

The newsletter is back

After several months of being dormant, the San Diego Kite Club has finally put another issue to press. Our last issue on November-December 1991 came at a time of change. Many of you attending the December meeting recall that a number of positions within the Board of Director's had changed or were finally filled. The one position not entirely filled was the Newsletter Editor which is a very important position. We are still looking for that person or persons to take control of this but in the interim several overworked Board members have volunteered (were roped into) doing this issue. Thanks for your patience.

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We've moved !!

The San Diego Kite Club has officially moved its address for the convenience of board members. Many thanks to the Willan family for previously letting us use their home address.

The new address is:

San Diego Kite Club

P.O. Box 7977

San Diego, CA 92167

Phone no.: 619/222-9300

SKYLINES

The Official Newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Vol. III No. 1

1st Quarter 1992

Fighter Kite Championship held

SDKC and Freedom In Flight Co-sponsor 1st annual event

By Torri Cabie--"As your events coordinator, there's something I should tell you- I've never put on an event before."

This information didn't daunt your stalwart Board Of Directors. They said, "You'll be fine and we'll help." Well, they definitely helped, and everything seemed to go fine. I'm referring of course to the World Open Fighter Kite Challenge Championship, held on November 16th and 17th, 1991 at Mariner's Point on San Diego Bay.

What a learning experience- permits to be obtained, a sound system arranged, fields measured, T-shirts to get, etc., etc. It all got taken care of and we had two great days of fun and flying- there's was even some wind!

For those of us who'd never seen fighter kites in action it was a revelation. Not only is flying skill necessary, but also knowing when to make aggressive moves on you opponent's kite. The opportunity to watch the masters of the craft like Vic and Chris was an added bonus. Vic Heredia of Kite Country was the judge for the fighter kite competition and he also played Kite Santa by giving away many of his famous "Vic's Fighters".

James Hoggat is the man we have to thank for

conceiving the idea and instigating the whole affair. He was instrumental in putting much of the effort together, designing the T-shirts, setting up the banquet at the Salmon House, and getting a sound system.

Tony Hilliard kindly came to my rescue and picked up the system to deliver to the "All About Kites" truck, which the club then took over as a storage facility and delivery service. Jim Nettles not only helped make sure we had T-shirts, but lent us the truck he'd just bought. Watch out for that granny gear- its wicked!

Dan Willan stayed on top of permits, and generally kept me in touch with what I needed to be doing.

Ron Theriot and Eric Aalto made beautiful trophies for the lucky winners. Danny Anderson, and Larry (with the burgundy van) volunteered to be launch crews and safety directors. Jim also helped with many last minute snarls. Joanne M'Clary spent two days manning (or womanning) the club booth, handling registrations, selling T-shirts, and of course keeping Charlie in line.

Dan Willan, George "the lawyer", and Ron Despojado took turns announcing, while Kelly Flynn lent moral support.

John Perusse of Action kites donated the Fire Darts used in the Tail Grab Competition.

see "Championship" page 6

Letters...

SDKC's South African connection

It was really nice receiving your newsletter. I read it a few times. How are you and the rest of the people who made my visit to San Diego such fun? Please say "Hi" to Dave and Chip and Walter. I will always appreciate the time Dave spent with my son and myself teaching us to fly the Revolution. I have subsequently acquired 4 Revs and they really fly well as a stack. Tell Dennis that my kids spend most of their time flying the Swift. I have had to change the bridle once and the whisker holders once. The kite is being used.

On my return to S.A. I tried to organize a competition with some of the old guard flyers in S.A. They were not interested in competition and it was very disappointing to organize a meeting and find no one pitches.

I have made contact with a new generation of flyers in Johannesburg and just last week we organized our first ever Stunt Kite Competition in Johannesburg. There was about 20 people and it was very exciting to be part of it. The wind was not good but we finished the competition and had a great day.

I would appreciate it if you are able to find anything on judging and send it to me. I have the AKA rules as well as David Gomborg's book on Stunt Kite Flying.

If you know of any kite flyer visiting S.A., please give him my name and phone number and it would be my pleasure to help him in any way I can and fly kites with him.

