

THE KITEFLIER

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April 2012

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**Newsletter of the Kite Society of
Great Britain**

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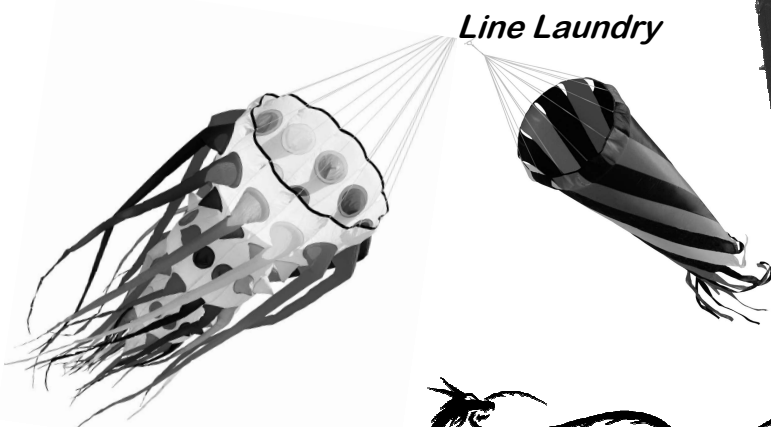


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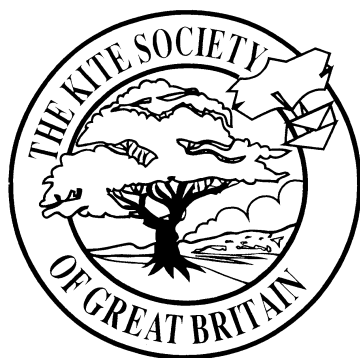


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Dear Reader

Editorial

The start of a new season is upon us and a number of events have fallen by the wayside or have been cut back, mainly due to most events in the UK being supported by local councils. So the ones that are left need your support—unless you do not want the large events anymore? We would be interested to hear from you what sort of event interests you—let us know.

We are grateful that Portsmouth City Council continue to support the event at Southsea—it shows the high regard the event is held by the council. This year the event is being co-run by Seafront Services who have instigated a few changes so you will notice that the site is laid out differently. As part of these changes the number of camping spaces has been reduced—but is still being permitted despite being against the local by-laws. See the Event pages for details of how to apply for a camping pass. This does not affect the car parking—there has been no reduction in this availability.

We would like to thank the contributors to this issue—it is not a difficult thing to do—and we would welcome your contributions as well.

As we go to print we do not know what the new postage rates are going to be for UK mail. There are rumours of up to 50% increase in the cost of both 1st and 2nd class mail which, if true, will push the cost of mailing a magazine from 92p to nearly £1.50. It may therefore mean that we have to increase the cost of a subscription to cover this increase. So, if it is time to renew why not go electronic? This price will remain the same. Think about it!!

Gill and Jon

Front Cover

Whales, Camel and Kites at the Kuwait International Kite Festival

Photo: Gill Bloom

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Firki... - Paul Chapman

Firki....or where to put the manjha when you hear "lappet!!!"



The 14th of January is celebrated in India by the festival of Uttarayan. This is when the sun enters Capricorn, passing across the tropic of Capricorn and into the Northern Hemisphere. Makar is the Hindu equivalent of Capricorn and the festival is also known as Makar Sankranti. It is a celebration of the sun when the days are relatively cool. It is an excuse to fly kites, especially when Vayu, the wind god, is in good humour and helps the kites rise into the heavens.

That is why I was in Ahmedabad on the 14th January where I calculated that 10 million kites were flown during the day. We did it again the next day.

It was my fourth trip to India and I had thought I had learnt enough to write a little book about Uttarayan and the kite fighting. I had previously found out where to look for the kite makers, where to study the manjha makers, as well as where and how to take part in the flying from the rooftops. As in previous years, I was to stay with my friends Mital and Sunil who live in Vadodara, but have their family homes in Ahmedabad. I had done my homework...or had I?

The plan for the little book was for-

mulated on the premise that I had found nothing written on the traditions and ethnology of Indian fighting kites, other than Tal Streeter's excellent "A Kite Journey through India", although that was written from the perspective of an American outsider who was able to retire to the comfort of his hotel. Manjha Club flourished for a few years and produced its newsletter "Manjha News"; Ludo Petit and Phillippe Gallot have written books on how to make fighting kites, and Geoff Crumplin's "Not an Indian Fighter Kite"....well that is about it. That was about it until, just before Christmas, I came across "A Different Freedom – Kite Flying in Western India; Culture and Tradition". I thumbed through the pages on Amazon and, just because of the reproduction of ancient images, realized that here was a little gem. I read it on the aeroplane to Mumbai, and again during the five hour early morning layover waiting for the connecting flight to Ahmedabad.

Nikita Desai, the author of "A Different Free-



Firki... - Paul Chapman



rect your manjha towards your selected opponent. The kite itself can be cheap and cheerful, or lavish and decorated. The cries of "*lappet*" ("wind-in you show off") become deafening when an ornate kite is cut by a street child who is flying a simple found one. Good manjha gives you cut fingers and a sore throat from shouting! The good manjha is selected carefully. It has to be the right line weight, have the correct number of applications of ground glass; and taking an egg to add to the manjha mix gives it an edge too. The manjha is wound on the firki and handed to the *sahel lena*. Firkis are just a means of holding manjha. Some fliers prefer to dispense with the firki altogether and fly with a ball of glassed string. To the average fighting kite crazy Gujarati the firki is...well, just a wrapper.

Nikita's book mentions the firki. She sees it as a spool, usually plastic or made from cheap wood. She notes the now extinct self-winding firki, the big beach firki from Khambhat and, in passing, the lacquered Sankheda firkis. It must be a cultural thing. I love the spools almost as much as the kites; as a westerner the flying line is only the connection between them. I really wanted to meet the firki makers. And the lacquered Sankheda spools; what were they? These lacquered spools are not illustrated in the book but, after Nikita showed me

some photos, I had to know how to find them. "You are too late, it is after Uttarayan" she said. "The Sankheda people are making wedding furniture now; it is the wedding season".

dom" lives in Vadodara so we spent a very enjoyable afternoon discussing the kite culture of Gujarat. Nikita, being Gujarati, was brought up on a diet of patang and manjha. She wrote about it for her university thesis and developed the paper into the book. Being Gujarati, she is manjha and patang...so what she has written is the Indian view; and in depth. The value of my four trips to India and prowess, so I thought, at making and flying fighting kites melted away. Nikita, the *sahel lena* spool minder, introduced me to the reasons for Uttarayan, the kites, the manjha, the firkis, the sweets, the fighting and the complex interaction of all these into the way of life of India.

Well, that killed of my ideas of a little book. It has been written! Well, not quite? There were some things I did not quite understand. Firkis for one.

The most important part of the fighting kite set-up is not the kite...it is the manjha. The kite is only there as the means to di-



Firki... - Paul Chapman



to reveal a small workshop and its owner. Behind the wood turner were ...Sankheda firki! Not many of them though, in pieces, unfinished. This is how it was that I was able to spend the better part of an afternoon with the Sankheda Firki Maker of Vadodara. I wanted to see the making process and what better way than to get him to complete his remaining stock! It was a matter of splitting the bamboo used to create the drum, drilling out the spool sides and fitting them. That the maker squatted on the floor and used his feet as a vice to hold the firki seemed quite normal, as did drinking sweet chai and talking to the huge crowd that surrounded the doorway watching me watching him. I noticed sacks of large lacquered firki disks, piles of lacquered spool spindles; in fact these are not firki components. They are chapatti boards and chapatti rollers. The Sankheda firki is simply a modified chapatti set!

Piled up with the chapatti detritus

I passed several noisy wedding bands and wedding chariots during the rickshaw ride to the old city. I entered through the ancient city gate and slipped into a narrow street. Furniture Street. After several failed enquiries, "Uttarayan is finished, why not buy my nice Gujarati swing seat", I met a man who said "wait!" So I waited. He came back with another man who said "come!" So I came. We wended through even narrower lanes and then into an alleyway. We stopped at an ancient wooden door mounted high up over a stone lintel. It opened

were some other nicely made wooden kite firkis – the ones with turned faces and an attractively twisted bamboo core. So they come from Sankheda too.

The other unusual Gujarati firki in Nikita's book is the Khambhat firki. This is a big spool, sometimes an enormous spool. It is only to be found at Khambhat and is used exclusively in the kitemakers Sea Uttarayan that occurs the week after Uttarayan proper. The Sea Uttarayan takes place on the beach, among the salt pans,



Firki... - Paul Chapman



at the old port/capital of Cambay. I had been to Khambhat before, but this time spent a couple of days there to meet the kitemakers and find out more about the K h a m b h a t firki. I saw these spools the first time I went to Khambhat. I

knew I wanted one and tried to buy one from a small boy. "He wants too much" said my friends, "you can buy one at the market". But the market was closed because it was the festival and everyone was on the beach. I slipped

fact these firkis are not that common. We disgorged the rickshaw complement at a kite stall so that they could watch me negotiate a fairly normal spool from the seller. They confirmed that the manjha was ok, and that it was properly loaded with three lengths of 3000 metres of sharp pink glass line. The line alone was worth £12, but was the spool itself worth £8? The big spool and the three Sankheda firkis filled my travelling case!

There are other firkis in India. Many years ago I found them with beautifully inlaid brass figures. Depak Kapadia of the Golden Kite Club has a box of drums mounted with different strength manjha and with a set of detachable handles. I was presented with an exhibition spool made by the firki maker to the Golden Kite Club of Mumbai. It is an object of wonder...decorative and with a handle that employs a ball bearing holder for fast spooling...but hopelessly unusable on the frenetic rooftops. Then there are the fine, slender Calcutta firkis. I tried to buy one last year but the maker saw me coming. Ludo Petit



the boy some peanuts and invoked the wrath of my friends! The next time I was at Khambhat I found an enormous spool; the owner showed it to me and looked disappointed when I only took photos. It was only when we were safely back home in Vadodara that Mital told me that they had saved me from spending a tenner! So this year I went to Khambhat on my own and hired Mahudge, the crazy diamond cutter, to take me around. For some reason he needed five friends to accompany us in the rickshaw made for two! We were visiting kitemakers and at one house the boys proudly showed me a pair of old firkis. Big ones. So we attached a huge patang and lofted it into the sky. Of course it became the target and soon the shout of "*lappet*" signalled a resigned shrug and a speedy winding in. In

advised me to commission one from Abdhul and Bert Maartens was due to collect it from him at the Ahmedabad International Kite Festival...but it is still not ready. Oh well, it is only the wrapper that carries the manjha.

In the end I decided against writing the book. Instead I have put together a photo book: "Uttarayan! ...an Indian festival of Patang, Manjha and Firki". You can flick through the pages and see something of Uttarayan at www.bobbooks.co.uk.

Nikita Desai's book "A Different Freedom. Kite Flying in Western India; Culture and Tradition" was published in 2010 by Cambridge Scholars. www.c-s-p.org. ISBN 978-1-4438-2273-2.

Support Your Magazine, Part 2—Hugh Blowers

So there we were, enthused and ready to go, but we didn't in the end, and in turn it ended our involvement with sports kite flying. It all came down to two Ps, too much politics and too little practice. Three of us had come from a background of intense competitive sailing, and anyone involved in that will know how far rules and protests can determine results, rather than out and out skill. We were looking for something that had the same elements of enjoyment and competition without the massive rulebooks, which we thought we had found with sports kites (naive assumption again). First stage was some close observation to see how a STACK competition worked, and we chose Hackney Marshes. First thing we realised that it needed more people on the ground than there were flying with Field Directors, Judges, Shadow Judges, flaggers etc. Second was how much standing around there was as the huge number of teams performed their figures. Again we might have missed something, but by the time you have seen 15 Baskets, confusion reigns, especially when the commentator say 'that was an exceptionally fine basket'. Why was that significantly better than all those that had gone before?

Figures is no spectator sport, especially when it is tipping down and the only shelter is a cabana with mesh windows and a large sheet of polythene. It all brightened up a bit, both figuratively and weather wise with the Precision. This remains my favourite element to watch, but has now sadly disappeared from the schedule. It did just what it said on the box, a team flying in perfect harmony, perfect timing and instantly able to see any flaws through the routine. Then, of course, there was the Ballet. All the best elements of precision, but with music thrown in both to give precise cues and dynamics to the performance. I feel something was lost with the move to techno music as it provided a background that fitted only in length with the routine rather than specific manoeuvres. Am I just a sentimental old fool, (don't answer that) or was there something quite magnificent about the six kites of Tsunami marching across the sky and changing direction in perfect time with their Backdraft compilation?

Having sat through all the competition disciplines a smidgeon of doubt began to creep in to our minds. It was not so much a case of how do you compete against these guys, but more how the hell do you even start. A team infinity was

OK and Around the World worked as long as everyone remembered who was in the lead, but how on earth could four kites fly round each other for part of the Basket? Worse, even assuming that we eventually managed something approaching aforesaid basket with enough kites in one piece, how would we learn the other 246 figures required, as the basket might never be needed again? Writing routines was an even worse nightmare with sheets of paper covered in hieroglyphics and little arrows, which translated into about ten seconds of flying, always assuming we ever remembered where we were supposed to go in the sky.

