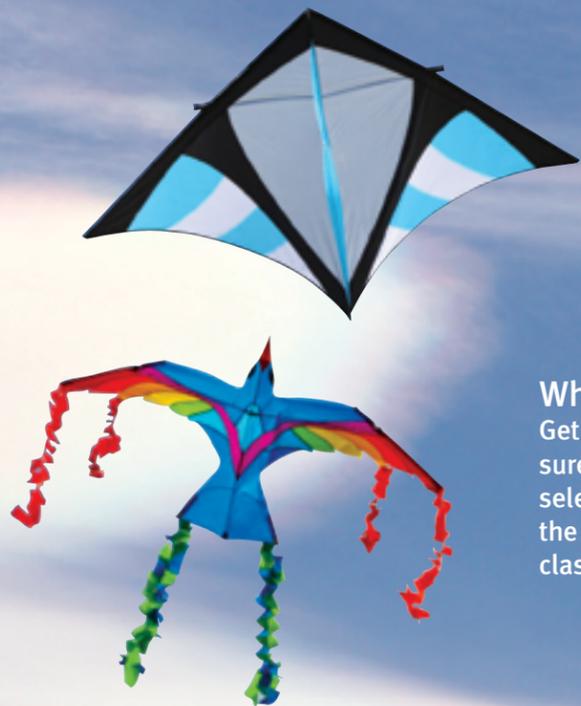




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CONTENTS



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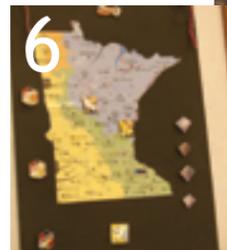
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4 Marina Green
It's time for family fun in the shadow of the Golden Gate



5 Outer Banks
If it was good enough for the Wright Brothers, it's good enough for sport kites



6 State Fair
Kites in the land of livestock and corn dogs



19 Dutch Treat
On the beach in Scheveningen



20 Days Down Under
A Berkeley Kite Wrangler heads to Oz



22 To Arthur!
Guinness-fueled fun in the air of Eire



24 A Slice of Turkey
Istanbul celebrates One Sky One World



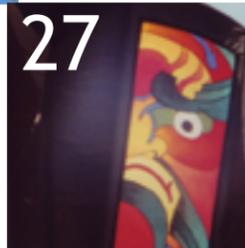
29 Minnesota Wild
This time around there was only one dog at the AKA Convention



38 KAPTions
The year's best, downward looking



40 Kites Over The Cape
The biggest festival in Africa has roks and 'boks



27 K-Files
In Oregon, the Butler did it



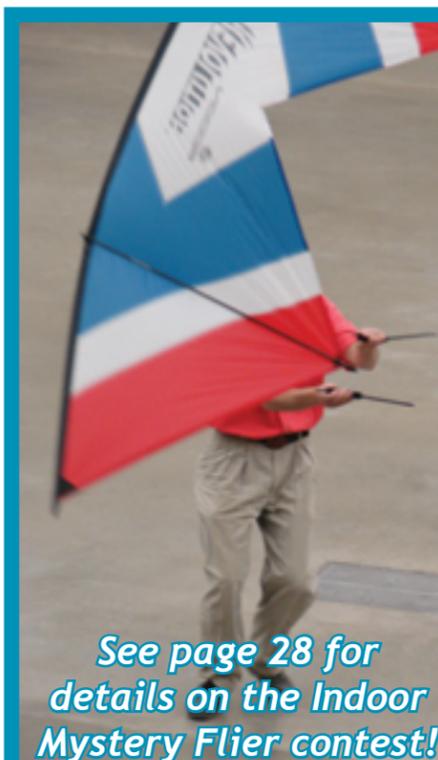
44 Oklahoma
The wind blows softly down the plain for a new American record



45 Kite Plan
A kite so simple you can build it with the fingers on one hand



48 Antelope Island
Buffalo chips are the only hitch at this Utah festival



See page 28 for details on the Indoor Mystery Flier contest!

WIN AN INDOOR REV! Kiting+

- 2 AKA Directory
- 3 President's Page
- 8 Regional Reports
- 25 AKA News
- 26 Empty Spaces In the Sky
- 46 Merchant Members
- 50 Voices From The Vault
- 51 K-Mail
- 52 People Places + Things

On the cover: A few images from the 32nd AKA Convention in Rochester, Minnesota.

Coming in the SPRING issue...

- > Focus on Kitemaking
- > Return to Ahmedabad
- > Ice Flying Wrap-up

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Founded in 1964 by Robert M. Ingraham, the American Kitefliers Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites.

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

Send address changes to
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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

When asked why he started the AKA, Bob Ingraham, our founder, replied, "I like to fly kites with my friends." Isn't that why we are all part of this great group known as the American Kitefliers Association? Our organization exists to spread the joy of kiting; everything the AKA does is to further that goal.

This magazine you are reading, *Kiting*, (what a great member benefit!) keeps members around the world connected to each other with articles highlighting festivals around the world, kite plans; tips and techniques; a little history, listings of member merchants, trivia about kites and kites, and lots of wonderful photos for inspiration.

Did you realize that at www.aka.kite.org, there is a section called *Kit-ing+?* It features extra articles and photos that don't fit in the printed pages. Look for the link next to the picture of the current cover.

Our Merchant Members offer AKA members a 10% discount on purchases. In some cases, just one purchase saves you more than the cost of your membership for the year. Thanks to all of them for saving members thousands and thousands of dollars every year that could have gone to them as profit. Before you buy that next kite, check out the listings here or on the AKA website. Will Smoot, the Region Three director, will be working with all Merchant Members to assist them in promoting kites to all their customers.

An underutilized benefit is the Members Only section of the AKA website, the Club House. Here you find minutes of past meetings; digital issues of old *Kiting* magazines; committee reports; the budget; the net directory, which lists contact information for members; election results; tax returns; membership numbers; and new, the bulk mail sent by every regional director (not just yours). Look for more additions to this area over the coming year, especially in the addition to digital *Kiting*. Check with



your regional director if you are having trouble accessing this area.

Have you ever visited the KiteTalk Forum? You will need your membership number to sign into the Members Only section. Here you find lively discussions about all kinds of kites; notices of festivals being held; updates on the inner workings of the AKA Board; financial reports and more. Drop by and join the conversation.

The public section of the website has even more information. Anyone can learn how to build a kite using "Kites in the Classroom," then learn how to get a new event started with our "Kite Event Organizer's Manual," and at that event run sport kite competition or crafted kite competition with the appropriate rule books. And, the safety manuals, the how-to manuals, the pamphlets to print and pass out at your event, all for free download.

Did I mention sanctioning insurance? Most areas require insurance before a permit will be issued by the park or beach authority. Last year this insurance cost the AKA \$24,000. Only \$6000 was paid in sanctioning fees. That's a huge difference. Yet, if insurance goes away, many events will also disappear.

Every member is valued by the AKA. It is your dues that pay for *Kiting*. It is dues that keep the website up and running. It is dues that help subsidize the cost of insurance. Even more than dues, it is the energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and passion for kites that every member

brings to our association that keeps this association alive.

This year brings many new volunteers into positions of responsibility as committee chairs, and as members of those committees. In these committees the real work of running the AKA gets done. The complete listing is both here in *Kiting* and on the website. Please consider offering your help to one of these committees. It is easy to say, "the AKA should...." To move forward, the AKA needs volunteers to step up and say instead, "This is my idea, and here is how I'm willing to help."

The AKA faces many challenges over the coming years. Luckily, we have members that are willing to share their talents, energy, and love of kites with others. There will be some changes made to save money and increase revenue. Watch your e-mail for messages on what is happening. And, speaking of e-mail, many of you have not supplied the office with your current on-line address. In the coming year, more information will be sent electronically. This saves the AKA huge amounts of money, and every dollar counts. Please update your information today by e-mailing updateAKA@aka.kite.org.

Save October 11-16, 2010, and plan to join many other members in Seaside, OR, for our 33rd annual convention.

Time to fly,

Barbara Meyer

GOLDEN GATE FAMILY FUN

BY DAVID GOMBERG



At a time when many festivals are struggling or waning, the Family Day Kite Festival in San Francisco is growing. Of course, the stunning vista on Marina Green, overlooking the Golden Gate, Alcatraz, and the St. Francis Yacht Club doesn't hurt. There is adequate parking right alongside the grassy fields. Wind is reliable. And the traffic on Marina Boulevard provides plenty of visibility. So it is no surprise that more fliers are coming and more spectators

are showing up.

In September, Susie and I were down at Family Day for our third visit. Together with Barry and Karen Ogletree, and Brian Champie, we anchored the west end of the field with larger inflatables. Turbulence from the nearby mansions and the narrow size of the field meant we each had to anchor in the field's center and fly low to keep from dropping unexpectedly into the street or the crowd.

Further downwind, the art kite fliers gathered. Scott Skinner, José Sainz, and Dean Jordan joined a collection of local kites. Beyond that was the sound stage with contests and demonstrations all day. And then finally, at the far end of the field, the sky was papered with kites from the kids' tent.

Certainly this is one of the most beautiful places in the country to fly kites. And the urban setting is both dramatic and unusual. Strong gusty winds make the flying challenging. But overall, the experience is a positive and productive one.

Early Sunday afternoon, the success of FDKF overwhelmed the event and organizers lost control of the field boundaries. New fliers with freshly bought kites, followed by

children with paper toys and cotton line began to infiltrate. They were augmented by an occasional pilot with a new sport kite or power foil, each flown by folks with big smiles



and their inexperienced hands straight up over their heads. Next came the curious spectators with cameras, random unaccompanied kids, and moms with strollers. The art kite fliers pulled in and packed up first. Then the big kites mid-field. And finally Susan and I gave in. We couldn't fly safely and reluctantly chose not to fly at all. By 3 PM, all of the "pros" were off the field. The flying space was filled with kids having fun and I guess you can't argue with that.

I've been promised that next year, the sound system will reach all flying areas, that fields will be better marked, and that safety officials will patrol the area so we don't have to police it ourselves. And in return, I promised that we'll be back! k



Andy Burchfield outside the Wright Brothers' workshop



Brad Weiner



Jim Cosca

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HUNTING AND GATHERING

BY TOM CROSS

Generally, there are two ways to enjoy kiting: making them and flying them. To put this in perspective, I am a mental health therapist and spent 13 years working in an aggressive assaultive treatment program; kites do not talk back to me. I want to make my own kites but do not have the time or space to do it. But I have found other ways to enjoy them.

What started out as a passion for scrapbooking has spun off into entries in the Minnesota State Fair and general collecting of history and memorabilia of kite items. My main interest for scrapbooking still exists. I seek out post cards, pictures, cards, product trade cards, and magazines, all of which somehow have kites as a focus. These are then set into a scrapbook page to attractively display the object. One would be surprised where kites can be found.

Post cards are a prime source of kites. To increase the eyes looking for kites, I joined the Twin Cities Post Card Club which has regular meetings and shows that bring together many dealers at one time. This allows me to make connections with specific dealers, who in turn have other resources, who all can funnel kite cards for my approval.

From this collecting I selected a group of post cards from the turn of the 20th century, which became an entry in the 2008 Minnesota State Fair and an award-winner at the Twin Cities Post Card Show. The entry, *Historical Kites of the World*, featured post cards framed around a day/night picture of Earth from the Space Station, with cards from France 1904-06, Germany 1906, Netherlands 1950s, China 1900, Japan 1930s and USA 1900.

Several years ago the Minnesota Kite Society did a display at the Hennepin County Historical Society building featuring local kitemakers and kitemaking. My display was a part of the day-long event. As the day progressed, the director of the facility suggested a kite history just of Hennepin County. And that led to collecting kites and pictures all centering on the Twin Cities area.

By going to the Minnesota State Historical Society archives, many pictures were found of Minnesotans proudly holding

homemade paper kites. These pictures were used in an entry titled *Historical Kites of Hennepin County*, which was framed with a WWII era paper kite made by the Northwestern Kite Company of Minneapolis. Also in the frame is a 1960s era "Goofy Grape" promotional kite sent out by Pillsbury, a Minneapolis company.

Moving from the scrapbook to memorabilia, you can not forget the kite itself. The current hot interest is the paper kite from the 50s and

60s. A collector could zero in on the company which made the kite such as Northwestern Kite Company in Minneapolis or Decatur Kite Company in Illinois. Or the type of kite, such as Barn Door, Diamond, or Box could be a collection focus. The military significance of the kite, such as the Cody kite lifting men for reconnaissance or transporting equipment in WWI, could also be a focus. The target kites and radio aerial Gibson Girl box kites for downed airmen during WWII could be in this category as well. At times various businesses, such as Zenith, GE, Jiff peanut butter, Buster Brown Shoes, Jolly Green Giant, Chevrolet, Phillips 66 as well as countless others were all advertised on the paper kite. If you are collecting kites with a specific brand name, you are competing against people who are collecting all memorabilia from that same product. For example, a McDonald's collector will also want a kite just because it is McDonalds, but you may not want any other McDonald's items.

We all have loves in our life and we send them Valentines. If you are a kite enthusiast, you would of course send a kite Valentine. Again using your local antique dealer or post card club you can locate turn-of-the-20th century ornate die cut cards or the ones we signed and sent in grade school. With the help of Charlie Sotich of Chicago, I made an enlarged and improved entry in the 2009 Minnesota State Fair, *I Love You Kite, My Valentine*. Charlie is a famous miniature kite maker who crafted a one inch Valentine kite from a napkin which became a center focus of the entry. The poster-size display that was entered is a selection from about 40 collected Valentines, all having a kite in the picture.

Referring back to the Cody kite, with a box set of post cards from the Drachen Foundation about Samuel F. Cody was a 2009 entry in the Minnesota State Fair. There are countless ways to bring kites to the front of our minds for enjoyment and education.

Many countries around the world have issued series of postage stamps or first day covers with kites as a focus. Over time I have accumulated about 30 different countries' stamps and framed them around the theme *One Sky One World*. Again, in a 40" x 24" poster frame, having a picture of the world in the center and another Charlie Sotich miniature kite made from a postage stamp, this became an entry for the 2009 State Fair, telling the story of One Sky One World stamps. This entry won a 1st place.

For the Americana antiques collector there are samples of wooden line winders that go back to the early 1900s. The wooden winders are handmade and come in one person size or two person size. A most unusual winder is the two line winder.



from Porky Pig to Richie Rich has flown a kite on the cover. There's also the famous *Mad Magazine* with Alfred E. Newman playing his electric guitar while flying his kite in a lightning storm.

Some people collect personal photos of individuals with their kites. These are very desirable and are highly sought after. Very few people took pictures of people with kites. There are historical Black America post cards with kites selling "Korn Kinks" and I have been successful matching them up with photos of young African American boys from the 1920s with their kites for my scrapbook presentation.

The next time you are in an antique store, look for a kite. Start seeing them in pictures, ads on TV. Then wonder why you do not see young kids today out there flying one. K

For the china, pottery and glass collector there are also plates, dishes and vases with kites as a feature. One of the little Staffordshire 1820-35 childhood tea sets has a kite focus and frequently sells for \$50-75 a piece. These pieces have a scene of a child flying a kite.

Comic books are noted for collecting. It seems every character

from Porky Pig to Richie Rich has flown a kite on the cover. There's also the famous *Mad Magazine* with Alfred E. Newman playing his electric guitar while flying his kite in a lightning storm.

Some people collect personal photos of individuals with their kites. These are very desirable and are highly sought after. Very few people took pictures of people with kites. There are historical Black America post cards with kites selling "Korn Kinks" and I have been successful matching them up with photos of young African American boys from the 1920s with their kites for my scrapbook presentation.

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region1@aka.kite.org
 End of term: 2010

Greetings Region One. It has been a great kiting season. Events throughout our region both large and small have been well attended.

Our local kite clubs have been busy. The ConnecticutKITERS held "Christmas in August" and flew in Newport, RI. Kites Over New England held monthly flies at Nahant Beach, MA, local kites fly at



Massachusetts' Dick Maciel brought home a suitcase full of kitemaking awards from Rochester.

