

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Vol. VII No.2

April 1996

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BELMONT SHORES IS A "SMASHING SUCCESS"



SDKC members sweep the quad-line competition flying to movie themes. Slim's interpretation of Beauty and the Beast, Ron's Clear & Present Danger/Jesus Christ Superstar and Larry's Jurassic Park pleased the judges as well as the crowd.

THERE IS ONE important factor in having a successful kite event: good wind. That's exactly what happened as 47 fliers, some coming from as far away as Bend, Oregon, competed at the inaugural Aire Affair Kite Productions' Belmont Shores Kite Tournament in Long Beach, California.

At 9 a.m., the first event on the ballet field was Intermediate and Novice Individual Ballet. John Shara of Ventura flew a flawless ballet routine to capture first place in Novice Individual Ballet. Rounding out the top three were husband and wife Jerry (2nd) and Mary Neese (3rd). It was great to see new fliers in the novice class.

The judging for Intermediate Ballet was very close with San Diego Kite Club icon Charlie M'Clary finishing on top. Gerri Adler who flew down from

Davis, California, for the day to compete placed second, and Steve LaPorte, a make-up artist from Burbank came in third.

Masters Individual Ballet was a showcase for the talented fliers who came down from the Berkeley area who are known for their radical "Bezerkely Style" flying. The top five finishers were all flying a kite that is truly legendary — Miguel Rodriguez's California Wasp. John Morrison's first-place performance was almost flawless and he received a well-deserved score of 95.93. AKA Number One National Champion Kobi Eshun placed a very close second, scoring 95.03. And coming in third with a score of 93.13, the flier who is a true legend in sport kiting, was Miguel A. Rodriguez.

Continued on page 5

SDKC Officers (April Fools)

Dictator
Ron Desperado

Mostess Hostess
Virginia Warmly

Flounderer
Dan Wiltin'

Second Banana
Larry Mixup

Muckraker
Dorine Intheback

Past Participle
Fred Martini

Scribe
Linda Vixon

Sleazy Ad Salesman
Roger McCon

Bored Members
Walt Tommygun

Miser
Roger McCoin

Old Guy
Charlie McScary

Connie Morgana
Jim Peddles
Joanne M' Carry
Neil Tattle

Name Dropper
Slim Wrongkey

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

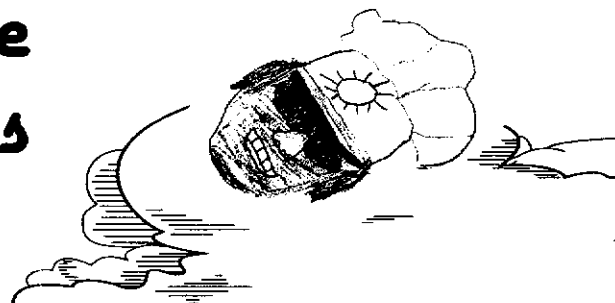
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Unless specifically marked "Not for republication," all submissions are available to other kiting publications without compensation. The SKYLINES staff reserves the right to edit all material.

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Pate in the Puffies



IT'S HERE!! Spring time, when every young man's (and woman's) fancy turns to kites!

Kiting events have begun and will soon kick into high gear. This month we will finally, after a four-year absence, have a competitive kiting event in San Diego. Coupled with that will be a fighter kite and single-line competition on the same weekend. So, is there any kiting interest we haven't addressed?

With a new season of kite flying I'm eager to see the new models of retail kites, as well as seeing some new homemade products. The festivals should also show a new level of performance from stunt kites. Now is the time when old friendships are renewed, and new ones made. Think about all the people you've met through kiting. Pretty much a fun-loving group, wouldn't you think? Sure there are differences, as there are different kites. However, what binds us is our interest in kites. Having people we've met through kiting come further into our lives

in other areas will only enhance the bond.

Growth in our membership has always been a concern. Not since the 1991 California Open did we have a major influx of new members. We have been fortunate to maintain a certain level of activities due to our membership chipping in for raffles, lunches, seminars, etc. Now it's time to get that big push again. Plain and simple, we're a bit thin in the wallet right now. But, we are nowhere near folding. Let's maintain our poise and we'll get back in good financial shape soon.

Your support of the club is directly related to your enjoyment. I don't believe many of us would have met half of the people we know through kiting had we not belonged to a club. A club is just a vehicle for us to gather with a common interest. That's why we belong. Those who show up at the meetings and are not currently members are only diminishing their own enjoyment. If you have a stake in something, then you're going to want to get something out of it, right? Allow yourself to have fun and support our club.

See ya out there.