The keys to success were experience, which did not have, and practice, which we did not do as we did not have the experience to know what on earth we trying to achieve when practising. Boot camps were still in the future. Strange tales were also emanating from a marsh in East London intimating that a certain team were practising 36/37 hours a week! That was nearly a working week so when did they fit in the rest of their lives? You may by now be getting the impression that we were perhaps not as dedicated to the cause as we might have been, which brings me on to the second P, politics.

Kite flying was a venture chosen to avoid many of the aggravations previously encountered, but soon we discovered they were lurking just below the surface. Our club had a serious dose when two display teams were formed by members, who then sometimes performed on behalf of the club and sometimes of their own accord. Inevitable this led to accusations, upsets and resignations, with the rest of us left on the sidelines. A coach trip had been arranged for Le Touquet, the one with the record Flexi stack etc. That all fell apart and there were two minibuses, which never materialised, so the four of us ended up going by car and having a super weekend. From that moment we became a club of four, with no rules, no officers, no affiliations and definitely no politics. Still not the Beccles Bunch though!

We were still sports kite orientated, but the cracks were beginning to show. It was the period when STACK was on a roll and wanted to become truly international, with sports kite flying a recognised activity, even to Olympic level. They hived themselves off from the Kite Society, so that our source of information vanished and it all started to get a bit serious. The rule-

Support Your Magazine, Part 2—Hugh Blowers

book concentrated on 56 different ways to be DQed, which may have been fine for Formula 1, but hardly seemed applicable for a dozen kite fliers stood in a muddy field in Southern England. Yes there has to be rules, but did they have to be quite so harsh? There are still enough of us who remember the team that travelled over 3,000 miles across the States, got DQed and faced the 3,000+ miles home with just a couple of minutes of flying to their credit. It was beginning to get beyond a joke.

We had moved from Thorpe to Yarmouth Beach where we could fly all day, and enjoy the hospitality of Munchies as well, and it was here that the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back fluttered down. One of the manoeuvres in Ron's book was the Razzle Dazzle and looked pretty good on the videos, but with us it was like three London buses lumbering round the sky. What should have been a tight, fast whirl of kites ended up as a pedestrian wander round the entire wind window, with little evidence of any cohesion? No matter how hard or how long we tried, it still looked a mess. On the way home, with one accord, we said why on earth are we doing this. It was supposed to be fun, and whatever it is, it is certainly not that. By 6.00pm that evening we were ex STACK competitors and well on the way to giving up sports kite flying completely. We did keep wafting around the beach for a while and occasionally took a kite out of its bag at a festival for a few minutes, but the magic had gone and so were we.

Now if this should seem a sorry tale, it is not. 20+ years on we still derive as much enjoyment from watching teams flying as we did the Moorby's all that while ago, but in terms of STACK, we did not cut the mustard, either in dedication or ability. We did do enough though to be able to realise and appreciate just what goes into team flying. Mind you, as I related in my parafoil article, we did once win a prestigious sports kite trophy!!!!!!

We did discover a few other truths along the way, which might be worth retelling in due course, but to finish with a tale of the generation gap. By the time we started travelling, there had already been major changes in the sports kite scene. The founding teams had virtually all retired or remustered and there were a lot of young, keen, enthusiastic and intensely competitive replacements. The Rev was in its

ascendancy so we decided that we had better have some of them. In the early 90s, the kite trade was also having something of a revolution (no pun intended) and every man and his dog were getting in on the act. Whilst members of the KTA were charging two arms and a leg for a Rev, they could be obtained for a pittance from other sources. Of course they did not have handles, lines or the important video on how they worked, but they were cheap. Jackie took her Rev to Blackheath for a first fly, with the hope of getting a bit of help. The experts were of course the Decorators, but such was their standing and reputation that mere mortals did not dare approach them on such a mundane matter. There was a young lad who flew with Richard Marsh and was pretty good, so perhaps he could shed some light on the non-flying Rev please? You've got the sticks on the wrong ***** side was his pithy and singular contribution. Simon Dann is still flying and still pretty good, but we never bothered much with Revs after that.

Post Weymouth postscript. You do know you are totally out of your league when you are persuaded to take part in one of the very early sports kite relay events. This was nothing more than a take off, fly to the edge of the window, do a tips down land and then take off and fly back to the centre of the window for another tips down landing. At this stage the kite was passed to the second in the team for a repeat performance. Nothing difficult here you might imagine, but this was in the days when a landing directly down wind, was still something of an adventure and not even the best got it right every time. The trick was to snap the kite into a stall at the right moment. Too soon and you were chasing it downwind in a vain attempt to get it on the ground, too late and you are looking at an expensive heap embedded in the ground. Well, we were on the timid side, especially as the kites were not ours, so while the other teams were getting on with the job, assuming they were not laughing too much, we were doing a lot of running and not much landing. Sports kite flyers we were not!

Well, always assuming that Gill and Jon don't delete these files on sight, there could be more moronic ramblings coming your way in the next Kiteflier?

A Perfect Day—Nikki Biddle

I remember it as a perfect day. The guests in the conference centre were here on a weeks course, which meant that Wednesday afternoon was free time, which meant that we, the staff, also had the afternoon off.

Standing on the little balcony outside the back door to the kitchen, mug of tea in hand and staring at the top of the opposite valley, I noticed fluffy cumulus clouds being blown along by a gentle breeze. My mind was made up. The last of the dishes emptied from the machine, surfaces disinfected, packed lunches prepared, the afternoon off.

I soon found myself walking up the no through road that eventually would bring me out onto the moor. A lone figure coming down the hill greeted me then informed me that "You need a licence to fish in the reservoir". My inquisitor was not the first to offer this friendly advice.

Carrying as I was a fishing tackle box and what looked like a rod bag. "Not fishing gear, kites" I replied, waiting for the usual bemused look. "Ah so you're not fishing then". "No, hope to fly a kite" I offered helpfully. Waving goodbye, I once again headed uphill towards the by now sunbathed moor.

A good half an hour later the shimmering waters of the reservoir shone like liquid metal, and a breeze cooled my perspiring brow. A good, strong, constant breeze, blowing across the reservoir promised perfect flying weather. An area of flat ground in front of the pump house allowed me to lay my kites out and attach the flying lines. I was ready.

This was the age, not of the train, this was the age of the Peter Powell stunt kite. This was indeed one of the kites I had in kite bag but, and to some a big but, I preferred the other stunt kite in my bag, the Dunford Flying Machine. The parts were moulded, had the look and feel of precision engineering and, well I just preferred it. Sail spreader in place, lines attached, I walked away paying out line as I walked. The plastic handles bumped my fingers, I was ready.

A sharp pull on the line and she was airborne, shooting straight up to the top of the wind window and staying there. Then a flash of brown and the liquid, flowing song of the skylark. Then another, and another. How many now?

Five? Six? All in the proximity of the kite, all singing their hearts out. I didn't care about doing stunts, I didn't care about the sun burning my head, I didn't have a care. Higher and higher the skylarks rose, higher and higher my absolute feeling of ecstasy rose. This was a perfect day, it could not get better. I stayed, savouring every moment, every sound, every smell, every sight.

The sun began it's downward journey, gradually dimming the light, gently chiding me on my way.

It was over, I knew there would never be another day like his. Reluctantly I untied the kite lines, wound them onto the handles and with kite now collapsed, stuffed both back into the bag. Walking back down the track I paused, watching the sunlight kiss the top of the trees on the other side of the valley. I still had that inner peace that a perfect day brings. I reached the back door to the kitchen. "Where the hell have you been? You're late!".

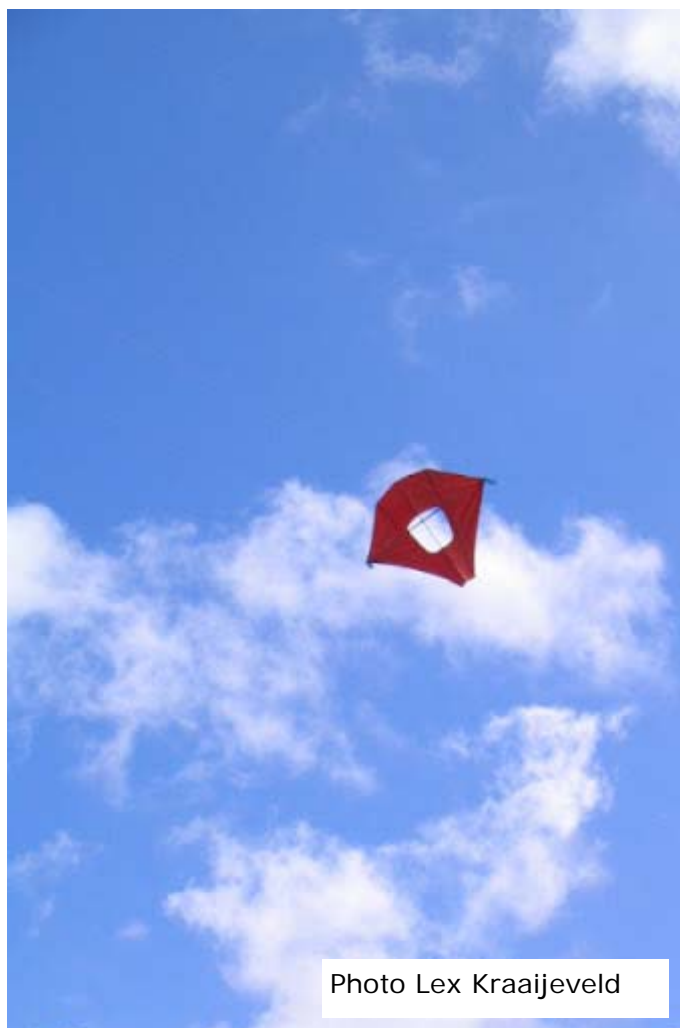


Photo Lex Kraaijeveld

Kuwait Kite Festival—Gill Bloom

Kuwait—land of the fast and furious and 13.7 pence a litre petrol—and kites

I suspect that most people's idea of Kuwait are coloured by the media reporting on the Gulf War—so it was with some preconceived ideas that we boarded the plane for our trip to Kuwait. Of course only just getting checked in on time as the M25 was its normal delightful self.

There were a select few who were attending this event including Karen Gamble, who was on the same flight as us, Malcolm and Jeanette (with Charlie Goodman) from the UK. From New Zealand Craig Hansen and Simon Chisnall—who are now the head honchos behind Peter Lynn Kites. From Germany we had Team Think Big (Christian and Alex) who had managed to journey with a large luggage allowance as their big soft inflatable Bob the Builder was around in two rather large bags. Also attending were Rolf Zimmerman and Ulrika Zara (Germany), Simo Salanne (the lone Father Christmas) from Finland, Balinese Prince and Princess (Ida Bagus and Eli) and Irene Teo and John Tan from Singapore.

Being met before customs and immigration was a nice touch as we were whisked through all the visa and custom procedures like VIPs—something that was appreciated. However, I think that maybe the hotel should have realised that kitefliers tend to have large, long bags and,

as nice as a town car is, it is not really built for long bags. Quickly enough another car was organised and the problem solved. Arriving late evening we had the spectacular view of the Kuwait City night skyline—and spectacular it is. You may think that London has some impressive and unusual buildings with the Shard and Gherkin but that is nothing. In a land where money seems to flow in abundance the architects are allowed to indulge in their wildest fantasy. The buildings are amazing and quite sensual with graceful curves—and at night illuminated with moving LED lights up, down and sideways in a myriad of colours..

We were taken to the hotel and met most of the other kitefliers including Andrew and Kathleen Beattie who are the real power houses behind the event. They had already been in Kuwait a week to help set up the site in the desert which meant laying out the 250 metre square flying site, burying lots of anchors, putting up lights, a “few” tents and toilets. We were informed we had about ten minutes to change into our uniform before dinner in a Lebanese restaurant. This was located in a building which had been moved from its home in Lebanon and relocated on a corner of a street in Kuwait. The food was excellent and we all seemed to cope without the alcohol normally around on these occasions.

The next day it was out early on the bus, together with an enormous amount of large bags—Peter Lynn has a lot to answer for. The flying site is about an 1 hour drive from Kuwait City and passes through a number of areas which are being redeveloped. There are huge areas which have all the infrastructure in place, street lights and roads etc, but are completely empty. This may be in preparation for the future generations. This may be helped by the fact that all Kuwaiti citizens are given a free house when they marry or if they do not like the house (too alike was one comment I heard) then there is a lump sum and a parcel of land instead!

Once past the residential areas you are into desert and oil fields which literally go on for miles and as far as the eye can see. It puts the world's reliance on oil into perspective. There is 10% of the world's oil reserves in an very small area which may account for Kuwait's precarious position. At night it looks even more spectacular as the giant flares burn off the gas. Energy conservation is not a consideration petrol costs



Kuwait Kite Festival—Gill Bloom

13.7p—yes 13.7p a litre. It may explain why the luxury car show rooms (such as Mercedes, Ferrari, Aston Martin, etc) are as big as the Ford showrooms found in the UK. Pretty well all Kuwaitis seem to buy designer cars, it was not unusual to see Ferraris, Porches, Lotus etc all at the same traffic lights. It may be helped by the fact that Kuwaitis also pay no income tax!

