



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

QUADZILLA REIGNS OVER OREGON



IOWA'S GRINNELL

DENMARK'S FANØ

JERSEY'S WILDWOOD

ENGLAND'S SUNDERLAND

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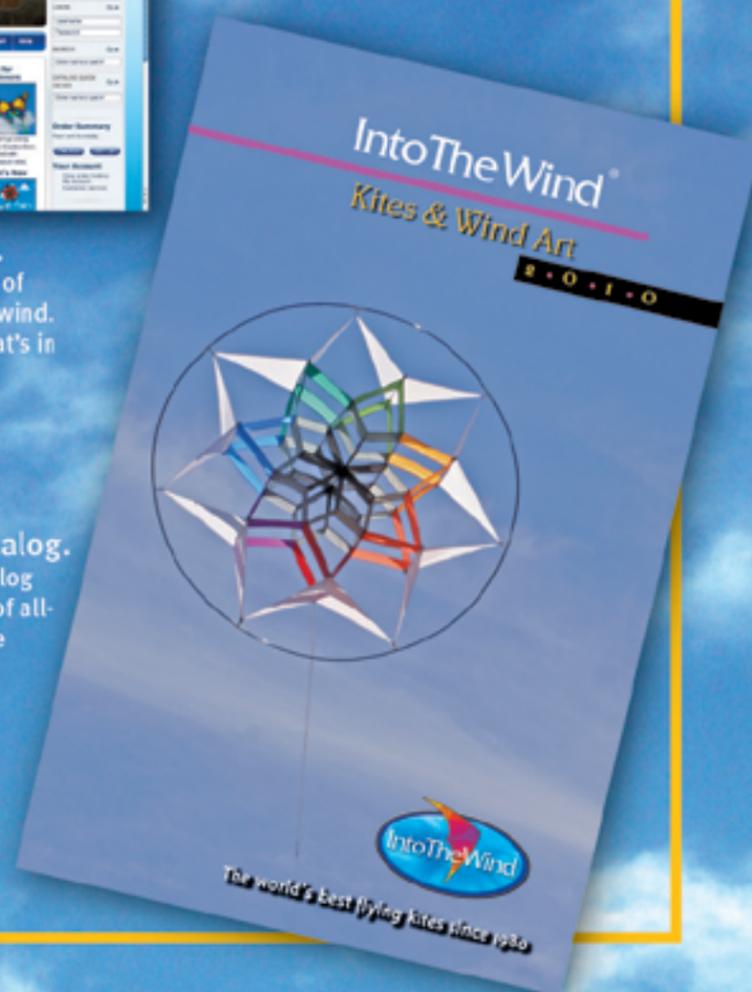
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Grand Haven
The fog clears from western Michigan

Red, White and Blew
Flying the colors on the Fourth of July



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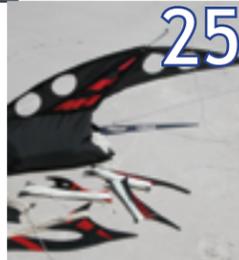


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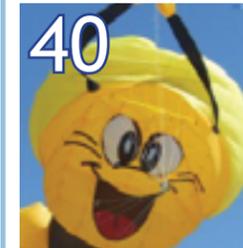
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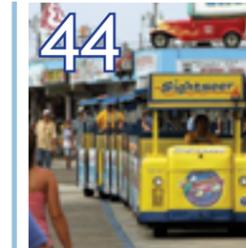


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It's all blue skies and rainbows in North Dakota

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- On the cover: iQuad surrounds Dale Ray's dragon in the sky over Lincoln City, Oregon. Photo by Brad Bixby.**

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





Chicago Fire

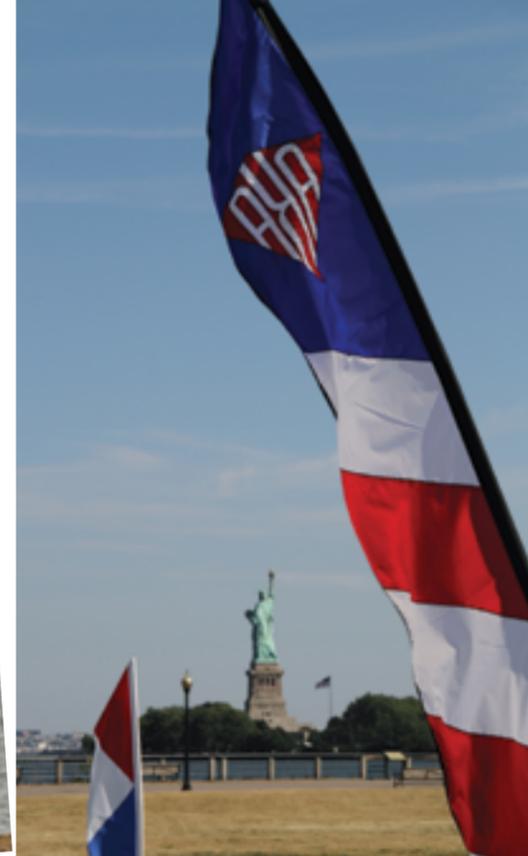
GREAT LAKES KITE FESTIVAL
MAY 22-23, 2010
GRAND HAVEN, MI
PHOTOS BY CAROL COOPER



Dave Bush



Zach Gordon



Brad Weiner in front of Ellis Island National Monument



Rev Riders with Paul LaMasters

INDEPENDENCE DAY AT
LIBERTY STATE PARK
JULY 4, 2010
JERSEY CITY, NJ
PHOTOS BY KURTIS JONES



FIELDS OF DREAMS

BY SIS VOGEL

Ten years ago, Reverend Dan Ogata gathered a few kiteflying friends, put some posters around town and sponsored the first kite festival in Grinnell, Iowa. Dan's love of kite flying and enthusiasm were contagious. The festival became an annual event that continues to grow and is now a production of the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce.

The 10th Annual Kites Over Grinnell Festival was presented in grand style as a component of the first ever Grinnell Games during the first weekend of June. There were no vacant motel rooms within a 30 mile radius as visitors answered the call to "Get Into Grinnell" and take part in AGA Nation's Skateboard and BMX Bike show and competitions, a youth baseball tournament, a children's fishing derby, frisbee golf competition and a tractor pull as well as the kite festival. It was a weekend filled with fun and fun-loving people! The only thing in short supply was parking.

Without the benefit of much wind, quad fliers Peter McMasters, John Barresi, Steve DeRooy and Joji Davis set the tone for the festival on Friday night with spectacular performances on Main Street. The street was lined with awed spectators as the fliers made their way down the block to the stage where the live band provided flying music.

Saturday morning the skies above Ahrens Park came alive with kites flown by 52 kites from 13 states and Canada. There were big kites and little kites. Kites were flown indoors and outdoors. Kids made kites. Adults made kites. And there was wind! Sport kite enthusiasts were treated to outstanding performances by iQuad, Team S.P.I., David Zavell, and Jim Overman on the soccer fields, and members of the Kansas City Kite Club and others led by Steve Batliner on the neighboring driving range. A number of spectators were bitten by the sport kite bug and took advantage of the free lessons offered all weekend by Rich Jabas.

Big kite wranglers Don and Betty Murphy, Sean Beaver, Bruce Kenkel, Jeff Kuhns, Jeff Hale and Mark Brandt shared the driving range and wowed the public and other kites with their displays. Single line kites of all description filled the remaining areas.

With the assistance of volunteers, Cliff and Joyce Quinn helped over 300 kids make sled kites from kits provided by the Quinns and Dick and Sis Vogel. Many kites shared unique, antique and handmade kites for the Art Display. Jug Buckles brought kites out of retirement to share alongside of kites owned by Gary Gillham, Jeff Hale and others.

James Patten brought a very special handmade kite, the Forum Friendship Kite. The kite was created as a group project from the Kitebuilder.com forum and is now complete. There were 18 contributors from six countries who made individual panels which were then stitched together.

Indoor flying experiences were provided all day on Saturday by Peter McMasters. After a two year absence, Peter returned to Grinnell to present two memorable indoor shows during the day and led the Indoor Extravaganza Saturday night. The Extravaganza opened with a moving kite ballet featuring the extraordinary talents of Peter, Jeff and Donna McCown, John Barresi and David Hathaway. The sight of all five on the floor at the same time was something to remember. Also performing Saturday night were Joji Davis, Steve DeRooy, and T.K. Barresi. Each of the spectators was presented with a miniature indoor kite and invited to join in the grand finale.

The dedicated members of Team Larkey – Ryan, Randy and Linda of the Kansas City Kite Club – continued to be the backbone of the indoor activities. They provided colorful banners, handmade kites for people to fly, staging materials, a sound system, security for the kite display, Kite Doctor skills and most importantly, big smiles to welcome all into the experience.

Great weather and super flying and lots of camaraderie continued through Sunday. While the lack of parking kept some spectators away, all who made it agreed that the festival was a fitting tribute to 10 years and are looking forward to number 11. K



British Columbia's Island Quad

128 legs and counting



LINCOLN CITY SUMMER KITE FESTIVAL

JUNE 26 - 27, 2010
LINCOLN CITY, OR
PHOTOS BY DALE RAY

iQuad encircles Dale Ray's dragon



Amy Doran wraps up her Wall-E routine



iQuad takin' it to the streets



Take that, Ray Bethell: record-setter Gary MacEachern flies three stacks of 16 Hyperkites at once



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RICHMOND REUNION

BY ROSANNA ROSANOVA

The alarm clock rings and the first rays of sunshine peek out from the darkness of night. It's now time to quickly review the contents of the suitcase and make sure it holds the flimsiest shorts, the skimpiest kiting t-shirts, SPF50 sunscreen, battery powered personal fans, water pistol for personal drenching, and ultralight kites. Gas up the car; review the directions; turn on the GPS and start heading south on I-95. Off we go for an eight hour ride through the devil's den of New Jersey, passing the monuments of DC while waving hello to President Lincoln, and continuing the ride into hot sunny days of the Virginia mainland.

Where are we going?

To the family reunion being held in Richmond.

The wonderful folks from the Richmond Air Force and WOW clubs again invited folks from up and down the East Coast and across the US to join them for the family reunion of kitefliers. It's called the Old Dominion Sport Kite Championship, but it's more than just a kiting event. Just ask anyone who has ever been lucky enough to go. They will happily inform you, "Boy, it's hot. No wind. Squirrely conditions if any conditions do arise but if you can only make one event this year, be sure to make it to this!"



Novice competitor Brian Bishop

Jared Haworth

How can this be? you're probably wondering. The answer lies in the heart of this whole matter of our kite flying world. It's the people.

It's our very own Eastern League Director, Marc Conklin, and his wonderful laid back attitude that makes it work. He knows how to bring the family together by inviting you for a weekend of no stress and guaranteed fun!

Maggie Engvall is spectacular with whatever cap she's wearing. She has the ability to roll up her sleeves and juggle countless responsibilities, yet still maintains her smile throughout the 100° days. Gary supports both her and all fliers, physically and emotionally with his presence and abilities.

Will Smoot and his sound machine keep the fliers calm with soft melodies throughout the days, smoothing the anxieties of competitors.

Southern hospitality is at its best under the direction of the Ballmers. The home-baked biscotti taste as sweet as Adriannes' personality and demeanor.

Terry Murray and Janice Worth open up their home and their hearts to share the love with fliers.

It seems there are so many folks that put in more than a small effort into making this event the best on the calendar year for the stunt kite competitor. K

PRAIRIE WINDSCAPE

BY SHANN GOWAN

The sixth annual SaskPower Windscape Kite Festival took flight June 19 and 20 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Nearly 4,000 visitors came to become a part of this world class event. The weather cooperated with us, and we experienced sunshine for the weekend which was quite a change from the days prior! We were very fortunate to have amazing volunteers who were happy to help in any way they possibly could and they became experts in face painting, twisting balloon animals, and building kites among other great activities for children.

Celebrity kitefliers from all over North America came to partake in this event and, by word of mouth and advertising, the festival is only growing larger and larger in popularity. Lam Hoac, an award-winning kite flyer from Burnaby BC, traveled to Swift Current to fly his incredible kites in our great Saskatchewan winds. He was able to share his amazing talent and demonstrate to spectators the gift he possesses and the audience was blown away. In addition to Lam Hoac, Swift Current was fortunate enough to host Illinois' 180 Go!, a group of four men who fly kites in tandem, with their choreographed routines accompanied by music for the whole audience to enjoy.

The Childrens Activities tent was a big success once again, putting smiles on every child as they walked through the tent, finding numerous activities which they could spend the afternoon doing. The children transformed as they got their faces painted by our talented artists, and they were able to enjoy watching our skilled balloon sculptors create creatures right before their eyes. Children were able to blow and play in bubbles, which kept them entertained for a long time, as they attempted to make the largest bubble they possibly could! The kite-making workshop was also a great success, and all the children were incredibly happy to build a kite and then go out to the public flying fields to see their own creations fly. There was also a straw bale maze that the children used enthusiastically, attempting to find the correct route out! All of these activities, among others, provided the children with hours of entertainment.

Our Kinetic Wind Sculpture Garden was also very well received. It featured over ten unique handcrafted artworks, made by local artists, interacting with the Saskatchewan skies and wind. Nationally renowned contemporary dancer Robin Poitras performed a visually stunning dance with scarves, herself and the wind each day.

The SaskPower Windscape Kite Festival attracted over 2,500 Swift Current residents, nearly 1,000 people from other places in Saskatchewan, over 400 people from Alberta and other places in Canada and nearly 100 Americans. It is truly a great event, attracting audiences from all over.

We are kite fliers from Kelowna, BC. We attended your amazing festival. It was simply the very best Canadian kite festival we have ever seen.

Diane and Jim Hauser, Kelowna, BC

Congratulations! What an event. I had the honour of being a volunteer

there! I am new to Swift Current and knew little about the festivals. Quelle surprise! To everyone responsible, organizers and sponsors, I wish to acknowledge my appreciation at what I saw. Swift Current has an incredible arts community! I have the greatest admiration for what I have seen.

Marc Jaques, Swift Current, SK

I really want to thank you for inviting us to the Windscape Kite Festival. Daniel and I had the privileged to be part of an excellent group of kitefliers. We met very talented and friendly kites. The populace of Swift Current is awesome! People were very interested to talk with us, to learn about our kites, the way we build them and the story behind each creation. We also enjoyed signing autographs for youngsters. It allowed us to talk to them and their parents, some even talked to me in French. This is the major reason why we like this kind of kite festival, for the relation we can create with a small community and the warm hospitality that we receive.

Christine McGee and Daniel Remillard, Les Cerfs-VolantStylistes, Montreal, QC

A very unique festival with lots to entertain us all. Thanks!
Dean Videau, Winnipeg, MB

My husband and I had never heard of a kite festival but thought it might be worth the drive. We will be coming again next year and bringing all our friends, relatives and neighbours. We had an incredible time. Who knew that flying kites could be so much fun. See you next year!

Sally and Mike Fortney, Red Deer, AB



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REGIONAL REPORTS

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



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End of term: 2010

some opportunity to promote our sport to the attending governors from around the country. As your RD, I had the honor of presenting to Governor Patrick an AKA membership. He's looking forward to receiving his pilot's license and copies of *Kiting!*. Forty governors attended the conference, and they loved the kite display. They noted that they would support kiting in their home states.

For those who fly in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area, check out this web site: www.kitehistory.com/Miscellaneous/Homan_Walsh.htm.



John Hosford

The school systems throughout our region have been struggling to cut costs and still keep afterschool activities and field trips for their students. Several school systems in the area held a "kites for kids day" to include the science and hands-on activity of kite flying. Many of our regional members hold kitemaking classes for kids to help promote kiting in our local schools. Brockton Public Schools displays the enthusiasm and fun the inter-city kids had when they are involved in this type of program. Jocelyn Meek of Brockton Public Schools reports: "May 20 was a beautiful day for Downey School 4th graders, who spent the morning learning about wind and atmospheric conditions under the tutelage of Sea Side Kite staffers. The educational program, sponsored by Superintendent Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D., gave students an opportunity to put into practice their scientific learning, while also having a good time. The Sea Side Kites group spent 90 minutes with each class of 4th graders, talking about wind, weather and trajectory.

The students then let their imaginations run wild, decorating the previously-unadorned kites with crayons, markers and wonderful ideas. And then they took their creations outside, let the strings out and flew their creations under a brilliant blue sky. 'It was an exhilarating experience for them to see their kites fly high in the sky,' said Downey School Principal Diane Gosselin. 'We had just wrapped up our state testing, so this was a great way to let off some steam and have some fun while learning. It was an awesome experience for all involved.'

Knowing the clubs in our region, I'm looking forward to learning what workshops they are planning for the fall and winter months... always interesting, educational and lots of fun for all.

Thanks to Gary Quinton, John Ruggiero, Don Tuff, Keith Oakley, Kim Linehan, and Jon Hosford for their contributions to this report.

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



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End of term: 2010

Greetings and salutations! Here's what's new in RegionTwo...

