

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite*

Vol. X No. 2

March 2001

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Fly South!

by Susan Shampo

For Allen and I, the tradition began three years ago when Steve LaPorte was working on a film in Baja (for those who don't know Steve, he's a Hollywood make-up artist and frequent competitor in SCSKL and BASKL events). Steve's family was off to Las Vegas to meet up with more family and that left Steve on his own for Thanksgiving. He called us up a few days before and suggested that we drive down and spend the day flying on the beach at the hotel he was staying at, the Oasis Beach Resort, just north of Rosarito Beach. We thought if was a great Idea and did just that. On our arrival there, we discovered that we were also in the company of a number of Northern California Kite Club members and we enjoyed seeing and flying with our pals that we usually only see up north in the summer. Come to find out, these folks have been driving their RV's to the Oasis for Thanksgiving week for about 10 years.

The demise of the Avi Festival, which used to be held the weekend before Thanksgiving in Laughlin, NV left many of us without a 'kite fix' for the month of November. So the following year, we tried to organize a joint venture with SDKC and NCKC. NCKC showed up as usual, but the only takers from SDKC were Allen and I. Regardless, we had a fabulous time and vowed that the next year we'd plan to stay longer.

Our enthusiastic reports of the great time we had there were enough to encourage more SDKCers to join us. This time, Allan Watson, Marilyn Moore, Ron Despojado, Bill Haebler and Kathryn Kukulka as well as even more folks from the north added their presence to the growing group.

This year's activities included the 1st Annual Turkey Tangle, a fighter kite competition complete with trophies, excursions to Puerto Nuevo for Baja Lobster and to Rosarito for shopping. As always, there was plenty of time for margaritas, strolls along the beach and relaxing with and without kite lines in hand. My habit is to have morning coffee on the balcony of our room which overlooks the beach and this year was no disappointment ... again I saw dolphins frolicking in the waves just off the shore!

continue on to page 4 for the important news this is leading to!

SDKC Officers 1999-2000

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The President's Message

"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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San Diego Kite Club
P.O. Box 7977
San Diego, Ca 92167
USA

Ph. (619) 275-6027

Congratulations, you put on a great show for New Year's Day at Mariner's Point. We began the New Year with a good raffle and sell out of our New Year's Day Shirts. Many new friends came by to see what was going on and several of those joined the club to give us a great New Start for the year. Let's keep the momentum going!

The Club would like to thank all those that obtained and gave merchandise to make our raffle a great success and of course if it was not for your purchasing of tickets the raffle would not have been such a success - the San Diego Kite Club thanks each and everyone that participated in the Days Events.

Many things are coming up in the future. Carl Hanson will return for more Aerial Photography, following that the Polinsky Center kids and then a great time the next month with our friends from the Route 66 Kite Club of Phoenix. SDKC will host them at our May 12th meeting and they will have a night fly in front of the Beach Cottages in Pacific Beach where they will stay. There will be snacks and bring your own steaks as they will have a grill for you to use. A night of fun for all. For actual dates on these events see

our NEW Kite Schedule in this and coming issues.

Do you have any ideas for guests at our meetings? If so, get in touch with your Board of Directors and let them know and they will follow through and decide how practical it would be to bring that person(s) in for a meeting demonstration and presentation.

You will note in this issue a complete page of events in California has been prepared. If you know of an event happening that you feel should be added, please get in touch and we will see that the schedule is updated to include the event. We are interested in all events large and small. If you are an out of state event and wish to be listed, send us the information. Be sure you give us a contact name and phone number.

Remember, The San Diego Kite Club is one of the largest and oldest Kite Clubs in California. Let's all make it a goal to find new members and bring back those that have taken a vacation.

Kite flying is a Great Sport, Single and Dual line kites abound and present a picture in the skies.

