

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Vol. VI No. 6

December 1995

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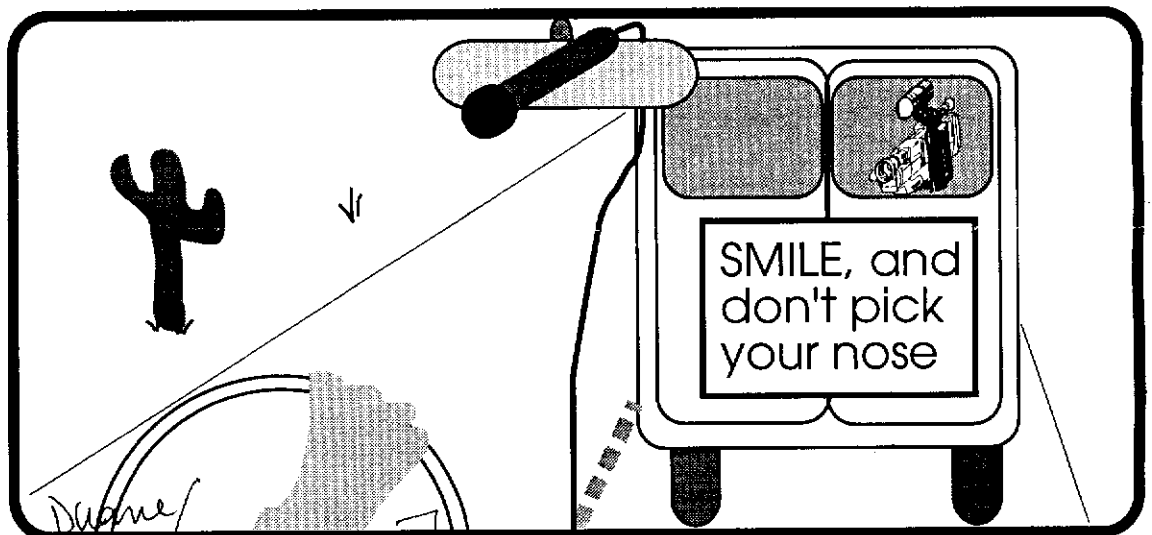
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Travels With Charlie



Stacey Walker
1-818-345

Kevin → 1-818-998-

It is a long boring trip from Kingman, Arizona, to San Diego when you are making the trip alone, so when Charlie saw a presentable-looking hitchhiker standing with a sign indicating he needed a ride to L.A. or Santa Monica, he stopped to give him a ride. The man explained that he was hitchhiking across the entire country as material for a documentary television show and asked Charlie to sign the appropriate release papers, etc., if he was still willing to give him a ride. Within minutes a motorhome support crew and multiple cameras were in view, and the adventure began.

Charlie found the young man to be interesting and was fascinated with the fact a camera was fastened to the rear view mirror and the other equipment and techniques. It didn't take much talking for the young man to persuade the Kyte Bum to take

him all the way to Santa Monica — the very parking lot we use when we fly on the 4th Saturdays, thus completing the hitchhiker's trip from ocean to ocean.

The man offered to buy Charlie a kite, but not knowing of any kite immediately needed, he gave him the address of the International Kite Museum in Long Beach, Washington. A promise was given that a donation would be made by the company before the program aired and that we would also be given a call with the information. No call has been received, and we have no way of guessing when it will be or even what the name of the show is.

Nevertheless, it was an interesting experience and it certainly relieved the boredom for that stretch of the trip when bringing the motorhome back home after repairs.

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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.

Deadline: 15th of odd-numbered months for publication in following issue.

San Diego Kite Club
P.O. Box 7977
San Diego, CA 92167
USA
Ph. (619) 685-2885

Cranium in the Cumulus

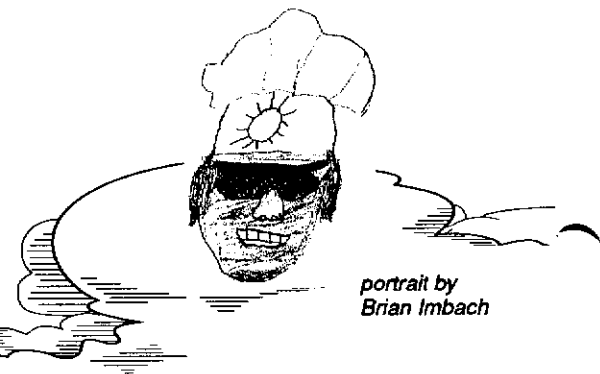
SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB TO DISBAND!!