Wow, twenty-five years at Wildwood! Everybody had a great time and the weather was fine. Alice Hayden says that her brother Ted had fun flying his octopus kite. I liked the black tie formal banquet featuring 25 years of Wildwood memories. I counted that I've been to at least 16 (non-consecutive) Wildwood kite festivals. Here's to the next 25! SJKF's Friday night social at the Oceanic Hotel was a great event again with the club serving over 140 kilters a delicious meal. Cel Dallmer and Mary Davis were the key behind this but without all of the rest of the food donations and physical help of SJKF this event would not have happened. This year they had to raise the fee to \$7 but no complaints were heard. New Tech Kites provided the door prizes. This year at Wildwood SJKF was able to sponsor three guests: Martin Blais from



Dennis Smith and Todd Little go black tie at Wildwood.

Tennessee, and Francine and Jacques Letourneau from Canada.

The Keystone Kites have, by the time this goes to press, put on another great summer kitemaking retreat! This year's project was a transition serpent kite led by world renowned kitemaker Kevin Shannon. The club also held a summer picnic, which is becoming a popular event and may be repeated later in the season. Next up, the Keystone Kites will be planning their winter retreat, typically held on Super Bowl Sunday.

Pocono Kite Symphony and the Lehigh Valley Kite Society "Kite Day in the Park" was a big success this year. This year's event honored Ms. Louise Moore Pine, who has allowed LVKS and then PKS to "play in her back yard" since 1991. She passed away in December and will be missed by club members and Kite Day folks who have enjoyed her generosity for these many years. PKS has done less Kids Kite Builds this season compared to other years due to the economy, but the group is still participating at some festivals with their large ground display.

Lisa Willoughby has cleaned up on the East Coast this year in fighter kites, winning at Wildwood and Brigantine. At Brigantine she received the traveling trophy of the North America/Wildwood Cup, and the 4th Annual Brigantine trophy. Many thanks to all those that came out and supported these events.



Lisa Willoughby gets some heavy metal from Andy Selzer.

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



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End of term: 2010

Greetings Region Three! As Jeff King, President of Wings Over Washington says, "What a Spring!" National Kite Month was very busy and the pace barely slacked off in May. Here is Jeff's report: "Wings Over Washington has been on the go since the season kicked off at the Smithsonian Kite Festival back in March. WOW's kiting this year so far has been a mix of old stand-by festivals like MIKE/MASKC, Wildwood, Rogallo, and Wright, but also has included – indeed been punctuated by – participation at quite a few new (to the club) venues and events. Several WOWsters demonstrated and displayed kites at the West Towson Community Association Spring Fest in Towson, MD, on May 8. Flying was challenging, but Al Ault, Tom Butler, the Kings and the Miguels had a good day strutting their stuff. The aerial display put on by club flyers Mike Mosman, Dennis Hawley, the Kings and the Miguels was well received by the crowd and the organizers at a new community grand opening in Brunswick, MD on May 15. The whole "newness" trend continued when WOW flew at Great Meadow Winery in Virginia the weekend of May 22, and although the weather was not the best it was a fun place to fly. The club also participated in the Stafford County DARE Day event on June 15. 2,000 fifth grade DARE Program graduates turned out for demonstrations and displays from numerous organizations. The Kings and the Miguels made a pretty good go of the day with information displays and presentations, a kite corral, and flight performances as the wind allowed. With the hot summer months things slowed down somewhat, but WOW's looking forward to much more flying in September, October, and November, and is planning for a club mini-banner production workshop, as well as some indoor flying in the near future. Barbara Birnman added, "WOWsters took part in the Atlantic Coast Kite Festival in Virginia Beach on 1-2 May, WIKF on 28-31 May, and ODSKC on 19-20 June. Paul LaMasters went up to Liberty

State Park (NJ) to help out Kurtis Jones on 4 July with Jim Cosca. Paul, John Oxenham, and I are looking forward to Take Your Child to Work Day at the NCI-Frederick and Fort Detrick, held annually in July, for which we oversee the kite building workshop."

Laura Stonestreet from the Richmond Air Force reports: "In mid-May I attended the Quetzal Kite Festival held in Fluvanna County, VA. The weather and construction at the park conspired to keep the crowd smaller than it has been in the past, but those that came out in uncertain conditions enjoyed flying kites, watching RAF and WOW members fly low wind demonstrations, and cheering the children running with the bols. Rain started falling in mid-afternoon and cut the festivities at the kite field short. After the event, kilters enjoyed a cook-out at the home of event organizer Lawrence Levine and his family.

"RAF's first Sunday fly in July celebrated the birthday of the RAF founder, Charles "Stoney" Stonestreet. We also welcomed a new member. Brian Slater was visiting in the area from Connecticut and was considered a new member after flying at Dorey Park.

"The 18th Old Dominion Sport Kite Championships were held June 18-20 in Richmond. There were five Novice competitors and 22 total competitors. The winds were very light and one of the most frequently heard sayings was "wind check."

The Richmond-Washington Regional Sport Kite Championships is a Novice friendly event. Organizer Laura Stonestreet says "The RWRSKC 2010 will be held on September 18 at Taylor Park in Ashland, VA. This competition will offer individual dual- and multi-line precision and ballet events. RWRSKC 2010 will also offer a novice flying clinic for new fliers that will pair each novice with an experienced flier to teach basic precision skills, landings, maybe even some basic tricks! This will take place on Saturday morning, which will allow new competitors to sharpen their skills before competing. Next is Sunfest in Ocean City, MD. A week of good wind and "after season" prices on the beach. A week later will see the return of the Coyner Springs Kite Festival near Waynesboro, VA. Many Region Three members also travel outside the region to events like the Mile High Kite Festival over Labor Day weekend at Beech Mountain, NC, and the OBSKC at the Wright Brothers Memorial at Kitty Hawk, NC.

I hope you have a glorious autumn.



Keene's EBFA quilters

Please consider introducing a neighbor, or friend, or several friends, to your type of kite flying. Invite them to hold the string(s) on your kite, loan them one that spends too much time in the bottom of the bag, spread the joy. I have enjoyed the past three years as your Regional Director. Mostly. I have met lots of great people and hopefully I have served you well. By this time the elections are nearly over. No matter who is your next Regional Director please get in touch with that person and let them know what your thoughts are about kites, kite flying, the Association, and help publicize all of the events. I hope to see you on a kite field somewhere.

Challenge the wind.

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



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End of Term: 2010

Jim Cosca reports: "On June 12-13 there was another awesome kite event hosted by Kitty Hawk Kites on Jockey's Ridge State Park, celebrating the life and accomplishments of Francis M. Rogallo, the inventor of the flexible wing, the precursor of the modern hang glider and sport kite. Saturday was bright and sunny and had perfect wind for flying anything! The sky filled up quick and stayed beautiful all day! Sunday morning looked bad as it had rained overnight but things cleared up and the wind blew at 15+ mph for most of the day. Soft kites enjoyed the sky and power demos and lessons were the big draw. Both days had plenty of bright hot sun so keeping hydrated was very important! Myself from Skydog Kites, Chris Shultz from HQ Kites and Ben Dantonio from Revolution were there both days teaching sport kite and power kite lessons. The crowds were quite impressive on both days and they enjoyed the bol races and demonstration flying as well as catching a glimpse of the hang gliding lessons that took place on the massive dunes. We all truly missed the man of the hour, Dr. Rogallo, who always made an appearance and joined us for the great party at Kitty Hawk Kites afterward. Sadly, Rog passed

last September but his life and contributions will continue to be celebrated every year on Jockey's Ridge!"

Jim adds, "Sometimes you come away from an event feeling really good about what you've been able to accomplish. Usually at kite festivals that feeling comes from getting a newly purchased or built kite into the air or flying exceptionally well. Klig's Kites 29th Annual Summer Games Kite Festival in Myrtle Beach had me feeling good about raising money for two local charities: The Ronald McDonald House and Caring in our Lifetime, the local fight against breast cancer. This year's charity fly took place on June 18-19 at a new location, right in front of the Marriott Grand Dunes where the beach was wide and there were plenty of people ready and able to donate some money and come away with either a really cool t-shirt with the event logo and the Skydog Kites logo on the back or a fun kite to fly. Donations were offered from several manufacturers to help make it a successful event and volunteers from each charity were on hand too. The heat was on full blast both days and Sunday we were threatened by thunderstorms but the wind kept all of our kites up and happy as long as we could stand the hot sun and high humidity! The ocean was right there to cool off in whenever we needed to and we had plenty of sunblock and water to keep us hydrated. I got a good number of newbies started with their kites and did some demo flying among the big stuff that we had in the air. I even got to fly with my good buddy Robert who was taking time off from kiteboarding to join us for the fun. It was great to see my friends Rick and Bruce and I'd like to thank them once again for their incredible hospitality and support. I hope to see more kite events raise money and awareness for good causes. Thanks Klig's Kites! You've done good!"

Karen Mault says, "The sun was out, the skies were blue and the wind was picking up to a perfect level. That was how the day began. It was the second annual Maritime Day hosted

by the Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort. For the second time, the Carolina Kite Club and Kites Unlimited of Atlantic Beach were invited to put a show in the sky for those attending the festivities. The old-fashioned, family-oriented picnic included boat rides, fish printing, children's activities, live music and a chance to ride an antique breeches buoy. While red, white and blue were the dominant colors; it was not limited to them. All colors and sizes and shapes of kites filled the skies: Suttons, deltas, rokkakus, dragons, box kites, art kites, even the space shuttle. New to this year's kite fly was a ground display of colorful banners, petals, small crab bouncers and a caterpillar. Not to be outdone, a Blue Meanie, a wrasse and a crab hung overhead. There was only one single-line kite escape attempted which was pretty amazing considering the small size of the flying field and the large numbers of kites in the air. A delta made a dash for the parking lot. It was retrieved to fly again. A special appearance by Ray Wong, kite artist and professional flyer from California, gave the spectators a treat. He flew his patriotic stack of Hyperkites. Later he was joined

Carolina Kite Club fliers
Rick Tuttle, Bob Snow,
Ray Wong, Don Dixon,
Ross King, Jeff Colvin,
Ed Rexrod, Karen Mault,
and John Mault



by Ross King with another patriotic stack. Ray also flew with Ed Rexrod and his red, white and blue Dynakite stack. While Ray flew flawlessly, both of the other stacks ended up in the kite-eating scaffolding, for one reason or another. Some say pilot error and some say mechanical failure. All in all, the day was a great success. The kite show drew an appreciative audience and the club members left tired and satisfied."

Region 5 ~ Great Lakes MI-OH



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End of term: 2011

Hello everyone. It has been a blast seeing everyone and flying. Peter Ross with Lyon Township Kite Festival had a great time flying with plenty of kids. Farther north up the coast, the Breeze on the Bay Kite Fest was an awesome day in the sun with a perfect wind off the lake. We had kites up all day with no problem with Jerry McGuire, Dave Gibson and myself. What a great time with Jack (Kiteman Jack) and Diana Quinn and the kite store doing a great job on kitemaking for the kids with help from Sandy McGuire and other great volunteers.



Sue Stratton, Jack Quinn, Shaw Smith, Dave Bush, and Jerry McGuire, at Breeze on the Bay Kite Fest

Next up were Michigan Kite Fest and Warren Dunes Kite Fest. Thank you Ann Vondrisk for being a great Head Judge and running two great events hosted by Back 2 the Wind Kite Club. Also thanks for all the competitors and volunteers for your help and making these events possible.

I will let you know all the details on North Coast Stunt Kite Games with the Black Swamp Air Force gang, and Kites Over Branch County with the Tri-State Windriders crew, and Flag City Kite Fest with Spencer Schubbe hosting this one day event.

If you have an event, club happenings and or photos send them to me, I would love to hear about them.

Keep your back to the wind.

This summer has been very active on all fronts for the Midwest. There has been more rain than normal, crops are thriving and there has been an abundance of kite festivals throughout the five state

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



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End of term: 2010

area. I counted 14 events listed on the AKA calendar since April 14 and there have been many more sponsored by local clubs and communities.

First, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Hoosier Kitefliers Society for their 25-year anniversary. This is a great group lead by President Clark Shute. The club is involved with many events and activities. Angie Chau and Dick Claycomb always put out a nice newsletter. Keep flyin' high!

The Minnesota Kite Society was involved in several events, some of which were adversely affected by the weather. The annual Kiwanis kite fly was postponed by nearly a month due to rain. The city parks department planned a Kite Day in Lino Lakes. Unfortunately they failed to take the power lines running diagonally across the field into account and flying was nearly impossible. The 4th of July Fly was rained out but the Solstice/Father's Day Fly and Families First Day Fly were good flying days. Kitefliers including Matt Joyce, Jerry Houk, Suzie Hansen, Dean Murry and Brad Klages enjoyed the 5-15 mph winds.

The Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois, in conjunction with Gift of Wings, had several summer events including the Outta Sight Kite Flights in Kenosha that featured the Chicago Fire, EOS, 02, Brett Williams and Mike Delfar. Also held was the July 3rd Fireworks Kite Festival in Milwaukee. Don't forget the 32nd annual Frank Mots International Kite Festival at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee on September 11-12.

The annual Kites over Grinnell took place on June 4, 5 and 6. The rain held off and the winds were good. It was a

great Midwest gathering hosted by Sis and Dick Vogel.

The Wisconsin Kites held several events including flies in Wautoma, Antigo, Pulaski, Appleton, Sheboygan, Neshotah Beach, Shawano, and Wausau. The club has signed up eight new members this summer. Thanks to Mike Wagner, President and LeAnn Lauer, Treasurer/goodwill ambassador for their work in growing the club.

As summer winds down we look forward to the fall events, One Sky One World flies and the AKA annual convention. I am looking forward to Seaside and hope to see you there.

Keep looking up and hold on tight!

William Haas has been KAPPING at Jill's Hill in Carmel, Indiana's West Park.



Hello Region Seven. We have already had a very tough year flying. Midwest Winds Kite Fliers could not get a break in April at our Spring fly at LaVista Soccer Complex. We had to deal with rain in the morning and then high winds all afternoon. We hold a club fly each month and have not had a good wind date all year. Going into the heat of summer we are dealing with no wind at all. We'll have to keep trying and hope for a good fall.

On May 1st and 2nd, Berna and Darwin Smith of Buelah, ND held the first Coal Country Kite Fly. They had about as much luck with the weather as we had. It was cool, wet and windy. Deb Lenzen, Mike Shaw and Darwin made a great effort to fly something in the rain and wind. They hope to give it another try next year.

Betty and I made a couple of our usual trips up north this spring. The first event was to Deb Lenzen's event, Skydance Kite Festival in Garrison, ND. Deb claimed to change her ways and become

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



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End of term: 2011

a foul weather flier. We were greeted with good wind and steady drizzle all day but everything stayed in the air. Special guest John Pollock from Billings, MT, set up several of his prize-winning kites under the tent and after the weather cleared he even got to fly a few. Sunday was a great day, which helped to fly wet kites so they could dry out for the trip home. On Monday, Memorial Day, they had the best winds and sunny skies for the event.

In two weeks we made another trip up north to the Jamestown Kite Festival, put on by Chris Dodson and Mike Gee. This event has turned into a large festival with fliers from all over Region Six and Seven. This year was one of the biggest with great wind and the most kites in the sky ever. I have never seen so many kites so close together, and we had only one Charlie Brown moment, when Al Sparling's kite decided to do a ground sweep and take out a few along with his own. We told Chris and Mike they need a bigger field, as this event continues to grow

In between the two trips to North Dakota we traveled out of Region Six to Grinnell, IA. They held their annual kite festival in Grinnell on a different date than usual. Attendance by the public was down due to conflicts of so many events going on at the same time. But it was well attended by kitefliers from all over the country. The Rev teams put on quite a show with their demos both indoors and out.

Here is a short report by Bob Homan on the Twisted Lines Kite Festival held June 11-13: "Going to rename Twisted Lines to Rainy Day Sunday Festival. We did have a great night fly on Friday, and Saturday wasn't a complete washout. Our parking lot was overfilled due to Carveth Kramer's banners and "Nemo" flying high, Cat Gabriel's "Spirits", David Ellis' red, white and blue kites, Paul Homan's "Infinity", Steve Batliner flying tails to the delight of the crowd, and Don Larkey displaying his bol and his soon-to-be-patented bag for candy drops. Thanks Larry Stiles and his buds for protecting our south border and Doug Hoffman for keeping the kids in line (for the candy drop). We did not have any competition this year but did recognize Luella Kramer for Best Support of a Kiteflier and Janice Cobbler for Volunteer of the Year. We had a great auction this year due in part to a quilt donated by Marie Burnnett made of all the t-shirts of Twisted Lines past festivals."

Enjoy the sky!

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



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End of term: 2011

Here we are in the middle of summer in Region Eight, which means it's just too hot and too still for kites! I hear from my friend Rum, who lives just one county south of me, that he continues to get a kite launched almost daily. Rum apparently had better wind in his county than I can locate in mine! Summer's the time to make kites, get together and talk about kites, to even repair kites... but actually flying kites is truly a challenge in this area after Memorial Weekend!

