



June 1980



AKA NEWS

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION Volume II, No. 3
Robert M. Ingraham - Founder AKA Sheila Tooze - Editor

Photo: Gerald L. French Photography, San Francisco



Having a High Time in San Francisco! (from left to right) Steve Gekko, Gordon Teekel, Takeshi Nishibayashi, Warren L. Simons (of PIER 39), Ash Lulla, Peter Powell and Red Braswell.

International Line Up In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO -- May 31st Steve Edeiken swept a field of 13 acrobatic kite fliers to capture the \$1,000 first prize in the PIER 39 First International Kite Festival stunt flying competition. Next day Ash Lulla, 27, of Long Beach defeated Steve Gekko of Gardena, CA to be

named American Champion Kite Fighter, after an elimination tourney with 32 of America's top kite fighters. AKA President Red Braswell was there as Honorary Chairman, and he and his wife Lee describe the festival in detail, inside.

San Francisco...the inside story! See page 8

Nominations: AKA President And Five Board Members

See page 10

"Those Incredible Men in Their Flying Machines..."

See page 4

The K.O.N. Describes A.K.A. for British Kitefliers

See page 2

letters

Mixed Bag

From Dr. Roderick V. Chima in Medina, OH: "I realize that this application is over a year late, and I hope I've sent it to the right person. I saw no reason to join AKA before, but today a friend showed me his copy of AKA News, VII, #2. The newsletter itself will be worth the membership fee. Keep up the good work!"

Thank you, Sir. We would appreciate it if all our members show the AKA NEWS to their kite flying friends so we may extend our attempts to promote safe and enjoyable kiting. Ed.

Remember the kite which visited the North Pole? Well, Red and Lee Braswell recently received a post card sent from the balloon at the North Pole! One of the inscriptions reads, "Flown by Free Balloon". I like that.

Several AKA Members are concerned about reports in the press about regulations governing kiteflying. Jerry Gorsuch writes that his local radio station broadcast that all kites should be flown under 150 feet; Guy Aydlott sent us a UPI clipping from a Los Angeles paper that Prof. John Douglas Forbes brought to his attention. The same regulation is mentioned. I hope the last issue of AKA NEWS might have clarified some of this confusion. The 150 foot rule usually applies to kites of a certain weight. However, it is always a good idea to check that local authorities do not have more stringent rules than the FAA regulations.

Lisa and Peter Lembke are looking for any available information on kites that can be towed behind a boat - and prices. The address to send information is 22943 Playview, St. Clair Shores, MI 48082.

Gary Woodcock of the Toronto Kitefliers wrote: "What a bright, clean look Sheila Tooze has brought to the new AKA NEWS. My compliments".

My thanks, Gary, and to all our well-wishers. Of course, there might not have been a news letter at all if a certain, overworked, over-looked, dearly beloved lady called Margo Brown had not battled to get information to our members during the first year. Material is beginning to flow in smoothly these days, thanks to a lively readership, but unfortunately there have been very lean times when Margo and her husband Bevan sat late into the night writing much more than I have had to this year. Thanks to Margo, and to all our readers, please keep up the good work!

Editor.

Kite Appreciation Is Art Appreciation

Recently our area (the Florida West coast) had the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful exhibition of homemade and commercial kites hung at the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center. The director, Judith Boodon Powers, and the educational coordinator, Karen Kuykendall, spent countless hours talking with us and Oscar Bailey, a member of the art department at the University of South Florida. They also wrote to kite enthusiasts all over the country. The result was a thrilling display of colors and designs, a true inspiration to seasoned kilters and newcomers alike. At the opening, Oscar Bailey showed slides depicting, among others, the kites of sculptor Tom Van Sant (see our lovely technical drawing in this newsletter-Ed) and Oscar's students' work produced during his "wind supported sculpture" class. During the course of the exhibit, the Art Center sponsored an "off-the-wall exhibit" -- a fly-in, graced by delightful weather and soft winds. The exhibit was covered by the local print and TV media. It was a boon to kiting and is certain to produce a wave of new enthusiasts.

Kimen Yoder
Gone With the Wind
Clearwater, FL

The K.O.N.—A British Perspective of A.K.A.

The AKA is certainly growing, their last newsletter states that they have a membership of 840 people, including 47 foreign members. They also say that they have a healthy communication with the world's kilters, sending their newsletter to 35 kite groups around the world. Not only this, but last year they produced SEVEN newsletters when they promised six! For all that, the AKA only charges five dollars a year, it certainly makes you think!

What do you get for \$5.00? There is a simple answer to that - newsletters containing a great deal of information produced in clear, precise and well written form with news, ideas, photos and UP TO DATE lists of events listed, and this is only up to July. Each newsletter may only be a few pages long but it is packed with information.

It is clear that kiting is experiencing a new wave of growth in America and that at the moment everything is really taking off in a big way; new groups seem to be springing up everywhere and clearly the new influx of people has helped to bring kiting to the fore. Certainly kite flying is a much larger "sport" in America than it is in Britain. I feel that the AKA has played a major part in creating this situation and should be congratulated on its achievements.

Thanks, K.O.N., and good luck in the future. It doesn't sound as though you had seen the last two issues when you went to press, as we are regularly running six pages (12 sides) these days.

News From the Kite Industry

Lucille Stokes writes from Go Fly A Kite, in CT: "I have just received your AKA News. I love it! I remember when it was one little sheet, now look.

I want to support AKA members in any way possible, so I have enclosed one check to cover Go Fly A Kite Store, 1434 Third Avenue, NY NY 10028 in your section for members discount of 10% in our store.

