

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite*

Vol. XI No. 3

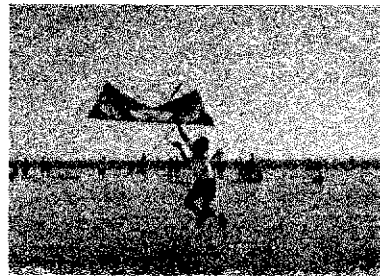
November 2000

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Hot Tricks Shoot-Out: The Battle For King of The Hill

Ron Despojado



Almost everyone agrees one of the most enjoyable events at the AKA Convention this year was the Hot Tricks Shoot-Out. The HTSO was setup by Darrin Skinner and feature a no-holds barred, all-out head to head competition. The contest was setup up like a typical tournament ladder where the winner of each round would advance to the next. This time there were 32 slots and almost all were filled right away, with a few registering as their other events finished up.

The idea is to have two fliers on the field, about 3 minutes worth of music, and intervals from each flier, alternating 30 seconds apiece. The whole thing is to impress the judges who decide who advances and who is eliminated. They typically look to be impressed, usually with flying of the kites. Musical selections were varied as much as the competitors did, thanks to DJ Jazzy Jeff Erzin from the San Francisco area.

As was mentioned several times during the competition there were "NO RULES".

Even more impressive were the warriors themselves and their background. There was young vs. old, dual line vs. quad line vs. fighter kite, novice against masters, guys vs. girls. The names were enough to fill a who's who of sportkiting: Lindermann, Snowden, Hoac, Davidson, Wolff, Graziano, Weider, Ritter, Van Der Slice, and the list went on.

The wind started out very light in the first round. Even before I had my first match there were several 360's and 3-D work, both of which I felt were "my" specialty. The weather was extremely hot and humid, so to go all-out was a physical challenge. I won my first round but was exhausted. I knew I had to do things to stand out so I started my first fly by facing the judges, opening a bottle

Continued on Page 4

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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.

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

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Welcome to all and the New Millennium of the San Diego Kite Club. Many things are happening in the coming year such as Miniature Kitemaking with Jim and Jane Skryja, Applique and Kitemaking by the Lindsays, Steve Bateman and Fighter Kites, Aerial Photography and many other presentations for the club Activities.

Many thanks to Allison, Alan, Marilyn and Mitch for their help and participation with the Polinsky Institute and the group of young girls they brought over, the Kites from Alan and the candy drop went over very well and the Polinsky chaperons were very pleased with the event and are looking forward to the next event the Club organizes for them.

New Year's Day, our Annual event is coming up very soon. Invite your friends and their families to come along and enjoy the Kites and our raffle. Our Shirt for this year will be spectacular and will be available to members by order at our December 9th meeting with a small extra inventory for guests at the event. Specialty shirts and large sizes must be ordered. Lets make this our largest event of

ALL - THE REAL MILLENNIUM AND its beginning.

The Club needs Raffle items for New Year's Day and the help of the membership in soliciting items for the Raffle from Stores and Manufacturers, at the same time see it you can sell any of them advertising space on our shirt. Jim Skryja has invoices and will bill them in order that they may have an invoice record for their bookkeeping as we are a non profit organization.

Remember, in order for our Club to Grow we Must increase our membership, lets everyone make a concentrated effort to enlist one new member and talk one of our Previous members into rejoining. Bring your ideas, new members, etc., to our December meeting in order that we can begin the movement into the New Millennium.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on December 9th and at our Annual New Year's Day Event at Mariners Point. LETS MAKE IT THE BEST EVENT EVER.

-- Neil

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Some Upcoming SDKC Events

December 8 - Applique Workshop

Learn Gail's applique method on Friday, December 8th, 6:30pm at the Skyrja's residence. Bring your sewing machine, polyester thread, small pointed scissors, pencil, ruler, and some unwrinkled scrap ripstop if you have it.

We will also bring a supply of fabric scraps for those who need it.

We will work with small kite designs that can later be made into a fighterkite. We will furnish small designs or bring your own favorite!

- The Lindsay's

December 9 - SDKC Monthly Meeting

This will be our annual Christmas meeting complete with Red and Green Potluck and Gift Exchange - Bring a gift - get a gift (\$10 limit).

This will also be your chance to order New Year's Day T-shirts (another award winning design by Ron D.). Small, oversize and specialty shirts MUST be pre-ordered and prepaid.

