

THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



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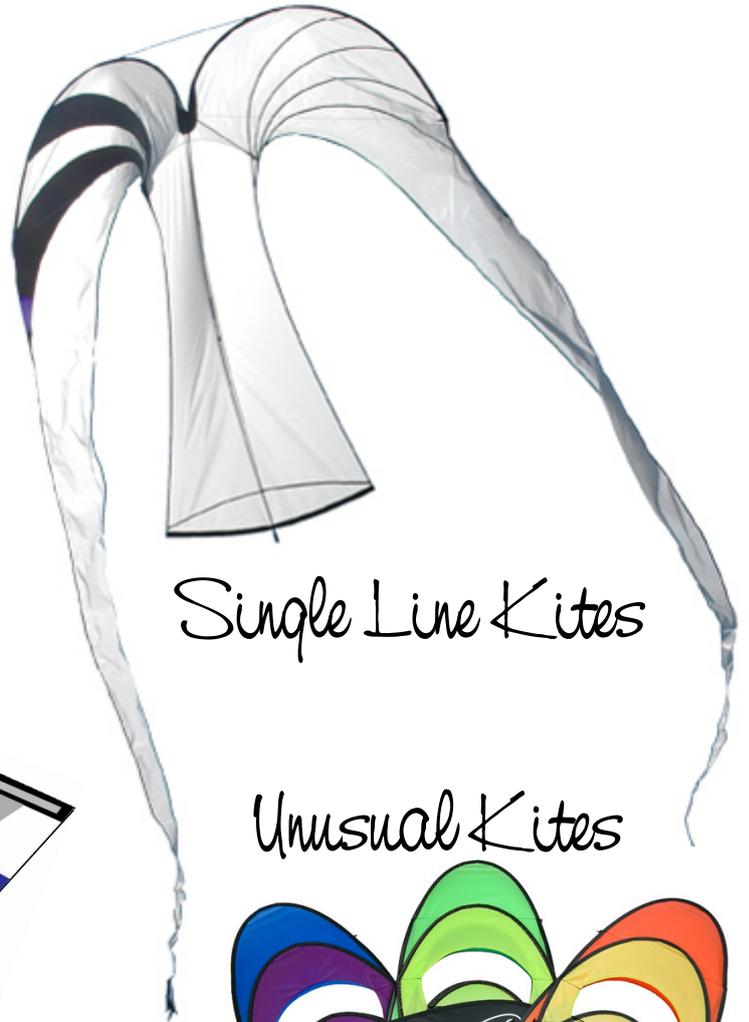
**Newsletter of the Kite Society of
Great Britain**

Happy New Year to all our Customers

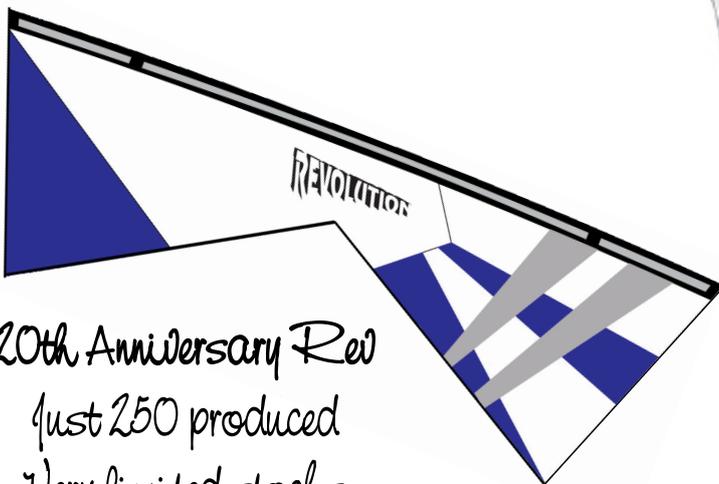
- When the wind blows - think of us -
Power Kites - Sport Kites - Windgardens



Inflatable Kites



Single Line Kites



20th Anniversary Rev
Just 250 produced
Very limited stocks

Signed by the Hadzicki brothers

Unusual Kites



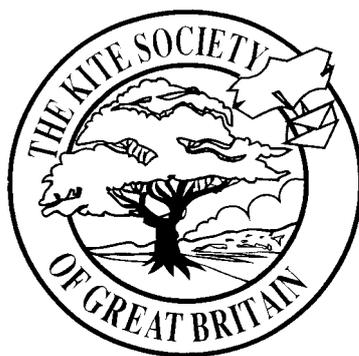
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The Kite Society of Great Britain
P. O. Box 2274
Gt Horkesley
Colchester
CO6 4AY
Tel: 01206 271489

Email: kites@thekitesociety.org.uk
<http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk>

Editorial

Dear Readers

You may remember in the last magazine we asked for feedback regarding the type of workshops you would like if we arranged them for Weymouth this year. Well the response was underwhelming with just three people responding. So we conclude that this sort of activity is to be left at the local level.

2008 looks set to be a good kiting year with a number of new events taking place—let us hope the weather is kinder this year! 2008 is also the 20th anniversary of the Revolution kite and there are plans in place for a celebratory series of events with lots of Rev fliers from around the world planning to attend Portsmouth and Bristol. More details as we get them. Some of the older readers may remember the Blackheath Kite Festival which used to take place over Easter. It is early days yet but there is a chance that the festival will be resurrected—watch this space.

Front Cover

Jeroen Colpaert and his Air Guitar winner of the Best Kite at Margate 2007.

Photo by Michel Dupuijdt

Whilst every effort is taken to get the details correct The Kite Society cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that occur. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors or The Kite Society.

Membership Information

The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication 'THE KITEFLIER', published in January, April, July and October of every year. 'THE KITEFLIER' contains news of forthcoming kite festivals, kite retailer news, kite plans, kite group news and a comprehensive events list. Other benefits of membership include free, or reduced, entry into selected kite festivals in the U.K., special parking arrangements where possible, discount - from 5% to 15% - on all kite purchases from the majority of kite retailers in the U.K.

A membership 'year' runs for four issues of 'THE KITEFLIER', plus other occasional mailings. Each member receives a membership card entitling them to free entry and discount.

If you wish to join The Kite Society you can join online and pay using Paypal (credit or debit card payment) at www.thekitesociety.org.uk or send your name and address (plus the names of any supplementary members) and your payment for the appropriate membership type, to the address shown above. All cheques, made payable to 'The Kite Society' and, for overseas members, should be drawn in the U.K. and be in sterling.

Membership Type	Fee
Individual	£11.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£12.00
O.A.P.	£9.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£10.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£13.00
Overseas - Airmail	£16.00

Pothecary Corner

A Craftsman at Work



I recently acted as a courier (I saved them the postage) for some guys in Southampton who had ordered some Benson Deep Space

kites and wanted to be sure of getting them in time for the Christmas holidays. How pleased they were to get photos of Tim in the final stages of construction of the actual kites they now own.

Tim now very much enjoys life in Cornwall since moving from the Bradford area a few years ago and still hand-builds his kites in the purpose built workshop next to his house.

The Deep Space is currently one of Tim's best sellers – and so it should be after all the time he took getting the design just right. There have been only a couple of minor modifications since I reviewed the kite in this magazine one of which was that the spine is now in Skyshark instead of Structil. To be honest, at my level, you would be pushed to tell the difference but I suppose a spare would be easier to come by if ever I trod on it or something (well Skyshark do sponsor us).

We still have the Deep Space, among others, Tim gave us to review, so if you need to be convinced of how well it performs come over and give it a go. If you are on line you can find out more about Benson kites at www.bensonkites.com

A prize worth £200.00?

Last year we ran a photo competition where people sent pictures of Marilyn and me to our website. We also advertised it around all the events that we attended and received around sixty or seventy entries, with the eventual winning photo by Ann Girling from Southampton, being picked out by Michael of www.kiteworld.co.uk taking the prize - a Prism Hypnotist complete with lines and the Prism, "Freestyle Pilot" DVD.

This year we are going to do a different photo competition. If you want to join in the rules are simple. The photo must be taken by yourself, it must be taken after January 1st 2008, it has to be kite related with the theme of "Colour".

Why colour? – Well, this year, none other than twice World Champion, seven times European Champion and producer of some of the best of British kites leading the world in technology and design - Mr Carl Robertshaw www.kiterelateddesign.com – will be joining our main sponsors, Kiteworld, in awarding a kite, worth £175.00, the FURY 85 of your own colour choice as the prize.

Yes – that's right send in your own kite related picture emphasizing **COLOUR** as the theme and you could win a Fury 85 in your very own colour scheme.

As well as helping with their share of the prize kite – Kiteworld will be boosting the total to around **£200.00** by including a set of quality lines so that the

winner will be properly set up. If you win, and are a novice or just want some help to improve your flying then you can always pop along to one of our practice sessions or "Better Flying Days" – but then you don't even have to enter the competition to do that – just contact us through our web-site.



Remember the colour theme is kite related, so it can be a single line kite, two, three, four or as many lines and kites as you like – it can be power kites or, it can even be a 'kitey person' doing something clever or even silly – not that any of us kite flyers do anything silly of course!

The top of the range fury 85 retails in all the good kite stores at around £175.00 and we hope to have one of the top European flyers, Chris Goff, joining us throughout the festival season, showing how to do some of the tricks and precision this amazing kite is easily capable of performing.

Full details will be on our web-site soon www.closeencounterskites.co.uk so what are you waiting for, get that camera clicking and enter as many times as you like – It's free – and you could easily win a top of the range sport kite.

Break down without breaking it

How many of us have a tale to tell about putting a rod through a sail on one of our kites or worse still – someone else's!! - I managed to do it to a North Shore Radical the first time it came out of the bag. Since we have so many kites to put up and down when we attend the various events up and down the country, I soon found myself coaching our helpers in

Pothecary Corner

the 'safer way' we prefer this task to be completed. There is a video of me (soon to be updated) at with a quick guide and lots of views of the top of my head – rather misleading I thought as it looks as if I am going bald!



It's less dangerous erecting the kite as long as you remember to hold the rods on the end, close to the leading edge or centre piece to which you are attempting to insert. We always fit the top spreader first to give

some rigidity to the kite and it's worth noting, at this point, that all of the rods and stand offs should always be pushed in as far as they will go. There are two reasons for this: (1) That the kite will stay together better (obviously) and (2) that the designer will have spent some time on getting the dimensions just right for optimal performance and a quarter inch at both ends plus a bit in the middle will make a difference to this. Most instruction manuals will advise you to lay the kite flat on the ground whilst you put it together but they forget to mention to keep your back and the nose of the kite pointing toward the wind.



I prefer to stand facing the wind. With the kite then being pushed back against me I lean over – not the best position for back posture (that's what's been doing it

then) and the reason you get the top of my head in the video.

The worst part is disassembling the kite with all that pulling and the spar suddenly jerking out of the end you are looking at only to pierce the sail at the other. Kiteworld.co.uk tell me they always get someone, every year, trying to convince them it was like that when they took it out of the bag – Oh come on now!

I go the same way taking the kite down, by facing the wind with it leaning against me but, whatever; the order would be the same with us. Standoffs out first then the top spreader, gripping the rod whilst pushing with your thumb release the end and hold it out, away



from the kite. Then, at the other end, consciously pulling it away from the danger zone. Next, if you are behind the kite, release the left bottom spreader. Holding the rod, fold back the leading edge all

the way to the centre "T". Now you can pull this one away as hard as you like with out any fears of trundling off to your favourite trader and buying some patching tape.



The reason I said to attend to the left hand side first is because we **always** assemble kites which have a ferrule that passes through the centre piece from the right hand side. You will notice the kite's frame is still preventing the kite

from flapping all over and we didn't have to guess which side it was in because we always do it the same way. Now it's time to remove the last bottom spreader using finger and thumb as before and again sliding the leading edge all the way to the middle so that you have good control and the end of the rod can't damage anything.

Sometimes, when the wind strength changes unexpectedly we have to swap kites quickly or T.C. will be giving us the 'hurry up' sign again before we have even finished our first ballet. It's therefore important that the kites are put away tidily so that the bridle doesn't become all tangled up with the standoffs – If you have a Benson Gemini you'll probably know what I mean. So we like to use a tip given us by Chris Matheson (remember him?) and either hook over or larch loop the tow point over the top leading edge connector. I know all this sounds a lot, but it's no more than you do anyway and a little forethought and self discipline means that you will enjoy your investment a lot longer.



2 Kites tested from Airdynamics

I'm going to leave it to you to visit the web-site for the tech data—www.airdynamics.co.uk. Marilyn and I tested two of the five kites in the new range. The designer and maker, Peter Taylor claims that you could get away with these two – the T4 V1 (vented) and the T4 UL (ultra light). I think if we were still competing I wouldn't feel too safe when the other guys were using standards in an ideal wind of 8 to 10 mph and we had to choose between kites that were close to either the top or the bottom of their limit. No, I would still have a standard as well – I've always liked to have the right tool for the job.

Pothecary Corner

I found the kites to be well made (Peter's business partner Valerie makes the sails) and came with a good instruction book and spare bungee. Immediately you begin to feel as if this kite has been thought about, designed and made in a way that your money has been well invested. I am particularly interested in this kite because the Close Encounters Display Team (that's when there's more than me and the Mrs.) are in need of kites to use at both ends of the wind speeds.



We tried out the T4 UL first and found that it went lower than our ultra light Lithiums but not quite as low as the Skyshark super ultra light ProDancers. Therefore you will probably see us flying the Zero (SUL) in no wind conditions. Then why don't we just buy more ProDancers from the USA you may ask – especially as the pound is so strong? Well technology has moved on. The reason the American kite flies

in so little wind is because of the sail area to super light rod ratio and because it is so flat. The flatness of the kite means that you lose a lot on what you can do. The kite is twitchy and not easy to land to order and its range of tricks is minimal. All of these things have been designed out of the T4. I was amazed to be able to pull off a Jacobs Ladder in virtually no wind practically standing still. 540 degree flat spins were just that – a full 540 and flat. A nice expression from Peter – “This kite really hovers up the air”.

When I say a kite has to fly in no wind that's exactly what I mean – Just getting airborne is no good when you are in the arena you have to be able to do a routine worthy of people watching. We were able to power up the kite from launch easily and when there was only a slight breeze the wind window went out to almost 180 degrees. I can't comment on how it reacts in a team – we only had one of each – I can only suggest you watch the Airheads the five man team Peter has put together.

Peter says that It was with the help of his team that the T4 range developed so quickly. Knowing the guys (I include gals in this terminology) as I do, rail-track

precision had, without compromise, to go hand in hand with low pull. Peter built this in to the kite and with it the requirement to use only small arm movements to bring off really snappy turns. It is, however, the small movements that gave me problems with landing, especially in the higher winds. I am so used to the bigger movements required of most other kites I fly that muscle memory takes over and I overcompensate. This is why you should find a kite you like and stick with it if you intend competing. We both found the vented kite to be a lot faster than we expected in fact overall it does tend to fly more like a three quarter sized kite rather than the full size that it is but that's not a bad thing. After a short while of talking to him you realize that Peter really is a kite nut. He thinks about his passion a great deal and has now come up with a good addition to his kites in the shape of the Cruise Control as shown in the picture. It's a wah pad that you tie on so that it doesn't flap around giving different readings but the rest of the cord is bungee which you can adjust with an interesting type of speed clip which I have not seen before. You “dial up”, as Peter puts it, the effect you want it to have by tensioning the bungee – More slack = more brake. I tried it across a very turbulent window and found that it really did make a difference.

One other little trick I noticed was an idea Peter told me he had borrowed from Ray Bethel and that was not to larch loop the bridle and push the leading edge through it but instead to put it around the back and then around and over the connector. Just imagine how much time that saves if you want to change the bridle. Also this must be a great way to go about it when you are designing a kite. I wonder how long it will be before we go back to the days of the Matrix when that was supplied with two, different types of bridle but now, so much easier to change.

Overall I think Mr. Taylor could have a winner here I just hope the price tag which varies either side of £200.00 depending on which kite, is still in the affordable range and we see lots more of them in the sky. Unfortunately I don't get to keep the review kite this time so you won't be able to try before you buy unless you catch up with Peter at a festival – look out for those Airheads.

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary would like to thank the following who have contributed with help, support, equipment and sponsorship throughout a successful 2007:- Kiteworld.co.uk, HQ Invento, Tim Benson, Skyshark, Atelier, Inter-Active Kites (Skydancer). We look forward to having an even more successful 2008 with you. Also thanks to all those who have come over to chat and for your kind words and messages and all those visitors to our web-site.

Don't forget to checkout www.closeencounters.co.uk from time to time as there is always something new being added. Happy New Year.

The Kiter's Meeting at Fano 2007—George Webster

This was our first visit and my purpose is to encourage others to go.

Once we had got to Harwich, travel was easy. The overnight ferry to Esbjerg was very comfortable. It was 1/2 mile to the Fano ferry and 2-3 miles to our house. We had booked a 'holiday home' last October; it had 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a veranda with resident rabbits in the garden along with visiting hares and deer.

It was less than a mile to the extraordinary beach. At the northern end was a 4 miles x 1/2 mile in which to fly. There was a further 3 miles for buggies. Most of the beach is hard packed sand—so you can drive to a suitable spot, unpack and fly. The sand is firm enough for a local bus service to run along the beach.

Although you can just drive to a spot and fly, it is likely that you'd first want to drive and see some interesting kites close up, or just cruise, or meet up with friends.

