



# *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

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(AND WHY  
THEY DON'T)



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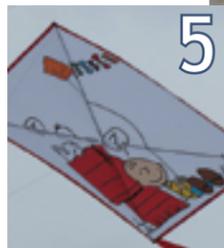


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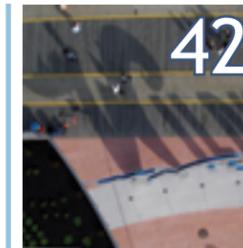
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This logo means you'll find additional content at [www.aka.kite.org/Kiting+](http://www.aka.kite.org/Kiting+)



# LEAUX FLY A KITE



West Baton Rouge is the smallest parish in the state of Louisiana but is host to what some say is the biggest and best kite festival in the south. Now in its seventh year, Kite Fest Louisiane welcomed thousands of visitors on April 1-3. Kite Fest Louisiane was created and organized by the West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau, and is held at the Soccer Complex just a short drive from the State Capitol.

Kite Fest Louisiane kicked off on Friday with Student Day, offering an open invitation to educators and parents to

develop lesson plans focusing on air, flight, and wind prior to the festival and culminate that lesson plan by showing students how to build a kite and bring it to the Soccer Complex to fly. Kitemaking instructions were available to all teachers and schools prior to the festival.

The buses began arriving at 9 AM on that day, with over 2000 students participating. Kathy Gautreau, the Director of Special Events for the West Baton Rouge CVB, organized stations for the students. Thirteen stations included kitemaking, kite flying demonstrations and instructions, Ben Franklin (a.k.a. Marshall Harris), indoor flying demonstrations, bol races, candy drop, face painting and children's inflatables. Gayle Woodul plays a key element in this festival. She and her team were there with a wonderful display of huge kites and helped entertain the crowds the whole weekend. Austin End of the Line performed with dual-line kites and Rev Riders flew quad-line kites wowing the crowds.

The field was open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday. The winds were almost nonexistent on Saturday and it was extremely hot, but that did not keep the crowds away. Lawn chairs, blankets and tents were set up with families flying kites and just enjoying a fun family outing. Sunday brought great winds and even bigger crowds. The skies were filled with kites of all sizes and shapes, big and small. Children who did not have a kite could make a free one at the kitemaking

Rev Riders: Scott Weider, Rich Comras, Lisa Willoughby, Laura Berg, and Paul Dugard



turnout that to relax, as flyers do, they geared up the kites with lights and flew into the night.

The West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau had signed on numerous sponsors for this event which included radio, TV, billboard and a major state newspaper as well as the Louisiana Office of Tourism. Their

efforts paid off with the three day event ending on Sunday with an estimated weekend crowd of over 14,000 participants. Sharon Stam, Executive Director of the West Baton Rouge CVB, the brain child of this event, is already planning on a bigger and better Fest next year, from March 30 - April 1, 2012. K



Go Big Or Go Home: Stef Gaines, Dyana and Steven Ploof, and Melissa Sutherland

Gayle Woodul



tent or design their own at the Design a Kite tent. Kite performances, food and drink vendors, music, candy drops, bol races and indoor flying demonstrations were all on the agenda. A special Friday night fish fry followed student day for all the flyers and volunteers. The flyers were so excited about the day's

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# MEXICAN PAPALOTES BY RUSS MOZIER

The Festival of Kites in Isla Blanca, Mexico, is held on the last weekend of February each year. Charles and Dorothy Stewart of New York City have been organizing and running this event for the past three years. They have had a condo in Cancun for ten years and decided that an event like this would promote kiting among the local population. Their main interest is promoting kiting among the children through education and workshops. For this festival they work with local schools, children's shelters and local organizations to encourage their support and participation.

The Festival of Kites began on February 25 in Cancun with a group of



Sunday. After dinner we went to Palapas Park in downtown old Cancun for a night fly. Palapas Park is a town square with a band shell that has entertainment every night, craft vendors and food stands. The square was full of local people but we were able to find room off to one side of the band shell to fly our kites. We put on some music and Penny Lingenfelter and Melanie Koenig flew quads while the rest of us flew butterflies and an Air-Yo.

Saturday morning we loaded our kites into the van and headed for Isla Blanca, a narrow strip of land about two hundred yards wide at the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula. Ron Jakubowicz and Paul Fieber put up large kites, Paul and I put

up show kites and banners, while Dorothy Stewart and Pat Mozier set up for the children's kitemaking. Charles Stewart kept busy organizing and coordinating everything. About thirty-five kiteboarders from Ikarus Kiteboarding School of Mexico set up on the lagoon side and started demos and lessons. The children

and the locals arrived around 11 AM and the festival began. Penny and Melanie performed sport kite demos and gave sport kite lessons, Penny dressed the children in fairy and pirate costumes and did skits, and Dorothy, Pat and Sue started making kites with the children. The children came from La Gloria English School on Isla Mujeres, an island north of Cozumel, and from La Casita, a shelter in Cancun for abused and abandoned children. Perico's Cantina in Cancun provided lunch each day for the children and they were each given a toy to take back with them by "Give a Toy, Get a Smile."

Charles is already making plans for the Festival de Papalotes next year, February 25-26, 2012. k



Dorothy Stewart



Charles Stewart

us preparing the kites for the children who would be coming on Saturday and



12<sup>TH</sup> FESTIVAL DEL VENTO  
SPOTORNO, ITALY  
MARCH 12-13, 2011  
PHOTOS BY CARLO PITONZO

# INDOOR AIR & SPACE



BY BARBARA BIRNMAN

The National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, hosted the annual indoor kite fly on Saturday, March 19. The event this year included a special tribute to the late Margo Brown, who was the driving force behind the scenes that allowed us access to the museum. Fifteen invited flyers participated: Dave Ashworth, Pauly Berard, Amy and Connor Doran, Tom Humphrey, Jeff King, Paul LaMasters, Mike Mosman, Megan Richards, John Ruggiero, Archie Stewart, Will Sturdy, Scott Weider, and Lisa and Ian Willoughby.

Space is always at a premium in an establishment such as this, but with Terry Murray running the sound and Archie's and Janis Worth's organizational skills, everyone was kept in line and on track when their turn finally did arrive. Terry also assembled a couple of sequential flight orders as a special tribute during which each flier got 90 seconds to show off to music specially selected for them but unknown beforehand. Flying in a confined space with displays overhead is a challenge, and all of the flyers, some of whom were new to the venue, performed extremely well.

The entire museum had kites and flyers scattered throughout the building, everything from children building paper sleds to Joyce King creating miniature cocktail napkin kites in the lobby to Mearl Balmer's kite aerial photography set-up. Past Grand National champions placed their showstoppers in the lobby. Several fliers traveled the hallways with kites flown on sticks and poles so the public could join in the fun.

It is extremely enjoyable and quite a privilege for the flyers to be within the museum doing what they love so much. The smiles and giggles become infectious. The crowds sit on the floor, stay put for several hours, and they encourage the flyers with their own appetites for more. The featured fliers didn't disappoint, either, with fabulous routines. The museum staff and all of the kiting volunteers look forward to next year's event. K



Ian Willoughby



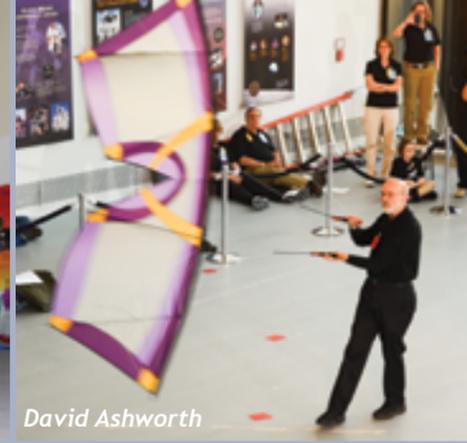
Connor Doran



Jeff King



John Ruggiero and Amy Doran



David Ashworth



Amy Doran



PHOTOS BY ANDREW ALBOSTA AND DANIEL SONE



Ian Willoughby



# REGIONAL REPORTS

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



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End of term: 2013

Region One kicked off spring with many kiting activities. National Kite Month was observed with kite displays in libraries and schools along with lots of fun flies. Kite building workshops took place in many schools, recreation centers and libraries with fun flies to show off the many creations that were made. Many kite performances were done by individuals in region along with flies and kite building. Many thanks go out to those folks who hosted events in ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, NY and CT.

Look for new kites and banners made at the club workshops at the upcoming flies. A no-sew kite was made at the ConnectiKITESS Jessy kite workshop presented by first-time instructor Dick Maciel. Another first time instructor, Dave Tuttle, presented the John Freeman designed Goin' and Comin' Kite for NYKE and Glenn Davison presented the KONE Banner workshop. Don McCasland had a nice aerial photography event. John DiMatteo and Glenn Davison represented kiting at the FAA Aerospace

Franklin Zito with his Connectikite's jessy.



Education Day at Logan Airport, Boston.

Other events that will be happening in the region are the Hammonasset Kite Festival in CT, Newport Kite Festival in RI, and Sullivan County Kite Festival in NY just to name a few. Look on the AKA Kite Event Calendar for upcoming events.

In this issue you will find the information for the 2011 Convention in Wildwood, NJ. This is an East Coast convention located on a nice wide beach. There will be plenty of room to fly your kites. Registration will be available on the website.



Todd Little at the KONE workshop.

Thanks to Archie Stewart, Glenn Davison, Dave Tuttle, Greg Lamoureux, John DiMatteo and many other AKA members for their contributions to our kiting events. It takes all of us supporting the events to keep them going.

Looking forward to seeing you on the kite fields.

Hi fellow flyers. Here is what's been happening in our region.

From Andy Gelinas: "Pocono Kite Symphony is alive and well here in the Pocono Mountains. May 7<sup>th</sup> was our premier event, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Kite Day in the Park at beautiful Louise Moore Park near Easton, PA. We have been really busy planning and working towards our BIG day. We also have kids kitebuilding in the Lehigh Valley and back here in the mountains scheduled. We have been able to make alliances with local municipal and social organizations and are looking forward to being with them through the spring and summer. We are moving ahead."

The Keystone Kiteers are having a great spring with kite festivals locally, and visiting some events down the road. They will be holding their annual summer retreat from August 26-28. The project will be a scaled up version of Lee Toy's Swallowtail Delta. Although

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



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End of term: 2013

somewhat delta-like in appearance, it is really a bowed kite with long, twin tails. See [www.keystonekiters.com](http://www.keystonekiters.com) for details. And be sure to watch for the Keystone Kiteers running a fun challenge at the convention in Wildwood!

The South Jersey Kite Flyers have been busy this spring with workshops and demos. The summer schedule for SJKF calls for third Sunday monthly fun flies in Brigantine, NJ. SJKF dominated across the bay at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Great Delaware Kite Festival on Good Friday, with Dennis Smith and Lisa Willoughby sweeping the sport kite medals, and Phil Broder taking the kitemaking prizes. Phil also entered the Brasington spinner he made at February's Maryland Kite Society retreat into the National Arts Program show, and won Best Sculpture.

This was sent in by Con Engels, from Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club. "Fly Pittsburgh Kite Club is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, and because this is such a special landmark, we are having several events this year to

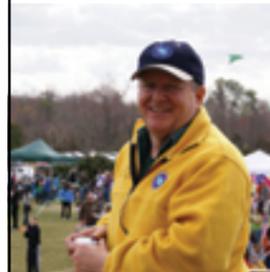


New Fly Pittsburgh member Todd Moss learns to fly indoors.

celebrate. We just had our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fly in April, although a little brisk we had a decent turnout and some wind, so good start so far. We kick off May with our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Spring Fly. And in July we will all gather for Discover Presque Isle Days in Erie, PA, the home beach of Lee Sedgwick. Our founding members John Kish first met Dan and Pat Mills at Presque Isle twenty years ago in August. We also celebrate other special landmarks such as the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly Pittsburgh Indoor Fly which was recently held at Slippery Rock University. And our 16<sup>th</sup> year participating at the Buffalo Township Community Days at Lernerville Speedway. We hope to keep the fun of kiting in the Pittsburgh area alive for many years to come. It's been a great time so far!"

Please come out and support the AKA.

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



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End of term: 2013

Region Three activities became more frequent as the temperature rose. RAF and WOW continue to hold their First Sunday fly, along with a newly formed club in the Salem, VA, region called GOT WIND. The organizers are Burke May and Donald Jacobs. In March the activities became much more numerous with the RAF Children's Kite Fly. This was the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henrico County and the event really grew. One of the highlights was the growth from a few hundred spectators to 20,000. Another was the delegation from the sister city in Korea who brought and flew traditional Korean kites. WOW had a couple of practices in anticipation of the Smithsonian indoor fly. There were 15 invited fliers showing their skills flying kites in and around the displays. This was also a tribute to Margo Brown, who was largely responsible for getting the indoor event started. On the same weekend the first of several festivals in West Virginia was held at Mineral Wells.

The last weekend of March is traditionally the kickoff for National Kite Month and includes the Smithsonian

event. This year things changed. The National Cherry Blossom Festival took over the organization of the event, with the assistance of several WOW and MKS members. The event was scheduled for Sunday, and it got rain delayed for two weeks.

On March I gave a presentation at a residential vocation training center. I don't know if it was the food, or that this was so different from previous events but there were 24 visitors throughout the evening, and some interest generated for a flying event at a later date. The first weekend of April include the normal flies but they were preceded by the Frederick County Parks & Rec event. Last year there was lots of wind, this year it was light and included blue skies, hail, clouds, rain, wind, sleet, and LOTS of dedicated locals that would hide in their cars, then come back out to fly. The kite building efforts resulted in over a dozen kites being made, but only two came back for the competition. This event was organized by Michael Rose and supported by members of RAF, WOW and even some friends from Pennsylvania. April 9<sup>th</sup> brought back the Rockfish Valley festival at a new and large field. Peter Agelasto said the attendance was less than hoped for due to competing events and poor weather but everyone had a great day. Again the RAF was in attendance, along with GOT WIND, and the Maciels from Region 1 showed up and wowed everyone with their no-sew kites. Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> had the busiest schedule with events in Bel Air, MD, Hume, VA and Salem, VA. Unfortunately the weather was poor and the Salem event was called due to rain. The fliers had a great time socializing and went out Sunday for an informal fly. Members of WACKOS, RAF, WOW, GOT WIND, and others including Cliff Quinn, and the Engvalls made the trek. Al Ault reported that Bel Air had similar weather problems but a few hardy souls flew, then everyone came back to fly on Sunday. Additionally Al said there were over 1,000 in attendance and supporting fliers came from MD, VA, PA, NJ, and MD to assist the novices and to fly their kites.

Good Friday brought back one of the longest running events with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Great Delaware Kite Festival on Good Friday.

MIKE in Ocean City, MD, resurrected MASKC and there were approximately

Terry Murray



Jim Sturdy watches a Korean guest launch at the RAF Children's Fly.

20 registered fliers. The Virginia Beach/Portsmouth event under the guidance of Christopher Stankus and his family had Archie Stewart coming in to teach kite building, Terry Murray providing sound, Adrienne and Mearl Balmer showing their kitemaking skills, and some local traction kites. The New Era kite club put on their third event of the spring in Chester, WV. Pat yourselves on the back, you had a busy month!

I have sent out a number of e-mails this spring, and President Meyer has as well. If you have not received any of them, please contact me. I would also like to remind you of the AUTO-RENEWAL option. When you renew and use a credit card to pay you may "Opt-In" for auto-renewal. AKA will save your credit card information and at the end of your term you will automatically be renewed exactly the way you set it up the first time, but instead of getting charged for the full price of the primary membership you will be charged at the reduced "multi-year" price, which currently is \$38 instead of \$40. You will get a reminder at the addresson file that you are about to be charged, and if your card is up for renewal you may get a reminder about that.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please invite friends, neighbors, co-workers to come out with you and try kite flying. It has resulted in a few new AKA members and, of course, spreading the joy of our hobby is what this association is all about. Hope to see you on a kite field somewhere.

Terry Murray

RAF does bol races a little differently....



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



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End of Term: 2013

bunch of kitefliers showed up and so did a few thousand co-eds on spring break! It was a good time, beach real estate was limited, and I hope we pick a better date the next time, but flying is still flying. If we can get the dates corrected, this could turn into a promising event.

The local WACKOS also held their annual NKM Spring Kite Fly; unfortunately, the winds at 20mph gusting to over 30mph put a damper on the big show kites, but a few stunt kites and banners made a display.

From Karen Mault of Carolina Kite Club: "Here's some of the recent happenings from down here on the coast. On April 7, Don Dixon and John Mault helped out on Kite Day at Gramercy Christian School, Newport, NC. They gave a short presentation about the different types of kites and how they flew. They also demonstrated the long line launch, showing that you don't have to run the length of the field to get your kite in the air. This turned out to be quite a feat since the wind was very light at the beginning of the afternoon. Students from grades K-6 got to fly their kites on the soccer field. Luckily, the wind picked up as the afternoon wore on. Don and John helped the kids fly their kites and did some assembly and minor repairs when possible. Word from the school was that the kids really enjoyed the day and are planning another for next year.

