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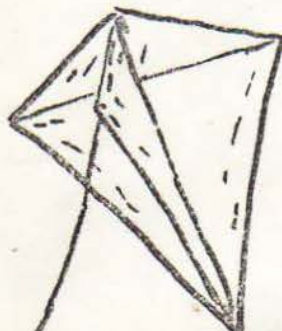
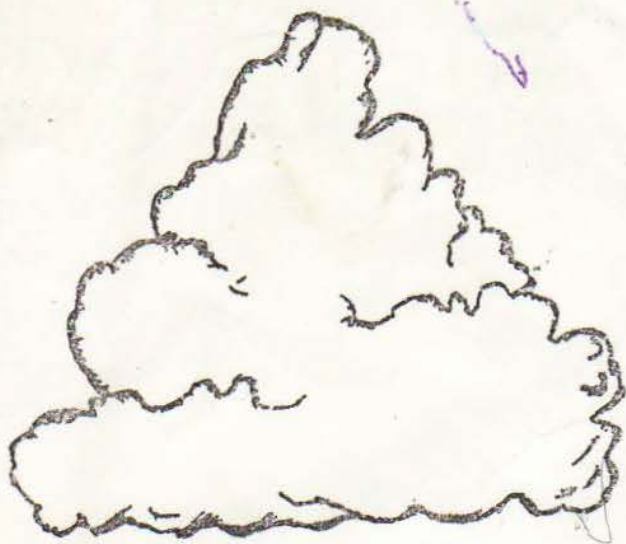
KITEFLIERS

OCCASIONAL

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 3

FEBRUARY 1980



OUR

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

Here it is the first K.O.N. of 1980, and hopefully this one is the promise of things to come. We feel that we have, at last, reached the stage where every article in the magazine is there because it has something to offer to you, the reader. Due to the excellent response we have had from our readers we are now in the happy position of being able to choose the articles which go into K.O.N. That does not mean, of course, that we no longer need or want people to write to us. Of course we do! Because if we are to maintain (hopefully) our high standard of articles we still need YOU to write to us. We need a constant supply of new and fresh ideas to keep K.O.N. refreshingly alive, we do not want to conform to a set pattern with K.O.N. it is free to move in whatever direction its' readers want. YOU can directly alter K.O.N. by writing and telling us.

In this issue, for example, we have included a competition, we do not know how successful this will be. If enough people enter then perhaps competitions could become a regular feature. Its up to YOU.

We must also thank the people who have sent us stamps, postal orders or money. We did say that K.O.N. is free to anyone interested in kites, but it is nice to know that some people feel strongly enough about it to appreciate that postage does cost money and, whereas, we are quite prepared to pay it, as K.O.N. becomes more popular there may come a day when even we have to say either people pay for postage or we stop. Of course we are not yet near that situation but it is worth bearing in mind that we are not a bottomless well of money and we do have limits (after all we are trying to buy our first home!).

Hopefully 1980 will herald in a new era for kite flying. The start of which will be Project KARA by the Midland Kite Fliers. This event proves what forethought, imagination and optimism can produce. In fact all the kite groups seem to be expanding and each seems to be developing their own personality. Underlying it all seems to be the sheer joy of kite flying that true kites never seem to lose.

The next issue will be out at Old Warden, so do come and see us at the K.O.N. stall and after the event at the Hare and Hounds in Old Warden village. Dont forget that O.W. is on the 4th of May .



Gill Ferreras

Jon Bloor

GENERAL INTEREST

Don Dunford is now supplying 'Bits and Pieces' for kites including such things as Ripstop, spars (wood and fibreglass), flying line, and all manner of joiners and tubes. Send a S.A.E. to Cochranes of Oxford Ltd, Leafield, Oxford, Ox8 5NT for further information. The Kite and Balloon Company also stock them.

Peter Powell is now back in business under the name of Peter Powell International Limited and is now building and selling an improved version of his kite. Lets hope that this time Peter has more success, he certainly deserves it.

A teenage girl plunged to her death yesterday (23rd December) in a dramatic parachute accident. Sally Clark, seventeen, of Bristol, was "Parascending" being towed by a landrover when her 'chute collapsed and she plummeted to the beach at Burnham on Sea Somerset. We suppose this is to be expected as there appears to be very little in the way of qualifications needed to do this sport.

Did you know that Peter Waldron of Professor Waldof fame has a new model on the market. It is a sort of distorted star shape made completely of ripstop with fibreglass spars. It is called a Star kite and retails at about the same as a Waldof

Seen in the Kite Store, imported from America, Cloud Pleasers. These are superior ripstop kites definitely for the enthusiast because they cost about sixty pounds, for a ten foot delta.

Did you know that all those beautiful Chinese kites that you can buy in this country are never flown in China. This is because the Chinese Government has banned the flying of kites which is considered an IDLE' ACTIVITY. Comments please!

The Washington Kitefliers Association will be having its seventh annual Kite Fair in Seattle. They would like items for exhibit, which could include kites, reels, books etc. If you are interested in participating contact Bob McCort, 6706 I62Pl. S.W. Lynnwood Washington. 98036 U.S.A. (May 31st & June 1st.)

Eric W sykes of Praktica Photography Journal could not believe his eyes, one summer evening, when driving along the B 308I along Chalton Down in Dorset. As he was passing the Wingreen National Trust Property he saw what he thought was an U.F.O. but after taking some photos it turned out to be a set of four Peter Powell type kites. The kites were in the control of an elderly gentleman.

Did you know that wind Veers if it changes direction in a clockwise sense and Backs if it changes in an anticlockwise sense.

The windiest place in Great Britain is the Isle of Tiree off the West Coast of Scotland, which has a mean average wind speed of 17mph.

The windiest place in the world is the coast of Eastern Adelie Land and West King George Land, on the edge of Antarctica. The highest 24 hour mean wind being 108mph.

Seen in a book on World War Two an account of a ditched Halifax bomber crew being unable through intense cold, to launch their rocket assisted rescue kite. Unfortunately no further details of the kite were included. Does any reader have any more information on this kite?

Have you seen the collection of Ethnic kites on show in The Museum Of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London?

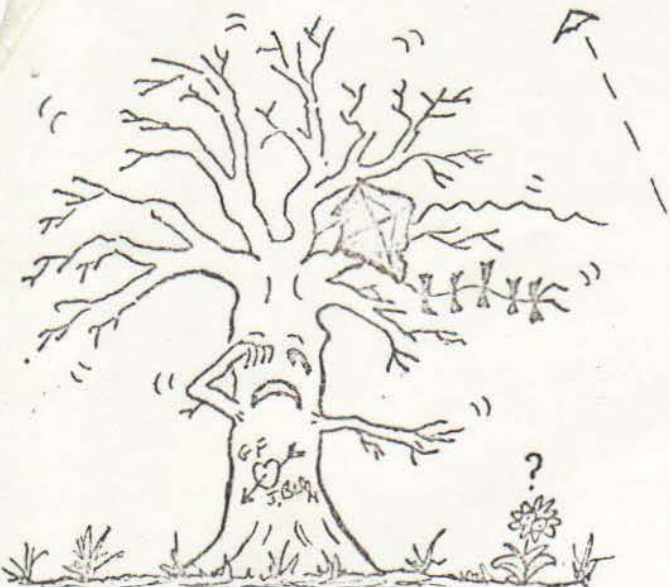
The highest recorded gusts in Great Britain were at Cairngorms at 3525 ft with a wind speed of 144mph and at Kirkwall, Orkney, with a wind speed of 136mph.

