

THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



Issue 116

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£2.00

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

The 2008 Collection

- When the wind blows - think of us -



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Shield



4m Open Keel Delta



Phoenix
Rising



Phoenix Tail



HQ Xelon 1



HQ Hybrid - Zero Wind



Mega Turbine
82 feet



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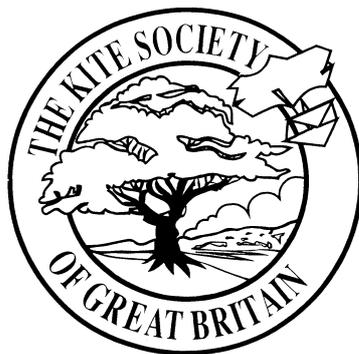
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Front Cover

**Two of Albert Trinks
appliquéd Edo kites. He is
one of the guests at this
years Portsmouth Kite
Festival.**

Photo: Gill Bloom

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.

Editorial

Dear Reader

The next few months are going to be busy for kite festivals. So we probably see you at one of them.

Dieppe—the registration form is available from their web site www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org, this needs to be returned to them by 15th August although they have said that they would accept registrations at Portsmouth. Whilst on Portsmouth, don't forget we have the mega-Rev fly, there are also a few places left on the iQuad Rev clinics taking place after Portsmouth—see uk.revclinic.com for full details. Check the Portsmouth page as the arrangements for "camping" have changed.

We would like to thank those people who attended the Blackheath Kite Festival. The council were very impressed and have set the date for 2009 as 13th & 14th June.

Jon and Gill

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 drawable 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

22nd RICV Berck sur Mer—Hugh Blowers

It is said, possibly erroneously, that the Eskimos have 130 words to describe snow. The French, just 1, neige, and though David Gombert was incorrect in his statement that there had never been snow at Berck (2003), this year will remain in memories for much longer. With Easter so early and changes in school holidays it was going to be interesting to see how attendances were affected, both flyers and public, given last years enormous crowds. The festival was also hosting the World Sports Kite championship as a main feature, which meant fewer invitations in other areas and a very low-key wind garden. With sports kites scheduled to use the main arena throughout the week, the usual invasion of 3000 plus enfants was held on the Friday previous to the festival and although they had fun they did not get to share the beach with the invited flyers.

The festival started with rain, but this did not affect anyone too much as we were all being enthralled by a series of speeches from the great and good of the area. First one person said how wonderful everything was, then another person repeated it all and added how wonderful it was to have everyone there and then a lady said how wonderful everything was, how wonderful it was to have everyone there and how wonderfully they were going to fly. They placated us with tumbler of whisky or Ricard and all sorts of tasty morsels. By the time this was over the sun was out, the wind was coming off the sea and everyone was set for a fine afternoons (wonderful?) flying.



A Peter Lynn crab being flown by half of the Beccles Bunch caught the eye of the television crew and the press photographers and was to feature on the front of the newspaper and on the news items during the week. Jos and Kaatje Valcke flew their new Indian girl for the first time and this also invoked a great deal of interest from the TV crews. Meanwhile in the far arena, Peter Lynn had hoisted two completely new kites, a cuttlefish in subtle shades of blues and greens and a garish cobra in red and orange, both maxi sized, soon to be joined by equally large versions of Asterisk

and Obelisk. With Rolf Zimmerman and his usual collection, plus his amazing dragon it was all getting a bit crowded and fraught in that neck of the woods, and stayed so for the rest of the festival. The afternoon finished with a spectacular display of pyrotechnics as the main distribution board for the north of the site exploded and burned merrily with resulting running around and much expenditure of dry powder extinguishers. By the time the Pompiers arrived the panic was over. Amazingly a new power supply was in place by the morning with the new box dangling from a meat hook by a length of baler twine. Imagine that happening here!

Sunday started dull and wet, but the news that the parade



had been called off brought out the sun for a while. During the afternoon it all started to get a bit wet and an announcement was made to get all kites down as a storm was approaching. Vent (wind), éclair (lightning, not a nice cake), and neige. Wet kites and sand do not go well together, but everything was down before the rumbling started. On the way back to the chalet the cars approaching were covered in snow and before long it was coming down heavily. By 11pm there was five inches of the stuff and even more further up the coast, marooning Peter and Wendy Thomas when the A16 became blocked. It seemed like Gerard's luck had run out at last, but no. By morning the roads had been cleared and we were able to get to the very picturesque and snow covered beach. The only real problem was the complete lack of electricity in the town as snow had brought down a main power cable. What was evident was sun and a perfect wind blowing straight onto the beach that soon had the sky filled with kites drying out from the previous day. Soon the promenade was as busy as ever with thousands of people perched on the sea wall watching a continuous display of two and four line flying in the main arena. Usually the crowds are small during the week, but with the schools being on holiday it was almost a full house every day, resulting in some very happy Berck traders, hotel and restaurant owners. The Berck 'mega team' is now an institution but they have so many participants that it is divided into groups with a lot of 'follow the leader' boating about. Could do with some choreography, which is just what happened with the four-line mega team. Under the strict command of Steven Hoath the hoard of Rev flyers showed what could be achieved with discipline and skill and a lot of shouting from Steve. The teams flying Revs keep exploring the boundaries of control, with FLIC producing some amazing patterns with their eight kites especially when one of each pair is inside the lines of the other.

The World Championship teams struggled with light and fluky winds for precision in the mornings, but benefited from the stronger onshore winds after the excellent lunches cooked and served by the local adult training school. From the very first display, the Japanese team Airex looked nigh on perfect, and barring disaster left the others competing for the places. The manoeuvres and kite control were so precise that it brought back memories of the level that Aircraft and Tsunami attained in the early 90s. Scratch Bunnies from the UK featured a certain Carl Robertshaw amongst the flyers, and while the individual flying was of very high standard and some of the moves complex, including a mind boggling two man version of the 'Ronnie Weave', the 6 man team just lacked the degree of precision we have come to expect. The new format World Championship is much more audience friendly than the old World Cup and there was some amazing flying all week from the teams.

22nd RICV Berck sur Mer—Hugh Blowers

With Andrew Beattie hors de combat, there was no flag this year, so the large kite arena was getting filled with inflatables of every design imaginable, plus several works of fantasy. A combined British task force upheld the honour of the old country and held the maxi kites at bay with a magic carpet of flame deltas under the command of Linda Howard. The arena was under further pressure when a 50 metre long turbine was inflated. With a mouth 10 metres across this was impressive to say the least.



It was not all mega-sized kites though as there was some fascinating stuff being flown in the Agora arena where the other half of the British contingent was based. Olivier Reymond's work is familiar to many and one of the first on the beach each morning was 80-year-old Carl Dambach with his complex cellular creations. Mind you, being on the beach early was essential as the organisation provide concrete anchors, but these would be 'bagged' at the crack of dawn by the simple expedient of attaching a tiny kite to it and defying anyone to remove it. There would be no prizes for guessing the nationality of the people responsible. Luckily they wanted to be near the crowd, which was usually the downwind side of the arena, leaving the open and upwind side clear for us more canny flyers. Talking of canny flyers the woman nearly outnumbered the men in the arena doing more than their fair share of flying, Pauline Taylor, Sylvie Perry, Gill Bloom, Lynn Blowers and Sara Longbottom being the most active. Pauline had wisely left Jed at home earning money but the others had brought bag carriers with them. In Sarah's case it allowed her to keep up an ever-changing display of designs including a modern version of the Salmon 18 wing kite from 1907. This in truth did not need much flying as it stayed perfectly still a very loong way up. Took a heck of a lot of winding in though, but this job was well within Karl's capabilities. The Longbottom underwear was much in evidence as usual, but not the more interesting pieces, as these were hidden under many many layers for most of the week.

Berck was the home of aerial photography in France and it keeps up this connection every year with any number of still and video cameras being lofted. The results are quite astounding and a laptop for downloading now seems to be standard kite flying equipment. You show me yours and I will show you mine, so to speak. Technology has revolutionised this aspect of the hobby and with the size and weight of modern digital cameras, almost any kite will now do service as a lifter, always assuming it is stable of course. Talking stability, Ron Spalding from Thailand has discovered how to make a flow form stable. His giant Sutton used a pilot kite and never gave a moments concern

throughout the week?

All along the promenade are tents doing promotions, running workshops, selling ethnic tat, kite equipment and all manner of strange things, while the Local chapter of the herring appreciation society sang the same three songs over and over again, as they have done for many festivals past. Altogether now, way, way waaay!!!! In the larger marquees were a selection of superb aerial photos and a wonderful display of the most delicate bamboo based art kites from Therese and Daniela. True works of art and much sought after by kite connoisseurs. Frances Anderson from NEKF is a textile designer who combines textiural techniques with sculptural forms in her miniature kites was much in evidence over the first weekend alongside the other artists/kitemakers. From the fine use of material to recycled plastic PET bottles is a leap, but one of the wind garden exponents was kept busy all week showing an incredible variety of whizzy things that could be produced from a piece of 'rubbish'. Uprooting it all and replanting the following morning seemed like a task too far to those of us that like a quiet life.

Gerard Clement can be relied upon to provide something memorable for the night flying evening and this year was no exception. To start with, the weather and wind were perfect and the central arena had been surrounded with floodlights and computer controlled spotlights. Sports kites, revs and small kites filled this arena while the inflatables provided a canvas for the lasers and beams of intense blue white light. The other half of the Beccles Bunch had a Peter Lynn cuttlefish built specifically for night flying. Not much to look at in the light, being almost completely black with garish coloured suckers and patterns, but these turned out to be true fluorescent colours when the lights hit it. Quite spectacular, especially with the head lit with a continuous LED rope, and flashing eyes. Rolf Zimmerman's Dragon, which surely must be one of the most spectacular kites to have been built for a long while looked amazing against the black sky. Earlier, Rolf took a series of photos of it against a brilliant setting sun that were just incredible. Around 10pm the music and commentary started with the spotlights moving in unison to create a mesmerising son-et-lumiere. At 10.30 all lights went out and we were treated to a 20 minute firework spectacular that just kept getting bigger and louder until the shattering finale of mortars brought it all to an end. The charred remains of the cuttlefish were packed away with a stark realisation of why no one else had been flying in that particular area.

After having flown for so long the previous day, the gentle wind and sun on the Sunday allowed everyone to draw breath, unless, of course you flew two or four line kites, in which case you were worked as hard as ever to entertain the thronging masses. As usual, all the teams, along with Ray Bethell and the mega teams flew throughout the afternoon, but towards the end, a quite extraordinary display moved into the arena. A host of all white NASA wings wafted around in a slow motion frenzy, while larger versions drifted along the crowd line all to stirring bagpipe tracks. Not a clue what it was all about but very entertaining?

So the 22nd running of the Berck festival came to a close. Different to last year, but wonderful flying weather just the same. Not so warm, in fact 'B' cold at times, but a superb selection of the best kites in the world. The town and organisation go out of their way to make it an enjoyable and hassle free event and the hospitality is superb. What more could we ask for?

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

HQ Flow Tail Open Keel Delta



Here I go on again about the website but you need to go to the photo gallery to see the latest kites we have in for you to try so far from HQ. We got them too late to write about them all so here is what we reckon are the best four of the bunch. I'll report on the others next issue.

Actually a couple of these are probably the best in our bag at the moment – This flow tail, serpent kite is just wonderful – No that's not me just saying that because HQ Invento are declared as one of our sponsors – I dare you to come over and try it and then say otherwise – it flies so

softly, gently and serene ghosting quietly against the sky. Two things surprised me about this kite; (1) how little pull it generated with its large size of 4 meters wide by 10 meters in length and (2) how easy it was to assemble and launch in only a slight breeze. (I suppose that's three really?) We took it down to Stokes Bay the other Sunday to fly with the boys from Solent kite flyers (they are there every week) and it remained aloft whilst we were all sat around waiting for enough wind to fly some impromptu team.

I flew it at Basingstoke and another flyer commented that it was a pity it was only done in white, I think it would lose some of its magic in any other colour. Mags said that she'd heard that these kites were originally designed for night flying and would look fantastic as they were picked out in the lights – Yeah – I could go with that!

The long tails are held on with Velcro so that will give another dimension which I will waffle past because I forgot to try that (donkey!) but this will obviously make it fly in almost zero wind. The stability and extra lift were helped by the open keel. Because of its size this kite should also serve well as a lifter for line laundry in winds over 8mph right up to its maximum of 20 mph.

HQ Synergetic Zero Wind Kites

Another new kite in the single line collection is the zero wind "Hybrid" range by Swiss kite designer Thomas K Horvath. Again we have not had the time to test this properly yet but it is supposed to be

steerable. Despite its size and low weight, it is a sturdy and uncomplicated high tech kite. The Hybrid is available in three models 130, 200 and the 240 which is a general guide to its width in centimeters.



We didn't try to do any of the flying it like a plane tricks. When I first tried it in low but unstable winds the kite itself was unstable but I noticed that if you jerked rather than release, which is natural if the kite is crashing, it actually turned up again.

As normal I didn't read the instructions so I now wonder if I had it assembled correctly because the next time it stayed as stable as you only ever see other peoples' kites flying. I hear that there is a video somewhere that shows the Hybrid do some pretty clever stuff. Again – More next issue.

A Pair of Falcons

I asked HQ for two of these kites because Marilyn had already made tails in those colours for some other kites for which we have not yet had the right wind to fly in public. HQ brought out two delta kites, The Scorpion (we don't have one of those yet) which is designed to fly tricks and 'be good enough to let you experiment for more' and then the Falcon. We were interested because we had read that the Falcon was specially designed as a team kite. It should fly slowly and track well helped by the ethe leech line which runs through the trailing edge. This allows the back of the sails to flap in the wind causing a turbulence which holds the kite even straighter.



Well we got them but, on first assembly I was disappointed that because HQ wanted to make this kite an 'economical team kite', it was framed in 6mm pultruded carbon and therefore felt quite heavy. So I resigned myself to the fact that one day I would reframe it in Skyshark and put up with the fact

that, for the moment, I would need a bit of wind to fly this one with and then it would probably pull too much. HOW WRONG I WAS!! If you go to the bottom video on the multimedia page (that web-site again!), you will see us flying a 12 second routine with axles and landings in no more than 3mph – amazing! More amazing – I was expecting it to fly like the HQ Trions we still use which don't do a great deal in the way of tricks – but no, it danced, stalled and turned, spun, twisted and rolled as well as any other trick kite in my bag. I passed it around at Basingstoke kite festival to some of the better flyers and they were much impressed with it too. Well done HQ next time anyone asks me for advice on a good all rounder, this is definitely one of the ones I will point them at to try. If the Scorpion is designed for tricks can you send me one of those too please? – I liked the orange one!

Lutz Treczoks Geisha

Not new on the market but new for us is the elegant, superb, Geisha, The spiky hair and patchwork patterns make this kite stand out and apart from all the others in the sky. I have been a fan of Mr.Treczoks for some time and he has not let me down yet. The Geisha is best in lower winds and lifts off well despite its weight and sits very steadily in the sky. I managed to break mine in assembly because I had pushed the ferrule right home. A tip when tensioning the sail for stability is to have the bottom fairly tight and certainly tighter than the top two tensioners.

We assembled ours with the spine against the sail all along the length – this worked well considering I didn't read the instructions. Our second attempt was in the school field behind our bungalow, We aren't supposed to be in there so we were quick. Would you believe it a field like this just over the fence – and we are not allowed to use it!



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Neighbour Mickey (seen in the picture) was soon on the scene though. He was only used to seeing the low end kites but was most impressed with the style, large size and finish of this piece of art. I did a launch with him holding the line and I think he was converted immediately.

Well – the new web site is up and running and I have a few bits to say.

Firstly thanks to my son, Grant Francis, (visit for an interesting look at what he does) for all the hard work and creativity he has given to the masterminding and engineering of this new piece of kite related entertainment. And thanks to people like Arthur Dibble from White Horse who have checked out some of the technical oddities to make sure they were working across the different browsers. Yes – we know we haven't yet done all the typos, but there were more interesting things to deal with – like lots of content and thanks to those like good friends Team Spectrum and others who have already sent us lots of recent event photos to use.

Now this is one of the things where all you guys can help. I have said to lots of people – “Have you been on our Web-site yet?” - “Yes!” -They say “It's much better now - and easy to navigate!” But when I ask what they thought of the videos, I get..... “Oh – I didn't see those?”

So, please take the time to go to the web-site (Check your spelling carefully), then go to the ‘Multimedia and Photos’ page (It does take a few seconds to download depending on what speed you are on). There is a link to the photos with a clever gallery – the more you play around with it the more different ways you find there are to view – but start off by clicking on ‘Main Menu’. There are a couple of blank pages that we have not had the time to fill yet – keep coming back there will be other stuff too! Then, there are lots of videos that, hopefully, will keep you amused – more of these coming along too. Then, there is the tutorials page – sure to raise a few heckles? – More videos here – all in high quality and if you find the icon, bottom right, you can make it full screen. Some of the videos have the almost same introduction – don't be put off by that.

Having gorged yourself (only joking) on the multimedia, there are lots of other good links to try including some rather nice wind and weather forecasting sites, reviews, news and..... Oh go on – give it a try it's just like buying a kite magazine – only it's free!

When you have had a good look around, use the links to visit our sponsors or visit some of the other sites but then *please* use the ‘contacts’ page let us know what you think (good or bad – but not about the spelling and grammar) and send us some Kitey photos.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

This brings me nicely to the next bit.....

