - 20. Kevin Kilgoar and the Black Swamp Air Force do a fantastic job on “The Games.”

This is always a fun time hanging out with great friends.

The Games will be followed by Kites Over Branch County on July 25-27. John and Suzette Arnold and the Tri-State Windriders organize this event at the Creal Soccer Complex in Coldwater, MI.

No big events are on the Region Five calendar in August. As you know, the August winds are usually not good to kites in Michigan and Ohio. I will be looking forward to attending a couple of the Region Five kite clubs' monthly flies. And I may slip over to the Indiana Trick Clinic on August 30-31 in Muncie.

Coming up in September is the Cleveland Kite Fest on September 6 - 7 at Edgewater Beach, Lakefront State Park. Because of the location, this event usually attracts a nice crowd of spectators.

And, of course, the main event, the AKA Convention, will be held September 23 - 27. If you have not been to a convention, this one is within a one day drive of much of Region Five. I promise you will have a great time.

All of these events are on my schedule. Are they on yours?

Please keep in mind that one of the best ways to support your AKA is by signing up a new member. Invite your friends to join.

The end of my three year term is fast approaching. It has been great fun flying with you at events in your area. Sandi and I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and great hospitality that has been extended to us throughout the region. I hope to see you on a kite field real soon. And remember, it's all about putting smiles on faces.

Hello from Region Six. Despite the occasional weather-related set back, the kiteflying season is in full swing across the region.

The Wisconsin Kite Society held their Dodge County Kite Round-up on July 18-20 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds near Beaver Dam. The Round-up is a two day long camp-out and kite fly which has seen good attendance these last few years. Keep your calendar open for this fun event next July. The Kite Society will also be participating in the Kites Over Lake Michigan Festival on August 30-31 at Nashotah beach in Two Rivers, WI. This year's festival



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features guest kites Larry and Kay Day from Iowa and Mike Gee from North Dakota. Also appearing will be 180 GO, the quadline fliers from the Illinois Kite Enthusiasts.

The IKE club took part in the Frontier Kite Festival in Naperville, IL, which had a mix of good and bad winds. They will also be at events including this year's Perry Farm Kite Festival on August 16-17 in Bourbonnais, IL. Perry Farm is festival that used to be held in April and encountered more than its fair share of bad weather including snow. The Dekalb Kite Festival is always a good time and will again feature a good display of large kites and stunt kites. This year it takes place on September 14th at the campus of Northern Illinois University in Dekalb.

Other Illinois events that are worth checking out include Mayor Daley's Kids and Kites on October 4th at Montrose Harbor in Chicago, and the Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois participating in the Chicago Botanic Gardens Kite Festival on August 9-10.

The Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois also will be hosting the 30th annual Frank Mots International Kite Festival. This has always been one of the events that you try to attend if you are in one of the surrounding states. It always features large inflatable kites, single line kites and a variety of stunt kite demonstrations including iQuad. 2008 is the thirtieth year for this event and is definitely something for the Kite Society to be proud of. Members of both IKE and the Minnesota Kite Soci-

ety are almost always in attendance.

The Minnesota Kite Society will once again host their Flying Colors Festival on August 23-24 at Harvest Park in Maplewood, MN. This is another event that is one of the bigger festivals in the region. Over the years it has been the site of one of the last regional kitemaking competitions. The MKS also hosts the Halloween Fun Fly on October 26th at Washburn Elementary School in Bloomington.

The Hoosier Kitefliers Society holds the Fly to the Sky at the B.F. Goodrich plant near Fort Wayne, Indiana. This is a kite fly combined with a classic car show. On August 30-31 the Indiana Trick Clinic and Fun Fly takes place at the Muncie AMA grounds.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership of Region Six for keeping the fun in kiting throughout the three years of my term as your regional director. I would also like to thank previous directors Al Sparling and Paul Fieber for their support. I wish the best for your new regional director, whomever they may be, and hope you will give them a warm welcome. See you all on the kite field!



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Summer is here in full force. We have had a wet cool spring including 115 mile an hour winds about three weeks ago. Omaha was hit by straight



Kite Fest in Jamestown, ND.

