

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Vol. XI No. 2

May 2000

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March '00 - Fort Worden, Wa: 17th Annual Kitemakers Conference

The Kite Bum attended and intended to write something about it - then e-mail presented a better writer's version than this poor scribe could hope to attain. And so....

Fort Worden 2000's Kite Angels & Saints by Tal Streeter

Fort Worden, (Fort Worden State Park located in Port Townsend, Washington, one of the oldest cities in Washington State about two hours by car and ferry from Seattle) is an exceptionally lovely spot. 433 acres - formerly one of the coastal fortresses dating from the 1880's originally built to guard the entrance to Puget Sound- recently restored as a public park. Everything is neat and tidy, the buildings freshly painted, blimp hanger converted into a theater, handsome Victorian houses furnished in period furniture (formerly occupied by officers and their families), and dormitory-style living and sleeping accommodations comfortably furnished (though more Spartan than the officer's quarters), trimmed hedges and freshly mown lawns set on an expansive parade ground. Fort Worden is rented out to individuals and families as well as organizations that require facilities capable of accommodating larger groups. Set overlooking a broad bay with very shallow waves lapping on a narrow shoreline. To the east, a ferry crosses the bay - and on the distant horizon, very small, but you can make it out when the sky is clear, the silhouette of 14411' Mt. Ranier.

Fort Worden is beautiful indeed, and it is made even more so by its successful transition from a military outpost to a public park. Is it a suitable setting for a kite flying - more particularly, a group of a hundred or so people who wish to share kite making and kite flying experiences?

It most surely is!

And may I point out that the moisture-laden air, particularly above Washington State's broad expanses of water, almost invariably generates magnificent, towering thunderhead cumulus clouds - devastatingly beautiful backgrounds for kite flying, as well as an inspiration to kite makers.

When we arrived Thursday afternoon, the Northwest Fighter Kites Association club members were already out on Fort Worden's parade ground flying and touch fighting their lithe fighter kites. At least a half-dozen of the NFKA fighter kite enthusiasts flew almost constantly from the first moment of the Conference participants arrivals, to the last day of our departure. One of the special treats forthcoming from this group was a chance to see the amazing new American Japanese Buka-style kites adapted initially by Ken Conrad to a smaller fighter kite size, competing with modern Northwest Fighter treatments of traditional Indian-style diamond patang fighters.

I presented one workshop, and gave three lectures during the three-day Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. The theme of my presentations focused on a re-examination of the pleasures of paper kite making. The workshop was on the Sanjo rokkaku kite where I emphasized that this was such a fine kite to introduce to younger children (and adults, too, of course) - as compared to the difficulties of introductory kite classes in which sewing skills were so important (using the newer materials, rip stop, carbon fiber rods, etc.).

SDKC Officers 1999-2000

President	Charlie M'Clary (619) 223- kytebum@inetworld.net	Equipment Manager	Mitch Anderson (858) 273-
Vice President	Susan Shampo (619) 295- KiteGal@sau.rt.com	Membership	Alan Watson (619) 267- NCBanshee@aol.com
Secretary	Joanne M'Clary (619) 223-	Newsletter Editor	Rick Spurgeon (619) 449- thekitedu...home.com
Treasurer	Jim Skryja (858) 272 jskryja@worldnet.att.net	Archivist	Charlie M'Clary (619) 223 kytebum@inetworld.net
PR/Publicity	OPEN	Past President	Greg Lawrence
Events Coordinator	John Rogers (619) 691 jtrogers@home.com	Founder	Dan Willan

"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

Charlie's Column

The winter doldrums seems to be over and we've begun to warm toward more typical San Diego spring weather, but I haven't been hibernating. Making headway towards sponsorship of the Skylines publication and hope to have that finalized within a couple weeks.

Time for nomination of club elective officers is coming up and I have found one perk to being club president which I wish to mention to prospective candidates. Because the club is working with the Mingei International Museum in conjunction with their upcoming exhibit 'ART THAT SOARS - Kites and Tails by Jackie Matisse', your president has been invited to attend the opening of the exhibit, meet the artist and be interviewed by S.D.'s own Rod Luck (another few seconds of fame).

The club will celebrate it's 10th anniversary in July. In view of the fact that very few kite clubs have survived that length of time it is especially rewarding to those of us who are charter members to see and have been a part of the many joys, accomplishments, and yes, the

frustrations and disappointments that have been a part of being SDKC members - but we made it ten years. Over one half of the original 11 members are still active in the club.

