

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Yes, we know this issue is a *little* late this time.

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September - October 1993

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WHISPERS ON THE AIR

By the Pres!!

Greetings my fellow kiteflyers! History was made in the first real election the SDKC ever had. Two people actually ran for the same position. The club has come a long way and I would like to thank all of you for electing me as president and I will do my very best to see that the SDKC will continue to grow and be fun for all.

I' ve been left some very large footsteps to follow. Past president, Walt Thompson has taken the SDKC from its lowest times to the high point in which it is now standing. Walter has done a truly terrific job and every member owes a big thanks to him. Walt will continue with the club as a board member, in the position of past president. He will continue as AKA Region 12 director and is already proving to be the best person for the job.

The SDKC is going through other changes as well. Ron Despojado is taking a much deserved break from the newsletter editor's job and many other jobs he's had with the club since Day One. Ron has done a truly professional job as editor and there cannot be enough "Thanks" said. Ron will continue to write articles and be there for advice when needed. It will take us a little time to get everything back on track, and we might not look quite as good at first, but we will get there.
See "Whispers on the Wind" on Page 2

1993-1994 SDKC Officers and Board Members

President Fred Martin	Treasurer Connie Morgan	Equipment Manager Larry Morgan
Vice-President Jim O'Bryant	Membership Larry Morgan	Archivist Charlie M'Clary
Secretary Diana Martin	Events Coordinator Diana Martin	Past President Walt Thompson
Founder Dan Willan	Advertising Manager Roger McComb	
Board Members At-large		
Stephan Johannesen	Roger McComb	Jim Nettles
Stuart Pixley		Mike Dennis

The direction I'm going to lead the SDKC in will be #1 "Have a Good Time"! We will continue having fun things to do on meeting days and some other weekends.

One of the things I'm going to work hard for is the Mission Bay Fest, coming up next year. Jim Nettles was appointed to chair a committee for the purpose of making the event a success. At the last board meeting, I appointed four more members to this committee. They are Walt Thompson, Jim O'Bryant, Stuart Pixley, and Mike Dennis. Their duty for now is to secure sponsorship and give progress reports to the president, which I will pass on to the board and the membership. Once it is determined what we have to work with, we will start working on exactly what this annual festival will have event-wise. That's right! I said "annual"! The Mission Bay Fest will run every year for five years.

Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the OB Rec Center in Ocean Beach. These meetings are open to all members. It is your club. Come on down to the board meetings. We need new ideas and we want to hear what you have to say. We won't stick anyone with anything they don't want to volunteer for. If you can't make a board meeting and you have ideas or complaints, tell me or any other board member at the flying field. Give us a call. Our numbers are usually somewhere in this newsletter.

Connie Morgan is the new treasurer and Larry is still in charge of membership. Many members are in the arrears on dues. We need for you to be current. See Connie or Larry at the field or give them a call.

In a small social club of any kind, fundraising is always a problem. We will continue doing the donations for food and, of course there is the raffle on meeting days. However, the city does not condone sales of kites at the park. We are asking you to refrain from doing so.

Kite flying at Mission Bay Park is for everyone, not just the Club members. The park is also for non-kite flyers. Please remember that. We want to be able to use the park whenever, so we all need to be considerate of everyone there. That includes new non-member flyers. We need to follow a few simple guidelines and

promote safety.

When you are at the Mission Bay Park flying field, form two rows for flying. Keep 100 ft or less flying lines and don't use Kevlar. This line cuts people.

Don't fly your stunt kites over the street. Don't crowd other people and be considerate. Fly for a while and let other people fly. When you are not flying and you're going to leave your kites staked out, lay them down flat, nose into the wind. This will keep your lines flat on the ground. Be nice to the rookies. Give them some tips, help them learn to fly safely. Remember, we were all beginners once.

Join the AKA. Walt will be glad to explain all the benefits.

I heard a "whisper on the wind" that SDKC will get its very own tail grab set up. We can have some fun times ahead.

Well, hey, I can't go on all day! Well maybe I could. SDKC members are some of the best people I know. I'll see ya's at the park.

Keep on flying!

From the Editor

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Rob Spori, and I have been a member of SDKC since May of this year. Those who have seen me fly my kites know that I don't know squat about kites, and those reading this newsletter now know that I don't know squat about being an editor. You see, my wife got this program for desktop publishing for a class at school and I decided to take up newsletters as a hobby.

