

Skylines

Volume 4 No.1

January - February 1994

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A special thanks to all of you who contributed to this month's issue of **Skylines**.

There is a lot of work that goes into writing the articles, and we thank you for giving so much to enjoyment to all of us.

There were two kite plans that were sent in but space would not permit printing them. Next issue we'll get at least one of them in the newsletter.

Editor

WHISPERS ON THE AIR

By the Prez

New Year's Day was great!! Mariners Point could be seen from afar! The sky was filled with beautiful and colorful kites. You the members made it all happen. The 3rd Annual New Years Day Pot Luck and Kite Happening was a great success. One hundred twenty club and family members attended. I would like to thank our local members and our usual bunch, that come down from LA and Riverside areas, for taking the time to spend New Years Day flying at the point. I would also like to thank Joanne Petithory, Lee Thrall, Bobby Stanfield and his wife, who were guests of the Lindsay's, for coming and sharing with us in our skies the beautiful kites they make and collect from other kite artists. Thanks also to Kevin Bayless and Tad Wakman from Wakless Kites for bringing their large parafoils and progressive stacks of stunt kites.

Thank you Linda Cole and Mike Peterson for joining us at the field. Welcome to SDKC and welcome to their new kite store, Reach for the Sky, in Encinitas. A special thanks to Donna and Dennis Cutler for the use of their motor home. Everyone's participation was great. Thank you all.

All the color in the sky attracted a lot of passers by. This was something we didn't expect. Estimated 400 to 500 people stopped by to see what was going on. They were both amazed and delighted. Hope some caught the bug!!!

The tail grab was the best so far. Thanks to Jim Nettles for the equipment and the kite for the first-place prize. Did Roger McComb do a great job or what? The tail grab made a lot of member's day when they got to fly against Ton Reich. Thanks to Ron for dropping by and check out Ron's new book called "Kite Precision".

The food....WOW!!! Everyone outdid themselves Lots and lots of wonderful goodies to eat and plenty to go around. The day was perfect and so were all who attended. It makes me very proud to be a member of the SDKC. I predict next year will be bigger and better.

February meeting will begin a control challenge. We will be using the clubs "cats timing system". We want to keep it simple for the first round so we will fly from left to right with a loop in the center. It will be up to the membership how hard to make the challenge or how far we go with it. See all you stunt pilots there!

The club still needs donations for the meeting day raffles. Anything you contribute is greatly appreciated. The board is trying to raise \$120.00 for a VCR for the Ocean Beach Rec Center. The center has allowed us to use the meeting room for the past 3 years at no charge. If you would like to contribute, you can give your donation to any board member or directly to Jim O'Bryant.

We need articles and kite plans for our newsletter. Please help! The club newsletter will only be as good as you members make it. Remember to support your local retailers!

Keep 'em flyin'
Fred

Messages from the Vice President

Kite Manners

On any given day, we have all been flying and someone we hardly know (if at all) will invade your flying space. Not that we are territorial, but this can cause several problems. Whether this comes from lack of knowledge or lack of courtesy does not lessen the possible results.

Most flyers have a considerable amount of money invested in their equipment. If kites and lines become tangled, the resulting collision and crash can cause damage to your kite sail or frame. Also, flying line does not come cheap. Just crossing lines can slice right through them.

Another major factor to consider is personal injuries. The speed and force with which the new kites fly is something to be respected. Invading another's flying space can put you or the other flier at risk of sustaining injury. Being struck by a flying kite or passing line can end a day of flying.

Don't get the wrong idea and think there are a lot of unfriendly people flying out there. Most fliers are more than willing to help and share their experience. You will find there is kind of an unspoken agreement among people that know each other well and are used to each others techniques. So you may often see people sharing each others flying space. At times they may even fly in tandem.

If you are unfamiliar with someone, choose your flying area with consideration. Just remember, if you don't know someone or their flying style, then they don't know yours. Remember to be courteous!!!

Reprinted from Kansas City Kite Club
newsletter, "Kite Tales".
Submitted by Jim O'Bryant.

