

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Vol. V No. 2

March- April 1994

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The 46th Annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival

by Torri Cable

It didn't rain on our parade this time, and there wasn't much wind, but at the Kiwanis and OB Rec Center sponsored 46th Annual Kite Festival, "We had fun!" That's what everyone from the San Diego Kite Club, the people driving the antique cars, and the folks from the Ocean Beach Town Council kept saying. I sort of had the impression that several hundred children also had a pretty good time.

It all started several weeks ago when our own Virgil Dalton, was asked by Marian Miller of the Kiwanis, to teach kids from Ocean Beach Elementary how to build kites. After about 600 kids got lessons in kite building, John Rogers, and we do claim him too, gave them a flying demonstration on the Friday before "The Big Day." Now John doesn't mess around, and when he builds a kite, well it's just plain huge. You might have seen his Walter the Kite flying on the day of the festival- it was pretty hard to miss. So we have kids who know how to build and how to fly- everything should be perfect, right?

Factory recall on defective models

Not quite- we forgot to tell some of the longtime town council members that the design of the kites had been changed- some thought that all the sled kites had been made with a piece missing. There was almost pandemonium when a frantic member thought that all the kites needed repairing before they could be judged.

Speaking of judging- it was done by esteemed members of the club. Walt Thompson, Kevin Cooper, (is he a new dad yet?) Slim and Virginia

Warnke, Julia and Rosie Rogers, Roger McComb, Jim Nettles and Ruth, Harry French, and Connie and Larry Morgan, did the honors. Ron Despojado, Lynn and Mike Winnen, were also slated to judge, but got hung up in the rec center helping the last of the children put their kites together. Thanks for all the last minute rearranging you accomplished guys. The criteria for the kites was "largest" "smallest" "most unique" and "best decorated." Bill from the Kiwanis was giving our members their instructions when someone announced over the microphone that the kids should gather right where we were! It was pretty scary looking over my shoulder and seeing a crowd of mini humans rushing towards us.

I'm afraid I deserted my post and headed for the kite hospital where Mike Dennis was operating on plastic patients.

Mike Dennis was operating on plastic patients

He was assisted by some of the town council members, and also some of the birds from the Hookbill Hobbyists. Just kidding about the birds, although the blue and gold macaw did seem pretty interested in helping to distribute the kite tails.

While all the making, practice flying, nursing and judging was going on, the nice people from the Kiwanis were handing out hot dogs, punch and pop corn. FREE FOOD, YEA!

See "46th O.B. Kite" page 4

94-6
95-7
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"SKYLINES" is published bi-monthly by the San Diego Kite Club. All articles related to the sport of kiting are encouraged.

All opinions expressed are solely those of the individual author and not necessarily those of the San Diego Kite Club.

Unless specifically marked "Not for republication" all submissions are available to other kiting publications without compensation. The "SKYLINES" staff reserves the right to edit all material.

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Whispers on the air

GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ!

Hats off and a big thanks to John Rogers, Virgil Dalton and Torri Cable for making the annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival the best so far.

March is breezing by. Spring is here. It makes you want to get out and fly kites. Festivals are going on around Southern California. I strongly urge you to attend at least one. Check out our calendar.

"Kite Fest '94" will be taking place in Huntington Beach at the pier on Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24. If you are interested please contact Dave Shenkman at the Kite Connection (714)536-7777.

"Celebrate the Bay" is going to happen. The festival will take place June 4th and 5th, '94, Saturday and Sunday. The celebration will cover all the different activities that happen at Mission Bay during the year at different locations throughout the park.

Thunderboats Unlimited in Enchanted Cove, women's pro beach volleyball tour on Mariners Point, Mission Bay Ski Club in Hidden Anchorage, OMBAC "Over the Line" on Fiesta Island, Budweiser Jetski Tour on Ski Beach, Mission Bay Yacht Club in Sail Bay, Argonits Assoc of San Diego Scale Remote Control Boats at the yacht basin, Holiday Bowl at Crown Point, Hawaiian Tropic Bikini contest, American Cancer Society

"Climb the Mountain Walk" starting at De Anza Cove, Holiday Bowl Hole in One Golf at Crown Point, Kai Elua Outrigger Iron Man Race on Mission Bay and a kite festival at Tecolote Shores will be the schedule of activities during the two day event.

The promoters for the event, Sunshine Productions, are hoping to have enough success this year to keep the festival as an annual event for the next 4 or 5 years.

SDKC has the use of the entire Tecolote Shore area, from the Fiesta Island drive to the south, all the way down to the Hilton Hotel on the north.

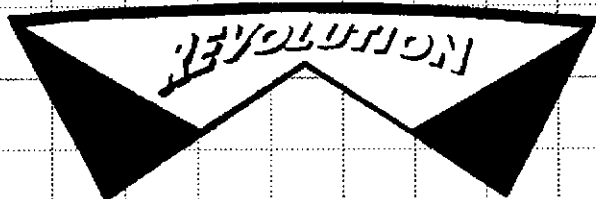
We want both days to be at least as successful as New Years Day. As you all remember on New Years day when most people were home nursing a hangover and watching football, we attracted 400 or 500 passersby. During the "Celebrate the Bay" festival we have the possibility of doing much, much better than that. More news and details coming soon.

Election time will be coming up sooner than you think. The SDKC is accepting nominations for all positions. We would like to see some new faces.

Till next time, keep 'em flying

Fred

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Miscellaneous happenings

Kite Flyers Are Happy Campers

The San Diego Kite Club is planning an out of town camping trip in May. Don Johnston is spearheading the event and will be fielding all calls and inquiries. This is the first time this has been suggested so if you're interested call Don at 619/583-9251 for all the details. He will need your input by April 30th in order to make the campsite reservations. The event is tentatively scheduled for the second weekend in May.

Hey, Pinheads, Listen Up!!

We meant that in a nice way.

The San Diego Kite Club announces the arrival of their new pins. This edition features a black rokkaku with the SDKC logo on it. See one of the club officers for their availability. The cost is \$5.00. Such a deal!

"And the winner is..."

Club elections are coming up in July. This year we will try and have a written ballot distributed before the elections. The reason for this is so members will not have to be in attendance at the July meeting in order to vote. **The July meeting will be on the 4th saturday of the month (the 23rd)** in conjunction with the Ocean beach Family Days at Dusty Rhodes Park. Details have yet to be worked out, but info will be available soon.