"Kites Unlimited sponsored a two-day kite building workshop in Atlantic



**Kip Clements and Doug L'Hommedieu at the Kites Unlimited workshop.**

Beach, NC, on April 8-9. The workshop was lead by Kip Clements and Rick Tuttle, of the Carolina Kite Club. By the second day, we changed the name from workshop to sweatshop. Four of the seven members completed the kite and flew it on the Sunday at the weekly club fly at Fort Macon State Park. The other three pledged to finish at home and return to fly another day. All participants enjoyed the weekend and left asking for more."

I send out a monthly newsletter to all Region Four members repeating the kite events for the region the next month and any other news that has come up. If you are not receiving these e-mails, let me know at [rd4@aka.kite.org](mailto:rd4@aka.kite.org).

Get out there and fly, and let the rest of us know. Keep the wind at your back.

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



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End of term: 2011

Hello from Region Six. On a cold but clear day in Iowa, with the only colors to be seen being blue sky and the white snow, kitefliers began to gather on the large white expanse on Clear Lake to Color The Wind. The wind was from off shore, the ice was dry, hard, thick and slippery and all in Clear Lake, IA, had a good time. Larry and Kay Day hosted their 10<sup>th</sup> Color the Wind fly which was attended by many Midwest kitefliers from eight states. In appreciation for 10 great years, Bob Rymaszewski took up a collection and presented Larry Day with a Linda Sanders banner featuring Larry's "Hug Me" giant teddy bear. Several thousand visitors came by to see the spectacle and they were not disappointed. Sunday's weather made traveling home difficult for some but the experi-



**Color The Wind**

ence was worth it and just added to the memory of it all.

Minnesota's Mr. Kite, Craig Christensen, was featured on a TV program called "Off 90" on KSMO in the Twin Cities. The human interest spot is about 10 minutes in length and can be seen on You Tube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi5LOBsSvTY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi5LOBsSvTY). There is also a nice scene from Color the Wind as part of the feature. It was a well-deserved recognition for our Mr. Kite.

Green Bay Winterfest, January 29, was even more festive this year with the Super Bowl-bound Packers attempting to bring the Lombardi Trophy back to Green Bay. It was cold, but the winds were good. The deep fresh snow made moving around difficult but not unusual for winter Wisconsin kiteflying. Jeff Hale's and Ted Larsen's kites together in the blue sky made a stunning sight for the enthusiastic crowd.

U-MAKE, the new kitemaker's workshop held in Des Moines, was a great success. Linda Larkey and her team did an amazing job organizing the classes and interspersing 10-minute mini classes, providing tips and tidbits of information. Donna Schenk, Linda Larkey and Ryan Larkey taught the major projects for the weekend. Next year's U-MAKE will be January 13-15 and will feature Martin Blais as an instructor.

There were several NKM events throughout Region Six. One of the larger ones was put together by Tom Towner with assistance from me, at the Mount Olive Church & School in Appleton, WI.

Over 300 students were assembled to hear about all aspects of kiting and were shown a video of two different kite festivals. Afterward the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes made kites and went out to fly them on one of the few nice spring days Wisconsin has enjoyed.

Other events included: a series of six workshops coordinated by Angie Chau and Clark Shute, sponsored by the Indianapolis-Marion County Library; a 4-H aerospace project of kite making in Shawano, WI; the New Hampton Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> grade Kite/Flight Unit in New Hampton, IA, coordi-

nated by Jeff Monteith; a kite display at the New Berlin Public Library coordinated by Mark Ledvina; a Brownsburg Library Kite Display in Brownsburg, IN, put on by Grant Lovett; to name just a few.

The summer calendar is full of upcoming festivals and events. Be sure to look them over and see what fits your schedule. See you on the field. Keep looking up and hold on tight!



**Larry Day**

MCC-Longview Flights of Fancy Kite Festival in Lee's Summit, MO, is held the third weekend of each April. The first year's vision was remote control airplanes with a few kites as back up. That first event day dawned bright and blustery—with 15-20mph winds. We didn't see a plane all day, but the Kansas City Kite Club made sure that the sky was filled with kites. Now in its fifth year, FOF has been growing every year with 2011's attendance estimated at 15,000 for this one day event.

For the FOF 2011 we had an overcast cold morning that steadied into a bright comfortable afternoon. KCKC members Terri and Ken Wible, Allan and Susie Gilson, with daughters Lizzie and Laurie, Doug Hoffman, Don Larkie, Victor Curtis, Steve Batliner, Dan Stitt, Trafton and Kerri Creemer and family, Nick and Jes-

**Region 5 ~ Great Lakes**  
MI-OH



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End of term: 2011

performance with the Thor's Hammer. In that much wind he was concerned that he would have to send out a search and rescue team after me. But, all in all a great day of performances from Sky Jesters, Blues Brothers, O2, Chicago Fire, the Gordons, Fire and Ice, Mr. Incredible (Dave Bush) and 180 GO. And we were visited by some Region Six friends Ed Gryns, Angie Chau, Clark Shute, and Dick and Terri Claycomb. Many thanks to P.I.G.S. Aloft kite club and WGUC radio.

I hope to see you in July on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at North Coast Stunt Kite Games in Oregon, OH, and Kites Over Branch County Kite Fest in Coldwater, MI on July 22-24. Also Cleveland Kite Fest, Septem-

**Dan Newman and Mike Delfar came from Region Six for a blowout in Region Five.**



ber 10-11.

I hope everyone is having a safe and happy summer with a lot of sun and perfect winds.

Larry Day's bear over Flights of Fancy.

Thomas Lin

sica Piacenza, Randy and Linda Larkey, Ryan Larkey, Rebecca Waner, Sarah and John Holt, Stephanie Beaver with Allie and Joe Beaver were among some of the kites on the professional field. Thomas Lin took some amazing KAP photos.

KCKC would also like to thank Don and Betty Murphy, Larry Day, Jeff and Jennifer Kuhns, Ron and Charm Linder, Tom and Jill Cross, Bob and Janet Homan who were just a few of the out-of-town kitters that added to our weekend's fun.

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



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End of term: 2011

Region Eight has had a spectacular spring, encompassing the majority of our kite season for 2011. This area stages back-to-back, and sometimes even overlapping events, beginning with the South Padre Fun Fly in late January and continuing through the Junction Kite Makers' Retreat over Memorial Day weekend.

After Junction, the extreme heat of summer kicks in and also generally brings a total lack of wind to much of the Region.

The wind was quite challenging this year! At many festivals, we experienced a gamut of weather conditions. During some events, the wind was completely nonexistent on Saturday, but graduated to spar-bustin' strength on Sunday! Then again, there were the festivals which were a challenge to get anything at all in the air (like Zilker Park in Austin); and the ones which offered a steady and turbulent 20mph gusting to 35mph all weekend (as was the case in Perrin,

TX). So, which kites did we bring?

All of them!

Despite my intention to attend the Tulsa festival in May, I was approached at Zilker and asked to oversee a new event in Central Texas. I hope that my friends in Tulsa understand that a new event needs my attention more than an established festival! But... next year, I'll just be a kiteflier, not an RD. Unfortunately, I send the same apologies to a few other festivals. Our Region spans a lot of geography and I can't be everywhere. Please don't give up on me! I'll GET there! It just may not be as RD.

Which, once again, brings me around to offering on-the-job-training to anyone considering stepping in as RD at the end of my current term. As much fun as it might seem to surprise the regional membership, the opportunity to walk into the position with knowledge of the expected tasks will speak volumes toward your credibility. Please take me up on my offer to share as much insight as possible to the demands before it's required.

Keep looking up!

### Region 9 ~ Intermountain ID-MT-OR



Amy "Mousie" Doran  
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End of Term: 2012

Welcome to the 2011 season! Wait a minute... it seems that the season is all year long now! What a great way to



Stef Gaines, Brent Sutherland, Melissa Sutherland, Steve Bowman, Pamela Ploof, Gayle Woodul, Dyana and Steven Ploof go big.

show the world that we just cannot get enough of kites and the joy they give to us and to so many others. I am really happy to be able to be a part of one of the most active kiting regions in the AKA.

With the Lincoln City Indoor Kite Festival, we brought in 2011 with a big bang. People are still excited about the great fun and great flying that went on at the Taft High School. Congratulations and kudos to all those that made it such a success. A special thank you to Maggie Conrad and the City of Lincoln City for their support of one of the top indoor kite festivals in the United States. This festival has set the tone for many other indoor festivals around the world. There is some talk that this festival will not be taking place next year which would be a huge loss to the sport. If you want to see this festival continue the time to speak out and support it is now. Send me your e-mails with your thoughts and I will make sure to pass them along. This festival is the reason that many of us started flying kites.

The Lincoln City Summer Festival is going to fly into summer with a sky full of fantastic kites! There are some new creatures in town so be sure to make the trip over to Lincoln City to check it all out. Kite making for kids and lots of great internationally-known master fliers will keep your toes tapping and your eyes to the skies! For more information: [www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/kites-summer.php](http://www.oregoncoast.org/kite-festival/kites-summer.php).

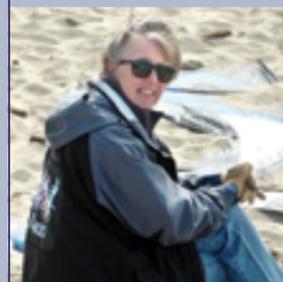
If you are a bit further inland be sure to attend the Bear Lake Kite Festival in Bear Lake State Park, ID, on June 25. Kids kitemaking, the running of the bols, and demonstrations by the Utah Kite Club's members will be sure to entertain everyone. There is plenty

of room for all the kites and camping is available as well. For more information contact Dean Turnblom at Sunrise Kites, 208/524-5551, or [sunrisekites@cablone.net](mailto:sunrisekites@cablone.net).

Don't put that kite bag away for long, because the Southern Oregon Kite Festival will bring thousands of spectators to Brookings on July 16-17. This unique show entertains thousands of people that return each year to enjoy a show put on by the top kitemakers and pilots in the world. A fantastic place to visit and the community is warm and welcoming to all that come in for this event.

I look forward to seeing you this summer!

### Region 10 ~ Northwest AK - WA



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End of Term: 2012

Hello Region Ten! Spring is taking its time arriving in the Pacific Northwest. Hopefully by the time this reaches your mailbox we will have warm sunny skies to fly in! Now is a great time to sort through those kite bags that have been waiting all winter. Shake out the old sand and get ready for new! In a couple weeks we will be in full swing. Middle of May we will have been to Rockaway, OR, for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kite Festival. Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Quincy Kite Festival. Well worth

Marc Engbaum got tied up at the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Retreat.



the drive, as they have a huge turf farm with 100 acres green turf to fly on! Also this weekend was the regular scheduled third Saturday Windriders Club Fly at Grayland Beach. June 4-5 will find us on the beach for the Ocean Shores Kite Challenge sponsored by

Andy and Brenda Sias. Mass ascensions, Ray Bethell will be flying, Karl will be making kids kites, and Glen and Marianne will be heading up a pin challenge. July 8-10 we will be camping at Grayland for the Westport Windriders festival. They will have a mass ascension all three days, teddy bear drop, handcrafted kite competition, stunt kite flying, kids kite-making and a banquet with auction and bag raffle items on Saturday night. Hope to see you there! Even though August is still a few months away, we are already thinking ahead to WSIKF. I have heard that reservations are booking up already! Make your calendar for the third week in August, the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Every year, there is so much to see and do, and I never seem to see it all! Maybe this year. Have fun flying!

### Region 11 ~ N. California Northern CA-NV



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End of Term: 2012

San Diego's Steve Bateman was invited by the Bay Area Sport Kite League to present a workshop on building a fighter kite in February. About a dozen new sleek fighters were created during the all-day event. Unfortunately, they didn't get a chance to flight-test their new creations. These single-line fighters should make appearances later this season at one of the BASKL competitions.

In early March, a fun fly was held at Doran Regional Park near Bodega Bay. David Love from Candy and Kites stopped by to provide the participants with some sugary snacks. The gently curving beach next to the RV campground provided a



Ken Conrad went fractal with this sky window at the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Retreat in March.

pleasant venue for the sky decorations.

This spring has been quiet on the Northern California competitive kite scene, mainly due to Mother Nature scheduling rain on the same weekends as the first two BASKL outdoor events at Berkeley. In April, BASKL's first 2011 outdoor competition was held at Baylands Regional Park in Sunnyvale. Ed Skow drove up from near Ventura to compete in the Novice category. The next competition was at Crissy Field in San Francisco (mid-May), then near the harbor in Martinez (mid-June). Check the event calendar at [baskl.org](http://baskl.org) or [aka.kite.org](http://aka.kite.org) for upcoming events.

The Morro Bay Kite Festival was held again this year at the end of April, and the end of National Kite Month. Facilitated by Brian Champie and Shaun Farmer, the festival gathered fliers from up and down the West Coast to share the beach and sky near the foot of Morro Rock with the locals and tourists.

The San Francisco International High School contacted BASKL to help conduct an introductory class on kites, kite building and kite flying. The class is scheduled for mid-May. Watch this space next issue for a report.

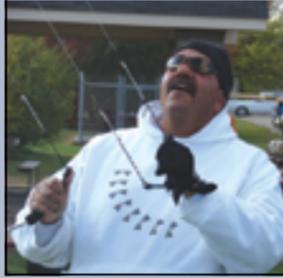
Tom McAlister made Kirigami paper miniatures at the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Retreat.



Rick White

Rick White

**Region 12 ~ Southwest**  
Southern CA-AZ-HI



**Ben Dantonio**  
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End of Term: 2012

I'm writing this from the train station in Beijing as I'm off to another adventure. Since last we were together I have covered a few miles and enjoyed both new and old kite friends. The last string of adventures started with the KTAI show in Las Vegas where the manufacturers and retailers came together to brainstorm how to get more people flying and to show what's newest and hottest for the market.

From there it was off to Kite Party in Huntington Beach, CA. It's developed into a real bash where people from all over the world come together to fly and have fun. Dave Shenkman at Kite Connection puts this event on each year, and spends tons of his own money and hundreds of hours to make this happen year

after year. He really does this for a huge love of the sport. This year saw Team Too Much Fun, iQuad, David Gomberg and a host of other really great fliers.

Next I was off to the nation's capital to a kite festival that was postponed cause of weather, and to be with Connor Doran for the Epilepsy Walk, I felt really honored to be a part of this event for many reasons but mostly to just hang out with Connor and Amy. It never ceases to amaze me how much this young man brings to the table with his kites and his mission statement, "Dare To Dream." He has taken kite flying to another level and has shared his passion the world over. Thanks for letting me come along and play.

So you will shake your head when power kiting is mentioned. NABX is a kite event under extreme conditions. Each year there is a worldwide migration to the dry lake beds outside of Las Vegas by a large group of extreme wind junkies who must push the envelope.

I must admit I am one of them and when the playa sings its song I am there. Each year a mini city appears on the dry lake bed which is the host to some great food, great beer, and a host of international fliers, and some strange birds who think they are normal. NABX offers more than what can be seen by the eye, a place where you can let your hair down and get a little crazy and it also opens its arms to any and all who want to give it a try. If you don't have all the toys don't worry cause we bring plenty for all to try.



*Corey Jensen hanging out at Kite Party.*



*Eli Shavit's jacket*

to Lanzarote, Canary Islands, looking for unusual subjects. He ended up with a self-portrait in the villa's backyard!

AUSTRALIA – Alvares and Sanders families represented Down Under at the Uiseong International Kite Festival in Korea; memories of circular beds, heated floors and "no-eyed-deer" karaoke bus rides. The only true way to learn world geography is to be part of an international event.

JAPAN – Masami Takakuwa wrote of the shattering earthquake and tsunami in March, which devastated his homeland. "Many historical and traditional kite festivals have been stopped because of the disaster. Moreover, the disaster of nuclear plant becomes the most horrible matter." Please send any messages of support by postcard to: Japan Kite Association, 1-12-10 Nihonbashi Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0027 JAPAN. President, Modegi-San gratefully acknowledged the AKA's collection of donations totalling \$3200. "We really appreciate your warm consideration. Thank you very much. There is no kites up in the sky unless there is peace on the ground in the society. We cannot enjoy flying kites under this situation in Northern part of Japan."

BRAZIL – Sadly, twelve school students were killed in Rio de Janeiro by a sniper in April. To honour them, Max Cardoso ran a special kite festival where many kites were flown, some featuring



*Max Cardoso's tribute to murdered Brazilian students.*

the students' names.