That's the good news, the bad news is that you will have to suffer through this thing with me until I figure out how to do the kind of job that you're used to!!

My only promise is that I'll do my best for both of us.

1993 Berkeley Kite Festival and West Coast Championships

By Ron Despojado

Okay, okay. So maybe I should forget about Berkeley this year, maybe the competitive flame in me has been snuffed out. Maybe what that "other" quadline flyer has insinuated towards me is true. Maybe monkeys will fly out of my.....but anyways, on with the story.

I arrived in Oakland the Friday before the event. My first task was to find some sort of economical transportation to the hotel. I found a shuttle that would get me there relatively cheap. After loading up in the van, the driver pulled away from the passenger zone and started to pull out in traffic. KABLOOWEE!! We rear-end the car in front of us! "Of course... this is Berkeley" I mumbled to myself as thoughts of a lawsuit danced in my head.

After arriving in one piece at the hotel and checking in, the first thing I did was take my *Rev I* to practice in the dreaded Berkeley Marina wind. To my surprise and delight, the wind was identical to San Diego, a pleasant and constant 8-10 mph. Practice, practice, practice. I said "Hello" to some familiar faces and "Very pleased to meet you" to some new ones.

Saturday morning I hooked up with Jose Sainz and Randy Tom and the Bay Area Sundowners. At mid-morning the wind was clocked at 20 mph with gusts up to 27 to 30. My event wasn't until Sunday, so I thought that if the wind can change this much in one day, it can come back down for the next. The single line comprehensives were postponed until Sunday because of the high wind. A scheduled mega fly called "The Big Picture" with the teams the Bay Area Sundowners and Team Paragon with eight trains consisting of 100 Hyperkites was also rescheduled to Sunday, wind permitting. All everyone seemed to mention was

the wind, maybe they can take half of it and store it away for another day. I didn't bring a *Rev II* and I wasn't prepared to cut holes in the big kite.

Walking through the crowd I was stopped no less than 5 or 6 times and complimented about "the incredible quad line demo at last year's event." "I think you may have me confused with Team High Performance" I reluctantly had to say "they're here today and I think they're scheduled to do another demo." Sure enough, Team High Performance wowed the crowd with their quadline routine again. And sure enough, minutes later, walking through the crowd, I was stopped again and complimented on the quadline demo by THP that recently finished. A smile and a simple "I'm glad you liked it" was returned back.

Saturday evening I was invited to dinner by Bob Kempen and his wife Carol. I was introduced to Bob while he was on a trip to San Diego a few months ago. Revolution Kites had sent him my way to test a *Rev I* with a custom harness for a camera. Bob told me that Ron and Sandy Gibian were also joining us, this sounds like a party. We drove over to a restaurant called "Skates" near the festival. When we arrived we were met by a 45 minute wait and a bar full of kite flyers, which could be a scary thought. We headed back to the Marriot and were seated promptly. A couple of visitors came to our table- none other than Dave and Susan Gomberg. They were invited to dine with us and accepted. Pleasant conversation and kite flying war stories abounded. Both the Gibians and Gomberts passed compliments my way regarding the strength and stature of the San Diego Kite Club. These people obviously had good taste. After a few bottles of wine, Bob showed David some magic with two rubber bands interlocked and somehow

See "1993 Berkeley", on page 4

" 1993 Berkeley". Continued from page 3

through good karma and sleight of hand they passed through each other and are separated. "Let me try that" I said to Bob. Little did Bob or the rest of the table know that I knew this one. After I said "Like this??" and successfully performed the illusion, we all had a big laugh. Bob then excused himself from the table and returned with a mysterious looking doctor's bag. One by one Bob pulled out another illusion (never say "trick" to a magician) and he and I as well as Dave traded turns performing to the table, a number of busboys, and the waiter. At certain points their wives smiled and shook their heads at us. "Its a guy thing!" I repeatedly said. The evening wound down with Bob trying to learn the coin illusion from Dave; Dave trying to learn the rubber band illusion from me; and I trying to learn the one with two corks from Bob. This was a memorable dining experience. As with everything in life, nothing lasts forever. We all went our separate ways after what must have been a two and a half hour dinner.