Win a Kite I am not going to go on too much about the rules and things but by entering a colourful, kite related photo to our site or, if you don't have access to a computer, send a print to Kiteworld.co.uk, High Street, Clacton-on-Sea, you really could win one of the best sport kites around - a Fury 85 in a colour scheme of your own choosing as made and sponsored by former world champion Carl Robertshaw - I'm sure he'll even sign it for you too if you ask! All the good kite traders will have a stock of this best selling, very highly rated kite if want to buy one now - then if you win one you will be all set up for pairs! Come along to one of our events (look on our 'Diary' page) and if Chris Goff is there too, we'll be working with him to show what this kite can do, and then some.

www.closeencounterskites.co.uk

The Zephyr – By Prism



It must have been at least a year ago when I was writing here saying about how this kite had been just released and that I would be reviewing it soon. I can't say what happened but I know Michael from Kiteworld has been pulling his hair out (euphemism) waiting to get stock in.

At last I got one just in time to take it on holiday with me to Lanzarote. Big mistake that – windy as hell and this is a light wind kite. However on the day the wind did drop- to almost zero – I discovered that even by using the shorter, 50lb lines they supply along with another set of 90lb - and removing the weight, I still would have preferred a little more than the 1mph minimum they claim. Someone asked me about the long lines on the tow points – well these are useful with light lines to give a some weight so that the lines drop below the kite when doing flat spins and also to protect both the sail and bottom spreaders from wear in roll up maneuvers.

Be sure to read the instructions on this one. It comes with the leach lines undone and should be broken in a little before following the guidelines on how to

tension them to give the optimum performance.

It loves the lower winds and I would say performs at its best from around 4mph to about 18mph with only minor trimming along the way.

You will still find that Prism 'feel' (I don't know how they add that in) and the slight difference from European kites in the way that you have to do things, although after about ten minutes or so and a little patience, you can really start to do things with this kite. I particularly like the precise tracking. I don't mean just doing sharp corners in boxes – if you fly it across the window then curve (ladder) down and fly back the other way, the Zephyr seems to lock in position without you having to think about it then tracks smoothly along waiting for the next command.

If you want demonstration of this, watch Carl Wright of Team Spectrum as he flies three of these at once with the beautiful purple design as supplied by Kiteworld.co.uk. Talking of design, we would like to applaud the guy who thought of that styling and there is this is a great choice of sail colours – oddly enough – we have the one in yellow and black!

The Zephyr sells in a semi hard case as seen in the picture and would make an excellent gift for someone with, perhaps only a couple of down range kites and aspiring for something smart and new.



However there is some debate on whether Prism should have made the recommended sale price lower and done away with the case especially as the kite does take a bit of careful packing away after it has been flown. I've even heard it suggested that it might be better to get a long bag to keep it in and use the case to hold a couple of Revs. I think it is a class piece of equipment though – it's nice to have a bit of product design and its great for keeping the kite safe in the boot of the car (normal English temperatures) or to take with you as "I'll just take the one Dear" for that short trip away.

My opinion, but you can't usually go wrong in buying a Prism kite – this one flies well and performs all the tricks albeit some of them a little slowly. Not a top of the range kite in some technical aspects such as the bits sticking out behind the standoffs but not many look as gorgeous as this one in the sky.

Martin Corrie Gets Wind??? - Hugh Blowers

Martin Corrie gets the wind?????

With the wipers doing their very best, we headed off to Rougham. Given the rain and strong winds forecast, it looked as if Martin had not been making suitable sacrifices to the weather Gods. Raining it certainly was, but the lack of movement of the trees indicated that the wind was considerably less than that nice girl on ITV had suggested. By the time we got to Ixworth, the rain had stopped and it was possible to see several kites in the distance. Andrew and Kathleen Beattie and the Brighton contingent had obviously got up very early, but being true gentlemen (except Kathleen that is), had not bagged all the anchors. It was good to see Andrew back in action again after his 'little bit of trouble' in the desert.



With the demise of Wroughton, Rougham must now be the best festival site in the Country, and a new layout, with no less than 6 arenas, seemed to give everyone the space they needed without being isolated. The Suffolk Kite Flyers had done an excellent job of setting out the site and the Beccles Bunch soon added their contribution to the large kite arena. The display teams were set up between the two arenas, and talking to Brian and Carl from team Spectrum, they reckoned that they had done three displays so far this season and got wet at each of them. They were not to be disappointed as it started to rain off and on for the next few hours. Luckily the wind stayed relatively steady and almost

perfect strength throughout, so all the arena 'turns' and assembled flyers could put on a first class display for the member of the public. Cup Final, rain, not a good day for the traders, fair and concession stalls. By mid afternoon it was all clearing and the job of drying out soaked kites could begin, but with no sun and still being thoroughly chilly, there were several acres of damp ripstop packed away that evening.

It is the centenary of Cody's first powered flight this year and a trawl through the archives shows that he also did some early experimenting near Bury St Edmunds around 1904/5, so at 4.00pm each day the main arena was given over to Cody kites. Cody's background and involvement with kites and aviation was described and then Martin introduced some of the kites being flown. Although having been let down by a couple of guests, the flyers rallied round and filled the sky with Codys large and small. The largest was Norman Cottrel's 13ft span replica, built from original plans. This is a superb and impressive kite and to everyone's amazement Norman donated it to the evening auction, as it is now too big for him to handle. What a fantastic gesture. With a meal for those staying on site,



Martin Corrie Gets Wind??? - Hugh Blowers

the first ever SKF auction and some ground breaking entertainment from 'Ozone', not to mention the odd beverage to ward off the cold, it was all set for Sunday with a much more encouraging forecast.

And so it proved to be, with sun for most of the day and a wind that blew from the North and Northeast. It never reached the 18mph anticipated, but did just as indicated, moving round 45 degrees and then back again, sometimes gently, sometimes instantly. This presented some interesting moments for the STACK competition that took place throughout the event. The site is so big that the sports kite event has its own arena and PA alongside the other areas.

With the better weather the public flocked in, and were treated to a continuous programme of superb flying from the 'Rougham regulars' in the main arena, and an ever-changing kaleidoscope of inflatables as a backdrop. An unusual interlude was the unannounced arrival of a light aircraft that then proceeded to do two aerotows for resident gliders. The two sailplanes could be seen working the thermals all afternoon and landed back several hours later.

By way of a change, the Suffolk Kite Festival positively encourages the participation of the power kite fraternity. With an 800-yard grass runway, plenty of mown area and a reasonable wind it proved a very popular facility. At one stage over 30 (very) large kites could be seen propelling a variety of vehicles forwards, backwards and often upwards as well. Now, I am no expert on power kiting, as my only experiences have been an involuntary skyward excursion with an early Jim Rowland's Elipse and a terrifying trip on Hackney Marshes in Paul Morgan's buggy. Of course seeing Paul still walking alongside the buggy gives some idea of the extreme velocity achieved. The other incident was more alarming and cured me of any desire to pursue that particular form of kiting, so these are observations, rather than informed comment. Given that the kites are so large, it is interesting to see just how controllable they are, and it all seems to come down to the control bar that does the steering and controls the power of the kite at the same time. After some extreme manoeuvre it can also twiddle round to untwist the lines, clever in the extreme. Mind you, it was nearly 40 years ago that Mr Jones and Mr Merry started supplying Flexifoils with a control bar (and of course that wonderful line that stretched

a foot in every ten). Also of note is that most of the kites are now the 'ARC' style, either twin skinned or 'pumped up' and this is precisely the configuration that the larger Flexis used to take on under power. The technology and presentation of the kites has moved on incredibly, but the basic principles are still there. I know the graphics and imitation carbon fibre and Kevlar don't improve performance, but it don't half make them look good and that is what appeals in the market they are aimed at.

The board now seems to be usurping the buggy, presumably because of the time the flyer can spend in the air and what they can do up there, and I guess it is more akin to kite surfing. Quite amazing what could be done from ground level, but with the help of a 'kicker' some of the tricks were staggering. The arrival back on earth seemed to be gentle as well, no doubt down to skill and control of the flyers. It was gratifying to see so many people enjoying themselves and providing entertainment as well. Seeing a buggy 20 feet up in the air strapped to the bum of the pilot completing a 360 and then carrying on is slightly surreal to say the least.

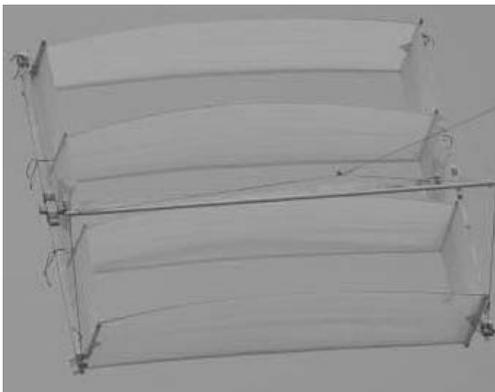
There is no doubt that Rougham is a superb site with almost unlimited space for flying and camping, and if Martin could placate the clerk of the weather sufficiently to get two days like the Sunday, then it would be a very churlish flyer that could find anything to complain about. There is always one though, isn't there? Put Rougham in your diaries for next year, it's a great gig thanks to Martin and the Suffolk Kite Flyers who put it all on so we can enjoy ourselves.



Kites I've Never Seen — George Webster

Some time ago I started to think of kites which I know from a description (drawing or photo) but which I've never seen live. In all cases below I don't think that it is unrealistic to hope to see one—after all I'm not thinking about one of George Pocock's actual traction kites or an original Lecornu—so it may be that readers can help by pinpointing an example. Here goes, in no particular order.

1 An 'old' English Archtop. Ernest Barton made one 20 years ago which we flew at Blackheath this year, Nicholas Wadsworth appeared with one last summer, but I don't remember seeing one of pre 1950 vintage. When they are shown in 19th Century illustrations they are always with a lower aspect ratio than Ernest's and Nicholas's versions, with the very long tails that must have been necessary. I know that wood and paper don't survive well but surely someone knows of one which could be claimed as the oldest English kite?



2 The classic Lecornu kite was his 'ladder kite' (looks like a set of bookshelves) I've seen several examples of his cellular designs including those that fly on

one corner and have the cell walls angled so that the kite flies vertically—but I've never seen the ladder, surely someone has one?



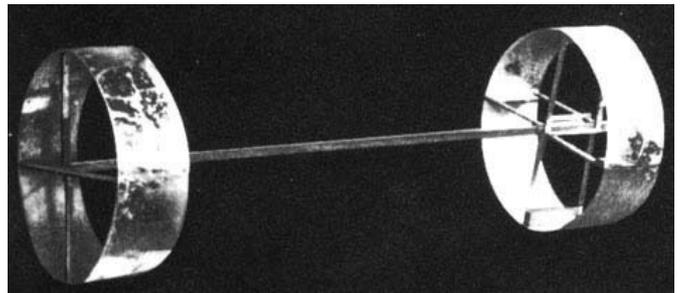
3. Most 'serious' books on kites mention Paul Garber and the target kites which he designed to allow cheap gunnery practice in the second world war. While I own a cover and two spars in moderate condition, they don't make a complete kite and in particular it would be good to see the system for steering

by the moveable rudder. Has anyone watched one fly or even seen a complete one?

[Incidentally, for a long time it has struck me as odd that Garber, an acknowledged expert on kite aerodynamics and a senior curator at the Smithsonian, devised almost the last kite which was steered by a

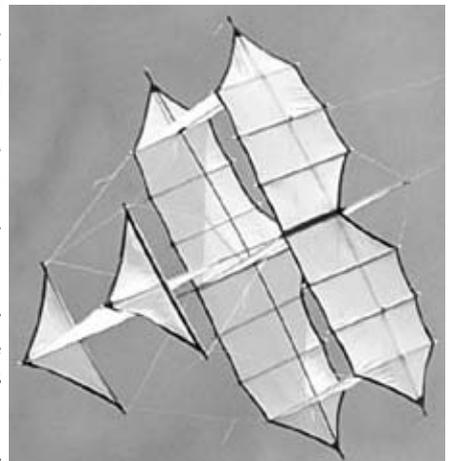
rudder rather than by simply using the two lines to turn. He wasn't waiting for Peter Powell's invention of 1976, for steering kites by line shortening goes back at least to George Pocock in the 1830's. It was also mentioned in an article in about 1900 discussing adjusting lines to change the direction of a camera carrying kite. An article in 1917 casually mentions the fun that could be had by flying an Eddy in this way. However Peter Lynn claims that the rudder system is more efficient for flying at the angles needed for gunnery practice.

4 Many books have illustrations of 'strange' Hargrave



designs including some with a single rod keel and either 2 rings or 2 'V' mounted above. I've seen plans in a book for the '2 rings' designed to be made with Balsawood spar and stiff card rings, but I've never seen either of these designs flying. Has anyone ever made one?

5 The Lamson Aerocurve kites gets high praise in Pelham and there are construction photos in a German book, has anyone seen it, or another one flying? I have a vague memory of a small one over 20 years ago at Blackheath, but I can't remember much about it.



6 For years in the late lamented Kitelines there was an advert for a Bob Ingraham made delta in patriotic colours. He was a leading figure in the setting up of the American Kitefliers Association. I read somewhere that he later fell on hard times and was very disappointed that sales of the delta were so low, did anyone in the Kite Society buy one?

I'm sure our Editors would like to get responses. Are there any other 'rare kites that we might be able to dig up and show

Cabana Virus

From the Peter Lynn Newsletter, May '08

International Kite Festivals in Grip of Cabana Virus Epidemic!

I've just returned to NZ after four single line kite events in Europe and leave next week for another set of five:- in Asia and Europe. In the last 2 years, retirement hasn't exactly worked out as I expected:- rather than having more time to play with my toys, I seem to be going to more and more kite festivals.

Actually, during the last few weeks, I have become unretired again on account of the dual mode kite development having rapidly become far too exciting not to engage fully with. I won't be cutting back much on single line events because of this though as kite festivals provide suitable venues for traction kite test flying during those periods when the show kites are up safely and not requiring more than occasional attention- and because sitting on aeroplanes for 3 or 4 days each month provides excellent uninterrupted thinking time.

But after 30 something years of doing international kite festivals, I have noticed a few changes.

There has been the rise of sports kites and later, traction kiting of course, but for single line flying the big change has been the advent of largish ram air inflated theme kites. These things have all made for a greater spectacle and are clearly the driving force behind an ever increasing number of organised kite events.

On the negative side, at these events now, I think I'm seeing ever increasing numbers of kite fliers doing less and less kite flying- a view that is also frequently expressed to me, privately at least, by kite festival organisers.

Are we all getting old, tired and bored then- or is there another reason? Like the creeping influence of generation Y laziness maybe? Nah, there's a much more obvious explanation.

We're in the grip of a rampaging epidemic of the cabana virus which has now spread out from its presumed UK origins and taken root at kite events the world over.

And it's been with us a while too insidiously working away. The No Limits team from Cuxhaven have been onto this for years even claim to have invented the declamation I thought I'd originated last week at Cervia: "This is a kite field not a camping ground" (to be used pre-emptively whenever a cabana infected family group is about to be wiped out by a maxi kite ground pass).

Particularly egregious are the cabanas that plant themselves Triffid like on the downwind sides of kite

fields so as to be ready to reach out and grab any kites that pass nearby. Lately I'm even seeing juvenile cabana's brazenly self-seeding themselves out into the middle of kite fields. They're a creeping menace!

They're also a very clever virus, like the fungus that changes ant's behaviour so as to cause them to climb to the top of the tallest nearby thing and wave in the wind there until dead and desiccated (for spore dispersal). Cabanas change the behaviour of their otherwise (probably) innocuous occupiers. Cabana minders now sure scare the hell out of me! See photo.

But it's not only that cabanas are a hazard for kites and kite fliers.



They are also physically taking over kite fields; leaving ever less area for actual kite flying.

And they're using up more and more of the kite flier's ever decreasing baggage allowances, leaving less for kites.

And they're providing a skiving off place during working hours where kite fliers who are so inclined can hide away from the boss's (event organiser's) eagle eye. At least in the old days, zedding-off was in full view.

Even more worryingly, cabanas are using up rip stop nylon that could otherwise be going into kites. Nylon is surely, like everything else, a finite and rapidly depleting resource, there's only so much of it to be had- we might already have passed 'peak nylon'. Yikes!

But wait, it gets worse what if they mutate? What if somewhere sometime soon, cabana genes mix with k****r, that other great scourge of kite festivals (sorry, but I can't even bring myself to write this dreaded word in full).

It's inevitable I'd say, the end of the world is upon us.

Peter Lynn, Ashburton, 7 May '08

Keep Fit With Your Kite—Hugh Blowers

In light of the current national obsessions with obesity and excess alcohol consumption, it seems that kite flying may be an answer to the former and a reason for the latter, as those attending the recent festival at Bedford have discovered. The one definitive requirement for a kite festival is wind, and this year was memorable for the complete lack of that essential element. Varying from light to non-existent throughout the entire weekend this shortage of wind, combined with the trees surrounding site, changed the nature of the event completely, but not in a way that seemed immediately obvious.

With Wigsley's Wings, Peter Lynn, Rolf Zimmerman, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie and Wolke from No Limits all present, space at ground level and in the sky were going to be at a premium. Despite the best efforts of all concerned, it was not to be, and huge quantities of ripstop hung limply, taunting the flyers. Even the pilot kites were struggling most of the time. After a great deal of brute force and cunning, plus a new design of pilot, Peter Lynn did manage to get a Manta Ray flying for a while on the Sunday, but even this battle was a lost cause when what wind there was, dropped away. Only skill and determined line retrieval kept everything out of the trees and river.

It has to be said, that Andrew and Kathleen are nothing if not enthusiastic as the regular charges across the arena with a giant inflated football proved. Salvation came in the way of a hot air balloon team who relished the lack of wind. Balloons are not initially inflated with hot air as the name would suggest, but petrol powered fans, and before you could say 'Epson', Andrew had hijacked their blower. Now given that these machines can pump several thousand cubic metres of air into a balloon envelope, it only took about 15 seconds at regulo 3 to fill a giant Gecko. Still would not fly, but looked impressive.



