

THE KITEFLIER

ISSUE 90

JANUARY 2002

PRICE £2.00



**NEWSLETTER
OF
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT
BRITAIN**

POWER KITES. TRICK KITES. SPORTS KITES. DIAMOND KITES. ROKKAKUS. FUN KITES. KIDS KITES.

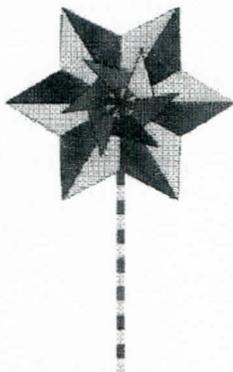
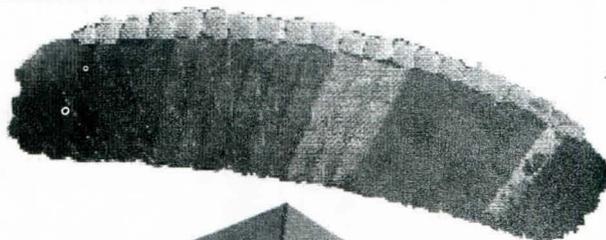
!!! MORE KITE PARTS THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT !!!



The one stop kite shop we have the lot !!

Phone; 01582 662779
Fax; 01582 666374

Email; kites@dunstable-kites.co.uk
Web; www.dunstable-kites.co.uk

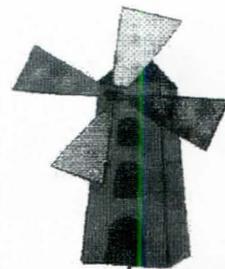
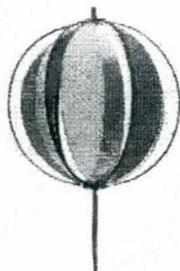
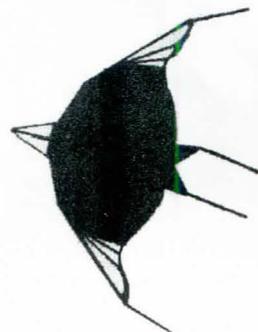


IT'S BACK "THE POPPER"
(designed by Pete Rondeau) is now available. Offers hours of fun as it climbs and descends your flying line easy to reset for quick turnarounds works great in multiples. Don't delay, order today to avoid disappointment and the rush for this most sought after bit of line laundry.



SPIRAGLYDE

*A new Ripstop nylon for the 21st century.
Now available in a range of 15 exciting colours.*



WINDSOCKS. WINDGAMES. BEACH SHELTERS.

RIPTOP. CARBON FIBRE. FIBRE GLASS. RMIN POWEL. LINE HANDLES. REPAIR TAPE. SEWING KITS.

The Kiteflieger, Issue 90

January 2002

Letters	4
Event News	5
P.K.A. Adventure	7
Light Up The Sky	8
Delta Delirium	10
Sled Kites	12
Weymouth Kite Festival	22
MKF Extra	23
Aerodyne	29
Roman Candle	35
Event Contacts	39
Events List	40

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 please 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	£10.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£11.00
O.A.P.	£8.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£9.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£12.00
Overseas - Airmail	£16.00



Editorial

Dear Readers

We wish you a Happy New Year and hope for good kite flying in 2002 with no kite events cancelled because of external factors.

We have a bumper article on sled kites from George Webster. We would like to thank him for the hard work and the opportunity to copy type 20+ pages of handwritten notes!

We are always looking for contributions. Remember we can take it in almost any format—

The Kite Society of Great Britain

P. O. Box 2274

Gt Horkelesley

Colchester

Essex

CO6 4AY

Tel/Fax: 01206 271489

Email: kites@thekitesociety.org.uk

<http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk>

including hand written, but if you do use a computer either email the article or send it on disc, this does save us having to type computer written articles!

The short item below caught our attention.

See you on the field somewhere.

Gill and Jon Bloom

Kites in Afghanistan



The fall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan meant that once again it was possible to fly kites. This had been previously banned by the Taliban Government.

The media reflected this with several reports both on television and radio. The radio 4 reporter in Kabul said "Sometimes it's the smallest things that you notice at a time like this. I'm surrounded by 20, maybe 30, children, smiling and laughing. One of them has a kite... "

Whilst some of the BBC war coverage highlighted a small boy flying a kite in Kabul as the Taliban repression apparently faded away.

**Front Cover Photo:
Children with their workshop sled kites at I field
School 'Kites Over Kent' event.
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.

And the Winner is?

Every year this pushy lady comes to England and sells raffle tickets to win registration to Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference. The drawing was Monday, November 5th and the Fort Worden board has two drawings, one for here and one for the USA. This year I was very happy to call another lucky winner and I don't think that Pete Dawson has quit laughing yet. I guess he never thought that he would go to Ron and Marla's and attend the kite makers conference.

We would like to thank everyone that bought a ticket (or two) and we are looking forward to the Dawson's visit and know that they will return with many wonderful memories and stories to share.

Someone might want to tell Pete, that Ron and I run the raffle at the conference and he should bring some extra money for that pushy lady to sell him some more tickets.

Thanks to you all, you're the best,

Marla and Ron Miller

Kites 2001 Video - Helen Ribchester

Thought you might be interested to know that we have created a compilation video of all the highlights from the kite festivals that we filmed at this year, which will soon be available from kite stores, or order from our website (below).

The video is 42 minutes long and covers kitesurfing, buggying, mountainboarding, single, dual and quad-line flying as well as mega-teams, Rokkaku fights, and more..

Full details at:

<http://www.aeolian.co.uk/kites/video/video01/kites2001.htm>

Recollections of 2001 - George Webster

Last season for me was full of gaps compared to 2000. No Old Warden (never no more!), no Edinburgh (better luck next time), no London (Hackney), no Brighton (couldn't go) and no Bristol (FMD). So I went to festivals I hadn't been to for years (eg Southampton and Shrewsbury) and some which were new (Oldham, Shipley and Hereford). As a result I have memories of some great flying and thought it was a good summer for weather – until Sunday at Portsmouth.

Shipley – the wind was really too strong but I flew some of Malcolm Goodman's kites and my new Joel Schulz Marilyn.

Oldham – was the first festival where I had to announce 'all kites down' due to a threat from thunderstorms.

Hereford – is a great site and friendly fliers.

Newark Showground – nice fliers, pity about the rest.

Not so many memories of new kites or fliers this year but: -

1 The superb design and craftsmanship of the Brassington kites at Weymouth and the Americans at Portsmouth.

2 The wonderful kites produced by the Japanese at Sunderland.

3 The regular teams seem to get better each year – and memories of the Decs fade – and the club spots (Whitehorse, AKF, NEKF) are fuller but there was one newcomer this year – Zoone (correctly Collectif Zoone) is a French team whose literature can be a bit difficult. For example 'The more naive observers thought they were seeing kites, the more incredulous were offended by this unnatural zoo. But in other lands and other eras, nature has been able to create just about anything'.

But the kites! I'd seen the pod shaped Sentinelle and the elegant birds at Dieppe but not Furax and the amazing Raymond. We need photos. Zoone were first at Cleethorpes, then Basingstoke and finally Portsmouth. A loop of Sentinelles (3m white pods) look like slits in a blue sky, the birds are great to play with in light winds, Furax gets up in a breeze and Raymond walks. Much of it is done by children from the crowd.

So next season gets closer and I'm impatient. Just one question – Rolf Zimmermann can make lobsters, starfish and seahorses that fly. Why not crabs?

September 11th - Paul Reynolds

As always I read the recent edition of The Kiteflier with interest. Like you I felt that One Sky One World was strangely relevant after the tragic events in the USA.

This was made all the more relevant when I heard the news about Sandy Gibian's nephew Daniel Lee. I am sure that you and many members of the Kite Society remember Ron & Sandy Gibian who came over to England (at your invitation) five or 6 years ago. There kites are renowned for the beautiful colours that they choose, the striking designs and the incredible workmanship. Very sadly Sandy's nephew was lost on the first plane to hit the World Trade Centre.

He worked with bands and was temporarily based in Boston. He was flying

back to LA to be with his wife who was booked in to have a Caesarian on the 13th. No words can express the extent of this tragedy, a baby being born into a world with no father.

I spent 14th October at the European Cup in Gosport. Around 1.30 in the afternoon 80 or 90 kites took to the sky to promote One Sky one World. The purpose of increasing understanding between all peoples of the world is more important today than ever before. My sympathies and condolences go out to Ron and Sandy as well as of course Daniel Lee's wife, child and relatives

Middle Wallop Kite Festival

On the A343 Andover to Salisbury Road (Hampshire). 10 am to 5 pm both days.

Next year we have been able to arrange two events, the first one being

May 25th & 26th 2002, and the second one being **August 10th & 11th 2002**.

We have managed to keep the entrance fee of £2 a person (children under 16 get in for free, and the money goes to the upkeep of the Flying Museum-the same as in previous years). Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings for a small fee, in the designated area, for those who want to stay on site.

There will be a licensed Bar, with reasonable prices (including soft drinks and nibbles), as well as food traders, one of which stays open for as long as needed-for those of you who have been before, you

know George well! As I'm sure a lot of you already know, there are 800 acres of flying space--England's Largest Lawn!, of which some will be allocated for buggying (please adhere to this!). Providing you have B.B.C. Insurance, there will be no charge-FREE-to buggy. We will have a Kite Workshop for the kids, parachuting teddy bears, we hope to have a round of the STACK League, tandem buggy rides, and a general fly for all, no arenas, just lots of space.

For all you single line fliers, bring your kites-large or small-and lets fill the sky with colours!

Please come along and give us your support again, and look forward to seeing you there!!!

Contact Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487 or Mike Shaw (BBC) 07768 765887 for any further details.

Oxford Balloon & Kite Fiesta - 11th & 12th May

A new festival for your diaries, with the loss of the use of Science Museum at Wroughton, the White Horse Kite flyers have excepted an invitation to organise a kite festival to run alongside the Oxford Balloon Fiesta. The venue for this event is Cutteslowe Park, Oxford. This is a very large park that is adjacent to the A40, so should be very easy to find! Entrance for kite flyers will be free, on production of a free pass that will be in the next issue of "Cowpat" and "Kiteflier" magazines, plus a valid kite club membership card! Camping & Caravanning will be available on-site, again you will need a pass, this pass will be available from March, by sending a SAE to: White Horse Kite Flyers, PO Box 585, Swindon, SN3 4YR.

This festival will be in the format of past WHKF events, that is with the emphasis being on kite flyer's enjoying themselves, plus of course entertaining the public, incidentally there will be lots of those, last year the event attracted in excess of 20,000 on one day alone!

All of the fine detail is still to be sorted out, so please look for more detail in the next issues of the Cowpat & Kiteflier.

Regards
David Robinson

Kite Day, Wellington Country Park - 7th April

Come along and join in the fun again at Wellington Country Park, off the A33 Basingstoke to Reading road, for a Kite Flying Day.

There is an entrance fee to the Park, although this will be discounted on production of a Kite Society Membership card.

The Park is scenic with flying spaces, pic-

nic sites, a restaurant and disabled access.

Camping is available, please contact 01189 326444 for more details.

For any further details, please contact: Roy, at Kites Up, 01256 812487 roy@kitesup.co.uk

Teston Bridge Kite Weekends, Maidstone Kent.

June 15th & 16th
August 10th & 11th

We have been looking through some old files and found a poster of the first Teston we attended. It was on the 20th & 21st August, unfortunately it was not dated with the year but with some paper work dated 1988 so we think that is about right. Just after Kiteability opened its doors in 1987.

So that means it will be the 14th year for our little Teston and still going strong thanks to you for supporting us. So do come along, business as usual, nice relaxing weekend, it is not compulsory to fly, sit around, fly a kite, whatever, in the lovely Kent countryside ...

