

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Vol. XI No.1

March 2000

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Meeting Day Changed!?!

At the January meeting, it was brought before the board meeting and the general meeting that the third Saturday of the month (our traditional meeting day) is in conflict with several events related to kiting and some not related to kiting.

It was proposed that we change our meeting day to the second Saturday of the month. The proposal was met with positive response by the majority of members present and was referred to the general membership. This would be a permanent change because the events causing the change are ongoing. There would, however, be a presence at the kite field on the third Saturday of the month until the AKA and other people had acknowledged the change. The change begins with the March meeting. We would like to hear from members. Please address all comments to:

jskryja@worldnet.att.net

or

Jim Skryja
2940 Luna Ave
S.D., CA 92117
(858)272-2461

Thank You
The Board of Directors

SDKC Meeting for March 11

0930 Board Meeting

1030 General Meeting -- Steve Bateman will give a seminar on Fighter Kite Tactics.

SDKC Officers 1999-2000

<i>President</i>	Charlie M'Clary (619) 223- kytebum@inetworld.net	<i>Equipment Manager</i>	Mitch Anderson (619) 272-
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"SKYLINES" is published bimonthly by the San Diego Kite Club. All articles related to the sport of kiting are encouraged.

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

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

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Charlie's Column

Hopefully all kite fliers already know that April has been declared NATIONAL KITE MONTH. It is my hope that members of SDKC will be involved in kite functions all around Southern Cal. Talked to Vic about something at Horton Plaza. He tried a kite fly there years ago and, to quote Vic, "It was not fun for any one." Then talked to KITE FLITE about something at Seaport Village. Kevin (head honcho) is out of town for a few days.

FLASH!! Just talked to Martha Ehringer, PR for Mingei International Museum. They are having another kite thing in April and are asking SDKC to participate. They really were impressed by our presence at the Prado Jan.2nd. Martha is going to make us an appointment with Martha Longenecker, Founder and Director of Mingei.

Still working on getting firm sponsorship for the club. Going to talk this PM with the people at Staples. I just found out that a club back east gets their newsletter printed at no cost to the club. Think the local Staples might be willing to underwrite cost paper and machines in exchange for advertising in the newsletter.

I am going to cut this short so that Rick can put the newsletter to print. I have been the main delay and I am the one who said "let's get the newsletter back on schedule".

If the wind sucks- you're facing the wrong direction and never try to do an axel with a motor-home.

Charlie.

Help Welcome These New Members

Peter Kover from San Diego, CA (Renewal)

Bert Tanaka, Jr from West Covina, CA



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 11

Board and General Meetings
South of the Hilton on Hwy 5
@Tecolote Shores at 0930 & 1030

March 12

25th Annual Festival of the Kite on
the Redondo Beach Pier -- for more
info call (310)372-0308 or check:
www.sunshinekiteco.com

March 25

Southern California Open at Fiesta
Island San Diego, Ca

Jacumba Kite Festival

The SDKC will again be participating in the Fourth Annual Jacumba Kite Festival on Saturday, May 6th from 9am - 4pm. Members can have fun and also make a big impact for a good cause. We will be introducing a lot of children and others to the enjoyment of quality kiting. Sled building is planned for the children. There is plenty of space to fly. We expect a cool Spring breeze before the heat of Summer.

Jacumba is about an hour East of San Diego on I-8. More information and maps will be available at the March and April meetings. Put this family affair on your calendar. Contact Jim or Jane Skryja for more details.

SoCal Open March 25, 2000

Fun Time Again!!! Help Needed!!!

We are being asked to handle the food concession for the event. The plan is to serve Hot Dogs and Hamburgers. The motor home may be down to co-ordinate things. The club will supply the main meal. We are asking for donations of the following: Early arrivals - how about some doughnuts/pastries! Otherwise, we can use chips/dip; crudites; or desserts. If you cannot attend, but would like to donate something, we can make arrangements.