Neil Tuthill

KITE SCHEDULE FOR 2001

- ☞ **March 10** **SDKC Meeting - Carl Hanson & More Aerial Techniques, Hot Dogs**
- March 11 Redondo Beach Kite Festival (See Page 8 For More)
- March 17 BASKL* - Berkeley Marina, Berkeley, CA
- March 25 Fighter Kite Fly, Torrey Pines State Beach, La Jolla, Ca
- April 2** **SDKC - "Welcome Back Daylight Savings Time", Mission Bay Park**
- April 7 Southern California Open** - Fiesta Island, San Diego, CA
- April 14** **SDKC Meeting - Polinsky Center Attending, Pizza Day**
- April 21 BASKL* - Baylands Park, Sunnyvale, CA
- May 5 Belmont Shore Sport Kite Challenge**, Belmont Shores, Long Beach
- May 6 Free to Breathe Kite Festival, Huntington Beach, CA (714-536-36300)
- May 12** **SDKC Meeting - Joint meeting Route 66 Kite Club, POTLUCK**
- ☞ May 27/28 San Ramon Wind Festival* - San Ramon, CA
- June 9** **SDKC Meeting - Tecolote Shores**
- June 16 BASKL* - Martinez, CA
- July 7 Long Beach Sport Kite Classic** - Belmont Shores, Long Beach, CA
- July 14** **SDKC Meeting - Tecolote Shores**
- July 28/29 Berkeley Kite Festival* - Berkeley Marina, Berkeley, CA
- August 11** **SDKC Meeting - Tecolote Shores**
- Sept. 1 Golden Gage Challenge* (Begins 2002 Competition Season)
- Sept. 8** **SDKC Meeting - Tecolote Shores**
- Sept. 15 BASKL* Awards

Events are subject to last minute changes.

For more information contact Joanne McClary (619) 223-

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.

* These events are held in Northern California

☞ For more information contact Brian Champie - BrianKitefart.com

** Southern California Events

For more information - www.scskl.com (909-734-2513)

Continued from page 1

One very exciting acquaintance was made this year that we are hoping will forever change our weeks in Baja. The sales manager of the Oasis, Jorge Cortes, was unfamiliar with kiting before our visit and was so taken by the sky-full of kites that was displayed above his beach whenever the winds permitted (which was most of the time!) that he'd like to hold an International Kite Festival right there at the Oasis. Brian Champie, as the organizer of the very successful San Ramon Art and Wind Festival, was quick to hop on the band wagon and is working with Mr. Cortes to explore the possibility of staging the first such event at the Oasis this coming November.

As a gesture of friendship to the San Diego Kite Club, Mr. Cortes made a wonderful donation to our New Year's Day raffle ... two nights for two in a master suite (won by Kenny Leckron) and is even going beyond that to show that the Oasis is kiter friendly. Any couple who has a gourmet dinner (\$25-35) at the Oasis will receive a night's lodging FREE! This is an unbelievable offer. Alan, Marilyn, Allen, and I had dinner in their restaurant while we were there and found the food and service great. All he asks is that we make our dinner reservations at least three days in advance and mention the offer so that rooms will be available. Those of us who have already been there are planning on taking him up on this offer real soon.

I know that many folks are not crazy about the idea of going to Mexico, but let me assure you, the Oasis is indeed across the border but that's where the scary part ends. It is located just 40 miles south of Mission Bay Park, about two miles north of the town of Rosarito. There is on location security, the staff speaks English, the beach is large enough for flying and buggying, kite surfing is a few steps from the rooms, the grounds include two swimming pools and jacuzzis, a night club, restaurant and cocktail lounge and more. If you still need convincing, please have a look at the fabulous facilities and us having fun enjoying it all on the SDKC web site's Event Archive (1999 - <http://www.sdkc.net/gallery/mexicopgf.htm>, and 2000 - <http://www.sdkc.net/gallery/oasis00/oasis00pgf.htm>). The Oasis also has a web site, <http://www.oasisbaja.com> with even more info.

This is how to contact and find them (from their site for those who don't have Internet access):

The Fabulous OASIS BEACH RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER is located 15 miles south of the border on 1D, toll road Tijuana-Ensenada, on the most beautiful beach of the Pacific Coast in Rosarito, Baja California. 15 miles south on highway 1 (toll road) TijuanaEnsenada #14010, Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico.

Phone: (011 52 66) 31-3250

Toll Free: 1 800 818-3133

Take the TijuanaEnsenada toll road and exit at kilometer 25 under the big OASIS sign. A short 15 minute drive from the San Diego International Border.

Prepare to enjoy the best time of your life.
(They Really Mean It!)



Brian Champie's Pyro above the Oasis



Al Stroh practicing on the beach

Photos From the SDKC Website

An Instant View From A Kite

by Carl Hanson

The Kite Aerial Demonstration was a popular success Saturday, January 13 down at the Mission Bay Meeting of the SDKC. My Polaroid camera rig worked out very well for the first test flight. I scored about 6 out of 10 scenic views of the park, not loosing a single photo in the wind.