Pat and Ron, Kiteability 020 8804 9080.

Hunstanton Kite and Classic Car display - September 1st

Smithdon School, Hunstanton, Norfolk. The festival has moved forward one week from its normal date, so as not to clash with the Bristol festival. All the usual events will take place including a craft fair, classic cars and motor cycles, refreshments plus the arena events and much more.

More details nearer the date. For further information:

Kites: Bryan Cattle 01223 243825. Stalls etc: Ron King 01485 572032.

Dieppe International Kite Festival.

The latest information we have is that the festival is taking place 7th - 15th September with a competition theme of "Myths and Legends".

There will be more information as we get it.

3rd Beacon Kite Festival

Just to let you know the dates of the 3rd Beacon Kite Festival, Beacon country Park Nr Wigan / Skelmersdale.

The dates are Sat 8th and Sun 9th June 2002. E-mail me for info or see the webpage <http://www.ste-aspey.freereserve.co.uk/beacon.htm>.

Email: ste.ve@ste-aspey.freereserve.co.uk.

Streatham Common Kite Day - 21st April

Its our 5th Streatham Common Kite Day. Hope you can all make it again for a day of family and Kite Flying fun 21st April 2002 10am till dusk everyone is welcome single/multi line kites demonstrations.

Thanks for supporting us in the past we hope to be bigger and better this year.

Food and drink available locally. Please contact me for more details bob-colover@easynet.co.uk or phone 020 8764 9655. Website/travel details at <http://www.reeddesign.co.uk/streatham.htm>.

Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend - 1st—4th June

Venue is the same as before. Camping will be from Friday 31st May to Wednesday 5th June with access from 4:00 pm, cost £2-50 per unit per night.

Swimming pool, B-B-Q and facilities (extra toilets) same as before but we would like an idea of numbers for the b.b.q. by the middle of May.

For new visitors the site is almost adjacent to junction 9 M5 motorway and

will be sign posted on the weekend.

Contact is Neville Wing at 9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury Glos GL20 8QX. Telephone 01684 295132. or by e-mail neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk.

Full details and info. will soon be on our web site www.tkfw.co.uk

Colchester Kite Festival - 15th & 16th June

In Support of St Helena Hospice. The Colchester Kite Festival will be held over the weekend of June 15th and 16th at Abbey Fields. This is a great venue, not far from the centre of Britain's oldest recorded town. The use of Abbey Fields has kindly been provided by the Colchester Garrison's Sergeant Major. It's an ideal spot within the town's Army garrison and is easy to reach by road or public transport.

The festival will feature a full arena flying programme on each day with entertainment planned for the whole family. Arena commentary will be provided by the excellent services of Paul and Kay Redhead, planned arena displays include Team Spectrum, Team Adrenalize with a display of manlifting, Sweet drops for the children and adults, competitions, fighter kites and lots more, kite trade stands, craft stalls, refreshments and beer tent.

Limited overnight camping will be available for KSGB members (please register for a camping pass, a small donation to the Hospice will be required on arrival).

Most importantly the festival is being organised to support the wonderful work carried out by St Helena Hospice, so mark this one down in the diary now and it will be a weekend to remember!

Stephen Howard
www.kiteworld.co.uk
sales@kiteworld.co.uk

Force Nine Kites, 40—42 High Street, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 1UQ. Tel: 01255 221059

UK One Sky One World - Jim Cronin

Now has a new home...

I started collecting OSOW information, and publishing it on the "web" at www.jims-place.net, in 1999 – after discovering that no one seemed to know what happened to UK event results each year.

There is now a similar site for Canada, and another for Germany. I'd like to think I played a small part in this, I am very happy to see a gradual resurgence of interest in OSOW and thank those who take the trouble to supply me with OSOW venue details and results each year. I just know there must be some I don't know about though...

I always said that if things went ok with the site, I would splash out on an appropriate domain name – so I have! UK OSOW event info can now be found at www.osow.org.uk As an added bonus, if you knock the ".uk" off the end - you'll go to the main OSOW site in the USA. Clever stuff!

The old address "jims-place.net" will still work for a while, but if you have bookmarks or links to my site please change to the new address as soon as is convenient.

I apologise to those not "on the net" for the above techno

babble but please, if you're running an OSOW event next year and don't have net access, send me the venue details as early as possible and I'll advertise it on the site. After the event send me the number of kites flown and the number of people attending – I'll put those on too.

If anyone wants event details and can't get to the website send an s.a.e. with your request and I'll send a printout, or give me a fax number and I'll fax it.

Methods of contacting me are many and varied:

Email - jim@osow.org.uk or jim@thunderchild.org.uk
Mobile – 07831 396141
Fax – 024 7633 8979

Post – 72 Addison Road Coventry CV6 2JN

Good flying – and please don't forget me when planning your next OSOW event!

P.K.A. Adventure - Joe Brown

I awoke early Thursday morning knowing that I was to have the next few days away from work WOOHOO!

Anyway so I go through my mental checklist making sure I had everything I needed, I was surprised when I looked at the amount of stuff I have dumped in a heap before me who would have thought a buggying weekend would take so much!

Promptly at 11 o'clock my buggying companion arrived (step forward Gary Tyrrell) we would spend the best part of the next four days together. I was amazed at the amount of equipment + beer he already had in his car, Oh well! throw it all in and let's go.

Four hours later we arrived in Pembrey and promptly started to get ready to go buggying. We walked to the beach with buggys in tow and as we approached the opening I was blown away by the sheer size of the beach and also the fact that we had to start buggying a further kilometre and a half away due to certain restrictions on the beach, oh well nice day for a walk. A further fifteen minutes later we had finally got to where everybody else had set up and although it was Thursday the amount of people that had made the journey up the beach was outstanding.

Everybody that I met greeted me with the warmest of welcomes, and so the rest of the day was spent buggying and meeting many of the P.K.A. officials.

Friday morning came and I woke to the news that it was going to be a terrible day in terms of the weather, a quick look outside confirmed my fears, it was raining! Oh well after a hearty breakfast we made our way to the car park, and we found that even though it was pouring with rain many of the buggiers were still venturing out! Well around half twelve the sun finally made an appearance and once more we ventured down after a quick jaunt up the beach. Well I say jaunt we actually stood on the back axle of the buggys and rode chariot style up the beach, the wind being strong enough to just blow us along, we declared that it was two-metre kite weather, so after each race in the mini series I ventured out and had probably one of the best buggying days in my short buggying life. I must admit I'm thankful for P.K.A. rules after I had been pulled out of my buggy and it had hit me on the back of my head, OUCH! luckily I had my helmet on!

Unfortunately I wasn't the only person to get hurt, unluckily a nasty gust got the better of Paul Graham which left him with a broken arm. Paul as many people know organised the

Last Gasp event this year and it was very sad for this to happen to him at his own event which I'm sure had him head scratching a lot to get it all together, thanks Paul.

Six o'clock, time to pack up, head for the showers and get drunk, around about nine o'clock Paul Graham and Amanda remade an appearance to a round of applause and cheers from the crowd.

Paul now qualifies for a I DIDN'T MAKE THE LAST GASP 2001 T-shirt! A good night followed and I made a lot of new friends that night all offering me useful tips on buggying, but I still don't understand how so many of you can drink that much tequila and still get up in the morning! Well on the following day two remaining nameless people didn't make it to the beach at all!!!!!!

Saturday morning the day of the Last Gasp enduro race arrived with a dry throat, slight headache, and NO wind - what a nightmare.

Down to the beach once more this time with a two kilometre walk to the start gate of the race. We arrived at one thirty the race had already been running for half an hour, we set up and tried some of our larger kites out but unless the wind picked up we were not going anywhere. Well two hours on the race was still going, many of the group had made quite a few laps but we still had no chance better luck next year. Half past five came and we decide to call it a day and head back to the car park, what a long walk!

At half past seven, we got to the Farmer's Arms for the presentation of the prizes; I recommend the mixed grill at the Farmer's Arms it's delicious.

Anyway after the meal and a few drinks we got down to the business of the awards ceremony for the weekend. I was there to represent my company as we are one of the sponsors of the event (Dunstable Kites) and to hand out some of the prizes, I hope you like the t-shirts.

Congratulations to everybody who took part in the weekend and my membership application is in the post! I must admit I have never found a more friendly bunch of people and I look forward to doing it all again!

Last but not least a big thanks to Gary Tyrrell for putting up with me and for letting me join him on this trip, to Paul Graham for all his valiant effort along the weekend, and to all of those in the P.K.A. who allowed me to annoy them asking them questions and allowing me to join in with a great event.

See you all again soon

Web Items

Kite Club of Scotland have a new web site at www.kcos.net They have event and schedule details, contact information, a gallery, links, membership details, an interactive membership application helper and more. Any links will be happily returned!

Kite Classifieds Neil Carter writes: I thought it about time there was a decent UK based kite classifieds site. The site I have created allows pictures to be uploaded which I think is essential. It also allows you to set up a number of search agents that will email you when an advert matching your search criteria is posted. I have also set it up so that you do not have to give any detailed personal information, including your email address. The site will email you with the buyers message to avoid spam bots harvesting email addresses. The site is also not connected with any kite stores and is designed to be, and stay free.

The site can be found at www.kite-classifieds.co.uk

Kite Gallery. Robert Valkenburg writes: I would like to invite you all to write a kite-related poem, short story, limerick or haiku, and send it to me, so I can put them on the Kiteflyers Poetry Page on my website. I would be grateful if you could find the time to visit my pages, have a look around and participate in this worldwide collection of thoughts and feelings. Eagerly awaiting your contributions, I wish you all: Good Winds and Good Luck !!

Robert The Wind Gallery; Aerial and Aeolian Displays. Robert and Heleen - the Netherlands tel/fax; +31 (0)73 6417021 robert@windgallery.com; heleen@Doei.net www.windgallery.com

Skyblooms—specialist maker of spectacular windsocks and banners has moved their web site to www.skyblooms.co.uk.

Email: gill@skyblooms.co.uk

Light Up the Sky - Report by Lloyd Kirton

Light Up The Sky – well I think we did, and what a great start to what I hope will become a new annual event. In all 8 clubs took part -



The Midlands Kite Fliers at two sites, Shipley (£72.68) and Baxterley (£35.00).
 Chale Kite Fliers, Isle of Wight (£40.00)
 Loddon Valley Kite Fliers (£72.00)
 South Eastern Kite Society (£41.00)
 Suffolk Kite Flyers & Thorpe Kite Flyers (£60.00)
 Golden Valley Kite Fliers (£231.00)
 Solent Kite Fliers (£42.34)



The evening of the event proved to be a windless affair, but as you will read, they all had a lot of fun. Over the next two pages are letters I received from some that took part. I won't add to their comments other than to say a big thank you for helping and supporting me with this event

Loddon Valley Kite Fliers

It wasn't a complete failure, but not far off.....Absolutely NO wind, but it was dry, if cold. Despite posters in both Aldershot and Farnborough libraries and a mention on the local radio station's charity link, and my postings on rec.kites, I was the only flier. My wife and one son were there, along with four from Blackwater Valley Scout Fellowship (one with grandchildren), and one of my work colleagues, with his grandchildren. We were almost equalled by the Council's three security staff!

LVKF were unable to make it, Roy Broadley had a prior commitment, Nick and Mark were in the warm (Spain I think) and Al Cosgrove is working away.

I had five kites rigged, but only managed to fly three. 8 foot delta with fibre lights (from Dunstable Kites). Managed to get the battery pack at a critical point, and after running to get it to about 20 feet, it magicked itself into a hang glider and started chasing me across the field! 8 foot rok with 40 flashing fairy lights and a 5 foot mylar delta. No lights, but reflective patches to form eyes and mouth; very effective when anyone shines a torch at it, I could walk this one around, with various grandchildren in pursuit like an airborne piper.