January 1994

Dear San Diego Kite Club:

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude for the plaque presented to me at the November 1993 General Meeting. I am very flattered by the acknowledgment and hope to live up to the recognition that has been so unselfishly bestowed on me.

Sincerely,

Ron Despojado

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SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 19TH - ST PATRICK'S DAY POT LUCK

Our general meeting will also be our St. Patty's Day Pot Luck! Bring something green to fly. Bring a side dish or dessert that is green. You can do a lot with parsley and food coloring! Once again I would like to emphasize, Green not Green and fuzzy! We will have our usual hot dogs and polish sausage, but with no charge. Beverages will be available for our usual 50 cents. See you south of the Hilton on March 19th. We will eat approximately at noon.

APRIL 2ND-EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND FUN FLY!

Saturday at 10:00 at Mission Bay Park we will have a Pancake Breakfast! the cost will be \$4.00 a person. Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Hash Browns and Orange Juice will be the menu for the morning. This will also be a High Fly Day. Bring your best Easter High Flier and decorate the sky. I need to know how many to plan for, so I need to have the money and reservations by the March 19th meeting.

MAY 1ST-UNO DE MAYO (SUNDAY EVENT!!)

Well we are going to try an event on Sunday!! Uno De Mayo falls on Sunday so why not!! Yes it's our Mexican Pot Luck and Fun Fly. Bring a dish for all to share. The fiesta will begin at 11:00 south of the Hilton. Lets get together and celebrate having a great time flying our kites and eating some great Mexican food.

JUNE 4TH-DIANA'S (IT BETTER NOT DO THIS AGAIN TO ME) LUAU!

I'm not to clear on the place or the time, but we will try this one more time. The menu will be the same, Pit Roasted Pig, Chicken, Cole Slaw (preferably not floating) Hawaiian Rice, Fruit Salad, Bread and Butter and Peach Cobbler!! This price will be \$9.00 this year. I'm making final plans with the caterers and the park department so I will let you know the where and when at a later date. I will need all reservations and money by the May meeting. So jot this day on your calendar!!

That's All
Diana Moo Martin

NEW YEARS DAY TAIL GRAB COMPETITION

by Roger McComb

The came from as far away as La Rochelle, France to either compete or cheer. They knew the competition would be vicious and they were not disappointed.

It was about 2:00 in the afternoon when the group of 22 flyers gathered for the event of the year. It was to be called the "First Annual New Years Day Tail Grab Competition".

The competitors were psyched and awed because "he" was there. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, The 'master', Ron Reich, had returned to competition. Also, in the field of flyers was Jose Sainz.

After some hard fought battles and a couple of equipment failures, the field was narrowed down to six after two rounds of single elimination competition. The final six then went into a double elimination bracket set, a la Ron Reich.

After some more tough battles, it appeared that the final battle would be between Ron Reich and Don Johnson. But, then "it" happened. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Ron Reich has adopted a new philosophy...cheat. After consulting with the instant replay officials, it was determined that Ron Reich had actually lost to Chip Speck. The decision was made and Ron graciously acknowledged that Chip should be in the finals against Don Johnson. Since Don came in from the losers bracket, he would have to beat Chip twice to win the event.

Finally the flyers launched, made a few passes and then they both lost control and headed for the sand. Don Johnson's kite was the first to touch and this gave



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Chip the victory. "What did he win", you ask? The first place award was a black and raspberry twister, courtesy of Jim Nettles at "All About Kites".

I would like to thank all who competed and all who cheered. The turnout was more than I had anticipated. I would like to thank Ron Reich for joining in our "Reindeer Games" and being such a sport. And yes, we are making improvements to the tail grab kites. The next event will be lot faster and just as much fun.

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TOTL

Before the Kite Club
meeting.
Feb. 19th Sat.
8:00 to 1:00

1994 & SDKC: Off To A Great Start

1994 started out with a bang!!