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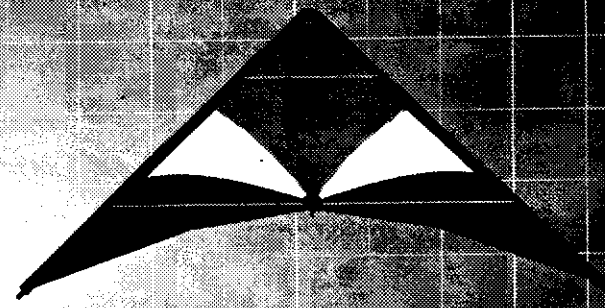


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BELMONT SHORES KITE TOURNAMENT

March 30, 1996

Masters Individual Ballet		Novice Individual Ballet		3. Bowdy Aggers 59.20	
1. John Morrison	95.93	1. John Shara	85.93	4. Joy Block	50.67
2. Kobi Eshun	95.03	2. Jerry Neese	85.53	Intermediate Individual Precision	
3. Miguel A. Rodriguez	93.13	3. Mary Neese	82.20	1. Paul Eiler	71.87
4. Brian Champie	91.80	Masters Pairs Ballet		2. Larry Mixon	64.53
5. Michael Weingand	85.60	1. Dos Avispas	86.67	3. Steve LaPorte	62.50
6. Dan Whitney	83.13	2. Gone With the Wind	80.87	4. Mark Brownton	59.13
7. Burnett Lee	79.63	3. Zephyrus A	68.07	5. Gerri Adler	59.07
8. Steven Block	64.40	4. Zephyrus B	50.80	6. Dan Rubesh	58.47
9. Laurie Richie	60.67	Masters Team Ballet		7. Charly M'Clary	48.57
10. Chuck Bradford	47.87	1. Air West	83.53	8. Larry Southard	44.13
Experienced Individual Ballet		Quadline Individual Ballet		Novice Individual Precision	
1. Stephen Bateman	81.00	1. Ron Despojado	88.73	1. Paul Eshelman	75.80
2. Larry Bush	80.40	2. Slim Warnke	76.53	2. John Shara	71.73
3. Bowdy Aggers	78.33	3. Larry Mixon	75.40	3. Marry Neese	72.00
4. John Gabby Jr.	74.07	4. Jesse Lawrence	70.80	4. Michael Sanchez	69.87
5. Joy Block	64.00	5. Bowdy Aggers	58.33	5. Jerry Neese	63.03
Intermediate Individual Ballet		Masters Individual Precision		Masters Team Precision	
1. Charly M'Clary	83.60	1. Stephen Bateman	69.80	1. Air West	74.87
2. Gerri Adler	82.87	2. Kobi Eshun	69.10	Open Freestyle	
3. Steve LaPorte	82.40	3. Brian Champie	64.90	1. Bowdy Aggers	73.03
4. Jessie Lawrence	80.40	4. Miguel A. Rodriguez	64.07	2. Mark Brownton	70.67
5. Mark Brownton	79.13	Experienced Individual Precision		3. Steve LaPorte	????
6. Danny Block	75.13	1. Larry Bush	67.33	Junior Precision	
7. Larry Mixon	74.33	2. Steve Kent	65.73	1. Jesse Drury	74.63
8. Tom Fine	74.07			2. Sharaya Aggers	44.83
9. Dan Rubesh	73.53			3. Clayton Sexton	41.30
10. Larry Southard	57.73				

Airplay

by *Jurri Cable*

Neil Tuthill



NEIL AND I sat in his van, out of the wind, so we could actually hear each other, and this business-oriented gentleman told me his kiting history.

Hawaii is where he was introduced to kiting; he was there in conjunction with his pin sales to Alan Nagao. He didn't fly a kite in Hawaii, that didn't happen until later when he was in Eureka, California, for a kite festival.

Dusty Smith put a kite in his hands, but John Baressi was the one who taught him to fly. Neil and John teamed up for a couple of years with Neil sponsoring John at many kite festivals.

John did come up with the design for the Kite Klaw, which Neil produces. "I have the original one he hand made. We experimented with several different plastics and ended up with the old standard styrene plastic, but in much better quality, in the color we wanted, a royal blue. We feel we have better packaging in our accessories than many other companies put out."

His business is Ancal. "A group of kids came up with the name for us. It's short for Arizona, Nevada and California." At that time he was a manufacturing representative for sewing notions. Now his card reads litho printing and specialty sales with Neil C. Tuthill as president. What's really interesting is that the back of the card is in Japanese, and his ties to Japan helped in bringing one of Japan's Living Treasures, Seiko Ishiyama, to San Diego for the New Year's Fly in 1995.

Even over a year later, that event is still mentioned as a memorable occasion.

"Before, kiting was kind of a sideline, but now

I'm more involved because I, oh, started shooting my mouth off, I guess," admits Neil. "I made comments about kite sponsorship [and how it should be improved]. I decided that the kiting industry is about where volleyball was 25 years ago."

Neil and I agreed that kiting needs much better marketing. "Kiting today has become truly a high-tech sport. The kite industry does a marvelous job of marketing to themselves, but they don't market outside. We need to go to the high schools and junior highs and show them kites other than the little paper and plastic ones. We hope that with our coming events and creating a junior classification for the younger fliers will encourage more kids to get involved."

I asked Neil to give me an amusing anecdote to finish with and he said, "That really isn't my cup of tea. I do have a story about Ray Bethel in Australia though. I've know Ray since the AKA in Seaside, Oregon, in 1993. At World Cup he decided to break the world's record. Because he recently became almost one hundred percent deaf and can't hear the music, he asked me to cue him when he needed to start flying. Well, he broke the world record; he took three kites up in the air and hooked those to his waist. Had them in synchronization, then picked up two additional kites in each hand, so now there's seven kites he's flying.

