

Skylines

The official newsletter of the *San Diego Kite Club*

Vol. VII No.5

October 1996

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SDKC Members Shine At AKA Nationals



The San Diego Kite Club took many trips to the woodpile at the awards ceremony at this year's AKA convention. Shown are Ron Despojado (undisputed grand vizier of the world), Larry Navarro, John Rogers, Larry Mixon, Ron Gibian, Mark Brownton and kneeling, Jose Sainz and Johnny Hsiung (grand vizier alternate). Not in picture but also winning an award was Nicole Meinhardt. For more details on these and other club accomplishments, read on....

THE PARTY was in our back yard this time. International eyes were on us: AKA 1996: Santa Monica, California.

Since the SDKC was the closest kite club, we followed tradition by hosting a reception prior to all the activities. Through a conflict that resulted in our favor, the reception (nicknamed "The Tuesday Tea")

was held at the carousel building on the pier. Across from the carousel was the Cirque du Soleil. Imagine this: two circuses within spitting distance of each other, and only one of them having a "freak show." Hours of preparation went into this, along with an ongoing concern of the financial aspect. To com-

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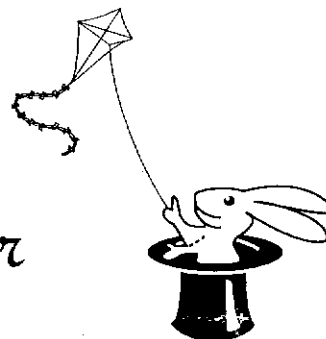
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*Magic
in the Air*



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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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ONE OF THE perks of being SDKC president is having such great bragging rights. Members of our club took home over a dozen awards at the recent AKA convention, and while Virgil Dalton, our esteemed living treasure, had been nominated for the Edeiken award, Kay Buesing was named to kiting's highest honor.

The club was also responsible for putting on a unique early-bird reception on Tuesday, October 1st. Picture the carousel used in the movie *The Sting* and fill that building with about 250 kitefliers, several tables of really good finger food (but not a spam roll-up in sight), a fully stocked bar, some gorgeous kites and other goodies to raffle off, and top it all with the horses going 'round and 'round for continuous rides. From 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. we rode, ate, drank, made merry and raffled to the tune of over \$800.

Thanks to all who bought tickets, and a very

special thank you to Jim Nettles and Roger McComb for handling the raffle displays and keeping things organized, Kathy and Bowdy Aggers for helping sell the "limited edition" T-shirts, Ron Despojado for a wonderful design as well as handling the sales, and especially Joanne M'Clary for sitting in one spot and dealing with all those raffle tickets. Of course the raffle would have been nothing without folks like Mark Brownnton, Walt Thompson, Neil Tuthill, Jon and Patty Small, Jim Nettles, Larry Mixon, Kathy Aggers, Virgil Dalton, John Rogers, Ron Despojado, all of whom donated something to the betterment of the SDKC coffers.

Speaking of coffers, we need to come up with brilliant, clever and fun moneymaking ideas besides raffles to raise funds for said coffers. If we want to put on events, then we need seed money to start things flyin', so keep those suggestions and ideas pouring in, OK?

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BOARD MEETING Highlights

September 21, 1996 — It was decided to once again to extend an invitation to the Polinsky Children's Center to attend our Halloween meeting. Costumes will be welcome but not judged. Linda Mixon and Kathy Aggers will bring pumpkin kites for the children to make and board members will bring candy for the candy drop.

Plans for the "Tuesday Tea" AKA early-bird reception are well underway with the location now changed to the carousel building on the Santa Monica Pier. A new run of club T-shirts and sweatshirts will be produced with a new fighter-kite logo for the front. A total of 12 dozen will be made, half featuring a special-edition AKA logo on the front and down the sleeve. An anonymous donor agreed to finance the prepayment of the shirts.

October 18, 1996 — This month's newsletter will be reduced from 300 to 250 copies. A new printer will be tried for this issue.

Current paid-up members this month is 79.

We will plan to have a New Year's Eve reception once again this year. Members are urged to be on the lookout for a reasonable place to hold the reception. T-shirts will probably not be made for this year's event because we still have quite a few

of the shirts left from the convention.

The November board meeting will be held on Saturday after the regular club meeting at 3:00 to accommodate the board members that have to travel a long distance. In the evening after the meeting we will hold a workshop to put the arch train together, which we hope to debut at the AVI festival.

We will have a Christmas gift exchange at the December meeting. Names will be drawn at the November meeting for those wishing to participate. The December meeting will also be a potluck.

Welcome New Members

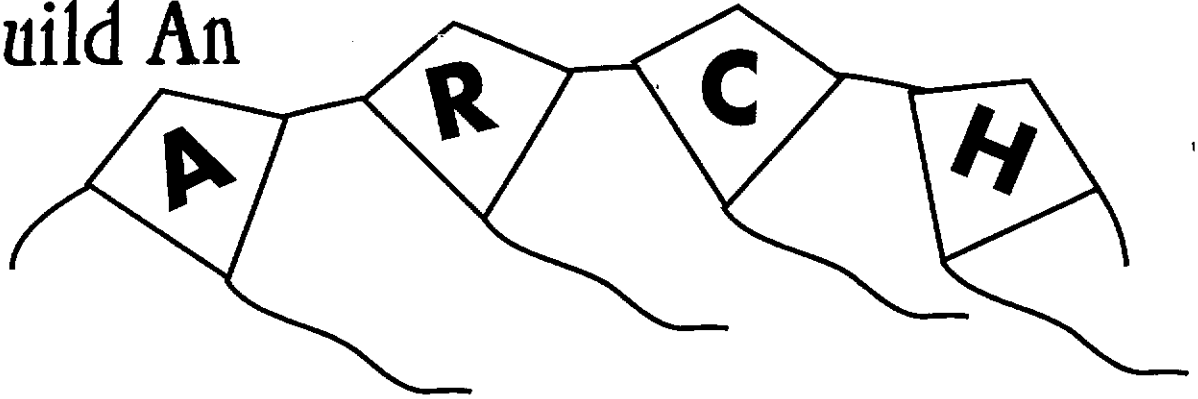
Dustin McDowell, San Diego
Norm Rosen, El Cajon
Benjamin Messin, Moreno Valley
Robert J. Sychara, Torrance
Al Bull, Hampton, III.
Ron Reich, Ramona