New Year's Day 2001

See Page 6

Events are subject to last minute changes.

For more information contact Joanne M'Clary (619) 223-XXXX

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.

Editors Plea

Have you noticed that it has been awhile since you last received a newsletter? The reason for this is that there have not been any submissions to the newsletter. Right, Wrong, or Indifferent - I signed up to put the newsletter together and get it printed and mailed. I have no interest in actually writing the newsletter.

Wanted

Articles for the Newsletter - just about any kiting related story would be welcome. Big stuff like trips to the AKA convention or little stuff like a good day at Mission Bay. How-to articles, plans, whatever. Out of town submissions especially welcome.

Assignment Editor - Someone to cajole people in to writing and submitting articles. This is not my strong point either.

New Editor? - If there is someone out there who wants to do it all, I could use more time to put towards my meager sewing efforts.



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of water, and pouring it over my head and down my shirt- of which I found to be very refreshing. As I found out after each round- "the good news is... you've won, the bad news is... you have to fly AGAIN in less than 5 minutes."

One of the notable contests was Chicago Fire's legendary leader Eric Wolff against young-buck Curtis Mitchell. Another one of the more unusual lineups was Big Sam Ritter against little Danielle Fermin. The wind pulled little Danielle around but she managed to be a giant killer. Each round I felt that this would be the one to eliminate me, and to my surprise I again advanced. I felt it would be certain that one of my foes- Brian Van Der Slice ("Slice") who is known for innovative flying, would be the one to knock me out. Brian switched from dual line, and then to quadrafoil in a dogstake. He was very impressive. But, again I made it to the next round.

One round my opponent was Shane Snowden (past dual line grand national champion) who surprised us all by doing a tag-team against me. He handed his kite off to another and that person flew against me. The next interval the both of them flew against me!! But, as the announcer Mark Kunoff reminded us- "There are NO RULES!"

Another round I was getting ready to do a catch of my Rev on short lines so near the end of my turn I yanked it down and it fell short of where I was standing. I therefore dove for the kite, caught it, but landed hard on my shoulder- very, very hard. My first thought was that I actually broke my collarbone. I put an ice pack on it and felt I could move it but not without pain. Again I advanced but between rounds I felt exhausted and physically depleted. Funny thing once I'm on the field ready to do battle, I am totally refreshed and anxious to go.

The semi-final round, the one that would put me in the finals came up. I was against Phil Napier. I remember having to do a 360 since the wind was again getting light. Then suddenly I noticed someone coming out of the crowd and following me. Was that the other Phil? Phil Broder? But I kept running and all of a sudden I felt a tug on

my shorts- Broder was trying to pants me!

Then my next turn was a complete surprise, which I had no idea was coming. According to a post on rec.kites, here is Troy Gunn describing the action:

"The funniest thing from this years convention happened during the Hot Tricks Shootout. In the quarterfinals Ron Despojado brought bribing the judges to a whole new level! Ron began his performance by taunting several of the female judges with kisses and shaking his hips as if he were an erotic dancer. Ron also squirted water down the front of his shorts. The female judges returned the favor, by running out to where Ron was standing. These shameless female judges proceeded in tackling Ron and then pulled his shorts half way down! Ron was showing a half moon! LOL

I believe Ron will now be writing a new manual titled "How to Bribe Sport Kite Judging Panels". TROY GUNN

I guess maybe this is a little less embarrassing than last year's mooning the Japanese special guests. Kathy Brinnehl from Chicago Fire and Rosanna Rosanova, a novice flier from the Northeast each took one side of my



Ron Always Has A Smile For Everyone

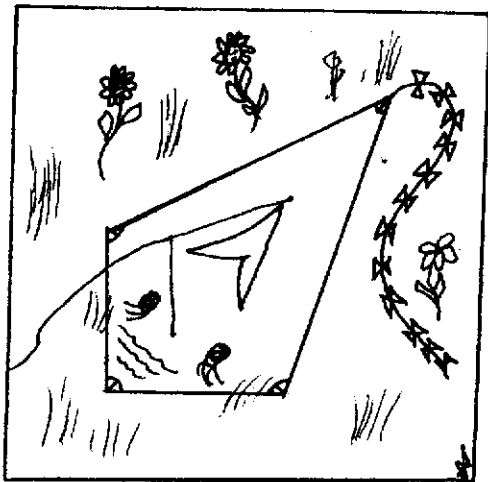


cont. from page 4

shorts and as I was getting ready to again leap for the kite, held me back by pulling on my shorts. Oh darn... I didn't enjoy that at all (sarcasm). When we all fell to the ground the impact put a hole in my kite.