So on a hot summer's day the drill is; launch your kite, look at thousands of kites in the sky and enjoy.

On our 9 days we had 4 of perfect sun and useful wind, 3 days dodging showers and 2 write offs. On one of which we took a trip off the island.

This is pressure free kiting. Space is abundant, there is no noticeable height limit and it is quite with no music or PA to disturb the rustle of rip-stop.



At this point I have to repeat that this is a kite

meeting not a festival—or that is the claim. I don't know who puts out the attached postcard sold in the village shops but I believe Dragefestival means kite festival! Originally started some 23 years ago as a birthday celebration it continues with no 'organisation'. There is a 'welcome' held in an enormous barn. We were 10 minutes late and missed the speech but everyone just mingled with new / ol friends and thought about buying from the traders.

On one afternoon a school had been booked for a symposium on 'Historical Kites'. There was a great display of faultless copies of late 19th and early 20th century kites and several talks in German and French.

On the last Saturday the barn was used for the famous auction. Alphons the auctioneer was dressed in black leather and snake skin boots (more Andy than Paul) and works through the lots quickly. To my surprise many of the prices were quite reasonable by our standards. I liked:

- The use of fixed bid intervals. I.e. After a certain amount only 5 Euro increases.
- Auctioning cheaper items to children early on with a convention that adults didn't bid.
- Using children on a catwalk to bring items to the auctioneer which helped a good family feeling.

All proceeds, in fact any income, from the meeting goes to a charity which helps Columbian children.

The local authority puts out the dates in its publicity, the agencies who handle the accommodation were geared up, the local shop keepers have an increase in trade and kite fliers find out by 'word of net'.

It is really an enormous German fly-in held in Denmark and attended by fliers from Germany, Holland, France and the UL (about 20 Brits).

Obviously like to put on a display and show off what is new, but there are plenty of commercial kites in the sky.

Firstly the British contributors: Wigsley Wings had their usual great display. George and Jackie Penny were flying Brassington boxes (Roberts was there but I only met him at the social event as the beach is so huge. Robert Van Weer had an arch of Yellow Tang drogues:

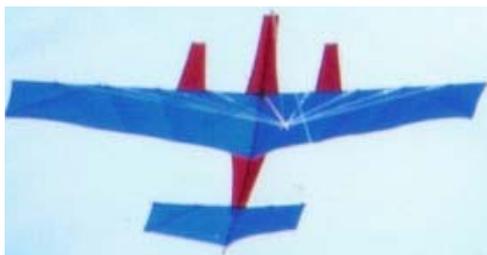
The Kitters' Meeting at Fano 2007—George Webster

you all know that YTs are fish. He also designed a Moorish Idol now widely available and a one off anemone of which more later. Jerry and Carolyn never quite got bear dropping (so little time) but had a great display of Power Sleds. They also spent a considerable time trying to fly an umbrella. Earnest Barton flew a range of his big kites including Double Deltas and his new 'square delta' and achieved the first flight of his Barton Box (See a future note). I got most flying time from a couple of old Flaix but also flew a Pomocef (first flown last year) and a Genki variant called Kranki both made by Karl Longbottom.

Some new kites—the crab and dragon were over in the UK later. Peter Lynn has designed a crab which was flown for the first time in Fano but was still under test at Wirral. Rolf Zimmermann had a new soft dragon, again flying better at Wirral. It is a novel design in great original colours which moves well as his kites often do. High in the sky you could usually see big 3 sail Rolloplans. We saw a 10m x



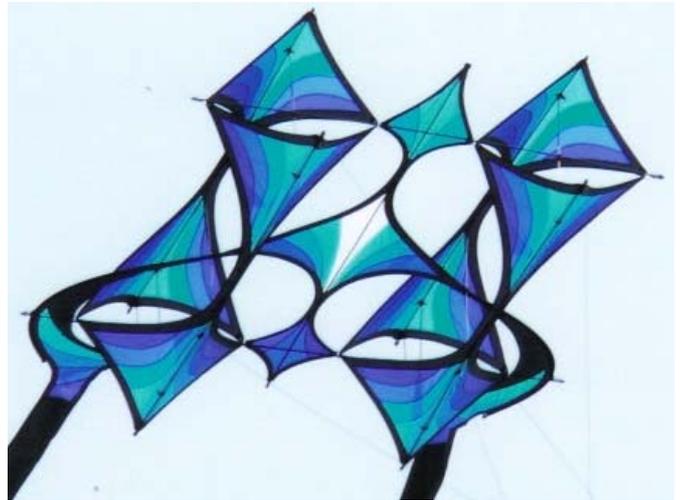
8m Sauls Barrage Kite on the ground. There were many Codys which seemed to always be 'extended wing' flown with a top sail. Other historic box kites were up if the wind was strong enough. On the last day we saw the first flight of a gigantic (8m?) multi bridled Conyne.



Aeroplane was a new kite for me.

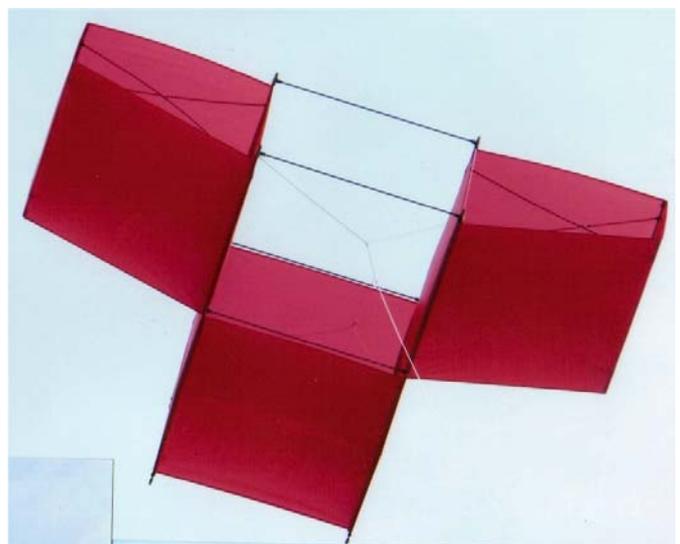
If you were into line laundry and drogues then you could see the Teddy Bears Wedding

(Groom, Bride, Pages, etc), Cartoon characters, Bugs Bunny and Pig and as they say 'much, much more'. There were two of the finest Bols



I have ever seen. One was an Anemone with multiple tentacles and four clown fish in them. The other was a giant, which looked as if it had been made from 90 umbrella covers. In fact it had! The maker had heard of a freak storm in a German town which had broken the frames of many umbrellas; gone there, obtained the scrap brollies and made the Bol.

Many thanks to Jerry and Carolyn who planned our visit so well, to all the fliers who were so open and friendly (especially the White Horse Kite Fliers) and to the Danes who cycle on the sands, often with a cart behind for the children and whose quiet villages (with cycle track of course) are a delight.



In the auction was the Genki like fields of Frisian cows against a blue sky—also at Bedford and Wirral. The

Kiting and Horses

As a keen single line kite flier, and also the owner of several riding horses, I'd like to suggest that you include in your code of conduct some practical advice for kite fliers of all types when coming into contact with horses.

This in my view particularly applies to Power Kiting, Boarding, Buggies and Stunt/Aerobic Kiting because their ground position is often rapidly moving - but also applies to single line kites.

Generally the sites used for kiting (downs, beaches and hillsides) are also popular with horse riders.

Horses are fright and flight animals - with the possible result of a frightened horse (combined weight of c.600 kg and 45mph potential) tearing off taking anything in its path with it - including you and your valuable kiting gear!

Horses are generally unpredictable, fast, and very strong - they also have a brain about the size of a golf ball, and so have even been known to shy at a single plastic carrier bag blowing in the breeze!

There are no reasons why Kite Fliers and Horse Riders should not get along fine if a few guidelines are followed by both parties and so here are some suggestions:

1. Be aware of your environment – and keep a look out for horses approaching.

- Give them plenty of room and try to avoid them!
- 50 Metres is a good guide as a minimum safety distance to avoid any problems.
- If room is limited and it is practical, ground the kite and secure from flapping until any horse has passed.

2. Horse riders should also be trying to avoid you.

- Horse riders want to avoid trouble, but must avoid soft sand or uneven ground.
- The safest pace for a rider to pass you is at walk or trot.
- Horses may approach you quickly:
 - Horses being ridden rarely travel faster than 15 – 20 mph (in Canter)
 - Rarely a ridden beach/downs gallop may approach at up to 30mph
 - Loose horses are much more dangerous and faster!

3. Horses have a limited field of vision – especially behind, overhead and directly in front of them - sudden movement in these areas can lead to a 'spook' and the horse becoming increasingly unmanageable. Horses have an acute ability to detect movement. This is why a horse is much flightier on windy days; things that are normally stationary are now moving and perceived as a potential threat.

- AVOID SUDDEN KITE, INDIVIDUAL, TOWED

OBJECT MOVEMENTS OR SUDDEN CHANGES OF DIRECTION WITHIN 50 M OF ANY HORSE

4. Noise bears a very important part of the horse sensory apparatus, and it is similar in range and tone to that of humans - but far more sensitive. Horses' ears can also rotate about 180 degrees allowing horses to focus on the direction from which the sound is coming, isolate it, and run the other way!

- Sudden bangs, loud rustling noises, line whistle or a kite being stalled or luffed can frighten the horse.
- AVOID STALLING, LUFFING OR BRINGING A KITE TO LOW LEVEL OR GROUND WITHIN 50 M OF ANY HORSE.
- Try and reduce the sound of the kite by reducing load on the line/s and holding in a gentle hover/static flight mode.

5. Riders generally know their horse well and what will spook them or calm them

- Listen to what a rider requests – and advise if possible
- Stay calm and don't run about or panic
- Remember that inanimate objects can always be repaired or replaced – humans or animals can't.

What if it all goes wrong?

Spooked Horse (rider still on board)

- Communicate with rider (they have more of a problem now than you do!)
- Ask how you can help
- Avoid sudden movements or noises
- Minimise Kiting noise or activity
- Stand still at first
- Walk calmly away from horse taking your Kite/s and gear with you

Loose Horse (riderless)

- A horse can change direction very quickly even at full gallop - so unless you know what you are doing – get out of the way!
- If the horse is running directly at you – stand still.
- Be prepared to move if the horse doesn't!
- Don't run, because the horses' herd instinct will be to follow you!
- Locate and help the rider
- Unless you have handled horses before, do not try and catch one – when frightened and/or injured they are likely to bite or kick – especially if cornered.
- Call for help
- Always carry something to cut your lines with – in the case of entanglement.

David Ford

Bits & Pieces

From Prinsider.com—29th November 2007 HIGH-FLYING STARS DESIGN KITES FOR CHARITY AUCTION

MADONNA, ANGELINA JOLIE and CHER are among the celebrities designing kites for charity.

The high-flyers will auction off their authentic Afghan kites on eBay next month as part of the launch of Participant Productions, a social action campaign which will coincide with the delayed release of new Afghan movie *The Kite Runner*.

Proceeds from the kite auction will benefit the Afghanistan Relief Organization (AFO), which helps raise cash for the training of teachers and the construction of rural libraries in Afghanistan.

James Bond star Daniel Craig, Benicio Del Toro, Billy Bob Thornton, Halle Berry, Reese Witherspoon, Edward Norton, Jessica Biel, Kate Winslet, Will Ferrell and acting siblings Maggie and Jake Gyllenhaal will also decorate and sign kites for the upcoming auction.

As well as the kites, the auction will also include a trip to the set of the new James Bond film as a personal guest of director Marc Forster, as well as a private lunch with *The Kite Runner* author Khaled Hosseini.

People will also have the opportunity to bid for the inclusion of their names in Hosseini's next book.

We have not been able to find out any more details about this auction.

BioKite Soars Where No Kite has Soared Before - Indoors!

The BioKite was designed using the same proven aerodynamic principles that allow huge jumbo jets to fly. The beautiful, birdlike kite can soar virtually effortlessly in indoor environments like school gymnasiums, making it ideal for the disabled.

When elementary school teachers in Japan made it known that they were looking for a kite that could fly indoors, Kazuo Mori, president of Morihisa Co., listened. Mori redesigned Morihisa's original BioKite (which could fly in very light breezes) to allow children, the disabled, elderly people and others with mobility restric-

tions a chance to fly a kite indoors. Not to mention those living in wintry climes!

The BioKite weighs just 10 grams but lightness is only one attribute of the innovative design. Applying Bernoulli's Principle to the wing cross section creates lift. By gently manipulating a fishing rod & reel attached to the body of the BioKite, the operator can not only fly the kite in windless settings, they can manoeuvre it as they like.



Though certainly not cheap at 11,000 yen (about \$100) each, the BioKite fills a unique niche. At present it can be purchased online from the manufacturer's Japanese-language website. www.biokite.com.

Odd Web Site

www.halfbakery.com/category/Product_3a_20Kite is a web site with a few odd things related to kites. For example the Freeze Dried Albatross Kite which takes one old albatross, feeds it a bit, spreads the wings on a frame and then dips the whole lot into liquid nitrogen. Tie a line and fly!

Another one is the Doggie Kite:

Another halfbaker (cheeselike substance) suggested a doggie umbrella, but noted it would not work on windy days.

My idea is a kite that straps to a dog's back so that the dog and owner can both have fun when the owner takes the dog out for a "walk" on windy days. Sort of like those big kites that allow a water skier to fly while being towed by a boat.

This would be especially useful for seeing-eye dogs because they'd get a better view of obstacles and threats in the area.

Hall of Fame

Not the Kite Museum one but the Toy Hall of Fame. One of the 2007 inductees was the kite.

Bits & Pieces

The entry reads:

According to tradition, kites made of silk and bamboo first appeared in China some 3,000 years ago, but the earliest written account of kite flying is about 200 BCE. A Chinese general used a kite to determine the distance his troops needed to tunnel under a city's walls. Kite flying spread throughout Asia and became a national pastime in several countries. From Asia, kites continued to migrate to the rest of the world. In the English language, kites share their name with a graceful and colourful hawk.

Though the aerodynamics of kites remain the same, the materials, shapes, and uses of kites have multiplied throughout the centuries. Ancient Chinese kites made of silk and bamboo have given way to kites of paper, polyester, and rip-stop nylon. Flat kites with diamond or geometric shapes share the skies with intricate box kites and other three-dimensional forms and inflatable spar-less airfoils. Over the years, kites have advanced science, meteorology, building construction, and photography. Modern enthusiasts use kites for sports like hang-gliding and competitive kite fighting, and in traditional and national festivals. Other people use kites just for fun. Nothing sends the human spirit soaring so well as a colorful kite aloft in a gentle breeze.

Drachen Foundation Journal.

Scott Skinner posted on the Drachen Foundation web site:

After 11 years and 25 issues, the journal team of Drachen says goodbye to our readers with this final issue. Under the research and journalistic expertise of Ben Ruhe, we have enjoyed learning new and exciting things about the world of kites, its cultures and its people. Without fear and always with great enthusiasm, Ben has travelled more than four times around the world and visited almost every corner of kiting history, culture, art and sport. He yielded to no boundary—whether it geographic or political. He explored areas in kiting that hadn't yet been touched, made many friends for Drachen and exposed many to kiting.

Throughout this time, little information about Ben himself has been given to the journal's readers. A professional journalist with some of the best US newspapers, he took time off to vagabond around the world. He visited castles,

kings and monks, never afraid to take colourful jobs when he needed money. After his world travels, he settled back in the nation's capitol, Washington D.C., as an information specialist for the Smithsonian Institution. Beside his job at the Smithsonian, he gave much time to a personal passion for the boomerang (another object that flies.) Interestingly, this passion gave him much of the background to go on and report on the world of kites.

Ben was an important confidante and advisor to me before the Drachen Foundation had been born. I had travelled with Drachen administrator Ali Fujino to Ben's Washington D.C. apartment to talk about book possibilities. Nothing came of that, but I got a glimpse of this mildly eccentric and wonderful man.

After closely examining every surface in the apartment, it was obvious that Ben was a voracious collector. More importantly, he had a variety of interests unlike anyone else—primitive spear points, modern art, boogie-woogie piano, and (his direct link to flying objects) boomerangs! A lasting memory from that visit was a visit to his artist friend's apartment to see, first, his collection of art, but more importantly, his collection of marbles. Marbles! From then on, collecting, creating, and promoting kites seemed nothing more than mainstream to me.

When the Foundation was born, Kitelines Magazine was ending its great run and German and French kite magazines were coming and going; it was understood that a publishing arm would be a part of Drachen's functions. When we established the Drachen Foundation Kite Journal to this end, it was understood that Ben would be its editor and primary writer.

Ben helped to define the Foundation's mission, and his legacy is the volume of original material contained in the Journal section of the Foundation's website. He leaves us to begin another frontier, immortalized in a film documentary as the guru of boomerangs and will be a consultant for the film.

Ben Ruhe has been an indispensable part of the Drachen Foundation and has helped us to strive to always work harder. Our final issue is dedicated as a tribute to his work.

I cannot thank you enough, Ben.

Bits & Pieces

New 'Kite' Used To Harvest Wind Energy

The Wind Dam Project uses a giant spinnaker sail suspended in a mountain gorge near Northern Russia's Lake Ladoga. The £2.5 million dam will include a unique cup-shaped spinnaker sail, an original design, which will capture and harness wind to generate renewable energy by funnelling wind through an attached turbine.