I went straight to bed having remembered to stay away from the Seafood Chowder appetizer and the cocktail waitress who, like an Ace Fighter Pilot, records each one of her "kills". Each of these "kills", of which were stamped on the sides of her high heels, was an icon consisting of a red heart superimposed with an image of a sobbing grown man. These symbolized each heart she ever broke. I could swear I saw one with "Ron 92" next to it.

Sunday morning started very early for me. 4 AM is too early to wake up unless you are on a morning radio show or else need to do some chores on the farm. I guess my subconscious mind didn't want to oversleep for my event. Good thing I did wake up, I only had another 8 hours until my event. I could probably drive to L.A. and then fly back to Berkeley in that amount of time. Then I'd have to take another shuttle- forget it.

After breakfast, it was time to head out to the field, check out the wind, and practice. The problem with this idea was that the entire festival site offered little in the way of practice areas due to the spectators, flying fields, vendors, and demonstrations. The wind was a bit heavy but manageable, hopefully it wouldn't get any stronger. I finally

find a small clearing and practice. Okay I'm ready... for now. The "game face" is on- no smiling allowed.

About a half hour before my event, I was invited to participate in a quadline mega-fly. I knew this would break my concentration, but I thought, this might even be fun. The field consisted of members from High Performance, Air Art, and 2 solo acts, 9 or 10 in all. I was using what I call my "Competition Only" *Rev I* skin which looks close to Team HP's, only their's have aqua & maroon stripes. The wind had picked up to where it was getting to be challenging to say the least. After a few rounds of follow the leader and impromptu unscheduled solo performances we all landed. Since I was on the end, someone shouted out "Follow Ron out- the sixth member of Team High Performance", quite a compliment. I was asked where the stripes were. "They came out in the wash" I replied.

Okay, down to business. The event started and there was too much wind. Everyone else is flying in the same wind, so its a challenge to all 12 of us. As usual, one by one the others performed; and as usual they all looked good. Number 10, I'm up. The biggest disadvantage I felt I had was that my routine contained alot of very slow finesse moves, something not easily performed in high winds. No time for jokes about "performance anxiety". The music started and I began, albeit rather shakily. The adrenalin in my stomach didn't let me realize my wrists and forearms felt like they were being shredded apart. Though I maintained a high percentage of the routine as I remembered it, the high wind forced me to occasionally ad lib until I could get back on track. Lots of running forward to ease some of the pull and finesse the kite, and alot of running backward so I can run forward without heading into the bay and out of site of the judges. In fact, the field judge warned me while I was backing up that I was almost out of the field and into the laps of the judges. The music ended and applause started. It wasn't thunderous but then again the crowd wasn't thunderous proportions. "Hey Ron" I heard someone yell, "they're not clapping because you were any good, they're clapping because you kept your pants on this time." I felt a slight stretch across my face, it might have been a

smile.

A bit later I was looking where the results are posted. My name was nowhere to be found. At Berkeley the top three are not posted but announced at the banquet. YES!! I made the top three! Then I took a second look, hey, I'm not in "Junior Division Individual Precision", no wonder I couldn't find my name. I finally found the results for "Open Quad Ballet". Again my name was nowhere to be found. Either I made the top three or I was so bad that they took my name off the list. I told this to Ed and Gail Lindsay and Ed said "Is that a smile on your face?"

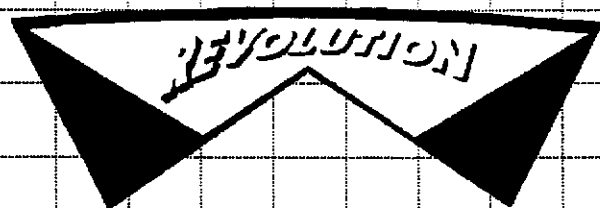
I wouldn't know the results until the banquet, and I had to miss the banquet due to my flight out. Jose Sainz would accept on my behalf.

I had to prepare for the flight out, knowing full well that I wouldn't know until two or three days later, when I can contact Jose. My shuttle was outside the hotel lobby, but the driver was asleep. I knocked on the van. I knocked again, and again,

but he didn't wake up. I didn't want to actually shake him so I kept banging on the van. Finally I stood in front, stepped on the bumper and shook the van. The driver slowly opened his eyes, then in a microsecond grabbed the steering wheel with a white knuckle grip, his eyes big as saucers, and halfway standing up- probably from jumping on the brake pedal as I stood there in front with my outstretched hand in a "Stop" gesture. Obviously he thought he was going to run me over. "Are you my ride?" I asked. He sleepily wiped his eyes, yawned, and looked around to get his bearings straight. "...Uh, are you going... to... Oak..land..?" he said. "...yea.." I said with a hell of alot apprehension, "are you okay to drive??" "Oh yea" he said. Remind me next time to use a different shuttle company.