BUT the good side is that my sponsorship is around £70, with a little more to come, plus my donation. My son, who has just got himself a 6.3mm2 Arc, thought it was a good idea, and is looking forward to something similar next year, but I think

that we want to start earlier and somehow co-ordinate the publicity. I think it was a brilliant idea, and that we should build on our successes of this year. Well done!

Roy Martin

•••

Solent Kite Fliers

Thank you for the idea and for making all the initial arrangements for this event. I hope that the feedback you get is positive. For your information, Solent Kite Flyers arranged a Light Up The Sky flying evening on Friday in Southampton on our Festival site and we managed to raise £42.34 towards the Children In Need Appeal, the cheques for this I have posted off this morning as you suggested. We actually had 6 kites flying at any one time in a fairly light breeze which came up at approx. 7.10pm and then died away about 9.15pm. Nothing so we were very lucky. I see no reason why this cannot become an annual fund raising event and all at SKF will help as best we can.

Hope you had a good evenings flying and best wishes for the coming year.

Regards, **Michael Lowe**.
 Secretary, Solent kite Flyers.

•••

Light up the Sky, Baxterley.

A great start to an annual event—I hope! I arrived on site to find kites lit up ready to fly.

My contribution was far too heavy for the light wind, but I was able to loan an Indian from Graham which was great fun with a flood light. Tried a team kite which David had lit up, hard

work in no wind but lots of fun.

Thank you Lloyd for an event which should run as part of the events calendar, great to speak to the pals at Shipley, maybe we could use a site where the public can support and donate money.

Can we have another night fly after xmas ?

Great total for the night.

Alan Bill

•••

Light up the Sky, Shipley Park

After what seemed a longer journey than normal, we arrived at Shipley Park at 7.15ish. On approaching the car park a delta could be seen in the air with lights flashing but little else seemed to be flying. The first members we met were Ann & Eddie Megrath and Alan Poxon. We decided first to visit the cafe and then to fly (Doug could only watch). On returning to the kite field there were a number of kites on display with lights on the ground, most of these lighting systems seemed to have been made by Mike Sherwood and were very effective.

The members were all very keen to get their kites in the air. Long launches were tried and kites went up but did not stay up for long and the mud underfoot made movement on the ground difficult. A good time was had by all.

I was disappointed to see so few members participating, I always believed the Derby area to be one of the main areas for MKF members.

Light Up the Sky - Report by Lloyd Kirton

Linda Richardson

•••

Suffolk Kite Flyers

Due to a lack of wind, about 2-3 miles per hour not many flyers turned up. However about 12 people did make the effort and we managed to fly 12ft delta's or bigger. We all had a great time including a fish and chip supper not to mention the beer!

We have raised £40-00 for Children In Need which all goes towards helping this very worthwhile charity event. As they say every little helps. Great idea and lets do the same again next year and hope the wind is a bit kinder.

Kind regards **Martin Corrie**
Chairman Suffolk Kite Flyers

•••

Chale Kite Fliers

Early in the day it was really still and we thought not again as we seem to fated with lack of wind on organised events. But NO we started setting up the floodlights and safety fencing about 3pm and the wind was a good force 2-3 north easterly and we thought great!

When we started setting up the kites we thought this wind is getting a bit strong and COLD. By 7pm it was a force 5 and biting so much so that when we tried the 'revs', with the special light sets that I had made, it was far too strong and we couldn't control them.

The single liners that I had set, lit from the floods were pulling the anchors out of the ground. In the end the only thing that we could sensibly do was to buggy

Light Up The Sky
raised a total of
£594.02
For
Children in Need
Thank You

with a 2.5, kite and even this was a bit hairy.

Consequently the attendance was not very good, we only had about 10 people turn up and watch, one guy did try flying his son's Extro but got put off when he was all but dragged across the field. In the end we raised about £40, which was not bad for an hour of having fun.

All the very best

Peter Atkinson

•••

South Eastern Kite Society

No wind and light drizzle. Even so we had a reasonable turnout, and at one point managed to get 3 kites into the sky, through lots of running around. We managed to raise £41 all told, and yes we plan to do it all again for the local children's hospice.

Many thanks to all that supported this event.
COMING SOON
Light Up The Sky event
Spring 2002

Tight lines, etc.

Gareth Williams

•••

Golden Valley Kite Fliers

Not bad, was it?

Tewkesbury raised £231 - Not enough wind for teddy bunging so we rigged up a line between two trees. Quite a few kites up, but a fair bit of work was needed to keep them in the air. A lot of the public brought sponsored teddies - a poster was sent to local schools and press.

We've done a teddy drop there before, so we had a light line strung between the trees already. I fished the line down with a fighter kite, intending to pull up a heavier line, but it broke! A large delta was used with a line attached to the tail, flown higher than the trees, then pulled down over the top of the trees, then just use the trailing line to pull the heavy line over the top, tying to a car at each end.

The pulley for the teddy drop was tied to the heavy line before tensioning. Everything else was just long launched with a fair bit of running! The Peter Lynn Pilot was the most difficult to launch, as you can't drag that very far! When it was up though, I reckon we could have dropped from it.

As for next year - ask in about 10 months time!

Paul Scofield

Fancy taking part in another Light Up The Sky event in the spring ???

I'm currently looking into the possibilities of an event to be held at Coventry on the same site that we hold the Coventry Kite Festival. But before any major planning can take place I need some idea as to how many people would support this event. This would be an open invitation to all UK clubs that wanted to take part.

The charity to benefit from this event would perhaps be *Guide Dogs for the blind*. Blind people cannot enjoy our hobby like we can, but we can use our hobby to give something to them. The figure to train a guide dog is around £3600 which is quite a large amount. I'm sure we could help towards this cost with a Light Up The Sky event. If you would like to pledge your support for this event please contact me at:

Lloyd Kirton l.kirton@ntlworld.com or 02476 732083

Delta Delirium - Barbara Meyer

Barbara Meyer was one of the invited American kitefliers who came to Portsmouth last year. She specialises in patchwork. This is one of the kites she uses in her workshops. Email: ajm01@mn.mediaone.net

MAKING A DELTA SLED

- 1) A delta sled is a wonderful light wind flyer. Unlike a genki, it won't ride the thermals and come crashing down. It does not need tails, but looks wonderful with them. .
- 2) I use the Tony Cyphert delta formulas as laid out in Margaret Greger's book, "Kites for Everyone". Then I modify as suggested by Neil Thorburn in his "SuperKites"
- 3) First draw your wing and keel full size on paper.

- 4) The length of the bottom edge is the same as the vertical spar, in our case 48". A long ruler is extremely helpful. Just place one end at the center edge, and then move up the desired amount from the horizontal.
- 5) Typically I will move the bottom edge up 8" from horizontal. This shortens the leading edge, shortens the wing spar, but keeps the area the same.

- 6) Now add a 1/4" seam allowance to the center line; 1/2" hem to the bottom; and 1.5" to the leading edge for the tunnel. (leading edge pocket) To the keel dimensions add 1/2" hems to the 2 outside edges, and 1/4" to the seam that joins the keel to the kite.

ASSUMPTIONS

- 1) Consistency is very im-

portant, the wings need to be the same size.

- 2) Use 1/4" seams.
- 3) Use 1/2" hems.
- 4) Backstitch when the first sewing line will not be

crossed by another sewn line.

- 5) I put the leading edge of the wing on the straight of grain. The vertical (AB) of the keel should

also be on the straight of grain.

- 6) This kite is sparrred for light to medium winds.

MATERIALS

- 2 wings
- 2 keels
- 1 center panel, 16.5" x 50" (will trim to fit)
- 1" x 20" strip of ripstop for tabs
- 2" x 5" piece of ripstop for spreader bar tunnel
- 4 pockets 1" x 3" Dacron
- 2 split rings #8 (.484" OD)

- (for spreader bar attachment)
- 1 split ring #7 (.43"OD) (tow point)
- 2 arrow nocks
- 2 spars, wood 5/16" (8mm) x 48"
- 2 spars, wood 5/16" x 44"
- 1 spar, epoxy G50 (.317" OD x .266" ID) filament wound

- epoxy x 56" with ferrules as needed (fibre glass or carbon)
- 8 end caps 5/16"
- 12' bridle line, 100#
- 4' line for tail loops, 50#

CONSTRUCTION

Tabs for Keels and Pockets

- 1) Get a 1" wide strip in the colour(s) of your choice.

Strips need to total 20".

- 2) Fold in half, open then fold edges to center, and finally refold down the center.
- 3) You will have a strip 1/4" wide, 4 layers thick.
- 4) Stitch down the length of the strip. Start in about 1" from the end. Hold both thread tails while starting.
- 5) Cut 2 - 3" pieces for the bridle attachment points on the keel.
- 6) Cut 2 - 6" pieces for the spreader attachment points on the wings.

- 7) Or, you can substitute 1/4" grosgrain ribbon.

Keel

- 1) Hem 2 outside edges with 1/2" hem. Fold under 1/4", then fold again. Stitch around. I use a 2.5 x 2.5 zigzag.
- 2) Trim points after double checking that the correct 2 edges were hemmed.
- 3) Take 1 - 1/4" x 3" tab piece, fold in half. Position at upper point of keel so that fold extends about 1/2" beyond point, stitch down securely.

Wings

- 1) Check wings against pattern make sure they are the same size.
- 2) Mark the hem, the center, and the outside edge. Make sure you have a left and a right wing.
- 3) Mark 1/4" and 1.5" in from the outside wing edge. (leading edge)
- 4) Fold on 1.5" line and crease well. Starting in the middle pin about halfway between fold and edge.
- 5) Use plenty of pins. This

Delta Delirium - Barbara Meyer

- need to lay flat, and tends to creep as you sew it.
- 6) Do not sew the last 3" at the top. This is where you insert the wing spars.
 - 7) Sew on the 1/4" line.
 - 8) Make sure you have a right and a left wing. Check to see they are still the same size.
 - 9) Hem the bottom edge with a 1/2" hem. Include the tail attachment loop at the outer point. This is a 12" piece of 50# line tied into a loop. Check to see they are still the same size.
 - 10) Mark position of spreader. Lay your wing over the pattern or measure up 27.5" on the center, mark, then extend line to wing outer edge. I use chalk.
 - 11) Fold the 1/4" x 6" tab piece in half, place on chalk line so the fold just extends past the sail.
 - 12) Stitch along the wing edge through both layers of the tab. Remember you have to put a split ring into this loop. Be sure to backstitch.
 - 13) Sew over tab along previous stitching line.
 - 14) Put #8 split ring into loop.

- 15) Cut 2 more 12" pieces of 50# line. Tie each into a loop. Place one at the hemline of each wing in the center seam area.
- 16) Measure the center seam so you can trim your center panel.