The spinnaker shape is similar to the mainsail of a yacht, and is thought to be particularly effective in capturing the wind with its kite-like properties. Project architect Laurie Chetwood stated that the shape of the sail

was influenced by functionality and a desire to produce something "sculptural". "The sail looks like a bird dipping its beak into the water, which will be much less of a blot on this beautiful and unblemished landscape...It is also highly effective at capturing the wind because it replicates the work of a dam and doesn't let the wind escape in the way it does using traditional propellers."

If the project is approved by next year, the wind dam will be approximately 25m high and will span 75m wide. Chetwood Associates is also looking at applying for planning permission for another project in a nearby gorge of the Lake Ladoga region. If all moves forward, we could be sailing into the future with solutions that are as poetic and imaginative as they are practical and environmentally grounding.

Kite-flying to help save the planet

The winds of change are apparently upon us, quite literally, where alternative means of transportation are concerned. Just yesterday we wrote of a flying boat to come out of Brazil, for example, and now we learn of a trimaran that runs on kite power off the shores of Hawaii.

We're not talking about ordinary sails here, but high-tech kites that "harness higher winds above the water, reduce wetted surface with a lifting force, and improve hull stability," according to Maui-based Kite For Sail. The system, which provides far more propulsion than con-

ventional sails, is meant to supplement engine power to lessen the need for fossil fuels.

To prove the technology's worth, the company's founders plan to employ their technology on trip around the world for the next five years. We just hope that global warming doesn't ruin the journey first.

More at www.kiteforsail.com

Irresponsible kite-flyers need to clean up their act

Telling someone to "go fly a kite" is a rather gentle rebuff, but kite flying can cause serious problems.

Few parks in Toronto are blessed with as much wide-open space as Milliken Park, near Steeles Ave. and McCowan Rd. The middle of it is a vast grassy area, surrounded by pavilions full of picnic tables, a hiking trail, playgrounds and mature trees.

The open area in the middle, which covers 32 hectares, is perfect for flying kites, due to the absence of utility lines and other overhead obstacles in which kites and their strings could get tangled.

Jean Hilscher emailed to say a kite-flying festival was held there last month. During a family outing at the park after the festival, "we found literally MILES of kite string along the ground and in the trees," said Hilscher. "Many kites were caught in the trees. We did our best to clean up what we could, but a lot of cleanup is still required.

"The debris is certainly a danger to local wildlife, and also makes the park unsightly."

We've received other complaints about kite problems at Milliken, so we finally checked it out. We immediately noticed a sign citing a city bylaw that "No person shall leave any part of a kite, including string or any other type of tethering material that could cause damage to any person, property or wildlife in the park."

At first, we couldn't see any evidence of kite debris, and thought the complaint may have been overstated until we walked face-first into a length of nylon line strung between several trees on the periphery of the open area. The line was so fine it was barely visible at midday,

Bits & Pieces

and sharp enough that it could cut someone unlucky enough to hit it while running.

Then we started noticing pieces of kites dangling from many trees around the open area, and even in trees in the parking lot. Abandoned kite lines were strung between many trees, while large balls of it were strewn in the grass, one of which became entangled in our feet while walking.

STATUS: Bill Harding, who's in charge of parks in that area, said it's hard to catch the perpetrators.

"How do you police it?" he asked. "They have competitions where the idea is to cut each other's kite line, and I think that is a big part of the problem." Despite the bylaw, few people clean up after themselves, and the parks department doesn't have the manpower to catch them, he added.

Skysails

Some time ago we carried an item regarding Skysails—essentially using large controllable kites to assist in moving cargo ships. Things have moved on a bit since then.

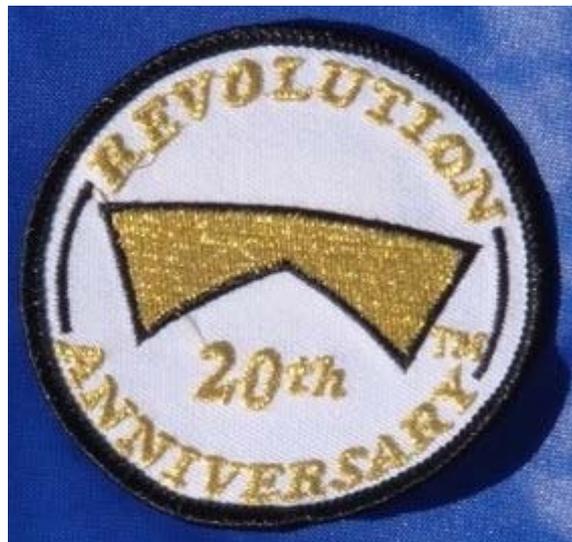
The first commercial cargo ship with additional propulsion by a towing kite system will be commissioned by the Beluga Group. On Saturday, 15 December 2007, the Multi Purpose Heavy Lift Carrier MS "Beluga SkySails" was ceremonially christened at the "Landungsbrücken/Überseebrücke" in Hamburg. All components of the SkySails-System have been installed on deck. The cargo vessel can now "set sail" for the very first time – starting with a towing kite of 160 square meters in size.

20th Anniversary - Limited Edition

As we enter 2008, this will be the 20th year of Revolution kites... With that thought in mind, we wanted to acknowledge our earlier days and give you a bit of the here and now, so this limited edition 20th Anniversary Revolution 1.5 kite was designed with one wing in the original sail pattern the other in the John Barresi Signature Series sail pattern, assembled with our new "Race Rod" frame.

As an added bonus we've taken our draw string bag and added a custom patch to complete the 20th Anniversary series! Each kite is also signed and dated by the Hadzicki brothers themselves,

they are indeed a limited edition of 250, after which the templates will be destroyed, never to be made again... These are expected to sell out fairly fast so get your order in now before your stuck on the side saying "I should have got one of those".



Kiteworld may still have some of their allocation left.

The Kite Museum

Actually another one—this time in Canada. Their web site www.thekitemuseum.com has plenty of information.

Welcome to The Kite Museum. Canada's first kite museum will open on Pelee Island on May 10th, 2008. (Pelee Island is on Lake Erie on the Canadian side of the border. Nearest large city—Detroit).

With over 3,000 kites and related items, there is much work to do in terms of research, display development, etc., and we are currently looking at taking part of the museum on the road for events and activities around the Great Lakes region and north-eastern United States.

We are just finalizing our plans for 2008 and beyond, and will be updating this web-site at least once a month, probably more.

In the meantime, if we can help you, answer any questions, or if you would like to get involved with some of our activities, please contact us at: info@thekitemuseum.com.

Longer term they have in their calendar for August 2009 a symposium/fly-in on Bell, Wright

Bits & Pieces

Brothers and Cody.

Weifang Kite Museum

Although a little out of date the web site www.wfkitemuseum.com has a nice selection of information regarding both the museum and Chinese kites.

Sauls Kite Information

I was telling a kite story at one of my customers this week and the manager had a kite related story to tell. It seems his Aunt was married to a man who built kites that were used to protect boats during World War II. Harry Sauls? I asked, he didn't know for sure but his Aunt had recently mentioned to him that she still has all his sketches, plans and manufacturing blue prints and thought it might be fun to try to sell them on eBay, but he didn't know how to go about it.

He called his mother and sure enough his Aunt is Edna May Sauls. Trying to keep a long story short here I have offered to help them. I also stated that I would love to have them but there again only a handful of people would ever see them and that I would contact my acquaintances at some of the kite museums and Drachen Foundation.

The Drachen Foundation and the Canadian Kite Museum are both interested in acquiring items.

Anyway I did some quick research on Harry Sauls and I find very little information about him. I feel this needs to be corrected if I can, Edna is 95 and probably the best remaining source to fill in some blanks. There isn't even a mention of him or the Barrage Kite on Wikipedia.

I might ask the kite community here what sort of information would be of interest. In the little bit of info on the web Mr Sauls sounds like somebody I wish I would've met in person. I can picture him reading his Popular Mechanics and seeing how people were pulling advertising banners about with those first airplanes, and reading an article about Hargraves box kites being used to lift weather instruments. A light goes on and he's pulling these two unrelated ideas together as an inexpensive way to fly advertising over crowds of people. Did you know that was his original intent and he started pursuing it in 1923? Finally perfecting the system and beginning business in 1938.

Then WWII began and he sees how the navy is using balloons on wires to provide a deterrence to dive bombers, but balloons take hours to launch he thinks, they slow a ship significantly because of their drag and don't climb high enough in a brisk wind to be of use. His kite would solve all these problems and he contacts the defence dept.

I've gathered together all the information I can find on the Internet if you would like to take a look.

<http://www.sysmatrix.net/~mikenchico/Sauls.htm>

If you have anything to add I would welcome it. If you have built a Sauls Barrage kite replica and have any pictures it sounds like Edna would be tickled pink to see that her husbands kite is still a very popular kite. I'm hoping to put together something like a slideshow for her by Christmas when she will be in town, Ron says he thinks she would be very interested to see the lasting impression Harry left.

I find this opportunity to be pretty exiting myself, just to see Mr. Sauls sketches made over those 20 years. I doubt any kites have survived since Mrs Sauls moved from Florida to California a few years ago after Mr Sauls passed on but she's saved all that and wants his work to go to somebody who will appreciate it. I hope it can go into a museum where everybody can access it.

Thanks for your help - Mike (Kitebuilders.com)



Festival Reports

Penattha Kite Festival—George Webster



This was organised by Karl Longbottom for Caerphilly council. Effectively it was a one day event although some overseas fliers were there for free flying on the Saturday.

Bas, Ann, Maartin and Janneke were a strong Dutch contingent, Eduardo and Barbara Borzetti from Italy principally flew their giant Boule. There was a good selection of British fliers covering Team Ballet (Kite Collective), Indian Fighters, Roks, Large Beatties and—surprise—an altitude sprint. Light winds caused some problems.

The Las choice of hours was rather strange. We started at 12, flew to about 6, then had a break with a night fly about 7. For the night fly tracking and fixed lights were provided and Karl organised in advance a sequence of fliers launching with commentary.

The locals seemed very pleased by the whole thing and said they had not seen such a large turn out at the site. Obviously for relatively little extra expense there could be a two day festival next time.

The site is a good one, on a hill which is a reclaimed coal mine above Ystrad Mynach. There is plenty of space with one part divided from the other by grassy mounds which are claimed to be the UK's largest sculpture (of a horse I think).

A marquee with security was provided for fliers to set up and display their kites. WHKF ran a very busy kite workshop. The 'Red Kites' advertised was a good display of falconry.

All the fliers' comments were good although there was a slight on-site food problem. There was no local cheese and the only hot food was excellent quality burgers etc. by a Welsh outfit using Welsh lamb and beef. However, half an hour wait in the queue?? The trader seemed appreciative of my end of the day thanks in Welsh—this was apparently 'de rigueur' (or whatever in Welsh).

The nearest I've been to a festival in Wales before was Any King's Monmouth of a few years ago. I believe it was T.C. who organised the sweep on how long before we mentioned that they still hadn't put a roof on the castle. This one, particularly if it is two days is, I think, worth a go.

Hunstanton Kite Festival—Bryan Cantle

Flying events started at 10 am by Team Spectrum in the light winds and gray skies with one of their many displays during the day.

Followed by an arena filled with Papillion kite all made by the fliers in exotic design and colours by the Great Ouse fliers. Stafford was able to entrap some helium balloons with his fighter kites with the help of Carl launching his kite from the far side of the arena due to the lack of wind

There was a heavy downpour during midday and frequent showers during the afternoon.

But despite the poor weather we had a good turnout of kite fliers and visitors and many side shows and exhibits around the arena which made for a very enjoyable day, the sun did manage to put in an appearance for a few minutes in the morning!

We had two paramotors to fly into the arena at noon but cancelled due to the low cloud base but we have been promised them for next year.

Thanks to all the fliers and visitors who supported us again this year. Our date for next year is Sunday 17th August at the Smithdon School Field Hunstanton.



For Sale

Winter Sales Start Early?

The Beccles Bunch continues it's clearout and rationalization with this current offering. Again, several collectable 'gems' and rarities, most of which are postable. For further details contact Hugh Blowers 01502 712570 or email H.blowers@btopenworld.com

Miniature kites.					
Guy Gosselin. Boxed	Erotic Hamamatsu	£75	Maori	Tukututu	£5
	Erotic Shizoza sail	£75	Charlie Sotich	Stamps. Hata. White Horse.	£8 ea
	Wanwan (after haranobu)	£65	Large kites		
	Edo (after Hokusai)	£65	Phil Scarfe	30 sq ft Parafoil Nagel	£120
	Hachijo	£65	Phil Scarfe	1.2m Rok Nagel #3	£65
	Peartop, Japanese design	£55 ea	H&W Roloplan	Exquisite and new replica	£140
	Roller	£45 ea	Janneke Groen	1.5m Sode Circles	£165
	Dondai	£45	Willy Koch	Yakko (reduced price)	£180
	Extended wing Cody	£85	Saitoshi Hashimoto	Cicada (reduced price)	£65
Guy Gosselin. Flat	Delta	£20 ea	Sky Bums	Pandoras Box	£5
Scott Hampton	Sleds. 3 colours	£25 ea	Sky Bums	Della Porta	£25
	Winged Spirit (paper)	£10	Rev II	Spiral wound spars	£45
Janneke Groen	4 Sodes 1 Malay	£5 ea	Raindrop	1.5m Rok Japanese crane	£30
Japanese	Pack of 7 paper 'play kites'	£12	Rev II	Spiral wound spars	£45
	2 boxed Roks, 2 Edos	£5 ea	Raindrop	1.5m Rok Japanese crane	£30
	Swallows, Papillon, Libelle Peacock	£2 ea			
	10 assorted designs	£20			

Ground Anchors

I note with interest the problems reported with the failure of anchors when flying large kites. Having had an involvement in the manufacture of ground anchors for industry, I would like to put forward a design which I made for the White Horse Kite Flyers and which they have been successfully using for the past two years. The design evolves from the basic principles of leverage.

If you have a beam supported at one end with a weight suspended from the centre point. The weight can be lifted by half the force applied to the other end

Applying this principle to our problem:

With the beam in a vertical position it becomes our ground stake. At the centre-point attach a loop with approximately three links of chain. This is the attachment point for our flying line. Drive the stake into the ground up to the half way mark. From the top of the stake carry back two tie back lines at 45 degrees and attach to pins approximately 3 feet from the main pin.

These two tie backs support the pin, eliminating a large amount of the tear out force and also supports the pin when the kite moves to the edge of the window.

This design can be made in large and small versions to meet your requirements.

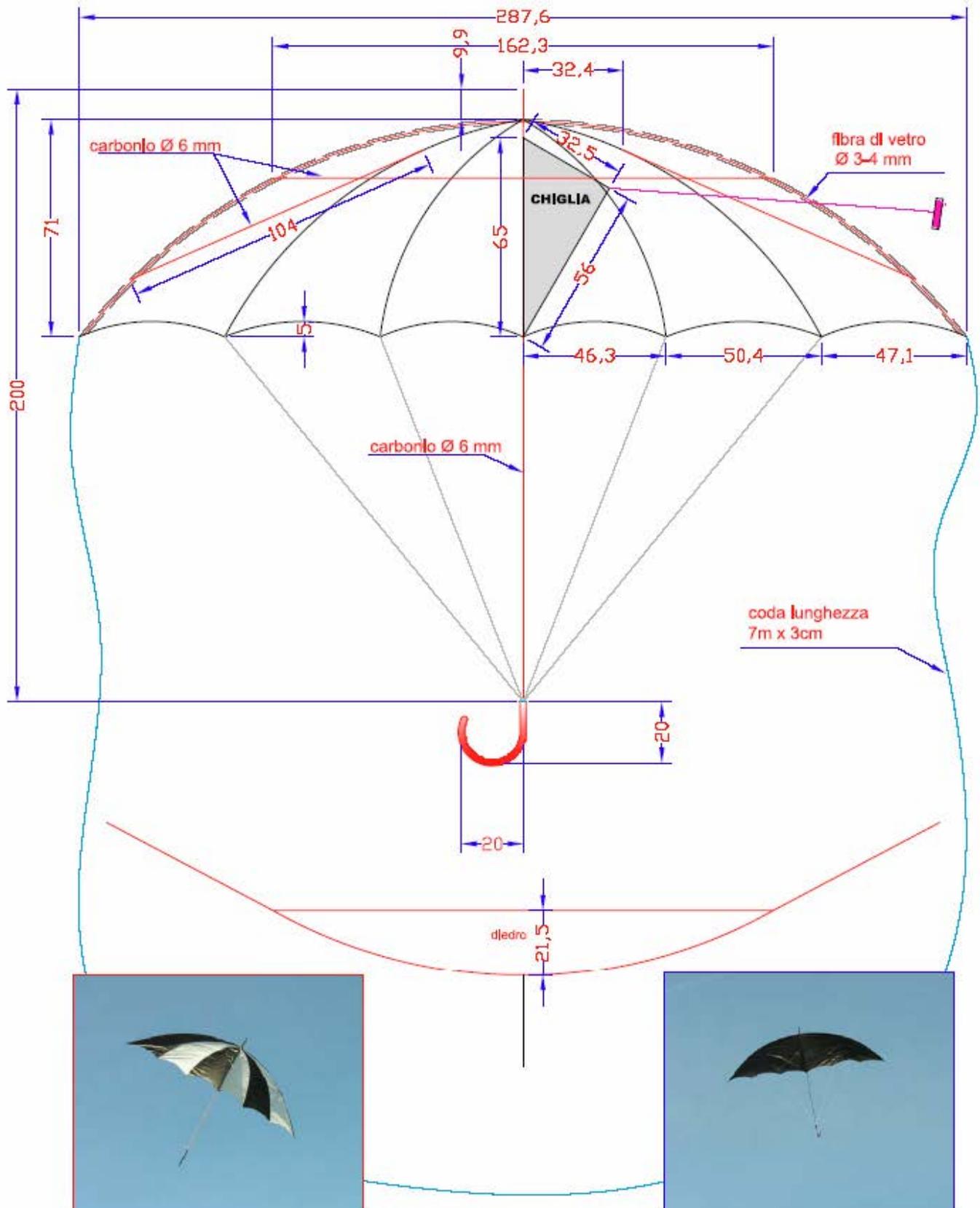
Fly Safe– and enjoy

Mr R Angell



Umbrella Kite

The kite plan has come from Gruppo Vulandra, Italy and is their group kite project for 2008. The idea is members of the group make this kite and during the year, but particularly at the festival on 25th—27th April, they fly en-mass. More details of the festival www.vulandra.it



More on the Wrights—George Webster

This is a follow up to the article on 'Wrights and Kites' that appeared in an earlier issue.