THE END IS NEAR!!

Well, the first headline could happen, but I don't think so in the near future. I've received comments both positive and negative for the current club status. The revival of the special seminars has been a success. Vic Heredia and his fighter kite seminar was a hit! The raffles we've had nearly every meeting have been good for the recipients and for the club. The only problem with the raffles is the ongoing search for things to give away.

(Are you retailers and manufacturers listening out there?) These are the positives.

The fact the club is pursuing and intends to be instrumental in at least one and most likely three sport kite events has given surprisingly negative feedback. The most frequent of these is "Why should the club get involved? What's in it for us?" Newly formed Aire Affair Kite Productions is doing most of the



legwork on this but is asking the club's help for manpower. Yes, there will be something in it for the club, but we haven't gotten that far yet. We should approach this with an open mind, not with the attitude that we're being consciously "set up" to take the fall.

We won't disband anytime soon, but I did get your attention.

The second headline is a fact. No, you don't need to repent, just get ready to have fun. The end of the year is near, which means our New Year's Day Fun Fly is right around the corner. So far everything is on-line but not yet finalized. A last minute curve ball: The New Year's Eve reception WILL NOT be held at the Fabulous Inn due to their current renovation. As of this time, there is no alternate location. The SDKC Hotline will have the information as soon as it is available. The Fighter Kite Challenge will take place as scheduled, 1:00 at the regular kite field on December 31, 1995.

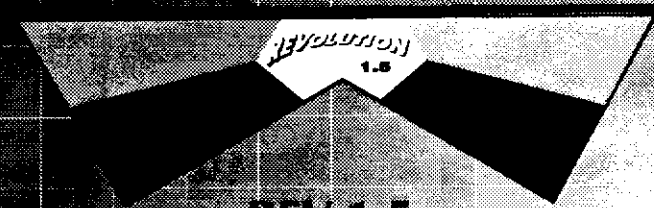
See ya out there,

RON

* HOTLINE NUMBERS *

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AKA Automated Information
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Available at your local kite shop

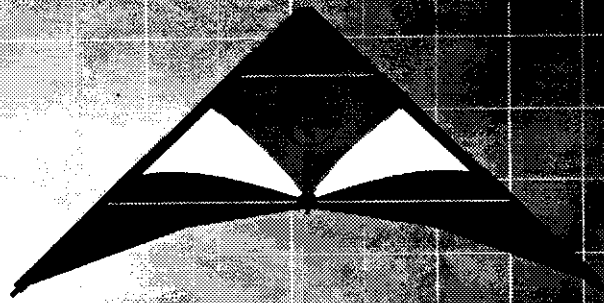


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BOARD MEETING Highlights

Nov. 17, 1995

Newsletter mailing — As it is felt that some members do not renew their memberships promptly because they continue to receive the newsletter, it was proposed that we limit newsletter mailing to one issue maximum after expiration.

Fabulous Inn renovation — The Fabulous Inn is not currently in operation and is in the process of being transferred to a Comfort Inn. To get updated information call (619) 291-2711 — Hotel Circle Inn & Suites regarding reservations.

Rising Lunch cost — As the cost of food has increased, we will consider raising the price of lunch to \$3.00.

Bert Tanaka judging seminar — Kathy Aggers suggested that we have a judging seminar in preparation for the competitions next year and that Bert

Tanaka would be willing to present the seminar since he has been a judge and an active competitor and team flyer.

December meeting — We will have a potluck and gift exchange. It will be a progressive raffle and all who participate must bring a present.

New Year's Day Fly — The emphasis will be on Mexican food for a buffet/salad bar arrangement. Regular members will be responsible for the main dish items as out-of-town guests will not be expected to bring a dish.