I'm still working the bugs out of my 35 mm Advantix point and shoot camera and I took about 6 to 8 aerial stunt kite photos which came out rather well. The Polaroid method is much more entertaining because you get an instant photographic result that passers by can actually witness. The only real drawback to the Polaroid is that the film resolution is not as crisp in detail in comparison to 35mm film. But, seeing the robotic action of a camera attached to a kite in flight it somewhat reminds me of the animatronics you see that goes on at some Disney theme part attractions. The sight of the flash bulb and the Polaroid photo slipping out of its camera dangling 50 to 100 ft in mid-air can be a real jaw dropping experience.

I just recently spent the Martin Luther King Holiday building a string activated shutter trigger release for my other Polaroid camera. The shutter is located on the right hand side of the camera and I was able to build a miniature sliding bearing platform that did not require the use of a \$10 cable release which I used for my other Polaroid camera in which the shutter is located on the top back side. I like going to swap meets and thrift shops to buy my used instant cameras and save \$\$\$\$. I find out if those used cameras are in good working order by bringing an empty Polaroid film cartridge with me. I find a camera, insert the cartridge into the camera and listen for the whirring sound when the cartridge is inserted and check the shutter and see it it works. Even though the cartridge is empty, the battery in the film cartridge is still good and lasts for a long time: enough time for me to build an aerial camera rig around the camera and enough time to test out the entire rig before getting it airborne.

I have one more Polaroid film cartridge to use up at future meetings and I would like to test out my JVC video palmcorder next and try to film some overhead views of stunt kites in flight. It would be a real treat

to see some stunt kites and Revolutions approach the camera lens and hover below it. Let's see what the future brings to us this new millennium.

Best Regards To All,
Carl Hanson



Carl Explains His Kiting Passion To SDKC



Prepaing The Rig For Another Flight

Phtos Courtesy of Walt Thompson

Don't Forget To Visit
The
San Diego Kite Club on
the Web at:
www.sdkc.net

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Photos From the SDKC Website

Seal Beach California Adventure

by Ray Bethel

I had just returned home from an awesome trip to the Berkeley International Kite Festival and Competitions, when I had an invitation from Neil Tuthill, President of Ancal Productions, inviting me to LA to participate in a fly-in they were having on the weekend of Aug 12 & 13, 2000 at Seal Beach. I would arrive on the 11th and return home on the 14th, the weekend before we held our own BCKA Pacific Rim 24th Annual Kite Festival (which by the way was again a huge success). I was kind of looking forward to relaxing a little before the Long Beach WA International Kite Festival, but after thinking that I have flown at Long Beach, Huntington Beach, Belmont Shores, and many other great beaches up and down the California coast, but not Seal Beach, I accepted the invitation. After all, LA is only a two and a half flight from Vancouver BC, and after all the 10-12-15 and 18 hour flights I have had so far this kite season, this will be a piece of cake, 'Right'?

Wrong! Oh, we boarded the plane right on schedule, but we sat on the runway for the next two and a half hours, they informed us that they were waiting for a small part to be delivered before we could take-off (Some one mentioned a spark plug lead!). Anyway, for most of us that were seated a few seats back from the 1st class passengers we had fun watching the flight attendants continuously serving them drinks and all kinds of goodies.

Neil was waiting for me when we finally arrived. Luckily, he had phoned the airlines and now I was going to arrive late. I have stayed with Neil many times over the last 7 years. We have become great friends and I might add he is a great host, good cook, and makes a great cup of coffee.

The next morning we were on the road to Seal Beach at 7 a.m. which is only a 45 minute drive from LA. When we arrived the beach was already busy, only in Australia have I ever seen so many

surfers, they were there literally in the hundreds. Along with the other kite flyers it did not take us long to set up the flying area which was on the widest and best part of the beach thanks to Monty Weston, owner of the Up Up & Away kite Shop, who had done all the work in obtaining this part of the beach plus all the permits.