In November we returned to the Outer Banks of North Carolina (seemed a good place to take the grandchildren) and I got the chance to add to my knowledge of the 'first flight'.

An attendant at the museum showed me how the Wrights lay on the wing to the left of the engine. He emphasised that they were right handed and had a good hard hold on the leading edge close to the engine and that this was their only firm attachment to the aircraft. The left hand worked the elevator and they simply rested on the cradle which they shifted sideways to control the wing warping/rudder arrangement.

The museum now has some short films of the 'centennial flights'. The first one on 20/11/03 is recorded as 8 seconds and 97ft—looked like pilot error as the aircraft left the rail. On the 25/11 they managed 12 seconds and 115ft—very close to the Wrights first flight of 12 seconds and 120ft. The 'official' attempt was an abject failure, blamed on low winds not giving enough airspeed and the wet weather affecting engine efficiency.

An unexpected bonus was the soundtrack which was presumably very close to 1903—it was a load steady Wop-Wop-Wop beat which probably came from the propellers (or pistons?) being amplified by the tightly covered wings.

A commemorative edition of the Outer Banks Sentinel records the first flight with the well known photo under the headline 'Man Shall Never Fly debunked!'. The start of the article is:-

'Excitement is abounding today as word travels across the country that Man has achieved the impossible through the exploits of two cyclists from Dayton, Ohio who broke the bonds with the Earth when one of them flew for 12 seconds in the world's first powered flight.

'In Norfolk and other points of commerce there is much rumour and speculation about the event'.

Reading the paper gave me a clearer impression of just how isolated Kitty Hawk was.

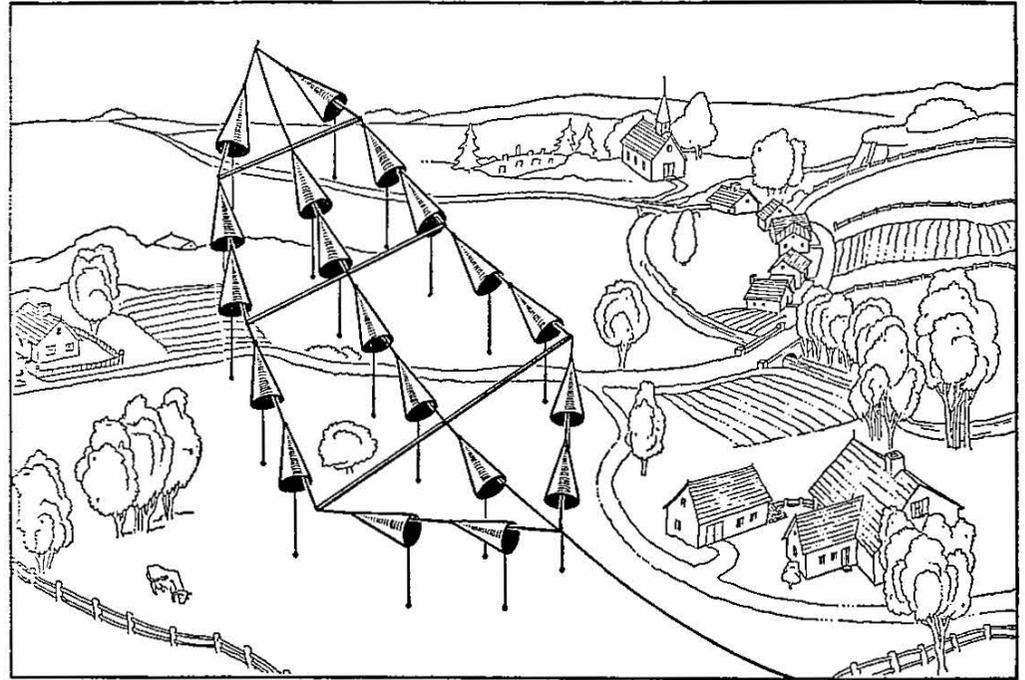
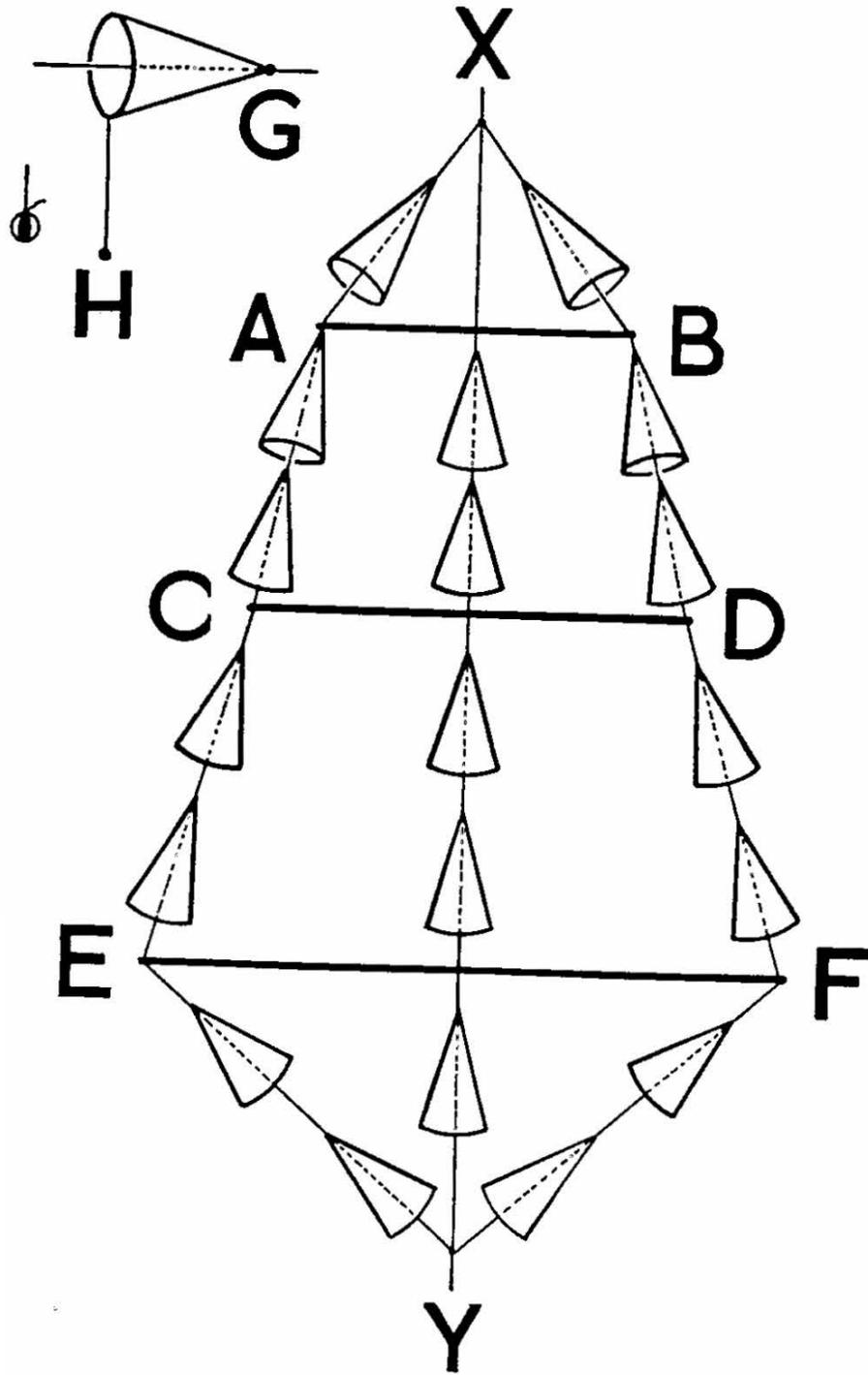
One article records interviews with the Kill Devil Hills Life Saving Station personnel—who look a desperate lot but were the equivalent of the Life Boat Service (the Outer Banks being well known for wrecks). The Life Savers has a saying 'you have to go out but you don't have to come back'. With other locals they had helped the Wrights build their camp and move materials about. Their comment was 'each one have one oar out of the water'. Orville Wright, when talking about weather conditions on the morning of the 17th December said that 'the wind had a velocity of 10 or 12 metres per second'. I am very surprised he used a metric measurement—which is the equivalent of 22-27 mph.

Anything about kites? Well the 21st KDH Sport Kite Festival was on when we were there—but standards didn't seem remarkable. The Sunday fliers on the big dune opposite the kite store seemed into fairly large soft kites. We flew on the sea beach in generally excellent conditions. But beaches are difficult in North Carolina. Would you see more than one local sunbathing in a chair with a kite tethered behind them? And how often do you see a full formal wedding on a British beach?

And I did manage to buy a Star Bird kite designed by Buteo Huang, a heavily promoted designer for New Tech.



[Available from a number of American Sellers—approximately \$50.00 plus shipping.]



Cup Kite

Frame Sticks Three dowel sticks are used in this interesting cup kite. Stick "A-B" is $\frac{3}{16}$ " in diameter and 12" long. Stick "C-D" is $\frac{7}{8}$ " in diameter and 17" long, while the third stick "E-F" is $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter and 25" long. Dowel sticks seldom need sandpapering, but each should be given the balance test. (See Page 4 "Frame Sticks").

Outline String Attachments The outline strings in this kite serve two purposes. They hold the sticks together and carry the cups which take the place of the usual kite covering. The string "X-Y" is 44" long. The distance "X" to "A-B" is 8", while stick "C-D" is 11" below "A-B". Stick "E-F" is 14" from "C-D", and point "Y" is 11" below "E-F", as shown in the plan. Before applying this string, ordinary cone-shaped paper drinking cups must be obtained. You will require nineteen of them. They can be purchased for a few cents. Each

cup is equipped with a weight, as shown at "H" in the plan. These may be split sinkers, such as fishermen use, or regular B-B shot. These lead weights may be grooved with a knife and a length of light thread tied around them. The other end of the thread is then fastened through the rim of the cup, as shown. The cups are threaded on the outline string by tying a knot in the string just outside the point of the cup. The string is then passed through a hole in the point of the cup, through the cup and out, as shown at "G". Weave the five cups on string "X-Y" and fasten it to the sticks, as shown. A second string is then started at "X" and passed through points "A", "C", "E", "Y", "F", "D", "B" and back to "X".

Flying String and Bridle The "E-Y-F" part of the outline string serves as a bridle. The flying string is attached at point "Y". The tiny lead weights on each cup serve as tails.

Big Sky Kite Festival, Margate—Hugh Blowers

Margate was once the quintessential Victorian seaside town as the seafront architecture attests to. Sadly, it has suffered the fate of so many similar resorts, but a walk along the esplanade reminds one of an altogether 'grander time'. The 'painter of light' J.M. Turner, gave the town its 'Big Sky' epithet, and apart from the wind farms sprouting up along the coast, it still retains that feeling. The Margate Business Partnership and the Kite Society jointly promoted the First International Kite Festival on the cliff top Palm Bay Greens, in the significantly more affluent Cliftonville. For the knarled veterans this was the second visit to Margate, after a somewhat less successful venture, many moons ago.

With two large arenas, set out on a lovely open area, there was enough space for all the flyers, except the sports kite teams, whose current predilection for exceptionally long tails in their routines, highlighted the narrowness of the site. It would be quite possible to squeeze a few more metres in each direction to alleviate this difficulty in future. Having become used to extortionate parking charges or long walks from car parks, it was refreshing for a seaside town to offer unlimited free parking for flyers and public, adjacent to the arenas.



After a brief flyers meeting, George Webster used all his powers of persuasion to get an altitude sprint underway. The wind was never much more than light during the first day, and moved around a great deal, so it was a relatively long duration sprint, with a contentious result. Charlie Pearce from AKF was convinced he had won by virtue of being the highest kite, but Dave Johnson, also of AKF accepted the judges conclusion that he was the victor without recourse to argument or question over the

decision. The expertise of Team Spectrum, Close Encounters, Airheads and The Flying Squad was tested to the limits by the fluky conditions, but each put on a thoroughly entertaining display for the crowd. Groups from various clubs across the country set up camp around the site and it has to be said that the Poole contingent seemed to have the art of genteel, leisurely flying, finely honed.

A measure of the changeable wind was the Holland Kite Team's train, which started off flying down the arena, then had the top half curve 90 degrees to the left, only for the whole thing to then move through 180 degrees before dropping out of the sky, requiring some fast retrieval. The AKF and Brighton Club joined together for their usual presentation, but with an unusual twist. After three attempts to get Roly, the giant whale, inflated and flying, resulting in manic charges across the arena, a general madness overcame the gallant crew and they set off towing the beast round for a complete 360 plus a bit, before collapsing. (Both the kite and the crew). In the end the lack of wind won, and a final demo with butterflies and Karl Long-



Big Sky Kite Festival, Margate—Hugh Blowers



bottom's knickers brought the proceedings to a close. There then followed a new and exciting/frustrating adventure called 'find a car parking space somewhere near the hotel'. The foreign guests by dint of ignoring yellow lines won this convincingly. The Blooms and Blowers' came a close second by sneaking into a side road. Those less lucky were probably nearer the flying site than the hotel.

After a very pleasant walk along the prom in the evening sun, the guests gathered in the Winter Gardens for a somewhat bizarre reception. There seemed to be no one else, other than kite flyers there, and equally noticeable by its absence was any food. After hurried consultation between Jon Bloom and the management (polite way of putting it), the sandwiches arrived as a stopgap and were promptly devoured by the ravenous hoards that were seriously hungry. Some while later a series of trays with hot 'crispy crumb' coated 'everything under the

sun' received the same treatment. As an advert for British catering it was an embarrassment. Gill Bloom, bless her, headed off into the town to procure some sort of dessert, and astounded the owner of the local confectionery shop by starting her shopping by asking for 60 ice creams. With the ice creams, Swiss rolls and cake, Gill salvaged the evening and thanks are due to her for preventing serious 'night starvation'. The scheduled entertainment was a series of DVDs of photos from festivals, and TCs movies from the 80s, resulting in ribald comment each time one of the assembled multitude appeared. Stephen Hoath and the Gonzales brothers proved that total lack of wind is no bar to kite flying. They, along with Steve Matchett, gave a very convincing demo by 3D flying Steve's new creation around the dance floor. Later, Pedro managed true 3D flying by operating from the balcony. Back along the prom on a lovely warm evening to the hotel where serious mumbling was heard again when the said multitude arrived, only to find the bar closed. 'Representation' to the management reversed that situation until the cost of drinks was reviewed, and the mumbling started again in earnest.

The sun shone again on the Sunday and after a 'full English' the flyers were on duty bright and early. The wind was stronger and directly off-



Big Sky Kite Festival, Margate—Hugh Blowers

shore and eminently flyable for a while until it strengthened and became exceedingly lumpy. An altitude sprint of just 35 seconds duration saw Charlie exacting revenge for 'being robbed' the day before. Always contentious, the result of these sprints, but in a thoroughly magnanimous gesture, Charlie ignored all counter claims and hung on to his first place.

Flying was becoming much more difficult and the inflatables were struggling to stay in their part of the sky, and often failing, leading to several changes of tack with more low flying display material, including a whole line of Mr Men type characters by Jos and Kaatje Valcke from Belgium. The award for kite of the festival also went to Belgium for a giant inflatable (air?) guitar.



From the very lightest of kites on Saturday, to vents, brakes and nappies for the sports kite demonstrations on Sunday were the order of the day. Airheads rounded off that sector of the programme with a high-risk routine involving a five-man team, all flying kites equipped with very long and beautiful tails. Where is the risk in that you might ask? The fifth man was none

other than one half of the esteemed commentary team, Andy King, hence the apprehension. Andy proved he had lost none of his skills from his team flying days and the routine finished without any trauma. Of course, if the adopted flyer had been the other half of the commentary team, who knows what might have transpired? A large, highly decorated, custom-built 'Oostende Bird' by Jos Valcke ensured that George's weekend was fulfilled.

