



SKY-LINES



VOLUME 1, NO. 11

MAY 1991

California Open a big hit with fans

-Fiesta Island, April 20 & 21, 1990.

Strong winds, at times gusting up to 20 knots, challenged the world's best fliers here this weekend. On hand for the event were an estimated 8,000 fans. This year, teams from Japan added an international flair to the roster of over 100 top sport kite teams. San Diego was well represented by several teams, including the 1990 World Cup Champions, Top of the Line.

Although the weatherman had predicted rain for several days preceding the event, the sun shone brightly. Large, soaring clouds provided a brilliant backdrop that was, like the sun, to last throughout the weekend. Even the sandy conditions of Fiesta Island proved to be acceptable when the wind left the sand on the ground. In fact, many of the competitors enjoyed it so much they took it home with them in their bags. And in their shoes, in their hair...

The SDKC was on hand on Friday to help Rome-Aero and crew set up. Club Vice-President Tony Hilliard surprised us all with a sharp looking banner to hang on



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the field runway. Since the press was there too, club member Gene Carey brought out his "medium size" delta and flew it for the cameras. A single line stars-and-stripes model 40 feet wide by 20 feet long, Carey has bigger kites; this one was the best for pulling a 42 foot banner with a couple of 12 foot wind socks trailing off the wingtips for good measure. Gene suggested we fly his "small" stars-and-stripes (20 by 10), and we took him up on it.

As the sun set that evening, Alan Nagao of Team High Performance suggested a seminar for Revolution fliers. Alan is well known on the circuit, for both his world class talent and his good-natured willingness to teach it to others. A hastily arranged meeting at the Dana Inn turned out to be a great learning session for everyone who was able to attend. Next year Alan plans to do it again - without such short notice.

The event began Saturday with a stirring tribute to the Armed Forces. Once the competition was underway, it was evident the training and organization by Ron Romero and crew was not wasted. Each heat went smoothly, with very few delays. The SDKC had provided over twenty volunteers, from judges to scorecard runners, and everyone did a great job. In addition, there were several volunteers manning the SDKC booth, helping explain the club's role in the community and signing up new members.

Dave Gomberg, the president of the AKA, did the announcing duties. Dave did his best to keep everyone on their toes throughout the weekend. His light-hearted jabs at many of the contestants made the time more enjoyable for the fans - but not always for the fliers, who had to listen to Dave while warming up.

The bleachers were nearly full throughout the afternoon, and as the team competition finished the day, the fans had witnessed some outstanding flying in every heat.

The Rome-Aero banquet was held Saturday night. In addition to good food, there were door prizes from teeshirts to kites and a nice evening was had by all.

please see page 4



SDKC TO HOST KITE FESTIVAL AT DEL MAR FAIR

April 3, 1991 - The organizers of the Del Mar Fair announced that they would feature a kite festival to be held on the infield of the racetrack during the height of the Fair. In a conversation with SDKC President Dan Willan, spokesperson Therese Anderson said club members would be welcome to fly any time during the Fair, which runs from June 18 to July 7 this year. The showcase will be demonstrations by some of the world's best stunt teams and individual fliers on each Sunday, and a tribute to the troops on the Fourth of July weekend. Scheduled to appear are teams from Hyperkites, Revolution Kites, and Top Of The Line Kites; others will be added soon. Individual demonstrations include Action Kites, Banshee Kites and Vic's Indian Fighting kites. Flight will continue into the night, conditions permitting.

In addition to the skyshow, generous contributions from local manufacturers have made it possible for the SDKC to have a static display area and booth to promote the sport of kiting. Don Tabor, the owner of Top Of The Line Kites, put it this way: "We want the club to have an absolutely **knockout** booth!"

Heads Up! There's been changes to the schedule. Please see the Calendar for details.

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The newsletter is published monthly by the San Diego Kite Club. Any submissions dealing with the sport of kiting are encouraged. The SDKC board of directors reserves the right to edit all submissions. Unless specifically marked not for republication, all materials are offered to other kiting publications at no cost.

San Diego Kite Club ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
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If you have a skill or materials, please share. We truly need your help to keep the newsletter going. Typing, printing, artwork, or articles, please lend a hand. If you can think of anything else you'd like to do, call us. Something you liked? Call us. Something you didn't care for? Call us. We need your feedback too. -The Editors.

We Are Here For Good!

By all accounts, the 1991 California Open International Stunt Kite Championship was a resounding success. To the San Diego Kite Club, it was more than that. It was a coming of age of sorts, a test of the club's ability to really serve the community and the sport. It was a chance to prove ourselves a viable, healthy, and committed club that would do what we said we could do.

Ladies and gentlemen, the San Diego Kite Club has arrived.

Not only did we supply judges, field directors, pit bosses, score-card runners, and safety patrols; we set up and tore down the bleachers, along with a whole list of other odd jobs. When they weren't winning in competition other club members helped man the club booth. That booth was a simple, undecorated tent with a table in front. But at that booth, something amazing happened: Our membership doubled in two days flat! And that's not the end of the story.

You see, pulling together as we did, we became more than a club. We were the largest team on the field, and it showed. From Rome-Aero, who staged the event, to the competitors we judged, we were given some of the nicest compliments a team can get.

So, if you didn't hear, let me pass it on. **Thank You All We Did It!**

And heads up, because you ain't seen nothin' yet!

John Konold
 Vice President



Presidents Corner

In reviewing the San Diego Kite Clubs achievements, we are quickly approaching our 1st year.

In the beginning at our 1st meeting, 11 people attended.

At our 2nd meeting we had 22 people attend. Now almost 10 months later, we have almost 200 members. Quite a growth curve, I'd say.

In the beginning, our newsletter was only 1 page. 10 months later, it's grown to an average of 10 pages, with kite fliers from around the world reading it.

At the California Open, members were at the booth answering questions and signing up new members. Thanks to Joanne, Lee, Larry, and the other folks for their help at the booth. Helping with various positions were: Mary Ann, Glen, Walt, Wilye, Roger, Tammy, and Margie. Judges at the California Open from our club were, Dan, Anthony, Virginia, Dale, Dennis, Charlie, John and Adam.

I hope that I haven't left anyone out. Many thanks to those who assisted in making our participation in the event a great success. Without the clubs members assistance The California Open would have not run so smoothly.

The club has a new Kite. It was flown at the California Open for the first time. It's a 10 foot square Rokkaku, light blue in color with the S.D.K.C. logo on it and rainbow tails flowing across it. It was made by Action Kites' John Preusse, Van, Don, and Mike Sterling, Jim Nettles, Chris & Susan Batdoff from SKQ all helped. It flew very well all weekend, and we received numerous comments on the kite. Many Thanks to everyone involved with the development and manufacturing of the club kite.