Bug Light in Maine, new sport kite fliers in Vermont. In New Hampshire there is flying at Hampton Beach, in upstate New York the New York Kite Enthusiasts flew at the 3rd Maple Ridge Kite Festival and the Great Lakes Kitefliers Society fly with our neighbors from Region Thirteen, the Toronto Kite Flyers in Canada.

Barnaby the kite flying dog made his appearance at the Maple Ridge Kite Festival, NY. For additional details, visit www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20091012/NEWS04/310129982. This was the first time Jackie and I attended the event and we will definitely have it on our calendar for next year. Thanks to Thom Shanken for making all the arrangements.

Many of our winter activities are indoor kiting, such as Opening Our Doors in Boston and Crotched Mountain School in Greenfield, NH. Kudos to John Ruggiero and Archie Stewart. Archie was honored by making congratulatory remarks at this year's commencement at Crotched Mountain School.

You are urged to check out scheduled events on the AKA calendar of events and on your local kite club's website. There are already events scheduled for 2010.

The AKA website has a new and exciting features. On the web site front page, view the latest news in the kiting community. While you are there, click *KITING+* and view additional information. The AKA now has a presence on Facebook. Become an AKA Facebook Fan by clicking on the icon.

Keep the wind to your back.

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

Dan Weeks of Pittsburgh and Jim Powers of Chester Springs, contributed to a nice article on kite aerial photography entitled "A Kite's-Eye View" which appeared in the September/October 2009 issue of *Pennsylvania Magazine*. A copy can be downloaded from the 'Sample Articles' section of the magazine's website at www.pa-mag.com/sample-articles/.

The Long Island Maritime Museum hosted its second annual kite festival on September 19th. The event is a fund raiser for the Museum in West Sayville, NY, on the south shore of Long Island. The Museum provided kitemaking for over 300 kids. Charles Stewart of Let's



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 End of term: 2010

Fly Kites helped organize the event and supplied kites for sale, Dennis Smith did his usual great job on sound and Ron Jakubowicz and friends from the South Jersey Kite Flyers had a dazzling array of kites and line laundry in the air. Using 3', 6', and 10' bols in the bol races assured that all racers had a fair chance. The Museum was very pleased at the attendance and looks forward to next year's event.

South Jersey Kite Flyers members have been having a blast this fall attending events like Rockaway, Sunfest, MS Bike to the Shore, and OABTIIOPBCKFABO (if you don't know what that stands for, visit the new club website at <http://sjkf.webs.com>). At their Anniversary Bash, the club auctioned off most of Scott Spencer's and Betty Hirschmann's kites. There were great deals to be had on woven hats, star facets, classic club banners, and even all of Scott's kitemaking supplies.

By the time this goes to press, Pocono Kite Symphony will have done a kite building workshop for kids at Sciencefest in Bethlehem, for about the eighth year in a row. They are always thrilled to have the display of flags out front of Marvine Elementary School because it helps draw attention to the Sciencefest event.

Fly Pittsburgh members have enjoyed a very good year. The highlight



Pennsylvanians celebrate One Sky One World.

Tina Keeler

for the summer was Discover Presque Isle Days at Sunset Point in Erie. This year featured the Night Illumination. Fly Pittsburgh will have events in November and December and a New Year's Kick Off Party in January. And concerning the convention, Con Engels writes "I'm not sure how anything could top my Rochester experience. So for those of you who may have thought that attending an AKA convention at an inland location may not be fun, or as fun as flying at a beach location... the amount of fun you may have at any given fly or convention is equal to the company you keep. If you are there with friends, you can have lots of fun. If you have no friends when arriving at an event, you certainly will leave having made some new friends."

There were a couple of One Sky One World events in Region Two. There was a good turnout of local kite flyers at Louise Moore Park in Easton, PA. The skies were filled with many different colors and styles of kites, and since you could see these kites from the roads in the area of the park, it caused curiosity among people driving on them. Some of them actually came to the park to find out what was going on! Another event took place at Sam Lewis State Park near

Rick Agar



Con Engels and one of his kitemaker's competition entries.

Wrightsville, PA. This is a place where people often gather to fly without any particular reason, so there were a few people flying there who were curious as to why there were so many other kites present. Everyone had a good time and the winds were pretty co-operative for both of these events.

At the time I am writing this report we are in the middle of lots of transitions. Summer is changing to fall with all the leaves changing colors, the air has changed from warm to cold, a new sport kite competition season started in August and the old one ended with the announcement of the Conference champions and invitations to Convention for the Grand National competition, and the Association has new officers, Directors and a new President.

Since the last report there have been several festivals and competitions either in Region Three or attended by Region Three members.

Jim Hodges rounded up several fliers to help with Windfest at Canaan Valley in West Virginia. It is a mountainous environment, but at 3200' elevation it is frequently cool and comfortable in the summer. More of the Wings Over Washington members travelled to Dieppe, Canada, in August and Barbara Birnman reports: "... Scott Spencer travelled with Paul and me to Dieppe. By Sunday, the last day, I just couldn't decide where he should 'reside.' She went on to talk about Scott's love for ground displays, and how she scattered his ashes where he could enjoy a beautiful one there. Fortunately there were lots of

others in attendance from the States as she needed help transporting her auction purchases. Other WOW activities included Take Your Child To Work day, a kite building workshop, an indoor fly during August, and all of this with their President recuperating from a broken leg. While Jeff King could send messages he relied on other volunteers to climb the dune at Jockeys Ridge, and compete at NJSKC at Liberty Park in New Jersey. RAF also performed well at NJSKC as much "wood" went south with sport kite fliers. Harold Ames was in charge of the kitemaking competition so if you are a builder you should attend this event to show your stuff.

Labor Day weekend saw the largest crowd ever at the Mile High Kite Festival at Beech Mountain, NC, put on by members of RAF and WACKOS, and WOW. Two weeks later in September, Two Guys Flying sponsored a festival at a park near Waynesboro, VA, and the RWRSKC event became the first sanctioned competition of the new season for many of our fliers, including three novices, one of whom joined that day. I hope the calendar will allow these events to be on different dates in the future because they are both fun, small events.

Finally, October arrived and AKA members headed for Rochester. The Smoots and Stonestreets drove out; I don't think I could drive to Seaside for 2010 but I enjoyed seeing the Midwest. It was small and I met lots of people and made friends with people I had only known by name previously. The spectators were curious about us and were friendly. I had a chance to help a couple of families get kites untangled and flying



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Maryland's Jon Burkhardt and his 3rd place Firebird.

updated and many items added so check it out and pick up a few items. Next, the Regional Director e-mails used to be stored in the Board of Directors archives. That has been moved to the ClubHouse section of the website. If you don't like, or don't receive e-mail, you may look at the stored messages there. The board did NOT raise dues this year, but in an effort to keep the Association in good financial condition they have challenged every member to sign up one new or lapsed member. The fee for sanctioning has gone up again. In our present litigious society this fee is still a bargain. Clubs will also have to pay a higher fee and this year the club events MUST be listed on the AKA calendar to have them covered by the "club event sanctioning," but you have until about 30 days before the event to get it listed. An interesting idea presented at the Convention is to take out the date requirement for convention. This will require a by-law change and cannot be acted upon until next convention but it might allow us to hold convention at a time when children have not returned to classes. In one of the workshops a discussion was held to present and discuss changing the Fiscal Year. The idea is to end the fiscal year before Convention so the books may be closed and presented at the Annual Business meeting. In the past there has always been confusion about the convention being held in September or October, but the accounting for it was included in the following year's financial reports. There were discussions about the cash and accrual methods of accounting and the advantages to each. With a new treasurer in office we will have to see what happens with this idea. In 2011 the convention will be back on our side of the continent. I hope more information will be published electronically regarding that process, but at the time of convention only two locations had submitted proposals.

and their huge smiles made the trip so much more worthwhile. The following weekend saw two options for fliers. According to Jeff King, "WOW members attended the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard Stomp in Dickerson, MD, for the first time and competed at the OBSKC in Kill Devil Hills, NC." Joyce was at the Sugarloaf event while Jeff was at the beach. Friday night it rained, and Saturday it was breezy, so the organizers ran as many of the disciplines as possible. Congratulations to all the competitors, but particularly the Novices. There were several in the dual-line and the multi-line events. By the time you get this issue WOW will have had another indoor fly and will have plans firmed up for the spring practice season getting ready for the Smithsonian indoor event, and the following weekend outdoors on the last Saturday of March. WOW and RAF will have held a few more First Sunday flies and hopefully you were able to make it to one or both of their fields. Outdoor activities have become few and far between. Then come the winter events with ITDCTFAK (It's too darn cold to fly a kite) and others hosted by the two clubs. The Maryland Kite Society is getting ready for their annual kitemaking retreat on Presidents Day weekend in February. It moves to a new location in Ellicott City this year, so check www.mdkites.org for the details. The Board of Directors made a couple of changes that might interest you. There is an online store called Café Press that has a section of AKA merchandise. You will find a link for it on the AKA home page. The merchandise has been

Finally, Holiday greetings everyone. I hope you are able to share kiting with someone during the Holidays, especially if it is new for them. Blessings to you all.

The good weather is returning to the south bringing with it winds, bearable temperatures and many kite festivals. Amongst those coming up in the next few weeks after this is written and submitted are the Carolina Kite Festival, the Cape Fear Kite Festival, Thanksgiving on the OBX and Family Fun Day in West Orlando. I do hope to have reports on these events next issue, but not having



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the luxury to attend them all, I have to rely on you, the good members of Region Four, to help out and send in information.

Along those lines, many thanks go out to Karen Mault for sending along this report of a community service activity by the Carolina Kite Club. "The Carolina Kite Club put some color in the sky at the annual Mile of Hope weekend at the Atlantis Lodge in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. Mile of Hope is a weekend get-away for children who have cancer and their families, and is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Raleigh. It hosts patients from the Pediatric Oncology departments of East Carolina University, UNC, and Duke



Florida's Barbara Hall works on a miniature in Rochester.

University hospitals. The families spent Saturday on the beach enjoying the sun, sand, water and building sand castles. Four members of our club flew kites on Saturday to entertain the families: Jeff Colvin, Rick Tuttle, Ed Rexrode and Don Dixon. Kites Unlimited of Atlantic Beach donated delta kites for the children to fly. Extremely high winds made flying difficult, however, with a lot of work the volunteers managed to put up a set of Dynakites, an Octopus, Randy Tom's Tweety Bird sled, a double delta box, a Sutton, a fish and Rick's Foghorn Leghorn." It sounds like it was a wonderful activity that brought the joy of kites to those much less fortunate than us. A big thank you goes out to Carolina Kite Club.

On another front the Suburban Atlanta Kite Enthusiasts continued their association with JapanFest, once again hosting kitemaking during the festival. Despite the fact that the event moved inside a few years ago, close to 100 Modegi fighter kites were made at the Saturday workshop, a new record since moving inside. A large room coupled with a perimeter set-up of workshop tables gave a reasonable-sized area to allow the children to run around the free space with their newly created treasures, doing a little indoor flying. Who knows? Maybe a future indoor kite ballet champion is amongst those children whose faces were filled with giggles and grins. Harlan and Elly Groover, along with yours truly, held down the fort for this successful event.

Probably the largest event in our region this past quarter was also in North Carolina. I was not personally able to attend this event, but fellow Regional Director Will Smoot did and graciously wrote: "The 7th annual Mile High Kite Festival was held on top of Beech Mountain, NC, over the Labor Day weekend. Beech Mountain proclaims itself as the highest town east of the Mississippi. Friday afternoon kite builders brought projects to be judged. One pair of sport kites made by Melanie and Scott Koenig of the Tennessee Wind Militia was nicely done with Melanie's craftsmanship earning her a first place. In Flat and Bowed Melanie and Scott also entered rokkakus, along with a flare kite by Russell Dresch. Again, Melanie won first place with a special design using rectangles overlapped to produce different colors and forming a six-point star. Scott earned high marks for design because his rok was intended to be mass-produced as a workshop kite and was selected to make use of read-

ily available materials such as wooden dowels and Tyvek. Russell's flare kite had the highest craftsmanship score for the weekend. Sunday the weather was the best in the history of this event, with wind coming in steadily all day, and strong enough to keep the big Manta flying well. There were lots of single line kites flown by members of the WACKOS club, and sport kite demos by RAF, with both clubs doing some flying of the other style as well. Kite games with the spectators were lots of fun, and the parachute races saw little ones racing bigger kids, brothers challenging Dad, and our photographer, Charlie Dunton, being knocked over with kids traveling both directions. Sound and announcing was handled by Terry Murray of Kitebus Festivals. Terry also performed Saturday night at the Town Hall playing beach music for the Beech Street dance. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for having this festival. It finally looks like it is growing into more than a local festival with participants coming from as far south as Atlanta, and as far north as Washington, DC."

The annual One Sky One World festival occurred in October and I hope many of you took the opportunity to color the sky, even if you could only fly solo as was my case being on the road. Karen Mault sends along this related item: "A sky full of color was seen at Fort Macon, NC, on One Sky One World Day. Members of the Carolina Kite Club flew a variety of kites to participate in the occasion. Even a couple of our out-of-town members were on hand and added to the show. The skies were gray but the wind cooperated with forecast rain holding off until the afternoon. The show was made up of a variety of sport kites, deltas, dragons, rokkakus, a black shark, a pink elephant, a sky flurry, and a large genki. There were lots of tails and line laundry. The spectators enjoyed the excitement of the fast flights and intricate maneuvers. As the morning went on, the winds picked up. A couple of Hawaiian Team kites came out of their bags. They added a bit of nostalgia to the day. All in all, it was a great day. And the numerous people walking on the beach or fishing on the jetty let us know how much they enjoyed it."

Have fun, enjoy the wind and let me know what's happening in your area so I can give you your



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share of coverage. Gentle breezes.

Hello everyone. Another great season of kite flying is over and I am starting to fill in dates for next year. Summer was different for me this year. I missed some events that I was looking forward to attending due to my injury. If only I could have held out until winter to have surgery on my shoulder.

I have to mention some events that I attended this summer. North Coast Stunt Kite Games in Oregon, OH, was a blast. The event was hosted by the Black Swamp Air Force. I got to know some great people, I ate some really good food and spent some money at their auction. The next event was Kites Over Branch County sponsored by the Tri-State Windriders of Coldwater, MI. (Thanks, Windriders for sponsoring an award at the AKA Grand Nationals.) The two day competition turned out great with nice winds and a lot of friends. Thanks John and Suzette for all you do to make this festival a success.

Black Swamp Air Force flyers Clark Shute and Dick and Nancy Claycomb are joined by Angie Chau and Dave Bush at the North Coast Stunt Kite Games.





Michigan's Bruce Jarvie (in blue) scores a point against Kansas' Randy Fox on his way to becoming this year's AKA fighter champion.

Flag City Kitefest in Findlay, OH, was a one day explosion of kite demonstrations. Demos were held during the day with a great hot air balloon show at dusk. Thanks to Spencer Schubbe and Dean and Vickie Proudfoot for all of their hard work.

The Cleveland Kite Festival had perfect breezes and tons of spectators but unfortunately I wasn't one of them. I was scolded, chewed out and then forgiven for not attending this year. (But I still want one of your awesome tie dyed t-shirts.)

All I can say about the Nationals in

formation, (and invitations) on festivals and other events planned around the region.

Looking back over the list of festivals, it was impossible to attend them all. Perry Farm in Bourbonnais, IL, kicked off the 2010 competition season with performances by Chicago Fire, Fire and Ice, O2, and EOS along with individual competitors. This event allows many of our flyers to qualify to compete in the Grand National event that will be in Seaside next October. Special thanks go out to Kathe Deck for her work as conference scorekeeper. The unique thing about Perry Farm is that it is put on by a park district, not a kite club. The Bourbonnais Township Park District has organized and supported this event for eight years.

Who could forget the Labor Day gathering of kites at Neshotah Beach in Two Rivers, WI. Chow Chong and the Wisconsin Kiteers led by Mike Wagner welcomed flyers from across the Midwest with a perfect close to the summer. You really need to attend this fly next year. Great beaches, and you don't have to worry about tides coming in!