The kite site is a few hundred yards off one of the main roads and is clearly visible for quite some distance. There is nothing but sand and a few shrubby weeds to get in the way although there is a good view of the pylons that carry the electricity generated in Kuwait into Saudi Arabia but they are far enough away not to be a problem. The event is a "Private" affair and is really an opportunity to fly the marvellous collection of the Al-Farsi team kites. They may have the world's largest kite but they also have a very large collection of Peter Lynn kites as well as other kite designers creations. It is quite an impressive display when they are all up and to be honest is as good as some UK kite festivals in terms of numbers of big kites flying. Where this event excels all others is the hospitality, at times it is almost overwhelming.

The first day of the event Abdulrahman Al-Farsi paid host to the participants of the Concours de Elegance which is an exhibition of classic cars. They were bussed out to see the kites and entertained with camel rides as well as being taken for fun runs across the sands in a NOX fuelled Hummer, there were quite a few queuing up for that. Each day there was an impressive hot buffet lunch laid out for us all with freshly made smoothies, kebabs and an exciting range of dishes including the sheep's head on rice. All excellent. Plus if we ever felt peckish in-between meals there was a kitefliers hospitality tent, an authentic Bedouin tent complete with carpets, supplied with hot and cold drinks and



snacks at any time. The winds during the event ranged from nothing to a gale, so no change there then, and also managed over the three days to blow from all four corners (sometimes in the same day) but kites were flown whatever the wind and with so much space there was always a good show put on.



The evenings meals were eaten at one of the Kuwait City restaurants. One night it was an open air restaurant in the Old Souk, quite an interesting experience eating in the middle of the street as they had laid out a long table to accommodate all the kitefliers, but the food was quite superb with excellent salads, local fish and meat dishes. One night there was a barbeque arrange for all the kite fliers onsite. Of course this being Kuwait it was a fully catered event with cooks and everything—not quite a Portsmouth Barbeque!!

That evening finished with Craig Hansen flying an internally lit Alien PL Kite by towing it around the desert with a four wheeled truck. It looked quite eerie but nobody stopped on the highway to investigate so they are probably used to the festival strange going ons. The evening entertainment finished with some of the kitefliers enjoying the bouncy castles or listening to the impromptu music session from the Al Farsi Team—local songs and instruments—a nice touch.

On the last day of the event the wind really started to pick up and there was a forecast of a dust storm and by the time the sun set the air was starting to become dusty—but all the kites survived and were packed away.

What a great event. The friendliness and the hospitality of the Kuwaitis cannot be faulted. Andrew and Kathleen did an excellent job of organising the overseas guests.

Kuwait Kite Festival—Gill Bloom



Clockwise from Top Left. Rolf Zimmermann Owl looking through the Lobsters; Andrew and Kathleen Beattie collection of PL Tiger Kites; Gill Bloom Banner sets; Bob the Builder from Team Think Big; Kites at Sunset. All photos Gill Bloom



Kite Maker Finds Pot of Gold at End of String

Atlantic City, N. J., Jan. 8 (AP)—Frank Seyfang began flying kites in a cornfield at Findlay, Ohio, when he was seven years old. Today, he is 47, and still flies kites—for a living.

He was 14 when he started on his career as a professional kite-flyer, at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. Since then, he calculates, he has made and flown more than 10,000 kites of every description from tiny paper ones a foot long to big 14-footers that would lift a man into the sky.

There's a good living in kite-flying, and Seyfang has the profession to himself. For 40 years he has flown kites all over the United States and in the Orient, where kite-flying is a daily sport of grown-ups.

The revenue comes from advertising. Seyfang sends kites 4,000 feet into the air, and dangles from the "string" advertising banners. His first job in St. Louis was to advertise corsets.

Constantly experimenting, Seyfang has invented several types of kites, some of which are now commonly flown by boys. There's as much science in making a good kite as in designing an efficient airplane wing, he says, and "no two kites behave alike, regardless of how much they look alike."

He keeps secret the design of his favorite kite, which he says will stay aloft in a four-mile breeze or ride out a 90-mile gale.

Seyfang has settled down to routine kite-flying now. He spends his summers flying kites in Atlantic City to advertise an amusement pier and his winters in Miami Beach touting



GOING . . .

The right kind of kite needs no tail, says Frank Seyfang, shown getting his favorite model ready for a takeoff. Maker of more than 10,000 kites, he finds a "well-made kite will balance itself." The tent-like contraption in front enables this kite to stay aloft in a four-mile breeze or ride out a 90-mile gale.



GOING . . .

Seyfang never tows his kites across a tomato patch. A good kite, he finds, will leap out of his hand and rise gracefully into the sky.



GONE

With the kite almost out of sight now (note arrow), he wraps the "string" (hand-made from Italian hemp) around his legs and digs his toes into the roof.

SuperFly – by Chris Goff

After some unexpected teething problems – a delay in receiving some of the key materials followed with a major breakdown of machines – the Chris Goff manufacturing department (that'll be Chris then?) is now fully in to “Keep the customer satisfied” mode.

By the time this article reaches you the forums and You Tube will be full of comments and videos from the pros, the experts and the geeks, probably, I suspect, in positive mood.

Not so good

One disadvantage all of the reviewers will have is that there are only a handful of people in the world who will be anywhere near Chris's flying skills – and they aren't likely to be one of them!

**Set up and Design**

Chris tells me that once he had got the prototype near where he would like it to be. He spent months tweaking the settings a millimetre one way or the other to get the balance perfect. Chris craved a blend of maximum agility and precision whilst maintaining a very wide wind range and would not go in to production until he had achieved that!

Chris is a young man but he has over 12 years of top level experience. His skills have paralleled the constant improvement of kite design and material technology and, along the way, this has given him the understanding of what to include and what to redesign in completing the kite he is so proud of.

Having spoken to some of the very good flyers I know that have had access to fly this kite it seems that it has all of the abilities Chris promises.

What about the rest of us?**Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary**

But how does it handle when somebody like me gets hold of it? Others, either side or close to my limited skill level, will be asking things like how strong is it, will I be able to fly it in really low wind and a strong blow as well without it ripping around at 90mph, how forgiving is it, will it keep getting snagged and will it be easier for me to learn new tricks on? Those are questions I will be answering soon - although I am quietly confident this is going to be a kite I will like!

More info

If you can't wait for the next edition of this magazine and are interested in my opinion (for what it's worth) then contact me through the Close Encounters Kites web-site but if you see Chris at an event, please don't be afraid to go and ask him to try one – you'll probably get a few good tips too – Chris is a good teacher!

For the while you can visit young Mr Goff's web-site at www.chrisgoffkites.com, see what Chris has to say and watch a video of the SuperFly and the master himself in action.

The photo shows a SuperFly in the workshop and, hung up in the background, several more skins waiting to be framed up and posted out to eager customers.

Advice from any quarter

When I started into this hobby I had very little in the way of on to one coaching on flying sport kites but was always grateful to learn from those who could help. From firsthand experience I understand the nervousness of being shown how to do something by someone and then having to repeat it myself in front of them – I always wanted to go off and try it without an audience – even an audience of one! It's a bit different with flying single lines though. True it can take a certain amount of skill to get some kites in the air especially in a tricky wind, but often the real skill, or is it experience, is setting the kite up properly.

Help

We were booked at a school recently and appreciated the offer of help from Mike Stevens of “Catch the Breeze”.

We planned to use all of our own kites because, if Mike couldn't make it, we could still put on the same show – it just meant that Marilyn and I would have more running about to do during the performances and somewhat longer set up/

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

breakdown times.

We looked forward to Mike attending to our single lines – we have quite a lot never seen at festivals – and also for him to enjoy the day with us.



Fussy Blighter!

There's much to know in the way we set up our equipment and there is quite a lot of it too because we like to run smoothly through our sessions and avoid long pauses of inactivity through not having the right kites

or lines ready as we move from one demo to the next or when the wind strength suddenly changes.

After that it all has to be broken down and packed in a certain way ready for next time. Flat tails are fed in to a collapsible bin after use, kite end in first and then the other end tied to the bin so that we can find it we get the tails back in the tent, out of the wind, for re-winding. I am a bit of a stickler for "A place for everything and everything in its place" – even when the kites come out of the bag, the empty bags should be stored in the same bin so that we are not falling over everything at the end trying to find them at the end of the day – especially if it's raining!

And if it does rain we even have it worked out that all the packing is done in the dry of the tent before I reverse the car in to the opening to load it all in. The tent is then quickly disassembled and the last thing to go in. We'll worry about drying everything off later!

Teamwork

So we met up one cold but sunny morning to run through things. I gave out our Morgan Mega Delta with extended keel in team colours of black and yellow to use as a lifter (see recent article in this magazine and the video on our site) whilst I sorted some line laundry. I turned back and it was already 150 feet up and waiting to be anchored – How did he do that?

Ages ago we bought a couple of inflatable dogs from Kiteworld. We nearly always take them on holiday with us and people have watched us to the point of boredom whilst we kept launching and relaunching trying to get the tie off points the right distance apart so that they would sit nicely.

We had seen a brown one like ours several times at festivals but our dog never floated anything like as well as that one! Always meant to go and see why – never seemed to make it! What we silly multi liners hadn't realised was that, as the angle of the line altered when the lifter kite rose and fell then so did the angle of attack of the wind on our dogs.

Simple solution? Don't tie off the top line to the dog – just hang the carabiner over the line and let it move freely up and down and the dog finds its own level! Where have you been all this time Mike?

As the bookings roll in and we take on more work where we are the only kite flyers at a particular event, we plan to have more single line kites and some more, fun, line laundry to display.

This will involve a bit more work perhaps and, hopefully, more fun and enjoyment for everyone so we would like to hear from you guys out there with the experience about how to do and what to do – advice about anchoring – kites that are quick to assemble and get launched – easy knots, safety first and more!



I suppose my ulterior motive to this article is to show how easy it is to get a few words together that other kite flyers might find interesting – well

you've read this far haven't you? You don't have to know a lot about kites – I first proved this years ago! – But there are simple little tips and tricks that you take for granted that others would like to share, so come on – fingers to keyboards or pens to paper and let's have some ideas and anecdotes shared - someone else have a turn!

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

How we started – Part Four.

I left off last time at the beginning of Marilyn finally agreeing to fly pairs with me. The intention was to have a go at some of the winter leagues and see how we liked it before, maybe entering the STACK competitions.

An example of how kiting can help you in other ways, Marilyn was extremely shy of doing anything where lots of people were likely to be looking. It never bothered me after years of playing in pop groups semi professionally but I struggled even to get her to help me with an altitude sprint!

Now she has the confidence to stand on her own, sometimes in front of hundreds of people, flying two or four line routines without a second thought – proud of her or what?

Going back a bit, I'd bought myself a lovely blue coloured Benson Phantom and then fell in love with a fantastic looking one in orange and grey/black these were full size kites which flew slowly and also didn't need much wind to get them going – quite advanced for their day and still a nice kite now!

We took the two down to our local field (now a housing estate!) and slowly plucked up the courage to have them both flying together. We agreed a plan of both flying across the window from opposite sides so that we would cross in the middle. We knew nothing about how to set this up and flying follow infinities were way beyond our comprehension at that time. All we had fixed in our minds was that I was the bottom kite and would go DOWNWARDS if we looked like hitting each other and Marilyn was the top kite going UPWARDS if needed.

We crossed, brilliant! - and – OMG – we have to get back now – quick! – remember which kite you are!

"Which way do I go if we're too close?" too late to think now we had already crossed back again and absolutely buzzing as the adrenalin smacked in. OK, settle down – we'll do it again. This time was just as wobbly but had the same effect on us both! We didn't get down to the field for a while after that for some reason and we had an early holiday coming up. By then I'd had a couple of sessions with some more experienced flyers on club nights so we took the

kites with us and got some great experience in the strong but steady winds of Lanzarote, now able to fly infinities together. Later that year we were lucky enough to find ourselves in Las Vegas again and went back in to see Scott Dyer at BFK. He had in some really nice North Shore Radicals which, I believe were the first to be made using Icarex and the last to come out of the original "Top of the Line".

I couldn't wait to see these lovely things assembled, so I did so in the hotel room and easily managed to put a spar right through the sail – not even flown! That's one of the reasons I have a video in the "Tips" section of our website to help others, like me, who don't do fiddly!

One of the videos shows me assembling a kite (a Benson Deep Space) and the other disassembling.

My son Grant, of "Special Media Projects", knows little about kiting but a lot about film and television production put both videos together in one take and remembered enough from what I had said during filming to add the commentary – No – it's not my golden tones!

I don't know why but I'd been talking back to England on the phone to Roy from "Kites Up" and had told him that these kites had only cost me \$70 each. Roy said he would like one which was OK because I had bought two hoping to recover some of the cost of the one I was keeping.

By then Marilyn had decided that she would like the other one. No problem – back to BFK - none left but "I'll get you one before you leave!" That didn't happen and, either Roy was very understanding, or he's a very good actor!

There is nothing like taking part in a precision competition that focuses your flying and improves your skills and there is nothing that makes you want to improve your skills and actually do just that than taking part in your very first competition.