I couldn't believe I had made it to the finals. My final opponent was Scott Weider. We both flew quadlines, we both have won Master's Quad Ballet at the national convention in recent years, and we have faced each other many times. This was the battle for the whole enchilada or knish, depending on where you were from. East Coast Scott vs. West Coast Ron. We battled back and forth and there was not a whole lot of fight left in me. At the end of my final turn I again dove for my kite and landed on all fours, and I knew I was done, so I just rested there. All of a sudden I heard the crowd laughing and then I felt something on my back. It was Scott- riding me like a horse! At least I hope that's what he was trying to show. The announcer mentioned Dirty Dancing on the kite field. In the end, the judges felt Scott out-performed me and I settled for second place. For me, the reward was performing itself. Just give me a kite, some music, and especially an audience, and there is no happier place. This was without a doubt the most fun I had doing the combination of flying, competing, and especially- performing.

And according to my chiropractor, I had a mild case of whiplash, some swelling and deep tissue bruising on my shoulder. He asked me if I was doing full-contact kiting.



Hey! Your running down wind!

by Jim Skryja

Master Kitebuilder from Kyoto visits San Diego

Jim Skryja

San Diego kiting enjoyed a wonderful opportunity recently, to meet and learn from world class, Master Japanese kite builder, Nobuhiko Yoshizumi. The Mingei museum in Balboa Park and Seattle's Drachen Foundation, sponsored Yoshi-san to spend a week at each displaying his techniques, and constructing two 4x6 foot edo-dako (rectangular kite).

San Diego Kite Club members Jim and Jane Skryja, and Charlie and Joanne M'Clary supported Yoshi-san during his visit. He stayed with Jim and Jane and enjoyed his day off with Charlie and Joanne flying at the kite field.

Yoshizumi-san has built some giant kites and yet holds the Guinness World Record for the world's smallest kite. Small kites, the size of postage stamps, and flown on a single strand of raw silk are his real passion. Some of the styles he made were similar to the tombi-dako (eagle) and yakko (kimono).

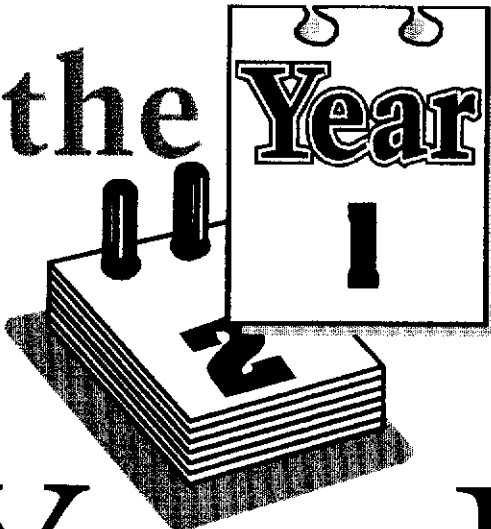
Yoshi-san is a very warm, outgoing man eager to show his craft to all. Jim and Charlie spent as much time as they could soaking up his tips and techniques. He has provided some "washi" paper, bamboo, and raw silk to Jim and Charlie for a San Diego Kite Club member's clinic.

(See Page 7 and insert for more on the clinic.)

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



Begin ^{the} Year Right Fly Your Kite!

An illustration of a calendar page with the number '1' on it, and a stack of papers with the number '2' on top. The calendar page is slightly tilted and has a small '1' on it. The stack of papers is also tilted and has a '2' on top. The text 'Begin the Year Right' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'the' in a smaller font above 'Year'. Below this, 'Fly Your Kite!' is written in a large, bold font.

Join Us For The Ninth Annual
SDKC New Year's Day Fly
At Mariner's Point
Raffle! Potluck!

When: 01-01-01 from as soon as the sun (or you)
rises until the wind quits - maybe later.

Where: Mariner's Point, Mission Bay Park, San
Diego, where it's always a good day to fly.

Who: Everyone! Make sure you drag someone
with you!

Why: You are a kite flier! What else ya' gonna
do?