I have also enclosed a personal check for my subscription at home. My kids have gotten into kiting. Its funny but for years now I have been telling my customers how kiting with the family is a cheap way of keeping the family together, but I thought my words were falling on deaf ears. From our sales this year (which have doubled so far) it seems someone out there was really listening to me. I feel very strongly on this point. I have been taking my two teenagers kiting for some time now and they love it. You have to get out there and fly a kite to know the thrill of the pressure on your line, and the kite in flight to know what I mean, and it seems more and more people are getting hooked on it! I love it and I know that others are learning to love it too! I have spoken to many other distributors and manufacturers of kites and they all feel the same way as I do...that this is the year of the kite!

Your "Ask Mr. Kite" section is great! I picked up two good ideas from it. Keep it up!

We have been interviewed by P.M. Magazine and will go on the air locally in June. They got some great shots of our East Haddam school children flying kites in our own back yard."

Ask Mr Kite

Spare Peter Powell tails? Cut up into suitable lengths and sealed at one end, they are another idea to make useful kite bags.

Did you know...most spirit based felt tip pens will write on ripstop nylon...

Did you know...you can solder plastic together by using a soldering iron and a piece of paper above the plastic you are welding together... and crochet twine is useful for flying the light kites as it is handier than normal line...(above courtesy of K.O.N.).

Gentle Winds Whisper

Come come fly your kite
The time is right
The breeze is out
Up up away it sails
Without a care without a doubt
Twitching right twitching left
As if to pull with all its might
Gentle winds whispering as if in sight
I can't say I've seen a more beautiful
Kite.

Sandra J. Hogan
San Diego, CA

Paul E. Garber Facility Named

The June 2 opening of the Paul E. Garber Facility at Silver Hill, MD was absolutely delightful, reported Bevan and Margo Brown. This Preservation, Restoration and Storage Facility houses the National Air and Space Museum's reserve collection of historically significant air and space craft. Trained guides conduct free tours, including behind-the-scenes look at the restoration workshop, where skilled craftsmen are busy preserving aircraft and other objects.

Tour reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance, call (202) 357-1400, or write: Tour Scheduler, Education Services Div., National Air and Space Museum, Washington D.C., 20560.

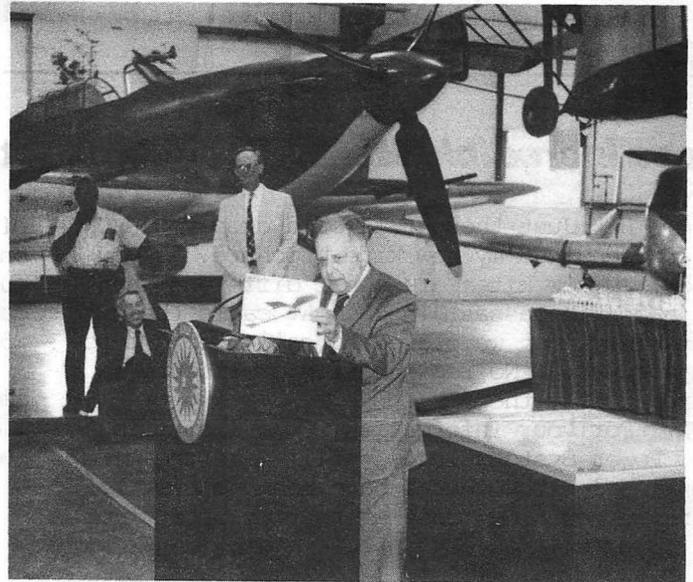


Photo: Bevan Brown

Dr. Garber holds up a picture of a model he made of Leonardo DaVinci's Glider. This piece started Garber's full time career at the Smithsonian!

Missing Persons Report

We no longer have correct addresses for the AKA members listed below. The Post Office is not forwarding their newsletters. If you know of the whereabouts of any of these people, please inform them that they should update our address file, and that the kiteflying community misses them.

Kenneth Bauser, Seymour CT 06483
Frank Delnero, Fr.Lauderdale, FL 33304
John D. Dickey, New York, NY 10014
Perry Fitzhugh, Mission Home VA 22956
Frederick L. Gifford, Port Allegany, PA 16743
John D. Hedges, Caruthersville MO 63830
Barb K. Phillips, Mountlate, WA 98043
Carol Spence, Ithaca, NY 14850
Barney White, Denver, CO 80206

All retailers are encouraged to send their most perplexing questions to Mr. K., c/o the AKA HQ in Manassas, VA.

design

Asymmetrical—But Will It Fly?

This left half of an Eddy Kite flies on two strings but, says the maker Red Braswell, it only performs to the left of center wind. Frankly, I was amazed to hear it flew at all, but it will loop, dive and recover, or fly to far left of the wind and return to center. But, here is the catch -- the kite will do nothing right of center; a right pull on the line brings the kite down at a 45% angle!

Red Braswell flies his "Left Handed Eddy" at the International Exposition of Asymmetrical Kites sponsored by Kite Lines Magazine.

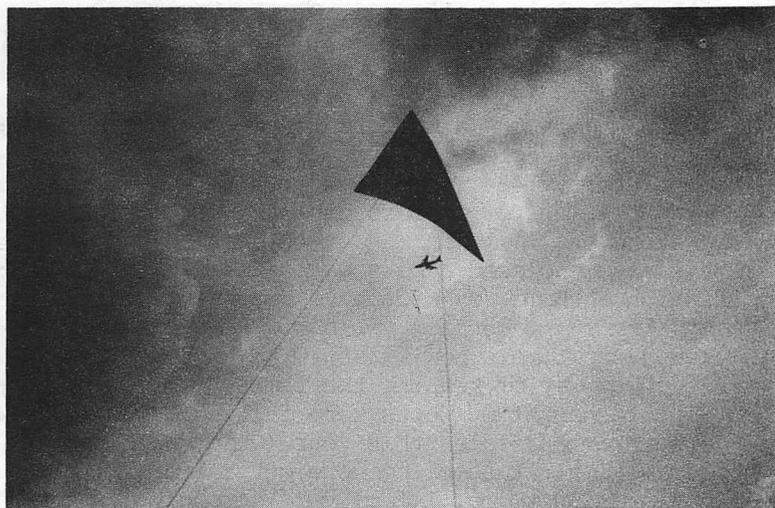


Photo: Red Braswell

"Those Incredible Men..." Microlight Aircraft

Hi. Just thought I would drop you a line and send you my new kite brochure. As you can see, my new kites are a bit different than any I had at Manassas. The F.A.A. calls these "craft kites" but we prefer to call them "Microlight Aircraft". No registration or license is required to fly them.