It was a treat to return to the Frank Mots Festival in Milwaukee. Scott Fischer and crew kept the crowds entertained with a non-stop show of one sport kite group after another. The skyline of Milwaukee formed a perfect backdrop for kites built by Ron Gibian, Martin Blais, and others. DeKalb, IL, suffered from lack of wind the next day. That didn't stop the fun or community support. As one visitor expressed, it was good to get the kids away from the video screen and looking at the big screen of the sky for a change. On the other side of the region, the Prairie Winds kite fly in Jackson, MN, filled the airport runway with show pieces from Don Murphy and Mike Gee. This winter, several ice flies will again be held. Color the Wind in Clear Lake,

Minnesota is it was cold but a great time anyway. I was one of the few people who did not visit the SPAM Museum. I did judge many events, attended some meetings and visited with everyone as much as I could.

I have found a new love of kitemaking and I am hoping to build a rokkaku over the winter. The idea seems simple but the directions look complicated so wish me luck.

Please keep in touch and let me know as you set dates for the 2010 kite season. May you all get kites and kitemaking supplies in your stockings.

IA, during February; Kites on the Bay in Door County, WI; Winter Carnival Kites on Lake Phalen in St. Paul; Frosty Fingers on Lake Como in St. Paul; Kites on the River in Two Rivers, WI, and more. More information will be sent out via e-mail, and dates can be found on the AKA calendar also.

Now I turn this message and the region over to Ed. As an avid kite flyer, event organizer, kite builder, and trophy winner, there is no one better to advocate for Region Six and to help the AKA prosper.

I have accepted the appointment as Region Six Director with a combina-



Illinois' Elizabeth Gordon on her way to another trophy in Rochester.



An annual tradition: Russ Faulk broke the most rods during the season, and has to sing "I'm A Little Teapot," backed by the Chicago Fire Glee Club.

tion of excitement and apprehension. I am excited because I have loved kiting since I was a boy. I enjoy building and flying kites as well as learning about new designs and techniques. I am always thrilled when seeing new kites, meeting new people and flying in new places. I have been a regular attendee of the Midwest Area Kitemaker's Retreat (MAKR) for the last 10 years. I am apprehensive because Region Six is a large area and is blessed with many active clubs and kiting events and while I would like to get to as many as possible and meet as many people as I can, I have a concern that it may be a bit overwhelming at first. That said, I ask that you help by keeping me informed as to when and where events are being held and what help I may be as your Regional Director. I look forward to meeting many new kites and making lots of new friends.

Hello Region Seven. I hope everyone survived the long and wet summer. Many events were cancelled due to rain or lack of wind. We attended several small events where we sat around and looked at each other. Everyone told us, "But the wind always blows here." That is the kiss of NO WIND. At least it never got over 10°.

We packed up for the long Labor Day weekend and headed to Callaway, NE, for the Callaway Kite Fly. This has become the largest event in the region. This year we had two days in a row with great wind and weather. At one time, we counted over 90 kites in the sky on the main field and turned around to discover several kites being flown on the other side of the parking lot.

Scott Skinner brought out his new collection of kites from Germany. He recruited several eager helpers to help put together a Grund weather kite. Here is a short story from Scott to his friends in Germany about the flight....

"Yes, the Grund kite belonging to Scott Skinner has flown for the first time in the United States. German kite-friends will be disappointed to learn that I forgot the stopwatch on the building process, but it took us about 45 minutes for complete build-up. With the Callaway, Nebraska, sky full of kites and the winds hovering around 8-10 mph, we did not try launching on Saturday and left the kite overnight on the field to acclimate to the Nebraska land- and sky-scape. Sunday morning, 11:00 AM, we started the launch process; ground stake in, 500' of 2400# line extended, and Grund Drachen walked to the line end. With ground crew of Randy and Bruce, Don and I manned the line and readied ourselves for launch. Winds were esti-



Kansas' David Ellis and his winning fighter in Rochester.

mated at about 15 mph, slightly gusty, but ideal as Callaway winds can be. The kite was lifted into the wind and it gently leaped into the air. It was with no skill whatsoever that we walked the line out as the kite flew steadily to the 500' limit of the line. The kite flew under overcast skies until 4:00 PM without incident."

Betty and I set up a kitchen outside the window of our motel room on Sunday morning. We prepared a great breakfast for about 25 hungry kites. Betty's special this year was her buttermilk biscuits and sausage gravy along with pancakes, eggs, bacon, and hash browns.



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We made the trip to Jackson, MN, the following weekend to the Prairie Winds Kite Fly. Chrystal Dunker puts on this event every year and hopes for great wind and weather. This year we got lucky on the weather, the rain missed us by two miles, but the wind forgot to show up. Mike Gee from Jamestown, ND, pulled his large foil around the runway with a quad runner. We got a few kites in the sky for about half an hour and mainly kept the caterpillar going for the kids. After the fly Chrystal and her crew put on a great potluck dinner in the hangar. Great helpers and great food.

The following report is from Robin McCracken from Colorado regarding their One Sky One World fly: "We got hit with some snow and 15° temps, just in time



Missouri's Donna Houchins and her quadline Mustang suffered an unfortunate blowout in strong winds during the kitemakers' competition in Rochester.



North Dakota's Deb Lenzen took top honors for Visual Appeal and Flight in Rochester.

before OSOW. Several hotel rooms near the field (the redeveloped park section of the old Stapleton Airport) were reserved for kites traveling in to help us, but most of them cancelled. On Sunday, the weather warmed up; there were intermittent winds, some of the vendors still showed up. George Peters and a couple of German artist/kites came, also three members of my Rocky Mountain Kite and Kiteboarding Association assisted us. We had a rok battle."

Our Omaha club, Midwest Winds Kitefliers, held the final fly for the season on October 18th, at the La Vista Soccer Complex. It was held late this year and that was lucky for us, because just one week prior, we had a 6" snowstorm. We had a great day with 15 mph winds with a few gusts. It was the first day the sun came out from behind the clouds and it didn't rain. We had several kites in the sky and were happily surprised by

for One Sky One World. Larry and Jane Ambrose had to cancel the music, parade and our Night Fly scheduled for the night

It's 7:00 AM as I await my departing flight out of the Rochester International Airport. Although the weather is calm and the sunrise is beautiful, the wind chill outside is 18°! Snow is expected within the next 24 hours! WHAT AM I DOIN' HERE? I'm being grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the 2009 AKA Convention! It was tremendous! Others from Region Eight who made it here were Marti and Richard Dermer,



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Cat (and Otoe!) Gabrel, Rob Cembalest, Jean and Ralph Gore, Dorothy and Walt Mitchell, Rick Hawkins, plus Linda and Charlie Thompson from Santa Teresa, NM! Charlie MAY regret introducing himself to me! I immediately put him to work crewing for a Dyna-Stack Pair! You may have heard a rumor that I got sick in Rochester and that I fell asleep after the Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday night and didn't re-emerge until the auction on Friday evening. Yeah, that happened. It was kinda creepy, but true! Of course, in the preceding four days, I'd hugged and/or kissed 150 people! I was worried that I might be labeled "Typhoid Mary"; maybe "Enola Gayle." Time will tell, but by the end of the week, there had been no reports of a widespread outbreak! [Ed. Note: Sorry Gayle, at least three other people got the flu immediately after the Convention, yours truly included.]

Speaking of the Dermers, they have a new eye-catching addition to their already spectacular information area. They've added a standing visual display with kiting details and historical information. It's incredible! What a wealth of information!

A few months ago, I met a new friend on Facebook. Although we had never met in person, we became Facebook friends and sent kite stories, videos, and greetings. To my amazement, I casually looked up on Friday evening, and there he was in person: my friend



North Dakota's Mike Shaw joins the aerial art gallery in Rochester.

members of the Kansas City Kite Club: Sean Beaver and his new wife Stephany, and Linda and Randy Larkey. We had the field filled with color the whole day.

Congratulations go out to all of the Region Seven members for their great showing at Convention.

Hope to see some of you at Color the Wind in Clear Lake, IA, in February.

Enjoy the sky.

Mahdi from the Buhamad Kite Team of Kuwait! WOW! Now, that's cool! I had no idea that they were coming. We're quite the "yin and yang" of kiting, but it was wonderful to connect.

You all know about those "AKA Convention Registration Raffle Tickets" that I'm always hawking, right? Well, someone from Region Eight won the drawing this year! That's right; our own fighter kiter Lori Moore of Round Rock, TX, won a free convention registration! Since Lori's travel schedule was already set in stone for 2009, she opted to utilize her free registration for the 2010 Convention in Oregon. Congratulations to Lori! By the way, I have raffle tickets available for the 2010 Convention in Seaside right now. How many can I put you down for?

After a long, dry, spell, the Central Conference has a new Sport Kite Commissioner. Ben Gray, of Leander, TX, has

New Mexico's Charlie Thompson is giving up his amateur status.



stepped up and accepted the position. I'm fully confident that Ben will bring dedication and needed attention to sport kiting in the Central Conference. Please thank Ben for enthusiastically tackling this position.

Events for the new 2010 season are still being firmed up, so I won't try to list them accurately at this stage. Be aware that the first weekend in February is historically the South Padre Island Fun Fly hosted by B&S Kites, and that the Zilker Park Kite Festival hosted by the Exchange Club of Austin is generally the first Sunday in March! Don't let either of these landmark events slip by. As soon as I get more details on these events and scheduling for the remainder of the season, I'll spread the word. In the meantime, keep looking up!



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As I sit here in the freezing rain writing this, in October, I am reminded that we have a long winter ahead of us, filled with ripstop-covered floors and hours of sewing. By the time you read this, my dog Panda will be walking around with scraps of teal ripstop stuck to her paws, as she keeps me company in my kitemaking room.

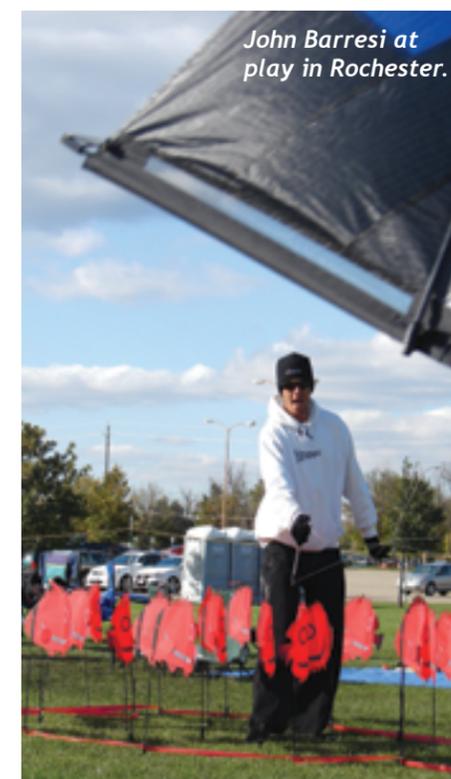
It has been a busy season here and it is not over yet. January 17-18 will find us traveling to the Windless Kite

Festival in Long Beach to compete and enjoy our friends there. Last year I attended and had a fantastic time, and weather permitting we will be there again this year. For more information go to <http://kite-festival.com/category/annual-events/>.

March 2010 brings us up to one of the top indoor festivals in the country. The Lincoln City Indoor Festival takes place March 26-28. We hope to see you there! For more information go to www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/indoor-kite-2007.php.

I am happy to report that there are many new fliers up and coming in the North West Sport Kite League. Six fliers ages 16 and under had us adults on our toes at Seaside in September. These boys are full of talent right now; can you imagine what they will be like in another two years? YIKES! These kids are why we strive to make kiting a supportive and friendly place to be. This is the future of AKA, and it is up to us to keep it a positive and fun place to be! Remember your first experience that drew you into this family of kites and share that with someone new!

I would like to thank those of you who have been so helpful these past two years I have had the honor to work



John Barresi at play in Rochester.



The future is now: Tristan Underwood, Conor Doran, Michael Dirk, Cailan Underwood, and Eli Patterson.

with AKA. It is an honor to serve as your Region Nine Director and I hope to hear from you about issues, events, or any kiting news you have. If you have an event coming up please e-mail me with that information and I can send out the information to our region as well as other regions if you would like. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing some of the fantastic new creations that will develop this winter!

[Former Regional Director Marla Miller writes...] I would like to take a moment to congratulate and introduce Theresa Norelius, your new Region Ten Director. I am sure that she will do a fantastic job and bring you all a fresh perspective on kiting. I want to also thank Marjorie Taylor for an excellent race for this position. If you did not know, these two powerful women tied in votes. The votes were counted many times and it came out the same each time. These two women worked it out between them with an AKA Election Committee member. That saved the Association the cost of having another election. Good heavens, you could have been stuck with me for a longer time. Thank you to both of them for stepping up and running for regional director. But most of all I want to thank you for the privilege of being your director for the past six years. Take it away Theresa!

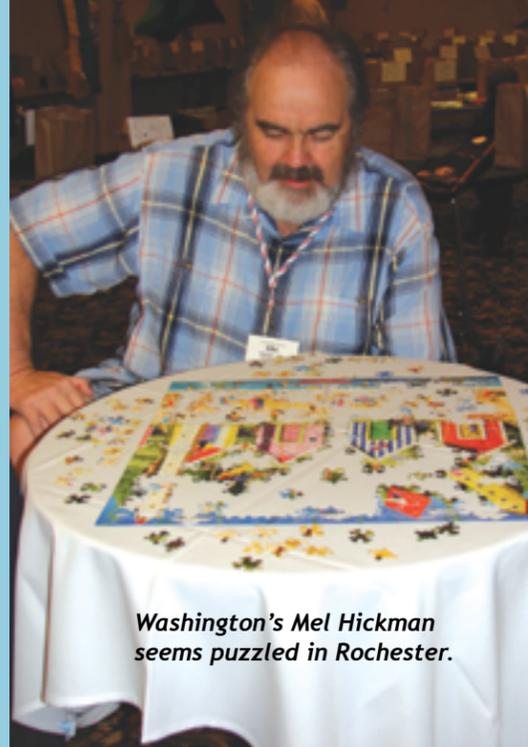
Thank you Marla. And thank you Region Ten members! Hello everyone! As I write this, fall leaves are beginning to cover the ground and winter is just around the corner. We had fantastic weather the past couple of months here in the Pacific Northwest for outdoor



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events, festivals, competitions and fun flies! August rounded out with Cutting Edge Summer Heat in Ocean Shores, flowing right into WSIKF in Long Beach. Some of us spent 10 days straight on the beach! September brought us a wonderful laid back festival at Pacific Beach, then on to Whidbey Island for single line displays, competition, demos, raffles, indoor flying and awards banquet.

One of my favorites is the casual laid back "fly as you may" One Sky One World event in Long Beach to wrap up the outdoor season. Scott Slater taught everyone how to make scrambled eggs on the beach for breakfast. Flying will move indoors for the next couple of months, and by the time you read this Camas Indoor and the PCKA Annual Indoor Banquet will have happened. Windless in Long Beach will be upon us in January. Please be sure and check the AKA website calendar for events happening in your area. Have fun flying!



Washington's Mel Hickman seems puzzled in Rochester.



AirZone gets ready to compete in Rochester.

that gives all year long, and would be a pleasant surprise for a co-worker, family member, friend or neighbor. Remember that club memberships help support kite festivals all around the country.

ily Day, then back to the Atlantic for Sunfest in Maryland. They all made me smile for sure and here's what I saw and want to share....

Dieppe found me and José Sainz without kites for a few days thanks to the airline, which for me was good because I got to fly other people's kites and flew in my first rok battle. Then Antelope Island in Utah found me saying hello to some buffalos and pronghorns, and even learning a bit about hot air ballooning and making new friends. Then it was off to Mots where the winds were a bit of a challenge, but the company was great and as always Chicago Fire just made me say wow. From there it was Family Day on Marina Green up in the Bay, which is just a great venue for kite flying in general. Then from there I was off to WSIKF where as always iQuad stole the show and wouldn't give it back. With the addition of a huge 50 plus Revolution mega fly, I'd have to say I was in kite nirvana. From there I packed up the kite bag and shook out the cobwebs and went to Sunfest as a guest of Jay Knerr from the Kite Loft. As always he and his staff made me feel right at home.