Speaking of Memorial Weekend, Junction was, once again, the stellar event of the holiday. Here's a report from one of the organizers, Judy Kingery: "The Junction Gang met once again for the Memorial Day Weekend Kite Makers' Retreat! The tradition's a nice one to keep, and this marks our 22nd year! The

weather was perfect and allowed for all of the activities: swimming and relaxing around the pool, the outdoor BBQ, and Bait Nite was exceptional this year with live entertainment from Eddie, Roy, Bob, Rick, and Jude. Oh yeah, we made and flew some kites also! The Public Fly on Saturday morning was typically calm, but that's to be expected. Classes were conducted with the usual combination of fun and creativity. Rick Miller's classes included various wood block ink printing techniques and Edo construction. Bob Josjor taught a class reminiscent of Leland Toy's idea of playing with just about anything to construct something artful which will fly! Jean Gore officiated a piecing project in memory of our beloved bill lockhart. Sir Kevin Wolfe had all of the supplies that one could possibly want for making dragons, and Bill Mosley put together an outstanding DVD and workshop on the historical perspective to kiting. A very special treat this year was the Lei Making and Cultural Perspectives class given by Muyuki Chen! The absolutely beautiful results utilized intricately woven flowers gathered from across the fields and the wooden areas of the Junction campus. It was great to see Spencer and his family back from Hawaii! Plus hear Rick Roberts play his Highlander music! Janet Wolfe kept us all busy with a spectacular and fun series of glass fusing classes and kiln-fired creations. Jude and Roy had the lathe (thanks to a quick borrow from friends in Abilene!), and Gail and Dick Bell turned some especially cool pieces! Many thanks go out to a multitude of folks for making Junction continue to happen every year! These folks include everyone mentioned previously and Bunnie and Dorsey Twidwell, Michelle Borland, and all of our illustrious instructors! If you've got an inkling to attend or to teach a class, let us know and we'll get you signed up for next year. Next year? Yep, we're good to go! The generosity of our 2010 participants at the auction ensured that we have the deposit for 2011 already paid. So, Junction 2011, HERE WE COME!"

My appreciation to Jude for that report. Now, why wasn't I at Junction? I received a request to form a team and entertain at an RV Park in North Texas that same weekend! Stef and Roger Gaines, Robbie, James Burton, Jon Mitchell, Scott Wesson, Melissa and Brent Sutherland, Dyana and Steven Ploof, and Darren Weider were all sweatin' to the oldies while we attempted to launch kites in extreme heat and no breeze that weekend. The company was wonderful,

but the frustration was palpable. My deep appreciation to these incredible folks who gave up their Memorial Weekend plans to come out and help with this event!

Seaside, Oregon
— October 12th through the 16th — AKA Convention. Be there! 'Nuf said!
Keep looking up!

Region 9 - Intermountain
ID-MT-OR



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End of Term: 2012

The Northwest has been invaded by kites. Everywhere! This season has been nonstop since we hit the beach running in May. The North West Sport Kite League has just completed the season. We won't sit down however, as the new season begins in just a few weeks. In between all that, the festivals are in full swing, and we have been kept busy every single weekend!

The Rockaway Kite Festival stunned the City of Rockaway and its many visitors in May. The newfound Suspended Animation kite team had traffic stopping as the sky was filled with some of the most spectacular show kites from around the world. On the sport kite end of the fields some of the best fliers in the world showed up to make the Rockaway Festival bigger than it has ever been. iQuad's four person team delighted crowds in sweet blue skies and perfect winds. Penny Lingenfelter, David Bradley, Phil and Barbara Burks kept the crowds delighted with sport kite demonstrations and fun! Bob Serack graced the beach with his world renowned banners and his Revolution Rainbow Stack. Karen Highfield, Diane Weber and Deb Cooley had the kids flying high with their new found kitemaking skills. Dave "Geezer" Shattuck was on hand to take lots of great pictures, and Theresa Norelius of the Kite Shoppe had the onsite shoppe there to fit the needs of new and seasoned fliers, as well as promoting the AKA and its many benefits. While I had



Ready to rok at the Southern Oregon Kite Fest in Brookings.

planned on being there with my son Connor to join in the fun, a last minute event came up (see page 52) that had to take precedence, and we were unable to attend. I would like to thank Deb Cooley for stepping up in my place as coordinator and everyone else that jumped in to make the Rockaway Kite Festival a huge success. When the city called me two days after the event, to discuss bigger plans for next year, I knew that everyone had really ROCKED Rockaway!

The Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival was truly one of the best I have been to. A record number of quad kites kicked off the season of Quadzilla for the Festival theme this year. Fantastic weather and amazing sky shows put this festival right up there with the likes of the Washington State International Kite Festival. Not an easy feat I assure you! Rod and Cindy Thrall designed and built the 200 ft² Jordan Airform that topped off Dale Ray's Quadzilla Dragon, built by Rolf Zimmermann of Germany. This fantastic creature had lots of fun being the center of the show, and many of the quad fliers got to play along!

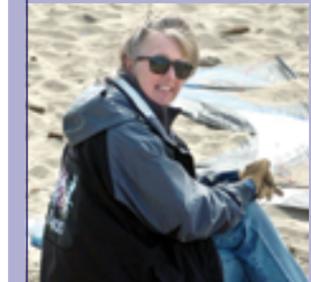
Gomberg Kite Team of Lincoln City and the Suspended Animation Kite Team had the sky flooded with amazing colorful creations. Island Quad and iQuad had the crowd on their feet! Connor Doran, Penny Lingenfelter, Lam Hoac, Gary MacEachern, Ben Dantonio, Spence Watson, Dave Bradley, Paul DeBakker and Al Washington are a top lineup to have on the beach. Lincoln City event organizer Maggie Conrad held a drawing for all the participants in the quad mass ascension with a drawing for a free registration to the 2010 AKA Convention in Seaside. The lucky winner of that prize was Cass Pittman of Washington! Congratulations to Cass and we look forward to seeing you at Nationals!

I hope you will all join us on October 10-11 at the Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival. Many fliers that are attending will be enjoying the Fall Festival as a warm up to the AKA Grand Nationals. The Lincoln City Festival is a great place to fly! For more information go to: www.oregon-coast.org/kite-festival/kites-fall.php.

By the time you all get this, we will be heading to the AKA Grand Nationals. This has been an exciting year for kiting, and for our family. We are lucky to be a part of such a fantastic group of kites. I hope you will all share what you have enjoyed in kiting, with someone who has not experienced the joy yet. Knowledge is the bridge that brings people together, and people in kiting have built some pretty fantastic bridges.

Think less, fly more.

Region 10 - Northwest
AK - WA



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End of Term: 2012

Greetings Region Ten members! It was a long time coming, but we're finally experiencing summer conditions here in the Pacific Northwest!

June started out with the annual Ocean Shores International Kite Fest with a great turnout of sport kite competitors and fliers.

We took a chance on camping again for the Westport Windriders Kite Festival. Although we had no rain, the cool

Barry Poulter at Brookings.



sea air and heavy mist kept visibility to about 100' in either direction, with kites spread out almost a mile up and down the beach!

Coming up in September is the Up Your Wind Kite Festival, September 10-12 at Pacific Beach, WA. I'm really looking forward to this event, as it will be my first time there. Plan on a relaxing week-end of camping and fun flying!

Be sure and mark the Whidbey Island Kite Festival, September 25-26 at Fort Casey in Coupeville on your calendar. This is a great festival, great site, lots of kites, competition, demos, bag raffle, used tent kite sales, and awards banquet on Saturday.

The weekend prior to the AKA Convention, there are two options for you to consider:

1. Robert Brasington workshop, sponsored by the World Kite Museum in conjunction with One Sky One World
2. Lincoln City Fall Festival at D River Wayside.

If you've seen *America's Got Talent*, then you'll know we are so excited that a young man named Connor Doran has enlightened the masses with the grace, beauty and confidence that indoor kite flying has given him. For him to show the public on a national level what this is all about, is awesome! Thank you Connor, for your courage and determination!

And remember, the PCKA Fun Fly is always the last Thursday of the month at Chambers Bay University Place.

See you on the field! Have fun flying!

Region 11 ~ N. California Northern CA-NV



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End of Term: 2012

Fall is not far off, which means that the Annual Convention is upon us. This year we Northern Californians (and Nevadans) don't have to travel too far, as the convention site is in our neighboring state of Oregon. This is one of the best places to meet other kitefliers, learn from the masters, and share in the camaraderie. The beaches at Seaside also offer some nice chances to fly. Hope to meet you there.

The 2010 kite competition season

is now over. The Bay Area Sport Kite League welcomed several new quad kitefliers to the stalwart crew of dual-line and fighter kite fliers. This year we've had Steve Lewis, John Quitugua, Dirk Meier, Ever Menjivar and Rob Pepito join Francisco Navarro, Jeff Erzin, Dennis Gemberling and Aaron Champie in Experienced Quad-line competition. Felix Durairaj has continued his dominance in Fighter Kite competitions. Aaron Champie, Francisco Navarro and I vied for bragging rights in Masters Dual-line competitions. Ed Skow made the drive up from near Ventura each month to compete in Novice Dual-line, and won a jacket for his efforts. Dennis Gemberling flew in the Experienced Dual-line competitions. If anyone wants to join in, please come by an event near you, even if you don't feel you're ready to compete. The next competition (the first of the 2011 season) will be September 5 at Ocean Beach, San Francisco. As always, check the schedule at www.baskl.org for details.

Speaking of Ocean Beach, Team AirZone has been spotted there practicing most Sunday afternoons. Francisco Navarro has rejoined the team after a year's hiatus. They are developing some new ballet routines for demos and competitions in both three- and four-person configurations. You can check out AirZone's schedule at www.teamairzone.com.

This past June, AirZone appeared at the Mountain House Kite and Multi-Cultural Festival. The morning presented challenging conditions (20+ knot winds, fields about 100' x 200'). By the afternoon, the winds dropped to almost nothing. Jim Streatly, Brian Champie and George Halpin provided a big kite spectacle for the local crowd. Food, good music, kids, kites, friends. What a nice way to spend a day.

Hello AKA. I hope all is well as another issue comes and goes. Things for me have been hectic but really good. Wildwood comes to mind first and all the fun had by all this year was good. As always Beatrix Pelton puts on an outstanding party, and the addition of Phil Broder's new kite puppy made it a good event. We had Island Quad flying all the way from Canada and big kites all over and most importantly we had lots of good friends coming together. From the beaches of New Jersey I was off to the shore of Lake Michigan to enjoy Grand Haven [Ed. note: the event in Grand Haven is the weekend before Wildwood,

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but we love Ben so we'll allow him this time warp]. This is always an interesting event 'cause you just never know about the weather, but this year the weather gods just gave us lots of sun and even some wind thrown in at times. Plus it was good to hook up with iQuad and spend some quality time with the team and watch those guys rock. If the team is in your area remember to go see them and either sharpen your skills or just watch 'cause they are amazing and are always willing to share the line with everyone. From the beaches of the USA I was off to the wilds of Canada to Saint Honoré where more fun was in order. In truth the mosquitoes won this event, but the good side was we flew kites and then we flew more kites, with some really cool night flying thrown in for good measure. You know this was not the biggest event I've ever done but with the people I met and the things I did it was sure one of the better. With that said I'd like to say if you ever get a chance to attend please do cause it has some of the best organization I've ever seen and some really good locals who treat you very well. After that one I was on my way to the dunes for the Roggalo kite festival down in North Carolina, where I worked hard but still had a chance to fly in the birth place of powered flight, and got a chance to see first hand what Mr. Rogallo saw when he brought hang gliding to the nation. But you need to know this was a rough one 'cause to get to the top of the dunes is a long walk in soft sand, but once there it is a really cool place to fly. After resting up for three whole days I was off to Lincoln City, which as many



*A pair of rebels:
Ben Dantonio
and Joji Davis at
Saint Honoré.*

of you know I really enjoy because for some reason when I get to Lincoln City I just seem to unwind and always have some great flies. This years theme was Quadzilla, and with seeing for the first time Dale Ray's huge dragon I was really impressed. Then you add iQuad and all the Rev fliers' energy you have all the making of a really great show. To top it all off they have a really fun indoor fly. From Lincoln City I took a wrong turn and woke up in Newport, RI, where I had some time to spend with the up and coming team Rev Riders. These guys get better each time I see them.

Before I go I'd like to say to Connor Doran, "Well done my friend." In case you've been in a cave this young man brought indoor kite flying to the masses on *America's Got Talent* and did a great job, I might add.

Region 13 ~ International



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We've done it again! Region Thirteen has seen a plethora of kite events. Is your membership due for renewal? Remember you can get 15 months for the cost of 12 months by saying 'OPT-IN' when you renew online. That's an extra issue of *Kiting* for free.

DENMARK – Spare a thought for Finn Andersen in Ballerup – his copies of *Kiting* aren't being delivered, so we wonder if the postman likes kites too?! Another Danish member, Michael Hedegaard, shares his website, www.kitefreak.dk.

AUSTRALIA – News from Victoria of an outdated Council Bylaw which prohibits kite flying, stating it is an offence to "fly, or permit to be flown, any aircraft, without a permit". ("Aircraft" includes

Josh Porter/Kitepower Australia

Buggy in Oz



children's kites, and anyone caught flying without a permit faces a \$234 fine!)

Change of mood, from Steve McCormick in Sydney... male customer entered his store and asked to buy some string for a kite bought elsewhere for him by his girlfriend. Customer had thought his gift-kite (stored in the large black bag he was carrying) was a two-string stunt kite, so was stunned to discover it was actually a GIANT 7.33 m², fiberglass-sparred, single-line sled that would need 800# line, minimum! Quick-thinking Steve arranged a mutually-agreeable exchange, so one happy customer left with an easier-to-handle 3-line foil kite while Steve gained the sled. Both happy!

From Queensland, Jon Ashmore had an amazing buggy adventure on Stockton Beach NSW, with hard dunes, leaving no footprints. Sunrise was amazing!

CANADA in ITALY – George Paisioich, attended his first Cervia Festival, and reported a standing ovation awarded to Ray Bethell on his 15th year in attendance. (When is retiring age, Ray?) Cervia also welcomed Peter Lynn, Robert Trepanier, Kisa, and Malcolm Goodman.

FRANCE – Bernard Fournière learned the phrase "sneak peek", with results to be seen on display in Dieppe at their 30th year celebrations. Bernard is shown here with one of his kites at Stonehenge where he and wife Marie visited after the Swindon Kite Festival.

ENGLAND – The Bedford Kite Festival, organised by Malcolm Goodman, featured international fliers from China, Australia, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and the after-party photo (by Doug Jones) even included the landlady of the Devonshire Pub. Elli and Bagus from Bali missed the photo – sadly suffering jet-lag.

NEW ZEALAND – The Maori New Year, 10th July, is called Matariki and is marked by a small cluster of stars visible in the night sky, signifying the end of one year and the start of the next. Ancient tradition saw Maori tribes flying kites to celebrate, and it seems the practice is being re-kindled.

CANADA – This year's PacRim Festival was again a big hit in Vanier Park, Vancouver. Mario di Lucca described the weather as "perfect." One of John Freeman's kitemaking students, James



*Bernard Fournière
at Stonehenge*

Babst of Kent, WA, featured prominently in the newspaper with his rainbow rokkaku kite.

The Parkville, BC, kite event in July offered coffee and donuts on the field for fliers, with the Parkville Lions Club sponsoring the Saturday night dinner. What incentives! Daniel Shane shopped for new kites in June using his AKA new-member discount. Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan is now represented by Lloyd Morland, welcome! And our thanks to Adrian Conn for introducing Mark Calcott to AKA.

SWITZERLAND in DENMARK – Petra deBack attended the 25th Fanø Kite Festival, where this was filmed: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkXND_tTP4k. The world's highest altitude kite exhibition, perhaps, with Olivier Reymond's kites displayed in a Crêt du Midi, Vercorin restaurant... 2300m up a Swiss mountain. Quite a climb to view!

CHILE – April's La Serena Kite event was called "Flying to raise hopes after earthquake" as a way to combine kite flying and to offer aid for victims. Gustavo di Si wrote proudly of everyone's excellent efforts in running this first-ever event in Chile.

Found this via Facebook and had to share - <http://dai.ly/coByyo>. "Mr. Lin's biggest mini kite is palm size, the small one is just as big as a thumb, and the lightest one is no more than 0.01 gram."

"The AKA is the only worldwide organisation that unites kite fliers as a family" (via AKA President) and as the international branch of the AKA kite-family tree, I thank you all for making my job (spreading the knowledge and sharing the kite joys) easier.

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



The Bedford gang

Doug Jones

Fightin' Words

PRACTICING TO GET BETTER

BY SHARON CHAMPIE

So, you finally got the hang of it. You can launch and fly a fighter kite pretty well now. You even know the little trick to relaunch after a grounding. You are past the "Omigod! I'm actually doing it!" phase. You realize you are finally able to somewhat control the little bugger. You can go left, right, up, down at will. So what now? Where do you go with your new skill? You want to get better at it and aimlessly flying around isn't going to keep you interested very long. You might even want to try competing one day. So let's talk about some things you can practice to help grow your skills and keep you interested in learning more.

1. If you are flying by yourself and having trouble getting the hang of launching directly out of your hand, here are a couple of launch tricks to try.