It wouldn't be right for the flight out to go smoothly. I got to the airport early so I could relax a bit. But 10 minutes before we were scheduled to board, there was a sudden mass migration of people coming towards the gate. Minutes later an attendant
See "1993 Berkeley". Continued on Page 7

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World Cup '93, My First By Torri Cable

One of the best memories of my first World Cup was hearing Andy King and Corey Jensen announce that there should be a new class in kitemaking- novice, masters, and those from San Diego! Seems this part of the country is walking away with the 1, 2, and 3 prizes on a consistent basis. Randy Tom, Gail Lindsay, and Jose Sainz keep sweeping the field and the sky. It's getting harder and harder to come up with superlatives describing Randy's "Tattoo". Sensually sadistic is what one award winning member said about it. I found it stunning and magnificent. Jose Sainz's Indian Headdress was impressively detailed. And of course Gail Lindsay's Kingfisher was colorfully gorgeous. Along with the above mentioned kites, Doreen Imbach also flew her King Tut during the power outage caused by someone tripping over the electrical cord. Martin Lester's giant hot dog was included in the kite filled sky over the Berkeley Marina. It was truly a wonderful sight. Dom Smith from Top of The Line was seen hobnobbing in the VIP tent among other places.

Charlie M'Clary along with his lovely wife Joanne was set up with his "Kite Bum" banner and cabana not far from the Martin, O'Bryant, Ochletree and Mixon spread. Charlie said I could fly his new kite, "The Solution" but he broke a spar before I got a chance to give it a try. Fred, our new president was busy making friends and doing PR work for the club, while Diana (Moo) held down a spot on the grass with Grace and Randy, Jim and Paula, and Larry and Linda. Other familiar San Diego faces I saw included Pam Kirk and Mike Dennis as we traipsed across the gopher dug grass avoiding the multitude of holes.

The Hadzicki's, Joe, Jim, and Dave had a great place at the entry walk to the field. They had a large area roped off and were teaching people the art of Rev flying. Before Ron Despojado was able to help out with instructions, he was held at gunpoint and forced to perform his quadline ballet in front of the World Cup audience. Just kidding, he's such a ham- but he did fly his new Randy Tom original Revolution to his award winning routine that won him consecutive first places in the Golden Gate Challenge the week before, and the L.A. Sportkite Classic in August. His choice of Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing" was a perfect song, combined with the lovely female image on his kite, to create some beautiful air art.

There were other exciting events going on- the World Cup Champions, Team High Performance flying to a collage of music from movie themes, Air Kraft from England coming in second and Ninja, from of all places, Japan, flying third. All the teams gave great performances, and all of us mourned when Tsunami from Redondo Beach flying a six man team got tails and flight lines tangled. They went from six man, to three, to four, to two and finished with three. Sounds crazy huh? OK, you had to be there- and those of us who were commiserated with them as the crowd groaned their disappointment.

Sunday morning brunch at the Marriott was incredibly delicious and lots of fun due to the great company. While eating with Ron Despojado and Wally Ancibor we were joined by Brian Hirose of High Performance. By the way he's the new president of the Hawaii kitefliers Association. Brian regaled us with fish stories- he has a salt water tank- and you probably thought he only flew kites. Later on in the day we were privileged to see the five members of Team High Performance join with five of the Tsunami flyers for an unrehearsed mega fly. I still can't believe they hadn't done any flying

*Goddard
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(714) 673-0450

From The Mailbag

8-6-93

Dear Friends:

Your old equipment manager is gone but, hopefully, not forgotten. I am very fortunate to have landed a job here at Yosemite National Park and I would like to extend a personal invite to anyone who would like to visit. I can accomodate ONE person at a time for five days for one dollar. Such a deal!!! I will try to answer all letters but I make no promises. If you wish to write;

Charles W. Brooks
C/O General Delivery
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Keep 'em flying!!

Chuck

Harry French Interview

By Torri Cable

Harry is one of several retired gentlemen who can be found at the kite field on any given weekday...except Fridays for Harry, when he cleans the union hall. He belonged to the Teamsters #683 for 43 years while he worked for Coca Cola, and he still helps out. He's also on the board of his church - a position he's held for 18 years.