Pancakes, Frijoles, and Kites...??

By the time you read this the pancake breakfast on April 2nd, at 10am will be over. I hope many people attended and a good time was had by all. This is just a reminder from your friendly activities director just in case this comes out before the event.

May 1, 11am at Mission Bay Park. Our 2nd Uno De Mayo Pot Luck and Kite Fly!! Last year we really had great flying, great food and just a great day. So let's do it again!! Bring a dish for all to share. Plastic plates, forks and so on will be provided by the club. Please bring your own beverages. Let's enjoy our favorite passtime, friends, food and flying, along with celebrating the holiday of our neighbors to the south.--Diana Martin

Do you have a small news article that we should know about? Please send it to us for the upcoming newsletter.

46th O.B. Kite: Rumbling down Newport Ave.

continued from page 1

The above fun stuff was capped off by a parade organized by Beacon writer Melanie Nickels. Aah yes, the parade. Ever had a chance to sit in a rumble seat? It gives you a different view of Newport Avenue, and well, a different attitude towards life in general. I rode with Virgil Dalton in a '32 Ford. We smiled and developed an SDKC version of the "royal wave." The parade was over way too soon, but at the beach we got to see all those hand made kites flying proudly over the Pacific.

John Rogers immediately got his kite in the air and then was put on the air- the media air, that is. Actually he was taped, and then aired, but not out to dry.

Speaking of media, many of our members made the front page of the Beacon- the local weekly newspaper. The banners really showed up well and several familiar faces were recognizable.

We received appreciative thanks from the OBTC, the Kiwanis, and the OB rec center- and my heartfelt thanks to those of you who helped in any way.

*A first timer's observation by
Slim & Virginia Warnke*

Ocean Beach Kite Festival

Were you there? If you weren't, you missed a great day. The weather was cool, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the kids. they really looked like they were having a great time. The "Rec" center was like a big production line, after picking up their kite making material, they decorated them with magic markers. What imaginations! Everything from scribbles from the toddlers, to the very complex designs from the older kids; after having the sticks, string and tails put on, it was across the street to see if they would fly.

The Kiwanis club had hotdogs, popcorn and drinks for everybody. It was great to see so many members of the Kite Club there to judge the kites.

Here comes the judge(s)

The judging was broken down by school grades, Virginia had the Junior and Senior Class grouping and I chose the Kindergarteners. There were four categories of judging consisting of the Largest, Smallest, Best Decorated and Most Unusual Kite. In the class I was judging it was most difficult to pick out the smallest kite because most kites were the same size. I wish we could have given awards to everyone.

After the judging it was over to Newport Avenue to line up for the Parade down to the beach, Virginia and Harry carried the AKA and SDKC Banners, Ron and I carried our Revs, John Rogers had Walter the Kiteman while many other club members marched (plodded?) and carried kites down to the beach. When we arrived the wind was blowing parallel to the beach and was good and steady. John put up Walter the Kiteman, Larry put up a big kite and Roger put up a loaner. It was great to see so many home-built kites in the sky at one time. Ron was having a great time teasing kids on the beach with his Rev. The kids finally got tired and Ron started flying over the water until his kite caught the water and Ron couldn't fly it out. On that note we ended our day. Will we do it again? YOU BET!



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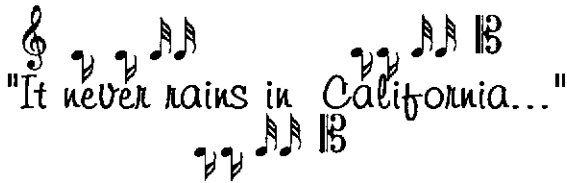
KITE COUNTRY

566 Horton Plaza
(Top level opposite UA Theater)

San Diego, CA 92101
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SDKC Salutes Ron Reich & Flight Squadron

San Diego Kite Club's March Meeting



So goes a vintage 1960's song. Well, on March 19, someone forgot to heed that feeling and the morning was greeted with sporadic showers. A number of "11th hour" calls secured a meeting room at the Hilton Hotel on East Mission Bay Drive. Our St. Patrick's Day potluck and meeting was to be held at this locale, with hopes of the weather clearing for an afternoon of kite flying. "The Great Pin Auction" was also scheduled for the day but was postponed until the April meeting.

Don't yell "FIRE!!"

The day resulted in a good turn-out, despite the threatening weather. It actually felt like alot more folks were there because we exceeded the room capacity and spilled a bit out into the corridor- its a good thing the Fire Marshall didn't come by. Later on, a hotel employee was kind enough to open the adjoining room for us.

After the club announcements, Ron Reich was introduced along with the current members of the Flight Squadron. The balance of the team is comprised of Mike Dennis, Pam Kirk, and Eric Streed. The meeting also marks SDKC's (and possibly any other kite clubs') book signing. Copies of Ron's recently published book "Kite Precision" were busily being signed by its famous author. Ron spoke initially not of the book's contents but of the "story behind the story". He gave very high praise for his wife Judy, and the hard work she had put into publishing the book. It is obviously no surprise that the book is dedicated to her. He made it sound like she did the bulk of the work- all he did was write it.

Ron also donated one of his custom kites for our raffle. This kite- a Spinoff by Top of the Line, had "fins" on its trailing edge. The kite was made to look like a fish. Ron had ordered the kite during his

competitive days, but never quite found the right music for a ballet performance.