Best regards,

Jeff Donde
P.O. Box 1136 Johannesburg 2000
South Africa Tel: JHB 884

Fighter Kite Weekend

Being a relatively new kite flyer and member, I wanted to express my appreciation and gratitude for one of the most enjoyable weekends I have ever experienced.

The Fighter Kite Championship was most entertaining and educational. I had never seen a fighter kite, let alone know how they operated or any history.

Upon getting your "SKYLINES" newsletter, talking about the Fighter Kite Championship commenced to gather all the information I could before the event so I could know what to expect. Those members that missed out on that weekend really missed a bit of history. I saw things done with a fighter with such expertise I was fascinated and spellbound and was anxious to have an opportunity to try it out myself. Thanks to the friends at the Kite Club I was offered an opportunity to get my feet wet and I was given some instructions and set loose to fly. It gave a new dimension to kiting and it is most enjoyable learning new techniques and a challenge to master.

It is great to belong to a club that is diversified and looks at kiting in the broad spectrum. I went to the Kite Club Dinner at the Salmon House on Saturday night and it was on of those evenings that I wanted to last forever. To visit with kite enthusiasts that have been around kiting festivals, built kites, and have entered competitions, really helped cap off a delightful weekend.

I hope the members that missed out on this event keep an eye on upcoming activities in the newsletter and take advantage of the comraderie that is offered in the San Diego Kite Club

Sincerely,

Larry Hill

San Diego Kite Club Board of Directors

Walt Thompson	President
Ron Despojado	Vice President
Joanne M'Clary	Secretary
Ron Despojado	Treasurer
Kelly Flynn	Membership
Torri Cable	Events
Charlie M'Clary	Archivist
Charles Brooks	Equipment
Jim O'Bryant	Board Member

"SKYLINES" is published bi-monthly by the San Diego Kite Club. Any submissions dealing with the sport of kiting is encouraged. The SDKC board reserves the right to edit all submissions. Unless specifically marked "Not for republication", all materials are offered to other kiting publications at no cost.

**San Diego
Kite Club**

**P.O. Box 7977
San Diego, CA
92167**

"Uh sir, about your pins..."

By Ron Despojado--If you have been following the saga of the SDKC cloisome pins you will last remember that they were expected to be in San Diego in time for the Freedom In Flight Fighter Kite Championship on November 16 & 17. Well, they weren't.

Are they at least in the U.S.??

I had called the manufacturer the day the pins were expected to verify that they had left their facility. My conversation with them ended with the whereabouts of the pins unknown. It was not known whether they even made it to the continental United States yet. The voice on the other end of the line sounded very embarrassed to tell me this. The weekend of the Freedom In Flight Championship was to have been a great opportunity for the Club for recover the investment almost immediately.

Invoice but no pins

On November 22 I received the invoice for the pins but not the pins themselves. The invoice stated that they were shipped UPS Blue Label two days earlier. UPS Blue is a guaranteed two day delivery. I called the pin manufacturer the next business day to find out what happened. After some checking on their end I was told that the wrong shipping address was put on the package. Peculiar how the invoice can make alright yet the merchandise did not. The next day I received a notice from UPS stating that they needed additional information for them to make the delivery. At least I knew they were in San Diego, I think. This notice also had the wrong address but somehow made it to me. On the notice it said that the package would be sent back to the sender if I do not respond within 7 days. This was sent two days prior to me receiving it. I called UPS and got a recording. I left a message as near as I thought they wanted to hear ("Please give the inventory control number, account number, time and date of your call, proper address, blood type, and

the whereabouts of the pins unknown

this cosmic consiracy

maternal grandmother's maiden name..."). Of course that was Thanksgiving week and another two days were lost. Well the moon and the sun along with the God of winds and any other supernatural power that was involved in this cosmic conspiracy must have had a conference and decided that the San Diego Kite Club had jumped through enough hoops to get the pins. They finally arrived on December 3rd.