Also a S.D.K.C. fish pole banner is in the works by Randy Tom with Hyperkites. It will displayed at up coming events. Thank you, Randy.

Just in are the S.D.K.C. membership cards, business cards, buttons, and S.D.K.C.

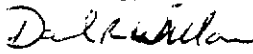
stickers are in the works. The membership cards are going to sent out after the membership list is updated.

For those of us that haven't paid their dues to date, please do so that you can continue to receive the news letter and be aware of the upcoming kiting events.

I'd like to thank Alan Nagao and Team High Performance for the great seminar. See you next year.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Ron Romero and everyone at Rome-Aero for the great show. The judging seminar beforehand was informative, well presented, and made a lot of difference in the quality of the judging. We look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely,



Dan Willan



EDITORS NOTE: This article by Arthur Salm first appeared in the San Diego Tribune on Saturday, March 23, 1991 and is reprinted with permission.

AT FIRST, THEY APPEAR

to have nothing in common. Luther Sweet, 23, is a safety officer. Lee Hobby, 56, is retired and on full disability. Nathaniel Willan, 21/2, is sitting on his father's lap.

But they're all flying high-tech kites on the grass at Mission Bay Park, south of the Hilton hotel. It's a cool, overcast Saturday morning and 1-5 is just 100 yards to the east, but the scene is bathed in quiet serenity. And what all those present have in common is not just their love of kite flying; the quiet serenity is radiating from them.

Luther Sweet got started by accident. "One day I was walking along the beach, and I saw a guy flying what I thought

was an ordinary kite. Then - hey! He's got two strings! He's driving his kite! So I thought I'd give it a try. I've been flying for about four months now. Kites don't need gas, don't need electricity..."

The young woman with Sweet is a novice kite flier. "She can fly and keep it going," says Sweet, "but she can't really control it yet. Her name is Rosa Ramirez. She's going to be my wife."

"I like to fly kites because we can spend time together," Ramirez says. "You forget your problems."

"And you meet a lot of good people," Sweet adds. "Oh, there are some who don't respect your airspace - like that guy over there. He's got a single-string, and he's flying it right in the middle of everyone else, when there's plenty of open space just a little ways away."

"But most of us respect each other. Like, see this woman right over here? I'm going to lay down my kite, now, give her a shot at it. There's enough air for everybody."

These kites are starships compared to the paper and balsa wood jobbers (with torn rags for a tail) one could pick up for a dime a generation ago.

Two-string kites average around \$130, and the four-strings, such as the Revolution (which can do cartwheels, and launch from an upside-down position), go for around \$250.

Lee Hobby sits in a lawn chair and waits for a wind - 3mph will do - to launch his two-string Hawaiian Spinoff, which rests on the ground about 25 yards away. "I got bad legs and knees," he says, holding the handles attached to the strings which run to the kite. "Lost some of my sight, and my equilibrium's off, but I can fly. I like the beauty, the grace, the fresh air."

"No reason a handicapped person can't go out and do this," says Hobby, gently teasing his kite back and forth, up and down. "One guy's paralyzed from the waist down. Any of us'll help him fly"

That's the prevailing attitude: Relaxed camaraderie. If a beginner shows up, somebody will offer a few tips. Those who have learned the basics can pick up tricks from the experts. If your kite crashes - with sail ripstop material and graphite supports, there's rarely any damage - invariably someone will set you up to relaunch.

At two and a half, Nathaniel Willan isn't quite flying solo yet, but as his father, Dan, president of the San Diego Kite Club talks, Nathaniel isn't just sitting on his lap: His hands are next to his father's, gripping the handles and he's staring intently at the soaring kite.

"He has as much fun just holding onto the handles as I do flying the kite," Dan says. "This kite'll pull him right out of my lap. On a heavy day, I have to actually put my legs around him."

"He's a lot more aware (of the kite-flying process) than most people think. He senses the pull, and gets mesmerized by the movement."

As does everybody else. Willan, an ambulance dispatcher and 911 operator, follows his son's gaze upwards.

"This allows me to keep my sanity," he says. "You let all your stress go out into the strings and up into the sky."

SDG&E would like you to know that kites aren't always as innocent as they seem. So, when you fly one, make sure you keep your head out of the clouds. A kite caught in power lines can cause electrical outages. Or worse, current can travel down the string into your body. And don't ever touch a kite entangled in utility wire. Instead, play it safe. Call SDG&E at 1-800-336-SDGE. Also, don't ever fly in the rain, or with a wet kite or line. Just call 1-800-336-SDGE for more information.

Cal Open continued...

The wind came up at eight o'clock on the second day of competition. With the help of some battens and ripstop tape, provided by Jim Nettles of All About Kites and Vic Heredia of Kite Country, the SDKC banner flew nice and straight over the continually growing crowd.

Louis "Radar" Louandowski flew some of his Sutton Flowforms between the big stars-and-stripes kites at either end of the field, and the SDKC's 10 foot rokkaku presided over the center stage. Made by John Perusse and Van of Action Kites with the help of a host of who's who in kiting, the big blue is a work of art, and it flies like a dream. It also turned out to be a fighting kite. Later, when John and friends brought out their Hagaman parafoil, a gust of wind shifted the big foil and the lines crossed. Suddenly, there was the scream of friction where the lines met, and smoke poured off the thicker braid. With a loud crack, the line gave. There were shouts of "Heads up!" as the deflated parafoil fell harmlessly into the parking lot. The rokkaku came through unscathed and was retired from fighting undefeated.

The sun was setting as the awards were handed out. There were some surprises, and there were some familiar names in the win column too. But overall, the California Open was a great success story for the sport. I think we should all be proud of that.

Letters

to the San Diego Kite Club

Aloha!

We are finally here in Hawaii! We've been through the absolute horror of moving and we were set back tremendously by the delay the movers caused. But, we are finally feeling like we have our right foot forward and we are back on track.

Enclosed is some artwork, which can be used in your newsletter and will copy much better.

Unfortunately, this move to Hawaii will ground us this year as far as the circuit goes. We are sorry we will not be able to attend the Cal Open, but we have supplied a few things for the door prizes for the awards banquet, which will hopefully help us say hello to our friends attending the open.

We would love to talk to you further about the club pins. Wouldn't it be great to have each member with a club pin, (great recognition) and their name on it too?!

We look forward to working with you again. Also, let us know when the club is in need of raffle items. We'd love to see what we can do to help the club in that way.

Here's to Haute' (HOT!) winds

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Connecticut Hot Wings

Connecticut Hot Wings in Newport RI

One of the classiest places to fly on the east coast is at Breton Point State Park in Newport, RI. Breton Point was the site of a major competition (1988?). I was there in early April and had a chance to fly. During the week there is not much action, but on sat and sun the local fliers come out in force.