I thought I packed it

After the indoor meeting and potluck, the sky had cleared and out to the kite field we went. Flight Squadron was flying Griffin kites with a red, black & white color combination.. Ron's, Eric's, & Mike's kites all looked identical but Pam's didn't look like anything. (?) It seems Pam had forgotten hers and had to run home to get it. When the entire team reassembled, Ron led them through a few warm ups before attempting manuevers. The team endured the punchy winds and amazed the crowd with their synchronized sky

dancing. The team later performed complicated maneuvers such as a compound weave involving two pairs of kites with each other and then intertwined with the other pair. The flightlines themselves

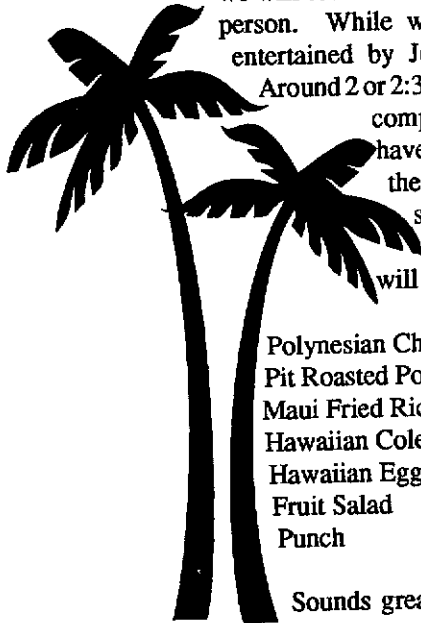
created a type of "Spectra-sculpture" that appeared to be pulling itself apart before it unwound itself. The team also performed a "refuel" with combinations involving only two kites- giving the appearance of three kites flying in formation; two pairs with each other; and after a few attempts- a full team refuel with all four kites in line. All of their moves amazed the crowd and drew applause.

The San Diego Kite Club would like to thank Ron Reich and the Flight Squadron for coming out to our March meeting and providing a beautiful exhibition. We are all honored with their performance and wish them well in their travels.

The flightlines themselves created a type of "Spectra-sculpture"...

IT'S LUAU TIME!!

Will we see cole slaw floating again?

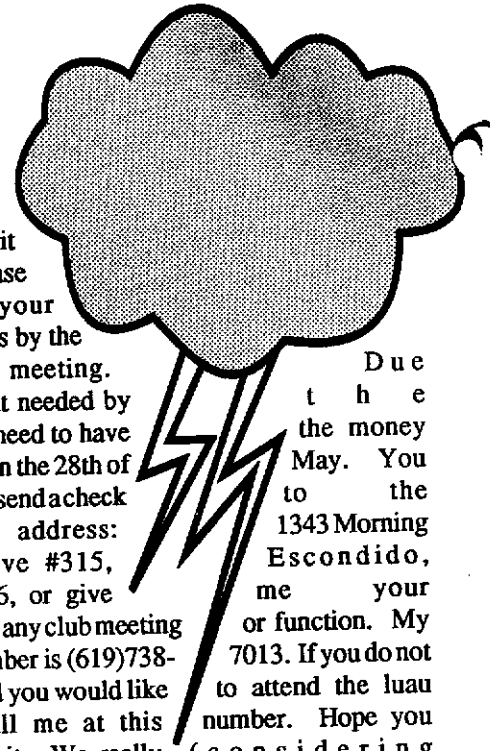


Yes, it's the infamous luau. Will she try it again? Ah, why not. Rain, we won't get any rain, (please bring tents, raincoats, umbrellas, or anything you may think of) not a single drop of water will fall on this day. This day will be June 11. The place will be Dusty Rhodes Park. The time will be 11am and we will eat at 12:30. The price will be \$9 per person. While we are dining, we will be entertained by Jeffery Smith, a magician. Around 2 or 2:30pm we will have a tail grab competition. Hopefully we will have a special kite to award as the prize. The menu will be the same as last year. For those who did not attend last year, we will be having the following:

- Polynesian Chicken
- Pit Roasted Pork
- Maui Fried Rice
- Hawaiian Cole Slaw
- Hawaiian Egg Bread & Butter
- Fruit Salad
- Punch

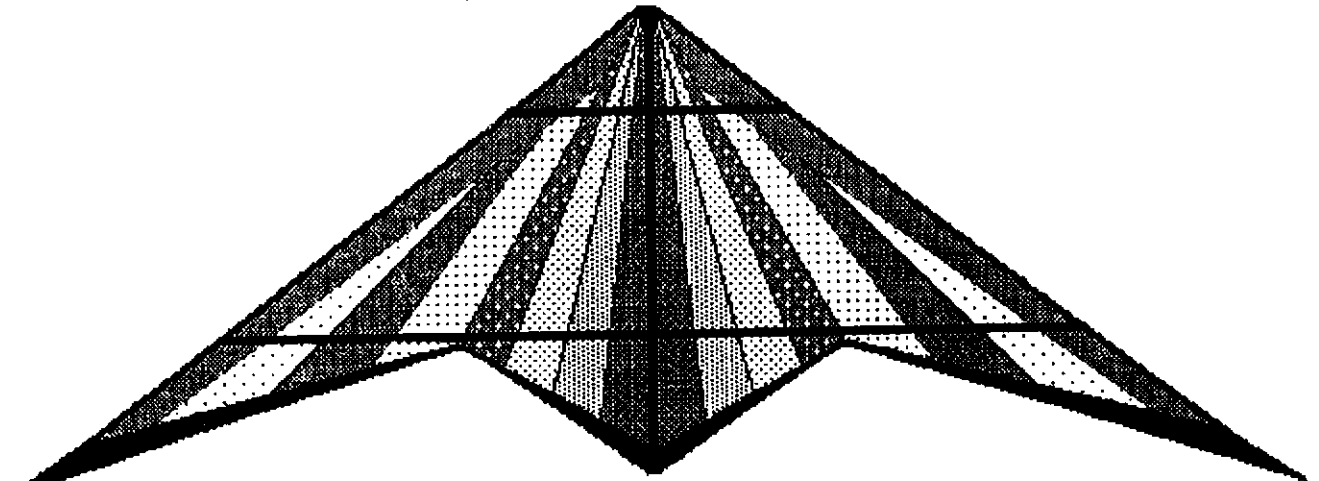
Sounds great, doesn't it? Other than a

little water it was! Please make your reservations by the May 21st meeting. to a deposit needed by caterers, I need to have no later than the 28th of may either send a check following address: View Drive #315, CA. 92026, or give payment at any club meeting phone number is (619)738- see me and you would like please call me at this number. Hope you can make it. We really (considering everything) had a great time last year. It will be even better this year.