Betty Murphy winds that did a lot of damage. We were lucky, but others here were hit pretty hard. Some of the oldest trees in town were blown down, or uprooted. It appeared to be the remnants of some kind of foreign attack. We were without power for 2½ days.

Many of our kite flies this spring have been short of wind. We make a trip somewhere and then we're told that "it's always windy here". But we still get to meet some awesome people. We attended a small kite event in Abilene, KS, with members of the KCKC. We tried to fly in a small field, but nature was not on our side that day. It was still a fun day with their group. Lots of good food, and that's always fun!

Deb Lenzen



New Mexico's Carveth and Luella Kramer at Skydance in South Dakota.

In May we attended Kites over Grinnell in Iowa. It started wet and rainy, but about noon the sun came out and we were able to fly several beautiful kites for about three hours. Then in no time, the clouds started forming and we hustled to get everything down before the high winds and downpour started. We had a fun indoor fly that night. Several members competed in an indoor competition fly. The evening ended with a few kites sitting at the motel watching our "home movies" of several kiting events. As always, the organizers of the event made it a wonderful event, in spite of the rain. Special thanks to Dick and Sis Vogel for all of their hard work.

We were unable to attend Skydance in Garrison, ND, this year. Reports from club members told us that it was cool and rainy, but those that stuck it out had a great time. We know that Deb Lenzen hosted a great event. We hope that you can all try



Carveth Kramer's banners at Skydance.

Deb Lenzen

to attend this event sometime. You will love the beautiful big sky of North Dakota. And the sun is up until about 10:30 p.m. so you can have a night fly with light!

In June we attended Kite Fest in North Dakota. Take a look at the website at www.wingonstrings.org to see some great pictures taken by event organizers Chris Dodson and Mike Gee. This was a fabulous event. Next year will be year 15. We suggest that you make plans to attend next year. This is becoming one of the most popular and fun festivals in the central U.S.

We will be looking forward to Callaway on Labor Day weekend. It will be an early Labor Day this year beginning August 30-September 1. The season seems to be coming to an end. We hope to see many of you at Calla-

way this year. Lots of field and a great chance to see many old friends.

The annual AKA National Convention will be September 23 -27 in Gettysburg, PA. This promises to be a great venue for the Convention this year. There will be lots to see and do in this historic part of our country.

Enjoy the sky!



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Howdy, everybody! Down "he'ah" in these parts, it's still HOT! Region Eight kiting events tend to taper off after June, simply because of the weather. Although THIS year has been an exception, the stifling heat is generally accompanied by no wind – TOTALLY still conditions. Even at the monthly kite club gatherings, it's quite a challenge to even get a "teaser breeze" to play with unless you're on the coastline. Therefore, although we still get together for meetings, we spend more time visiting and talking about kites than actually flying them! Regardless, we still have fun and ALWAYS enjoy catching up with our kite friends.

I put the word out to some Central Texas clubs with a plea to help entertain during the Los Colinas/Irving (between Dallas & Fort Worth) Dragon Boat Regatta in mid-May. Wow! I got a TREMENDOUS crew! Being a non-kiting event, meaning we were entertain-



The Dragon Boat Crew

that the surrounding buildings blocked the wind needed to show off inflatables, but the single line, dual, and quad flyers kept spectators entertained and even spell-bound between the Dragon Boat competition heats. Then, just as the boat races were finishing, the wind shifted, we immediately adjusted

ment which was secondary to the main event, you never quite know what to expect, so we knew we'd have to all play it by ear. The Regatta kite crew was absolutely top-notch! Prior to the day, ground coordinators George Weber and Dallas Oliver, with assistance from Gail and Dick Bell and Larry Whitacre, acted as "eyes on the ground." They were the points of contact with the Dragon Boat folks and could report conditions and concerns of the organizers back to me. The crew arrived in town the evening before the event, and I managed to convince the organizers to let us all park on the grass field and I promised them that they would NOT have to check in on us. Although reluctant at first, they agreed to allow us this parking access and said that they would leave us alone (whew! what a relief!). Of course, the kites were the first ones on the field that morning, and had done all of the inflatable layout and ground decorating before they even arrived! That did it; they believed me and left us alone to put on a show – as the winds would allow! We were all frustrated