Isn't it amazing that the highest mean hourly wind speed recorded in Great Britain is at St. Anns' Head, Dyfed Wales which, to our knowledge, is rather near Project KARA. Hope their kites can take an 80 mph wind;

SMILE PLEASE

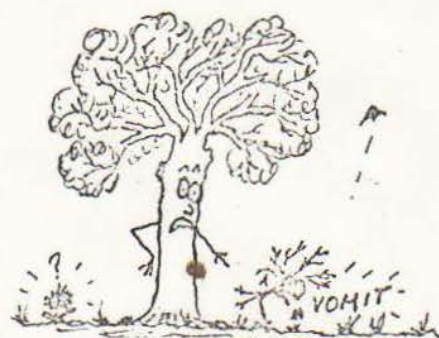
wot humour?

K.D.N.

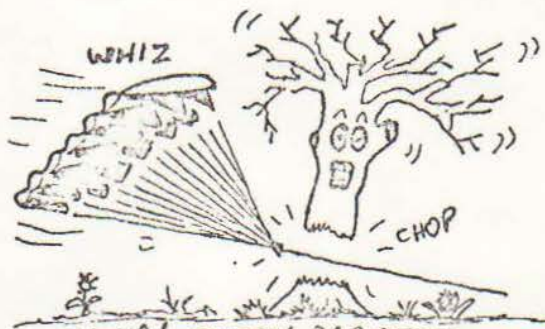
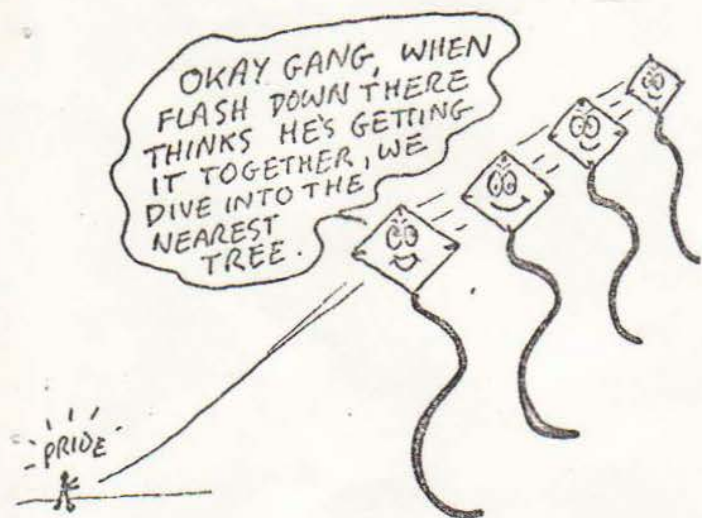


LOOK, IF WILDFOWLERS USE DECOY DUCKS, I CAN USE A DECOY KITE.

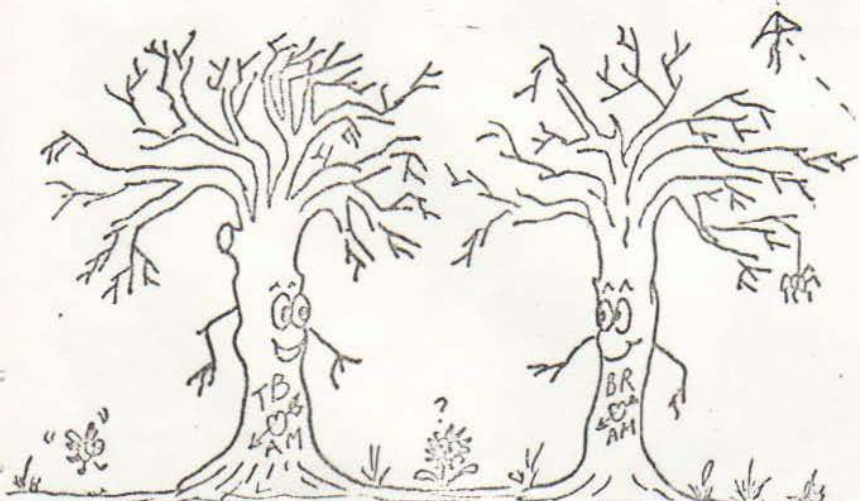
BOO HOO, SNIFF, I WISH THEY DIDN'T USE TISSUE PAPER AND DOWELS, IT'S LIKE EATING YOUR OWN.



SERVES YOU RIGHT, I TOLD YOU TO CHEW THE SWIVELS PROPERLY.



OH NO! DUTCH PARAFOL DISEASE.



ACTUALLY I PREFER PARAFOLLS, NO BONES!



ALSO DEAR, IF YOU PROMISE TO BUY ME A FLEXIFOIL, I MIGHT NOT HAVE A HEADACHE TONIGHT.

KON LETTERS



Here are some of the letters we have received.

From Ron Moulton:-

I have digested with relish the tasty morsels of K.O.N. 2 - congrats on the enterprise. Only wish B.K.F.A. could get something like this to publish, it would save lots of worry! But there's a travesty or two in what you say about badge sales. First - I don't release badges knowingly to non-members. Maybe I have not always asked for the card - being a trusting soul - but the principle is BELONG or no badge! As for the C.V. badges from Paris. This was a B.K.F.A. agreement for 20 badges only - exchange to sell to Anglophile/Francophile members - 20 only. As for profit - Wow! EBBOM is a great mnemonic. It stands for 'Engage Brain Before Opening Mouth.' Obviously you are not 'in business' so I'll excuse the assertion that cloth badges are sold for profit like any 'piece of merchandise'. B.K.F.A. badges cost £180 for 530. This was the best unit cost I could get from several quotes. The designer (a B.K.F.A. member) gets a 10p commission for his supply of art work and origination. Sales to date in the 11½ months of availability are 120. Income is thus £60. So I guess even your mental calculations will tell you these badges have a heavy subsidy. UNLESS of course, your stirring arouses the degree of pride which you set out to destroy. I can't speak for A.K.A., having paid my fee to get my badge.

Reply from Allan Martin:-

Ron Moulton of the B.K.F.A. has assured us that the British badge and a limited number of French badges to promote Anglo-French relations are on sale only to members of the B.K.F.A. In fact he says "BELONG - or no badge". So I will eat humble pie and apologise to Ron and all the group secretaries that I have offended, but I did only mention two badges and I have both of them and I haven't paid any subscription to either.

From Les Navier:-

A very pleasant surprise to find a fat envelope waiting for me on arrival here a few days ago and on opening, K.O.N. newsletter no. 2 with 22 pages! all good stuff, nice work by J.B. with the cartoons. You are getting into your stride now, and pleased to hear you got so many letters from around the country. Shows the interest is there. Thanks for the badge quite unexpected. I respect your wishes regarding subscriptions, but you will agree postage is a different matter. Please accept enclosed stamps. Carry on the good work.

KON LETTERS

From Lionel Lowe:-

I would just like to say that the K.O.N. newsletter is very good indeed, I also like the very funny cartoons so keep them coming. But please don't let us have any ill feeling towards anyone no matter who they may be. Just keep it as it was meant to be and that is only about kites, and let everyone enjoy reading it. I live in a village where nobody else is interested in kites, I am a loner, the only company I have in the field with me when I am flying are bullocks and sheep. So you see I look forward to any newsletters. I travel a lot as you all know but it's only because I like the company of other kites and seeing different kites and making new friends. I really enjoy flying, I fly most days at work at dinner time also at weekends. I must admit that since I met Clive C.O. Rawlinson, who I regard as a very good friend, he has helped me a lot, keeping me informed of everything that's on. Thanks to the Rawlinsons we were able to meet and know all of you other nice people. So like I say lets hope that K.O.N. will keep coming and everyone enjoys it.