Newsflash! Auction donations are requested for AKA's 34<sup>th</sup> Convention. Proceeds of this auction fund AKA operations; your trash may be someone's treasure. Why not make something special and your work will find a new home. E-mail Dick Maciel [Bowleft@aol.com](mailto:Bowleft@aol.com) or Gregory Lamoureux [auction@aka.kite.org](mailto:auction@aka.kite.org). Any Region Thirteen members seeking travel tips on how to get there can e-mail me.

This article is written by you, so don't forget to contribute. Until next time, less talk. . . more fly! k

**Region 13 ~ International**



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End of Term: 2012

Is there anyone NOT receiving my monthly e-mail newsletters full of updates and new event announcements? It could be your AKA Member Profile settings; e-mail me and we'll fix it together.

SOUTH KOREA – Uiseong International Kite Festival hosted over 20 countries for this inaugural event. Excellent facilities and organisation by our gracious hosts. Nothing was left to chance. Food and accommodation were amazing! While colder than usual for some, the atmosphere was HOT with international flavour: Israel, UK, Germany, Australia, USA, France, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and our wonder-

ful hosts, Mayor of Uiseong City Mr Kim Bok Kyu, Mr Kitai Rhee (Traditional Folk Kite Master) and everyone in the Korean Kitefliers Association.

FRANCE – opened the European kite season with Berck-sur-mer Festival in April. Weather was pleasingly warm! Eli and Shula Shavit (Israel) were seen adding their colourful kites.

CANADA – Wonderful news. Wind-scape Kite Festival won the 2010 Tourism Saskatchewan Award of Excellence reports Shann Gowan. A fitting reward for lots of hard work (and fun). Mario di Lucca from Team Island Quad took time

to visit his old home, "down under" in Argentina.

GERMANY – Ralf Maser-ski reports, "Since 2010 the international kite festival in Luenen has a new organizing team and website: [www.sparkas-](http://www.sparkas-sendrachenfest-luenen.de)

[sendrachenfest-luenen.de](http://www.sparkas-sendrachenfest-luenen.de)." For his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Holm Struck attended the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference as both teacher AND student. This was his third time at Fort Worden.

VIETNAM – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vung Tau International Kite Festival was another success! Stunning images of the night-fly were evident via Facebook, with AKA members Kevin Sanders (Australia), Peter Lynn (New Zealand), David Gomberg (USA), Jacqui Mountjoy (South Africa) and Jerry King (China).

UNITED KINGDOM – Scotland's James Gentles took his KAP rig and Flowform 16

*At Uiseong, Mr Rhee of the Korean Kitefliers Association presents one of his hand-painted kites to Japan's Masami Takakuwa.*



*James Gentles (poolside, in red) KAPping the Canary Islands.*



25<sup>TH</sup> RENCONTRES  
INTERNATIONALES DE  
CERFS-VOLANTS  
BERCK - SUR - MER, FRANCE  
APRIL 16 - 25, 2011  
PHOTOS BY DAVID GOMBERG

# KNOT IN THIS ISSUE

BY RONDA BREWER

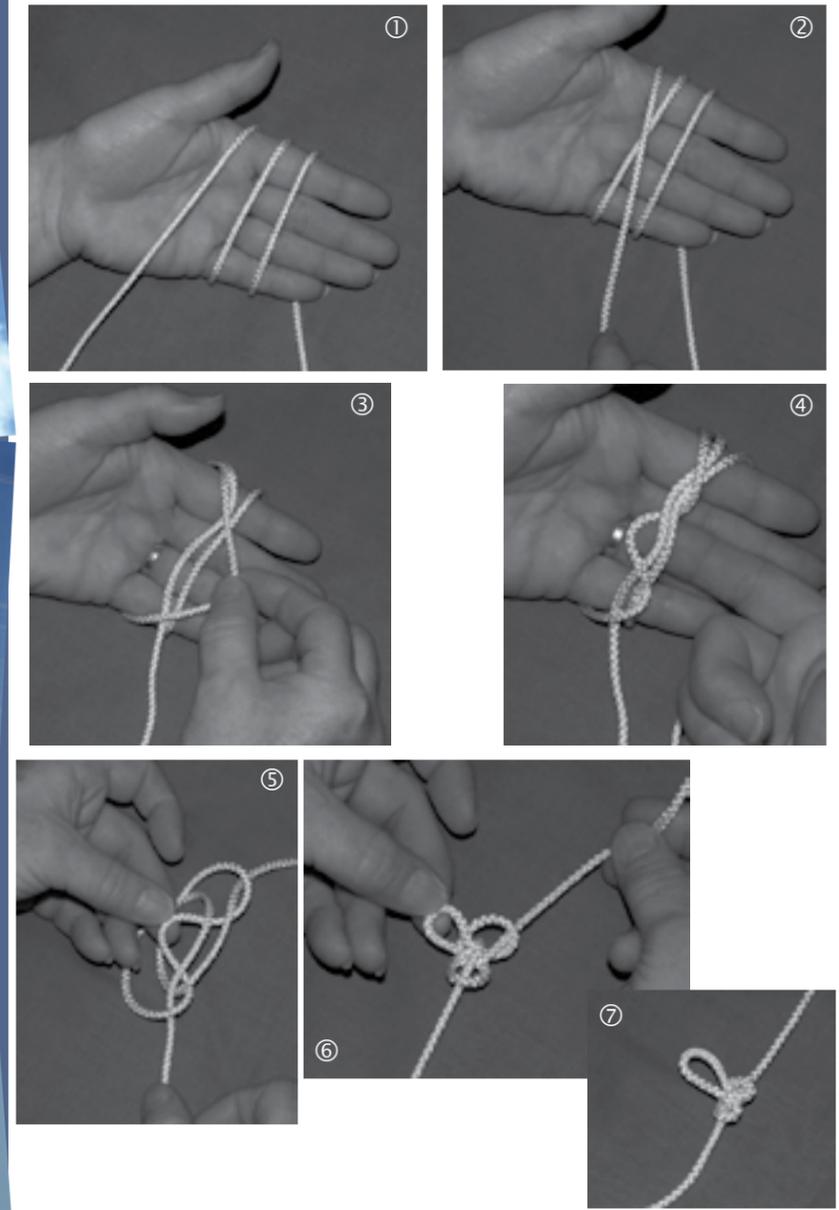
I love this very useful loop knot. The Alpine Butterfly Loop is easy to tie and because of the way the line or rope wraps around itself, it will not collapse when under strain from any direction: up, down or directly out from where it is tied. Much like the Bowline, it is easy to disassemble even after handling a heavy load. It is also known as the Lineman's Loop.

The construction of this knot can be accomplished at least two ways. One is "in the hand", which is the way I learned to tie this knot. It can be tied left or right-handed.

The other way involves making a bend or 'bight' in your line where you want the knot to be. Then, giving the bend a couple of twists and by feeding the loop through the middle, you end up with the Alpine Butterfly Loop Knot.

Uses for this knot:

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- Attaching line laundry to a flying line
- Attaching individual kites to a main flying line for arches or trains
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- To isolate a weak or worn spot in your line. K



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

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

Send address changes to  
[UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org](mailto:UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org)

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As I write this column, another National Kite Month is drawing to its conclusion. Since NKM is all about education, helping the not-yet addicted public find the joys of kiting, this year our focus was on helping workshop presenters continue their great efforts by awarding six grants of \$100 each. Whether it was for 4-H kids in Wisconsin who otherwise couldn't afford a kite, or to pay for gas so the presenter in Minnesota could attend the eco-fair to build kites with 250 in one evening, or in Rhode Island with the school children exploring the art and science of kites, all were a complete and total success. Thanks to all who participated; to the Education committee led by Glenn Davison for a great idea; and especially to the Kite Trade Association who partnered with us to make all of National Kite Month a reality. Same time next year!

By the way, speaking of workshops, did you know that you can now purchase line and winders for your classes through the AKA general store at only 34¢ a winder? Order online, or contact me for more information.

Members, we need more members! The challenge to each of you is to sign up one more person as a member this year. If only 50% of our current members could do this, we would once again have more than 4000 members. At only \$40 a year, membership in the AKA is a true bargain. Four issues of *Kiting*; back issues of *Kiting* online; access to a database listing member addresses; KiteTalk Forum; sanctioning for local events; convention; publicizing local events through regional newsletters; and more. Expenses have been cut to the bone, there's nothing left. If the AKA is to continue as a viable association, we need to stabilize our membership numbers. This is a job for each of us, not just a few. If you value your association, it's time to step up and help.

Our friends in Japan very much appreciate all help. Donations from around the world have been collected by the AKA and transmitted to the Japan Kite Association for distribution. Over 1000 kites for kids will be shipped thanks to the generosity of the Westport Windriders; the White Horse Kitefliers; Seaside Kites; Barry and Karen Ogletree and Federal Express. Thanks to all who donated.

The website just gets better and better. Take a few minutes to explore. Have you stopped in the forum? Downloaded back issues of *Kiting*? Signed up for regional newsletters? This is especially handy for those that often travel to other regions. If you have any problem signing in, contact me for a few tips and hints.

Soon it will be time for our annual election cycle. This year Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8 will each be electing a regional director. If you can e-mail, and have a little time, you too could be a regional director. Please think about volunteering to run. New ideas and energy are very much needed. Of course, the president will also be elected. Are you ready to step up? The nominating committee will begin accepting names in July. Announcements will be made in the Forum and through the monthly e-mail newsletters.

Are you ready for Wildwood and Convention 2011? More details and the registration form are elsewhere in this issue. There are some great workshops scheduled. A few require pre-registration. Make a special note of those. Come with a friend, each do different workshops, and share information later!

A few have the goal of competing in more than one discipline at convention. Head judges will be setting schedules in July. It is in your best interest to contact them with your request for help now, and not wait.

The US MegaFlag will be flown on Saturday afternoon, October 1. Bring your red/white/blue kites for a massive patriotic show in the sky! Details of all the challenges, mass ascensions, and other fun will be in the next issue of *Kiting*.

The first registration deadline is August 15. Save some money, sign up early! Registration will once again be \$230. This is the same price as last year. What a bargain for a full week including the Monday reception, two banquets, the auction, 30 workshops, the indoor fly and more!

Another important part of convention is presenting our three main awards. Each of these awards, the Edeiken, Ingraham, and Toy, recognize members who have made a difference to our association and the kiting world in general. Please consider nominating someone for these honors. All award criteria and past nominating letters are now available on the website. Letters do not have to be long or complicated. Send to [president@aka.kite.org](mailto:president@aka.kite.org) no later than September 1.

The location for Convention 2012 – drum roll please – is Enid, OK! The flying field is vast: 1,200' on a side. If you want to see some video of it, go to Cat Gabrel's website, [www.kitesinthesky.net](http://www.kitesinthesky.net), click on kite flying tips and then "how to fly" to catch a video of Richard Dermer with the Enid field at his back.

The city is small enough (population 49,000) to get excited about hosting us. They have never had a National Convention of any kind, and their brand new Visitors Bureau manager is tickled to bring the first one to their new convention center. One perk that the Enid field would allow is parking for convention attendees right beside the flying fields, with the public having its own parking lot at the entrance. It's about 90 miles from the Oklahoma City airport, but Enid says cheap shuttles will be available. The highways have speed limits of 80 mph, nice straight flat driving, no cities or hills to drive around. The weather should be great. Late September is a great time in these parts. It might be cool, it might be warm, but it may well be spot-on perfect, with good wind to boot, average wind speed is 10 mph that time of year. The city of Enid wants to position itself as a leader in the wind energy field, and likes the connection with kites. We might be able to figure out some way to tie in with Vance Air Force Base, a fighter pilot training center. (Top Gun meets AKA Champion?)

In the meantime take a few minutes – if not more – and go fly! Now, enough time on the computer for me. Time to fly!



Barbara sizes up a bride at the U-MAKE workshop in March.

Barbara Meyer

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San Diego, CA 92101  
619/234-KITE  
[www.kiteflitesd.com](http://www.kiteflitesd.com)

Second Wind  
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[www.secondwindfun.com](http://www.secondwindfun.com)

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[danrime@hotmail.com](mailto:danrime@hotmail.com)

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[www.windwizard.com](http://www.windwizard.com)

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# VOICES FROM THE VAULT

## DON JASPERS

Chances are if you shine a light on Don Jaspers you'd reveal the shadow of a happy man leaning into a skyward-bound kite silhouette. Never keeping kites too far away, this longtime flier has tugged countless lines and found pleasure teaching others how to let some line out and pull a little happiness from above. With an eye to the sky, but feet planted firmly on the ground, Jaspers has enjoyed kiting through a lifetime of flying seasons.

A Minnesota native, Don grew up in the small town of Shakopee during the early days of the Great Depression. Son of a blacksmith and wheelwright, Don and his siblings had access to his father's tools and his mother's household refuse bin to fabricate kites from odds-and-ends they found around their home. In the Jaspers household, kitemaking was a fun family event and Don's parents enjoyed showing their children how to make kites. Clearing the kitchen table, the Jaspers would assemble a flier from set aside bits and scraps they tucked away for kitemaking: butcher paper and grocer's twine, along with rags and sawed-off pieces of wood — all key "ingredients" for family fun that they pieced together between mealtimes. The Jaspers flew mainly in March, when the Minnesota winds were strong and the excitement of spring fueled their spirits after long snowy winters.

Young Don greatly enjoyed kites, as did his siblings and friends. While they dabbled making the occasional barn door and box kite, the Eddy was their go-to kite that they favored to storm through a range of winds from puffy breezes to strong gusty tugs. Kite flying was a crowd favorite and the kids of Shakopee would fly whenever and wherever they could. Don remembers flying a kite with friends on their walk to school. Not wanting to end the fun when the school bell rang, they tied the line to a light pole and headed to class. Absorbing arithmetic and grammar, they focused on lesson plans inside while their kite soared outside all day. When school let out, the kids untied their kite, having fun flying along their walk home.



As time passed and childhood friends scattered from the playgrounds of his youth, abandoning kites on their paths later in life, Don recalls, "I never forgot kiting . . . even while I was a young man, during high school, whenever I could, I would fly." After graduation Don entered the military and made a career in the US Air Force. He served in Japan and Korea, flying kites when he could. Throughout adulthood, when the Jaspers children got together, they would often fly kites and rekindle the childhood joy they shared in the spring-times of their youth.

Don retired from the Air Force in the early 1970s and at about this time he learned of the AKA and began meeting members who shared his passion for kites. Doors opened as Don met kindred spirits and began experimenting with new types of kites and learned about kiting innovations from the stories he read in the AKA's *Kite Tales* magazines. Long-time card-carrying member Don amassed an archive of *Kite Tales* spanning back to the early 1970s and made contacts with cherished friends. In the 1980s, Don began attending the national AKA conventions and met many of his kiting coconspirators in person.

Staunch individualist Don found organized kiting to be "riddled with politics." Not liking the binding group dynamics that crop up in any organization, Don decided to start a kite club without the formalities that tired him. In 1993 Don founded the Solid Kite Flying Club and the group continues to flourish, meeting monthly from spring through

BY PATTI GIBBONS

fall. "We don't have officers, we don't have dues, and there's no structure." To stay on the mailing list, one just needs to show up to one of the past three flies. The group takes to the air on Schaar's Bluff overlooking the Mississippi River in Spring Lake Park Reserve in Dakota County, MN. With generous but hands-off municipal support, the group gets exclusive use of the field for their flies and the county insures the events and handles the group's advertising. Although these days Don does less flying than he did in the past, he still maintains an active hand and focuses his energies on helping newcomers

enjoy their day. Known as the Minnesota Kite Doctor, at the monthly flies Don plants his Kite Doctor flagpole to claim the spot where he mans his kite repair station. Sporting a pith helmet and aviator glasses, Don is a natural troubleshooter and finds great pleasure helping people enjoy kiteflying. While easy to approach, Don leaves solicitation up to people who seek out help. "I don't want to barge in" and hover around troubled fliers but if people need his help, he is more than glad to lend a hand and offer some advice.

Forever active and in love with kites, Don recently wrote a novel, *String Walking*, in 2010. Even in the twilight of his retirement, kites continue to fuel his head and imagination. Don's story prompts people to imagine themselves time traveling with the help of a kite. Leave it to Don to capture the magic of kiting in a story that everyone can understand. 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](mailto:info@worldkitemuseum.com).

# AKA NEWS

## Pre- And Post-Wildwood

With a bit of travel planning, you can tack on three additional kite festivals to your AKA Convention this fall. Start in Ocean City, MD, on September 24-25, for Sun-Fest. Take the Cape May - Lewes Ferry across the Delaware Bay to New Jersey (you'll save nearly 200 miles of driving), and before the Convention starts on September 26 you can fly in a new indoor competition in Cape May Court House, just minutes from Wildwood. Fly in Wildwood all week, and then when the Convention ends, move over one island for Kites Over the Cape on Sunday morning, October 2. You'll enjoy more flying on the beaches of picturesque Cape May, and breakfast served by Cabanas Beach Bar & Grill. That's four kite festivals in nine days!