Due to the money May. You to the 1343 Morning Escondido, me your or function. My 7013. If you do not to attend the luau number. Hope you

REACH FOR THE SKY KITES



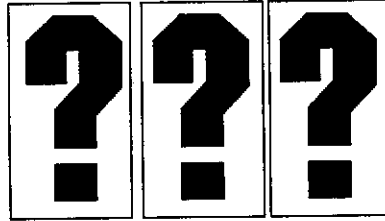
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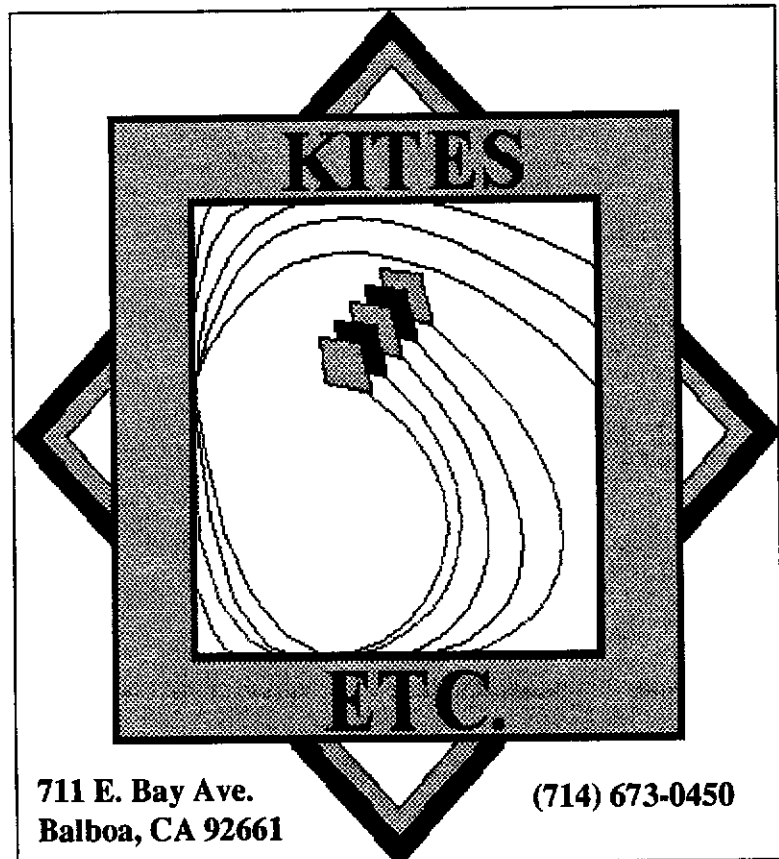
San Diego Kite Club and Kite Flyer Quiz

John Rogers submitted this trivia test about our favorite kite club. At this time we have no prize or anything like that. If someone knows all the answers, lets us know. In fact, shouldn't John know the answers since he's the one who thought this up?



How well do you know your fellow kite club members?

1. How long has Virgil been making kites?
2. How many years has the OB Kite Festival been happening?
3. What kite festivals (if any) have been around longer (continuous running only)?
4. What brand of cigars does Steve Johannesen smoke?
5. What does Charley M'Clary's license plate say?
6. What does Jim Nettles' license plate say?
7. What is the wing span of John Roger's big General Cody?
8. When did it fly the first time?
9. How many Revs does Ron Despojado own?
10. How much does Roger McComb weigh (after the head shave)?
11. When did Don Tabor make his first stunt kite?
12. How many Hadzicki brothers are there, and their names?
13. How many pages in Ron Reich's stunt kite book?
14. When did Randy Tom win his first Grand Nationals?
15. What kite did he win it with?
16. At the 1993 Long Beach Washington State International Kite Festival, how many ribbons did SDKC members win?
17. What is K-9-P and who owns it?
18. How long has Victor Heredia been making fighter kites?
19. What is the average age of the SDKC member?
20. Who is the youngest SDKC member?
21. What is the Para-Pig's name?
22. How many years did Gail Lindsay sew before she made her first kite?
23. How many Revs has Kevin Houghton flown at one time?
24. How much thread is in Dorine Imbach's King Tut kite?
25. When was the first quad-line inflatable kite flown in San Diego, and who brought it to the field?
26. Who made SDKC's first snake?
27. Who wrote the famous kite article?
28. How many spinners has Leo Eyeman made?
29. Who does the candy drop?
30. What does Ron Despojado's home phone number spell?



711 E. Bay Ave.
Balboa, CA 92661

(714) 673-0450

Letters-

The San Diego Kite Club welcomes and encourages feedback from all members. All entries to be published must be signed however names will be withheld upon request.

To the San Diego Kite Club:

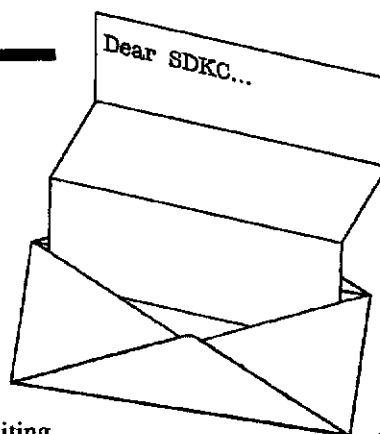
Response to Linda Cole's "It's About Time!!!",
Vol.4 No 1

Ms. Cole is very correct in her observations on the lack of availability and creativity in kiting. She is also correct in the assertion that "garage kitemakers... have to make a living and can't do it in kiting". I cannot help but reflect on the two examples that she uses in Doug Hagaman (R.I.P.1993) and Skip Parks of Banshee Kite Co.

Doug Hagaman built fine parafoils and managed to have competitive prices by putting in long hours and not billing for them. For \$1000.00 Doug would sell you a kite that might have \$200 in materials, 120 hours of production, and testing time, and 1000 hours of development in it. You got a great deal for your money, but Doug got the shaft. When push came to shove, Doug was lucky to get minimum wage. And no one could ever pay for the development that Doug put into his kites.

Skip Parks designed and built the Banshee series of kites. These were innovative and unique stunt kites that flew very well. They just did not fly like a standard delta. Due to the lack of desire from kite retailers and kite buyers to support the innovations that Skip made, he was unable to support himself building his kites. Though if you look at some of the newer delta wing stunt kites, they are starting to look a lot like Skip's work. Curved leading edges, cambered battens and spines, tight scalloped trailing edges... these are all things that Skip used extensively. They were innovative and unique to Skip's work for a long time.