Some spirited action with a playsail and equally spirited flying of 'Spirits' in their various incarnations brought the formal activities to an end. A short presentation followed, with DJ managing to bring a rosy glow to Joyce's cheeks when he 'gratefully' accepted his trophy. This was not the end of the flying for the day as preparations were in hand for a spectacular finale to the festival and the kite-flying season. Club politics in the South East have seen groups come and go, and so it was a pleasure to see the Kent Kite Flyers, en mass for both days, and equally pleasant to see Julian Smith back in circulation. The Kent Club, aided and abetted by others, finished off the day with their 'Big Sky' display that involved dozens of vibrantly coloured flame deltas filling the arena. A fitting end to a delightful festival, made even more enjoyable by the presence of the sun for the entire weekend.

Hopefully 'Big Sky' in Margate will become a regular fixture in the calendar.

The 'phantom reporter' strikes again.

The 2nd Big Sky International Kite Festival will be held on 20th & 21st September.



Hamptons Kite Day—Allap Pothecary

Ally Pally

Very much a last minute decision – Marilyn, Mags and me decided that we needed just one more festival to finish off the season, so we hastily arranged to be included in the menu for the festival sponsored by Estate Agents Hammonds in aid of the Princes Trust staged at Alexandra Palace. Keeping it in the family, we did one for the Duke of Edinburgh a couple of years ago and he actually turned up to see us – don't know if he said something to Charlie but I didn't see him there!

In fact, disappointingly, there weren't that many people there at all. I don't think it was due to lack of advertising – Chris Goff told me that he had done several interviews on radio and the prizes of a Fury 85 and a holiday for four in Dubai were unbelievable – Perhaps too unbelievable – We've all seen much worse prizes than that on the telly! The winners were well worthy from a high standard but surprisingly low number of entries.



Perhaps it was the signposting – we didn't see one – even when we got to the park we had to ask directions to where the event was. Gill and Jon had done a good job of getting the usual top of the bill flyers there – Flying squad, Team Spectrum, Brighton Kite Flyers, Chris Goff (a long way he had to come!), oh, and someone called Carl Robertshaw. Andy King did a good job on his own, commenting, with George off somewhere in America visiting his son and Kite-



world .co.uk with a large tent full of a wide range of kites and accessories, trading from beginning to past the end.

Something else that didn't turn up was the wind! Every one tried hard all day, many long launches at the bottom of the field from BKF which just wouldn't quite stick and a frustrated Team Spectrum tried all sorts only to be foiled by the lack of wind. Thank goodness they had their play sail – a great slot at any event which involves audience participation for the children young an old. Even the Flying Squad struggled to only partially complete a routine as the slightest of breezes faded to nothing halfway through. Some of the flyers started to mill around excitedly getting out more kites when Marilyn and me took to the air with our Pro-dancers pulling tails but these are indoor kites built for this sort of weather and the tails are only 50ft flat Icarex borrowed from the Sky-Dancers. You can keep these in the air but a decent, choreographed routine is practically impossible. As the day wore on still everyone struggled except, of course, when Carl Robertshaw came on and showed how to do it with a Revolution. Right at the end of the day a slight breeze did pick up and everyone was able to get in to the arena and fly something, even the Blooms with a couple of lovely Rokakkus, but, before that, still in zero conditions, was probably the highlight of my year (only preceded by that launch of kite and 100ft tubular tail out of the sea at Weymouth by Marilyn – nothing will ever beat that), the irrepressible Chris Goff again flying one of Carl's Fury 85's in zero wind and pulling off a stunning display culminating in an outstanding 360 degrees around the arena where he had to jump over the barrier, run along behind some of the crowd and then back over the barrier into the arena whilst all the time keeping the kite rotating in a back spin – absolutely astonishing! Ah well, back home to watch England play in the Rugby World Cup Final – How long ago all that seems.



Events 2008

Kelvin Woods Papillon Workshop—1st & 2nd March

The Loddon Valley Kite Flyers are having a Kelvin Woods workshop. **Cost**—£60. **Venue**—Cliddesden Village hall. Nr Basingstoke, Hants.

Spaces are limited so if you want to sign up for this fantastic workshop please let me know ASAP By either ringing me on 01256 421800 or emailing me at alan.cosgrove@ntlworld.com. We will need a £10 deposit to secure your place, send to Mr A Cosgrove, 18 Loggon Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3PH.

I've also got a special rate for the local Holiday Inn of £45 per room if people need to stay over. Ring the Holiday Inn direct on 0870 400 9004 and quote the Kite Workshop.

Alan Cosgrove

Streatham Common Kite Day—13th April

The 11th annual Streatham Common Kite Day will be held on Sunday the 13th of April 2008. There will be kite flying demonstrations by Team Spectrum, Team Adrenalize, Carl & James Robertshaw and Tom Apurba.

This is London's only kite festival, so make sure you come to see some of the best kite demonstrators in the UK. Everyone is welcome to attend, there is no charge for attending. You do not need to bring along a kite or have ever even tried to fly a kite before you can simply watch the demonstrations by the professional kite flyers. The Brighton Kite Flyers will be along for the day performing teddy bear parachute drops, so bring along your teddy bear if you want it dropped. They will also hopefully be bringing along some very big kites again.

If you want to buy a kite, the Highwaymen will have a stall selling all kinds of kites including single line, dual line and multi-line for beginners and above, as well as other kite related stuff.

If you get hungry or thirsty in between the demonstrations then there will be food and drink for sale from a number of catering vendors (including a beer tent) on the common.

North Hampshire Kiter's Jolly Up2—April 26th & 27th

Come and join us again for a 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 (£5 per tent/camper for the weekend). The Saturday evening BBQ worked well on the first event, so we will do the same format this time. (£6, and bring your plate and cutlery please!). An Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, so please be generous again (any donations gratefully received on the week-end). 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. Dates for this same event taking place later this year again are to follow. Keep an eye on www.kitesup.co.uk home page for the latest updates on this.

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

Basingstoke Kite Festival—7th & 8th June

At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke. From 10am to 5 pm (both days). Come along and help us to celebrate our 16th Festival and join in the fun! The theme for the weekend is JUNGLE. As in previous years, a

prize will be awarded for the best themed kite, so soon you can let your imagination get carried away!

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. A raffle is held over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, so Kite traders please take note! 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 @ £5 for the weekend (payable on the weekend) and there are showers and toilet facilities on site. Come along and join in, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

Alan Cosgrove—01256 421800
Roy Broadley (Kites Up) - 01256 812487

Sunderland International Friendship Festival—July 5th & 6th.

We are pleased to announce that Infinite Arts will be running the kite programme once again for the Sunderland International Friendship Festival. The festival is a two day event on a green field site - the Northern Area Playing Fields in Washington (8 miles from Sunderland, 7 miles from Newcastle, 16 miles from Newcastle international airport 10 miles from the international ferry terminal at North Shields).

It's a family event with music, street theatre and activities for children to complement the kite programme. Friendship is the theme of the festival and we would like to reflect this in the kite programme. The Kite programme aims to focus on kite art and the art of kite-flying.

WIND SCULPTURE AND INSTALLATION ART - we'd like to involve artists to create wind related installations on the site. We are planning an exhibition in a marquee to show unique handmade kites and designs. Please contact us if you would like more information.

Contact – Pauline Taylor, Infinite Arts, 2A North Sands Business Centre, Liberty Way, Sunderland, SR6 0QA. Tel 0191 564 0833 fax 0191 5640692 mob 07870 585 952 info@infinitearts.co.uk www.infinitearts.co.uk

Teston Bridge Kite Weekends, Maidstone, Kent.

June 14th & 15th August 9th & 10th

Hi Teston fans, Thank you all for your continued support as into the 21st year of our little event we go..

If you have not been to Teston then come and give us a look, It is a small site by kiting standards, not the best site for flying kites but a nice place to spend a relaxing weekend. None of the usual for an event, sprints, fights, comps. Etc. Just chill out sit around enjoy the Kent country side go for a stroll along the river. Join the Teston mayhem weekend.

On site all weekend Kiteworld traders, Michael & Linda. Catering...teas, food, etc. Day parking by pay & display Campers welcome from Friday, for a donation to the site. I will collect on Sunday A.M.

For those "Sat Nav" fans the full address of the site is:- Teston Bridge Picnic Site, Teston Lane, Teston, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX.

See you there Ron Dell Kiteability

New Kites

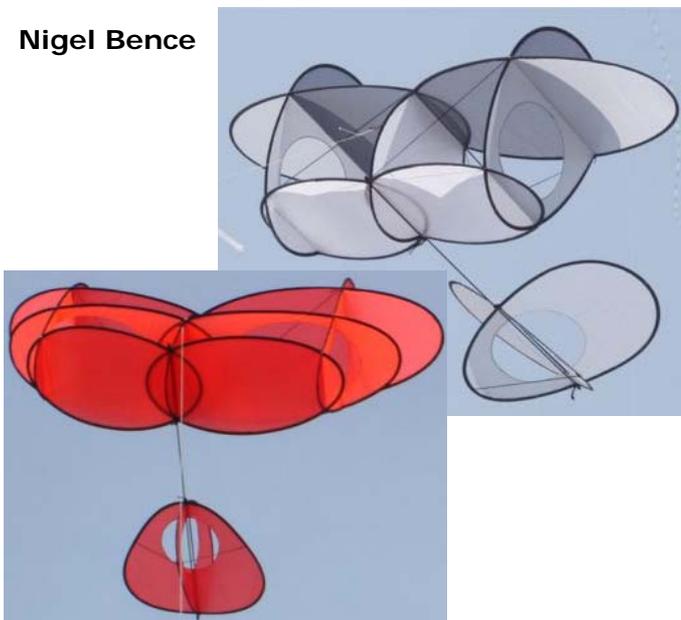
New Phil McConnachie single line trick kites

Australian kite maker Phil McConnachie has come up with some beautiful looking new additions to his 'Expandable Object' range of kites. The new designs are currently only available direct from his shop in Australia, but if Phil teams up with Prism kites again, perhaps these lovely new designs may be available at lower prices in the not too distant future.

The EO Biplane and Triplane are light wind trick glider style kites. Apparently they do flat spins, barrel rolls and many more tricks. The kites simply fold flat and assembly takes under a minute. By removing the bag the kite mostly assembles itself then by using its unique rigging system and clipping the tail plane it's ready to fly. The kites are made in Icarex Polyester and framed in 2mm fiberglass to give them a robustness that will shrug off most abuse. An EO Cody is also being made.

See www.kitefactory.com.au for more details.

Nigel Bence



New Longbottom Kites

Over the past few months Karl Longbottom has been working on a range of new kites for the new year.

Football Shorts/Boxer Shorts

Following on from the international success of the fighting pants and continuing the flying clothing theme, the Football shorts were first unveiled at the Penallta Kite Festival. Boxer shorts with button fly detail are available in more tasteful underwear colours. Although both

designs are based on the popular pants they do not have the same fighting characteristics, they are stable single line fliers. Either style is available in your choice of colours. 1000mm span by 600mm high. Price £45.00

Swan

The prototype was seen at OSOW in October, a larger version was designed initially to be made



at a WHKF kite workshop; a very attractive white kite with orange/yellow and black detailing, it is a steady flier in low winds. Available in Whooper or Mute varieties. 2080mm span by 1220mm high. Price £85.00

Falcon

Another bird kite whose prototype was first seen at OSOW, made from Icarex & carbon fibre it is a light/medium wind flier. This is in the same vein as the Red Kite but smaller and with stiffer sparing which gives a good performance in stronger winds. Being a high aspect ratio, it flies at a high angle and shouldn't be flown by anybody who suffers with a stiff neck. 1500mm span by 450mm high. Price £65.00

Karl is still producing all the kites from his website as well as the Angel kites which have yet to make it into electronic format.

Also available are large and Jumbo versions of the Delta Sled. These are both stable, high performers with plenty of lift, suitable for lofting aerals, cameras, or just lots of line.

Commissions are still being undertaken, recent examples are Genkis with lots of appliqué, a host of Diamond Kites for a well known kite club and a Kranki

Karl can be contacted by phone, email or post—Karl Longbottom, School House, Dorstone, Herefordshire HR3 6AN

Tel. 01981 550326

Karl@longbottom.org.uk

www.longbottom.org.uk

18th Weymouth International Kite Festival.

3rd, 4th & 5th May Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival.

The 18th Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival will this year be held on Sunday 4th and Monday 5th May. Saturday 3rd May is reserved as a free flying day with no organised events taking place but the beach is free to be used for flying.

As usual a number of overseas visitors will be there flying their kites as well as many UK based kitefliers. New for this year (subject to confirmation) are some kitefliers from China as part of the China Now Campaign.

The festival will run along the normal lines with a few competitions, many demonstrations and free flying. Whilst on the subject of demonstrations if anyone who is thinking of attending wants to do something in the arena as a demonstration can they please contact us in advance so that we can plan it in. A childrens kite workshop will also be held on the beach.

As with last years event ALL participants who require access to the beach flying areas MUST register and collect an access badge from the control point situated on the Esplanade. This is located opposite Bond Street.

Sunday evening has the usual Civic Reception with the Mayor followed by the fireworks display at 9:30pm. There will be a DVD show of various kite festivals, including last years Weymouth. There will be basket meals and light snacks available for those who want to eat and a pay bar. Everyone is welcome to come along to chat and entry is free! The reception is at the Weymouth Pavilion from 7:30pm. The bar will be open until 11:00pm.

For those who wish to there is a slot for night flying on Sunday evening, from 9:00pm, which is followed by the usual firework display.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via one of the following routes— The Accommodation Line on 01305 785747. Or via the Weymouth web site at <http://www.weymouth.gov.uk>. Email: tourism@wpbc.weymouth.gov.uk. Reservations can be made for all classes of accommodation including caravan and camping.

Car Parking

Once again there is free parking available but space is limited and restricted to Kite Society members. Once the tickets have gone we cannot get any more. Tickets are valid for three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. One ticket per car for all days.

The car park is situated behind the Pavilion and spaces are available on a first come first served ba-

sis—it is also a general public car park! Please send your request to the Kite Society at the address on page 2 and remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope and your membership number as passes will NOT be sent without one.

Traders

Kite traders are very welcome to attend and ply their wares. The charge structure this year is:

- Up to 15ft (4.5m) frontage: 3 days £210, 1 or 2 days £185.
- Over 15ft (4.5m) frontage: 3 days £240, 1 or 2 days £215.

Payment and booking must be in advance and should be sent to the address below. Please make all cheques payable to the Kite Society. Note that only 15 sites are available so book early.

If you require a car pass then please send an S.A.E. and your membership number to the editorial address. Indicate the number of passes required. (One per car). *BEFORE the 14th April. Please remember to enclose a Stamped addressed envelope.*

www.Kites4U.co.uk
Secure Online Shop. Or request 'Shop on CD'.

EMKAY Kites & More
Sleaford, Lincolnshire

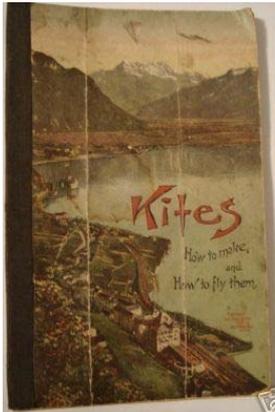
08451 301161
01529 415700
07960 056678

more@kites4U.co.uk

Kites
Windsocks
Inflatables
Kite Lines
Accessories
Glove + Finger Puppets
And More ...

Supplying kites and related accessories since 1992.

Seen on Ebay



A Nice 1897 ANTIQUE Book - KITES How to Make & How to Fly Them - by George J. Varney, Associate Member of the Boston Aeronautical Society. Published by Geo. H. Walker & Co., 16 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass. The book measures about 7 x 3-1/4 inches, is staple bound with covering, and has 43 pages. The cover is I would say in fair condition. It is soiled front and back, is worn some around the edges, and the front cover has

2 bend lines from being opened. The interior pages are in much better condition. They have darkened with age (over 100 years), there is some light bending in the pages from the book being read, and they pages are worn some around the edges. All the pages are intact.

Sold for \$111.38

Men's Black HAORI KIMONO Flying Kite at Mt. Fuji

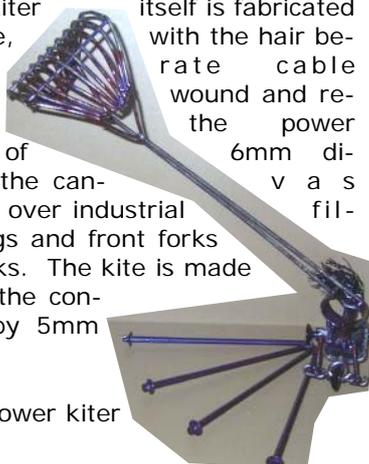


What is going on in the lining of this black haori? Hotei, the chubby god of good fortune and little children are flying a kite at the base of Mount Fuji! How cute!

You can wear this haori in reverse to showcase this charming lining! This went for \$229.38.

Unique Metal power kite kiter kiting sculpture

One-off metal sculptures made by Elaine always incorporate re-used or re-cycled engine parts. In this particular piece she has used engine valves for the three wheels, main bearings for the power kiter's arms, engine bolts for its legs, and four long Rover K series engine bolts for the counterbalance base of the sculpture. The power kiter itself is fabricated from old lift cage cable, with the hair being formed from separate strands individually unformed. The frame of the power kite buggy is made up of 6mm diameter scrap bar with the canopy as seat represented by left over industrial filter mesh. The foot pegs and front forks are made from chain links. The kite is made from fence mesh, with the control lines represented by 5mm studding.