From R. Foskett:-

Thank you for K.O.N. I enclose a few facts about my kites. To begin with the centipede can consist of as many discs as one likes, the more discs there are the more stable the kite will be. The distance between the discs needs to grow shorter towards the tail end. The flight angle is 70 degrees and very stable. The longest centipede I own is one with a disc diameter of three feet and has a tremendous pull. I have done a lot of experimenting in flying kites in train and have come up with a way of easily flying 100 in train and this has helped me in flying these small 27cms by 23cms kites as stunt kites using four lines enabling me to launch them as one line kites and when in the air fly them as two line kites.

From B. Egley:-

I have just had the opportunity of reading your first newsletter (via D. Taylor) which I found interesting and amusing. I would like to say as one of the "odd ball" kiting enthusiasts how much it was appreciated. Something of this type helps to dispel the feeling of isolation.

We have received many more letters but do not have the space to print them all at this time. So keep the letters coming to K.O.N., 94, Endsleigh Gardens, Ilford, Essex. IG1 3EG.

(Many thanks to J. Spendlove, N. Green, R. Pike, L. Navier, M. Hale and R. Moulton for their Christmas cards.)

KON LETTERS

From The Washington Kitefliers Association:-

The Washington Kitefliers welcome you to the world of kite groups and would like to exchange newsletters with you. I am enclosing a copy of our latest, which comes out about every two months or whenever we have enough news to fill the space. For us the most important part of having a group is the dissemination of ideas and information, especially to the younger generation.....

From L.J.Symons:-

.....Here in North Devon my wife and myself have found no one else to join us in our sport come hobby. We at first flew only stunt kites of which my wife can fly two at a time, looping and traversing, myself I fly three and also six at a time. We find that we always attract spectators and that the most friendly of these seem always to be the foreigners over here on holiday.....Re. your cartoon on winter flying, we have been on Exmoor in the winter and been caught in snowfalls and it takes us half an hour to pack everything up so of course in the end we look like two abominable snowfolk! .

From Ian Walton:-

.....I was chatting at our friendly local kite shop, Greens of Burnley, and happened to ask them about the shortage of black ripstop you've observed. Apparently in the depths of the North there is plenty of the stuff available; what we are really short of is pink-I wonder if one can correlate this kind of information with vagaries in regional personality? Or is it just haphazard? Finally, having read your KON comment column, I felt moved to comment (personally, rather than NKG sec.) I fully agree with your comment on safety, and it's clear that the fliers of the large and elaborate kites you repudiate should be especially careful, but this is slightly peripheral to your main argument. I feel quite strongly that the large and elaborate 'show stopping' kites do just that; they impress and show the rest of us what can be done with sufficient expense of time, money, or both. I don't think many of us are moved to emulate these things; we aren't interested in 'trying to out do each other' or 'competing', but in making and flying kites as a satisfying and relaxing recreation. If other people feel like undertaking giant projects, I am quite happy to sit and watch, but as far as my own designs are concerned, they will stay within whatever limits of resources I have available, and be just as enjoyable to build and fly.

From Clive Rawlinson:-

When people want to respond to a publication it must be effective if not to say good! I want to respond: There were two items that interested me particularly in issue 2 of KON. The first one was by Allan Martin on badge wearing. Very provocative thought I, but then Allan used the right word, 'RUBBISH'. I am still trying to work out the positivism in this negative approach. It would appear that there is an almost extrovert showmanship in 'public' kiteflying, as opposed to the rather more low key 'club' flying, although the dividing line is a pretty thin one. I give you that kite flying is all about freedom and independence of the aesthetic and intellectual will. Part of that freedom involves colour pride (yes pride) and a certain egotistic streak.....I say, let the world know we fly kites. The second item of interest referred to 'big kites etc.'. My only comment here is that, as I see it, it takes all sorts and sizes to promote and perpetuate our interest in the art, science, or whatever, of kite flying. Kite flying, I feel quite sure, would not be enjoying it's current popularity if it were not for the conglomeration of interest coming together in a common purpose and harmony.Lastly, thank you for the stimulation which through sheer hard work and enterprise you have brought to kiting at the end of 1979. May 1980, and the future be good for you.



SKY DREAMS

Never forget the call of the sky,
Born latent in all of us.
Glimpsed for a brief few seconds,
Between birth and death.
Transient as the setting sun,
But like a woman should be,
Free, wild and beautiful.
For a moment that kite is all nature,
Everything encapsuled in a single entity.
Wistful and mournful, hating to be
Ensnared, hating the single thread,
Which ties it to the earth.
Because like everything it needs
To flow freely and dance on
The autumn wind, as if man never
Existed, timeless in space.

THE KITE DREAMS OF THE WIND

Soft she came,
Gentle and warm,
Bringing hints of springs,
Echoes of winters,
All with one fleeting breath.

Loud she came,
Brutal and cold
Bringing nothing but destruction,
All in one almighty gasp,
She comes no matter what.
She is always there, somewhere,
And for one moment, I can capture her,
Taste her glory as she moves.
For a moment I am her,
Till she sends me crashing down to earth,
Jaded and broken.

She sighs as if to say,
How strange that you could possibly believe
You could tame me
Because you can never be,
I am forever,
You are but a passing speck,
Blown by my whims,
Born of man's imagination,
Not of nature's'.

how to organise a kite festival

Part 2

Following the article in K.O.N. 2 here is another aspect of kite festivals supplied by Red Braswell of the A.K.A.