Five Color Tails

For those of you who have not seen them yet, the pin looks like our logo only in color. One outstanding feature of them is the five color rainbow tails. This is a seven color pin which ain't cheap. The current price is \$5 each which isn't just a deal, its a steal. Our immediate plans call for us to send one to the AKA's publication for their Pin Review. Hopefully this will create some demand for them across the kiting community and maybe we'll see them on other kite fliers.

...isn't just a deal, its a steal.

Business etiquette

Throughout the course of these events I have never named the pin manufacturer. Right now we are negotiating an adjustment to our account. We feel we have a strong position in the matter. For one, I received both a fax and the invoice verifying the absolute due date. Also, we conceded to an increase in time an money when a switch in their manufacturing plants occurred. The increase was agreed upon with the understanding that we absolutely must have them the weekend of the Freedom In Flight Championship. Business etiquette dictates that you notify the other party when you cannot hold up your end of the agreement. Not only did they fail to deliver on time but they did not notify me when there was a problem.

All in all, it was quite a learning experience. However, all you need to know is that the pins are here and there's one with your name on it.

So, what's next...tee shirts?

Ron Despojado has been tracking down and trying to get club pins for the longest time.

Taste of competition

Part 1

This is part one of a two part series of Dan Willan's competition experiences

By Dan Willan--My first taste of competition was in 1989 during a tail grab competition put on by Action kite, I was talking to Ron Reich, he suggested to me. That I should try my hand at competition. I thought what the heck, I should give it a go. The day of the competition, I was nervous about the competition. Having never competed before, I had a herd of butterflies swarming in my stomach. As the competition started I saw people fall, who I thought would end up winning this event. As it worked out I ended up in the finals. I competed against a guy from Hawaii. We squared off and turned the match into a half hour battle. He approached me later to congratulate me. He asked me how long I had flown for. I told him, oh about 6 months. He had a smirk on his face and firmly shook my hand. "Keep with it, you fly real well" he said. The trophy sits on my make shift mantle proudly.

My second taste of competition was at the Newport Beach Kite Festival hosted by Kites Etc. I signed up for the Tail Grab contest. During the day I was asked to join in on a single line free for all. Oh what fun that was, six kites in the air, no rules, just who was last in the air. Well I didn't last too long, the old snag your line on you watch took me out of the free for

all. I had seen Victor tie his line, while he still fought with his kite. I tried it in the heat of battle. HAHA. The line tightened, the knot parted and my kite when on its merry way. I hate that when that happens. The rest of the day was filled with demonstrations and conversation. As the time for the competition approached, I was pulled to the side by Chip. Speaking under his breath, he asked me, "how to you do this tail grab stuff." I had just looked at the competition board and saw who I was up against, you guessed it, Chip. Well as any competitor knows, you don't give all your secrets away to the challengers. So I told him just enough to give me the upper hand. We had flown before in a team flight formation. We followed the leader for a couple of turns, then I got down to business. I moved on in the

...I saw the chance and took it

...I saw the chance and took it

competition toward the finals. I had a couple of competitors that gave me a couple of tough moments. The finals were between a young man and me. I sized up my competition, he had just waxed his last opponent. He picked the kite he just won with, it was the one I had also been winning with. The wind started to soften and slightly change direction. We started, he made a couple of turns, I countered his maneuvers. I got him in a bad spot, on the right side of the wind window. He was on the left side of the circle. The wind wasn't helping him, I saw my chance and took it. I circled to the left and came up below his kite and snagged his tail. Set and match. My cheering section was going wild as children would. Hugs around and we were on our way home with another trophy in hand. As I reflected on the butterflies that still hadn't left until half way home. I realized I am hooked on this competition stuff.

My next taste of competition was catered to by the San Diego Kite Clubs' fighter kite series. I was introduced to fighter kites at a seminar that Victor Heredia had put on earlier in the year. With only broke paper fighters to show for my effort. I was able to fly some what but they always ended up mysteriously impacting themselves on the nearest ground available. I competed against Don Kent for second place at the seminar. I

would later meet Don Kent on the field of battle. I attended several of the clubs' fighter kite series competitions. I was pretty successful at it, but when I thought I was getting too good. Victor Heredia would fight against me and I would go home without a point scored against him.