We spent hours and hours in all kinds of weather, often packing up in the dark just getting the first five figures together for that first winter league – three figures would be chosen by the judge from the five – and you would get about an hour to hone them and decide on which kite to fly and what weight lines to use.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

We could just about fly the figures, not well, but at least make some sort of semblance in the sky of the shapes that were required. Marilyn wasn't happy, the kites weren't good enough and we needed more practice – all this had come round too soon. I suppose, like me when I first started, even though I really wanted to do it I was looking for excuses not to – nerves!

There was another novice pair like us, a couple in the experienced class and a Masters pair.

You all had to fly the same figures and are all judged by the same criteria – then it happened – someone suggested that we fly all the figures joined up, shouting "In" at the beginning of each figure and "Out" at the end.

No way! - Marilyn was on her way back to the car!

After some remonstrating with the judges and the organisers I managed to get things back on track, it hadn't helped in the short term but it was part of a learning curve!

I don't remember the result, I think we came a surprising third, but it went well enough to encourage Marilyn to have a go at another – as long as it wasn't too soon!

After that we found ourselves often setting up early on a Sunday morning in places as far apart as Bath and Blackheath. They were good social events as well as fun to do.

An avid kite flyer recently said to me that they weren't keen on travelling too many miles in a day to visit festivals but for us, we like to attend loads of kite events and we are still as

keyed up now as we were then, even if was a half day like winter leagues. Even today, we still get a great kick from flying be it a school demo, coaching, a club fun day, a corporate event, a fete, country show or festival. It's the excitement that gets us there and the buzz from the day that takes us home.

More soon

Festivals – Demising and Rising!

No doubt you have observed the editors and other contributors noting the demise of some of our kite festivals.

It is generally thought that this is due mainly to the lack of finance available. Whilst it is true that it will always cost something to put on any kind of event – even if it is a school fete – finance is paled into insignificance when it comes to bureaucracy!

From the experience I have with assisting to run kite festivals I only know some of the nightmares the organisers face.

A good example I like to give is that the fire regulations for a recent Swindon kite festival was a mere 127 pages long.

H & S

Yes, of course we have to have health and safety and those who have flown STACK competitions are aware as much as anyone how we observe rules to avoid breaking our kites on members of the public's heads, but the last minute changes like secondary risk assessments, increase/decrease to number of toilets, first aid training for the security guards (security guards?? – we forgot about them), labels to go on the car park helpers' jackets, sick bay for pets, forms to say you have filled in all the forms and any other silliness goes on top of the real organising that has already been done. After everyone has been given their tasks for the day, little wonder there are any club members left to show off their kites in public – which was probably the reason why they started the festival in the first place!

"B" = Loss?

Some festivals are not planned this year, Hengistbury (Bournemouth) and Swindon are just two that blame some of the reasons above. Swindon (The White Horse Kite Flyers) are reverting to a "Jolly Up" (see Kites Up) type of



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

event – more like a club fly-in with just kites flyers invited to attend and not advertised as a public event – even though the public can still turn up and fly if they want. Temptations are always there to add some attractions like traders and PA systems but then you have started down the slippery slope towards a festival and the “B” word (bureaucracy) again! – I don’t think that Swindon is likely to get any more adventurous on that score other than the provision of toilets but keep your eye on the WHKF website. Bristol and Blackheath are two more that sadly won’t be here in 2012.

Encouraging news

The Kent Kite Flyers have invited Marilyn and me (Close Encounters) to take part in a new event at Maidstone this year following a really nice event they held in Dover a couple of years back.

It’s a one day festival on Sunday 24th June and could easily grow from there but already the “B” word has intervened and made the possibility of camping unlikely which is a big downer as far as many are concerned.

Fortunately Maidstone is very accessible and it promises to be a great day with a great club behind it! There are quite a number of flyers interested in attending this event and it is sure to draw in large numbers of the general public providing they get the adverts in on time!

I am pleased to see also that Southampton has managed to get over last year’s blip and will be back again this year as a club run event well worth attending the weekend previous to Maidstone.

Brighton festival is still going in the face of adversity thank goodness but having to change dates again this year due to availability of the site.

I am aware the my ramblings are not including the events further north – nothing personal but Marilyn and I never seem to get up that way and contributions to this magazine about what happens up there are quite rare these days.

Perhaps somebody could send in an article?

Thankless?

This may seem a bit contentious but I don’t believe that organising kite festivals is a *com-*

pletely thankless task. People *are* aware that these occasions take a great deal of planning are very grateful of the pleasurable days out they have – it’s just that they are never aware of just *how much* time and hair loss is involved – until they try and do it themselves!

So let me take this opportunity to thank all you good people for the work you have done and will do in times ahead to keep our sport growing as it deserves and ask others to continue to support – all help is appreciated, even if that just means turning out to watch and enjoy, bringing some friends with you!

Kent Kite Festival, MOTE PARK, Maidstone
Sunday 24th June 2012

Sent to us by Malcolm Ford of the Kent Kite Flyers.

A new event in the calendar, which hopefully will be built upon to turn into a full fledged festival in years to come.

It is a one day event co-organised by Maidstone Borough Council and Kent Kite Flyers. And is a general fly-in commencing at 12 noon and ending around 4.30pm, although it is anticipated to have a set format, namely a mass mega delta fly to commence the programme along with a fly of individual single line kites of all types and sizes. The agenda is still being set at the moment. Close Encounters will be attending to give demonstrations and inform the public on how to fly 2 line kites.

It is the intention to encourage the public to partake in kite flying and there will be a separate arena for the public and children to fly kites.

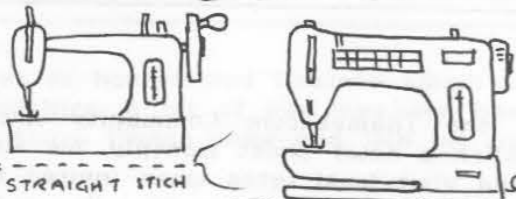
Kite Club members will be allowed to park their vehicles close to the flying area. All vehicles will have to be booked in advance and will require a pass please contact.

Syd Bennett e-mail:
syd.bennett@kentkiteflyers.org.uk

Malcolm Ford
Kent Kite Flyers
e-mail Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.org.uk
tel 07840086770

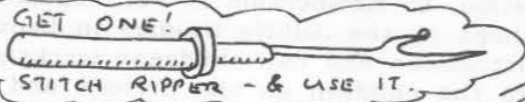
SEWING RIPSTOP

CHOICE OF MACHINE: — STRAIGHT OK. — ZIG ZAG BEST.
 READ OR REREAD THE INSTRUCTIONS!
 AND PRACTICE - PRACTICE - PRACTICE.



NEEDLES & PINS ON RIPSTOP USE PINS SPARINGLY - THE HOLES DON'T CLOSE ON REMOVAL. IF YOU MUST - PIN AT RIGHT ANGLES TO LINE OF SEWING AND STICH OVER PINS... SLOWLY

NEEDLES CHECK WHAT NEEDLES YOUR M/C USES
 MOST DOMESTIC M/C USE FLAT SIDED ONES.
 IGNORE ALL THE NO'S: LOOK FOR NO 18, 16 OR 14.
 NO 18 FOR HEAVY SEWING OR LOTS OF THICKNESS
 NO 14 GOOD ALLROUND NEEDLE
 ANY NEEDLE BELOW 14 TOO LIGHT TO BE SAFE.

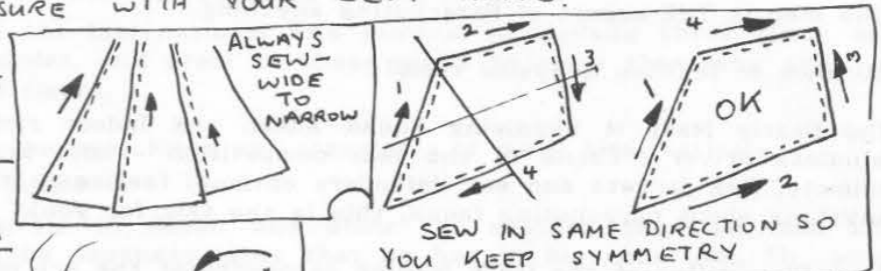


SETTING UP THE MACHINE — STITCH LENGTH IS IMPORTANT - IF YOUR M/C JUST HAS NO'S - USUALLY 0-4 THEN MAKE A TEST RUN AT VARIOUS SETTINGS AND DYMO TAPE THE RESULTS BY THE DIAL. FOR MOST, IF NOT ALL, 8 STITCHES PER INCH IS THE BEST. — CLOSER, AND THE RIPSTOP WILL TEAR

RIPSTOP IS SLIPPERY - BUT YOU CAN SOON DEVELOP YOUR OWN TECHNIQUE. PRACTICE ON SCRAP. DON'T RELY ON THE M/C TO DO THE WORK - KEEP A GENTLE PRESSURE WITH YOUR LEFT HAND.

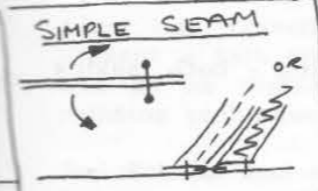


YAWN!
 TIME SPENT GETTING SEWING RIGHT - UNPICK IF NOT - HEARS YOUR KITE WILL FLY WELL FIRST TIME



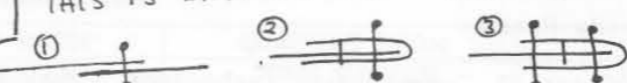
PROBLEMS - CHANGE YOUR NEEDLES OFTEN. & ALWAYS KEEP A STOCK - YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE

THREAD YOU'RE GOING TO PUT A LOT OF TIME & EFFORT INTO YOUR KITE SO DON'T USE CHEAP THREAD. FOR RIPSTOP USE ONLY ~ POLYESTER ~
 COTTON CAN SHRINK & PUCKER CHECK WITH A FLAME IF YOU'RE NOT SURE



HEMS: — SEW SHORT LENGTHS AT A TIME - CHECK CONSTANTLY SLOW BUT WORTH IT OR BUY A HEMMER

EDGE BINDING - CUT YOUR OWN (HOT CUT) FROM RIPSTOP OR BUY NYLON/POLYESTER NOT COTTON TEST WITH FLAME IF NOT SURE. THIS IS DIFFICULT TO DO TRY THIS:



TIP: IF HEMS ARE A PROBLEM - YOU CAN PIN OR GLUE (BUT) UNH THEM. IF YOU USE DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE TAKE CARE DON'T SEW THROU' IT YOU'LL GUM UP THE NEEDLE - UGH

SPAR POCKETS 2-4 OR 8 LAYERS OF RIPSTOP CAN BE VERY STRONG

LONG POCKETS TO KEEP THEM EVEN TAKE THE TROUBLE TO MARK THE FOLD LINE

CORNERS ETC RE-INFORCE WITH SAILCLOTH OR HOT CUT RIPSTOP

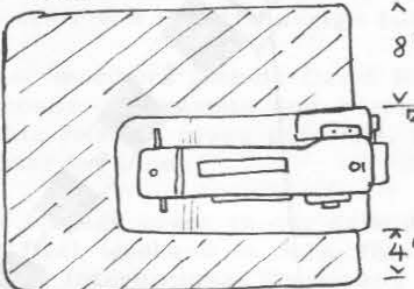
WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE OFF CUTS — MAKE PATCHWORK!
 USE IT TO MAKE BAGS ETC - MAKE DIFFERENT SIZES.

YOUR HEMMING PROBLEMS TRY AN OVERLOCKING MACHINE! QUITE EXPENSIVE BUT FAST!

MOTTO: PLAN AHEAD ZIG ZAG ZIG

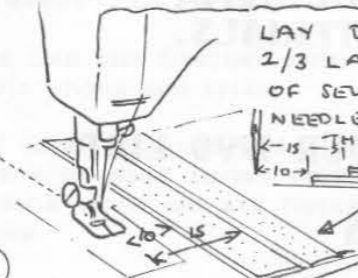
OTHER THINGS TO MAKE

BIG KITES CAN BE EASIER TO SEW IF YOU MAKE AN EXTENSION PLATFORM FOR YOUR MACHINE - DIMS APPROX



WANT A 100% IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR SEAM STRAIGHTNESS ?? FOR 3p OR LESS

LAY DOWN A STRIP OF MASKING TAPE 2/3 LAYERS THICK RIGHT ACROSS WIDTH OF SEWING TABLE 10 + 15 mm FROM NEEDLE - THEN ITS EASY TO GUIDE THE RIPSTOP ALONG THE EDGE 100% IMPROVEMENT IN SEAM WIDTH CONSISTENCY!



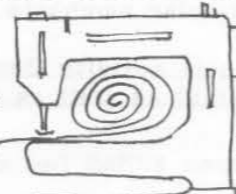
WHAT FOOT TO USE?

YOU CAN GET FANCY 'WALKING FOOT' ATTACHMENTS - NOT REALLY WORTH THE COST I SUGGEST THE NORMAL FOOT WORKS BEST WITH PRACTICE.



FOR SOME MAKES OF M/C YOU CAN GET A ROLLER FOOT - I FOUND NO REAL ADVANTAGE OVER THE NORMAL FOOT.

DON'T TRY AND JAM LOTS OF MATERIAL UNDER THE ARM.



ROLL IT UP & IT WILL PASS THROUGH SMOOTHLY - FOR LONG PIECES USE BROOM STICK AS CENTRE CORE.