## Convention Workshops

The selection for mornings in Wildwood looks interesting. Dick Maciel will teach you to build a no-sew kite. Jim Martin and Susan Skinner will be building miniatures. Switzerland's Olivier Reymond will teach applique technique. Ron Petralito will demonstrate his KOI technique to build a unique paper kite. Bring your sewing machine to make and take a South Jersey banner with Phil Broder. The Daves (Gomberg and Wheeler) will give you the basics of starting a kite shop and building a KAP rig. Local kitesurfing teacher Karl Toft will be on the beach for Kitesurfing 101, while John Barresi will put on a Rev clinic. And there's more, presented by Kathy Nixie, Glenn Davison, Sharon Champie, Will Sturdy, and Dick and Sis Vogel. Check the AKA website for the full Convention schedule.



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# FIGHTIN' WORDS

BY RONDA BREWER

My name is Ronda Brewer and I am a Rokkaku Kite Battle Champion. If you've ever attended an AKA Convention, Southern Oregon Kite Festival, Lincoln City Kite Festival, or Washington State Int'l Kite Festival, you may have seen me out on the battlefield doing what I do well: battling with my 48" tall Tyvek rokkaku, "Taz".

I look back over the years and am amazed how a couple of simple decisions made in 1988 and 1989 have taken me down a life path I never envisioned. I was working at Catch the Wind in Lincoln City and learned about the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference and the Washington State International Kite Festival. I was determined to attend both events. And that is how it all started.



My first rok battle was at WSIKF. I was standing at the edge of the field watching the kitefliers getting ready and I thought it might be fun to be out there with them. I was really surprised and quite pleased when one of the participants came to where I was standing and said they needed someone for their team. The next thing I knew was I was out in the middle of the field with people all around me who were laughing and talking smack to competitors as they prepared for battle. Corey Jensen was announcing. His charismatic style and wonderful voice worked his magic on the crowd. The cheering from the sidelines and out on the field was almost deafening by the time Corey gave the countdown and got the battle started.

There was much chaos and very few rules. One competitor had a can of Silly String and every time her team made a kill she would tag the loser with a pile of the brightly colored rope. I was having a great time running around and being a part of the action. I didn't know what I was doing, but boy I was having fun!

It was towards the end of the battle when I was pushed and then fell on top of a man who was down on the ground. There we were, nose to nose. So I introduced myself with "Hi,

my name is Ronda." He replied, "Honey, the next time we're this close, there had better not be any clothes on." But, the smile on his face and the twinkle in his eye told me this man had a great sense of humor and might be a lot of fun to get to know. That man was Sonny Hamner and he became my good friend and travel buddy. It wasn't until after the battle I found out Sonny had gotten knocked down hard enough to pull some muscles. Unfortunately, a few other people also got some bumps and bruises in the confusion. A lot has changed since that first battle at Long Beach.

I started building rokkakus because I was able to get to Fort Worden in 1989. While there, I attended a Samurai Face Painting class given by Leland Toy. The class included a Tyvek rokkaku kit. We painted the skin during the class and were to assemble the kite on our own time. I painted my Leaping Koi with Rising Sun. Because I had enjoyed meeting and talking with Lee during the class, I really wanted to get the kite built and flown so he could see it in the air. I talked Sonny Hamner into helping me complete the kite at the conference. Sonny and I had much discussion during the assembly of the kite but we managed to get it put together without killing each other. Lee was pleased when he saw it flying and, at my request, he signed the back of the sail for me.

Over the years, I have learned much about flying and battling with the rokkaku. I have had the chance to meet some wonderful people and make some very dear friends all because I was asked to come out onto the battlefield at that first battle at Long Beach. For that reason I encourage newcomers to get involved.

I especially like to get a rok into the hands of a newbie. I share my flying techniques and battle strategies with newcomers so they can get a quick start at feeling comfortable out on the battlefield. It can be intimidating out there when kites are darting around and lines are getting tangled. A decision to pull in or release line can make the difference of staying in the game or having to sit on the sidelines. Silly me. I prefer staying in the game.

I like to think I am a nice woman, but when a battle starts I become an entirely different person. I go on the battlefield with just one goal. I don't want to be the first kite down or the first cut out of the sky. I stay away from the newbies because I want them to enjoy their experience. Don't get me wrong. I enjoy winning but even more enjoyable for me is to go one-on-one with an experienced competitor to test my skills and my kite against theirs. I don't always win but I am entertaining. If I show you mercy on the battlefield, I might just be toying with your emotions or setting you up for disaster.

My motto: In all instances, claim victory! The rest is up to the judges.

I am often surprised when people tell me their first (or best?) kiting experience was when I dragged them out onto a kite field. I do what I do because it needs to be done. We all need to invite people to step from the sidelines and join in our fun. The opportunity to participate in a sport that uplifts the spirit and enables us to play with old friends and meet new people cannot be measured. We are not getting any younger but we can stay young in spirit by doing what we can to share kiting with any who might be passing by. K



Ed Gryz



Marlene Hubbard's first kite Randy Fox



Tom Cross



Donna Houchins



Elmon Morrison

1<sup>ST</sup> UPPER MIDWEST AREA  
KITEMAKING EVENT  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
MARCH 4-6, 2011  
PHOTOS BY REBECCA HILLER



Donna Houchins





3<sup>RD</sup> VUNG TAU INT'L KITE FEST  
 INTOURCO RESORT, VIET NAM  
 APRIL 8 - 10, 2011  
 PHOTOS BY DAVID GOMBERG



Opening ceremony blessing



Traditional hand-painted Korean kite



UISEONG, SOUTH KOREA  
 MARCH 31 - APRIL 3, 2011

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# WHY KITES DON'T FLY

BY PETER LYNN

## Thoughts on Single Line Kite Stability

For a kite to fly on a single line, it must, as the most basic condition, have some way to detect which way is up. All single line kites that aren't under some sort of remote control do this by having their centre of lift position (CL, where lift forces act) above their centre of gravity (CG, where weight forces act). The pendulum effect that this creates causes such kites to point upwards, and upwards they will fly, until they get to a line angle at which wind-generated lift exactly matches the kite's weight (when the kite is said to be at its apex) disregarding dynamic effects of course.

But unfortunately, we can't disregard dynamic effects because they very often prevent kites from flying stably at their apex. And, at some upper wind speed, they will always prevent kites from doing so. This is because, while the lift (and drag) forces that drive dynamic instabilities increase with the square of wind speed, the weight force (from which the kite derives its upward seeking tendency) is constant. At some wind speed therefore, the pendulum effect will be overwhelmed by aerodynamic forces and the kite will crash – if it doesn't break first.

Dynamic instabilities derive from apparent wind effects; changes to the air speed experienced by a kite that are caused by its own movements. Of particular significance for dynamic instability is the relationship by which, when a kite is turning, the lift on the faster wing will increase by more than the lift on the slower wing decreases.

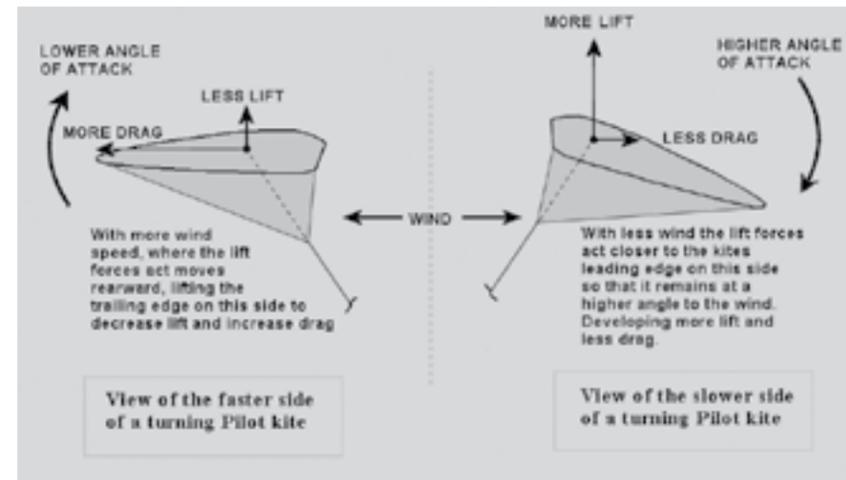
It's useful to consider two main failure modes for single line kites. One, overcorrection, is when a kite reacts too aggressively while re-aligning itself with the wind and triggers dynamic effects. The other, undercorrection, is when it reacts too slowly. An example of overcorrection is when recovery from some directional displacement (a change in wind direction for example) initiates a series of increasing amplitude lateral oscillations that build until the kite starts to loop uncontrollably. An example of undercorrection is when a kite takes so long to recover from a directional displacement that while doing so it traverses completely to one side or other of its wind window and collapses.

In addition to the relative magnitude of a kite's pendulum

effect, the four main elements that influence overcorrection/undercorrection are tail drag (tails, trailing drogues etc), laterally disposed drag (drag sources to each side), lateral area (keels, flares, dihedral, anhedral), and longitudinal dihedral (often called reflex).

Tails are clever because they don't begin to apply any corrective force to a kite until there is substantial angular displacement (tail drag increases with the sine of the angle of displacement, so by 10°, say, are providing 17% of the maximum corrective effect they are capable of). The beneficial effect of this is that tail drag allows a kite to adapt quickly to minor wind direction changes (quickly enough so that the kite will not shift too much laterally while doing so) but comes in with rapidly increasing corrective force if for some reason the kite gets seriously tipped. Tails will therefore rarely if ever make a kite's response so slow as to cause undercorrection, unless their end catches in a tree or they are REALLY long. The bad bit about tails is that they cost lift to drag ratio (L/D). (L/D is a general measure of aerodynamic efficiency. For gliders it defines how many metres they fly forward for every metre of sink. For traction kiting it measures how well you can go upwind. For single line kites, it determines line angle; in fact the tangent of the angle, relative to the horizontal, of the flying line at the kite, is exactly the kite's L/D).

Laterally disposed drag – that is, having sources of drag out to each side of the kite – also has a clever effect; because drag rises with the square of wind speed, when a single line kite with substantial outboard drag gets into a destructive turn, the drag on the faster side will increase by more than the drag on the slower side decreases, providing active damping. Such drag elements will also decrease L/D of course, except if they are an intrinsic and essential part of the kite anyway. The insight being offered here, and it's a major one, is that aspect ratio (AR, effectively width to length ratio) is the most powerful 'costless' (by L/D) dynamic instability cure available to kite designers. A way to make this understandable is to consider a square kite, 1m on each side, lifting area 1m<sup>2</sup> (aspect ratio 1.0). If such a kite is built and is found to be inclined to overcorrect and go into destructive looping, then if it's rebuilt to 1.25m span x 0.8m long (still 1m<sup>2</sup> but now AR 1.56), it will have much less tendency to overcorrect, and may even be inclined to undercorrect. This is because the drag associated with the wingtips, while still having similar cost with respect to L/D, is further out from the kite's centre of lift, so will be more effective in resisting any rotations (in the plane of its lifting surfaces) that the kite becomes subject to (that is, it slows turns). Adjusting a kite's aspect ratio is therefore a way to get correction that's neither too fast (loops out of control) nor too slow (flies off to one side or the other and crashes or stalls). Wingtip drag isn't referenced in any way to up/down, all it can do is slow down turns – and of course this can be a bad thing when it slows a desirable recovery – but



on balance it is hugely beneficial because it slows down all the movements which energise dynamic instability, unplugs their power source so as to speak.

The third main useful stabilising element, lateral area (flares, keels, dihedral, anhedral, etc), is also relatively costless by L/D, and can be very effective at damping out any incipient overcorrection but has to be of appropriate magnitude and carefully positioned. If a kite with substantial lateral area (as a proportion of its lifting area) is subject to an angular disturbance (that is, the longitudinal axis of the kite gets out of alignment with the wind direction), the aero forces acting on this lateral area can cause the kite to move a long way sideways across the wind window before the pendulum effect gets it back in line – that is, excessive lateral area can promote undercorrection. Clearly, the longitudinal placement of lateral area will have an effect also. If disposed mainly behind the kite's CG, it can promote rapid re-alignment but may also exacerbate dynamic effects (overcorrection). If in front of the kite's CG, it will tend to cause undercorrection and make it very difficult for the kite to fly centrally (that is, directly downwind of the line tether point). Although dihedral (upward angled wings) and anhedral (downward angled wings) have some different effects on how single line kites react, they are primarily both just ways to get lateral area. There is a mistaken belief that dihedral is 'stable' while anhedral is 'unstable' but this comes from aeroplane experience and doesn't generally apply to kites. When an aeroplane rotates around its longitudinal axis, if the downside wing loses projected area at a faster rate than the upside wing gains projected area then the rotation will become self-promoting. Aeroplanes are made with dihedral so that they are auto-stable in rotation about their longitudinal axis. For kites, bridles generally prevent this sort of rotation anyway. Kites with centre line bridling (most diamond kites for example), require dihedral for the same reason that aeroplanes do, but kites with laterally disposed bridles (like sleds for example) don't.

Longitudinal dihedral, or reflex, the fourth and last major single line kite stabilising element has the obviously beneficial effect of reducing or eliminating luffing tendencies, but its underlying influence is more profound. Because aerodynamic lift forces drive instability

(of both the overcorrection and undercorrection types), anything that decreases lift without changing other things too much will generally improve a kite's stability. "More longitudinal dihedral" is just another way of saying "less camber," and having less camber will cause less lift to be generated, (a generally applicable aerodynamic effect). Introducing longitudinal dihedral therefore deals directly to overcorrection, but it's a rather ugly solution, a last resort (usually taken when graphics considerations don't permit other more efficient form changes), because it also directly reduces L/D, and by a lot if it's to be effective. Its influence on undercorrection is equivocal: reducing lift does reduce the driving force that makes a kite traverse off to the side before it's pendulum effect can straighten it up (less lift means that it won't get as far before correction occurs). But, longitudinal dihedral also shifts the kite's CL rearward (nearer to its CG), which reduces the effective pendulum length and therefore its corrective effect (while adding to its usefulness against overcorrection).

## More Reasons Why Kites (Often) Don't Fly

There are a large number of effects that influence kite stability (or more usually the lack of). I've described some fundamental ones. Here are some more.

The approach in the first section was to consider effects from the perspective of how a kite responds when its axis becomes misaligned with the wind direction. Optimally, kites should neither undercorrect nor overcorrect. This perspective is not only fundamental to kite stability but usefully leads to explanations as to why particular kites behave (and misbehave) the ways they do. Even more usefully, it leads to predictions as to the effect on stability that possible changes will have. Someday, these may even be quantifiable to some extent.