I am hooked on this competition stuff

My last taste of competition was about to be fulfilled. It was to at the World Open Fighter Kite Challenge Championship. This was my prescription for what I needed, that fix of adrenalin. As the weekend grew near, I was out practicing flying my fighters everyday. I had received a couple of calls from people about the competition during the week. One call that stood out was from David Tan from Fresno area. I had met him earlier in the year, it was at the Newport Kite festival. He had a knack about his kite flying that was different he flew his Grand Master with a spool. He was very

See "Taste" page 5

Taste

continued

good at flying this way. When I found out that I was going to be competitor I was set back for a second. I just remembered how well he flew. Gulp, did I mention that he had been flying since he was 6 years old with his childhood buddy Johnny in India? I had only been flying fighter for 1 year at the most. I thought to myself, "this should prove to be interesting."

The day of the competition arrived. As everyone was helping to set up and get organized. I started to meet some of the competitors. Some of them I had already met, some were for the first time. Those darn butterflies were back. I tried to calm myself by flying my kites. It always worked in the past, why not now. Well to add to the stress I was elected to be the announcer. Oh isn't that special. Now I get to compete and talk on a microphone too. Yes those butterflies were in a mating ritual by now.

My first battle was with Walter Thompson. He gave me a couple of close calls but fell in the first round. Next was the one I was waiting for, Don Kent. As we battled the score shifted back in forth. Then disaster struck, it always does that at the most inconvenient times. Yes, I broke my string. I caught it on something. It will always remain a mystery to me. I feverously tried to tie a knot. All that knot tying that I had done as a boy scout evaded me when I most needed it. I completed a knot and let it pass through my hand and pulled on the line to change direction. When it happened again. All of a sudden I felt the line part. I was left standing there with a limp piece of string in my hand and my kite turning out of control. There is nothing I could do about it, except to have one of those gut wrenching sinking feelings that takes over your entire body. Lucky for me it was the fun challenge contest. If it would have been the Challenge championship, I would be out for good.

Part 2 will be in the next "SKYLINES"...

New Year's Day Kite Fly

By Torri Cable--January 1, 1992 several club members saw in the new year on the field south of the Hilton. There was no wind by 1 P.M. but we cooked things to eat on Jim O'Bryant's grill, and visited back and forth - or as Virgil says, "swapped lies." John Rogers brought his lovely wife Rosie, and Jim's wife Paula drove out and helped keep my mom, Norma and I company. The M'Clary's were down, and Joanne had even made a big pot of black eyed peas- good luck food for New Years. Jim Nettles closed up shop and brought his graychecked parakeet out to harass Chuck and I. Ira and Shannon stopped by to say "hi" but didn't even take their kites out of the car. Ron Despojado introduced me to George, another aging hippie and O.B. might have another kite flier in residence. Dan brought his youngest, Nathaniel out to fly his pink Batman delta. As our beloved founder always says, "A fun time was had by all."

This column is for anyone's input - please feel free to send me anything you'd like to see included, or phone 226- I'd love to hear from you.

Miscellaneous happenings...

*...out to harass
Chuck and I*

California Open Cancelled

The 4th Annual California Open International Kite Competition will not be held this year. According to Ron Romero, of Rome Enterprises- the events' producer, the competition is being cancelled due to lack of a major sponsor.

Baja Kite Festival Set

San Diegan Joe Fisher heads a group that is organizing a kite festival to be held at the Rosarito Beach Hotel. Though still in the planning stages, the festival is intended to cater to the novice or entry level competitor. The SDKC will definatly be involved.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for details to follow.

The Tail Grab was one of the events at the Fighter Kite Championship

Many thanks to Chip Specht for the article

Duel in the sky--Tail Grab

By Chip Specht--At the Single Line Fighter Kite Competition we had a Tail Grab contest in which we were using 2 Z Darts that were contributed by John Perusse of Action Kites to compete with. (Thanks John, we appreciate your support!)

Light winds in San Diego

Seeing how that we can live and play in San Diego, the wind is often light, especially in the early morning and early evening hours. Unfortunately that's usually when these secondary types of competitions start i.e. tail grab, control challenge etc. and seeing how these tail grabs are at high risk of being damaged, so there's little chance that we will ever end up flying something like a Phantom with a price tag of well over \$200.

