

Summer 2010
Volume 32 Issue 2



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



**World Sport Kite Championship • Italy • Thailand
Fort Worden • Smithsonian • Kite Apps • NABX**

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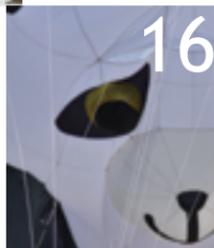
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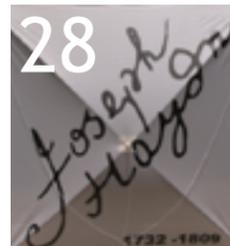


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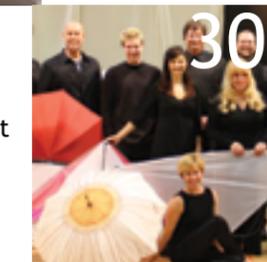


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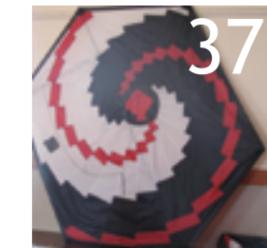
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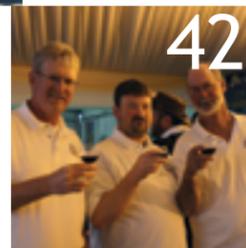
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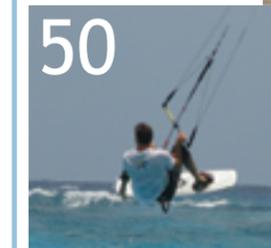
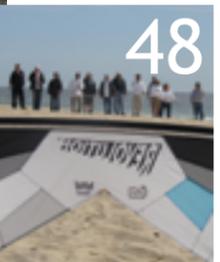


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Coming in the AUTUMN issue...

- > Richmond's Southern Comforts
- > Long Live The Sport Kite Teams
- > Bound For Brookings

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





44TH SMITHSONIAN
KITE FESTIVAL
MARCH 27, 2010
WASHINGTON, DC



photos by Daniel Sone,
Andrew Albosta, and
W. Thunder Williams



NATIONAL AIR &
SPACE MUSEUM
INDOOR FLY

MARCH 20, 2010
WASHINGTON, DC



far left: Ian Willoughby
center: Paul LaMasters
below: Scott Weider



photos by Daniel Sone



above: Harold Ames
far left: Lisa Willoughby
center: Paul LaMasters

BEACH PARTY BINGO

BY KEVIN BAYLESS
PHOTOS BY JOHN CHILESE
AND KEVIN BAYLESS

Let's get some of the basic stuff out of the way, all the common phrases we hear about kite events.

The weather was PERFECT!!! It was sunny, upper 60s and that altogether great beach wind.

The location was FANTASTIC!!! Hey it was the beach, in southern California, on what was one of the best weekends of the year, lots and lots of people out enjoying it.

The people were AWESOME!!! Each and every one of them.

Event host Dave Shenkman said "This is a party, brother!!! You just all share and get along, nobody has a 'spot.' You all fly on the same field."

Dave, owner of the Kite Connection (recently re-opened in a new building on the pier) certainly put on an event. Officially listed as taking place on March 13-14, the Party really starts a few days before and runs into Monday and beyond for a number of folks. It's an event that is all about the joy of kite flying. No schedules, no agenda other than to get together and fly. Based on the forum entries many start planning to attend next year's party right after the event is over.

There were over 80 kitefliers present, some of the biggest names in kiting, plus Revolution, Skyburner, Wakeless Kites, Prism, New Tech, SkyDog, and the

owners of numerous kite shops, all there for a good time, to fly their kites and fly other people's kites.

With fliers using 75' lines to fit everyone onto the field, the event

became more of a sharing experience for the participants. The south side of the pier was set up for kite flying lessons from the pros and was busy for the entire weekend. From early in the morning, right up to sunset, kites were in the sky, many of us not wanting to waste a single moment of this experience. After sunset there was dinner



at the cantina on Friday night, the pizza party/auction on Saturday night, and the gathering for dinner at the end of the pier on Sunday night. After the auction there was a short talk by the attendees about the direction of kiting and this event.

One major highlight and a favorite part for many was the mass fly for the benefit of Ben Lummas. Simple diamond kites that were donated to the event were sold to the general public to be flown on the main field.

We've all been to many kinds of kite events, competitions, fun flies or festivals, some large and well organized, others small and informal. This event (where the "festival" word was not allowed) sets the standard for how they all should be. All the right conditions came together for a truly great event, the right people came together for nothing more than to fly kites, have fun and share each other's company. Isn't that what kiting is all about? This sport/hobby that we all claim as our passion is way more than any one of us. It is worldwide, it is centuries old and more than anything it is a fun, wholesome family, relaxing opportunity to share. Kite Party 8 reflected exactly those values.



For more of John Chilese's Kite Party 8 photos, visit <http://picasaweb.google.com/chilesej>



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A MINI-HISTORY OF MEGAFLIES

BY DAVID HATHAWAY



While there is no written history with respect to the start of the megafly, we can likely trace its roots back to the “Mass Ascension,” which is basically a “get as many kites up in the air as possible” event, often as specific groups of kites. With the advent of controllable kites and the later development of kite teams, eventually the teams would join together for organized flies. Zooming in on Revs specifically, the line of flyers has gradually gotten longer and longer. Not that many years back, at least in North America, it was rare enough to spot four quad flyers flying together, let alone a large group,



but with the rise of quad team flying over the last few years, we have gradually seen larger groups assembling. One of the original large megaflies happened in Japan at the 2007 Tokyo Bay Flight Party, amazing all with 48 Revs in the air at once. But there’s a problem that develops as the collection of flyers grows, namely communication and the mechanics involved when the line of flyers stretches past the length of the lines.

Although he developed the concept sometime in the early 90’s, towards the end of 2007, Felix Mottram of the Decorators started to distribute an idea on how to cope with this (any suggestion that the idea came to him after a bad bit of takeaway curry have been firmly denied by Felix). What he envisioned was a completely new way to organize large megaflies of quad flyers, which was dubbed “The Grid.”

Essentially, envision the established method of flying on a single line as a two-dimensional approach to laying out the group. With the Grid, this becomes a full 3D approach to organizing people, columns of flyers set up behind each other in varying lengths, and then the columns are organized side by side. Initially trialed at a winter gathering of flyers in the UK, it was deemed a successful approach to managing large groups and solved one of the biggest hurdles of the previous line approach, that being communication between the leader and the rest of the participants. Over 2008, the format was used in a

few places, starting with Japan and culminating in the summer of 2008 with two of the largest megaflies ever assembled at both Portsmouth (47 kites) and Bristol (54). It has since become the de-facto standard for managing large numbers, and last summer at WSIKF brought 54 flyers, the largest amount of Rev flyers together that’s ever been managed on American soil. Not too bad when I think back to WSIKF in 2004 when you’d be hard pressed to get four flyers together for a coordinated effort.

But, as is always the way, we are looking to top this for the coming WSIKF festival. The goal is to reach 100 flyers. Ambitious? Perhaps, but it’s entirely



doable with more than 70 flyers from around the world already committed to being present for the attempt. With flyers coming from all over North America, Europe and Asia, we are confident that we will attain this goal.

So, where can you get up-to-the-minute information regarding the attempt? Look no further than the Revolution Kites online forum, where a list of the attendees is being tabulated and

excellent information with regards to the skills needed and the mechanics of how this will come together are constantly being updated by the people involved. You’ll also find a wide variety of supporting diagrams and video at <http://tinyurl.com/wsikf-mega>.

If you have been to WSIKF in the past few years, you have watched the area where the Revs tend to assemble expand bit by bit. After last year we’ve decided it’s time to shuffle a little further down the beach towards the end where the fighter kites usually play. This will give us far more room than we encountered last year, but still leaving the bulk of the festival within a short walk up the boardwalk. We feel that this will work much better for all parties and should give us a lot of freedom to run multiple groups of grids in order for those unfamiliar with the process to get a better understanding on how the dynamic comes together and how the calls will work. At various points over Thursday, Friday and Saturday, attempts will be made to launch all 100 (or more!) flyers all at once into the largest Grids ever assembled. k



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REGIONAL REPORTS

Region 1 ~ New England CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY



Greg Lamoureux
Hull, MA
781/925-3277
region1@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2010

based out of Portland. Toney Heeschon is the club's point of contact. Their web address is noreasterkites.com.

We have a new kite store in Salisbury, MA, named We Do Wind. The owner is David Cecchi. He and his wife used to have a kite store in Connecticut. The telephone number is 978/255-1451. Give them a call and welcome them back to the kiting community.

As we have seen over the past several years our Sport Kite Championships competitors have been dwindling. Much of this has to do with the cost of sponsoring the events and the cost to competitors to travel to these events. The best place to see the competition schedule is on the Eastern League website www.easternleague.net. Tell Marc the AKA sent you.

One of our regional members, John Picariello, has done research on the history of kites. The website provides some interesting information. Visit www.buzzle.com/articles/kite-duration-records-from-stunt-kites-to-giant-japanese-kites.html.

Our regional members have been actively involved in helping AKA fundraising efforts. The AKA has three major additional fund raising efforts for 2010: the eBay auction, the Great Kite Raffle and the auction to be held during the 2010 convention. In support of these efforts I am asking all Region One members to look into their kite bags, the back of cars, in basements, attics and in closets. If you have a kite you do not use, contact Gary Quinton at gquinton@verizon.com to post your donation to the AKA eBay auction. If you have a great kite for the AKA Great Kite Raffle, send an email to auctionchair@aka.kite.org.

Thanks to John Picariello, Gary Quinton, John Ruggiero, Don Tuff, Thom Shanken, Jon Hosford, Hank Manseau, Dena Dyke and David Cecchi.

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

National Kite Month has come and gone and Region Two put on some nice events.

- Charles Stewart presented an "East Meets West" Eddy kite workshop at the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA). The kites were decorated with Chinese symbols meaning anything from Prosperity to Beauty.
- Alicia Herbst again hosted a fun fly

Region 2 ~ Northeast NJ-PA-(lower) NY



Todd Little
Camp Hill, PA
717/975-2852
region2@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2010

at The Markets at Shrewsbury in Glen Rock, PA. Dennis Smith brought his audio equipment from the Alpha Quadrant, and the *York Dispatch* wrote up a nice article promoting the festival and National Kite Month.

• Rich Koons and the Lebanon County Historical Society held the Union Canal Tunnel Park kite fly on April 17. This park includes the oldest preserved transportation tunnel in the USA. The wind was howling but we had kites in the air anyway. Rich reports that he had nothing broken or ripped! The canal boat was ready for passengers and the hotdogs tasted especially good that day.

- Lisa Willoughby performed "The Canvas" with Aerial Experience in Lincoln City, Oregon.
- Lisa also did "Read for a Kite" workshop at her local school library for all of NKM. This program also included kite-making and flying during gym classes and an indoor assembly. She says that this program may be difficult next year since the New Jersey Governor has cut funding

Rich Comras



Lee Sedgwick and friend.

to public and school libraries.

- Phil Broder talked to a group of retired military officers about the military uses of kites.
- I even found time myself to put up a display in a local library and to do a kite making class there.

After a long cold, snowy winter Pocono Kite Symphony is back into action. Their 20th Annual Kite Day in the Park was on May 1st. In workshops this year they have built three bols for racing, and some new 5' feather flags. After a long lull in increasing their membership numbers, they are slowly growing once again.

April started off with some members of Fly Pittsburgh heading to the Cincinnati area to join Pigs Aloft with the Airwaves Kite Festival (Otto M. Budig Family Kite Fest). Over 10,000 spectators were estimated in attendance for this two day event. Next, the club members traveled to Ohio for the Youngstown Kite Festival. They're now looking forward to their largest event, Discover Presque Isle Day in Erie.

The Keystone Kiteers are gearing up for another great summer kitemaking retreat! This year's project will be a transition serpent kite led by world renowned kitemaker Kevin Shannon. This is a 50' kite with a great visual impact. The event will be held in the Camp Hill Borough Hall in Camp Hill, PA, August 6-8. Feel free to contact me for additional information on hotels, directions, etc.

Look for something old and something new at Liberty State Park this summer. Plans are in the works for a Fourth of July festival featuring red, white and blue. They will have fireworks at the park along with entertainment and vendors. It will bring plenty of people from all over to watch and enjoy the park most of the day. Then it kicks up another notch with more people a couple hours before the fireworks.

And there are changes in the works for the NJSKC. The reigns for this event

have been passed to Kurtis Jones. Kurtis writes that to run and organize an event takes time, resources, and funds. This is a lot of work for 10 to 20 competitors with many classes only having one or two competitors. Therefore, the idea is to skip NJSKC every other year, and in place of it create a combination kite show and party. It would be set up to have a publicly invited kite show from 1 PM to 3 PM (advertised as such) Saturday and Sunday. The rest of the time before and after would be for kite fliers to just hang and play around. The intention here is to expose more people to the kite flying of all kinds, build up more competitors over time, provide "edutainment" (kite education through entertainment), and to increase and enhance the value NJSKC. Please contact Kurtis if you're interested in helping out. This year's event is August 28-29.

Region 3 ~ Mid-Atlantic DC-DE-MD-VA-WV



Will Smoot
Waynesboro VA
540/471-4949
region3@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2010

There are lots of activities to report this issue. The clubs in Region Three held a variety of activities beginning New Years Day with the WOW Foolish Hat Fly and the RAF "Its Too Darn Cold To Fly A Kite, Kite Fly." Several hardy souls made it out for both events, but the names are forgotten to protect the frostbitten. RAF held their annual Chili and Chinese Gift exchange at the home of Steven and Corbin Ensign with the help of Shirley and Terry Husz. The Stonestreets were conspicuous by their absence, but it was due to the arrival of their grandson Davis.

According to Jeff King, "WOW wasn't as active outdoors this winter, due mostly to the largely unfavorable weather. But WOW did have a kitemaking and repair workshop on January 23rd, where the club made Stan Kellar's Gentle Giant Buka. The club finally managed to hold the annual WOW holiday party and fundraising auction on February 27th, after two weather delays due to massive snowfalls. WOW was very happy to see spring roll around and sashayed into the season with indoor flies and the

National Air and Space Museum Family Day, followed with the season kick-off Smithsonian Kite Festival. The club is currently working out the logistics to hold a workshop to make club mini-banners in the near future."

Maryland Kite Society held their Presidents Day/Valentines weekend kite building retreat at a new location in Ellicott City, MD, according to Mike Mosman. "The program this year had three great kites. From Holland, Janneke Groen joined us to show off her Sode Dako (kimono style) kites done in a patchwork technique. Drake Smith presented his special version of a keeled Yakko kite. And I was honored to teach my latest invention, a star shaped single-celled kite called GoogleFlex. Snowmageddon came to town just before our retreat, and it brought with it memories of being snowed in at a retreat some years back. The airports were closed on the day Janneke was due to arrive and we began to worry. Connections were made just in time and the program went off with nary a hitch." Mike also reported great attendance, including six AKA Presidents.

March saw the first festival at RAF's home, Dorey Park. There were several hundred sled kites given away in the first two hours. Every weekend in April had at least one event, and many had two or more in parts of the region. Good Friday saw Region Three members at the Great Delaware Kite Festival at Cape Henlopen, DE, with Mike Mosman taking the top prize for homemade kites. Saturday there was an event in Win(d)chester, VA. Michael Rose reports that the Richmond Air Force and Wings Over Washington

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Mike Mosman accepts his 1st place medal at the Great Delaware Kite Fest from ex-Lieutenant Governor Gene Bookhammer.



were at the 9th Annual Frederick County Parks & Recreation Kite Festival on April 3 in Stephens City, Virginia, along with 600 spectators. Solomon's Island, MD, saw a great family event organized with the help of Richard Mervine.