SDKC Miniature Kite Workshop

Jim Skryja

Friday evening before the last kite meeting, eighteen SDKC members met in Jim and Jane Skrya's shop to split bamboo, make a Meister (Youshi) hat, and a 3 inch kimono kite, and eat pizza. Nobuhiko Youshizumi, the world famous Japanese miniature kite builder, showed Charlie McClary and Jim some of the techniques he uses in making miniature kites, during his recent visit to San Diego.

Yoshi left some washi and gold leaf backing paper, raw silk, and various bamboo pieces to



Youshi



Jim

give us an opportunity to make these traditional kites. He also left a couple of small pieces of 200 year old bamboo saved from buildings that were being torn down in Kyoto. Joanne donated some red cloth for the hats to help get us in the oriental mood.

Using an assortment of cutting and splitting tools and colored pens, the results were quite satisfying. I don't remember any of the kites that didn't fly. Not a wall hanging in the bunch. They were attached to bamboo sticks by raw silk that was close to being invisible.

See Insert For More Pics

Selected Results From The 2000 AKA Convention At Treasure Island.

Master Ind. Ballet

Susan Shampo - First

Master Ind. Quad Ballet

Ron Despojado - Fourth

Susan Shampo - Sixth

Open Ind. Freestyle

Ron Despojado - First

Hot Tricks Shootout

Ron Despojado - Second

Experienced Precision Fighter

Steve Bateman - Third

Experienced Line Touch Fighters

Steve Bateman - First

Congratulations To All!

(These results were gleaned from the AKA website, I hope I didnt miss any Club Members who may also have done well - Rick S.)



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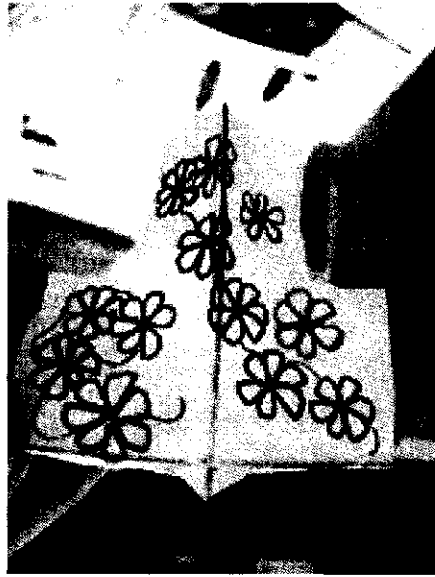
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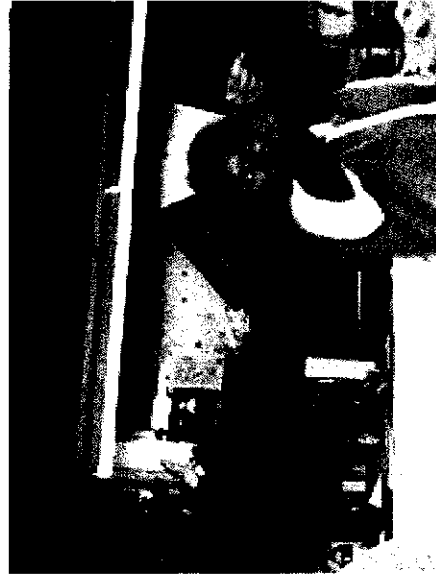
The Finished Product



The Crowded Skies Of Jim's Garage



A New Facet Of Mini Kites: KAP Photos



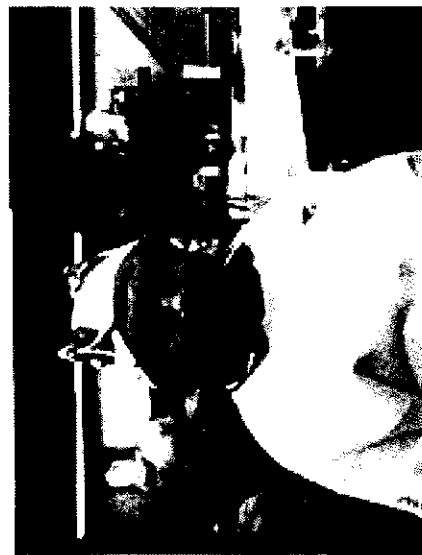
Susan Practicing For The Next Hot Tricks Competition



Comparing Kites



Youshi Tests A Kite



Instructor Jim

Splitting The Bamboo



The Tools Of The Trade

Split How Many More Times?



I'm Not Putting No Silly Rag On My Head - Umm....

Walt Is Almost Done



Photos By Walt Thompson