The sculpture shows a power kiter

fighting against a strong gust of wind, with both the rear left and front wheels off the ground. The power kiter's hair is also blowing wildly towards the kite.

Sold for £45.00

Original Japanese Woodblock Print Book Toyokuni Kite 1862. Superb Kite Design Cover by Kunisada (Toyokuni).

Outstanding and original Japanese woodblock print book by Toyokuni (Kunisada), 1862. Volume measures 5 X 7 inches (closed) and has a full color cover of a kite design and 20 pages of b&w prints inside.



Sold for \$113.50

Unique Painted Lead figures - Girls flying kite

This whimsical set is beautifully painted. The girls are flying a kite - one running with the kite flying behind her and the other looks as if she's just let go of the tail. The blonde stands 2" high. Her brunette friend stands 2 1/2" with her arms in the air. The kite can move up and the string (which is also metal) as well as move from side to side. The kite sails 4" above the ground. I bought this set at a toy soldier show in the mid to late 80's.



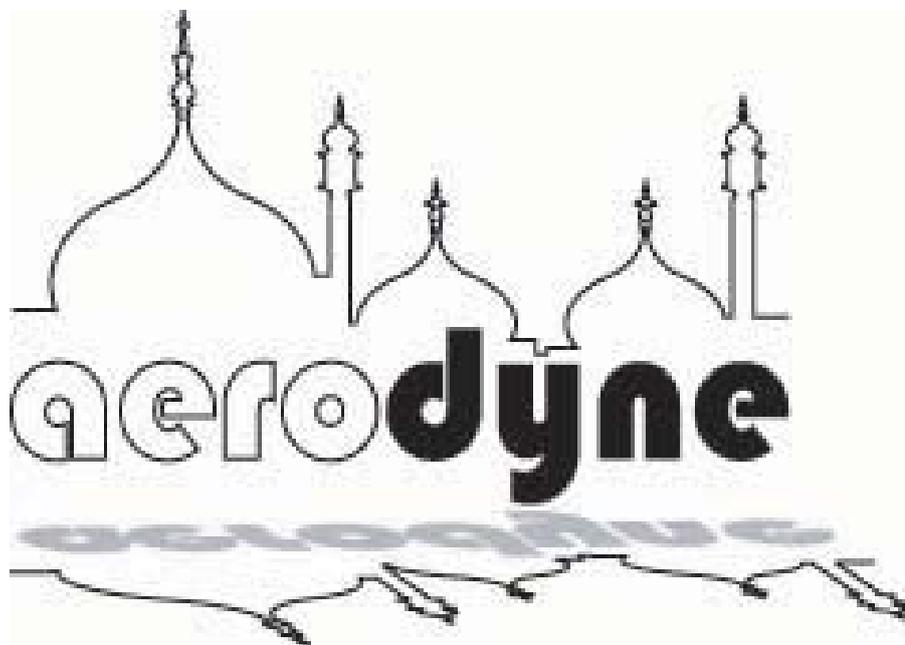
Sold for \$38.79

Boys Own Paper—December 5th 1908

The magazine is complete in rusty staples and grubby marked/foxed/creased/worn covers - covers loose - bumped/worn corners/edges - some foxing/staple rust-marking/markings/creasing - read/used, I class this item as being in reasonably good and collectable condition.

Main item of interest—KITES OF 1908-1909 BY W.J. GORDON

Sold for £17.00



Somewhere down here there must be something Matt can use for a ground anchor. so he can nip off and make a nice cup of tea for me.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

OSOW 2007 ENDED AS ANOTHER FUN DAY OUT

One Sky One World, although with a very serious aim behind a worldwide event, Brighton Kite Flyers always have fun at the event and we put on a good show for the public and try to get more people to understand not only the reasoning behind OSOW but kite flying in general as well.

The wind as so often was on the extreme, only this year it was light and gusty the opposite to last year's howling gales.

There was a good turn out from the club with 20 or so members and well over 150 kites were flown. With a large amount of the general public

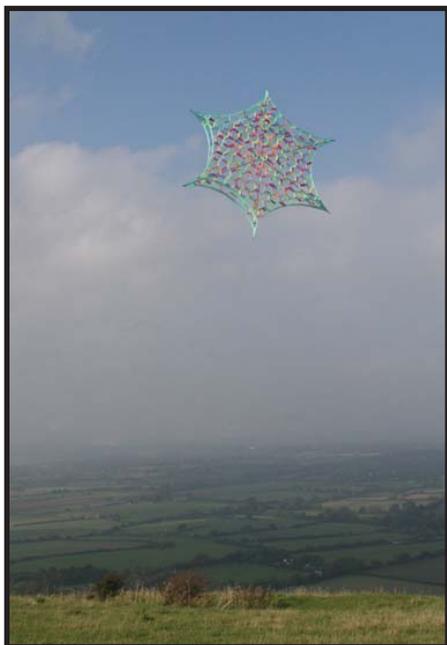
looking on and in some cases joining in, fun was had by all. The light winds, as so often happens, brings out someone within the club with other types of toys to play with and this event was to be no exception as someone who will remain anonymous just happened to have a very large gas bottle full of helium and some very large balloons. Also flown using the helium was a balloon kite which is basically a no wind single line kite consisting of a helium filled balloon with a delta kite attached to it, (sorry no photos) all too soon either the line snapped or the knot came undone and the kite drifted off. Danny Rice managed to catch it twice with his Indian fighter and almost pulled it in but the combined pull of, not only the balloon, but the delta as well meant that it was just too much for the string to be held with line wrap alone and all we could do was watch as it drifted off into the distance.

The wind was up and down all day from nothing to a few miles and hour, as were the kites. With almost every type of kite being flown by one member of the club or another, single line, duel and four line sport kites and four line power kites a good display was put on. A lot of the public came over and chatted about kites, the OSOW event and a great festival they had seen and enjoyed in Stanmer Park earlier in the year not knowing it was

our festival, which makes the hard work put in by the the club and it's members all that more worthwhile. To hear them talking about the event and enthusing about the sight. We finished of the day with a mass flight of the club Spirits with well over 10 being flown including the two club "spirit of Pat" and the rest being those built in the club workshop held in 2007. So thank you OSOW for organising the world wide event, Alan and Keith who kept the count just for the record, Marion supplied the cakes and to all those members who turned up and flew without each and one of you it would not have been such an enjoyable event for the club.

Same time next year and with any luck better winds so we can put on a better spectral and show the public even more that can be achieved with all types of kites.

Simon Hennessey



CAMPING AT KITE FESTIVALS

The government do not collect income tax from prostitutes but they do accept that they exist and when prostitutes are caught in the act they are fined for plying their trade. If the government did accept income tax from prostitutes would they be guilty of receiving an income from immoral earnings? On the other hand and according to the previous argument, prostitutes do exist and do earn an income, why then do they not pay income tax on their earnings?

What's this got to do with camping at kite festivals?

I believe that the BKF committee are in a similar situation in respect to the law regarding their recent attempts to manage camping at our annual festival. Which as most of us appreciate, is held on a site that according to the site managers does not permit camping and that a bylaw is in place to this effect. This in my opinion means that as a committee they are in fact aiding and abetting the act of breaking the law by introducing any form of management for on site camping, something to do with "Ipso- facto" which is a Latin phrase, directly translated as "by the fact itself" which means that a certain effect is a direct consequence of the action in question

Regardless of the reasons why BKF request that campers do not arrive before a certain date the actual request itself opens up the question of legal responsibility and it could be argued that BKF are in fact breaking the bylaw themselves in respect to allowing camping on Stanmer Park, even if it were for only one day. The KSGB have resolved this issue by stating, quite clearly on all their

literature that camping on Southsea common is NOT permitted, my view is that BKF should also take on a similar stance and by doing so the club itself will not be affected by any individuals action in respect to camping at Stanmer Park

I personally do not believe that this action would preclude me (or others) from camping on common ground for short periods, which I believe can extend to up to 27 days but I must be prepared to accept that the authorities, perhaps with a police escort may at some time during the 27 days ask me to move on, if I refuse to move then a summons would be issued and the lengthy legal process would take effect. Obviously, the managing authority will consider the cost of such action against the benefit before taking any steps to remove any offenders and it is that consideration that I for one will continue to take as my guideline in this respect

I believe the bylaws are in place to provide the authorities with the means to remove itinerates, by force if necessary and in my opinion, providing the authorities see that any short term camping is not going to turn into a residential situation, they will (hopefully) continue to turn a blind eye but if they did not and decided to uphold the law then each individual would be responsible for his or her action. However, providing the club (BKF) had made the public statement that camping was not permitted at the site then the club itself would not be in breach of the law

Cheers
Big John

On behalf of
Brighton Kite Flyers Committee

In reply to Big John the committee would like to point out a few things before you all opt to head down mid week and camp ready for the festival. We as a club have no legal rights on site as stated by Big John as it is Brighton and Hove City council open land and to this end (as things stand) cannot stop anyone entering the site at any time even when the festival is taking place. It is important to remember the clubs "request" for people not camping before Friday is not done for the legal side, but a matter of respect and the wishes of the site owner and a club benefactor. We as a club receive support from Brighton and Hove City council to run the kite festival with the supply a grant, the amenities' and site free of charge. At their request we have been asked not to camp on site until the Friday. We also have in place a verbal agreement with the council to allow site security over the weekend of the kite festival to stay on site. This allows us to have limited camping space made available for those that require it. If we were to start to camp from Thursday or earlier and upset them the outcome could be that they would not look favourably on supporting the event in future years. Which would mean the end of a Kite Festival in Stanmer Park at the very least. To this end the club would ask that no camping take place in the park by kite flyers until Friday where if you are willing to be added to the site security list then limited places will be made available and are allowed by the council.

BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL 2008

JULY 12TH & 13TH 2008

Stanmer Park. Brighton

Celebrating 30 Years of the Brighton Kite Festival

THE BEST EVER KINGSFOLD

All week I had been checking the weather, it looked as if we were going to have a wet and windy Kingsfold. All the equipment both tools & supplies were tested during the week for a cracking weekend. I hope we have the weather to enjoy them. My work week had been good, so I was able to meet Alan at the Crawley Sainsbury's for the provisions required, well you can't start a festival day without one of Alan's Full English. Arriving at Kingsfold in glorious sunshine we meet Glenys, Glenn, Janet & Big John, who had arranged to put us in the far corner of the field. (What were they trying to tell us?)

The Kingsfold organisers had done us proud, not a single land mine (cow pat) could be seen. The sacrifices to the weather gods & goddess looked like they were working. After levelling Alan's camper it was on with the kettle. Thanks Glenn for your help, we could have been in real trouble if we hadn't had the use of your pieces of wood. As we arrived, we notice Big John's Mega balloon, so we had to have a look, do you know the Mega Balloon can be blown up to 24ft - Yes 24ft. If fully inflated with Helium this balloon would lift a man. Luckily for me John didn't have enough Helium Cylinders to fill it up. John also showed us his Fantastic Helikite, a kite with a helium balloon attached, so even when my no wind kite will not fly, John will be able to grace the sky with this breath taking kite! All for the bargain price of £98.00 + Delivery and VAT, excellent value. Time to fly a kite, I thought it would be a good idea to put up my John Browning beating No Wind Kite, thanks to the modifications that Danny Rice made to her at Testons, she went up a treat. Now, Glenn's kite had been flying all afternoon, but as is always true at kite festivals my kite line found his kite line. Let's move on to the rocket launching. Ever since Margaret & Malcolm had introduced us to Burst Disc rockets, at Roy & Hayley's Jolly up, earlier this year, we had been looking to push the boundaries. We moved forward a little at Teston with The Little Beauty, a small compressor and working on the theory that more pressure means more height, in turn means more excitement. We wanted to go

further, to do that we needed a pressure cylinder that could contain considerably more pressure. After a little research and digging about at work I found the appropriate wall thickness tube and some large lumps of stainless steel. We now have a launch cylinder capable of 2000psi - that should be enough for the time being. The engineering and science theory was very simple, but would it work? Air from Little Beauty powered by Big Johns 3Kw Generator would fill the launch cylinder with air up to 150psi, giving us the volume of air to launch rockets. This air pressure would be maintained via a non return valve. Then with the use of a 750psi pressure test hand pump the air pressure would be increased in theory up to 750psi. Tests at work had proved that a burst disc made from a beer can, could be burst. An email was sent to everyone involved to start looking for suitable material for burst discs, we needed to find the optimum material.

Now at Kingsfold we had the room to test fire a rocket. All the equipment was collected. The Stainless Steel Rocket Launcher, Little Beauty, Big John's Generator. The pressure test hand pump, the cables and hoses necessary to connect everything and of course the BIG SPANNER. Many hands make light work and very soon all was ready go.

Thank you to everyone who helped, it doesn't take long for the launch team to multiply.

Alan had cut several beer can burst discs, so we decided to start there. One of these discs was placed in the launch cylinder adaptor, cover replaced and launch tube screwed in and tightened with the BIG SPANNER. Are we ready? Turn on generator, remember to turn to run once started, Little beauty starts to pump air into Launch cylinder 70psi-80psi-90psi-100psi-110psi that's the limit for Little Beauty, now it's the hand pump's turn, pressure soon starts to increase 150psi-200psi-250psi and at about 300psi BANG everyone looks skyward can anyone see it, WOOWWW where did it go? Then we realised the rocket, a cheap Stomp Rocket had not left the launch pad, how come? The sudden pres-

sure release had split the plastic tube never mind we'll patch it up with Duck Tape. Tape repair done, lets try again, this time someone kept an eye on the rocket, this time we blew it to smithereens, we never did find the nose cone.

This Experiment proved that Stomp Rockets are not strong enough; we will have to wait for Margaret & Malcolm and Malcolm's proper Rockets. It was only later as we went over experiment details, that we concluded that the slug from the centre of the burst disc, remember this was from a beer can, tore through the rocket like shrapnel. OOPS!! Time for a beer and a kite fly. Alan & I joined Janet & Big John at Glenys & Glenn's camper for a buffet supper.

Saturday dawned in mist; sunshine through the mist over the lake looked absolutely fabulous. I flew my John Browning beating No Wind Kite in almost no wind, I'm sure John will be impressed. She carried on flying during breakfast. We were suppose to wait for John Browning for breakfast, but Alan and I were too hungry, not only that, Alan couldn't wait to try his new Cadac, so on went the Bacon, sausage, mushrooms,



tomatoes, eggs and the left over boiled potatoes from Glenys & Glenn's buffet, that should just about see us through till lunch. As we were washing up John phoned, to say he's ten minutes away, he was very disappointed to hear he had missed breakfast. We couldn't do that to John and by the time he had arrived his breakfast was on the table complete with toast, orange juice and coffee. He seemed to enjoy. I could not convince John to fly his No Wind Kite so that the two No Wind Kites could fly along side each other, do you think he's worried about my kite? We had hardly finished clearing up and Margaret & Malcolm arrived with rockets. The excitement was too

much, we had to start with rockets. All the gear was assembled on the floor, then excitement gave way to disappointment, Janet and Big John had not surfaced, how were we going



to pump air into rocket launcher. Malcolm saved the day he produced a cracking twin cylinder foot pump. It was decided to use plastic burst discs, no shrapnel, John B had bought some acetate which proved to be excellent bursting disc material. In went the air, then boost pressure with hand pump, we were amazed we managed to get to just under 300psi - BANG Yes rocket had left launch pad where is it - can anyone see it ? there it is WWOOWWW!!!!!! That was FANTASTIC. I don't know how many we launched, but it was a lot and our enthusiasm for more did not subside We must have sounded like 6 year olds at a birthday party. After Malcolm's foot pump colpased John Elvin came to the rescue with his pump. For about 1 ½ Hours of experiments maintained the excitement, I must apologise to our neighbours, We must have been rather noisy. What do you expect with kids? Many of us were wondering how high we managed to launch the rockets, so are we. lots of the rockets launched went out of sight, the only criteria we had to base the height achieved, was by time the rocket took to return. We must work on a method for recording the rockets height, any ideas? There must be someone out there that knows the formula. I think we can disregard wind as we only do this when there is not enough wind to fly kites.

We needed to calm down for awhile, the wind had started to pickup, if only a little, as we were here to fly kites, I thought John was cheating though flying his Helikite . A kite that need Helium to keep it up can not be called a No Wind Kite, it's a helium balloon stuck to a kite. Quiet returned to Kingsfold, as we all flew some kites. Later we visited to engine exhibits

you never know what you might see or find at Kingsfold, As usual the Grumpy Old Gits took great pleasure in perusing the tool stalls. We had a lazy afternoon just flying kites, Glenn and myself were sitting on the grass watching the kites, I remarked " what more could anyone want, Fantastic weather, steady wind, great friends, kites gently fluttering in the breeze, the world at peace. Just one thing missing", "What's that" replied Glenn. "A beer". Later we were joined by Margaret, she too wanted to chill. Alan took a call from Anne, the exhaust on her car was blowing badly, not a real problem, until we realise Anne has tonight's dinner. Luckily a very nice man in Redhill managed to patch it up. A great Shepherds Pie followed for with Apple & Blackberry Crumble made by Frances, it's amazing how things taste so much better alfresco. Shame Alan forgot the Gravy. During dinner we were entertained by the lights on kites, especially Les Reed's kite which had lots of sequenced LED's, it looked like Close Encounters. Something else to research over the winter month. While everyone else was deep in conversation John Browning and I decided to checkout the saloon over at Deadwood, we nearly got lost in the dark. John was surprised by the new buildings; The Trapper now has a cabin. The Lamp shop was open and the log fire looked very inviting, so we had a wander round, not that there is a lot to wander round, but he does have great collection of oil lamps, if you ever need spares for your old oil lamps he's the man to see.