The next weekend saw two festivals. The Bel Air, MD Festival has one big field. "The fliers from WOW put on demonstrations until the field starts to get crowded then they put away their kites and help everyone else fly," said Al Ault and Evelyn Rossbach. Peter Agelasto with the help of some RAF members and Burke May and Jeff May put on the second annual Rockfish Valley kite festival near Wintergreen, VA. There were kites in the air almost all of the time, but when the wind quit, a juggling show took

center stage and gave the fliers time for a bit of lunch. April 17th saw one of the largest festivals in the region, in Salem, VA. The same area is putting in a bid for Convention 2011.

The next to last weekend of NKM found almost everyone at Ocean City, MD, for the Maryland International Kite Exposition (MIKE) and Mid Atlantic Sport Kite Competition (MASKC). With near perfect wind conditions everyone had a great time. Photos show lots of big kites, small kites, Revolution Mega Team, and over 20 competitors. The final weekend, May 1st and 2nd saw the 6th Annual Atlantic Coast Kite Festival. The event draws terrific crowds of locals, and fliers come in from all over the eastern US. This event was hosted by the Cities

of Portsmouth and Virginia Beach and Jackites.

The Old Dominion Sport Kite Competition will occur very close to the time the summer issue is published. I hope you can come. They have sport kites, kite building, fighters and rok battles. The hospitality is true Southern style and everyone in the RAF pitches in to make competitors and family feel welcome. Saturday night there is a picnic style dinner at the home of Janis Worth and Terry Murray, and the competition is organized by Marc Conklin who has learned how to streamline an event with the able guidance of Chief Judge Maggie Engvall, and sound by Kitebus Festivals.

Challenge the wind.

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



Ed Gryns
Shawano, WI
715/526-9399
region6@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2010

National Kite Month spurred many events around the region including what is being called the Tour de Kites, a series of kite flies sponsored by the Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois and Gift of Wings. The April 17th event in Wheaton, IL, was called Go Fly a Kite and was well attended with good weather and an estimated 2000 attendees. There was a

Kiter's Club supplied the kite kits and Bob Klopke and I provided the presentation, demonstration and instruction.

These school events and kites for kids programs are the future of the AKA. If even a small percentage of these kids grow up with an interest in kiting, the AKA will have a secure future. We all need to spend some time with the kids.

The Decatur Kite Festival took place on April 24th. On display were memorabilia from the Hi-Flier Kite Manufacturing Company. The company was founded in 1920 in Decatur and made millions of kites over the years. One display was of photographs showing the manufacturing process, promotional materials, printing plates for various kites and original kites. With cloudy skies and good winds, Team 180GO and many Illinois Kite Enthusiasts filled the sky with color.

Unfortunately not all the events went off as planned. The Heart of Wisconsin Kite Festival was cancelled on April 25th due to bad weather. This is a growing event with a lot of potential. We look forward to next year.

There are numerous events coming up in the next few weeks. Please check the AKA calendar for time and place. I will be getting ready for the 4th annual Shawano, Wisconsin Fun Fly to be held on June 26.

Hope to see some of you there!
Keep looking up and hold on tight.

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



Donald Murphy
Omaha, NE
402/391-8503
region7@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2011

This Spring has been one for the books. Late snows, lots of rain and when it did turn nice the winds were any where from 20 to 50 mph. All we can do is hope for a better summer.

Jody Weiland reports from Colorado:



Vacationing in Jamaica, Jim Martin finds a kite festival.
can Kitefliers Association on Facebook. Everyone is welcome to post your events and photos or videos on the page. Have a great summer.



180Go

grand launch of 890 kites breaking their previous record of 800 kites. Of course the candy drop was a major attraction.

There were several Earth Day events. One at the Stoker Elementary School in Kenosha featured Dan Newman and Paul Koepke teaching some 538 students about kites and demonstrating single and dual-line kites.

The Quad-City Kite Club in coordination with The Family Museum in Bettendorf, Iowa, celebrated National Kite Day on a gray Sunday with many youngsters having the opportunity fly kites of their own making.

Continuing with kites for kids, at an afterschool family event in Birnamwood, Wisconsin, 125 kites were made and decorated in 20 minutes. This was only possible due to a well organized effort and lots of table space. The Wisconsin

Region 4 ~ Southeast AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN



Steve Cseplo
Duluth, GA
678/417-9292
region4@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2010



Brett Dixon welcomes spring to Atlantic Beach, NC.

and the U.S Boomerang team showed off their skills for us. I have recovered well from my shoulder surgery and flew my Thor's Hammer both days as Mister Incredible .

Upcoming events to mark on your calendar are Warren Dunes Kite Fest in Sawyer, MI, on June 26-27, the North Coast Stunt Kite Games in Maumee Bay, OH, on July 17-18, Kites Over Branch County in Coldwater, MI, July 23-25 and Flag City Kite Fest in Finley, OH, on August 14th.

Please go to www.aka.kite.org for more information on the events listed above. You can also visit my kite club, Back 2 The Wind on Facebook for updates and events I will be attending. Also visit Ameri-



Vitkie and Dean Proudfoot

Region 5 ~ Great Lakes MI-OH



Dave Bush
Kalamazoo, MI
269/357-4032
region5@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2011

"Arvada's 8th Annual Kite Festival was held on April 10. The weather was perfect, with sun, a little wind and wonderful temperatures! The sky was filled with kites of every color, shape and size. Many kids went home with a trophy they had won in the kite competitions. There were more people attending than ever before; the park was filled with people everywhere. It was the best kite festival Arvada had ever had!"

Robin McCracken of the Rocky Mountain Kite Association writes:

"Clement Park in Littleton is one of those parks that draws in kites. RMKA plans to make Clement Park "home field" as well as supporting our current Stapleton flying field. We may have two club meetings per month, or just one at Clement Park eventually. Ironically, Clement Park is adjacent to Columbine High School. The Memorial to the shooting tragedy is on a hill between where we fly, and the school. Therefore we honor those whom lost their lives on April 20, 1999, by decorating the sky with our kites."

Here is a report from The Topeka Kite fliers provided by Bob Homan:

"The Topeka Kite Fliers have kept their weekends and some of the days of the week schedule with kite flying and kite building. Lawrence Art Department had us build kites for kids young and old at their *Into Thin Air* exhibit. Washburn University had us build kites for their CASA fund raiser. At the Museum of History we set up a booth and let hundreds of grade schoolers know about AKA and kiting, and at a couple of grade schools John Marr put on a demo and talked about kites. On May 1 we were at Greensburg, KS, to commemorate the anniversary of the devastating tornado in 2007. Along with this the TKF is putting the final touches on our festival on June 11-13. We welcome new member Janice Cobbler, she has been a great help with Twisted Lines. Hope to see you there."

Aj Hegedus reports: "Saturday April 17, the 11th Annual Dixie Escalante Kite Festival in St George Utah. The start at 10 AM found us with beautiful skies and as the afternoon progressed the winds were just enough to keep everyone flying and happy! The day ended with a concert by the Cadillacs and fireworks! This is the end of a three month reading program where the 23 elementary schools in the Washington County School District redeem their completed charts for a free kite! Saturday April 24th, the 6th Annual Lions Club Kite Flight for Reading And Sight.



Kansas City Kite Club

Dave Zavell

This is our inaugural year with bringing in a reading program to the Iron County Schools. After two weeks of off and on snow and rain we couldn't believe our luck to have a perfectly clear blue sky and 11 mph winds for a wonderful day! We raised \$5600 to be given to the nine schools in our district! Not only were we promoting outdoor family fun, but both events really get the children focused on one of the most important aspects of their lives which is reading."

We attended the 4th Annual Flights of Fancy kite festival which was held on Saturday, April 17th in Lee's Summit, MO. This was a fabulous festival. It was organized by the Kansas City Kite Club and held at the MCC-Longview Campus. The winds were a little bit difficult at times, but most of the day, the sky was filled with great kites. An estimated 13,000 people attended. Traffic was stopped on nearby streets with observers. This event has grown so much. We love attending this event, and want to thank all the KCKC members for their wonderful hospitality and friendship. Check out the KCKC newsletter on line for more information about this year's event and plans for next year.

Upcoming events to attend this summer and fall in our region include:

- 18th Annual Twisted Lines Kite Festival in Topeka, KS on June 11-13
- The Jamestown Kite Festival in Jamestown, ND, on June 12-13
- Kites & Castles at Lake McConaghey, NE, on July 31st
- Callaway Kite Festival in Callaway, NE, on September 4-6.

Enjoy the sky.

The South Padre Island Fun Fly, at the end of January, is quickly becoming THE hot event for Region Eight! If you weren't there, plan on making it down next year. It truly is something to write home about. B&S Kites hosts this amazing event, which showcases kiting talent of various disciplines continuously over the entire length of the SPI flats! Many, many thanks to Bill and Susie Doan, the local kilters, and their wealth of volun-

teers for making this festival a shining gem.

It's been a very strange Spring in the world of Region Eight kiting so far. We've been at the mercy of some true fits of nature. The 82nd Annual (yes - you read that correctly!) Zilker Park festival in Austin was postponed by a week due to rain. That didn't sound too bad, until we realized that the majority of kilters in the area wouldn't be able to adjust their schedules to attend the festival the following week. Despite our fears, the kilters who were able to reschedule made an incredible showing! Zilker was, once again, an amazing festival.

In a nutshell: Arlington — postponed due to rain; San Antonio — postponed due to rain; Eureka Springs — cut short due to thunderstorms; Lubbock — postponed due to rain; Cedar Hill and Aledo, Texas — cancelled, rain; Ruidosa — cancelled on Friday due to inclement weather, but proceeded anyway! You get the idea! NKM brought out the worst in weather for Region Eight! Remember how I always say to double check with the organizer before taking off to attend an event? Yeah... do that.

On the other hand, Kite Fest Louisiana continues to raise the bar and define new heights for kiting events. On so many levels, we were all reminded that the kites are just the vehicle; the intangible magic of the kiting community was in full, blazing glory! In addition to the public festival, the kilters also created an entirely new level of artistic and technological challenges - on a platform of frivolity and friendship... and weirdness. At one point, I became the Candy Drop! It wasn't pretty! How can we ever thank everyone? I can only try: Sharon, Kathy, Owen, Karen, Sandra, Marshall, Lee, Tanner, Jan, One-Kite-Mike, Jude, Joe, Lesley, Rev Riders, Austin EOL, Gayle-Force (that's right, my crew!). I'd like to say that what happens at KFL, stays at KFL, but there are some photos out there! In the infamous words of Brent Sutherland,

Region 8 ~ South Central AR-LA-NM-OK-TX



Gayle Woodul
Marble Falls, TX
830/598-2414
region8@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2011



Kitty Seward and Bill Doan of SPIKE.

"HA! We thought we were just coming to a KITE FESTIVAL!"

So, what's happening down yonder with those wonderful South Padre Island Kiting Enthusiasts? Here's an update from Donna McCown: "SPIKE went green for NKM! We made newspaper kites with children at the Brownsville Children's Museum, and also with the children at the Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum. We celebrated the Rio Grande Valley on-ion season by putting on kite demonstrations at the Texas Onion Fest in Weslaco. Plus, we put up kite displays and flew demos at the Harlingen Diamonds in the Sky Family Kite Day. And, of course, we went all-out at club flies promoting NKM!"

Please check not only the AKA calendar, but also Troy's Regional calendar for upcoming events. I'm ALMOST afraid to put anything in writing after the past season! Although the Granbury festival is listed, I've heard a solid rumor that they'll be changing the dates of that event to avoid a conflict with the AKA Convention. Hey! The 2010 AKA Convention? We're going back to beautiful Seaside from October 12-16! Plan to join us! Keep looking up!

Region 9 ~ Intermountain ID-MT-OR



Amy "Mousie" Doran
Bend, OR
509/529-9771
region9@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2012

Spring has come in like a lamb... and out like a lion! With a quiet start to spring, the kiting world has once again exploded into the season. The Lincoln City Indoor Kite Festival was a huge success, with fliers from all corners of the globe joining in for a great show, a stellar competition, and lots of fun.

Kitemaking and fun flies kicked off

Idaho's kiting season and has kept organizers busy there. They celebrated April 1st with April Fools Day the Kite Way.

June 26-27 will kick off the Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival. Quadzilla is the theme this year and John Barresi will be leading the MEGA QUAD fly to try to break the world record! Come on down and join us in this quest! You can register to participate and be eligible to win a registration to the AKA National Convention this year! The Festival is also featuring one of the best show kite displays in the United States. For more information go to www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/kites-summer.php.

The Southern Oregon Kite Festival in beautiful Brookings is gearing up for its show on July 17-18. This is truly one of the best shows on the West Coast. Flyers and kitemakers from all over the world gather here, and every year it just gets better! For more information go to www.sokf.org.

Buggy enthusiasts are sure to mark your calendars for September 5-13. The Sunset Oregon Buggy Bash will take place at Sunset Beach. Open campgrounds are available in the area, and there are local hotels as well. Potlucks are also taking place throughout the week. Jon Ellis, organizer of this event, says all are welcome, and they are happy to introduce you to the sport! For more information go to www.sobb.us.

Bill Hayes



Christine Chase anchors son Landon in Idaho Falls.

Bill Hayes reports from Idaho: "Take 1,500 people, 1,000 hot dogs, 40 gallons of soda pop, a large open field, bright colors, wind and you have the 10th Kiting Just For Fun Festival in Idaho Falls. Over \$400 and 627 cans of food were donated to the Idaho Food Bank. Sunrise Kites provided the materials to make 270 kites for the kids. Fliers from around the region enjoyed sunny blue sky on April 24th to take flight painting the sky."

Bill also joined Dean Turnblom of Sunrise Kites in a kitemaking workshop for a group of fun-loving senior citizens on the campus of Idaho State University.

Region 10 ~ Northwest AK - WA



Theresa Norelius
Vancouver, WA
360/695-9646
region10@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2012

Greetings Region Ten! Wow! Kites are flying! Spring got off to a great start with the 3rd Annual World Kite Museum Rev Clinic in Long Beach and the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. The Kite Museum hosted several weekend clinics with the help of Doug Lommel. And the last Saturdays of March and April were the Westport Windriders Fun Flies on the beach at Grayland. National Kite Month was filled with opportunities across our region to get out and play with kites, starting with Kids Kite Making at Fort Lewis on April 1st and the Erv Crosby Memorial Fly at the Tulip Festival on April 17th. Steve and Becky Tish displayed their flock of pterodactyls, Jerry Graham had his Freeman workshop rok flying high and Island Quad put on a great show!

Westport Windriders Kite Festival, July 9-11, on the beach at Grayland, WA. Sport kite competition, single line displays, banquet and bag raffle fund raiser. This year's featured guest is Jose Sainz.

Cutting Edge Summer Heat, August 14-15, in Ocean Shores, WA. A great prelude to WSIKF!

Washington State International Kite Festival, August 16-22, Long Beach, WA. A whole week of non-stop kiting! This year is looking like the biggest ever! Festivities will be spread along the en-



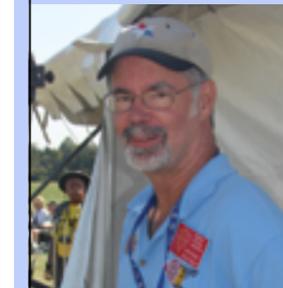
Rick White works small at Fort Worden.

tire boardwalk. I suggest you make your reservations as soon as possible!

Early registration is available now for 33rd AKA Annual. Please, please register as EARLY as possible, as this helps with the head count! Workshops, competitions, banquets, and oh my THE AUCTION! Consider cleaning out your kite bag for donation items to the Auction and Bag Raffle. Bag Raffle items offer a wide variety of goodies, not just kites! These are part of our largest fundraisers for the year. Every little bit helps to defray our costs. Loud Auction items are being received by Sam King. You can also pass items on to me. Marla Miller is coordinating the Bag Raffle items. Please contact Marla or me with your generous donations. Let's make this year's auction and bag raffle the best ever!

See you on the kite field!

Region 11 ~ N. California Northern CA-NV



John Gillespie
Larkspur, CA
415/927-7430
region11@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2012

Another year is almost half over, which means the kiteflying season is in full swing.