And Thank You For Renewing

Jim Campbell

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 kite-related you'd like to see in the newsletter, please forward to:
Dorine Imbach
14 W. Ave. San Gabriel
San Clemente, CA 92672
(714) 492-
email: skylines@speed.net
FAX: same as voice phone

Let's Build An



If you have never made a kite, this would be a simple one to get you started. We want everyone to get involved. If you don't have a sewing machine, visit Mom and use hers. If you have any questions, call Dorine at (714) 492-

I'M SURE most of you by now have seen the beautiful kite ribbon arches that dance in the sky at most big kite festivals. Those of you who have been to WSIKF have seen dozens of these impressive creations. I think it's about time the San Diego Kite Club built an arch to fly at festivals or even at club meetings.

If we get busy and several of us make a few kites, we can debut our arch at the AVI festival next month. Your assignment between now and the Nov. meeting is to make one or two (or more, if you're an overachiever) kite skins. They can be just plain single-color kites, or you can put your creativity to work and get crazy. Express your personality or portray your personal trademark. We will assign a few people to make the lettered kites to spell out San Diego Kite Club.

The goal is to have at least 50 kites, which will

be attached to the line, sparred and tailed at a workshop in the evening after the November meeting. We will go out to dinner as a group (place TBA) and then meet at Torri's condo clubhouse (4444 W. Point Loma Blvd.) at 6:30 to put it all together.

The lettered kites will be white with black letters, so make your kite's background color anything but white. Virgil Dalton says he has plenty of rip-stop scraps so you don't have to go out and buy material. His phone no. is 276-5109.

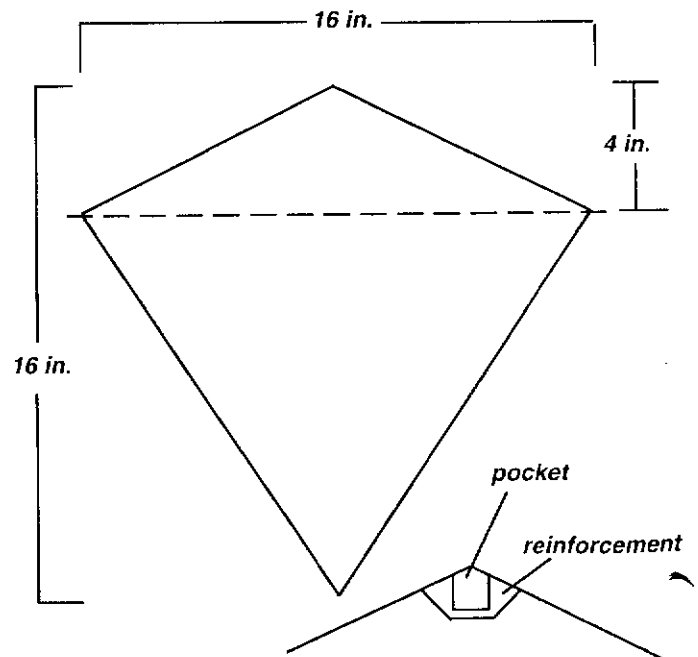
The finished dimensions are given in the pattern below. Add 1/2-inch all around to allow for a quarter-inch double folded hem. Sew in reinforcements and spar pockets (large enough for a 3/16-in. dowel) on the back side at the top and bottom. These can be made from 1 1/2-oz. ripstop or light- to medium-weight dacron material. The reinforcement can be done with adhesive ripstop repair tape.

Be sure to sign your kite(s) and bring them to the Nov. meeting (or mail them or arrange for someone else to bring them). — DI



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Here is a suggestion for a spar pocket. Should be approx. 1 in. long and 3/4-in. wide.

ON THE ROAD WITH THE California Wind Weavers

By Kathy Aggers

THE MONTH OF August began with a bang for Bowdy and I, with an Aire Affair Kite Productions kite demo for the Republican Party's San Diego Beach Party. We arrived at 8:30 a.m. and watched them setting up the stage for Frankie Avalon and the entertainers slated to perform for the guests. There was barely enough wind to tease the banners, so several of our club members got out their light-

Boys, complete with surf boards, loud Hawaiian shirts and sarong skirts in front of a half dozen antique "woody" cars. We gawked at Frankie Avalon as he emerged from his air-conditioned dressing room, and many of us had some part of ourselves decorated with a washable tattoo.

Paul Eshelman performed an impromptu demo behind the sound stage with his Rev I to tunes from the '50s. John Rogers danced The Alien through the crowds, and Charlie dropped the Evil Beautiful onto the sound trailers and relaunched to the appreciative ooohs and aaahhs from the beer garden.

At 4 p.m. we began to bring kites in. Returning them to their bags, we pronounced ourselves satisfied with the days events. I think I would be more than willing to do a fun demo like that again and earn a donation for the club anytime!

August was a very active month, and the weekend following the Republican Convention Bowdy, Sharaya and I set off north on the road to Long Beach, Washington, for the Washington State International Kite Festival, with a stop at a BASKL competition in lovely Baylands Park in Sunnyvale (where Bowdy learned he had to compete as a Masters flyer). Panic time! — to be up against the likes of Brian Champie, Miguel Rodriguez, John Morrison, Michael Weingand and Kobi Eshun. Despite the intimidating field, he acquitted himself well and walked away in 9th place of a field of 10. While there, we were asked to deliver three sets of John Gabby Jr.'s Fuzzy Lines to Ray Bethell, who was expecting them in Long Beach the following week. This task we gladly accepted. Any excuse to talk with Ray was a treat.