The Z Dart is actually a great little kite for this event if there is enough wind. It has a moderate price tag and can be very fast. It will turn on a dime and the kite seems to be very durable. Heaven knows we've never flown them head on, into each other.

Yeah, sure we haven't.

To play tail grab you need two identical kites with equal length lines. Each kite has equal length tails attached to them with velcro- just a little bit though. You want to be able to snag your opponent's tail with your kite. You might also want to attach a penny or a wiffle golf ball to the end of the tail to weigh the tail down in case of heavier wind conditions or to make it easier to get caught up in the attacking kite. The two opponents start off in a circle, we've been using a 50' garden hose put together. That will give you a 15' diameter in which you have to fly within. If you step out of the circle you're disqualified.

Get your opponent's before yours is gotten

The objective is to detach your opponent's kite tail before they detach yours. Sometimes a tail will fall off by itself, if that should happen, connect the tail back to the kite and start over

again. Sometimes when maneuvering the kites aggressively around each other

they get caught up in each other's harness or flight lines and they come tumbling down to the ground. The first kite to hit the ground is disqualified. This doesn't mean that when the pilot's first yank their kites up into the air and they flutter back down to the ground due to lack of wind. This isn't a disqualification, just a relaunch or a postponement until better wind conditions pick up. The best two of three wins.

Last time I went to All About Kites I noticed that they had tail grabbing tails already made up in packages with velcro and wiffle golf balls attached.

Its a fun and challenging game, try it sometime, I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

Championship

continued from page 1

The Killer Bees flew a terrific demonstration, and Dom Smith also brought "Extremes" from Top of the Line for the "Extreme Challenge."

Walt Thompson lent his shoulder when I especially needed one.

It seemed like just about everyone joined in for the Revolution "Mega-fly". I especially want to note what a wonderful group of people came out to the bay to participate, watch and just put their high fliers in the air.

To everyone mentioned, (and those I've forgotten to mention) you have my gratitude and thanks- I couldn't have done it without you.

Lunch in the park

By Diana Martin--Beginning in April at our general meetings on the third Saturday of the month, we will be serving a hotdog, bag of chips, and a can of soda for a donation of \$2.00. Our treasury is in need of funds to help with the cost of various activities. This will help to do this. Come out to support our club and bring your appetite with you.

Just think, if you don't pack your own lunch, you can bring another kite with you to fly!

Airplay: MEGAPEG

By Torri Cable--Ron Theriot and Eric Aalto wouldn't mind being thought of as the "Gordon and Smith" of kiting. They've put an excellent concept to work designing functional and attractive kiting accessories. They call their business Megapegs and produce neon plastic stakes, ultralight flight buttons, winders and a new item, pen stands. The UFBs (flight buttons) are a great alternative to straps or handles. The pen holders are in beautiful colors that really jazz up a desk - I know, since my desk now sports a green stand.

Championship trophies

Ron and Eric are very generous with their time and their products. They've helped fold newsletters- perhaps the one you're reading, and they've donated Megapeg products for club raffles, but their latest contribution was spectacular. They designed and produced the trophies for the World Fighter Kite Championship - clear plastic kites that seemed airborne made wonderful prizes for the lucky winners. When Dan Willan, our club founder saw a rough example that Eric had made, he asked if Megapegs would supply event trophies. They definitely exceeded our expectations.

attractive kiting accessories

Ron and Eric both work with plastic, Eric at Ridout, and Ron at Plastifab so they know how to handle acrylic. Eric does the cutting, routing, and milling - dangerous work since he does it by hand with a router bit. Ron says he does the finishing, and takes care of all the loose ends and business details.

How it all began

When asked how the idea for Megapegs came about, Ron replied "I'd fabricated some stakes for myself and I was flying at the Embarcadero.

I watched a guy with a new kite stake his lines with a screwdriver.