Thank you for your support!!! Please let us know what you are bringing. Contact Jane Skryja at:
jskryja@worldnet.att.net or (858)272-3461.

April 8

Board and General Meetings
South of the Hilton on Hwy 5
@Tecolote Shores at 0930 & 1030

April 1 - 30

National Kite Month
Fly early and Fly often
Local events are still in the planning stages

More SoCal Open News

The Southern California Sport Kite League will be holding the first event of 2000 at Fiesta Island, San Diego, Ca on March 25. According to their website, along with the usual events Pairs Precision, Quadline Precision, Pairs Quadline Ballet, Fighter Kites and a Hot Tricks Competition will be added. The Fliers meeting is at 0900 and events start at 1000 sharp. AKA membership is required to compete. Fees are \$20 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event.

Precision Figures

Novce	5,3,1,8
Intermediate	14,10,15,17
Experienced	30,28,34,36
Masters	23,33,35,31

Experienced and Masters Individual

Qhadline

Q11,Q3,Q6,Q8

Experienced and Masters Pairs

TBA

more info at:

<http://www.homestead.com/scskl/index.html>

Don't Forget To Visit

The
San Diego Kite Club

the Web at:

www.sdkc.net

Events are subject to
last minute changes.

For more information
contact Joanne McClary
(619) 223-5100

Do you have a small
news article that we
should know about?
Let your fellow
members know by
sending it to us for the
upcoming newsletter.

Note:

The SDKC website
has been and still is
offline.

Check back often, we
expect to be back
very soon!!

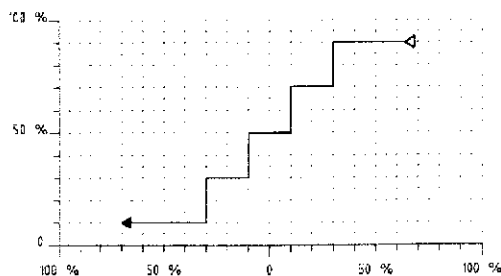
Beginning Precision

by Bert Tanaka

While judging the Precision at the last competition at Fiesta Island, I noticed that some fliers seem to be putting a lot of effort into the freestyle part of the competition, and not enough study into the compulsories. Since the compulsories comprise the largest percentage of the final score, doing them poorly, no matter how great your freestyle may be, will pretty much insure that you do not score well. If you improve your compulsories, you will score much higher.

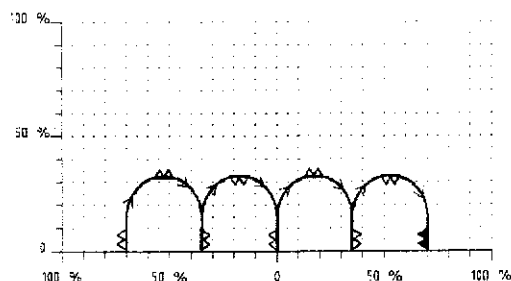
An error all classes of fliers make, is to fly the figures not to scale, and/or not in the area of the window that the figure is drawn in. To be successful, you really need to understand the percentages of the wind window that the figures are drawn in. If the figure calls for a box to be flown in the window, between 10% and 50% of the window, and you fly, instead, a perfect box that is to large, say, between 10% and 75%, you will suffer a deduction. If the figure calls for you to fly the box in the center of the window, and you fly it off to the right, or to the left, you will be penalized, even if the box you happen to fly is a great figure, but just in the wrong place.