HUGH ANDREW - 1990 -

CAN SEW LOOPS FROM BARBED LINE IT FLATTENS NICELY - WITH CARE AND A SMALL ZIG-ZAG YOU

Pictures of the Floating World from the Skinner Collection

From The Drachen Foundation Web Site www.drachen.org

Scott Skinner has one of the most unique collections of Japanese prints in the world because of his focus on collecting prints with kite images. This collection, however, does not have a corner on uniqueness, as we know of a Seattle collector of Japanese prints who collects only prints with images of cameras. The point is, when collecting, one should have a focus, trying not to stray too far from the subject matter, so that you build a strong base for the collection. Within his own collection, Scott has discovered another "style" of Japanese printing, a format which is interactive. And we ask, how does one interact with a Japanese kite print? Follow along and find out.

I've been working hard to organize all of the kite prints in my collection, especially the Japanese ukiyo-e that were not included in John Stevenson's Japanese Kite Prints. I've found images that I had forgotten about, have been able to organize prints by subject, and am now able to ensure that the prints are safe and archivally stable. For those unfamiliar with ukiyo-e prints, they are a style of Japanese wood block printing, produced between the 17th and 20th centuries which were mass produced and therefore more affordable. Literally translated, ukiyo-e means "floating world" and the prints generally depicted landscapes, stories from history, or images of city life often featuring popular actors engaged in activities of leisure.



In addition to the straightforward 'images of the floating world' that might include city-scapes, views of Fuji, war-rig heroes and kabuki actors, there are other types of ukiyo-e that I've run across in my collecting journey. One type is the sugoroku, which is printed in a game-board format. Played like Chutes and Ladders, it was a common New Year's gift that would have been played year-round by Japanese families. The sugoroku journeys might have been to scenic spots around Edo, locales along the Tokaido Road, or, in one case, a tour of Edo kite shapes and themes. (The picture below shows the print and book *Soaring Kite Sugoroku*).

In my recent organizing I have found two prints (three panels each) that were very interesting and that illustrate a type of ukiyo-e that I was previously unfamiliar with. One is a straightforward view of a kabuki play, but the other is a little like the sugoroku; it's a view of the same moment in time, but meant to be cut apart and made into a diorama.

Both prints depict a famous scene from a play, "Kin Shachi Uwasano Takanami Yakko-dako chunori no ba", which tells the famous story of Kakinoke Kinsuke, who flew over the walls of Nagoya castle to steal the scales from the

golden dolphins on top of the roof. The first is a very straightforward triptych (three panel print), accurately showing a moment in the play in which Kinsuke flies as a yakko kite. Included in the depiction are four actors, musicians, stage, and background. For adults in Japan, the detailed image would immediately convey the Kinsuke story. The famous Kabuki actor, Onoe Kikugoro plays Kinsuke. Any time I see an actor portraying a yakko kite, I'm reminded of the Soga Brothers' play, that John Stevenson so accurately described in Japanese Kite Prints (prints



Pictures of the Floating World from the Skinner Collection

58 and 59): Yakko Takohei, Mr Yakko kite was not an original character in the play, but one who became popular in New Year's performances.

The second print is, in my opinion, even more interesting. It is an example of a tatebanko, a paper diorama that is a type of omocha-e, a woodblock print designed to be cut apart and played with. As you can see, the tatebanko depicts the same play, but this time, with the full and realistic backdrop to the event; the Nagoya castle and its environment, the primary players, including Kinsuke, theater musicians, the castle moat, and blooming cherry trees. All the pieces can be cut out and put together as shown in the middle of the print.



As you can imagine, the tatebanko was primarily a child's plaything and parents could use it to tell the story depicted and talk to their children about the attributes and values of the characters. A tatebanko might be the first gift of a New Year to bring good luck to the family's children. Nobuhiko Yoshizumi, Kyoto's knowledgeable and skilled kite maker has given me many of the details related here and he also sent other examples of tatebanko. As you can see, the tatebanko not only depict many of the famous moments in kabuki theater, they also accurately show everyday details from Japanese life at the end of the Edo period and into the Meiji period. In the elaborate scenes, you find details of homes, their gardens, elaborate clothing of the upper classes, as well as weapons, musical instruments, and animals.

In writing this article for KiteLife I had Ali Fujino, Executive Director of the Drachen Foundation, upload the Kabuki and Tatebanko prints into the Foundation Collection Database. You can do the same with interesting items in your collections; establish a user name and password, go to the Collections page and find the tab, 'add an item', then follow the upload directions to create a space for your item.



Bits & Pieces

Drifffield Kite Festival 2012 Postponed.

Due to illness of some of the main management team who organise this event a decision has been taken to not go ahead in 2012 and restart in 2013.

Western Lake District Kite Fest

Millom & Haverigg 12th & 13th May

Some more information about this event has come through. The 2012 line-up includes Andrew and Kathleen Beattie, Wigsley Wings, Skyartists, Dazz Smith & Karen George, Team Fusion, George Webster, Jock & Peter Walker, Graham Lockwood, Josh Mitcheson and The Otterspool Parachuting Teddy Bear Company. Go Kites are trading.

Both the Northern Kite Group and the North East Kite Fleirs are in attendance with their range of kites including the European Air Gallery.

For more information contact the Kite Fest contact, Mark Holroyd, Tourism Development Officer for South Copeland.
mark@southcopelandtourism.org.uk or telephone: 01229 719680

Liliane Foundation

The Liliane Foundation aims to give children and youngsters with disabilities in developing countries access to medical and social rehabilitation. The assistance is provided in collaboration with local contact persons. These mediators provide direct, small-scale and tailor-made help, supporting the children's personal growth and furthering their integration into society.

The International Kite Project has run over the past few years, where Dutch art painters have visited children who receive support from the Liliane Foundation in six countries. During their visit, the artists painted kites together with local children with disabilities. Each time, the collective results from the workshops were amazing. Currently, a dedicated foundation is promoting the kite project in The Netherlands. The pieces will be shown at exhibitions, events, fairs and museums throughout the country. The goal is to raise money and create awareness for children with disabilities in developing countries.

Art from around the world—Twelve artists visited projects and children in Bolivia, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. Each

artist held a painting workshop for eleven children with disabilities. Each child created his or her own individual kite. Inspired by the art made by the children, each professional artist painted one large kite. So, together, the 12 artists and 132 children created 12 large and 132 small kites.



Awareness and inspiration—The children and mediators who participated in this international project have played an essential role in creating awareness about the situation of children with disabilities in developing countries. The beautiful kites and personal stories of the young artists will both impress and inspire the Dutch audience. At the end of the exhibition period, the 144 kites will be auctioned to raise money for the Liliane Foundation.

From The Express Tribune

GUJRANWALA: An eight-year-old child fell off the roof of his three-storey house and died on Sunday trying to catch a stray kite passing over the house in Deganwala area in Gujranwala's Walled City.

The child, identified as Muhammad Musa, was accompanied by his two elder brothers on the rooftop where they were flying kites, according to the family. His father, Muhammad Ramazan, a daily-wage labourer, said his children occasionally flew kites from the roof of their house on Sundays. He said he let them engage in the activity to prevent them from leaving home. "I thought this way my children would stay safe and away from bad company," he said.

He quoted Musa's elder brothers as saying that he fell off the roof while trying to jump over to a house across a three-foot wide street. The father said Musa had probably seen his brothers do so to catch stray kites.

Kotwali station house officer Mudassar Butt told The Tribune. He denied that anyone in his area had been flying kites and speculated that the stray kite must have come over from Model

Bits & Pieces

Town, which falls in a different police station's jurisdiction. He said there had been no violation of the ban on kite flying and selling in his area.

A 13-year-old boy, Arsalan, was arrested on violating the kite flying ban by Model Town police about three weeks ago. The child was jailed for a night and released the next morning on the directive of a sessions judge.

From BostInno

A New Augmented-Reality Rope From MIT Allows You To Fly Kites With Your Friends in China February 28th, 2012 by Lauren Landry Posted in MIT, MIT Media Lab, Rope Revolution



Flying a kite or jumping rope with neighbourhood friends is fun, but what about being able to do it with those living in Canada, France or China? While it sounds improbable, graduate students from the MIT Media Lab have created an augmented-reality rope that takes the typical in-person amusement and turns it global, with their game Rope Revolution.

The rope controller recognizes a range of gestures, using a sensor in the wall attachment and an accelerometer built into the rope handle. Take kite flying, for example.

A virtual kite pops up on the screen, serving as an extension of the actual rope being controlled by the player. The player then releases the rope to lift the kite higher, or allows it to fall downward if pulled. On the other end, players can feel the same force and tug on their rope accordingly, making the virtual experience feel more like reality.

A video of this is at <http://vimeo.com/26217095>

Seen on Ebay

Calendar page for March 1957 by Bill Randall.



With a beauty at the shore, buttoning her shorts. Caption reads, "Taffy's kite flew her one day! It caused a stir, and how! Flying saucers are a thrill, but flying Taffy - WOW!"

This is for sale (Buy it Now) at \$34.99 plus \$7 postage.



Japanese Satsuma Plate.

The seller believed that this was a Japanese Satsuma plate. It is hand painted

with a lovely scene of a boy flying a kite with his father and sister .

Sold for £137.00

WW2 Gibson Girl Rescue Transmitter

US Army Signal Corps B17 B24J rescue transmitter. Complete in every respect. Balloon, Kite, Lamps, Antenna Reel and Spare. Also have the Hydrogen generators, tubes and manual. Particularly interesting is the canvas case for the transmitter. It also has the orange silk parachute. Dated 1943/44.

Sold for £460.00

Japan Will Soon Fly A Kite...In Space

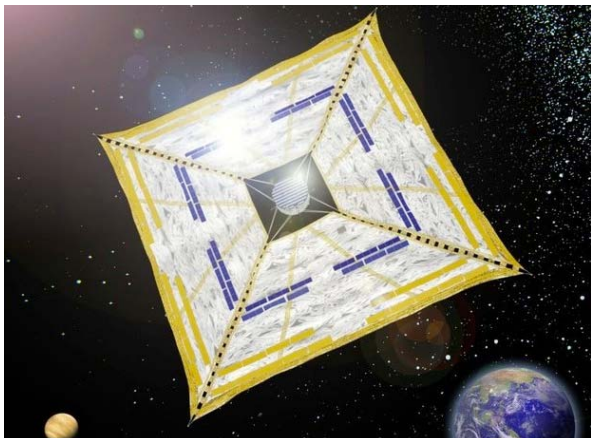
From Gizmodo

Japan is launching its first Venus probe and along with it they're sending Ikaros, a "space yacht" also known as the Interplanetary Kitecraft Accelerated by Radiation of the Sun. Yes, Japan is sending a gigantic kite into space:

Ikaros will initially be a short cylindrical shape when it is released into space, when it will extend its sail, which measures 14 metres (46 feet) on each side and 20 metres diagonally.

Bits & Pieces

The sail itself consists of an experimental material thinner than a human hair and equipped with solar cells which will be "reflecting solar radiation back toward the sun. This action causes a microscopic but measurable force on the sail itself, which is thus propelled through space."



Ikaros' technology could one day aid us in travelling through space with sunlight as our only fuel. In the meantime, it's gotta be one of the prettiest, biggest kites I've seen—if only it lives up to the rendered image that is.

Timmons Kite Queens, 1906

Before the advent of the airplane, and thus the model airplane, in the 19th and early 20th centuries kite flying was popular on Long Island. This is typified by the large homebuilt kite made by young Nicholas Timmons of South Ozone Park, Queens in 1906. The tandem biplane kite may have been modelled after a Langley design and it attracted considerable attention when it was flown at the time as this was before aircraft were seen. The propellers were unpowered and merely turned in the breeze for effect. This is the oldest flying machine in the museum's collection. (Cradle of Aviation Museum Long Island).



Free Books about kites in the Universal Library

Roberto Vanecek

These are some books i have found in the Library, all available in PDF format, free for download and possibly copyright free (check inside the book for copyright status)

Parakites [1896] - by Gilbert Totten Woglom
openlibrary.org/works/OL236463W/Parakites

Kites: how to make and how to fly them. [1897] - By George J. Varney
openlibrary.org/works/OL7856362W/Kites_how_to_make_and_how_to_fly_them

Kitecraft and Kite Tournaments [1915] By Charles M. Miller
openlibrary.org/works/OL13116273W/Kitecraft_and_Kite_Tournaments

A monograph on the mechanics and equilibrium of kites [1897] By Charles F. Marvin
openlibrary.org/works/OL1471270W/A_monograph_on_the_mechanics_and_equilibrium_of_kites

The construction and flying of kites [1909] By Charles M. Miller
openlibrary.org/works/OL201058W/...The_construction_and_flying_of_kites

From The Times of India

Surat's own woven kites have almost become extinct

Although kites from all around the world can be seen in Surat's skies at this time of the year, the city's very own woven kites are on the verge of extinction. Just one man, Ayyaz Kazi, makes Gotela patangs, which have thread woven into them to give them strength and stability in strong winds.

Kazi's family has been making kites for 300 years in Surat. Now, he is the only one making Gotela patangs, and that too as a hobby. His family is among the seven Rander families that still make kites.