"What's really remarkable is that he flew an absolutely perfect performance, not one flaw at all. It happened to be standing at the right spot so I had a great perspective of the routine, and it was the most

Continued on page 13

Belmont

from page 1

Spectra Sports Air West was uncontested in the Masters Team Ballet and Precision. Air West's Captain, Bert Tanaka, was very pleased with the team's first competitive performance, and the judges' scores for Air West reflect this.

The Masters Pairs Ballet field had five teams competing. It was good to see members from Zephyrus that haven't been in competition for some time in this event. Zephyrus A did very well returning to competition with a third-place finish. Gone with the Wind flew their Sky Burner kites to an admirable second place. First place was captured by Dos Avispas, which features the number one and two fliers in the country, Kobi Eshun and Miguel Rodriguez. John Gabby Jr. remarked that "Kobi and Miguel aren't just a pair, they're a dynasty!" Kobi said that he and Miguel hadn't flown pairs since their trip to Japan in October. It was hard to tell as they flew another phenomenal routine.

Individual Quadline Ballet was dominated by quadliners from the San Diego Kite Club. Ron Despojado's new routine captured first place and was greeted with thunderous applause from the spectators. The ever youthful Slim Warnke finished second and SDKC VP Larry Mixon placed third.

One highlight of the competition was the three fliers who competed in the newly formed Junior Class. The courage displayed by Sharaya Aggers, Clayton Sexton and Jesse Drury to go on the field and perform in front of all those spectators makes each of them a winner!

The precision events went off precisely with Stephen Bateman placing first in Masters, Larry Bush garnering a first in Experienced, Flying Wings' Paul Eiler taking first in Intermediate and newcomer Paul Eshelman topping the Novice Precision Class.

Aire Affair Kite Productions would like to thank the sponsors of the Belmont Shores Kite Tournament: Wind Toys, AirMaster, BFK, Kites Etc., Cosmic Kites, TC Ultra, Ride the Wind, Spectra Sports Kites, Leading Edge Kites, Skyshark, ANCAL, and Ron Despojado Graphic Design.

We have to thank our head judge, Craig Wong, for keeping the event running on time. Walt Thompson should be applauded for his scorekeeping and Sandee Bush did a wonderful job of running registration. We also appreciate the super volunteers from the San Diego Kite Club who helped to made this an historic first event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Without a doubt, the first Aire Affair Kite Productions Belmont Shores Kite Tournament was in the words of the country's top flier Kobi Eshun, "A smashing success!" — *Larry Bush*



Bowdy and Sharaya Aggers won four trophies in all.



Steve Bateman was awesome in ballet and took Masters Precision.



Charlie M'Clary took a first in Intermediate Ballet his first time competing in dual line.

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LOG OF THE KYTE BUM

Staying home with Charlie and Joanne M'Clary

Due to the fact that we have just been enjoying the beautiful flying weather at home in San Diego and no kite festivals were scheduled, the log is more like a twig and will be exceedingly short this time.

Bob Browning of the Chicago area delivered the Tsubasa two-line kite, which is being made in Japan. As the kite impressed me when the designer was in San Diego earlier, I was very anxious to get one and the only thing that I can find that isn't totally excellent is the red isn't a true red — now that's really going some to find something to be picky about! Joel Scholz also sent the new quad-line Vampire Bat kite, which I guess I'll have to fault because the yellow doesn't exactly match the Beautiful Evil yet — it needs to fade a little! At any rate the two new kites have kept the Kyte Bum occupied most of the time.

March 3, 1996, was a family kite flying day at Mission Bay Park, which incorporated families from a number of 7th Day Adventist churches in the area. I had been asked to come by and lend a hand. There



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were nearly as many kites in the air as there were on New Year's Day, and although small and mostly home made, it was a very good event with little contests and games. The only help needed was with bridles, but other than that, the assistance needed was minimal.

March 11, 1996, I was asked to lecture, demonstrate and give lessons to the students at Mark Twain Junior & Senior Continuation School. Now that was a little more work, as I did this for the entire school day for different groups of students. I used my own kites (some of course never came out of the bag) and felt happy that only one spine was broken on a fighter kite and one spar broken on one of the two-liners. There were varying degrees of interest and aptitude with only one student knowing how to fly beforehand. The event was held on the football field and, although rain threatened, the weather was nice. It proved a positive experience for myself and the students. Hopefully some of them will continue their interest in flying.

MOO-OOVE OVER MAD COW DISEASE — THERE'S A NEW THREAT TO OUR HEALTH

THIS JUST IN...

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta confirmed today the identification of yet another virulent viral infection. The newly discovered infection has been tentatively dubbed Aerodyne Fever pending results of intensive tests, which are presently in progress. It has been reported that the symptoms of the infection are quite similar to influenza, and victims report a vague sense of wistful urgency along with a morbid fascination with weather conditions.

According to preliminary reports, those affected recognize the onset of a high fever with no increase in body temperature shortly after exposure to the condition. Although the virus is definitely airborne, it may also be transmitted by personal contact. Carriers may be found at public parks, schoolyards or on any open ground where wind velocity measures between 5 and 25 miles per hour. Research scientists caution the public to exercise extreme care when approaching any individual who is engaged in flying an aerodyne of any description and to avoid any invitation to participate in handling or manipulating said aerodyne.