Whilst the large display kites could not fly, it did mean that arena was relatively clear for most of the weekend, and this allowed the other flyers from around the world to display their kites in a way that could not have happened otherwise, but more of that anon.

The first real event of any festival where George is MC

is an altitude sprint, and given the conditions, neither altitude nor sprint were going to come into the equation. After Steven's triumph at Weymouth, battle was rejoined with the return from Italy of Karl Longbottom. Karl was equipped with one of his KSS kites (Karl Sprint Special) while Steven had a devious delta attached to a reel on a fishing rod butt. With the exception of a lightweight Icarex mini Cody, not much else was going to challenge in the conditions. After a lot of line tugging and quite a bit of running, Karl was able to cut another notch in his handle, but it has to be said that he had an unfair advantage. His seemed to be the only kite that was actually flying and still going up. Most of the others dropped out of the sky at the end of the time.



It would not be the same at Bedford if Malcolm Goodman did not decide to launch his dragon at some stage. Despite protestations from 'yours truly', who often seems to end up with running duties; the dragon was stretched out along the length of the arena. Now given that the dragon is nearly twice as long as the arena is across, it has to go this way, notwithstanding that the breeze was still at 90 degrees to the kite. Not ideal launching conditions. With a multitude of bearers and 'muggins' on the end of the line we all set off at a determined trot and the full length of the dragon rose magnificently into the air, only to sink to the ground gently as runner number one reached the geographical limits of Russell Park. 'That was superb' said George, 'care to give it another go?' so gasping for breath, the whole ensemble went back across the arena, through the workshop arena and nearly up the steps of the 'fun palace' at the fair. Now the downside of this was that I now had much further to run. How come Malcolm gets to fly it when there is wind but I always get joe'd into it in a flat calm? Off we all set again with the same result ultimately, but a few more seconds of airtime.

Now, you might see a pattern or theme emerging here, and so it turned out to be. With a clear arena and a number of under employed flyers, the kite makers in attendance were able to showcase their kites in a series of 'mass ascents'. The principle was the same in each case. Each guest flyer would put together a

Keep Fit With Your Kite—Hugh Blowers

selection of their kites, which would be taken to the farthest end of the arena. With a suitable length of line, and a 'holder' for each kite, George would introduce what was about to be seen and then, at a given command, the infantry would advance down the arena, either at a sprint, trot or walk, depending on enthusiasm, fitness, and how many laps had been done already. There is no doubt that there is a 'wow' element to any mass ascent, and when it is all kites by the same maker, even more impressive. The highlight amongst these was a delightful couple from Bali with a series of kites that were not traditional but illustrated Balinese beliefs and traditions. Stylised Peter Lynn Tri Ds from Australia vied with a squadron of ghost deltas by Jane and Ludovico from Italy, intricate patchwork shapes with multiple tails from Sardinia while a real



treat was a selection of five very powerful images from Britain's Michael Goddard. Very little flew, but a sterling effort from all concerned put a large number of kites in the air for the public to see. At some stages the wind vanished completely so that 360s were the order of the day from such diverse kites as an ARC flown by Peter Lynn, an 8 metre soft pilot kite and a host of Nick James' angels all to shouts of encouragement from George and those sensible enough not to do it.

On Sunday morning, the ever-cheerful Balinese tried to summon the wind by blowing a conch shell. The mournful sound attracted Andrew Beattie who joined in with a traditional fishing pole. Soon the field resounded to a series of blasts from these instruments. The conch shell might have worked, as there was a little wind, but the fishing pole was in the wrong key as it then started to rain. There was a rush to make use of what wind there was and for a while there were a number of kites flying, but it was a false hope and by lunchtime everything was back on the ground. What followed then was quite the most unusual sight seen on a kite field for a long while. Elli from Bali, in her native costume, stood in splendid isolation in the middle of the arena and proceeded to dance to tradi-

tional music with the most exquisite movements. Even from a distance, the whole thing was enchanting, and a thunderous applause recognised the courage and elegance of the performance.

The day progressed with more running and the inevitable sight of the dragon being spread out. Luckily a fresher and younger pair of legs was available in the form of Jerry Swift. The end result was the same and predictable on both launches, but it gave Jerry the taste for this athletic form of flying as he then proceeded to run with just about every kite that was placed in his hand.

Jerry was also to feature in the altitude sprint, as Karl had brought him in as a spoiler with another super-light KSS. With the 'Great Ouse sprint king' absent, the way was clear for a sprint double, but some did not adhere to the script. The fact that 90 seconds was the time allowed gives some idea of the lack of wind, but from the word go, this was a real race. The KSS, a rainbow delta and Michael Goddard's pentagon kite, with tails no less, were vying for position. It was like a scene from the 'Whacky races' as first one, and then another was in the lead. As northern rules were in operation, the Chief Judge, Paul Reynolds had to make an instantaneous decision at the 90th second. Just as well as most of the kites were on their way back down by 95. Who was there when it counted? Michael Goddard.

The one thing that is always beyond control is the weather, and while the lack of wind frustrated many, the festival was thoroughly enjoyable and in many ways reminiscent of the way 'it used to be'. Thanks to all the organisers and flyers, especially those that disobeyed the cardinal rule of never running with a kite, Bedford was a success, especially the Sicilian wine. That combined with all the physical activity ensured a good night's sleep.

(Photos by Lynn Blowers)



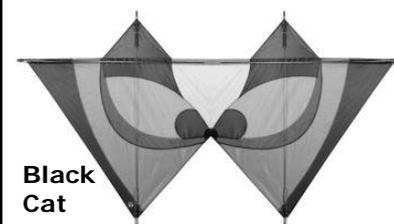
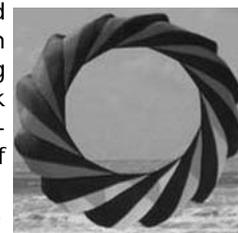
New Items

Last chance saloon.		
Final reduction on the remainder of the kites for sale from the Beccles Bunch. This is not a Dutch auction so this will be the last ad. Miniatures, collectable, oddities. Treat yourselves, there are some real bargains here. For further details contact Hugh Blowers 01502 712570 or email H.blowers@btopenworld.com		
Miniature kites.		
Guy Gosselin.	Erotic Hamamatsu	£55
Boxed	Erotic Shizozoa sail	£55
	Wanwan (after haranobu)	£45
	Edo (after Hokusai)	£45
	Hachijo	£45
	Peartop, Japanese design	£40 ea
	Roller	£35
	Dondai	£35
Guy Gosselin.	Delta	£15 ea
Flat		
Scott Hampton	Sleds. 3 colours	£15 ea
Janneke Groen	4 Sodes 1 Malay	£5 ea
Japanese	Pack of 7 paper 'play kites'	£7
	Swallows, Papillon, Libelle Peacock 10 assorted designs	£15
Charlie Sotich	Stamps. Hata. White Horse.	£5 ea
Large kites		
Reza Ragheb	2m Rok Geometric design	£75
H&W Roloplan	Exquisite and new replica	£120
Janneke Groen	1.5m Sode Circles	£135
Willy Koch	Yakko (reduced price)	£150
Sky Bums	Pandoras Box	£5
Sky Bums	Della Porta	£20
Rev II	Spiral wound spars	£45
Raindrop	1.5m Rok Japanese crane	£20
	SMALL TSUGARU	£20
INFLIGHT	SPEEDRUNNER Soft Kite	£20
QUADFOIL	Q2 Lines and handles	£30

News From Manni Kluge at EMKAY

EMKAY kites has sourced again a few unusual products for the serious and not so serious kite flyer. Maybe the following items will make an interesting addition to your collection.

Some of the new inflatables (line laundry) from Colours In Motion are Gaul, Viking and Simpson Windsocks (180cm, 260cm and 160cm long) and Hedgehog Balls in 80cm and 60cm size. Back by popular demand are also 2m F-Stops in various colours. Plenty of new single line kites have emerged this season. **F-Stop** Imagine a kite that can be flown elegantly under water - 360 degrees around your body. The SCUBADOO is such a kite. Looks and flies good outside the water as well. More single line kite news can be found on the website at www.kitenews.co.uk



Black Cat

Framed sport kites: Bat Cat, Vison and Knockout are framed 4 kites. Especially the Knockout is an interesting competition and freestyle 4 line kite. Available is also

a range of exciting new framed Sport Kites for the advanced competition, freestyle or precision flyer. Among them are names like Baracuda, 180, Maraca and Cross-fire. They might tempt you to ask EMKAY for some more info.

Climax DACRON lines are still the best for the serious single line flyer (available in almost any length required from 10dan/20lbs - 500daN/1100lb). Climax Professional (now in bright yellow) and Climax PROTEC are still the best for the serious competition, freestyle or team flyer. For the serious power kiter Climax SPEED are the new lines to aim for. Sewn ends colour coded as always and a further reduced cross section make these lines a great choice.

New accessories include heavy duty ball bearing swivels, small quad line handles for framed 4 liners and more ...

In addition to the above there are many more new and established kite products that they have for you, but we do not have enough space to print it on here.

Have a look here for their latest news at www.kitenews.co.uk or if you can't access the web request their catalogues and information in PDF format on CD (PDF reader software is supplied).

Remember that the website does not include all the kites, windgames and accessories that they possibly can make available. The catalogues on CD are definitely worth having. You never know what you might miss out on.

For your CD send stamped SAE to EMKAY Kites, Unit 13C, 97A East Road, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7EH

Bits & Pieces

KITE FLYING YARN-"MANJHA"

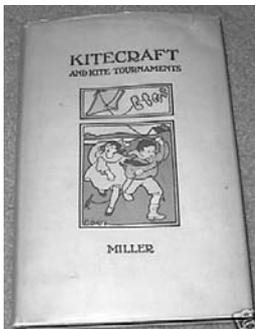
We would like to introduce ourselves that M/s FILATEX INDIA LIMITED as leading manufacturer & exporter of KITE FLYING YARN-"Manjha" (Synthetic Monofilament Yarn) in India.

Counting with over 15 years of experience in manufacturing & international trading in Yarn Industry such as Kite Fighter Line M/S FILATEX INDIA LIMITED founded aiming to provide high quality and professional trading services. We count with an experienced and high qualified staff for product manufacturing, raw material selection, quality control, foreign trading. This guarantees our products will be delivered with punctuality and highest quality standards at very competitive prices.

We have our state-of-art-manufacturing facilities with more then 30 M.T. per month production capacity. We have our worldwide prestigious clientele. Our quality products are well acceptable by our valuable customers. We have also accredited with "ISO-9001" certification.

We are specialized to manufacture Kite Fighter Line in any Denier, colors and types as per customer requirement.

If you are interested in selling Kite Fighter Line (Manjha) Please contact us & feel free for any enquiry. Email: export@filatex.com



Seen on Ebay.

The book Kitecraft and Kite Tournaments by Graham M. Miller. First edition with dust cover.

For sale at \$595.

Mystery on Display

The Wichita Falls Museum of Art at Midwestern State University, 2 Eureka Circle recently held an exhibition, the description of which is below.

Judy Sherrod went to Easter Island and flew a kite. But what comes of her kite flying is probably not what comes of the pastime for most everyone else.

This is what has come of it: A bird's-eye view of a jewelled, sapphire-blue ocean, frothy waves, a strip of beach, and a triangular-cut of land with stone statues neatly lined up in a row.

The aerial photograph, taken from a camera mounted on a specially-made delta kite, is just one of the pictures Sherrod captured on a trip to Easter Island during Easter week in March with fellow artist Elizabeth Yarosz-Ash. It's one of the photographs that will be displayed in the exhibit "Exploring the Mystery: Photographs of Easter Island."

This is the culmination of a trip, supported with funding from MSU, that the photographers took to not only to inspire their artistic sensibilities, but to produce artwork for this summer exhibit. With all the technology that

would fit at hand, they also produced a virtual art gallery and posted blogs on the Times Record News' Web site from the most remote island on earth, some 2,200-plus miles away from the nearest land — that's mainland Chile.

"It (the kite) is like an instant kid magnet," said Yarosz-Ash, professor of painting at MSU, which attracted not only the islander children's attention, but the park ranger, too." Sherrod said she had to get permission from the Chilean government to fly the kite, built especially for her by an American aeronautical engineer who lives in Wales. She put together the camera rig that she mounts on the kite herself.

"We still have to send him (the government official) CDs with the aerials," Yarosz-Ash said. Not that aerial photographs are all that will be displayed in the exhibit. The colour photographs, many of them panoramic, also include images of a bunch of fat, green bananas on a stem, an islander on a horse between two moai (the monolithic human figures for which the island is known), and a close-up of a rock with Birdman Cult petroglyphs carved on them.

In addition to statues and petroglyphs, the artists also saw nature at its purest — eels, turtles and marine life of all kinds. Where the moai statues come from don't seem like a mystery at all after having spent some time on the island, Yarosz-Ash said. "Some (moai) are still (carved) in the mountains," she said. "... The quarry's right there. There's no mystery."

Sherrod took about seven cameras with her on the trip to capture some of these spectacular Easter Island images.

"I packed a couple of jeans, a couple of T-shirts, then thought, 'Ha! What kind of camera am I going to take?'" Sherrod laughed. Yarosz-Ash used "a little Canon PowerShot" digital camera called an ELPH to take her photos. Sherrod said what's interesting about the show is seeing Easter Island from the viewpoints of two different artists.

"It was a new experience for me to work in tandem with someone else carrying a camera," Sherrod said. "... and to see pictures we took (of the same locations) with different interpretations."

For Yarosz-Ash, who is primarily a painter, this art experience was different because painting is often very metaphorical, while "this is more literal," she said.

The one regret that the artists have is that they just couldn't get all the shots they wanted — they couldn't squeeze everything in that they wanted to, the elements didn't always work with them, and by 6 p.m., they were just exhausted. Sherrod said, "We took pictures at night. We took pictures from the kite. It was kind of hard to get night pictures because there was a full moon. And it was kind of hard to get kite pictures because we had little wind."

But no one will see what could have been in the show.

They'll just see the breathtaking beauty of the island.

"My favorite part was just the absolute beauty of the place," said Yarosz-Ash, who spoke of traveling to the top of a volcano. "There's no pollution, no allergies, no mosquitoes. It's just how much you can pack into that on that volcanic rock ... I'd go back there in a heart-beat."

Just Browsing Flying People

Seen on www.communitychannel.org a 25 minute video entitled Flying People. Featuring James Robertshaw with Rory Heap who is blind and for whom James is a helper. This documentary provides a fascinating insight into his love of flight and flying and his unique experience of learning to fly kites from world record holder James Robertshaw, using all his senses except sight.

Make a Moo

Anchor Free Range butter is running a promotion. Basically collect enough tokens and you can swap them for goodies. One of which is a Cow Kite.

Great Wall Kite

From china.org.cn the following. A 130-meter kite in the shape of the Great Wall flew above Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on Saturday 21st June.

Xinhua News Agency reported that the kite was designed and made by Zhang Tianwei, a master in kite designing. Composed of two parts, the kite had a portrait of Qin Shihuang leading the head position, followed by a more-than-100-meter micro great wall.



Qin Shihuang was the first emperor of China who founded Qin Dynasty after conquering six other countries in the Warring States Period. He was also the man blueprinting the Great Wall to fend off foreign invasions.

The designer put six famous sections of the Great Wall into the kite, such as the Shanhai Pass, Jiayu Pass, and Juyong Pass, along with 15 beacon tower miniatures. The giant kite, 12 kilograms in weight, took three years to complete. Due to the heavy weight, the kite needs at least 10 people to fly it with wind force between level 2 and 3.

The great-wall kite will be displayed at the local Xi'an People's Art Museum.

Blogspot.com

One of the odd dreams. Once I'd gone back to sleep I had a completely different dream that there was a kite festival happening in Dover. There were thousands of kits being flown, and the winners were the ones who could get their kites to fly over to France without the strings snapping. I picked a few likely contenders, and then we drove round to France to see how well they

were doing. I say "round" because France & England were joined at the side, so you didn't have to get the ferry (it was quite a long drive though). When we got there all of my kites had failed - the strings had snapped and the kites were laying on the ground.

Kites in Dreams:

Flying or watching a kite is usually a symbol of aspiration or of a new project or enterprise. Whether you are having trouble keeping it aloft or admiring it in flight



will help you to assess the sorts of obstacles you face.

From gizmodo.com

The Nereus is a kite-powered watercraft which looks like the product of an orgy between a hammerhead, a manta ray, a Japanese bike and a Storm Trooper. Inspired by kite-surfing, the designers of this water pod racer say that it will "achieve relatively high speeds on and under water." We don't know how high speed diving can be possible with the sea dragging you, but we know how you make it work.

According to them, you would be able to control the Nereus by just turning the handlebars, like using any bike. The handlebars are attached with strings to the



Bits & Pieces

kite, employing the same principles used in kite-surfing. To dive, you only have to push down, and the Nereus will dive for a few seconds before emerging again because of the kite dragging it out of the water. Sounds crazy, and we want one.

Via kitebuilder.com

First developed and used on Bill Koch's winning America's Cup boat, America3, in 1992, Cuben Fiber continues to be one of the lightest and most technologically advanced sail cloth materials on the market today. The name 'Cuben Fiber' was made up by the press in 1992 as a short for the 'America Cube Fiber' that contained a mix of Carbon and polymer filaments.

Cuben Fiber's patented technology uses individual filaments spread from the fiber to create a highly durable sail cloth that retains its shape and weighs considerably less than many other sail cloth brands and styles. Since Koch funded Cuben Fiber's development more than 15 years ago, physicist Dr. Heiner Meldner and composites engineer RJ Downs have incorporated higher performance fibres, including Carbon, and better base materials to make Cuben Fiber an extremely popular sail cloth among high performance sailing yachts.

Ultra-light campers have taken to using Cuben Fiber for their light wear gear projects. Could super ultra-light kites be the next application?