For the first one, set your kite face down on the ground downwind and about 10' in front of you. Have the nose of the kite pointing toward you. Pick up the line and give a firm pull. The kite will swoop right up if you do it right. Keep pulling to maintain tension on the line and the kite should go straight up.

The second is a little trickier. Set the kite down face up just a few feet in front of you. Give a sharpish pull, lifting the kite and immediately let a little line out. Pull again and let a little more line out. Do this a couple more times until you've worked the kite up high enough for it to catch clean wind.

2. Here's the relaunch trick I mentioned in case you haven't seen it yet. After a grounding you might be able to save yourself the pain of walking out and picking up your kite to relaunch. If it landed face down you are in luck. If not give the line some little flicks to help the edge of the kite catch a puff that will flip it over. Once it flips and is face down, gently pull the line to move the nose around until it's pointing toward you and give a good pull. The kite should go right up. Keep pulling to maintain tension and you are back in business.

3. Practice long, straight horizontal passes. Try to go from one side of the window all the way to the other without stopping. Maintain the same distance off the ground the whole way. Work on straight passes from all different elevations. This will really

improve your line handling skill and is one of the best ways to practice for competition.

4. Practice vertical dives from the top of the window with stops at different heights each time on the way down. Soon you will be diving almost to the ground and recovering almost as second nature.

5. Work on starting a spin and then stopping and reversing the direction of the spin. I can't tell you how important being able to control a spin is in competition.

6. Practice starting a spin at the side of the window. Then stop the spin, fly horizontal to the ground about 10' and start the spin again. Stop, go 10', stop and go 10' all the way across the window and back. If it is too hard at first then just practice flying and stopping every 10' or so back and forth across the window.

7. Work on maintaining a spin for longer and longer periods of time. Then when you can control the spin, work on maintaining the spin closer to the ground.

8. Try pasting your kite on objects such as volleyball nets, light poles, etc. This can be a lot of fun and harder than it looks.

9. Launch and anchor a stable kite on about 150' of line. Practice making line touch points against this "opponent." Stand about 10' to the side of the anchor. Fly over and touch the top of the stable kite line with the bottom of your fighter line for a top point. Fly away and attack again by flying under the stable line and touching the bottom of the line with the top of yours for a bottom point. You will get good practice untangling wraps on your own with this exercise too.

10. Practice the line touch game with a friend. This is the best practice you can get. You might have to teach someone else how to fly so they can practice with you but that is how we grow our sport. So please don't be shy. Find somebody to share the fun with.

Sharon Champie practices pasting her kite.



8TH WIRRAL INTERNATIONAL
KITE FESTIVAL
JUNE 12 - 13, 2010
WIRRAL, ENGLAND
PHOTOS BY DAVE WADE

Lincoln City Central Oregon Coast

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Seaside! Competitions; challenges; friends new and old; workshops; art kites; Fly Mart; and most importantly, the annual business meeting, all will take place beginning October 11. Will you be part of the gathering? Attendance at the annual meeting is your opportunity to directly question the officers of your association; vote on by-laws; and be heard on any subject you'd like to bring up. Elsewhere in this issue there is a wealth of information about the multitude of activities that will happen. More information including the complete schedule is posted to the website. There is still time to register. Come and join the fun.

Speaking of the website, have you had an opportunity to check out the updated AKA website? By now you will have received an e-mail message with your new sign-in and password. Please take the time to visit the website and to update your profile. You are invited to personalize your profile with your picture, kite interests, local clubs and more. If you are not receiving regular e-mails, be sure to notify the office of your current e-mail address so you too can access many new features. Automating the membership sign-up and renewal process will free our executive director to spend more time in member support services.

Did you vote and mail back your ballot? This year five regional directors and the president will be elected. Candidate biographies; proposed budget; and proposed by-law changes have been e-mailed to everyone possible, and mailed to the others. This simple change will save us over \$1000. If you have not received your ballot or information, please contact the office. Voting is your most direct means of influencing the direc-

tion of the association.

Exciting things have been happening in the kite world. Connor Doran brought indoor kiting to the national stage on *America's Got Talent*. The world stopped to enjoy his performance via the power of YouTube. Congratulations, and thanks for shining the light on modern kiting. The national governors' conference viewed kites flying overhead as they arrived for their opening meeting. Seaside Kites led by Greg Lamoureux were privileged to put on the show. Greg also welcomed Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick as the newest AKA member.



Jackie and Greg Lamoureux with Governor Patrick

The AKA continues to face many challenges. Membership has seen a slow but steady growth over the last few months. This is in contrast to the decline experienced previously. A new member e-mail monthly contact was established. The number of non-members receiving these messages has grown each month. These messages remind them every month what a fabulous organization the AKA is and urges them to join.

The year began with the auction, our main fundraiser, netting about \$10,000 less than normal. With the combined efforts and dedication of our contractors, vendors, directors and general membership, expenses were drastically cut. This

magazine will cost us almost \$6000 less than last year. Every budget category has been examined and cuts made in printing, phone cost, conference calls and more. As mentioned above, past practices were evaluated to generate more cost savings. For instance, you may have noticed that the 800 phone number is no longer published.

At the same time, eBay auctions were begun, the Great Kite Raffle restarted, and an early push to secure auction donations made. All these efforts both increase our income and give us alternate sources of revenue.

These are all important efforts to stabilize our finances. There are no magic, simple solutions. The economic downturn that has affected all our investments continues to plague the world. The AKA is not immune to those outside forces. Your board will keep up the efforts to cut costs while still serving the membership. New sources of revenue will be investigated.

I want to thank you for allowing me to be your president this last year. Not always enjoyable, but always interesting. Not a day goes by that my e-mail is empty and the phone quiet. Competing interests have to be weighed as decisions are made. Our budget constraints are always in the forefront as we evaluate proposals. Above all, the best interests of the membership have to be considered.

Barbara Meyer

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VOICES FROM THE VAULT

BOB INGRAHAM

BY PATTI GIBBONS

This fall when you're checking into the AKA national convention in Seaside, take a minute to look around. You'll soon see that the convention is really quite an extravaganza – auctions, synchronized flying competitions, lectures, the banquet, workshops, the Fly Mart, daily Mass Ascensions – everything timed, booked, and designed to scoot you smoothly from one event to the next, leaving you to simply enjoy yourself and the company of fellow fliers. Not too shabby for a bunch of hobbyists. Each year the AKA pulls off these successful get-togethers, but did you ever stop to wonder how this whole thing got started? AKA roots trace back to member number one, Bob Ingraham, who ran with his idea to gather a few adult fliers and ended up creating the American Kitefliers Association in 1964. Over the years he nurtured the club, promoted membership, and kept the cross-country dialogue flowing. His recreational forum grew into an international brotherhood with membership thousands strong, and shortly before his death in 1995, Bob looked back proudly on his role in kiting, happy with all the strings he pulled.

At the heart of it, Bob loved the sky. With equal interest in aerodynamics and aircraft, kites dovetailed his need for fun and aerial experimentation nicely. As a youth, Bob piloted some crafts and sold rides for a barnstorming group. Outfitted in a white jumpsuit lined with deep pockets, young Bob hawked rides and “turned over \$800 to \$1,000 in ten and twenty dollar bills for the rides I sold each day.” Yet despite his love of flying, he didn't pursue a career in aviation. Entering adulthood at the cusp of the Great Depression, fate dashed his hopes of becoming a pilot or studying aerodynamics. “You want to raise a family and become an adult and you have to give up some of the things that you always thought you wanted to do.” When the Depression ended, Bob was a little too old to start anew and found his way into a journalism career, yet the sky never left him. Bob's involvement in kiting connected

him to his skyward interests, even if this avocation didn't present itself in a nine-to-five paycheck kind of way. Bob pulled pleasure from the sky.

Fully of age, Bob felt self-conscious about kite flying. “I began to wonder why as an adult with two pretty well grown children was I flying kites when that normally was supposed to be a child's endeavor. For many years kite flying was not considered an adult sport, and if you were seen flying a kite as an adult they'd question your manliness.” Some wounds never heal, and in his twilight years Bob vividly recalled



the afternoon when he was flying in the park and two teenage girls walked up to him and pointedly asked, “What do you do that for?” Flabbergasted and answerless Bob felt embarrassed and alone about his kiting interests, until he read a feel-good piece in the newspaper about Edward Aff, vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and avid kiteflier who gave kitemaking lessons at his local Kiwanis and Rotary meetings. In that short article Bob found permission to enjoy kiting without apologies. “I thought ‘Gee wiz if the vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank can go fly kites why should I be bashful about it?’”

Encouraged and excited to find a

kindred spirit, Bob reached out to Aff. The banker gave Bob names of seven men he met with mutual kite interests and Bob wrote to each suggesting that they start a kiting organization. And there, with a few letters exchanged by mail, the AKA was born.

The AKA “started with nine members and...it just took off. I mean way beyond what we thought it would.” Looking back Bob credits word of mouth promotion as the key element to this grassroots club's growth. As a journalist, Bob had experience in public relations and “would plant little things that developed into stories” in major newspapers. The *Wall Street Journal* picked up on the AKA's activities and the *Detroit Free Press* called him every spring for a kiting story. Ever the cheerleader, Bob promoted the club because he enjoyed “letting people know what this was all about.” His advertising reached a wide audience and even President Hoover's adult grandson came to visit Bob and his wife Hazel in pursuit of his kiting interests. “We used to have to push ourselves into it and now we have had no end of visitors here in the last twenty years.”

Second only to perhaps Bob's leadership in influencing the young club's success, the newsletter kept members in touch and spread the word. Bob sent out the first issue of *Kite Tales* in 1964 and ran the publication for fourteen years before Valerie Govig took the helm and adopted the name *Kite Lines*. Bob remembers, “From the time I started the magazine I was a busy boy. I did everything on that magazine except the actual printing. I made all of the layouts. I did most of the writing. It got to be quite a job, even with Hazel taking care of the business end of the association, I still had an awful lot to do.” With the first issue, “I didn't dare do a whole lot because I didn't know whether I'd have money enough to pay for the damn thing or not.” But after about three months “the advertising money began coming in and new memberships” increased and things started looking up. Thankfully Bob didn't tire with nitty-gritty publication details and each issue

delivered kite news and stories to an ever-widening audience.

Bob's behind the scenes involvement set the stage for the AKA's growing success, yet he still found time to fly for fun. Bob, a single line flier to the core, loved his trusted deltas and had fun pushing the limits with parafoils. Somewhat of a rascal, Bob enjoyed dropping things from his kites using mounted releases he fashioned from the works of old alarm clocks and mousetraps. Bricks, jugs of water, bags of sand, Coke bottles, and even man-sized dummies with helmets and parachute backpacks were dropped from high above for Bob's amusement and curiosity. He recognized in hindsight that “there was a danger, fooling around like I did,” but enjoyed the splendor of each drop with childlike



wonderment.

As Bob got active with organized kiting, “I was in demand there for awhile. I was flying here and there and everywhere” promoting kiting and putting on demonstrations for civic and corporate events. As club ambassador Bob enjoyed spreading the word and watching people enjoy kites. Reflecting back on the folks he crossed paths with he remembers, “The most remarkable thing, of the thousands of people we have met in all these years, hardly a one was somebody we didn't like. All pretty high class people, and that says something for kitefliers.” Enjoying the company he kept and acknowledging the importance of the AKA never escaped Bob. Getting straight to the heart of his legacy, “I'm just selfish enough

that I don't want to see all this die and be forgotten, you know. I don't expect that you are going to maybe remember me but keep this kite interest alive.”

Robert “Bob” Ingraham, 1911-1995, flew countless kites, met many people, and helped us all find our space in the sky. 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.



Membership Application

New Member Renewal
 Reinstatement Merchant Member
 Don't publish my name in the Directory
 Don't distribute my name outside the AKA

Join online at www.aka.kite.org

Membership Dues	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	Amount
Individual (KITING via 3 rd class mail)	\$40	\$78	\$116	_____
KITING via 1 st class mail	\$50	\$98	\$146	_____
Canada or Mexico	\$50	\$98	\$146	_____
Overseas	\$50	\$98	\$146	_____
Sponsor (KITING via 1 st class mail, includes tax deductible contribution)	\$125	\$250	\$375	_____

Additional family members in same household
Per person add: \$6/YEAR _____

Please remit in US\$
Sorry we cannot accept Canadian cheques

Total _____

Send this form with your payment to:
American Kitefliers Association
 P.O. Box 1614
 Walla Walla, WA 99362

For information call
509/529-9171

Referred by _____
Local kite club _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

URL: _____

Other Family Members: _____

Visa/MC/Discover/Amex #: _____

Signature: _____

CHECK THIS BOX IF YOU DO NOT WANT AUTOMATIC RENEWAL

KAPPING THE SPILL

BY NICK BILTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

For over a year, Jeffrey Yoo Warren, a fellow at the Center for Future Civic Media at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been messing around with kites, balloons and cameras. The goal is to come up with tools that can be used to take aerial photos without the use of expensive equipment.

Now the project, known as Grassroots Mapping, is recording the devastating effects of the Gulf oil spill using cameras attached to kites. They say these photos can then be used to assess and respond to the damage and to support possible litigation following the spill.

The kits used to take the images are extremely simple and incorporate garbage bags, an inexpensive kite and digital camera. The kites are flown to around 1,500' where they snap images of the area below at regular intervals. After the pictures are collected, Warren works with Stuart Long of the aerial imaging service Gonzo Earth to stitch the images together on a map.

The results are both beautiful and devastating.

The Grassroots project is being supported through donations on a fund-raising site called Kickstarter. It is trying to create more kits that can be distributed and used to collect more images of the spill.

Warren began working on aerial imaging using balloons in October, and started the gulf mapping project on May 5.

"Our ability to not just make abstract maps, but to cap-



ture original aerial imagery, is particularly applicable to mapping oil," he said. He added that his group was working with the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, a nonprofit environmental health organization, to make use of the images.

There are, of course, other aerial images of the spill, but they are largely in the hands of the government or private satellite companies. Warren's goal is to give citizens access to technology that will let them document the effects of the spill themselves. He is putting the kite images into the public domain so they can be accessed and used by anyone without paying a fee.

He said his approach to taking photos offered a more human view of the devastation. "My favorite part about this project is that it really does make more sense to fly a kite with a camera on it than to try to take pictures of where you are all the way from space," he said. "You're literally holding the camera thousands of feet in the air with a string — it's a very visceral experience." K

The team's boat sits in sheen-covered water off Port Fourchon, Louisiana.

KITE PLAN ROBERT BRASINGTON'S SKYHOOK ANCHOR

Prepare an equilateral triangle template 250mm on the three sides and add a hem allowance all round. Prepare a rectangular template 750mm x 375mm and add a hem allowance all round. Cut around both templates.

Prepare a curved template as in the picture. Holes and the colored "show off" panel are optional. Cut around the template. I use inexpensive taffeta nylon or similar. I tend not to use ripstop nylon as it is not strong enough for continual use in the sand.

either end for trimming later. Sew the other strap on the right hand edge of the curved panel to the point where the first strap cross the top of the leading edge. Hot cut off all excess strap.

Add a full long leading edge pocket that runs from the tip to the base around the top of the curve. There are a number of ways of

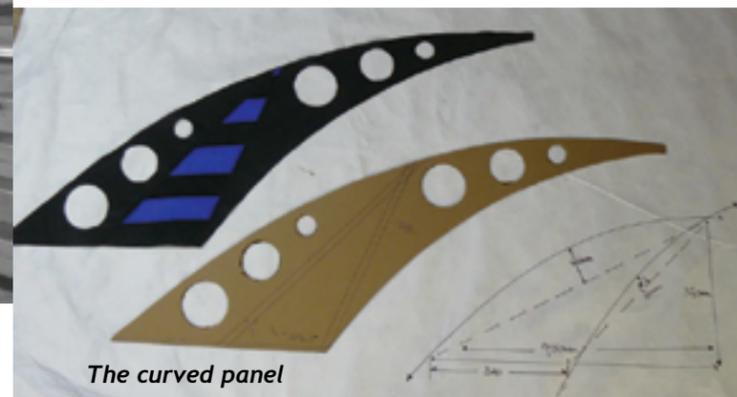


doing this, but I use a piece of folded taffeta nylon, 35mm wide, and sew it around the top edge. This fabric is supple enough to be able to go around a curve without puckering. Add a folded 50mm wide Dacron reinforcing tab over

Sew off with reinforcing tab around the tip. Put an eyelet into the tab where the straps meet on the top of the curve. (I use a braided pig tail at the point for convenience).

Hem the opposite end of the base bag. Add the curved panel to the open top of the base and double stitch at the reinforcing strap points.

This bag can be buried to the base of the curved panel for extra holding capacity, but I normally sit it on the beach where I can move it quickly if required. K



The curved panel

Sew around the triangle onto the long side of the cut rectangle. Leave a hem width at the beginning and the end of the sewing to allow the addition of the top curved panel.

Cut two lengths of taffeta 50mm wide and about 400mm long. Fold the two outside edges towards the centre and fold in half again to form a four-layered strap and sew down the open edges.

