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October 1995

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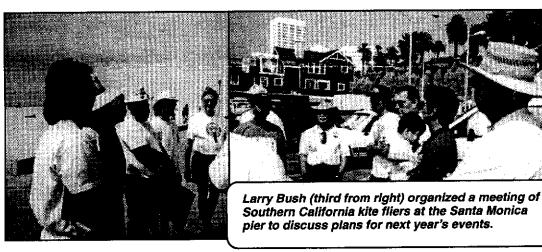
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THE FUTURE OF KITING FOR SOUTHERN CALIF.



Reported by Kathy Aggers

A MEETING organized by Larry Bush and Neil Tuthill took place at the Santa Monica Pier, the site of this year's LASKC, on Saturday, Sept. 23. Light winds tempted only a few to fly before we gathered in the parking lot adjacent to the beach. The meeting was attended by Larry Bush, Neil Tuthill, Walt Thompson, Ron Despojado, Bowdy and Kathy Aggers, Vic Heredia, Ron Stoner, Dorine Imbach, Steve Bateman, Larry Navarro, Bert Tanaka, Hoy Quan, Chuck Meyers, Jim Campbell, Gary Gerfen, and Dan Rubesh. Larry Bush opened by reading a letter he had e-mailed to Walt Thompson in June of this year. He posed several questions and offered suggestions on the future of events in Southern California.

One of his questions was, what would happen

now that LASKC would no longer be held. He then read Walt's reply, which was, in effect, the spirits are willing; however, who has the funds or the willingness to take up the torch.

This correspondence resulted in Larry chatting with several like-minded kite fliers on the Internet. Cyber chat is not available to all, so the meeting was suggested. Neil Tuthill had spoken with Larry previous to the meeting to let him know that the paperwork to secure AKA sanctioning had been sent and dates were given to *American Kite* Magazine for June 20 and 21. The California Aire Affair would take the place of LASKC. Support had been given by Spectra Star, and suggestions for more outside sponsors were requested.

Those gathered seemed cheered by this news,

Continued on page II

SDKC Officers 1995-96

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Linda Mixon

Treasurer

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

SKYLINES is published bi-monthly by the San Diego Kite Club. All

articles related to the sport of kiting are encouraged.

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 oddnumbered months for publication in following issue.

San Diego Kite Club P.O. Box 7977 San Diego, CA 92167 USA Ph. (619) 685-2885 The summer season has left us, but our renewed enthusiasm has just arrived.

At our September meeting we saw many more faces, some familiar and some new. One first-time attendee saw the notice for our meeting on the Internet; it's nice to see results from new ideas. The era of new electronic communications is impacting the San Diego Kite Club. Yes, that modem is being put to work.

Fall typically has been the season for a more relaxed kiting atmosphere. Most of the tournaments and festivals have become fond memories. Our flying field has again become "ours" since the summer break is over. But the club is still moving forward. We will be instrumental in bringing in a competitive event in the spring.

Tentatively dubbed the "Southern California Open," it will be the first event in San Diego since the last California Open in 1991. In addition to this event, two more are also in the planning stages for

* HOTLINE NUMBERS *

San Diego Kite Club (619) 685-2885 AKA Automated Information

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1991. In addition to this the planning stages for

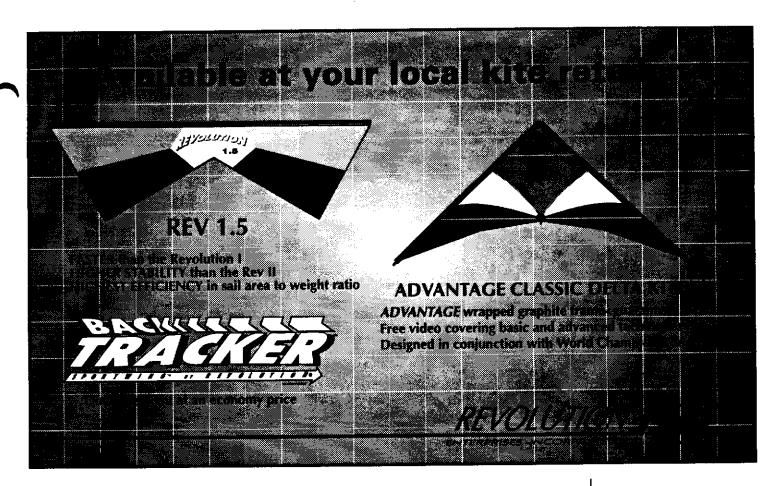
the Southern California area. A core group of kiting enthusiasts with varied interests has met to start planning.