RICK KINNAIRD AND CAROLYN STAPLES

cordially invite you

to

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL

RICK AND CAROLYN KITE CONTEST

CONTEST RULES

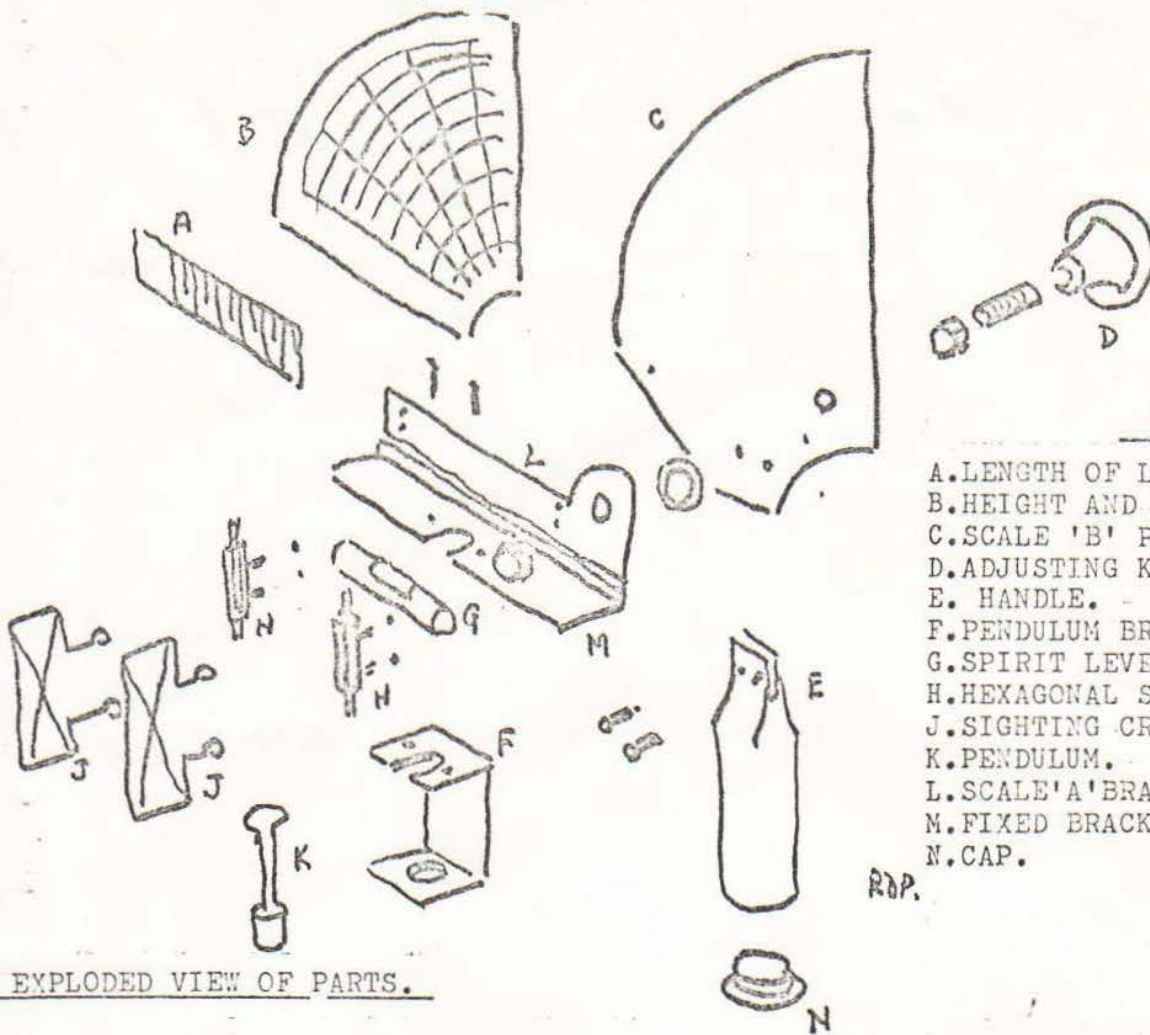
1. All contestants must show up on the field between 2pm and 4pm.
2. All contestants must wear an obviously displayed number.
3. All contestants must provide their own number. In case of duplicate numbers contestants must resolve identity crisis.
4. Anybody on the field wearing an obviously displayed number will be considered a contestant.
5. Judges will be anonymous. They will rove about the field asking questions, making notes and keeping score.
6. Officials will circulate about the field to answer questions; reassure people that they have been judged; and generally act concerned.
7. Contestants will be judged in any category the judges deem correct.
8. Contestants can also qualify for a category by letting officials know what category they want to qualify for.
9. Categories will not be revealed until the judging is over.
10. Contestants will be judged on : a) their kite; b) their ability to fly their kite; c) their ability to make others believe in their ability; d) their charm, wit, manners and tact.
11. Because contestants will not know who the judges are or what the categories are it is suggested that each contestant do his or her own thing to the best of their ability. Furthermore that each contestant have a unique noise maker e.g. bells, whistles, gongs, bugles, that he or she may use to call attention to themselves and their kites when something significant is occurring.

*****SPECIAL CONTEST*****

The Three Bridles At 90 Degrees Difference Contest:-

1. Anyone who has a kite that can be bridled at three different points along a plane passing through the centre of the kite, such that each bridle point is at least 90 degrees from the other bridle points will win. It must fly from all three points.

K.O.N. feels that English kiteflyers could learn something from their American counterparts. Kiting in America is a fun hobby, as this article shows.



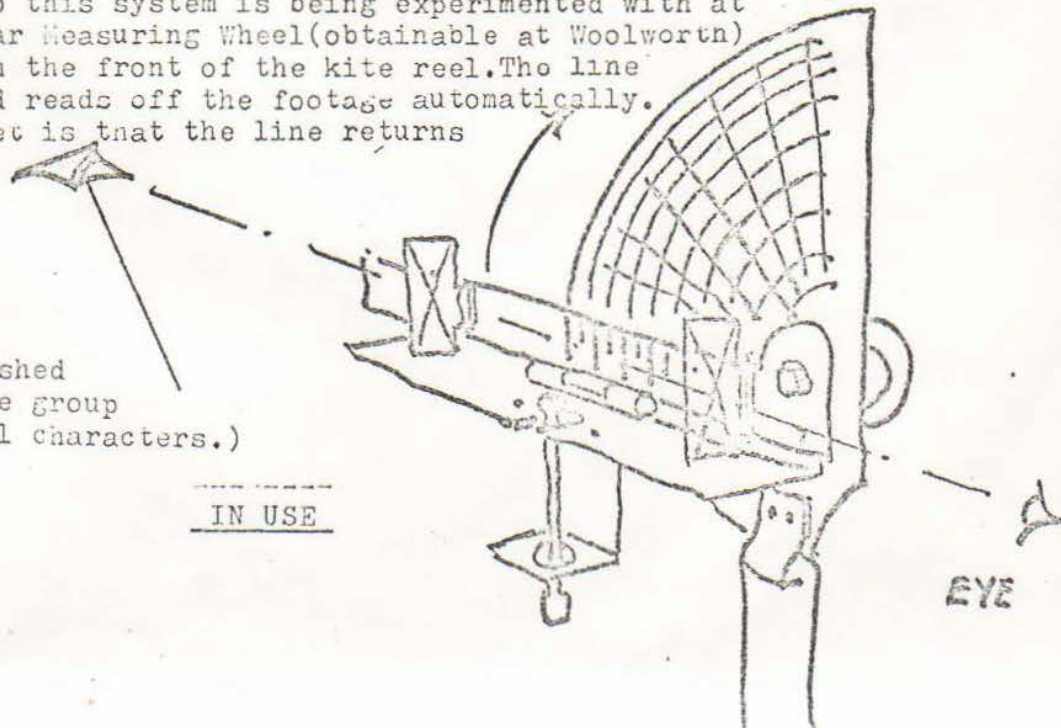
KEY

- A. LENGTH OF LINE SCALE.
- B. HEIGHT AND ANGLE SCALE.
- C. SCALE 'B' PLATE.
- D. ADJUSTING KNOB.
- E. HANDLE.
- F. PENDULUM BRACKET.
- G. SPIRIT LEVEL.
- H. HEXAGONAL SPINDLES.
- J. SIGHTING CROSSES.
- K. PENDULUM.
- L. SCALE 'A' BRACKET.
- M. FIXED BRACKET.
- N. CAP.

EXPLODED VIEW OF PARTS.

On page 63 of Ron Moultons Kite Book is a 'simple' height estimating table. On my kite altimeter the figures from this table have been put onto two scales. A moving rule pivoted at one end has a scale of line lengths marked off in fifty feet divisions. A hinged lining up cross is situated each end of the rule. The body of the altimeter incorporates a quadrant scale marked in feet. A bracket carries a pendulum and spirit level to help hold the instrument in a horizontal position. To use, the instrument is held level and the kite lined up by viewing it through the two crosses. Having a Kite line marked off in dashes (two for 200 ft.) it is possible to find the height by noting the figure where the two scales align.

A further improvement to this system is being experimented with at the moment. A Ronco Linear Measuring Wheel (obtainable at Woolworth) is being incorporated on the front of the kite reel. The line runs under the wheel and reads off the footage automatically. The beauty of this gadget is that the line returns the figures to zero as it is wound in.



IN USE

(Roger is a well established member of the Essex Kite group well known for his aerial characters.)

GROUP NEWS

CORNWALL KITEFLIERS

We have had communication from Tessa and she also kindly sent us copies of their newsletters, from these it is obvious that there is a strong kiting fraternity down in Cornwall. One of the main events of their calendar is The West Country Spring Kite Festival at Goonhilly Downs on the third and fourth of May, this promises to be a very good event. Good luck.

ESSEX KITE GROUP.

The Essex Kite Group Christmas get together went well with around thirty members turning up during the evening to discuss the vagaries of kiting. By all accounts a good time was had by all. The programme of Winter meets is well under way and so far these meets have been graced by good weather if not always by a good wind.