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-
email: skylines@speed.net
FAX: same as voice phone*

Airplay

by Torri Cable

WALT THOMPSON

Walt's been ducking me for months trying to avoid this interview, and he admits this freely. I think it wound up being less painful than he'd anticipated, at least he seemed OK when it was over.



Tom showed us how to applique. We really have a lot of talent in our area. It's also nice to bring in people from out of town who might be in the area. The idea is to expand and have a lot of kite-related activities."

As club president, Walt served the SDKC

All of this began at 3:15 on November 3, 1995, but was immediately interrupted for him to set up his kite. As he began flying his Rev II about 15 minutes later, we started chatting. He said he is #12 on the SDKC roster of members, so he's been with the club from near its inception. He became interested in kiting when he went to the bay on his lunch hour to get away from the office.

He'd see Tony and Virginia flying with Ron Despojado. They let him fly their kites, and soon he was on the field with his first kite, a Rev I. This was the first of many; he now flies deltas, highflyers, foils, and fighter kites. He said, "I really enjoy flying fighters. That's it, right?" Trying to sneak an early out with this interview, Walt thought he'd get away after two or three questions. Not so fast, guy, there's lots more to tell.

We reminisced about meetings at Tony's house and then how Walt became the club president when our membership was very low. He said, "I think it was Charlie (our archivist) who nominated me for president; Ron had about four jobs to do, and we brought the membership back up. We made it very active and viable. Every month we had something going on. We had a lot of variety. The idea was to have the kite club be for kites."

Walt credits a group effort for getting the New Year's Day Kite Fly going. His big push was for us to help out at the Del Mar Polo Grounds Children's Hospital fund raiser. He pointed out, "That was where we got a lot of exposure in terms of helping out non-profit groups. We also started events like the one at the Women's Club in Ocean Beach. Randy

for two years and then was appointed AKA district representative for Southern California and Hawaii. The American Kite Association president, David Gomberg, asked him to finish the last year of a three-year term. Then in October of '94 he was elected to the full three years.

Walt pointed out, "Three years is a long time." But that will give him more chances to "start getting involved with other groups, like city functions and art groups. We helped open the B Street Pier Art Gallery with a kite, which was a first. The Port Authority had never before allowed kites on the pier, and Randy Tom's single-line kite was flown from it. There was also an art and music festival on the Broadway Pier and we had a big kite extravaganza then. That event was picked up by a lot of the media. They showed the skyline of San Diego with all the kites from local kitemakers. You could see Gail Lindsay's, Randy Tom's, Jose Sainz's, all those beautiful kites up in the air."

Walt went on to point out, "What I try to do with both the San Diego Kite Club and the AKA is to put kiting in areas that were not traditionally thinking about kiting. We've volunteered to go to organizations' picnics and fly, and we've gone on the road too. We went to Northridge when the local community services wanted to do something nice for their area after the earthquake, so they asked our help in putting on a kite festival — something that would be calming after all the destruction from the quake."

He's gone to the high desert, Santa Monica, and also north of Azusa for the Afghan Fighter Kite Fes-

We welcome back our favorite interviewer. You were missed, Torri!

Continued on page 9

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December Meeting: Gift Exchange and Potluck



The SDKC will hold its December meeting on Saturday, December 16, at 1:00.

This meeting will be, as in years past, a potluck and gift exchange. The gift's suggested value is between \$5 and \$20, but gifts exceeding \$1,000 or more will be accepted. And again this year, it will be a "progressive raffle."

In case you've forgotten, each gift will be wrapped and placed on the ground. A raffle ticket will be drawn and that person selects and unwraps the gift. The next raffle ticket drawn will have the option to select an unwrapped gift and open it OR select a gift that already has been unwrapped.

If a gift is taken away from someone, the "taker" shall give the previous owner an unwrapped gift, which is opened at that time. The idea is to be the very LAST raffle ticket drawn in order to select from all the gifts.

One raffle ticket will be given to each person bringing a wrapped gift. A limited number of raffle tickets will be sold to those who are unable or forget to bring a gift. The club will provide a few great and not-so-great gifts. So join in the spirit and bring those presents! (These details are subject to last-minute alterations.)