These woven kites are made of Belapur paper which is very strong. The paper is first mopped with an oil cloth and then cut into shape. After that, lines are drawn on it with glass marbles, a thin thread is placed in the depression and woven into it. Once the paper is ready, the kite

is bound with the help of two sticks.

"All of us used to make these woven kites but no one makes them these days due to the poor quality of paper," said Salim Patangwala, from one of these families. Moreover, he says, these kites take longer to make and are costlier. "If a regular kite costs Rs 20 for five, these woven kites sell at Rs 27 per five pieces," he said.

"A kite passes through seven people before it is a finished product," said Iqbal Patangwala of Rander who sells kites in wholesale. There is an expert for every step of kite-making. For instance, for cutting the paper into the right size, for gluing, for setting vertical and horizontal sticks, etc.

"Totally woven kites have threads woven on both sides of the stick to give them strength and stability. This is why kites from Rander and Surat are more stable and durable than those from Khambat or Nadiad. These kites are not torn in strong winds," he added.

Icing on the Kite

From Daily News and Analysis

Food and festivals go hand in hand. And like all others, this festive gala too comes with its own special foodie feast! However, apart from the traditional khichdi and til ladoos associated with the first festival of the new year, city restaurants and food joints have come up with some unconventional Makar Sankranti cakes, cupcakes and desserts, etc.

As the festival is synonymous with kite flying, kite cakes—cakes with images of a kid flying kite are very popular. "We have launched some special offerings this year on the eve of Makar Sankranti. People, here and abroad, can gift the special Makar Sankranti Cake, Special Til Ladoos and special Til Gajak to their loved ones," says, Viren Ghole, marketing head of Monginis Foods, adding that they'll be available over the counter or even on their website.

So, this year, you can fly kites and eat them too!

'Kite cops' on guard, Belgian steals Sabarmati show

From the Indian Express

When Belgian kite-flyer Bert Maetens flew Ro-

kaku, a Japanese fighter kite, he had captured the Sabarmati riverfront, not just by his impressive kite but on the camera installed in it. And guarding his kite were the hawk-eyed professional kite-flyers deployed by the police.

He was among the several international kite-flyers at the 22nd International Kite Festival that started at the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

The state government deployed at least seven kite-flyers around the Sabarmati riverfront, flying kites with glass-coated manjas to cut any kite that came in the way of the grand foreign flyers. There were constables too, posted on the east bank of Sabarmati river to watch out for people flying kites that could cut the expensive international kites.

A Bit Late but—Swimsuit Edition Wall Calendar

"The sexiest kite wall calendar ever, Our first ever swimsuit edition wall calendar will spice up any room. Featuring 12 months of high resolution professional models and awesome kites."



Available from Cafepress.co.uk there is bound to be one for 2013. This year's one is priced up at £18.50!

Council to step up kite warnings around Dundee Airport

From The Courier

The manager of Dundee Airport called for stronger warnings against the practice following an incident in which a land boarder's kite drifted dangerously close to the airport.

Police and airport staff had to rush to move the sportsman out of the sensitive flight paths.

Bits & Pieces

There is concern that the popularity of kite-flying might attract more people to open land in the area, including Magdalen Green, the Riverside football pitches and the new Riverside nature park to the west of the runway.

Referring to the landboarder incident, airport manager Derrick Laing said: "In the worst-case scenario the kite could have become detached from the person and become entangled in the aircraft engine."

He said: "We don't want kites flying in the area due to flights coming in and out. You are not allowed to fly kites above 60m. It's illegal. Even a small child's kite could cause some damage if it flew into a flight path."

A spokeswoman for Tayside Police said: "We can confirm that a complaint was received in relation to somebody landboarding near to Dundee Airport. Police traced the individual who was warned regarding his actions."

Sunderland Festival of the Air News.

The council have confirmed that there will be no kite festival in Sunderland this year. Here's what they said.

"The calendar of events has changed this year with older events are being refreshed and new events being developed. I appreciate your need to respond to the kite fliers' queries. Basically, all events are being reviewed and the Kite Festival, as it was, will no longer go ahead."

The council are planning to hold an event called the Sunderland Festival in June - with the focus on the 2012 Olympics this year. There'll be a one day event on Herrington park on June 16th when the Olympic torch comes through the city, but there are no kites planned for this event.

It's a sad thing that the festival has finished after so many successful years, despite a couple of washout cancellations. Last year's reduced funding and reduced event sounded the alarm and it has not been a surprise to hear that there will not be a kite festival in Sunderland in 2012. I hope that people who have attended over the years will remember the event fondly, from its beginnings with strong Japanese links; through its heyday with Malcolm Goodman at the kite helm bringing in a wide range of international and UK fliers, and even the latter years when we were plagued with name changes and with

rain, but we carried on in the spirit of friendship. I, for one, am left with a sense of regret that this era is over for Sunderland but I feel sure that kites will keep flying, that local groups will keep going, that kitefliers will continue to share their skills and interests around the world... and that, given time, it will all happen again in Sunderland.

Pauline Taylor.

New Kite Skiing Record

Helen Skelton, an English television presenter, has set a new kite skiing world record. The 28 year-old reporter set the fastest time ever for 100 kilometres covered by kite ski, according to the Guinness World of Records.

Skelton completed the distance in 7 hours and 28 minutes. The analysis based on GPS data sent via satellite from the Antarctic, where she is close to finishing the 500 miles to reach the South Pole.

Helen Skelton learned to kitesurf in the summer of 2010 with Ned Taylor, the British Freestyle champion and BKSA senior instructor.

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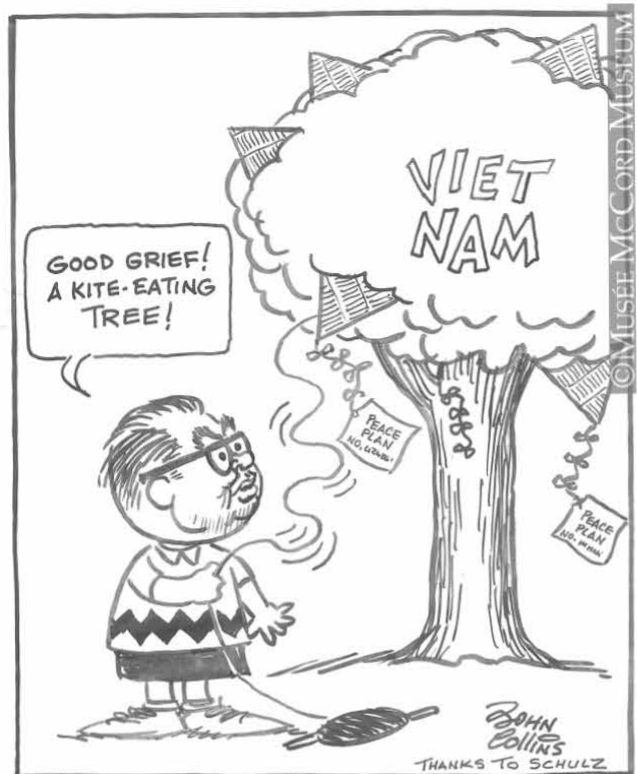
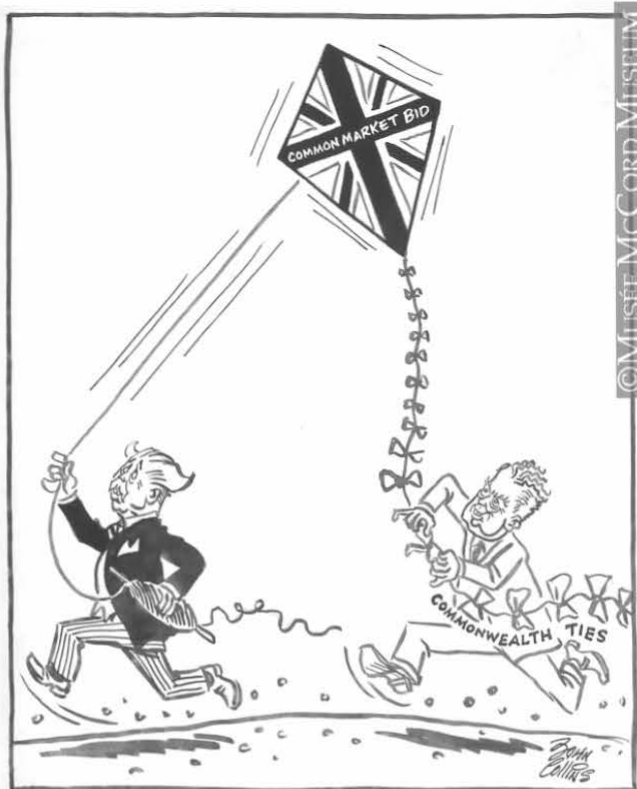
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Kite Cartoons from the McCord Museum, Canada



These cartoons are all by John Collins who was, for over forty years, the editorial cartoonist for The Gazette in Montreal. See www.mccord-museum.qc.ca. From the top left going clockwise:

Kite Flying Time, 1947.

Kite Flying on Parliament Hill, 1955

Peace Plan "Flying a Kite" Admits Mr. Martin., 1967

Kite Flying Time, 1962



Competition Pack 2012



ARRANGEMENTS: This is the STACK UK 2012 competition schedule as we know it. More detail will be added and issued as and when we have it available, including schedules, new rounds, dates etc. but please use this to update your diaries. When making those diary updates please work on the assumption that the whole weekend (or day) 9am to 5pm will be devoted to competition, and plan accordingly. Also we are actively looking for volunteers to line judge and to help the 'event owner' set up/break down competition arena equipment. Without this you can't compete so please help us to help you have a great competition.

DATES: Much discussion is afoot; availability, clashes or co-incidence with other events! So I'm listing out the current options and will get you an update just as soon as I can.

Booked: 28/29 April

Provisional: 19/20 May : 2/3 June : 9/10 June : 23/24 June : 21/22 July

ORGANISATION: In line with changes agreed at the AGM there will be an 'event owner' for each event. They will be responsible for liaising with the venue operator, ensuring that the arena is up and ready to go, handing over the arena equipment to the next event owner and generally making sure the "on the ground stuff" happens. They will need help with handling the equipment on the day so as above we're looking for active volunteers.

If you have any questions specifically about the event arrangements then contact the event owner. Barry Savell (National Director) will be liaising with event owners on the overall season programme so you can field any other questions to him (barry@savell.co.uk)... and he'll be more than happy to receive offers of help or venues too!

Failing that feel free to post on STACKs facebook page and I'll try to answer your queries, or find someone who can!

RULES: The figure numbers are of course taken from the compulsories book, which can be found, along with the other rulebooks, at <http://worldsportkite.com/irbc.htm>. Continuing on from 2011's AGM vote attending only a double round to achieve two scores was not acceptable, so you will have to attend at least one of the other rounds to get your required two scores for the season.

PUBLICITY AND SHARING: Do you have a way with words or a camera? I'd love some help with creating some fab updates for the website and facebook etc. If you have any photo's or stories about the events or even tales of practices then please drop me a line.

Best of luck to you all, Dawn Green (dawnandpye@googlemail.com)



Black Sea Kite Festival – First international kite festival in Romania

Bring your kids. Bring your friends.

Between **April 28th** and **May 1st 2012**, the **H2O beach of Mamaia (Constanța)** will be hosting for the first time an international kite festival in Romania – **Black Sea Kite Festival**.

About Black Sea Kite Festival

Bring your family, your friends, your business partners and employees and have a wonderful time together, while enjoying the amazing designs and colors that will be surrounding you all over the place. International professional kite flyers will be joining us in this wonderful adventure and will perform breath taking shows that will remain in your memory for a long time.

Entrance at the festival is **FREE!** Feel free to check our website for more <http://blackseakitefestival.ro>



Black Sea Kite Festival Agenda and Activities

Day 1

13:00 – 14:00 Opening
 14:00 – 14:30 Kite dancing
 14:30 – 15:00 3D shaped kites parade
 15:00 – 15:30 Stunt kites flying
 15:30 – 16:30 Kite designing & flying, 2 workshops
 16:30 – 17:00 Rokkaku fight
 17:00 – 17:30 Candy dropping & Parachuting
 Teddy bears
 17:30 – 18:00 Flying kites of the same type
 18:00 – 19:00 Kite designing & flying, 2 workshops
 19:00 – 19:30 Box Kites flying
 19:30 – 20:00 Parade of historical kites
 20:00 – 20:30 Closing the 1st day
 21:00 – 23:00 Option for night flying
 23:00 – 03:00 Beach Party

Day 2

10:00 – 11:30 Opening the 2nd day
 11:30 – 12:00 Rokkaku fight
 12:00 – 12:30 Candy dropping & Parachuting
 Teddy bears
 12:30 – 13:00 Stunt kites flying
 13:00 – 14:00 Kite designing & flying, 2 workshops
 14:00 – 14:30 Sea Creatures flying
 14:30 – 15:00 Demonstration of historical kites
 15:00 – 15:30 City kites Parade (Venice, Rome, etc.)
 15:30 – 16:00 Flying kites of the same type
 16:00 – 16:30 Cartoon characters & animals flying
 16:30 – 17:30 Kite designing & flying, 2 workshops
 17:30 – 18:00 Rokkaku fight
 18:30 – 19:00 3D kite parade
 19:00 – 20:00 Closing the 2nd day

Day 3

10:00 – 11:00 Opening the 3rd day
 11:00 – 11:30 Stunt kites flying
 11:30 – 12:00 Kite dancing
 12:00 – 12:30 Sea Creatures flying
 12:30 – 13:00 Demonstration of historical kites
 13:00 – 13:30 Rokkaku fight
 13:30 – 15:00 Memorial workshop for Mr. Nuta
 15:00 – 15:30 90 seconds competition – the highest
 15:30 – 16:00 Box Kites flying
 16:00 – 16:30 Cartoon characters & animals flying
 16:30 – 17:30 Kite designing & flying, 2 workshops
 17:30 – 18:00 City kites Parade (Venice, Rome, etc.)