It did not take me long to set up my kites and get them airborne in spite of the light wind and fog. Soon the local kite club flyers and the San Diego Kite Club flyers were also in the arena doing their thing. It was a big surprise to me later when I was told by Janice(?), the President of the Seal Beach Kite Club, that this event was put on especially for me and was called 'The Ray Bethell Kite Fly, (for the God of Kiting as Janice put it). I was very

honored to say the least. This is one of the times I am very glad I don't hear, even if I do kind of understand what is being said. I can pretend I did not hear it and it gives me time to handle such a wonderful compliment and honor.



The fog lifted later that day - clear blue sky and 12mph wind. We all had a lot of thumbs up from many of the surfers who had a great view of the kites in action from their surfboards and also from the many spectators that had gathered through out the day. Many questions were asked about kiting in general and it

looked like we stirred up quite an interest in the local people. And that is really what it is all about.

But alas it was soon time to pack up the kites and take down the arena, tents, etc. as Monty Weston was taking Neil, myself, and a few others out for a meal. By the way, the name Monty sounds masculine, but this Monty is every inch a lovely lady.

We were back again early Sunday morning, no fog, bright and sunny, and good wind. The surfers were there in force again and the beach was filling up fast. It really turned out to be a great day for kite flying, the wind by noon was 10-12 mph. Big Daddy was flying his heart out and loving every minute and so were the crowds that had gathered to

Ray Goes For A New World Record August 2000

by Fred Adler

Both my wife Gerri and I have known Ray for many years and shared many flying fields across Southern and Northern California, Washington State, Oregon, Hawaii and also in the last four AKA conventions. Both Gerri and myself have had the pleasure of crewing for him many times. I might add he is not you average flyer to crew for, far from it, very fussy, everything must be right on. This means the right place in the arena to set up his kites, how far apart from each other, recheck each kite not once but a couple of times, then I think that's it and then Ray comes over to check them himself. This used to get under my skin a little, at first, until I realized what Ray is up against in his Multiple Kite Ballets. Just one little mistake and it is game over. One thing I have learned is to never lose eye contact with him while setting up his kites. As you know, he usually fly's shirtless. This makes him very sensitive to the least change in the wind and then he uses hand signals for us to reposition the kites. I am very proud to say that Gerri and I must have served our apprenticeships well as we are now his official Crew Team Members when we are together.

On August 24th, at the infamous Long Beach Washington State International Kite Festival, Ray was going for a new world record, which up to this point has been a secret between Mark Reed (President of Prism) and Ray. Apparently they had been working together on this for the past few months. A lot of us had heard a rumor that Ray was going to attempt something. While at dinner the evening before Ray suddenly said "Fred, tomorrow morning, with your help, I am going to give it a go". That is when he filled me in on what he had in mind, which was, to fly 3 stacks of Prism's Fanatic kite. I said, "How Many?". He said his last stack record was 3 stacks of 4, a total of 12 kites, in 1997. He wanted to start this one with 15 kites, 3 sets of 5, then go up from there. Next morning when I arrived at the beach, Ray was all ready flying three Prism Legacies. The wind was very light, around 2.5 mph. In the mean time, Mark and his crew were adding train lines to the Fanatics, setting the bridles, etc. When they were all set up Mark flew a stack to see how they would fly. They were a little wobbly. Then Ray landed the Legacies and came over and between them they flew and adjusted the kite stacks till Ray was satisfied.

continued page 11

The day ended too soon and then it was time to pack up, say our goodbyes, and head back to LA as I had an early flight back to Canada the next day.

Getting to the airport while a convention was going on was another story. I made it to the departure gate with just 5 minutes to spare and I mean 'Phew'!

I would like to thank Neil Tuthill for inviting and sponsoring me to perform at Seal Beach, also for your hospitality and friendship. The new Bethell pins look great and you also earn 10 out of 10 for keeping a secret about The Ray Bethell Fly event until way after I got there. Many thanks to Monty Weston, the President of the Seal Beach Kite Club, and especially to all the kite flyers that made me so welcome. I had an awesome weekend and enjoyed sharing the arena with so much talent. I hope to fly with you all again very soon.

Thank you for listening,
Ray

*When you listen to the Wind...
Remember Me!*



- High flyers
- Stunt kites
- Fighter kites
- Accessories
- Flight lines
- Publications
- Windsocks

For price, selection, & service, come to
KITE COUNTRY
3350 Sports Arena Blvd. Suite J
San Diego, Ca 92110
619-226-4421

Let Your Spirits Go Soaring At The Redondo Beach Kite Festival

A colorful array of kites will take to the skies Sunday March 11 over the Redondo Beach Pier.