our vehicles to act as anchors, and the inflatables hit the sky! Hooray! We were heroes! As far as the organizers knew, we'd simply been keeping the big stuff under wraps until the races were completed! HA! Little did they know that we'd been cussing at those buildings all day for blocking our wind! As always, I can't say enough about the dedicated group of kites who have the initiative to jump in and make it happen! I'm including a photo of some of them. Left to right, they are: Dyana Ploof, myself, Derek Sutherland, Brett Sutherland, Dallas Oliver, Melissa Sutherland, Troy Gunn, Brian Moore, Larry Whitacre, Karen Wilbert, George(ina) and Gary Powell. Missing from the photo are: Steven Ploof, George Weber, Gail and Dick Bell, and Stef and Roger Gaines of Family Fun Kites in Granbury. These folks knock my socks off, and they don't even know how special they really are!

In addition to the large, organized kite festivals, and even the smaller venues like the Dragon Boat Races in which we cruise in as entertainment for the primary event; there are a multitude of local kite productions. Most of them, unfortunately, may not always get the attention that they deserve. Many kites inform me of their happenings, but ask that no fanfare be made of their endeavors. As much as I WANT to blow their horn, I HAVE to respect their wishes! Well, this time, he didn't say no, so I'm happy to report that our OWN Marshall Harris of Louisiana has been caught masquerading around some area classrooms as the his-



Marshall Harris

toric Benjamin Franklin! I've enclosed a photo as proof! Marshall's quite impressive as Ben, don't you think? Many, many thanks to Marshall for going that "extra mile"! You blow me away!

The AKA Convention in Gettysburg looks like it's going to be terrific! I hope to see you at the Convention. If I miss you there, I'll catch up with you in the fall. Yes, I am back up to full speed and am SUPERSONIC!

Keep looking UP!



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Here's to the sunny skies and the fantastic winds we have been enjoying in Region Nine. I believe it has been one of the busiest springs I have enjoyed yet. We have had some fantastic things going on in Region Nine that have stemmed from hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm from our members.

Without a doubt, Gary Fleshman-Kubodera of Hayden, Idaho, has been instrumental in making a dream come true. Earlier in the year, he came to me with an idea he had to supply hundreds of children with kites in Iraq. I was actually a bit overwhelmed by the idea, but Gary had it in his mind that he was going to share some of the joy of kiteflying with the children. Gary is a disabled veteran and was inspired by a report that said 5- to 10-year-olds

were being recruited by militants. His concern was that the children there needed some joy in their lives, and to experience the love that we all share with kiting he kicked this endeavor into high gear. With security and communication stumbling blocks to get over, Gary worked closely with chaplain LTC Donald Ott of the United States Army in Camp Echo. With the help of David Gomberg, Gary was able to find a high quality kite that was complete and easy to ship. Gary is thankful for David's patience and time with him on this project. On June 15th I was informed by Gary that a shipment of six boxes with 50 colored kites and 300 white kites was sent to Iraq. It also included sets of markers for the kids to decorate them as they wish. The kites will be distributed to the children in a village near one of the forward operating bases for the United States troops. The actual distribution should take place in the next 60-90 days and will be handled by the Civilian Affairs Personal. Thanks to Gary and to the Disabled American Veterans, Fort Sherman Chapter in Idaho. As if that were not enough, I am thrilled to tell you that Camp Echo Phase II is being put together. If you would like to join in this next phase, contact Gary Fleshman-Kubodera directly at 208/772-0539. A five dollar donation is enough to purchase a kite and send it to a village in Iraq. Gary handled most of the expenses on Phase I but will need some help to get Phase II in gear. Thank you Gary, for the time and energy you have put into this project. You have added joy to hundreds of children in Iraq. Have fun flying with your son Alex Kubodera, who is now 3½ years old and is already flying a rainbow octopus kite.