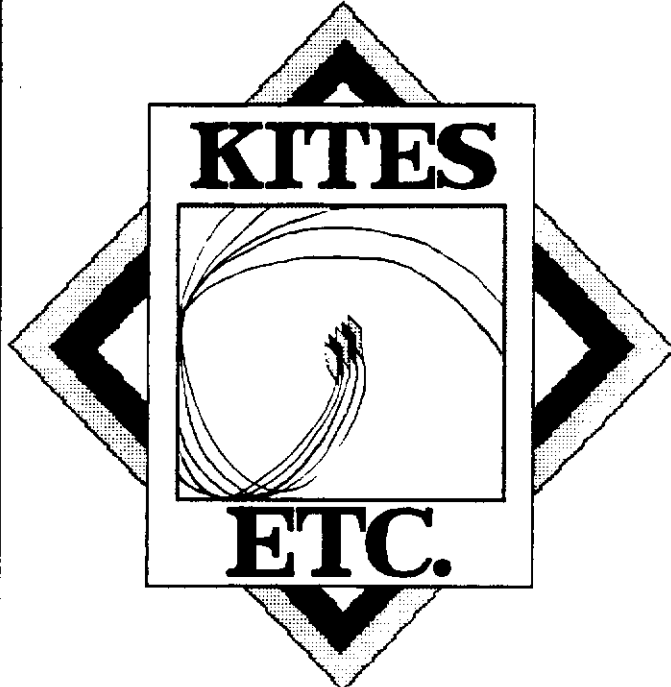
SDKC's first gathering of 1994 welcomed in the new year. This was our third annual New Year's Day Celebration. The site was Mariner's Point just off West Mission Bay Drive. Though there was a time when it looked as if we couldn't get formal permission to use the area, a negotiating team headed by Fred Martin, Walt Thompson, Mike Dennis, and Jim O'Bryant tactfully and diplomatically reached an agreement with the City of San Diego Parks Department.

Members, non-members, and guests alike started to show up around 10:00. Emilio Alvarado and family, who must have the longest motorhome in the state of California, was one of the earlier arrivals. The mid-morning sunshine and light breezes were a foreshadowing of the beautiful day ahead. Out of town guest Bobby Stansfield arrived to show some of his handiwork. Bobby was awarded AKA's 1993 Grand National Champion for his Interstellar Starfighter kite. Former world champion Ron Reich was there to test out a few new and prototype stunt kites.

Charlie M'Clary brought the latest version of his "Solution" 4 line kite, soon to be in production. Probably one of the most visible kites was Kevin Houghton's brand new 8 stack. "Rev Kev's" stack was an alternating blue/white and white/blue series of Rev I's, perhaps an homage to the beautiful sky filled with wispy white clouds. This was also the first opportunity many of us got to see Kevin and Darlene's new baby daughter Tiffany Marie born November 18.

Whoever is a shareholder in ripstop nylon would have been giddy. The field was quickly lined with banners and kites, providing a colorful setting for what was to be a perfect day for flying. That's right, I said perfect- the wind was impeccable; the camaraderie was delightful with no visible signs of hangovers; and the food was ...there! The edibles were more than enough to feed the masses. The buffet table was setup just outside the Culter family motorhome. It seems half of us started our New Year's diet by bringing all those nasty sweet things we wanted out of our reach in our houses. The other half of us broke our diets right then and there, or else we didn't get a chance to even start them. Okay, we'll start (or get back on) the diets tomorrow.

One of the day's events was a Tail Grab sponsored by All About Kites. The contestant field reached nearly two dozen. Roger McComb was the master of ceremonies and kept the event moving despite a few broken lines, a plethora of tangles, and a restart here and there. Some of the competition features were: Grace Scheltree advanced to the third round before being eliminated; Ron Reich brought out of competitive retirement to mix it up and making it to the "Final Four"; and Abe "Charlie Tuna" Fishman demanding a review on instant



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replay for a broken flightline. Sorry Abe. The unusual number of contestants forced a double elimination round for the final six. When all the sand had settled, the championship round featured Chip Specht and Don Johnston. After a few mid air collisions, and macrame' weaving Chip Specht was the survivor and was awarded a Twister kite, similar to the ones used in battle. Despite a friendly rivalry between the two, there were unconfirmed reports of ice skater Tonya Harding's bodyguard and ex-husband running around with a pair of scissors. (Read more about the Tail Grab in Roger McComb's article elsewhere in this issue.)