Generally, if a pilot flies the figure shifted in the wind window, or not to the correct scale, it is to make the figure easier which defeats the technical difficulty factor which is supposed to be part of every figure. There is a figure called 'Steps Down' which looks like a descending staircase. The pilot flies a high horizontal, and then a vertical drop, a horizontal and then a vertical drop, and so on, until the figure looks like a descending staircase that ends on the left side of the window. The figure is supposed to be flown pretty much in the center of the window. Because of increasing pressure in the window, the last two stair steps are very hard to do. One way to make it easier, is to fly the last two stair steps to the extreme left which puts the kite near the edge of the window, where the air pressure is light, and makes the kite easier to control. However, when a pilot does



this, the figure is not to scale so a severe deduction should follow. By not flying the figure where it is supposed to be flown, the flier does not demonstrate the technical difficulty that is part of the figure which is to control the kite just off the center of the window.

In Quadline Precision there is a figure called 'The Hops' which look like a series of four connected, inverted 'U's. The figure starts with the Rev on one tip on the right side of the window. The Rev is flown up and over and down on to the other tip as it is moved to the right. This continues three more times until the Rev finishes on the right side of the window. What makes this figure so difficult is that it is very hard to make a Rev fly backward, toward the edge of the window when it is already near the edge of the window. I'd guess that there are only a handful of fliers that could execute this figure correctly for a good score. It is that hard. A way to avoid demonstrating that skill when flying this figure, is to simply walk right. Walk right. What this does is to keep the kite in front of the flier, so in effect, the kite never is



really flown on the right side of the window. Again, a severe deduction should follow, even if the figure looks correct because the technical skill that is supposed to be part of the figure, has been circumvented. In this case, the flier never demonstrates control of the kite on the right side of the window.

When I judge, I usually am fairly liberal with regard to the size of the figure. The wind window varies with line length, kite and wind strength. There is also a subjective variance based upon my own personal perception. Likewise, I tend to largely disregard how much movement a flier makes UNLESS there is an obvious excessive lateral movement that circumvents the technical difficulty that is supposed to be a part of a specific figure. At smaller competitions a competitor may not be penalized for not keeping the wind window's size and location with respect to the flier. A new judge will often be mostly concerned with the figures symmetry and often will focus mainly of this. At larger competitions where

there may be more experience to field a judging panel from, competitors may see a drop in scores, and this could be one of the reasons.

OK, so as best you can, try to fly your figure to exactly the same scale as is drawn in the rule book, and in exactly the same location, again, as specified by the drawing. The slowest way to improve is to practice alone. A better way is to have another flier 'judge' your figure. Standing behind you, they will have the same perspective as a judge would and can mark start and stop points in the sky a little more accurately since they can focus on that and not have to worry about flying a kite at the same time.

Another way is to video tape your compulsories. If you have the camera in the correct position, when you replay it on TV, you can trace the figures on the screen with a grease pencil and actually see if you are or are not overlapping the lines, if you are flying a true circle, and if your verticals and horizontals are actually vertical and horizontal. This feedback is slow but more precise. If you have never done this before, be prepared to be a little disappointed. You are probably not flying as accurately as you think. But, this is a good thing because the benefit of such feedback is large. If you look good on the video, you can be assured that you look stunning live. (you look marvelous).

Another way to become more accurate with spatial targets is to fly loops, for example, and have another flier tell you if you are flying true circles (does the loop begin and end in the same place in the sky and is it a circle as opposed to an egg). Or, try to fly a perfect box and have another tell you if it is really a box, as opposed to a rectangle, trapezoid, or parallelogram. Simple drills. A quick test of how well you can fly a straight, horizontal line is to fly a low ground pass. If the space between the ground and your bottom wing tip varies a lot you are not flying a steady line. If you cannot fly a steady line, then you really can't fly a low ground pass because you need the extra space for error correction. Have a friend check of the accuracy of your vertical, especially on the window's edge. There is a tendency for vertical lines to lean in toward the center unless you consciously correct for uneven pressure that exists near the edges. Remember, the figure has to look undistorted to you audiences perspective and if you are new to competitive flying, you may not realize that there is an adjustment to your own perspective good fliers need to make to accomplish this.