The introduction to the town of Long Beach was a surprise. Any of you reading this who have been there know what I mean. It is so tiny! How can a town this small host one of the biggest international kite festivals in the U.S.? There are kites everywhere -- in every

Since the M'Clarys are on the road again, Kathy Aggers agreed to fill in this month and report on their recent travels.



Photo by Kathy Aggers

Did everyone get enough jelly beans?

wind kites and flew until the wind came up. John Rogers flew several of his big foils and attracted much attention with his Stars and Stripes kite. We soon had a respectable display as the rest of us lofted kites into the clearing sky.

Then Ron found free food! The kites were abandoned to their own devices and the club folks set off to investigate the happenings around them. Taco Bell and Jack in the Box provided the free tacos, burgers and carrot cake. A giant Jelly Belly Jelly Bean inflatable character announced the president's choice of sweets were available in red, white and blue by the fistful. By 2 p.m. most of us had made the rounds of the attractions, which included jet ski demos, roller blade, cycles and skateboard demos and exotic birds on display in a fake grass shack. There was an amusingly choreographed musical tribute to the Beach



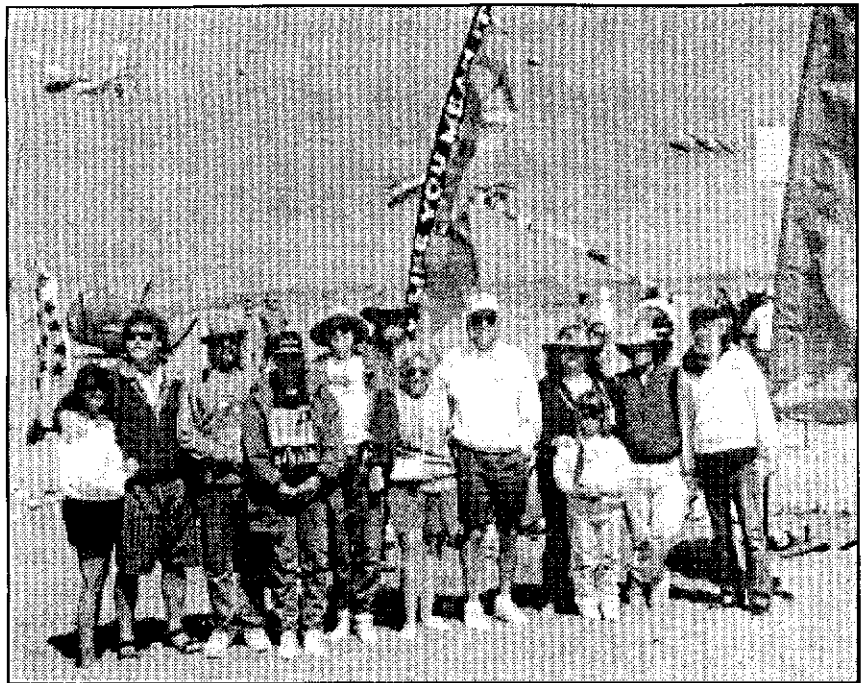
photo by Gina Hsiung

Michelle Hsiung and Sharaya Aggers ham it up at the hat booth at WSIKF.

store window — and banners and wind socks floated from every building. One of the three kite shops on the main road was open and teeming with life. Tired though we might have been, the lure of a new kite shop was irresistible, and in we plunged. A babble of friends greeting friends, cheerful and bright, the shop was host to a mini festival of its own.

Charlie M'Clary was seen hanging out in the back with the store owner, Terry Yuncker, busy with repairs on kites. A dizzying tour of the shop and then we were off to our campground 30 minutes away.

(Due to a rush to press, the second installment will follow in the next issue.)



The San Diego Kite Club braves the wind at WSIF. From left to right are the Faulkners, Larry and Linda Mixon, Gail and Ed Lindsay, Virginia and Slim Warnke, Kathy Sharaya and Bowdy Aggers and some beach Kite Bum.

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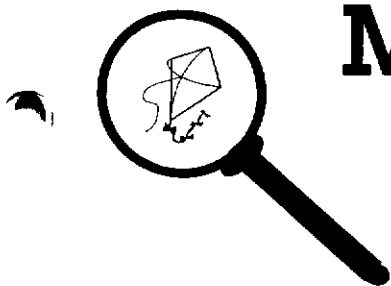


Linda and Larry Mixon, Wayne Faulkner and Bowdy Aggers having a great time at WSIF.



Larry and Linda share their tent with Larry's latest awards. He won four ribbons in the Master's class for kite making.

photos by Steve Davis



Micro-Kite Primer

By Kel Krosschell
with J.M. Nelson
Editor, Minnesota Kite Society Newsletter

AT FIRST the world of small kiting was just a curiosity; now it's a challenge overcoming the physical limits encountered as kites get smaller, providing the opportunity for "invention" or, as some say, "new art." I started with bamboo spars, tissue paper, and sandwich bags. At the square-inch level, bamboo became difficult to split and balance, framework was difficult to secure reliably, and sewing thread had excessive drag.

Sail and Frame. Aluminized mylar (Pizzawrap®) looks great as a sail, and creases can serve as the "frame." I doubled the mylar, cut out a "half-kite pattern" and had a perfectly balanced sail, with the original crease serving as the spine. I opened this up and lightly scored in a cross spar. Carefully creasing, then flattening, the kite retained rigidity; the creases became the frame.

MicroLine. The line needed to be smaller than sewing thread. While repairing some 150# Dacron I noticed the small, individual fibers. I cut off a few feet and pulled out one of the yarns from the braid. From this yarn I pulled a single fiber a few inches, slid the yarn down, and eventually extracted one 0.0015-inch fiber. Perfect!