Centre Panel

- 1) Panel is 16.5" x 50". Hem one 16.5" end with a 1/2" hem.
- 2) Check length of panel against wing.
- 3) Remember to allow for a 1/2" hem, trim as needed.
- 4) Decide which end is the bottom of kite.
- 5) Measure 27.5" up and mark with chalk. Also find the center of the panel and mark. This is where the spreader bar will cross
- 6) Position the 2" x 5" piece over your chalk marks to make a tunnel. Use the 1/4" double stick tape to hold down one edge while you sew it

Joining Together

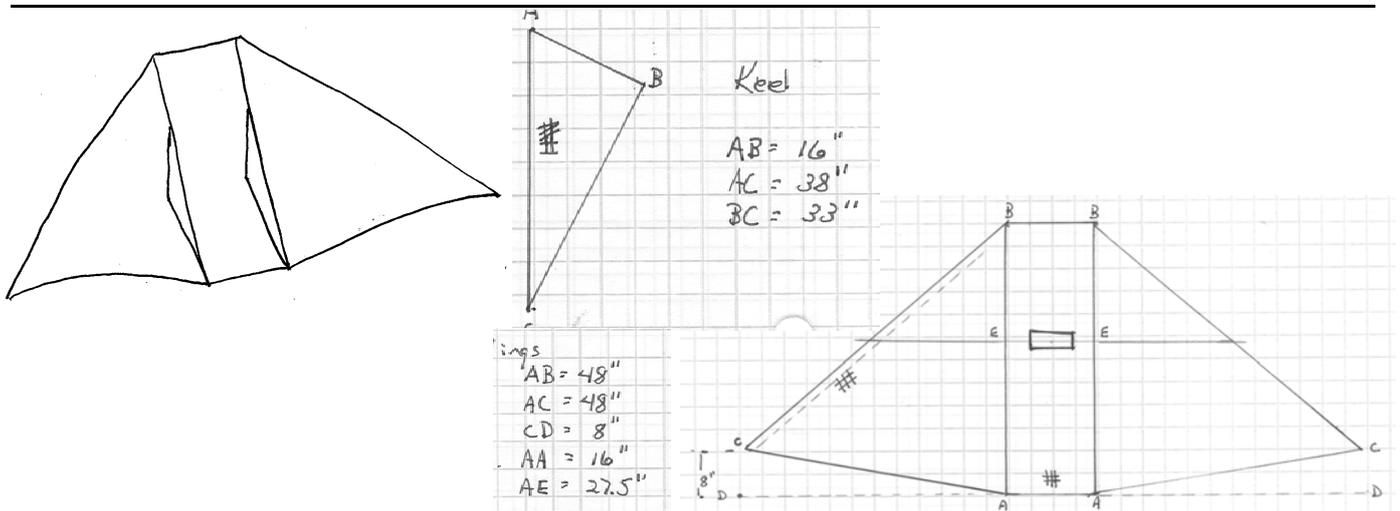
- 1) Baste keels to center panel. Place one on each side, positioned so the narrow point is at the very bottom of the panel.
- 2) Sew wings to the panel/keel assembly. First

straight stitch using a 1/4" seam. Push seam allowance towards panel, zigzag down, be careful not to sew over keel.

- 3) Fold the 4 pieces of Dacron to form the pockets. Sew at the top and bottom corners of the center panel. Make sure the opening faces the center of the kite.

Final Assembly

- 1) Put end caps on each end of the 44" wood spars. Slide these into the outside wings. Push to the bottom.
- 2) Fit the 48" spars into the center panel pockets. You may have to trim a little. Put end caps on each end.
- 3) Glue an arrow nock into one end of the G50 epoxy spar. Trim the other end to fit. I fly this kite almost flat, not with a pronounced dihedral.
- 4) Tie the 12' bridle line to the keels. Find the center point and larkshead a split ring on. You may have to slightly adjust after flight.
- 5) GO FLY A KITE!!!



Sled Kites - George Webster

1 Introduction

Having written about delta kites for this magazine, I thought it would be interesting to do the same sort of thing for sleds. They are the second of the three types of kite types developed in the USA in the period 1948 – 1963 which were mentioned in that article. They are the most common single type of kite seen at the larger kite festivals because of their popularity with kite workshops, yet you rarely see a 'serious' flier having made a sled as a 'show kite'. This seems to reflect the position of the sled kite right from its inception; unlike the delta (hang gliding) or the soft foil (parachutes), sleds have had few 'non-toy' applications – yet they have an interesting place in kite development. Perhaps there is a common thread in the three kite types; all use the wind to form the flying shape of the kite – in the delta via the flexible spreader connections, in the parafoils to inflate the shape with lift and in the sled to keep the canopy open.

Again this article doesn't set out to guide someone new to kite building as to how it should be done. There are a few detailed plans and I have given a fair number of plan shapes which

would allow a reader with some experience to build the kite. Simple sleds are notorious as the kite design where a rough cut shape and clumsily stuck on spars can out fly a more carefully made example. In fact it sometimes seems that there are only four rules:

- Try for symmetry
- Make sure the bridle point is 25-30% from the leading edge
- Have each bridle leg at least 3 times the width of the kite
- Use light tails attached to the bottom of the spars to sort it all out.

I have expanded the references this time as there are more reasonably current books that cover the subject – where a name is in capitals (eg PELHAM) it will be in the bibliography. The diagrams drawn by me are not to scale.

Definition (if we must have one)
A sled kite has a canopy stiffened only from front to back. There will be a minimum of two stiffeners which may be rods, air filled tubes or even folds in the canopy material.

2 History

There is really no doubt that the sled was invented by William M. Allison, a Canadian who lived most of his life in Dayton, Ohio – home of the Wright brothers. But even though it all happened in the last 50 years there is still some confusion; the term 'Scott Sled' is found being used for sleds in general and it is even said that Frank Scott (also of Dayton) developed his kite independently. In the same City? In the same decade?

William M. Allison developed his 'Polymorphic Kite' in the 1940's,

applied for a patent in 1950 which was granted in 1956. 'Polymorphic' means 'taking several different forms' and was probably not the marketing man's first choice. Allison seems to have been a retiring man, employed in maintenance, who died in 1978. The kite (Diagram A) was generally, as we know a sled except that it had three spars (nowadays it is usually two spars per unit) and the outside spars tapered the canopy front to back.

Allison kites were made and old,

Diagram A - Allison's Polymorphic Kite 1950

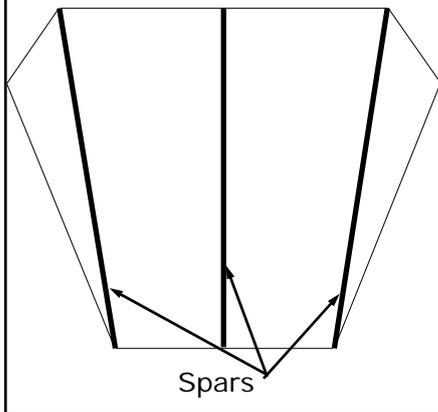


Diagram B - The Scott Sled

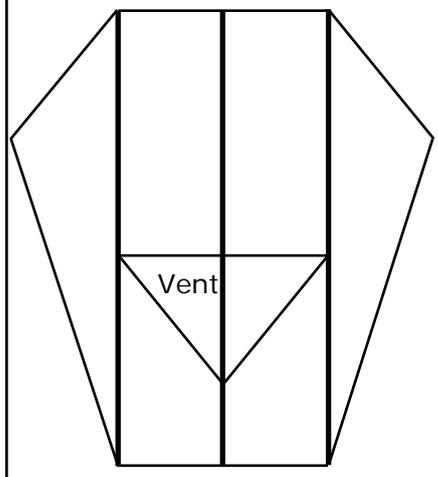
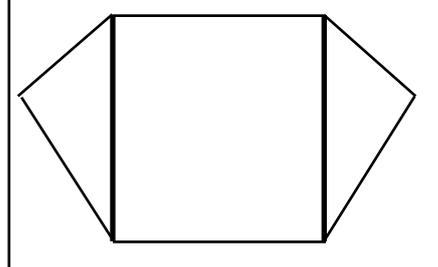


Diagram C - A Standard Two Stick Sled



Sled Kites - George Webster

but undoubtedly sleds became widely known after the intervention in 1961/62 of Frank Scott, a well known aero modeller. According to him he saw an advert in a model aircraft magazine but couldn't get an accurate view of the kite so he built his own – still 3 longerons but now parallel with a triangular hole in the canopy (Diagram B).

That is the history from, for example, MAXWELL EDEN. However, in Allison's obituary in *Kitelines* (Winter 1979/80) his son maintains that Frank Scott found an Allison kite in the street and 'cut a hole out of it and made a very erratic kite out of a very stable kite'.

Frank Scott's father Walter

Scott was a well known kite flier who, amongst other exploits, launched kites to traverse the Atlantic. They were launched from Nantucket, each towing a half filled bucket as a sea anchor, and it was claimed that one reached 'Fistral Beach, Cornwall'? He built and sent sleds as gifts to a wide range of friends several of them kite fliers. Walter Scott made sledges (called sleds in the USA) and the kite was called a 'Scott Flexible Flyer'. This was the brand name of a very popular child's sledge – and the kite was a Flexible Flier. This seems a good explanation of the name sled – arguments such as 'it has two runners like a sled' never seemed convincing.

The development of sleds has followed two paths. The first was a search for higher performance, in particular minimising the main problem with the design in the tendency to collapse in gusts and wind shifts. Three of the main innovators were Ed Grauel, Guy Aydlett and John Loy – see section 3.3 below. All this was done by the early 80s. The second stream of development still continues and involves variations to the plan to create interesting new shapes, use innovative materials, go for simpler construction etc.

Also, of course, sleds became the basis for other kites – see section 4 below.

3 Sled Variables

We will look at construction, size and plan shapes.

3.1 Construction

Sleds are usually small kites – 3ft is unusually large – and are of such simple construction (Diagram C and Diagram D) that often canopies are made of plastic, spars of straws, BBQ skewers, bamboo pea sticks or similar. Using plastic rather than sewn fabric might well help avoid stretch on the leading edge which is a major cause of collapse in flight. Even apart from sleds for children's workshops where simplicity and cheapness are paramount, sleds are often designed to make use of already patterned materials. Many of us remember the 'Fly the Bag' sled which was pre-printed on the 1980s Kite Store bag. I have a multisled made by Mark Cotterell out of a plastic table cloth. Richard Dermers large trash bag Stars 'n' Stripes sled at Portsmouth '98 made a big impression.

Construction is so simple that, having decided on the materials, the only questions are how to attached the longerons and the bridle.

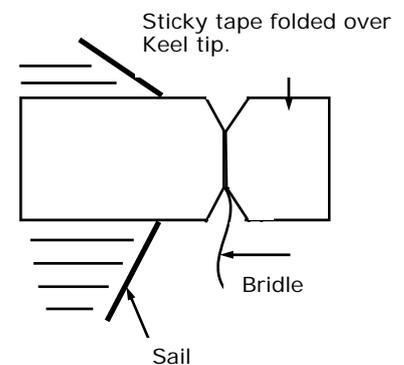
Longerons (spars) are usually sticky taped down. It is clear that continuous contact isn't necessary and the only argument is should the spars be on the front or back of the canopy.

Securing the bridle usually involves punching holes in the fins (or keels). There is an even simpler technique for use with small sleds (Diagram E).

3.2 Size

I haven't seen a very small sled (less than 2 inches) but, according to SARAH KENT, the worlds largest was Dutch, measuring 45 feet high by 75 feet wide in 1980. However, we have had a seriously large sled at the Sunderland Kite Festival in 1995. Made by Jack Crouch and with "Jack"

Diagram E - A 'tie on' way of bridling a small sled



on its pink and yellow canopy it measures 30ft by 50ft plus a full width lattice work tail. Jack told me it was cannibalised out of his giant box which struck terror on those beneath it at York some years before. The spars are made of 1.25in by .25in wall carbon fibre – 2in by 1/8in wall fibreglass couldn't cope. It was last flown in 2000.

3.3 Plan Shapes

There are three main types of

Sled Kites - George Webster

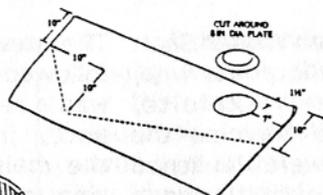
Diagram D

HOW TO MAKE A "SLED" KITE

The standard sled kite is easy to make and exciting to fly. It launches easily in 6-15 mph winds. Rolls up for carrying or storage.