After the competition, newly formed "Team Ron" (Reich and Despojado) flew an impromptu pairs ballet. Some viewed Team Ron as a meeting of possibly the sport of stunt kites greatest dual line flyer together with a nationally ranked quadline flyer. Soon after the brief demo, the team decided to retire. Elsewhere John Rogers was dwarfed by his large (no- really??) spinning bowl. John's bowl and likeness made an appearance in one of the local community newspapers. Together with his other color front page photo of his giant "Walter the Kite Man" inflatable, John and his creations are obviously the most visible within and outside the club.

If this is any indication of what this year holds for arguably the BEST kite club in America, hold on for a wild ride in 1994! The event was an example of what our club can do when an orchestrated effort is put forth, starting with a meeting with the city, a Tail Grab, extra special guests, and a potluck featuring a feast of selections to please all appetites. It also didn't hurt that the weather was made to order. Perhaps the sole low point was that one member drove off and left his kite bag on the field. (Thanks Walter)

Ocean Beach Kite Festival

by Torri Cable

On the first Saturday in March for the past 46 years, one of the oldest kite festivals in the country is held in Ocean Beach, a seaside community of San Diego California. The local Kiwanis, the Ocean Beach Town Council, The Ocean Beach Recreation Center, and the San Diego Kite Club all help put on this gathering of children, making of kites, (repairing as necessary by various kite doctors) judging, and parading, of the fly by day air toys that result from this community effort.

The event starts about 10am at 4726 Santa Monica Ave with the kites being built inside the recreation center gym. Volunteers sit at tables and dispense the necessary items for kite making, as others help the aspiring pilots in assembling and painting. As everyone waits for the more deliberate artists to finalize their creations, the rest of the gathering is across the street in the Ocean Beach Elementary schoolyard flying, doctoring, untangling, oohing and ahing, and when all are ready, judging. Community leaders are tagged for the prestigious honor of judging age groups from 4 and 5 to pre-teens.

During all the above activity, the Kiwanis are serving hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks so that everyone has enough energy to make the three block walk down Newport Ave. to the sand at the edge of the Pacific Ocean. From the youngest kite maker/pilot to those of us with the high-tech ripstop models, we put our gorgeous wind toys in the air, and sometimes become part of the evening news.

If you're anywhere near Southern California around the first of March- come join us- you'll have a wonderful time, we promise.

Kite Clown

Hurry, Little boys and girls,
Be very quick and mind yours curls.
If you're good and never cry,
The jolly "Kite Clown" will stop by.
He'll make you laugh and dry your
tears,
and then he'll chase away your fears.
So be good and make life bright,
his words to the wise are....

"Go fly a kite"

Anonymous... thank goodness

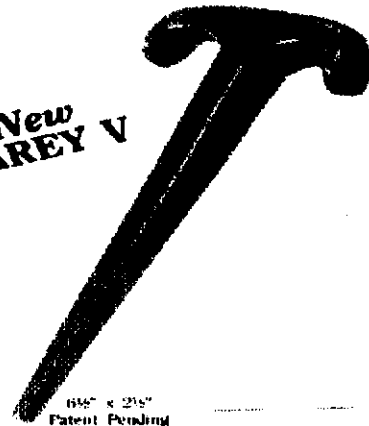
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A I R P L A Y

by Torri Cable

Interview with Slim Warnke

One of the reasons I like Uwe Jens "Slim" Warnke so much, is that he joined the AKA in August so he could endorse Virgil Dalton as a recipient for the Ediken Award. I'm sure that he would have joined anyway, but he particularly wanted to help confirm Virgil's chance at this prestigious honor. Keep in mind that Slim had only been flying kites since May of '93 and just 3 months later he was thoroughly inundated to the joys of flying.

I consider Slim, Virgil Dalton, and Harry French the Three Musketeers of South of the Hilton. They are all retired and spend several hours each weekday afternoon swapping puns, lies, and kiting advice. I've gotten lazy about setting up my own kites because they always let me fly theirs- and I think they're starting to grumble about it.