Day 4

10:00 – 11:00 Opening the 4th day
 11:00 – 11:30 Rokkaku fight
 11:30 – 12:00 3D shaped kites parade
 12:00 – 12:30 Sea Creatures flying
 12:30 – 13:00 Kite dancing
 13:00 – 14:00 Kite designing & flying, 2 workshops
 14:00 – 14:30 Stunt kites flying
 14:30 – 15:00 Box Kites flying
 15:00 – 15:30 Demonstration of historical kites
 15:30 – 16:30 Kite designing & flying, 2 workshops
 16:30 – 17:00 Cartoon characters & animals flying
 17:00 – 17:30 Candy dropping & Parachuting

18:30 – 19:00 Rokkaku fight	Teddy bears
19:00 – 19:30 Stunt kites flying	17:30 – 18:00 All kites up
19:30 – 20:00 Closing the 3 rd day	18:00 – 19:00 Closing the event
21:00 – 23:00 Option for night flying	21:00 – 03:00 Beach Party

International Guests

We are very pleased to have among us such important guests in the world of kite flying. They come from various countries like Austria, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and UK, and include Rolf Stohanzl, Helmut Georgi, Ralf Dietrich, Bernhard Dingwerth, Karl Ulrich Kortel, Janneke Groen, Arthur Dibble, Gill, Jon and Tara Bloom and Carl Whittaker.



Places of Interest

Besides the various activities and workshops at the festival, Constanța offers a wide range of attractions and extra activities, for you and your family:

- The **Dolphinarium** is very famous in Constanța and is also a wonderful way to spend the afternoon. <http://www.delfinariu.ro/en>
- **Casino Paris** is a renowned attraction in Constanța, especially if you are interested in the history of wealthy Romanian families in the 1910s. <http://casino-paris.ro>
- The **Holiday Village** (*in Romanian: Satul de Vacanță*) in Constanța can offer you a better perspective on Romanian habits and traditions. There you can enjoy traditional Romanian food and beverage, see traditional Romanian costumes and houses, and listen to Romanian music of old times.
- If you'd like to have fun by playing with water, **Aqua Magic** is the perfect place for you and your kids. The first aquatic park in Romania. <http://www.aqua-magic.ro>

Weather

During the festival, the weather will be warm and nice, with temperatures ranging from 8 °C up to 18 °C.

Accommodations

Constanța offers various options for accommodation, depending on your budget. You will find hotels from ** to ***** stars, multiple Bed & Breakfast, sea side inns and places for camping and RVs. <http://www.camping-s.ro>

For special prices, provided by our partner **Noizz Events**, please see this link bellow: <http://blackseakitefestival.ro/special-prices-for-accomodation-during-the-festival/>

Both Mamaia and Constanța will overwhelm you with restaurants and traditional places to eat. You will be able to taste specialties from other countries as well, such as baklava (Turkey), gyros (Greece) and of course, Romanian traditional food, such as stuffed cabbage rolls (*sarmale*), polenta (*mămăligă*) and the popular cevapcici (*mititei*).

Directions

To see the map, please check out the link and click **Location & GPS** <http://blackseakitefestival.ro/public>

Contact Us

For any other information about the festival, please contact **Claudia Iorga** – Project Manager at +40 726 237 437 or at claudia.iorga@amart.ro.

**We are so eager to meet you all between April 28th and May 1st
at the Black Sea Kite Festival and have lots of fun together!**

Events News

NORTH HANTS KITER'S JOLLY UP 10-April 28th and 29th 2012

It's nearly that time again to come and join us for another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On site camping is available from Friday evening onwards (£7 per tent/camper for the weekend).

The Saturday evening food will be the BBQ (£6.50 and try to bring a plate and cutlery please!). We will be doing Jacket Potatoes for those interested at various times over the weekend, and Bacon rolls available both mornings.

The Auction will once again be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end (before 4pm if poss!)

We will run the Beer Lift competition, wind permitting, same rules as before. Roy Martin's Sled competition will take place (to contact him directly please)

Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply.

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825
Colin on 07770 338419
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

You can pre-order your tee-shirt / poloshirt, just email if interested in doing so.

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

Basingstoke Kite Festival 2nd & 3rd June 2012

At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke. From 10am to 5 pm (both days)

Come along and help us to celebrate our 20th Festival and join in the fun!

Guests will be from Home and abroad and as well as things going on in the display arena, there will be the usual array of activities, along with various Kite & Food traders.

The theme for the weekend is THE ELEMENTS. As in previous years, a prize will be awarded for the best themed kite, so you can now get carried away with your imagination!

A raffle is held over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, donations gratefully received!

On Saturday evening we will have our usual Social Get Together in the marquee, and all are welcome. (There is a small fee if you would like to join in with the Buffet, well worth it!)

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings @ £7.50 for the weekend (payable on the weekend) and there are showers and toilet facilities on site.—Please note this is a different price than originally listed.

Come along and join in, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

Contact: Alan Cosgrove (Main festival Organiser) 01256 421800
Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487

Butser Hill Festival of Flight Sunday June 10th 2012 11am to 4pm

This has now been held at Butser Hill for several years, and always fun. The site is off the A3, located between Horndean and Petersfield, and not far from Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

Follow the brown signs for BUTSER HILL.

Kites, Hand gliders, Para gliders and Model gliders are welcome. Parachute your Teddy Bear for fun!

Plenty of space for flying. There is an on-site cafe for basic refreshments. (but Please contact the Park before the event to confirm the Cafe will be open and what will be on sale, as this is out of our control). Sorry, but buggying is not permitted.

This is just a relaxing, fun day, with room to fly your kites, or purchase one while you are there. Come along and have some fun!

Contact: Roy Broadley of Kites Up on 01256 812487 or
Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 02392 595040

Teston Bridge Country Park nr Maidstone August 11/12th August 2012

This is the 25th anniversary of Teston Bridge and we would like to make it extra special for the general public and for Ron Dell who commenced the festival all those years ago with the Park Rangers.

With the economic times and cutbacks by the County Council, many of the readers will know

Events News

that for the moment the June Teston event has been lost, so there is a need to show support for the August event.

Over the years Teston has become known as somewhere kiteflyers are able to relax, meet, socialise and generally chill out whilst flying kites. There has never been any competitive edge to the kite flying nor any organised demonstrations, just time to fly for enjoyment. As well as mingling with the public and hopefully introducing the fun of kite flying to them, so that they would continue either within their own families or perhaps by becoming a member of a Kite club local to them..

Due to changes within the County Council, the event has been taken away from the Park Rangers to an events committee, who wish to commit the County Council to less input and cost through less direct involvement by the Park Rangers. The County Council will be responsible for collecting any car parking, camping monies. etc.

Camping as previously will be from the Thursday afternoon through to the Monday afternoon, for which there will be a fixed charge of £10 per pitch, whether campers are there overnight or for 4 nights. Access to the flying field for cars on both flying days will be restricted between the hours of 10am and 5pm. There is a car park adjacent to the flying field for which the charge is very reasonable for all day stay.

A big thank you to all kiteflyers who have supported the weekends over the years and hope that you continue to support and encourage other kiteflyers to come and join in.

As said previously we want to make it an extra special event this year not only to show that the event will be well supported by kite flyers and generate interest from the public, but also due to it being the 25 year of Teston

Malcolm Ford
Kent Kite Flyers
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tel 07840086770
also Syd Bennett e-mail:
syd.bennett@kentkiteflyers.org.uk

NORTH HANTS KITER'S JOLLY UP 11 Aug 4th and 5th 2012

Same format as always, so come and join us for the 11th Jolly Up, and another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers!

The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On site camping is available from Friday evening onwards (£7 per tent/camper for the weekend).

The Saturday evening BBQ works well, so we will do the same format. (£6.50 and bring your plate and cutlery as normal please!) We will do Jacket Potatoes for those interested over the weekend, and Bacon rolls available both mornings.

The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end (before 4pm if poss!)

We will also run the Competition for Garden Produce, which can cover fruit, veg, plants, anything really. Show us what you've been growing, it may win a prize. Rules are minimal and made up on the day!

There is a new category for this event, Home Made Hooch!!

We hope to run the Beer Lift again, same rules as before. Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply..

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825
Colin on 07770 338419
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

Portsmouth International Kite Festival

Taking place Saturday 25th & 26th August, with Monday 27th August reserved for free flying at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. This is the 20th anniversary of the event so let's celebrate.

Free parking will be available for **KSGB** members only. As with 2012 you are required to send us a request (via snail mail with an S.A.E. or email) together with your car registration number—please note that each pass will be specific to you and NOT transferable. Your name and registration number will be present on the pass –. Also note that if you do not supply the registration number you will not get a pass.

Finally a CAR pass does not equal a CAMPING pass—a separate pass is required for CAMPING—see below.

Camping is not officially permitted on site by the council. This year the festival is being run in conjunction with Seafront Services. Following com-

Events News

plaints from Portsmouth City Councillors and local residents we have been told that the number of camping places available must be reduced. We have agreed to this so that we can at least have some camping on site.

We are relying on you—the campers—to respect this decision and follow the procedure below. It was this or nothing!

As numbers are even more limited this year and in an effort to achieve some fairness in the allocation we have decided that a ballot is the best way forward. Therefore anyone who wishes to enter the ballot MUST request a pass from us together with the vehicle registration number. All requests for camping must be with us by **30th June**. We will notify both successful and unsuccessful people by the **8th July**.

It is important to note that this concession is only between **Friday 24th August 10am until Tuesday 28th August noon**. You will be moved if you arrive earlier or stay later. Please do not abuse this concession as this is a further last chance to get it right—if the council decide it has been abused then there will be NO camping next year.

Send postal requests to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY—email to portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk.

For details of local accommodation please contact the Portsmouth Tourist Centre on 023 9283 6722, www.visitportsmouth.co.uk. The University Halls of Residence, where the invited kitefliers stay, can be booked online at www.port.ac.uk/holidays or call 023 9284 4884.

Look at www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk for up to date information.

16th Southampton Kite Festival 16th & 17th June

This year sees the 16th. Southampton Kite Festival organised and run by Solent Kite Flyers. It is to be held over the weekend of 16th & 17th June from 10.00am to 5.30pm each day. The venue is Lordshill Sports Ground, 5 Acre Field, Lordshill, Southampton, Hampshire S016 9BP. Access is via Junction 2, M271 off Junction 3 M27. All major access routes will be signposted for the event.

This year's Festival will be a great show of many different types of kites, flying displays and kite competitions, as well as varied and interesting activities happening around the Festival Site.

Each day will see Kite Flying Displays from some of the UK's best kite fliers as well as general entertainment and display flying to music. There will also be a few very special arena displays from local groups, including displays of Power Kiting with buggies and boards. There will be plenty of open space available for public flying, so please bring your kites! There will be a Kite making Workshop, where everyone will be able to make their own simple kite.

There will be a number of Kite Traders selling a range of Kites and Accessories to all levels of experience and price. Craft stalls, general interest and activity traders, hot and cold refreshments, local based live music and face painting will be there to keep all ages entertained throughout the day. C Coles Fun Fair will also be at the event.

On the Sunday the Southampton Open Trophy is just that – anyone can enter with any type of kite. This year there are *two* trophies to be competed for. One judged by a panel drawn from the audience and one solely on the reaction from the crowds this is really where the first time flyers can beat the experienced guys as it is decided purely on entertainment value.

There will also be 'Parachuting Teddy Bears!' so don't forget to bring along your own 'Cuddly Toys' so they can join in the fun; each one receiving a certificate for their bravery (Weather permitting).

Again with the weather and wind permitting, there will be a 'Night Fly' on Saturday evening once it gets dark! (Probably after 9.30pm) This is open to all fliers to join in, with the kites having lights attached or using reflective tapes etc.

Even if you don't feel like flying over the two days, why not just come and watch one of the most colourful and exciting events to happen in Southampton this year. Entry is free, parking is free and the sky is free for all to use and enjoy.

There is limited on-site camping available over Friday and Saturday nights, for those flying and displaying kites at the festival. There will be a charge for this of £5.00 per night and space(s) will need to be booked prior to the event.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Mike Lowe of Solent Kite Flyers on 02380 770788 or email secretary@solentkiteflyers.org.uk



John Elvin hard at work at the 1st Club frog workshop just look at the concentration, but what a good job he made of it can't wait to see them all fly together soon

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

FROGS EVERYWHERE

After my first step into kite making which was several years ago now making a Rokkaku kite with the club logo on it, it was a great feeling that I had turned material into a kite that could fly.