Our club is attempting to put together more seminar-type meetings for our monthly gatherings. The Revolution Kites seminar at the September meeting with special guest Joe Hadzicki is hoped to be the beginning of several more to come. If there is a specialty that you'd like to see, let one of the SDKC board members know. As of this time, we have planned a fighter kite seminar for the November meeting. Special guest will be Vic Heredia, maker of the Vic's Fighter. We are looking to have other special guests who are not necessarily from the Southern California area.

I've noticed the club appears to be taking on a new direction, but still undefined. I say this because the time at which we are the most gathered — our monthly meetings — is seeing some underlying change. We're always looking for a focus for these meetings and would like your input.

Where we're headed is unknown. But we're moving and not "dead in the water" (or "falling from the sky," if you prefer).





BOARD MEETING Highlights

August 18, 1995

Welcome — Ron welcomed the new officers and board members and expressed his concern at the lack of focus and attendance of the club the past year. He suggested we consider moving flying fields, practicing flying etiquette, organizing special events and monthly events for club meetings.

SoCal Kite Events — Neil Tuthill brought a proposal to organize two kite competitions in Southern California next year. One would be a continuation of the LASKC and would be held in Santa Monica in June. The other would be a regional event to be held in San Diego in April. Emphasis would be on giving lessons to new prospective kiters. Events would include Masters, Experienced, Intermediate and Novice class, Quad line, Innovative and Team, with monetary prizes if sufficient funds are available. Also to be considered are single-line competition and mass ascensions.

Membership report — 86 paid members

September 15, 1995

Halloween — Our annual Halloween celebration will take place at our regular October club meeting on October 21. Special events will include kitemaking for kids, candy drop and a kids' tail grab, costume competition and the traditional cider-and-donuts night-fly bonfire.

New Year's Eve — The club will hold a fighter kite competition on Dec. 31, location to be announced. The hospitality suite at the Fabulous Inns will be available in the evening.

Fighter Kite Workshop — We are looking into putting on a fighter kite workshop with Vic Heredia for the November meeting to help people get ready for the competition on New Year's Eve.

We are always looking for contributions to the newsletter. If you have an article, photos, kite tips, kite making plans, artwork, poetry, words of wisdom or anything kiterelated you'd like to see in the newsletter, please forward to: Dorine Imbach 14 W. Ave. San Gabriel San Clemente, CA 92672 (714)492email: skylines@speed.net FAX: same as voice phone

LUG OF KYTE BUM

(KEPT BY THE KYTE FAN)

On the road with the Kyte Bum, Charlie M'Clary, and the Kyte Fan, Joanne M'Clary N EARLY JULY, a constant companion was as signed to live at our house that challenged our ability to just pick up and go where and when we wanted without much prior planning. The companion was a nuisance and proposed a challenge on just how to make space and provision for accompanying us for 24 hours each and every day. We already had plans to go to the state of Washington for the entire month of August, so we had to put our heads together for a plan as to how to make traveling possible.

The companion I mention is an oxygen tank, and either the portable tank or an electric machine is necessary at all times. It is not fun, but people are noticing that my coloring has improved, and I do feel better. The challenge was met by buying a generator and attaching it to a flatbed trailer, connecting the electric Mobilair and going down the road in the motor home, now being supplied with the required electricity. We

couldn't let the new family member prevent us from going on the road to attend kiting events.

West Coast SKC, Berkeley, July 29 and 30

The week before the Berkeley event was very busy with preparations for the trip. The motorhome now had a new motor, a new starter, and a new red flatbed trailer behind it. We planned on being gone for over a month, so lots of preparation was necessary. All went well, and when we arrived at the flying field in Berkeley on the afternoon of July 28, we pulled in right behind a familiar white and yellow mini-motorhome, which meant the Imbachs were just ahead of us. Within moments Ed & Gail Lindsay pulled up, and then Joanne Petithory stopped by. It felt like old home week. Lee Thrall & Joanne

invited us all over to their home in Richmond for refreshments prior to meeting others that evening at registration. The actual results of the festival were published in the last newsletter, but the social aspects of the festival are always more important to us than the statistics, so it is a part of our log for that reason only.