While Slim has been flying less than a year, he's made enormous progress from his beginning flight with a \$14.99 (plus tax) kite from Costco. He flew it for about a month, and then bought another one and built a train. He says, "Virgil and Harry made sure I had everything hooked up right so it would work." Next he bought a Trickster by Skynasaur, then was given a Razorwing, and by September had graduated to a Rev I. While his son from Michigan gave him his initial introduction to the fun of kite flying, Slim credits most of his Rev knowledge to his other son's friend, Ron Despojado. Yep, our good buddy Ron has worked with Kurt Warnke whose job in engineering at the Sheraton Harbor Island, has brought him in touch with Ron's architectural profession. Slim mastered quadline flying very quickly and he says, "I look at Ron as an instructor, and mentor. I couldn't have done it without him. I'd watch his hands, not the kite, which is very hard to do since he makes the kite look so good."

Slim will have been married to Virginia, (I love that- Virginia, Slim!) for 47 years on January 29th. They have 3 sons and one daughter. Slim says Virginia will agree that the reason they've been married so long is that he traveled so much.

Apparently he also traveled before they were married- at the expense of Uncle Sam. He saw Europe when he was young and single, and as he put it, "Where I could get free booze, food, and girls" In that order? He thought about what he'd said, and contemplated changing the above quote to, "Wine, women, and song." It might sound classier, but I bet the first phrasing is closest to the truth.

After the war he worked for RCA and repaired TVs. In 1951 he was hired to work for a year at Bendix Aviation Corporation in their research lab. Thirty years later in 1981 he left after working on the first 3 dimensional flight simulator for missile components. In laymen's terms, he worked on the first computer on the west coast, which is now in the Smithsonian Institute. Pretty impressive don't you think?

While he was at Bendix he learned to fly in 1958, and he says, "Before that I was one of those crazy guys who left a perfectly good airplane to walk back to where I'd started" Literally translated it means he was a paratrooper. He corrected that to a, "Triatrooper, since there were three of us." Get it??

"I look at Ron as an instructor, and mentor. I couldn't have done it without him. I'd watch his hands, not the kite, which is very hard to do since he makes the kite look so good."

After his "brief" stint at Bendix was over, Slim went to work with his son Bill at his security business. Now that he's completely retired from all of the above, it seems that Slim has become almost a full time kite flyer- rough job, but somebody's got to do it, right?

Along with a Flying Fish that he won in a club raffle, Slim has also been observed piloting a Rev II. No matter how many strings he has in the air, I'm amazed at how quickly he becomes proficient at all he puts his hands to.

Oh, and the lucky dog lives with the woman who makes some of the best barbecue beans I've ever eaten. Nice goin' Virginia, and take good care of her Slim.

Champs Day at Mission Bay

by Thumper's Mom

When Rocky Raccoon asked me, Thumper's Mom, to write about the SDKC meeting on January 15, 1994, I said sure, I'd be glad to do it. Little did I know what I was getting into. Of the 15 people honored, WOW! only 6 were at the presentation. Everyone else was in Lost Wages, I mean, Las Vegas at the trade fair. This meant confirming the name and number of awards received over the past year from the various competitions, only happened if you were 1. physically there, 2. I happened to have a magazine issue to look up, or 3. Rocky gave me a list with as much as he knew.

So here goes, starting with the desert visitors, and please forgive any omissions, mistakes, etc, (we will print retractions for \$\$\$.) (BIGGER \$\$\$ for additions!)

Winning in fighter kites were Johnny Hsuing, Derek Moran, and David Tan- sorry guys, I don't know where or when.

The stunt kite division gave us Gary Wood with 1st place in the Experienced Class Ballet at the Hawaiian Open and Berkeley.

Charlie M'Clary's name is listed, and I bet it has something to do with quadlines, but he'll have to clue us in when we see him.

Pam Kirk and Mike Dennis fly and build kites under the name "Heads Up" and they've placed first at UP Sport Competition in pairs ballet. I also find them listed with the top raw score in the AKA Western Conference listings up to April 20, 1993. Check out their business card- it's the tops of their heads!