MIDLAND KITEFLIERS.

We have recently received their latest new style newsletter. This is mostly full of their plans for Project Kara. Latest news that we have received was that tests have been undertaken in wind tunnels to ascertain the quality of the kite designs. We wish them every success with the attempt during Easter.

NORTHERN KITE GROUP.

The N.K.G. have kindly sent us their latest new style newsletter, full of useful tips for those kitefliers come publishers among you. They have a section on rival publications in which they said of K.O.N. 'didn't understand most of the jokes in this, but since public houses form a prominent theme I approve. Includes a mention of our Whitworth meeting, but doesn't seem to know much about N.K.G. I have written to correct this. Very rude about Ron Moulton. (WE don't know where they got that idea from)

BRIGHTON KITEFLIERS.

A relatively young kite group with about twenty members, they have produced two mags the first of which was mostly rehashed from other kite mags, but number two was totally new with a full colour front cover. We wish them every success in the future.

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION.

The A.K.A. have been very good to us, helping by sending us articles, features, etc. One of these articles features in this magazine and we have several more lined up for the future. We must especially thank Red Braswell for all the support that he has given us, including the publicity of K.O.N. in America. We especially liked the description of K.O.N. which appeared in their newsletter, 'A wacky new publication. Issue number one of the Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter, apparently fathered by four? people who fly in the Hare and Hounds Pub, in jolly old England, is now available. It includes four maps to flying sites, numerous names and sources for various construction materials. The four editors tend towards the zany and lighthearted, but declare seriousness about providing information. They don't ask for any money or stamps, but of course most kite fliers who want the K.O.N. will chip in.'

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS.

They have sent us a very nice letter (part of which is reproduced on the letters page). They have a very interesting newsletter and we hope to do a more comprehensive report on their activities in a later issue of K.O.N.

TORONTO KITEFLIERS.

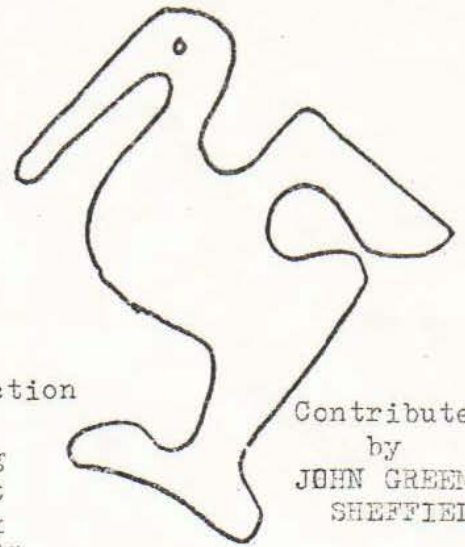
We have received several of their newsletters and hope to go into more detail about the group and their activities at a later date.



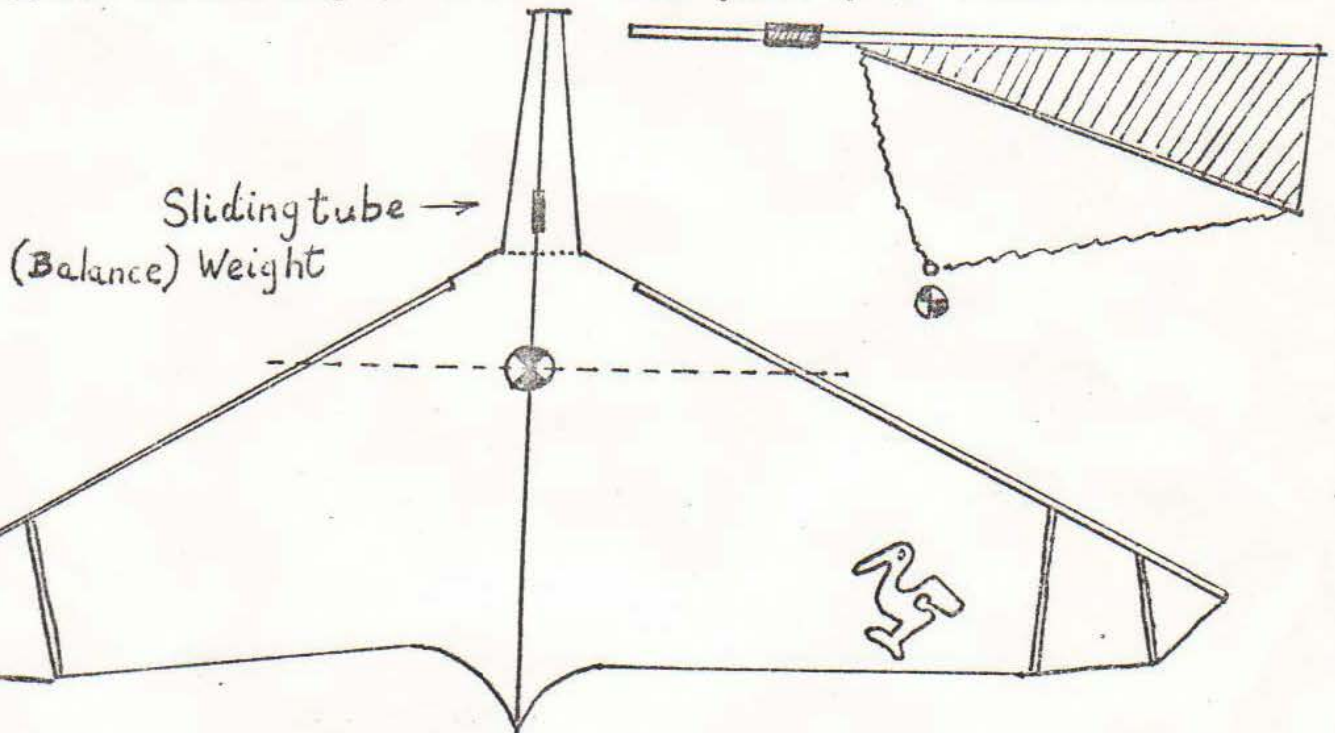
KITE PLANS

PELICAN KITE

Here is a friendly, amusing, useful, handy sized kite for moderate or freshening winds. Recommended for flyer-constructors with several home made kites successfully built. Construction is straightforward and in no way critical. Symmetry of wings is essential, as with any wing design, so cut wings out from evenly pinned, flat material. The original was around ten feet six inches wingspan tip to tip, with six feet by 3/8" dowel leading edge pieces. Cloth was a market remnant of pale blue Poly/cotton bed she-ting 48" wide. Four yards by 48" should suffice.



Contributed
by
JOHN GREEN
SHEFFIELD



SPECIFICATION

Nose length 18"
Leading edge wing angle 110° optimum
Wingspan $10\frac{1}{2}$ ft
Max chord 48"
Batten dowels $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia. 9" and $12\frac{1}{2}$ " long respectively.
Longeron dowel $\frac{3}{8}$ " dia.
keel dowel $\frac{3}{8}$ " dia.

A conventional delta spreader bar is used with this design set at 30% of length of leading edge dowel. Half inch quadrant section was used on writers two kites with complete reliability, secured with hefty braided cord set in reinforcing patches of cloth in sail. Allow slight slackness in sail to develop dihedral and sail billow along spreader ($1\frac{1}{2}$ " short) Nose piece is not tunnelled to longeron, but use leather (of taut.) or heavy fabric for ends of sail battens - this kite flies for hours!. If preferred a conventional keel may be used with two alternative tether bridle points around spreader crosspoint. Eighty pound SHAKESPEARE Mono line used with original kites proving most satisfactory. Well behaved in transition flying attitude from climb to glide in varying winds is a notable feature of this kite.