From Berkeley we proceeded north and checked in at the Sea Breeze RV Park in Long Beach, Wash-

ington, on August 2. We had ample time to experience the small-town life of Long Beach when a festival was not in progress, and we found out firsthand what makes Washington such a green state! We took a trip up to Maple Valley to my son Marlin Gilbert's home and then accompanied him and his wife, Barbara, to a meeting of their kite club on August 13 at Ocean Shores. We are now members of the North Coast Sky Painters kite club, but we re-



The Kyte Fan at work at the World Kite Museum, Long Beach, Washington.

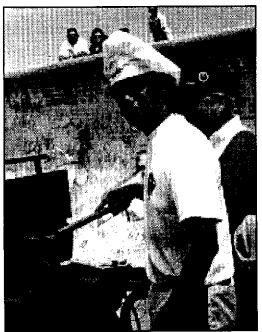
ally won't be attending but one or two meetings a year! It was a lovely day for kite flying, and the flying was followed by an indoor potluck that evening. We also made a side trip to Vancouver, Washington, while calling Long Beach home.

We hand delivered some kites that we had picked up from Tyrus Wong to be exhibited in the World Kite Museum. We also delivered a stack of red-winged blackbirds made by Leo Eyman, which will be exhibited during the year at the museum. The Kyte Bum assisted at the museum by helping take down the old display (which was of stunt kites, including his Solution). He also helped with covering holes, sanding and preparing the surface for the new display and helping hang some of the larger bird kites.

The Kyte Fan assisted in the museum several

hours a day, beginning the week before the festival and continuing throughout the festival. This was an interesting job, and it allowed **Kay Buesing**, the museum director, more time to take care of her many errands. We had been supporters of the museum prior to this trip, but after seeing and working with the staff, we are both even more enthusiastic about the museum. The need for a new building is really seen as a necessity, as there are already 1,200 kites in storage, and much more space is needed for display. The museum is run strictly on donations.

There was some time for flying and buggying preceding the festival, however, the Kyte Bum started working for the Long Beach Kites store the weekend



Chef Ronaldo slinging burgers at the Golden Gate Challenge.

before the festival with the goal in mind to work for a dragon-headed centipede kite, its size dictated by the amount of work done (the one-brought home has 60 cells).

This may seem strange for many — to go on vacation and work — but isn't vacation to get away from what you usually do? Well, since we are retired, working is something different for us — a real change of pace!

Washington State International Kite Festival, August 21-27

I'm sure the fact that we were working had something to do with it, but this just wasn't the best WSIKF for us. Maybe because not as many of our friends were there for us to root for in the competitions, as in previous years, or the maybe it was the excessively strong winds on the days the one-liners usually are flying, but it just wasn't as exciting for us.

It had its moments though. For instance, it was comical during the senior quad-line ballet for for the Kyte Bum to recover the kite after dropping his handles.

Paul Imbach did his usual applauding and shouted encouragement by yelling out that he had never seen that stunt before. For a split second, it looked like the judges were inclined to agree. They didn't really buy it, but awarded an honorable mention award for "remarkable recovery."

The senior fighter games were also a fun event and found the Kyte Bum coming in third. The mystery ballet drew a number of contenders, so it elevated the third-place ribbon the Kyte Bum won in that event to be a good showing. Needless to say, he didn't drop the handles during that event.

Johnny Hsiung and Brian Imbach won prizes for their competitions and Basir Beria won the fighter kite contest, in probably the best fighting we had ever seen.

The record number of kites in the air at one time was broken this year with the final count being 4,663 kites in the air at one time on Sunday. We stayed in Long Beach for a few more days, then headed down the coast.

Golden Gate Challenge, Sept. 2

We had a little problem that delayed us a while so we were too late to register, but not too late to enjoy the event.