Further down Main Street we found the Saloon, it's a great feeling to swing those doors, and strolled up to the bar. Once there we enquired about a drink, strictly speaking you're supposed to take your own, but after a donation was made we had a drink. We were thoroughly entertained by the cowboys in the bar; it's a serious business being a cowboy, almost as serious as being a Grumpy Old Git. We watch with incredulity as the lady behind the bar mixed drinks, ready for when her guests (can't call them customers) arrive, after the Hoe Down. After mixing cactus Juice, she started to work on the Mississippi mud slides, ½" of Kahlua, 1" bailey's or similar topped off with vodka, as I was thinking you must be mad to

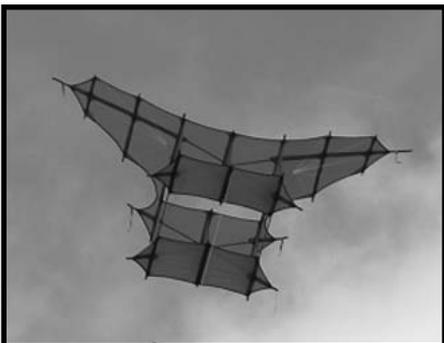
drink that, she slides two of them over to John and I, Oh dear, I think that means we have to drink them! John explained, (he's obviously been here before) you have to down it in one, what the hell am I doing here? Why can't we just slide out the door - too many people. Well as they say, there are things you must do before you die, I think this is one of them. What the heck Gulp OK not the finest drink if ever had , but definitely not the worst. Maybe if I end up in the saloon at Deadwood next year I'll try another. John and I returned to Alan's camper to find quite a crowd had gathered around Big John's heater, slowly everyone left for bed and John, Alan and myself retired to Alan's camper for coffee and Southern Comfort. The only way to round of a perfect day.

Needless to say I had a superb night sleep. Slept in late, can't think why! Alan suggested it was time I tried the Cadac, I'm sure that was so he didn't have to cook breakfast, OK where do we start. "Alan what are we going to do with all these sausages and bacon" very simple reply "Cook em" well we ran out of room on the cadac can you believe it? Seeing Les Reed up the hill we decided to invite him to breakfast and if anyone else had wandered by, they too would have been invited. Les bought his mini Cadac so we had some where to cook the eggs. Can you imagine it four Grumpy Old Gits slaving over Cadacs? Glenn eventually surface so was forced to have breakfast with us, not that it took much persuading. During breakfast we were lamenting the fact that we had not had any pancakes this weekend. Les soon remedied the situation, he had pancake mix enough for all, so not only did we have a cracking breakfast we also had desert, can't be bad.

Disaster Struck, Big Johns Helikite at been tied to the underside of his awning, but as the wind picked up the Silver helium filled balloon parted



company with the kite and floated gracefully up over the Kingsfold site, No doubt later on today there will be people convinced they've seen a UFO. Not being able to fly my Purple Kelvin Cody yesterday, not enough wind, so I was determined to fly it today and boy does it fly beautifully, I still can't believe it's mine, I'm such a lucky boy. Glenn already had his Mega Sled Delta flying, don't they look great flying together. With no rockets, Malcolm took his rockets home yesterday, we will have to find something else to amuse us. Well you know us it has to go with a BANG. John had been desperate to find a Bucket or barrel to fill with water, so we could carry out another vital science experiment. The Water trough at the top end of the field had been rejected, I'm sure Dave McArthur would not have minded his Trailer tent being soaked. After much pestering from John, I relented and let him have my bucket, the one I planned to mix bubble juice in. John went up to the Trough to fill bucket with water, you should have seen the wild life in it, I'll rephrase that, the dead wild life. John already had the 1Lt Coke bottle required, so armed with his flask of CO2 we walked to the middle of the adjacent field, the coke bottle was half filled with water then topped up with CO2, the lid screwed down tight, then the bottle was dropped in the bucket, we



moved away swiftly to await the outcome lots of creaking of plastic more creaking taking it's time," do you think we should have a look - "not yet" finally BANG water everywhere and a great cheer from all the onlookers. Well that went well we need a bigger bottle, Bigger bottle acquired, experiment repeated again lots of creaking the anticipation is unbelievable everyone is watching bucket intently more creaking she's going to blow .even more creaking. BOOOOOOM-MMMM!!!!!! Not only had the CO2

blown the bottle up, it had shattered the bucket. I think that concludes our noisy experiments for today. What follow was brilliant, hearing the noise, the Sheriff of Deadwood and his deputies appeared in the field ready to arrest John, who was posing with the destroyed bucket. They had thought they were under attack, they believed the sound to be a musket.



After explaining the science John was allowed to go free. Have they got a Jail in Deadwood?

Less noisy experiments from now on. We tried a CO2 Jet boat with mixed results, we will have to come back to this one at a later date. The most spectacular quiet experiment was Liquid Nitrogen thrown over the pond, very eerie and atmospheric, mist hovering over the surface just like a horror movie. During the morning International Kite Rescue performed a spectacular rescue of C2llin's Delta, very daring with power lines inches from the kite. Les having spent nearly half an hour putting his Cody together, just to have it blown from the sky as a spar popped, floating down very close to the power lines. Now comes the time to pack up and clear up, this is the worst part of a wonderful weekend, folding up kites, winding up lines, pulling out stakes, trying to work out how to put



everything back into the Pick Up, why does it always seem as if there's not enough room to put it all back, people are already saying good bye and leaving, I don't want to go it's been far to good. Just remember we can do it all again soon. Finally (Yes I know it went on a bit, but what do you leave out ?) A HUGE ENORMOUS THANK YOU to all the people, little and large that organised a Terrific weekend, I hope you let us back next year

Keith Boxall GOG

Many thanks to Anne, Alan & My sister Jan for proof reading.



HORTON FARM

We have been asked if we would like to camp and to fly our kites at the Horton Vintage Weekend. This is a similar show to the Kingsfold Vintage show but is run and managed by a completely different organisation.

The dates are the 3rd 4th and 5th of May 2008 and before you remind me, yes, I know this is the same weekend as Weymouth International but as camping at Weymouth is both difficult and expensive you might consider Horton to be another choice. So far as I am concerned the weekend will be cost free, except your travel expenses, very relaxed, with no "organised" arena events unless you want to and the entire weekend will be run pretty much on a par with the Kingsfold steam rally.

If you want to look the site up on your map the address is:

Merton Farm
Merton Lane
Canterbury
Kent
CT4

Big John

Please email Big John if you are interested in attending.

A LOOK AT 2007

The winter days are getting shorter and colder but let me add some colour, sunshine and warmth by way of a review of the past kite months of 2007.

We started the year with our first festival, Streatham kite day. What a wonderful day, lovely weather and lots of beautiful kites. The festival included kite displays by Team Spectrum and other UK teams. There were kite traders and lots of food stalls. We met lots of old friends and just by chance I was invited to take part in the Jamaica Independence kite day festival in Gloucestershire in August. The festival was very enjoyable, I flew all my Jamaican kites and there was a lot of interest from many people, adults and children alike. Again, there were various traders and stalls all relating to different aspects of Jamaican culture. I met flyers from the Golden Valley Kite Club. They were very helpful throughout the festival. In fact the whole festival had a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

...and onto Weymouth. This is really the first big festival of the season with flyers from France, USA, Germany, and Australia and of course lots of



teams and clubs from the UK. Brighton Kite Flyers, Avon Kite Flyers and the Kent and Northern Kite Flyers were also there.

Flying conditions varied throughout the weekend with some flyers managing to land their kites in the sea! At one point a motor boat helped to rescue a few kites from the waves. Nevertheless, a good weekend was had by all the flyers and public alike. Looking forward to going back next year and have already booked accommodation.

Dunstable...ah yes, what a wonderful location for a kite festival. The flying area overlooks a beautiful valley

where a gliding school is situated. There was a very good turnout as the weather was lovely all day. The Brighton Kite Flyers teddy bear was prominent and Team Spectrum and other various kite flying teams helped to make it a very enjoyable day. Apart from kites the area, which is run by the National Trust, is a setting landscape photographers would enjoy. I believe the Dunstable Festival should be supported as it is a wonderful day out for all the kite flyers and their families. I'll be back next year!



Portsmouth was during August Bank holiday weekend. This is usually one of the biggest UK festival and this year was no different. Because of the bad weather during the earlier part of the year a lot of festivals in the north of England had been cancelled and we were therefore happy to see a lot of welcome friends from the Midlands and the North.

During the festival a sparkling array of kites and flyers graced the arena



throughout the weekend. The Swiss team were particularly good. There were teams and clubs from many areas of Holland, Italy and India, to mention just a few. UK teams included Airheads, Team Spectrum and Close Encounters. All completed brilliant displays while the Avon and Brighton clubs displayed their fabulous collection of kites.

There was so much to do at Portsmouth such as dog shows, craft

tents, funfair, traders and many refreshment venues. If you didn't want to fly you wouldn't get bored there!

The hot air balloon and kite festival in



Chelmsford, Essex was slightly disappointing. The entrance fee was high, which kept a lot of the public away and you had to make your own entertainment as there was not a lot of additional stalls etc. Lucky enough the weather was lovely and the balloon flight in the evening was an



amazing spectacle. We enjoyed the day but hope there is more to do next year.

Fuerteventura International Kite Festival 2007 was the culmination of all the events during the year and as always was out of this world. This festival needs a review all of its own....

Lynn & Courtney



JAVA JIVE - OCCASIONAL POSTINGS FROM INDONESIA

Kites Grounded for Environment Conference

Indonesia's State Power Board (PLN) asked the Balinese to refrain from the popular activity of kite flying for the duration of the UN conference on climate change, which ended on Friday 14 December. PLN officials told the press that they have forwarded their request to village chiefs across the island because they are worried that kites may interfere with the electrical distribution system.

The extremely large kites flown by many village groups are often held

aloft by wires that when they accidentally come in contact with high voltage lines can act as conductors causing short circuits.

The General manager of PLN Bali, Budiman Bachrulhayat said that if the delegates attending the climate conference in Bali suffer even 'a moment's power outage, it could embarrass the entire nation.'

Article originally appeared in 'the beat' Bali and Java's biweekly entertainment gig guide No 196, Dec14-27, 2007



Fuerteventura International Kite Festival

The festival is held on the La Playa del Burro beach in Fuerteventura during the second weekend in November. This is our third visit and it gets better every year. Fuerteventura is the big one for me.



The setting is spectacular, the weather is brilliant and the kites are a work of art. The hospitality from the local people and authorities that organise the festival was more than welcoming and everyone was, as always, very friendly. It is more like a yearly pilgrimage than a festival! Kite people from all over the world congregate in the dunes of Correlejo.

All the usual nations were there, the Brits, French, Italians, Swiss, Germans and the Dutch and of course the occasional Jamaican (me, Courtney)!

The night before the festival there is a night fly for the local TV cameras and media. This was an event in itself.

The festival normally starts at about 10am and on the first day (Friday), all the school children and teachers from the local schools are brought to the beach by coach and all the children are given a kite to fly. To see 500

bright red kites all flying in the blue sky together was a spectacular sight and the children loved it!

Various camps were set up around the dunes by the flyers taking part and one beautiful flying creation after another took to the skies. There is a tradition where small gifts are exchanged between flyers and new and old friends and there are usually a few birthdays to celebrate as well. The first day is predominately a flying and socialising day with an exhibition of static and acrobatic kites.

During the evening many of the flyers meet in a restaurant on the beach in the town of Correlejo.



The second day gets bigger and more creative with even more kites and inflatables. I was interviewed by the local radio and TV station of the Canary Islands. Famous at last! At midday there was a Rokakus fight and yes the British won. Carolyn Swift was a runner up and Jerry Swift from the Northern Kite club won the title. It was a lovely day and the weather was perfect. During the evening the host laid on a meal at a restaurant on the

beach with music and dancing and at 10pm there was a night flight but there was no wind so in fact there was very little flying! Even so, it was a spectacular evening enjoyed by all.

Sunday, was sadly the final day but just as good as the others. Many kites and flyers exhibiting and lots of wine and spirits being distributed along the dunes. At 3pm there was the raffle and prize giving and a signing of a large Edo kite made especially to commemorate the festivals 20th year. The festival closed with a final evening get together of all the participants at the beach restaurant. There were also fireworks and another attempt at a night fly but again there was very little wind.

I had the good fortune to be given a twenty minute master class by a French flyer in the control of Delta stunt kites. This was brilliant and I now have to practice a lot to get to his standard. What an enjoyable lesson. At this festival many new friendships are formed and old friends reunited. Personally we would like to thank the organisers from the Canary Islands and a big thank you to Pauline and Simon Norris, Carolyn and Jerry Swift, Bob and Carol Cruickshank, Dick from the Great Ouse Kite Club, Vaz and family from Holland, and Ray and Sheila Smith for helping to make this a great festival.

We are already looking forward to next year.....cant wait.....

Courtney & Lynn Beckles

OCTOBER 2007 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

Useful Contacts: Merchandise

Coordinator/Chairperson:

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

Treasurer:

Dave McArthur
T 01273 582309
E dave@bkf.org.uk

Aerodyne/Website:

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

Club library:

(BKF members only):
Paul Hill
T 01273 421286
E paul@BKF.org.uk

Club Kites:

(BKF members only):
If you want to use any of the clubs kites please just ask any member of the committee.

Membership Secretary:

Peter Jackson
T 01444 451076
E Membership@BKF.org.uk

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Alan Outram
T 01737 771196
E alan@BKF.org.uk

Pins/Cloth Badges:

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

THANK YOU

"I would like to thank Simon for organising a fantastic party! The cooks for the food. All those who turned up for making the Brighton Kite Flyers 2007 Christmas Party a fantastic evening out". We would also want to thank Alan for taking us to the hospital and back and everyone else who helped Leah, who is doing fantastically - until the Friday when she was at school and guess what banged her head again. So another trip down the Hospital and a little tlc and all is better again.

Hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and an amazing New Year

Bryan, Carole-Anne, Harry & Leah.

The Committee would like to wish all the members and fellow kite flyers a very happy new year and look forward to seeing you all on the flying field in 2008.

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

BRISTOL THICK UP THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

How nice it is to know that members of Brighton Kite Flyers are so sympathetic and supportive when one falls accidentally out of bed and ends up with a fat lip at Bristol Kite Festival. It really is lucky that I did not break a leg or similar 'cos they would very likely have propped me up in a chair for the rest of the festival and maybe offered to drive me to hospital at the end of the day - accompanied by howls of derisive laughter of course!

For those of you who were not there, let me explain. I sleep in my campervan in the over cab bed, which is five feet above the floor and reached by a ladder. On the night in question, I had one small bottle of beer and two glasses of wine - hardly enough to have any effect on my balance. After an hour in bed it was time to visit the loo and thinking that I was on my boat I reached for the floor with my feet, stretching further and further until I lost balance and fortunately fell on to the seat rather than the floor. However, the table was in the way and came up to attack my face in a rather aggressive manner, causing me to put a tooth through my lip. Trying to get back to sleep clenching paper tissues between your teeth to stem the blood is not an experience I would recommend to fellow kite flyers. Perhaps I will sleep under the van in future!

Ray Oakhill

I suppose all we can say to you to help prevent it in future is take some water with it next time Ray.

Thank you to all that made this issue possible

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible John Dimmock, Keith Boxall, Lynn & Courtney, Bryan Wakefield. who have helped to make this edition possible. I must also say a very big thank you to those who have edited Aerodyne this month in one form or another.

Simon Hennessey



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.

**brighton
Kite
flyers**

42 ROMAN SANDLE 87.

FREE THE
SUDAN
TEDDY
BEAR

The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the UK Ted Devils. Arguably the biggest load of Politicly incorrect Mindless drivel in Kiting today and proud of getting up more than a few noses, so without more ado, Ashooooo!



Skydivers to jump from edge of space

SPACE DIVING FROM 57 MILES UP, 700MPH TERMINAL VELOCITY, LIQUID COOLED PARACHUTE ZOOT SUITS..... THEY'RE RAVING MAD PAL.....

The proposed latest extreme sport smacks a bit of "anything to outdo them para bears" which is what we expect from them loony humes. Back in 1960 one Capt Kittinger of the USAF parachuted from a height of 20 miles from the gondola of a Helium Balloon, and that has stood as an all time highest parachute descent.

However, now it is proposed that tourists will soon be able rocket into space for a few minutes of weightlessness and a spectacular view of the Earth. There would have to be some form of emergency system if the proposed tourist rockets ever did come to fruition, and of course, already

the Loons have twigged that this emergency system could be used for yet another extreme sport, though wether or not deliberately jumping from that height would be allowed or even possible remains to be seen.