For your information, Cone Industries is now Power Systems Inc. I still make the more conventional kites, but I have been so busy getting my new line together that my production

of the regular kites has slowed to custom orders only. I now have 25 dealers nationwide selling our Microlights (powered hang gliders) and cannot keep up with the demand. I sell about 25 Microlights a month.

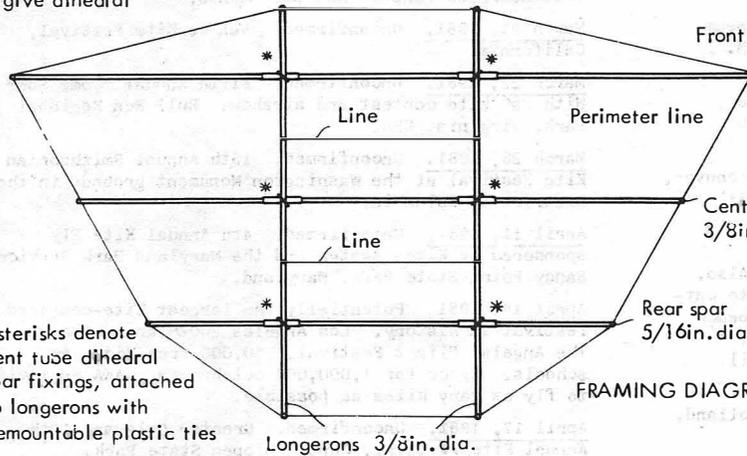
I had a great time in Manassas and I am looking forward to this year's nationals. I am already working on some surprises. Hope to see you there.

Thomas Herr
Ormond Beach, FL

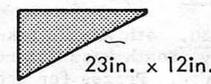
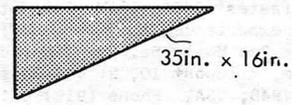
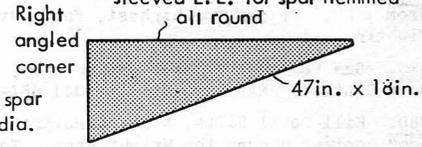
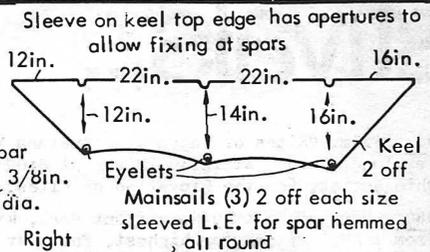


MICROLIGHT: All controls, fittings etc, can be easily checked during the preflight inspection.

Front view shows tubes bent to give dihedral

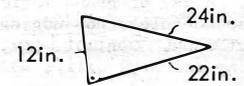
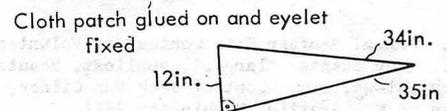
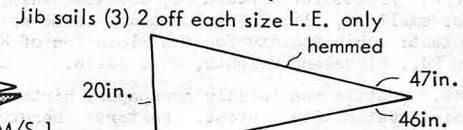
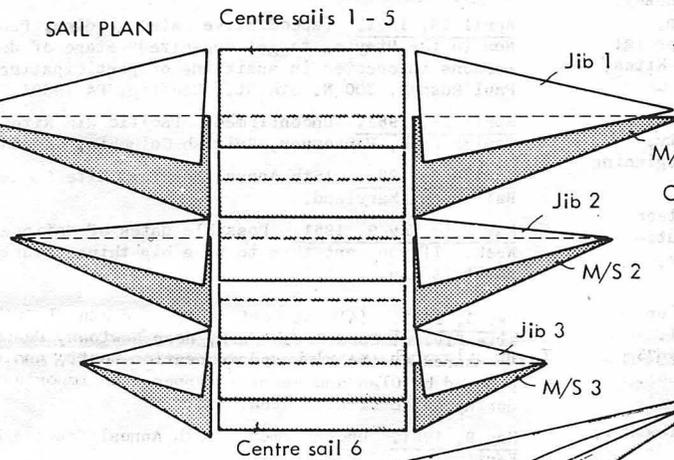


Asterisks denote bent tube dihedral spar fixings, attached to longerons with demountable plastic ties