From the Daily Cartoonist

E&P reports that another couple of Charles Schulz original Peanut strips have sold at auction for a combined \$115,269. The first strip dated June 3, 1962 is a Sunday featuring a kite-flying scene and it sold for \$79,100 and the second is a daily featuring Snoopy dated January 11, 1964 which sold for \$36,160.

The Dominion Post, May 2008.

Kiwi flies a super kite - and reels in Google funds

A Kiwi who wants to use giant kites soaring a kilometre into the sky to harness cheap and green wind power has hauled in a US\$10 million (NZ\$13 million) investment from Internet giant Google.

Based in the United States, Pete Lynn is at the forefront of efforts to generate power by flying kites in the troposphere, the lowest part of the Earth's atmosphere. He has been working on his plans for the past five years.

He describes the super kites as "tethered free-flying wings" and believes they could harness the power of the wind without having to build expensive wind turbines.

Experts believe kite-farm energy could cost only a quarter as much as conventional turbines. Kites could generate power as they sail up to 1000 metres high, their giant tethers unwinding and spinning electric generators on the ground.

Mr Lynn grew up in Ashburton, Canterbury, the son of one of the world's top kite designers, Peter Lynn. He was one of New Zealand's first kite-surfers. Mr Lynn now works as a consultant for US company Makani

Power and is recognised as a leading expert in kite power generation.

Makani Power has got a \$12.5 million investment from Google to develop the concept. The idea of huge kites flying so high has raised fears that they will be an aviation hazard. But Bas Lansdorp, of Delft University in the Netherlands, said a combination of no-fly zones and beacons would fix the problem.

New Zealand Wind Energy Association chief executive Fraser Clark said the kite-power concept was interesting, "but they have a fair way to go yet". It showed the progress being made with alternative energy sources. "Every now and then someone comes along and you make this big leap."

From medindia.net

Physicians to Join Vets to Save Birds During Kite Festival in Western India

Authorities in Gujarat in western India are mounting massive operations to treat birds injured during the kite festival next week. Animal lovers among gynecologists, physicians, dentists are all joining the effort, suspending their own practices for a few days. During the winter festival, hundreds of birds get caught in kite strings and sustain serious injuries.

Kite-flying is a popular sport in the country and particularly so in Gujarat. The strings are strengthened by applying a home-made chemical paste called manjaa. The idea is to use your string to cut the strings of rivals and ground their kites.

During the Uttarayan festival hundreds of kites dot the sky and there is intense rivalry. In the process it is not just the colourful kites that are brought to the ground but unwary birds too. But if there are thousands of revellers unmindful of the hazards they pose to the avian creatures, there are also humanists who rise to the occasion.

Gynaecologist Rajal Thaker of Ahmedabad, for instance, has kept three days of Uttarayan free to tend to birds with severe cuts and injuries, reports the Times of India. Barring emergencies, Dr Thaker would devote his time to assist veterinary doctors who will camp at a special operation theatre set up in a suburb, Thaker says. "Over 300 birds, including pigeons and vultures, were injured during the Uttarayan last year. I am a self-confessed bird and animal lover and have decided to dedicate three days to save the birds this Uttarayan," he said.

Evidently this concern for hurt birds cuts across religious lines. Even though the Uttarayan is essentially a Hindu festival, Muslim doctors too chip in to nurse the unfortunate birds. Young dentist Yasser Rafique, who set up practice only recently, says he too will assist the vets in saving birds this year. Dr Rafique says that he has been a bird lover since childhood and spent his formative years at Sundarvan with nature, birds and animals.

Bits & Pieces

"The anatomy of birds may be very different from humans but our surgical experience makes us good assistants as we understand the medical terms, surgical equipment and medical conditions," explains Dr Rafique.

In Surat, physician Amish Shah will close down his clinic for a couple of days to provide immediate medical attention to injured birds. "It is a gruesome sight to see them injured and lying helpless on trees and roads. It is the duty of humans to tend to such innocent and mute beings," says Dr Shah.

This year the forest department has launched an ambitious Pakshi Bachao Abhiyaan-2008, joining hands with eight voluntary organisations working with birds and animals in Ahmedabad, to set up 28 centres to tend to injured birds. Vets from across the country will gather at those centres to operate on the injured birds. The treated birds will be released in the very areas where they had been felled by the manjaa strings.

From Time.com

"Go fly a kite," an angry housewife snarls at her husband—but imagine her surprise if he actually went and did. There was Ben Franklin, of course, with his handkerchief, his key and his lightning bolt, and if Orville and Wilbur Wright had not been kiting enthusiasts, a Russian might have invented the airplane after all.

But the adult U.S. male who shows up at the park with kite and twine is certain to be suspect unless he has a passel of kids in tow. And there is something definably foreign about the doughty Somerset Maugham hero who preferred to rot in jail rather than pay his ex-wife alimony—all because she had smashed his favorite kite.

Perhaps it is just that Americans have no sense of the sublime. "My kite rises to celestial regions," wrote a 9th century monk. "My soul enters the abode of bliss." On Formosa, the ninth day of the ninth moon is the Day of Ascending Heights, a holiday in honor of kites. In Japan, kite flying is so popular that it was once legislated out of existence, so that people could keep their minds on their work. And nowhere is kiting pursued with more passion than in Thailand, where legend has it that a young lover found his lady fair by following the string of a runaway kite.

Talons & Nooses. From February to May, when the Lorn Ta-Phao wind blows from the southwest, the sky above Bangkok resembles a vast aerial Disneyland. Long (up to 25 ft.), hinged kites, shaped like kraits and cobras, wriggle sinuously in the breeze. Peacock and butterfly kites flutter their iridescent wings; owls roll their eyes, and paper hawks wheel and dive.

Thai boys get their first kites about the same age that U.S. youngsters get their first baseball gloves, and most of them dream about growing up to be another Poon Yuvaniyom, who is the closest thing to a Mickey Mantle west of the Mekong.

A telephone company executive, Poon, 55, is the kite-fighting champion of Thailand—and in Thailand, kite

fighting is a big-league sport. It has its teams (sponsored by private companies, like U.S. bowling teams), its league, its rules (72 of them), its umpires and its World Series, the All-Thailand championships, held each spring in Bangkok's Phramane Grounds. In India, where kite fights are also common, strings are coated with ground glass; in South America, frames are studded with razor blades.

The Thais are too sophisticated for such crude devices. Their fighting kites, which cost up to \$18, are made of rice paper delicately stretched on a fragile bamboo frame, and come in two sexes: the star-shaped chula, or male kite, and the diamond-shaped pakpao, or female. Each has its special weapon.

The chula sports five bamboo talons called champas (literally: fruit pickers), and the pakpao carries a long noose called a nhiang. The male kite tries to capture the female's control string in its talons and drag it to earth; the female tries to encircle the male with its noose and ride it to the ground.

Courtly Advantage. The battle is not really equal—but that fits perfectly into the oriental scheme of things. Only 34 in. sq., the dainty pakpao is less than half as big as the bulky (85 in. sq.) chula, which takes as many as 50 men to control. But the pakpaos line up along the north side of Phramane Grounds, and the steady southwest wind gives a courtly advantage to the weaker sex.

The female kites bank on speed and guile: sometimes two pakpaos will pounce on a single chula, like nimble fighter planes attacking a lumbering bomber. Even if an opponent's kite is captured, the fight is only half over: it must be grounded on the attacker's side of the field.

Poon Yuvaniyom is strictly a chula devotee, and he is an old hand at outwitting wily females. "I'm a man," he says, "and I like male kites." This year's All-Thailand championships started in the middle of April and went on for two weeks. While vendors hawked spiced fish and chicken in the milling throngs of fans, Poon maneuvered the control ropes of his chula with hands callused by 30 years of kiting. He and his Thailand Telephone Organization team had little trouble winning their third straight national title and the King's Cup—thus proving that, for the moment at least, it's still a man-kite's world.

New Record?

On the 15th June 2008 a heavy lift test was conducted by Peter Lynn on a new kite commissioned by the Al-Farsi Kite Team (owners of the first Worlds Largest Kite—Kuwait Flag).

There is a video on Youtube which shows the kite lifting 250Kg. The kite was designed by Peter Lynn and Volker Hoberg.

ORGASMIC ORGANZA CHALLENGE

"You must have paid a lot out in bribes to win that one!" was one of the first comments I heard as I walked out of the arena with my winning kite.



Not quite the praise I had been hoping for, but if you only looked at the build quality of the competition kites in question, then I can see where this person was coming from. AKW said as much earlier in this issue!

And to be fair, the man in question had seen my 'amazing' win in the Altitude Sprint at Margate last year...

A wise man once told me only to get a job that dealt in 'concepts and colours' not a job

that actually produces anything or where the bean-counters (sorry, Helen) can check how much work you've actually done. Unfortunately, I didn't take his career advice, but I **did** read the instructions as far as **Stuart's Kite Kreativitiy competition** was concerned, which was held at the Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival in May.

Simple Rules - use the organza supplied, the kite must fly, and the competition is judged on creativity.

Not having the size of balls you need to carry around in a wheelbarrow, there's no way I'd've entered a kite-making competition had I known that I was up against the likes of **Janneke Groen**, **Karl Longbottom** and **Kelvin Woods**. After all, I've bought kites from all of them! It was only a little competition within AKF when I signed up to the deal, and although I had no hope of winning, I didn't mind losing against other non-professionals.

OK. So the stakes just got higher, but I said I'd do it, so I'll do it. That was last September, at the end of the Bristol Festival. We had until the following May to build the kite, which had to use the Organza as an intrinsic part of the design.

September passes and I've got a few ideas. October comes and goes and I think I know what I'm going to build, if not how to build it. Christmas comes and goes. As does the New Year, a trip to the Kite Festival in Ahmedabad, India, and then, suddenly Easter's gone.

By then it's Sunday the 27th April. **A week before** the Weymouth Festival. June says, "Are you going to build that kite or what? You said you

would." "Yeah, yeah, I did get another e-mail from Stuart about it..."

I'd had this idea about a **Comet kite** - where the tail flew out from the back of the kite, in order to be different from the tails on, say, a **Frank Schwie mann Pyro Delta** where they 'hang' from the bottom of the kite.

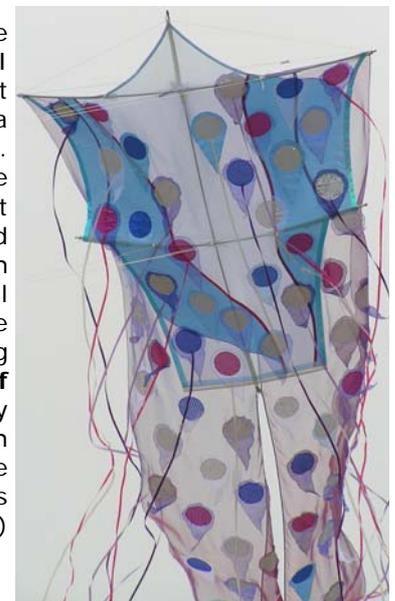
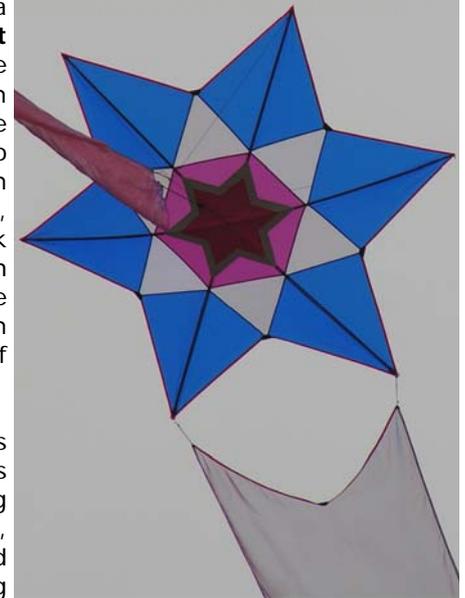
(OK so it looks as if the tail is just hanging there in a photo, but had the wind been blowing harder... anyway

on mark 2 I'm wondering about adding some gauze covered holes near the top of the kite to make the tail billow out more fully - thanks for the suggestion, Charlie!)

If the kite flew tailless, eg a rok, could the decoration flow behind the kite? But maybe, not a rok. If the kite was circular and convex, could it be a comet? Then the tail could trail out behind...

I'd seen a plan for a circular Rokkaku kite by **Didier Ferment** on the net (who in turn had 'borrowed' the idea for his kite from **Phillipe Gallot's** Tokiwa Rokkaku). Didier's '**Rokkarond**' was a quad line kite - I only wanted a single line version and adapted the design accordingly. I called the kite **Comète** to signify its' Gallic Heritage...

So by the time we're driving to Weymouth, I have a sparred but unbridled kite with a detachable tail. Nobody liked the Velcro much but it seemed such a good idea to me - so much easier to store the tail separately from the kite! (Just try packing away the **Kite of Hope** on a bad day and think how much easier that might be with detachable tails and a stuff sack!) anyway...



ORGASMIC ORGANZA CHALLENGE



Friday and Saturday see Grandma and Grandad's lounge taken over by kite tails and bridles. Discussions with seamstresses Grandma about where or whether to cut the tails, or whether best to leave it flying in a loop?

So glad we chose that last option!

On to the beach. Sunday. Inclement weather. Competition cancelled. I've seen the opposition's kites,

well, Karl's and Kelvin's with just hints from Janneke. Wow! So why bother tomorrow?

On the test flights I also have problems with bowing the kite. The knots don't work, but a donation of some 'sliders' by Mike and Sheila Stevens, who also have a kite in the competition, saves the day.

And so to the competition itself. No sign of Sally or Paul and where did Jason go? Stuart, as AKW have indicated, only watched from the sidelines. Judging was by Gill (KSGB) Bloom, Tony (TC) Cartwright and Steve (Flying Squad+more) Hoath.

We are to fly the kites after they've been inspected (please don't look too closely at mine! But they did. Mumbles about Velcro, and more.) Have you seen the sewing on the others!! So it vaguely flies as I drag it in the air (long tails on a rok really screws up the flight characteristics) with way too little wind. Did we fly twice? I think so. Then it's over. Despondently I start to dismantle the kite, breaking a connector as I do. Whatever. Who cares? It's over. But the judges want to see three kites flying again – Karl, Janneke and Dave Johnson. Who? Oh (expletive deleted)! Can I get it re-assembled in time? George on the commentary makes (un) helpful remarks as I struggle.

But yes, and scarily it flies better this time! Even that nice Mr Webster (Hi George!) says nice things about the flowing tail (as do others later), how the double thickness of material gives an added dimension and depth of colour...

(I'm possibly making this up – Gore Vidal wrote that

history is what you remember, not what anyone else remembers – that is their history).

Anyway, judges in a huddle, and a majority vote gives the victory to ... me?

Gosh! (or words to that effect) Who'd a thought it? How chuffed am I?!!

"It was a very close result with Dave Johnson the eventual winner of the Perrier-Jouet Grand Brut and Janneke and Karl runners-up. It could have been a completely different result if the sun was out!"

Stuart Lafferty

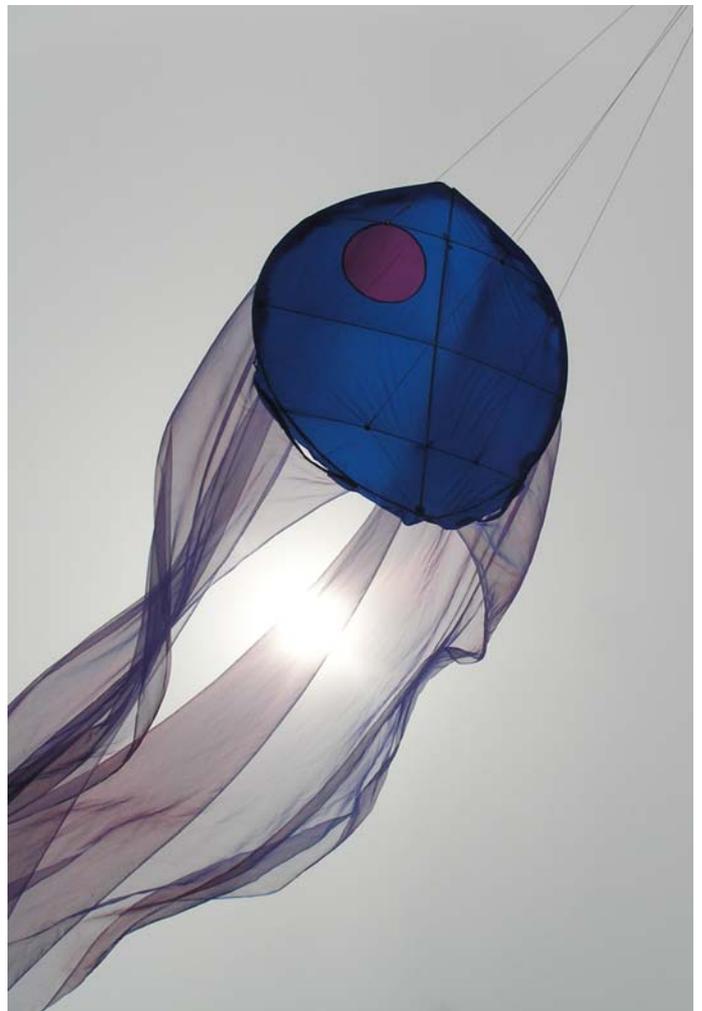
PS I still have the tankard I won, but the bottle of champers is long gone – cheers Stuart!

Dave Johnson

[The kites are shown here and the winner below. Stuart is threatening to do it again next year with bubble wrap.]

Photos—Carl Wright

Words originally appeared in the Avon Kite Fliers magazine.