## Line Length

It is the angle of the line relative to wind direction that matters, not line length in the absolute sense, but this angle is a function of the line's length (and the kite's size) so it's usually called the "line length effect" to avoid using "line angle", which has multiple associations with stability influences. When a kite is laterally displaced from its proper position directly downwind from the tether point, its line will then have some angle to the wind when viewed from above, and the shorter

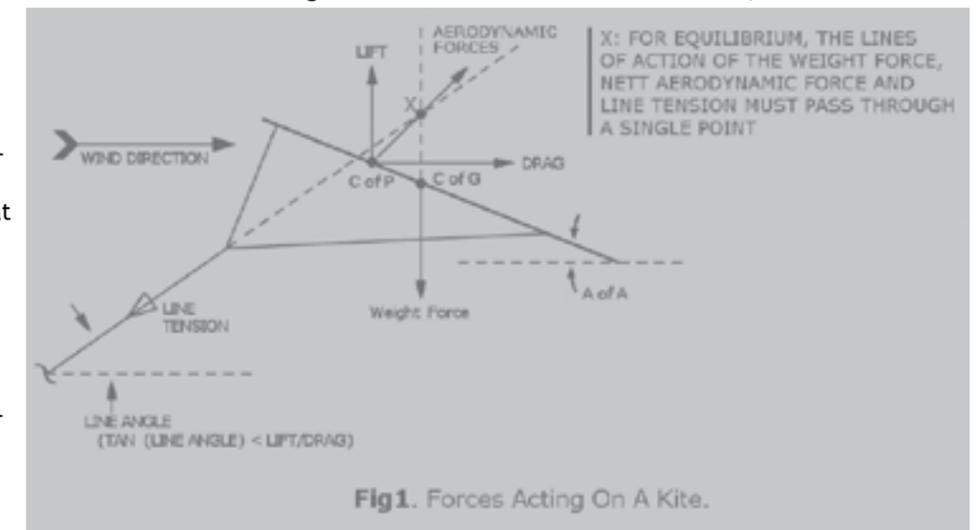
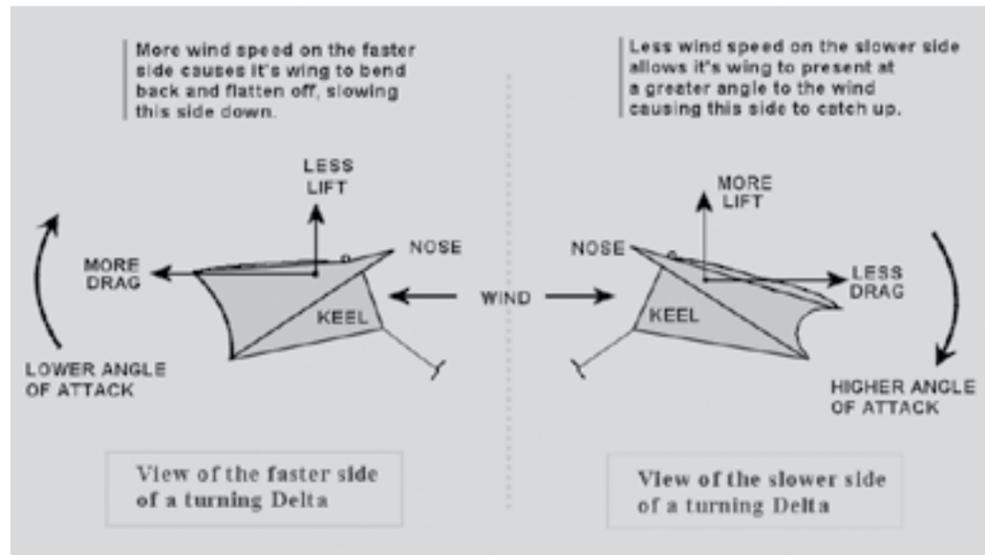
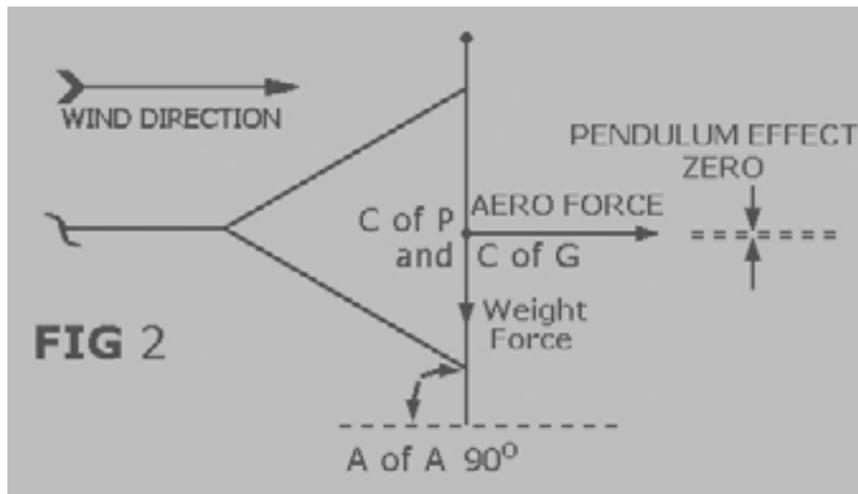


Fig1. Forces Acting On A Kite.



For ram air kites (often called soft kites) up to sizes of even a few hundred square meters (that is, VERY large kites by most standards) weight/area doesn't tend to change at all. This is because available fabrics are much stronger than necessary for smaller soft kites. However, the mass of air inside such kites increases with the cube of dimension while their area increases with the square. Mass is not the same as weight in this context. The internal air mass is neutrally buoyant, doesn't make any contribution to the kite's pendulum effect at all, but by Newton's approximation of Einstein's theories, it has inertia, so requires the application of a force to get it to move or to stop moving. For ram air inflated single line kites, the inertia of this air mass proportionally slows the rate of recovery from any misalignment as the kite is scaled up, causing very large ram air inflated kites to tend, often terminally, towards undercorrection. A partial solution to this is to use thru-cords rather than ribs by the principle that the internal air mass is then able to rotate (or not rotate) independently to some extent. The kite's weight pendulum when acting to correct a misalignment isn't then resisted by the inertia of all the internal air mass, but just of those bits trapped in corners. Octopus and Ray kites that were originally rib and skin construction did seem to have less inclination to undercorrection in larger sizes when re-designed using thru cords instead.

the line's length, the greater this angle will be. There will then be a component of line tension acting to pull the kite back towards its central position equal to the sine of this angle times the line's projected length. The magnitude of this centralizing force is therefore directly proportional to line length for any given lateral displacement of the kite. This will tend to exacerbate any overcorrection tendency and mitigate undercorrection. A more rigorous description requires consideration of the line's angle in the vertical plane also, but the effect is more easily understood in the first instance by considering horizontal angles only. An often experienced practical demonstration of this is when large Cody type box kites (which tend to overcorrect because they have so much lateral area to rearward, though this is masked in normal flying by their high lateral area to lifting area ratio), are being pulled in. By the last few meters of line they are often overcorrecting so violently as to be completely uncontrollable. An opposite example is that kites which are virtually un-flyable because of severe undercorrection can be usable when tethered directly off their bridles; that is, flown on a VERY short line.

### Scale Effects

Kites don't scale. That is, as they are made bigger, their behavior changes. Aerodynamic forces increase with the square of the wind speed, but to retain the same margin of strength in proportion to its size as a kite is made bigger, its weight will need to increase with the cube of dimension. So, larger kites will generally be heavier in proportion to their area, and this affects their flying – most obviously in light winds but also in their undercorrection/overcorrection balance. Kites that tend to overcorrect will do this even more so as their weight/area ratio increases. Kites that tend to undercorrect will do this less as their weight/area ratio increases. However, in practice, this can be masked by other effects. A practical demonstration of this is the way that kite behavior changes in rain; extra weight pushes them toward overcorrection, although this can be masked by fabric stretch effects.

For framed kites, builders very often don't increase the strength and rigidity of the structure proportionally when they make bigger versions. A result of this is that such kites tend to distort more in stronger winds, and the extra drag that this generates may damp out the additional overcorrection that comes from the increasing weight/area ratio. Of course, such kites will also deform so severely as to become un-flyable in wind speeds that their smaller scale version was happy in (or they'll break).

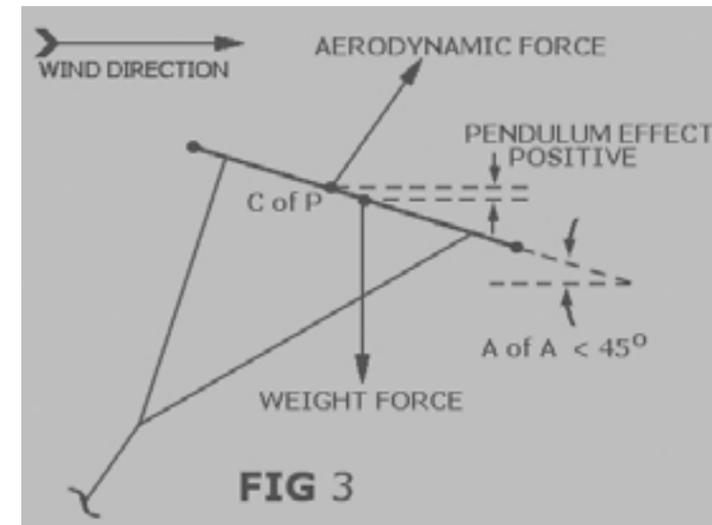
Why do stable framed kites seem to be much easier to build than stable soft kites? Perhaps it's that there are thousands of years of experience behind framed kites and only 50 or so for soft kites, but there are two other reasons (at least). The first is that closed soft kites tend to have smooth curved upper surfaces in their leading edge areas, which promotes attached flow over the kite's upper surface, significantly increasing the aerodynamic lift that such kites will have. Because the force driving instability for kites is aerodynamic lift, more lift equals less stability (of both the undercorrection and overcorrection type), other things being equal. In contrast, most framed kites have sharp edged leading edges which cause flow to immediately separate and ensures that they will rarely if ever have attached flow over their upper surfaces. This reduces lift and therefore improves stability. By this theory, open leading edge soft kites should tend to be more stable than closed styles (many Parafoils have open leading edges that encourage flow to separate over the top surfaces rather than remain attached) and they do generally seem to behave better. Why don't we always design soft kites with open leading edges then? There are reasons, like appearance, for more lift (if there's stability to spare), to retain internal inflation in turbulence, and to pressurise against water ingress when flying off boats. The other soft kite effect is that their rigidity keeps pace exactly with aerodynamic forces as wind speed increases (to the limit of fabric impermeability anyway). However, their weight pendulum effect does not increase at all, so will eventually be overwhelmed by these aerodynamic forces. In contrast, framed kite structures deflect progressively more as wind increases, offsetting at least some of the increase in lift forces as the wind speed increases. Framed kites are therefore more likely to remain stable through to higher wind speeds than soft kites.

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### Von Karman Effects

These are airflow-driven rhythmic oscillations that, in our

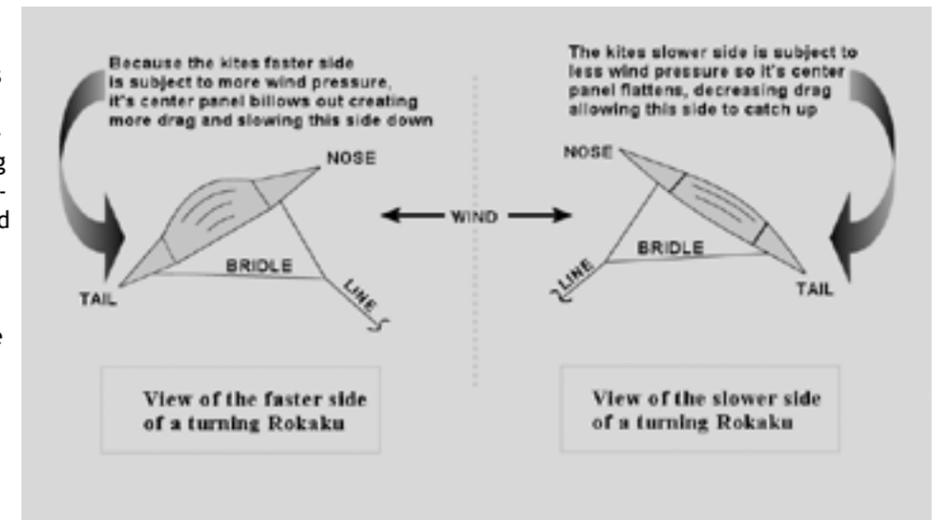
case, causes cylindrical form kites to oscillate in some wind speeds. The most easily recognisable every day von Karman effect is the "vortex street" visible downstream of a post sticking out of a stream. When encountering the post, flow splits evenly, half going around each side. However, because of inevitable asymmetries in the post, the flow, and the universe, the split streams don't arrive back at the downstream side at quite the same moment. The flow stream that arrives first then continues to be sucked around the post until it is, from an observer's perspective, moving upstream against the main current. At some point it then finds this situation unsustainable, separates from the pole surface and is carried off downstream, turbulently. The opposite side stream then has its turn and repeats the process. The observer will see this as a succession of alternating turbulent eddies drifting off downstream and gradually re-merging with the stream's flow. An effect of this is that the pole (in this case) will be subject to oscillating sideways forces as each vortex separates. Industrial chimneys have spiral flow interrupters on their upper reaches to prevent this rhythmic effect becoming destructive. I think that many large ram air inflated kites are subject to von Karman effects, Dolphin and Gecko styles in particular. Any kite for which airflow passes around some even approximately cylindrical form is likely to be. I should test this by using smoke trails, but haven't as yet. I expect it is right though, because another characteristic of von Karman oscillations is clearly observable on these kites. This is that as wind speed increases, the lateral oscillations decrease and eventually cease completely, probably because at higher wind speeds, flow separates chaotically rather than periodically and also because the flow period gets out of synch with the kite's mass.



When oscillations are being caused by some dynamic effect of overcorrection, they tend to continue to increase with wind speed until the kite loops out. A way to eliminate von Karman effects is to have some feature that causes separation, like long fins for a fish kite. For themed kites, unfortunately, anatomical requirements often make such features unacceptable.

### Speed Sensitive Aerodynamic Damping.

There is a diverse group of aerodynamic features that



can act to damp out dynamic effects. Because they don't kick in until one of the kite's wings is travelling significantly faster than the other, they don't change the kite's fundamental overcorrection/undercorrection balance. Rather, they do allow kites with significant overcorrection responses to resist the build up of destructive dynamic figure-eighting that would otherwise occur. Because having a fast response to misalignment is desirable in a kite providing that dynamic effects don't then get away, these are very useful tools for kite designers to have available. Delta kites have a version. When a Delta style kite starts to figure eight with increasing amplitude, the faster moving wing tip will have more load on it than the opposite slower one. This asymmetry of load distorts the kite's form, causing the faster wing tip to twist off more, generate less lift and proportionally more drag. The slower wing tip will respond oppositely, generating more lift and less drag. This reduces the speed difference between the tips, damping out a dynamic build up that could otherwise become destructive. Rokaku kites have a similar mechanism. When one side of a Rokaku experiences higher apparent wind speed than the other side, asymmetry of aerodynamic forces causes the faster side to increase its camber and the slower side to flatten off. This increases the drag and decreases the lift on the faster side and decreases the drag and increases the lift on the slower side, which, as with the Delta mechanism, acts to prevent destructive dynamic effect building up. Many framed kite styles have this type of automatic built in dynamic damping, but soft kites don't, except that most closed soft kites get some dynamic damping from internal pressure not holding inflation as well against external pressure on their faster wing's leading edge as on the slower side. Differential speed sensitive air brakes could be fitted to the wings of soft kites to damp dynamic effects in the same way that the relationship between structures and skin do for Deltas and Rokakus. I've tried a few ideas for these and will do more work in this area when I get time (like by not going to so many kite festivals, yeah right!). Potentially differential air brakes should be able to offset a lot of the stability deficit that closed soft kites often seem to exhibit by comparison to open leading edge soft kites, and even to framed kites.

### The Main Reason Single Line Kites (Often) Don't Fly

It's because kite stability is sensitive to angle of attack, the angle at which wind strikes a kite's surface(s), and angle of attack (called A of A from now on) varies widely with line angle and wind strength. Specifically: A of A is high – close to 90°

even – when line angle is low (while launching for example) and also when there's barely enough wind to keep a kite up. A of A is low when a kite is flying at high line angle and in stronger winds.

The reason that kite stability is sensitive to A of A is because the point at which aerodynamic forces act on a kite (the centre of pressure, C of P) is a function of A of A and the distance between the kite's C of P and its centre of gravity, (C of G, where the weight forces act) is THE most critical determinant of stability.

"A of A", "C of P", "C of G". . . getting confused by all this jargon yet? These three are unavoidable, but figure 1 explains them visually, which always helps, and I promise there'll be no more.

It's a required characteristic for single line kites that the point at which a kite's weight forces act (it's C of G) must be below where its lift forces act (it's C of P). This creates a sort of pendulum which points the kite upwards, without which, it will more likely try to fly under the ground than above it.

And, as explained earlier, the length of this pendulum (relative to the size of the kite and other features it may have such as lateral area of course) determines whether it will undercorrect or overcorrect. A very short pendulum makes a kite tend towards undercorrection, a longer one to overcorrection (and there will be a range in between where it might be stable).

(But just in case you were thinking how simple this all is, there's an exception; VERY long pendulums can also be stable.)

It's obvious from symmetry, that for a rectangular plate at an A of A of 90°, the C of P will be at half chord (figure 2). That this point moves towards the leading edge as the A of A decreases (figure 3) is not so obvious, and the reasons for it weren't really understood until mathematical fluid dynamics developed sufficiently in the 19th century, but it is so. Most kites aren't flat plates, but it's still generally true that their C of P moves towards the leading edge as A of A decreases. (Or at least it does so until the A of A approaches zero, when it becomes very dependent on the particular airfoil shape and can go a little weird, but this needn't concern us here).

Changes in A of A as wind speed and line angle vary cause the C of P to move along the kite's axis, which changes the effective length of the pendulum, and can move it out of the

range where stable flying occurs. In particular, they can cause the corrective effect exerted by a kite's weight to be inadequate when the kite is flying at a high A of A.