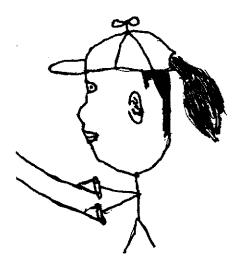
Again the Imbachs were at the festival when we got there and we soon saw the Mixons and Ron Despojado in a chef's hat. I would have eaten a hamburger even if I wasn't hungry, as it gave me a chance to have Ron cook for me instead of the other way around.

Crazy Rodriquez extended his hospitality to us for the night, and on Sunday we took a minitour of San Francisco. Granted, part of the tour was because we got lost, but we watched one of our long-time favorite teams (the Sundowners) practice and other Northern California Kite Club members buggying. We also stopped by Marina Green and visited with George Ham, the mayor of Marina Green. He and his wife, Marion, shared fresh strawberries with us prior to our starting down the coast via Highway 1.

We spent two nights out, and since it was early afternoon when we got back to San Diego, we stopped by south of the Hilton so the Kyte Bum could fly his new dragon kite, Shin Shui (Chinese for pay check), in our own park. We were real pleased with how it flew. Lee Thrall and another person whose name we can't remember assisted with the tuning and techniques for flying the kite while we were in San Francisco.

We were glad to be home, but it left us very little time to prepare for the trip to Tulsa to the AKA convention from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, but that is our intention and we'll make it "the Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise," as the Kyte Bum always states.

MEET: Paul Filer



Since a photo was unavailable, Paul's likeness was rendered by our staff artist, Brian Imbach.

WAS FIRST introduced to stunt kite flying in the early spring of 1994. My girlfriend, Christine, and I were planning on catching a day of spring skiing (our favorite hobby), when we found out that the local resorts had closed for the season. She recommended that we spend a romantic day together, enjoying a picnic. I was not too interested, the activity level as compared to skiing was nil, so she suggested we buy a couple of kites. "I've got an idea," I said, "let's get a stunt kite!"

So off we went, and she bought me my first stunt kite. It was a simple nylon diamond stunter, and my technique was up to par with its \$15 price tag. After three straight weekends of crash and burn, we decided to go up to Huntington Beach to see if there was a kite shop in the area. Not only did we find a shop, but we also happened to run into a kite competition. I walked into the shop and bought my first real stunt kite—a Chicago Fire Firefly (which I still fly!!).

Two weeks later, Christine and I decided to go down to San Diego to visit some college friends and dropped into Kite Country while shopping. I purchased my next kite and Vic told me of a great place to fly at Mission Bay. It just so happened, that afternoon the S.D.K.C. was having a meeting. I met Larry Mixon and Charlie M'Clary and was amazed at how open and inviting they were.

As my new hobby grew, I called a kite company that had a local phone number. The owner of the company and I discussed his product line, and I found out he didn't even fly kites! He was in need of a local flyer that could help him develop his product line.

It was simple: I got free kites, I learned how to tune them and reported my findings back to him. Soon I realized that the kites weren't bridled right, so I had a friend of mine (Dave McMillin of Ride the Wind) help me to understand how a kite bridle worked. After months of work, I had redone every kite they made.

In November 1994, the owner of Flying Wings Kites (Ed Chen) offered me a position of sales rep for the company. The pay was low (straight commission), but I was put in charge of helping the company in developing a new product line for 1995. Shortly after, I started my own company, Coastal Breeze, which would be the sole distributor of the Flying Wings product line. Next thing I knew, I was on the red-eye to Orlando, Florida, for the KTA Convention. Our new product line did very well, and we came back with initial orders that equaled 30% of the previous year's total sales.

In the last year I have had the opportunity to meet incredible kite people like Dodd Gross, Scott Augenbaugh, Abel Ortega, Miguel Rodriguez, Vince Bobrosky, Corey Jensen and Eric Wulff. All of these individuals, as well as every kite flyer I have ever met, are the reason I got involved with kiting. There are no egos, attitudes or membership requirements in kite flying—just a love for the wind and a little imagination.

I volunteered for the position of special events coordinator with the kite club for many reasons. First, I want to help the sport and the enjoyment of kites in general to grow. With the wide variety of interests in the kite club, there really is something for all,

yet I see a growing amount of members that are not showing up at our meetings. This is my first goal: to get the members back.