But in this report what I really would like to talk about are the people of kiting,

Since last I was here I found myself going from the shore of Dieppe, Canada, to the shore of Washington State for WSIKF, to Antelope Island in Utah's Great Salt Lake, to Mots in Milwaukee on Lake Michigan, to the bay in San Francisco for Family Day, then back to the Atlantic for Sunfest in Maryland. They all made me smile for sure and here's what I saw and want to share....

A look down on September's Seal Beach Japan America Kite Festival.



Jim Swanson

Which brings me to my next point: we as an association need to do that each and every day. We need to share this love, this passion we all have inside about kiting. We need to give back more than we take, we just need to go that extra mile. I know we all do what we can but what I'd like is for us all to go just a bit further. I think if we all do that we can grow this sport. I think if each and every one of us out there makes it a point to just go one step further to share with just one more non-kiter what we love we can make a difference. So I'm

Jim Swanson's Northstar catches some air at the Seal Beach Japan America Kite Festival.



At the recent Convention, the small but dedicated group of Region Eleven attendees all came away winners in some form. Aaron Champie, Mark Quirnbach, and I all took individual honors in sport kite competition. Aaron and I were joined by Darrin Skinner to make up AirZone, and took some team trophies. Darrin teamed up with David Gomberg for a



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End of Term: 2012

memorable trophy-winning performance in Open Team Train Ballet. Sharon Champie swept the 2nd place trophies in Experience fighter kite competition. Susan Skinner took several 2nd places in the Miniature Kite Challenge. And first-timer Bill Rodriguez did well in kitemaking.

Monthly fly in Santa Rosa: stop by Piner Elementary school the first Sunday of every month. Check <http://kitenerd.com/socomefly.html> for additional information.

The Northern California Kite Club is having its annual holiday party at Round Table Pizza in Dublin in early December. Check www.kitefart.com/nckc for details.

Coming up in February, BASKL is planning on sponsoring an indoor kite fly. Watch their web site at www.baskl.org for details as the new year progresses. I haven't heard much from our Nevada contingent. If you have anything kite-related going on in the great state of Nevada, please drop me a line.

As we drift into winter and the holiday season, consider giving an AKA membership as a gift. It would be a gift

From the fertile mind of Ron Gibian....



Francisco Navarro and Aaron Champie at the Golden Gate Challenge.



asking each of you to teach one more child to fly, share your photos with the guy at the store, hand a copy of *Kiting* magazine to the women across the street, or do what ever it takes to share the kiting life with someone who knows nothing about kiting. If we as a group go that extra mile we can make this happen, we can grow kiting.

As I close this report I once again remind each of you to share, share this sport with someone who knows nothing about kites or kiting. If we all do this we will grow this sport.



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 region13@aka.kite.org
 End of Term: 2012

Thank you to those who write and e-mail often. I'm reminded of "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," or words to that effect. So, what can members do for AKA? Be happy to share your kiting experiences with others, and invite more kite enthusiasts into this growing family. Why not include in your e-mail signature "Join AKA and help world kiting" too? Everybody needs to feel they belong somewhere; kite flying is way more fun with others alongside.

CANADA — Welcome back Adrian Conn. He thanks Angie Chau for linking him up with AKA again. Maybe the next person you speak to will be AKA's newest member? Carlos Simoes described the Monarch Butterfly Migration Kite Fly & Kites Retreat on Point Pelee (Ontario) which also happens to be the butterflies' flight path. Jacques Letourneau, Don

Brownridge, Tom Shanken, Ted Shaw and Carlos all added beautiful kites to the butterfly themed fly.

AUSTRALIA — Unable to attend Rochester for 2009 Convention, I sent a Minnesota banner to the auction, but hadn't anticipated the fierce bidding! Craig Christensen secured the purchase, along with awards for Best Banner and Best Kite Accessory the following day. Earlier in August, husband Kevin met the Yaripa group in Medellin, Colombia, for ten days of kite events before arriving at WSIKF. While in Colombia (and without explanation) I received a photo showing facial injuries, imagining he'd been kidnapped. The truth? He'd found the only South American horse which hated sunglasses, which had reared back to smash them. Imagine doing school visits that week with a black eye?! At the 2009 Coolum Kite Festival, Dave Hoggan convinced Kevin (same husband) to jump out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft to land on Coolum's kite-covered beach. Dave's wife had said "NO!" (but he did anyway), while I sat ready to call the ambulance. Not needed! The grins on both faces said "Wow! Can we do that again?" Next day, Dave, Kevin, Robert Brasington (Tasmania), Rob van Weers (New Zealand), Craig Hansen (New Zealand), Steve McCormack (New South Wales) and Grant Cowie (Queensland) wowed crowds with the best kite displays since 2000. Over 45,000 people attended the two-day event, which had perfect kite flying weather and no recorded mishaps. Kite flyers all, just having fun. The Coolum organising team is exceptionally efficient, right down to the scrummee beach breakfasts. My new banners were



A Dennis Trott no-sew design



Bernard Fournière

displayed, amongst a mass of beach and sky colour and Craig Hansen performed "surgery" on one hapless kite accessory. Coolum is now the largest kite event in Australia.

SWITZERLAND — Olivier Reymond survived kite flying in Dieppe, Canada, but then injured his knee when strolling in the Alps! With two walking sticks (and doctor's instructions to go slow), Olivier won't be flying for a while. Kite-making time?

FRANCE — Rochester received Bernard and Marie Fournière, attending for their first time. Marie discovered a love of miniature kite making, and might just compete at next convention. Bernard bid strongly for the "Star Farker" kite at the auction, modified it on the spot by adding a "Yes I am French" badge, and voilà! Balanced... until 2010.

BERMUDA — Dennis Trott doesn't sew kites yet, but works with plastic using his own designs which he then paints, abstract style. Faster than threading a needle?

ARGENTINA — Gustavo Di Si travelled to Colombia's capital, Bogota, meeting with iQuad, Glenn Davison, Jeff Burka and other international fliers, who flew kites in crazy winds over four days. A short stay, but definitely action-packed.

SPAIN — Javier Almagro competed at the Andalucía Championships organised by Rotores Kite Club in Punta Umbria in October. From small beginnings in 2004, this event is now the best in Spain's south. Spectators haven't seen

Javier Almagro's Andalusian champion



many large, inflatable kites before, but in 2009 came a surprise: VientoSur's new kite, from Australia.

KUWAIT — How long can a pristine white inflatable tiger kite stay clean? The Buhamad Kite Team will soon find out. www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXCCm3Pziyl.

Don't forget to check the AKA calendar for events you might like to attend. Then introduce yourself to the organisers and offer your services. (Think ... "What can you do for AKA...?")

Finally, if you're about to pop the question and can't think how... say it with a kite. Less talk, more fly....



She said yes!



VLIEGERFESTIVAL SCHEVENINGEN
 SCHEVENINGEN, HOLLAND
 SEPTEMBER 26 - 27, 2009

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 PETER BINDON
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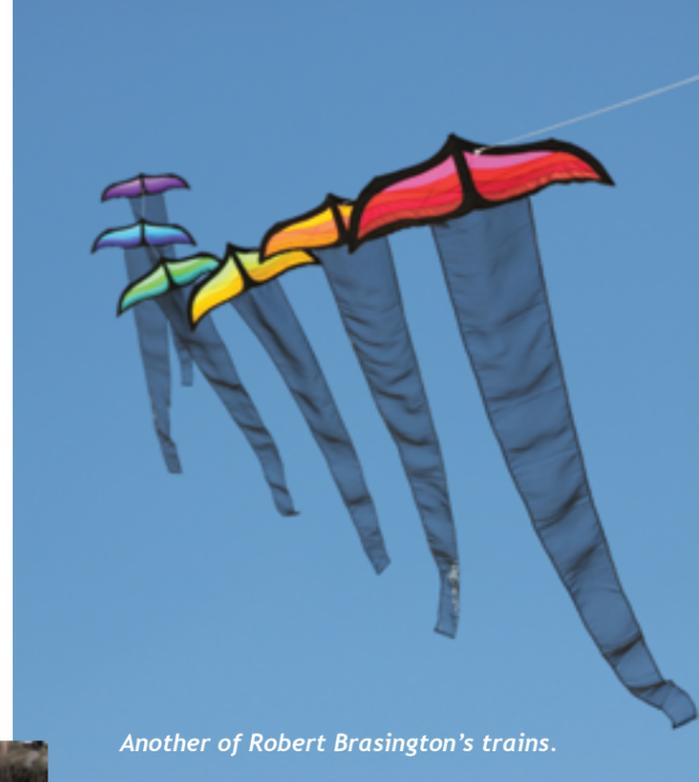


**COOL KITES
IN COOLUM
BY DAVID HOGGAN**

rays, cuttlefish, and many other vibrant creations that filled the skies with mesmerizing displays. At times, when the wind died down, some kites received a rare opportunity to feel the chilly Australian ocean.

It was a wonderful experience flying with people such as Kevin and Linda Sanders from South Australia, Peter Stauf of New South Wales, the Ocean Breeze Kite Team, and Robert Brasington from Tasmania.

Kevin and I will have a lasting memory of the festival because we jumped out of a perfectly good airplane to sky dive from 10,000' to the beach below. Linda, Kevin and I visited the Steve Irwin Australian zoo. What a wonderful treat to



Another of Robert Brasington's trains.

spend time with these great people.

There are many great memories I will bring home to the United States from being down under, but what makes this festival stand out were the people. Everyone was kind and willing to accept me into their group. Spectators were courteous and eager to learn about kites. It felt like everyone in the city was enthusiastic to make the IGA Coolum Kite Festival a success. I'd like to thank Craig Hansen, Noel Mooney, the Coolum Business and Tourism board members and sponsors for this unforgettable experience.

What do you call a festival that's well organized with over 150 volunteers, outstanding community support and sponsorship, accomplished kite-flying guests, fun activities for families, delicious food and the nicest people you'll ever meet? That would be the IGA Coolum Kite Festival, on Australia's eastern coast. The festival features a magical, fantastic display of kite flying splendor, kite surfing, parachute and aircraft fly-bys, live performances, artistic and vibrant creations and interactive workshops for all ages.

Kitefliers from around the world came to Coolum to participate in this successful event. Craig Hansen, from New Zealand and co-owner of Peter Lynn Kites, has attended this festival for the past four years. His countryman Robert Van Weers joined him this time.

Craig, Robert, myself and the Australian kite flyers all banded together to create a memorable weekend of colorful skies for thousands of spectators. We also helped children make their own kites which will help seed the love of flying kites to a younger generation. We were graced to have good winds enabling us to fly several octopuses, bears,



Linda Sanders' Uluru and Sydney Opera House banners.



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AN IRISH FLY IS SMILING BY GILL BLOOM



It all started with an e-mail on the 2nd of July — “We are hoping to have a Kite Fest on the 12/13 of September in Dublin’s Phoenix Park. The Kite Fest is to raise awareness of the issue of child labour. For the last few years, we’ve been running an activity with particularly under 12s. They are workshoped on the issue of child labour and then we set about making kites and flying them with messages about children’s rights on them.”

Sounded interesting; there had never been an international kite event in southern Ireland. The only problems were the dates (which clashed with the Bristol International Kite Festival), the short amount of time to organise anything, and the fact that we had Portsmouth International Kite Festival before Ireland. Still, that has never stopped us before.

A few phone calls later with a lovely Irish lady called Lizzie Noone and we were committed. There was money available from the European Union and the charity involved — Concern Worldwide — saw it as an ideal opportunity to

promote their aims of highlighting the plight of child labour around the world as they had already been using kitemaking to get this across to children and parents. And of course it would promote kiteflying!

The event was to be held in Europe’s largest urban park, a leftover legacy of an English King’s hunting estate. Looking at Google Earth the site looked perfect. So a site visit was in order. Just over a month before the event we got to meet Lizzy and see the site. She told us that in order to keep costs down they were coordinating the event with a soccer event run by SARI (Sport Against Racism Ireland) which encourages multiracial sports. SARI had been running the event in Phoenix Park for a number of years so were on good terms with the Park Rangers (who seemed very protective of their grass and deer — more on that later).

The site was the local Garda (police) sports grounds and some fairly roughish grass area between the mowed playing fields which had been set aside for the kiteflying (and promised to be cut for the event). The most prevalent wind direction (westerly) would mean that the kites would have a good area to spread out over (flying towards the cricket ground that was downwind of the site). There were also two manicured rugby fields set aside just for the sport flyers. So anchors, arenas, P.A., and hotel were discussed, and we left knowing everything was in place. Time to really start chasing the invited kitefliers.

Because of the clash with Bristol we went for kite fliers from the Midlands and above easier for them to use the ferries and bring more kites — and a selection of European kite fliers. Many seemed intrigued by the thought of an Irish kite festival and in the end we could have invited many more kite fliers, but budget restrictions applied.

Arthur Carron/Collins

The group from the Midlands, Wigsley Wings, was Bryn and Lesley Baggaley, the Gonzales brothers from Spain, Juergen and Gabby Ebbinghaus from Germany along with four members of Team No Limits (with their collection of cartoon character kites) and Michel Depuidjt and Patrick Koppen from Belgium. For the two and four line side we had the ever versatile Flying Squad led by the Hoath Family, plus Simon and Luca Dann, Helen Ribchester, Stewart Barton, Gary Tyrell and Steve Matchett. Two members of the French quad line team FLIC, Ben Howard and Caroline Byron, joined in the fun. A late but important addition was Jerry and Carolyn Swift with their parachuting teddy bear set up. Sue Wardle and David Carlyle were recruited as gofers and so we had the making of an event now called the Concern Kite Fest.

Friday the 11th of September was a busy day for us: daughter’s university graduation ceremony and then a race to the airport. A spectacular flaming sunset as we flew over the Irish Sea — a high pressure system had settled over Ireland — forecast was sunny and dry weather with little or no wind. Saturday we awoke to blue skies and no wind, but it did give us a fantastic misty view of a herd of deer as we drove across the park.

Once onsite things slowly came to life, but still only a glimpse of wind now and then and from the worst possible direction, over the trees! And the grass had been cut — but the cuttings had been left in clumps great for line catching and not fun to walk on, but all the kite fliers pitched in. It was a very frustrating day and hard work (Team No Limits even resorted to stuffing the grass into a small soft kite). Still, kites were flown, the children’s workshops almost ran out of kites and

Lizzie was happy. Due the aforementioned Park Rangers all the arenas, barrier tape and football nets had to be removed from the site as the deer

eat or run into everything. The day finished with an outdoor barbeque laid on by the soccer people, and this being Ireland some Guinness was drunk, and the warm evening enjoyed

Sunday. . . a beautiful September day and just a hint more wind this time, but still coming over the trees! But the team battled on and as the day progressed a good display was achieved, finally showing Lizzie what we could



do. The Flying Squad did both quad and two line displays, as well as Stephen Hoath and Simon Dann showing impressive commentary skills. Teddy bears were dropped and certificates awarded by the Swifts. A lifter kite was lost in the trees by Team No Limits and despite repeated attempts was still there when we left. Large and small kites filled the sky.

By afternoon the park was filled with families out enjoying the event, the kite workshops ran out of kits and had to improvise with A4 paper kites (produced by Sue and David who run kite workshops in the U.K.). We discovered there was an Irish kite flier who could fly three dual line kites at once, and that there were a few Irish kite fliers keen to meet us all.

For me the best sight was a large smiling Devil Kite flown by the Gonzales brothers flying happily on a Sunday in Ireland! And being hand-held on the Irish Cricket Club Pitch (good job they did not know what their cricket pitch was being used for—it was just not cricket!)

By the time evening arrived we had some very tired and sweating kite fliers, but there was a sense of camaraderie and pioneering spirit and many were keen to come again next year (the Guinness appeared to have something to do with it). Hopefully the event will take place next year at a different location (possibly a beach close to Dublin) and not clash with Bristol.

The event was well covered by the press, and the next day there was a large colour picture of my husband and my kites on the front page of the *Irish Times*. It was very strange to walk around Dublin on Monday and keep seeing your kites in print, but it was a nice reminder of a great weekend. k



AKA News

Seaside Needs A Logo

Announcing the annual logo contest, with a FREE registration to the winner! Next year the AKA will convene in Seaside, OR. Each of you is invited to submit your designs. The logo is used on convention patch, pin, shirts and other items. It must look good on formats from 1" to 10", be scalable and suitable for many uses. The logo is to look good both in full color and in black and white. A maximum of four colors may be used. The design MUST incorporate the red AKA logo, convention year, city and state. The designer may be required to submit alternate versions.