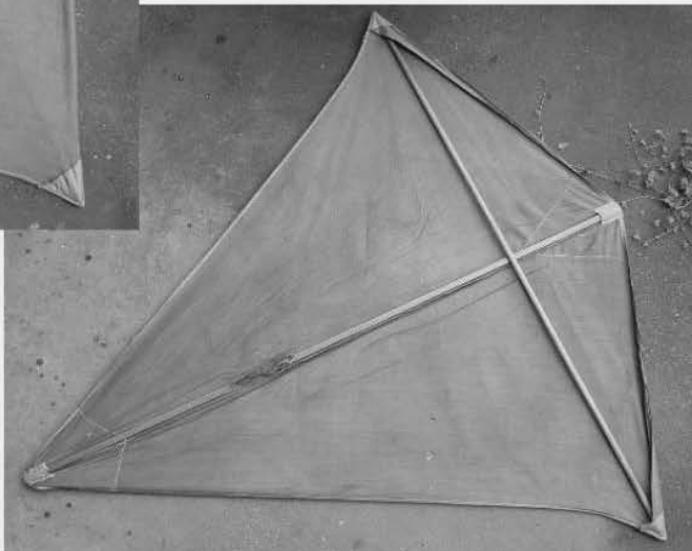
FINBAT 'WAR KITE' circa 1910

The "FINBAT"
WAR KITE.
(Patent No. 6033/08)
(Reg. Des. No. 578136)
May be had of all Toy
And Games Stores.

PRICE:
3/6

Fabric is lightweight kite muslin. This is lightweight, fine weave and nearly non-porous.

Note fabric 'grain' direction in photos. Parallel to trailing edges of wings and fin.



FINBAT 'WAR KITE' circa 1910

Pockets:

Add hem allowance to drawn size

Tip pocket is simply folded over. The leading edge is sewn about 2" beyond the pocket.

Nose and tail pockets are identical. Fold over from face side and sew down on sky side to fit stick. Double stitch





FINBAT 'WAR KITE' circa 1910

Doublers:

Add hem allowance to drawn size

Fin doubler has FINBAT logo.

FINBAT stamp on fin.

BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT
Kite
"FINBAT"
WAR KITE
TRADE MARK

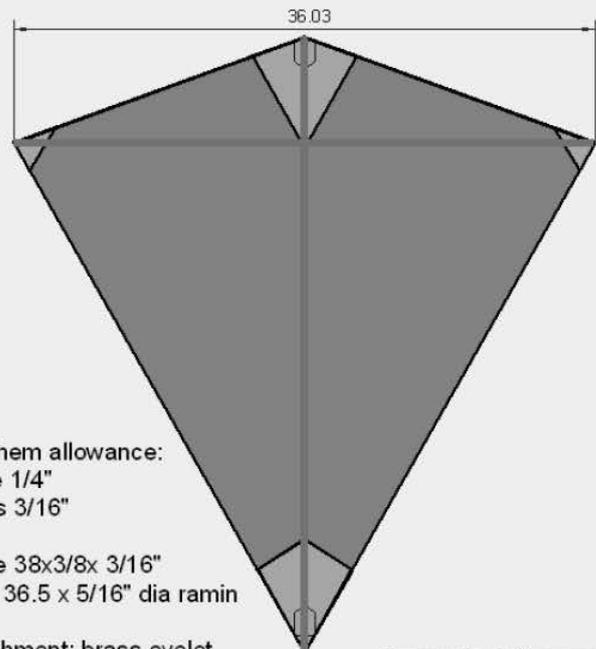
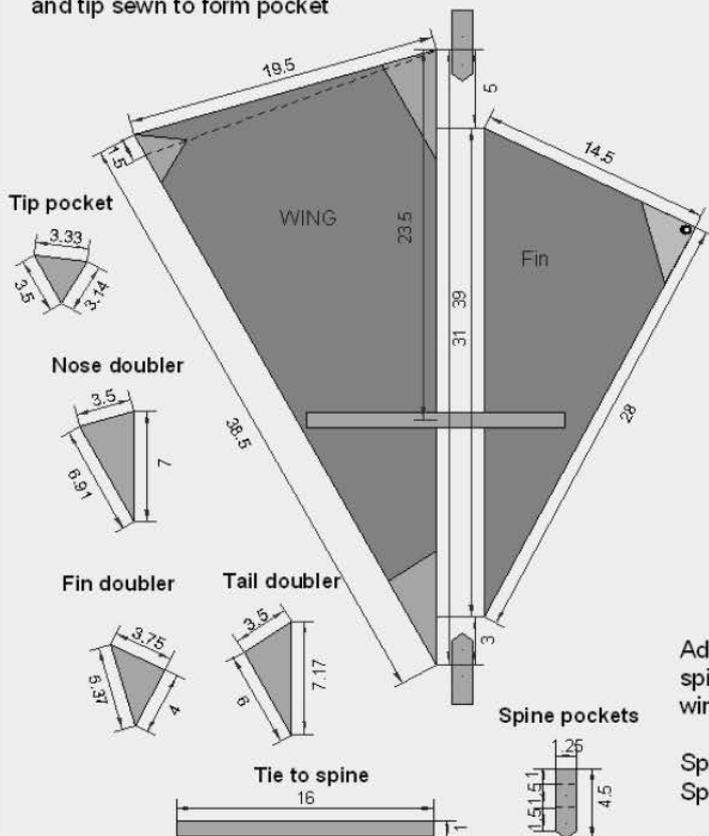


Leading edge folded over
and tip sewn to form pocket

FINBAT 'WAR KITE' circa 1910

Note:

All dimensions in inches
See photos for actual fabric colours



Add hem allowance:
spine 1/4"
wings 3/16"

Spine 38x3/8x 3/16"
Spar 36.5 x 5/16" dia ramin

Attachment: brass eyelet

Drawn: Paul Chapman
22 June 2008
chapmanpa@yahoo.co.uk

International Kite Festival, Portsmouth 2008

Taking place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th August, with Monday 25th August reserved for free flying at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. AA signposted from all main routes.

We have a wide range of kite fliers at Portsmouth this year—some regulars and several new fliers appearing for the first time. We are also participating in the 20th Anniversary celebration of the invention of the Revolution. We hope to have 50+ Revs flying at one time. Some of the Rev teams include iQuad, Team Flic, The Flying Squad, Crazy Drivers, and the Decorators.

New this year we have Albert Trinks (known as kite freak) and Fritz Groenhart (Holland) with their beautifully appliquéd kites and a team from Italy. We also have Mr & Mrs Wang from China.

From Switzerland we have Drachenclub Schaffhausen with their exquisite collection of butterflies, snakes, serpents and crystal kites.

Other returnees are Jos Valcke (Belgium), Bernard Dingwerth (Germany), Meik Schlenger (Germany), Karl-Ulrich Körtel (Germany), Pedro and Estaban Gonzales (Spain) and Michel Depuijdt (Belgium). From further afield we have Robert Brasington (Tasmania) and Robert and Sue Van Weers (New Zealand).

From the UK we have Close Encounters, Team Spectrum, Airheads, Brighton Kite Fliers, Avon Kite Fliers, Tony Cartwright, Hugh and Lynn Blowers, Andy King and George Webster on commentary. The timetable will be published on the web site www.thekitesociety.org.uk.

There will be a good selection of kite traders and caterers on site as well as a selection of non-kite stalls and a craft marquee.

Festival Auction: There will be a short (hopefully) auction taking place Saturday evening around 8:30pm to raise funds for the festival. This will take place in the children's workshop marquee. Items for the auction gratefully received before or on the day. Everyone is welcome to attend the evening events.

Free parking is available for KSGB members and the pass should be displayed in your windscreen. Please photocopy the pass as required. You will be able to unload your vehicle on the site but PLEASE, once unloaded, move your car to the car park. There is NO parking around the arena. This year access to the site will be from **Clarence Parade**, through the gates opposite the Queens Hotel. We have been informed that the gate will be manned enabling kitefliers access.

Camping is not officially permitted on site other than for trader security. However, it is recognised that many of you do camp and as such we have been requested to ensure that this opportunity is used only from Friday 22nd August morning until Tuesday 26th August morning and is more controlled. Therefore anyone who wants to camp up at Southsea MUST request a pass from us. You need to send an S.A.E. together with your vehicle registration number. Security will then have this list and will move on ANYONE without a pass and outside of the dates above. The car pass below is NOT sufficient for camping. Send to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.

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



Kitefliers Car Pass

Portsmouth International Kite Festival
23rd, 24th and 25th August 2008
Southsea Common, Portsmouth

This pass entitles you to park, free of charge, in the festival car park. Parking is NOT permitted anywhere else on the flying site without permission of the organiser

2nd Big Sky International Kite Festival—Margate

Taking place on the 20th and 21st September the skies above Main Sands, Margate, Kent, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. On request of the local council the event has been relocated. The new site is a large beach, much bigger than Palm Bay Greens and with easier access to kitefliers and the public. The main road (Marine Drive AND Marine Terrace) will be closed to all traffic.

Organised as a joint venture between the Margate Town Partnership and The Kite Society of Great Britain, the kite festival promises to be a great day out with a vast variety of scheduled displays and free flying. Along with the spectacle in the sky, there will be a large selection of specialist kite traders where you can purchase a kite and make your own mark on the sky.

Guest Kitefliers include Pedro and Estaban Gonzales, Jos Valke, Team Miztral, Holland Kite Team, Michel Depuijdt, Team Spectrum, Close Encounters, Airheads, Avon Kite Fliers. New for this year are Peter Lynn, Rolf Sturm, Bernard Dingwerth, Crazy Drivers, Team Generation and a team from Malaysia. Others are yet to be confirmed.

Camping

We have arranged for a dedicated kitefliers camp site. This is situated at Hartsdown Park, All Saints Avenue, Margate. 500m from the kite festival site. Booking is required in advance and will be **£5.00 per unit per night**. Camping is available from **6pm Friday until Monday 11am**. Facilities are toilets, showers and water. There is also a leisure centre on site for those who want to go there instead of fly kites.

If you want to book then please send details of Name, registration number (if applicable), number of units and type (tent, camper etc), nights required and payment. Payable to The Kite Society and sent to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.

Car Parking

There is a free kitefliers car park less than 100 metres from the flying site at Arlington House Car Park with access from All Saints Avenue. The pass below should be displayed in your windscreen to gain access. You will be allowed to access the beach area to unload your equipment.

Evening Event

There will be a kitefliers gathering at Nayland Rock Hotel, Margate on Saturday evening 20th September. There is a pay bar and food will be available to purchase. Some sort of entertainment will be available—not sure what yet! We are considering a kite quiz—so get your teams ready.

Accommodation

There are a number of hotels in the area. For information and booking contact the Margate Visitors Information Centre 01843 297843. Email: tourism@thanet.gov.uk.

More information and the timetable will appear on our website nearer the date.



Big Sky

International Kite Festival

Kitefliers Car Park Pass

Arlington House Car Park

**20th & 21st September
Main Sands Bay, Margate,**

This pass entitles you to park, free of charge, in the festival car park. Parking is NOT permitted anywhere else on the flying site without permission of the organiser

Event News

Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations **Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 August 2008** **11.00am - 5.00pm, Ashton Court Estate**

Introduction

We are looking forward to welcoming familiar friends and hopefully lots of new faces to Bristol this year for our 22nd festival!. Please do bring along any interesting kites, wind-socks, inflatables, ground displays or sky junk to fly either in our special arena spots or generally in the free flying areas to add to the Festival atmosphere. If your kites are really spectacular or unusual let us know in advance and send in pictures so that we can build them into the Festival programme and pre-publicity.

Guests:

We are still liaising with various flyers and clubs as well as looking to share costs of some long distance flyers with Portsmouth.

Invitations are still out to some people but so far we can confirm the following overseas guests. Robert Brassington from Tasmania, Masaaki Modegi and his wife from Japan, Robert van Weers from New Zealand, Claudio and Caterina Cappelli from Italy, team AWITA from France, Janneke Groen also from Holland (who has probably attended more Bristol festivals than any other overseas guest), big softee Marco Casadio and the evergreen Peter Lynn from New Zealand. There will be others so as the line up and programme gets firmed up this will be posted on the festival website (www.kite-festival.org.uk)

From the UK we also hope to welcome back many of the usual suspects. To name a few: Carl Robertshaw and the Scratch Bunnies, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie, Team Spectrum, Kelvin Woods, Anne Harris (with her wonderful air creations) not to mention local talent of Nick James and Martin Lester.

A special feature this year will be celebrations for the 20th anniversary of Revolution Kites which we are jointly hosting with Portsmouth. Up to 70 rev flyers are expected to come to Bristol and will be performing some awesome mass routines and displays both in a special third arena and as part of the main demo programme. Flyers will include top USA/Canadian team I-Quad plus a number of teams from Europe including Crazy Drivers, Flic, Team4Fun, Bolau as well as UK's very own The Decorators and Flying Squad.

Last but by no means least Avon Kite Flyers are the festival's host club and AKF work really hard not only helping with the organisation, running children's workshops and the information marquee but also putting on their own impressive arena displays.

Within the arena programme there will as usual be opportunities for kite societies and clubs to contribute to items such as artistic kites, themed slots such as festival of the sea and of course the usual Rok battles (no Kevlar please), both days, so do bring along your individual and team kites ready to enter.

Alongside the arenas there will be the usual line up of kite traders and Festival food and drink, a licensed bar, a range of air sculptures and inflatables and some children's entertainments.

Festival Charity:

This year we are again supporting Wallace & Grommit's Grand Appeal which is the charity for the Bristol Children's

Hospital which is a specialist centre for young patients from all over the region. We have specified that any money raised should go towards funding equipment needed on the children's and adolescent cancer wards. We are working with the appeal and Aardman on some great ideas for the festival and can promise some 'cracking' entertainment!

Saturday night party

As has become a tradition at Bristol there will be an on site kite flyers' Saturday evening party under cover in the large marquee with the usual excellent hot meal and bar which will be followed by the Festival auction. Afterwards there will be the usual wonderful fireworks and hopefully some night flying. If anyone can contribute to night flying we would love to hear from you.

We try and offer something different each year and this time we are having an Indian meal courtesy of Spice up your Life. Tickets for the meal cover a choice of meat or vegetarian dishes and a desert. Prices have been pegged for the eighth year running at £10 per adult and £5 for a child (under 14 please!!).

Those not eating are more than welcome to come along and generally join in the party and make use of the bar and don't miss the Festival Auction.

We have to confirm catering numbers the week beforehand and if you leave it to the day you may well find tickets have run out so please reserve your meal tickets in advance by contacting the Festival office. Either pay by cheque on application or you can pay and pick up your tickets on the day from the Information tent but you need to collect these by 3pm on the day or they will be released for others to buy as we ALWAYS run out!!.

Accommodation

We have again negotiated rates, which are the same as last year and ring fenced an allocation of rooms at the Redwood Lodge Hotel which is now owned by the Folio Group. This is the nearest hotel to the site and the car park can take vans, cars with top boxes etc. These rates will be held for reservations made before 31st July 2007.

Costs are £70 per night for a double/twin including bed & breakfast. **Please note that the hotel will charge their normal rates for reservations made after 31st July (though we are working on them to be a bit more flexible re this cut off time!).** Bookings should be made direct with Redwood Lodge on tel 0870 609 6144 mention you are booking as part of the Kite Festival.

If we get any other hotel deals offered these will be posted on the festival website www.kite-festival.org

We have also negotiated rates within the Clifton Hotels Group which covers a number of hotels in Clifton (the other side of the Suspension Bridge) Tel0117 946 7469 and again quote Kite festival Group to get the special rate. Visit to see their range and location of hotels.

If you want to look at other hotel options try the Bristol Tourist Information Centre Accommodation hotline 0845 408 0474 or try www.visitbristol.co.uk

Camping

As many regulars will know this is always a real problem for us as the Council has a ban on all camping in Ashton Court which is very frustrating as there is so much space. Also we appreciate that many of you want to stay close by and ho-

Event News

tels aren't an option!

We have historically had a 'Crew Area' where we can have pre-booked camping for traders and suppliers to which over the years has become unofficial camping. The Council have said that this cannot continue and must return to a crew only area.

We have however managed to sort out some proper camping facilities for flyers at the Cotham Park Rugby Club ground. This is literally a 5-10 minute walk from site (depending on your speed!). The Club can accommodate camping for tents and/or caravans, and provide secure parking, showers and real toilets! 'Above ground' BBQs are also permitted, as are pets (as long as you clean up after them – this is their playing field!).

There will be a nightly cost, to be confirmed soon, but it should be in the range of £10 a night. The site will be available for Saturday and Sunday night (30 and 31 Aug), and can be open on Friday night as well if there is enough interest.

You **must** pre register so if you are interested please either email your details to and put 'Rugby Club camping' as the subject or send an SAE to 5 Lilymead Ave, Bristol BS4 2BY. Please include the name(s) of camper(s), contact email, phone and address, number of tents/caravans and dates of arrival/departure. Also note if you would like to arrive on Friday so we can gauge interest and arrange accordingly. Payment will be made to the Rugby Club directly and will be collected on arrival.

Parking

To help cover costs, such as our site fee and event licence, we are again asking flyers for a contribution to car parking. On arrival any flyers displaying a valid festival pass will be asked to pay just £3.00 per day, (instead of £7 for general public). To get your car pass please apply in writing, with SAE, **BUT SEND NO MONEY to: Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY** Passes will be issued by on a first come first served basis up to a maximum of 500. (Any kite flyers who are AKF members will have received details in the recent AKF Newsletter asking their members to reply separately) The Festival will also be running a system of dropping off passes for those with particularly heavy loads of kites and kit so again mention this in your car parking request.