The wind is strong, like at the marina in San Francisco. With the winter wind, the smaller of two grassy fields is the best. When the wind turns for the summer, the larger field should be great. Almost all of the fliers have wrist straps, I did not see a single pair of handles on the larger kites! Long lines are possible as there is not too much crowding, and most fliers are using 125+ ft of line. I felt shortcut on my 100 ft lines! The Hot Wing flew great, lots of wind.

- Jim Long

Graphite Blues

Here is a lesson. I put my Spinoff with a graphite frame together on the beach at Misquamicut (Miss-cuam'-i-cut), RI when the wind was really too strong for casual flying. As I was moving around, a gust of wind caught the sail and in my haste I grabbed the lower strut to hold down the kite. You guessed it, I fractured the spar when it continued to twist in my hand. Agggghh! After I got home I took a piece of wooden dowel and glued it inside the spar using RTV. The fix was not perfect, but the kite flew OK in light wind, although the cracks continued to grow. Next time I would reinforce the entire length of the spar not just the first six inches. Of course, not breaking another spar is my first choice.

- Jim Long

Connecticut Hot Wings in Gulf Shores, AL

Here is as great location to fly as I've found so far. The lower part of Alabama fits in between the Florida panhandle and Mississippi and has a stretch of beach named Gulf Shores. The sand is nearly white, and is of a quartz type which keeps it from becoming hot in the summer. Off the Gulf comes the warmest, steadiest breeze.

Sometimes the wind is strong, but mostly it moderates between less than San Francisco and more than San Diego. If you go there, try out the beach on route 182 west of route 59 by the breechway. There is not much of a crowd there, and lots of room. We had a retired gentleman from Kansas fly his first stunt kite there (my Fire Dart) while his wife took pictures. Rich and I flew Hot Wings there (his has LOTS of battle scars), and Bill, Bill, and Scott took turns with us as we all flew the Fire Dart, my Hot Wing and an old plastic diamond stunter. What a time!

Go east 20 minutes to **Sunset Kites** in Florida to find the finest in stunt kites and supplies. (Nothing to do with kites, but if you do get tired of flying, stop by the Flora-Bama lounge on the Florida/Alabama border for some real redneck fun) Whew!

- Jim Long

Hot Wing Modifications

I know you can buy these already but honest, I came up with my own standoffs for my Hot Wing. I had a lot of trouble holding it in the corners, so I figured if I scaled the dimensions off my Spinoff I could make an experimental set of standoffs. The number I choose was 12 inches outward from the center spar (toward the wing tip). I used repair tape to make the tabs, tubing on the spars and 1/16th wooden dowel for the standoffs. Rubber bands held the tension. The spar is so far up the sail that I did not get a clean "standoff". but the airfoil shape is there and it holds the corners. It seems to help a lot. I am not sure if it is the optimum though. Help! Anyone know what the correct theory is to apply here? Anyone have a better dimension to try?

- Jim Long



JOIN THE AKA

Send \$15.00 for 1 year to the address below:

**American
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Association**

1559 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852



Mystery Meeting

I attended the club meeting on Saturday March 16 but missed the action. I set up and flew for a while, then walked around a bit. Found Adam and the Revolution Gang flying on the knoll and thought I was in good shape, but my attention must have slipped and I never made contact with the club meeting. My fault, but what should I do different next time? EDITOR'S NOTE: WE NOW HAVE A BANNER TO LOOK FOR.

Connecticut Hot Wings

Two weeks in San Diego on business means a weekend of flying at the Hilton to me. My friends Paul and Rich had never flown before so they came out Saturday afternoon to view the action. Instant addicts! Sunday we bought three Hot Wings and headed for Collier Park. Unfortunately the wind was very marginal, especially for beginners, and we had a couple of frustrating hours. I had my Spinoff and an old plastic diamond stunter, both good low wind kites, and we filled the bad times with them.

Monday the wind was very strong, too strong in fact, but after work we headed for the Hilton anyway. Wow! Hot Wings in strong wind! The kites sizzled across the sky. I flew for a while but gave up to work ground crew for the others. In a short time both Hot Wings suffered broken backs from ground terminated power dives! Both broke at exactly the same point, clearly we exceeded the design point.

Many thanks to **All About Kites** on Midway for jumping in and cutting new spars while we waited. Service like this is not available back east. Thanks also to the experienced flyers who took the time to help us with bridle adjustments etc.

Cold Weather Flying

Some of the best wind in my hometown of Ellington, Connecticut comes in the winter months when a steady northwest wind blows for 1 - 3 days at a time. Temperatures during the day run from below zero to around 45 degrees, but usually average around 32. Winds of 8 - 10 mph at 32 deg is a bit chilly, but at least the wind is at your back! Our

snowfall is moderate so except after storms there is not much underfoot. Thermal underwear, GoreTex jackets, gloves, and a good hat make it quite comfortable, and if the sun is out and the wind is strong you can get pretty warm after a few minutes. One thing I have not tried is full moon night flying. With the reflection off the snow, lights should not be needed. Next year.

Hot Wing Notes

- Hot Wing - by Hyperkites
- Sensitive control makes this a difficult beginners kite.
- Will fly in low wind, but takes intermediate to expert skill for this.
- Bridle adjustment:

Lowest wind - black mark below clip, but touching knot.

"Hilton" wind - black mark in middle of knot.

High wind - black mark above clip, but touching knot.

- Jim Long

Suggestion

I learn more in one day talking to flyers at the Hilton than in a year on my own. A nice feature for your newsletter would be to share the tips with your readers. Maybe run a page dedicated to a popular kite each month. Repeat as more information comes in. A page dedicated to lines, handles, spars etc. and how to maintain them would be nice too. There are a lot of new people flying kites with very little access to the information you take for granted.



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THE JUDGE'S SEMINAR:

Judging the California Open was an exciting experience anyone could have. I think all of you members should try judging an event at least once, then you could appreciate how it is done and also have some insight on what the judges are looking for when judging a kiting event. The seminar was put on by Ron Romero. There was one day of classroom education and video viewing of the top team flyers in the world. Then one day of field education viewing a kite flyer perform the compulsory patterns and practice judging his performance. This seminar was held one week before the California Open so our training would be fresh in our minds.

JUDGING THE OPEN:

During the California Open the judges were looking for many components in each routine by an individual or team. Some of the components were:

Artistic: Variety, creativity and the number of different maneuvers.

Technical: Execution of accuracy, timing, smoothness and control of the kites.

Degree of Difficulty: Complexity, daring and technically demanding.

Musical Selection: This is very important because the flying routine must provide framework.

Choreography: Must flow with music selected and the interpretation of the music must be completely interpreted.

If anyone would like to discuss these components in further detail in order to put together a routine, please don't hesitate to ask one of the board members who judged in this year's competition. It would be great to see more people enter next year's competition!