Team AirZone, in its three person configuration of Darrin Skinner, Aaron Champie and myself, competed in Berck-sur-Mer, France, in the World Sport Kite Team competition. This year eight teams competed, representing UK, France, Argentina, Spain and the USA. AirZone came in fourth out of eight teams competing. The American contingent (David Gomberg, Ben Dantonio, Ron Despojado, Susan Skinner and Team AirZone) ended up spending more time in France than anticipated due to the eruption of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland.

The Bay Area Sport Kite League (BASKL) has a number of new fliers competing this year. Ed Skow from Ojai has decided to come up north to compete. Ed competed in the late 1990s in Region Twelve. He's had to overcome some life challenges, and decided kite competition is a therapeutic outlet. Other newcomers to the events include John Quitugua, Steve Lewis, Robert Pepito and Ever Menjivar. These competitions are a great way to meet new people and learn



AirZone mingles with Spain's Team Vortex in Berck.

new kite flying skills. Check the BASKL website schedule at www.baskl.org for upcoming events in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mark your calendar now for the biggest kite event in our region: the Berkeley Kite Festival, this year held July 31-August 1. Check www.highlinekites.com/Berkeley_Kite_Festival/ for all the details.

Be sure to check the AKA Calendar online for other scheduled kiting events. Also, check Brian Champie's site (at www.kitefart.com, click on California Kiting 2010) for additional California kiting activities and events.

Region 12 ~ Southwest Southern CA-AZ-HI



Ben Dantonio
Spring Valley CA
619/750-8770
region12@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2012

I have to say it's been real interesting since my last report. The big thing was my trip to Thailand, where I was able to spend some time with folks I never seem to see enough of. We had the Gomborgs from the US, the Sanders from Down Under, Gerard from France, our friends from Kuwait, the Japanese with my friend Modegi-san, Peter Lynn and Craig Hansen from New Zealand, plus many others who names escape me but whose love and kindness will forever be burned in my memory. I think the biggest part of the event for me and many others was the Revolution tent. Craig Wong and Jack put a huge tent up for me where we showed Rev and iQuad movies on a big screen.

From the jungles of Asia to the bright lights of Las Vegas, I unpacked my bags and grabbed my power kite gear and was off to NABX where the winds were big and the speeds were way fast. Between Peter Lynn and Craig Hansen and the guys from Europe on

their custom-built speed buggies I was always waiting for what was next. There were times where I was shooting video and these guys were so fast I couldn't keep up with them. Even though I'm not much on the buggy thing what I enjoy the most about NABX is the people that show up there and just enjoying the desert at night. I get a lot of peace out there.

Steve Riehle adds, "The first Santa Maria Kite Festival occurred on April 18. It was held in a large soccer field, sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum. Our festival was well attended, with perhaps 250 persons. The wind was a little late arriving, but after it kicked in at about 1 pm, it blew at a brisk 10 to 12 mph the entire afternoon.

"The Santa Barbara Kite Festival was held the previous Sunday, and we were fortunate to have a professional radio announcer who does the Santa Barbara festival each year, Dave Hefferman, attend and help us with the announcing. We were also glad to see Glen Rothstein and Jerry Hinago drive up from southern California to join us.

"I entered the most beautiful kite contest and won first prize. My winning kite was a 9' genki kite in pink, purple, and white colors, custom built about 12 years ago by kitemaker Kevin Shannon. Our winds in Santa Maria tend to be ragged, and the festival day was no exception, but two 20' orange and black transition tails on the kite calmed the beast enough for it to behave and charm the judge.

"The first Santa Maria Kite Festival was a success, and before concluding the day it was announced that there will be a second Santa Maria Kite Festival next April. For that I give thanks."

Region Thirteen covers all the globe except USA. Remember AKA's event calendar when you plan your vacation, then pack a kite or two. See <http://tinyurl.com/y56arjr> for the map for festival locations. It's FREE to list your next kite event!

SWITZERLAND — Olivier Reymond visited China (the birthplace of kites) to see his kites on display in Weifang. "Fantastic," he says. China is a must-see.

ICELAND — Mother Nature gave kite travellers problems in April. How to get home from festivals with airports closed and

Region 13 ~ International



Linda Sanders
P. O. Box 758
Willunga SA 5172 AUSTRALIA
(+61) 885-562696
region13@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2012

flights cancelled? Ray Bethell, Canada, was due in Cervia, Italy, but with no flights stayed home in Vancouver.

MEXICO — American's Charles and Dorothy Stewart hosted the 2nd Festival de Papalotes in Isla Blanca in February. Joining them were Richard and Marti Dermer, Melanie Koenig, Allan Ross, and Canada's Sharon Musto and Bud Taylor. Local kites and the Morph Kiteboarding Schools also pitched in. Students from La Gloria English School made eddy kites.

JAMAICA — Jim Martin Jr. from USA happened to vacation at the right time for the biggest ever Jamaica Kite Festival. Guest artists were reggae stars Shaggy and Beenie Man. Not often that Grammy winners and kite flying get together.

FRANCE — Berck-sur-mer held the World Sport Kite Championship with fewer numbers, but no less keen competition. Winners for 2010 were Scratch Bunnies, UK team. Well done team! If anyone's planning on attending Dieppe in September, sign in with AKA's group and Marla Miller will co-ordinate details. Max Cardoso of Brazil will be there.

COLOMBIA — PS to the kite festival in 2009, Ines Elvira Uribe reports their newborn foal has been called "Kevin" in honour of Kevin Sanders' horse and sunglasses accident there.

ITALY — San Vito Lo Capo Beach (Sicily) hosted its 2nd International Kite Festival with ideal May conditions. Tullo Lolli of Bologna wrote to keep in touch

The Mangusa Kite Team flies in Curacao



The Whitehead's spirits over New Zealand.

— just as families do — while Carlo Sitzia tried to meet with some Liberty State Park, U.S. fliers for Rev flying, but bad weather prevented a meeting. (All part of the AKA network-service!)

CURACAO — This festival featured 163 participants! Star of the weekend was the Mangusa 46-man kite team with their 25 meter-long cellular kite.

NEW ZEALAND — Peter Lynn THINKS his first grandchild was born on 2 February. Congratulations Grandpa! Anne and Peter Whitehead of NZKA were kept busy with kitemaking workshops; the most recent involved Ruapehu Spirit kites.

GERMANY — Ralf Maserski organised the European "Historical Kite workshop" which celebrated its 10th event. Kites made each year feature cotton, wood and bamboo; really back-to-basics. If interested in kite history, <http://tinyurl.com/y3u3o8q>.

SOUTH AFRICA in INDIA — Greg



Greg Mountjoy

Mountjoy enjoyed India in January, and especially the McDonald's product ads which featured in-store as fighter kites.

CANADA — Lake Simcoe Wind Sports

Festival offered time to socialize before some serious winter (on snow!) kiting. Brrr. In contrast, the Niagara Windriders ran their 7th Annual Spring Kite Making Workshop in Port Colbourne, ON, (a spit and stride from Niagara Falls) to make Dunton-

Taylor box kites. International visitors came from Michigan and New York, only fair since the teacher was Ted Shaw from Buffalo. Don't forget Windscape Kite Festival in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, 19-20 June. The 12th Festi-Vent Sur Glace Saint-Placide festival again featured crisp and clean white snow, and offered transport by unusual snowbus. Vive le vent l'hiver!

AUSTRALIA — The Bay of Fires Retreat in St Helens, Tasmania, was followed the next weekend by Devonport Kite Festival. (Tasmania IS part of Australia, but is an island off the south coast.) White, sandy beaches and February is beautiful, I'm told.

THAILAND — 11th International Kite Festival (a biennial event) was held in Cha-Am with fliers from 17 countries participating.

BORNEO — Approaching in early October, and held in Bintulu, Malaysia, this kite event is rated by many as the BEST. Great organisation, beautiful location, and friendly atmosphere. It's on my list as a "must do" one day. Contact siajahren@yahoo.com for details.

UK — Essex Kite Group asks, "If any AKA members remember Rougham during the days of WWII, could they email?" kiteman9@tiscali.co.uk (He edits Kite Wings and seeks historical content.) Neil Edwards, Manchester, ran a kitemaking workshop in Stalybridge, which is famous for one pub/hotel having the world's shortest name ("Q"), and another the longest ("The Old Thirteenth Cheshire Astley Volunteer Rifleman Corps Inn").

The kite was a Charlie Charlton jewel design, and no alcohol was involved for the eight participants!

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

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IKITE WITH ITUNES

BY PHIL BRODER



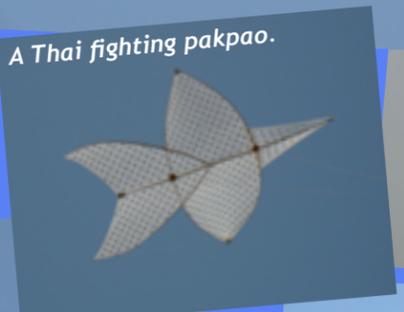
The King's kite.



A Thai fighting pakpao.



Ben Dantonio gives another lesson.



Dancers say good-bye to the kites.



1TH THAILAND
INTERNATIONAL
KITE FESTIVAL
MARCH 13 - 14, 2010
CHA-AM, THAILAND



David Gomberg



Jim Martin Jr. and Kuwait's Buhamad Kite Team.



The pakpao team arrives to begin the battle.

photos by Ben Dantonio and Jim Martin Jr.

At the core of many a kite geek lurks a tech nerd yearning to break free. Some of the same people who can barely wait for the latest Rev were also in line before sunrise to early adopt an iPad. So it stands to reason that kites and technology will cross paths. Is there an app for that? If you have an iPhone or iPod Touch, there is.

There are several free applications (apps) that give you wind reports. *Windfinder* lets you get wind data from weather stations around the world. Hourly data on wind speed and direction, wave heights, and weather forecasts are available. Pick a weather station from a list of thousands, or use your phone's location to pick the closest station. *WindAlert* has similar features, but uses more local data (I can get wind



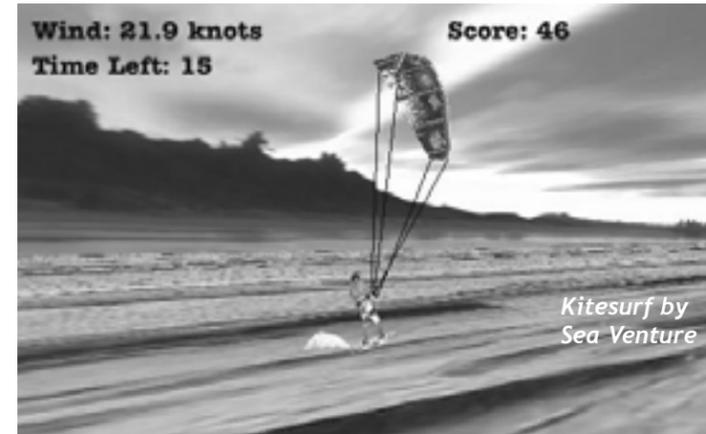
The Windfinder report for South Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

data from a hotel rooftop less than a mile from where I usually fly, or from a station on the beach in Wildwood). It will also send me alerts, so if the wind blows hard enough or from the right direction I'll know right away.

There are plenty of websites that you can access from any 3G-connected phone, but among the best is Weather Underground. It has an accurate forecast courtesy of NOAA, and a stellar animated radar so you can track storms in

realtime. This is the forecast I trust, especially for long-range planning.

Want to just fly kites, but you're stuck on a plane, or in a car, or at an Annual Business Meeting? You need *Kite Simulator!* This simple game let's you choose a dual-line kite, pick a location (beach, desert, or hills), then fly all day. You can do all the basic maneuvers and any figure in the rulebook, provided you use pull turns only. There's no walking when you crash, and

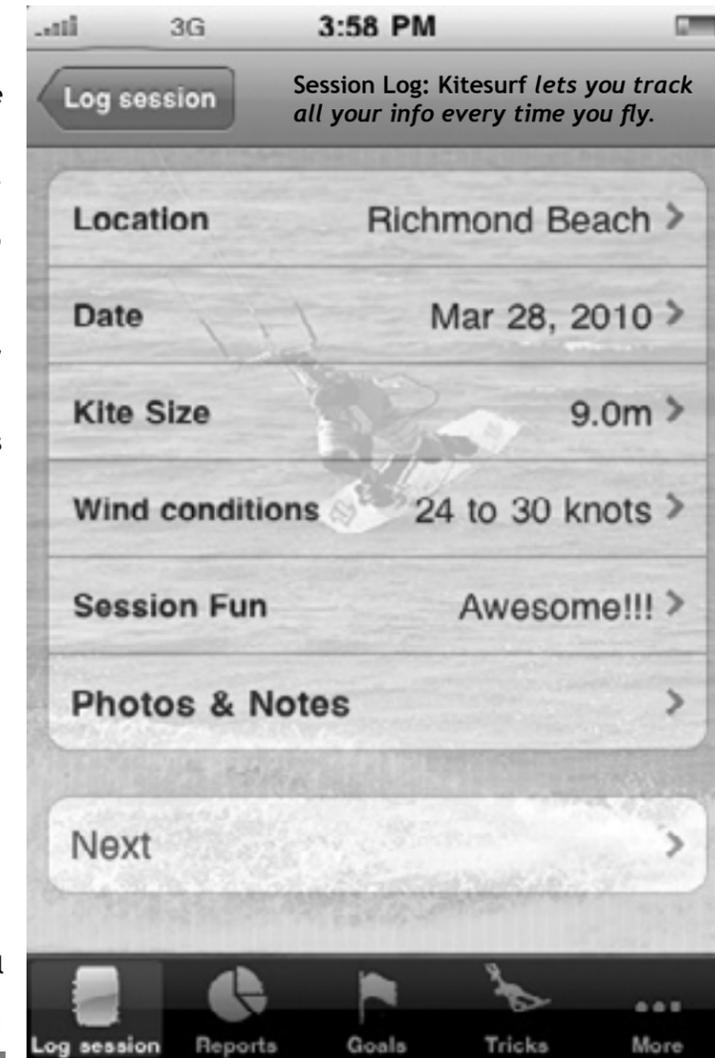


Kitesurf by Sea Venture

you'll never do a better leading edge takeoff.

SeaVenture's *KiteSurf* is a similar game for kitesurfers. The free version tutors you in basic kitesurfing by having you launch the kite and ride the board back and forth along an island beach. It even scores your effort, so you'll know just how lame you are. If you purchase the full version you'll get advanced features like jumping and tricks tutorials, plus world class kitesurfing locales like Hood River, Hatteras, Maui, and Cape Town.

Although it's meant for power kiters, *Session Log: Kitesurf* would be useful for anyone who wants to keep track of their flying. How many times did you fly last year? Which kite did you use when? What was the weather like? What tricks were



you working on? This app lets you log all your flying info, plus it'll help you set goals, and upload all the info and your photos straight to your Facebook page.

The iPhone has a simple wind meter app that theoretically uses the sound of wind over the phone's microphone to gauge the wind speed. In this case, you're better off keeping your phone in your pocket.