REVIEWS

SIX POUND JALBERT

Yes it's true folks! A genuine "JALBERT PARAFOIL" for the princely sum of six pounds. Admittedly it's only a small one made from TYVEK and Nylon taffeta material. A J-5T to be exact.

What do you get for your money?

A nice little kite that really flies well, and pulls hard considering it's size. It is a four celled parafoil with two side keels and two central keels one behind the other. It has a colourful streamer tail and is a true, out of the box flyer, just requiring a flying line. Although its mainly Tyvek the kite looks pretty durable. Made under licence from the Jalbert Ramair Corp. in Hong Kong, this kite in my opinion is a good buy.

Obtainable by post from Caroline Packing Ltd, Thornbury Industrial Estate, Thornbury, Bristol. Price (Dec. 79) £5.95. inc P.P.

GREENS OF BURNLEY SOARING BIRD KITE.

From a kite manufacturer too well known to need an introduction comes, a very nice Ripstop kite. So what do you get for your money? A surprising amount really as the kite represents good value for the price. The kite is a low aspect ratio delta with a small bird tail incorporated into the trailing edge. The heavy duty wing spreader uses that old favourite method of attachment i.e. brass rings and notches which results in a sturdy kite. Performance? Well it literally jumps from my hand in a gentle breeze and climbs rapidly and steadily which is the mark of a well made kite. Then comes the characteristics which I particularly like, the flat lateral spins, one minute in front of you, the next flying over and behind, great stuff. There is only one complaint, well quibble, that I have with this kite, and that is line attachment points which dont seem very secure, however they show no signs of coming adrift which is what really counts. This kite is excellent value, well made and flies well. Would suit a novice or an enthusiast who wants some relaxing kite flying.

Obtainable from Greens Of Burnley, 336 Colne Road, Burnley, Lancs. Price (Dec. 79) £6.35p plus 10% P.P. (U.K. Mainland)

FOSKETT 100 FOOT DRAGON KITE.

Unfortunately the kite we purchased was severely damaged in the Mail and necessitated an extensive rebuild before we could test fly it. The kite is composed of the usual Thai serpent head and a body of about 110 feet in length made from Crepe paper. The head is hand painted in bright colours and the body is in various colours i.e. yellow, white and orange. Launching a kite of this length is a rather tricky operation but was accomplished after some adjustments to the bridle. The kite seems to require quite a bit of wind which on this day was not available. However we eventually got the kite up and was impressed by the sight of such a great length of paper gently undulating across the sky. We feel that this kite is not suitable for younger or novice flyers but probably the shorter length kites 25 feet or 50 feet would be better. Value for money? Yes we suppose so as you dont expect much for £7.50 these days and the cost of a kite must be divided by the enjoyment of seeing it flying. Dont fly this kite over wet grass as you know what happens to Crepe paper when it gets wet.

Obtainable from Foskett Kites, 3, Falconcroft, Covingham, Swindon, Wiltshire. Price (Nov. 79) £7.50p plus Post.

All the above reports were contributed by John Barker.

IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY BROUGHT A KITE AND HAVE BEEN PLEASED/INDIFFERENT/DISGUSTED/APPALLED AT ITS PERFORMANCE THEN WHY DONT YOU WRITE AND TELL US ABOUT IT. ANONYMITY IS GUARANTEED.



KON IDEAS PAGE

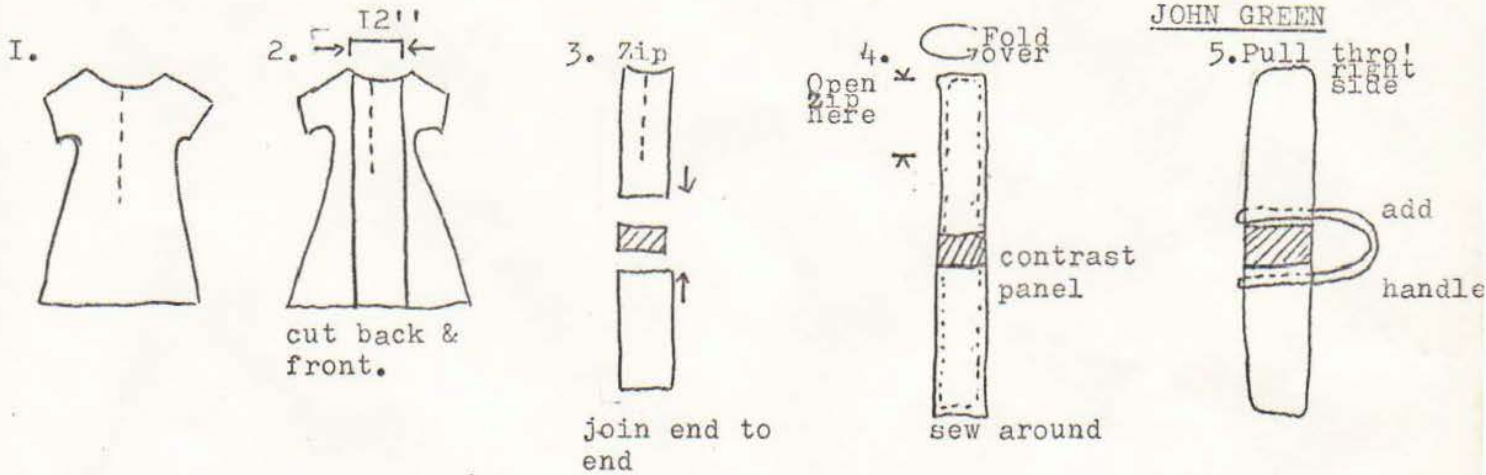
SEWING RIPSTOP:-

When getting a kite organised ready for sewing, 'tacking' is time-consuming and laborious, so we use 'Pritt' glue to hold things in position. Not the wet stuff that dries, like a roll-on, and isn't messy and doesn't gum up the sewing machine needle. It holds things nice and flat and doesn't leave blotch mess marks - but if you use it on the seam allowance bit, it can all be trimmed off after machining anyway.

TESSA BELL

DO-IT-YOURSELF KITE BAG:-

Excellent kite bags can be made for a few pence from JUMBLE SALE ladies dresses. Crimplene dresses in clear bright colours, long back zips, and simple uncluttered design are the points to look out for. Cut a broad strip from the full length of the dress taking care that the zip is in the middle, cutting through both the front and the back of the dress. Lay the two strips end to end ensuring that the zip is towards one end of the combined strip, sew across. With the material folded in two lengthwise, inside out, sew around forming a long narrow bag. Make sure the zip is undone about three inches so that one can reach inside the bag when finished to undo and complete the construction by turning the bag right side out. Variations on this theme can be the inserting of, say, a six inch band of a contrasting colour cloth in the middle, or one end of the bag. This gives a very sporting appearance and looks 'Classy'. I sew handles on my bags from left over scraps of cloth and add luggage tags to identify contents and give name and address in case of loss.



REEL TIDY:-

The idea is to stop line unwinding itself from the reel when not in use, without having to tie knots (which always seem to be inextricable when the crucial moment comes). Just cut a piece of foam rubber rather wider than the reel, then push it between the flanges of the reel. The springiness of the foam stops it falling out, and holds the line in place. It's only just occurred to me that this only works if you have a reel with a fairly large flange area free.