It has been said that the SDKC is a club that loves to eat. Whether we want that image or not is another issue, but LET'S EAT ANYWAY!! The club is asking members to bring a dish to share for the December meeting. You could even try out that new recipe before the New Year's Day Fly. The club will supply plates, napkins, and plasticware.

LOG OF THE

KYTE BUM

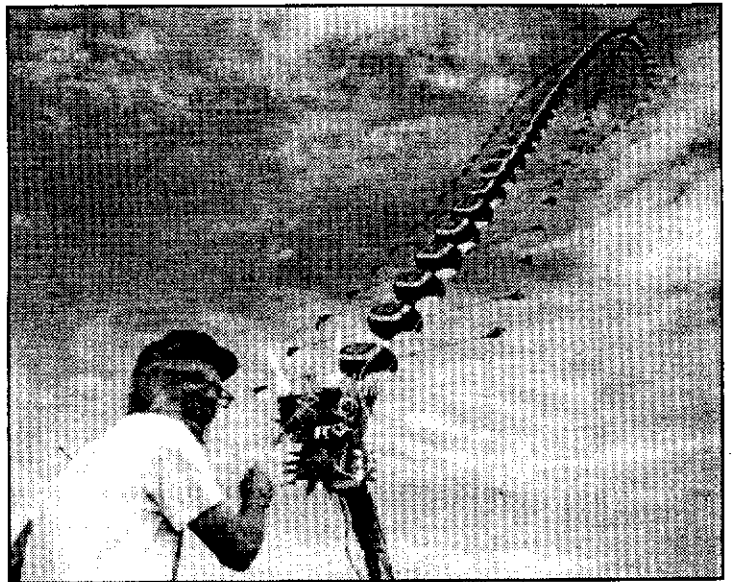
*On the road with Charlie
and Joanne M'Clary*

THE LAST WORDS of the log published in October indicated that we would be going to Tulsa to the AKA convention and that we would make it if the Good Lord was willing and the creek didn't rise. Well, we didn't have any floods to cause any creeks to rise, so I guess the Good Lord just wasn't willing, as we didn't make it! We probably should have taken the hint when we opened the doors to the motor home the morning we were to take off and a few things were missing — like the boom box including Charlie's new custom-made tape to fly to, the binoculars, the color TV and a few other things — but nevertheless, we started out.

The weather was hot, but everything else was in good order. We called Randy Shannon in Flagstaff and made plans to stop by his place and do some trade-offs. Well, we spent the first night out in Kingman, Arizona, and after a leisurely start the next morning started on our way to Flagstaff. We only got about 30 miles out, and that is where our trip ended. We had a problem with the motorhome, and since it always takes ages to get even simple parts for the Winnebago, we knew we wouldn't make it to Tulsa.

We had bought new breathing equipment, which meant that we didn't have to have a generator and trailer along, but since you can't take oxygen on a plane, it meant coming home by bus. If a person really needs to waste a lot of time in a very boring and uncomfortable way, I would recommend a Greyhound bus station. We spent 20 hours getting home from Kingman via Greyhound, a large part of it just sitting in or on molded plastic chairs in the Phoenix bus station. The temperature outside was about 115 degrees, even if there was something around the station to do or some place to fly.

We were very disappointed in not getting to the AKA convention, plus the fact we had intended to visit various relatives that live in the Midwest after



Charlie enjoying his first encounter with Shin Shui.

leaving Tulsa. Since there hasn't been any festivals in the area, we have contented ourselves with the usual routine of flying south of the Hilton and occasionally in our own backyard, better known as Dusty Rhodes Park.

We did attend the board meeting and very much enjoyed the October Halloween meeting and the night fly. I believe this was the most wind we have had for our Halloween night fly, and we'll just have to get some of those sequential lights that Don Johnston had on his kite! We never did find out who had the laser pointer that was doing some interesting things in illuminating some of the kites. All in all, the night fly was very enjoyable, the fire was cozy and the cider & donuts were welcome.

4th Saturday Fly, Santa Monica, October 28

We had missed some of the fourth Saturday kite flys recently due to our other travels, and it was very enjoyable to see so many people turn out for this scheduled non-club event. Tyrus Wong put his 90-cell centipede up. The wind was not strong enough for it to fly more than a few minutes, but it went up so easily and smoothly, it reminded us of just how

great a kite builder Tyrus really is. We are really trying to persuade him to come to San Diego for the New Year's Day event so that other people can get a chance to meet and appreciate him the way those of us who know and fly with him at Santa Monica do.