Please submit original designs in vector graphics to annual_meeting@aka.kite.org before February 1, 2010. All entries become the property of the AKA. The winner will be chosen by a vote of the Annual Meeting Committee. Winner will be notified by April 1.

Pollock Goes Quadline

The Kite Art Committee has teamed up with Revolution's Ben Dantonio to create a quadline that everyone will want. For 2010, the winner of the Lee Toy Circle Award, John Pollock, will create a unique kite skin that Ben will turn into a quadline kite. Want the one and only Rev ever made by the three-time Grand Champion? Save your money, and stay tuned for details.

Raffle Hijinx

While Marla Miller was reaching into your wallet and selling you raffle tickets, this anecdote came in from Linda Larkey of the Kansas City Kite Club. "At the Des Moines (2006) convention, I found a great big wad of tickets for the bag raffle dropped on the floor. Looked it up, and it was Corey Jensen's number. Me and the volunteer at the raffle table decided that Corey would want us to drop those tickets for him, so we divided the tickets and chose what we thought Corey would like best in the bag raffle. I never did remember to check to see what he won. Anything that had no tickets in its bag got a few from Corey. The volunteer dumped lots in the 'have a beer with Corey' bag. It was crazy fun."

Vote Early, Vote Often

In the race for the AKA presidency, Barbara Meyer outpolled Gary Engvall, 518-435. Amy Doran, John Gillespie, Ben Dantonio, and Linda Sanders were re-elected as directors of Regions Nine, Eleven, Twelve, and Thirteen, respectively. In Region Ten, the votes for Theresa Norelius and Marjorie Taylor were tied; Marjorie graciously conceded. [Ed. note: I move we amend the by-laws so that in the future, all ties are settled by rokkaku battle.] For detailed election breakdowns, visit the ClubHouse in the Members Only section on the AKA website.

Get Your Kicks On Route 66

Vince Lindstrom of the Joplin (MO) Convention & Visitors Bureau is planning Kites Over Route 66 for April 24, 2010. He'd like to encourage kites to be flown over every state from Illinois to California along Historic Route 66 at the same time. Joplin will kick the flying off at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 24th. If you'd like to join in wherever you are, contact Vince at vindstrom@aol.com.

Not Perfect Anymore

Call it a sign of the economic times. Beginning this issue, *Kiting* will change its binding from perfect (pages glued in) to saddle stitched (staples). It's a cosmetic change, but it presents a significant cost savings. Other changes by our printer, Doran & Ward of Burlington, Iowa, will also afford the AKA big savings. Meanwhile, look for digitized back issues of *Kiting* in the ClubHouse on the AKA website, available for free download as PDF files.

Submit To Kiting

How can you get published? Getting your article or photos published in *Kiting* really isn't difficult. Got an idea for an article? Contact the editor at kiting.ed@aka.kite.org and ask if it's worth fleshing out. Been to an event that you think should be covered? Again, ask the editor; event coverage is always welcome. Have just some brief thoughts on an issue? Write up a letter to the editor, or as we call it, K-mail.

Worried that you're not a good writer? That's what an editor's for! Cleaning up grammar, fixing spelling, and cutting back on verbosity are services provided free of charge to all submissions.

About photographs... the magazine can usually use them, if they meet a few basic standards. First, they've got to be reasonably high resolution. That rules out cell phone cameras right from the start. Also, check the settings on your digital camera. Many people shoot at a resolution called VGA, which is nifty for sharing snapshots online, but lousy for producing print quality photos. Move your resolution up a click or two to get something that's publishable.

Also, try to take a picture of something, not everything. Wide shots that show a bunch of tiny kites in the sky simply don't work. Pick a subject, and take its picture.

It's also best if you, the photographer, pick a dozen or so of your best shots. With so many contributors to the magazine, it's too time-consuming for the editor to sift through all 374 shots in your Flickr photostream. You know your best work, so go ahead and pick it out.

Any other questions? *Kiting's* editorial offices are open at all hours, so call or e-mail with your queries.



ONE SKY
ONE WORLD
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
OCTOBER 11, 2009
PHOTOS BY HALIT CEBICI




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EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Erv Crosby



On September 29 Erv Crosby left us after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Up until the last few months, Erv continued to be active in kiting, sometime only in spirit but always enthusiastic about his kite shop, his website and the kites he made.

At our first Kite Trade Association International trade show, Jackie and I were so very fortunate to meet Erv and Gail Crosby from the 4 Winds Kite Shop in Everett, WA. Although we were on opposite coasts, over the years we have kept in touch to discuss business conditions, new products, and whatever each new experience we were involved with. Erv and I worked together to support the AKA convention when it was in Ocean Shores. Every year we extended the time we spent at KTAI and AKA to take a vacation with Erv and Gail; from Florida to Nevada, we haven't missed a year. This year we will attend KTAI with Gail for a bittersweet reunion. I'm sure we will be reminiscing about all the good times we had together. We are comforted knowing Erv is in a better place doing what he loved to do... flying kites. He will be missed.

Greg Lamoureux

Col. HB Alexander

Colonel HB Alexander passed away in July. I met him in the 80's at Brittlebank Park in Charleston, near the Citadel

where he taught English. He spoke of spending time in wind tunnels and kite designs that he contributed to. In his letters he would include a kite design and to me this was an amazing gift.

Every kite I made from his plans flew and flew well. One he called the VW was made up of four cellular kites with wings, one behind the other. There were a total of eight wings and 20 cells. I joked that I had lost a sewing machine in it somewhere. The plan came from him and there was not one correction I had to make to his plan, and the resulting kite still flies today.

HB helped to organize the Charleston Spoleto Festival Kite Fly in Brittlebank Park for several years. It was a one-of-a-kind festival, a fusion of kiting and art and its aurora has never been equaled by any festival I have yet to attend. It was a chance for a group of kite enthusiasts to share their "air art" with each other and the community. I will never forget a woman in her seventies flying a kite from a wheelchair. She said it was the first time she had flown a kite. At the Spoleto Festival, kites were judged in the air, not on the ground. HB use to say, "It ain't what it looks like on the ground, it is only what it looks like in the air that counts."

In 2007, Charlie Henderson and I made a trip to Saluda, SC, to visit with HB. We had a good time talking about the past. I told him about winning an award at the Smithsonian Festival for *Beauty in the Sky*. He got a big smile when I said, "You know it doesn't matter what it looks like on the ground, it only matters what it looks like in the sky!"

Chuck Holmes

Marty Sasaki

Former Region One Director Marty Sasaki died in October after a brief illness. Marty was a founding member of



Kites Over New England, of which he had been a President several times over as well as serving on its Board of Directors for many years. Marty had also served as the AKA Region One Director from 1993 to 1995.

While many may know of Marty as a kite builder and the designer of kites such as the Katana, he was also a master woodworker, champion archer, musician, model plane builder, writer, photographer, fisherman, amateur magician, and science guru.

While he was always an advocate for the use of technology in passing along kite knowledge, he never discounted the value of the one-to-one connection of kites helping others on the field. He was a mentor and treasured friend to many both in New England and farther afield. Marty pursued the simple things in life and encouraged all those around him to have fun. He touched so many lives. And everything he did was magic.

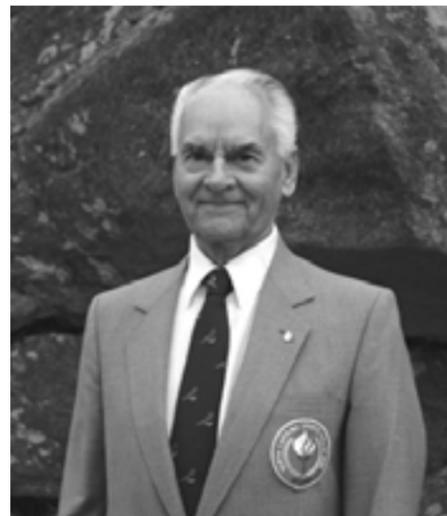
Greg Lamoureux

Francis Rogallo

Francis Rogallo, inventor of the flexible wing, passed away September 1 at age 98. The invention led to the development of the hang glider, paraglider, ultra lights, sport parachutes, delta kites, stunt kites, parafoil kites, sport parachutes, and kiteboarding kites.

Rogallo joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, now known as NASA, in 1936. He was responsible for planning and supervising theoretical and experimental aerodynamic research and airplane development. He managed the research for the giant low speed air tunnel at NASA, and in addition to the flexible wing he held patents on wing controls, slots, airfoils, target kites, and advanced configurations for flexible wing vehicles.

In 1948, Francis and Gertrude Rogallo invented the flexible wing at their home. Their dream was to build a wing that would allow inexpensive personal flight. The couple experimented at home using a homemade wind tunnel that was constructed from cardboard and a window fan. The first successful prototype was made from Gertrude's kitchen curtains. When the DuPont Company developed Mylar in 1952, Rogallo immediately saw how superior it would be for his kite, and the five-dollar "Flexikite" became one of the first products to use



the material. The Rogallos found themselves traveling to kiting events around the Northeast to fly and promote the toy.

Rogallo has been recognized worldwide for his contributions to sport aviation. He has been honored in Japan, Australia, Switzerland, Germany and France for his contribution to personal flight and is considered the father of hang gliding around the world. Millions of people around the world have enjoyed flight as a result of his invention of the flexible wing. Rogallo has also been recognized by the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institute "for outstanding achievement in aerospace technology."

Bryan Bozarth

Bryan Bozarth, a member and past president of South Jersey Kite Flyers passed away in late October. Brian and his wife Michelle were married on the beach at the Wildwood International Kite Festival in 2002.

Mike Dallmer Sr.

bill lockhart

Delightfully different, bill rejected capitalizing his name.

Though a husky football player, he became an artist. As an artist he recognized kites as art in the sky. With Betty Street he began the Junction Kitemakers Retreat in 1989 and brought kitemakers from all over the world to this West Texas "Camp for Adults." Each Memorial Day weekend we gathered under their tutelage for great instruction, fun, and fellowship. And what they started now continues as a wonderful reunion tradition. The red jumpsuit, red cap, and corncob pipe were his trademarks. The only time he dressed otherwise was on barbecue night when he was in

West Texas cowboy garb, ready to dance with the girls to the tunes of the fiddle band. And the girls still talk about it. Betty taught him to sew and his mother's quilt patterns were the basis for his patchwork kites. They reflected all of his artistic abilities and were shared at kite festivals all over the world. Never meeting a stranger, he was an ambassador for kiting and a friend to all.

Richard and Marian Robertson



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MINNESOTA MEMORIES



Linda Sanders' banner won Members' Choice: Best Accessory as well as Best Banner in the spectator-voted Ground Display Challenge.

What will you remember from a week in Rochester? Would it be the Kahler Grand Hotel, directly across the street from the Mayo Clinic, with wheelchairs lining the hallways (convenient for moving big kite bags) and a maze of underground tunnels connecting workshop rooms to coffee shops to art galleries to hospitals?

Will you remember a day of sport kite competition in the rain, a day of kitemakers' competition in a gale, a day of frosty-fingered rokkaku flying, or sunshine on perfect grass fields with ideal winds?

Maybe you'll remember where you were when Glen Haynes' kite exploded – loudly – in mid-air as he launched it into the competition sky. Several great kitemakers suffered blowouts and broken rods in high winds. Walt Mitchell immediately scratched his giant ring from the competition after it tossed one of his ground crew.

Sport kites will long be talking of David Gombert's debut in Open Team Train, and how his teammate, Darrin Skinner, suffered a pair of snapped lines moments into their ballet. Darrin recovered his kites, re-tied his lines, and finished the routine, earning David his first-ever sport kite trophy to sit beside his awards for fighters, rokkakus, and kitemaking.

If you love small kites, you'll never forget the awards banquet, with a mini-kite mega-fly. In a salute to Charlie Sotich led by Susan Skinner, 149 kites circled the banquet hall with miniature kites in one of the smallest big flies of all time.

Those with long memories will remember seeing an old familiar face; those who haven't been around as long will remember the triumphant return of Adrian Conn. The Canadian kitemaker brought out several well-crafted kites, and showed that you can show off new chops while still being old school.

Jeff Monteith will remember hours in his car. After learning that a workshop instructor was sick, he drove home to Iowa, picked up supplies, drove back to Rochester, and taught a Korean fighter kitemaking class. Also memorably, John Pollock taught painting technique, Mike Mosman explored the creative process, Phil Broder helped a dozen people sew banners, Deb Lenzen expressed thoughts on kite art, and Dave Butler made Celtic minis.

Minnesotans won't soon forget the convention, thanks to Craig Christensen. With an open wallet at the auction, the man known as Mister Kite made sure that Linda Sanders' Minnesota banner stayed in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

Nobody will forget the moment when David Gombert won his second Edeiken Award... and then declined it in favor of Bill Bigge and Steve Ferrel.

And the people of Rochester, who came out in droves, won't forget a week of painted skies and friendly fliers. From head-to-head competition to peaceful displays of artistic kites, each day brought something new to remember. If you spent the week with old friends or making new ones, if you flew everything in your bag or just spectated, you'll remember that sometimes great memories come in small packages.

32ND AKA CONVENTION



32ND AKA CONVENTION

KITEMAKERS' COMPETITION RESULTS

Grand Champion	John Pollock (Bowed)
Highest Score	
Visual Appeal	Deb Lenzen 8.07 (Flat)
Flight	Deb Lenzen 8.07 (Flat)
Craftsmanship	Adrian Conn 8.43 (Soft)
Structural Design	Mike Mosman 8.20 (Cellular)

Most Innovative	Mike Mosman
Mixed Media	David Ellis
Traditional Materials	Ed Gryz
Special Recognition	Jesse Lamp

Novice	
1 David Ellis	
2 Bill Rodriguez	

Cooperative	
1 Con Engels & David Davies	

TRAINS	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Dick Maciel	7.40	7.57	7.57	7.43	29.97
Dick Stolk					DQ

ARCH	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Bill Rodriguez	6.67	6.60	5.33	5.43	24.03

SKY DISPLAY	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Randy Fox	7.53	7.60	7.40	6.67	29.20
2 Barbara Meyer	7.00	6.13	7.83	7.83	28.80
Engels & Davies	5.93	7.10	6.10	5.97	25.10
Jackie Maciel					DQ

SPORT KITE	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Jackie Maciel	8.03	7.70	7.60	7.30	30.63
2 Phil Broder	7.20	7.47	7.50	7.60	29.77
3 Con Engels	6.33	7.17	7.13	6.97	27.60
Donna Houchins					DQ

FIGHTER	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 David Ellis	6.47	6.47	7.57	7.53	28.03

ROKKAKU	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Dick Maciel	7.80	7.80	7.77	7.43	30.80
2 Randy Fox	7.57	8.07	7.43	7.50	30.57
3 Barbara Meyer	7.20	6.30	7.93	7.70	29.13

FIGURE	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Jackie Maciel	7.90	7.90	7.80	8.00	31.60
2 Mike Shaw	7.70	7.80	7.83	7.43	30.76
3 Ed Gryz	7.43	7.17	7.03	7.27	28.90
4 Dick Stolk	6.27	5.37	6.20	6.43	24.27
David Ellis					DQ

DELTA	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Barbara Meyer	7.77	7.37	7.97	7.97	31.07
2 Dick Maciel	7.83	7.63	7.93	7.60	31.00
3 Peter Ross	8.00	7.67	7.43	7.40	30.50
4 David Ellis	7.80	7.63	7.67	7.37	30.47
5 Ed Gryz	7.03	6.60	7.57	7.43	28.63
6 Phil Broder	7.17	6.93	7.10	6.93	28.13
7 Dick Stolk	6.90	6.50	6.30	6.17	25.87
8 Mike Greisman	5.60	6.07	6.07	6.57	24.30
Adrian Conn					DQ

FLAT	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Deb Lenzen	8.07	8.10	8.08	7.30	31.54
2 Bob Lockhart	7.77	7.90	7.83	7.50	30.99
3 Jon Burkhardt	7.77	7.93	7.80	7.18	30.68
4 Dick Maciel	8.03	7.80	7.70	7.05	30.58
5 Barbara Meyer	7.77	7.90	7.63	7.10	30.39
6 Ed Gryz	7.93	7.63	7.35	6.90	29.82
7 David Ellis	7.40	7.50	7.38	6.93	29.20
8 Bernard Fourniere	6.67	6.67	6.53	6.43	26.28

SOFT/FLEXIBLE	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 Adrian Conn	7.83	6.73	8.43	7.97	30.97
2 Barbara Meyer	7.33	7.33	7.90	7.33	29.90
3 Bill Rodriguez	7.30	7.80	7.27	6.97	29.33
4 Mike Shaw	7.30	7.03	7.40	7.23	28.97
5 Jesse Lamp	7.20	6.07	7.43	6.77	27.47
6 Dick Maciel	6.30	5.67	7.72	7.23	26.92
Dick Stolk					DQ
Walt Mitchell					DQ

BOWED	VISUAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM
1 John Pollock	7.67	7.73	8.30	8.15	31.85
2 Dick Maciel	7.60	7.37	7.50	7.27	29.73
3 Mike Shaw	7.57	7.20	7.40	7.53	29.70
4 David Ellis	7.17	7.73	6.73	6.90	28.53
5 Peter Ross	7.43	7.10	6.90	6.67	28.10
6 Bill Rodriguez	7.20	7.57	6.20	6.67	27.63
7 Jesse Lamp	6.70	7.33	6.77	6.50	27.30
Adrian Conn					DQ
Glen Haynes					DQ

CELLULAR/DIMENSIONAL	FLIGHT	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM	
1 Mike Mosman	7.63	6.97	7.90	8.20	30.70
2 Dick Maciel	7.43	7.67	7.57	7.37	30.03
3 Deb Lenzen	7.33	7.40	7.67	7.23	29.63
4 Phil Broder	7.23	7.07	7.60	7.53	29.43
Peter Ross					DQ
Dick Stolk					DQ
Adrian Conn					DQ

THE NEWBIE PREVAILS

Jesse Lamp came from Iowa to his first convention in Minnesota, and entered his first kitemakers' competition. His kites got the attention of the judges. But his answers to their questions really opened their eyes.