Ron Reich was also feted for past achievements too numerous to list- I think I'd run out of ink. Rounding out this category is Ron Despojado with one 3rd place for Open Quadline Ballet (OQB) at the West Coast Stunt Kite Championship, two 2nd places, one for OQB at the Sportkite Championship in Manhattan Beach, and the AKA Grand National Logo Competition. (I didn't see him flying any dam logo!!!) He performed a demonstration at World Cup IV, was a finalist in OQB at the AKA Grand National Championship, Seaside, Oregon. And he was first in OQB at both the L.A. Sportkite Classic, El Segundo, and the Golden Gate Challenge in San Francisco

In single line awards there are so many to list that I hope you remember them all- there will be a test, OK, just a quiz. Charlie M'Clary heads things off, but again, check with him for clues.

John Rogers garnered a 2nd place in Sky Junk, and 2 firsts, one for Figure and Novelty, and one for

Delta Kites, all at Long Beach, Washington. He also claimed the People's Choice at the Festival of Whales. Doreen Imbach took 2nd place in Figure and Novelty, and People's Choice, both at Long Beach, Washington.

Jose Sainz starts an impressive list with 3 third place awards, Stunt and Multi Line, AKA, Grand Nationals, Seaside, Oregon, Rokkaku, Berkeley, and Kite Design at the International Festival in India. He has two 2nd places, Flat and Bowed, AKA, Seaside, and Rokkaku at AKA Grand Nationals Lubbock, Texas. Four 1st place awards include Rokkaku and Co-op, AKA, Seaside, and Multi, as well as Flat and Bowed from AKA, Lubbock. Then we wind up with the Grand National and People's Choice from Lubbock. Oh, that's right, this is the man with too much time on his hands.

Gayle Lindsay has a third place in Rokkaku from the AKA Grand Nationals in Seaside, Oregon, a second place in Flat and Bowed from Long Beach, Washington, and 3 first place awards, Multi-line and Prettiest Kite from Long Beach, Washington, as well as 1st place Stunt Kite from Redwood Coast Kite Championships. She was also the Grand Champion from Redwood.

Since Randy Tom was playing desert rat we don't have the complete list for him- but what we do have ranks him as one of the most honored and awarded in the kite world. Just from the AKA in Seaside, Oregon he was given Most Innovative for his Batman Kite- remember when the head fell off during a prototype flight? He took first for Flat and Bowed, third for Figure or Novelty, was one of the artists who helped create a Seven Sisters Kite which was auctioned off for the incredible amount of \$3100. To top off the Seaside achievements he won People's Choice with "Tatoo," his wickedly beautiful Edo. And that's just the stuff I remember because I was there- we'll have to have a follow-up on Randy, Charlie, Johnny Hsuing, Derek Moran, and David Tan.

There is one more award that needs mentioning- the well deserved Dom Jalbert Award for Innovation to the brothers Hadzicki for their revolutionary quadline kite. Jim, Joe, and Dave deserve our heartfelt thanks for providing thousands of us with a new twist in kiting.

Thank you to all of the above- you make San Diego look good. One mustn't brag, well too much anyway, but what a wonderfully eclectic group of people we SDKCians have become. I believe San Diego does kiting proud.

Calendar of Events

February

9 Board of Directors Meeting, 7:p.m., Ocean Beach Rec. Center, Santa Monica Blvd., Ocean Beach.
Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789-

19 Monthly General Meeting, South of the Hilton, 1:00p.m.

March

4-6 Hawaii Challenge Sport Kite Championships. Queen Kapiolani Park, Honolulu, HI. Contact: Robert
Loera, 808-922-

4-6 Fort Warden Kitemakers Conference. Ft. Warden State Park, Port Townsend, WA. Contact: Bob
Alford, 206-888-

5&6 Dana Point Festival of Whales Kite Fly
To be held at Doheny State Beach, Dana Point. Contact Steve Kent at Kites, Etc. 714-673-0450