Melting the end of the line formed a ball. With my X-Acto® knife, I cut a tiny rectangle of transparent tape, picked up the tape with the knife, picked up the line with the tape, positioned it on the spine and pressed it down. I re-creased the spine to conform the tape. I completed the kite by similarly attaching an eight-inch piece of sewing thread for the tail.

When flying indoors you must be conscious of turbulence created by your own movements, convection currents and currents from equipment, fans and central heating/cooling. The real fun is outdoor flying on nearly windless days. I store the kites in small, plastic boxes found in hobby shops. (Less than a penny for the kite, 79 cents plus tax for the box!)

As for getting smaller, I scale things down, find the new barriers and look for better materials. I don't consider a first prototype as a reliable design; I must be able to replicate it successfully. I don't have a set rule for flying line length; rather than line length, I determine success by stable flight above the towing point.

Young people are especially fascinated with

"baby kites." A friend of mine uses them in his volunteer work with physically handicapped children. They enjoy flying them from their wheelchairs as they go up and down the halls. An executive friend stunned a corporate meeting by announcing at a luncheon, as he pulled a small package of materials from his pocket, that they were all going to build and fly kites. They did, in the restaurant. Be warned! You may find that micro-kites get into your blood and take away from your other kite time. Winter is especially a good opportunity to keep warm and think small.

"MicroKite Primer" was first published in the April edition of Minnesota Kite Society News, the newsletter of the Minnesota Kite Society.

Kel Krosschell is a micro-electronics designer from Rochester, Minn., and is obsessed with "micro-kites." His series of diamonds of equal height and width started at one square inch in area. As of this writing, Kel's smallest kites are 1/16 sq. in. in area.

More micro-kite information and can be viewed at Kel's home page on the World Wide Web: <http://www.millcomm.com/~kitenut/>

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Gina's Fighter Kite Survey

(continued)

The survey continues with comments from fighter fliers from all over the world.

This survey was compiled by Gina Hsiung via the Internet this past spring/early summer. Gina maintains the most excellent fighter kite web page at <http://www.csun.edu/~hfoao033/fighters.html>. This is the second and final installment and we thank Gina for sharing it with us.

Thanks for thinking of me, Gina. Since I'm not a competitor, I didn't jump at your original post. But perhaps an alternative perspective may be helpful. I went to India and was cut down a number of times in rooftop "fights," does this count? Lately I've been carrying some fighter line on Moran card winders. I travel a lot and spools take up too much room in the bag. Card winders are much less efficient for flying, but more convenient for carrying. It's a necessary balance. One last comment: "Read the book..." [grin]

David Gomberg, Oregon

Don't let anyone tell you what you are doing isn't correct. If you have something that works, stick with it! It may turn into something that haunts your adversaries in the night! Also, BUILD YOUR OWN Fighters!! I like my own more than anyone else's (except Randy's, but hey, I am just his humble apprentice).

Robin Levick, California

Nothing is finer than a GOOD Indian fighter (paper and bamboo) on a warm gentle breeze. Unfortunately, the quality is so inconsistent that obtaining a GOOD one is difficult here in the U.S. Besides, you always need Johnny around when flying these, because his head is the perfect size and shape for making spine adjustments.

Recently saw a nice kite by Kai Griebenow. Orange and blue orchid on a black background. The most interesting part was the back and how the spar clipped into the spine. Very nice! Didn't get to fly it though, wished I had.

Perhaps the prettiest fighters I've seen are made by Spencer Chun. They also have the tightest and fastest spin, without losing altitude, of any fighter I've flown. However it was reluctant to fly in a straight line for any great distance. Perhaps a bridle tweak would have improved that, but I didn't get the opportunity to try it. As a fighter kite they are probably a little overpriced. As a piece of art they are a little under priced, so it all averages out in the end. It would be nice to see Spencer come out with a graphic design that emphasizes the kite's spinning abilities.

One of the most interesting kites seen at this years post KTA public showing, in conjunction with Buggy Boogie Thang II, was an indoor fighter kite by Peter Lee. This kite was so well balanced that it was STABLE! The kite was hot cut .5 oz. polyester with a Grand Master spine and a VERY STIFF spar. Surprising, just the opposite of what you'd expect for an indoor fighter. It flew beautiful straight lines across the entire wind window. However, instead of spinning it had what might be characterized as a slow turn. This was Peter's "keeper." I'm not sure if all his kites feel this good.

Speaking of stable fighters, the boys from Brazil, Hans and Yves, have introduced San Diego to inverse fighters. Their small, bowed, paper and bamboo kites resemble a topless rokkaku. They are inherently stable and need to be coaxed into the acrobatics one normally expects from a fighter. Very different, requires almost the opposite techniques to get the desired results. Lots of fun, and delightful kites."

Paul Imbach, California

I much prefer cutting competitions because the strategy is all different. Positional advantage is not as important as how you attack.

Build your own kite and see what changes have what impacts: add weight to the nose (slows spin), add weight to the tail (increase spin), make the bridle longer, make it shorter, make the bow stronger, softer.... In short, experiment with your kite to understand what makes it tick.

A fighter pilot needs more kites than a golfer needs clubs. The difference between the best fighter kite in the world and what you can make is less than a few hours of work.

Peter Loop, Oregon

Come August (when the wind and the sun return to our part of the globe) I think that Colin and I and the other 3-4 locals who fly fighters need to actually "try" this competitive bit. I'm even going to get an order off for some manjha. I've got the latest video, "Knights of the Manjha" on it's way, so that should give me a few tips. Seeing these WWW sites devoted to fighters has enthused me greatly!

Steve Brorens, New Zealand

Since 1993, I became a professional kite flier and I get invited to many kite festivals to demonstrate and do tricks, etc., with my Indian kites. I fly to music at most festivals, using a Rossini overture and I do tricks of catching balloons and kites in the sky.