Recently two ex-presidents, Tony Hillard and Fred Martin, long inactive in kiting, have stopped by and expressed renewed interest in flying. Hopefully they will both return to the fold. Tony is a very good quad flier, a good teacher and always willing to give a novice a hand. The Martins, Fred and Dana, always liven up a kite field with their personalities, some lovely one liners and the infamous Holstein ensemble (near life-size and life-like Holstein wind sock, a Holstein banner with udder and Diana's costume - also with udder).

Charlie

Help Welcome These New Members

Bob Thornton
David & Joan Goss
Carol Solimine
Jace, Pat & Lori Bertges
Delores Hawn

Bullhead City, Az.
Costa Mesa, Ca
San Diego, Ca
San Diego, Ca
Mesa, Az.

(renewal)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 13

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

Memorial Fly Info

At the May 13th meeting we will hold our annual Memorial Fly to commemorate our friends gone but far from forgotten. There will be a Pot Luck lunch and SDKC members are asked to bring the following items:

- A-G - appetizer or salad
- H-L - side dish or entree
- M-Z - dessert or snack food

Chef Ron will be grilling up his world famous Grilled Carne Asada and Tortilla and Jane is bringing a gas grill and promises either tamales or ribs.

So pack up a favorite kite for the fly and bring along your appetite for a special day of flying.

In Addition -

The Route 66 Kite Club from Arizona will be in town for the weekend. We have invited them to join us at the park for lunch and flying. They have invited us to join them for an evening bar-b-que (bring you own meat) and night fly at the Cottages On The Beach Hotel where they will be staying.

So get a good night's sleep on Friday and get in a long day of flying, eating, and socializing. And if the wind quits Saturday night you can still have a pretty good time!

June 10

Catherine's Wheel Seminar
Board and General Meetings
South of the Hilton on Hwy 5
@Tecolote Shores at 0930 & 1030

Catherine's Wheel Seminar

At the June 10th meeting Virgil Dalton will be presenting a seminar on making a Catherine's Wheel. Virgil is a master craftsman and makes a 'killer' wheel. So come on out and learn the secrets of a Catherine's Wheel at the feet of the master. Armed with this knowledge and a few decades of sewing practice you to will be able to make a 'killer' wheel.

We will also be taking nominations for next years club officers. The elections take place during the July meeting. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself if you think changes are needed! Who knows, you might even have fun as a club officer.

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.

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



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This focus on paper kites has long been a staple of kite making classes taught by Dan Kurahashi (as well as the pleasures of splitting and trimming bamboo for kite frames). Ludo Petit, from Marines, France taught classes using bamboo and paper to make traditional fighter kites. George Peters, a Grenadian living in Seattle, took kite history back one step further into the past, teaching a class whose students made beautiful kites from a cocoa leaf. What wonderful kites! My wife, Romig, visited these classes and reported enthusiastically on them. I wish I could have attended them myself. Next year! Fort Worden is addictive!

My own lectures ended with wonderful discussions and contributions from the audience: "Renewing the Pleasures of Paper Kites" was a review of paper kites focusing on the East; "Paper Fighters Around the World: Considering Two Views, Indian-style manjha Glass Line Fighting and the New Western-style (no manjha) Touch Fighting. Participation by NFKA club members were a staple of this presentation. They showed new models from their kite boxes (in particular Karen Gustavson who assisted in my classes) as well as answering questions and participating in discussions (among others, one of the mainstays of the Northwest Fighter Kite Association, Jeff MacInnis, a.k.a. "the fat kid" who initiated and adds so much to the fighterkites@topica.com web site - now numbering some one-hundred members. My final lecture was a tribute to the inventor of the parafoil, Dom Jalbert, reading from my book in progress, *Domina Jalbert and His Friends: Brothers of the Wind*.

There were dozens of classes to choose from and instructors were given the opportunity to take at least one class themselves. Wanting a better understanding of the techniques, and difficulty of making a parafoil, I chose Don Mock's (from Ruston, Washington) "Mock Form II" workshop, to learn how to make Mock's special version of a Sutton Flow Form, itself, a variation on the Jalbert parafoil.