There are new apps appearing in the iTunes store all the time. If you're searching for them, try using variations of the same words, as "kitesurf" and "kite surf" will yield different results. K

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On the Oregon Coast

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AKA DIRECTORY

american kitefliers association

Mel Hickman, Executive Director
 Mailing: P.O. Box 1614, Walla Walla, WA 99362
 Phone/Fax: 509/529-9171
 Web: www.aka.kite.org
 E-mail: xd@aka.kite.org

officers and executive committee

Barbara Meyer, President
 Osseo, MN
 763/424-2571 president@aka.kite.org

Gayle Woodul, First Vice President
 Marble Falls, TX
 830/598-2414 vp1@aka.kite.org

Linda Sanders, Second Vice President
 Willunga, SA Australia
 (+61) 885-562696 vp2@aka.kite.org

Cliff Quinn, Treasurer
 Coopersburg, PA
 610/965-5607 treasurer@aka.kite.org

James Patten, Secretary
 Davenport, IA
 563/650-4143 secretary@aka.kite.org

Russ Faulk, Director at Large
 Elmhurst, IL
 630/530-8690 dal3@aka.kite.org

Sharon Champie, Director at Large
 Santa Rosa, CA
 707/545-6737 dal4@aka.kite.org

Peter Ross, Director at Large
 Brighton, MI
 810/225-0346 dal5@aka.kite.org

Marla Miller, Director at Large
 Tacoma, WA
 253/752-7051 dal6@aka.kite.org

Andy Selzer, Director at Large
 Sicklerville, NJ
 856/728-8870 dal7@aka.kite.org

convention management

Maggie Vohs, Convention Manager
 Cameo Management Solutions, Inc.
 P.O. Box 410, Otis, OR 97368
 Phone: 541/994-4252
 Fax: 541/994-3332

Web: www.cameomanagement.com
 E-mail: convention@aka.kite.org

KITING magazine

Phil Broder, Editor
 904 Bayview Road, Rio Grande, NJ 08242
 609/465-6575
 E-mail: kiting.ed@aka.kite.org

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aka committees

education & public service

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Membership Linda Sanders (+61) 885-562696
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Autumn issue deadline: July 15
 Winter issue deadline: October 15
 Spring issue deadline: January 15
 Summer issue deadline: April 15

Send address changes to
UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Have you made plans to attend the convention in Seaside? I was so encouraged by the responses received from many, many people stating they were coming, and even had lodging reservations made already! You'll find details about many of the activities and how to register elsewhere in this issue. Convention is about getting together; flying kites; trading knowledge; enjoying friends, and oh yeah, a little competition. Seaside is a great town to visit. The Art Kite Gallery is being organized by the Art Kite Committee, and will include some very special items loaned by the Drachen Foundation.

I am pleased to announce the very first presidential art kite challenge. Every AKA member is eligible to participate. Here are the guidelines:

1. Build a kite depicting your interpretation of the theme "Rites of Passage."
2. Get the kite to Seaside by Saturday, October 11. If you are not attending convention, you may arrange for someone else to fly your kite.
3. Come to the workshop area on Saturday morning to present your kite and explain your thought process and construction techniques.
4. Fly your kite in the designated field on Saturday afternoon.
5. Kites may be constructed of any material, and size.
6. Kites may be constructed by more than one person.
7. This is totally non-competitive. All are welcome.
8. No judging will be held, no awards given.
9. No costumes.
10. Enjoy the process and the show.

The site for the 2011 convention will be chosen soon. We have bids in from Hatteras Island, NC; Roanoke, VA; and Kitty Hawk, NC. All are great locations with much to offer. This will be a tough decision. New Orleans and Joplin, MO, have indicated they will be bidding for the 2012 convention.

Chuck Sigal served as the AKA webmaster for almost 15 years. Those years saw a total transformation on how the AKA did business; communicated with our members; and connected to the world. Thanks to Chuck, our technology changed and adapted. Now that he has chosen to retire, the AKA again needs to change and adapt to use new technol-

ogy. The reality is that there is no one in the world that is willing to do the work Chuck did on a long-term basis. Luckily, there are people who are willing to help the AKA transform our internet presence to take advantage of new freeware/shareware and to integrate the unique items on our website into available commercial platforms. Leading the work is our new webmaster, John Gillespie. John also serves as Region Eleven director and is a member of the AirZone sport kite team. John is laying the foundation of our new website. Susan Skinner is contributing her skills to add the "fun" details. As I write this, both are stuck in France after the World Sport Kite Championship due to the Iceland volcano. Watch for announcements as to the schedule of the roll-out. It will probably happen in late summer. [Ed. note: at its April meeting, the Board awarded Chuck a lifetime membership.]

Access to the Members Only sections of the website is keyed to your member number and to your e-mail address. If your current e-mail address is not on file with us, you are missing out on a huge part of the information that is on the website, and not receiving the full value of your membership. Have you been receiving regular e-mail updates? If not, the AKA probably does not have your current e-mail address. We also encourage every person on a family membership to have their own unique e-mail address. More and more information is being sent to you via e-mail. The membership keeps updated on current happenings, no one waits for the postal service to deliver; and we save money, lots of money. This year, your ballot will come via the postal service. All other election information will come via e-mail. This small change will save over \$1500.

Our association is all about you, the members. For the first time in over 12 months, we are seeing increases in membership numbers over the previous month. This is exciting news and represents a real change. Your board has authorized a new program to help with member retention, help with the work flow in the office, and give you, our members, a bonus. The AKA is now offering the OPT-IN program. The next time you renew, simply note OPT-IN in the comments section of the online renewal form.

By choosing opt-in, you agree that

your credit card information will be stored securely at the AKA office, and be automatically billed when your membership is about to expire. No more renewal notices, no more missing issues of *Kiting*. The first renewal will be billed at current rates, \$40. When your membership is automatically renewed; it will be billed at the lower multiple year rate, now \$39, saving you money. Since this is a new program, and your board wants to reward current members, if you renew between now and August 1 and tell us to OPT-IN, you will receive a 15 month extension instead of only 12. That's right, 15 months for the price of 12, no hassle renewals, and a lower rate in subsequent years. This offer is open to everyone, no matter your renewal date. The extra months will be added on and a new expiration date calculated.

National Kite Month was fabulous! This is a joint effort of the AKA and the Kite Trade Association. We look forward to many more years of cooperation, and even better things to come. Thanks to everyone who participated in any way. Kudos to Andy Selzer for leading all the efforts, and passing out prizes! How about we do it again next April?!

As you head outside, everyone should adopt the Aussie motto of "Slip, slap, slop." That is slip on a shirt, slap on a hat, and slop on the sunscreen. Skin cancer can affect anyone, no matter your skin color. Protect yourself by taking these easy measures. Many of us grew up in the years before sunscreen and are now paying the price.

Your comments and questions are always appreciated; you can reach me at president@aka.kite.org. I hope to see you on a kite field somewhere. Now, I need to go finish a kite before Alex and I pack the van to head out on another kiting adventure.

Time to fly!

Barbara Meyer



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VOICES FROM THE VAULT

STORMY WEATHERS

BY PATTI GIBBONS

Many do-it-yourself types find themselves holding the business end of a kite line, looking up wondering, How does this work? Why does it work? Then thinking, What would happen if I changed this just a bit, would it fly better? Longtime fixture on West coast flying fields and early AKA member, Warren "Stormy" Weathers was an ever-curious problem solver who asked just those questions whenever he flew. Stormy took to kitemaking like a shaky-legged colt, eventually galloping at full speed after paying his dues and not giving up after early spills and wipeouts. Down to earth, approachable, and kind, this Oregonian left his mark on kiting, patenting kite plans, challenging 100-year-old altitude flying records, and creating workhorse kite reels that continue to help kites stay afloat.

With practice, patience, and a heavy dose of stick-to-it-ness, technical writer and Navy veteran Stormy became a superb kitemaker later in life after overcoming his share of amateur kiting flops.

Stormy was about eight years old when he saw his first kite, a diamond, and attempted to recreate it from memory. Looking around the house for materials, he whittled sticks from a worn scrap of wood and "talked my mom out of some green striped wrapping paper." For balance, he popped the head off his sister's doll and tied it to the tail. The mishmash flew, but not well. When the first knotty gust blew, Stormy's kite went into an ominous tailspin only to crash and burn. Gone but not forgotten, about a year later Stormy and his friends gathered to build a kite and caught the attention of a shop clerk working in the building supply store. He helped the gang build a large high flier

and lent them a cone of packing twine from the store. The kite was a success until "the string broke, and there went our kite over the mountain." Easy come, easy go, Stormy and his disappointed friends said adieu and found something else to do.

While kites gave young Stormy the opportunity to have a little afternoon fun, he didn't think about kiting again until he retired from the Navy and wanted to go fishing. He heard about kite fishing while in the Solomon Islands on a tour of duty in 1942-43 and without plans or instructions, Stormy picked

time and in 1975 he and his son competed in a local kiting event. Looking up past their dime store kite, a bouquet of new kite styles caught his eye. Looking down, he saw a sea of junky reels and got an itch to come up with something better. The rest of the afternoon Stormy went around meeting folks and collecting names and addresses. Back at work, his company was tossing out a mound of plastic spools. Stormy asked if he could have a few and a gleeful manager said, "Take all you like." Stormy filled his coffers and saved his company \$50 in dumpster fees. Armed with raw materials, Stormy

mocked up a few reel styles and sent them to fliers along with a questionnaire. About a month later, Stormy analyzed the results and determined that people were asking for something he didn't have. Picking apart ideas, Stormy knew the perfect reel had to be comfortable, easy to use, and have a locking spool. He created a champ, and began selling them around the bicen-

ennial. Later on, Stormy continued to tinker with reels and retooled a Honda steering wheel to let out three lengths of line for every full turn of the wheel. With a view that improvements are always possible, he modestly remarked, "The world still needs a good kite reel." Some might say Stormy entered the organized kiting world through the backdoor. Needing kites to test his reels, Stormy got curious about kites as a second interest. But either way, the kiting bug bit him and as he started experimenting with kite shapes he turned to the folks on the *Kite Tales* mailing list for help. After a couple lackluster diamond kites, he discovered the Allison polymorphic — his all-purpose go-getter.

Aside from sneaking up on fish, Stormy's kite interests blossomed over

time and in 1975 he and his son competed in a local kiting event. Looking up past their dime store kite, a bouquet of new kite styles caught his eye. Looking down, he saw a sea of junky reels and got an itch to come up with something better. The rest of the afternoon Stormy went around meeting folks and collecting names and addresses. Back at work, his company was tossing out a mound of plastic spools. Stormy asked if he could have a few and a gleeful manager said, "Take all you like." Stormy filled his coffers and saved his company \$50 in dumpster fees. Armed with raw materials, Stormy mocked up a few reel styles and sent them to fliers along with a questionnaire. About a month later, Stormy analyzed the results and determined that people were asking for something he didn't have. Picking apart ideas, Stormy knew the perfect reel had to be comfortable, easy to use, and have a locking spool. He created a champ, and began selling them around the bicen-



Early on Stormy saw many kites go up and suddenly collapse. Perplexed and hungry to solve the problem, Stormy zoomed in for a closer look. Making a large kite and flying it low, Stormy saw how wind collapsed his kites. Wheels turning, the aha! light bulb went off above his head, Stormy cut a V in the leading edge and cured the problem. Others elsewhere came up with similar solutions, such as notching semicircles, but Stormy's V was simple and effective. Years later while reading a story about South American kite flying, he noted with pride that they clipped Vs in their leading edges.

Always inching toward improvements, Stormy's crowd-pleasing Star Victory evolved from the simple Allison polymorphic that he modified to launch from the ground. To gain air he put wings on the Allison, and from there a star was born when he notched two Vs in the leading edge, and added a soda straw mast in the center to hold the canopy open around a star-shaped body. Worrying needlessly that the wind would collapse it, he "took it out and it flew beautifully." Convinced that the design was a good egg, he made samples and shipped them to AKA friends for feedback. Bob Ingraham test-drove a star-crossed early star. Up in the air something went wrong and the kite spun. Bob fed it line but with slack it spiraled faster. "For the first time in his life, he wound up with a kite in a power

line. I heard about that one!" Set-backs like that may discourage some but Stormy weathered them well. "I always shared my developments with respected kite builders and fliers so I could get feedback. I take criticism as well as the next person, which means I get mad as hell." Irked perhaps, but Stormy teased good from negative comments and used suggestions to slowly reach solid results. Stormy's kiting knowledge matured through the seasons but his designs always remained streamlined and simplified. "I like things that are simple. I'm a simple person myself."

Warren Obert "Stormy" Weathers, 1921–2003, flew countless kites, met many people, and left a very empty space above when he passed away. K

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

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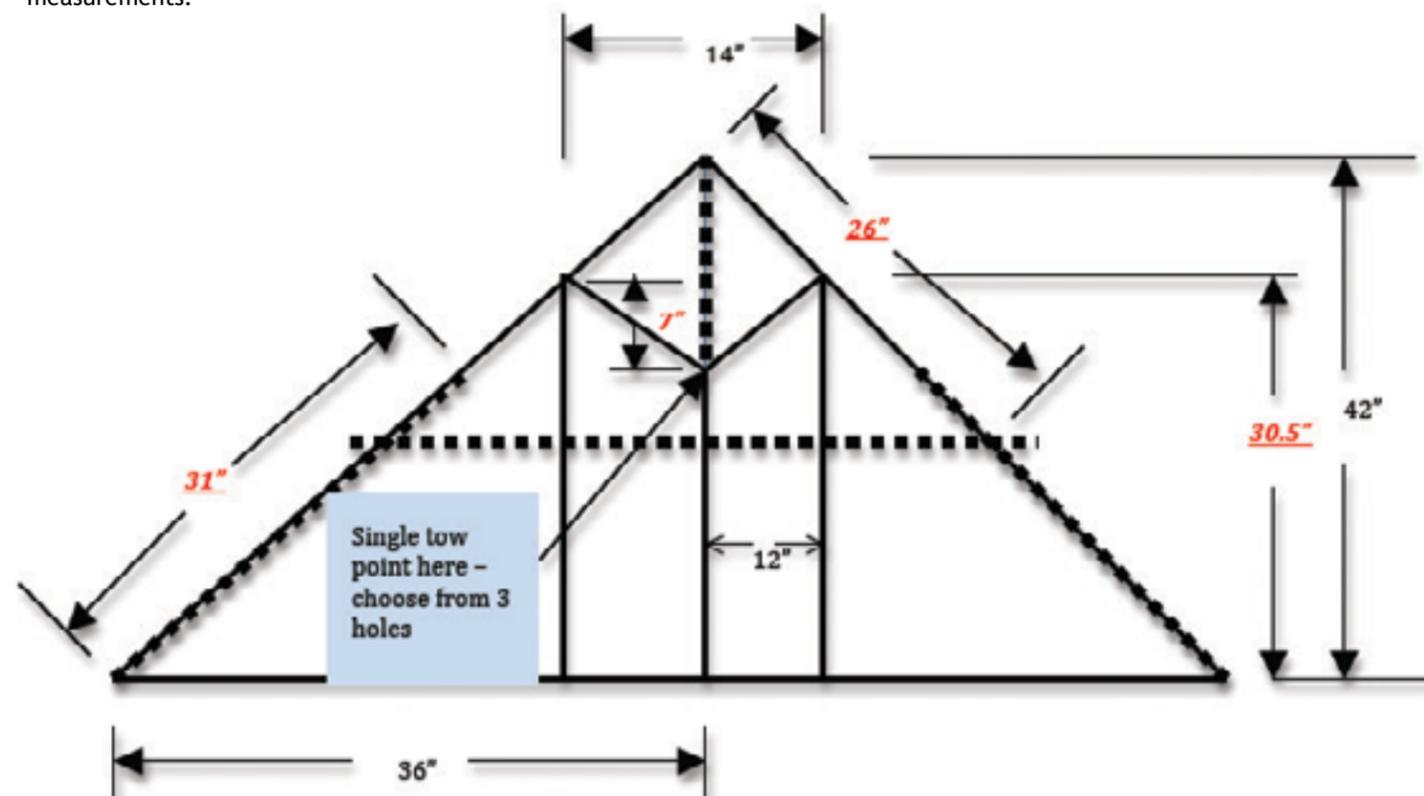
KITE PLAN

ED GRYS' HYBRID DELTA

This plan is for a kite that is a cross between a Delta and a Delta Conyne and a Zephyr. It uses a full-length cell and four spars instead of the DC-normal six spars. It is a light wind flyer with a single tow point making it easy to assemble in the field. There are three tow points $\frac{3}{4}$ " apart at the leading edge of the cell. Choose the one that works best for the prevailing wind condition. The sail graphics are to your taste. The dimensions shown are to your taste. The dimensions shown are scalable and reflect the most economical version using only $1\frac{2}{3}$ yard of fabric. While not always necessary, adding tail loops to the bottom center and wing tips and attaching a tails adds color and stability.

In this example the wing spars are $\frac{3}{16}$ " wood dowels. The vertical and spreader spars can be .2100" linear graphite or $\frac{1}{4}$ " wood dowels. The vertical spar is fitted into pockets on the top and base of the kite on the backside. The spreader is equipped with stubby nocks into which split rings are inserted on assembly. The split rings are attached to the kite with $\frac{3}{8}$ " grosgrain ribbon attached to a small reinforcement patch on the wing edge.