The Northwest Sport Kite League has been hopping with events going on all spring. The NWSKL Northwest Sport Kite Championships in Portland went well with a bit of rain but a great group of fliers, thanks to Theresa Norealious who owns and operates The Kite Shoppe in Vancouver, WA. Once again we are seeing new fliers hitting the competition fields. I would like to acknowledge the effort of the more seasoned members to mentor new fliers. Great to see! I am happy to say that Theresa is sitting in first place for AKA membership recruiting for the

year so far. Great job Theresa!

I was then off to attend the Ocean Shores Kite Festival in June. A great festival with single liners, and fantastic kitemakers, as well as a great NWSKL competition run by Cutting Edge Kite Shop in Ocean Shores. Despite some glitches in the sound system everyone there was happy to make a few adjustments in the schedule, while a quick trip was made by Jim Barber to get the problem solved. Thanks to all who attended and to the people that worked together to make it all happen.

It was off to the Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival to attend the "Oodles of Octopus" event. This festival is always a favorite of mine, as well as 2000 attendees. The goal this year however, was to break the world record of flying more than 20 of the famed Peter Lynn Giant Octopuses at once. If you have visited Lincoln City you are familiar with the constant change in the size of the beach there. Being optimistic, I still had this nagging worry that there would not be enough room to have that many Octopuses in the air there, let alone adding in a sport kite demo field. Due to the fantastic handlers of these giants, and the camaraderie of the sport kite fliers and the single liners (I hesitate to even call them single line as the bridle lines outnumber a quad mega fly!) this event was just incredible. What could have been a total mess with the smaller beach area, hundreds of spectators, and sport kite fliers was an incredible success. Twenty ONE of the giant creatures were stacked atop one another and flown for most of the day on Saturday while incredible sport kite fliers such as Penny Lingenfelter, Carl Braigel, one man kite team Dancing Al Washington, and a whole crew of new sport kite fliers flew right next to them. I have to say that flying to the Beatles "Octopus's Garden" was quite a thrill for me while I was looking into 168 tentacles as a backdrop! It took a fantastic effort to accomplish this goal. My hat is off to Maggie Conrad of the Lincoln City Events, and David and Susan Gomberg who helped coordinate with Maggie to get fliers from around the United States to bring their collection of these gentle giants to the West Coast. It was a gorgeous weekend with sun filled skies and perfect winds.

I am truly amazed to share with you that the normal attendance of this festival jumped from 2000 to over 4000 spectators that weekend. How's that for putting on a show? Well done! I am looking forward to the Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival, October 11-12. For more information watch www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/kites-fall.php.

Brookings' Southern Oregon Kite Festival is right around the corner, as well as my favorite, the Washington State International Kite Festival. That will bring us right up to the AKA Convention. I am looking forward to seeing a great showing of kite artists, and fliers from Region Nine in Gettysburg. It's looking like a great time for all!

Until we meet again, here is to wonderful winds and sunny skies.



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Just got off the beach from the Westport Windriders Kite Festival. Lots of work! Lots of fun! Three nice days on the Pacific Ocean and wind each day, what more could you ask for? Bright colors filled the sky and many new kite creations to look at. The guest flyer was Mike Button and his wife Diane from Bellingham, WA. Mike has been making kites since 1983



One of Gary Good-enough's students flies a recycled kite.

Greeting old kite friends that we had not seen in several years, visiting with friends that you only see at this event and making new friends. I love seeing the kids at the workshop making their sled kite and then watching them learn how to fly.

The Westport Windriders have a monthly fly and pot-luck dinner ten months of the year. At these meetings we

always have a raffle and if you bring kite-related items for the raffle you get your name in a drawing for a prize at the festival. This year the prize was a genki kite with stars and stripes and of course flames made by our English member Phil Scarfe. The winner was a fairly new member, Arnold Authement. He proudly flew his new kite the following day in the mass ascension.

There is always so much to watch and do. I really want to thank all the people who stepped up and helped with the "setting up" and the "taking down" of the festival. For the Northwest Sport Kite League loaning their equipment and the judging. Robin Haas for all the announcing. Glen and Seth for emptying the garbage. Linda, Anna, Marianne and Ron for doing the raffle set up. Kudos for Whitney and her crew for doing one heck of a great dinner. Most of all a huge thank you to the entire board of the Westport Windriders, Bary Crites (past president), Mike Woodring, Robin Haas, Vic Eshpeter and my two right hand guys, Dave Christensen and Al Councilman. Check out our website for the video of the "rolling tent", www.westportwindriders.com. This festival proved to

be a real learning experience for me as the President, but with all of these good people behind me, we made it happen. I guess its true that you can teach an old dog new tricks.