Precision skills translate directly into the ballet even though the ballet would seem to be more artistic. The kite in the ballet, is the artist's instrument. So, the more control and skill you can exert over your kite, the better you will be able to translate what you feel inside to your kite. And, the more aware you are of you audience's visual perspective (including judges) the more effective your communication with them will be.

About Judging

by Bert Tanaka

Thinking about the glorious time we had at the last competition at Fiesta Island, serves to rekindle the interest I have in kiting, even if I'm just judging. As a judge, I'm pretty aware of what kind of mistakes fliers are likely to make, having been a long time competitor myself, and having made pretty nearly every one of them myself at one time or another. Heck, I even flew a five minute routine up in Berkeley one year when the time limit was only four minutes. Really. If you don't believe me ask Ron Despojado. He's told darn near everyone anyway. All I can say is, if the time limit had been five minutes, I would've won. I coulda been somebody.

Which also reminds me that it would be wrong for you to confuse me, a person who is fairly good at critiquing a flier, with one who could actually fly. A fact that was hammered home by Al Stroh's field instruction. Al spent a huge amount of his personal time attempting to teach me the 540 (a slack line stunt whereby the kite is semi stalled on its belly, rotated one and half times, and then brought up back into flight). Try as I may, I never quite got it. I can do the 90, the 256, the 310, and the 10,000. The '10,000' is also known as a spinning wing wrap. But not the 540.

Al kept saying "just a simple push, wait for the float and snap it around; it's a rhythmic thing; bing bodda bing, bodda boom; uh one two three; uno, dos, tres; you must feel your kite".

Ok, Al, that's my line. And you don't have to insult me in different languages either.

It was very frustrating. Too bad wing wraps aren't a real trick. I've got those things wired. No, really. No, I'm not kidding. Go ahead, pick a wing. Or, how about this for a landing. You land the kite belly down, the nose facing you with the lines trailing out from the tail and over the kites back. Its a landing that I think would be very secure, even in high wind. Finally, after hours of humiliation Al said, "I was kidding, Bert, pop it with the other hand". Unfortunately, that didn't help either. And now, Al won't tell me which one is the lie.

So I say to myself, the heck with Al, I'll go ask Susan. So, as the sun is disappearing and the cold is setting in, and people are getting ready to leave and go home, I ask Susan Shampoo to show me how to do the 540.

"Not a problem", she says, and calmly rips off a half dozen, left handed, right handed, behind her back, with her eyes closed. "Its easy, Bert. Anyone can do it. I mean, Even I can and I'm just a girl", she chimes with a sly cheerfulness.

Ouch.

continued. pg. 6



Hello San Diego!

This past week someone asked me, "Why do people fly kites?". Caught off guard I gave all the pat answers.....Kites spark the imagation.....you are one with nature.....Kites are beautiful,

Since then I've been thinking, "I'll bet if we asked 100 people that question, we'd get 100 different answers." There are so many types of kites anymore - Dual lines kites, single line, power kites and variations in each division.

Sometimes we like to go out alone & be one with our kite and the sky. Sometimes it's companionship as several people get together to share the beauty. Sometimes it's competition as we've mastered some different manuevers and we want to test our skills with other kite flyers. Some people like to use the power of the wind to seek a thrill as they test their strength and ability with power kites.

When kite clubs get together we do all of the above and the bottom line is - We do it because its FUN. No matter how large or small a kite is, it's beautiful as it catches the wind & soars away.

As one Kite Club to another we share and spread the joy to others and that feels good.

Lets keep up the good work and have a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The Seal Beach Kite Club
Seal Beach, California
Written by: Monty Weston
Edited & printed by: Janis Sabic

Bert Continued from pg. 5:

"Gee, Bert, even Ron can do the 540" she continues brightly.

Huh? Even Ron?

Excuse me, I have to go kill myself. Even, Ron? Suicide is the only honorable thing left for me to do. I hope I can find something slow and painful enough to erase my horrible shame.