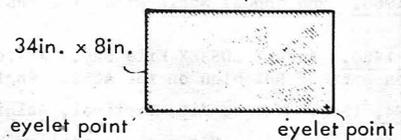


SAIL PLAN

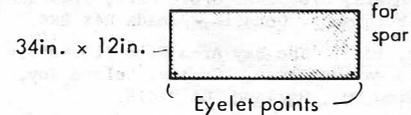
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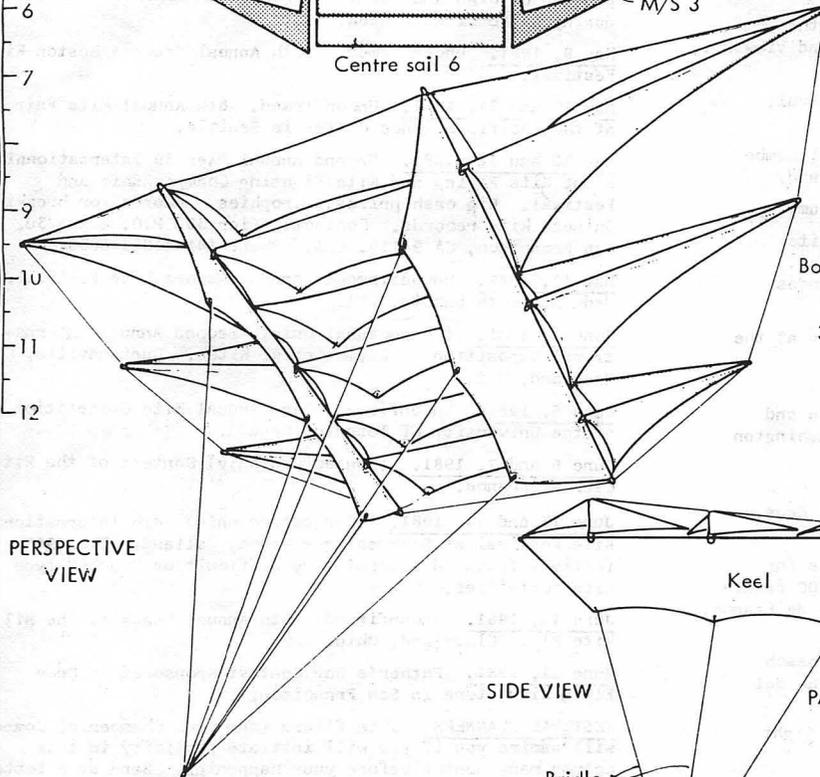
Centre sails 2 off with sleeved L. E. for spar 2 without



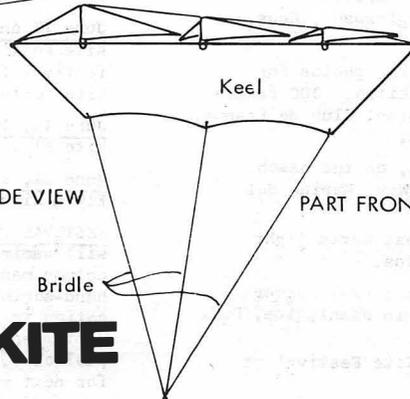
Bottom centre sail 1 off with L. E. sleeved for spar



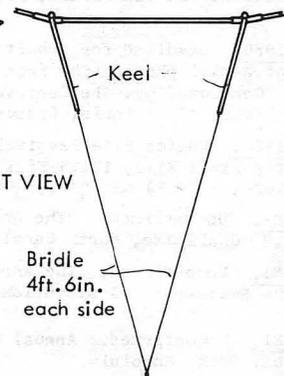
PERSPECTIVE VIEW



SIDE VIEW



PART FRONT VIEW



MARK COTRELL'S PRIZE WINNING
MULTI-JIB FLARE KITE

festivals...

July 2, 1980. Film, "Kites of Japan". Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio. At 12:30 PM and at 8:00 PM. Info from Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites.

July 12, 1980. Port of Seattle/Waterfront Park, kite contest. From 1 PM. Prizes for highest, farthest out, best kite fighting, etc.

July 16, 1980. Sea Festival Kites. Vanier Park, Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Contact: Marcia Madill, (604) 687-8041.

July 19, 1980. Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. The "Kite Kingdom" contest honors the Wright Bros. Top prize is for the best replica of the Wright Flier. Also, awards for fastest 500' climb, largest, etc. Separate categories for experienced and amateur fliers. On the beach opposite the Sea Holly Sq. shopping center. Address: Kite Kingdom, Milepost 10, Rt 158-Business, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948, USA. Phone (919) 441-6235.

July 19, 1980. Third Annual Hague kite festival. Holland.

July 20, 1980. 4th Annual Lake Erie Islands Kite Fly. At Put-N-Bay, South Bass Island, Lake Erie, near Sandusky. Two age groups. Prizes for appearance, craftsmanship, humoroussness, smallest, flier's performance. Also special awards. Contact: Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites, 3125 Corydon Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

July 20, 1980. Seattle Sun (weekly newspaper) birthday party and point system kite contest. Factors: beauty, flight, craftsmanship. At Gasworks Park, Seattle, beginning at 1 PM.

July 26, 1980. Annual Seafair Kite Contest at Volunteer Park, Seattle. Many events: largest, smallest, beautifullest, straightest-up, etc. Contact Jack Van Gilder, 1925 Walnut Ave. S.W., Seattle, Washington 98116.

July 26, 1980. A day of grand magic at the Venice Pier beach. A major no-rules, no-judging kind of festival. Beginning about noon. Contact: Let's Fly a Kite, 13673 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, Calif. 90291. (213) 822-2561.

July 27, 1980. The Bay Area Kite Fliers fly at the Berkeley Marina. Contact: Leland Toy, 1883 Grand View Dr., Oakland, Cal., 94618.

August 9, 1980. 2nd Annual Naaldjwijk Kite Festival. Holland.

August 10, 1980. Annual SUSSEX Kite Day. At Telscombe Tye, 6 miles east of Brighton on the A259. England.

August 23/24, 1980. Knokke Kite Festival, Belgium.

August 31, 1980. Canadian National Exposition Kite Festival, Toronto. Many really beautiful trophies. Contact KEN LEWIS, c/o Cedar Grove Park, 1749 Dundas Hwy East, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4X 2R6.

September 28, 1980. The Bay Area Kite Fliers fly at the San Francisco Marina Green. Contact Ieland Toy, 1883 Grand View Dr., Oakland, CA 94618.

October 3,4,5, 1980. AKA Third Annual Convention and Festival. Seattle, Washington, hosted by the Washington Kitefliers Association. Big doings.