Hope to hear from you,



Anthony E. Hilliard
Executive Vice President



To: All Club Members
From: Board of Directors
Subj: Meeting Minutes



***** Information *****

- > > All **new Club members** who have paid their membership dues will receive the following:
 - welcome packet
 - membership card
 - S.D.K.C. pin
 - most recent newsletter (including 1 year subscription)
 - upcoming schedule of events.

- > > After much discussion, the Board members prefer the Club to sponsor **individual memberships** over corporate memberships. However, corporate memberships are available upon request.

- > > **Personalized Club pins** are available at a cost of \$3.50 plus shipping.

- > > Some selected articles from our newsletter will appear in the 'Top Of The Line' **international monthly newsletter**.

- > > Our Club is doing a **membership drive**. With the exposure we have at the California Open, Del Mar Fair and the many other events this year, our Club should experience rapid growth (triple current membership).

What is it like -- JUDGING ?

When I was asked to judge something as important as an international kite competition, I was ecstatic and at the same time a little nervous! How exciting it was to intensely focus on the flying techniques of all the competitors.

It was very obvious just how much work went into all the flying routines. Each competitor had their own unique style and creativity. I was honored to be accepted into the judging arena.

In preparation for the judging, all the judges attended a lecture seminar and they viewed several videos and practiced judging those videos. Judges who have years of experience were an integral part of this process.

I spent most of my time judging on Saturday and Sunday and I would be the first one to volunteer for next year.

Virginia Hill

EDITORS NOTE: Starting this month, we will feature interviews with individuals who have made an important contribution to our sport.

Unfortunately, we have had a few problems with the computers and software, so our graphics and photographs weren't able to make it into this newsletter. If you can help, please call: (619) 483-0867 or contact the club.

"My Father forbid me to fly"

An Interview with Victor Heredia by John Konold.

When I first met Victor, I was on the field south of the Hilton trying to adjust the bridles on a brand new Sky Dart, which would only go about six inches in a straight line (but did wonderful 360's - hundreds of them.) It was my first high tech kite and was giving me fits. As I knelt over the tiny knots of its harness, a man in a large straw beach hat and sunglasses strolled up and politely offered to help me. His sing-song accent and bronze skin were East-Indian, I guessed, but his adjectives were pure Californian. He deftly slipped the bridle into exactly the right spot and launched the kite for me while we talked. I learned that he was the owner of Kite Country, and had been flying kites all his life. I was struck by his sincerity. He didn't seem to be vying for my business; I felt he just wanted me to enjoy myself.

Later, when I became hooked on kites and had joined the SDKC, I wanted to find out more about kiting in India. Vic grew up there, and this interview sprang up around his recollections of his youth in Bombay.

Coincidentally, when I later interviewed Don Tabor, the pioneer of team stunt kites he

told me he had not been impressed by Vic and the other Indian Fighting Kites - and that got him started in kiting again.

SDKC: When did you first start flying kites?

Vic: The very first, when I was four years old, you know, in India. I remember the very first time I bugged my Mom. I said, 'I want a kite,' everybody else had kites and I wanted my own. I had to really bug her, and she finally went and got me a kite. I came back very happy. And I tell you what, it was the shortest flight I ever had - in like, five minutes I had it up in a tree! From then on I flew lots and lots of kites.

SDKC: We're very interested in what kiting was like in India.

Vic: You want to fly kites from younger. You start out as a caddy to your brother, holding the spool... you don't fly kites in one spot. You move around - you're looking to fight with kites, not just put it up there and watch. You've got to watch that kite, because it's like a challenge, some guy will cut you off at the hands! If you don't do your job right, and didn't give slack, or hesitate, you get a big knock on your head... and he hit hard, too, I remember.

Anyway, there was one rule: once your line is cut, it's anybody's - that's whoever catches it. But see, if ten guys grab that string ten guys are gonna get cut. So as soon as one guy grabs it, he yells out, 'Kabuldar!'

SDKC: How's that?

Vic, smiling: Oh, my gosh, don't even try. It means means: capture, or attention... 'Don't pull on this kite anymore!' Because you can get cut, you know. [He shows me several long, thin scars across his forearms.] See how deep? That one was about an inch and a half deep, right through a vein. My mom almost passed out from all the blood. I caught a kite, but the kid was flying it from the other side of a building, and he couldn't see. He started running with it, and it sawed right through. So my dad banned us from flying kites.

SDKC: You were banned from kites? How old were you?

Vic: Not very old, but it was

until we grew up. If he saw us with a kite, he would tear it up. Because a lot of people die over there, from flying kites. It's crazy. Everybody flies kites. So we hid a kite and spool over at my friends house. Everybody flies kites.

SDKC: Everyone?

Vic: Oh, yeah. In Bombay City, there where kites everywhere.

Out of every building window... glass string everywhere. Cutting string. People would gamble on them, over who could cut who. Some of those guys, they were rich. They never lost. But when I came here to study computer programming, nobody had kites.

SDKC: When was that?

Vic: In '68. I said, 'What is this? Nobody flies kites here?' But they couldn't get the enthusiasm I was seeing. I told them what I could do with a kite and they got me one, an old Eddy kite with a blue airplane on it. I made it dance. They were amazed, and I thought, wait until you can see what I can do with a real kite. I saw they were so excited, and I asked my sister to send me some Indian kites. That's how I got ideas to make a kite. I had it patented. Vic's Fighter.

SDKC: What's special about it?

Vic: It's made alot lighter than other kites. I made it more durable than the tissue paper of India. An Indian Kite is good, but you need to tune it. If I give you a guitar and you can't tune it, can you play? Even if I show you how to hit the right notes? So you've got to tune it. But the aerodynamics of it are excellent. And you can fly it a mile away. So I had to tune it and make it more durable. People here weren't ready for it. They wanted a big, stable kite. But they caught on, and we sold lot's of them. And you need a spool, a big one, with lots of line because you get cut off all the time. It's really alot of fun.

SDKC: And you've been flying a long time.

Vic: And I still love it. It's great.

Victor Heredia will be demonstrating the Indian Fighter Kite on Sunday, May 19. See Events for details.

Randy makes all his kites Hyper

Stacks made Randy Tom famous, but you should see the Seven Sisters. Interview by John Konold.

Except for the kites displayed in the small window, Hyperkites' narrow storefront is almost invisible among print shops and liquor stores of downtown San Diego's Fifth Avenue. Inside, the shop is crowded with the tools of the trade. In the middle of the floor is a long cutting table covered with paper outlines and pieces of fabric.

Every imaginable color of nylon sailcloth fills the room, some still in bolts and some already cut into panels. Graphite rods in many sizes poke out of boxes stacked in one corner. In another corner are finished Hot Wings, the low-cost, high speed, entry level models which are the big seller at the moment. A computer occupies a bench along one wall. Every available inch of space is devoted to the building, finishing, and packaging of kites.