For "cutting" competitions, I have said this hundreds of times, that it is "some skill" and "some luck," but it is important to have a good slicing angle and lots of tension on the line. However, if both fliers used the same manjha and were equally skillful, then someone has to lose. There is no magic or formula, or it would be very boring! I flew fanatically as a child, until I left India at the age of 18. I was known as the mad kite boy in the city of Lucknow, India. Most of the fights in India are called "Tangles" and are flown at distances of 50-1,000 meters, sometimes even more. In India, distance is a statement of prestige, as it says how much you are prepared to lose (kite and manjha).

Now I am known as the mad kite flier in the village where I live because no one around me flies kites, but the whole village knows who is flying the kite that is around 900 meters away, going down behind the pub, or the cricket club, and rising up majestically. My most recent trip was to Weifang, China, where I caused quite a stir with my kites and was awarded a prize. I flew my kite around the arena at the opening ceremony, spinning it over the heads of the crowd as we paraded around the arena to marching music.

Stafford Wallace, United Kingdom

Practice, practice, practice. I fly against the same guy a whole lot. We have moves and counter moves and counter counter moves. If you can be slightly higher, fake an attack and let the opponent commit to an attack, you can be ready to dive below the attack and trap him. (But my partner knows I will try this a lot).

I like Indian fighters because I haven't flown anything better. I get mine from Stafford Wallace, and I also sell kites for Stafford. The quality control on these kites is excellent and the kites seem to be consistently good. I'd like more people to try these kites!

Rick Miller, New Mexico

I've only been flying fighters about six months but really enjoy watching them dance. I would love to see a competition some day and see what others can do. I would really like to learn. Books and tapes can only teach you so much.

Howard Gordon

I fly a large variety of fighters, however I am starting to play around with a Korean fighter and a Japanese spool that I got from Makoto Ohashi.

Jon Reinschreiber, Oregon

Ok, I'll play. Singapore (Asian) fighters, which can be described as "square diamonds," seem to be the most well behaved under control, but they tend to be slow. Indian fighters are faster but less predictable in response.

Colin Douthwaite, New Zealand

I participated in one "Grand Melee" demo at last year's Seattle Kite Festival; about 9 or 10 fliers, and Gophal Das, I lasted about 10 seconds.

I've been designing and building for 10+ years. I haven't yet got what I think is the ultimate in performance. Competition keeps pushing me to achieve better performance, and I think that the winners of most of the competitions now build their own, the level

of design having gotten to the point where the commercial designs aren't competitive anymore. This is gratifying for we few builders, but hard on those who must depend on the commercial kites.

Ed Alden, Washington

I usually participate in "Line cutting" competitions about once or twice a month in France. Come and Join us in the Manjha Club International. Everybody is welcome!

Ron Berman

My favorite fighter is a Vic's (circa 1976) that I've re-sailed three times. It's my favorite because it's predictable, handles a wide wind speed, is easy to set up and take down, and has sentimental value. I'm still flying it with the cotton button thread originally provided. I don't use a special spool, instead using the "Tons of line at your feet method" (in conjunction with judicious walking around). I've also enjoyed flying paper fighters. I've found that good ones can be very fast and track straight, bad ones are bad!

Christophe Salome, France

I have purchased the P. Gallot book and intend to work my way thru the whole book. I've also purchased the Butterfighter from Sky Delights and both GA fighters from Carlisle Kites. Being a non-competitor, I like the easier to control kites, but Joel's BF gives me fits.

Bob Neitzke, Michigan

I grew up flying the Indian paper fighters with manjha, so I'm partial to them, but since I met Basir, I like flying the large Afghani fighters too because they require a different set of skills.

Several years ago, at WSIKF, I met Ed (and Matthew) Alden, and fortunately, I was able to trade one of my handmade fighters for one of Ed's fighters. I really respect the work that Ed has put into designing his kites (see the article he wrote about his "Family" of fighters in KiteLines Magazine, 1994). It's definitely one of my "special" kites.

Over the years I've tried to collect fighter kites from all different kite makers. Each kite is unique, some, mainly for looks, others for their excellent flying characteristics, and still others for the new innovative materials used in the construction. The latest kite I just received is the Mighty Mite; I'm still playing around with all the adjustments.

Johnny Hsiung, California

I also like the look and sound of the kites that I call "bat fighters." These look a bit like a bat, and are made by Bombay Umbrella Mart in India.

A fighter is much more fun if you tune it very carefully.

Joel Peck, United Kingdom

I try to come up with practice techniques that are fun. One thing I like to do is go into an empty parking lot, with high lighting poles, and I try to position the kite to touch or fly near the lamps. I do this with lamps that are positioned in different areas of the wind window. I also outline the pole, flying down one side, back up, and down the other side. Have fun. If you aren't having fun flying fighters, fly something else. If you still aren't having fun, get another hobby.

Joe Schiros, Michigan

AKA Convention

from page 1

plicate matters, the SDKC treasury extended itself even further by putting out a commemorative T-shirt. If this wasn't successful, the club could be in financial disaster, at best.

The doors opened at 7:00 and guests came in. Some, but not many, rode the carousel. John Rogers took a ride while holding a mini-kite. People from literally all over the world came in and dined on hors d'oeuvres while sipping their favorite



Winners of the fighter kite competition: Johnny Hsiung, 1st; Brian Johnsen, 2nd; and Richard Gareau, 3rd.

beverage. A raffle was held and many guests took advantage of this situation to take home some kite-related goodies, a lot of one-of-a-kind items as well as great bargains. An estimated 250 people were there to reacquaint themselves with their kite pals. At about 10:30 we cleaned up and breathed a sigh of relief. So far, so good.

Wednesday morning opened with the usual coastal fog, but soon cleared up to become the only sunny day. Coupled with this were perfect winds in the 7-10 mph range. This was also the first day of stunt kite competition. Paul Eiler was entered in Intermediate Individual Precision category and finished first in his heat to earn a spot in the finals. Larry Bush finished third in his heat to make to the finals in Experienced Individual Ballet. Larry Bush and Bowdy Aggers finished 2-3 in their heat to also make the finals of Experienced Individual Precision. SDKC's quadline trio of Nicole Meinhardt, Slim Warnke and Larry Mixon all flew in the Experienced Individual finals with Nicole finishing as a TBA (top three finishers' awards "to be announced" at the awards banquet). All three were in their first AKA Convention.