Second, because of my affiliations throughout the stunt kite industry, I would like to help the S.D.K.C. in putting on our own events and to increase the participation of kite members in kite competitions and festivals throughout the state, country and world.

Third, I want to utilize the vast resources of designers, kite makers and members affiliated with various industries to help diversify the club to become a well balanced organization. With the incredible creative minds we have in the membership, I would like to develop projects that all members can take part in. This month, I will propose that the kite club members join together to design, build and fly a wind ribbon. We have one of the largest memberships in the U.S., and I would like for us not only to display our talents as a group, but also have excitement about being a S.D.K.C. member.

Next, I want to open the door for various members to learn more about kiting in general—how to build kites, fly unique types of kites, understand bridling and design techniques—all of these things I feel are opportunities for us to share our various interests with each other.

Finally, I would like to help the San Diego Kite Club members to become ambassadors of kiting in general. I hope that we can all work together to build a sense of pride and camaraderie among all kite members. My goal—and hopefully our goal—will be that the S.D.K.C. will be known not only in our local area, but throughout the country and the world as ambassadors of kiting.

FACTS & STATS

Name: Paul Eiler

Age: 29

Occupation: Owner Coastal Breeze (product

development: Flying Wings Kites)

Education: B.A., International Business,

S.D.S.U.

Affiliations: S.D.K.C. special events coordinator, Team Balboa Breeze team member,

AKA member 2 years.

Kite Mentors: Corey Jensen, Windbome Kites, for showing me the passion of kite flying—and how much fun it is to teach someone how to fly a stunt kite. Mike Charles, S.D.K.C. member, for explaining the concept of how stunt kites work. Dave McMillin, Ride the Wind, the man who taught me how to tune 'em. Steve Kent, Kites, Etc., the man who showed me how to make business fun. Brian Champie, Team Avispas, the man who taught me how to make a kite dance. Christin Fryling, my beloved girlfriend, the great woman behind this average (but happy) man.

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KITE BUGGIES "DISCOVERED" BY CABLE TV

By Steve Bateman

short summer was spent bugging out at El Mirage Dry lake bed for some filming by the Discovery Channel (DC). The anticipated 115-degree temperatures turned out to be only about 100 degrees (what a relief!) and drenching my shirt with water only managed to cool me off for about 15 minutes. When I first arrived on Saturday the winds were topping out at 25-30 mph, which dried the shirt off real quick.

Attending this buggy get-together were, in no particular order, Dan Rubesh, Bob Childs, Ted Dougherty and son, Hoy Quan, Mike Greenholz, Scott Dyer, John Fishback, Rob McDaniel and the crew from Catch the Wind, Darrin Skinner and family, Steve Kent and friends from Kites Etc., Jon Small from the Kite Ranch, Jason Snell, Steve Shampson, and two friends of mine whose last names

I can't recall, Nelson and Dwayne. Please forgive me for people I have not mentioned.

The Discovery Channel showed up on Sunday, first getting some footage of Ted

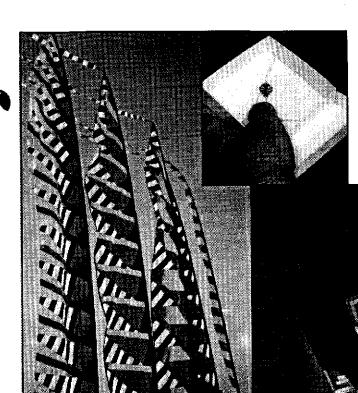
Dougherty explaining the physics of it, how much power is behind one of these kites, and the like. The DC was really impressed by Bob Child's Wheels of Doom off-road inline skates. They often followed him out onto the lake bed in the midmorning sucker winds only to be stuck out there awhile.

It seemed like Ted was always giving a ride to one crew from DC in his tandem buggy, at times with the crew steering in the front seat and Ted in the back with the kite. They filmed us across the lake at the pucker bumps buggying in formation toward the camera, doing the motocross course (pucker bumps), some of us getting flats (Dan Rubesh), and some of us buggying naked (me).