When Skip's stunt kites gave out on him, he borrowed the plans for some parafoils from a friend and began to build them. He had an advantage over Doug in that his initial development costs were low. He used an established design and established techniques. I know, I shipped him my patterns and I spent many hours on the phone explaining how and why things work. Skip did continue to develop my plans further to be sure, but even he had a head start.



Ms. Cole feels that the problem lies in these innovations being "purchased by the large mass production companies" and their

ability to hold "the market captive". She feels that the solution lies in the promotion of inexpensive entry level kites and sees fault in "fragile hi-tech, elitist show pieces". I wonder.

I design and build kites that are unique and sometimes "fragile hi-tech show pieces" and my prices, I am sure, most people would say are elitist. But if it is the lack of innovation that she mourns, I ask her to support that very innovation and not the mass produced imported sails that are now available at department stores across the nation. I too am happy that we are able to buy a decent dual line kite for \$30 and that a ten foot wing framed in graphite is now less than \$300, but neither of these will support innovation and in some ways they suppress it.

My parafoils are always available and though you may have to wait six to eight weeks for one, please look into what is "unreasonable" in pricing. One of my newer 100 square foot designs may have \$300 in materials (yes, that is wholesale), and 50 hours (often more, much more...) of work in it. And I am one of the fastest builders I know. So what is my time worth? At \$5 an hour, or what I could get anywhere, anytime flipping burgers, the kite would cost \$550. At \$10 an hour, you are looking at an \$800 kite. If I charged this, and I built parafoils nonstop for an entire year, 40 hours a week, 50 weeks, and sold them all and did not have any returns, or problems, etc., I would net \$20,000 for the year. That does not include incidentals like shipping, phone calls, health insurance, electricity, food, etc. If you add on development time for the innovations that Ms. Cole is looking for, it could be hundreds of hours for design theory that may or may not work, followed by marketing that may or may not pan out. If I spent only 10% of my time in development, (most businessmen will agree that 20% should go to development, and that the lack of development investment is at fault for many of our

current economic problems) I should then push the price up to \$850 for a plain 100 square foot kite. And then some people want something special, something that makes their kite unique. Should I charge for design time when all I am doing is pondering the empty space that I wish to fill with a kite?

Two years ago I charged \$1,200 for a 100 square foot parafoil. My kites are much better today, materials cost more, and I charge more. For me to "make a living", I have to charge \$75 to \$150 for a fighter kite. This is compared to the \$30-45 range for most mass produced fabric fighters and does not include retailers that want free samples and 50% wholesale discounts. So if the expense of a nice kite is "worst of all", please do not mourn the loss of innovation.

Carl Crowell
2/24/94

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P.S. Kitefliers do not support me, even though kite building does. When I tell art galleries my prices, they laugh. I have had pieces marked up by galleries 500%, so if you think that "mass production companies" are putting the screws to you on cost and not providing innovation, you should see what art galleries charge in the name of style.

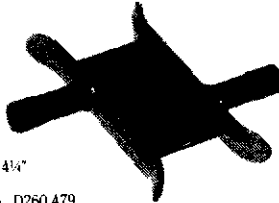
Letter of resignation from Torri Cable

I'm sorry to have to submit this letter of resignation to the kite club. So many of you have become my very dear friends- and I hope, will continue to be a part of my life.

At the Saturday, March 19th meeting I raised a question regarding the timing of July's meeting, the elections and the Ocean Beach Family Fun Day all taking place at once. There was one comment about keeping everyone for another year, then laughter because Diana Martin expressed shudders, and then Ron Reich was asked to step to the front of the room. I seriously wondered why Ron had been called on to address the above matter when I realized that my concerns were going to be ignored. If my timing was bad, I apologize, but to insult me by not even

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acknowledging my question hurt my feelings. If it were the first time a similar incident had happened I would probably chalk it up to over-sensitivity on my part, but it's not the first time I've raised issues or questions and been treated with disregard. I don't want to be part of an organization that treats people, especially women, with rudeness.

It saddens me to do this, especially when the kite club is what originally got me so involved with community affairs. I'll still keep an ear out for items that affect the club, and I know I'll see some of you on the kite field.

Dear San Diego Kite Club,

We were so pleased to receive your generous gift, the VCR. On behalf of the kids, the staff, and the Council- we thank you. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

OB Rec.

Make a snake!

The San Diego Kite Club welcomes kite making tips and plans. John Rogers gives us these plans for one of those "snakes chasing its tail" type spinner.

By John Rogers

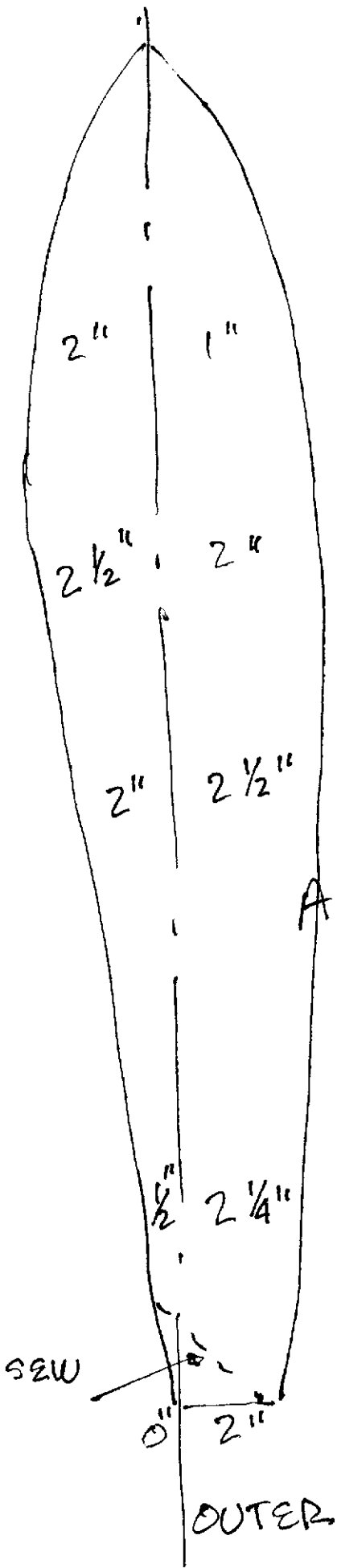
Note: This is how I made mine. It is not necessarily the only way nor the fastest way. Ed made his slightly different as did Paul. At any rate, a maximum of 4 to 6 hrs should be all that's required.