The dimensions shown in normal font include seam allowance. The dimensions show in bold italics and color are final measurements.



K-FILES



Sam King's 8' SunRok: two colors of fabric and DesignMaster paints.

absolutely no words to describe what I was experiencing that first time I walked over the dunes and saw all of...THAT.

When Cari and I began planning our wedding, kites seemed like they would be cool and appropriate groomsmen's gifts, since my co-best men were the same friends who had started me flying. Many know that my mom Alexa works for a library. She has very kindly tracked down magazines for me as my interests have changed throughout life, and this extended to old issues of *Kite Lines* and *American Kite*. In one of the magazines I found plans for Peter Lynn's Tri-D box. Mom had sewn for years, so surely we'd be able to figure it out. This was Mom's first experience with Icarex — she's such a good sport — and we ended up with three pretty cool kites that even flew.

About that same time during a trek to WSIKF, Mom was particularly intrigued by a banner with a whole bunch of holes in it. Being the shy type, she walked over and started talking to its owner, Cindy Thrall, and learned that Cindy would be teaching how to make that very banner at the next Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat. I was still more interested in sport kites at the time, but Mom and I decided to check it out. That's where it really got started for us.

I'd never sewn a stitch. Armed with a brief tutorial from Mom and a half completed cotton placemat, I took the easy way out with a painting class. The description mentioned something about spray paint which I figured I could handle. That first day with Scott Hampton taught me techniques that I still use regularly today. Then I got to spend some time with a sewing machine testing

Don Mock's patience as we made a fighter kite. I finished off the weekend making a log cabin Della Porta with Rob Pratt. I'll never forget the feeling the first time I flew that kite. I had created something that was flying. I could feel the connection

ALEXA, CARI, AND SAM KING

Our involvement in kites started quite by accident. It was the spring of 1997 and Cari and I were taking our first weekend getaway together — camping at Ocean Shores, Washington. We wandered into a kite shop because it seemed the right thing to do at the beach and I was amazed at all of the cool kites hanging up. Being poor college kids, we walked out with what we could afford: a Trlby. We took turns flying circles over our poor dog's head for the rest of the weekend while he barked at what must have appeared to be a really irritating seagull.

Upon returning home I mentioned how much fun we'd had to some friends, recalling the joy that came from reaching back to my childhood memories of a mylar dragon kite. This new kite was even better, since I could cause it to fly in circles. My friends, it turned out, flew sport kites like the ones I had seen hanging in the kite shop. I had to have one. Thus began several years of cutting class to go fly sport kites. Then we heard about WSIKF. I clearly remember having



Sam and Cari King and Northwest Coast Sun.

Cari King's painted Calla Lilly.



Sam King's hexagonal cell group, made of paper and carbon.

shapes from modern materials, usually to include paint. I was an early adopter of John Freeman's saying, "I'd have to live to be 200 to build the kites in my head as of yesterday." It's probably about 250 now.

After my initial exploration with paint, Cari really got excited. She has since incorporated various paint techniques into most of her kites, really coming into her own with the development of her Calla Lily square diamond. I still get a big silly grin when she tells people how she didn't think she was artistic until she started doing this. Having gone back to school, Cari's working extensively with quilt piecing, as she can do a little here and a little there as time allows. She's looking forward to spending



Alexa King

to the wind through the string. It was magical and I was hooked. Cari came the following year and the three of us have been going back ever since. After several years of going to OKR, and hearing about Fort Worden, I was fortunate enough to win a scholarship to the Fort. Mom and I went, hoping we wouldn't like it so that we wouldn't have to choose which to attend. Suffice it to say the three of us have been going to both ever since.

My kites started in appliqué projects, mostly of northwest coast Indian designs flowing from an interest developed while pursuing a degree in Archaeology. I mix these projects with painting projects, either with Design Master or acrylics following on the work of John Pollack. My interest, lately, has been in cellular Japanese

Sam King's Northwest Coast Thunderbird Mockfoil.



some more time with acrylics and is planning an ongoing kid's kite making project for our local parks department.

Whatever artistic ability I have comes from my mom. She has worked with beads, paper, thread, fabric and even pine needles. Making kites has been a way for her to spend regular quality time with her kids. She got us started in acrylic paints, deciding that she'd give it a shot after talking with Don Mock about what he was doing with acrylics. The result was a first place at the Ocean Shores AKA Convention for her Raven Rok. Alexa prefers the acrylic process, and has used it to great effect on several rokkakus and on a large Mockfoil continuing the raven theme. Mom, for all of her interests is always finding new media to use in kites. She's currently getting closer to constructing a figure kite that we've been talking about for years and it would not sur-

prise me to see her combine her love of handmade papers into her kitemaking in the future.

Along the way, we've made great friends from all over the world. Everyone in this community is SO willing to share their knowledge and to lend an encouraging word. We are without question a product of that kindness and are doing our best to try to pay it forward. Cari and I started teaching at OKR a couple of years ago, and I work with the Fort Worden Planning Committee. It is our hope to try to give that encouraging word to others, so that they too might be as fortunate as we have been while becoming a part of the kiting community. If you happen to see us flying, please come over and say "hi." It'd be our pleasure to share some sky with you. After all, it's the people, the friends both old and new, that make this such a rewarding thing to do. K

Northwest Coast Sun and Moon



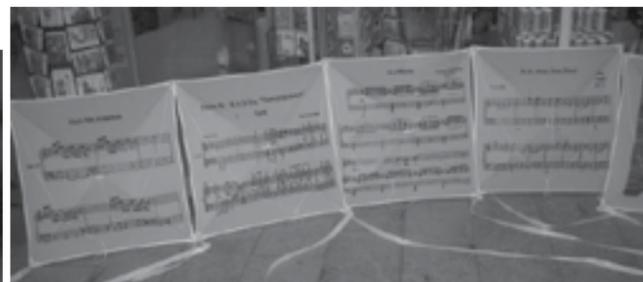
ROK ME AMADEUS

BY EUGEN PALMER S

My idea for this ensemble of kites was to honor the five Austrian masters of music: Mozart, Haydn, Strauss, Schubert, and Falco. The project comprises a total of 20 kites. For each musician there are four pieces: an appliqued silhouette, a hand-painted signature, a hand-drawn musical score, and a hand-painted polarized picture.

This project was realized with the help of the Austrian kite family, including Ida-Maria Gasparotto, Andreas Malandi, and Helmut Georgi of Vienna; Christian Novotny and Arno Gradwohl of Parndorf; and Eva Palmer and myself of St. Pölten.

Most recently, the ensemble flew at the 30th Arvento Kite Festival in Cervia, Italy. k



EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Hazel Ingraham 1914-2010

Hazel Marie Ingraham, wife of AKA founder Bob Ingraham, passed away on March 19, 2010, at the age of 95. She was born Hazel Marie Herrick on August 31, 1914, in Caton, Steuben County, New York, the daughter of Bert Herrick and Grace Brand.

She grew up on a farm near Caton. Bob and Hazel met in high school in Painted Post, New York; her parents sent her there because her own small country school, with only 10 students, didn't offer secondary-level education. She found the adjustment to a "big" high school somewhat difficult, but then one day saw a "very handsome" boy – Bob Ingraham – in the hallway. They married on October 8, 1935, at her parents' farm near Caton.



Many members of AKA met Hazel through their kiting activities. She and Bob often attended kite conventions and welcomed AKA members into their home in Silver City, New Mexico. The early success of the AKA must be credited in large part to Hazel, who headed the one-woman secretarial, membership, and mail-room duties of the fledgling organization while Bob wrote articles for the association's newsletter and perfected what became his "Anniversary" delta kite.
Robert Ingraham Jr.

Guy Gagne

Guy Gagne passed away this February. Anyone who has been to Massachu-

setts' Nahant Beach in the last seven years or so probably knew him. He could be seen riding his bike overloaded with kites to and from the beach almost daily. He would eagerly greet fellow kite flyers, ask about our friends and families, and put smiles on our faces.

After Guy retired he would frequently visit the beach; this is when he picked up kiting. He started flying kites late in life; still he was very enthusiastic about kiting. He flew single line, sport kites and also could be seen borrowing a buggy and giving it a go. He became quite proficient and would often help and give advice to novice flyers.

Guy did not have a lot of money for new kites and collected discarded hand-me-downs in need of work and broken kites. He became a good kite repairer and tuner. Many of his recycled kites flew well and these skills made him a better flyer.

Guy was best known as the kite Samaritan. He was always there to be anyone's kite crew. He was there to help launch. He would help untangle line, bridles, or kite tails. He was there after a wind shift to clean up the mess and get the nylon back in the air. At the end of the day he often spent hours helping take kites down, packing them up, and putting them away. He would make sure that nothing was left on the beach and find the owner of anything that was.

Guy was a good friend to many and will be missed.

Dan DelPapa

Frank Lucas 1947-2010

Frank Lucas, a veteran of the Viet Nam War, died in April. Frank and his wife Pam, of Kennewick, WA, were members of the AKA, Washington Kitefliers Association and Ben Franklin Kite Society for many years. During their early years, they could be found on the beaches in Ft. Lauderdale and Boca Raton with their friend, Hugh (Stretch) Tucker. They were regulars at WSIKF, enjoying their stunt kites. They will be missed by many kites.

Larry Zilar

Eddie Webb

It was sad news when we learned of Eddie Webb's passing. When I think of Eddie a lot of memories come to



mind. Most of all I associate Eddie with OPK – Other People's Kites. He always seemed to have someone else's kite in his hands, and not always a fellow club member's. Eddie was usually the first to offer some help to anyone he saw struggling. Whether to point them in the right direction, offer a long launch, or adjust a bridle, Eddie was the helping hand. Eddie made or modified most of his kites. He was an expert in the eyes of many a beachgoer, because he said he was. Eddie was like that, never shy to offer expertise, and never in doubt because of his years of experience.

Several KONE members went to Ed's wake, and were delighted to see the family had decorated the place with kites and windsocks. All that was missing was Ed's roof mounted kite tubes. We'll miss Eddie.

Gary Quinton

Peter Lake

Lake, the AKA's first canine member and the faithful companion to Phil Broder, was put to sleep in April. He attended his first kite festival as a six-month-old puppy, and went to dozens more during his 14½ years. His black Labrador banner always marked his space on the field. He enjoyed getting cookies from kitefliers and spent many happy days with his numerous kiting friends.

PAINTING LINCOLN CITY'S CANVAS

BY AMY DORAN

The Lincoln City Indoor Festival has been one of my favorite events since my son Connor, just 8 years old at the time, and I attended as spectators. I remember we both took a lesson from Penny Lingenfelter, and were totally perplexed at how anyone could do that with a kite indoors.

Nine years later, our venture started quite differently. Packed to the roof with indoor kites we headed to Lincoln City by way of Portland, where we picked up Lisa Willoughby.

Thursday morning found us setting up for an indoor flying clinic and kitemaking class at the Lincoln City Community Center.

The participants were enthusiastic and ready to try their hand at indoor flying. Lisa opened the clinic with some basics about lift and the different types of kites. Lindsey Johnson brought in a wonderful collection of kites to share. After an hour of indoor flying, we spent an hour kitemaking with the kids and then sent them back out to do a show for us! It always amazes me how people of all ages will push the envelope when they are not given limits.

Friday morning found us running about getting costumes ready for the rehearsal of the themed show. Debbie and Lee Park of Aerial Experience Productions have produced this show with a different theme each year involving fliers from all over the world, aerialists, props, backdrops, fantastic music and



Paul DeBakker and Lisa Willoughby

tons of energy and enthusiasm. After learning the music in the two weeks before the event, the idea is to show up on Friday and have the entire show evolve throughout the rehearsal.

With no thought of flying outdoors in Saturday's blustery wind, everyone gathered at Taft High School to do the first official costumed run-through of the show, called *The Canvas*. Last minute kite changes and costuming are a common happening about this time, as fliers discover getting across a stage quickly with a kite may require something faster or smaller. After everyone is settled in, and feeling a bit more comfortable, there is some time for demos and fun indoor flying as well.

During all this, the Children's Carnival is gearing up in the commons area. In the second gym, fliers from master level to first-timers are sharing the gym, both experimenting with the idea of flight with no wind, on different levels, but with the same feel in mind. It's very expressive, a great tension reliever, and I have watched it touch so many people in so many ways.

The show at noon went off without a hitch, in front of a good solid crowd there to enjoy the new production. A lot of tensions let go as the production ended, the cast now knowing it was actually possible to pull it off, and to create a world for an hour that someone can escape to, and enjoy.

The afternoon was filled with demos, and a pretty wild hot tricks competition. Tristan Underwood and Toby Arndt battled out the top two spots with Tristan landing in first, Toby taking second, and Connor Doran taking third.

Saturday evening found everyone



Sammy Colbert



The cast of The Canvas

running about getting back into costumes for the second performance of *The Canvas*. The show gets better each time it is done, and this was no exception. Normally the Northwest Sport Kite Competition is held on Saturday afternoon, but organizers moved it to Sunday this year. Scotty Wieder was on the judging panel this year, so he did what is called "the rabbit" demo, giving us all something to shoot for as far as quality, and confidence. If you've never seen Scott fly indoors, it is more than just a visual thing, it pulls you right out on the floor with him, whether you have ever held an indoor kite in your hand or not.

With the bar set high by Scott, it does seem to set the tone for the competition. Every flier was outstanding this year. The masters can tell you how to do certain tricks, certain moves, and how to work on choreography. The newer fliers have no limits, because they have never been told there are limits. So to watch them go out and play is amazing, and enlightening. I have asked questions of all of them, master and beginner, and have gotten great ideas, and great energy from them all. Tristan Underwood

won the competition by less than a point over Jerry Cannon.

A few more demos after the competition bring us to the last and final show of *The Canvas*. The production is based on the idea that what we are presented in life is an empty canvas. Everything we do, and dream, and feel, adds to that canvas, so that by the end of that time, we have created a masterpiece of sorts. So every piece of music, every kite, every flier, adds to that, to create something beautiful.

By show three, there is a feeling of unity behind the stage before the show. Everyone knows the timing and is working together with a sense of confidence. It's a much different feeling than Friday afternoon, when everyone walked in knowing only the music that they were to fly to. I believe that this is what I admire most about the kiting world: the support and unity that kitefliers give one another in competitions, and in putting together things like this show. I am very lucky to be able to experience this with many, and I am looking forward to the future adventures with this great group of people. k



Toby Arndt



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September 18th

All Day Outdoor Fly

Rev Riders Team Performances

Rokkaku Battle

Children's Kite Building Workshop

INDOOR FLY

Sunday Pancake Breakfast

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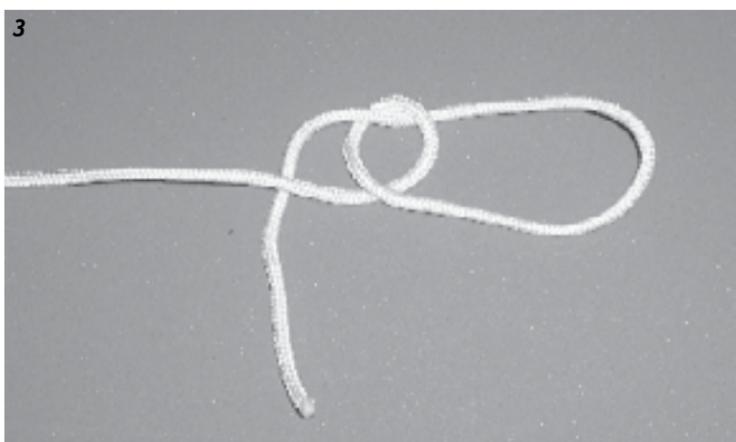
CHERRY VALLEY
ARTWORKS

KNOT IN THIS ISSUE

BY ROD BEAMQUARD WITH RONDA BREWER

The bowline is an almost perfect knot. It is safe to use under load but is easy to untie even after a great strain has been applied. The only disadvantage is that it is difficult to undo if it is still holding a load. It can be tied in several ways and learning more than one way to tie it opens the possibility to use it in any situation. A good rock climber (and kiteflier) should know how to tie it "one-handed".