I thank Dan Rubesh for writing a rec.kites article to provide me with most of the names for this article and for the information that they gave an approximate airtime of "late fall" for the show, Next Step. We all had a great time and will be getting together again turkey weekend at Roach dry lake at Stateline. Come out and see what's happening with the buggies.

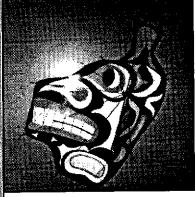
And, yes, it felt breezy.





Scott Hampton's gorgeous banners and his prize-winning smallest kite.

Scenes From WSIKF '95



Left, Scott Skinner's newest creation is simply stunning. Above, Don Mock's latest addition to his collection of asymmetric kites.



Now these French guests REALLY resemble their kites!



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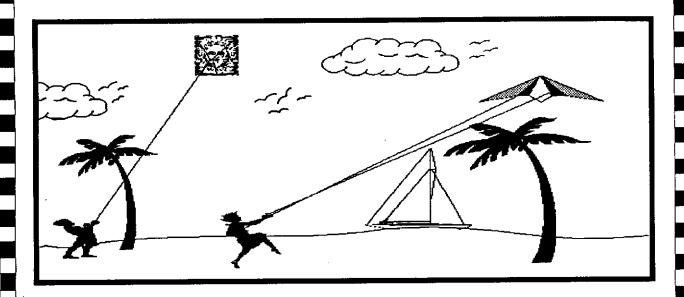
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The Future of Kiting

from page I

but this was not the only concern being voiced on the Internet or on kite fields throughout Southern California. What about other events? Building a kite league was one idea flown about. Larry offered to speak to Darren Skinner of Bay Area Stunt Kite League for advice on how to put one together. As someone pointed out, it would be more professional to go to a major corporation as a league, rather than just a bunch of guys asking for money to put on some kind of event.

As to the question of more competitions and drawing more interest to the sport of kite flying, Larry then offered up the idea of an event in Long Beach at Belmont Shores. This was hailed by all, but the question remained when, how much and who would put it all together. Larry smiled and, looking around, said, "We will." The novice entry fees would be kept low and it would only be a one-day event. As of this writing, the city of Long Beach gave the nod for Saturday, March 30, 1996. Several retailers have expressed interest in being a part of "A Fun Kite Competition."

All those who attended look forward to seeing many of you who could not to come to the meeting at our next meeting on Oct. 21, immediately following the regular SDKC club meeting. We look forward to announcing more upcoming events in the near future.



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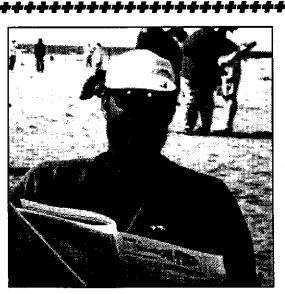
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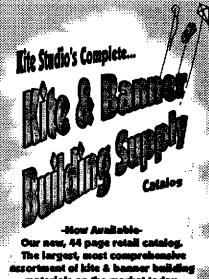
AKA FOUNDER DIES

The founder of the American Kitefliers Association, Bob Ingraham, passed away on September 28, 1995, after a long battle with cancer.