Woof!

After all this it's home and back to work.

Looking forward to PCKA festival at Orting and of course WSIKF. Then it's off to France to represent the AKA at the Dieppe International Festival. With two Grand Champions, John Pollock and Cliff Quinn, along with fourteen other AKA members we will be traveling and working in the AKA marquee. I know with all of us there we can do a good job in representing AKA. Check out the next issue for the story on Dieppe.

After Dieppe I travel to Gettysburg Convention 2008. I am really excited about going there and seeing a part of the USA that I have never been to. Of course there will be the seeing of old friends and the making of new ones. I hope to see many of you there.

As an AKA member don't forget to vote when the ballots come out.

Just one great kite fly after another. YES!

Gary Goodenough and friend Kristy Filbin conducted a kitemaking class with about 35 students at Silver Star Elementary School in Vancouver. Children ages six through twelve decorated their Japanese Doll kites with felt markers, then assembled and flew them. Besides making and flying kites, an aim of the class was to show how easy it is to use items that could be recycled from a bamboo window screen, and a roll of polyester fabric from a wedding. The children obviously enjoyed the class and so did the teachers.

Heads up when you are traveling. We have had a few cases lately of stolen kites. One was the Pennell's kites that were stolen right out the front door of the airport. Their kites were in a golf case and never made it through the x-ray scanner. So if the check agent asks you to put your oversized case on the cart at the end of the counter, make sure there is a employee attending it. If using a golf case, write "KITES" on it, so these people might just realize that they are not getting golf clubs. Penny Lingenfelter's kite was stolen while she was on the flying field doing a demonstration. We all need to keep our eyes peeled just a little more and watch our friends' kites also. Close that car door and lock the car, van or camper.

Keep your kites safe and keep flying.

and has been flying kites since 1962. Today he has 800 kites. He brought about 500 kites to the festival with him. He flew 300 of them on the first day of the festival. That would be a train. We thank them for decorating the sky. Some of the guys got together and tried to see if they could pull a log with the help of two different size Hagaman parafoils. Great minds gathered on the beach trying to do an experiment for the World Kite Museum, for the George Pocock exhibit. Art Ross, Mike and Ron Button, Glen Austin, Big John (from Canada) and Ron Miller all tried their best to make the project work. I think we really needed to bring George Pocock back to life to make this experiment a success. I know for a fact that a Hagaman can pull a car, but this log would not budge. We'll try again at PCKA Festival.

Sport kite competition was going on in another field. Jennifer Brown and her dog (yes, the dog did compete with her by taking the handles and flying the kite) grabbed a first place ribbon. We were even honored to have the Region Nine Director, Amy Doran in attendance. Amy was competing and did win a few ribbons herself.



Vancouver's Penny Lingenfelter sticks the landing at the San Ramon Festival in California.

John Gillespie



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In May, the San Ramon Art and Wind Festival brought together fliers from the West Coast to entertain hundreds of people. Team Too Much Fun was there from The South (Mark and Jeanette Lummas, Ron Despojado), Amy Doran, Conor Doran and Penny Lingenfelter from The North, Team Air Zone, Aaron Champie, Francisco Navarro, Dave Sabalino, Jim Streatly and many local fliers. Arnold (Goldenthroat) Stellema provided running commentary, and Wayne Fu kept the music playing all weekend. Brian Champie, organizer of this annual affair, generously hosted a potluck barbecue at his nearby home. Unfortunately, Brian's rented house was just sold, and the Big Guy has had to move thirty years of accumulated stuff to new digs.



Kids at the San Ramon Art & Wind Festival.

The Bay Area Sport Kite League (BASKL) held two competitions this past spring, one in San Francisco (Crissy Field) and the other at Martinez. The season ended at the West Coast Sport Kite Championships, held in conjunction with the Berkeley Kite Festival the last week of July. Congratulations to all the competitors.