Thursday's events were centered around kite making comprehensives. Veterans Jose Sainz and Ron Gibian both put up their works in the Flat & Bowed category. Larry Mixon also entered Flat & Bowed, Stunt & Multi-Line, and Figure & Novelty categories. Though the winds were low, all entrants worked as needed to keep their pieces in the air. The vision was breathtaking: some of the best kitemakers in the world putting hundreds of hours of work in the sky.

Over on the fighter kite field a well fought competition coordinated by Walt Thompson took place. We even got to see Vic Heredia compete — a rare occurrence. Johnny Hsiung was the unlucky flier who drew Vic in the first round. It was a great fight, but Vic took the best 3 of 5. Unfortunately, Vic had to leave early because of business priorities, bequeathing Johnny with the tough job of fighting his way back to the top in the double-elimination tournament. But Johnny

was up to the task and beat everyone else he met up with to take first place.

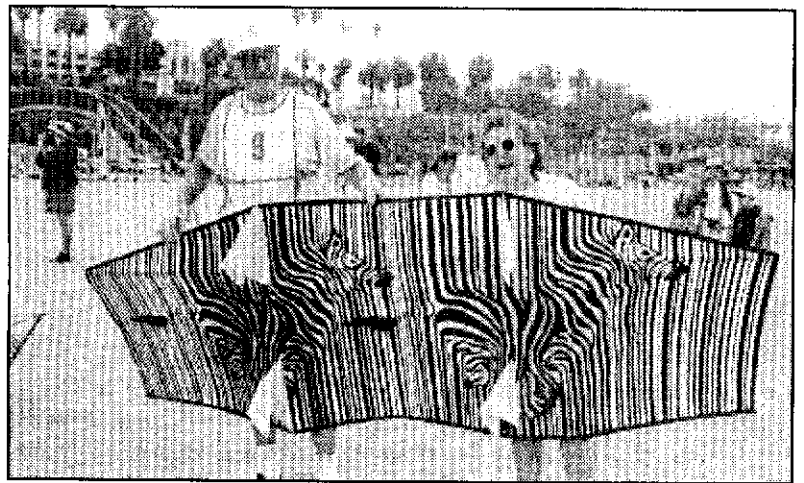
Another highlight of the fighter event was a demo match-up between Basir Beria (who served as the competition judge) and Stafford Wallace from the U.K. The onlookers all complained of neck ailments afterward due to straining to see their kites as they climbed straight overhead and far beyond.

Meanwhile at the hotel seminars were being held and a kite art gallery was set up, as well as the fly market featuring kite retailers. The convention had a shuttle running between the hotel and the flying fields all four days. Each day's events also included a box lunch for the typical underfed kite flier.

Friday was the second day of stunt kite competition. This day was reserved for the Novice and Master's Class Competitors. Again the sky was overcast and the winds very low. There is not a more sorry sight that a field full of people standing around and waiting for the wind to come up. But schedules had to be kept and the "Fly or Die" rule was invoked. Competition started about two hours late.

One of the day's competitor's included Team AirWest — Southern California's only Master's Class team. Team Member Larry Navarro said, "...for a first-year team to end up in the top three was a big accomplishment, so we were happy with our results." AirWest was TBA for both the Ballet and Precision categories. The Masters Pairs Ballet had all three Pacific Conference teams as TBA.

In the Masters Individual Quadline Ballet, Ron Despojado faced what was termed "probably the



The Lockharts from Ohio pose with their zebra genki, winner of the Members' Choice award.

toughest slate of quadline fliers ever assembled at one time." Ron was the last competitor of the last event of the day, flying at 6:15 p.m. with 2 mph winds, and finishing TBA.

Included in the days festivities was a competition for ground displays. At the last minute the San Diego Kite Club camp put its resources together and, along with Larry's King kite, Ron's "Stephanie" kite, Jesse Lawrence's Pterodactyl and Muppet kites, we



Some of the more innovative kites featured moving parts. At left is Pete Rondeau from Pennsylvania who won the stunt & multi-line event with a quad-line kite with mesmerizing spinning discs. Tony Ferrel from Kite Studio continued his tradition of naming kites after convention cities with the "Monica Turbine" having four internal rotating boxes on a central spar.

pulled our super-ace out of the hole: Lisa Schirmer's strikingly artistic banners were arranged into a ripstop nylon jungle. Mark Brownton also placed his homemade banners in the individual competition.

The Auction Banquet on Friday evening couldn't keep the kite fliers from providing some airborne entertainment. Everything from balloons, marshmallows, fake (we hope) spitwads, soap bubbles and an inflated Trojan were seen in the air, along with a few indoor stunt kites. There was even some temptation to see if that evening's entree could fly. Some works that were auctioned off included Larry Mixon's new stunt kite, a Jose Sainz original, several publications, some very unique kites, and pins! pins! pins!

Saturday's field events were basically all demonstrations. Jesse Lawrence's attempt to fly three, then two Rev II's very much entertained the crowd and showed to all that kiting transcends age groups. Another local talent was Ron Despojado with his custom Rev 1.5 and the ever popular "I Have Nothing" ballet.

A new event was the "Sheep And Wolf" game with fighter kites. One of the highlights of this game was the cutting of the competitor's lines by a designated "Wolf" kite. The announcer had made a profound statement about cutting loose kites. "If you cut your opponent's line, be happy, you've won. If your line has been cut, be happy, a child somewhere will have a new kite." Yes, the Sheep kites were literally up for grabs as they were cut loose. This game proved to be enjoyment for not only those flying the kites, but those chasing them as well.