October 5, 1980. Autumn Festival of the British Kite Flying Association. At Old Warden, Biggleswade, Beds, England.

October 15, 1980. Deadline for submitting photos for the contest of aerial photography from kites. 300 francs first prize. Conducted by: Le Cerf-Volant Club de France, 17 Rue LACHARRIERE, 75011 Paris, France.

October 25, 1980. Venice Kite Festival, on the beach. Contact: Let's Fly a Kite, 13673 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, Calif. 90291. (213) 822-2561.

March 14, 1981. Unconfirmed. "The Great Outta Sight Kite Contest." Charlotte, North Carolina.

March 14, 1981. Unconfirmed. The annual Paul Garber Lecture at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

March 14, 1981. Unconfirmed. Annual Kite Festival at Queen Kapiolani Park, Honolulu.

March 14, 1981. Unconfirmed. 9th Annual Kite Carnival of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada.

March 15, 1981. Unconfirmed date. 53rd Annual Zilker Park Kite Contest, Austin, Texas. The longest unbroken series of annual kite flies in the USA, in our knowledge. This deserves respect and attendance.

March 21, 1981. Unconfirmed. Venice Kite Festival, California.

March 22, 1981. Unconfirmed. Fifth Annual "Come Soar With Us" kite contest and airshow. Bull Run Regional Park, Virginia, USA.

March 28, 1981. Unconfirmed. 15th Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival at the Washington Monument grounds in the District of Columbia.

April 11, 1981. Unconfirmed. 4th Annual Kite Fly sponsored by Kites Aweigh and the Maryland Park Service. Sandy Point State Park, Maryland.

April 16, 1981. Potentially the largest kite-centered festival in history. Los Angeles 200th anniversary. The Angels' Flight Festival. 50,000 free kites to schools. Space for 1,000,000 celebrants. AKA is invited to fly as many kites as possible.

April 17, 1981. Unconfirmed. Greater Delaware 12th Annual Kite Festival, Cape Henlopen State Park. Lewes, Delaware.

April 18, 1981. (speculative date) Reading, Pennsylvania. Now in the "trying to get organized" stage of development. Persons interested in assisting or participating contact: Paul Rusnak, 300 N. 5th St., Reading, PA 19601.

April 19, 1981. Unconfirmed. Pacific Rim Kite Festival. Vanier Park, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

April 25, 1981. 15th Annual Maryland Kite Society Festival, Baltimore, Maryland.

May 2 to May 9, 1981. Possible dates of National Kite Week. If you want this to be a big thing, start thinking about it now.

May 3, 1981. (Almost confirmed) 2nd Annual Bucks County Kite Fly, at Core Creek Park, near Newtown, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Park and Recreation Dept., and spark-plugged by Olan and Bernice Turner. An important festival during National Kite Week.

May 9, 1981. Unconfirmed. 13th Annual Greater Boston Kite Festival.

May 30 and 31, 1981. Unconfirmed. 8th Annual Kite Fair, at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle.

May 30 and 31, 1981. Second Annual Pier 39 International Stunt Kite Flying and Kite Fighting Championship and Festival. Big cash prizes. Trophies. Awards for breaking Guinness kite records. Contact: Pier 39, P.O. Box 3730, San Francisco, CA 94119, USA. Phone (415) 981-8030.

May 31, 1981. Unconfirmed. Annual Medora Kite Festival. Medora, South Dakota, USA.

June 6, 1981. (Conjectural only) Second Annual International Exposition of Asymmetrical Kites. Burtonsville, Maryland, USA.

June 6, 1981. Unconfirmed. 3rd Annual Kite Competition at the University of Toronto, Canada.

June 6 and 7, 1981. (Conjecture only) Contest of the Kite Club of France.

June 13 and 14, 1981. (Conjecture only) 4th International Kite Festival at Scheveningen Beach, Holland. The 1980 festival featured several very difficult or "macho" type kite activities.

June 14, 1981. Unconfirmed. 5th Annual "Back To The Hills" kite fly. Cleveland, Ohio.

June 21, 1981. Father's Day Contest sponsored by Come Fly A Kite Store in San Francisco.

FESTIVAL PLANNERS: Kite fliers (and your Chamber of Commerce) will admire you if you will initiate publicity in this column many months before your happening. Send us a letter, hand-scribbled, or whatever, no later than July, for publication in the next issue, which will reach readers in September. Festivals can boost attendance by using early publicity. Three festival dates have already been confirmed for next year, 1981.

soar to the clouds — safely

By PAMELA A. NAZARUK Assistant Editor, PUBLIC POWER

IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE. More than 3,000 people were evacuated and 185 homes were destroyed by flames that engulfed the area so fast you could not escape even by running on foot. Luckily, lives were spared, although more than 20 firemen suffered injuries.

The red glow that could be seen for 25 miles will long be remembered by the 74,000 residents of the beautiful city of Santa Barbara, Cal., that the flames threatened.

Shortly after 7 p.m. that warm night in July 1977, fire had broken out in the hills of an affluent, unincorporated residential community overlooking Santa Barbara. Fanned by high winds, the flames swept down the Santa Ynez Mountains destroying anything in their path — homes, trees, land. The fire took an erratic course, destroying several homes, passing others and jumping to other streets.

"It was really unbelievable," one resident, who was thankful her house was not consumed by the blazes, told a NEW YORK TIMES reporter. "The fire made a big roar, and every so often a tree would explode and sparks would fly all over the place."

Assisted by several helicopters and four planes that dropped retardant materials, more than 1,000 firemen from Santa Barbara and other cities throughout southern California battled the blaze. The city council declared Santa Barbara in a state of emergency.