Harry married Ernie (Ernestine) 48 years ago in August and she's nice enough to let him come out and fly, swap stories with Virgil and general stay out of trouble. Actually, Harry and Virgil probably help teach more people to fly than we'll ever know. I remember when my foster daughter, Hannah, was here. Harry was the kind soul who kept putting up her kite when she'd crash it. Harry says he keeps swearing that he won't take up all his flying time getting involved with beginners but every time he sees a little boy having trouble, he just has to help out. Maybe it reminds him of when his son was little. His son now flies a Zephyr in Fremont where

he lives, working as an English teacher. Harry says they have some really goods winds there!

Harry got into kiting in April of 1991 when he drove by South of the Hilton and saw some kites in the air. He thought it looked like fun so he bought a Spinoff from Kite Country. Richard from that store helped him learn to fly and now Harry has a stack of Hot Wings, and an Extreme, a Skyburner, a Vic's Fighter, 14 homemade fighters and, his favorite, a Tracer.

More that anything else, Harry likes the people with kiting. Virgil and Jim O'Bryant's names crop up repeatedly as some of the nicest he's ever met. He does have good taste, doesn't he? A staunch club member, Harry sees the club growing bigger and better, and he loves the idea of the trading cards. People like Harry are what keeps the SDKC alive and well and going strong. Thanks Ernie for letting Harry come out and fill the shies of Mission Beach with his air art.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October, 1993

9th -10th - North Coast Challenge - Seaside, Oregon. For details call: 503-357-

13th - SDKC Board of Directors Meeting. 7:30 pm. Ocean Beach Rec Center.

13th - 17th - AKA National Convention. - Seaside, Oregon. For details call: 800-AKA-2550.

16th - 17th - Canberry Kite Fly - Long Beach WA. For details call: 206-642 -

30th - 2nd Annual Halloween Party and Night Fly - Come see the flying bears, pigs, gorillas and yes, candy, at our 2nd annual Halloween Party on October 30th. There will be food, games, prizes for all to enjoy. A Banner and a stunt kite will be the prizes for the best costume. A prize will be given for the most original pumpkin. At Night we will move to Fiesta Island to sit around a fire and have a night fly (providing there is wind) and also have cider and donuts. Mission Bay will be the site, 11:00 will be the time. Come join us! Anyone who is involved with children's organizations, please let them know. We would like to see more children.!!!

November, 1993

6th - Fun Fly and L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out) - How about going to a restaurant with friends after a great day of flying? That's what this day is all about. We come to our favorite place to fly, then go out to eat and socialize. In order for me to plan this, I must know who will be interested and suggestions on what kind of food you may be interested in having that evening. A restaurant must be contacted so they may be prepared to accommodate us so please contact Diana Martin at 619-738- or see her at any meeting or function. The cut-off date will be the October meeting.

7th - Sci-Fi Fun Fly - Everett, WA - For details call: 206-670-

10th - SDKC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. Ocean Beach Rec Center.

13th - Peninsula Fliers Fun Fly - Long Beach, WA. For details call: 206-783-

20th - SDKC Monthly General Meeting - East Mission Bay Drive - 1:00pm

December

4th - Pizza and Food Drive - The San Diego Kite Club will have its 2nd Annual Food Drive on Saturday December 4th. This will coincide with a Fun Fly and Pizza. Diana will have pizza delivered to the field at approximately 12:30pm. For \$5.00 per person you can have 3 pieces of pizza, salad, and a soft drink. If you bring can goods or something for our food drive, the cost will be \$4.00. Diana will need to know in advance how many pizzas to order, so please mail a check or pay her at the flying field before November 7th. Diana will collect \$5.00 from everyone. When you bring your can goods in, she will refund you \$1.00. In case of rain, we will postpone our drive until December 11th.

January

January 1st, 1994 - 3rd Annual New Years Day Fun Fly and Pot Luck - Enjoy the first day of the new year with friends, good food and a great day flying. Bring a dish for all to share and your won beverage. If you would like to bring something for the grill, there will be one available for your use. The fun begins at 11:00 at Mariners Point. We will probably eat around 12:30. So come and join us to start the New Year with our favorite past time, flying kites!!!

together before as a ten man team- it was spectacular.