There were approximately 25 adults and several children that attended the Santa Monica fly this month and that is considered a pretty good turn out. The wind was not good, but the socializing was. Although the motorhome is running now, there just doesn't seem to be any festivals to attend, so we won't be on the road much until spring it looks like.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the regular meetings and keeping our fingers crossed for good weather so that New Year's Eve and New Year's Day will bring everyone out. Perhaps some of the excellent kite makers in the club will take the time to make some more fantastic kites for the next season. We always have the best of plans, but somehow or other the accomplishments lag behind the intentions.

November Club Meeting

Vic Heredia did his usual good job of presenting the background and overview of fighter kite flying prior to a little challenge. There were approximately 18 people who signed up to fly and receive some individual help. Some of the contestants had never flown before, and all appeared to be pleased and have a good time.

Fighter kites and the actual fighting (or kite-playing) is really showing how very internationally popular it is, as the ultimate winner of the challenge was Hans from Brazil. So now we have had winners from Pakistan, China, India, Afghanistan and now Brazil! The New Year's Eve event should be interesting!



World Cup '95 Results

	Precision	Ballet	Overall
1. Aircraft (UK)	76.38	80.00	78.91
2. Tsunami (USA)	75.83	77.20	76.76
3. Aftershock (JPN)	72.28	75.20	74.32
4. Skydance (UK)	64.27	76.40	72.76
5. Lung Ta (FRA)	67.02	74.30	72.11
6. Kite O Holix (A)	63.97	63.50	63.64
7. Lucky Landing			
Albatros (CH)	65.86	62.50	63.51
8. Ninja (JPN)	60.21	62.70	61.85
9. In 4 Mation (UK)	50.68	65.20	60.85
10. Invisible Winds (USA)	62.28	58.40	58.56
11. Vertigo (AUS)	57.17	55.40	55.83
12. Uproar (USA)	54.70	48.10	50.08
13. Ocean Breeze (AUS)	51.63	36.40	40.87



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From The SDKC Files

The Case of the Missing Wind

The incident occurred on Friday, October 27, 1995, at a place called South of the Hilton — a notorious kite fliers' hangout. The names have been changed (a little, anyway) to protect the innocent, and to protect the author from libel by the guilty.

*Report submitted by
Detective Torri Cable*

The day was sunny with very little wind — great for tourists, lousy for kitefliers. Those on the field were heard to complain about the adverse conditions. The newest member of the group, Andy Javelin, was laying out his new Revolution 1.5 with the help of Lanky Warren. The legendary Victor Daltry stood nearby giving unheeded advice.

The author noted that one of the great quadline fliers, Rob Desperado, and his friend Nadine Yourhart had put up their Rev. 1.5s on the north side of the field and were flying pairs. As Lanky was laying out his own 1.5, who should arrive but that noted kite book author and world renown flier, Lon Poor. Lon drove in from his home way, way east of

I-5, and, this is important, he was sporting a Revolution cap.

The story unfolds with greetings and salutations all around, including introductions between Mr. Poor and the new guy, Andy. Another new flyer arrived — a friend of Lanky's named Timmy Kite, (not his real name, but so close I couldn't resist.) It was pointed out that the field looked pretty good with four bright and shiny Revs, Lanky claiming that his kite was still brighter than Andy's, which was just out of its wrapper.

Bragging and blustering aside, Lon Poor asked if he could fly Lanky's kite. Who could refuse? With his Rev cap squarely centered on his head, Lon pulled the lines, stepped back, and — nothing. Zip, zilch, nada! Couldn't keep it in the air, dropped it on the ground, made lame excuses like, "There's no wind!"

Well, the long and short of it is that he broke Lanky's kite. Lanky Warren was heard to lament that Lon Poor had sucked all the wind out his kite and now it wouldn't fly.