- 1) Make a loop in the end of the line. The end of the line passes over the line.
- 2) Pass the end of the line up through the loop you just formed.
- 3) Pass the end under the line.
- 4) Now go back through the original loop from top to bottom.
- 5) Work the knot tight by pulling on the ends.



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AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

33rd ANNUAL
NATIONAL CONVENTION
COMPETITION AND
FESTIVAL

SEASIDE, OR
OCTOBER 11-16, 2010

General Information and Registration Contact

Maggie Vohs
Convention Manager
PO Box 410
Otis, OR 97368 USA
P: 541.994.4252
F: 503.419.4369
convention@aka.kite.org
www.aka.kite.org

Logo Design by: Art Stultz

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Great Kite Auction

Scheduled for Friday night at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center, the Auction is definitely one of the highlights of the Convention. As you may know, a significant part of the AKA's annual operating budget comes from the Auction. Donations are necessary to make this fundraiser possible, and we would like to thank you in advance for your generous contributions. Contact the Auction Chairperson at auction@aka.kite.org. Remember, your generous donation IS tax deductible.

Monday Night Early Bird Reception

AKA sponsored Ice Breaker; make new acquaintances and reminisce with old friends, the Monday night reception is the perfect kick off for a fabulous week of Kiting! And, for newcomers this is a MUST DO – come let us introduce ourselves to you!

Thursday Night

Come join us for no host cocktails to coincide with the evening Pin and Smallest Kite Challenges as well as the opening of the Kite Gallery and Fly Market.

The Fly Market

The Fly Market is a significant part of the convention and one that most registrants look forward to. It's a great time to discover what's new in the kiting industry, add to your collection and meet new friends. If you are interested in being a part of it, contact the Fly Market Chair at flymart@aka.kite.org. Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PLEASE REMEMBER!! This schedule is tentative. You may check the AKA website at www.aka.kite.org for updates, and after arriving in Seaside please refer to your on-site program for official events and times.

Monday, October 11

Registration, Auction Receiving & Early Bird Reception.

Tuesday, October 12

Registration, Auction Receiving, Workshop/Seminars, Board of Directors Meeting, Mass Ascension, Sport Kite Competitions, Fighter Kite Competitions, and Indoor Fly.

Wednesday, October 13

Registration, Auction Receiving, Workshop/Seminars, Mass Ascension, Sport Kite Competitions, Fighter Kite Competitions, Kitemakers' Competition, and Annual Business Meeting.

Thursday, October 14

Registration, Auction Receiving, Workshop/Seminars, Mass Ascension, Kitemakers' Competition, Fighter Kite Competition, Reception for Miniature Kites and Pin Challenge, and opening of the Fly Market & Kite Gallery.

Friday, October 15

Registration, Workshop/Seminars, Fly Market, Kite Gallery, Mass Ascension, Sport Kite Competitions, Fighter Kite Competitions, Silent Auction, Loud Auction & Banquet.

Saturday, October 16

Registration, Workshop/Seminars, Fly Market, Kite Gallery, Mass Ascension, Rokkaku Battles, On-Field Kiting Extravaganza, Members' Choice, Awards & Banquet.

COMPETITIONS

FLYING FIELD:

All outdoor competitions will be on the beaches in front of the Shilo Inn & Suites. Indoor Flying - TBD

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Seaside Convention Center - www.seasideconventioncenter.com
 Seaside Visitors Bureau - www.seasideor.com
 Shilo Inn Seaside - www.seasideoceanfront@shiloinns.com
 Ocean View Resort - www.oceanviewresort.com
 Oregon Information - www.oregon.com

YOU CAN HELP!

For more information contact the following:

Hospitality:

hospitality@aka.kite.org

Workshops:

workshops@aka.kite.org

Auction Receiving:

auction@aka.kite.org

Kitemakers Competition:

kitemaking@aka.kite.org

Fighter Competition:

fighters@aka.kite.org

Fly Market:

flymart@aka.kite.org

Kite Art Gallery:

kiteart@aka.kite.org

Sport Kites:

sportkites@aka.kite.org

Indoor Competition:

indoor@aka.kite.org

Sponsorships:

trophy@aka.kite.org

All other volunteers:

Convention Chair
 Marla Miller
Annual_meeting@aka.kite.org

CONVENTION HOTEL

Host Hotel and Convention Headquarters

Shilo Inn Suites

30 N. Prom, Seaside, OR

1-800-738-0644; Group name AKA (Room Code: DQ-Double Queen, SK-Single King, etc.)
 Room Rate - \$129.00 (DQ/K Oceanfront), \$99.00 (SQ/DQ Partial Oceanview)
 \$79.00 (SQ City View) + 9% tax

Official lodging for the 33rd Annual National Competition will be the Shilo Inn Suites. Located at the world famous turnaround on the corner of Broadway and the Prom (concrete walking path paralleling the beach), the Shilo Inn Suites offers oceanfront dining and lounge, sensational Sunday brunch, and a Spa which includes; 24 hour indoor pool, sauna, and workout area. The Shilo Inn is located in the heart of Seaside, within walking distance of dozens of restaurants, attractions, the Seaside civic & Convention Center and the Seaside Aquarium. To obtain your AKA discounted room rate at the Shilo Inn Suites, please call 503-738-9571 before September 8, 2010 and tell them you are with the American Kitefliers Association when you register. Official AKA Room

Arrival time is 4pm and checkout time is noon. Room rates (while rooms last) available until 9/08/10. Cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to arrival date. www.seasideoceanfront@shiloinns.com

You may also book rooms at the Shilo Inn Suites East complex. Just 2 miles from the beach, you may book a DQ/K room for \$74.00 + 9% tax.

RV Space

Those who prefer to "bring their home with them" may contact either of the two RV parks in and around Seaside. Circle Creek RV, approximately two miles south of Seaside - 503-738-6070 and Forest Lake at 503-738-0100. There is also a highly recommended park called RV at Cannon Beach at 403-436-2231 which is several miles south of Seaside. Though you may not leave your RV's in the city overnight, you are welcome to bring them to the convention center and park them along the Necanicum River during the day.

TRANSPORTATION

Portland International Airport (PDX) is the closest (70 miles east) international airport to Seaside. SeaTac International Airport (SEA) is located in Seattle Washington, approximately 350 miles northeast of Seaside. Seaport Air (www.seaportair.com) now offers a commuter flight from both Seattle & Portland to Astoria, which is about 20 miles north of Seaside. The Shilo Inn & Suites has offered our guests transportation from Astoria to Seaside via their hotel shuttle for those wishing to use the commuter flight.

Official Car Rental

Though rental cars are an additional expense to a convention, having one for the trip to Seaside is always a "beautiful, scenic drive" that many feel is worth the time and trouble. For the AKA discounted rate, contact AVIS at 1-800-331-1600 for discount and use authorization number J094055. Daily rates vary but booking early will guarantee you the best rate available.

Discount rates apply from October 5 - October 22, 2010.

PLEASE FAX COMPLETED FORM TO: 1-503-419-4369 OR MAIL TO PO BOX 410 OTIS, OR 97368

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRANT NAME 1 _____	BADGE FIRST NAME (IF DIFFERENT) _____	MEMBER # _____
REGISTRANT NAME 2 _____	BADGE FIRST NAME (IF DIFFERENT) _____	MEMBER # _____
Street Address _____	City _____	State / Country _____
Phone _____	Email _____	Postal Code _____

	QTY	COST	TOTAL
EARLY REGISTRATION: <i>Postmarked by August 14</i>	BASIC		\$230
	1 DAY: M T W T F S <i>(circle day)</i>		\$77.50
REGULAR REGISTRATION: <i>Postmarked by September 15</i>	BASIC		\$250
	1 DAY: M T W T F S <i>(circle day)</i>		\$87.50
LATE REGISTRATION: <i>After September 15, at the door only</i>	BASIC		\$265
	1 DAY: M T W T F S <i>(circle day)</i>		\$97.50
20% Child Discount <i>(See page three for qualifying details)</i>			
Ala Carte Banquet Tickets: <input type="checkbox"/> FRI <input type="checkbox"/> SAT		\$45	
<i>(Two: 1 Friday and 1 Saturday banquet ticket included with Basic Registration)</i>			
Cloisonne Logo Pin		\$7	
Logo Patch		\$6	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt <i>(Logo on Front)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL		\$25	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt <i>(Logo on Front)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 2X <input type="checkbox"/> 3X <input type="checkbox"/> 4X		\$30	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt <i>(Logo on Front)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 5X <input type="checkbox"/> 6X		\$40	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt <i>(Logo on Front)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL		\$30	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt <i>(Logo on Front)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 2X		\$35	
Sweatshirt <i>(Logo on Front)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL		\$30	
Sweatshirt <i>(Logo on Front)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 2X		\$35	
Polo Shirt Embroidered <i>(Logo/left chest)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL		\$40	
Polo Shirt Embroidered <i>(Logo/left chest)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 2X <input type="checkbox"/> 3X <input type="checkbox"/> 4X		\$45	
Polo Shirt Embroidered <i>(Logo/left chest)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 5X <input type="checkbox"/> 6X		\$55	

Please Note:

Apparel sizes 2x - 6x are available on a pre-order basis only! Please order before August 14, 2010.

NEW THIS YEAR - No souvenirs will be guaranteed unless ordered before August 14, 2010!

Payment Method: Check MasterCard VISA

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card (print) _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____ (Three digit code on the back of the card)

REGISTRATION TOTAL	
MERCHANDISE TOTAL	
ORDER TOTAL	

HOW TO REGISTER

Basic Registration

Includes one Friday night banquet ticket, one Saturday night banquet ticket, and admission to all convention events.

One Day Registration

Includes admission to all of that scheduled day's events with the exception of Grand National Competitions and Banquets. Banquet tickets may be purchased separately. (Remember, only full convention registrants are allowed to compete in trophy, or Grand National Competitions).

Child Discount

Registrants under 15 years old who are not participating in the Grand National Competitions are entitled to a 20% discount.

Banquet Tickets

Your basic registration includes a ticket to each of our two banquets (Friday and Saturday). If you have guests, who are only attending the banquet(s), you may purchase additional tickets for \$45 per meal.

Because we must order the number of dinners in advance, extra banquet tickets must be purchased before 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 and are non-refundable. PLEASE NOTE: Banquet tickets are like concert, movie or sporting event tickets; you must have them to attend the banquets, no exceptions. We cannot replace lost or stolen tickets.

Refunds

AKA's refund policy states that any registration cancelled prior to September 15 will be refunded less a \$25 processing fee. There will be no refunds after September 15.

Indoor Events – Banquets

All indoor events will be held at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center, with the exception of the Indoor Fly.

Please check the following where applicable:

My AKA Region number is: _____

- This is my First AKA Convention
- I would like to mentor a first timer
- I would like vegetarian meals
- I'm interested in the banner-making workshop for \$20; please contact me
- I plan to enter the Indoor Fly Competition
- I plan to enter the Kite Makers Competition with _____ # kites
- I plan to enter the Fighter Kite Competition
- I plan to arrive in Seaside on: / / 10 and depart on / / 10

Waiver:

In consideration for the right to compete, as well as participate in the American Kitefliers Association 58th Annual National Convention, (hereinafter referred to as "Event"), I hereby hold the American Kitefliers Association, The Seaside Civic & Convention Center, The City of Seaside, The Oregon Parks & Recreation Department and its commission, members, officers, agents and employees, Shilo Inn Suites and Cameo Management Solutions, Inc., the sponsors, promoters and any and all other persons associated with this Event harmless and release them from any and all liability in connection with my participation. I further agree that the Event may be used without payment, permission, or restriction, any photograph, film or tape in which I may appear for any purpose whatsoever. Please note: By signing on behalf of a participant less than 18 years old, the parent or guardian also expressly agrees to all of the above agreements.

I have read the release of liability and understand its meaning:

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HELPERS NEEDED

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- Convention Registration
- Wherever I am needed

Auction:

- Set Up
- Registration
- Cashier

Sport Kite Competition:

- Judge
- Field Director
- Pit Boss

Kitemakers' Competition

- Judge
- Registration
- Field Staff



Two kites from Mike Mosman's GoogleFlex workshop.

Kristian Slater builds a mini facet.

Tom Thornton, Don Mock, and Larry Christensen.

Andrei Chichak works on a crossdeck.

Bonnie and Dan Ecker

Robert Brasington

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Mike Button teaches the Bermuda octagon.

Paul Thogerson gets into his GoogleFlex.

Phil Broder's Bermuda octagon

Gerry Pennell

Shelly Leavens

Cliff Quinn

OVER SHADOWED BY DAVID WHEELER



Morning Walk by Craig Wilson

Below our feet is a hidden world we often see but rarely notice. It's a world of shadows. On sunny days the ground becomes a screen and every object on it projects a shadow like a silhouette. From the perspective of our own eyes, we can't see most of them. But from a higher point of view, the shadows become more prominent and more interesting. Kite Aerial Photography is a perfect tool for exploring this world.

From eye level, shadows usually appear as nothing more than lines or

dark areas on the ground. So we don't see their shapes properly. But to a camera looking down, shadows take on the forms of the objects that cast them. Meanwhile the objects themselves, when viewed from this unfamiliar angle, may become barely recognizable. This creates a juxtaposition of familiar and unfamiliar views that delights the eye. KAP photographers often try to take advantage of this effect.

To capture shadows by KAP requires a good sunny day, of course. But even on sunny days, shadows are only at their best during certain hours. When the sun

is too high, shadows are too short. Similarly, when the sun is very low, shadows can be stretched out very long. In either situation, it will be harder to recognize subjects in the shadows. When the sun is around 45 degrees above the horizon, shadows have their most realistic appearance. What time of day this occurs for you will depend on your own latitude and the time of year. Once you figure it out, though, this should be the hour when you get restless to get outside to do some KAP.

Shadow subjects are best photographed from lower altitudes. With KAP



Prom Night Bow Tie Adjustment by Cris Benton



Bike Shadow by Cris Benton

there is often a temptation to send the camera up high to take maximum advantage of the kite's lift. But staying lower will produce more interesting scenes of human-scale subjects. From higher altitudes, these interesting details tend to get lost in the scene. So stay low and get closer to the subject when trying to use shadows in your compositions.

Also, you'll want to pay attention to the direction of the light when capturing shadows. If the shadows are to appear upright, the camera needs to be aligned facing straight down with its base facing the sun. This puts the light source at the bottom of the frame. Bottom lighting is a fairly unconventional technique for most photography. And even with KAP, side lighting or back lighting usually produces more pleasing compositions. But when the shadows are the main subject, this lighting angle can work well.

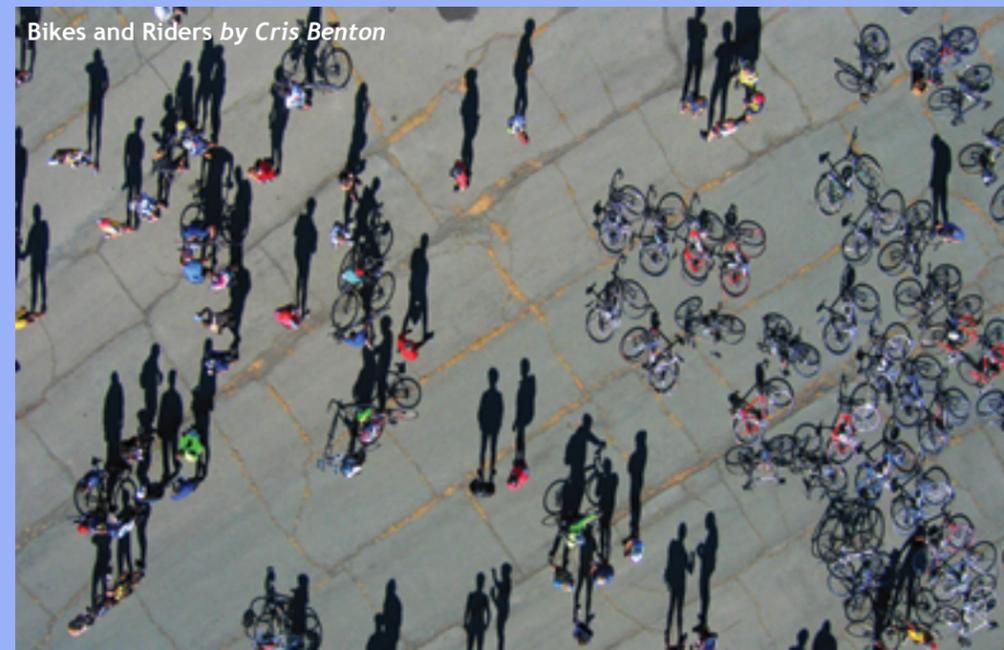
Some subjects work better than others when photographing shadows. Short subjects cast sharper shadows than high ones. Because the sun isn't a point source of light, the shadows it casts have a fuzzy edge called the penumbra. The farther the light travels between subject and ground, the wider this penumbra grows. So, tall objects or high ones will have indistinct shadows. Even a subject as short as a man will have a shadow that is noticeably less sharp at the head than at the feet.