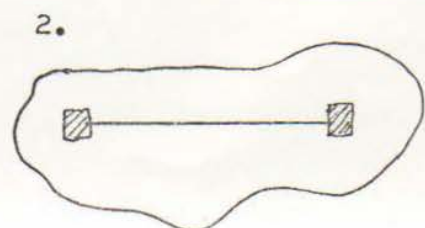
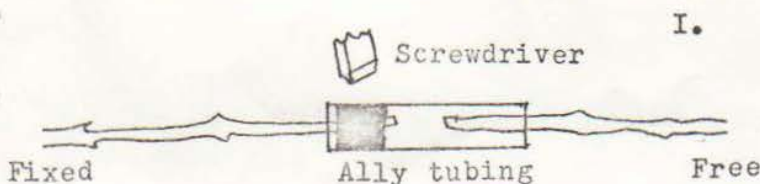
IAN WALTON

ODD DIAMETERS:-

To join odd diameters of cane or dowel etc. using aluminium tube, bind the end of the fixed cane or dowel with P.V.C. tape. Push into tubing and dent diagonally to hold in position. (Diagram I.)

SLOTS IN RIPSTOP:-

Slots or slits are often required in kite making and sewing to stop the material fraying does not always seem to work. Evostik two half inch squares of binding tape each end of slit - one each side of the material. (Diagram 2). ROGER PIKE



TWO TIPS FOR STUNTERS:-

Always start wrapping from the free end of the tubular tail towards the kite, to squeeze the air out. A small puncture made with a hot needle (held on the end of a stick) every few feet will help in flattening the tail when wrapping it, especially when twisted. The hot needle melts the edges of the puncture and stops the plastic tearing.

STANLEY SPEEL.

ATTACHING TUBULAR TAILS:-

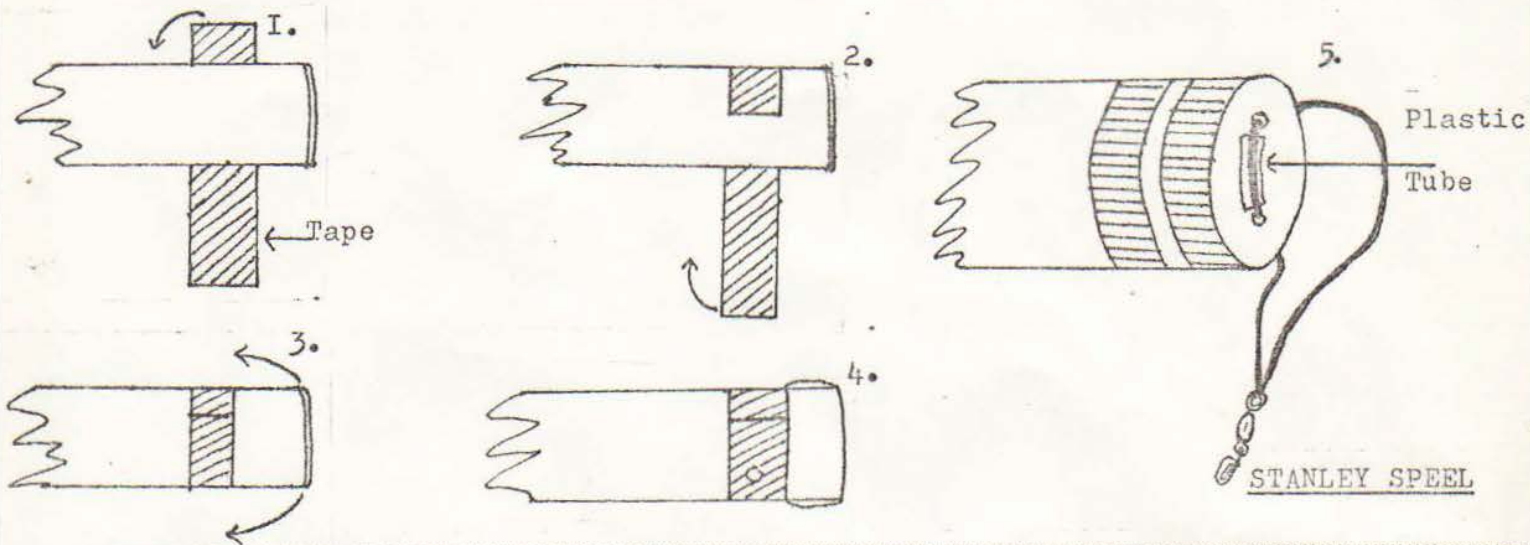
1. Lay end of tail flat across approximately 8 inches of carpet or insulating tape, overlapping by about $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

2. Fold tape over and around.

3. Pull $\frac{1}{2}$ " tail end over taped tube onto the outside and add another strip of tape for extra strength.

4. Flatten the tube and using a paper punch put a hole about a third of the way across the width of the flattened tube.

5. Open tube and thread a heavy duty line through the holes with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " length of plastic tube placed on the inside between the two holes to act as a spacer. Make a 3" loop on the outside and fasten a swivel clip.

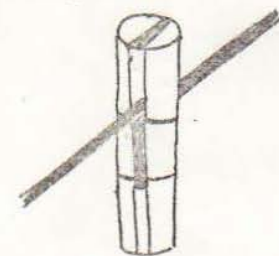
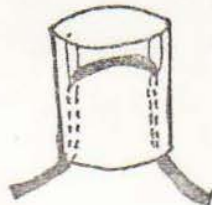


LINE STOP 1:-

Cut a slot, off centre, in one end of a short length of rigid plastic tubing. Loop the line and thread up the tube and back into the slots. Diagram 1.

LINE STOP 2:-

Cut a two inch length of $\frac{3}{8}$ " dowel and put a short slot in each end. Bind with PVC tape to stop splitting. Wind line twice round dowel. Diagram 2.

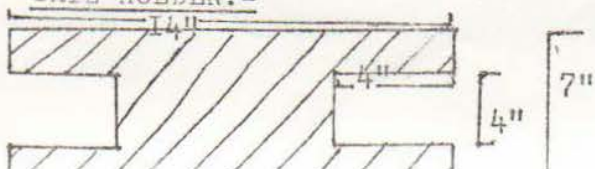


BRIDLE RINGS:-

Most camping and boating shops stock tent and awning D-rings in heavy gauge aluminium which are super strong, come in various sizes and, best of all, are pretty cheap.