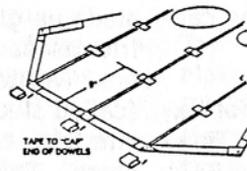
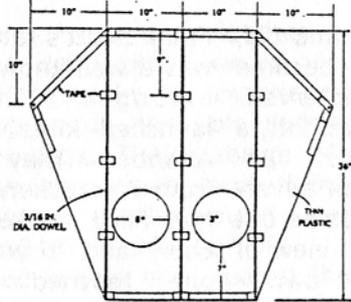
MATERIALS

- 3 wood dowels, 3/16 in. diameter, 36 in. length (At lumber outlets)
- Large plastic trash bag, 2 ft. 8 in. X 3 ft. 6 in. Single ply
- Felt tip marker
- Ruler/straight edge
- Hobbycraft tools
- Strong kite line
- Gloves
- 8 in. dia. dish



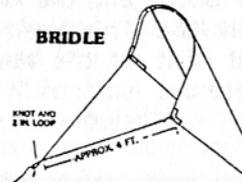
Layout with marker and cut kite from the side of large plastic bag. Cut around plate for air vents.

DIMENSIONS



Use 3 in. strips of tape to secure dowels at positions shown. Build-up tape to 4 thicknesses at corners where bridle is tied. Punch small hole.

BRIDLE



Cut an 8 ft. length of string for bridle.

"SLED" KITE

canopies. The single canopy or double canopy both use some form of spar, the third type, which I've called the fluted sled uses an air filled tube.

3.3.1 Single Canopy

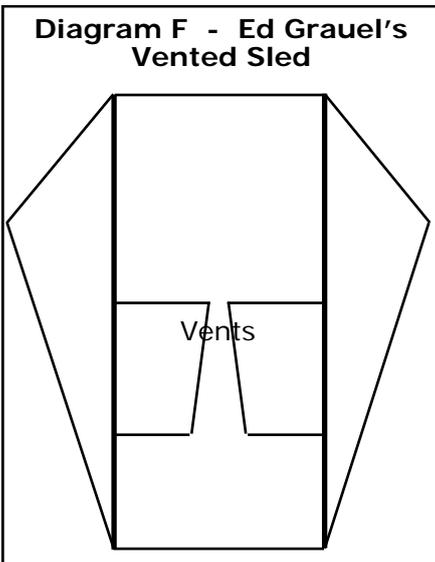
Most sleds made today have two spars, Sometimes with a complete canopy Allison style (Diagram C), often with vent(s) cut out of the canopy. Books such as PELHAM, GREGER, MAXWELL EDEN, KENT and MORGAN have plans of various styles - note that PELHAM seems to have got it wrong and incorrectly shows Scotts triangular vent (diagram B) as a pyramid shaped and not fan shaped (i.e. point down as shown here). Two other vent patterns were well known; Ed Grauel's trapezoidal vents (Diagram F) and Paul Stoka (Diagram G). Venting with circular holes has also been widely used and is easy to do with a plastic canopy (Diagram D). By

chance both sled photos have hole vents. Photo 1 shows a commercial Zammo sled of about 1976.

The claimed advantage of venting is to reduce pressure on the canopy to smooth out the air-flow and thus reduce fluttering. The worst form of fluttering is a flapping leading edge. In 1976 Guy Aydlett of the Piney Mountain Air Force found that cutting a crescent from the leading edge 'provides for a diverging air flow which tends to hold the canopy open'. The kite is known as the Hornbeam (Diagram H). A simpler version replaces the curve with a shallow V on the leading edge with the point of the V 10-15% of the canopy length.

The last innovator of single canopy design to be mentioned is John W. Loy (see his 'Sleds for all Seasons' in KiteLines Summer '89). He had worked on

Diagram F - Ed Grauel's Vented Sled



Sled Kites - George Webster

sleds from the late 1970's. His article identifies the problem of canopy collapse as the result of insufficient tension of the leading edge. He has two main solutions. The first is the use of a 'halter' with 50-60% of the flat width of the canopy fixed between the trailing points of the two spars. The second is the use of the swallow tail shape (Diagram J) – also used by fliers such as BONDESTAM – see below.

The problems of a flapping leading edge and collapse have been tackled in several other ways viz: -

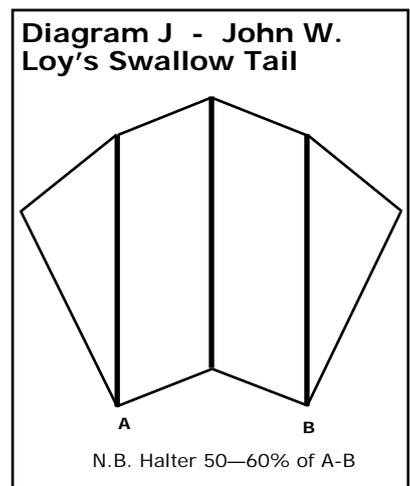
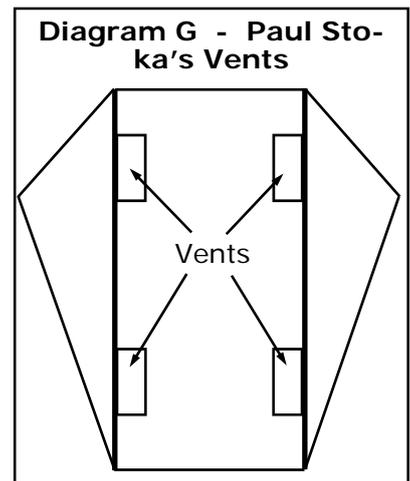
- Stiffening the leading edge by folding or using a thicker fabric or even a piece of thin rattan 1 in back.
- Using a slotted leading edge.

Mike Ware removed 10% from the leading edge, replacing it with a slightly wider strip arranged to overlap the main leading edge by 1 in.

- Alternatively, in a kite 2 ft wide slit the canopy right across 4 in from the leading edge. Then cut the top strip and insert a 4 in by 4 in piece.

More drastic responses to the problem are double canopies (coming up at 3.3.2 below) and using a spreader bar (4.3 below).

All the variations on a single canopy given above were designed to improve the sled's performance. However, before looking at the 'second strand' of development we should consider bridle points. While books



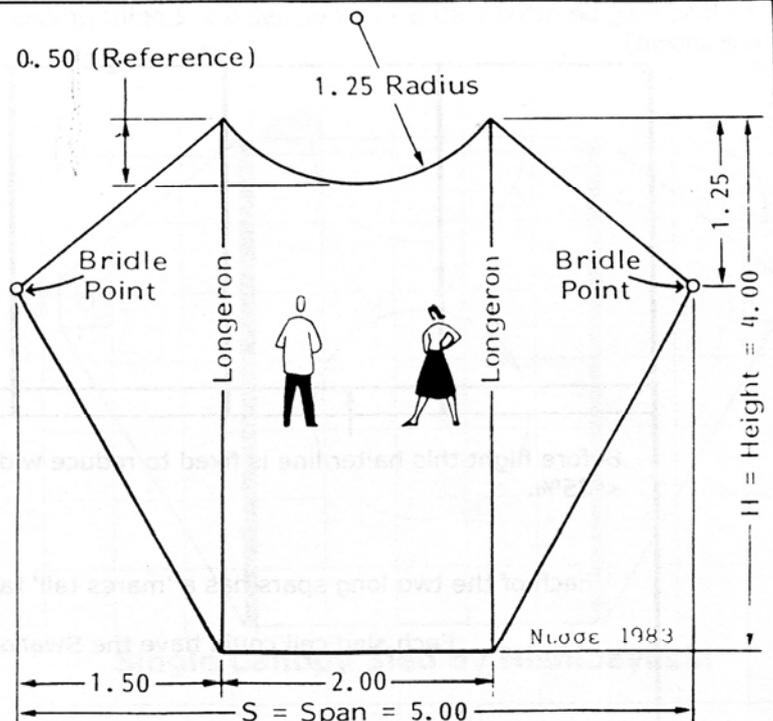
NOTES:

The drawing is dimensioned in arbitrary modules. Choose your own value for a module and multiply it by the numbers shown. Example: If you chose 10" for your module, the kite would be 40" high and 50" wide.

Make your longerons of any light weight, moderately flexible material. Small kites will fly well if a stapled or taped crease is made in the covering material at each longeron location. Allow extra material for the self-creases or pleats.

Make a two-branched V-bridle of stretch resistant braided line. Each branch should be about three modules in length. If your kite leans in flight, shorten the low-side branch.

Bridle points can be loops of line—or grommets—fixed to reinforced or hemmed covering at the corners.



HORNBEAM MARK I

As flown by Piney Mountain Air Force

Area = A = 0.83 x H²

Aspect ratio = $\frac{S^2}{A} = 1.38$

Sled Kites - George Webster

such as PELHAM and YOLEN stress that the dimensions of the Scott, Grauel or whatever should not be tampered with, the designs we come to below show how forgiving the basic sled idea can be. However it is important to stress that the bridle point is often critical. By point I'm concerned not so much with the depth of the wing or keel (usually each is 25-30% of the total width) but with the bridle point's distance from the leading edge. The original Alison appears to be 20%+, the classic Scott 28%, the Hornbeam 31% - others vary up to 33%. Loy uses a different approach and states that 28% (or as low as 25%) of the canopy area should be before the bridle point.

Lastly on bridles – it is im-

portant that they be long enough. A rough guide seems to be that each leg should be x3 to x5 the width of the kite.

Now we turn to the 'second strand' of designing sleds to look different, making use of available materials, be easy to make etc – here the variety is overwhelming, even ignoring mass produced designs and those used in childrens's workshops (sorry!).

I've seen sled designs with Halloween cut-outs, canopies cut into horizontal strips etc. I've seen full width waterfall tails, long pointed tails as well as the familiar looped strip or 2 strips (particularly when Dad has stepped on the loop). Anything goes so long as:

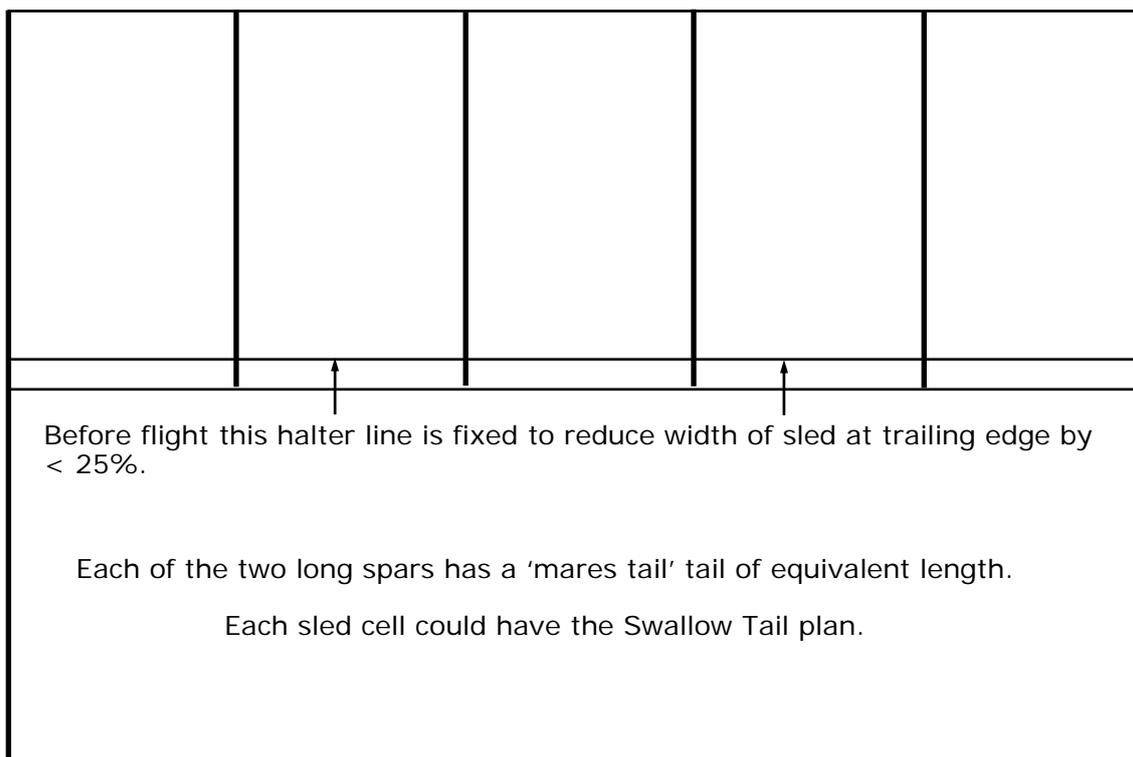
- Firstly the tail is either evenly attached over the trailing edge or is fixed to the two spars.
- Secondly it is remembered that sleds don't produce much lift and can't cope with much drag.