The second annual Santa Cruz Kite Festival is scheduled for September 13. This event is put on by BASKL to benefit Children's Hospice. For more information, visit www.erzin.net/KiteFest2008/.

See you all at Convention in Gettysburg.

Hello all. Since my last report I've gotten around a bit with Japan being the highlight. With the help of the Drachen Foundation and the JKA, myself and iQuad found ourselves on tour of Japan making two major events and going to a few grade schools all with the help of Kiyomi and David of Drachen, and they rocked. Then it was off to Grand Haven where we did what we do: teach and spread the joy. Then it was off to Wildwood where once again we did what we do: teach and fly. While I was off in the wilds team Too Much Fun was local and they were doing what we all should do, which is fly and share the joy. They were up at Silver Lake in Bellevue, CA, with the Herzog family, the Cornings, and Hector Herrera and his family. Ron Despojado tells me there was fun for all including kitemaking for the kids. I'll tell you, the San Diego Kite Club sure does get around. They are always willing to lend a hand, so remember if you're in San Diego the second Saturday of the month go out and join them. I promise you'll have fun.

I'd like to ask each and every one of you out there to spend some extra time the next time you're out to teach someone else this simple thing that you enjoy so much, to share the joy and make a new kiteflier. This is what I do, I teach others and share this joy that I have. When you see iQuad you will see them teaching also because that's part of what they are. I may not be the best flier but I am willing and

that makes up for anything I'm not. I love this sport and the peace that it gives to me and the places it has taken me and the people I've got to meet and share the sky with. Each and every day in kiting has been a blessing and this blessing was given to me free of

Team Too Much Fun gets their kicks.



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charge by someone who was willing. This is why I keep on doing what I do because I never forget where I came from and how good it has all been.

Way too much fun in Region Thirteen, I can't keep up! They say there's a kite festival on EVERY weekend of the year somewhere, so Region Thirteen's a pretty busy place to be.

ARGENTINA - During BaToCo's May 18th International Museums Day, more than 200 kites decorated the Convention Centre Saloon. Kites hung from ceilings, were stuck onto windows, and the kite history was explained in banners. Visitors were also treated to a Windless Indoor show.

NEW ZEALAND - Peter Lynn's done

it again. His latest design is a mammoth power kite designed for weight-lifting, with talk of a World Record Attempt including Andrew Beattie and the Kuwait team. YouTube footage shows an easy lift of quarter of a ton... but the kite can do much more, Andrew says. Stay tuned all you who LOVE big stories! By the way, did you know that the New Zealand

Maoris have a traditional kite which features in the book "Te Manu Tukutuku" by Bob Maysmor?

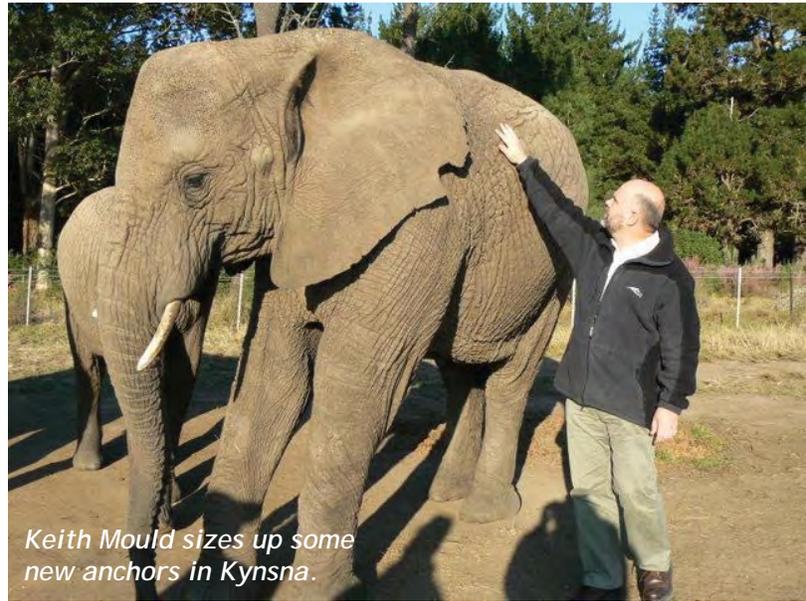
JAPAN - AKA new member, Siegfried Trautwein (quite the mix for him - born Germany, to USA as a child, then to Japan in 1975) is mesmerised by traditional Japanese kites with hummers. They have "a most-pleasing dull roar," he said. (Consider, then, the hummers on the massive Balinese kites which sound like incoming Chinook helicopters!)