The fire was brought under control the next afternoon. It had threatened the downtown section of the city, coming within one-half mile from the center of town, when a sudden change in wind direction diverted the flames. But enough damage had already been done.

Even though the area was dry from the second year of drought, the inevitable question was still raised by fire officials: What caused the fire?

The answer was very simple — a kite.

The string from a box kite, being flown by a man in his 20s, became entangled in a high tension line, creating an electrical arc from a 16,000-volt line to a central, neutral line. Showers of sparks dropped to the ground, setting the brush on fire in a 20-knot wind.

Safety Rule Violated

This disastrous 1977 fire might not have happened if the kite flyer had been familiar with the first rule of the kite flyer's code — "I will fly kites in an open field, away from electric power wires or transmission towers."

This is just one of the seven ideals of the kite flyer's code that is part of *Kite Flight*, an American Public Power Association brochure available as a service to members, many of whom distribute thousands of the brochures in their communities.

With kite-flying "season" often extended beyond the traditional March-April period into summer and autumn, kite-flying has become increasingly popular as a recreational activity and sporting competition. *Kite Flight* has been used extensively by both APPA and its members to educate children and adults in the safety precautions needed by kite flyers.

Utility officials, faced with the problem of dispatching crews to remove entangled kites from power lines, find this booklet useful in encouraging an increasing number of kite-flying enthusiasts to follow safety rules.

Written by the late Gove Hambidge, a noted children's author, the story centers around a boy, his uncle and their kite-flying experiences. The history of kite flying, and the relationship between kites and the development of modern aerodynamics, are woven into the narrative.

Paul E. Graber, historian emeritus of the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, recently revised the booklet. It includes directions for building and flying several types of kites which Graber, a man in his 70s, personally tested.

Throughout its pages, *Kite Flight* points out the hazards of flying kites near electrical power lines. The booklet warns against attempting to retrieve a kite caught in a power line and urges the utility be called to recover the kite.

Use by APPA Members

Over the past 20 years of its existence, *Kite Flight* has been one of the most popular APPA publications. Many utilities use it to complement their public relations programs, while others simply distribute it to schools and young people's organizations.

Each March, APPA awards a trophy in the kite-flying contest held by the Smithsonian Institution on the Washington Monument mall in Washington, D.C. Garber organizes the one-day contest which is preceded by a kite construction workshop, lecture and slide show where APPA's brochures are distributed.

The municipal utility in Huntsville, Ala., conducts an annual campaign on

utility safety for elementary students. Packets of information including the history of the utility, the *Kite Flight* brochure and other safety-related material are distributed by the schools.

"It is the only thing that can relate dramatically to children of kite-flying age," Huntsville Public Information Officer Charles Higgins said of the APPA brochure.

Spurred by an accident in which a young boy was injured when his kite, which had a copper wire attached to it, became entangled in a 69,000-volt line, Cedar Falls (Iowa) Utilities began promoting kite safety more last year. Bob Cavin of the customer service department said the utility provides the *Kite Flight* brochures to third and fourth graders and it sponsors a competition for construction of the best kite. There is a kite-flying contest for two groups of children — third and fourth graders, and fifth and sixth graders.

In Braintree, Mass., the local utility makes the *Kite Flight* brochures available at town meetings and at the front desk where customers pay their utility bills. Teachers interested in electrical safety are urged to use the pamphlets in their classrooms.

So join the many others before, you and your neighborhood children — enjoy the sport of kite flying as it is known today. Adults can enjoy too.

Kite Flyer's Code

- I will fly kites in an open field, away from electric power wires or transmission towers.
- I will use perfectly dry string — never wire.
- I will not try to remove a kite if it catches in an electric power wire or on a high pole.
- I will not use any metal in making a kite.
- I will not fly kites on or near a public highway.
- I will never fly a kite in wet or stormy weather.
- I will have fun flying a kite, and be safe, too. ✨

For information on and orders for the APPA *Kite Flight* brochure, write W.E. (Trez) Lee, director of consumer and membership services, APPA, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

San Francisco...The Inside Story!

Hi Kitefliers!

I'm just back home from a trip I wanted to share with all of you. Lee and I just spent a kitefliers dream weekend as guests of PIER 39 in San Francisco where I was Honorary Chairman of the "PIER 39 First International Kite Festival". This lovely pier is San Francisco's newest addition to their shoreline.

Warren Simmons, the owner and mastermind behind this fabulous showcase, hosted the festival in conjunction with the "Big Brothers of the Bay Area". It was a two day event with a competition for amateur kite builders, and the international championships in stunt kite flying and fighter kites. Peter Powell of England and Nishibayashi of Japan were also guests of PIER 39.

The opening event, the Amateur Kite Contest, was held in the garden on Saturday morning, May 31st. Bright blue and white booths and brilliant flowers made the place cheerful in spite of sunless skies and cool weather. Fortunately, no rain fell, although the promised "westerly winds" were wafting in from the North, East and South. But spirits were high and the crowd enthusiastic. Here and there among the eclectic people of San Francisco we began to see familiar faces: George and Marion Ham, Gordon Teekel, Paul and Candy Walker, Neal Rose, Dan Prentiss, Steve and Cindy Edeiken, Vic Heredia, Lynn O'Connor, Frank Ambruster, and of course, Peter Powell and Nishi. For two days it was a grand reunion of California kitefliers, and we made many new friends, too, including Mike McFadden of Kitemakers, and his partner Jordan Colburn. Mike and Jordan were very kind and a great help on both days.