Measure half way along the base of the curved panel and mark a line 45° up to the leading edge. Sew one of the straps along this line with overhang

the area where the two straps meet the leading edge. Be careful not to sew across the leading edge pocket.

Add a reinforcing tab around the



Triangular pieces stitched to rectangular piece



Reinforced tab with grommet



A variation on the plan, with an extra fibreglass stiffener.

base of the leading edge pocket on the curved panel. This will give strength to the fabric when the fibreglass rod is added. Cut a piece of 2mm fibreglass rod to fit inside the leading edge tunnel. Put an end cap on each end and push into the leading edge,



Curved piece stitched into bottom pieces

The Sporting Life



30 YEARS AND STILL FLYING BY BARRY NASH

With their signature stacks of thirteen Hyperkites pulling 40' long tails, the Bay Area Sundowners have the distinction of being one of the oldest and most entertaining kite flying teams in the world today.

In 1980 Mix McGraw put together a four person team, flying stacks of twelve Rainbow Kites at the Marina Green in San Francisco. He named the team the Bay Area Sundowners. I met Mix in 1984 when I moved from England; at that time there were just two people on the team, Mix and Ray Wong. I joined the team that same year and we started flying stacks of twelve Hyperkites, designed and built by Randy Tom.

The team has gone through many additional personnel changes since I joined. Twenty years ago a two person team going by the name of the Osterlund Brothers joined the Sundowners just after the first California Open in San Diego. From that point the team members were Ray, Barry, Gordon, and Ken.

We had dreams about being "the best". We practiced 40 hours per week, in addition to us all having full-time jobs. We were flying our stacks of Hyperkites somewhere in the country or world every other weekend. Back then there was not a train category in competition; the team had to

compete against single wing flying teams, while flying our stacks.

None of us knows how many times we've flown around the world in our time with the Sundowners. We have flown in several countries multiple times: Canada, England, France, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Borneo. We've flown in 28 of the United States, including Alaska.

After the 1994 World Cup in Le Touquet, France, the team officially retired from competition. Craig Wong from Team Tsunami joined the Sundowners. Randy Tom also joined us as an alternate flyer, so that as long as the team had four available guys we were always able and ready to fly.



The team continued to travel doing shows, mostly internationally.

In 1996 we were invited to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, to do a show. Upon arrival we found out that it was really a competition: the Malaysian Grand Prix! We closed the event flying an eight man routine, with the Sundowners and team Sky Dance all flying stacks of thirteen Hyperkites. This was when we found out that Mark and Jeanette Lummas from Sky Dance were moving to the U.S. Not long after this we asked them to join the Sundowners team, so now we had seven flyers to pull from to make the team.

Now that Mark and Jeanette were on the team we flew a greater variety of kites: from the traditional stacks of Hyperkites, to our own logo wings made by Level One, to Revolu-



tions. We set up a six person Rev routine which we first flew at a North Carolina kite festival, then the next year in Bristol, England, and then Dieppe, France in 2000. Mark and Jeanette left the team in 2004.

Some of the most memorable things the team has done over the years are flying a number of times for the King of Thailand (and two of the princesses), and flying for the Asian Games in front of 450,000 people on one day. Also we have flown for three out of the seven sultans of Malaysia, and MTV Asia. We also fly at air shows, flying on the same program as the Blue Angels, the Thunderbirds, and Northern Lights.

The Bay Area Sundowners currently has five members: Randy Tom, Craig Wong, Gordon Osterlund, Ken Osterlund, and Barry Nash. Check us out on YouTube. It's been an amazing ride, and I hope the team has many more years of flying ahead of us. K

THE JOY OF DISCOVERY BY RUSS FAULK

When I walked onto the beach at a local sport kite competition a few weeks back, I was surprised and delighted to see an old friend. Little did I know that seeing him again wouldn't be the only treat of the day. Later on, I was on the field judging. Between competitors I noticed a white kite come out of my friend's bag - a kite I didn't recognize. A good sign it would be a good day.

The kite wasn't just new to me. It was new to the world. I had the pleasure of trying out a brand new design. We all took turns. We all had a great time playing with a kite that behaved a little different - felt a little different - than anything we had flown before. It is a special kind of excitement that those of us who have been around a while don't experience very frequently any more. The joy of the new kite. Not owning it; just flying it.

The experience was made a little more special because of the memories it revived. This used to be a monthly or even weekly occurrence. We would all be together, goofing around with kites or even taking them seriously, and someone would pull out something new. It may be rarer now because fewer of us gather, and less frequently. But, as long as two sport kite fliers are together, there is always the chance one of them will pull out a kite the other has never flown before. We can always share the joy of discovery. It is part of what makes sport kites special - the way a new one feels in your hands.

2010 Sport Kite

Final Standings

CENTRAL

Experienced Individual Ballet
1 Michael Boswell 3

Experienced Individual Precision
1 Michael Boswell 3

Experienced Multiline Ballet
1 William Seward 3

Experienced Multiline Precision
1 William Seward 3

Experienced Pairs Ballet
1 Up 3

Novice Individual Ballet
1 Deontae Boswell 4
2 William Seward 3

Novice Individual Precision
1 William Seward 3

MIDWEST

Experienced Individual Ballet
1 Elizabeth Gordon 23
2 Paul Koepke 19
3 David Gibson 12
4 Tom Deck 6
5 John Arnold 4

Experienced Individual Precision
1 Elizabeth Gordon 22
2 Steve Rothwell 18
3 Paul Koepke 18
4 David Gibson 11
5 John Arnold 3

Experienced Multiline Ballet
1 David Kovacs 3

Experienced Pairs Ballet
1 Defying Gravity 9
2 R&B 4

Experienced Pairs Precision
1 Defying Gravity 6

Experienced Team Ballet
1 7-8-9 9

Experienced Team Precision
1 7-8-9 6

Masters Individual Ballet
1 Zachary Gordon 16
2 Spencer Schubbe 13
3 Devin Morrison-Cobleigh 12
4 Kathy Brinnehl 7
5 Jon Trennepohl 5
6 Joshua Gordon 4
7 Dan Newman 3

Masters Individual Precision
1 Zachary Gordon 16
2 Devin Morrison-Cobleigh 12
3 Spencer Schubbe 12
4 Kathy Brinnehl 7
5 Joshua Gordon 4
6 Dan Newman 3

Masters Multiline Ballet

1 Zachary Gordon 9
2 Jon Trennepohl 3

Masters Multiline Precision
1 Zachary Gordon 9

Masters Pairs Ballet
1 Blues Brothers 12
2 Fire And Ice 11
3 EOS 8
4 O2 4
5 Sky Jesters 3

Masters Pairs Precision
1 Fire And Ice 13
2 Blues Brothers 10
3 EOS 8
4 O2 4
5 Sky Jesters 3

Masters Team Ballet
1 Chicago Fire 6

Masters Team Precision
2 Chicago Fire 6

Novice Individual Ballet
1 Rolen Carpenter 4
2 Steve Tapp 4
3 Bud Gibson 3
4 James Gibson 3

Novice Individual Precision
1 Bud Gibson 4
2 Steve Tapp 4
3 Rolen Carpenter 3
4 James Gibson 3

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited
1 Devin Cobleigh-Morrison 5
2 Jon Trennepohl 4
3 Jace Arnold 3

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited
1 Jackie Maciel 8
2 John Lorenzo 3

Open Pairs Multiline Precision
1 Damn Yankee Quad 4

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet
1 Parkway South 10
2 Damn Yankee Quad 8
3 Rev Riders Pairs 2

Open Team Train
1 O2 3
2 Sky Jesters 3

NORTHEAST

Experienced Individual Ballet
1 Jackie Maciel 9
2 Jesse Kapsten 9
3 Gary Quinton 3

Experienced Individual Precision
1 Jackie Maciel 7

Experienced Multiline Ballet
1 Gary Quinton 3
2 Ian Willoughby 3
3 Laura Berg 5
4 Richard Comras 3

Experienced Multiline Precision

1 Laura Berg 1

Masters Individual Ballet
1 Lisa Willoughby 15
2 Douglas Coates 13
3 Torrey Lindemann 5
4 John Lorenzo 3

Masters Individual Precision
1 Lisa Willoughby 11
2 Douglas Coates 9

Masters Multiline Ballet
1 Dennis Smith 23
2 Douglas Coates 18
3 Karl Berg 16
4 Lisa Willoughby 12
5 Jesse Kapsten 10
6 Kurtis Jones 5

Masters Multiline Precision
1 Karl Berg 11
2 Douglas Coates 8

Masters Pairs Ballet
1 Skywalkers 4

Masters Team Ballet
1 Smitty & The Girls 1

Novice Individual Ballet
1 Ian Willoughby 4
2 Sammy David 1

Novice Individual Precision
1 Ian Willoughby 3

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited
1 Lisa Willoughby 15
2 Torrey Lindemann 8

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited
1 Jackie Maciel 8
2 John Lorenzo 3

Open Pairs Multiline Precision
1 Damn Yankee Quad 4

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet
1 Parkway South 10
2 Damn Yankee Quad 8
3 Rev Riders Pairs 2

Open Team Train
1 Heaven Help Us 5
2 That's My Line 4

NORTHWEST

Experienced Individual Ballet
1 Robert Hilliard 29
2 John Farrell 28
3 Amy Doran 28
4 Jim Landers 26
5 Marjorie Taylor 21
6 Michael Dirk 19
7 Randy McKiernan 17
8 David Bradley 7
9 Mario DiLucca 5
10 David Cimburek 4

Experienced Individual Precision

1 John Farrell 26
2 Jim Landers 26
3 Robert Hilliard 25
4 Michael Dirk 20
5 Marjorie Taylor 19
6 Amy Doran 19
7 David Bradley 6
8 Mario DiLucca 4

Experienced Multiline Ballet
1 Amy Doran 32
2 Connor Doran 29
3 Jim Landers 24
4 Michael Dirk 20
5 Spencer Watson 8
6 Kristian Slater 7
7 Cailan Underwood 7
8 David Bradley 6

Experienced Multiline Precision
1 Amy Doran 26
2 Jim Landers 22
3 Connor Doran 18
4 David Bradley 16
5 Michael Dirk 8
6 Spencer Watson 6

Experienced Pairs Ballet
1 Cloud Dancers 3
2 Second Thoughts 3

Experienced Pairs Precision
1 Cloud Dancers 6
2 Second Thoughts 3

Masters Individual Ballet
1 Reid Wolcott 32
2 Jennifer Brown 28
3 Wayne Turner 27
4 Tristan Underwood 21
5 Jerry Cannon 20
6 Doug Lommel 16
7 Daniel Haigh 15
8 Andrew Cimburek 11
9 Donald Ostey 4

Masters Individual Precision
1 Wayne Turner 33
2 Reid Wolcott 26
3 Jennifer Brown 24
4 Jerry Cannon 20
5 Daniel Haigh 18
6 Doug Lommel 16
7 Andrew Cimburek 11
8 Donald Ostey 6

Masters Multiline Ballet
1 Tristan Underwood 20
2 John Farrell 19
3 Jennifer Brown 19
4 Mario DiLucca 11
5 Wayne Turner 11
6 David Hathaway 7

Masters Multiline Precision
1 Amy Doran 32
2 Connor Doran 29
3 Jim Landers 24
4 Michael Dirk 20
5 Spencer Watson 8
6 Kristian Slater 7
7 Cailan Underwood 7
8 David Bradley 6

Masters Pairs Ballet
1 Cloud Dancers 3
2 Second Thoughts 3

Masters Pairs Precision
1 Cloud Dancers 6
2 Second Thoughts 3

Masters Team Ballet
1 AirZone Flight Team 12

Masters Team Precision
1 AirZone Flight Team 12

Novice Individual Ballet
1 Edward Skow 15

Novice Individual Precision
1 Edward Skow 15

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited
1 Aaron Champie 6
2 Francisco Navarro 5
3 Mark Quirnbach 4
4 John Quitugua 3

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited
1 Amy Doran 15

Open Pairs Multiline Precision
1 Blondie And The Old Guy 10
2 Quadamigos 6

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet
1 Quadamigos 9
2 Blondie And The Old Guy 9

Masters Multiline Precision

1 John Farrell 22
2 Jennifer Brown 20
3 Wayne Turner 15
4 Tristan Underwood 11
5 David Hathaway 8
6 Mario DiLucca 8

Masters Pairs Ballet
1 Last Flight Out 9

Masters Pairs Precision
1 Second Thoughts 3

Masters Team Ballet
1 6th Sense 6

Masters Team Precision
1 6th Sense 6

Novice Individual Ballet
1 Eli Patterson 15
2 Patti LaValley 12
3 Toby Arndt 10
4 Kristian Slater 10
5 Cailan Underwood 7
6 Gregg Marshall 5

Novice Individual Precision
1 Patti LaValley 14
2 Kristian Slater 13
3 Eli Patterson 12
4 Gregg Marshall 4
5 Toby Arndt 3
6 Justina Brown 3

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited
1 Tristan Underwood 65
2 Jerry Cannon 62
3 Wayne Turner 51
4 Toby Arndt 49
5 Amy Doran 46
6 David Bradley 42
7 Spencer Watson 40
8 Connor Doran 40
9 Bud Hayes 33
10 Richard Curran 22
11 Scott Davis 16
12 John Farrell 16
13 David Hathaway 9
14 Kristian Slater 7
15 Jeffrey Reed 6
16 Jennifer Brown 5
17 Mario DiLucca 4
18 Cailan Underwood 3

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited
1 Amy Doran 15

Open Pairs Multiline Precision
1 Blondie And The Old Guy 10
2 Quadamigos 6

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet
1 Quadamigos 9
2 Blondie And The Old Guy 9

PACIFIC

Experienced Individual Ballet
1 Dennis Gemberling 3

Experienced Individual Precision
1 Dennis Gemberling 3

Experienced Multiline Ballet
1 Francisco Navarro 31
2 Steve Lewis 22
3 John Quitugua 20
4 Jeffrey Erzin 18
5 Dirk Meier 17
6 Robert Pepito 8
7 Ever Menjivar 7
8 Aaron Champie 6
9 Dennis Gemberling 5

Experienced Multiline Precision
1 Steve Lewis 28
2 Francisco Navarro 28
3 John Quitugua 19
4 Dirk Meier 15
5 Ever Menjivar 11
6 Robert Pepito 8
7 Aaron Champie 6
8 Dennis Gemberling 4
9 Jeffrey Erzin 3

Masters Individual Ballet
1 John Gillespie 25
2 Aaron Champie 24
3 Francisco Navarro 20

Masters Individual Precision
1 Aaron Champie 27
2 John Gillespie 21
3 Francisco Navarro 20

Masters Multiline Ballet
1 Mark Quirnbach 16
2 Ron Despojado 9
3 Joji Davis 3

Masters Multiline Precision
1 Mark Quirnbach 15
2 Ron Despojado 9
3 Joji Davis 4

Masters Team Ballet
1 AirZone Flight Team 12

Masters Team Precision
1 AirZone Flight Team 12

Novice Individual Ballet
1 Edward Skow 15

Novice Individual Precision
1 Edward Skow 15

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited
1 Aaron Champie 6
2 Francisco Navarro 5
3 Mark Quirnbach 4
4 John Quitugua 3

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited
1 Amy Doran 15

Open Pairs Multiline Precision
1 Blondie And The Old Guy 10
2 Quadamigos 6

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet
1 Quadamigos 9
2 Blondie And The Old Guy 9

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

1 Sharon Champie 3

Open Team Train
1 Susies' Spouses 3

SOUTHEAST

Experienced Individual Ballet
1 James Sturdy 17
2 Laura Stonestreet 16
3 Doug Hood 10
4 Will Smoot 5

Experienced Individual Precision
1 James Sturdy 19
2 Laura Stonestreet 12
3 Doug Hood 6

Experienced Multiline Ballet
1 Cath Shook 13
2 Marc Conklin 12
3 Doug Charleville 10

Experienced Multiline Precision
1 Cath Shook 10
2 Marc Conklin 8
3 Fusion 6

Experienced Pairs Ballet
1 Creptas Et Incendo 12
2 Wing Nuts 7
3 Fusion 6

Experienced Pairs Precision
1 Creptas Et Incendo 12
2 Wing Nuts 6

Experienced Team Ballet
1 Crash N Burn 14
2 Team Wing Nuts 6

Experienced Team Precision
1 Crash N Burn 14
2 Team Wing Nuts 7

Masters Individual Ballet
1 William Sturdy 40
2 Robbie Boerth 29
3 Paul DeBakker 22
4 Richard Mervine 19
5 Doug Charleville 14
6 Chris Shultz 7
7 Marc Conklin 6

Masters Individual Precision
1 William Sturdy 35
2 Paul DeBakker 21
3 Robbie Boerth 20
4 Marc Conklin 17
5 Richard Mervine 12
6 Doug Charleville 10
7 Andrew Albosta 7
8 Chris Shultz 5

Masters Multiline Ballet
1 Paul LaMasters 24
2 David Ashworth 17
3 Jim Cosca 4
4 Paul Dugard 1

Masters Multiline Precision
1 Paul LaMasters 15
2 David Ashworth 7
3 Paul Dugard 2

Novice Individual Ballet
1 Jared Haworth 26
2 Brian Bishop 13
3 Evelyn Rossbach 13
4 Brandon Hood 6
5 Patricia Wencel 4
6 Ron Kellis 3

Novice Individual Precision
1 Jared Haworth 25
2 Brian Bishop 12
3 Evelyn Rossbach 10
4 Brandon Hood 8
5 Patricia Wencel 4
6 Marko Siladin 4
7 Ron Kellis 3

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited
1 Paul DeBakker 9
2 William Sturdy 8
3 Scott Koenig 7
4 Jeff King 5
5 David Ashworth 4
6 Michael Mosman 3
7 Jared Haworth 2
8 Laurel Koenig 1

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited
1 Robbie Boerth 22
2 Andrew Albosta 10
3 Charles Stonestreet 10
4 Paul LaMasters 9

Open Pairs Multiline Precision
1 Quadfathers of WOW 6

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet
1 Quadfathers of WOW 9
2 Don't Know 3

background photos by John Chilese

By the time this issue reaches you, it will be very close to Convention time! If you haven't made your plans to attend the convention in Seaside, it's not too late! If you don't register by the close date of September 15, you may still register at the door in Seaside. Think about it; are you willing to miss the largest gathering of kite enthusiasts in the nation? Receptions, workshops, field events, raffles, the kite gallery, the auction and a Fly Market filled with kite vendors! Weather permitting we will be having our opening Welcome Reception outside!