The condition was first recognized during the early 1980s, although the symptoms were vague and seemingly restricted to coastal areas. But the arrival of the 1990s brought widespread infestations all

across the USA. Physicians have reported patient complaints that include pale circles around both eyes with evidence of tanning or burning of the lower cheeks and the anterior neck area, a chronic neck pain that intensifies with elevation of the chin, elongated upper extremities, and an inexplicable excess of sand particles in all body crevices. The advanced stages include aimless pacing before windows, a preoccupation with flags and treetops, the insatiable desire to watch the Weather Channel and an urge to collect oddly shaped pieces of nylon material.

Days characterized by winds exceeding 12 mph seem to draw infected parties to large, open areas where many aerodynes will be released into the skies for hours, only to be recaptured with the cessation of wind speeds. Symptoms occasionally subside for short time periods following these events, only to reappear with greater intensity approximately six days later. Carriers periodically gather enmasse at coastal sites where intensive competitions are held to determine which of the victims is the most critically affected.

As of this writing, no cure has been identified and none is anticipated due to the fact that all researchers have contracted the virus and are refusing assistance of any kind.

This report was submitted by I. Emma Phoul of the Richmond Air Force, Richmond, Virginia. We thank this concerned phellow phlyer for keeping us inphormed.

Another Year's Floun By?

by Torri Cable

It doesn't seem possible that we celebrated another year of kites in Ocean Beach, but we did! The 48th Annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival is over and we have only two years to whip up something special for the 50th. Give me suggestions now so I won't bug you for the next 20-plus months — and you know you have some ideas, don't you?

Enough nagging. Saturday, March 2, 1996, was as perfect a day as we get in southern California. The sun was warm — almost hot — the breeze was terrific for the kids to get their sled kites in the air, and between Marion Miller's bazaar in the middle of Santa Monica, the band in the schoolyard, and the kite-making in the gym, we were busy as bees. And this was all before the parade and kite flying on the edge of the Pacific Ocean.

The two weeks before the event, Virgil Dalton and Slim and Virginia Warnke bravely ventured into the grade school classes for several hours to teach the would-be pilots how to construct their kites. The day of the event found the above folks as well as

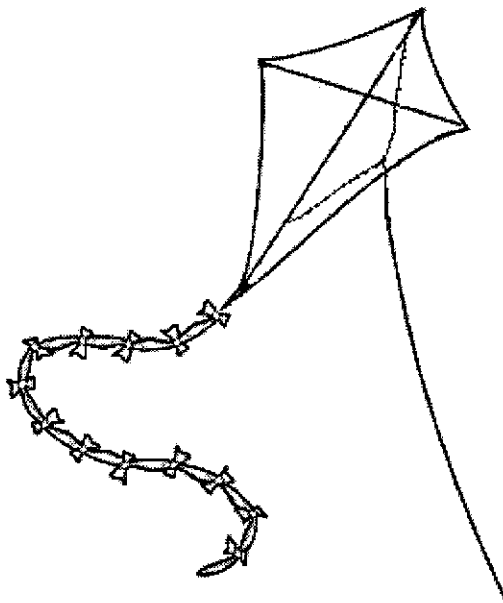
Walt Thompson, Harry French and John and Julia Rogers all helping on the assembly line to bring the kites to airworthiness (is that a word?).

This year the OB community honored Virgil by declaring him the Grand Marshal of the parade. He and the Warnkes rode down Newport Avenue in a Model A Ford waving to the crowd, as the rest of us helped Lisa Schirmer get eight of her banners down to the sand. Several of us sauntered, skipped, sang and danced our way down the avenue, having fun and acting goofy. It was great!

Once again, we helped make this another memorable Kiwanis-sponsored kite festival. So thanks to all those who contributed in any way to making this a special time for the children of Ocean Beach.

P.S. Since I know several adults who participated in the festival when they were kids, I'm told often how much this event means to them as they watch their kids in the same parade they took 20 or 30 years ago.

An Easter Story



IT HAPPENED just this way.

And if you sat in 12-year-old Jimmy Hoppe's living room in Garden Grove and listened

to him and his cousin, Dylan Watkins, tell the story, you'd know it's true.

Before Jimmy gets to the details, however, a little background.

Last Easter, Jimmy, now a sixth-grader at Sunnyside Elementary School, got a pet bunny rabbit he named Thumper. About two weeks ago, Thumper started showing signs of being sick. Because two of his sister's pet bunnies had shown similar symptoms and soon died, Jimmy's dad took Jimmy aside and told him Thumper might not survive.

Jimmy picks up the story from there.

"When Dad said he might die, I sat outside with him and was talking to him and fed him a whole entire carrot, which takes about a half an hour. When I was out there, it gave me time to think about it and what I was going to do.

"My rabbit really seemed sick and Dad thought it was going to die because it was really skinny. I was feeling really sad because I didn't want my rabbit to die, because his birthday was coming up. So, I wrote the letter, hoping I could fly it on my kite."

The letter was a simple entreaty to God. The Hoppes are a strongly religious family, and Jimmy has been brought up to believe that God hears all prayers. On the wings of a kite, Jimmy thought, the letter might have a better chance of catching God's attention.