Any queries please contact Avril Baker or Lynn Gibbons at: Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY. Tel: 0117 977 2002 Fax: 0117 977 4255

www.kite-festival.org. e-mail: info@abc-pr.co.uk or festival@kite-festival.org

Tanah Lot Kite Festival, Bali—September 11th—14th

Playing kite is very popular in younger generation, because of the power and sense of friendship in which be formed kite player group (sekaa layangan). Now days, playing kite is expanding, children and younger boy played this kite as hobbies, besides as culture preservation. The meaning of playing kite full of religious value and society life of Balinese people, and this can we see from the symbol of "Sang Hyang Rare Angon" as the god of wind.

It made a special interesting for the tourist, as an attraction to Tanah Lot especially and Bali generally.

Regarding of the Tanah Lot Kites Festival 2008 we are hon-

oured to invite you to visit this event and spend memorable three days to enjoy the festival with Tanah Lot Temple backgrounds one of famous destination in the islands of paradise, Bali.

The theme of Tanah Lot Kites Festival 2008 is Flying for Peace and with new brand Giant Kites Show, and this festival will take place 4 days.

Registration Kites: July 28th 2008 to August 28th 2008 at Tanah Lot Office. Day/Date: September 11th 2008 to September 14th 2008. Venue: Tanah Lot Bali

The type of kite, as follows: Bebean. It have the form of fish, as a symbol of property, in which fish is important for our life either for ceremony or daily needed for our meal, and there are abundant in our surrounding either at the sea, river, on the lake even the rice field. Janggan, It's a special kite, with a long tail about 200m and it has a special colour : red, black, white (Tri Datu), in Hindu religions as a symbol of "Benawang Nala/Naga Besuki" which is mean "the equilibrium of the universe". Pecukan, This kite has form like a carved, as a symbol of positive and negative (good and bad) but they should be needed each other and together making unity forever.

New Creation. It has a special form, which is adjust to the owner to developing their idea, creativity and innovation.

For further information :

Office Area Parkir Obyek Wisata Tanah Lot Bali
 Phone/Fax +62 361 880361 / 880362
 Website www.tanahlot.net
 Email info@tanahlot.net

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

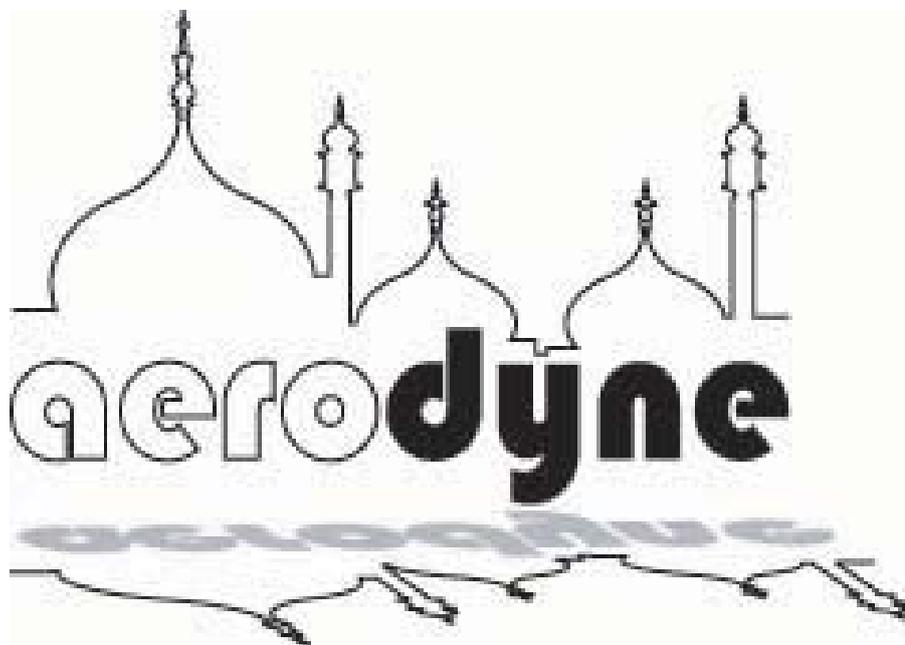
EMKAY Kites & More
Sleaford, Lincolnshire

08451 301161
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more@kites4U.co.uk

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THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

TALES OF THE LONELY KITEFLYER

Was it something I said, perhaps? Had I inadvertently flown the wrong kite making some kiting faux pas? There must have been something or I would not have spent two kiting events with just one BKF member – a John in both cases – as my sole BKF companion (and in the case of the Haywards Heath Rugby Club event, my sole kite flying companion). If this is a sign of the future, and will I be on my own all year.

OK, I knew that Weymouth was to be badly attended having spoken to most BKF members this year, and the weather was not the best for the Haywards Heath Rugby Club event, but only two of us? After an excellent start to the Bank Holiday weekend, it was only to be expected that Bank Holiday Monday was to see some pretty torrential rain and strong winds, but hey ho, kite flyers are made of stern stuff, so with the car packed, I was off to the Rugby Club. I was directed to the kite flying field, but was warned not to enter as the gateway was impassable, so parked up by the entrance waiting for the obligatory tractor to lay boards down so we could get into the field. Soon after, John Elvin arrived followed by our intrepid Chairman. Simon went off to check that the fairground people were all on for our Festival, at which point Hilary decided that enough was enough, and demanded to be taken home immediately. By the time I got back, the kite field entrance was

sorted, but the main entrance was decidedly iffy.

We decided to have a quick look around and see how many people were likely to stay – the mammoth car boot sale certainly looked desolate with no more than half a dozen forlorn cars sitting in the middle of what was rapidly becoming a lake with a significant absence of buyers. The Clubhouse was excellent, though, and a bacon roll and coffee put a much better light on the morning. The inner man satisfied, we strolled out to a less damp morning. The Chairman had specifically brought his young daughter out so that he could claim that she was bored / wet / needed the toilet so he really had to go home, although he really wanted to fly a kite. John and I had no such excuse, so I tried a small Rok with some success, and we progressed to a Spirit, Ostend Bird, Delta, Skydancer and for about one minute thirty seconds a NASA Wing (I really ought to have got out the Flexifoil I went to the car for and not have been tempted, but there you are).

John and I continued with our two man display for a good 4 hours, by which time the general weather had improved, but the wind had dropped and the occasional visitor to the kite field had completely dried up (metaphorically speaking, that is) as all the visitors were around the main arena. Incidentally, they all had an excellent view, and could choose



Following on from his success at Summers Pond, Teston was the place for Collin to add to his collection of Boxes containing rare air. (see the BKF the forum for more details on this or ask Collin)

where to stand at will, so this was a considerable bonus for those who decided to come along. With this, we



decided to call it a day. BKF had met their contractual obligations, had put up a damn good show, and managed to get out of the gate before the main exodus of traders churned up the entrance so that no one could get off the site. So remember, wimps, kite flying is for men (albeit with full waterproofs, Wellingtons, silly rain hats

Peter Jackson



IS IT A DUCK?

Over the past eighteen months if I had a pound for each time I had been asked that question or a mother had been overheard saying to their child

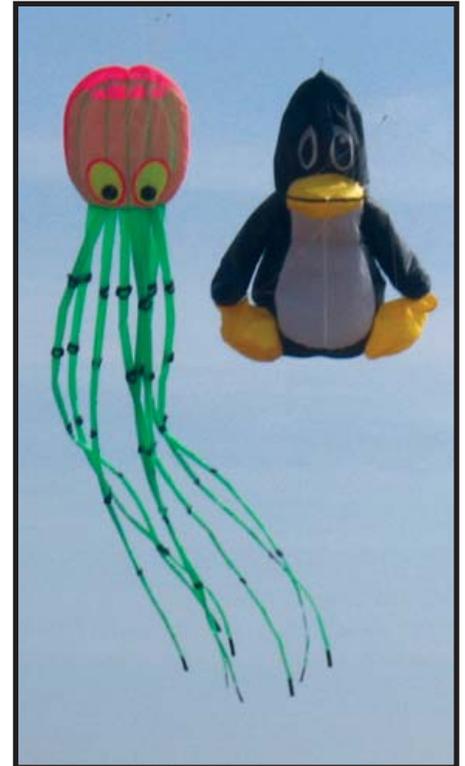


'Ooh look, a duck.' I would have made a 5m MK2 version rather than be planning on making a 3m version of this inflatable. At least children get the species right when they call him 'Pingu', but his name is 'Tux', he is the mascot of the Linux open source computer operating system and he is most definitely a penguin.

Tux is based on an open source soft toy pattern from the 'www.free-penguin.org' website and is scaled up to just less than 1.5m tall. The only problem I found in doing this is that an error of a few millimetres that can be lost when assembling a 30cm tall soft toy becomes greatly magnified on a 1.5m tall inflatable, and as a result Tux had to have a tummy tuck and a groin insert in order to be sewn closed.

Initially he was made as an inflatable windsock, but that idea worked like a hole in the head, and even with up to three drogues strategically clipped to his backside he could not be stopped from spinning, in fact he would spin better than my Rosette Drogue which is meant to spin.

Thus after three months of testing and attempts to stop his propensity to spin the top of Tux's head was replaced (all be it with an opening across the top and the addition of a peak shaped scoop to catch the wind) and the MK1 version became the MK1a version. In addition to sporting a lobotomy scar, Tux was given various bridle attachment loops at points around his body so that he could be tethered to the flying line in an almost upright position. At present he just requires one more attachment



point, right between the eyes to stop the wind pushing his face in, but other than that and the odd occasion when the wind flips him over the flying line he inflates well and no longer spins. So what of MK2? Having achieved proof of principle with MK1a, the plan is to build a 3-5m MK2 version using a brand new error free scratch drawn pattern and to dispense with the air intake scoop and go for mesh intakes in either the whites or the pupils of his eyes. Other innovations will include some internal stays to stop his feet ballooning, and a Velcro opening in his lower back for rapid deflation.

Batchoy

AUTUMN WORKSHOP

At the AGM there were mutterings heard around the room about running a workshop making kites following on from the success of the Martin Lester "Spirit" workshop held last year.

If any members have ideas for kites that they would like to make please contact the chairman or secretary. Although the final choice of workshop is open to all kite flyers to attend, not just club members, members will have a say in the choice of kite and will get 1st option of places on the workshop.

One of the options that has been put forward is to invite Karl Longbottom (one of the UK's well know kite makers) down to primarily make his "Swan", but for those who have already made this at the White Horse workshop we will run a second workshop making another of his kite designs alongside the swan (which design is to be confirmed). Another idea that has been put forward is to ask Guy Renolds to run a workshop making a "Tux" penguin or even a kite designed just for the club to make

say a dolphin (the emblem of Brighton)

Other ideas that have been mentioned include a workshop to make a club arch and/or windbow this would be a free workshop where you would just learn and practice your skills for the benefit of the club.

So go on put your thinking caps on and let us know what you would like to do and we will do our best to get something together over the winter months ready for you to fly next season at festivals.

THIS YEAR STILLDON

Last year we had Swindon Kite Festival, well the weather saw to it this year, that there was no way it would be Swindon, it was hot and dry all weekend, although it did try it's hardest to make it Stilldom. We headed up early on Saturday morning leaving home at just after 5.30am to pick Dave H up 6.00am. Well 6.02am we turned the corner and there standing ready was Dave (good job no police were about as I think picking up from street corners is frowned upon) We were soon on our way and headed off up the Motorway, a good clear run the whole way only stopping to pick up supplies for breakfast just off the M3. We arrived at about 8.15am to find Alan and Keith already on the field wondering

what to do with no wind. A few "Hello's", the cadac out 1st and then the chairs and table and breakfast was soon being cooked, eaten and cleared away, what a way to start a day but with a full English with most of the trimmings. It was time to settle down and work out the plans for the day. With no wind at all and a blazing sun running around did not really seem a sensible option so no Charlie Browning big kites. Time was spent catching up with fellow kite flyers avoiding seeing Marla too often (not that we don't like Marla but our pockets kept on getting emptied for the raffle). A fun relaxing day not flying much at all finished off with a trip into Swindon for F & C and the legendary WHKF raffle. Not much

brought back to Brighton although Keith did get a fantastic book, which I must ask to borrow some time. Headed back to the camp site for a good nights sleep ready for what we hoped would be a better day's fling on the Sunday. Sunday soon came and there was a little more wind than on Saturday so after cooking up pancakes for what seemed about 20 people along with Bacon, Eggs etc. we headed off to the field for a fly. The site is not as spacious at Wroughton but there is still room to fly, so we put up some of the club big kites and had fun with fellow kite flyers throughout the day. All in all a good weekend and look forward to next year, even better if back a Wroughton.

Simon Hennessey

PROFILE CORNER PROFILE CORNER PROFILE CORNER

Over the coming issues of Aerodyne we will adding a short profile of all the club kites and hopefully some of the interesting kites or kite related products you have seen, used or flown on your travels.

THE SPIRIT OF PAT



The Spirit kites are designed and made by Martin Lester. A well known UK kite maker based in Cornwall. The Spirit Kite comes in 3 sizes and these are the smallest of the three called "mini Spirits" at mere 20 foot long from the head to the toe, they still cause quite a stir with their flowing movements and human form

which means, all in all they are a joy to fly and watch. These kites use about 15m of fabric and take Martin about 5 hours each to make although when the club held a workshop making the spirit it took most of us over the two days to complete, and ended up finishing them at home.

The Brighton Kite Flyers two mini Martin Lester Spirit kites were specially commissioned from Martin Lester by the club, after winning one in the auction at Bristol Kite Festival in September 2006.

The auction was for one mini spirit in any colour and with whatever design you wanted on it. We explained to Martin the reasoning behind the design and the feelings we had for the kite, and he agreed to make two for us one in white and one in black with the club logo on the chest in keeping with the club T Shirts. The kites are normally flown as a pair and are jointly known as the "Spirit of Pat". The name "Spirit of Pat" comes from Pat Dell a fond member of the club and the Kiting community who passed away in early 2006. Ron Dell her husband offered some funds to

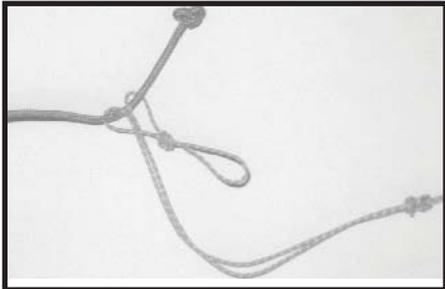
the club for us to put towards running the club festival, but it was felt that at the time that we would prefer to use the monies towards something the club could keep and remember Pat by for years to come. Ron agreed to this and the hunt then started for a kite that was suitable for such a requirement. It took several months but at the end of the season the opportunity of the spirits arrived and it was felt that the spirit fitted the bill perfectly. The kites were finally delivered in early 2007 and had limited showing before the clubs festival in July of that year where they took centre slot in the arena with Ron Dell flying one of them.

Each kite can and has been flown separately, but are often flown by club members as part of a spectacular display the Brighton Kite Flyers put on, where we fly a quantity of Spirit kites both made by club member at a workshop we held in 2007 and brought from Martin. We have at one display, where we were joined by Martin Lester and Avon Kite Flyers, had over 30 Spirit kites of all shapes and sizes flying at one time

GET KNOTTED WITH

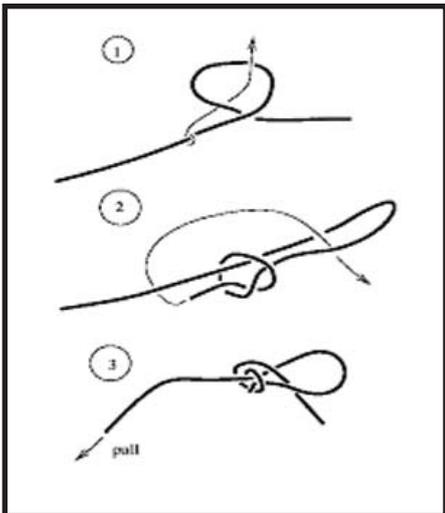
We all need to be able to tie a few knots when flying kites – these are some of my favourites.

Larkhead: also known as a Cow Hitch, Ring Hitch and Bale Sling Hitch. We all use this for joining kite to flying line, tail to kite and for bridle adjustments, but if you tie an overhand knot in the loop first, it gives you something to catch hold of to release it .



Oysterman's Stopper Knot: also called the Ashley Stopper Knot

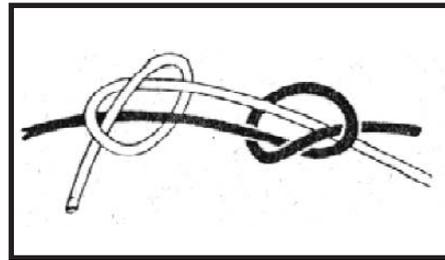
This is larger and more symmetrical than an Overhand Knot, but it's still easy to tie. The only things to note are that the Half Knot must be formed in the standing part, not the end, and when working up, rove the end through the Half Knot , then pull the Half Knot snug, before pulling the end tight.



Fisherman's Knot: also known as the Improved Clinch Knot or, in the circus, as a Flyers' Knot (think how trapeze artists hold onto each other) It is really a bend, unlike the Fisherman's Bend, which is really a hitch!

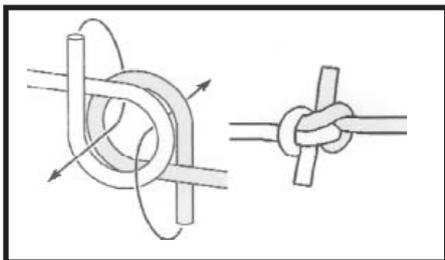
Nevertheless, it's a good way to join two lines, even if they are of different diameters, and consists of a pair of

overhand knots each around the other line.



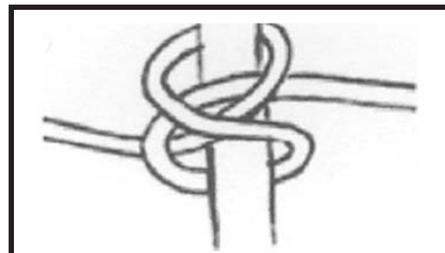
Zeppelin Bend: also known as a Rosendahl Bend, after the Captain of the American Airship "Los Angeles" who reputedly insisted on its use.