The awards banquet was the culmination of the week's events. SDKC was recognized for putting together the Tuesday reception. Had they only known what really went on! After thanking volunteers for their work in putting together the convention, it was time! Who's bringing home the wood?

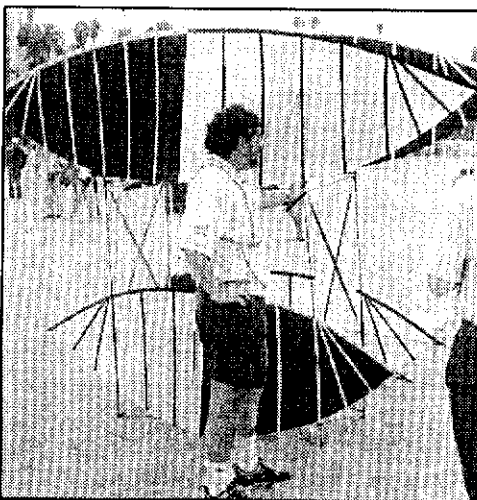
Ron Gibian garnered First Place in Flat and

Bowed for his beautiful and colorful "Fiji" piece featuring three panels with sea life on a low-aspect-ratio kite. Jose Sainz was right behind in second with his "Sky Window," which had a removable portion for changing wind conditions. Larry Mixon received third place in Figure & Novelty for his "Totem Pole" (sometimes known as the Tantrum Pole.) Larry also earned second place in Stunt & Multi-line for his "Factor" stunt kite.

John Rogers won a third place for his depiction of Rosie in the Soft & Foils category. Mark Brownton won second place for his Individual Ground Display. The San Diego Kite Club won first place for Best Group Ground Display — Banners & Kites, taking home a limited edition convention pin.

Johnny Hsuing won first in the fighter kites against world-class competitors.

Mark Brownton also took third place in Open Individual Innovative. The Master's Pairs Ballet was swept by Pacific Conference entrants with Dos Avispas in first, Gone with The Wind in second, and Team Papatotes rounding out the top three. Team AirWest took third in Master's Team Ballet and second in Master's Team Precision. SDKC's own "rising star" Nicole Meinhardt continued her winning ways and took third in Experienced Individual Quadline. The Master's Individual Quadline was won by Ron Despojado, fueling the fire to

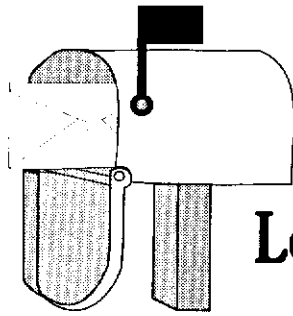


Eric Wolff of Chicago Fire used about 150 sticks to make this barrage kite variant.

a then ongoing issue on the Internet.

Perhaps the most prestigious awards are the Edeiken and Ingraham awards. This year the Edeiken award went to Kay Buesing, curator of the World Kite Museum in Long Beach, Washington. Runner-up was Virgil Dalton, and some nice words were said about him. The Bob Ingraham award went to Randy Shannon, who accepted with his son, Ramsay, in his arms.

Not exactly a kite-related competition, but the convention logo contest was won by SDKC's Ron Despojado. The only other award wasn't an official one, but a comment by another convention goer. He mentioned something about the "over-achieving San Diego Kite Club." We can all breathe now, and take pride in our club.



Letters

Dear San Diego Kite Club,

Thanks to you, the California Beach Party and Concert was a tremendous success! Our clients, the event sponsors, and everyone in attendance enjoyed a very positive "taste" of San Diego!

You helped made this a pleasure for all of us at Sterling Productions — we look forward to partnering with you on future Sterling events!

Thank-You!

Kind regards,

Debra Confer

Customer Relations

YUMMY

Chrystal Eshelman's "Better Than Sex" Cake

- 1 German chocolate cake mix
- 1 jar Mrs. Richardson's butterscotch (or carmel) ice cream topping
- 1 large Cool Whip
- 2 or 3 Heath Bars or Heath Bar Bits (available in baking section)
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk (only comes in one size)

1. Make cake per directions on box for a 9X13 pan 2. As soon as cake is taken out of oven, use handle of wooden spoon and poke holes in cake (the more the better). 3. Pour condensed milk in holes in cake and then pour on Mrs. Richardson's ice cream topping. 4. Immediately refrigerate cake until completely cool. 5. Put Cool Whip on cake and top with crushed Heath Bars or Heath Bar Bits. 6. Enjoy!!!

This cake can also be made using Mrs. Richardson's Fudge ice cream topping instead of the carmel for the real chocolate lover. The cake must be refrigerated until ready to eat. I have found that it always makes a hit at potlucks, as you all know!

Treasurer's Report

Expenses:

Newsletter printing	\$265.07
Postage	111.71
Hotline	79.80
Storage	90.00
T-shirts	1,354.17
AKA event sanctioning fees (New Years Day & 1997 meetings)	50.00
State non-profit application filing fee	25.00
AKA reception	1,162.50
T-shirt loan payback	650.00
Bank fees	27.59
Total	3,815.84

Income:

New memberships	\$158.00
Renewals	105.00
Kite auction	718.50
T-shirts/pins	1,236.00
Advertising	100.00
Republican convention donation	200.00
AKA reception raffle	855.38
T-shirt loan from anonymous donor	650.00
Total	4,022.88
Balance as of 10/18/96	\$661.71



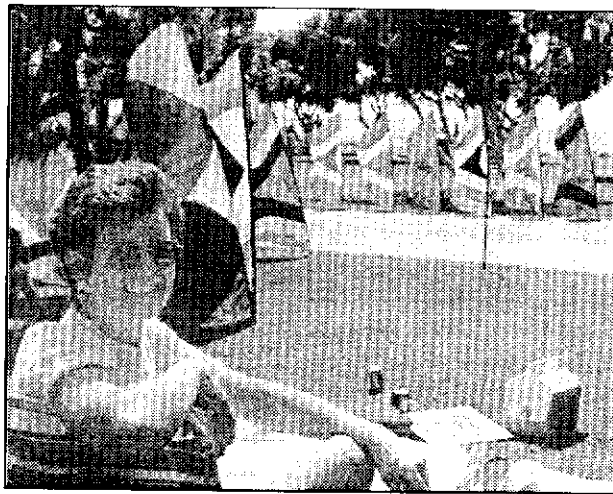
SKY SONG FLIGHT

by Laura Lee Brownton

FLY ME OVER THE OCEAN BREEZE
MY WINGS LIFT HIGH ON THE WINDS
OF THE SUN. MY SHADOW. FOLLOW MY TRAIL
AS THE SMILES OF LAUGHTER TEASE.