JAPAN - Kite Master Mikio Toki travels to California, October 2008, for the Seal Beach Japan America Kite Festival. Konichiwa Toki-san!

CANADA - oh Canada has Region Thirteen's largest AKA member listing (followed by UK). By sheer accident in July, I re-connected with a long-lost (non-kiting) Canadian friend, simply because of Don Guick's July report for Pincher Creek Kite Festival in the *Lethbridge Herald!* My e-mail to my friend landed on her table the same day as the newspaper - advertising John Pollock and Ray Bethell as featured flyers - and

she'd not known of kites before in Alberta!

CANADA - Kites are in Nova Scotia too, of course. Think, Alexander Graham Bell, not ONLY famous for the telephone, but for the tetrahedral cell kite. Donna Johnson from the Bell Museum believes Bell's kites are special.



Keith Mould sizes up some new anchors in Kynsna.

There could be plans for future kite festivals in Baddeck, Bell's favourite place, Donna says.

CANADA - From Saint-Honore, "Wind Dreams" kite by Art Ross has a new owner in Gary Mark! What's the saying about the one with the most toys, wins?

AUSTRALIA - Queensland in May, heavenly! Redcliffe KiteFest organised by David White featured international guest Mikio Toki, and seasoned travellers AnneMarie and Phil McConnachie of Adelaide, Rob Brasington of Tasmania (it's an Australian State!) and Kevin and me. What a corker.

SOUTH AFRICA - July is winter, so much the same as my home state in Australia. Antarctic winds without the fun of snow! But the inaugural Knysna Kite Festival was held early July. Kites alongside the lagoon, ahhh. Stunning landscapes. An invitation for us all in 2009. Oh, and Keith Mould told me about the yummy food: oysters. Mmm.

NETHERLANDS - Bas Vreeswijk, maker of a triptych - a three-panelled artwork made up of three Japanese Edo kites - desired the AKA Grand National Kitemaking Award 2008, but, no money means no travel! Another year?

DENMARK - Plan ahead for Fanø, 19/6/2009. Kitefliers are invited to fill the beach section at the blue flag with amphibians and reptiles, in the air and on the ground. *drachenbernhard@arcorde* for details.

FRANCE - Dieppe will be busy in 2008! I'm sending Kevin to enjoy himself and practise his French. If you're going too, shake his hand.

LITHUANIA - Jurgis is helping in the search for some misplaced kites, lost

Carlos Simoes



Gary Marks' new toy

from Seattle, USA. On this occasion, the hard golf-case (ideal protection for long flights) didn't travel far... someone may have thought it was full of golf clubs?

UK - Portsmouth in August, ideal kite weather, perfect location. Or maybe Margate in September for the Big Sky Kite Festival? These events attract overseas fliers, get Gill Bloom to tell you more at Margate@thekitesociety.org.uk. Or, meet and greet the UK contingent in Gettysburg this year. Arthur Dibble wrote in July that his bears are packed and ready for the 2008 convention.

And finally, Steve de Rooy of Canada said, "I think we are all crazy, all the travelling we do and the money we fork out." But he says that when people take five minutes out of their busy life and they say to themselves, 'that is really cool', then he's happy. Steve's favourite is when someone walks up and says, "I sure was having a lousy day before I saw this."

Psst... no matter which country we're each in, you can find a kite club to suit. AKA Member, Troy Gunn, has compiled this list of world kite clubs at <http://members.tripod.com/~TKOGunn1/kiteclubs.htm> You should never have to fly alone!

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



Drachen's Dave and Ben Dantonio in Japan.



iQuad climbs Mount Fuji.