The wind blew his kite

...showed him how my stakes would have held his lines down firmly

off and almost into the water. After he rescued his kite I walked over and showed him how my stakes would have held his lines down firmly- he bought two! Ron was encouraged by several more sales on various kite fields and decided to take his products to "Kite Country" and show Vic Heredia. Ron feels that much of Megapegs' success is due to Vic's encouragement and support. Megapegs are now in shops around the country.

Kaleidoscope effect

Ron and Eric are interested in promoting not only their product, but also the sport of kite flying in Mexico. I find this especially commendable when they're trying to regroup after the theft of their tools nine months ago. As I was leaving, Ron and Eric gave me a great hint - hold one of their stakes up to the light and watch the colors' change. I tried it - it's a kaleidoscope effect. Thanks guys.

Top of the Line Seminar set

The San Diego Kite Club's scheduled general meeting on April 21 1992 will feature Top Of The Line kites. On the agenda will be demonstration by Team TOTL. In the past, this has been an excellent seminar, so all you members whom we haven't seen for a while should make it to this one.

SDKC will be providing lunch for a small donation, thanks to Diana Martin. This is the first time this will be tried so come out and support your club, have a nice lunch in the park, and learn more about Top Of The Line Kites.

Also scheduled is a raffle featuring a "Hummingborg" by Cyborg kites. This kite is only one of two made by Cyborg Kites.

Membership Drive

The first message on our new phone number (222-9300) was from a member who suggested we increase membership by inviting Congressman, since they are so good at "kiting" checks...or was it checking kites?

This month's featured members are Ron Theriot and Eric Aalto of Megapeg

Tips - Wind Window

Defining the Wind Window

To picture the Wind Window (fig. 1), imagine a globe (A) cut in half horizontally at the equator. Cut the top half of the globe (B) vertically at the North Pole. The top right hand 1/4 of this globe (C) represents the Wind Window. Throughout this Tip the wind is blowing from left to right.

When the pilot (X in fig.2) stands with the wind blowing squarely at his back, he will be facing into this quarter section of globe. The Wind Windows shift position relative to the wind direction. The pilot must be aware of this to know where the new center and edges of the wind window are located. The kite is thought of as travelling on the inside walls of this globe.

Pressure on the kite changes as you fly in different parts of the Wind Window. The speed of the kite and the kite's handling characteristics also change. In area #1 (fig 2), also called the "edge," the power is least (the best place for beginners to land, also an advanced control area). In area #5 the power, or pull, on the kite is much greater and demands that the flyer have quicker reflexes (beginners should not fly near the ground in this area).

The side view (fig. 3) shows the elevation angles. The ground is 0°, overhead is 90°. Please note that the angles are relative to the flyer.

We will be talking about flying in the Wind Window in almost every issue and we hope this Tip helps you understand what we mean. ••TOTL••

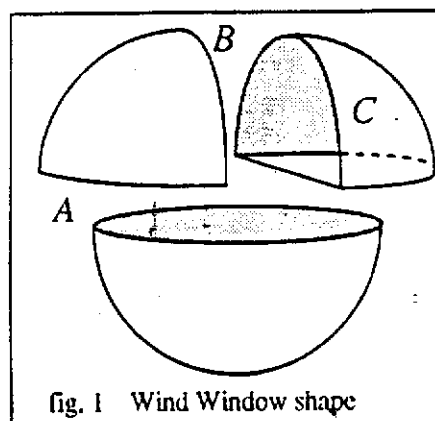


fig. 1 Wind Window shape

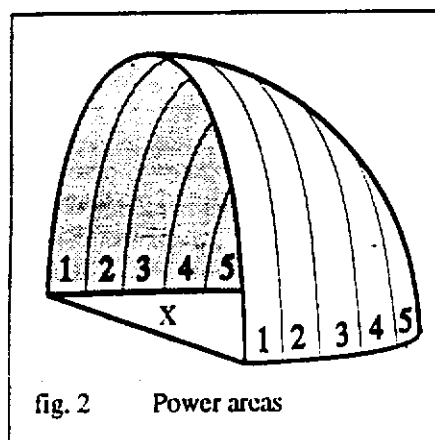
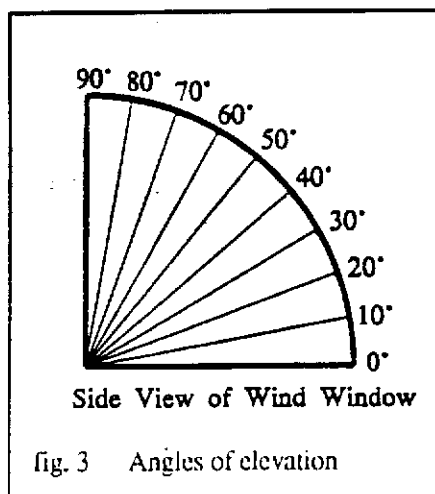