A looped tail is particularly good as it tends to pull in the back and thus adds tension to the leading edge.

To get an idea of what can be done imaginatively with the sled idea consult MARTEN BONDESTAM. He has at least 14 sled designs. At his very simplest he simply bridles a sheet of the shaped plastic used for packing apples (1/3 from top) then adds a tail. His fan kite makes use of Loy sleds (3 spars and a forward

Diagram K - Marten Bondestam's Fan Kite

The Kite may be fitted with 6 keels or use 6 x 2 point bridles to a point < 30% from leading edge (not shown).



Sled Kites - George Webster

pointed leading edge, i.e. swallow tails without the swallow tail) or standard sleds all bowed with a halter and with long tails on long spars (Diagram K). He has many other good designs; the lyre kite looks good and the '2 spars but no tape' sled is ingenious.

3.3.2 Double Canopies

One of the first double canopy sleds was a 1973 design by Ed Grauel – already known for his vented sled. The Bullet kite is a patented design and the general idea is shown (Diagram L). The kites' 2 cells may be formed by a hem or a central spar. The back canopy is approximately 30% wider than the front.

A similar idea is found in Nishibayashi's book (diagram M). This is often shown with a straight leading edge. The ex-

ample in M seems to have a rear canopy about 40% wider than the front. Nishi's designs were influential – another pattern has a rear canopy tapering from +55% to +25%.

The most sophisticated double canopy sled – I saw flying recently – is Helen Bushells Fluted Sled (see plan in MAXWELL EDEN). The 42in wide front canopy has 6 rows of 7 circular vents, sewn to give flutes on 2 longerons. And then the original version had curved keels!

3.3.3 Fluted Sleds

This is the third and final type of sled where the fore and aft stiffening is provided by tubes inflated by air flow so that some kites in the sky can resemble a 2 celled parafoil with a canopy between the cells. Because they allow the kite to be folded small they have been popular with mass manu-

facturers. There is a range of such kites, usually sold for walkers and those who want to 'never be far from their kite'.

Three favourites of mine are:

- The Radical Wrist Kite
- Worlds Apart—Mickey Amazing Pocket Kite
- Go Fly a Kite—'The Konvertible Kite'

There is a range of soft sleds in MARTEN BONDESTRAM.

And of course there is the kite which surprised us when we opened the pack containing Jeremy Boyce's book 'How to Make and Fly Stunt Kites'.

4 Variations

This section, after recognising one-off 'keeled' design, looks at variations on the 2/3 spar, 2 keel sled – firstly multi-sleds

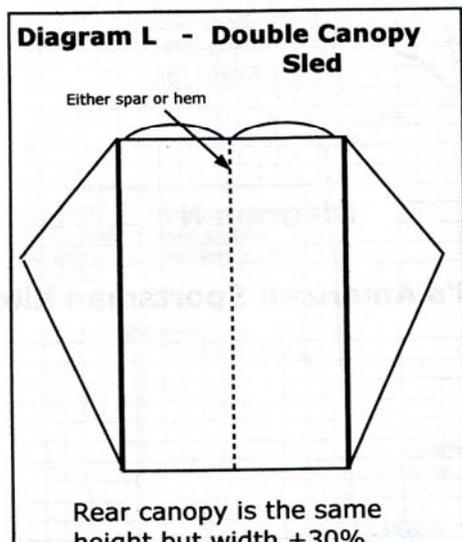
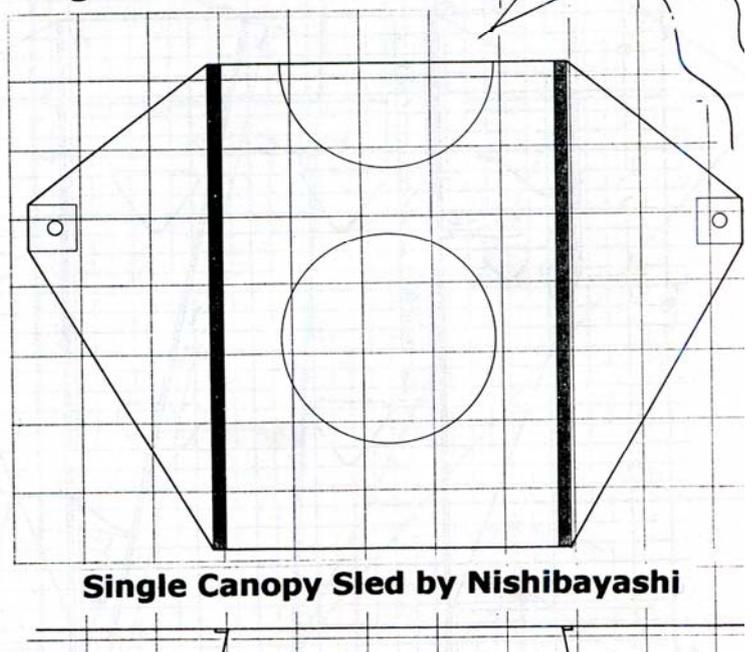


Diagram M



Sled Kites - George Webster

and secondly sled hybrids.

4.1 The Keeled Sled

I know of only one, Harry Sauls 'American Sportsman Kite' (diagram N). As you see, it is great fun with 2 spars, 1 keel, each wing with a bridle spar and 6 vents. I have a good friend who intends to make one. Mine needed a strong breeze and flew at a low angle working away like a set of bellows. Perhaps if it had flown better I wouldn't have the feeling that this kite is an over complication of an essentially simple idea.

4.2 Multi Sleds

Certainly from the '70's designers have joined two 2 spar sleds side by side and have saved 1 spar and 1 bridle fin (see PELHAM). Photo 2 shows

the very successful Skybums Rainbow Sled (the small drogue required is out of shot). Each of the seven cells is 100 cm x 25 cm and in a strong wind it is hard to hold. Managing the bridles is good work for an apprentice Edo flier.

The ultimate in multi sleds known to me is found in NEIL THORBURN who has a 'photo of 18 Allison sleds in 3 rows of 6. Each is made from a Safeway's shopping bag and they are fitted to a bamboo frame and have 21 x 10 ft bridles.

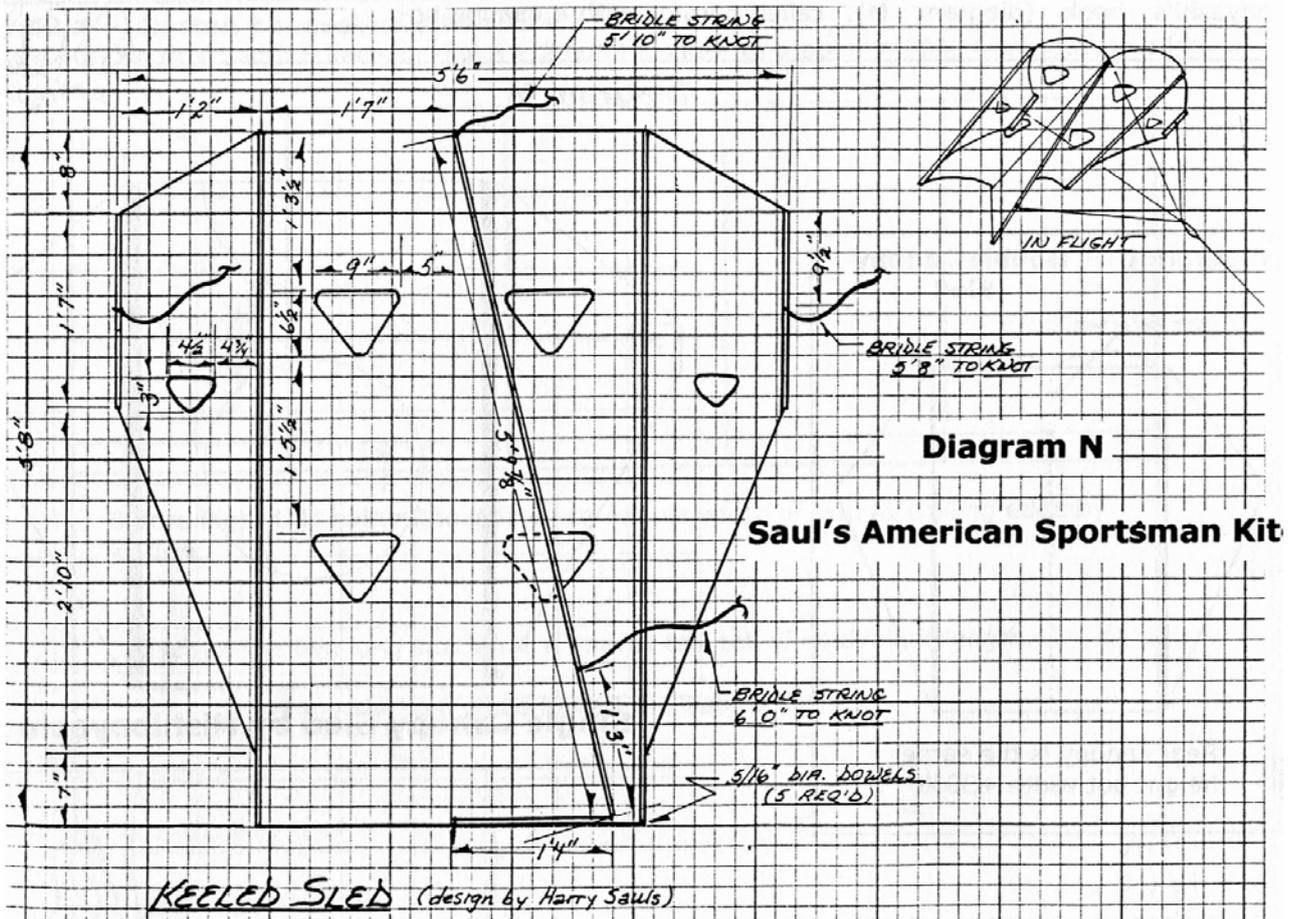
Finally we come again to MARTEN BONDESTAM and the Fan (diagram K).

4.3 Sled Hybrids

We know that the problem

with sleds is that they are prone to collapse in gusty winds - see 3.3.1 above for 'improvements'. One obvious way is to use a cross spreader and fit it to wings, designed to add lift to compensate for the spreaders weight. SARAH KENT shows one and points out that the spreader is designed to be too short to stretch the canopy but allows it to take up its usual curved shape. So the spreader should be behind the wings and in front of the canopy (diagram O). I've never seen one but have seen 1970's adverts for a USA commercial Firebird Winged Sled.

The greatest exponent of the winged sled must be Stormy Weathers, who since 1978 has produced a series of very pre-



Sled Kites - George Webster

cisely designed kites made from very cheap materials (Star Victory, Swift Victory and Winged Victory). Photo 3 shows a Dan Leigh made Winged Victory. The plan of the latter is diagram P, diagram Q is the detail to show a simple way of producing the thin fibreglass spar at 90 degrees to the centre spar which holds the centre sled section into a V or U profile and reduces flap.