People can bring their own kite or just kick back on the beach and watch the spectacle.

"On Festival day, you'll see hundreds of kites in the air", said Tom Fine, owner of Sunshine Kite Co. and organizer of the free event. "The first festival at the Pier that I remember only had a total of 50 people. In the past 26 years it's grown larger every year." Box kites, bird kites, and high tech surf kites will fly in the festival sponsored by Sunshine Kite Co., the Redondo Beach Pier Association, Spectra Star Kites, and several Pier Merchants.

Children 10 years old and under get a free kite and string from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the center of the Pier. Quantities are limited to the first 150. "The kites are usually given away quickly", Fine said, "last year 150 in 12 minutes". Marvel comics super heroes will stroll throughout the festival. Four local bands will play live, tastes vary from Latin to Mellow Rock. "After 26 years, some of those (festival goers) who came to some of the early festivals are now bringing their kids", Fine said. "I think in general, people come out to have a good time." The addition of the night fly, with lighted kites has been an added draw, some come just for that. "Kite flying is not just for children", he said. "I think kites now offer different things for different people", Fine said. "I think people can identify with flying even though they're on the ground with a string in their hand. I think there is a certain fascination with flight."

The Facts:

What: The 26th Annual Festival of the Kite

Where: On the Redondo Beach Pier and the Beach south of the Pier.

How to Get There: Take the San Diego Freeway (405) south, exit at Inglewood Ave, and proceed to 190th street, turn right, continue to Pacific Coast Highway, turn left and drive to Torrance Boulevard. Or take the Harbor Freeway (110) south to Torrance Boulevard, turn right, and head west to the Pier.

When: Sunday March 11 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

How Much: Admission is FREE.

What Else: There is a parking facility adjacent to the pier and a second parking area on North Harbor Drive at Pacific Avenue. Metered parking is also available.

Southern California Open

by Susan Shampo

Mark April 7th on your calendar as the next kite event in San Diego. Once again, Aire Affair and the Southern California Sport Kite League, in conjunction with the San Diego Kite Club will be bringing the Southern California Open to Fiesta Island. We anticipate all the excitement of sport kite competition augmented by gorgeous one-line displays, but this year we are also happy to announce that the Club will be sponsoring the Beginner event that is being promoted by the AKA as a way to get more fliers involved with our event.

KiteLife.com is providing a full range of equipment to support us for the day. We will provide man and women power to instruct those interested on the ins and outs of competing. The event will be held on the Precision field when it is not in use by the competition events, providing a non-threatening, "out of the spotlight" arena where fliers can get a feel for what is expected of competitors and what it might be like to go for it for real. The idea is to show folks how easy it is and how much fun they can be having rather than sitting on the sidelines wondering.

Here is the intent laid out by our current AKA president, Dave Gomberg, (reprinted from KiteLife.com issue 17):

A proposal that was issued at the same time as the one to drop Novice was for AKA to support and encourage a series of "Beginner" events at sanctioned competitions. "Beginners" would differ from Novice in that (a) they are not ranked, (b) they are much less formal, and (c) AKA membership or registration fees would not be required. The idea behind the proposal was to create a process that was less intimidating for new fliers, but which introduced them to the competition arena and did a better job of supporting, teaching, and encouraging them than Novice does now. The goal is to get more people involved by trying something different.

I should stress that these are not required activities. The decision to offer "Beginners" is up to individual organizers. However, AKA will provide materials and support to any that do.

Here is what one Committee member wrote:

"We need incentives to keep new competitors coming into the sport. When we eliminated novice, we did NOT eliminate the need to display leadership to get new people into the sport. The concept, and my vote IN FAVOR of the new Non-scoring structure for beginning competitors, was always in the SPIRIT of promoting easier access to the sport for beginners, and to trim some EXCESS from the schedule of events."

I believe that throwing a new flier into the current Novice scenario, with a sound system, a panel of judges, penalties and rules is intimidating and discouraging. I'm looking for a more positive, constructive, and fun experience.