So to sum it up, try taking your KAP gear out at mid-afternoon on any sunny day. Then take shots straight down, from low altitudes on subjects like groups of people or objects with interesting shapes. Be careful to keep the camera aligned with the

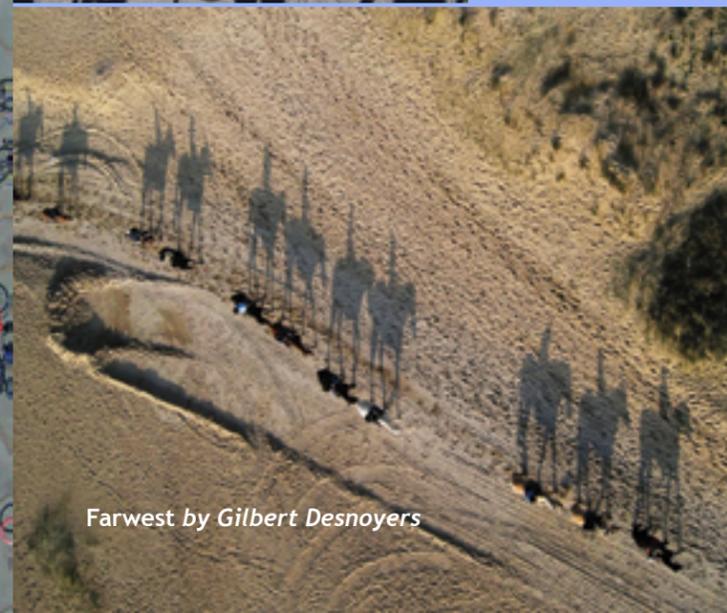
shadows, too. With KAP you never really know what the results will be until you see them. But if you can capture shadows like those in the photos here, the results may surprise and delight you. K



Where's The Beat? by Mark Morgan



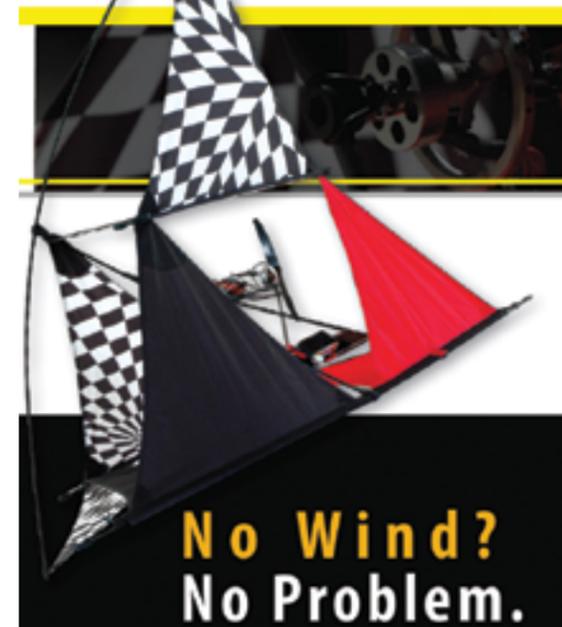
Bikes and Riders by Cris Benton



Farwest by Gilbert Desnoyers



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BUGGYTOWN DAYS

BY NICOLE O'NEILL

Aoxomoxoa, we've all felt it, whether we fly stunts, fighters, traction, or anything else our childish community of Peter Pans has devised to put into the sky. It is that divine feeling of transcendence that one feels at any age. Pure unaltered bliss that you can only know when you fly simply for the sake of flying. It is aoxomoxoa that overcomes you and makes you smile even when you snag a kite in a bush or snap your lines. You are happy

while everyone walked around lazily waiting for even a breeze. The more seasoned fliers watched as every now and then a "sucker wind" would come through and the newbies would run out to the field to set up, only to have their kites fall out of the sky. Time came to a standstill as the sun wavered in the sky. In the heart of the Mojave, the middle of the day is the hardest. For almost eight hours everyone floated between chatting, checking gear, and snagging lunch at Buggytown HQ. Then at 4:29 pm, Aeolus flipped the switch and Ivanpah came alive. Buggytown emptied out as one after the other ran out to their kite of choice.

The sun broke

because you are doing what you love. Aoxomoxoa lives within the playa, and it calls out drawing everyone from near and far. Although most of us traveled from all over the United States, this year's North America Buggy eXpo (NABX) brought crews from Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, and Japan. Whether it was the possibility of setting new land speed records, or just to be surrounded by fellow kites, we all converged on Ivanpah Lake south of Primm, Nevada.

The reports from the pre-event were of conditions boasting 30-40 mph winds with 75 mph gusts. It was on one of these days that Fast Arjen set a new record of 82.89 mph with a 2.7m kite. As he sped past Buggytown some dropped what they were doing, others were desperately trying to tie down their own gear in the rolling wind. Everyone, however, knew that they were witnessing history. It was this boiling wind that the HQ Powerkite team thought they would be falling into when arriving early Thursday morning. But the storm front that had brought about those conditions cleared out and passed to the west the night before.

The lake bed baked in the gradually increasing tempera-

On March 30, 2010, Fast Arie shattered his old record of 77.05 mph with a top speed of 82.89 mph at the North American Buggy eXpo, Ivanpah Dry Lake, California. Flying Dutchman Arjen van der Tol flew a Peter Lynn 2.7m Vapor in very high wind while riding an Xtreme Apexx buggy with Haan wheels. As the NABX Team was doing damage control to the main event tent Arjen made his high speed run across the lake bed. Winds were out of the south southwest and Fast Arie made his way right in front of Buggytown. The record was confirmed by multiple GPS.



on Friday morning with a day of no wind. The bug was in us by this point, and Team Wee Thump took off across the mountains to the west in search of wind. Before reaching our destination, we were sidetracked and stopped at the edge of a true Joshua Tree forest to fly some stunt kites and deltas, trying desperately to keep them above the kite eaters all around us. Large bushes and blooming Joshua

trees thrust their snarling fingers towards the sky trying to pull each one of our kites back to the ground. But we were successful and walked away with only one accident, our teammate Wheelie Willy backed into a barbed wire fence. The day was only half over when we stopped by the Whistlestop Cafe in Nipton, CA. Once a favored stop of famed silent film actress Clara Bow, this town with a population of sixteen had become a ghost town holding on to the edge of the desert. The crew played with the bobble-head turtles and toy tanks inside the store, until that telltale whistling of the wind started to pick up along the road. Would it be possible to kite the eight miles back to Buggytown from here? Were there unseen hazards? What about the old evaporation pond and the berms with kite eating thorns? To do it on a buggy is one thing, but for KiteLoop Kyle to think about crossing that distance on a landboard meant that the day would be over by the time he poured himself into camp. After much debate, the plan was scrapped in favor of bringing the wind back with us to camp. The camp was rejoicing as the dust rolled off the back of our car at a steady 15 MPH. We were more than happy to teach other kites and help set up, only to be



rewarded with watching that smile spread across their face. Priceless. Flying once again into the sunset, more than the Wee Thump team rejoiced when dinner came out and Lenka and Slava (Snowkite Cinema) threw on videos of the day.

Saturday came parading into Buggytown with perfect wind in tow. Over eight hours of flying and free-riding and all of us felt that great aoxomoxoa feeling wash over us. All types of traction kites, buggies, landsailers, and landboarders spent their time riding the pleasurable playa. If it moved, chances were that we put a kite in it and watched it sail. With the perfect lighting and all of us out on the field, it seemed only perfect that we set up a tandem buggy and headed out to capture some footage. KiteLoop Kyle grabbed the Montana V 7.0m in the 16 mph wind and Chris and myself in the tandem buggy popped up the Apex II 7.0m and headed to the softer side of the lake. It was a perfect place to throw some tricks and fly as a group. The sun set on Buggytown and those not out on a midnight ride were treated to a fabulous banquet and the raffling off of many fabulous gifts.

Team Wee Thump was all too sad to wake up on Sunday. Other than the lack of wind, there was a sense of sorrow in the air as we all knew that we would be going our separate ways. We were also sad to say goodbye to those that made this event amazing. Thank you Dean, you are the embodiment of living, breathing aoxomoxoa. Thanks also go out to Jose and the various characters that aided in making sure that everyone of us left with a big ole chuckle in our hearts and a smile on our face. Thank you Lenka and Slawek, and the Peter Lynn boys for the amazing footage to keep us entertained at night. And last but definitely not least, a special thanks goes to everyone that helped in the kitchen. Without your hard work and delicious meals, we would have been relegated to eating cold McDonalds and marshmallows. To everyone else that went to NABX and spent a minute talking with me and my crew, or just flew with us, you are



the reason more people need to get into the sport. Finally, to the members of the new Team Wee Thump: I love you guys. k

The AKA recommends the use of proper safety equipment, including helmets, when engaging in any form of traction kiting, such as bugging.



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CHAMPIONNAT DU MONDE

BY KEITH GRIFFITHS

This was our fourth trip to Berck for the world championships, ever since we got seriously into kites and discovered the competition. We arrived late Saturday afternoon after a nine hour drive from Cardiff, Wales, and soon re-acquainted ourselves with the Russian contingent, who had been so friendly at EuroCup09. Mikhail and Anton were behind the massive push of publicity on Facebook, and they would be running the scores and blogging the event for all those unfortunate enough to not be there. This effort has been well appreciated by all and is a great example of how to generate interest using the new media. I, for one, shall be trying to emulate their efforts for the UK championships.

each. Red Bull went for the cigarette venting method in their kites and Start Air had two extra homemade vented Fury designs as well as the standard vented one. Scratch Bunnies also had a mega-vent Fury, hot off the sewing machine at Carl's studio, with almost the same vent layout as one of the ones from Start'Air. Was this going to be a championship characterised by who had the best equipment for the conditions?

As expected Fury kites dominated the competition again, with four teams using them. Red Bull had their branded Blackbirds, built by Ramlal, Pilotes de Ligne were using Masques, and Vortex had Masques for vented kites but switched to Transfers for

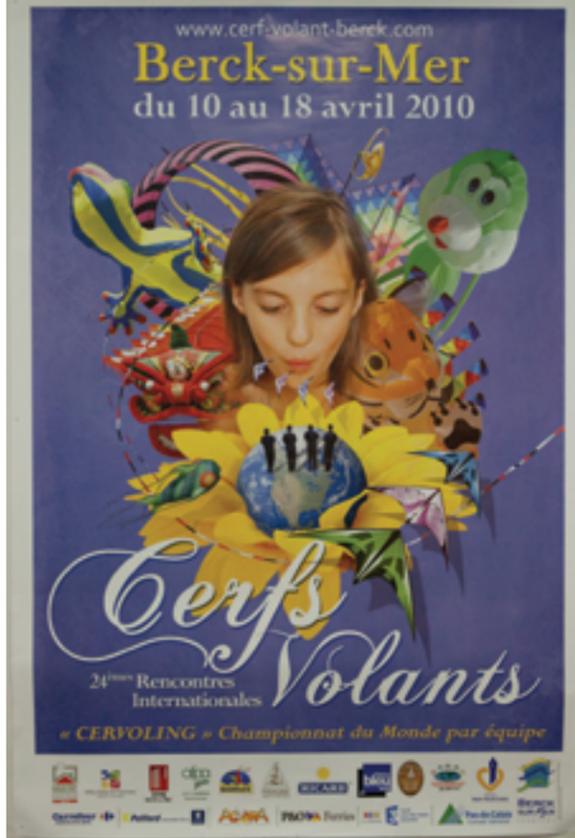
lighter winds. Freaks Team had kites from Alto Vuelo, their vented kite had a lot of tear-off panels, which proved a challenge for the ground crews.

Day 1

Precision in the morning with the figures being Pickup Sticks, Follow, Flank Up and Square and Hairpin. The wind was up around 20 mph so it is a credit to the

Scratch Bunnies

teams that we saw scores as high as we did. Red Bull's figures were excellent, with tight spacing (perhaps too tight in some places) and tidy lines. The Bunnies' technical routine picked up an excellent 80. Red Bull in the lead by 0.54, not a lot in it. Flame were surprised to find that their crash at the end of the hairpin had not resulted in a zero, but it had significantly dropped their score for that figure, leaving them trailing in last place.



The afternoon ballet performances had to cope with even more wind than the morning, thought thankfully it did not reach the forecast 30 mph, peaking around 25 mph. This led to most ballets being a bit scrappy, missed landings galore. Nevertheless Scratch Bunnies posted a huge score of 84, nearly 10 point above everyone else, putting them firmly in the lead. AirZone's ballet gave them second place for the afternoon, despite flying half the routine with the upper spreader hanging out from one kite after a tick. Start Air and Red Bull were close on AirZone's heels.

Day 2

The wind was a little easier for Day 2, in the 12-15 mph range for the morning, but it's bumpiness was all the more apparent because of it. With the wind coming along the beach from the north it

Judges and staff



was noticeable that in the arena the left hand side was suffering a wind shadow effect from the town, challenging the teams' ability to compensate. The figures picked were Arch de Triomphe, Basket, and Steps Down.

Notable improvements over the previous day's performances from Freaks Team and Flame, but AirZone had a poor Arch de Triomphe dropping them down to 6th for the morning precision. Talking to Darrin Skinner later I think he took the team into the figure in the wrong order, so they did well to fly it at all. In the end though it was Red Bull and Scratch Bunnies one-two again, even closer this time with only 0.2 points separating them.

Ballet performances were better in the lighter winds, with five teams scoring over 70 overall, and the Bunnies and the Bulls scoring over 80 each. In the end though a massive 86 for ballet put the Scratch Bunnies at the top of Day 2. Red Bull just were not able to match the choreography scores, Yasu's choreography looking too much like the Overdrive routines of old and perhaps suffering in the judges eyes because of it. Their tight formations were exemplary but it was all too similar to really score well. We did speculate that the routine was designed to look good for video cameras, which is

John Gillespie



where most would see it at Red Bull events around the world.

Day 3

The wind was really co-operating by the time Day 3 came, starting at less than

15 mph and at times dropping down into the realms of ultralight kites, but it was cycling up and down causing teams to agonise over kite choice. The conditions did produce the best figures scores of the week with Scratch Bunnies taking the unofficial prize of best single figure score. Start'Air pushed up into second place for the morning, relegating Red Bull to third with AirZone snapping at their heels in fourth. Bunnies were out on top at the lunch break

though, could anyone really challenge them in the ballet? Not that we knew any of this at the time of course, the final day's scores were being kept secret until Friday's gala dinner.

The afternoon's ballet draw couldn't have been better, with the Scratch Bunnies due to fly last. Again the wind played ball, except for AirZone getting a 90° shift in the middle of their routine. Full credit to them for seamlessly transitioning, the sign of a great team. There were some excellent scores. I think Freaks Team will be a significant force to be reckoned with in the next WSKC, their score of almost 72 shows they have what it takes, and three of the four pilots are only boys, plenty of improvement to come.