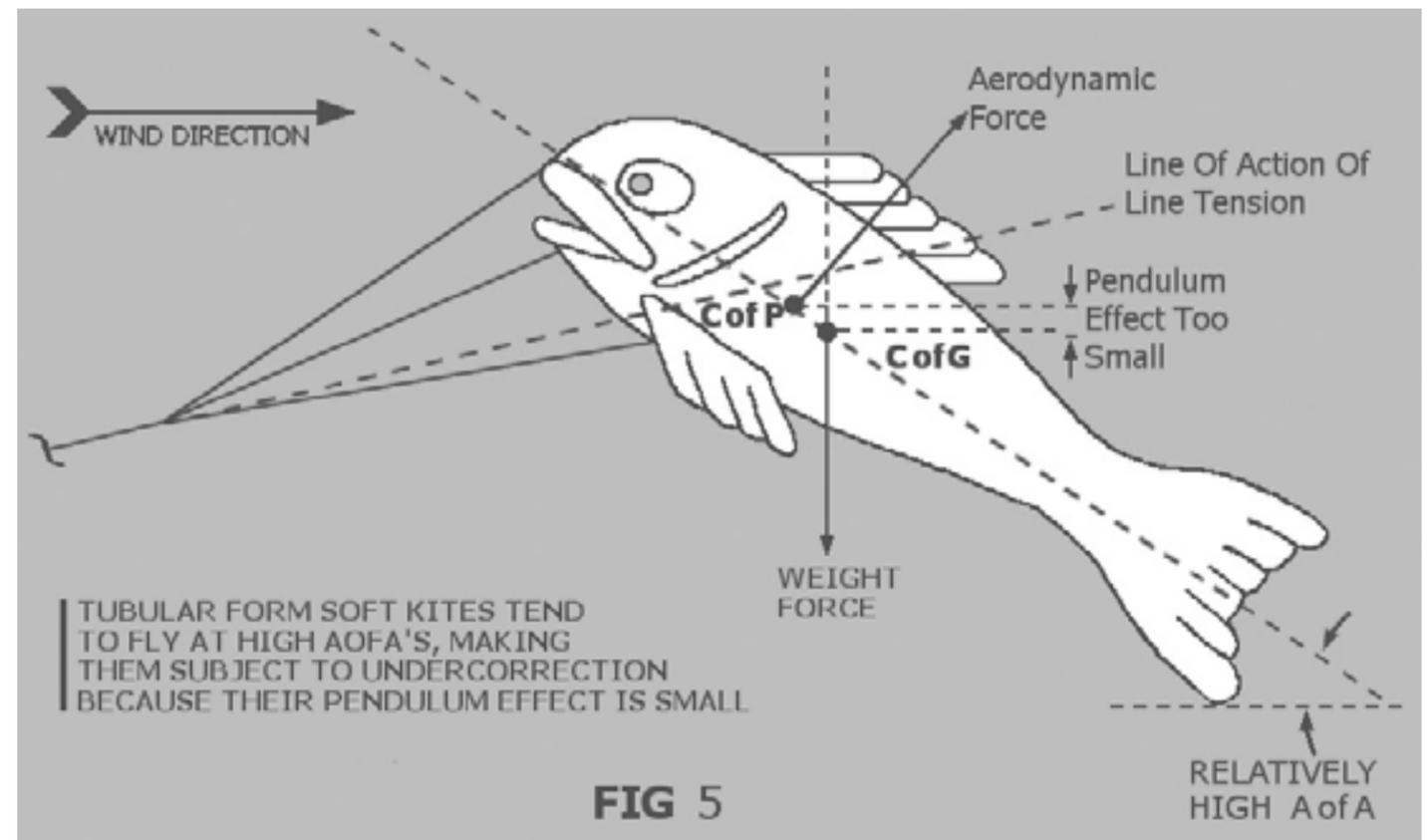
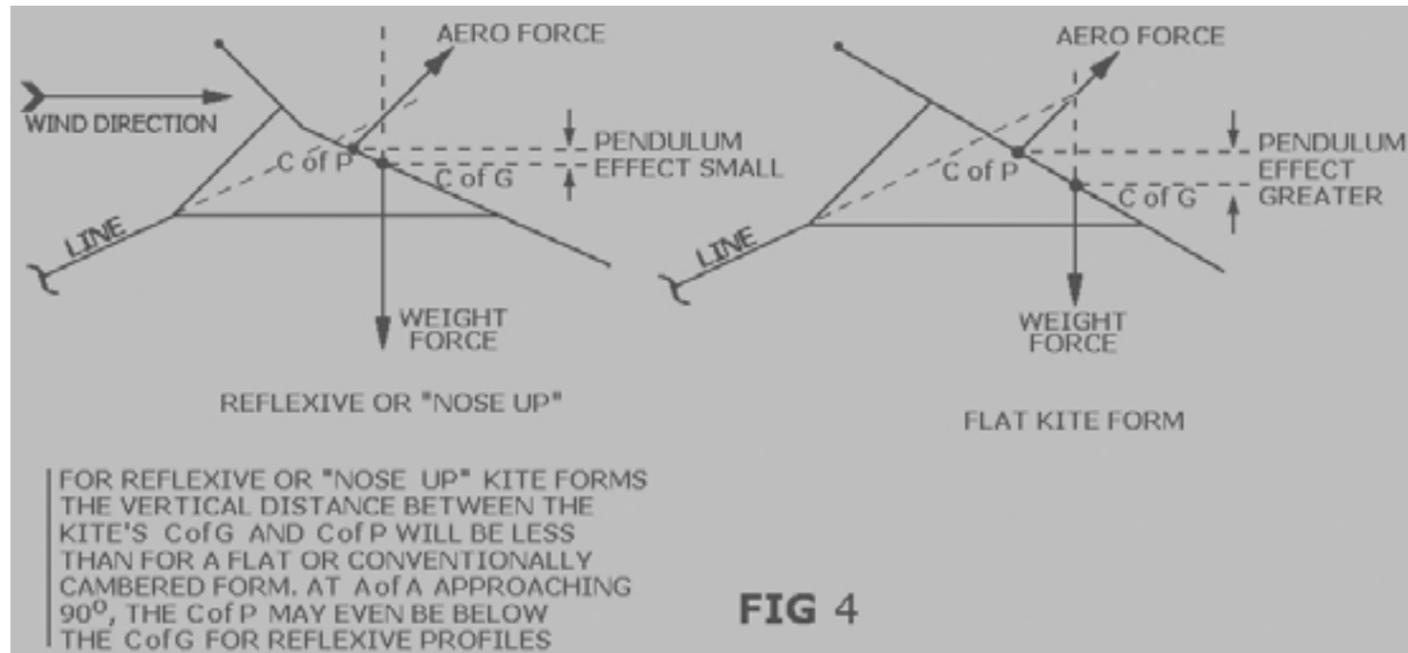
And, this is exacerbated by the reflexive or "nose-up" shape of almost all soft kites and many framed kites (including rokkaku's, Indian fighters, and delta's). "Nose-up" shape is used to prevent luffing (when the angle of attack becoming negative) and also to reduce the extent to which the C of P will move so far forward of the kite's centre of gravity as to cause overcorrection when the kite is flying at low A of A. Unfortunately, as can be seen from figure 4, it also makes undercorrection more likely at high A of A.

There are many observed kite behaviours that are explained by A of A effects, and the one that is particularly annoying me just now is the repetitive swaying behaviour of tubular soft kites (that is, fish shapes and similar).

With aspect ratios generally much less than 0.5, tubular form kites are not very effective at generating lift (L/D's generally less than 1.0). To develop enough lift to offset even their own weight, especially in light winds, they fly at high A of A (30° to 45° or even more) at which the C of P is likely to be not much above the C of G, and might sometimes even be below it for short periods (but not for any sustained period or else they won't be flying. See figure 5). That the characteristic misbehaviour of this style of kite is caused by their C of G being too close to their C of P is supported by various observations:

- Movement amplitude decreases when weight is added to the rear of the kite (providing the effect isn't masked by the increase in A of A that this can cause)
- Movement decreases at higher wind speed, because A of A decreases (but overcorrection may then begin to occur).
- Flattening the kite's front and narrowing the rear (shifting the C of P forward), without changing weight disposition generally reduces swaying.
- Adding drag (by way of drogues, etc.) to the rear helps a bit but doesn't have as much effect as expected.
- Flying on a very short line helps, which is characteristic of kites that tend to undercorrection.

The swaying that Ray (especially the smooth tail style) and Octopus type soft kites can get into when launching – some-



times even spinning – is also an A of A effect. It ceases when the kite gets to 30° flying angle or so and the supporting observations that apply to tubular form kites are also seen with these styles.

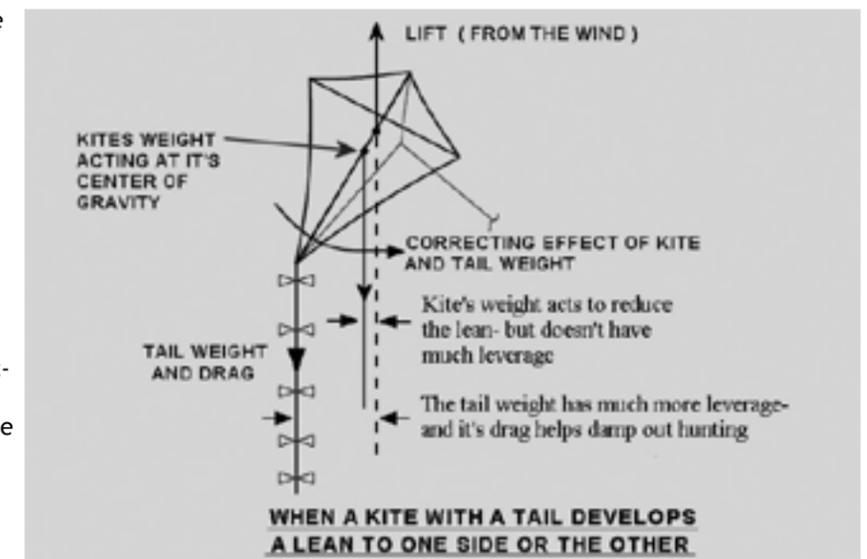
However, A of A effects are not confined to soft kites: The way that Indian and other bow-framed fighter kites spin rapidly when line is released (which allows bow pre-tension to pull the kite flat) is also an A of A effect. Of course it's also partly due to their not having any lateral area (which has a directional effect) when there is no line tension, but mainly it's because when flying at an A of A approaching 90°, the C of P moves so close to the C of G that the kite loses its sense of direction and spins around.

A of A effects also help explain why tails are more effective than drogues or other trailing drag devices for stabilising errant kites. The difference comes from tails having weight as well as providing drag. The above shows why, at high A of A, kites tend to undercorrection, and at low A of A, to overcorrection. Drogues provide extra drag but have negligible weight. They slow the kite's responses, so reduce overcorrection but don't help with undercorrection. In light winds, a tail's weight pulls the kite's centre of gravity rearward to reduce undercorrection. In stronger winds when the kite will be flying at higher line angle (low A of A), tails generate enough lift to be largely self supporting. In this state, their weight doesn't shift the kite's original C of G down much so won't exacerbate overcorrection. However, their longitudinal drag still acts to combat overcorrection and perhaps their resistance to sideways displacement helps damp movements as well.

This is a brief description of a complex and indeterminate field. Like all things that are sub-

ject to turbulent flow (the weather, for example), single line kites will never be fully predictable. But there are some things that are both true and useful that can be established, which is what I've tried to do. I've tested the above against the kites I see flying, and don't think I've seen anything that falsifies any of it. However, there are so many overlapping effects and other influences that it's sometimes difficult to see through all this fog to the fundamental relationships. No doubt I've made errors in at least some respects. I'll modify and correct when these come to light. Back in 1973 I reckoned I'd have this done by my 30th birthday (1976), but it's taken a bit longer. K

You can find more of Peter Lynn's insights at [www.peterlynnhimself.com](http://www.peterlynnhimself.com) and [www.peterlynnkites.com](http://www.peterlynnkites.com).



# KITE PLAN

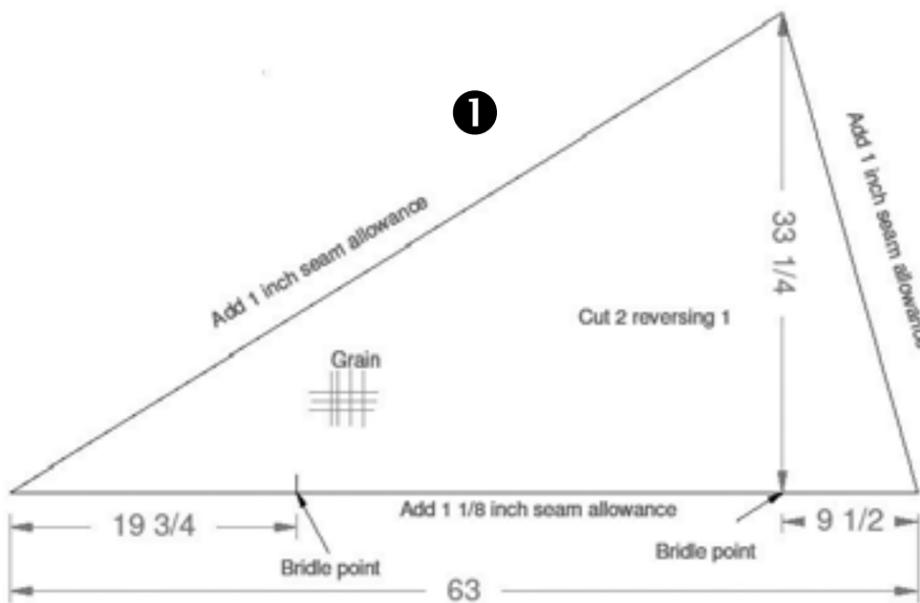
## MIKE DALLMER'S MALAY

### Materials

- Ripstop nylon, 2 yards
- 4 J65 fiberglass hollow spars, 32 1/2" long
- 1 J65 internal connector
- 1 dihedral, bent 30° in center to fit J65 spar
- 4 .312" vinyl end caps
- 125# Dacron Line, 85"
- heavier fabric for reinforcement
- 3 aluminum rings
- bridle/tail fabric for holders 1" x 30"
- 8" x 70" fabric for bag

### Cutting

1. Cut out and mark two pieces as per sail pattern, reversing one, making sure to add seam allowance on all three sides (figure 1).
2. Cut out two each of the top, bottom and side reinforcements, reversing one each (figure 2).
3. Cut out four each of the bridle reinforcement, reversing two (figure 2).
4. Cut out and mark the bridle, use 125# Dacron line (figure 3).



### Construction

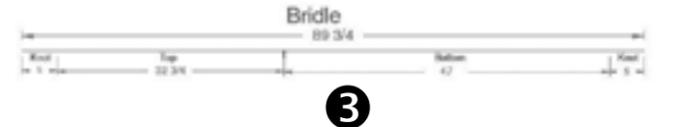
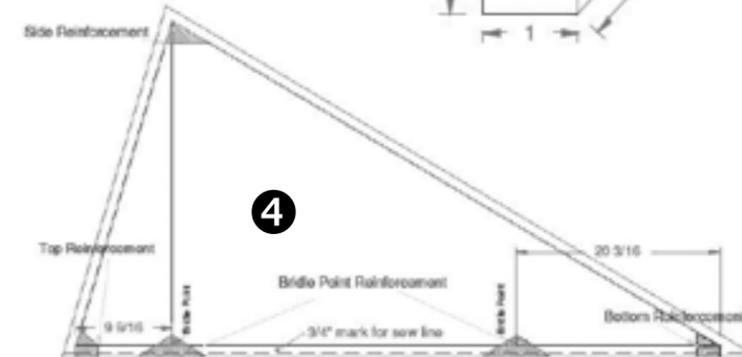
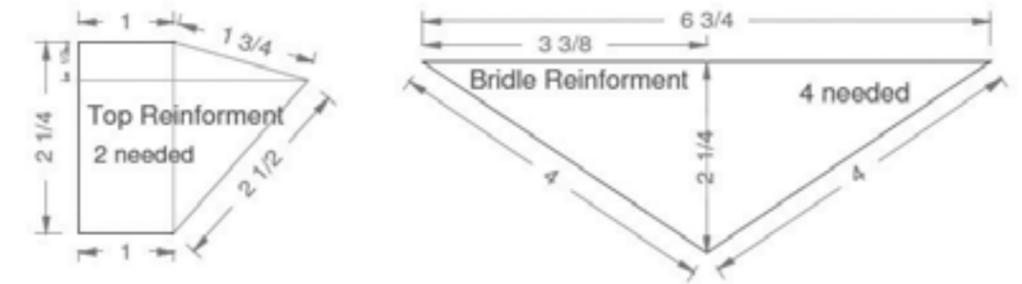
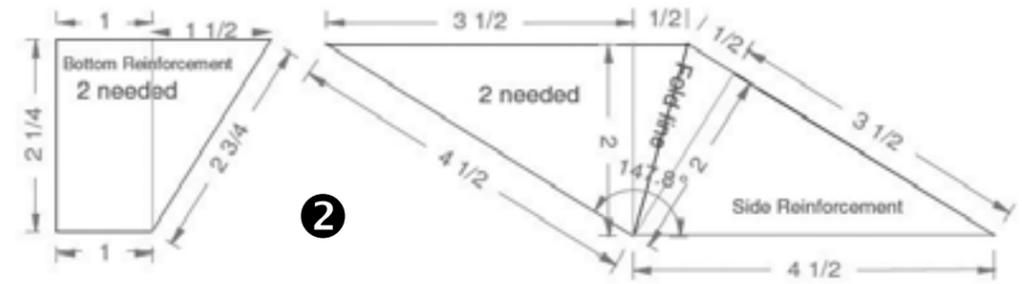
Preparing of Tail and Aluminum Ring Holder:

- 1) Fold in half lengthwise
- 2) Fold in half lengthwise again, put cut edges into center
- 3) Sew along in the center lengthwise, no need to sew first and last inch.
- 4) Cut sewn part into three pieces, 3" long, 3 1/2" long and 16"
- 5) Fold each in half widthwise

Main Sail:

- 1) Mount and sew all reinforcements where indicated other than the side reinforcements on the back side of sail (figure 4).
- 2) Double fold each of the outer edges of the sails, forming a 1/2" edge around the edge on the back side. Do this for both, trimming excess at corners (figure 4).
- 3) Fold side reinforcement in half. Align folded half with corner where spreader will go, sew the part on the interior of the kite first. Fold other half on top of this and sew along the kite edges to form the pocket.
- 4) Place one sail backside down on work surface. Place 16" aluminum ring holder with ring added at top bridle point placing it 1/2" into this seam. Repeat for lower bridle point with 2" aluminum ring holder with ring in place. Align second half of sail on top of first with good side down. Sew both sides together, 3/8" from edge on 3/4" sew line.
- 5) Open up sail.