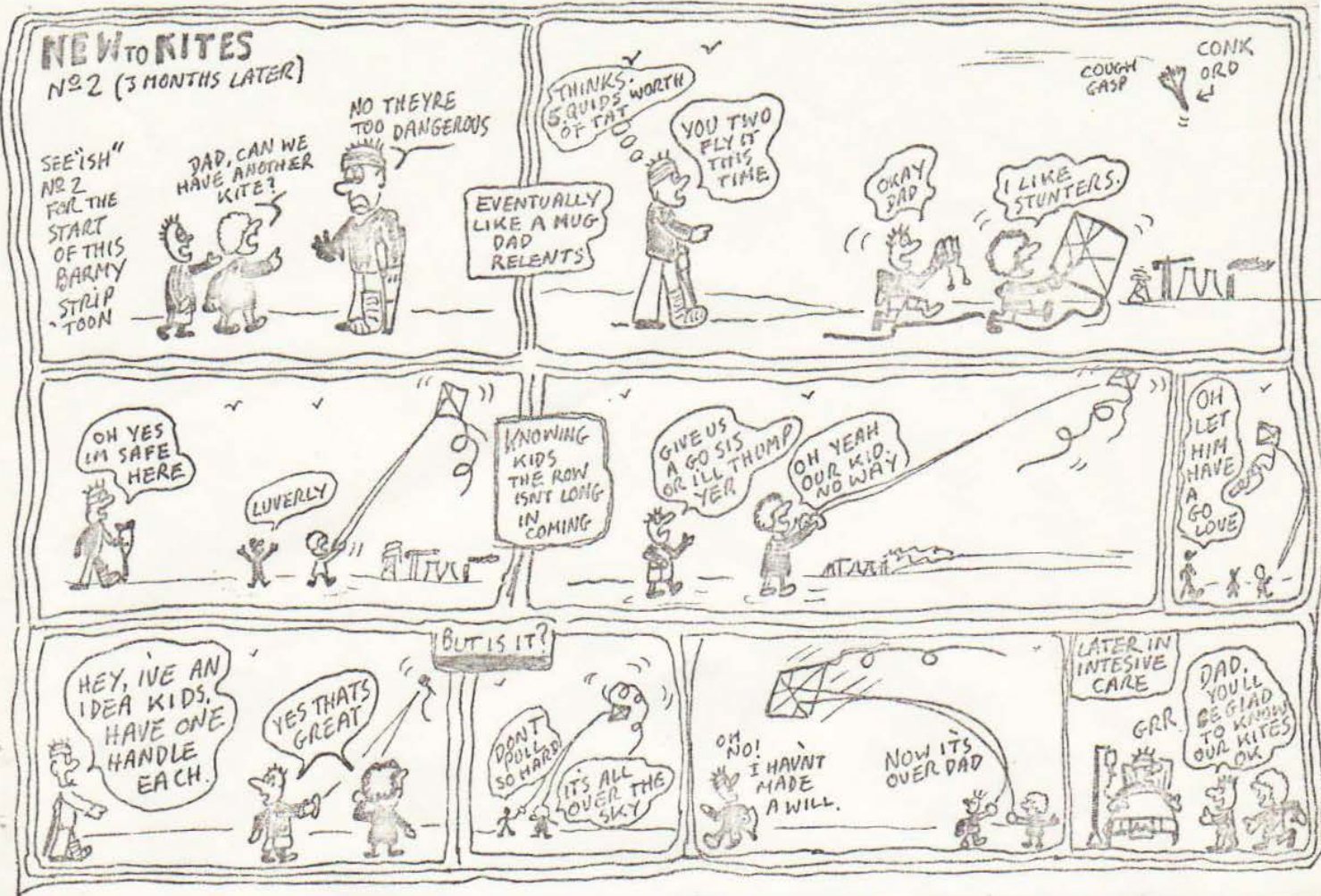
JOHN BARKER

TAIL HOLDER:-



A simple way to keep those tails tidy is to cut out from $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ ply a fat letter H about 14" by 7" with two $\frac{1}{4}$ " rounded squares at each end. Three tails can be wrapped on one after the other.

STANLEY SPEEL



Here is a world record claimed by Norman Bragger of the Midland Kite Fliers. Let us know if you have any previous claim to this record.

The worlds first reel lifting kite. This record was set up at 15.30 hrs. on the 7th July 1979 in Rectory Park, Sutton Coldfield.

The writer was flying an 8ft delta in blustery and unstable wind conditions whilst his seven year old daughter played watchdog over a couple of other kites which were lying on the ground, assembled ready for flying. At just before 15.30, it was decided that the little lass should fly one of the kites, and so the reel from which the delta was being flown was secured to the ground with a line pin to enable the second launch to take place. The writer had just about persuaded the kite (I think it was a Brookite bird) into the air when there was an excited cry of "Daddy, look" and he spun round to be greeted by the sight of the aforesaid reel bounding and bouncing at increasing speed across the landscape, the line pin having apparently been wrenched out of the ground. (Who was the clown who said that deltas don't pull?). Having hastily passed care of the second kite to his highly amused offspring the writer proceeded to sprint off in pursuit of his property, confident at that stage that he could catch up with it before anything drastic happened, but, unfortunately, the wind chose at that moment to veer off about 15 degrees, thus taking the line over a row of tall ash trees about 80 yards away. All was well until the line passed across the uppermost branches of one of the trees, but as soon as it did and when the writer was almost upon it, the reel was snatched from the ground and hauled in the space of about three seconds into the top of the tree where it stayed suspended, and this is a heavy reel! By this time the junior member was having trouble with her kite and was shouting for help, and not wishing to see another kite off on its travels the writer proceeded to sprint off back to the rescue leaving the sixty foot ash tree to fly his delta for him. It was about this time that matters reached crisis point. At the very moment that the writer reached his daughter's side she pointed in the direction of the ash trees and shouted out "coming down daddy". She was referring not to the ash trees but to the reel, which, as a result of a sudden fall in the wind speed, was being lowered steadily to the ground through the lower limbs of the tree, a development which caused a certain amount of divided loyalty which resulted in a third sprint back in the direction of the reel which he reached just in time to prevent its return to the top of the tree.

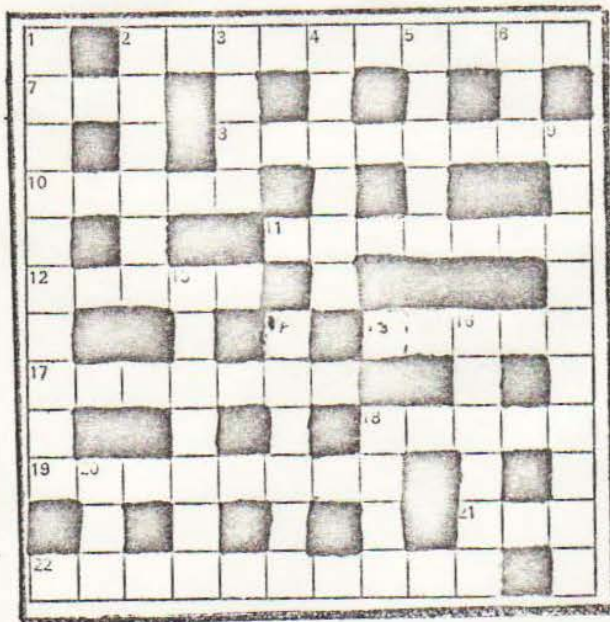
K.O.N. KOMPETITION

K.O.N. IS PROUD TO PRESENT ITS FIRST COMPETITION(WE MAY HAVE MORE,IT DEPENDS ON THE RESPONSE TO THIS ONE).
THERE IS A PRIZE OF A FIVE FOOT OPEN KEEL DELTA FOR THE FIRST CORRECT SOLUTION OUT OF THE HAT.SOLUTION TO:-

K.O.N. KOMPETITION,
94, ENDSLEIGH GARDENS,
ILFORD,
ESSEX
IG1 3EG.

ENTRIES MUST REACH US BY THE 31st OF MARCH, 1980.

Compiled by Jack Spiers, Ph.D./K. (Phrenetic Devotee, Kiteflying)



Across

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>2. Mean Meteor for assessing the wind(10)
7. Yo heave ho etc. (3)
8. Mythical father of the son who came down in flames (8)
10. Type 1 for an admirable quality(5,
11. A new one is seen at nearly every kite meeting (7,
12. 'Take your pick?' (5)
15. Very light: Kiter. (5)
17. Frenchman who designed the highest "ladder" in the world (7)
18. The first kite in Cody's manlifting train (5)
19. Hired lad helps to improve performance (8)
21. Sounds like a very weighty barrel(3)
22. The commonest configuration seen where kites foregather(5-5)</p> | <p>1. Sounds as though the threesomes won the race for this kite(6-4)
2. Current unit quite unconnected with kiting (6)
3. Kite in a whirl? (4)
4. Mythical flying king from Borneo(6)
5. Past deed? precisely (5)
6. It will never fly! (3)
9. Long sinuous kite form (10)
13. Certainly not the farthest! (7)
14. His cross is often seen flying over Scotland (6)
16. These could be used to decorate one of your "pretties" (6)
18. Study this before cutting into your kite material (4)
20. Even more slippery than ripstop (3)</p> |
|---|---|