This is reckoned to be the ultimate knot for joining two lines (or repairing a broken one) as it weakens the line the least, and is symmetrical, secure and easy to untie even after having been heavily loaded.



Constrictor Knot: This is effectively a clove hitch with an overhand knot under the crossover: it results in an unbelievably secure binding, ideal for whipping or joining two spars: I've even used as a temporary hose clip! It's a pig to undo if tightened hard.

It's also used with the end slipped (i.e. tucked through double, leaving an end to pull to undo) by millers to attach sacks to the grain hoist.



If this has whetted your appetite, I can thoroughly recommend "The Ashley Book of Knots" (yes, he of the stopper knot, above). It's a mighty tome detailing over 3500 knots, together with their uses and history, but even that doesn't include the Zeppelin Bend!

Alan R.

WHAT IS TO COME

Below are a few dates you can add to your diary of events where we might well be found flying do, come along and say "Hello". For more events as they come about look at the BKF forum or Website.

6th July 2008

BKF Fly-in, Telscombe Tye

12th - 13th July 2008

Brighton Kite Festival

19th - 20th July 2008

Eastbourne Extreme

19th - 20th July 2008

Hereford Kite Festival

20th July 2008

Dunstable Downs Kite Festival

3rd August 2008

BKF Fly-in, Telscombe Tye

2nd - 3rd August 2008

Roy's Jolly Up

9th - 10th August 2008

Teston Bridge Fun Weekend

16th - 17th August 2008

Kites Over Captstone Park

23rd - 25th August 2008

Portsmouth Kite Festival

30th - 31st August 2008

Bristol Kite Festival

7th September 2008

BKF Fly-in, Telscombe Tye

6th - 14th September 2008

Dieppe Kite Festival, France

20th - 21st September 2008

Big Sky Margate

20th - 21st September 2008

Chelmsford Balloon & Kites Festival

27th - 29th September 2008

Kingsfold Steam and Kite Festival
We have also been provisionally invited to fly on the 1st weekend of October at the South of England Showground (Members only event).

There is also plans afoot for another Christmas party, and we are looking at running another kite workshop in November and a rok making session for more details check out the forum and website.

Simon Hennessey

WEYMOUTH 2008

It's the spring bank holiday, so Hilary and I set off on our usual trip to Weymouth, this time in the new motorhome, so are not too worried about the poor weather forecast, although we do make sure that the farm we are staying on does have hard-standing space just in case the ground is too wet. Neither of us were working on the Friday, so we leave early to beat the usual Friday evening traffic queues and arrive by lunchtime to glorious sunshine. We take a gentle stroll down towards the coast overlooking Chesil Beach and have to slap on the sun cream, the sun is so hot.

I always enjoy Saturday more than any other day over the weekend as the weather is often better, the beach is usually quieter, the traders have lots of bargains and there is the chance to catch up with everyone after a winter of kite hibernation. As far as catching up with BKF members, this took little time this year as there was only John Lancaster apart from us, although I did catch a glimpse of three other members over the weekend. There were many comments over the weekend along the lines of "I didn't think BKF were coming", so we did seem to have the benefit of some novelty value, and managed to grab the same amount of beach as usual, just in case there

was a last minute rush of BKF members to the seaside (there wasn't!). The flying was great, with just the right amount of wind for my Spirit to stay up well all morning, and as the wind picked up a little in the afternoon to fly some different kites, including getting the Roks ready for the Rok fights (which never took place).

As has been the case in recent years, the good flying conditions on the Saturday did not continue for the next couple of days, Sunday in particular being a bit of a washout. The early part of the day saw some torrential showers, and even though the normal open-topped commentary bus was not open-topped this year, I spotted Andy King during the day looking like the proverbial water rat. Despite the damp weather, flying took place in the arena for most of the day, and improved late afternoon for a very bright and warm evening for the Mayor's reception and firework display, back to its usual very spectacular standards. Apart from the very noticeable lack of BKF flyers, there were a few other regulars missing, and the Festival had a very definite feel of being smaller and quieter than in past years. Hopefully this was only a one off and there will be a bustling Weymouth again next year.

Monday was back to being very warm and apart from a short but heavy shower just before lunch, remained dry. The wind was very light though, which meant that arena events were mostly hard-working two and four line displays with not enough wind for much in the way of single line flying. There was enough wind to be able to fly light wind kites such as my Marc-2 and Genki all day, and there was a good display of other light wind kites such as deltas in the sky for most of the day, including some interesting and usually large kites from overseas.

I was fortunate enough to be able to take the Tuesday off as holiday as well, so had a leisurely drive home in time to see how much of Weymouth beach had come home with me this year. Like all Festivals, the success of Weymouth does depend in part on the weather, but with a range of kites in the bag, it is usually possible to get something in the air and have a good time. For me, Weymouth is the first festival of the year and has always been my favourite festival for some reason, so I guess I will be back next year, even if I am the only BKF member there!

Peter Jackson

WHY I MISSED WEYMOUTH

Having had a few bad years with rain and high winds over the festival weekend and with not only the cost of staying there going up and up, but the cost of getting there as well left us with a very hard choice. Last year as we drove home having been sand blasted for 3 full days we were already discussing if we would do it again, as we had discussed each trip home for the passed few years. The arguments always come around to the fact that Weymouth is a great place to blow away the winter cobwebs and meet up with fellow flyers who we have not seen over the winter. It is the 1st big festival of the year although there are more and more smaller events earlier.

It is also a place where you have lots you can do, unlike most festivals it takes place in the centre of town so you or your family can head off at any time and have a look around. There is a great pasty shop always worth a visit so it has a lot going for it.

The againts are, you have to say, the sand and how for the whole of the following year you are taking it out of every bag and kite you took within 100 yards of the beach and of course the cost of staying over when the cheapest B & B you can get find for a family of 2 +2 for 3 nights is well over £200 and fast approaching the £300. Makes it a very expensive weekend away.

So early in 2008 when Big John

offered a weekend flying in Kent the same weekend as Weymouth we had to consider it as a possiblility, we spent many a night weighing up the pros and cons of each. It was a very close call but in the end we decided that for this year, at least, we would put the monies towards a new tent and try out Big John's event. This is not to say we will not do Weymouth again, in fact I am sure we will go there again at some point, but for this year we gave it a miss. Lets see what next year brings. Horton Farm turned out to be the right choice weather wise, I am told, as we had sunshine with no showers all weekend and no sand in the kite bags.

Simon Hennessey

B K F

Thank you to all those that braved the weather, I think in all the years I have been a member of the club it is the first time I have seen snow on the day of the AGM. The now legendary cakes, supplied by Marian Reynolds, with Coffee and Tea started off the proceedings at 3.00pm followed by the AGM at 3.30pm. Welcomes apologies and reports done, showed the club has had a good year and is well placed for a good 2008 / 09. Festivals, both ours and others we are going to, were discussed and the year seems full already with the season getting longer and longer. Promotional materials for the club, such as t-shirts pin etc. were looked into and a possible new design for a club pin in 2010 could be on the cards. The New website as some of you might have noticed has been uploaded with easier links to other areas, the forum is becoming a useful tool for the club and we encourage all members to use it to pass on information to others. Aerodyne was discussed and the need for articles

A G M

was made clear, if it is to continue into 2009 and beyond (so please put pen to paper and write up an article). The meeting closed at 5.30pm with thanks being given to all those who had helped the club in past and thanks to those who have offered to help in the future. More cakes and tea followed and the event closed at 6.00pm. (Some had continued throughout the meeting just popping out for a plate or two during it)

As we all headed out a lot of the snow had melted, but someone found enough to throw a snowball at Collin as he drove past and so started the snow ball fight. Collin had his own



2 0 0 8

supply of snow, he had brought down from Crawley in the back of his pickup, for such an occasion and the rest of us had to find what we could on parked cars and grass banks. It was a free for all, but being parked in the middle was not a good idea for Collin, he did seem to get extra attention. Some good shots some better dodging followed, one thing was learnt by all do not leave your car door open if you don't want it filled with snow, Charlotte throw a snowball at Collin and missed but it went in his car so he closed the door and head round the other side to clean it out, on opening the other door he bent down to pick up the snow and Sue managed to get one in the other door. Not too much damage luckily. As the snowball fight finished we all headed off happy to have finished the AGM in the normal fun way the club approaches most things it gets involved in with team spirit and fun in mind.

Simon Hennessey

I N P R A I S E O F K A R L

In an era of large companies and distributors isn't it refreshing to know that there are talented and dedicated individuals still making kites up and down the country. Such a person is Karl Longbottom from Hereford. I know that most people in the kite world will know of Karl but for those of you who are not familiar with his work I will explain, for those who are, I hope you appreciate and share my sentiments.

First let me give you a little background information. Karl comes from an engineering background, working in this field for various companies in the Stockport area. On a family holiday to beautiful Cornwall, kite flying with his children, Karl was bitten by the kite bug. (As we all are). Karl was so bitten by this bug, that on his return home he went to his library and got as much information on kites as possible. He read various books on the subject, there was no turning back, Karl was well and truly hooked. Some five years later Karl made a brave decision to turn kite making into

a business.(brave man). Karl makes what I call unusual and whimsical kites, such as the Pippa, Yakko Bee, Dunton Delta and of course the Pants. His kites are beautifully sewed and well constructed and fly



effortlessly. His engineering background is evident.

I am not Karl's public relation officer I am just a kite enthusiast who

appreciates well made quality kites. I am also fortunate enough to own six possible seven kites (one more on the way) made by Karl.

Karl has won many prestigious awards for his kites both home and abroad with his kites.



Yes, we all buy mass produced kites and enjoy them but the individual kite maker gives the personal touch, don't you agree!

I know there are a lot of talented individual kite makers out there, I am singing the praise of one Karl Longbottom. These individuals give us diversity, beautiful well made kites, so come on join me and sing their praises.

Courtney (Jamaican)

A COMMON FLY

Streatham Common was one of the 1st festivals of 2008 where the weather looked as though it could clear up for the Sunday and be OK. Yes a little rain was forecast and light winds, but it was going to be warmish for a change. So an early start to get to the common in time was called for. It was good to see some of the old faces there that we had not seen for a few months over the winter. When we arrived and blow away some of the cobwebs, after a long period of wet cold weather. The common was very wet and driving on it was tricky, a few got stuck heading on, and some even had to get towed off, we won't say who though. Once we had all parked up it was time to set up the anchor and banners and find some kites to fly, as we all wanted to make the most of what set out to be a fun day. OK, the wind was light, and up and down, so it was hard work keeping any kites up for a long period of time but we all

persevered some entered the altitude sprint and did quite well with a good range of different kites being used, and yes it did rain on and off all day but most of us still flew kites and had we all had lots of fun. Friends of Streatham Common were worried about car movement churning up the



only dry now, but had been all day, A plan was hatched to fly "Dick" dry there and then. We were also blessed with a good steady wind. So rather than wait for an evening during the week we flew him dry that night in a playing area just down Dyke Road, could be a good site to fly at as the views over Brighton are Fantastic, and quite a few members of the public stopped to have a quick chat and take the odd photo or two. You can get quite blasé about the big kites and forget what a sight there are to those who have not seen any of them before.

Simon Hennessey



ground, but even with the slightly dodgy weather the foot fall of both wachets and flyers churned up the ground far more than any of the cars. This in turn meant that the ground got very muddy and the strops, line and kites ended up very muddy and in need of a wash. To finish it off the day there was a brief shower just before we packed away which left "Dick" the purple octopus slightly wet as well as lots of peoples own kites. The plan for drying club kites, as always, is to get them out on the first dry day during the following week and fly them dry, it's the only way. So on heading back towards Brighton as soon as we discovering that Brighton was not



BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL 2008 JULY 12TH & 13TH 2008

This year we will be having some arena displays by some of the UK's top display flyers and clubs, we are also planning some themed arena displays giving all kite flyers the opportunity to fly and display their kites in the arena a few ideas for this are, the spectacular Martin Lester Spirit fly, bird kites, lizard / geckoes and finally aeroplane kites.

If you have any other ideas or things you would like to see just let the club know and you never know it might happen

APRIL 2008 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

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Club library:

(BKF members only):
Dave Hollinworth
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E secretary@brightonkiteflyers.co.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:

Matt Jones
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E membership@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk

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, Batchoy, Peter Jackson, Alan R. and Courtney. who have helped to make this edition possible. I must also say a very big thank you to those who have edited parts of Aerodyne this month in one form or another.

Simon Hennessey



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Pins/Cloth Badges:

Simon Hennessey
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E simon@BKf.org.uk

SECRET FESTIVAL

On the 1st June this year we headed off to a very windless Tonbridge kite festival. We only heard about it by chance as it was not advertised in any kite publication or website and even friends from the Tonbridge did not know it was on.

A comment on the KKF forum should have warned us what to expect "the only festival with less wind than Teston". Well he was right, and all day there was no wind and just a very occasional breeze. Enough to get you out of your chair and over to the lifter just for it to drop off again. It is a very small event although there is loads of space to fly and could be a good event to go to in future years. Should be around for the first weekend in June again, so we are told.

Simon Hennessey

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

CAMPING AT FESTIVALS

May I first of all correct an error by Big John. Prostitutes, like other criminals and villains, not only pay Taxes, but they also pay National Insurance, and in some cases, VAT! If they don't, and are caught, they could end up behind bars. The most notorious case of this was, of course, good old Al Capone, who died whilst in prison serving a sentence, not for not paying his taxes, but for not declaring his ill gotten gains to the Revenue, so that they could tax him! There are no morals in Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs regulations!

With regard to camping at kite festivals, our committee have worked very hard to obtain these privileges, and it behoves us all not to abuse them, or they will soon disappear. Also, the Club is a democratic organisation and we have elected the committee to make decisions on our behalf and to run the Club in a satisfactory manner. If the committee makes a decision, then we all need to abide by that decision, even if we disagree.

There surely cannot be many better things in life that a weekend camping and flying kites in convivial company. I get very jealous when I see all those luxurious motorhomes, wishing I had one too. My only concern is that sometimes we turn up at a kiting event and find it difficult even to park the car!

Having met Big John on many occasions, I am sure that he did not mean to upset the apple cart. Let us all be grateful to a hard working committee who have obtained these privileges for us.

Good flying to everyone.

Pat & Chris Bowman

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.

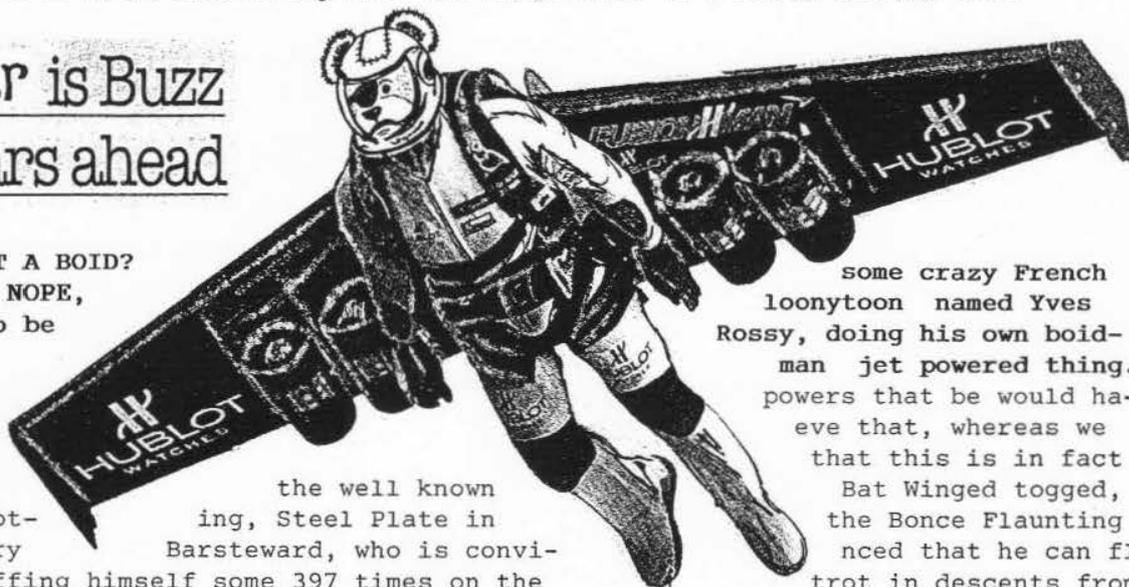


42 ROMAN SANDLE 89.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Politically incorrect, made of Carbon and only Green when we're Chundering over the Ships Rail on a Booze Cruise, Hic!

This Bear is Buzz Lightyears ahead



HOLY COW! IZZIT A BOID?
IZZIT A PLANE? NOPE,
Its alledged to be

Of course the
ve you beli-
are convinced
Grizzly Mishap
Plaster Cast Tot-
Brain Dead Furry

the well known
ing, Steel Plate in
Barsteward, who is convi-

some crazy French
loonytoon named Yves
Rossy, doing his own boid-
man jet powered thing.
powers that be would ha-
eve that, whereas we
that this is in fact
Bat Winged togged,
the Bonce Flaunting
nced that he can fly
trot in descents from

even after Stiffing himself some 397 times on the
Kites, Yes, its patently obvious that the silly sod cannot fly, But hey, who knows maybe
at last he's had a result. Perhaps all that Bucket kicking due to his almost pathologic
refusal to use a Parachute has paid dividends.