STEPS:

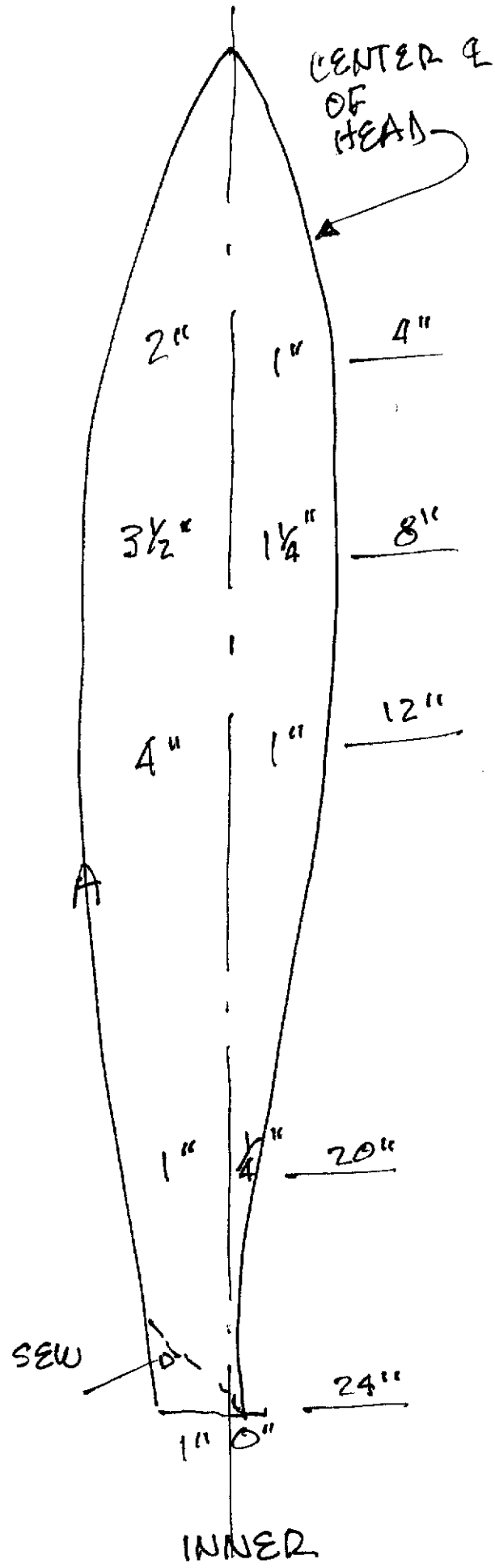
1. Make a template.
 - Can be cardboard if you are making only one, particle board if you plan to make several.
 - Size of template is not super critical.
2. Cut out appropriate number of trapezoids (42 - 44). Use hotknife if you want to save time. Be sure to cut on formica/glass.
3. Cut one piece approx half length and notch top center downward towards bottom. This is the tail, where head joins.
4. Arrange fabric in a stack in the order of colors you want.
5. Hem first side of short joiner piece then each trapezoid, chaining each one as you go.
6. Pull pieces under machine (if possible) and hem other side, chaining each one as you go.
7. Put a piece of tape on edge of sewing table and mark places where one piece will attach to other. Note there is approx 1 inch of offset. Mark two places approximately 14 inches apart for short bridle lines.
8. Pile hemmed pieces on floor to right and then pull into your lap. Cut thread binding first to second and second to third. Mark sewing positions on both pieces.
9. Align top edges of #1 and #2, with top right corner of #1 touching right mark on top edge of #2. Sew together, going forward then backwards. Be sure to backstitch at ends of stitch.
10. Cut a length of 30# or so dacron line using the guide marks on the machine. Put a triple knot in one end. Use zig-zag stitch and stitch to top of fabric at the joint you just sewed. (Actually you do not need to stop when sewing the joint, at return to top just switch to zig-zag stitch and lay string on joint).
11. Separate next piece of fabric, will be #3. Mark as before and lay #2 on #3 aligning top edges and top right corner with right mark. Repeat steps 8 and 9 until all pieces are joined.
12. When last piece is sew together, put a piece of tape on it.

NOTE: YOU CAN MAKE ONE LONG STRIP AND CUT OFF PIECES, THEN MIX AND MATCH COLORS. OR MAKE EACH PANEL SEPARATELY.