However, the afternoon belonged to the Scratch Bunnies. There had been rumours that they had been playing it safe in their ballet, in order to get two good scores under their belt, and they would be going for it on the last day. They didn't disappoint.

After watching the competition it was no great surprise to find Scratch Bunnies at the top of the pile, they are now current UK, European and World Champions.

1. Scratch Bunnies (UK)
2. Red Bull Kiteforce (France)
3. Start'Air (France)
4. AirZone (USA)
5. Freaks Team (Argentina)
6. Pilotes de Ligne (France)
7. Flame (UK)
8. Vortex (Spain)



John Gillespie

It was interesting to look back at the differing psychology of the top two teams. Red Bull posted beforehand that they have been practising every other week in the run up to this championship (and by that I mean a 40 hour week of practice at least), whereas the Scratch Bunnies turned up at Berck without having even chosen their ballet music, editing and choreographing it in two days. They had probably only flown it 10 times before the first day's competition. The Bunnies were suffering as well; Richard had a bad case of flu (and it showed on his personal performance) and Carl and Chris had mild food poisoning one night (avoid the profiteroles in Berck).

Overall it was a great week, with some outstanding performances, and certainly no-one was there just to make up the numbers. I am glad that the team I fly with (AirHeads) decided to turn down the offer of a place, for we would have been seriously outclassed. Maybe next time.... k

Ben Dantonio

Sunday and Monday went by in a blur as we caught up with the UK teams, Flame and Scratch Bunnies, and watched as many of the demo routines as we could trying to see who was going to be challenging for the championship. My expectation was Red Bull Kiteforce and Scratch Bunnies, but Start'Air are a strong team now too. Looking back at the WSKC 2008 results it was interesting to note that only one of the teams out of the top six were here this year.

The wind was challenging. It steadily built throughout the day and on Monday afternoon it peaked at 30 mph. The demo performances were scrappy in those conditions, but importantly the teams did cope. It was interesting to note that both Red Bull Kiteforce and Start'Air had three different vented kites



3RD KITE FESTIVAL
APRIL 24 - 25, 2010
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PHOTOS BY PATRIZIO MARIANI

19TH INT'L KITE &
BALLOON MEETING
APRIL 29 - MAY 2, 2010
CASTIGLIONE DEL LAGO, ITALY
PHOTOS BY PATRIZIO MARIANI



TALES OF KITES GONE BY

BY RALF MASERSKI WITH HOLM STRUCK
PHOTOS BY RALF MASERSKI

At the end of the 1990s, Achim Kinter (German expert on historic kites) was asked to organize an open workshop for historic kites in Germany. After talking to his wife Sabine, he said: "Yes, we can." So, in the summer of 2000 he began to distribute the registration forms. The schedule was not completely known but after a few days he had to close the list of participants.

After one year of preparation the first Historical Kite Workshop took place from March 30th to April 1st, 2001, in Haltern, Germany. The schedule was filled with lectures, kitemaking and socializing. We have kept to this schedule in the following years. The lecturers were Hans Snoek (Germany), Jan Desimpelaere (Belgium), Frits Sauvè (Netherlands), Werner Schmidt (Germany) and Scott Skinner (USA), who showed us a lot of

Jan Desimpelaere with a very old Roloplan.



pictures from the Drachen Foundation collection of Alexander Graham Bell and S.F. Cody. The workshop kite was the "Conyne No.3". Many participants brought along their historical reconstructions and showed them to the other kitemakers, who were very happy about the chance to have a closer look at these kites, because many of them were unknown to most participants. At the end of the weekend it was clear for all, this should not be the last event.

2002: Rodgau, Germany

The workshop kite was the "Voigtlander bird kite", prepared by Gerd Schaller. This was his last workshop before he passed away. The three original Voigtlander kites, found by kite friends from Peine, are now owned by the Drachen Foundation.

2003: Maschen, Germany

The "Eddy Kite" built after the original patent was the kite project. Charles Tacheron from Switzerland showed a "Lamson



Participants at the 10th workshop, with one of each kite made in previous years.

Aerocurve" replica in original size and the Drachen Foundation presented two original Cody kites.

2004: Apeldoorn, Netherlands

The workshop kite was the "Anemometrè", a kite used for weather research around 1913 near Paris. Paul Chapman from Great Britain gave a lecture about "Brookites" and showed an original Cody sail. Also there was a big exhibition of Gibson Girls and Transceivers.

2005: Lindenberg, Germany

The Historical Kite Workshop goes public. Werner Schmidt (German expert on kites for weather research) and his wife Claudia Hammer-Schmidt invited the participants to the official celebration of the centenary of the meteorological institute that had been set up with the Kaiser's blessing (and quite a few of his Marks) by Professor Richard Assmann. Until the 1950s, meteorological kites had been flown there to collect data from the upper air. The participants stayed all Saturday on the ground of the institute to show their historic kites to the public and to experience the history of weather kites.

The evening began with a play. Some participants slipped into different roles of famous people who did weather research with kites. The show was a great success. At the end of the evening the first raffle took place. Since then it's a highlight of every workshop.

2006: Apeldoorn, Netherlands

The main theme was Alic Pearson, his "Pearson Roller" and his kite group, The Round Pond Fliers, which flew their kites at the Round Pond in Kensington Garden in London. The organizing team presented a wonderful idea for the kitemaking session. Everybody got two kits, a smaller and a bigger Pearson Roller. The small one should be made and given as a gift to a young person to bring them into kite flying.



Three sizes of the Grund kite.

2007: Wasserkuppe, Germany

Between the World Wars, great advances in sailplane development were made in Wasserkuppe. On the Friday evening the participants were given a tour of the sailplane museum with beautiful old sailplanes including a replica of the Otto Lilienthal glider. The workshop kite was the "Espenlaub-Kite". Gottlob Espenlaub (1900-1972) was a designer of sailplanes, cars and kites. His daughter Christa gave a lecture about his life and his work. She and her nephew gave one of the very big old Espenlaub-Kites to the Workshop group to make a replica. This project is still in progress. Stefan Nietsch (expert on Lilienthal gliders) gave a lecture about the material and how to build a glider replica. This 7th Historical Kite Workshop was the most international one with participants from Germany, Netherlands, France, Great Britain, Switzerland, United States, Australia and New Zealand.



Charles Tacheron and Falk Hilsenbek with their Lamson Aerocurve kites.

2008: Friedrichshafen, Germany

The workshop kite was the Russian "Kusnetzow Kite." The weekend started with a guided tour through the Zeppelin Museum. This museum was also the place for the sewing on Saturday and an open exhibition of replica kites took place in front of the building. On Saturday, Charles Tacheron from Switzerland flew his "N-Kite" from a firefighting boat on Lake Constance. What a sensation! A hundred years ago people from the weather research station did the same with the kite boat "Gna" to collect data from the upper air.

2009: Bad Hersfeld, Germany

This year the "Multicellular Kite" from Joseph Lecornu (France) was the project. Dominique Cotard gave a lecture about old kite parts from the kites of Jacques Theodore Saconney he had found in a French museum. He also showed some of this old parts with the possibility to take pictures.

2010: Stade, Germany

The workshop kite was the German "Antenna Kite," the counterpart to the American "Gibson Girl. The



Kite flying on Lake Constance.

challenge for the organizing team was to find companies to produce more than 1200 necessary mechanical parts and a company to make the printing on the sails. Making the kite was again done publicly in the museum of technology in Stade. One of the kites was donated to complete the rescue kite collection of the museum.

At the end of the weekend the same question as always was asked: Who will take the baton for the next year? This is a good tradition since the baton is real. It is a piece of wood in a cotton bag. So everybody knows now, the story will go on in 2011 in the Netherlands again.

It is fascinating that every year somebody stands up and says, I have a plan to organize the next workshop. And every time 40-60 participants drive a long way to spend a very interesting weekend with a new kite project on a new place and always with some first-time participants. All this works without any kind of fixed structure or an elected committee. At all events lectures are held about kite research, kitemaking, kite people and many other things. The participants always build up exhibitions of their original historic kites or their replica kites and of course, they always find enough time for talking.

This event opened the world of historic kites to many people. We would like to say a big thank you to the Drachen Foundation, because they started this event and they still support every organizing.

Weblinks

www.historical-kite-workshop.de
www.maserski.de (Galleries) K

Frits Sauvè and Jan Westerink with a very old bird kite.





Dennis Smith



National Kite Month chairman Andy Selzer takes a much-deserved rest.



Lisa Willoughby



Jim Cosca and Paul LaMasters

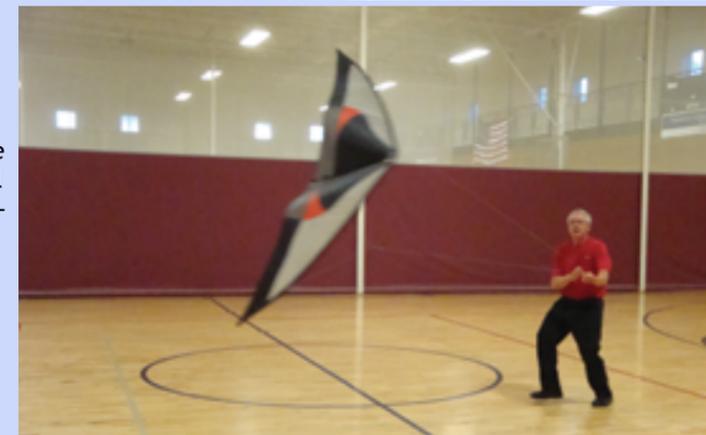
FORT COLLINS KITES IN THE PARK



The 3rd Annual Fort Collins, CO, Kites in the Park was held with in excess of 2600 kids of all ages attending. There was kitemaking and competitions for the kids, demonstrations of dual-line and quad-line flying by John Farrell, stacks flown by Mix McGraw, large inflatable PL maxi-octopus, power kite area, a fighter kite demo by the Pakistani club from Colorado State University, and general flying and fun all day.

The night before, a rokkaku art kite auction was held at the Aztlan Community Center to benefit children's afterschool programs. Fourteen Phantom Star Designs Rok kits were decorated by local artists for the benefit silent auction, and raised a good amount of funds for the programs.

photos by Bob Matteo



GREAT DELAWARE KITE FESTIVAL

NATIONAL KITE MONTH NATIONAL KITE MONTH NATIONAL KITE MONTH NATIONAL KITE MONTH NATIONAL

US COAST GUARD ACADEMY

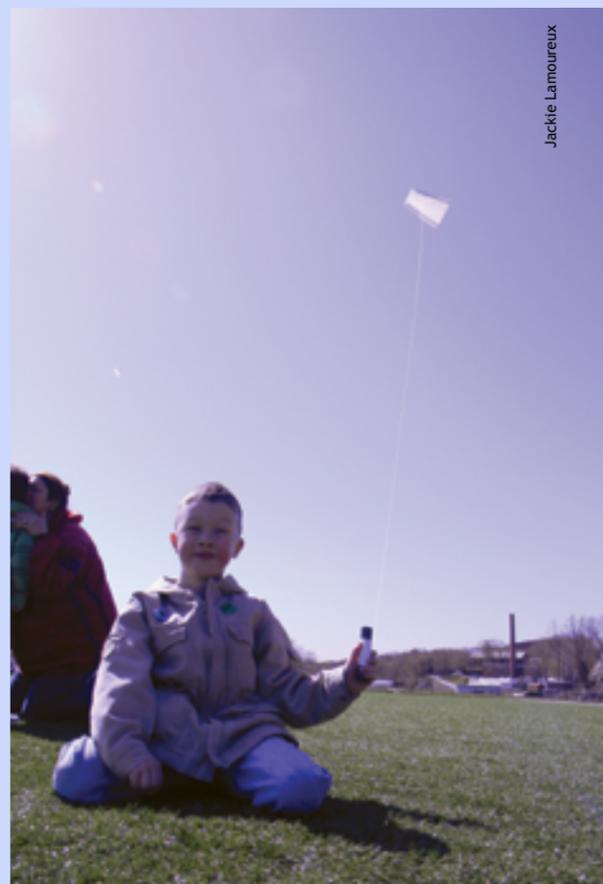
The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The purpose of the week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The US Coast Guard Academy Child Development Center in New London serves many children of military parents in the local southeastern Connecticut area.

Coinciding with National Kite Month, the Coast Guard Academy Child Development Center helped raise awareness for the Week of the Young Child and Month of the Military Child with a kite-flying event at the Coast Guard Academy. The theme for this year was "Early Years are Learning Years, Children Soar with Quality Early Care and Education!"

The idea to use kites came from the NAEYC logo used to promote and celebrate Week of the Young Child. They had created a kite with the phrase, "Bring Communities Together For Children ... Children Bring Communities Together."

A committee of parents and teachers formed and came up with many ideas centered around kites and involving the families. We passed out small kite pins to the parents to share at their worksite and hung small kites in the hallway decorated by and representing each family. Each idea was created to spread the message about the importance of early care and education. Because we are a part of a larger community here at the Coast Guard Academy, it was easy to spread the enthusiasm and one of our Snack Bar cooks even offered a special lunch for families and children immediately following our kite-flying event.

Jackie Lamoureux



Jackie Lamoureux



MARYLAND INTL KITE EXPO





CARIBBEAN KITE SURFING
CRANE BEACH, BARBADOS
PHOTOS BY CORY TERRY



FLYING AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

BY ROBERT BRASINGTON



Each February in the height of the Tasmanian summer, kite flyers from around the state, and from around Australia and sometimes if we're lucky, from around the world descend onto the

east coast of this small chunk of land to follow their passion. Kite flying on the edge of the world may sound rather melodramatic but at times, with the island stuck in the middle of the Roaring 40s, it certainly feels like it. This year's Saturday was certainly no exception with the wind blowing so hard I am convinced it blew the knots out of my flying lines. Looking south into the 35 knot blow one could not forget the next landfall was Antarctica and not that far away.

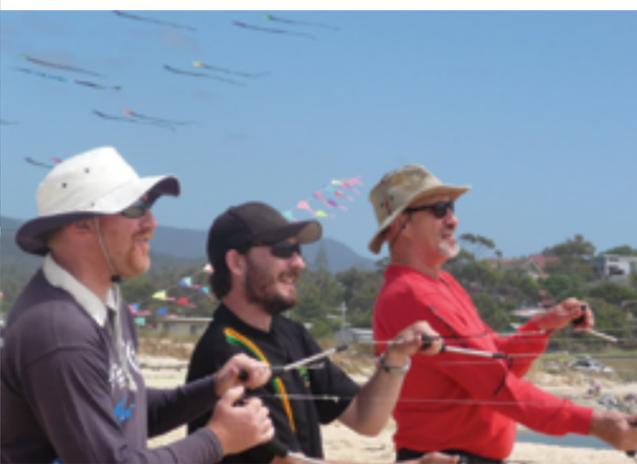


However all the intrepids had come so far to fly kites, most thought the only thing to do was... fly kites! And that is what we did. Small at first and then slightly larger kites took to the sky as some were heard to say, "It's really not THAT bad." But being a local, I knew there would be tears before bedtime and after some varying mishaps retreat was seen as a more appropriate form of valour.

The rest of the daylight hours were spent with Scott Skinner and his washi paper workshop in the relatively safe haven of a local garden. Rokkaku and Sode were the order of the day. After the ardour of the workshop everybody retired to the gentility of an Aussie barbie. That entails lots of beers, wine and slabs of red stuff thrown onto the BBQ.

The weather forecast for the next day was for winds to be out of the south again, but not so

urgent. Ten o'clock on the Sunday morning saw some of us up and around and on the beach. The wind was blowing hard and I was heard to say, "It's really not THAT bad," and to back up my statement put up some deltas to test the wind. It really wasn't that bad and by 11 o'clock the beach was a frantic scramble to get as many kites in the sky as possible. The winds dropped out to 10 knots and I was not the only one to run out of kites to launch. By midday the sky was full of single line, dual line, quad line, inflatable line laundry and bols. What a sight.



why people keep coming back to this far flung area of the planet, to relax and fly kites with kindred spirits. k





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