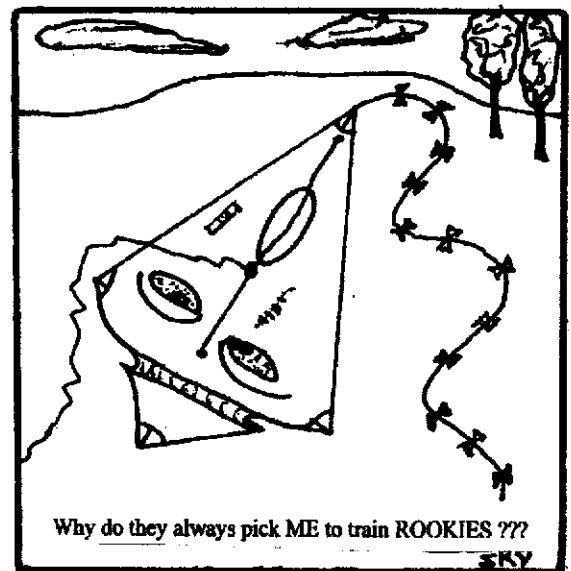
This is where the title of my essay, "Fort Worden 2000's Kite Angels & Saints" came into being:

I hadn't touched a sewing machine in nearly twenty-five years. Whatever comes after Angels and Saints in the religious order of the kite kingdom, Don Mock, deserves this title! Don taught classes in the first Fort Worden Kite Conference held in 1984 (and every year thereafter). The Don Mock Fort Worden 2000 class began at 8am on Saturday morning; two other class members and I left at 2am the following Sunday morning! Don was there eighteen hours (with brief breaks for lunch and dinner), a broad smile accompanying the answers to our questions, offering encouragement to the slowest members of his class. And (when I finish my kite at home) I will be, thanks to Don Mock, the proud owner of a red, 20-square-foot Mock Form/Sutton/Jalbert kite - which Don told us, flown in moderate winds, will be enough to pull a two-hundred pound plus kite flyer on the soles of his shoes across a grass flying field.

Also among a long list of my own Ft. Worden Angels and Saints are Sam and Ann Huston who met my wife

and I at the Seattle Airport. We talked into the wee hours of the morning at their home, enjoyed a kite maker's dinner hosted by Ron and Marla Miller, then the next morning drove us on to Fort Worden. These overnight house stops and kite dinner parties are a Ft. Worden Conference tradition.

Come to Fort Worden next year to work with and in the company of Fort Worden's Kite Saints and Angels! I promise you, it will be a kite treat of the highest order, three days chock full of special kite memories to last a lifetime.



A Fond Farewell

Dear San Diego Kite Club and Kites At Large,

We would like to thank you all for your support of the Kite Club website for the last three years while under our development. When I took it over from Walt Thompson I had no idea the size it would grow to. (Thanks for the encouragement Walt!) It has been a fun and enjoyable learning experience in developing the site. It has gone through many changes over the years with a site domain buried 4 deep at Geocities to the 2nd level at Ratzilla.com and finally to its very own domain we had the pleasure of establishing at SDKC.net via our hosting. With a new club formed from contact in the guestbook there are kites united in to skies over Lithuania, directions to fly zones, weather links, regularly updated kiting events, pictures and custom designs done by Marshall and I. Through three guestbooks totaling over 300 signatures and over 7000 hits total! It started as a couple of graphics and 200 words and grew to over 15 htms and over 3.5 meg in total size. Not bad for a lil kite website.

I felt after 3 years of design and hosting it was time to pass the site on.

We hope you will continue to support and visit the website under the new management and look forward to seeing you in the skies yet again.

It has been a great pleasure and we thank you for the memories.

Ellen and Marshal Morgan
Ratzilla.com

A Flash From Charlie

(Doesn't that image just make you shudder!)

Does everyone remember the banner that the 'Banner Bums', members of the SDKC, made for my 65th birthday and was later inadvertently left at the field in July '98? All things come to those who wait. This morning while in Ocean Beach someone yelled at me. Robert, and I can't remember his last name but a friend and lost kiter, told me that he had the banner but had not been flying for awhile and hadn't seen me for 'a year or so'. He took me to his place and handed it and it's pole to me. Apparently I haven't used up all my 'comes around' yet.

The Torch Is Passed

You know me as your Vice President, but I am now pleased to introduce myself as your new webmaster. My tenure as VP will end this summer but I intend to continue working on the web site for as long as the club has the need. My first accomplishment has been to procure 50 MB of web space for our site at no cost to the club. Internet Express has agreed to host our site free of charge in return for a banner on our home page. I encourage anyone who is looking for an ISP to check them out. They have been great to deal with.

After a three month absence from cyberspace due to administrative relocation glitches, our site is finally back up and running. Although it has a new look, the site still contains everything that was on the previous version with the exception of the Guest Book. I will be adding a new one soon. Already the site has grown to over 60 pages and close to 5 MB in file size and more is being added all the time.

Since we have plenty of space to grow into, I plan to add lots more pictures. At our April meeting, the board decided to purchase a digital camera for the club so that when something happens, pictures can be up before they are old news. This will also eliminate the cost of developing and the time needed for scanning photographs. I have convinced SDKC member, Bill Haebler, who is a former professional photographer, to help us out by getting behind the lens and snapping some high quality pics for the site. But that does not mean that everyone else can sit back. We still need you to take pictures, digital or traditional, of events that you attend, especially when the rest of us aren't there.