JR

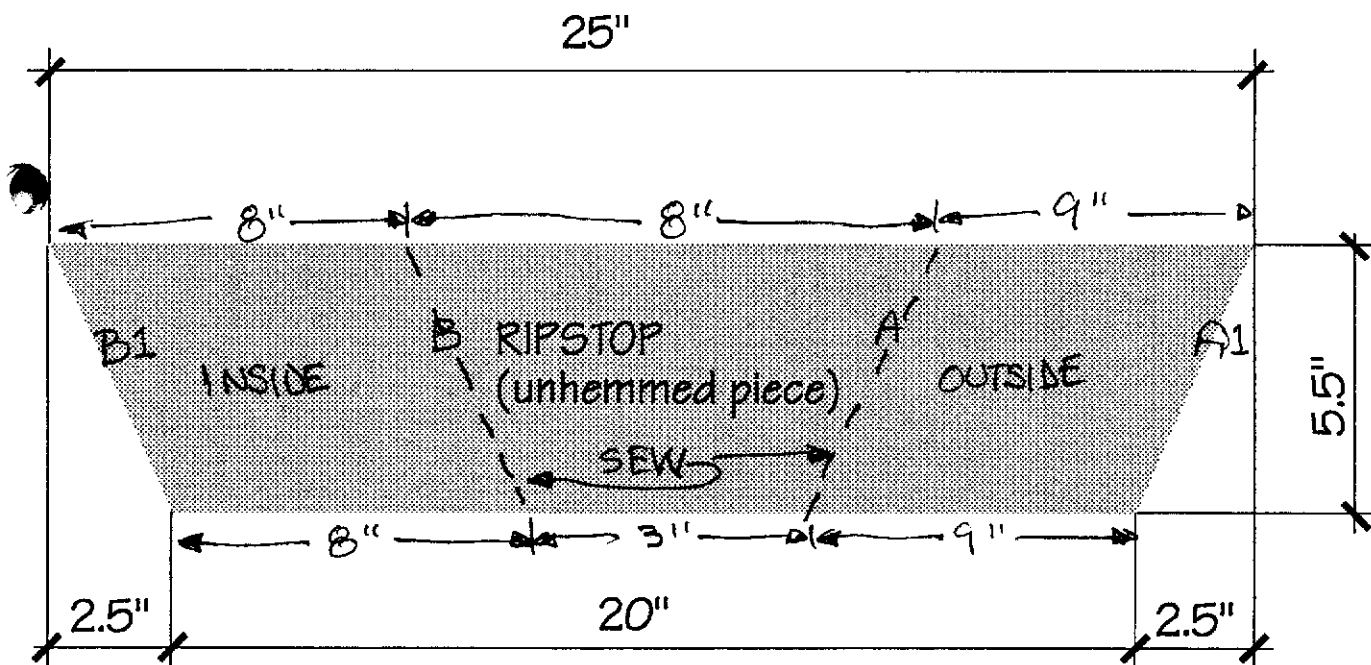


OUTER



INNER


HEAD - 2x OF EACH



13. Turn snake around and align top edges of piece #1 and #2 with top left corner touching left mark. Sew together like you did right side. Sew on short bridle line like you did right side.

Notes: You can sew right then left of each piece if you like. I found it easier to do one side then other.

Bridle lines can all be sew on after all seems are done if you want.

 Small tabs can be added as Ed did to add bridle lines later.

14. Cut out pieces for head (4 total) and stitch together. Add any decoration such as eyes, teeth, etc.

15. Lay head as flat as possible and take the piece with the tape on it and lay as flat as possible with edges aligning with the lower edges of the head. Hold with tape or hot-tacking, then sew together. Add a bridle line at each sewing joint.

16. Find other end of snake and make sure there are no twists in the body, match head and short joiner section and sew together. Add a bridle line at joint. Add two bridle lines approximately 25% back on the head.


17. Attach a ballbearing snap-swivel to a sturdy place and lay the snake on the floor approximately 13 feet away.

18. Cut a 13 foot section of dacron line and knot to the swivel.

19. Start at rear of the head, gather 4 short lines together and knot approximately 14 inches long. Tie long bridle to short bridle lines you just knotted.

20. Repeat steps 18 and 19 until all lines are attached. Insure all long and short lines are same length. A jig can be used as Ed did to insure uniformity.

21. To chain the bridle lines, pull all together then make a slip knot at the long/short junction. Pull long lines through and continue until you get to swivel.

 22. Make a small bag to hold it since this many lines are very easily tangled.

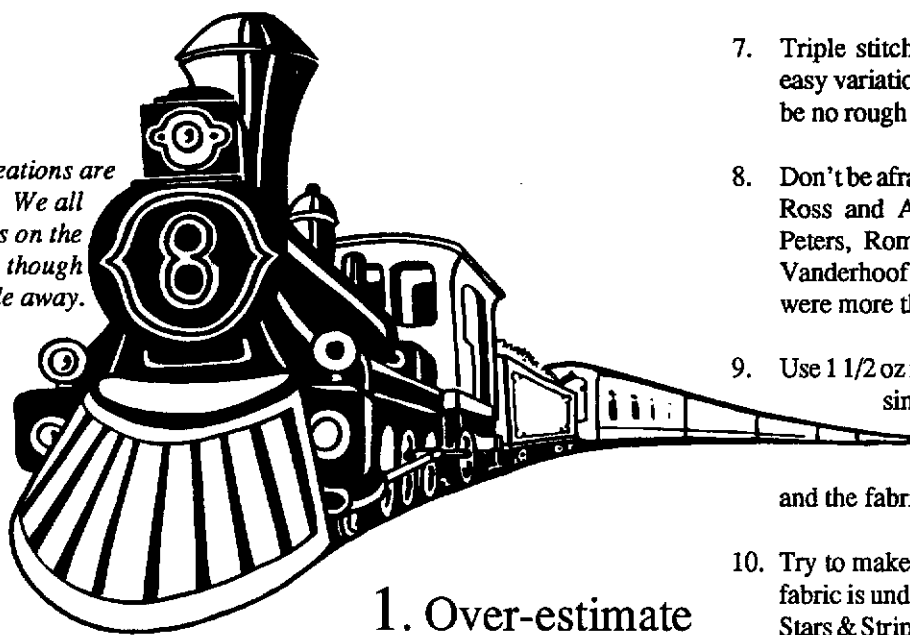
23. Wasn't that easy??



Hints For Big Things That Fly By John Rogers

(Works for little things too)

John's creations are hard to miss. We all know if he's on the kite field even though we're a mile away.



1. Over-estimate

the line strength needed. The rule of 3 x area should be at least doubled. A good source of line is BIM in National City, ask for dacron, they have good prices. Don't use polypropylene as it burns through if hit by other line.

2. Use top quality mountain climbing fittings. They are to hold humans onto the side of a mountain so they should hold down a kite that could cause injury if it got away.
 3. Inspect your line regularly (every time you use it) and wash/dry it when it get sandy/dirty. The home washer works well. NO bleach.
 4. West Marine, on Rosecrans, has stainless steel swivels with ball bearings. They come in three sizes ie: approx. 1000#, 2000# and 3000# strength. If flying at the beach, flush them with WD-40 after use to get the sand/dust out.
 5. Use lots of Kevlar for reinforcement. The sail shops throw pieces away all the time, sometimes pretty big ones. It will fray as it is hard to hot knife and will dull a pair of scissors really fast.
 6. Use regular designs and scale them up, up, up! In all the big kites I've made, this has worked well. If one part doesn't look quite right, adjust it, since it should look right as well as match dimensions. One area to go bigger is keels, usually by an extra 20%. Bridles can be 20%
- over also and I even saw rokakous with bridles 100 ft. long.
7. Triple stitch all seams. I've started using an easy variation of the French seam so there will be no rough edges showing.
 8. Don't be afraid to ask questions. I've called Art Ross and Adrian Conn in Canada, George Peters, Romeo Collado, Paul Insbach, Dale Vanderhoof and Ron Gibian in the USA and all were more than happy to help me out.
 9. Use 1 1/2 oz ripstop if the kites will be really big since the extra weight won't matter with 400 to 500 sq feet of lifting area. The colors will last longer and the fabric will withstand the stress better.
 10. Try to make your design so that a minimum of fabric is under the arm of the machine. The big Stars & Stripes sled I made had NO fabric under the arm. The same was true with the BOL, except for the last seam joint to close it.
 11. A gym is a good place to lay out a big piece of fabric, but the floor of a gym usually has a coating of sweat/dust so the fabric may smell bad for a week or so.
 12. Try to divide the design into manageable size pieces and then assemble them. The big Cody Box kite was just a bunch of 5 x 5 ft cells that was assembled and then filled up my back yard. The same was true of the BOL and usually I don't know if a design will work until I bring it to the park.
 13. If making a large delta, try using shroud lines from the towing ring, vice huge and heavy spreaders with lots of bracing. It worked well on the 24 ft delta I made.
 14. The largest size fiberglass that we can get is the .610 in. that is 78 in. long. Dale Vanderhoof can get 3/4 and 1 in. but it is a little more expensive. For the .610 in. Home Depot sells a 3/4 in. aluminum tube in the extruded section that makes great joiners.
 15. Use the largest size needles you can get, usually 100/16's and change them as soon as they start to get dull. I tried the sharpening idea, but needles are cheap. I use polyester thread and it