A great photo opportunity which I almost missed due to extremely cold winds was the chance to see San Diego's own Kiteski demonstrating the fun (burr) of waterskiing across San Francisco Bay pulled by a large pink Banshee kite.

Another of my favorite memories is meeting Corey Jensen pulling his kite buggy, walking off the field with Mike Sterling on Saturday evening. Corey had been entertaining the masses all day on the microphone with Andy King's assistance. Mike was carrying a stack of his Cyborgs and I had a chance to tell him that along with Chris and Susan Batdorf, they had been my inspiration to start flying kites back in April of '91.

Meeting kite heros is just one of the many reasons I recommend going to as many kite functions as you possibly can. It's also visually pleasing, very relaxing and just plain fun! It will also reaffirm your feelings that "Tako Kichi" is a way of life, hopefully for most of us.

" 1993 Berkeley", Continued from page 5

from the airline said on the PA "We are sorry to inconvenience you, however there has been a last minute change in aircraft. All passengers bound for San Diego please proceed to gate 25." Gate 25 was on the other side of the airport and another mass of humanity- similar to the Gold Rush of 1849 or else the refund line for Padres season tickets- kicked, elbowed, and shoved their way to the appropriate gate. From here, I made it home to La Jolla just fine.

Even though I didn't find out where exactly I placed other than the top three, it was fun not knowing. I liken this feeling to holding a lottery ticket just before the numbers are drawn for a \$25 Million jackpot. The

chance is there to win, but to let your imagination run wild is the next best thing. So, if I *didn't* know if I won, at least I know I haven't lost yet. Or something like that.

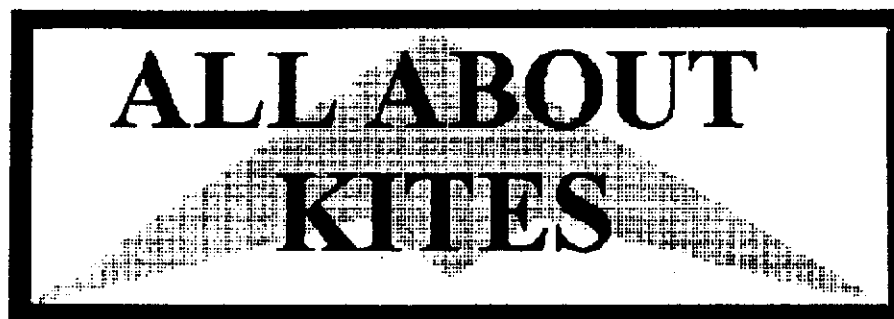
This weekend was a full and rich experience in addition to the competition. I hate to admit it but I actually had fun. I was even awarded a spot on Team High Performance. The only consequence was that I developed a painful case of Carpel-Tunnel Syndrome in both wrists due to flying in the heavy winds. You're probably wondering where I finally placed?..... let your imagination run wild!!

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Lovely, Lazy Luau or Diana's Doom (Guess Moo wrote this one???)

Yes folks, those feathers sticking out of my mouth ar what's left of the crow I had to eat. All these articles about how we live in paradise, have this wonderful weather, well for the most part it's true. Until the big June 5th luau planned and executed by Diana (Moo) Martin.

Diana called me around 9am that Saturday and asked if I thought it would rain.....(on her parade, so to speak.) I said no, of course it won't, even though both of us had listened to the same weather forecast. I had to believe it wouldn't be that cruel after all the care Diana had taken. To see all her hard work go up in smoke...actually down in rain, was too hard to contemplate. So I lied through my teeth-who else's? and assured her that all would be well.

Two hours later, when I arrived at South of the Hilton, all seemed well! People started arriving early like Allison, David, and Nygel Barr, along with Jim and Paula O'Bryant to help Diana start setting everything up. Connie and Larry Morgan were also there to lend a hand. Fred Martin was managing to be everywhere at once, to make sure that Diana's decorations stayed up on the fish netting that carried out the luau theme. Don Kent and Ernie were there to enjoy a bit of San Diego "fun in the sun", as well as Rev Kev, a/k/a Kevin Houghton, and Dan Willan et. al.

Charlie and Joanne McClary were there, as were Donna and Dennis Cutter and their relatives. Both parties were in mobil homes. Jim Nettles brought the sound system in his "All About Kites" van. I mention all the vehicle because they played an important role in several peoples' day.