Taking a sheet of notebook paper and crying as he wrote, Jimmy jotted this note: "Please let my rabbit live because I love him. I pray that you heal him. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Jimmy picks up the story: "I was going to spend the night at Dylan's, and the day before that was National Kite Flying Day, and it kind of made me think of flying my kite and sending the message to God, because it would make me feel better. So I went over to his house [a week ago Saturday], but we

couldn't fly that day because there was no one to take us to the park.

"We came back to my house the next day and went to the park. There wasn't no wind at all, but I really wanted to try and fly it, still. We tried getting the kite up a couple times, but it wouldn't get up. We tried three or four times but it wouldn't go up. We sat down and relaxed for a while, then I said I was going to try one more time, and I tried it and right out of nowhere this big wind blew the thing up and took the kite way up."

Dylan, 10, interjects: "It was amazing!"

"The string kept running out," Jimmy says. "The kite was going up really high. The string on mine was all run out. My cousin was trying to get his kite up, but we couldn't. And so, my mom got his kite in the air and it overlapped over my kite and it got stuck and it cut the string. So we had the extra string. His broke and the string on mine was all run out and we tied them together and mine went up even higher.

"When there wasn't no more string, about 900 feet worth, almost, and while it was up in the air, out of nowhere, Dylan noticed this bright light. It was like a star out in mid-daylight."

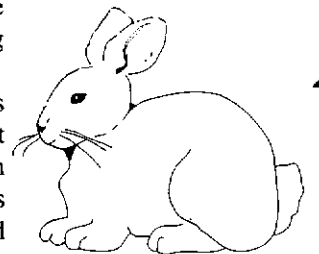
Jimmy's mother, Margaret, jumps into the conversation: "Dylan said, 'Look in the sky!' I looked up and it looked like a regular star in the daylight, like a clear white light in the sky. We were looking up there and all of a sudden, the light kind of disappeared."

"It faded," Jimmy says, "Then out of nowhere, I don't know where the bird came from, there was a white bird and it started circling the kite. It was really weird, it was just circling around, and then it dove and pecked at it."

Margaret Hoppe says birds have never pecked at the boys' kites before.

"After the bird left," Jimmy says, "the wind died down and the kite came down and everything went back to normal."

Jimmy's parents have let the boys put their own interpretation on events. Jimmy says he probably would



We hope you enjoy this piece as much as we did when we first read it.

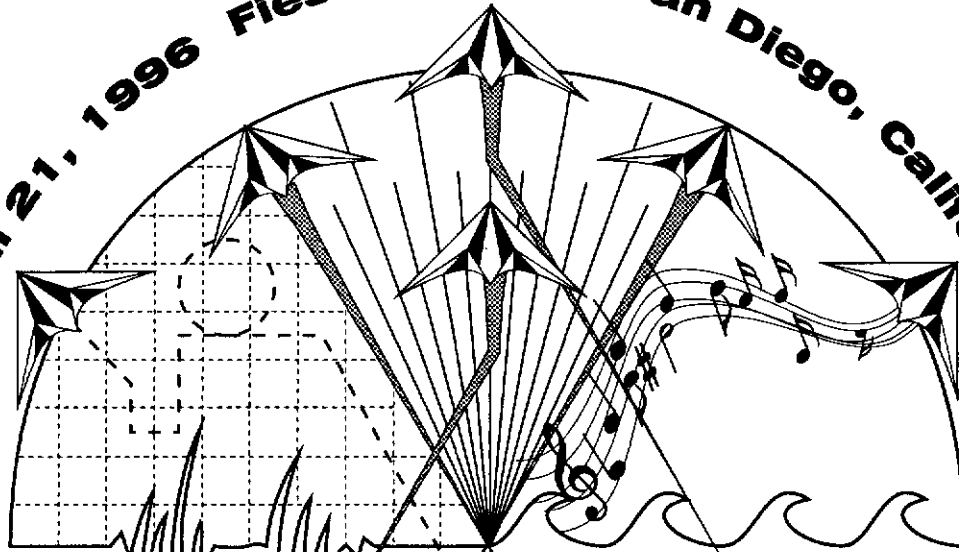
Thanks to Dana Parsons for writing it and to the L.A. Times for letting us share it. — D.I.

**NOT FOR
REPLICATION**

San Diego Kite Club *Fighter Kite Challenge & Single Line Kite Competition*

Saturday April 20, 1996 Tecolote Shores San Diego, CA

April 21, 1996 Fiesta Island San Diego, California



Southern California Open

Southern California Open

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Saturday April 20:

"People's Choice Award"

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SDKC Monthly Meeting

Sunday April 21:

Full Stunt Kite Competition

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have been able to accept Thumper's death, but that after coming home from the park, he was sure the bunny wasn't going to die.

That was last Sunday. The next day, according to Jimmy's father, Jim, Thumper started eating again.

"The rabbit was definitely going to die," Jim Hoppe says. "That's what I told my son."

Jimmy and Dylan aren't sure what the light was, but the bird's presence is clear. "He was coming down to get the message," Jimmy says.

Jimmy and Dylan told their friends at school about the miracle wind that gave flight to the kite, about the light, about the bird. They show the pecked holes in the kite as proudly as if it were God's signature.

"I know God can always hear my messages," Jimmy says, "but flying it on the kite made Him hear it a little bit louder."

You think it didn't happen just that way?

Try telling that to Jimmy or Dylan.