Andy Javelin stood on the sidelines clutching his sides with laughter. Timmy Kite looked puzzled and disappointed — he was supposed to learn on that kite, but now it was *broken!* Rob Desperado and Nadine Yourhart tried to ignore the whole shameful scene, while the author and Victor Daltry were properly solicitous to Lanky. He was obviously robbed of any wind that had blown by while Lon Poor misused his kite. And what little wind was left blew the last arrival onto the field as lines were being wound up. Clarence M'Cloony didn't get a chance to fly anybody's kite; maybe he flew his own after we left, you think? Nah!

No arrests were made, but all were exposed to lack of wind and very bad puns from everyone involved.

In case you need a scorecard to tell the players:

Lanky Warren: *Slim Warnke*
Rob Desperado: *Ron Despojado*
Nadine Yourhart: *Nichole Meinhardt*
Timmy Kite: *Jimmy Kile*
Victor Daltry: *Virgil Dalton*
Andy Javelin: *Randy Spear*
Clarence M'Cloony: *Charlie M'Clary*
Lon Poor: *Remains anonymous for his own protection*

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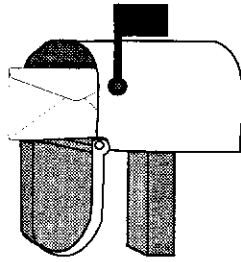
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Letters:



Dear Friends:

On behalf of the staff and children at Polinsky Children's Center, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of lunch and kite party games for our latency age children.

We are truly appreciative of the donations to Polinsky Children's Center from the community throughout the year. With the increasing number of children needing the services of our center, donations enable us to meet the children's needs and aid our staff in making the children's brief stay a little more comfortable.

Thank you so much for your consideration and kindness to our children and for being an important part of our efforts.

Sincerely,
John Robbins
Director Polinsky Children's Center



Airplay

Continued from page 4

tival. Behind all this travel, according to Walt, "is the idea to show that this is fun. And it should be fun. When it gets real involved in politics, I try to break that part of it up, as much as I can anyway. We're all here to show kites, fly kites, make kites."

One of the places he regrets not getting to yet is Hawaii. "No one wants to pay my fare," he joked.

Walt said he recently bought his own sewing machine. He was using Barbara's (his wife of many years, whom he obviously adores) but he said she started giving him funny looks. While he now has his own machine, he hasn't started making anything yet. Bet whatever he makes will be something purple, his favorite color!

We talked briefly of his family and he spoke of his two children, "I showed them how to steer and gave them a push. When they make a mistake they always have a home to come back to, but that's how we all learn, by making our own mistakes." Walt is one of those lucky individuals who is secure enough in himself that he gives power away. It's like love, the more you have and give away, the more you get back. Walt says, "The real mistake is in not trying."

Dear San Diego Kite Club

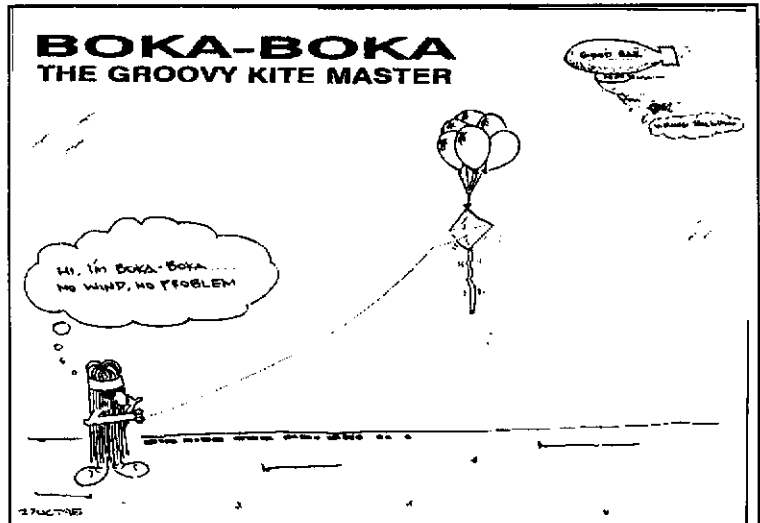
I am a Boy Scout Leader of a Bergen County troop and have been involved in scouting for more than six years. During those years I have experienced some of the most rewarding times of my life. I believe this youth program is one of the most valuable programs in the world today. Our boys develop skills, knowledge, respect, pride and understanding of the world we live in as well as for each other.