If you have already registered, you are in for a fabulous week. All events are at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center, with the exception of the Indoor Fly at Seaside High School (transportation will be available). Flying fields will be the beautiful beaches right in front of the convention hotel, Shilo Inn & Suites. If you have an ocean view, you can enjoy the flying from your deck. If you don't have an ocean view, enjoy the flying from the comfort of the Shilo Inn Restaurant and Lounge. All convention activities, the host hotel and the flying fields are within walking distance of one another. And to further entice you, downtown Seaside with its dozens of restaurants, bars, and shopping is within walking distance too! Just more reasons for you to attend!

All of the above plus all the kite friends you haven't seen for over a year! Add to that the two banquets, over thirty workshops and more fun events than you could ever pack into a week and you will see why Seaside is a must attend event. Don't miss out!

Remember -the most current schedules for times and events are online at www.aka.kite.org. The official website of Seaside is www.seasideor.com, filled with news and information about Seaside and the surrounding area. And check out the convention center at www.seasideconvention.com.

Ground Display Challenge

For fans of all that doesn't fly, this is your event! On Saturday afternoon, set up your banners, bouncers, spinners, flags, and all that other stuff that you decorate your space with. Prizes will be awarded in two categories: Best Banner/Banners (must be entirely homemade), and Best Overall Display (must be at least 1/3 homemade). Voting will be by both kites and the general public, so prepare to dazzle Oregonians as well as your kite pals.



Bear Drop Brouhaha

Strap on those parachutes, adjust your drop rigs, and check your aim. This first-time challenge on Saturday morning is for all of you who love parachuting bears and other parafauna. You'll be sending them skyward, then trying to hit the bullseye on the beach. Don't have a bear to drop? We'll have kites and critters to borrow. Someone will take home the inaugural trophy as America's top parabear marksman.

Wardrobe Wackiness

Not sure what to wear during the week? Marla Miller will be passing out prizes for all you fashionistas. On Wednesday, put on your favorite Beach Pants. For Thursday, dig out your Oldest Kite Shirt. Finally, on Friday break out your Hapi Coats.

Workshops

You'll have plenty of morning sessions to choose from, such as:

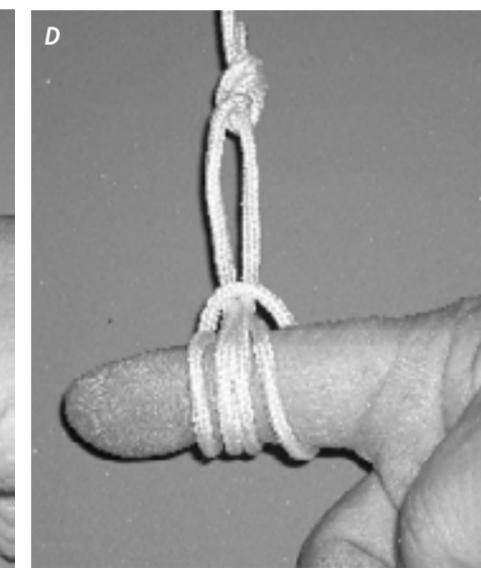
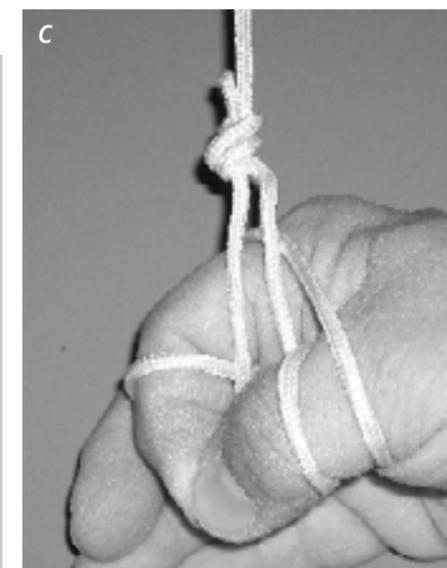
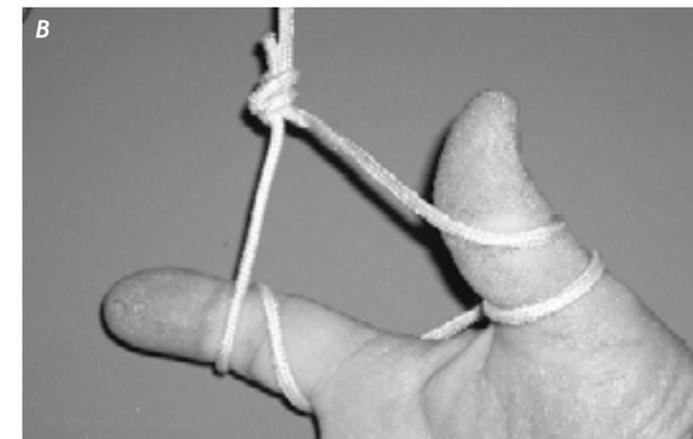
- A First Timers Introduction to the Convention – Marti & Richard Dermer
- A Renaissance of Kites in Mexico – Jose Sainz & Scott Skinner
- Drachen Foundation Outreach to Professional Teachers – Scott Skinner
- Drachen Foundation : The Past, the Present and Our Future – Scott Skinner
- Feather Banners, Aussie Style – Linda Sanders
- Flying Big Kites and Living to Tell the Tale – David & Susan Gomberg
- Indoor Fighter Kites Make & Take – Steve Bateman
- Indoor Kite Flying – Lisa Willoughby
- I've Never Flown a Fighter Kite – Sharon Champie
- Judging Handmade Kites: Before the Competition – Steve Ferrel & Co.
- Judging Handmade Kites: After the Competition – Steve Ferrel & Co.
- Judging Sport Kite Competition - Indoor & Outdoor – Bill Rogers
- KAPping without Wind and KAP Tech Tinkering – Ken Conrad
- Kite Making 101 – Marti & Richard Dermer
- Knots Demystified – Ronda Brewer
- Learn Why Pin Collecting is Not Dead – Ron Miller and Vic Eshpeter
- Make a Miniature Round "Box" Kite – Susan Skinner
- Miniatures by Charm Make & Take – Charm Lindner
- Oodles of Revs - Anyone Can Mega Fly – John Barresi
- Origami Kite Making – Yukio Akiyama
- Rev Flying 101 – Ben Dantonio
- Sewing for the Beginner – Gerry Pennell
- Sport Kite Symposium – Russ Faulk
- Traveling to Kite Festivals outside the USA –Cliff Quinn & Marla Miller
- Yellow, Red and Blue; Oh! And Violet – John Pollock
- You Don't Need to be an Artist – Alexa, Cari & Sam King

KNOT IN THIS ISSUE

BY ROD BEAMQUARD WITH RONDA BREWER

The greatest virtue of the Prusik knot is that it will not slip when tied around another line (or spar) that is under tension if pulled in the direction of the other line or spar. The addition of a little beeswax on the knot improves the grip on spars. The method pictured is how to form the knot "in hand". A) Start by tying a loop in the end of the line. Make the loop long enough to give you room to form the knot. Pass your

thumb and forefinger through the loop. B) Pull the long end of the line up between your fingers and wrap one side of the loop around your index finger twice and the other side around your thumb twice. C) Bring your thumb and finger together so the wraps cannot escape. D) As you did with the Lark's Head Hitch, transfer all the wraps to one finger and slightly tighten. Now carefully slide the loops off your finger onto the spar. K



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KITES OF THE YEAR:
2007 - "Cody" by John Whibley
2009 - "Andromeda" by Simon Crafts
2008 - "Nightfall" by Peter Ross

Steve Ferrel
phone: 360-RIPSTOP | 610-395-3560
email: steve@kitebuilder.com

FLYING FOR AUDREY

BY DONNA MCCOWN

In June, the Saturday before Father's Day weekend, Texas kite clubs gather at the Rockport Beach Park, to color the sky for Audrey's Day at the Beach, a free event for families of adults and children with Down Syndrome. In 2004, Rockport residents Bill and Jackie Shockley, along with their son Ray, began this celebration on the beach

in loving memory of their granddaughter/daughter, Audrey, who was born with Down Syndrome.

They scheduled a day to celebrate Audrey's short life and all they were able to enjoy with her. They elicited volunteers to organize and provide fishing, kayaking, boat rides, a barbecue dinner, and gifts.

The Shockleys called Dano Wright, a local Rockport kiteflier, and kite shop owner at the time, to see if he could put up a kite display on the beach for their special event. Dano happily agreed to get something

together for them. He gathered some local fliers and called Jeff and I to see if we could make a trip up to help out. We were honored to come participate with the group. Nine families were in attendance that first year. The kites were able to have a festive sky and ground display for them the whole day, do some sport kite demonstrations, and the kids were all given small delta kites of their own to fly.

The event was such a success that it has become an annual event growing in attendance every year. Now over 300 families travel to Rockport for a day at the beach. Dano, Jeff, and I have not missed a year yet. As the number of families attending began to grow, Dano decided we should get more kitefliers involved. He started inviting all the surrounding kite clubs of South Texas to come join in this effort. We now have five kite clubs that have been actively involved in this wonderful day for the past few years. We have the local kite club, the Coastal Bend Sky Pirates; our kite club from the Rio Grande Valley, South Padre Island Kite Enthusiasts; the South Houston Area Recreational Kites; San Antonio's The Alamo Kitefliers Outfit; and kites from Austin, the Cloud Chasers. Many of us have traveled near and far for kite festivals to compete, perform, and make kites, but nothing compares to the smile on the kids' faces when they see all the beautiful kites flying on the beach for them. Many thanks to the Shockleys for putting on this great event and having us be a part of it. K



S.P.I.K.E.

T.A.K.O.



S.H.A.R.K.



Coastal Bend Sky Pirates

ARCTIC FLIGHT

BY TOM CROSS

The writer Demi wrote a children's book, *Kites: Magic Wishes That Fly Up To the Sky*. It is a story of a little Chinese girl who sent messages on kites so she could, "...fly it right up to the sky and the gods in heavens will see it immediately." One of the shapes she chose was the fat Swallow that symbolizes greatness, innocence and peace.

And so a migration of birds begins. As President of the Minnesota Kite Society, I received five Swallow kites at Wishes for the Sky, an Eastern philosophy Earth Day event organized by Marcus Young. The Chinese-oriented event uses handmade Swallow kites, made by a master kite builder in China, that are recycled each year. Participants receive a kite from an elder

then write a wish on it and fly it to the heavens. I took the five kites and continued the spiritual migration of the birds to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In July I symbolically flew the kites in Denali National Park and again in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They flew again at Cuddy Family Midtown Park in Anchorage. Here again participants wrote wishes on the kites that flew to the heavens. The kites represent the birds that migrate south to Minnesota in the winter. Two of the kites remained in Alaska.

Again in the winter the kites will fly on December 11 at he National Wildlife Refuge in Minneapolis. It will partially complete the migration of the birds. The last kite will return to Wishes for the Sky next April 2011.

It is a great honor to represent the birds and the spirit of the people by carrying the kites with their messages to Alaska and migrating back to Minnesota. The kite can also fend off bad luck, guide the birds and protect the land for many centuries to come. K



Tom Cross with Alaskan natives



EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Charles T Siegel 1937-2010

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, caregiver and friend. In the last 20 years or so, he and Mom found a new love: kites. Dad was obsessed! First he bought just a few locally, and would fly them on Lido or Siesta Beach. But then, Dad and Mom headed up to St. Augustine. Stayed right on the beach, took a couple of beach chairs down, and spent the day flying his kites. He always tried to take different ones each time they went and often bought a new kite before each trip. They also traveled to Charleston, SC, which he said was fantastic; I believe they had great winds all week! Recently, he met a lady who also loved to travel, and once again, Dad was flying his kites. Even his new home had a back area where he had planned to fly his kites in the fall, but his time was cut short. He even purchased two new kites

which arrived two days before he passed which he hoped to take on his next trip. We miss you Dad! And I promise to keep flying your kites.

Kimberly Churchill

Marie Argeson

Marie was like a mom to me. She's been with my father since 1982. When Kite Studio got started in '89 she did all my bookwork and took care of the expenses. She did it all for almost twenty years. Not a kitebuilder, but an occasional flyer on the Avalon, NJ, beach. She really liked to fly the three pack of Peter Powell Diamonds with the long tails. She has been a member of the American Kitefliers Association since the 90's and has attended many National AKA Conventions across the country. I will miss her.

Steve Ferrel



THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS

KITE FABRIC

BY STEVE FERREL



Kite fabric is the fabric that you use to build a kite. You can use anything to build a kite. I've been judging kites for twenty years and have seen many fabrics: bed sheets, blue tarps, tree leaves, plywood, raincoats, suit lining, that webbing in those old woven lawn chairs, various plastics and papers, potato chip bags, pizza boxes. I even saw a flying bra at one festival.

Anything can be used. It's just that some fabrics may work better than others. If you are making a large, high wind delta and you want it to be stable, a bed sheet makes an excellent kite fabric. The porosity actually increases stability.

It is just that these days, most people want a kite fabric that is lightweight, strong, durable, easy to work with, has a porosity close to zero, and availability of colors that look pretty in the sky. I know that was my goal when I started building kites. So ripstops fit the bill.

When I first got into kiting I was fortunate enough to have Bill Tyrell as a neighbor. Back in the early 1980s, Bill was known as the "Fabric Lady," and he was basically the only person selling ripstop nylon as a kite fabric. He's to blame for getting me started on my career path.

When my father and I began Kite Studio we said we would only sell the materials that we used on our own kites. Since that time, all the kites I've made have been made with ripstop nylon. Most

often, $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce fabric. Although, I've never really been too concerned with weight. When I use $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce nylon, most often I layer two or three colors to get the desired effect.

In my opinion, 1½ ounce ripstop is one of the most underused fabrics. Sure it's heavier, and it probably needs to be hot cut if you have exposed edges, but in return you get great color: deep reds, crisp whites, and the blackest black. Color effects are what I'm most concerned with.

There are many things to think about when you are making a ripstop nylon. (The following is borrowed from *Kites, Fabrics, and Airfoils* by Brian Doyle of North Cloth.)

Weight

$\frac{3}{4}$ ounce would appear to refer to the weight per square yard, but it's not that easy. These fabrics typically weigh 1.1 ounce per sailmaker's yard, which is 36" long but only 28.5" wide. So, $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce really weights about 1.4 ounces per square yard. The weight will also vary a little from lot to lot and manufacturer to manufacturer.

Finish

Almost all fabrics used kites, sails, and parachutes have some sort of polymer finish which stabilizes the cloth and helps to resist diagonal stretch. These are applied as either coatings spread on one side of the fabric (the coating is usually a urethane polymer similar to urethane varnishes; Bainbridge fabric uses this), or impregnations which soak into the bulk of the cloth. Melamine is an impregnation with a polymer which is the same as that in Formica countertops.

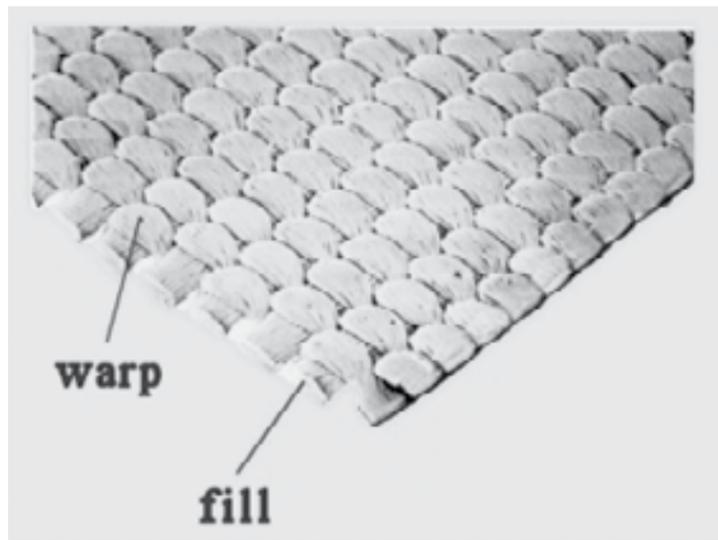
What are the differences between impregnated and coated fabrics? And how do you choose when to use one or the other? Here are some rules of thumb:

- Melamine-finished fabrics are lower in stretch and higher in breaking strength than the same weight of coated fabric.
- Coated fabrics, with their softer "hand," usually have higher tear strength than the firm melamine fabrics.
- Coated fabrics replace fiber content with coating weight. Coating is cheaper than fiber. Therefore, coated fabrics are less expensive to make.