5 Ocean Beach Kite Festival, Ocean Beach Elementary School, Santa Monica Blvd., Ocean Beach.
Contact: Fred Martin, 738-

5 Las Vegas Kite Karnival, 22nd Annual. Freedom Park, Las Vegas. Contact: Tona Taylor 702-229-

9 Board of Directors Meeting, 7:p.m., Ocean Beach Rec. Center, Santa Monica Blvd., Ocean Beach.
Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789-

12-13 Oahu Kite Festival, 28th Annual. Queen Kapiolani Park, Honolulu, HI. Contact: Robert Loera, 808-
922-

19 St. Patrick's Day Fun Fly and Pot Luck. Monthly General Meeting and our first Great Kite Pin
Auction will also take place. Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789- or Diana Martin, 738-

*** Santa Barbara Kite Festival, 12th Annual. Festival date not known as of this printing. Contact: Jim
O'Bryant, 789- for exact date.

April

2 Easter Fun Fly and Pancake Breakfast. Let's fill the San Diego sky with single line kites!!! Contact:
Diana Martin, 738-

13 Board of Directors Meeting, 7:p.m., Ocean Beach Rec. Center, Santa Monica Blvd., Ocean Beach.
Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789-

16 Quartz Hill Kite Festival, Quartz Hill High School, Lancaster, CA. 10a.m. to 6p.m. Contact: Kite
Ranch, 805-943-6860.

16 Monthly General Meeting, South of the Hilton, on East Mission Bay Drive.1:00p.m. Contact: Fred
Martin, 738-

May

1 Uno de Mayo Fun Fly. (Sunday) Contact: Diana Martin, 738-

11 Board of Directors Meeting, 7:p.m., Ocean Beach Rec. Center, Santa Monica Blvd., Ocean Beach.
Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789-

16 Monthly General Meeting, South of the Hilton, on East Mission Bay Drive.1:00p.m. Contact: Fred
Martin, 738-

June

4 S.D.K.C 2nd Annual Luau. (Rain coats optional!!!) Location of this event not determined as of this
printing. Contact: Diana Martin, 738-

IT'S ABOUT TIME!!!

By Linda Cole

This is an open letter to all the "Friends of Kiting". This is also an open invitation to ACTION on behalf of our favorite sport/ hobby.

Let me also make it clear that this too is a WARNING! If we do not address some of our problems as an industry...we may find ourselves searching desperately for a product that no longer exists in the profusion that we have become accustomed to these last few years.

Has anybody noticed that many of the small kite manufacturers that brought us much of the innovation that spurred American sport kiting to recent heights, no longer exist? Have you noticed that many of those innovations have been purchased by the large mass production companies while the "garage kitemaker" has faded back into the "I have to make a living and can't do it in kiting" world?

Have you tried to buy a bid parafoil lately? If you are a parafoil flyer, you will have noticed that Doug Hagaman and Skip Parks, both makers of top-drawer parafoils, are conspicuous by their absence.

Sure, if you want a huge parafoil, you can, indeed, still buy one but for really unreasonable amounts of money. And, you can also "take a number"! Those one or two large parafoil makers that still do custom work, do it when they get the time and for whatever amount of money the traffic will bear. Believe me, when you are the only game in town... the traffic will bear a lot!

The problem here is that this is going on, not only in the area addressed but, in very nearly all areas. There are fewer and fewer suppliers out there and until this year, they were basically holding the market captive.

Last year and even more this year, the message has gone out to the manufacturers that the "entry level" sport/stunt kite must come to terms with the national economy. In addition to addressing themselves to price, several manufacturers made that quantum leap and addressed the issue of durability along with price. YEAH TEAM!!!

We now have several kites on the market...NEW COLORS, NEW SEW PATTERNS, EXCELLENT FLIGHT CHARACTERISTICS, WIDE WIND RANGES... durable and affordable to boot.

If the kiting world is to grow and flourish, we need more of the same. Anyone can make expensive changes and, in the past, so they did! Each season the fabric, sparring, sew patterns, stand-off arrangements and new colors translated into the same \$50.00 more

for the self-same, fragile hi-tech, elitist showpieces that showed up at each and every event across the country.