Time past and the next kite on the agenda was the Brooks Leffler Fled to KAP with, I acquired all the materials I need and headed to Brighton to stay with Dave and Tracy over the weekend, the difficulty intensified with adding pockets for spars and sewing bits of material together, with the knowledge from Dave and Tracy gained over the weekend gave me confidence to book myself onto the BKF workshop to make the Frog designed by Bernard Dingwerth.

So I stayed with Simon and Corinne over the weekend. We arrived

Saturday morning in high spirits sewing machine in toe.

I set up and was given a bag with material and bridles in; somewhat puzzled I set my machine up and started to make the drogue. I immediately started to struggle with my machine and 40 minutes later I had made the drogue, Alan Reynolds looked at my machine and agreed it was not operating normally.

The panic had now set in as I was starting to fall behind and with the pressure to get the frog finished I did not know where to turn next!

Luckily a couple of seasoned kite builders had taken a spare which they lent me so I was back on track but still behind, just as I started to settle down I heard the door open and Alan Outram appeared, and Marion asked

him if he could help me for a while, so a comfy chair was provided for Alan whilst he read the instructions and I started to sew the material. We soon got back on track and were running like a well oiled machine.

So day one we

managed to get most of the kite finished and then we retired to a pub and enjoyed a Carvary.

Day 2 was back to the sewing machine in hope that I could finish with time to test fly my creation, I sewed the legs to the kite finished all the odd bits attached the pre set bridles had a spot of lunch, and headed out and put my new frog up. I was grinning from ear to ear I was so happy watching a bag of ripstop turn into a beautiful kite.

Alan Reynolds ran the workshop and cut the kits out, these were very well marked and easy to follow

I would like to say a very big thank you for all of the club members that made this possible and those that helped me over the weekend!

Bonefish



RAYS EVENTURES AT CERVIA INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

The Cervia International kite festival is one of the oldest International kite festival in Europe I think this year it was there 31st, or 32nd, just like Berck it is a huge and very well organized, it is a little more laid back than Berck, the saying is "hey no rush". Maybe it is because of the weather being a shirts off and into shorts weather, and just like Berck it is a holiday resort which brings in thousands of vacationers from all over Italy, this is one reason as I have mentioned in my past articles that they hold the kite festival so early in the year as in a few weeks later it would be impossible to fly a kite on the beach because throughout the summer it is jam packed with Holiday makers it is ideal for people with family's there is something going on for everyone, and the Italians love the sun and ocean.

Again kite flyers from around the world are invited to participate and to show the thousands of spectators that come each and every day of the festival there unique creations, it really amazes me that all the work that the single line kite flyers (like the worlds re known kite flyer builder and designer George Peters) go through each day carrying there literary dozens of kites, banners etc. to their flying area, unpack and assemble there kites and launch them filling the sky with beautiful kites of every description to the joy of the masses, then each evening it is all done again in reverse.

This year I was very fortunate again to share the main demonstration arena with the Rev Team the Decorators from the UK. They started Team flying in 1988; I have had this pleasure many many times at festivals all over the World. My fondest memories are the years we spent flying together at Kites on Ice Kite Festival in Wisconsin USA.

Also at the festival there are rows of venders on the beach where you can buy almost anything, it is very colourful and a joy to wander and browse through, over the many years I have performed at this world class international kite festival I have got to know personally so many people and their families, who tell me that they come each year just to what me fly, and what a surprise it is when they show me pictures that they have taken of me holding their children ,then a 16 year old person steps forward and shakes my hand. Hard to believe. For where Oh where did these years go?

The Italian public are s u c h appreciative audience each day they come to ask me to sign there kites

his phone never stops asking if the Man from Canada will be here again this year, it is indeed very heart warming.

As always we had a great hotel, Caterina Capelli the organizers lovely daughter sees to it that everyone is looked after which again is no easy task .looking after international and European kite flyers and their families,

Dolores and I had another great time again in Cervia and came home with great memories .and stores to tell our family and friends.

There are so many things to say about performing at these great International kite festivals each one would more than fill a book.

Thank you Claudio, and Caterina Capelli for once again inviting me to perform at your World class kite festival, I think this was my 16th year of performing at Cervia it has been a great honour for me to a member of

your Kite Family.
Thank you for Listening
Ray.

P.S.
After the Cervia kite festival we were driven by coach to perform at the first ever International kite festival in Venice which I will tell you about in Aerodyne soon.



programs etc. And ask to have their picture taken with me, the organizer told Dolores and I that for a few weeks before the festival

APRIL 2012 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE BERCK WHAT A START AGM 2102

Wow!! What an awesome year this has been, being again fully sponsored to International kite



festivals. I know! I say this every year but each year international kite festivals seem to get bigger and better especially in Europe, where most of the major kite festivals have been going on each year for well over 30 years with the same organizers so they know for sure the score how to put on great kite events.

On arrival to Berck from Paris each one is taken to their different hotels and given a package that contains a welcome letter plus, vouchers for lunches and dinners throughout the festival, and the great lunches are catered and held in a huge marquee (special party tent) on the beach and it is no easy task to feed 200 hungry kite flyers each day of the festival.

This year Berck International Kite Festival in France was HUGE with tens of thousands of people attending each day of the 10-day kite festival. It was also Easter



weekend with beautiful spring weather. Each day the sky was jam packed with awesome kites of every description, flown by over 200 kite fliers from around the world. It was a breath taking sight to behold.

One day, I took a break from flying for a couple of hours and Dolores and I strolled through the whole kite festival, which took a couple of hours. Dolores was very impressed with the beautiful kite related garden displays.

In the main arena each day thousands of people watch the performances of individual and team sport kite flyers as they



perform their nonstop kite flying magic all day and every day throughout the festival. It is hard for me to believe that I have been part of this great kite festival for the past 16 years.

Each year at banquet one person has been chosen to receive the Berck City Medal of Honour presented by the honourable Mayor of Berck. To my great surprise my name was called to receive this great honour of appreciation from the City of Berck.

Thank you Gerard and the wonderful people of the Tourism office and all the great volunteers who give of themselves unselfishly to help make this world class International kite festival a huge success. I feel humble, honoured and very proud sharing the kite arena with the entire great International, local and European Kite Fliers.

Thank you for listening
Ray,

Brighton Kite Flyers AGM will be taking place on Sunday 22nd April 2012 at Telscombe Town Hall. Letter will be going out very soon with full details to club members with times and agenda ideas. If you are a member and would like to add anything to the agenda please e-mail or post and we will add it.

BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL

Brighton Kite Flyers will be running the festival again this year in Stanmer Park Brighton (Just off the A27 near the new football stadium. If you wish to attend and stay over please send an e-mail of your request to chairman@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk with festival in the title. The dates are 7th - 8th July 2012 with the public being there from 11.00am - 5.00pm on both days.

The festival will follow its normal course with the main aim of having fun, as flyers, and giving a spectacle to the public and with luck get some of them interested in our sport and hobby. Again if you wish to trade at, or sponsor, the event please again let us know by e-mail.

With the club running Bernhard Dingwerth frog workshops this year as club projects we will be having to have a frog kite fly in the arena so please remember to bring along any frog kite you have whether made at the workshop or not.

We will of be having a spirit fly and hope to get quite a few into the air at one time as normal.

Other ideas of what to do are welcome and of course any help leading up to the festival and on the day would be much appreciated.

Go on book this one in your diary as without you kite festivals would not be as much fun.

APRIL 2012 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

Useful Contacts: Merchandise

Coordinator/Chairperson:

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E simon@BKF.org.uk

Treasurer:

Paul Hill
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Aerodyne:

Simon Hennessey
T 01273 582309
E Aerodyne@BKF.org.uk

Club library:

(BKF members only):
Dave Hollingworth
T 01273 421286
E library@BKF.org.uk

Club Kites:

(BKF members only):
If you wish to borrow any of the club kites please just ask any member of the club committee.

Membership Secretary:

Sandra Fletcher & Andrew Scott
T 07947 011287
E Membership@BKF.org.uk

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Alan & Marian Reynolds
E tshirts@BKF.org.uk

Pins/Badges/Pens:

Simon Hennessey
T 01273 582309
E simon@BKF.org.uk

Thank you

The committee would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible Bonefish, Marian Reynolds and Ray Bethal. We know we keep going on, but Aerodyne is only possible with your help with articles etc. So please do write an article as we can not keep the publication going without them.

So thank you again to those who help and keep the articles coming and those that haven't if you want to keep aerodyne going put into action the good words said at each years AGM please put pen to paper for the Spring issue. Dates for future articles are detailed below.

We have a range of sizes in all club t-shirts and hooded tops for sale T-shirts £10 hooded tops £25.00

Please contribute to your club newsletter - even the smallest of items is welcome. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise.

Contributions should be sent to:

Aerodyne
c/o Simon Hennessey
11 The Sheepfold
Peacehaven
East Sussex. BN10 8EG
aerodyne@BKF.org.uk

Deadlines dates:
January issue - 1 December
April issue - 1 March
July issue - 1 June
October issue - 1 September

NUMBER 8 CARIBBEAN SLICE (CARROT CAKE)

As Alan will tell you, I'm up and nearly fully aggravating again - so another cake for you try AND to bring to a Kite "do"!!

Ingredients

3 eggs (separated - no, no, not just shell from egg, but yolk & white as well)
9 ozs. soft brown sugar.
7½ fl. ozs. cooking oil.
12 ozs. grated carrot.
9 ozs. S/R flour.
2 level tsp. baking powder.
2 level tsp. mixed spice.
6 ozs. sultanas.

Method.

Whisk egg whites and sugar until thickened, then whisk in oil until it's all combined and thick. Add all remaining ingredients (don't forget the egg yolks) and mix gently, by hand, with a spatula until all is incorporated (a la Delia!)

Flop mixture into a greased and lined tin (about 2 ins. deep and 8ins by 11ins. and level.
Cook at Gas mk 5 (190°C) or 180 °C for fan assisted oven, for about 25 mins. or until brown but not.....you know the rest by now!

Leave to cool in tin for 10 mins. then turn out onto wire rack

Last instruction: bring to kite event so that I can have some!

Marian (aka cakelady)

fly - in reminders

Our Monthly fly-in is where we try and get as many of the club members to fly together. These are held on the 1st Sunday at Saltdean Vale, East Sussex. Remember that during the summer members may well be attending kites festivals, but the fly-ins are still on.

See you there



Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne' the Brighton Kite Flyers cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Brighton Kite Flyers.



April 2012		
7-15	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-sur-Mer, France	Gerard Clement
28-29	Jolly Up 10, Cliddeston, near Basingstoke.	Kite Up
21 - 1 May	Artevento International Kite Festival, Cervia	Info@artevento.com
28-1	Black Sea Kite Festival, Romania	claudia.iorga@amart.ro
May 2012		
6-7	East Yorkshire Kite festival and County Show, Driffield Showground, Driffield, near York, East Yorkshire CANCELLED	annbloomsa1events@btinternet.com
6-7	Layer Marney Tower Kite Festival, near Colchester CO5 9BB	www.layermarneytower.co.uk 01206 330784
12-13	Lotto Kite International, Ostend, Belgium	Mail@didak.com
12-13	Western Lake District KiteFest 2012, in assoc. with NKG, Wilson Park, Haverigg, Cumbria	kiterdave@btinternet.com
13	Catch the Wind Kite Festival, Marine Road, Morecambe LA4 4BU	info@moremusic.org.uk
18-20	Plein Vent, Houlgate, France	www.plein-vent.fr
26-27	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, East Devon EX8 1DG	www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk/kite-festival/
June 2012		
2-5	Margam Park Kite Festival, Port Talbot, Wales SA13 2TJ	01639 881635
2-5	International Kite Festival and Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Russel Park, Bedford	events@bedford.gov.uk
2-3	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke	www.basingstokekitefestival.org.uk/exmail.htm
9-10	Wirral International Kite Festival, The Dips, Merseyside	www.visitwirral.com
14-17	Fano International Kite Fliers Meeting, Denmark	www.kitefliersmeetingfanoe.de
16-17	Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Sports Ground, 5 Acre Field, Lordshill, Southampton, Hampshire	secretary@solentkiteflyers.co.uk
24	Kent Kite Festival, Mote Park, Maidstone, Kent	syd.bennett@kentkiteflyers.org.uk
July 2012		
7-8	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	simon@BKF.org.uk
14-15	Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, Opposite the life boat station, Barmouth	Waine Hucker 07855 810636
14-15	Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Whipnade Road, Dunstable LU6 2GY	pat.redman@nationaltrust.org.uk
21-22	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berringham Hall, Leominster HR6 0DW	www.kitefestival.org.uk
28-29	Golden Valley Kite Fliers "Kite Kamp", Newlands Park, Bishops Cleeve, Nr Cheltenham. GL52 3PE	www.gvkf.org.uk
August 2012		
4-5	Jolly Up 11, Cliddeston, near Basingstoke	Kites Up
11-12	Teston Kite "Big Weekend", Maidstone, Kent	malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.org.uk
25-27	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	The Kite Society
September 2012		
22-23	Mascotte International Kite Festival, Scheveningen, Holland (Provisional)	designkites@hotmail.com
8-16	Dieppe International Kite Festival, France	infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org
TBA	Margate International Kite Festival	The Kite Society