A compact, stocky man dressed in shorts and a polo shirt, Randy Tom works intently at the table to finish his cutting. Before the interview began, we discussed the future of our kiting, and the club. Randy struck me as a warm, genuine guy. He seemed a bit cautious about my asking so many questions, but was too polite not to give me an honest answer. He's the kind of person who really cares about the sport; though already overloaded with work he quickly agreed to make one of his well known banners for the club. The following are excerpts from our conversations.

SDKC: Business must be good - you look busy.

RT: Well, it's been too good lately. [He laughs.] Between the Hot Wings and banners for the California Open, I've been working pretty hard. [Orders continued to come in while we talked, and later Revolution Kites called to have Randy make a

special applique Revolution for their office wall.] It'd be nice to have more time to fly.

SDKC: We've certainly seen a lot of Hot Wings flying - and a lot of new flyers - out on the field, so it must be worth it.

RT: It is, in the long run. [He sighs.] Basically, since I'm in the business to sell kites, I've got to make what sells. (Especially) the beginners want speed, and it's going to be a while before they get into team flying or anything. Once they get into other things they want a smoother, more stable kite. They might move to a different kite, but we also make kits to adjust for changes. But if we can get a lot of people started, too, then that's great.

SDKC: Let's start at the beginning. When did you start flying?

RT: In 1979, with Rainbows. We started modifying it right away, to make it fly better. We stiffened it and battened it and we closed up the nose. For a while we flew with plastic-coated wire for the train lines, to eliminate stretch. Pretty soon we looked to the delta wing as a more efficient design, but the one around was the Skynasaur. By 1980 we had produced the first Hyperkite, the Star Fighter. Then came the Star Cruiser, and then the Ghost for younger fliers.

For a while, I worked with John Perusse [of Action Kites]

SDKC: How did that work out?

RT: It went fine. We made the Star Dart, and then came the NoNaMae, which is still in production at Action Kites. That came out 3 months or so before the Spin-Off. Then I bought the rights back to Hyperkites.

SDKC: Where you're famous for your stacks, right?

RT: Yes, we've made a lot of six- and twelve-stacks. But we make other kites, like the Elite, and the Freestyle, and the 3/4 versions too. They're all good kites. Some people don't know that we make a full line of kites. See, many kites have too low a center-of-gravity [Cg], they're bottom heavy. I've tried to produce a more balanced kite by

moving the spreader bar up and designing a higher Cg. My kites are able to fly low winds like an ultralight kite, but take (heavier) winds too. The Elite is a more stable, constant speed kite for team type flight. The Freestyle is a faster, tighter turning design.

SDKC: Which is your favorite?

RT: That's hard to say. I like them all. I really like to do applique kites, when I have the time. The Seven Sisters I'm proud of, and it won awards. Applique work is tough, very time consuming. But it's very rewarding.

SDKC: The Seven Sisters is a beautiful piece of work. How did you first get started in applique?

RT: John Burkhart, of Maryland, I believe, taught me back about 1985. He was really great. Then I taught Romeo Collado later on, who got very good at it, too. He went on to compete at a Grand National in Chicago, and after winning it, he gave me the kite to thank me. [He looks away, obviously touched.]

SDKC: We understand you are also interested in single line kites.

RT: Quite a bit. I've been into single lines for a couple of years now. Stunt kites are a lot of fun, but they can also be a lot of work. I like to relax more now and single lines are more relaxing and easier to fly. I don't really care for fighting kites so much, but you can still have a lot of fun just watching. And a lot of top stunt kites are into single lines as well. Brian ---- of the High Performance team, says he's really into the single lines now.

SDKC: It's refreshing to hear someone with a wide range of interests.

RT: Well, kiting is a wide sport. There's room for everyone. The whole idea is to have fun, isn't it?

Randy Tom's Hyperkites Elite Flight Team will perform at the upcoming Del Mar Fair Kite Festival.

The First Competition

by Ron Despojado

Competition. The word brings to mind being at your best against others being their best. I had thought about competing since I started flying 2 1/2 years ago.

I had planned to enter the 1990 Belmont / California Open but the event was rescheduled at the last moment to coincide with a wedding I was in. In a way, the wedding was my excuse to not compete. I always said I wanted to but couldn't.

Then came the 1991 California Open. No weddings this time, no excuses. (Maybe I should get married.) The only quadline event this year was the Quadline Ballet, incorporating music with a freestyle performance. Sounds easy enough. First I had to select some music. Jazz would probably be a good idea. I don't have a lot of jazz CD's so it was either something by Kenny G or Spyro Gyra. In the two weeks prior to the event, I must have changed music at least a half dozen times. This sounded easy but was much more complicated than I realized. I squeezed in as much practice as I could find time for. Just remember: practice, practice.

The Friday before the big weekend I meet the members of Flying Colors Revolution Team from Japan. Since there was no quadline team event, they were entering individually. Impressive flying to say the least. That same day I found out my event was scheduled for Sunday at noon. This gave me Saturday for more practice.

On Saturday I met Team High Performance from Hawaii. They too were entered individually, Alan Nagao and Scott Augenbaugh finished in the top five last year. Jim, Joe, and Dave Hadzicki were also entered. As all of you know, the "Flying Hadzicki Brothers" are the manufacturers of the Revolution. Eric Erickson, last year's winner was also entered. What the hell am I doing competing against these world class performers? I definitely had my work cut for me. All I

wanted was to not be embarrassed against these guys.

Sunday morning arrived and the flight order was posted. What could possibly be the least desirable flying position? First. Guess what? Yours truly had to perform first, to be the benchmark against all other performances. No added pressure here. I got in some more practice to pass the time. The schedule start, I was called onto the field. I set up and was ready to get it over with. I reached down, picked up my handles, and gave the thumbs up to start the music.

"Hold on", said the field crew, "we have to wait about five minutes more". Those butterflies inside me have multiplied and are wanting to get out. I must have paced a hole in the sand.

"Okay, we're ready when you are" said the field crew. I picked up my handles, flew the Rev for a few seconds. The gave the thumbs up. The music began and I was finally started in the moment I had looked forward to for two years. The kite lifted off the ground as scheduled, then I looked at my hands - they were literally shaking! Into the performance I calmed down and everything was pretty much as I had practiced - cueing the kite with the passages of music mixed together with the old "make it up as you go" method. The advanced flying techniques which were planned were going well. Some of the maneuvers probably have official names but I call them floats, slide, rotations with rise, reverse up, forward-rotate- & reverse out, as well as the last second addition called "shake your booty". The music ended and all went as well as I had practiced. The applause and support from the crowd was extremely satisfying.