Or, try telling it to Thumper, who sat in his cage looking quite pleased as Jimmy spun the tale of what happened last Sunday afternoon in the park.

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Kite Fest '96 Laughlin, Nevada

By Ed and Gail Lindsay

On March 22-24, the AVI Hotel & Casino sponsored their first kite festival. The idea came about when the folks from Dream Merchant (a local shop for kites and southwestern arts and crafts) asked for permission to fly kites behind the casino. The crowd appeal was such that the idea for a kite festival was born.

This event was geared toward sport kites with some excellent flying demonstrations, and dual and quadline flying lessons being offered. A few of us "single-liners" put on a pretty good show of some pretty "artsy" kites. There were kite flyers and makers from Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii, Nevada and California. It made for a great blend of stunt and single-line exhibitions in a very relaxed and unstructured format.

The setting for this festival was a large lawn area that overlooked the Colorado River and was just outside of the back door of the casino within full view of the dining room. There was an excellent live band performing with an equally excellent sound system. The spectators lounged around on the lawn and seemed to enjoy the combination of nice weather, good music and beautiful kites. It doesn't

get much better than that!

The wind even accommodated us from time to time. Friday, the wind was up and down and a little gusty at times. Saturday the wind was crazy; we had to settle for staking out the bols and tying off a snake to a palm tree. Stunt kite pilots flew as best they could in the hard and erratic wind. The wind calmed down Saturday night to perfect breezes for the night fly. Sunday was a beautiful day where the wind was up more than it was down. The temperatures were in the 80s to low 90s with a light cloud cover.

We were assured that this was just the beginning. The management was so pleased with the outcome of their first festival that they began planning two festivals per year with the next one tentatively set for November. They liked our suggestion to decorate the lobby with kites for the next festival and the colorful banners gave them ideas for doing the same thing to decorate their grounds.

The hotel was very accommodating. The rooms were nice and the meals very good. The gaming tables were even friendly. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We sure look forward to doing it again!

Good food, nice hotel, pleasant view, generous gaming tables and kite-friendly trees — what more could you ask for?

KITE WORKSHOP WITH J.R. TOLMAN



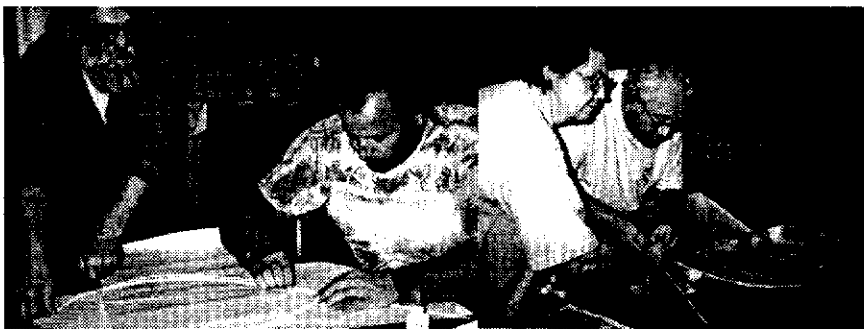
While the sun shone the club created a train of paper birds. Ron points out his well behaved contribution.

**J.R. Tolman,
master kite maker,
instructor, yarn
spinner and all-
around interesting
guy, kept us busy
and entertained.**



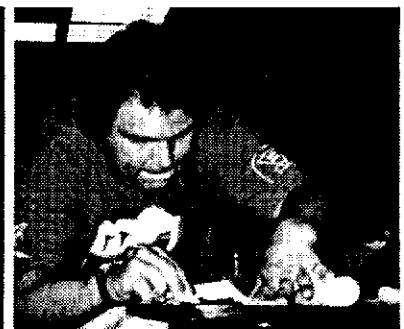
The evening's activities were evidenced by teamwork...

intensity...

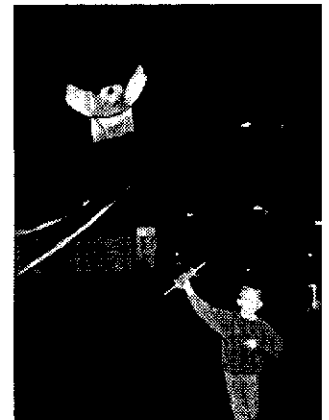


artistry...

just plain fun and...



success!



Girl Scouts Celebrate Thinking Day With The Help Of SDKC Members

Photos by Barbara Behling



San Diego's motly crew: Harry French, Greg Lawrence, Virgil Dalton, John Rogers, Jesse Lawrence (kneeling), Don Johnston (in the hole), Linda and Larry Mixon, Slim Warnke, and Ron Despojado. Also present were Virginia Warnke, Rosie Rogers and Barbara Behling.



Hey Jesse, did you get any phone numbers?

On February 24 a group of volunteers from the San Diego Kite Club met with several troops of Girl Scouts at Allied Gardens Park to put on demos and teach the scouts about today's kite world. John Rogers of course had a few large kites on hand to wow the crowd while Virgil chose a more modest size kite to show. Larry Mixon led discussions for three separate groups of around 40 girls. Jesse had a chance to show off his stunt kite flying and a big favorite was Don Johnston's stack. The girls flew some sled kites they had made from kits from All About Kites and did I mention the pizza?