Kiting: How did you get into kitemaking to start with?

Lamp: My dad introduced my brothers and I to kites when I was seven, and together we built a beautiful eddy with hand-wrapped spars and orange heat shrink film. It flew well, but a kite like that can only last so long in the hands of three boys! After that kite, our interest waned, and I only came back to it after the Smithsonian Kite Festival in 2008. I really wanted those bigger kites I was seeing. So I started looking online, and found the AKA, a plan database and all the awesome people. What more did I need?

Kiting: And online you also found a class to build a bulldog. You ordered the parts, and....?

Lamp: I ordered the parts and settled in to wait for them to arrive...all the while reading the ever growing bulldog thread at the Kitebuilder's Forum. Barry Ogletree was a fantastic partner in this build; he documented the process he went through to get out our kite skins.

The bulldogs shipped and when mine finally arrived, I opened the box. Out came no less than a 4" thick roll of fabric. I was totally unprepared. I rolled it out just to see how long it was. It covered the whole table and hung off one side all the way to the floor. Oh crap!

Then I put it away, so that I could go over the instructions to understand the skills I would need to hone to avoid screwing the kite up.

It looked like edge binding was going to feature prominently in this build so, I chose a kite to make as practice for edge binding and reinforcements. I chose Brooks Leffler's fled design for its long straight edge binding runs and its flare reinforcements.

I am so very glad that I practiced first because I ruined one set of wings before I got it right. On the bright side, now I have two triangular banner panels.

Nothing prepared me for edge binding the curves...they were a nightmare.

Kiting: The judges asked if you'd made any changes in the design from the workshop plans, and you replied....

Lamp: When the judges asked me if I made any changes to the plan, the answer was definitely no. I was very careful to stick to the plan.

I know now that foils are kind of tricky. You can be halfway done sewing your kite before you notice that the center rib is upside down, and have to seam rip the whole thing back apart. This possibility makes a guy nervous. That, coupled with grave warnings about weakened seams, made me careful.

There was one point in my build where my close attention to the plan hurt me. I had finally finished my build and had tied the last bridle line. The wind was especially fresh that day, so I decided to fly the bulldog. It was an instant flop. The bridle was off by a lot. I figured that I had sewn or cut wrong, so I adjusted the bridle. Now it would fly but only into the ground on the right side of the window. I had run out of time in the day to adjust anymore so I packed it up. I never had a chance to get it out again before Convention.

It flew passably well in the gusty winds we had for flight judging, but crashed a couple times. Then, while chatting with Darryl Waters after the judging, I found out that the plan I had been so careful to follow had a tiny misprint. The middle and upper bridle lines were switched in the plan! I had even gone so far as to corner Dave Gomborg at the FlyMarket to pick his brain about why foils like to lean over, and how to correct it.

Darryl and Dave helped me with what I needed to get that kite up in the sky for the rest of the convention. The experience with Dave and Darryl was not a single occurrence. Every single person I talked to at the convention was welcoming.

I had a chance to talk to my fellow competitors while awaiting judging. Those people helped me even though I was their opponent. There is something different about kiteflyers. The welcome I was given, and the special recognition award I received made my experience very special and I'll never forget it.

Kiting: So what's next? More online classes? MAKR? What should we look for from you in the future?

Lamp: I was fortunate enough to go to MAKR in 2009, where I took part in the 4' bol class and Cliff Quinn's Marconi project. If you haven't taken one of Cliff's classes yet, I strongly recommend that you do ASAP. It was the confidence I gained at MAKR that gave me the impetus to complete the bulldog build. I look forward to attending MAKR again this year, and taking part in a couple online builds.

My main focus this next year will be on completing something based on a basic shape, like a rok or delta. This time I will be prepared for competition, and hopefully won't make all the dumb newbie mistakes.

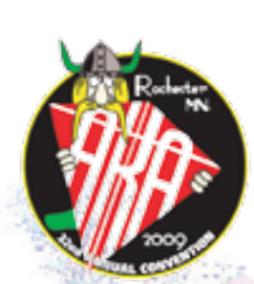
See you in Seaside in 2010!



Rick Agar



Rick Agar



32ND AKA CONVENTION

SPORT KITE COMPETITION RESULTS

Experienced Ind. Dual-line Ballet

1 Donna Houchins	63.733
2 Paul Koepke	62.733
3 Elizabeth Gordon	62.000
4 Steve Rothwell	54.667
5 Doug Hood	50.800
6 Will Smoot	42.733
7 Laura Stonestreet	31.533

Experienced Ind. Dual-line Precision

1 Donna Houchins	66.300
2 Elizabeth Gordon	65.533
3 Paul Koepke	59.400
4 Steve Rothwell	55.800
5 Doug Hood	54.933
6 Will Smoot	52.833
7 Laura Stonestreet	43.767

Experienced Ind. Multi-line Ballet

1 Sherri Pigeon	57.600
2 Aaron Champie	55.133

Experienced Ind. Multi-line Precision

1 Aaron Champie	61.933
2 Sherri Pigeon	50.533

Experienced Pairs Dual-line Ballet

1 Blues Brothers	63.133
(Schubbe/Rothwell)	
2 Wing Nuts	51.267
(Stonestreet/Smoot)	

Experienced Pairs Dual-line Precision

1 Blues Brothers	55.533
(Schubbe/Rothwell)	
2 Wing Nuts	43.567
(Stonestreet/Smoot)	

Experienced Team Dual-line Ballet

1 Team Wing Nuts	40.067
(Hood/Stonestreet/Smoot)	

Experienced Team Dual-line Precision

1 Team Wing Nuts	40.767
(Hood/Stonestreet/Smoot)	

Masters Ind. Dual-line Ballet

1 Zachary Gordon	81.733
2 Joshua Gordon	79.333
3 John Gillespie	69.867
4 Spencer Schubbe	62.267
5 Aaron Champie	61.733

Masters Ind. Dual-line Precision

1 Zachary Gordon	71.700
2 Aaron Champie	71.467
3 Russ Faulk	66.400
4 John Gillespie	57.833
5 Spencer Schubbe	52.400

Masters Ind. Multi-line Ballet

1 Zachary Gordon	84.133
2 Mark Quirnbach	74.333
3 Mike Mosman	64.800
4 Karl Berg	62.333

Masters Ind. Multi-line Precision

1 Zachary Gordon	77.033
2 Mark Quirnbach	66.900
3 Mike Mosman	58.067
4 Karl Berg	57.800

Masters Pairs Dual-line Ballet

1 EOS	78.333
(Gordon/Gordon)	
2 O2	76.533
(Newman/Delfar)	
3 Fire and Ice	0.000
(Brinnehl/Koepke)	

Masters Pairs Dual-line Precision

1 O2	59.867
(Newman/Delfar)	
2 Fire and Ice	50.833
(Brinnehl/Koepke)	

Masters Team Dual-line Ballet

1 AirZone Flight Team	70.800
(Champie/Skinner/Gillespie)	
2 Chicago Fire	66.733
(Brinnehl/Brinnehl/Wolff/ Faulk/Gordon/Gordon)	

Masters Team Dual-line Precision

1 Chicago Fire	73.333
(Brinnehl/Brinnehl/Wolff/ Faulk/Gordon/Gordon)	
2 AirZone Flight Team	63.533
(Champie/Skinner/Gillespie)	

Novice Individual Dual-line Ballet

1 Jackie Maciel	37.600
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Open Ind. Indoor Unlimited Ballet

1 Donna Houchins	70.183
2 Mark Quirnbach	62.700
3 Mike Mosman	57.283

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

1 Jackie Maciel	51.967
2 Charles Stonestreet	50.467
3 Mike Mosman	45.433

Open Multiline Pairs Ballet

1 Something Old Something New	72.733
(Wolff/Gordon)	

Open Multiline Pairs Precision

1 Something Old Something New	39.427
(Wolff/Gordon)	

Open Team Dual-line Train Ballet

1 O2	64.333
(Newman/Delfar)	
2 Heaven Help Us	45.267
(Engvall/Berg)	
3 Susies' Spouses	34.200
(Skinner/Gomberg)	

CHAT WITH A CHAMPION

Who was that teen heart-throb leaving Rochester with most of the sport kite trophies? We talked about his dominating performance with Zach Gordon...

Kiting: This year you swept all four Masters Individual Dual-line and Multiline events, you swept both Multiline Pairs events with Eric Wolff, you won Masters Pairs Ballet with your brother Josh, and scored another win in Masters Team Precision with the Chicago Fire. I just saw a picture of you from the Billings convention in 2001, back when you were a cute kid flying a Rev while Russ Faulk held you upside down. So, in the eight years since then, what happened to turn you into this sport kite monster? Performance enhancing drugs? **Zach:** Steroids! And a lot of practice! Kite flying is my passion and has been since I picked up my first kite. I spend a lot of time flying and practicing, so why not try to be the best? I've had this focus since I started competing, and winning all four individual events has been a long-term goal. Watching Josh, the other flyers on the Fire, as well as other competitors has taught me and pushed me to be a better flyer. Flying with Josh and then flying on the team really helped me improve. It all comes down to practicing. Josh and I spent about two years choreographing our pairs ballet, Eric and I spent a number of full days working on our routine.

Kiting: Your whole family is into sport kites, and you've got the extended Chicago Fire family too. Those of us with dysfunctional families want to know, what's it like having that much family involved? Are they supportive? Critical? Constantly offering annoying suggestions? **Zach:** For the most part, it's great that we are all involved in kiting. My family is really supportive and we help each other out with music choices, kite maneuvers, practice, etc. I like that I can get opinions and critiques of my song choices and my routines if I ask for it (and sometimes even when I don't!). There are times when I wish we didn't all travel together, but those times are rare. I think that being in the same sport and understanding what's involved has kept us really close as a family.

Kiting: Speaking of family, you're probably going through the same feelings as your older brother Josh did a few years ago, looking over your shoulder and seeing a younger sibling coming up behind you. How long will it be before your little sister Elizabeth catches up to you? **Zach:** Elizabeth and I frequently practice together and I like helping her out with her figures, ballet choreography, and tricks. I like watching her steady improvement! It's great to have Elizabeth coming up behind me; it pushes me to continue to work hard and not let her catch me!

Kiting: You're competing as an individual in both dual- and quad-line events, plus Pairs and Team. How much mental gear switching do you have to do between disciplines? **Zach:** I started flying when I was six and competing when I was eight. I've always flown both dual- and quad-line kites and never thought about it, I just did it. So it's still the same; there's no mental gear switching for me.



Kiting: A lot of sport kiting in recent years seems to be about trick flying. The Chicago Fire has always been more about solid choreography and less about tricks. Your thoughts? And do you find yourself flying different styles in team and individual disciplines?

Zach: I fly with a mix of tricks and precision. Throughout my years of flying, I have seen sport kiting leaning more towards tricks and less toward solid flying. For example, I have seen Novice flyers doing a cascade, but not being able to fly a straight line. I would like to see the sport get back to more of a balance between precise, solid flying with good window use, and tricks. There is a place for both. I feel that if you do a trick, you need to be able to execute it precisely and cleanly. If you are doing a trick in your kite ballet, it needs to be done to the music, but you still need to have solid, dynamic choreography in your kite ballet in order to have substance in your routine. I feel that tricks are the spice of your routine, but there needs to be that solid base which only comes from a well-put-together routine using every bit of the window and all of your ability.

Team flying is just that and it is different than flying individually. When I fly with the Chicago Fire, we don't really implement that many tricks, but we do fly intricate and complicated maneuvers. My flying style remains the same regardless of whether I am flying individual, pairs, or team, but I do need to be respectful and aware of who I am flying with. As an individual, I'm on my own!

One of these things is not like the other: Zach with his Chicago Fire teammates.