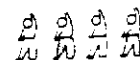
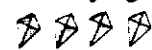
Those butterflies were nowhere to be found. I rushed off the field and felt very happy and relieved. I can go on and enjoy the rest of the competition. I only watched one there competitor, Eric Erickson, the

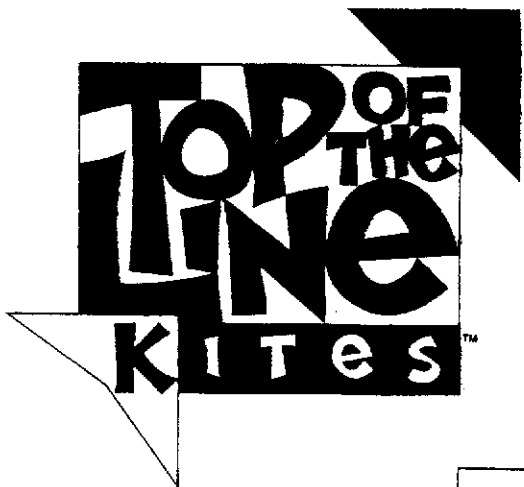
guy was awesome. Whether I place or not was now irrelevant. I did it. I entered a competition and actually went through with it without being embarrassed. This was itself a victory.

Later in the day Kristen Hadzicki (Joe's wife) asked me if I had seen the results. I told her no. She said I might be happy with the results. I walked up to the board and much to my surprise my name was listed in second place behind Scott Augenbaugh. Then I looked at the scores, the next words out of my mouth were "A tenth of a point?? I lost First place by a tenth of a point?! This was Scott Augenbaugh, the "Mark Spitz" of kite flying. I don't know how much excitement I could take. The theme from "Rocky" started playing in my head.

This all seems like a fairy tale finish to me (It would have been a perfect fairy tale if it not for one-tenth of a point.) I know it sound corny but believe me compete and do your best is to win itself, everything else is gravy. Could my finish have been a fluke or beginners luck? Maybe but I'll take this one. You only have your "first" anything only once, and that's one you never forget. This one I'll always remember.

Ron Despojado is the SDKC treasurer and is an architect when he's not flying kites.





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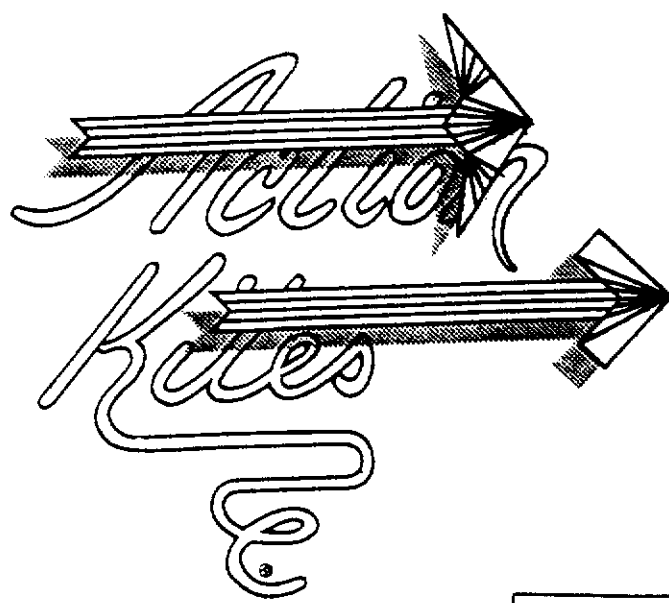
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HIGH PERFORMANCE KITES

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The Light Post

by Eric S. Olaes

It all started with a phone call from my girlfriend who is in Japan on an exchange program. She asked if I could arrive two days sooner to attend Fukuoka's, the city she stays in, first ever Kite Festival where she told me, your's truly was one of the guests.

When Isela left seven months ago, I gave her a custom Team Elite stunt kite by Randy Tom of Hyperkites, as a going away present. The kite looks just like Mt. Fuji, and would attract crowds whenever she flew it. She met alot of kite people who wanted to know about her kite and kite flying in the States. She told them I was a member of the Hyperkite Elite Flight Team in San Diego. It was just a coincidence that the day I was to arrive was the day after the kite festival. They asked her if I would like to come and fly a demonstration. So like any Kite Addict I changed my reservations and was soon on my way to the land of the rising sun.

I arrived a day before the kite festival, and went down to the beach to check out the fields. Marizon Beach is a brand new man-made recreation area with beautiful beaches. The sky was overcast and drizzly, but as long as there's wind, I'll fly. I also met some of Isela's kite friends, a newly formed four man team named "Dreaming In Kites". There custom made kites proudly displaying those initials "DIK". No it didn't take long to explain what those three initials meant. In fact, it wasn't at all hard to communicate with them even though I knew very little Japanese. I felt like a fighter pilot in a bar because of all the talking my hands were doing. They had only been flying together for a couple of months, and I spent the rest of the afternoon showing them team maneuvers.

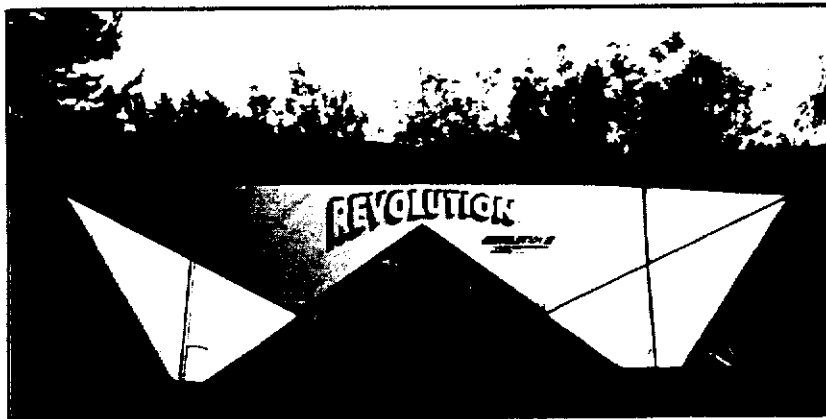
It was a beautiful day for a kite festival, the sun came out and the winds were perfect. In the morning I took my 12-stack of Hyperkites and flew for a while at the end of the beach reserved for stunters. In Japan, the single-liners enjoy most of the limelight which I didn't mind because Isela and I were soon relaxing and flying my single line kites (a Nagel, another Tom custom, and Natalie's Legs by Martin Lester) with all the normal kite flyers.