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The Flyin' O' The Green



By Torri O'Cable

MARCH 16, 1996, on the green, green grass of Tecolote Shores, leprechauns, Blarney Stone kissers, and others wishin' they were Irish enjoyed the mint-hued day in the following way.

Virginia Warnke kept an eye on the eats, and an emerald spread it was. We nibbled on green dip, mint-colored cookies, grass-hued bagels, kelly-colored rice, and of course green salad. The corned beef and cabbage drew raves, and the chicken (the only non-green food on the table) was delectable. Who brought that really yummy lime pie? Linda Mixon and I found it delish!

While all this verdant food stuff was being consumed, the sky was beautifully decorated by members of the SDKC with a rainbow of kites. John Rogers had some "little" thing he'd thrown together tucked into his usual spot on the horizon.

Dorine Imbach donated a gorgeous green hexagon to the raffle. Gail Lindsay had to send Ed running out to rescue her work of art just as they were about to eat!

Several faces were new — sorry guys, didn't get all your names, but Mike, Glen Sims, Steve and his lady friend with red hair — she must be Irish, right?

Jim Campbell and his son Danny also enjoyed the greenery, er scenery. Also enjoying the view were Slim and the Warnke offspring from Minnesota, Sissy and her husband Steve, Warren, the older brother, and the San Diego bunch, Kurt and Mary

Anne. Jack and Harry rounded out the grand old men of the kite field welcoming back Virgil who'd been out of commission with a bad cold.

Mitch, Don and Robert were set up in the middle of the field, while Jesse Lawrence and his dad and mom set up on the other side of the spread.

Randy Spear brought his daughter Christina; she won raffle stuff! Donna and Dennis Cutler were giving tours of their new motorhome, and John Rogers'

van was the show place for Kathy Aggers latest work of art — a stunning tiger on a kite that Rosie Rogers will soon be flying.

Larry Brandon, Roger McComb, Bowdy Aggers, and pi spent most of their day on the flying field contributing to the sky works. Sandy and Larry Bush had driven down, as had Neil Tuthill, to bring us up to speed on the Belmont Open to take place on March 30th.

Joanne and Charlie M'Clary had to put up with all the comments regarding Charlie's television debut (he was featured on the March 6 episode of *Prime Time*). Way to go Charlie! Do we have to call him Charles or Mr. M'Clary now???

As the afternoon wound down, several Rev kites filled the air with a mega quad fly; the pilots included Nicole Meinhardt, Ron Despojado, Walt Thompson, Jesse Lawrence, Larry Mixon, and the above-mentioned Charlie.

All in all, it was a grand wearin', eatin', and flyin' o' the green.



New quad-line mega team, the Phlyin' Phools.

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Neil Tuthill

from page 4

exhilarating thing I've run into in a long time. I call Ray the grand old man of kiting."

Neil and his friend Larry Bush are sponsoring an event at Belmont Shores, under the name Aire Affair. By the time you read this, that event will be over, but their next festival will be about to start at Fiesta Island on April 21, 1996.

Hope to see everyone from the SDKC taking part in this, and it will also give you a chance to ask Neil about his pet skunk; it's always in his van. Go ahead, ask him. He'll show it to you. Oh, and it has been deodorized, I think.

Basir's Fighter Fest

The 3rd Annual Afghani Fighter Championship sponsored by Basir Beria was held on Sunday, March 24, at Castaic Lake, just a few miles north of Valencia. The fighter championship was held to honor the Persian/Afghan New Year.

Basir was there very early in the morning to start setting up his booth, and Hans Braemer and Yves from San Diego arrived around 9 a.m. Most of the Afghan attendees started arriving after 11 a.m. That's when it became exciting! The day was blessed with sunny skies and gentle breezes, perfect weather conditions for the large Afghani kites. The sky was always filled with fighters — at least 50 fighting kites in the sky at all times — before the competition started. Johnny Hsiung attended the event too, and participated in the pre-competition fights. He was able to cut down more kites than he lost, and he went "mountain climbing" to retrieve several downed kites.

Eighteen fighters signed up for the main competition.

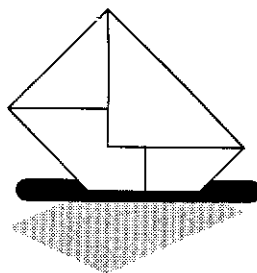
Winners:

1st - Team Night Star C (Samey & Agrahim)

2nd - Rahim Safdari

3rd - Shafiq

Basir sold all of his kites, a total of 350 kites. Two other Afghanis sold their kites after Basir's were gone. There were approximately 2,350 people attending the day-long event, each enjoying the special day.



Letters

Just wanted to express my appreciation to Ron and Sandy Gibian for the great weekend that they put together in Visalia, on March 23, 24. It was especially gratifying for me, of course, as I am now the proud owner of a "Gibian original" as a result of a winning raffle ticket. How sweet it is!

The food, the hospitality, the camaraderie, and the many new friends that I made, will certainly make it a weekend that will stand out as one of the highlights of the year.

Look forward to seeing you all again soon. Those of you that couldn't make it missed a real great time.

Thanks again Ron and Sandy for a super weekend.

Larry Nickel

Dear San Diego Kite Club Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame, I wish to thank you for your most generous contribution to our Museum Building Fund in memory of Larry Morgan.