Stretch

There are three directions in the fabric: the 0° (warp, or long direction in a roll of cloth), 90° (fill or cross direction in fabric roll), and 45° (bias, halfway between the other two).

An important thing to notice is that the 0° is about twice as resistant to stretch as the 90° and 45°. This is intentional. The fabric is intended to be used with the warp lined up with the highest loads in the sail. This is important to keep in mind when choosing the cloth



orientation in a kite.

There is also elastic stretch, which is elongation if the load is removed from the fabric and how it returns to its original length. Beyond this range the fabric "yields," and plastic stretch takes place. Plastic stretch is permanent even after the load is removed.

Why do some fabrics stretch more than others? Many factors in the design and manufacture of cloth can have an effect on stretch, but the most important are:

- yarn tenacity and modulus
- weave count and density
- finish firmness.

There is a wide diversity of yarns to choose from in designing $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce ripstop. Some are better for clothing. Some are less expensive. The lowest stretch yarns are produced for industrial fabrics and are known as "high tenacity." As might be expected these are also the more expensive yarns.

Fabrics with higher yarn counts and weaving density will have lower stretch. It is possible to weave a lower count, less expensive fabric and finish it with a coating for low porosity, but this is at the expense of higher stretch.

Impregnations and coatings are available in a range of hardness. It is also possible to apply more or less finish to adjust the firmness of the fabric. In general the trade-off is between cloth stretch and tear resistance. Firm finishes, while achieving lower stretch, lock the yarns in place so they can not bunch-up ahead of tears to stop them.

Tear Strength

Resistance to tearing in a woven fabric is a complex business depending on many variables. Fortunately it is usually sufficient to look at only two variables: yarn tenacity (breaking strength) and finish firmness.

It is easy to see that stronger yarns will give higher breaking strength, and all things being equal, premium fabrics woven with higher tenacity yarns will have higher tear strength.

Finish firmness, either coating or impregnation, can make things complicated. A firm finish, bonded tightly to the yarns is often desirable to decrease stretch. But this type of finish also decreases tear strength. An important mechanism in resisting tears in fabrics is

the move-

ment of individual yarns so as to bunch at the leading edge of the tear and create a smoothed out reinforced area to stop the tear. This is why cheese cloth is so difficult to tear even though the yarns are relatively weak.

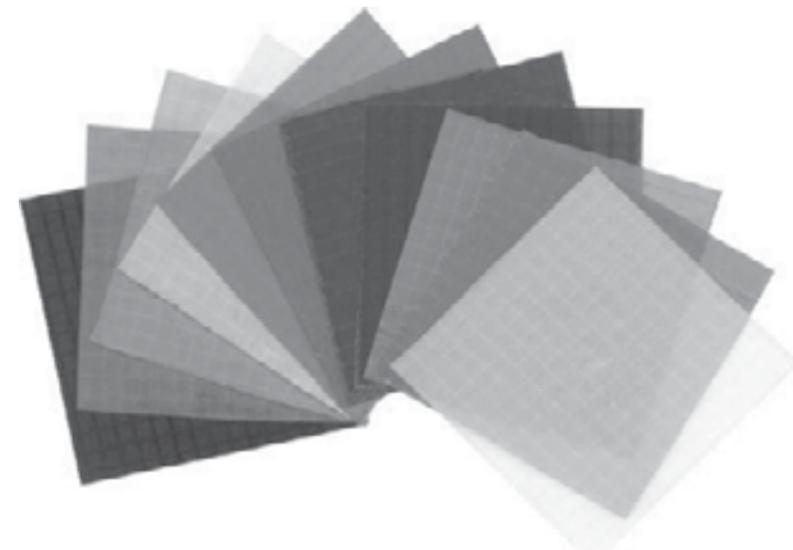
What is sufficient tear strength? This will depend to some extent on the design of the kite and how it will be used. Usually firm, low stretch, $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce cloth should have tears of at least 3-4 pounds. Some soft, higher stretch $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce products can have tears as high as 10-20 pounds.

In general, fabrics of high tenacity yarn and firm finishes in which the finish is tuned so as to be as firm as possible without exceeding some lower limit of tear strength make the best fabric airfoils. Some manufacturers will emphasize the high tear strength of their cloth. But this is usually very soft cloth with poor stretch performance and shape holding.

Porosity

Why is porosity important? Is zero porosity necessary? Military specification parachute cloth has both a minimum and maximum porosity requirement. The minimum porosity allows a small amount of air to pass through the fabric. This turbulates the boundary layer, keeping the flow around the top of the chute attached, and stabilizes the parachute. Obviously very high porosity is not good because it can reduce the pressure differential across the airfoil and throw away lift.

There are many opinions and no certain answers regarding the best levels of porosity. Experience in making a large number of kites and paying attention to the effects of porosity is probably just as good as most theories.



Nylon vs. Polyester

Nylon is hydroscopic (it attracts water) so on wet or humid days it gets heavier as the water bonds to the fibers.

Nylon has more stretch than polyester so nylon will handle gusts better, but polyester holds the designed shape better.

Both fabrics fade, but polyester generally fades at a slower rate. However, with both fabrics, different colors fade at different rates. Fluorescent colors fade faster.

Nylon is usually cheaper.

Seconds

Most cloth vendors classify their fabric as either a "first" or a "second." First quality means the fabric is 99% perfect, meaning almost no cosmetic flaws at all. North Cloth goes one step further and classifies their fabric in four grades: A, B, C, and D.

In a nutshell, grade A is basically perfect, and D is the least perfect. However, on a roll of any grade it is quite possible that you will see no flaws at all. Your chances of seeing a flaw are just increased the further down the alphabet you go. In all cases, if there is a flaw it is cosmetic only, meaning creases, stains, varying dye, or even a smashed bug.

All cloth is usable and most often you can cut around a blemish if present. We sell a lot of seconds, and I can count on one hand the number of times fabric has been returned. You'd be surprised at how many kites are manufactured with second quality fabrics. K

AKA News

Wildwood Daze

It's been 13 years. The Rio is gone, the Oceanic is under new management, and the Convention Center – while in the same place as before – is an entirely new building. But next year, the 34th AKA Convention returns to the wide beaches of Wildwood for the first time since 1997. From September 26 to October 1, 2011, kitefliers will gather on the Boardwalk of the best beach in New Jersey for a week of fun. Make your plans to ride the tram car, fly indoors in the massive oceanfront Convention Center, and enjoy fresh seafood right off the boat every night.



Pete Dolphin

Spikey Raffle

The next prize in the AKA raffle is a pair of 15' spikey balls, donated by Gomberg Kite Productions International. For a \$5 ticket, you can add this massive ground display to your collection. Stop by the AKA website to get your tickets online.

Opt-In

Each member is urged to renew their membership now and select the opt-in option. This means that your credit card information will be held in a secure file so that your membership is automatically renewed each year. The first year is billed at the current rate, \$40. Each subsequent year is billed at the lower multiple year rate. You never risk having a lapse in receiving *Kiting* magazine, and fewer reminder e-mails show up.



Vote Early, Vote Often

Annual AKA elections are happening right now, for Regional Directors in Regions 1-4 and President. This year, your ballot will still be mailed to you, but the candidate biographies, by-law changes, and budget will be e-mailed. This change will save the AKA about \$1000.

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 PHOTOS BY CHRIS DODSON

KAPtions

MAKER FAIRE BY DAVID WHEELER

The Maker Faire is a growing phenomenon started by O'Reilly Media, Inc and *Make* magazine. It is a gathering of artists, tinkerers and other committed do-it-yourself types that celebrates the creative spirit. This past May, the Faire was held in San Mateo, CA, for the fourth time since 2006 and a group of KAP experts were on hand to present Kite Aerial Photography to an eager crowd of Makers. In this article, let me share the experience that Faire-goers had when they dropped in on the KAP booth.

For most visitors to this year's Maker Faire, their first exposure to KAP was the photo gallery set up across from our booth. There were dozens of stunning KAP images featuring a wide variety of subjects. The colors and patterns caught people's attention and drew them in. The next things they would notice were the kites. A selection of kites, ranging from the enormous Maxi Dopero to the relatively compact Fled, was arranged on the window behind the booth. It gave the effect of a stained glass window.

Between the photo gallery and the window of kites were tables filled with a variety of KAP gear and more photos. There were KAP rigs of every description hanging from simulated kite lines above the tables. And behind the tables were the experts: Cris Benton and his son Charlie, Brooks Leffler, Don and Elaine Dvorak, Sharon Kato and myself.

One of the most interesting aspects of this display was the variety of KAP rigs represented. They ranged from extremely simple to very sophisticated. Representing the simple end of the spectrum, was the BEAK kit developed by Brooks Leffler. This system, described in more detail in a previous KAPtions column, is small and light. It operates by automatically triggering the camera every five seconds or so and it pans by 30° between shots. It's an ideal rig for a beginner or anyone needing a very portable KAP system. Brooks also had some of his more capable kits on display. The venerable Brooxes Deluxe KAP Kit is used by more people than any other rig on the market today, so our booth would have been incomplete without one.

Another automatic KAP rig on display at the Faire was my own original design. This rig features motion controls for pan and tilt and has a unique feature for stabilizing the pan rotations using an electronic compass. Designed for surveying large areas or capturing wide panoramic views, this was the newest rig on display. It was only completed during our setup day, just before the Faire started!

Cris Benton had two KAP rigs on display including his workhorse R/C SLR rig. One interesting feature of his system is the ergonomic hand controller. It is based on a repackaged Spektrum DX6 R/C transmitter. Cris sawed off parts of the original case and repositioned the electronics inside. He also replaced the joy stick inputs and buttons with more appropriate controls: a wheel to adjust pan and a slider to set the tilt



Cris Benton's controller



angle. Using these controls, Cris can operate the rig with one hand, keeping the other hand free to hold the kite.

When composing photos, Cris' system doesn't allow him to see where the camera is aimed. But his custom made controls and his intuitive sense of spatial relationships are the only tools he needs to produce stunning images. When asked how he aims so accurately he explains that he'll estimate the direction he needs then takes multiple shots varying his aim for each one. He calls this process "compositional bracketing."

Some of the attendees were interested in a more technological solution to the aiming problem, though. Fortunately we had Don and Elaine Dvorak on hand to show off their R/C KAP system with video feedback. Their rig includes a video camera and transmitter that shows the view from the camera. The operator on the ground sees what's in view and can aim the camera with the same type of controls an R/C plane pilot would use. This system enables them to line up the shot precisely the way they want every time. However, their system is also more complex to operate. Because the photographer needs both hands and eyes to operate the camera, a second person is needed to fly the kite and walk it into position. Don and Elaine always operate as team, though, so their system is perfectly adapted to their abilities.

With it's display of interesting equipment and compelling photos, the KAP booth was quite a hit with the attendees at Maker Faire. We spoke with hundreds of interesting people who wanted to learn more. With four or five people working the booth at any given time, we were all busy talking to attendees the entire time.

There are two more Maker Faires set to take place in Detroit and New York this year. As far as I know, there is no plan to have any KAP equipment on display for these. But based on the successful track record of KAP at the San Mateo Maker Faire, I'm sure there will be another Faire and another KAP booth in the Bay Area again next year. k



2ND FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI AQUILONI



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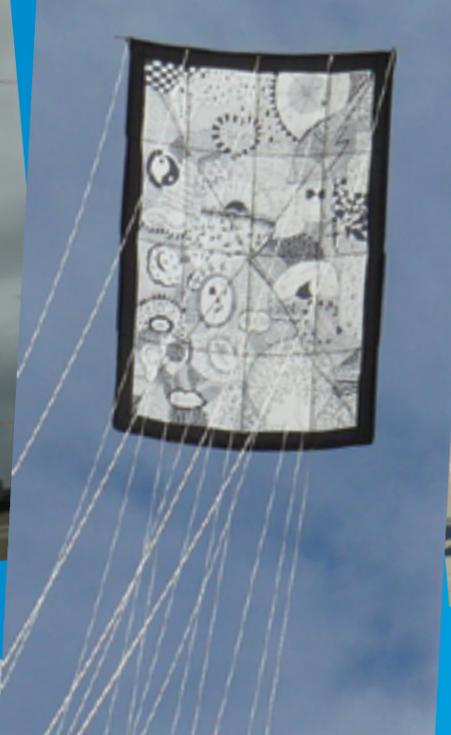
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PHOTOS BY WALTER BLOEM AND ROBERT BRASINGTON



The Viking invasion



A Brasington train



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PHOTOS BY PATRIZIO MARIANI



Jacques Letourneau



Scott Weider



The judges chose Martin Blais' foil the winner of the Scott E. Spencer Kite Making Competition.



Lee Sedgwick



A Jacques Letourneau creation

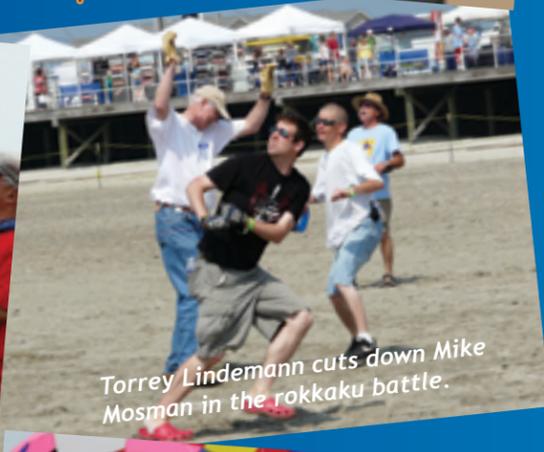


A Robert Brasington spinner

WILDWOODS INT'L KITE FESTIVAL MAY 28-31, 2010 WILDWOOD NEW JERSEY



British Columbia's Island Quad



Torrey Lindemann cuts down Mike Mosman in the rokkaku battle.



A Jacques Letourneau rokkaku



Ilan Willoughby

PHOTOS BY MIKE CARROLL AND PHIL BRÖDER



A Robert Brasington delta



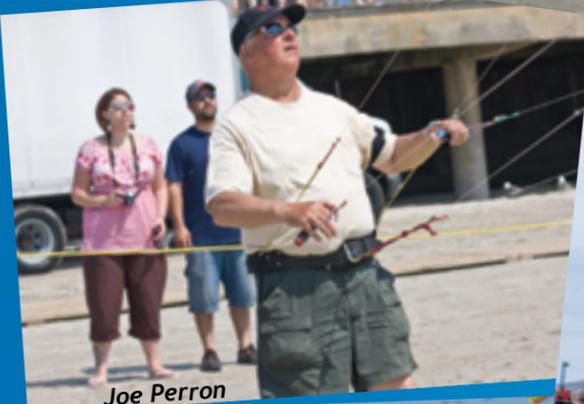
A Martin Blais delta



Martin Blais' fish bol



Paul Keeler



Joe Perron



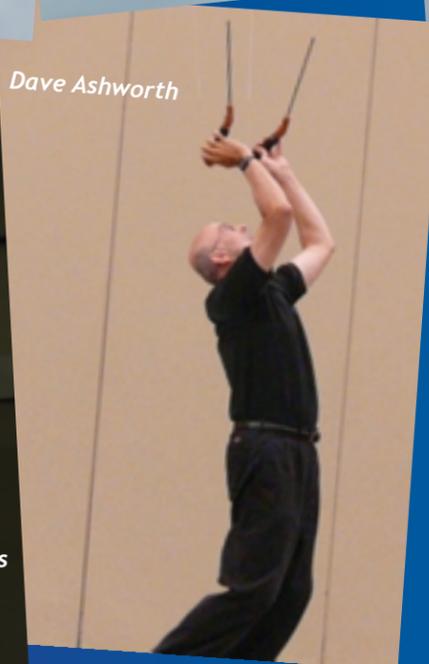
Archie Stewart, Doug Coates, Steve Santos, and Sue Moscovitz



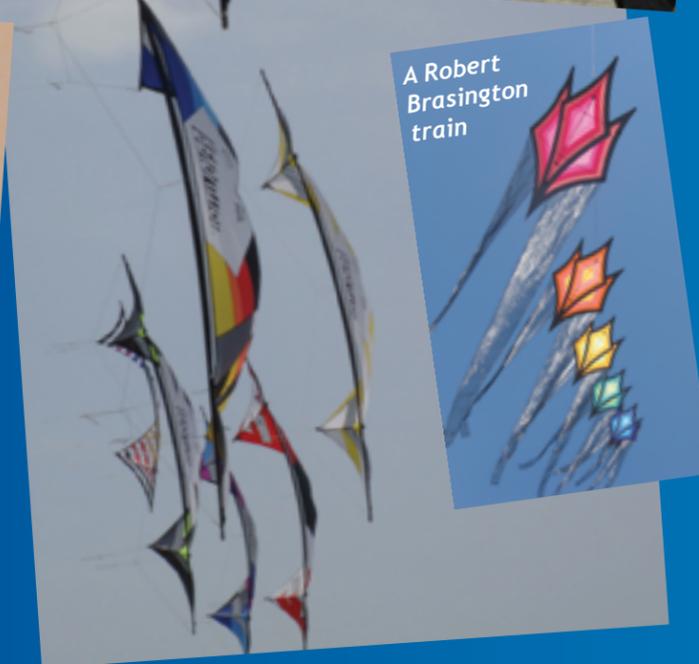
An Andre Bernard totem pole



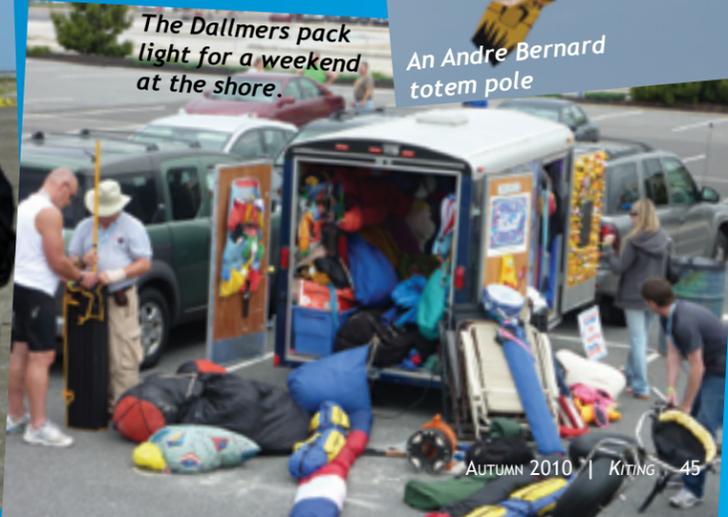
Some Ron Gibian circles



Dave Ashworth



A Robert Brasington train



The Dallmers pack light for a weekend at the shore.