Masaaki Modegi tries to earn his iQuad team jacket.



iQuad attracts a crowd in Japan.

You Come In Attached By A Cord, You Go Out The Same Way

Some say death is no laughing matter, but one British casket maker is ready and willing to send you off to your eternal rest in a “crazy coffin.” Vic Fearn & Company Limited say they are now doing a roaring business in customized caskets for people who want to go out in style. The coffins, ranging from a giant electric guitar to a



A box kite coffin

sports bag, have proved so popular that they even go out on tour with exhibitions around European art galleries. The coffin-makers first took the zany path to death when a woman fan of the Royal Air Force’s aerial acrobatics team, the Red Arrows, asked to be buried in a model fighter. “So we constructed this plane with folding wings like they have on aircraft carriers. The cockpit of a plane is more or less coffin-shaped so that made life easier,” said David Crampton, director of the 160-year-old company based in the central England town of Nottingham. Next came a man who couldn’t afford to buy a canal long boat so wanted to be buried in a model one. “That caused friction with his wife so we had to build one for her as well,” he told Reuters in an interview. The business has snowballed from there – and the coffin-makers are thrilled with the trend after grinding out 20,000 conventional caskets a year. “Making an unusual crazy coffin is great for the staff. It gives them a chance to test their skills. It can create some fun in the shop,” Crampton

said. Currently being crafted is a scaled-down model of a 1913 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost. It even has wheels so they pallbearers can push it along. The custom caskets can be costly. The Rolls-Royce model set back the buyer \$6,800, ten times the cost of a traditional coffin. Well, it’s only money, and you still can’t take it with you.

Tako Bell? by Glenn Davison

I came across “Strings Italian Cafe” while I was in Las Vegas last week. After dinner that night I found a restaurant that was less than a block from my hotel and it had Korean fighter kites in the window. It made me wonder. Are there other restaurants with names that refer to kites?

I began to search the web and found the “Red Kite Cafe Restaurant” in Wales and “Kite’s Restaurant” in York. There’s “Kite’s Bar and Grill” in Manhattan, KS, as well as “Kite’s Kitchen” in New Buffalo, MI.

Even without a kite-related name, there are two other restaurants that are kite-related. The first that comes to mind is the famous pizza restaurant in Oklahoma owned by past AKA President Richard Dermer. Does it display kites? You betcha.



There’s also a restaurant in Tokyo owned by Masaaki Modegi, Chairman of the Japan Kite Association and Curator of the Tokyo Kite Museum. The museum is

not in the restaurant, but it’s close.

Here are a few more restaurants:

“Flight Restaurant & Wine Bar” in Glenview, IL

“Fly Bar and Restaurant” in Tampa, FL

“Blow Fly Inn Restaurant” in Gulfport, MS

“Kite Mandarin & Sushi” in Chicago, IL

“Delta Restaurant” in Chicago, IL

“Sky Restaurant” in Norwood, MA

“Where Pigs Fly Restaurant” in Dover, DE

“Windy Point Restaurant” in Belair, South Australia

“Tako Grill” in Bethesda, MD



Those restaurant names are great, but there are also many towns with perfect names... as a kiteflier, it would be appropriate to eat in any restaurant in Kite, Georgia, or Ayer, Massachusetts, or Wind Blow, NC.

My favorite restaurant name is the “Rokkaku Restaurant” located in Honolulu, HI. While I’ve never been to any of these restaurants to try the food, I certainly like the name and location of that one!



Kites At The Olympics

Are the Chinese outsourcing their kitemaking now? Roy Broadley, of Kites Up in Great Britain, built this kite for the Closing Ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics. Roy is said to be “well chuffed” with the kite and its 40’ tail, while the Chinese – represented here by Hongye Wu-Atwell – are “over the moon.” Roy has also built a kite as part of London’s efforts to win the 2012 Olympics. Roy follows on the heels of Jackite, which had its dove kites flown at the Atlanta Games in 1996.





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21!

The Lincoln City, Oregon, Summer Kite Festival on June 28th set a new record for flying octopuses. Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyXvUyxFYTI for a video look all 168 tentacles.



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