The judging for Most Colorful, Most Humorous and Most Unique Aerodynamic Design began at 11:00am. Vic Heredia, Steve Edeiken and Gordon Teekel joined me on the judges platform and Scott Beach did a great job at the mike. We examined the craftsmanship and design of all the attractive entrants and then walked out on the fishing pier to see them fly. Sean Brown of Sacramento won Most Colorful with a beautiful adaptation of a double Jamaican kite. His tissue paper cover showed a Jamaican seascape on sunburst of pink and red. Sean had also taken first prize at the Grass Valley, CA Kite Festival in May. He is new at kiting, these were his first two attempts: a formidable future contestant. Tim Paolos won Most Humorous with a Stormy Weathers Winged Victory kite. While the kite itself is not humorous, Tim, assisted by Pablo Diablo, made the flight a very amusing performance. Unique Aerodynamic Design was taken by Larry Nova who made and flew an orange and white - well, it was so unique we don't know a name for it! Congratulations to these champions and to the second place winners, Frany Meyers, Debra Thomas and John Devitt.

Vic Heredia then played a kite game with the children under eleven, flying a fighter kite just over their heads; catch it and win a prize! The kite dipped, darted, fell and shot straight up, flicked to the left and then to the right. The children followed, laughing and squealing with delight each time they almost touched it. Six or seven children were successful and received gifts from PIER 39. This was a new game to us and we would like to see this event at other festivals. Vic's skillful manipulation was very important to the success of the game. Vic was very generous over the two days of the festival, handing out over 25 kites to those who needed them from his manufacturing company, Vic's Fighter Kites. Kitemakers of PIER 39 also supplied a generous number of kites.

We broke for lunch, which we ate at the Eagle Café, a San Francisco landmark. The building housing this old restaurant and bar was moved from its original foundation to a new spot on the pier; it is an authentic café from the early 1900's.



**INTERNATIONAL STUNT KITE CHAMPION
STEVE EDEIKEN RECEIVES TROPHY
FROM WARREN SIMMONS**

The Cal Band called us back for the official opening ceremonies at 1:00pm and we got right into the Stunt Flying Competition, moving out onto the fishing pier for this event. The physical set-up called for all the skill the competitors had. They stood by the rail in front of the judges, a light post to the left, a marina of tall masted boats in front and a narrow channel of water below. Add to that a light, fitful breeze and you have some idea of conditions. Each of the five judges scored all 14 competitors on the same four compulsory figures. Cheered on by the ever growing crowd and the band, the stunters gave fine performances. Unfortunately, the sudden disappearance of the wind caused many to be disqualified when their kites hit the water. After keen competition, the three finalists were Peter Powell (176 points), Steve Edeiken (162 points), and Richard Christian (155). By now it was a little cooler, and less

breezy, but the fine competition had brought an edge of suspense to the air and no one was leaving. Peter Powell flew first, stopping once to let the tour boat dock. But in the middle of one of those breath-taking dives that Peter does so well, the wind died and the kites churned up the green bay; his score for the compulsories was 0. Peter recovered and did one minute of his usual spectacular show, scoring 43 out of a possible 50 points for free style. Steve Edeiken flew next and scored 126 out of a possible 200 in the compulsories and 39 free style for a total of 165 impressive points. The wind was still playing games when Richard Christian stepped up, but he flew well and earned 117 and 34 for a total of 151 points. THE PRIZES: Steve Edeiken won \$1,000, Richard Christian, \$500 and Peter Powell \$250.

The kitefliers met that evening for dinner on the pier, toasting Steve, the International Champion Stunt Kite Flyer, and the staff of PIER 39 for a job well done. Although we didn't know it at the time, the American Kite Fighting Champion (to be decided the next day) was sitting with us at the table!

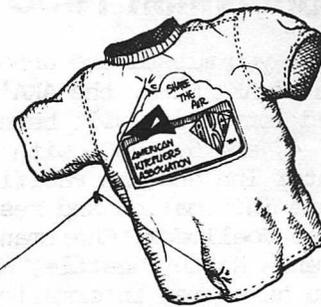
We were impressed by the international representation in the Kite Fighting Contest; there were fliers from Japan, Europe, Indonesia, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan as well as Americans from many states.

The series of fights took four and a half hours to resolve, but in spite of cold weather and winds increasing to 27mph, very few spectators left.

The goal of the contest was to narrow the field of 32 contestants down to one who would be the American Champion. He would then fight the winner of the Japanese-European contest for the International Championship. The four finalists were Gordon Teekel who fought Steve Gekko, and Randy Joe who fought Ash Lulla. In spite of the difficult weather and the physical set-up, the fighters fought aggressively, displaying great skill. Steve Gekko and Ash Lulla won, with Gordon and Randy matched for third place, which Gordon won. Steve and Ash fought three very exciting rounds, ending with Ash Lulla of Palm Springs the champion, with Steve Gekko in second place. First prize was \$1,000.

The International Contest followed, with Peter Powell pitted against Nishibayoshi. By now the wind was high and capricious, and as one contestant managed to get his kite up, the other would come down. After a while it became evident that it would not be a kite fight if the whistle blew, but a game of chance with the wind directing. Finally Warren Simmons and the judges deliberated and decided to put off the International Championship until 1981. The prize was divided between the U.S., European and Oriental Champions and they were invited to enter again next year. Warren and his fine staff even began to plan for 1981 the following Monday morning.

Lee and I were thrilled to have been a part of such an excellent competition. We thank PIER 39 for supporting and promoting kiting and wish them even more success in future meets.



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WINDY NOTES FROM K.O.N.

Did you know that the wind "veers" if it changes direction in a clockwise sense, and "backs" if it changes in an anticlockwise sense.

The windiest place in the world is the coast of Eastern Adelle Land and West King George Land on the edge of Antarctica. The highest 24 hour mean wind being 108mph.

The highest recorded gusts in Great Britain were at Cairngorms at 3525 feet with a wind speed of 144mph, and at Kirkwall, Orkney, with a wind speed of 136mph.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Due to the amount of material received for this issue, we were unable to include some items promised, and a number of contributions sent in. We will try to make up for this in our next issue. Meanwhile, our next copy deadline is 2 May; please continue to send us your news, views, treasured technical drawings, and photos.