fig. 2 Power areas



Side View of Wind Window

fig. 3 Angles of elevation

The World Cup

The world cup competition invites the best flyers around the world to determine the best of the best. Each team must fly a precision and ballet routine. The total score is 30% from the precision and 70% from the ballet routines. This is the second year for this competition.

The best of the best

American Kite Magazine receives a great deal of help from many other groups and individuals, setting the stage for truly world class competition. The defending World Cup Championship Team, Top Of The Line Flight Squadron, received an automatic invitation to compete. Two additional teams from the U.S.A. qualified to compete for the cup by winning points during events held across the States. These events are managed by kite promoters, kite clubs, kite stores and so on. Needless to say anyone having anything to do with any kite event (please take a bow) had something to do with the 1991 World Cup. Without these events and the scoring they provide, the World Cup might not be a reality.

precision and ballet routine

Being on the flying field all day makes it difficult for all people involved to find shade and water. At the World Cup there was plenty of fruit juice to drink, sandwiches to eat and a tent for shade (WOW). S.T.A.C.K. was the group that put on this contest. For a crazy group of people they did a fantastic job. (Thank you, it was appreciated by everyone.)

Spiked shoes

The Saturday crowd was ready for some great flying, and they got it. Teams from around the world were scattered all over the place: flying, tuning and testing in preparation for that one-shot at the World Cup. The winds varied from 2 to 25 MPH. The clouds were dark and the rain was on and off, but light. Having the proper kite for the flying conditions, not to mention spiked shoes and rain coats, made a difference. Sportkites by Top of the Line

...party day in the sky

finished first and second. Team High Performance won first place and Top of the Line Flight Squadron took second.

Sunday was party day in the sky. Everything that had a string or two was in the air. The winds were light but the sun was warm, an unusually great day in Bristol.

Battling Rokkaku's

The Lord Mayor of Bristol flew a kite, while thousands of spectators spread their blankets for the picnic time. Teams from around the world flew demos all day. Single line flyers took out their best. Martin Lester had more legs in the sky than you could dance with. There was a four-round Rokkaku kite battle, a real crowd pleaser even if you didn't know what was happening.

Last, but wildest, was a dual line mega-fly (forty kites, look out). Everyone who had a sportkite tried to launch it at the same time (oh doctor). Then they tried to launch them in a sequence (the ground crew was setting them up, and running for cover). Soon pilots started to fly anytime they could (the ground crew was setting kites up as fast as they crashed around them—look out, heads up duck—then the ground crew went for drinks).

"Mega-mess", the line monster!

Another round, if you please

Meanwhile, unnoticed, but growing was "Mega-mess, the line monster." Conceived as a small tangle but steadily spreading as it consumed more line.. Soon the arms and legs of flyers were bound by this beast. The wily ground crew ordered another round, and cheered the beast on.

Making friends is what this sport is all about. Sunday in Bristol was a very good day.

This article reprinted from "Trade Tips" published by Top of the Line Sportkites, November 1991 issue

This article reprinted from "Kiting" published by the AKA, March 1992 issue.