What we saw on the goggle box looked pretty good, the outer wing sections unfolded,
the four model aircraft engines fired up, lots of whizzy manouvers, including a couple
of barrel rolls, it really was flying. We've always thought that G.M. was away with
the Fairies and even poor Ernie Fosselius, G.M's erstwhile Dropnik was of the opinion
that he was permanently out to lunch, but who knows maybe them fairies have imparted
some serious advice along the lines of, Ditch them bleeding Bat Wings, get thee hence to
a higher degree of Tech, namely four jet engines and a soopa doopa wing and the jobs a
good 'un.

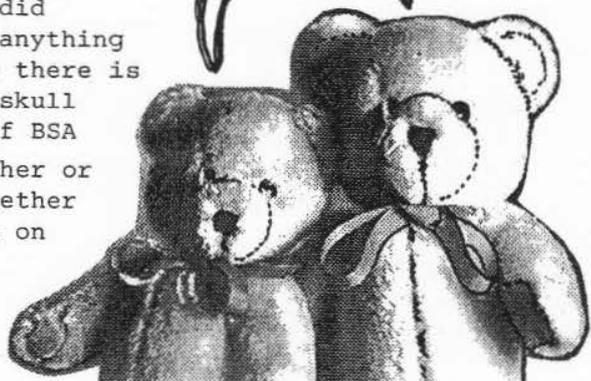
The more cynical among you may ask how come a bashed up furry wotsit can afford them
jet engines and a hi-tech wing, they dont come cheap. Ah, aint you heard of appearance
money? All them Kite Fest organisere cheerfully whack out
One and Eightpence a time to see the sillyold sod marmal-
lise himself, and them One and Eightpences soon add up,
Oh yes, Grizzly Mishap certainly drives a hard bargain
for putting on a show. Hmm 1/8d, thats about 7p, maybe
12 cents in U.S. funds. Sodding Hell, life in the fast
lane.

Funny enough, considering wossisnames aversion to us-
ing a Parachute, which has made every previous landing
the Crash, Bang, Wallop sort, we never actually saw him
make a landing. We are reliably informed that he did
make a good landing, probably along the lines of anything
you walk away from is good and we dont think that there is
any additions to the plaster cast/steel plate in skull
collection, so we wonder was the landing a sort of BSA
jobby , where rapid deployment of a fire extiguisher or
possibly even a hose pipe directed at them thar nether
regions really saved the day and put a smile back on
the face of Grizzly Mishap.....

You Rang??? BSA? Bloody Sore Arse, Yoo Wot

SO THATS THE
RESULT OF ALL
THAT BANGING
AND CRASHING
IN HIS WOODSHED
LATELY

EITHER THAT
OR THE OLD
GIT WAS
COBBLING-UP
ANOTHER
MOONSHINE
STILL



Ready, teddy



NOT SO LONG AGO IT WAS QUITE SOMETHING TO HAVE TEDDIES AND OTHER ASSORTED FAUNA OF A SOFT CUDDLY TOY PERSUASION DOING DROPS IN AID OF VARIOUS CHARITIES FROM THE TOWER OF LOCAL PARISH CHURCHES.

That now appears to be Old Hat and the charity drops are going upmarket. Don Bagget sent word of a recent session in aid of Salisbury Distric Hospitals childrens ward which involved the furry wotsits shouting Geronimo from a platform on the front of Salisbury Cathedral. High church or what?

Actually each fauna has a for free jump, but each was expected to have £10 worth of sponsorship. No news of how much was raised, but we hope it was a few squids. If utilising the venerable fabric of the Cathedral was a first, hows about

Out of the heavens, the skydiving Archbishop

having the Mayor and Mayoress of Salisbury, Kevin & Jan Cardy no less, doing a promo for the event, cannot get much more up market than that.

AND HOT ON THE HEELS OF THAT EC-

CLESISIASTICALLY FLAVOURED CHARITY BASH, HOWS ABOUT THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK DOING A TANDEM JUMP IN AID OF ANOTHER CHARITY?

You've got to hand it to the Archbishop John Sentamu, he's a bit of a game geezer. Famous am- other things for cutting up his dog collar on Prime Time T.V. in protest against the Zimbabwean Tyrant, having his hair shaved off and camping out in a tent in York Minster. The Archbish aint in the usual mould of priests and thats a fact. Dr Sentamu jumped in tandem with Lance Corporal Lee Read of the Red Devils from a height of 13,000 ft. They free fell for abut a minute before landing safely at Langar Airfield, Notts. The Archbish said it was an amazing experience, very exhilarating, but confessed that he was doing some heavy duty praying during the descent. His jump was expected to raise about £75,000 for the Afghan Trust which helps the families of soldiers killed or wounded in the conflict.



BEAR MILES

1,000 in global teddy hunt



OPERATION BEAR NECESSITY INVOLVED AN ESTIMATED 1,000 PEOPLE AND LASTED 44 DAYS AND TOOK IN A JOURNEY OF ABOUT 3,000 MILES, BUT HEY WHO CARES IF THE END RESULT MEANS A YOUNG GIRL IS REUNITED WITH HER TEDDY BEAR.....

Young Jaimee Armstrong arrived home from a holiday in Spain only to discover that she had left her Bosom Buddy Orange Ted at Gerona Airport. Her Mum contacted the airport and yes the Ted had been handed in, but would have to be collected in person. Their travel agent sent out an S.O.S. to a 1,000 colleagues across the the globe to see if anyone was going to Gerona. there was, and Ted was picked up and taken on a two week driving holiday in Spain and France. Orange Ted was then handed over to another travel rep whose visiting parents flew back to North Yorkshire where finally they posted Orange Ted the 200 odd miles back to Jaimee in Burnham on Sea in Somerset. Wow that was some trip. Jaimee's Mum said that O.T. was a scruff, with only one eye, but meant the world to Jaimee.

YEA VERILY, THE FICKLE FINGER OF FATE POINTETH AND PUTS THE MOCKERS ON ANOTHER NOT SO WELL LAID PLAN, SO ONCE AGAIN ITS BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD.

Once upon a time the Silly Season was always in August. nowadays it seems as if the Silly Season can occur at any time of the year. Case in point is what happened recently in Canada where an attempt on the World Record Highest Parachute Descent had actually got as far as Balloon inflation.

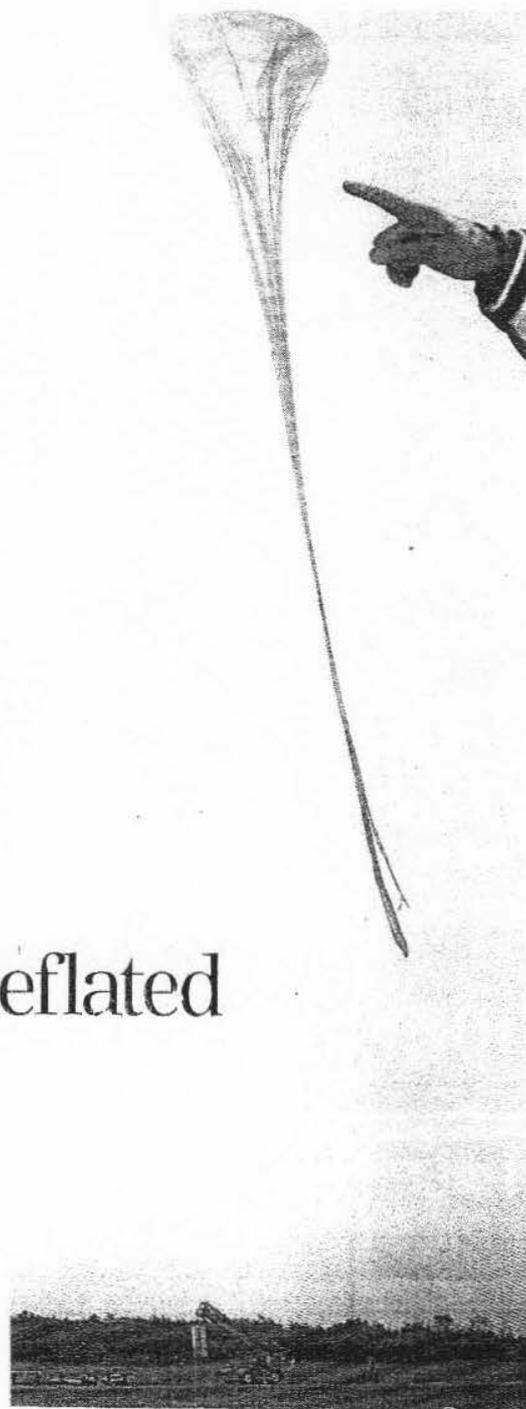
In recent issues we have made mention of the proposed Tourist Daredevil trips into space where the worst case scenario would involve an emergency jump thereby breaking the record and we also made mention of a British Proposal to just go for the record via a hoist with a Helium Balloon which would involve the longest freefall, the highest terminal speed and many other mindboggling crazy phenomena.

Whilst all the wishful thinking capers were being floated, it would appear that a Frenchman Michel Fournier had been planning for the last 20 years or more to do for real what others had been dreaming about. Over this period he estimated that it had cost him, wait for it, £10,000,000, holy cow.

Be that as it may, he had made attempts before in 2002 and 2003 but had been defeated when the wind ripped his fragile Balloon to bits.

Balloon rises ... pilot deflated

This time everything at the North Battleford site in Saskatchewan was looking good. The pressure capsule was ready as was the pilot, all that remained was to fill the £100,000 high tech Balloon canopy with Helium. this was proceeding when all of a sudden the Balloon broke free and did a proverbial runner. Oh dear, How sad, Never Mind. The remains of the Balloon were found some 20 odd miles away but was beyond repair. Perhaps its just as well that it all went a bit pearshaped, floating up to a height of about 25 miles before jumping and enduring a 15 min freefall in a spacesuit at a laughingly estimated terminal speed of 1,500 mph (yoo wot) is pushing your luck just a bit, even if you are French.



IT'S GERONIMOAK!

FOR A LOT OF OUR MEMBERS THIS IS WELL ALONG THE LINES OF BEEN THERE, SEEN IT, DONE IT, WORN THE OLD HAT AND GOT THE TEESHIRT.....

A Student who took up Skydiving to beat her fear of heights went Arboreal on her first solo jump when she landed in a tree after being blown away from her intended D.Z. Natalie G.... jumped from a height of 3,500 ft, but ended up being entangled in the branches of an oak tree some 60ft above the ground.

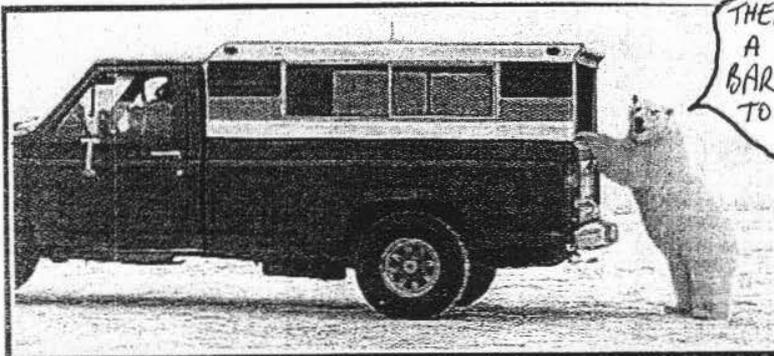
She was stuck up the tree for 90 minutes until two fire crews got her down by ladder near Cark airfield in Cumbria. Liverpool University student Natalie of Ormskirk Lancs said that the parachute jump was O.K. but being stuck up the tree was a bit scary, and what frightened her the most was hearing the fire engines and thinking, oh boy are they going to be mad at me. Has the tree caper put her off Parachuting? No said Natalie, now, I've really got the taste for it now.....

The cuteness stops at age four

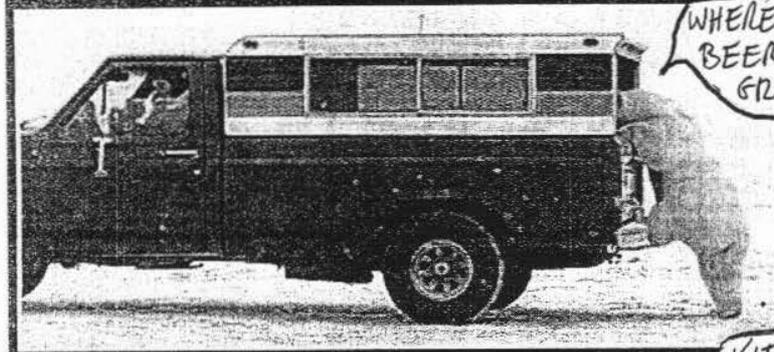
FOREMOST AMONG URSINE CHARACTERISTICS ARE SOLITARINESS, WRATHFULNESS AND PARANOIA. IT IS NOT FOR NOTHING THAT THE RUSSIAN NATION HAS LONG BEEN DEPICTED THUS, MAMA MIA!

However, according to Bears; a Brief History, by Bernd Brunner, Yale University Press, the Bear is the most fundamentally unknowable of all the wild creatures of the earth. Even more so when they discover Kites, Parachutes and Beer. All jokes aside are Bears anything to be frightened of? Well yes, and its not surprising really when you consider what humans over the years have done to Bearkind. A Bear will happily pursue you and rip your guts out most thoroughly, so on the whole its best to admire them from a great distance, and the Po-Faced Kites will surely drink to that.

PAW WHEEL DRIVE



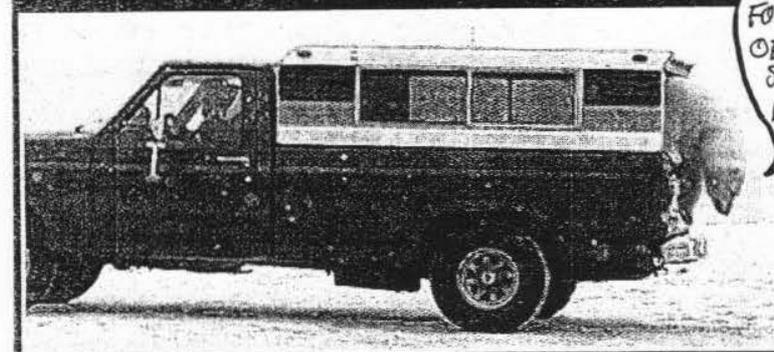
THESE ARE
A RIGHT
BARSTEWARD
TO BUMP
START



WHERE'S THE
BEER AND
GRUB?

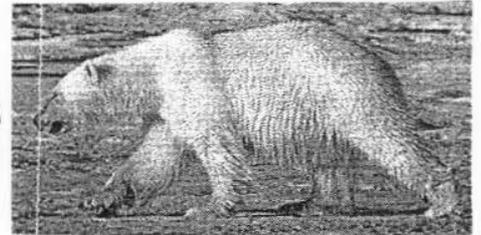


KITES, CHUTES
AND POT NOODLES
NO BEER



SOD THAT
FOR A GAME
OF TIN
SOLDIERS
I'M OFF

America puts polar bears on danger list



WELL, WADDYA KNOW. THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT POLAR BEARS ON THE THREATENED SPECIES LIST.

Not before time you might say after scientists warned that two thirds of the 25,000 Polar Bear poulation could be gone by 2050.

Mind you the U.S. interior secretary who announced the decision also said that it would be wholly inappropriate to introduce protection measures that harmed the U.S. economy. Earlier this year the administration had sold rights to drill for oil and gas off Alaska, home to 15,000 Polar Bears. Makes you think, more loss of habitat, who cares, its the pursuit of the almighty dollar.

Excelsior or Kapok, it matters not a Jot, doing a total from, oh 500, means you bounce a lot.

As ever its yoo know wot, to the yoo know where, The Teddytorial c/o The Boring Old Fart, 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7 7TY in what forever will be ENGLAND No Matter wot. Nice one Paddy for sticking it to 'em. They really needed that.....

July 2008		
11-13	Skegness Kite and XFest, BKSA Pro-Tour, North Beach, Skegness.	www.skegex.co.uk/ skegxfest@yahoo.co.uk
12-13	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	Brighton Kite Fliers
13	Bungay Kite Day, Outney Common, Bungay, Suffolk.	Andy King, 01986 895604
13	Catch The Wind, Morcombe	01524 831997
19-20	Hereford Kite Festival, National Trust, Berrington Hall, Nr Leominster, Hereford HR6 0DW	Karl Longbottom
20	Dunstable Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs.	Martin Corrie
26-27	Dover 2008 - Kite Festival, Tower Hamlets, Dover.	Gerty - 07941 519413
26-27	Silloth Kite Festival, Solway, Cumbria	peter.gilmour2@btinternet.com
August 2008		
3	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston	rotary@roystonkitefestival.org.uk
2-3	North Hampshire Kites Jolly-Up 3, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	Kites Up
9-10	Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX	Ron Dell
9-10	Coventry Kite Festival, Coombe Abbey Country Park, Brinklow Road, Warks.	M.K.F.
16-17	Kites over Capstone, Capstone Farm Country Park, Gillingham, Kent	Kristian.staples@medway.gov.uk
17	Hunstanton Kite Day, Norfolk.	Bryan Cattle
23-25	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
30-31	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol	Avril Baker
September 2008		
6-14	Dieppe International Kite Festival, France.	
14	Wakefield kite Festival, Heath Common, Wakefield, West Yorkshire	www.facelessco.com/
20-21	Big Sky International Kite Festival, Margate, Kent	The Kite Society
20-21	Essex Balloon and Kite Festival, Essex CANCELLED	
October 2008		
4	Sale Moor Kite Festival, Moor Nook Park, Sale Moor, Manchester	Catherine Perkin, VCAT, 359 Norris Road, Sale Moor M33 2UP

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Bryan Cattle	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
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NKG	Northern Kite Group		welbornkcc@aol.com
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Malcolm Goodman	Bluebell House, Market Place, Middleton in Teesdale, Co Durham, DL12 0QG	01833 640584	malcolm.goodman@virgin.net
Karl Longbottom	School House, Dorstone, Hereford HR3 6AN		karl@longbottom.org.uk