has a minimum of dust and fuzz. Clean the bobbin area frequently to keep the machine running smoothly.

16. Don't give up. It is easy to get tired or bored, since there is a tremendous amount a just boring straight sewing. When I made the BOL, it had 150 pieces, 8 ft. long, each joint was triple stitched, for a total of nearly 4000 ft. of stitching!!

17. Get a cart, which will reduce the wear and tear on your arms of carrying a spool of line, stakes, hammer, kite, etc. to far side of the flying field.

18. Tie the kite to the ground stakes before you put it together, incase the wind picks it up. Have

interested spectators stay behind you, out of the flight path, prior to launch.

19. Home Depot has 1/4 in. thick x 36 in. steel stakes at a cost of a buck or so. These are normally used for concrete ref rod support and work well if you don't know someone who can weld you some. Make a foam cap to cover the end and paint them so they show up.

20. Get some gloves, cycling ones work well. They will protect your palms. A thing called a Pitzl used by mountain climbers works even better to grip large line. Don't wrap line around you arm or wrist as it can crush you.

Looking back on 1993

By John Rogers

Thought I'd write a few lines to gobble up some space in the newsletter and reflect on what was memorable last year. First would have to be completing my 9 x 12 ft. parafoil and having it fly well. Next would be the OB Kite festival, the parade and ending up with a short spot on Channel 51 news. Of course when Rosie got planted, launching the box kite was memorable too. Next was Dana Point and the Festival of No Winds as it's becoming known.

Andy and Judy Gelinas visiting from Penn was nice and I picked up my parachuting pig and another bear. Einstein would come latter in the year. Several trips to Santa Monica and seeing Tyrus Wong and others was fun as always. I got my Cody war kite finished and it actually flew pretty good! Has lots of lifting power too!

Virgil Dalton found me a little piece of ripstop, actually a complete painted sail about 30 x 80 feet. I made a scaled up Pocket Sled following Virgil's pattern and it flew good too. I'll never forget the class of high school kids that sang the Star Spangled Banner at MB Park one Friday when I launched it for them. Nor will I forget the handicapped couple who left the freeway and came up to the hill to tell me how pretty my winged box kite was, then they continued to L.A.

Finally we went to Long Beach and the week of Kite

insanity. Wow, what an experience that we'll never forget. I had some bright yellow business cards made just before we left and I'm sure glad I did. I gave out and got back dozens of cards. I met many wonderful people and we've gotten letters and cards from them. The highlight of the week was the man who told me my kites were bright enough for his nearly blind wife to see and she enjoyed them. Our trip back with our van getting towed in S.F. was exciting and Chinatown was fun. Got a big Carp too.

Our club's Halloween party was fun and it was neat

my kites were
bright enough for
his nearly blind
wife to see

to see the LA area kite flyers once again. The Pizza/canned goods party was fun too and it makes me feel good to have fun and help out less

fortunate people too. And the Sizzler dinner was a chance to see just how much Freida and Virgil really eat? Wow, a bunch!

I hope that 1994 will be as much fun as 1993 was. It looks as though OB will have another festival and Mission Bay is planning a birthday celebration which will include a kite festival. If I don't run out of ideas or sewing space for the Big Things That Fly, I believe it will be a great year.

Calendar of Events

April

Events are subject to last minute changes. Call (619) 222-9300 for latest updates.

- 2-** Easter Fun Fly and Pancake Breakfast. Let's fill the sky with single line kites. Contact Diana Martin, 738-
- 13-** Board of Director's Meeting, O. B. Recreation Center, 7:00 pm
Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789-
- 16-** Monthly General Meeting, South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00 pm. Contact: Fred Martin, 738-
- 16-** Quartz Hill Kite Festival, Quartz Hill High School, 10 a.m. -6 p.m., Lancaster, CA.
Contact: Kite Ranch (805) 943-6860
- 23&**
- 24-** Kite Fest '94, Huntington Beach CA. Contact Dave Shenkman (714) 536-

May

- 1-** Uno De Mayo Fun Fly
Contact Diana Martin, 738-
- 11-** Board of Director's Meeting, O. B. Recreation Center, 7:00 pm
Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789-
- 21-** Monthly General Meeting, South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00 pm. Contact: Fred Martin, 738-

June

- 4 &**
- 5-** Celebrate Mission Bay Festival & Fun Fly; Tecolote Shores south of the Hilton
Contact: Fred Martin 738-
- 8-** Board of Director's Meeting, O. B. Recreation Center, 7:00 pm
Contact: Jim O'Bryant, 789-
- 11-** SDKC 2nd Annual Luau; Dusty Roads Park. (Raincoats & umbrellas not provided). Time to be announced. Contact: Diana Martin 738-
- 11&**
- 12-** L.A. Stunt Kite Championships, El Segundo, CA (310)372-0308
- 18-** Monthly General Meeting, South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00 pm. Contact: Fred Martin, 738-

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ADVERTISING RATES

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

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Half Page	(7.5"x4.5")	\$40
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or call Roger McComb at (619) 492- for additional information and submission dates.

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