The Space Diver of course would be wearing a pressure suit and from 57 miles there would belittle in the way of atmosphere to slow them down and very little impression of falling, but at around 20 miles up due to denser air the suit would start to heat up, thats where the liquid cooling comes in and finally the Space Divers main chute would automatically deploy at a height of a mile. It is estimated that a terminal velocity at one stage would reach 700 miles an hour, so theres no need for a high fibre diet.

It is reported that a firm in Mesquite in Texas is developing a suitable Tourist rocket whilst another firm is developing the escape system and they plan to have a go at beating Capt Kittingers record with a jump from 22 miles. Lets hope they break the record and that they dont go buying the farm. Gordon Bennett, 301 fousand feet, they're having a laugh.

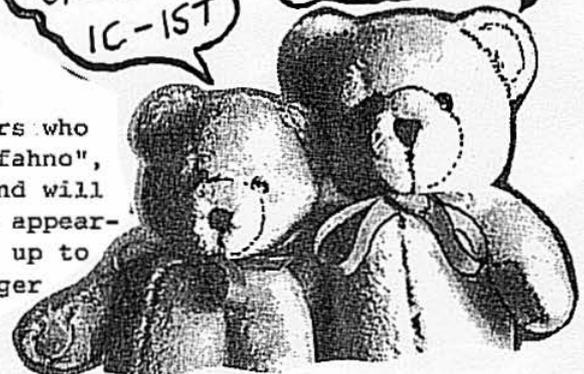
In these uncertain times

Dear Bear. Its advisable to be a bit cautious as to where you take a foreign trip.....

You could quite easily end up in a foreign slammer if your name is Obliquity of the Ecliptic, or maybe Fotheringay Guntfuttock, and as for those poor bears who hve been lumbered with that old chestnut "Boogeredifahno", that moniker is tantamount to a red rag to a Bull and will upon production of your passport cause the instant appearance of a baying mob of colourful local characters, up to the back teeth with machetes and swords all very eager to do you a severe mischief. FREE THE SUDAN BEAR.

THEY DEPORTED
ME FOR BEING
CALLED
IC-1ST

WITH A NAME
LIKE THAT YOU'RE
BOUND TO OFEND
SOME SILLY SOD



Extinction looms for six of the eight species of bear

WHILST THERE IS ENDLESS ENJOYMENT WITH THE COMIC CAPERS GENERATED BY THE FURRY FACSIMILES PARACHUTING FROM KITES, ITS AS WELL TO PONDER FOR A MOMENT THE FATE THAT SEEMS TO FACING THE REAL BEARS OF THE WORLD.

EXTINCTION... At least Six of the worlds eight species of Bears are now officially classed as facing the prospect of joining the Dodo in extinction. The World Conservation Union has three catagories of threat namely Least Concern. Two species are on that. first the European Brown Bear and the American Black Bear. Second, Vulnerable and on that are the Asiatic Black Bear, Sloth Bear, Andean Bear, Polar Bear and the Sun Bear. Thirdly and this is the greatest threat catagory, Endangered and on that list is the Giant Panda which faces the biggest threat of all.

Without the Chinese efforts at breeding Pandas it is estimated that the wild population would have passed the point of no return, which is sad when you think about it

The Sun Bear which is found in southeast Asia, Sumatra and Borneo has just been added to the vulnerable list and the WCO thinks that it is pretty certain that this species is in trouble from loss of habitat, and where habitat is protected Poaching is a considerable threat as poachers face little chance of being caught and the proceeds of these activities are enormous due to the demands of traditional Chinese medicine and local delicacy foods. On top of that in many places Bears are killed as they are seen as a threat to livestock, crops and human life.

Funnily enough an enormous amount of effort and funding goes on in North America where the status of Bears is very favourable and its unfortunate that so little of this goes on in southeast Asia and South America where the need is extreme.

In a separte study by the University of Alberta. Polar Bears are under threat from not only alledged climate change, but also from management policies which it is claimed encourage hunters to target far too many male Bears resulting in Bear poulations having far above numbers of female Bears which it is thought a reduction of the gene pool is occurring and a probable increase of inbreeding.

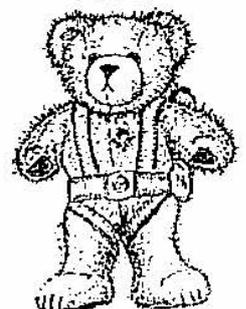
WHAT DO WE WANT ?, FREEDOM FOR THE SUDAN TEDDY AND WE WANT IT NOW, NO IFS OR BUTS, NOW!

Skydiver miracle

YET ANOTHER SKYDIVING HUME NEARLY BUYS THE FARM. WOT A LUCKY SOD Rombout Beersaerts a Belgian Skydiver recently had a near one when from a height of 13,000 ft he had a main canopy failure to fully deploy and of course when he popped his reserve it naturally got tangled with his main (aint you susposed to dump the main, then deploy the reserve?) leaving him suspended upside down and spinning like a top, so much so that he blacked out before hitting the deck at St Truiden airfield. He was a lucky sod as when he came to, he found that the grim reaper had only extracted a small fee of three busted ribs, a dislocated shoulder and a broken tooth. Wonder how high he bounced?

NO SOONER THE WORD THAN THE DEED, FULL SPEED AHEAD AND DAMN THE TORPEDOS, YIPEE KI AY, 15 THOU IN THIRD ROUND BECKETTS NIGEL....

One thing for sure, once he gets the bit between his teeth, its like a ferret up a trouser leg when Electric Arfa gets going with Kites and Parachutes and after the BOF's moan about scarcity of dem Ram Air chutes, Electric Arfurs sewing machine is burning rubber in every one of its numerous gears and we will keep yous posted as wots cookin, sew get sewing





TEDDIES WILL GIVE YOUR KIDS MORE THAN JUST CUDDLES

AT LEAST THEY WILL DO IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE SNAPPING UP VETERAN OR COLLECTIBLE BEARS AS AN INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE.

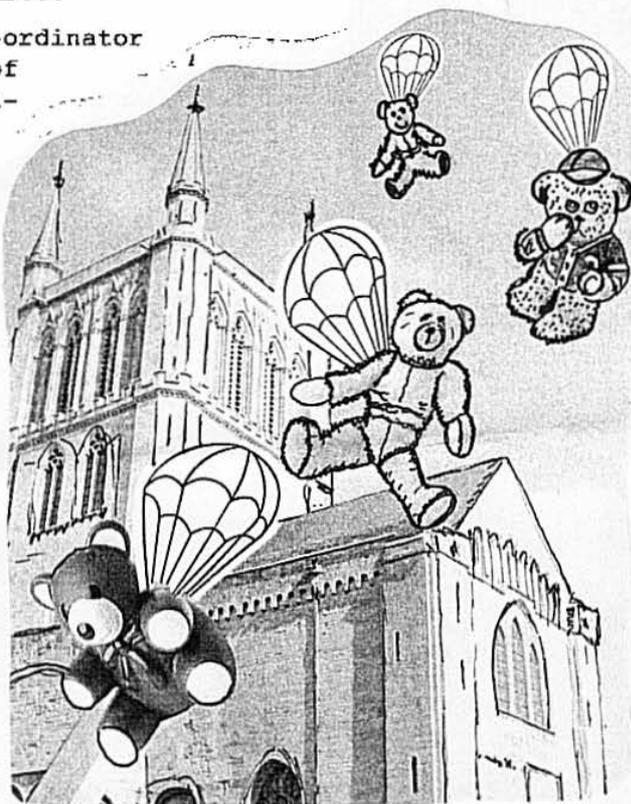
No chance then of the sprogs getting thier mits on any of these Bears for a bit of the good old anklebiter loving as its strictly about Dosh. When you think about most of the really pricy bears these days , its a fact that if kids had loved or played with them as they did or do then there would be none surviving in good condition.

At a recent Christies auction some early bears went for quite remarkable sums and although none of the prices approached the silly amounts of a few years back, they we-pretty eyewatering nethertheless.

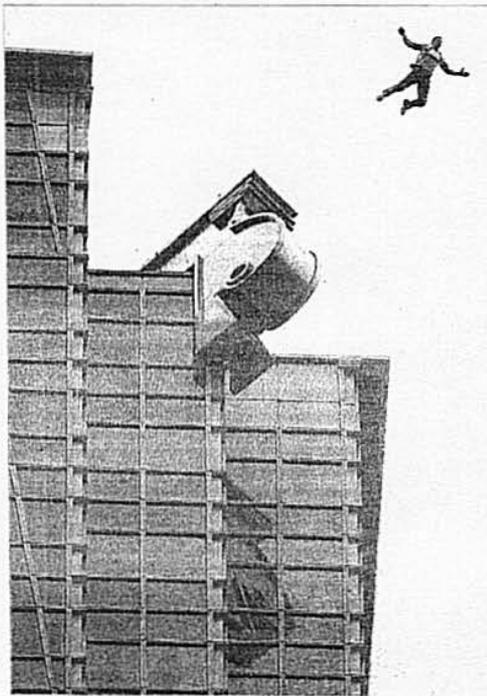
ror instance a Steiff from the 1920's notched up £10,000 as did a Steiff Rod bear from circa 1904 and a Barle centreseam Steiff went for £8,750 and some of the purchasers were quite open about why they were buying bears at such hefty prices. Its purely about investment for when thier kids get older, which means we will labour in vain to see one togged up with a jolly old rag and about to do a faceplant total into a nice squelchey cow pat. Not much of a life is it? You cost about a guinea in 1904, which put you out of the reach of most kids, so they stuck you in a cupboard for 90 years until some hume with arguably more money than sense stuck 10k on yer hooter, so where to next? Oh knickers its another 50 years in a bank Vault, which is what faces the sudan Teddy Arbuthnot Finklestein, though one has to assume that the average sudanese slammer aint as comfy as as yer average bank vault.

THE GREAT MIDLANDS TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE JUMP THE GREAT MIDLANDS TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE JUMP...

Electric Arthur had an e.mail from the co-ordinator of the annual Pershore Plum Fayre in the Vale of Evesham which takes place every August Bank Holiday. The c/o thought Arfur might like to be aware of the Great Midlands Teddy Bear Parachute jump from Pershore Abbey Tower. this is where it gets a bit weird. Alledgedly due to limited landing space the Parachute jump now takes place inside the 100ft tower, whilst on the outside they drop Teds on zip line races as yer do. In 2006 an estimated 14,000 bods came to the fayre, down somewhat this year due to the floods. The fayre has featured on local radio and tv and each year about 100 or so bears take part all donating £2 to the old Abbey fund and each receives a certificate of bravery. Thing is, does parachuting inside a Belltower merit a seperate para catagory? If yes, the Plum Fayre holds the world Record yet another ecclesiastical first which possibly could be on a sticky wicket if those safety elves or tha animal libs find out the bears are being dropped at the same time as those awfully nice ding a lings are doing the Bell Bashing caper. You vill the ear defenders wear and stop calling Esmeralda.



THE HIGH JUMP



HERE WE GO, LOON HUMES AT IT AGAIN, WOT ARE THEY LIKE?

Yet another attempt to outdo Parachuting Furry Wotsit supremacy as Felix Baumgartner makes a successful jump of 1,670ft from the top of the worlds tallest building the Taipei 101 Tower in Taiwan. We're not sure if this is a record BASE jump, but it followed the usual plan whereby a chute is concealed in the building somewhere, then the jumper posing as a workman sneaks in, then after a diversion to get the security guys eyes off the ball, the jumper dons the jolly old rag and off literally before you can say diddly squat.

Happily enough this jump ended perfectly, the usual pics were popped for the record and the jumper was on his toes toot sweet, leaving the security guards and the Taiwanese Old Bill with egg on thier faces.

Be this as it may, we, the Parachuting Furry hows yer farva's, will only ever tip our tiffers to the loon humes if one of them gets lofted under a Kite to about 700ft, does a total, bounces, gets repacked (properly) gets yanked aloft agin, as yer do, then does a good'un, and ends in the Gun and Ferret where a horde of parched Furries are waiting to hear the hume say Drinksallround.

FAR BE IT FROM US TO SAY SERVES YOU RIGHT, OH! SODDIT SERVES YOU BLEEDING WELL RIGHT. BEAR 1. HUNTER NIL.....

ANGRY PREY RIPS HUNTER

Makhan Khan and a gang were hunting Bears near the village of Gasoo on the outskirts of Srinigar, Kashmir and got slightly more than he bargained for as the intended prey suddenly decided that far from being fazed by the hunters attempts to do him in, he would show them the results of his study at the Ursine College of "WANT SOME?" Oh,

dear, the hunters suddenly became the hunted as the erstwhile prey, an Asiatic Black Bear went into attack mode. As the hunters did a runner, Mr Khan promptly fell down a hole, as yer do. and the Bear decided to give him some of that Phizog rearrangement treatment, inflicting some pretty serious injuries, luckily enough Mr Khans mates managed to drive off the Bear before Mr Khan became the ex Mr Khan, which enables them think twice before they go hunting Bears in future. This leads us nicely into the latest we have to Paw on Knut.

BUNNY HUGGERS WANT TO KILL KNUT

Remember if you will little Knut the rejected Polar Bear cub at Berlin Zoo, who some up thier own fundamental Bunny Hugger said should be killed. HEY! B.H. Idiot, this is for you. We have heard that Knut is Bulking up nicely, his Weapons are wellalong and he just cant wait to go in one on one in front of the worlds TV cameras with the sofar eeryliey silent B.H. Idiot who wantédto top him. So keep your eyes peeled and to borrow some words from you know who "If theres a bustle in you hedgerow and you dont know, its just a springclean for the Mayqueen" No it aint, its some BH Twit desperately trying to hide from a Polar Bear whos just takena degreein Hedging and Ditching at the Ursine College.

SO WE HUPPED AND WE PUFFED AND GOT TO HERE, SO AS EVER.....

Its the usual to the Teddytorial c/o The Boring Old Fart (Yes Her Majestys Government, if you can call it that, does officially class the Boring Old Fart as a Boring Old Fart) Yippee, at 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7.7TY in what will always be ENGLAND, no matter what McBottle and his Teaboy have done to flog us even further down the river into Yurop, motto "WE PLAY, THE UK PAYS" no wonder there then, we Mugs pick up the Tab for everything.

So, theres this Teddybear see, bit brassed off with wintering in good old England, gets a bit Taters as yer know, so 'aving racked up the Bear Miles, he asit away to somewhere warmer. trouble is, he's called Bear thats a no, no hes told an he ends up banged up. so free the Sudan Bear....



Events List

March 2008		
21-24	Up, Up and Away at Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent. Kite Demonstration	Darlene Cavill 01622 767860
April 2008		
5-13	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-Sur-Mer, France	
13	Streatham Common Kite Day, Streatham Common, London	bobcolover@easynet.co.uk
20	Flight in the Park, National Trust, Berrington Hall, Nr Leominster, Hereford HR6 ODW	Karl@longbottom.org.uk
26 - 5/05	Cervia International Kite Festival, Italy	
25-27	Atmosphere 08, Westward Ho!, Bideford, Devon	www.atmosphere08.co.uk
26-27	North Hampshire Kite Jolly-Up 2, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	Kites@kitesup.co.uk
May 2008		
4-5	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset	The Kite Society
4-5	Beverley Kite Festival, The Racecourse, Beverley, East Yorkshire	Blooms A1 Events 01430 860070 www.kite-festival.co.uk
10-11	Swindon Kite Festival.	Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk
17-18	Suffolk International Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds.	Martin@skfc.co.uk
30-31	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth	Malcolm Pressey msp@dsl.pipex.com www.exmouthrotarykitefestival.co.uk
31 - 1/06	Bedford International Kite Festival (Provisional).	River.festival@bedford.btinternet.com
June 2008		
1	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth	Malcolm Pressey msp@dsl.pipex.com www.exmouthrotarykitefestival.co.uk
1	Ashdon Kite Festival, North Essex	
6-8	Margam Kite Festival, Margam Park, Port Talbot, South Wales.	margampark@npt.gov.uk
7-8	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex.	Kites@kitesup.co.uk
7-8	Wirral International Kite Festival, The Dips, New Brighton, Wirral.	dhkites@hotmail.com
8	Peterborough Kite Festival, Ferry Meadows Country Park Peterborough	Gokf@btinternet.com
14-15	Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX	Rdell@electroweb.co.uk
July 2008		
5-6	Sunderland International Friendship Festival, Tyne & Wear.	Pauline Taylor info@infinitearts.co.uk
12-13	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton (Provisional)	Info@bkf.org.uk
19-20	Hereford Kite Festival, National Trust, Berrington Hall, Nr Leominster, Hereford HR6 ODW	Karl@longbottom.org.uk
20	Dunstable Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs.	Martin@skfc.co.uk
26-27	Dover 2008 - Kite Festival, Tower Hamlets, Dover.	Gerty - 07941 519413
August 2008		
3	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston	rotary@roystonkitefestival.org.uk
9-10	Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX	Rdell@electroweb.co.uk
17	Hunstanton Kite Day, Norfolk.	
23-25	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
30-31	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol	Info@abc-pr.co.uk
September 2008		
6-14	Dieppe International Kite Festival, France.	
6-7	Beverley Kite Festival, The Racecourse, Beverley, East Yorkshire	Blooms A1 Events 01430 860070 www.kite-festival.co.uk
14	Wakefield kite Festival, Heath Common, Wakefield, West Yorkshire	www.facelessco.com/
20-21	Big Sky International Kite Festival, Margate, Kent	The Kite Society