25 FACES OF WILDWOOD

PHOTOS BY MIKE CARROLL, BEN DANTONIA AND PHIL BRODER

Lee Sedgwick, Dennis Smith, David Gomberg, Tony Reiser, Glenn Davison, Dave Arnold, Ron Gibian, Charles Stewart, Beatrix Pelton, Tracy Kasper, What the Duck, Phil Broder, Fran Gramkowski, Robert Brasington, Roger Chewing, Sam Ritter, Torrey Lindemann, Joel Brown, Karl Berg, Dean Jordan, Pete Dolphin, Ann Ritter, Brian Vanderslice, Meg Albers

RED HOT IN GREENLAND FROM EXPLORERSWEB.COM

Canadian Eric McNair-Landry, age 25, and American/French Sebastian Copeland, 46, made good use of favorable winds in Greenland and kite skied 595 km (369.71 miles) in 24 hours, giving them the new kite distance world record.

In 2008, Norwegian Ronny Finsaas reported kiting a distance of 502.73 km between two camps in less than 24 hours on Antarctica. Last year in May two other Norwegians, Hugo Rolf Hansen and Bjørn Einar Bjartnes, kited 505.90 km between camps on Greenland.

At age 25, Eric is a veteran kite skier. He grew up kite-skiing with his mom and dad, polar guides Matty McNair and Paul Landry. His previous personal best was 412 km in 24 hours.

the first eight hours (except for one period when the visuals were so spectacular, backlit from the sun that I had to film!)”

Eventually the pull of the big kites was too great and their legs were getting the workout of their life, wrote Sebastian. “We downsized to 10 meters, and settled to very reasonable speeds. The snow got noticeably softer, almost sand-like in the dry cold, which was remarkably kinder on the knees.”

With the lower wind they were traveling from a speed up to sixty kilometers an hour at our peak and were dropping to below twenty. As well, fatigue set in, and he started to doubt, admitted Sebastian.



They had shifted their periods to ninety minutes of kiting between breaks and were back on the big kites. After fifteen hours they were at 470 kilometers. They switched to one hour periods with a fifteen minute break.

“By the next period we were over 500 kilometers, with eight hours to go! At this stage, it would have been devastating if the wind had died, as the record was within reach,” said Sebastian.

“Strangely, I kept thinking that at the term of this day would be a Russian masseuse and a bath house, only to realize that we would arrive at a point determined only by the clock and that once that 24 hour bell rang, this would be our place of rest for the night!”

“Because of the break periods, the final forty-five minute section fell on 9:15, and we agreed that this would be our quitting time, fifteen minutes shy of the twenty four hours mark.”

In the tent the two guys pulled out their GPS and it read 595 km between the camps, as the crow flies.

Kite skiing on the same track for long days places stress on certain areas of the body, assured the two men.

After starting in Narsaq and finishing in Qanaq, Sebastian described their record breaking day: “By 9:30 PM, the last items were packed in the sledges, the kites were laid out on the ice, the winds were moderate but still up, and we hit the trail.”

Sebastian had rigged the big Yakuzza on 75 meter lines, which was definitely big for the conditions, he said. “We were traveling on a broad reach – with the wind about 45° to our back – and the pull in that direction is more forgiving when overpowered.”

“Eric started on his 12 meter Manta, but after half an hour, I encouraged him to switch as the difference in speed was too great. He went to the 14 meter. And the fun was on! Within the first hour and a half we had covered almost a hundred kilometers.”

They decided to go for the record as long as the wind held. The wind grew through the first part of the night, he continued. “By 4 AM, snow drift covered the ice in all directions, and as we chased the midnight sun, we were motoring! At times we hit speeds of sixty kilometers an hour. It was intense!”

“Luckily, the snow was quite soft. It was cold, though, and we could definitely feel that we were traveling north. We had passed the thousand kilometer mark from our point of departure, crossed the Arctic Circle, and were clearly headed into the cold. Frost was building over our face masks, and with the wind chill, no skin can be exposed in these conditions. And we were flying!”

“In five hours, we had done over two hundred and fifty kilometers! We took two hour runs and fifteen minute breaks for

“Our left calf muscles were especially sore, as was the flat of the feet. Because holding the kite’s handles places the hands above the heart, they tend to go cold a lot, and after hours of gripping, fingers begin to feel numb. As to the thighs and knees, the first few hours of our rocket fueled travel had put serious strain on them, and they were worked!”

The duo is making their trek to raise awareness of global warming. Another kite team on the icecap says Greenland is melting under them. According to reports, Greenland authorities have closed the horizontal route for summer skiers because of too much meltwater at the coastal areas. The melt has started about 15 days earlier this year. k



25 YEARS AND 176 TENTACLES OVER BERKELEY



BY ARCHIE PIBMAN
PHOTOS BY RON DESPOJADO

Hard to believe it's been 25 years since a naive kid, fresh out of the University of California at Berkeley, thought it would be a good idea to organize a kite festival. How hard can it be? he thought. Four weeks later, the first Berkeley Kite Festival was born.

From the beginning, Tom McAlister insisted that his job as the festival's organizer was to do his best to showcase the finest of what modern kiting had to offer. If kilters wanted to bring a new element to the show, "We had to do our best to accommodate them," said McAlister. He felt so strongly about this philosophy that when Berkeley was being considered as the host site for the World Cup in 1993, he told the World Cup Committee, "We would be thrilled to host the World Cup in Berkeley, but only if we can add single-line and art kites to the program." The committee gave the OK, and World Cup '93 was an amazing show.

Tom says that he is proud of standing up for his vision of kiting in Berkeley. "To not have included them in the World Cup would have been like throwing single liners under the bus. And I couldn't do that to people who had been so much a part of the BKF's ongoing success." According to Tom, kiting should be about inclusion, not exclusion, and about unity, not division. Though the City of Berkeley is often criticized for its outrageous politics, the values of inclusion are strongly embedded in its core, and it is no coincidence that they are reflected in the Berkeley

Kite Festival.

Flash forward 25 years and the Berkeley Kite Festival is considered one of the premier kiting events anywhere. Though the days of 100+ competitors testing their skills on up to three dedicated competition fields are long gone, now competitions are just part of the BKF experience, sharing a well-balanced stage with children's programs, interactive rokkaku battles, team kite flying and a world-class giant creature kite show.

The history of giant kites in Berkeley goes way back to the event's first years, and the original "Big Stuff," Catch the Wind's giant spinsocks. These 90' creations are ageless, and are just as incredible today as they were 25 years ago. In the 1990s, the new standard of big was born in Berkeley when Bob Anderson flew his Bobby Sock. At 55' tall and over 300' long, this behemoth broke the mold for what kilters thought big could be. The Bobby Sock's sheer volume and spectacle has never been

eclipsed, not even by the Mega Flags, Mega Rays, or by SOLO, the world's largest octopus that premiered in Berkeley in 2009.

By the late '90s, the giant kites of Peter Lynn were beginning to make their mark in Berkeley, and local fliers like Mike North, Joe Taitt, and Dan Witney began to build their collections. Without even really being aware of it, these guys were the founders of the modern creature kite program in Berkeley. Joining the locals were guests like the Gombergs



Mark and Jeanette Lummas

and Al Sparling. Then came John Khan and David Hoggan, and the formation of the Berkeley Kite Wranglers. It didn't take long for the Berkeley crew to see that octopus kites, flown in packs, were something truly special. And it was in 2003 that the "Octopile" came of age. Soon, piles of six, seven or more were common. Next thing anyone knew, there were piles of 9, 12, or even 16! Though no one talked much about records at the time, each of these early numbers were world records.

After the 2009 festival, the Berkeley crew had a fantastic idea. Wouldn't it be fun to set a new Octopile world record in honor of the 25th festival? It was a crazy notion but having the record come back home seemed like a fun idea.

And so with a rich history of big kites in its past Berkeley was ready for the new Big. With the help of Burnett Lee, Brian Champie and Ben Dantonio, the Berkeley Kite Wranglers assembled 14 kites. Dale Ray and the Gombergs added eight kites to the pile. Add in a little

began to spin around the other's line. Could the frantic team on the ground free the rogue and entangled kites? The tension continued to build until the lines of both kites gave way and they were set adrift. Now it was a new drama... would the kites come down safely on dry land, or would they be lost in the bay? With a splash the bay claimed both kites. It was only through the tenacious efforts of the Japanese team that they were able to retrieve the bamboo frames, which will be reborn as new kites. The skins remain forever claimed by Neptune.

Multi-line teams have always been a big part of Berkeley, and this year was no different. Too Much Fun, Bi Dance, iQuad, and Air Zone were all scheduled to perform. In addition, the Bay Area Sundowners were planning a surprise visit, and not even McAlister knew they were coming. Late Sunday Tracy Erzin phoned McAlister to tell him that the Sundowners were setting up for a demo. Tracy says Tom cheered like a soccer fan and then promptly hung up on her. Tom said he was in the middle of a TV interview and told the host, "Please excuse me, but one of the



Team AirZone

sweat and Berkeley now holds the new world record of 22 octos on one field. In steady conditions, the Octopile of 22 flew for over two hours!

Sharing the field with the Creature Kite Crew was the Japanese team organized by Tako Age. Group leaders Kaku Naoki and Toma Shoko did an amazing job. Joining the group for the first time was JKA president and Tokyo Kite Museum founder Masaaki Modegi. It was Modegi-san's first trip to the BKF, and he is already planning a return trip. One of the most dramatic moments of the Japanese exhibition was when two of their giant Machijirushi kites' lines became tangled in the sky. 10,000 pairs of eyes were riveted by the drama in the sky while the team on the ground struggled to free the seemingly doomed kites. Next came the death spiral as the smaller of the kites

most amazing things in all of kiting is on the main field and I have to go. Please follow me if you can." Tom has always wanted to fly with the Sundowners, and on this day, after 25 years at the helm of the BKF, he figured, how could they say no? After their demo, the guys let Tom stand in at the #4 position. "We did a couple of 8's, a Ladder Up and they even had enough faith in me to do a Walk Around!" said McAlister, "I am just glad I didn't crash and burn." For McAlister it may just have been the perfect



Ben Dantonio takes a licking and keeps on ticking, courtesy of John Barresi and Ron Despojado.

ending to an amazing quarter century!

The always popular children's kite making program helped over 1,200 children build and fly kites. The candy drops saw participation top 2000, and the Candy Crew dropped over 500 pounds of candy! The rokkaku battles drew over 100 excited pilots. BASKL ran smooth competitions and the excellent demo program. The King of the Hill Gang was joined by SOLO, the world's largest octopus.

The combined efforts of over 80 volunteers resulted in a world-class kiting event that is a tremendous asset to the West Coast. The mix of cultures and ages that come together for Berkeley is amazing. Crowds at the 2010 event were sizably larger than any the festival had ever seen.

Twenty-five years ago it would have been impossible for McAlister to foresee how the BKF would evolve over the years, how many lives he would touch, or that his festival would become one of the finest kite festivals anywhere. This year 30,000 people came together to experienced the wonder, culture and artistry of modern kiting. It was a special event in a special city, and everyone who was part of it can take pride in a job well done. k

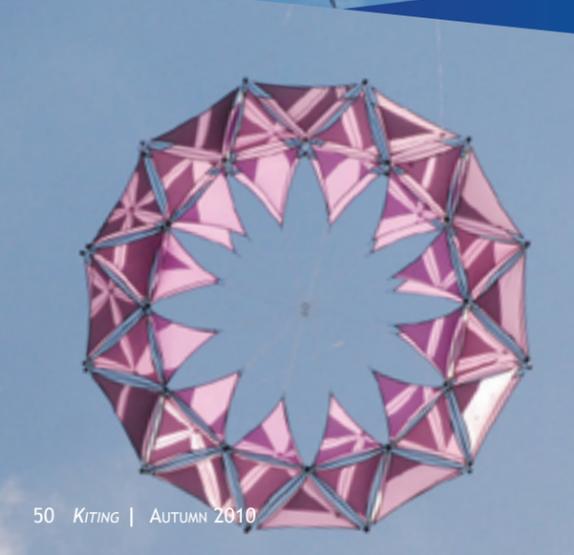
With 500 pounds of candy up for grabs, a candy drop quickly turns into a stampede.



SUNDERLAND INTERNATIONAL
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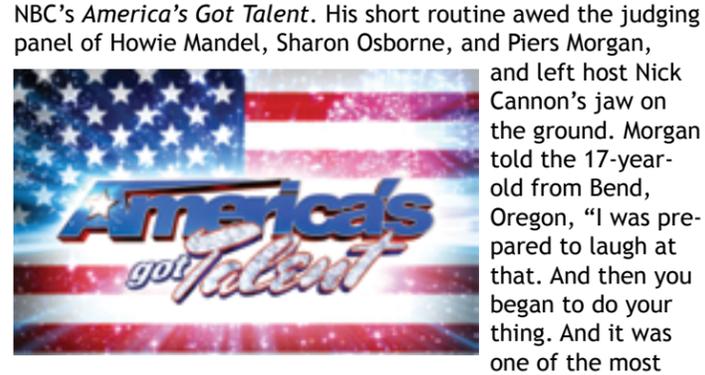


PHOTOS BY PETER BINDON



America's Got Connor

If you haven't seen it by now, you're one of the few. Besides the national TV audience, more than a half million people have gone to YouTube to watch Connor Doran's indoor quadline performance on NBC's *America's Got Talent*.



His short routine awed the judging panel of Howie Mandel, Sharon Osborne, and Piers Morgan, and left host Nick Cannon's jaw on the ground. Morgan told the 17-year-old from Bend, Oregon, "I was prepared to laugh at that. And then you began to do your thing. And it was one of the most extraordinary things I've ever watched." All three judges voted to advance Connor to the next round, which meant that he and his mother, Region Nine Director Amy Doran, got to repeat the performance in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, he was knocked out of the competition there. Still, he's become an Internet sensation, appeared with a bevy of beauty queens at the Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival, and has become a role model for other kids who suffer from epilepsy. Contractual commitments to NBC prevent the Dorans from sharing any insider details of their experience, but as soon as they're free to talk, look for the full story in *KITING*.

Kiting

people+places+things

7,202!

First they created the Darfur Kite Festival. Then they brought kites to the shantytowns and refugee camps of Chad, Jordan, Kenya, and Tanzania. And now, the folks at Minnesota-based nonprofit Kitegang are busy in Gaza, teaming

up with the United Nations to set a new world record. Even after an area that they used to teach kids to skateboard was devastated by a grenade attack, Kitegang stuck around, and on July 29th helped the children of Gaza launch 7,202 kites at once, setting a new Guinness record. Kitegang says, "That's 7,202 reasons to understand that the grenades will never win (no matter which side throws them). Fear simply can't win when yesterday the Gaza Strip was the most beautiful place on the planet."



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Wildwood? Nope. Long Beach? Uh-uh. Who'd have guessed that the world's largest kite festival was in Gaza City?



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