John, Rosie and Julia Rogers were looking for enough wind to put one of John's not-insignificant kites in the air. The wind did seem a bit gusty, and weren't those clouds building kind of fast?

What's that saying? "If you ignore it, it will go away!" So we did...ignore it that is. And still more people arrived. Stuart and Pammy Pixley, Bob Ball, Walt Thompson was early and his lovely wife Barbara showed up later on with their daughter and her husband. Abe Fishman, Eric Aalto and Ron Theriot came for the wind and stayed for the food. Bill Paul and Shannon as well as Coutney Johnson bought tickets, as did David, Ted, Vi Bonnie and Gil, along with Janice and Bob.

Some of the above and many of the following were trying to put some art in the sky, like Ron Despojado, Ed, Gail and Guy Lindsay, Roger McComb, Toni and Jim Flournoy, and their family. By this time it was getting closer to the time the food was to arrive and the sky kept getting darker and darker... actually it was downright ominous looking. Was that a sprinkle? No, but just in case, Aileen and Gerald Block arrived along with Virgil and Freda Dalton, John Irwin, Susan and Larry Hill, in time to "jerryrig" a plastic canopy to keep any possible moisture from getting to the food....Shouldn't it be here soon??? And it was cold, darn it! Then it happened-RAIN! in Southern California on June 5th. That wasn't supposed to happen but it did and it turned that luau into a wet but wonderful party under the tarps and tents, set up, "just in case". The Hadziki's had planned on coming but only Joe and Kristen made it. Jim had his kids with him and drove past, probably thinking "Crazy kitefliers!"

Remember the vehicles I mentioned? When it started to rain, I jumped into Jim's van and stood in the back at the opened double doors. Joanne McClary saw me and motioned me to join her in their very comfortable home-on-wheels. As we watched the rain come down harder, the food arrived and was quickly set up by Diana and all those hungry, waterlogged people. Several of those folks stopped by and sat out of the wet for a few minutes but Joanne and I stayed dry and cozy. Until it was time to race the 50 feet of so to the tarps (which filled up with water and had to be drained frequently), to retrieve some of that food. It was really good but that was the first time I've seen coleslaw float. Should wash down those crow feathers real nicely though, don't you think?

Kyte Bum and Fighter Kite Competition

By Rocky Racoon

SDKC's June meeting was an eclectic (that means "varied") assortment of activity. Initially billed as a Fighter Kite Competition, the day had something for everyone. Everyone, that is, if you are into kites.

The gods of Southern California winds were thankfully appeased and decided to let us have a full and constant force at our backs. This was quite a difference from the our luau a few weeks earlier- I guess we must have had too much fun lately and they decided for once in three decades to give us foul weather for that day- but that was a few weeks ago.

The main event of the day was the Fighter Kite Competition with Victor Heredia, no stranger to fighter kites himself, as the guest judge. Contestants from around the southland as well as other parts of California decided to come down and mix it up. With a total of over 20 contestants entered, the elimination began in the early afternoon. After all the dust had settled, the overall winner was Johnny Hsiung who came down with his family from Fresno. Johnny's final battle was with his longtime friend David Tan who resides in the LA basin area. Third place was claimed by Derek Moran and fourth was SDKC president Walt Thompson. Congratu-

lations to the winners and to all who participated. Trophies were given out compliments of Joanne M'Clary.

A surprise birthday celebration was given to honor SDKC's own "Kyte Bum" Charlie M'Clary. During the usual announcements Walt gave another toot on his whistle (who sold that to him anyway??) and the crowd slowly sang "Happy Birthday" to Charlie. As the song was being sung, a banner was being hoisted up for the guest of honor. This banner was a joint effort by members Fred and Diana Martin, Ed and Gail Lindsay, Paul and Dorine Imbach, and Jim and Paula O'Bryant. The banner is in the shape of an oversized Rev kite in Charlie's red & black colors. The red on the banner almost matched the red on Charlie's face. On the banner were the words "Kyte Bum" in yellow and an assortment of fighter kites sprinkled upon it. Charlie was also given a large color photo of himself next to his Rev and those present signed the border. The photo enlargement and mounting were courtesy of Kevin "Rev Kev" Houghton.