Dan Brinnehl



32ND AKA CONVENTION

FIGHTER & ROKKAKU COMPETITION RESULTS

Novice Fighter Kite Skills

- 1 Barbara Hall
- 2 Jeff Monteith
- 3 Will Smoot
- 4 Cat Gabrel
- 5 Ken Wilkowski

Experienced Fighter Kite Skills

- 1 Bruce Jarvie
- 2 Sharon Champie
- 3 Carol Jarvie

Individual Rokkaku Battle

- 1 Michael "Complex" Greisman
- 2 Dean Murray
- 3 Randy Fox
- 4 Ken Wilkowski
- 5 Cat Gabrel
- 6 Dale Bowden

Experienced Fighter Kite Line Touch

- 1 Bruce Jarvie
- 2 Sharon Champie
- 3 Nelson Borelli
- 4 John Chang
- 5 Pam Hodges
- 6 Randy Fox

Team Rokkaku Battle

- 1 Team Royal Fox
(Randy Fox, Jeff Monteith)
- 2 Team Midnight Squadron
(M. Greisman, Carol Jarvie, Cat Gabrel)
- 3 Team Not Dead Yet Presidents
(David Gomberg, Pete Dolphin)
- 4 Team MKS
(Jason Cross, Tom Cross)
- 5 Team Rainbow Warriors
(Rick Kinnaird, Rob Cembalest)

Novice Fighter Kite Line Touch

- 1 Carol Jarvie
- 2 Jeff Monteith
- 3 Barbara Hall
- 4 Corey Jensen
- 5 Ken Wilkowski
- 6 Jesse Lamp
- 6 John Hall



Edeiken Award
Steve Ferrel and Bill Bigge



Volunteer of the Year
Jon Burkhardt



Ingraham Award
Charm and Ron Lindner

Regional Director of the Year
Marla Miller

MINIATURE KITE CHALLENGE

Flight

- 1 Donna Houchins – *Baby Giraffe*
- 2 Dave Butler – *Lich King*
- 3 Susan Skinner – *Butterfly*

Originality

- 1 Donna Houchins – *St. Mark's Lion*
- 2 Dave Butler – *Celtic Bull*
- 3 Susan Skinner – *Small White Diamond*



Susan Skinner's *Butterfly*



Donna Houchins' *St. Mark's Lion*

Beauty

- 1 Dave Butler – *Celtic Bull*
- 2 Susan Skinner – *Butterfly*
- 3 Dave Butler – *Lich King*

Size

- 1 Dave Butler – *Little White Diamond*
- 2 Susan Skinner – *Small White Diamond*
- 3 Susan Skinner – *Clear Sled*



Very small trophies

Grand Champion
Dave Butler – *Celtic Bull*



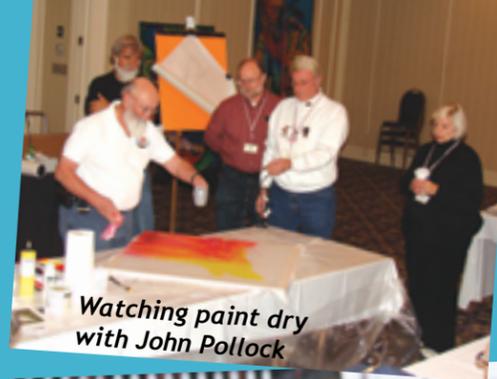
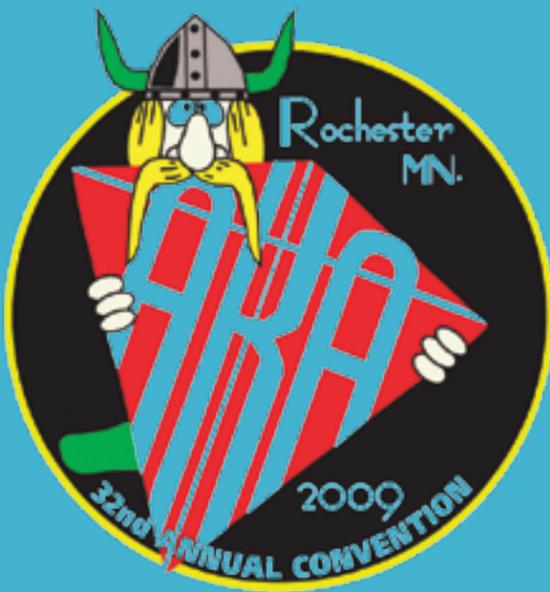
Affiliated Club of the Year
Hoosier Kite Society



Phil Broder



Barbara Meyers' double delta conyne



Watching paint dry with John Pollock



Mike Mosman's Googleplex



Adrian Conn



PHOTOS BY JOHN BARRESI, DAN BRINNEIL, PHIL BRODER, STEVE FERREL, JOHN GILLESPIE, BARBARA MEYER, MIKE MOSMAN, DEAN MURRAY, AND WILL SMOOT



Eric Wolff and Paul Koepke



Adrian Conn's delta



Paul Koepke and new friends



Mike Shaw's bowed kite



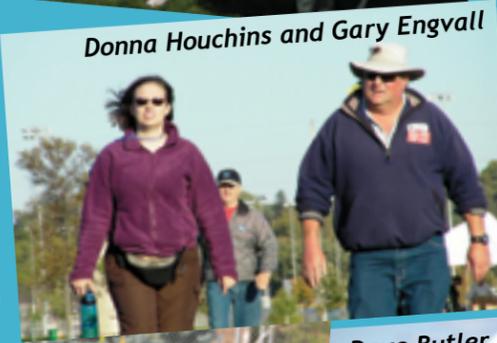
Martin Lester



Brian Slater



Ed Grys



Donna Houchins and Gary Engvall



Cat Gabriel's banners



Cat Gabriel



Glen Haynes in happier times, with his kite in one piece



Aaron Champie



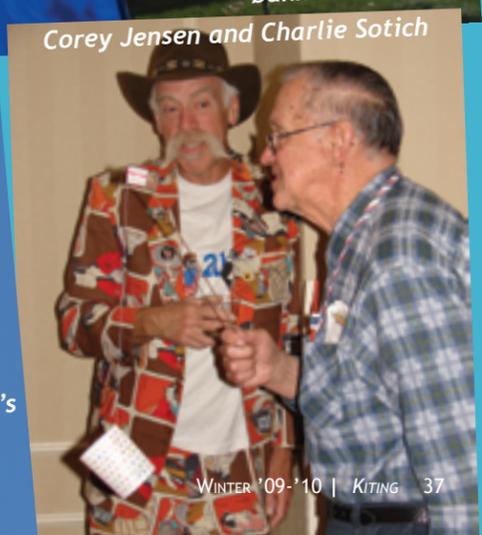
Dan Brinnehl



The Star Farker sells again



Deb Lenzen's flat kite



Corey Jensen and Charlie Sotich



Rising Sun on Dune 45
by Pierre Lesage



Barn Ruins by
David Wheeler



Ominous by Brooks Leffler



S/V Star Flyer
by Pierre Lesage



Untitled by James Gentles



City of Rocks
by Doug Davlin

KAPtions

Kiting

BEST OF 2009 BY DAVID WHEELER

At the 2009 Convention, the AKA once again held a competition for best Kite Aerial Photograph. This year's entrants proved, once again, that KAP is more than a unique way of taking photographs. With practice and skill, it can produce stunning images from a breathtaking vantage point. While the photos were on display outside the banquet hall, hotel guests and passersby frequently stopped, drawn in by these splendid images.

The AKA members in attendance also marveled at the array of photos. But admiration turned to frustration when they had to choose a single image to vote on. The votes were spread widely across the field of entries. Nearly every photo received at least one vote. But the winner was clear. Jim Powers' *Going My Way*, featuring an array of birds and their shadows passing over umbrellas and sunbathers, took the award (see it on the inside back cover). Honorable mentions also went to *Facing the Angel* and *Rising Sun on Dune 45* both by Pierre Lesage.

After the competition, both Jim and Pierre expressed their thanks. And both agreed that, while it is certainly very pleasant to receive honorable mentions, it is even more pleasant to fly and KAP. K



Kauhola Point Lighthouse
by Tom Benedict



Untitled by John Gillespie



Facing The Angel
by Pierre Lesage



BLUE SKIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD

BY ALYSSA OWENS

Brian Skinner lifted the brim of his floppy khaki hat and peered up at the cloudy sky. He sighed. “Typical Cape Town weather,” the native South African kiteflier said, managing a grin. “You never know what’s going to blow in from the sea.”

Or what’s going to stay at sea. It was the second day of the Cape Town International Kite Festival, and on the typically wind-whipped shorelines of South Africa, there was barely a light breeze.

Skinner’s granddaughter Skye, who was sitting on his knee, buried her head into his shirt. “Ah, well,” he said, patting her back. “We’re here for the kids anyway. We do it for them and the community.”

It was a common sentiment among the kites attending the weekend-long festival in early October. While it was too windy on Saturday and too calm on Sunday, the uncooperative weather couldn’t dampen spirits.

“You can’t let the weather get you down,” said Steve Pereira, also South African. “We’re thrilled to be here in each other’s company. It’s for a good cause, too.”

The Cape Town International Kite Festival is the biggest on the continent of Africa. For 15 years, international kitefliers have descended upon the bayside park in Muizenburg, a suburb of Cape Town, to showcase their skills and raise money for Cape Mental Health Society. This year professionals hailed from Germany, the United Kingdom and various regions of South Africa.

Cape Mental Health Society is a non-profit organization that provides a range of services to people with mental health problems and disabilities. They work primarily in impoverished communities, where a lack of resources makes mental health problems particularly debilitating. The group focuses on helping the mentally disabled and their families cope with the challenges of everyday life.

“This is something everyone our looks forward to each year, especially our service users.” Sandra Ellis, head fundraiser for Cape Mental Health Society, said of the festival.

A record-breaking 20,000 people attended the festival this year, raising thousands of dollars for Cape Mental Health Society.

The strong southeasterly wind that howled across the field Saturday snapped German Rolf Zimmerman’s line and sent his giant starfish for a dip in the nearby Zandvlei River. When a passing canoeist returned it to the shore, Rolf put it back in the air to dry. After that, some fliers deemed it too risky to fly their most elaborate creations in the brutal winds.

While hopes were high that Sunday would bring more savory flying conditions for the One Sky



Eric Miller

One World celebration, the wind was too weak.

Rolf’s vibrant dragon was in the sky for about five minutes, eliciting “oohs” and “aahs” from bystanders. The enthralled crowd let out a collective groan as it crashed to the ground when the wind died. But if the youngsters were disappointed about the lack of big kites, you couldn’t tell. They were too busy sprinting from one end of the field to the other, attempting in vain to get their colorful, plastic kites to stay in the air.

Others kept occupied with the live music, school kite-building competition,

hands-on science displays and dozens of vendors offering everything from homemade spices to African beadwork.

K



KITING = MENTAL HEALTH

BY ALYSSA JONES

Sandra Ellis, a fundraiser for Cape Mental Health Society, sees firsthand the daily struggles of people living with mental health problems and disabilities. The problem is compounded in South Africa’s poor communities, said Ellis, where a misunderstanding of mental disability breeds stigmas and resources for those with problems are either extremely limited or non-existent. But with the help of professional like Cape Mental Health Society the challenges can be overcome, Ellis said.

“We like to use kiting as a bit of a metaphor,” said Ellis. “Life is like flying a kite. You face a lot of opposing winds, a lot of challenges. But if you get help, you hang in there and you hold on to the line you can actually navigate those winds and soar even higher.”

The group’s 2008-2009 annual report, which details its progress over the past year, is titled “Rising Against Opposing Winds.” A photograph of a young mentally disabled girl flying a kite at last year’s Cape Town International Kite Festival graces the cover of the report. “Our theme this upcoming year is ‘World on a String,’” Ellis said. “We want people to know that they’re not alone. There’s a world of people that also face similar challenges and can help.”

But it’s more than metaphoric phrases that make the relationship between Cape Mental Health Society and the kiting event so special. Each year the professional kitefliers visit the Cape Mental Health facilities in Khayelitsha Township, an extremely poor shantytown outside of Cape Town, to put on a show for the youngsters.

“Another message of this festival is the importance of integration,” said Ellis. “Kiting and kite shows are accessible and enjoyable for everyone.” The crowd that fills Muizenburg Park each year for the kite show is a mix of people with and without mental disabilities, of all ages and backgrounds.

Beyond bringing people together and raising money for the organization, the kite festival offers Cape Mental Health Society a chance to highlight the issues surrounding mental health and lessen the stigma associated with disability. The kite festival is the organization’s largest public event of the year.

By chance, this year’s festival coincided with both a major global mental health initiative and an international kiting celebration. Saturday, October 10th, marked World Mental Health Day, and One Sky One World was celebrated across the planet the following day.

Ellis sees a lot of similarities between the objectives of Cape Mental Health and One Sky One World, a global kiteflying event that aims to promote peace, understanding and tolerance. She hopes that the Cape Town festival continues to be successful and that people with mental health problems and disabilities are inspired by the event.

“Sometimes you crash to the ground like a kite does. Sometimes you lose the string,” said Ellis. “But if you get diagnosed and ask for help, you get to fly.”

Eight-year-old Mujaid Davids, with his father Goosain, won the Junior Creative Kite Competition.



DAVE & DIANE BUTLER



Sometimes for Dave it's more about performance art, flying stunt and fighter kites, but because Diane is more artist than flyer their combined efforts have been about painting the sky with their friends. Dave was first to become enamored with making kites, but after a fabric kite painting class with Steve Brockett, Diane was seduced into painting kite skins. The painting technique provided Diane with the medium she had been looking for, giving her a way to express herself on fabrics such as silk, cotton, and uncoated rip-stop nylon.

The inspiration for their kites often comes from Asian art. The designs, colors, motifs and mythology appeal to both of them. Dave's favorite graphic design of all time is the Japanese woodblock print "The Great Wave off Kanagawa," by Katsushika Hokusai, from *The Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*. Dave started to commission a friend to make him a kite with this design. As Dave remembers, "Diane elbowed me in the ribs and told me to wait, that she could paint it for me." Diane rescaled the entire print by hand to fit a vertical rectangle, Edo kite shape. Dave's creative sparring keeps the cotton fabric from stretching when he flies the kite. This kite was their first win at an AKA competition, and obviously is the family favorite. Other kites with an Asian theme are the three thin "noodle" kites of the Samurai, Bejin, and Demon Hanya.

Dave has developed his own style of Celtic-inspired knot-work designs that he executes with paper and ink. These original designs define his unique miniature kites. Yes, they really fly! Dave recently won the Grand Championship for Miniature Kites at this year's AKA Convention.



Without Steve Brockett's class none of Dave and Diane's success in kite making would have happened. While Diane paints, Dave is the kitemaker. Dave learned to make foils from Don Mock, the principles of Japanese bridling from Barry "Bazz" Poulter and Mikio Toki, bamboo work from Mikio, Yoshizumi, Dan Kurahashi and J.R. Tolman, sewing from Bobby Stanfield and José Sainz, miniature kite construction from Charlie Sotich, and too many others to list. Dave and Diane feel that their kites are a combination of all they have learned from their friends, run through the filter of their own creativity.



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BY RICHARD DERMER

W.O.W. The city of Enid, Oklahoma likes to use this acronym, “where the Wheat grows, the Oil flows, and the Wind blows.” It pretty much describes this city of 50,000 in northern Oklahoma – home of Vance Air Force base and surrounded by incredibly flat, wind-swept wheat fields. A major center of wheat distribution for the entire nation, the multiple massive grain elevators dominate the skyline.

“WOW” is what the citizens of Enid said at 1:05 PM Thursday, September 10, 2009, when 2,598 duly registered and witnessed kite fliers flew 2,598 kites simultaneously for 30 seconds! While failing to break the “official” Guinness record of 3,710 set by Palestinian children under UN supervision in July, the organizing group of Kites Over Enid is now claiming a North American record under the Guinness standards. Those include one kite per person, 10’ minimum altitude, and kites lifted by wind power only.

Kites Over Enid was the inspiration of the Enid Habitat for Humanity fundraising committee, and it succeeded wonderfully. Habitat board member Stanley Hicks envisioned a record attempt as a great publicity opportunity for sponsors, and was right. With an organizing committee comprised of a number of prominent civic leaders, the event raised over \$50,000 for Habitat, including major sponsorships from three different wind energy corporations and 32 other sponsors.

It was a sight to behold. A vast, open 25 acre flying field of short mowed grass was covered by screaming children and excited adults flying so many kites that it was like being inside a giant popcorn popper, with kernels in the form of white sled kites flying everywhere. Most of the kites were Frustrationless Flier sled kites which were distributed free to 1,700 school children who had been bussed to the event. Other pre-made sleds were sold to the public at the event, and several hundred assorted commercial and home-made kites added color to the mix. In a separate field downwind of the sleds, 15-20 visiting AKA members put up a nice display of show kites, including numerous large foils of Barry Ogletree flown by Rick Hawkins, dual and quad line demos by Troy Gunn, and assorted large deltas, rokkakus, and others.



Mike Klemme

It was bizarre. Who ever heard of a two-hour kite festival, running from 11:30 to 1:30 over the lunch hour of a working weekday? Well, it worked. The event, conceived and executed by a group of non-kiters, was beautifully organized. The Enid Public Works Department had groomed and mowed the huge field repeatedly for weeks prior to the event, and then surveyed and chalk lined and numbered a grid of 120 60’x60’ squares to ensure even distribution of fliers and kites. Police directed traffic and a small army of volunteers coordinated the public parking lot. As buses of school children arrived, they were met by marshalls who escorted them to their proper locations on the grid, registered their names, and issued their kites. Public attendees were registered, sold a kite if they hadn’t brought their own, and directed to a flying location. A small 10’ hill on the edge of the field masked the sound of the generator and made a perfect elevation for the sound system and announcer. The fire department flew a giant flag from their truck’s extended ladder.

When Kites Over Enid first asked me for help in putting on this event, I told them they would need a huge flying field. They found it. I told them they would need a bunch of really dependable kites. Although they thought they only needed to break an old record of 967, they bought 2,500 Frustrationless Fliers from AKA member Cat Gabrel. Cat made several trips to Enid; the first was to film a video on kite construction that aired repeatedly on local TV. She then spent several weekends supervising groups of 20-40 volunteers in building the kites from kit form.