As a fellow kite flier and an AKA member, I have marveled at the prospects of introducing my scouts to this exciting and wholesome sport. Often while hiking on trails with the scouts, when I see the trees rustling or a giant gust of wind, you know what my mind is set on doing. I guess, once you get kiting in your blood, there is no getting away from it.

I am looking to develop a kite-flying program for interested scouts within my troop and possibly within the council. I know that the only resistance to this being a giant success is the cost involved in getting this "off the ground." Here is where I need your help. I have had conversations with several small manufacturers as well as flyers and everyone has agreed that most serious flyers (aren't we all) have kites they haven't flown for some time and probably never will. I am looking for a donation of these forgotten beauties. I am a volunteer to scouting and freely give approximately 800 hours a year. Knowing these beauties will be well received and that you helped introduce new members to kiting will be your reward, a reward you can be proud of. Please make this project a reality for me.

I believe over time we may even see a merit badge on kiting. Why not? Today we have merit badges on computers, skiing, leather works, archery, shooting — why not kiting?

Sincerely yours,
Rick Scherer
(201) 670-
354 Hamilton Ave.
Glen Rock, NJ 07452



Calendar Of Events

DEC

- 15 Board of Directors Meeting, Location to be announced, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Ron Despojado, 587-
- 16 Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00
Christmas Gift Exchange, Potluck
- 31 Fighter Kite Challenge, South of the Hilton, 1:00 p.m.

JAN

- 1 New Year's Day Fly, Mariners Point, 10:00 a.m.
Potluck, Tail Grab, Awards, Demos
- 15-18 Buggy Boogie Thang 2, El Mirage Dry Lake
Contact: Dan Rubesh, (805) 659
- 19 Board of Directors Meeting, Location to be announced, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Ron Despojado, 587-
- 20 Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00

FEB

- 16 Board of Directors Meeting, Location to be announced, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Ron Despojado, 587-
- 17 Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00
Special Guest: J.R. Tolman, kitemaking workshop

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



Tidbits

Kite Exhibit: If you are in the Los Angeles area, be sure to look in on "Flying High: The Kites of Tyrus Wong and Royal Morales," presented by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. The show will run from Dec. 2, 1995, to March 4, 1996, at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, 514 S. Spring St., Los Angeles. For more information call (213) 485-2437.

Soaring Dragon Kite Workshop: We are pleased to announce the Soaring Dragon Art Kite Workshop next Sept. 13-15 in Marshall, California. We will feature Ron and Sandy Gibian, Bobby Stanfield, J.R. Tolman, Jose Sainz, and Ty Billings. Our special featured guest will be none other than Tom Van Sant.

For further information and a request form, check out our website at http://www.bhc.com/California_kite_art. Also on that page is a request form for information on a one-day fly in Santa

Monica some time this spring where we will fly Tom Van Sant's 1/4-mile-long centipede kite.

You may also email us at harris@bhc.com or phone: (415) 669 ; FAX: (415) 669-1092

We will be sending our brochures shortly to all those interested, which will include registration information.

Don't wait!
Bob Harris



Congratulations to Randy Tom
for winning the Member's Choice
at this year's AKA Convention.

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
Half Page (7.5"x4.5")	\$40
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$70
Half Back Cover	\$60
Full sheet insert	\$75

Interested parties should contact:

San Diego Kite Club
P.O. Box 7977
San Diego, CA 92167
(619) 685-2885

or call Roger McComb at (619) 483- or additional information and submission dates.

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



The "Kite-ka-teers"

Halloween Revisited

Roger and Paul put their heads together.



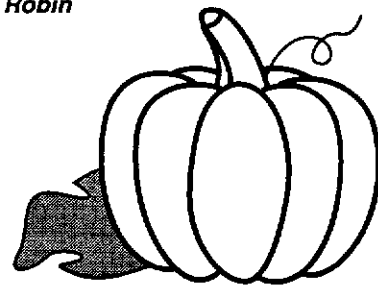
Gina Specht and crew from Oz.



Larry's Halloween Express is a success.



Batman & Robin



Home of San Diego's *only* full service kite repair shop.
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