MUSCLES FLOATING WITH THE PULL OF LINES
DANCING COLORS. TIPPING THEIR HATS
TO THE SPARKLE OF SUNSHINE ON RIPPLING WAVES.
FEEL THE SWAY OF THE SENSUOUS MOUNTAIN PINES.

SANDSTONE FOOTPRINTS TOUCHING MY SIGHT
LITTLE ONES ADMIRE THEIR BEACH CASTLE HERE.
CLOSE YOUR EYES. TAKE IN THE SCENTS OF AIR
PUSH YOUR FLYER INTO MOTION OF SKY SONG FLIGHT.



The SDKC's official Poet "LauraLee" ate with husband Mark's banners in the background.

Calendar Of Events

OCT
NOV
DEC

- 18 Board of Directors Meeting, 4444 W. Point Loma Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Torri Cable, 226-
- 19 Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00
Halloween Party, Potluck
- 26-27 Santa Cruz Kite Festival, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, sport kite competition,
children's events, demos, rokkaku battle. Contact: Linda Betancourt, (408) 477-
- 16 Monthly General Meeting: Pacific Beach, north of Crystal Pier, 1:00
Ride The Wind kite store Grand Opening party, pizza sale for lunch; raffle; prizes;
evening workshop — Arch train (see article p.4)
Board of Directors Meeting at Ride The Wind, 4651 Mission Blvd., 3 p.m.
Contact: Torri Cable, 226-
- 22-24 AVI Kite Festival, Laughlin, Nevada
Contact: Kathy Plummer, The Dream Merchants (520) 565-
- 27-31 Thanksgiving Buggy Blast, Ivanpah/Roach Dry Lake, Calif.
Contact: Dan Rubesh, (805) 659- , or Steve Bateman, 287-
- 20 Board of Directors Meeting, 4444 W. Point Loma Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Torri Cable, 226-
- 21 Monthly General Meeting: South of the Hilton on East Mission Bay Drive, 1:00
Christmas Gift Exchange, potluck
- 31 New Year's Eve Reception, location to be announced

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

Tidbits

The 10th Annual **Ft. Worden Kitemakers Conference** will be held in Port Townsend, Washington, on March 6-9, 1997. Some of the presenters/workshops scheduled are: **John Burkhardt**/Applique Techniques, **Charmayne Cornell**/Spikey Balls and Crystal Critters, **Bary Crites**/Rotating Box Kite, **Elain Genser**/Patchwork Banners, **Kathy Goodwind**/Customizing Patterns, **Dan Kurahashi**/wind toys and small paper kites, **Hideo Matsutani**/Bansyuu Kakudako, **Dan Proebstel**/X-Cody, **Pete Sheragy**/Tyvek Butterfly, Ed & Bonnie Wright/13-sq.ft. parafoil, **Dawn Williams**/kite jewelry, **Barbara Wright**/Hapi coats, **J.R. Tolman**/block-printed paper kite, plus many, many more classes from beginning sewing to advanced projects.

The cost for the weekend is approximately \$150, not including transportation. For more information, call or write Bob Alford, 320 NE 4th St., North Bend, WA 98045. (206) 888-7777.

Aire Affair Kite Productions has announced its Flight Schedule for 1977. They are planning four events starting with the **2nd Annual Belmont Shores Kite Tournament** in Long Beach on March 22-23. Next will be the **Southern California Open** in San Diego, probably Fiesta Island, on April 26. Then it will be back to Belmont Shores for the **Aire Affair Fun Fly & Competition** on June 7-8. A final event is tentatively planned for mid to late September, possibly in the Oxnard/Ventura area.

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
1 year of quarter-page ads (6 issues)	
PREPAID (you save \$20)	\$100
Half Page (7.5"x4.5")	\$40
1 year of half-page ads (6 issues)	
PREPAID (you save \$40)	\$200
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$70
1 year of full-page ads (6 issues)	
PREPAID (you save \$70)	\$350
Half Page, Back Cover	\$60
1 year of half-page back covers	
PREPAID (you save \$60)	\$300
Full sheet insert	\$75

Interested parties should contact:

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

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

Advertisers should have camera-ready, black-and-white artwork.

We may accept payment in the form of kiting products in lieu of cash payments.

San Diego MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



- KITE CLUB**
- New Membership
 - Renewal
 - Change of address

Membership dues per household (Check one)

	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.
Newsletter 3rd Class Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$29	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
Newsletter 1st Class Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$67
Newsletter Overseas Air	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$59	<input type="checkbox"/> \$88

Amount enclosed:
 (U.S. funds only)

Send payment & application to:
SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB
 P.O. Box 7977
 San Diego, CA 92167 USA
 (619) 685-2885

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(h) _____ (w) _____

Other family members _____

SDKC USE ONLY MEMBERSHIP NO. PAID RENEWAL DATE

Exp. 8/97

Upcoming events:

Nov. 16: club meeting at Pacific Beach,
Grand Opening Ride The Wind Kite
Store

Nov. 22-24: AVI Kite Festival

Dec. 20: Christmas gift exchange and
potluck

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Reception

Jan. 1: 5th annual New Year's Day
Festival, Mariner's Point



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