The afternoon soon came and my friends from Team DIK told me to get ready, I was the first one up for the demos. I setup my kites and took off near center stage. My stack with its 40 foot tails brought an immediate oooohhhh from the audience. I started with a very slow ground sweep into a big loop back into the ground sweep and a hover raining my tails over an unfortunate soul at the edge of the window. It was a grand entrance. My next move was a fast ground sweep into a power climb. I started back across the sand, and heard/understand the announcer say America, Hyperkites, and Eric-san when my kite's flight was rudely interrupted by a light post. Here I am standing in front of at least a hundred, no a thousand, probably a million screaming Japanese with my stack a semi-permanent attachment to a light post. I turned around still holding my handles, bowed and told the crowd "go mina si" which is Japanese for "I'm sorry".

Nothing as exciting happened the rest of my trip, I flew a lot, made lots of friends, and had a great time. But what I'll never forget about Japan is that beautiful beach, that perfect wind, and that stinking light post.



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TOP OF THE LINE
TEAM

BEST OVERALL
BOHICA
TEAM

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TEAM BALLET
3 OR MORE

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BOHICA
TEAM BALLET
3 OR MORE

CHAMPIONS
DEJA VU
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CHAMPIONS
PARAGON
TEAM BALLET PAIRS

INDIVIDUAL BALLET

HEAT 1
AUGENBAUGH
RODRIGUEZ
FUJI

CHAMPION
AUGENBAUGH

CHAMPION
THORPE

HEAT 1
THORPE
TRENNAPOHL
ERICKSON

INDIVIDUAL BALLET

HEAT 2
REICH
S. BATDORF
LARRABEE-RAMIREZ

BEST OVERALL
AUGENBAUGH
INDIVIDUAL

BEST OVERALL
ERICKSON
INDIVIDUAL

HEAT 2
K. OSTERLUND
G. ARONSON
WINN / MARKWORTH

INDIVIDUAL PRECISION

HEAT 1
REICH
AUGENBAUGH
NAGAO

CHAMPION
NAGAO

CHAMPION
CRAWFORD

HEAT 1
WOOD
KENT
G. OSTERLUND

INDIVIDUAL PRECISION

HEAT 2
TABOR
STERLING
OLIVER

HEAT 2
CRAWFORD
ERICKSON
K. OSTERLUND

HEAT 3
WAKUZAYA
STREED
TOM

HEAT 3
ALLEN
TSUCHIYA
BARCLEY

1991 Winners

Open Class

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Team Precision	<u>TOP OF THE LINE</u>	<u>PREVAILING WINDS</u>	<u>HIGH PERFORMANCE</u>	<u>TSUNAMI</u>	<u>ZEPHYRUS</u>
Team Ballet-Pairs	<u>DEJA VU</u>	<u>TORI TAKO</u>	<u>WHAT'S UP</u>		
Team Ballet-3 /more	<u>HIGH PERFORMANCE</u>	<u>PREVAILING WINDS</u>	<u>TOP OF THE LINE</u>	<u>HYPERKITE ELITE</u>	<u>ZEPHYRUS</u>
Best Overall	<u>TOP OF THE LINE</u>				
Individual Precision	<u>NAGAO</u>	<u>REICH</u>	<u>AUGENBAUGH</u>	<u>STREED</u>	<u>TABOR</u>
Individual Ballet	<u>AUGENBAUGH</u>	<u>LARRABEE-RAHIREL</u>	<u>RODRIGUEZ</u>	<u>FUJI</u>	<u>S. BATTORF</u>
Best Overall	<u>AUGENBAUGH</u>				

Experienced Class

Team Precision	<u>RAMJET</u>	<u>WOODWINDS</u>	<u>BOHICA</u>	<u>TEMPEST</u>	<u>GRIFFEN</u>
Team Ballet-Pairs	<u>PARAGON</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>			
Team Ballet-3 /more	<u>BOHICA</u>	<u>WOODWINDS</u>	<u>RAMJET</u>	<u>GRIFFEN</u>	<u>TEMPEST</u>
Best Overall	<u>BOHICA</u>				
Individual Precision	<u>CRAWFORD</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>ALLEN</u>	<u>ERICKSON</u>	<u>BARCLEY</u>
Individual Ballet	<u>THORPE</u>	<u>ERICKSON</u>	<u>TRENNAPFHL</u>	<u>MARKIVORTH</u>	<u>ARONSON</u>
Best Overall	<u>ERICKSON</u>				

Single Class

Individual Quadline					
Ballet	<u>AUGENBAUGH</u>	<u>DESPOJARD</u>	<u>ERICKSON</u>	<u>JOE HADZICKI</u>	<u>NAGAO</u>
Team Ballet - Trains	<u>HYPERKITE ELITE</u>	<u>SUNDOWNERS</u>	<u>TOP OF THE LINE</u>	<u>HIGH PERFORMANCE</u>	<u>DE JA VU</u>
Best Manufacturer					
Display	<u>WIND TOYS</u>				

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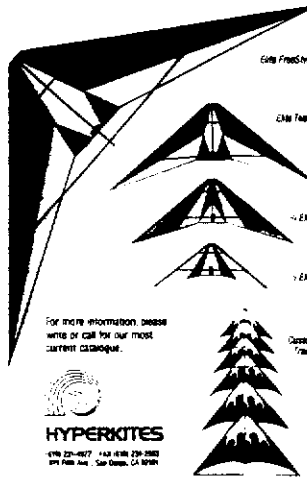
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THESE ARE THE TIPS WE GOT FROM ALAN NAGAO'S REVOLUTION KITE SEMINAR:

HIGH PERFORMANCE REVOLUTION TEAM
Team Commands

All team commands are based on a three-part call; the Preparatory Command, the Call of Execution, and the Invisible Call. The Preparatory Command defines the action which the kite will take and the prepares the fliers for the Call of Execution. Upon hearing the call of Execution, the fliers execute the command on the Invisible Call, which is unspoken and occurs automatically about half a second after the Call of Execution. As an example, the captain will call left tip. This indicates to the fliers that they are to prepare to fly their kites to a tip stand position, with the left tip standing on the ground. The Command of Execution is made (either "break", or "turn") and the fliers execute the command at the Invisible Call -- or approximately a half second later.

Listed below are the Preparatory Commands used by the High Performance Precision Team, followed by a short description of each maneuver.