*Hitting+*



- 6) Align both halves with backsides together.
- 7) Sew 3/4" from edge to form spar pocket stopping 1 1/2" from bottom leaving room to insert spars. This is where the bottom spar pocket starts.
- 8) Sew top of sail shut forming the top of the spar pocket.
- 9) Insert folded tail holder past lower reinforcement bottom. Sew this from bottom of spar reinforcement to tip of sail.
- 10) Sew bottom of reinforcement to form bottom of spar pocket.

### Assembly

- 1) Fit and insert center spar by inserting it into opening of bottom of sail all the way to the top.
- 2) Assemble and tie spreader making sure both sides of the spreader are equal in length; cutting may be necessary.
- 3) Tie bridle to rings making sure to have the short part of the bridle attached to the top ring.

**kitebuilder.com**  
A website for kite builders



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

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

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# THE SPORTING LIFE

## A NEWCOMER'S PERSPECTIVE

A kite festival sounded like a fun way to spend part of a long weekend. My wife, Peggy, and I had never attended any kite event but we imagined a beach full of pretty single-line kites in an array of colors and shapes. It'll be fun to look at for a couple of hours, we thought, and then we can find a trail to hike or something else to do. So we planned our trip to include the 2010 Great Lakes Kite Festival in Grand Haven, MI.

Were we ever surprised! I had played with some dual-line sport kites before, but we had never heard of kite ballet, nor had we ever dreamed of formation kite flying. We had no idea that quad-line kites even existed. We arrived at the festival to find true artists like Josh, Zach and Elizabeth Gordon beautifully interpreting compelling music with perfectly executed dual-line kite routines. Dave "Mr. Incredible" Bush demonstrated his considerable strength flying Thor's Hammer, the largest sport kite we'd ever seen. Sam Ritter and Lee Sedgwick flew impressive stacks of quad-line Revolution kites. The Chicago Fire Kite Team flew six-kite formation routines that we could only compare to the work of the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels fighter jet teams. Then iQuad took the field with their Revolutions, moving in ways we'd never imagined possible. That's just a sample of the treats we enjoyed. It is not an overstatement to say we were awestruck. We were very glad we had borrowed a friend's video camera, because the event defied verbal description. What we expected to be a two-hour visit to the beach became two full days (and one evening) of kite festival. So much for hiking in the woods!

The GLKF so impressed us that we soon sought other kite events. We discovered Kites Over Branch County, an AKA-sanctioned sport kite competition in Coldwater, MI, about an hour's drive from home. Helpful e-mail replies from Chicago Fire's Kathy Brinnehl prepared us to expect something quite different than GLKF, including "spectator-unfriendly" precision competition. To be honest, KOBC's first day of precision flying might have bored us a bit, were it not for the amazing hospitality of the participants.

When we arrived in the July sun, many participants invited us to sit in

the shade of their pop-up canopies. We joined Dick and Terri Claycomb, fellow Hoosiers who were flying a Hoosier Kitefliers Society banner by their canopy. For the rest of Saturday, we had so much fun visiting with our instant friends the Claycombs and all the KOBC participants who stopped by to introduce themselves that we didn't have time to be bored by precision flying! Plus, Paul Koepke handed us a flip chart of precision maneuvers and explained what to look for. Although we only planned to spend a day, we ended up joining the whole gang for dinner and returned the following day (after driving all the way home Saturday evening) for more "kite fellowship." We have learned that kite people, at least in our area, are a welcoming, gregarious breed.

I'll conclude this one with some thoughts from a new sport kite enthusiast on ways to involve newcomers.

- Invite Friends: invite anyone you know who might be interested to meet you at a nearby sport kite event. We've told friends and even waitresses at our favorite diner about our kite event experiences.
- Use Video: create short videos, especially of kite ballet, that can give people an idea of what they'll see at a sport kite event. Load one onto your music player or smartphone. Even the best still photos can make a sport kite look like a single line kite to a neophyte.

## BY JAY FARLOW

- Introduce Yourself: especially at smaller events, introduce yourself to anyone you see whose name you don't know (It's really easy: "Hi, I'm Jay!"). Offer explanations of what's going on. Even at big events (like GLKF), if someone walks up and watches intently as you warm up, be sure to greet them.
- Prepare Handouts: copy a couple pages of information for interested spectators. You could include diagrams of an event's required precision figures, brief text explaining how competition works, and Web addresses where people can find more information.
- Show Them How: whenever possible, put a pair of flying lines in newcomers' hands and help them learn the basics of sport kite flying. Try to always have at least one "beater" sport kite ready so no competition kite is at risk.
- Include Them: invite newcomers to post-event gatherings and be sure to tell them about the next event on the calendar. Be sure they know about the websites and Facebook pages of area kite organizations.
- Answer Messages: be sure a club member is monitoring your club's website and/or Facebook page for inquiries and that replies go out promptly. These days, many people prefer to make electronic connections before they make personal ones. K



Kent Kingston stalls a Silver Fox 2.3



Bazzer Poulter's new double dragon



Prism boss Mark Reed gets old school with a Radian



KITE PARTY 9  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA  
MARCH 12-13, 2011  
PHOTOS BY JOHN CHILESE  
AND JIM STREALY



Ben Lummas confirms that chicks dig sport kites



Dave Shenkman



Corey Jensen flies a classic Luna Moth



Ron Gibian



Alex Herzog over-rotates a Skyburner prototype



Allen Carter's vintage Spectra Sport Reactor



A Ron Gibian circle

# K-FILES



RON BOLHART

Ron's my name and appliqué's my game. Big appliqué. I grew up in Washington state and after pretty much flunking out of college wound up in California at the Art Center College of Design, where I majored in Advertising and Design. My real job was an advertising art director in Chicago, Seattle and more recently in Portland, where we raised our family and live to this day. I retired a few years ago and dabble in watercolor painting and kite building. I love crafting beautiful designs out of colorful ripstop nylon and watching them take to the air. There is something special about working on a large kite for two or three months and being amazed that it flies and looks the way I had imagined it at the start.

I got into building kites when I decided a few years ago to make stunt kites for my son and son-in-law for Christmas presents with their university logo on them. I bought a couple of kite kits from Goodwinds and I caught the bug in a big way. I think the Internet and the Kitebuilder's Forum brought me into

the real world of kite building as I have never taken any classes or had any kite building training. The kite builders on the forum helped me through the rough spots and, being new, I didn't have any pre-conceived ideas about what would fly and what wouldn't, so I started designing kites that I liked and, as it turned out, they all flew.

I think most of us went through the same transition from building stunt kites to quads and then to single line kites. I started with cellular

type of kites and developed the Lantern kites that have a rotor in the center that spins as it flies. That morphed into my Retro-rockets, a kite that is more suited for the higher winds most kites won't fly in.

Of the plans I built that were designed by others, Pit Bull Dog, Pilot, Fleds and Genkis, are where I started to get interested in appliqué. I wanted to make them my own so I started



re-designing the kites to give me more of a platform to appliqué on. I eliminated the keels and added extra ribs to flatten out the bottom surfaces and although some were difficult to tune, they all fly well and most are good neighbors. I have never been shy about trying new things and I took to appliqué like a kite to the sky.

All of my original designs start as a paper model, then I build a small ripstop model to get a feel for how it will look in color. I usually scale to my materials as I hate to waste anything. Spars are 35.5" and multiples in carbon and fiberglass and 72" multiples in fiberglass rods. I make all my own fittings, end caps and tinkertoy parts out of Delrin rod so I am not restricted by factory parts. The only draw back to using Delrin



is you can't epoxy it to anything. I just about went crazy trying to glue it to fiberglass rods before someone told me it can't be glued.

The Swift started with the thought that if I could build a foil that was domed, the lift that was created would radiate outward in a fan instead of just up and maybe be a little more stable because of it. I was also looking for a three-pronged foil that would accommodate twin tails as well as a rotor in the center. The design progressed through three smaller sizes that I tested before I attempted the 65 ft<sup>2</sup> version. It flew so well that I jumped to 120 ft<sup>2</sup> with the Grandkids kite that displays the portraits of my four wonderful grandkids, Evan, Charlie, Grace and Lily.

William Farber is the one person who has shaped my appliqué technique. I bought his book, *Painting With Light*

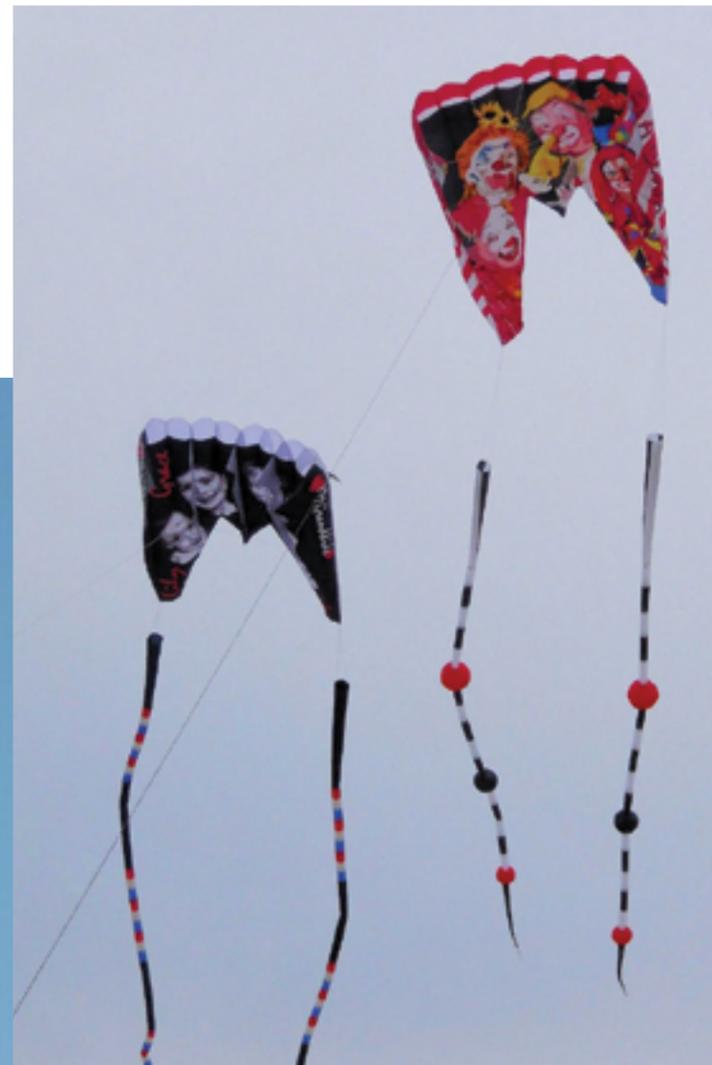
and *Air*, but even before I read his book he took an interest in me and started giving me help and nearly private lessons on the Kitebuilder's Forum. I attribute my appliqué ability to his many unselfish lessons. Thank you William.

The Clown Swift 180 is another iteration in the changing design. Where the Grandkids has interior keels, the Clowns do not. There are several hundred pieces sewn in the Clown Swift and I couldn't imagine how many stitches. Some of the shading took four layers of colors to achieve the desired effect. I have started hand dyeing my fabric to get the colors I want in a single layer. The tails are different because of the huge drag of the seven balls, I built the tails in sections joined with Velcro so in heavy wind I can use all seven balls, in lighter winds three or four and in really light winds I can use only the throat and tail.

It seems that the metamorphosis of the Swift won't stop. I have more changes on another 180 Swift in the works that I hope will be as interesting to view as the Clown kite. I can't go much bigger without using larger width material and throwing away a bunch, something I can't bring myself to do. My wife Emily, my love of 47 years, jokes that we're going to have to remodel the house if I want to build appliquéed kites that are bigger. I just don't have the floor space to lay out bigger panels.

I look at the photos of kites flying in Cervia, Dieppe and other great festivals and am awed by the imagination and skill that the wonderful kitebuilders of the world have crafted. So many people to meet and talk to about details, techniques and concepts. I was lucky enough to have the Nationals in my backyard in 2010 at Seaside. For a week I rubbed shoulders with some of the people who make kite building the sport it is, people I really admire like Will Sturdy (come on...17!), John Pollock, Cliff Quinn, David and Susan Gomberg, Phil Broder, Mark Engbaum, Doug LaRock, Ben Dantonio, Amy and Connor Doran, Steve Ferrel, Linda Sanders, Dave and Diane Butler, Don Mock, Mike Mosman, Rod Thrall and too many others to list.

Like all kitemakers, I have too many kites I would like to build and not enough time in the day to build all of them. Some things have to take a back seat and right now that's yard work. K





PHOTOS BY CHRIS SCHULTZ & CAMERON BOWSER



NORTH AMERICAN BUGGY EXPO  
MANPAH DRY LAKE, NV  
MARCH 29 - APRIL 3, 2011



# KAPTIONS

BY DAVE WHEELER

Every year, as part of its annual convention, the American Kitefliers Association holds a competition for best KAP photo. This year the convention will take place in Wildwood, NJ, from September 26 to October 1.

As KAP has grown in popularity, so has the Members' Choice KAP competition. But I always hear at the event that more people would have participated if they had heard about it or known how to enter. Also, even those who hear about the competition may not realize how it runs and how it's presented at Convention. So this column is devoted to announcing and explaining the Members' Choice Award for Best KAP Photo. I hope many of you will consider entering some work of your own.

One purpose of this competition is, of course, to recognize the work of the KAP community within the AKA. The eventual winner and honorable mentions are announced before all attendees at the awards banquet on the last night of the Convention. And *Kiting* always publishes the winners and showcases their work.

But there's a deeper purpose for this competition, and that is to promote awareness of KAP within the AKA and the public at large. Kite Aerial Photography is still virtually unknown as a field of photographic technique. And people who do hear of it usually consider it to be some kind of stunt or trick rather than a legitimate technique. But one look at our KAP photo exhibit is all it takes to convince viewers that KAP produces stunning results. When the photos are on public display, it's not unusual to see bystanders stop in their tracks to admire the whole exhibit.

In order to fulfill this second purpose, we really encourage everyone with an interest in KAP to enter at least one photo in the competition. Even if you don't think your own work is likely to win, you're helping to promote KAP just by participating.

The competition rules are fairly simple and intended to create a fair competition.

Rule 1: all photos submitted must have been taken by the contestant. Of course it wouldn't be proper to enter someone else's work. In cases where two or more members have collaborated in their KAP work, we do allow each member to submit separate entries.

Rule 2: all photos must have been made by lifting a camera with a kite. Photos made by other means such as balloons don't qualify. That half-kite, half-balloon creation called a helikite does count as a kite for the purposes of this competition.

Rule 3: The photographer must be a member in good standing of AKA at the time of the convention. As with all the Members' Choice awards, only AKA members are eligible to participate.



If you aren't already a member, you should know that membership is open to everyone worldwide. Besides qualifying to participate in this competition, you also receive quarterly issues of *Kiting* and a host of other benefits. Just visit [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org) to learn more or sign up.

Rule 4: Up to three images may be submitted by one member. The idea is that this is a competition for best photo, not best photographer. Also, when members enter multiple photos, we can create a larger, more impressive display than we could otherwise.

Rule 5: Images that have received awards in any other competition are not eligible. This was adopted out of a sense of fairness so that one great KAP photo doesn't dominate multiple KAP photo competitions.