The Beginner events are not so much a "competition" as they are an "activity". Many events now do a 'learn to fly' field. Beginners would be a "learn to compete" field -- one judge, one field director (the two could be combined), a marked field, and a set of basic maneuvers (square, circle, figure eight). I also envision a one page score-card (with illustrations) that can be given to the flier and a certificate of completion they get when they "pass". AKA will make up templates which organizers duplicate. And of course, we post these materials on the web page for downloading.

Ideally, the beginner field would also provide more advanced kites for new fliers to perform with.

The flier gets an introduction to the competition environment, and also gets feedback on their performance in a post-flight briefing. Then hopefully, they run over and sign up to compete in the more formal competition. (And of course they need to join the AKA to do that.)

Overall, I'm looking at something informal, un-intimidating, fun, and free. I want to get new people into the sport. Changing registration fees isn't the way to do it."

Anyone interested in assisting with this program on April 7th should contact Susan Shampo, kitegal@san.rr.com or (619) 295- . The commitment will not be for an entire day. If a few of us volunteer to spend a couple of hours each on this activity, we'll create some excitement among potential competitors, promote new members for the club and we'll be supporting the AKA and kiting.

Southern California Fighter Fly

by Steve Bateman

Here are the results of the first SoCal Fighter Fly, held on January 14:

1. Jonney Hsing
2. Mitch Anderson
3. Steve Bateman
4. Charlie
5. Scott Bogue
6. Chris Weir

Also, attending were Paul and Dorine Imbach, Bill Haebler, Chris's wife (Sorry, forgot her name), and (of course) Gina and Michelle Hsing.

I think I can say a fun time was had by all. It was great to get lots of fliers together, bounce info back and forth, see old faces, and see new ones!

Mitch is the one to look out for. He's taken my advice to keep your feet planted really far, so far that he digs holes as he flies! He's becoming the one to beat down here in Sandy Ego.

I hope these events can continue with growing interest. I'll be getting off my duff to get fliers out to all the kite shops in SoCal within the next month. The next event will be at ...

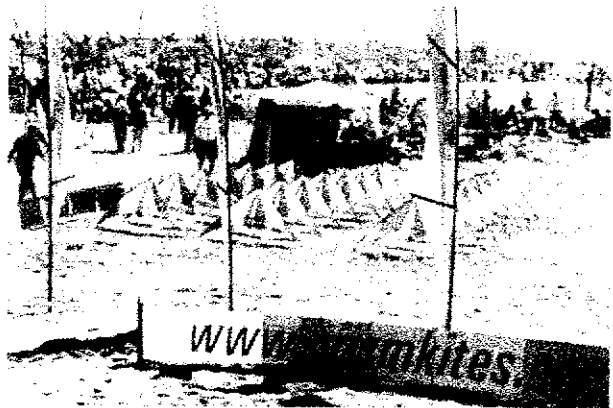
Torrey Pines State Beach, La Jolla, Ca.
March 25th

For directions and information contact Steve Bateman. E-mail is geokite@excite.com

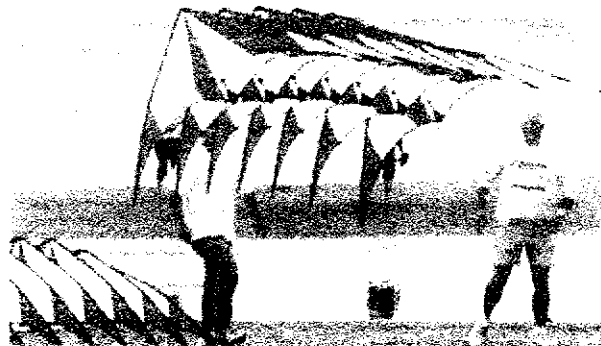
Daylight Savings Returns

by Susan Shampo

Join us at the Park on Monday, April 2nd to welcome back Daylight Savings Time and the return of evening flying during the week! This is a follow-up to our Farewell to DST fly last October. We'll meet and fly as long as light allows then adjourn to a local eatery for dinner. Lets get a big turnout and try to reclaim our flying area from the herds of soccer players that are encroaching on our space. See you there!