The Board is working very hard to obtain funds for a new facility in Long Beach. We hope to either expand the existing museum or construct a new facility in the same area. Funds have permitted us to retain a design and architectural firm from the Seattle area and the Board has met with this firm to set up the basic foundation of the facility.

As a very important contributor to the Building Fund, you will be receiving updates and newsletters concerning the progress of the new museum project.

Again, thank you for your contribution of \$100.

Sincerely,

Ray Nelson

Treasurer

World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame

Long Beach, Washington



This is the Gibian kite lucky Larry took home.

Calendar Of Events

A
P
R

- 19 Board of Directors Meeting, Kings Inn, Hotel Circle, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Ron Despojado, 587-
- 20 Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00
Fighter Kite Challenge, Single Line Competition
- 21 Southern California Open regional sport kite competition, Fiesta Island
Contact: Neil Tuthill, (310) 696-
- 27 4th Saturday Fly, Santa Monica north of the pier
"Come play with Tom Van Sant"

M
A
Y

- 17 Board of Directors Meeting, Kings Inn, Hotel Circle, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Ron Despojado, 587-
- 18 Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00
scheduled: Kite Buggy Clinic with Steve Kent
- 19 Sister City Kite Festival, Tracy, Calif.
Contact: BASKL (408) 733-
- 26-27 San Ramon Art & Wind Festival, San Ramon, Calif.
Contact: (510) 551-
- 24-27 Junction Kite Retreat, Junction, Texas
Contact: Betty Street: (806) 745-

J
U
N

- 14 (tentative) Board of Directors Meeting, Kings Inn, Hotel Circle, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Ron Despojado, 587-
- 15-16 Regional Sport Kite Competition, Belmont Shores, Long Beach, Calif.
Contact: Neil Tuthill, (310) 696-

(Events subject to last-minute changes. Call (619) 685-2885 for latest updates.)



Tidbits

We are always looking for contributions to the newsletter. If you have an article, photos, kite tips, kite making plans, artwork, poetry, words of wisdom or anything kite-related you'd like to see in the newsletter, please

forward to:

*Dorine Imbach
14 W. Ave. San Gabriel
San Clemente, CA 92672
(714) 492-7777
email: skylines@speea.net
FAX: same as voice phone*

Unfortunately, the **Soaring Dragon Art Kite Workshop** scheduled for next September had to be cancelled due to lack of registrations. **Bob Harris** says that he would like to try again in the future if there is enough interest. However, the fun fly with **Tom Van Sant** at Santa Monica on April 27 is still on so make it a point to attend this. It should be a happening!

Some of the invited foreign guests have been announced for the **Washington State International Kite Festival** this August and it sounds like an interesting group. First is **Ann Harris** from England whose giant inflatable creatures were seen in the current *American Kite* magazine. Next is **Silvio Maccherozzi** from Italy who makes fantastic cellular kites. Also on hand will be **Peter Rietleit** from Germany who also builds HUGE kites, such as the Superfly, Pteranodon and whale. His newest is a giant parafoil featuring Boticelli's Venus. There will be a fourth invited guest from the U.S. undetermined at this time.

Don't forget that fighter kites will be featured at the Kite Museum and at the festival this year.

It sounds like **Miami Beach** is putting in its bid for the nation's largest kite festival. This year their festival, which will be held April 20-21, features the likes of **Peter Lynn, Lee Sedgwick, Sue Taft, Jeanne and Ray Merry, Michael Alvares, Sandra and Dale Anderson, Peter Dolphin, Wilma and Jan Fischer, Michel Gressier, Hans Faerch Jensen, Silvio Maccerozzi, Manuel Mercado, Katsuka and Ken Murooka, Oliviero Olivieri, Giacomo Reverberi, Thorsten Schacht, Herman Woldsgaard-Iversen, Tony Wolfenden and Randy Tom.**

We need a name! **Aire Affair** hasn't decided on a formal name for the regional sport kite competition to be held at Belmont Shores in June. If you have an idea for a different, ear-catching name, contact Neil Tuthill at (310) 696-7777, or pass it along to Ron or another board member.

ADVERTISING RATES

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

The following rates are now in effect per issue:

Quarter Page (4"x4.5")	\$20
1 year of quarter-page ads (6 issues)	
PREPAID (you save \$20)	\$100
Half Page (7.5"x4.5")	\$40
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PREPAID (you save \$40)	\$200
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$70
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PREPAID (you save \$70)	\$350
Half Page, Back Cover	\$60
1 year of half-page back covers	
PREPAID (you save \$60)	\$300
Full sheet insert	\$75

Interested parties should contact:

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or call Roger A. McComb at (619) 483- for additional information and submission deadlines.

Advertisers should have camera-ready, black-and-white artwork.

We may accept payment in the form of kiting products in lieu of cash payments.

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APRIL 14th, SUNDAY 1996

Lee Toy Memorial Kite Fly

on the

San Francisco Marina Green

11 AM until the last fliers leave.

contact George 707-935-

From a first-time competitor at Belmont Shores:

I would like to give my thanks to Barbara, Greg, Jesse, Slim, Harry, Larry & Linda, and most of all, Ron, for all your support.

You guys were great!

Nicole

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