Elsewhere on the field Steve Kent, John Perusse, Dennis Erwin, and Company were running time trials on the CAT (Contestant Actuated Timing) System. The See "Kyte Bum" Continued on page 12

San Diego MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

KITE New Membership

CLUB Renewal

Change of Address

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(h) _____ (w) _____

Other family members _____

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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

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

PH: (619)222-9300

SDKC USE ONLY

MEMBERSHIP NO:

PAID:

RENEWAL DATE:

system has a pair of poles with switches at the upper portion. As a contestant flies their kite from left to right, the kite line trips the left and then the right switch and the time between the switches is recorded on a stopwatch. With the contestant standing a prescribed distance from the switches, a pre-set flight line length, and the poles a prescribed distance apart, the kite's time is recorded in seconds which is then converted to miles per hour by a mathematical formula taking all the aforementioned factors into consideration as well as some industrious head scratching and shoulder shrugging. Perhaps we'll someday have General Meeting with time trials as the main event. We'll keep you posted.

What would a San Diego Kite Club meeting be without a raffle? Among the prizes given away was a light blue embroidered SDKC satin windbreaker which was won by Guy Lindsay. Even though the windbreaker wasn't his correct size, Guy seemed to feel it was perfect fitting as he posed with it on *a la* JC Penney catalog. There was no truth to the speculation that Guy was going to give it to Gail Lindsay if it wasn't a perfect fit. Top of the Line kites also donated 2 of their new "Quick Starts".

Another salute to a member was held. Ron Despojado was singled out for his help during the club's existence. Ron was given a trophy from Megapeg's Eric Aalto and Ron Theriot. The trophy was a clear lucite base with a round purple background, a palm tree, a clear Rev kite doing a tipstand, and the initials "RD" on it. Ron also met and spent the rest of the afternoon escorted by a couple of Charger Girls, thanks to some

well connected members. Is there a new Rev team in the works??

On a serious note, a situation on the kite field occurred and needs to be mentioned. An unknown kite flyer was flying near the west edge of the kite field. Underneath his airspace were Joe and Kirsten Hadzicki, Jim Nettles, and Ron Despojado helping to straighten and untangle Stuart Pixley's kite lines. Apparently Stu's lines had been scrambled when a stray kite flew into them and lifted them into the air. While the above mentioned detanglers were busy with Stu's lines, the unknown kite flyer crashed his kite near and then into the crowd of people several times. Apologies were exchanged initially but repeated apologies after each of the repeated crashes led to tempers growing shorter each time. Also, it was reported that a kite field regular flyer had her ear, tongue, and calf cut by Kevlar lines, an unconfirmed report says that the flyer of this kite was the same as the one crashing into Stuart's line crew. Who's was in the right, who was there first, and who should have to move was not the issue, but rather what was the **safest** solution to the conflict. We all know stunt kites can travel in excess of 90- 100 mph, which presents itself as a potentially very dangerous object.

We should be very proud of our club. The San Diego Kite Club is considered one of the leaders of kite clubs in the nation. In addition to fun activities, competitions, and friendship, our club should stress safety above all else.

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Old Phone: Home _____ Work _____ New phone: Home _____ Work _____

Please send to: San Diego Kite Club
 P.O. Box 7977
 San Diego, CA 92137

Or give to any SDKC Officer at any time.

Please send us any news items that you think the club members would like to know about one of our fellow members.

----- *Cut along Dotted Line* -----

In order to do a good job for the members of the SDKC we thought that this would be a good time to ask the reader about their opinion and what things they would like to see more of in the newsletter. So here goes.....Be gentle, this is my first time, you know!

I would like to see more articles about some technical aspects of kite flying. Y N

I would like to have more information about kite building. Y N

I want more trading cards of famous SDKC members. Y N

I would like to serve the club in a more active capacity. Y N

Please give us your name and phone number. _____

I think that the club should do more of the following kinds of activities. _____

I've got some great ideas about fundraising that I would like to suggest

Please give us your name and phone number. _____

I think that the newsletter was great and the new editor better do better on his second try. Y N

I would like to write articles for the newsletter. Y N

Please give us your name and phone number. _____

I hate surveys and think that this one was just a way to fill a page. Y N

I think the editor will be sorry he asked for my opinion. Y N

I love to gripe and am glad I had this chance to do so. Y N



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Inside This Issue:

A message from the Pres!

Two Great Articles about the Berkeley Festival - **MUST READING!!**

Lots of Calendar Items - See especially the plans for Halloween

Letters from the Mailbag

Great Articles about the club's activities

The New Board of Directors and the Directors at-large.

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