Kudos to the Morgans and their predecessors for giving me great material to start with. The thing I've enjoyed most about 4+ years of web site development (it's not just a hobby, it's my full time job) is that web sites remain works in progress. You never come to a point when the job is done, there are always new things to post and new ways to present information. Visit www.sdkc.net often and I'll show you what I mean!

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



Nominations Sought For 2000-01 Club officers

In May and June we will be taking nominations for all offices. We hope to have a ballot ready to print in the July newsletter. The actual election will take place in July as usual, but this will give members who can't come to the July meeting a chance to vote.

Names will be put into nomination for specific offices. We will have a ballot box available at the meetings, or you can send in your nominations anonymously. You may nominate yourself, of course. No one will be forced to run if they don't wish to.

I think a lot of people shy away from holding an office because they think they don't have time or it will be too much work. That is why we are listing the offices here along with a brief description. You should find something here that will mesh with your talents (or someone you know). Please get involved and support your club.

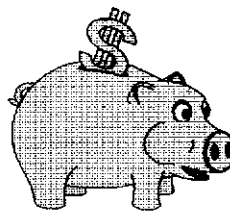
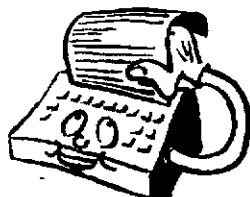


President: Basically, the coordinator of coordinators. The President sets the agenda and presides over club and board meetings, is the main spokesperson for the club, writes a nifty "Presidents Message" for the newsletter.

Vice President: Assists the president and fills in for the president when he/she is unavailable. May write a nifty "Vice President's Message" for the newsletter.



Secretary: Takes the minutes of the monthly board meeting, takes care of any correspondence with other clubs, the AKA, and businesses. Usually updates the general meeting information hotline and responds to inquiries made by individuals interested in the club.

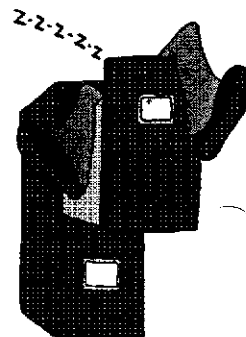


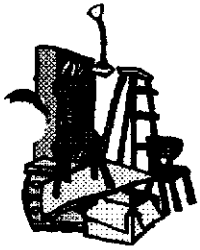
Treasurer: Keeps financial records of income and expenses, pays bills (phone hotline, storage, newsletter printing and mailing, food costs, etc.), maintains advertising accounts for newsletter, sends out invoices, makes bank deposits, obtains seller's permits and files state sales tax forms when necessary, prepares monthly financial reports for board meeting and bimonthly statements for newsletter.

Events Coordinator: Helps make schedule for regular club meetings and plan food sales, suggests and coordinates special events such as seminars, workshops, special guests, competitions, fund raising activities, fun and games. Ideally this officer would work with a committee or team to implement these activities.



Membership Chairman: Maintains accurate, up-to-date list of members and dues status, maintains mailing list including paid members, honorary members, club exchanges and kite businesses (a computer with database program is needed), prints out labels for newsletter mailings, arranges for membership table to be set up and manned at certain events.





Equipment Manager: Stores or arranges for storage of club equipment (kites, sound system, tables, food service items), makes sure needed equipment is brought to meeting or event, arranges for repair or replacement of broken or depleted items.



Public Relations Coordinator: Club liaison with media, work with events coordinator in publicizing club events, promoting goodwill in the community, and helping with community based programs, such as schools needing members to help kids build kites.

Archivist: Keeps all the junk. No, just kidding. Collects and maintains all kite and club-related materials (newsletters, magazines, videos, letters, records, minutes of board meetings).



Board Members: Attend board meetings, play an active role in planning and implementing ideas for club activities.



PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (OR A COPY OF THIS FORM) AND SENT IT TO:
SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB, P.O. BOX 7977, SAN DIEGO, CA 92167

SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB NOMINATION OF OFFICERS 2000-01

PRESIDENT
1. _____
2. _____

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
1. _____
2. _____

ARCHIVIST
1. _____
2. _____

VICE PRESIDENT
1. _____
2. _____

EVENTS COORDINATOR
1. _____
2. _____

BOARD MEMBER
1. _____
2. _____

SECRETARY
1. _____
2. _____

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORD.
1. _____
2. _____

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

TREASURER
1. _____
2. _____

EQUIPMENT MANAGER
1. _____
2. _____

6. _____

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