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Yet More SoCal Open Stuff

Hi Kite Clubers,

I got a call from Tom Stoner yesterday wanting to know if the Club might be able to furnish a pit boss for the March event. The job entails keeping track of who's supposed to be getting ready to go on the field next and making sure they're in the pit and ready to go. It's not real taxing and you get to hang out and talk to the fliers as they're waiting their turns. The League plans on running two fields and trying to fit in all the planned events before dark so Pit Guy or Gal will be an important contributor to keeping things moving.

Thanks all,
Susan



National Kite Month 2000

Join us in making National Kite Month 2000 a success!

Our goal is to get people out flying kites across the entire country. If you have a free afternoon in April, you're invited to join the biggest kite happening ever planned in North America. Invite a few friends together, put your favorite kites in the sky, tell us when you plan to do it, and we'll register you as part of National Kite Month's calendar of events. We'll even alert your local television and newspaper if you want!

The AKA, in cooperation with the Kite Trade Association, has declared April to be National Kite Month. This exciting promotional effort was an unqualified success in 1999. We worked with more than 150 flies and festivals, generated more than 140 television stories, and even got kites on the Today show. We expect this year's effort to be even bigger and better!

Our goals for National Kite Month are to encourage flying and promote the joys of kiting as an educational, recreational, and sporting pastime. To make that possible, AKA and KTAI are organizing a number of projects. But the most simple explanation is that you put kites in the air, and we tell people about it.

First, we plan to provide professional media support for the major kite events in an effort to get them on national television, magazines, and newspapers. Starting with the Smithsonian, and including Maryland, Miami, and Phoenix, National Kite Month hopes to use the excitement of these large scale events to communicate what contemporary kiting is all about.

Second, we want to encourage smaller local fun flies, exhibitions, workshops and programs across the country. We anticipate that every AKA club and member merchant will put something on the calendar. We urge individual members to organize events too. To make this possible, AKA is reducing the cost of sanctioning and the official National Kite Month Headquarters will provide free media and logistical support. Our goal is to register 250 events during the month.

Third, we have produced a complete educational program, designed by teachers, that can be used to bring kiting to the classroom as a tool to teach science, math, history, art, ecology, and aesthetics. This program is now available on the NKM web site and is being promoted to every teacher in the country.

What can you do to get involved?? Attend the big events! Organize a local fly! Do two of them if you like. More is better!

Think it's too wet or cold outside? Schedule an indoor demonstration! That's sure to get media attention.

And don't forget to call your local school and offer to present a kite workshop. Remind them that National Kite Month is fun!! Imagine, if only one-in-ten AKA members visits a classroom, there will be 400 workshops across the country.

New this year, we are also registering events outside the USA.

Information is already available at the NKM web page. The site contains an important directory of National Kite Month events, how-to information, and educational programs. You can register your local event right on-line.

The National Kite Month project provides you with the focus, tools and resources you need to draw more people to kiting. Media will be provided by professionals; instructions will be developed by experts; and insurance and permits will be provided by the AKA. But success will depend on the initiative of people like you.

We need your involvement to make National Kite Month a success.

Contact our national office to register your National Kite Month event. You can reach us by phone at 760-322-4128, fax 760-416-0837, or email "<mailto:NationalKiteMonth@AKA.Kite.org>".

National Kite Month web pages can be accessed directly by the following: "<http://www.KiteTrade.org/NationalKiteMonth/>" or through a link on the AKA's web site "<http://www.AKA.Kite.org>", or the KTA's web site <http://www.KiteTrade.org>.

See you in the skies in April!

Good Winds,

David Gomberg
NKM Chairman

I received this as an e-mail some time ago and have included it here for those of you who may not have email access or are just not on this mailing list.

Rick S.



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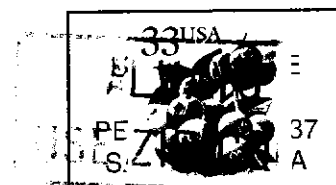
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