Those fliers who were not involved in competition and flew the parks, the beaches and the athletic fields of America were forced to tell awe-inspired spectators who inquired that the kite was fun, exciting, challenging, relaxing and worst of all... Expensive. So now we know where all the potential new fliers, i.e. customers went. They went away! They had other EXPENSIVE things to tend to...like housing, transportation, medical care, etc.

Now is the time to reacquaint the general public with our sport! Now we can say..."Oh this, this is a stunt kite and it is fun, exciting, durable, and costs less than roller blades, a bowling ball, a snow board or a day on the golf course. In order for our manufacturers to stay in business, WE, the current kitefliers, must create passion in others for our hobby. If we don't do this, the manufacturers will not stay in business. They can only sell just so many kites to each of us and then the market is saturated. Needless to say, the retailers have been feeling the pinch of this reality for a year or two already. No one can change this scenario....except us.

This last year the manufacturers have addressed their end of the problem and given us a product at the entry level that allows the newly-inspired to buy and fly! It is now our turn to promote the product and stop bragging like egocentric elitist about our mega-expensive kites. When asked about what you are flying, fixate on "kite"...not brand name, hi-tech psycho-babble. Explain "How to fly", delta's, diamonds, where the local kite shops are, where the local kite club is, and that "there is a kite for each and every flyer and price range!

Every grinning kite flyer on each and every kite field, all across America has had the experience of influencing another potential enthusiast. That can mean a whole new revitalization of our sport if we learn...as a whole, to emphasize every aspect of this sport and not to concentrate on the fact that we are so, so cool to have price toys.

The next time someone says to you, "WOW!, that's cool! What does something like that cost and is it hard to learn"? Try saying, "It is cool, isn't it? "You would be surprised how easy it is to learn and you can buy a stunt kite, lines, handles, winder, kite, tote bag...ready to fly, for less than the cost of a bowling ball." More flyers, more Kite Club members, more buyers for our sport to cater to and more new and innovative products from manufacturers for all of us.

San Diego MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

KITE CLUB
 New Membership
 Renewal
 Change of Address

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(h) _____ (w) _____

Other family members _____
SDKC USE ONLY MEMBERSHIP NO. PAID: RENEWAL DATE

Membership dues:

Per Household:	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter 3rd class mail	\$15.00	\$29.00	\$43.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter 1st class mail	\$23.00	\$45.00	\$67.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Overseas Air	\$30.00	\$59.00	\$88.00

Enclosed:

 (U.S FUNDS ONLY PLEASE)

Send application and payment to:

SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB
 P.O. BOX 7977
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92167 USA

PH: (619)222-9300

ADVERTISING RATES

The San Diego Kite Club is accepting ads for its newsletter "SKYLINES" to offset the cost of printing and mailing.

The following rates are now in effect per issue:

Quarter Page (4" X 4.5")	\$20
Half Page (7.5 X 4.5)	\$40
Full Page (7.5 X 10")	\$70
Half Back Cover	\$60
Full Sheet Insert	\$75

Interested parties should contact:

San Diego Kite Club

P.O. Box 7977

San Diego, Ca 92167

or call Roger McComb at 619-492-_____ for additional information and submission dates.

Advertisers should have camera-ready art for submission. Inquiries welcome for multi-issue rates.

.....HOT LINE NUMBERS.....

SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB
619-222-9300

AKA Automated Information
408-SEE-4-AKA
 or
408-733-4252

Don't forget the First Annual Kite Pin Auction to be held on St. Patrick's Day March 19. Come join the kitefly and pot luck!!

See the Calendar for details

Is your SDKC T-Shirt full of holes? Does it not quite fit any more? Or do you not even own one?

If so, it's time for a new one!
 Call Larry Morgan 575-_____
 Fred Martin 738-_____
 Jim Nettles 224-_____

They can get you a new T-shirt to help you liven up your wardrobe!!

Show off your club!!!

**HE WHO DIES WITH THE MOST KITES....STILL DIES!
BUT UNTIL THAT TIME YOU CAN GET ALL THE KITES YOU WANT
AT...**

ALL ABOUT KITES

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