And the date was pinpoint timing too. It had been chosen because it was also the date for a national conference for the wind energy industry, held adjacent to the flying field. We had marked out a VIP flying field just for them. At fifteen minutes prior to the record attempt, 120 wind energy executives trooped outside, were given kites, and lofted theirs into the sky directly upwind of 2,500 others. They were grinning from ear to ear. I don’t think I have ever seen so many businessmen in suits flying kites together.

Organizers of this record attempt are justifiably proud of their effort. Having learned only weeks prior that the July fly on the Gaza Strip had almost quadrupled the previous record, they decided to go ahead anyway. So they are claiming at least a new American record, and are considering another much larger attempt in the future. They have the room, the wind, and now the experience. K



Mike Klemme

KITE PLAN

SYLVIEN VENET'S JESSY

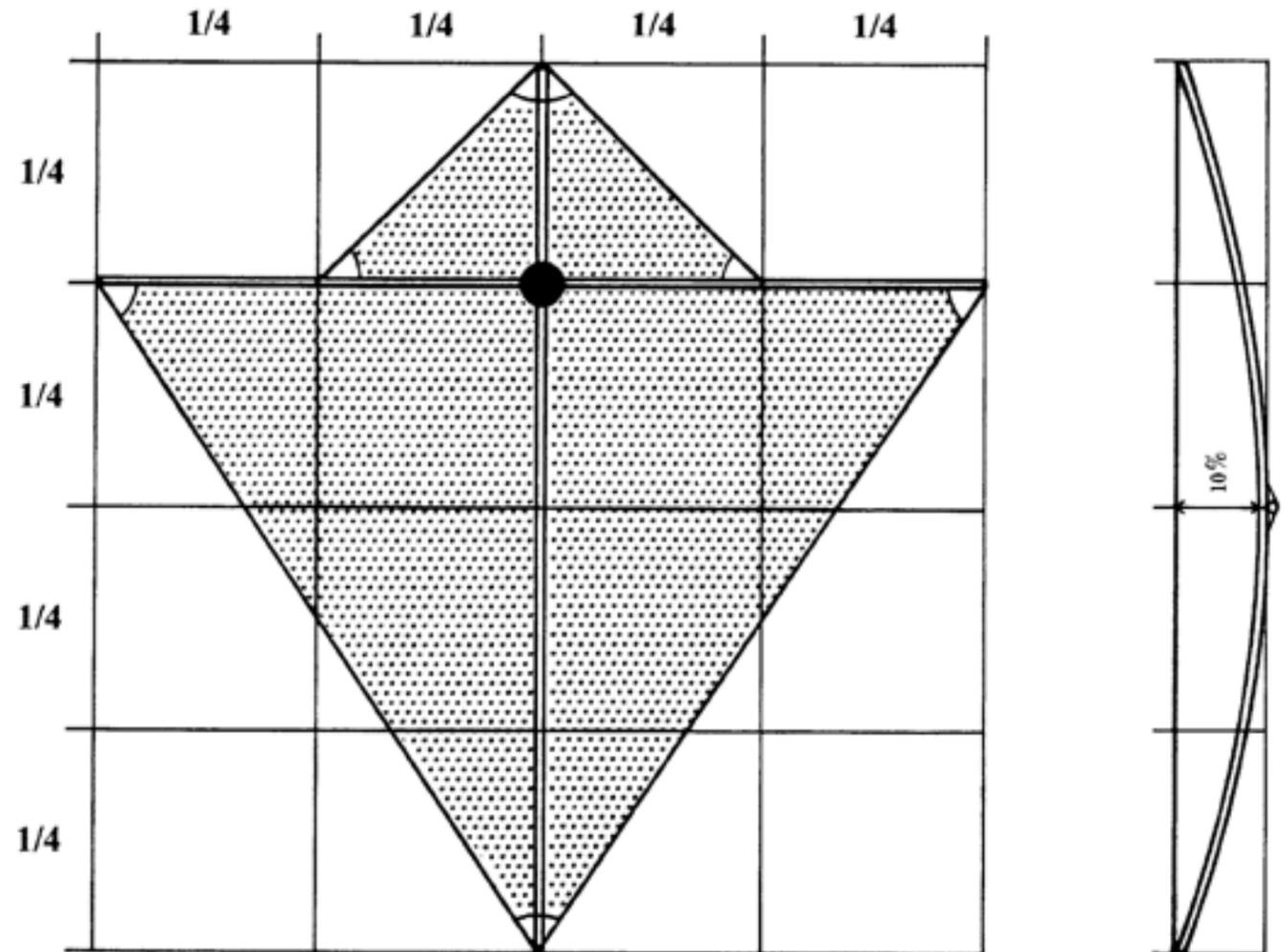
The Jessy is an easy kite to build, with its simple geometric shape based on the number four. It can be built to any dimension, with the same proportions. For instance, if you use 48” spars, each square in the plan is 12”.

This kite can be built with either pockets to hold the spars, or loops at each corner to hold spars fitted with arrow nocks. The Jessy flies well even without a tail. It uses a single tow point, attached at the spot where the two rods cross.

Be sure to bow the kite before flying.



Plan courtesy of Nouveau Cervoliste Belge



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WHERE THE KITES AND THE ANTELOPE PLAY

BY KEVIN BAYLESS



Ben Dantonio, Kevin Bayless, Ron Gibian, and Tad Wakeman



As most of us who have been involved with kiting know, a kite festival is always anticipated with thoughts of perfect winds, perfect crowds and a great time had by all. We also know that kiting is very much like fishing: they call it fishing, not catching. Regardless of how an event ends, they all pretty much contain the same aspects that make for the good times we have all had. The kite festival is a time for old friends to gather and share their passion for kites, meet new friends and see new kites. The 4th Annual Antelope Island Balloon and Kite Stampede incorporated kites into the event for the first time this year and brought all these elements together.

The island is the largest in the Great Salt Lake and a state park, more than 20,000 acres of natural grasslands with a wandering herd of over 500 buffalo and many of the island's namesakes, pronghorn antelope. The Stampede is sponsored by many in the community including the Utah State Parks, the Davis County Chamber of Commerce, the Davis Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and many of the local businesses. Starting at 5 PM on Friday night and 7 AM on Saturday and Sunday, the event runs until 10 PM each night. Attendance this year was record setting with well over 22,000 people, with temperatures in the mid 90's, the sun shining and the winds were, well, let's

just call them random. Randomly mild, randomly blowing, randomly not there and randomly directional but very flyable for the most part.

Attending from California was Ron Gibian with his collection of masterfully-created works of art. Many of us know Ron and he is really a true ambassador of kiting. Ben Dantonio from Revolution Kites came out and worked nonstop, keeping his kites in the air for what seems like the entire day. Rod and Marti Milburn, the "Old Goat" crew were there, and their enthusiasm for kites is amazing. David and Joani Goss made the island their RV home for almost a week and posted photos of the event in their travel blog, including the shots of the buffalo in their camp site. Kent Kingston from Las Vegas came up for the event. Barry and Karen Ogletree brought their show all the way from Texas, along with John and Laura Shamrock, Rick Hawkins, and Susan Orgeron from Louisiana. Local fliers included Scott Hampton and his painted works of art, members of the Wakeless Kite Club of Utah, Tad Wakeman, Kevin Bayless, Jeff Tomlinson, and Rachel Wintz. AJ from the Breakin' Wind Kite store in Cedar City held kids kitemaking workshops that were a great success.

When I moved back to Salt Lake City and reignited my passion for kites, I set a goal with a group of other kite people in the area to get a festival for kiting in this area and work to grow it. This event just sort of dropped into my lap and I ran with it; now I am a member of the planning committee, and it has been scheduled again for Labor Day weekend 2010. The kites added an aspect to the event that none of the committee members could imagine and the support for this event will only grow. k



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VOICES FROM THE VAULT

Pat Daly

by Patti Gibbons

photos courtesy of the World Kite Museum



right in with the gang. Flying, chatting, and sharing cookies on kite road trips in Charlie Sotich's van, she and new Sky Liner friends like Elmer Wharton, Al Hargus, LeRoy and Anita Hoover, Charlie Sotich and his sister Pat, along with Joe Stanton "got real silly" and enjoyed each other's company and kites. As the group wandered further and further away to fly, Pat thought it would be fun to capture these escapades in a new column in the club newsletter. Pat dreamed up Dirty Gertie, a wart-nosed feather boa-wearing cartoon mascot, and her column *Dirty Gertie Gossip* chronicled the dirty tricks of the roving band of Sky Liners. Crammed full with good old fashioned name-dropping, Pat realized quickly that people like seeing their names in print and she found fun in scooping her friends' kiting adventures.

Dirty Gertie wasn't the only character that colored Pat's kiting days. Madame Boogabooga, the mystical wind goddess, was at the ready when Pat and company needed wind. This nonsense made lots of sense to Pat and was just part of the whimsical kiting landscape that she admired. "You get into all these subculture things that were going on with these wacko kitefliers." Pat recalls the "Kings of Bears, Bubbles, and the Lunatic Fringe...the Teddy Bear Group...and Olin Turner's Peanut Butter Kite Fly and Cookie Contest" among some the sweet memories during the days of Reaganomics.

With Pat's artistic aptitude, her kitemaking focused on arty features more so than fine craftsmanship. Recalling back to a standout beauty, Pat made a handsome Mayan kite that promptly crashed during its test flight. Rather than trash it with yesterday's newspaper, AKA auction crawlers snagged it for the auction block. Pat estimated its worth at the princely sum of \$5, but interested bidders drove the price up to \$70



Some life stories feature chapters that build steadily to a logical climax and others string eclectic clusters of experiences together into a rich mosaic. The ever-curious, sometimes silly, Renaissance woman Pat Daly's life is woven like a tapestry colored by her many life adventures and trimmed by a legion of friendly well-wishers. Over the years she's sported several professional hats, dabbled in quirky hobbies, and somewhere along the line allowed kiting to tie her interests together and introduce her to sky-friendly people all around the globe.

The Chicago skyline has been the backdrop for Chicago Sky Liner Pat Daly's world for nearly her whole life and home base for her long career in interior design. Primarily focused on office interiors and some residential design, Pat's creative juices mixed and matched color palettes and fabric swatches for over thirty years. During this career, Pat rolled up her sleeves and taught interior design courses at her local college. Like many creative types, Pat enjoys variety over consistency and throughout the years diversified her resumé and bankbook with stints as a real estate broker, bartender, and telemarketing agent before leaving design in 1991 to become the editor for the Kite Trade Association International. Reflecting back, "It seems that every seven years I get an itch to do something else."

Pat wandered into kiting by following her interests. In 1984 her friend Nancy told her about Elmer Wharton and his wonderful dragon kites. Curious, Pat sought out Elmer and his kites at the second annual Sky Circus festival. From there, of course, the rest is history. Bit by the kiting bug, Pat's art background helped propel her kitemaking and her handiwork soon became her handshake into kiting circles.

In the early to mid-80s the Chicago Sky Liners were building up their club and exquisitely extroverted Pat fit

and when the gavel rested a Californian gallery owner snatched it up for display. Twenty some years ago, Pat found it odd that someone would shell out \$70 for a broken kite, but was tickled that her design work commandeered that price and keen appreciation.

Although Pat enjoyed flying, competitions weren't her cup of tea. In the early days of organized kiting Pat wondered if competitive flying was a thinly veiled popularity contest. In a nutshell, "better known fliers got better points." Over time judging criteria standardized, but Pat's competitive interests were eclipsed by her broader interest in just having fun and meeting people. "Somewhere along the line here, I quit flying actually and got to be more of a public relations ground person." She appointed herself to the welcoming committee and many grateful newcomers shook her hand and let out the first of many strings. Pat remembers that the fields were peppered with, "a lot of new people that had no one to talk to." For veteran fliers, "When you're out on the flying field you don't want to take the time or be interrupted or chitchat, and many new people were turned off by that. So we got to the point where we would take turns with ground duty to make sure that new people felt welcome. You'd introduce them to the other people." This spirit of hospitality is genuine and comes easy to Pat. Being a people person she can't but help meeting new faces and learning just a little bit about them. k

K-MAIL

APPRECIATE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Whenever we hire someone to perform a particular job, we hope they are at least more skilled than we are. Over the years, I have come to realize that people will pay more for a skilled craftsman's work. If that craftsman turns their work over to someone else, I feel like I'm not getting what I've paid for. I look for a particular kitemaker based on knowing their work. When the product arrives, I discover that someone, somewhere in another country, made my kite and I feel cheated. It may look exactly as it should, when in fact, I know it isn't! That person is only doing what they were paid to do. Maybe they care and maybe they don't. Since I don't know them, I can't say. I'd much rather pay more for a great crafted kite, than pay less for an inferior product. Although I'm not a musician, I would rather have a Steinway than any other piano. When it comes to kites, I'd rather own a Ray Bordelon kite than any other. I know his level of craftsmanship is of the highest standards. I also would prefer whatever American product I purchase to actually be made in America. In the kiting industry here in America, we have perhaps the most talented kite makers. Joel Scholz, Charlie Sotich, Deb Lenzen, Jon Burkhardt, Jim Martin, Tanna Haynes and many more. Yet, too many of the great ones send their work to cheap labor countries. They do it because they want to sell more products at a lower cost to the buying public. To some, that's just fine. They don't really care who made the kite, they just want it cheap. But for me, as a hobby kitemaker, I'd rather

give a kite to someone who appreciates my craftsmanship, than sell them something I didn't make. As a youth, I often gave my art away because I knew that person would treasure my work. The first time I won a kite competition, my award came from the ooohs and aaaahs of the crowd, rather than the first place prize. I would happily accept a kiss and a hug for a handcrafted present. So, to all of you who are gifted craftsmen, please, give the buyer your own original product. Be proud to sign your work and see the difference your quality product makes. The smart buyer will be glad to pay your price to get the quality they expect and deserve. They want to get what they pay for. They will be proud to show your craftsmanship to their friends.

Marshall Harris

Prairieville, Louisiana

HOOSIER GRATITUDE

On behalf of the membership of the Hoosier Kitefliers Society, I would like to thank Gary Engvall and the AKA for recognizing our group as the "AKA Kite Club of the Year." From past members like Ansel Toney and Lois DeBolt to present members like 97-years-young Merritt Beck, we certainly appreciate the fact that we have joined a very elite group of people.

The Hoosier Kitefliers Society will be 25 years old in 2011 and we have been fortunate to keep a core group of members who still believe in the values

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

of kiting. We've done workshops from Portage to Madison — that's from the lake up north to the river down south — and a lot of points in between. We've built kites for the Indiana Deaf Camp, the Indianapolis Children's Museum and the Indiana State Parks Department; we've built kites for the Windmill Museum of America in Kendallville and the public library in Lexington, Indiana. Hopefully, we can do that and more in the coming year.

We have over one hundred members in seven different states and every member has in some way shaped the club we are today. Again, we thank you for this award.

Clark Shute
President

Hoosier Kitefliers Society

The Maryland Kite Society
2010 Winter Kitemakers' Retreat
February 12-15, 2010

WHO:

Special Guest: Janneke Groen of the Netherlands
(plus many others!)

WHERE:

The Turf Valley Resort in scenic Ellicott City, Maryland

HOW MUCH:

Retreat registration is \$120 per person. Rooms are \$89 nightly plus tax.

MORE ??

MKS web site, www.mdkites.org or email MKS at takokichi@comcast.net





Kiting

people+places+things

AERIAL ART GALLERY

With its artistic bent, it was only a matter of time before Seattle combined performance art with kiteflying. In mid-September, artist Seth Abramson took over Kite Hill in Gasworks Park for his biggest performance yet: *Kites Over Washington*, flying 121 kites at once. The show was sponsored by 121 members of the Credit Unions of Washington.

The kites were built in the final three weeks before the performance, in Abramson's converted garage/studio in West Virginia. Each 7' wide delta was printed with a Credit Unions of Washington logo, and tacked to the next kite in the train using pre-cut lines. All in all, the effort used about three miles of line.

With 15 volunteers assisting, Abramson managed to get 87 kites aloft at once. Float planes on nearby Lake Union swooped in for a closer look. The artist himself sees kites as a form of improvised dance and as his interface for a deeper relationship with nature. "The wind and air has its own language and range of expression." K



The 2009 Members' Choice for Best Kite Aerial Photograph: *Going My Way?* by Jim Powers



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2009 GRAND CHAMPION
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