Ray's Record Setting Stack's



A Stack Comes In For A Perfect Landing



The Skryja's Delta-Coyne



Rick Spurgeon Flies His Beetles and Dreams of Being Rich and Famous Like Ray Bethell

Pictures 'Borrowed' From Ray Bethell's New Website:
<http://www.raybethell.com>

Farewell To DST Photo's 'Borrowed' From
SDKC Website

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He gave Mark the thumbs up and said, "Lets do it!". I asked Ray if he would like to use my new sets of 200 lb. Blue Line that I had just made up the previous day. Ray answered in his normal way when he is pleased - "Good Stuff Fred". By this time a large group of kite flyers and spectators had gathered. The Prism crew set 3 stacks of 5 kites on the beach, the wind was now 5 mph. Ray had three helpers besides the Prism Crew - Colby Gratzner, Craig Robbbaro, and myself with Andy Tauber as the official time keeper. The kites, the crews, and Ray were ready. Mark Reed sent a runner up to let the officials know that it was a go. It was announced over the speaker system that Ray was going to attempt to break his 1997 stack record. More spectators had arrived by this time. Everyone was watching Ray. The 3 stacks of kites looked great poised ready for take-off. The graphics on the kites were very impressive, one stack blue and white; one red, white and blue; and the other red and white. Ray gave the thumbs up sign - up went the center stack, followed by the left and right hand stacks. It was very impressive and a great round of applause came from the spectators. Video and still cameras were in full swing. Ray did all the compulsory maneuvers - passes, dives, raps, etc. then came in for a perfect 1-2-3 landing. Ray had broken his 1997 record but it was not all over yet! The Prism crew resets the stacks again where Ray wanted them. Then Ray gives the hand signal to the Prism crew to add 3 more kites making it now 3 stacks of 6 kites for a total of 18, the wind had increased to 7 mph. It was again announced over the P.A. system, thumbs up from Ray. Up went the center stack. He flew it around for a few seconds (controlled by his waist) then put the stack into a dive right between the right and left stacks. As he reversed the dive into a climb he launched the left and right stacks. This was a great hit with the spectators who whistled, shouted, and applauded their approval. Once again, he did all the qualifying maneuvers, plus many of his own, and landed with another perfect 1-2-3 landing. People were waving and shouting and coming over to congratulate him, but before they can get to him, he signals the Prism crew to reset them again, and signals them to add 3 more kites which now will make 3 stacks of 7 for a total of 21 kites. You could literally feel the excitement. If he pulls this off, he will have broken 3 of his own records. Once again it was announced, this time there was complete silence among the

spectators. It was like they were holding their breath. The last 3 kites were attached, they gave Ray the thumbs up. I heard Ray remark to Mark Reed, "if I pull this off the Beer is on you tonight". Mark smiled and gave him the thumbs up. Ray was now fully focused on the 3 stacks, you could have cut his concentration with a knife. Then, all of a sudden, up went the center stack. Ray was leaning way back as he turned the stack into a dive, turning up at the very last second, and at the same time launching the left and right stacks. There was a big sigh of relief from the spectators and then a huge burst of applause. What a magnificent sight it was to see these 3 stacks flying synchronized in complete harmony with each other. One of his maneuvers, that always amazes me, is his hover mode. He stacks the kites above each other at the very edge of the wind window for a few seconds then each one in turn breaks off in to follow the leader. Such a clean and precise maneuver, so hard to believe this is being performed by one person and not a team.

Ray once again did all the qualifying maneuvers plus many of his own. After more than the qualified air time, he brought them into another perfect 1-2-3 landing. The huge crowd of spectators showed their appreciation with hand shakes, hugs, applause, waving. You name it, he got it. Cameras and video were clicking away as the spectators wanted their photo taken with him. Many asked him to sign their festival programs.

This I am positive is reward enough for Ray. He has achieved what he had set out to do, plus, the added bonus of the joy of receiving the generous appreciation of the spectators, and his fellow flyers. Well done Ray, and using your own expression, Good Stuff Mate. Thank you for letting us: Colby, Craig, Andy, and myself to be a part of this very special event.

The 21 kites were on show at the Prism demonstration area and late sold after Ray had signed them. Many people were disappointed in not getting one of these Fanatic kites as a souvenir of Ray's achievement. Both Gerri and I were very fortunate to have been able to get three of these kites. They will be displayed, along with this article and photographs at our place of business, to show our staff, customers and friends yet another aspect in the world of kite flying.

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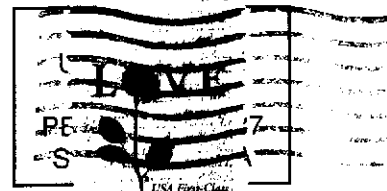
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