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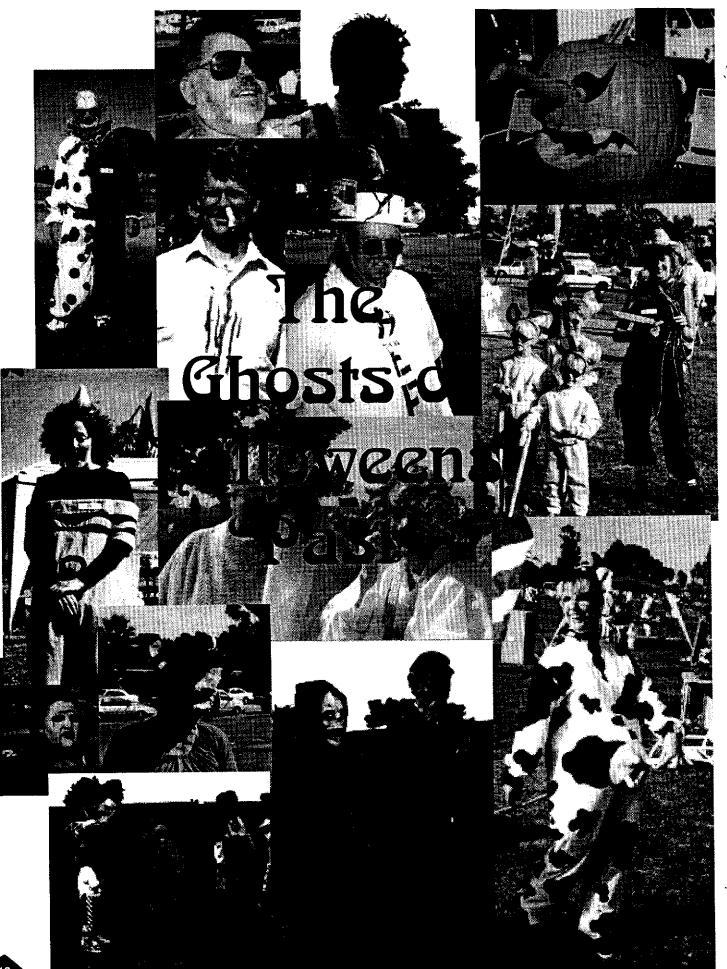
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OCT MOV DEC

Calendar Of Events

- **20** Board of Directors Meeting, Fabulous Inns, Mission Valley, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Ron Despojado, 587-
- Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00 Halloween—costumes, kitemaking for kids, candy drop, night fly.
- 17 Board of Directors Meeting, Fabulous Inn, Mission Valley, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Ron Despoiado, 587
- Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00 Fighter Kite Workshop with Vic Heredia
- Board of Directors Meeting, Fabulous Inn, Mission Valley, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Ron Despojado, 587.
- Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00
- **3** 1 New Year's Eve Fighter Kite Competition, location to be announced.

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

Tidbits

Fort Worden & Junction—Brochures are now available for both these kitemaking retreats. Both are offering many great workshops and special invited guests.

The Fort Worden, Washington, event is scheduled for March 1-3, 1996, featuring special guests Peter Lynn and Robert Trepanier. Workshop presenters include: Jose Sainz, Tom McAlister, Scott Skinner, Sam Huston, Dan Kurahashi, Kathy Goodwind, Mike Sterling, J.R. Tolman and many more.

Memorial Day weekend will again find Junction, Texas, crawling with kite junkies. Next year's presenters include: Hashimoto-san (bee kites), Willi Koch, Randy Shannon, Istvan Bodoczky, Bobby Stanfield, Jose Sainz, Sam Huston, Tom McAlister, Martin Lester, Stan Swanson, Robert Trepanier and more.

Apply early for best selection.

Fort Worden Kitemakers

Conference c/o Bob Alford 320 N.E. Fourth St. North Bend, WA 98045 Junction Kite Retreat c/o Betty Street 2121 65th St. Lubbock, TX 79412

Art Show — Lisa Schirmer was one of 57 local artists selected to be a part of Open Studios '95, a self-guided tour of San Diego County visual artists and their studios. The event will run for three consecutive weekends in various parts of the county,



Bowdy Aggers takes home a "piece of the bridge" for his first place finish in intermediate precision at the Golden Gate Challenge.

with Lisa's participation falling on the final weekend, Oct. 28 and 29 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fifteen of her "Windglyphs" will be displayed on the grounds of another artist's (Michael Wheelden) studio at 1252 Lincoln Ave., San Diego.

This month's San Diego Home & Garden magazine features an article on the event. A catalog to b' used as the event guide and a year-round directory of the artists can be purchased for \$10 (admits two). For more information or to get a catalog, call COVA (Combined Organization for the Visual Arts) at (619) 234-

ADVERTISING RATES

The San Diego Kite Club is accepting ads for its newsletter, SKYLINES, to offset printing and mailing costs.

The following rates are now in effect per issue:

Quarter Page	(4"x4.5")	\$20
Half Page	(7.5"x4.5")	\$40
Full Page	(7.5"x10")	\$70
Half Back Cover		\$60
Full sheet insert		\$75

Interested parties should contact:

San Diego Kite Club

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

Phone(h)_____

MEMBERSHIP NO.

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

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

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