Rule 6: Images must be submitted as prints and mounted on matte board. Now we're getting into the nuts and bolts of how this competition works. We need actual prints, not just digital files, in order to create a physical display. And the prints need to be mounted in order to stand freely and tolerate a small amount of handling. The style of mounting isn't particularly important. There are no size limitations, but keep in mind that display space will be limited, and/or may be horizontal, e.g., flat on a table. Entrants range in size from 8"x10" up to 24"x36" inches. Your choice of size will depend on the quality of your original image and how much you want to pay for printing, mounting and shipping.

Rule 7: No signature, title, name, or explanatory text may appear on the face of the mounted print. We want the voting to be impartial so we try to create a degree of anonymity. Hopefully this leads to members judging the images rather than voting for a particular photographer. Again, it's about the selecting the best photo, not recognizing the best photographer. On the back of the mounted print should be an information sheet that includes the image title, photographer's name and address, image location, month and year image was taken, medium (digital or film), make of camera and kite, and brief description of any manipulation of the finished image. The orientation of this information sheet also helps us determine which side is up in case that isn't obvious from the image.

So, all these prints go to the convention. What happens then? The KAP committee goes to work right away to set up a display of all the entries. Usually we find a place that's secure enough to permit the photos to be displayed for the entire week that's near the banquet hall or workshops. If a full-time



Contest entries can be self-portraits (Charles C. Benton)...



...architectural (Pete Dolphin)...



...or include kites (Wolfgang Bieck).

display isn't possible, the photos are displayed during the evening where everyone can see them.

On the last night of the convention, just before the final banquet, everyone present votes on the Members' Choice awards. Besides the KAP photo award, there are Members' Choice awards in categories such as Best Kite. So everyone is handed several ballots as they enter the hall. The KAP photos are displayed in a line and everyone files past trying to select a favorite. The choice isn't easy.

Most AKA members aren't accustomed to judging photo competitions. Where an expert photographer might look for composition, lighting or sharpness, our judges may select a favorite because it shows a place they would like to visit. And photos depicting kites are always popular. So we aren't being judged by a panel from *National Geographic*. Nonetheless, great photos appeal to many people. Regardless, there's no disputing that the AKA membership consistently picks a top-quality image.

During the banquet dinner, the KAP committee opens the ballot box and counts the votes. The spread of votes is usually striking. Most of the entries receive at least one vote which means someone thought that print was their favorite. As the tallies add up, though, three or four entries

become apparent as the favorites. And once the last vote is counted, we know our winner. All that's left is to announce the results. Toward the end of the evening, the Members' Choice awards are presented before the gathered members. And the next day word spreads back through the Internet and eventually into the pages of this magazine.

Sound like fun? Up for a challenge? Remember, it's all to promote KAP so every entry is worthwhile. If you're interested in submitting some work of your own, instructions will be posted online at [www.aka.kite.org/kite-talk-forum/topic?id=480](http://www.aka.kite.org/kite-talk-forum/topic?id=480).

So go ahead and enjoy the summer, send up those kites and haul down some photos. But come September, don't forget to check in with the forum so you can submit your own entry into the Best KAP competition. K

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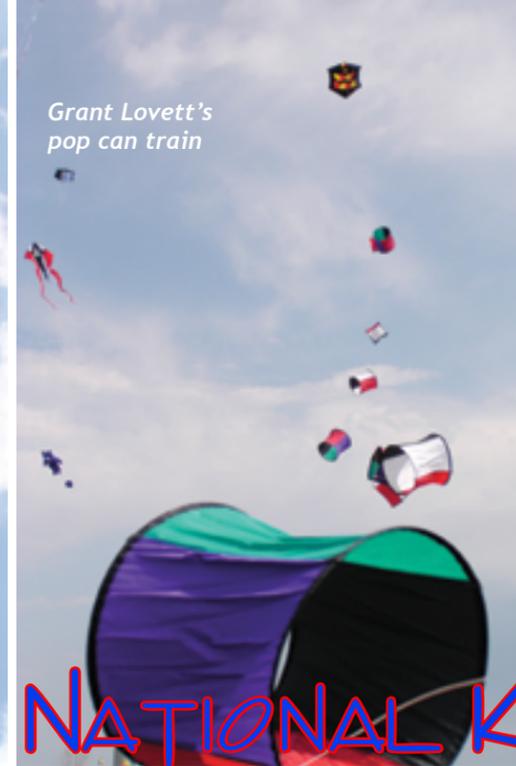




Dennis Smith



Bill Watson's bulldog



Grant Lovett's pop can train



Daryl Water's banners

# NATIONAL KITE MONTH NATIONAL KITE MONTH NATIONAL KITE MONTH



GREAT DELAWARE KITE FESTIVAL



Jim Cosca, Lisa Willoughby, and Dennis Smith



OTTO M. BUDIG AIRWAVES FESTIVAL



Mason Lovett flying a NPW9b



Phil Broder launches a marconi



Jay Knerr



MARYLAND INT'L KITE EXPO



3<sup>rd</sup> FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE DELL'AQUILONE

PHOTOS BY TREVOR REEVES

CERVIA, ITALY  
APRIL 22 - MAY 1, 2011



## AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
COMPETITION AND  
FESTIVAL

Wildwood, NJ  
September 26 - October 1, 2011

### General Information and Registration Contact

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

## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Great Kite Auction

Scheduled for Friday night at the Wildwoods Convention Center, the Auction is definitely one of the highlights of the Convention. As you may know, a significant part of the AKA's annual operating budget comes from the Auction. Donations are necessary to make this fundraiser possible, and we would like to thank you in advance for your generous contributions. Contact the Auction Chairperson at [auction@aka.kite.org](mailto:auction@aka.kite.org), or download the Donation Forms at [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org). Remember, your generous donation IS tax deductible.

### Monday Night Early Bird Reception

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

### Thursday Night

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

### The Fly Market

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

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**PLEASE REMEMBER!!** This schedule is tentative. You may check the AKA website at [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org) for updates, and after arriving in Wildwood please refer to your on-site program for official events and times.

### Monday, September 26

Registration, Auction Receiving & Early Bird Reception.

### Tuesday, September 27

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

### Wednesday, September 28

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

### Thursday, September 29

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

### Friday, September 30

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

### Saturday, October 1

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

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

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

	QTY	COST	TOTAL
<b>EARLY REGISTRATION:</b> <i>Postmarked by August 14</i>	<b>BASIC</b>	\$230	
	<b>1 DAY: M T W T F S</b> (circle days)	\$77.50	
<b>REGULAR REGISTRATION:</b> <i>Postmarked by September 15</i>	<b>BASIC</b>	\$250	
	<b>1 DAY: M T W T F S</b> (circle days)	\$87.50	
<b>LATE REGISTRATION:</b> <i>After September 15, at the door only</i>	<b>BASIC</b>	\$265	
	<b>1 DAY: M T W T F S</b> (circle days)	\$97.50	
20% Child Discount (See page three for qualifying details)			
Ala Carte Banquet Tickets: <input type="checkbox"/> FRI <input type="checkbox"/> SAT		\$45	
<i>(Two: 1 Friday and 1 Saturday banquet ticket included with Basic Registration)</i>			
Cloisone Logo Pin		\$7	
Logo Patch		\$6	
<b>To See Photos Of All Apparel Visit: <a href="http://www.aka.kite.org/2011wildwoodapparel">www.aka.kite.org/2011wildwoodapparel</a></b>			
Mens SS T-Shirt (Printed Front)	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$25	
Mens SS T-Shirt (Printed Front)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2X <input type="checkbox"/> 3X <input type="checkbox"/> 4X	\$30	
Mens SS T-Shirt (Printed Front)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5X <input type="checkbox"/> 6X	\$40	
Ladies SS T-Shirt (Printed Front)	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$25	
Ladies SS T-Shirt (Printed Front)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2X	\$30	
Hoodie Sweatshirt (Embroidered Left Chest)	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$42	
Hoodie Sweatshirt (Embroidered Left Chest)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2X	\$50	
Polo Shirt (Embroidered Left Chest)	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$40	
Polo Shirt (Embroidered Left Chest)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2X <input type="checkbox"/> 3X <input type="checkbox"/> 4X	\$48	
Polo Shirt (Embroidered Left Chest)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5X <input type="checkbox"/> 6X	\$55	

### Please Note:

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

No souvenirs will be guaranteed unless ordered before August 14!

REGISTRATION TOTAL	
MERCHANDISE TOTAL	
ORDER TOTAL	

I plan to arrive at the Convention on: / /2011 and depart on / /2011

Payment Method:  Check  MasterCard  VISA

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(Three digit code on the back of the card)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW TO REGISTER

### Basic Registration

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

### One Day Registration

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

### Child Discount

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

### Banquet Tickets

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

Because we must order the number of dinners in advance, extra banquet tickets must be purchased before 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 and are non-refundable. PLEASE NOTE: Banquet tickets are like concert, movie or sporting event tickets; you must have them to attend the banquets, no exceptions. We cannot replace lost or stolen tickets.

### Refunds

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

### Indoor Events – Banquets

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

### Please check the following where applicable:

My AKA Region number is: \_\_\_\_\_

- This is my First AKA Convention
- I would like vegetarian meals
- I plan to enter the Indoor Fly Competition
- I plan to enter the Kite Makers Competition with \_\_\_\_\_ # kites
- I plan to enter the Fighter Kite Competition
- I plan to enter the Rok Battle
- I plan to enter the Sport Kite Competition
- I plan to attend the Banner Workshop (\$20 material fee payable at Convention)
- Olivier Reymond appliqué workshop PRE-REGISTRATION.  Wednesday OR  Friday (First 5 accepted)

### Waiver:

In consideration for the right to compete, as well as participate in the American Kitefliers Association 34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention, (hereinafter referred to as "Event"), I hereby hold the American Kitefliers Association, The Greater Wildwoods Tourism Improvement and Development Authority, the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, SMG and Delaware North Companies and their respective members, directors, officers, employees and agents, The City of Wildwood, NJ; and Cameo Management Solutions, Inc., the sponsors, promoters and any and all other persons associated with this Event harmless and release them from any and all liability in connection with my participation. I further agree that the Event may use without payment, permission, or restriction, any photograph, film or tape in which I may appear for any purpose whatsoever. Please note: By signing on behalf of a participant less than 18 years old, the parent or guardian also expressly agrees to all of the above agreements.

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

Signature or Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature or Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Return Completed Registration To:

Maggie Vohs  
Convention Manager  
PO Box 410  
Otis, OR 97368 USA  
P: 503.994.4252  
F: 503.419.4369  
convention@aka.kite.org  
www.aka.kite.org

Register by mail or FAX only, you may not register over the phone; our insurance company requires your signature (or internet signature) on your registration form. Make checks payable to AKA Convention. Be sure to include credit card number, expiration date AND credit card code from the back of the credit card on all registration forms.

## HELPERS NEEDED

Please check where you're able to help.

- Convention Registration
- Wherever I am needed
- I would like to mentor a first timer

### Auction:

- Set Up  Registration
- Cashier

### Sport Kite Competition:

- Judge  Field Director
- Pit Boss

### Kitemakers' Competition:

- Judge  Registration
- Field Staff

## COMPETITIONS

### FLYING FIELD:

All outdoor competitions will be on the beaches in front of the Wildwoods Convention Center.

Indoor Flying:  
Wildwoods Convention Center  
4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

Wildwoods Convention Center:  
www.wildwoodsnj.com  
Wildwood Chamber of Commerce:  
www.gwcoc.org or 609-729-4000  
State of New Jersey:  
www.state.nj.us

## YOU CAN HELP!

For more information contact the following:

Hospitality:  
hospitality@aka.kite.org

Workshops:  
workshops@aka.kite.org

Auction Receiving:  
auction@aka.kite.org

Kitemakers Competition:  
kitemaking@aka.kite.org

Fighter Competition:  
fighters@aka.kite.org

Fly Market:  
flymart@aka.kite.org

Kite Art Gallery:  
kiteart@aka.kite.org

Sport Kites:  
sportkites@aka.kite.org

Indoor Competition:  
indoor@aka.kite.org

Sponsorships:  
trophy@aka.kite.org

All other volunteers:  
Convention Chair  
Mike Dallmer  
Annual\_meeting@aka.kite.org

## CONVENTION HOTELS

Wildwood offers a variety of hotels and we have been given great rates from four of them. There is no "large host hotel" in Wildwood; but I have heard from locals that the Oceanic is the spot for "cocktails and networking"!

AKA rates are ONLY guaranteed if you book your hotel through our reservations system using one of these methods:

Online:  
www.aka.kite.org/wildwoodhotels

By Phone:  
Toll free at 800-992-9732 or direct at 609-546-2736.

Days Inn of Wildwood: \$79 - \$159  
Free parking, WI-FI, kitchens,  
4610 Ocean Avenue

Marlane Motel: Start at \$72  
Free parking, non-smoking, kitchenettes  
4310 Atlantic Ave

Oceanic Motel: \$82 - \$142  
Free parking, WI-FI, refrigerators  
4600 Ocean Ave

Caprice Motel: \$75 - \$95  
WI-FI, refrigerators, microwaves  
4200 Ocean Ave

### Parking

As many of you know, it costs to park at the Wildwood Convention Center. We have secured complimentary parking for Monday-Thursday; but there will be a charge for Friday & Saturday of approximately \$6.00 a day. Walk or share the ride with an old friend or even a new friend!

### RV Space

Those who prefer to "bring their home with them" may either Google "RV Park Wildwood New Jersey" to receive information on eight parks close by, or contact the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce at either www.gwcoc.org or call 609-729-4000 for recommendations.

## TRANSPORTATION

Official Airline: Due to new rules from the airlines regarding group travel, there will be no official airline designated for our event. Online offers, specific miles cards and other offers are much more lucrative than anything the AKA is able to provide.

Modes of transportation to consider:

Atlantic City International Airport (ACY) is approximately 45 miles from Wildwood, NJ

Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is approximately 70 miles from Wildwood, NJ

New Jersey Transit – Bus service to Wildwood www.njtransit.com or 973-375-5555

### Official Car Rental

AVIS - Official Car Rental: To receive the AKA discounted rate, contact AVIS at 1-800-331-1600 and use authorization number J094055; rates are available from September 19 to October 8, 2011. Daily rates vary but booking early will guarantee you the best rate available. For large groups traveling together, check out their SUV and van rates; it may make sense to "share the ride".



## A Jimi Thing

Alden Miller is clearly a guitar aficionado, and the eight new kites he built prove it. Whether you prefer *Are You Experienced*, *Axis: Bold As Love*, or *Electric Ladyland*, if you groove to *Little Wing* or *Purple Haze*, you can't deny that Jimi Hendrix soars above other masters of the Stratocaster. But this isn't the first time he's appeared on a kite. Go back to the 1990s, and you'll find him gracing a rokkaku in Pete Dolphin's "Soul Train."



  
**Kiting**  
 people+places+things

## Size Matters

The current largest kite in the world, MegaFlag, is 1000 m<sup>2</sup>. At Berck-sur-mer in April, a challenger for the title stepped forward. The new kite is 1200 m<sup>2</sup>. The tail alone is about 150' long. The lifting surface is over 125' x 125'. It's really, really big. To match it, the MegaFlag would need to add a strip 30' thick to its base.

The new kite was, of course, designed by Peter Lynn. It is owed by the AlFarsi Team of Kuwait, who also flew the first MegaFlag.

Inflating the behemoth took over an hour. That was surprising since the mouth opening was big enough to drive a school bus through.

Measurements so far are unofficial. Launch Director Andrew Beattie plans to have the kite surveyed before details are submitted to Guinness.

David Gomberg




**The AKA General Store**  
 -Come see what's new-

 [www.aka.kite.org/gstore](http://www.aka.kite.org/gstore) 

*Alden Miller's cherry blossom quadline took top honors at the Blossom Kite Festival in Washington, DC, on April 10.*



Representing

12

countries

# Dieppe Kite International

Meet us on August 10-14 at Dover Park in Dieppe, New Brunswick, Canada.

## Special guests:

Karl and Sara Longbottom

William Farber

Micheal Alvares

Windjammers

Cerf-volistes styliste

Jean Lamoureux and  
Michèle Bérubé

Jean Lemire

Cliff Quinn

Robert Brasington

David Gomberg

Robert Valkenburg

Lisa Willoughby

Axel Kostros

Colin Mortimer

and more!



*I will be attending this festival. I hope you can join me!*

**Barbara Meyer,**  
AKA PRESIDENT



L'International  
du CERF-VOLANT à Dieppe  
**Dieppe KITE International**

Register at: [dieppe.ca/kite](http://dieppe.ca/kite)

Info: 506.877.7878  
[kite@dieppe.ca](mailto:kite@dieppe.ca)