AKA Convention 1980

In case you missed the announcement in the last issue of AKA NEWS, the AKA's 3rd Annual Meeting and convention will be held in Seattle on October 3, 4, and 5, 1980, with headquarters at the Edgewater Inn and the Pacific Science Center. For complete information and reservation form write to Joe Voellmeck, Chairman, AKA Convention, 200 2nd Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109.

If you asked for information and are wondering why you haven't received a reply, it has nothing to do with volcanic ash. As a matter of fact, Seattle was not affected at all by the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, and all highways in the State of Washington are now back to normal - so we're expecting you.

The reason we are late in responding to previous enquiries is that Dave Checkley and Bob McCort were in Japan the first half of May, and since then we've all been busy mounting our big Kite Fair exhibition at the Pacific Science Center. Thanks to the loan of kites from AKA members from all over the world, the show is a tremendous success. It will be up through July, with the original Gossamer Albatross on display from mid-June on.

Plans for the October meeting are now beginning to firm up. We are expecting a good group from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, and hope there will be enough Japanese to help us fly the big kite the Shirone group left with us last September.

It now looks as if our old friend Takeshi Nishibayashi from Tokyo will be here again in October. He was in Seattle briefly at the end of May for our Memorial Day kite festival, en route to San Francisco for the world's championship kite-fighting event on May 31 (see cover and "Inside Story"). Nishi will give a workshop at the AKA Meeting, and Don Kurahashi, our Northwest resident Japanese kite maker from Vancouver, will also demonstrate kitemaking.

We are working on a number of optional side trips, including visits to Ocean Shores on the Pacific Coast, Southwest of Seattle -- one of the best kiteflying areas in the state -- where the Edmonds Community College attempted a Guinness World Record a couple of years ago. We are also planning for trips to Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, where they fly more Flexifoils than anywhere else except England; and of course the mountaineering types will want to visit the Cascades and Olympics. By that time we may even be able to get you up close to Mt. St. Helens, if it hasn't all blown away by then!

Speaking of the Edmonds Community kite team its leader, Harry Osborne, advises me that they have been flying radio-controlled box kites and parafoils, and that they are building a 50' x 50' parafoil which will be demonstrated at the festival in October. They may have to enlarge it a little to beat the Shirone record!

We have also been informed that the Cody kite so famous for its appearances put on by Rick Kinnaid and Carolyn Staples, will indeed be taking to the wind once again at the convention, and will fly at 10:32am on each day.

Nominations: AKA President And 5 Board Members

At the 3rd Annual Meeting in October 1980 we will be electing members for the Board of Directors from Regions One through Five, in accordance with the AKA By-laws.

The elected Board Members will serve for three years (1981, 82 & 83). The following are the regions concerned, each of which shall be represented on the Board by one director.

- Region 1 New England - CT, NH, MA, RI, VT
- " 2 New York - NY
- " 3 Penn-Jersey - NJ, PA
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- " 5 South - AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN

Nomination for President may come from any Region.

The Nominating Committee will be pleased to receive the names of suggested candidates from AKA members. Directors must reside in the Region they represent. Send names and addresses to the member of the Nominating Cttee who lives nearest to you. Include a brief biographical description of your nominee. Committee members:

Robert L. Brickley, Box 1126, Dayton, OH 45401

Ted Manekin, 8 Charles Plaza, #1807, Baltimore, MD 21201

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Henry Szerlag, 5/20 Kite Group,
1961 Hunt Club Drive,
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Checks should be payable to 5/20 Kite Group.

Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter (K.O.N.)
c/o 94 Endsleigh Gdns., Ilford, Essex, IG1 3EG
England, has a patch available ONLY if you earn it -- by writing or contributing to KON. I believe Red Braswell is the only person in America to receive one so far, so how about more U.S. support for our friends across the Atlantic Ocean!

Call For Bids

A cloth signed by all who attended the 1979 convention is open to bids, the successful one to be announced at the 1980 convention in Seattle this October.

Sealed Bids mailed no later than 1 Sept. will be accepted and read at the convention. Members (only) can present sealed bids actually at the convention to Reggie Morris. Mailing address: c/o 5016 South 12th Street, Arlington VA 22204.

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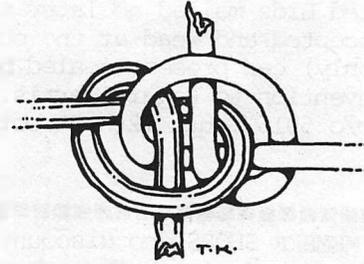
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KNOTS...

From the Washington Kitefliers Association April newsletter, a useful knot for mending broken nylon monofilament line, submitted by Carl Brewer, and invented by Dr. Edward Hunter, a retired British physician.



MONTHLY OR AUTOMATIC-NO-NOTICE FLIES:

Venice Pier Beach, Marina del Rey, California. Days of lesser magic, minifestivals, fourth Saturday of each month. Sponsored by Let's Fly A Kite.

The Kite Fliers of Eugene get together the last Sunday of (almost) every month, at 2PM at Amazon Park. Contact Mary Lou Seubert, Suite 111, 99 W. 10th, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

Fly with the Piney Mountain Air Force on even numbered Sundays. Contact Guy Aydlett, Box 125, Route 2, Ruckersville, Virginia 22968.

Deadline

*-FOR NEXT ISSUE IS 1ST AUGUST-
EARLY-SO I CAN TAKE MY HOLIDAYS.
THANKYOU- ED!*

Photo: Bill Kocher



Tim Kenney of Washington D.C. knows how to celebrate Flag Day--its hard to go wrong, at the Monument!

AKA NEWS

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