Sport Kite Competition Rules — 1992 Update

Summary of Changes

The 1992 update to the *International Sport Kite Competition Rules* booklet includes changes to virtually every section in the rulebook. However, the 1992 Update is viewed largely as a "fine-tuning" effort. One significant change affects Ballet Pairs and Team competitors — these competitors will only be permitted to compete in one of these events at each meet. The Sport Kite Committees major objective in revising the rulebook was standardization. It is our belief that the detailed procedures and policies in this update will encourage and enable organizers and competitors to apply the rules in a consistent manner. While a review of the entire rulebook is recommended, the major changes are summarized below:

Table of Contents

All of the key information on each topic is now located in the same section. For instance, Section III focuses on Competitor information, Section IV on Penalties and Disqualifications and Section V on Judges Criteria and Scoring information.

How To Request Changes

This new section was added to provide sport kite enthusiasts around the world with a means to express their opinions and offer suggestions for future rule changes. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their ideas and suggestions. The Sport Kite Committee will first study and debate proposed changes, then obtain the AKA Executive Committee's approval before making any changes to the rulebook. In addition, future plans include the use of numbered memoranda to update the rules, until such time as a major reprint is necessary.

Competition Classes

Further definition of how teams and pairs are to be classified is included, and a new Competition Event section has been added.

Flying Fields

New minimum field size standards of 300 ft x 300 ft have been established. While some existing Event Coordinators may find it difficult to meet this standard for all competition fields, this standard was felt to be appropriate for both individual and pairs/team competitions (Event Coordinators

who need assistance/clarification with this standard should contact the Sport Kite Committee).

Contest Officials

Further definition of key officials' roles has been provided, including a distinction between the roles of Event Organizer, Chief Judge and Head Judge.

Wind Rules & Flying Conditions

Maximum and minimum wind speed rules are included in both U.S. and Metric measures. Wind checks have been formally defined. Greater control and decision-making have been vested in the Field Director. A wind anemometer must be used when the wind is inconsistent or marginal. In addition, wind rule delay procedures have been spelled out more clearly.

Heats & Flight Orders

Guidelines and standards have been added to assist Event Organizers running larger meets to determine when to use heats and how to determine who moves on to the finals.

Set-Up Times

This new section has been added to help minimize time delays and to assure that all competitors are handled fairly and consistently. Innovative competitors have been given five minutes set-up time.

Penalties & Disqualifications

All of the information on these two topics have been moved to this section. (Substantive changes have not been made; however, this section will undergo a comprehensive review during the current season, so that greater objectivity can be built in and consistency maintained).

Judging Criteria & Scoring

All of the information regarding an event is now in one place. Ballet contestants now have more flexibility in making last minute changes to their routine (provided they follow specific new procedures).

Ballet events will also use a new set of scoring components and weights. Specifically, the Music category was folded into the (new) Choreography category and the Degree of Difficulty category was dropped. The new categories are:

Execution	40% of total
Content	30% of total
Choreography	30% of total

New sample scorecards for judges and scorekeepers that reflect changes made are included and new individual precision maneuvers have been added. (The Precision events will also receive comprehensive review by the Sport Kite Committee during this season, with the intent of rejuvenating these events while retaining their value, especially to new sport kite competitors.)

The new rulebook is available now. To order call AKA Headquarters toll free 1-800-AKA-2550.

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Message to all members...

Many of you were wondering if there was ever going to be another newsletter. Well, this would answer your question. As stated on the front page, the Editor position was never quite filled.

Remember, the Editor is responsible for assembling and overseeing the newsletter, not for writing all the articles. There has been alot of activity since the last newsletter, if any of you attended any of the following events and would like to submit an article, it would be much appreciated:

Banshee Kites seminar
 Cyborg Kites seminar
 Randy Tom applique seminar
 Festival of Whales, Doheny Beach
 O.B. Kite Festival
 Revolution Kites Seminar

Or any article related to kiting.

Get involved with your club. You may think its hard work, but hard work is like running or any other type of physical work-out, it may feel tough, but when you've reach the end, it was worth it.

Lets hear from more of our members.

Thanks,

"EDITOR"

The Interim Newsletter Editor

ADVERTISING RATES

The San Diego Kite Club is now accepting ads for its newsletter "SKYLINES" due to increasing printing and mailing costs.

The following rates are now in effect per issue:

Quarter page (2.75"x4.5")	\$20
Half page (5.75"x4.5")	\$40
Full page (8.5"x11")	\$70
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*A final word
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