<u>Preparatory Command</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
bottom	kite stands upright on ground on bottom tips
nose	kite stands in inverted position, tips upward
left tip	kite stands with left wing tip on ground
right tip	kite stands with right wing tip on ground
forward	kite moves in direction of leading edge
reverse	kite moves in direction of bottom tips
about face (stall)	kite spins 180 degrees in place, ending in a stationary position. Turns are always "up" turn direction or left spin in nose up position -- right spin in nose down position (call made with kites in stationary position)
return	moving about face (call is made while kites are in motion and kites continue forward motion after turn) turns are made in an upward direction -- can be used with kites in a stall position to indicate both "about face" and "forward" in a single command

half-up	similar to return, with kite pivoting on top wing tip instead of revolving around center -- all kites perform simultaneously
half down	kites make a downward turn, pivoting on lower wingtip
pause	at the Command of Execution fliers will bring kites to a standstill for approximately one second and then resume previous action without further command
right flank	each kite will make a 90 degree turn toward the right -- call is made while kites are in motion and forward flight continues after execution
left flank	as above but with turn to left
stop	kites come to a standstill
left face	kite moves to a position perpendicular to ground, facing toward left. kite moves in upward direction for turns of 180 degrees or less or in shortest direction
right face	kite moves to a position perpendicular to ground, facing toward right as above
up face	kite moves to a position parallel to ground facing upward
down face	kite moves to a position parallel to ground facing downward
left spin	each kite executes one 360 degree spin to the left -- resuming previous activity at end of execution (may be called when kites are moving or stationary)
right spin	as above but with turn toward right
top spin	(call only made when kites are in a left or right face position) from left face -- one 360 counter-clockwise spin; from right face -- one clockwise spin

bottom spin	from left face -- one clockwise spin; from right face -- one counter-clockwise spin
right slide	kites side-slip to <u>fliers'</u> right (regardless of kite position) -- may be abbreviated as "right"
left slide	kites side-slip to <u>fliers'</u> left -- may be abbreviated as "left"
up slide	(call made when kites are perpendicular to ground) kites side slip in upward direction
down slide	as above -- kites side slip in downward direction
SEQUENTIAL	as soon as kite #1 completes maneuver, kite #2 begins maneuver, as soon as #2 completes maneuver #3 begins, etc.
REVERSE SEQUENTIAL	last kite does maneuver first -- as above but done in reverse order
ALTERNATE _____	this is a "double-break" command in which the odd number fliers (#1 and #3) execute the maneuver on the first call of execution and the even number fliers execute on the second call. As an example captain calls "alternate reverse", followed by "break" and at the Invisible Call, kites #1 and #3 make the reverse -- the captain then calls a second "break" for the even number kites who then complete the reverse

COMPLEX MANEUVERS

The following High Performance Revolution Team maneuvers are either combinations of some of the simple maneuvers listed in Team Commands, or are conceptual maneuvers involving special spacing or positioning which are defined by the team captain and practiced as defined. The following is a partial list of current complex maneuvers used by the team. Due to constraints of time and space the definitions may not include all the fine details of timing or spacing of the maneuvers.

Magnet kites #1 and #2 assume a nose-to-nose position approximately five feet apart, as do kites #3 and #4

Crash & Burn kites make turn toward left, speed downward and come to rest in "nose" position

Clock magnet position -- kites continue to face each other while revolving formation in clockwise direction

Starburst Position Burst

Diamond Position Burst

Kite

Hop Along

Sliding Leap Frog

Interlock Position

Left Diagonal

Lean Left

Magnet Pickup

Odd/Even Split - Return Pass

HIGH PERFORMANCE REVOLUTION TEAM
SQUAD MANEUVERS

"The Stars and Stripes Forever"

Alternate Hops (4 sets)

----- 0:19

Left face, forward, reverse
forward, reverse
forward, reverse
forward to center and stop

----- 0:35

big top roll to right
about face
big top roll to left
about face
right spin
left spin

----- 0:50

"bouncing", nose down

----- 1:05

sequential reverse launch (stop at 2' above ground) - don't rush
left slide, right slide
left slide, right slide
left slide to center and stop
2 and 4 up (kites 2 and 4 reverse 4' and stop)
alternate slides (2 sequences)
center and stop, nose down

----- 1:38

sequential bottoms

left tip, bottoms, right tip
bottoms, left tip, bottoms
right tip, bottoms, left tip
bottoms (and prepare for...)

----- 2:02

alternate up/down (passing in center of window) - 4 complete
"switch" kites climb to top, left face and side slip down

"top" all kites to top
"break" all kites Crash and Burn

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 4 1991: SDKC Seminar with TEAM REVOLUTION. You'll learn from the pros how to master the basics and the best of the baddest, heart stopping, crowd pleasing stunts. Then you'll get a chance to actually fly one - the line of Revolution Kites will be there, to fly and to buy! 11am - 12noon: Team Demonstration 12pm - 3pm: Hands on instruction and tips.

Tecolote shores field, south of Hilton Hotel, on East Mission Bay Dr.

MAY 11 1991: Great Lakes SKC, Grand Haven, MI. (National)

MAY 12 1991: Mother's Day. If you're not letting her fly your kite, shame on you!

MAY 18 1991, Saturday: The INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES, UCSD. Open to kites and kites of every type, with food, music, and display booths. Sounds like a great idea to us! Come and fly, and see us at our booth from 11:30am - 3pm. At Warren Field at UCSD, corner of Old Miramar Rd. and Gilman Dr. Call Ted Cuevas, (619) 558- , for more info & directions.

CHANGE!

MAY 19 1991, Sunday: SDKC Seminar with Victor Heredia of Kite Country, with SINGLE LINE KITE FLYING CHALLENGE afterwards. The maker of the legendary VIC'S INDIAN FIGHTER will demonstrate the amazing techniques of fighting kites. Come and see a single line kite do what many duals line kites can't! Don Tabor says it was Vic's aerial antics that got him *really* interested in kites in the first place. 10am - 11am: Demonstration. 11am - 3pm: Challenge. All single line kites welcome, large kites especially encouraged. Kate Sessions Park in Pacific Beach, (a great place for a picnic too) off Lamont Street. Call the club for details.

MAY 24 1991: East Coast SKC, Wildwood, NJ. (National)

JUNE 1 1991, Saturday: the MIRA MESA WOMEN'S J.C.'S FAMILY HOME-BUILT KITE FLY. This one's for kids of all ages, with food, fun, and awards for unique kites. From 1pm - 4pm, at the Mira Mesa Park & Recreation Center on New Salem St.

JUNE 18 thru JULY 7: SDKC KITE FESTIVAL AT THE DEL MAR FAIR. Free entry to the fair with your kite, (members only). Open flying weekdays, with kites from around the world on display. Sundays there will be demonstrations by the world's best stunt kite teams. Too much fun to describe. Be There!

JUNE 29 1991, Saturday: IMPERIAL BEACH FUN DAY. More world class team displays, for the South Bay Area. There will be vendors, games, and we'll be there too! 10:30 - 12:30am: Kite building. 1 - 4pm: Demonstrations and fun! Just south of the pier in Imperial Beach.

It's Your Calendar...

Have we forgotten anything? Any additions to the calendar of events may be made by mail or phone. Please include date, time, exact location (with directions,) and a brief description of the event. Mail to:
SDKC, 3279 Geddes Dr.
S.D. CA 92117
Or call: 483-
All additions must be received by the 15th of the month for publication.