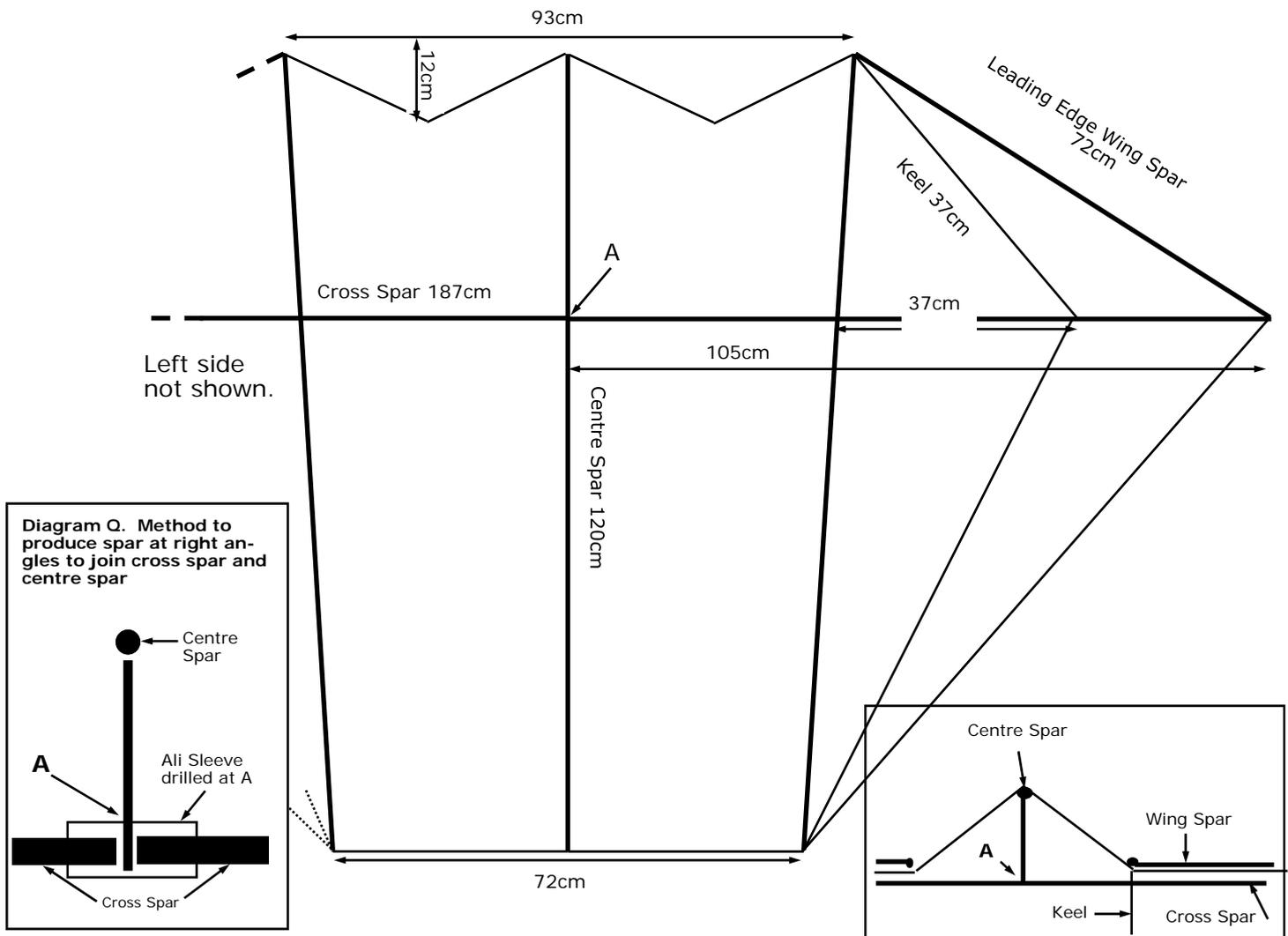
- A sandwich sled delta, i.e. a twin spar delta where the centre section is a double canopied multi-vented sled.
- A stacked Deltas sled which is really complicated and leads on to
- A bird kite with a vented double canopy sled centre section with a bird face superimposed.

For highly complicated, but not over elaborate, sled hybrids consult NEIL THORBURN who

Seriously, if you can get hold of the book there are some great designs.

Now let's go back to the winged sled (diagram O). Does it remind you of a flare? Admittedly flares usually have a second spreader bar near the trailing edge and have the wing shape elongated to provide a fixing point but once the spreader is long enough to stretch the centre panel we no longer have a sled. Was this how the flare was designed? I think it first appeared in PELHAM. Can anybody help this speculation. Of course flares are not often seen nowadays being superseded by the Genki - an extended wing plan which

Diagram P - Sketch plan of a Stormy Weathers Winged Victory built by Dan Leigh.



Sled Kites - George Webster

is a Dutch development of about 1983.

Another sled/flare hybrid is the Brandes Flare designed by Ray Brandes and winner of the Best Patriotic Kite competition at the 1986 Smithsonian Kite Festival (for plans see MAXWELL EDEN). Essentially it is a large Hornbeam Sled surrounded on each side by a smaller Allison

sled extending to a flare wing. I've never seen one.

My final candidate for inclusion as a sled hybrid is the Skybow. If you think this farfetched, look at diagram C. Now multiply the centre section by 50, omit the intermediate fins and bridles but keep the spars between each section, finally make each bridle equal to the width. I

haven't asked George Peters or Peter Dolphin – both of whom are credited with it's invention – but a skybow certainly fits within this definition.

5 Using Sleds

As I wrote in the History section the sled was never associated with glamorous uses such as hang gliding or parachuting. No lifting and no

powering. Certainly in the UK their main use has been to introduce children to the delights of helping to make and then flying their own kite. Which is not such a bad claim to fame.

They have been used for other things. Stormy Weathers used them in kite fishing. His Winged Victory used to be advertised in Kitelines by an attractive lady flier who had

won sprints. I've never seen one in a sprint in the UK (Winged Victory I mean).

Years ago – I think at Brighton – I saw a set of black sleds with circular vents in the canopies to imitate dominoes. Not a full set, I remember maybe 20, but giving the lie to the necessity of accurate balanced vents in the canopy.

Finally we have a group of fliers whose only kite is a pocket sled.

6 Conclusion

This article was written with the same aims as the one on deltas. While people have said nice things about that article I haven't really had the sort of comments which would make me want to

change something. If you have information about either article which you want to add or things that you disagree with please contact me directly or via the magazine. I'd be happy to do an amendment.

Next topic should be foils and

soft kites but that has certain problems. I think I'll do something different – bird kites – because there is such enormous variety I'll have to be more selective and it involves trying to analyse Asian kites in a way I've not seen done before.

Will Yolen	'The Complete Book of Kites' 1975. An American Classic. Has the first reference to Saul's sled.
David Pelham	'The Penguin Book of Kites', Penguin Books 1976. The 'Bible' – but beware of the Scott design.
Margaret Greger	'More Kites for Everyone'. Self Published 1990. Well known for clear practical plans
Neil Thorburn	'Super Kites III'. Self Published 1991. Not often seen. Best known for the stacked deltas. Jon Bloom won 2 prizes with his Pagoda (it says)
Paul and Helene Morgan	'The Book of Kites'. Dorling Kindersley 1992. The first of the beautifully produced UK books with good pictures and plans.
Wayne Hosking	'Kite to Touch the Sky'. World of Kites, Washington 1993. Has 7 sleds including the winged sled and the pocket sled.
Sarah Kent	'The Creative Book of Kites'. Smithmark Publishers 1997. The second beautifully designed UK book, often with something different.
Maxwell Eden	'The Magnificent Book of Kites', Sterling Publishing 1998. Good range of sled plans including the Bullet, Brandes Flare and Helen Bushells Fluted Sled
Martin Bondestam	'Better Kites'. Self published, Finland 2000. Who can forget his earlier book 'Lenna, Lenna Leijani'? In Finnish, curious pen and ink illustrations and a dangerous fascination with Russell Hals. When I last checked this book was available and is easily the most interesting I have read for years. Largely in English it is a throw back to the style of kite making which emphasises families making often small kites and not just sleds – from plastic, natural materials etc. Who can resist a book with a plan for a 'streamlined trouser kite' or one with a colour photo of a star shaped box 'on the endless ice in Finland'. Cools the reader on the hottest day.



Photo 1. Zammo Sled. A polythene two stick vented semi-flexible sled kite designed by Ambrose Lloyd in 1974.

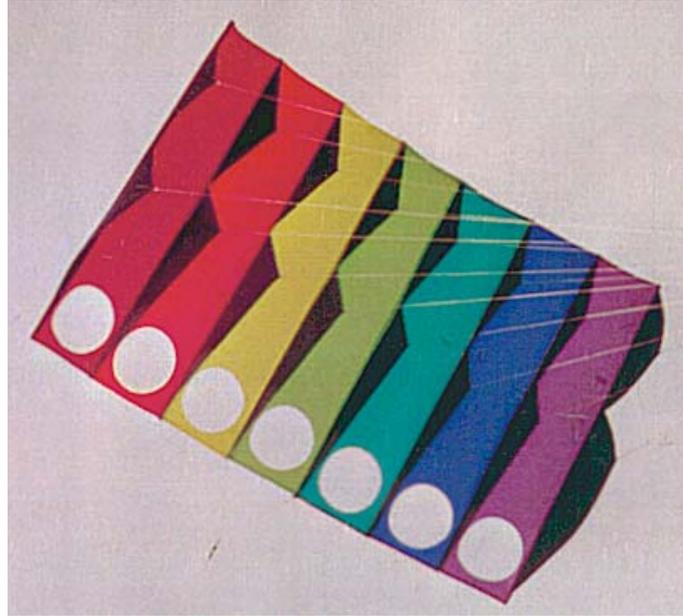


Photo 2. Skybums Rainbow sled. Required drogue is out of shot.

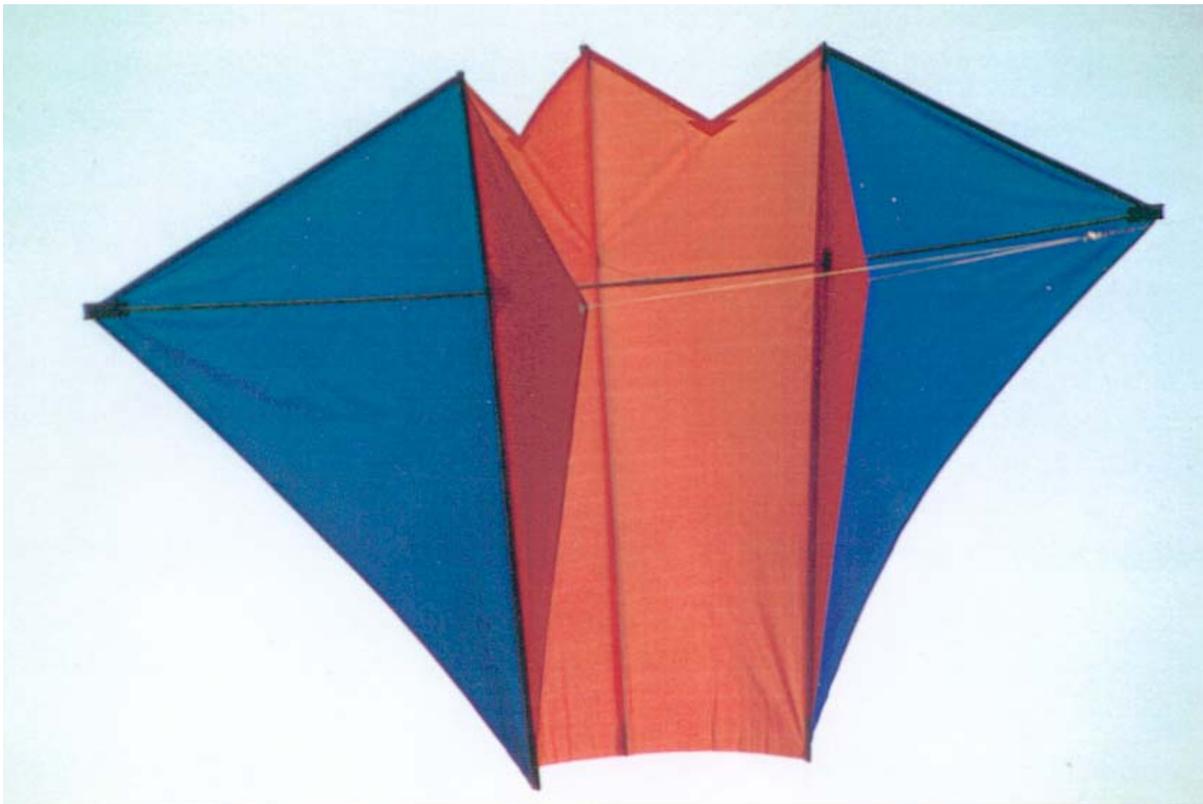


Photo 3. A Stormy Weather Winged Victory. Made by Dan Leigh.

Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival - 5th & 6th May

The 12th Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival will this year be held on Sunday 5th and Monday 6th May. Saturday 4th May is reserved as a free flying day with no organised events taking place but the beach is free to be used for flying. As usual a number of overseas visitors will be there flying their kites as well as many UK based kitefliers.

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

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

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

There have been a number of complaints in the past about the restricted space available to fly. To help maximise the space please do not set up your "camp" in the middle of the marked arenas as you will only be in the way — use the perimeter. Please also remember that the tide goes out—so you may end up in the middle if you start on the edge of the water!

Also, if you find non-kitefliers in the marked arenas or the wrong type of kite and they are causing an obstruction politely ask them to move. If this does not succeed then please inform us at the control bus as we can have Beach Control move them. Stewarding is provided by the council but it is necessary to point out infringements as they are not an unlimited resource. Don't leave it until after the event to complain as it is a bit late to do anything!

Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via one of the following routes:

Accommodation Line on 01305 785747.

The Weymouth web site at <http://www.weymouth.gov.uk> .

Email: tourism@wpbc.weymouth.gov.uk.

Reservations can be made for all classes of accommodation including caravan and camping.

Car Parking

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

The car park is situated behind the Pavilion. Please send your request to the address below and remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope as passes will NOT be sent without one.

Traders

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

Up to 15ft (4.5m) frontage: 3 days £175, 1 or 2 days £150.

Over 15ft (4.5m) frontage: 3 days £205, 1 or 2 days £180.

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

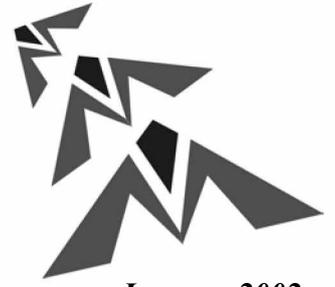
If you require a car pass then please send an S.A.E. to the address below. Indicate the number of passes required. (One per car).

*The Kite Society
P.O. Box 2274
Gt Horkesley
Colchester
CO6 4AY*

BEFORE the 14th April. Please remember to enclose a Stamped addressed envelope.

MKF News

Extra



The Midlands Kite Fliers News Extra

January 2002

THE MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS



Hi All,
 First things first, sorry for the absence of the MKF Extra in the last issue of The Kiteflier but due to circumstances beyond human control the deadline for submission of the Extra was missed.

Right then we've had a bit of a swap around here at *The Midlands KiteFliers*. At the last AGM two club officers Jim Cronin the club Chairman and Alan Poxon the newsletter editor decided it was time to step down from their post, so we now have two new faces to remember. David Montague Smith takes over from Jim and I (Lloyd Kirton) jump into the spot as editor. All other post remain as before.

Thanks go to Jim and Alan for there service to the club from all MKF members.

For any new Kite Society members that may be reading their first issue of the Kiteflier, The Midlands Kite Fliers (MKF) are a very large UK club operating (you guessed it) in and around the Midlands. Over the years we have seen a very healthy growth of new members which now stands at over 1000 individuals. We arrange club fly-ins for our members on a monthly basis and actively promote kite flying in any shape or form.

If you would like more information about who we are and what we get up to, then go to our frequently updated website at www.mkf.org.uk

Well that's about it then from me, there's just enough space left to wish you all the best for the year ahead, we have a packed kite calendar to keep us busy, so keep it safe, pray for some wind and the most important thing is.....

Have Fun

Lloyd

2001-2002

MKF Club Officers



GENERAL SECRETARY

Jerry Swift



Howardian View
 Great Barugh
 Malton
 North Yorks
 YO17 6UZ
 Tel: 01653 668 157

TREASURER

Carolyn Swift



Howardian View
 Great Barugh
 Malton
 North Yorks
 YO17 6UZ
 Tel: 01653 668 157

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

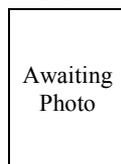
John Larson



227 Albert Road
 Sheffield
 S8 9QY
 Tel: 0114 255 3410
 John@mkf.org.uk

PUBLICITY OFFICER

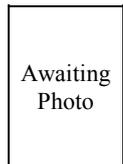
Martin Harris



53 Orton Way
 Belper
 Derbyshire
 DE56 1UB
 Tel: 01773 599 149
 martin@mkf.org.uk

CHAIRMAN

Dave Montague Smith



9 James Road
 Kidderminster
 Worcs
 DY10 2TR
 Tel: 01562 66102
 dave@mkf.org.uk

WEBSITE MANAGER

Julie White



4 Hermitage Court
 Oakwood
 Derby
 DE21 2LG
 Tel: 01332 669 203
 Julie@mkf.org.uk

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

Alan Bill



90 Weybourne Road
 Great Barr
 Birmingham
 West Midlands
 B44 9DE
 Tel: 0121 360 1955
 alanbill@mkf.org.uk

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lloyd Kirton



15 Manse Close
 Exhall
 Coventry
 Warwickshire
 CV7 9NT
 Tel: 02476 732 083
 Lloyd@mkf.org.uk

The Midlands Kite Fliers
www.mkf.org.uk



Am I Alone ??

As an active member of the M. K. F., I have been involved in many aspects of kite flying, for quite some time now, but lately there has been something missing!

A **GOOD QUALITY MAGAZINE** that deals with all aspects of kite flying, together with tests on new kites, reviews on events, topics that effect **ALL** repeat **ALL** kite flyers. A shop window for all kite manufacturers to make us aware of their new products (and our new TOYS)

Some time back I was saddened by the change in direction & name of **KITE PASSION** I became a subscriber to this fine publication and looked forward to it dropping through my letterbox! This magazine had an appeal to all kite flyers young and old from 6 to 66 and beyond.



However this fine publication changed direction & became **KITESURF**.

This change (in my opinion) has severely restricted its circulation, as now its market is very limited

Only a few people are in the Kitesurf Category, and are

1. *Fit enough*
2. *Keen enough*
3. *Able to afford the equipment*
4. *within striking distance from the "SEA"*

I expect the publication was changed due to increasing pressure from the power kite manufacturers and surf board companies (sometimes these may be the same!) But wouldn't it be nice to have **KITE PASSION** back

I applaud our own **MKF** newsletter and the **KITFLIER**, but surely there is room for a quality magazine either **BI** monthly or quarterly that would fill the void left by **KITE PASSION**

The restricted market of **KITESURF** has one less subscriber...**ME**. In the interests of all kite flyers, let me know your views, or

AM I ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS

Graham Binney
graham@gbinney.freemove.co.uk

Discount Flight...

We have recently arrived back from a holiday in USA and we had picked up a local "What's On" whilst we were staying in Maine and saw that the venue for One Sky On World day was at Fort Williams State Park, just south of Portland.

The day before we decided to explore Portland and found a super kite shop called Northern Sky Toyz so we each bought a new kite and introduced ourselves to the staff, told them we were members of Midlands Kite Flyers in England and asked directions to the OSOW event. They told us and then, without us asking for it, gave us a discount because we were MKF members!

On 14th October, we found our way to the State Park which was not easy as there were several parks in the area, all with lighthouses. As we drove, the mist got thicker and, sadly, when we arrived it was like being in a cloud with the air full of water. The other snag was that there was hardly any wind.

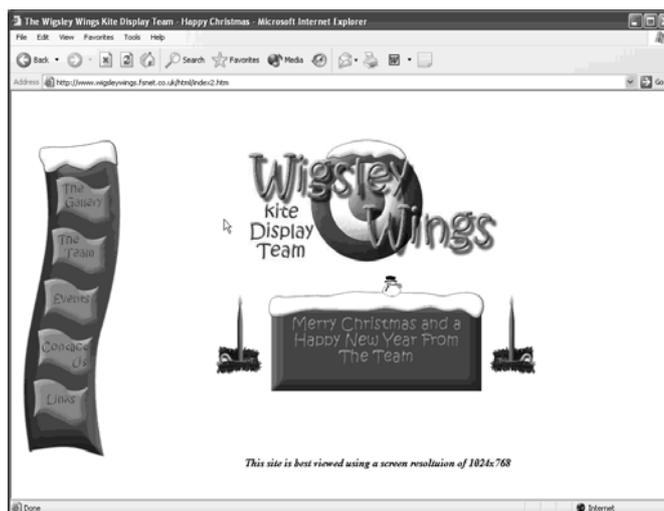
Jeanne had brought one of her kites from England so we took all three. My new Triad flew well but Jeanne's Delta flew the best. Whilst we flew the kites, the lighthouse kept up its booming fog horn and we managed to keep the kites up for about an hour by which time they were saturated and would not fly again and noticed that everyone else had the same problem. Sadly, probably due to the weather, there were only 12 kites flying but we felt that it was worth going even in those conditions just to be part of such a global event.

Mike & Jeanne Hall

Just Browsing....

Wigsley Wings display team now have a web site -

www.wigsleywings.fsnet.co.uk



The web site has been compiled by Mark Bowlas who updates it regularly. The team is made up of 9 MKF members who specialise in flying large inflatable kites.

Linda Richardson
Wigsleywings@aol.com

(watch your typing. Ed.)



Beer & Skittles Social Evening

Graham Binney has asked me to remind everyone, that he still has some tickets available.

Beer & Skittles Social Evening
Schofields Public House, Great Barr, Birmingham
Saturday 23rd February 2002

Promising an evening of great entertainment for the princely sum of £8.00 (adults) £3.00 (children), This also includes a bar meal of your choice (chicken, scampi, etc).

1st come, 1st served! 40 tickets only! Don't be disappointed, **BOOK EARLY!**

Charity Raffle (any donations gratefully accepted)

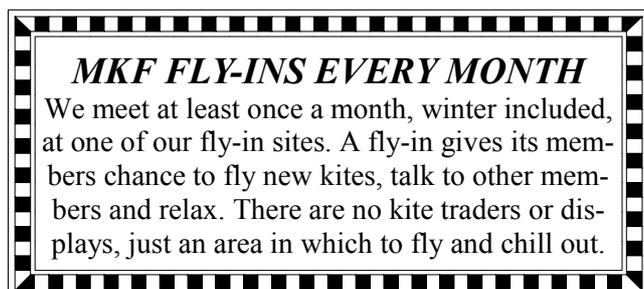
Whisky Coin Roll, win this bottle for as little as 20p!

Contact Graham Binney on 0121 7837078

Or e-mail - graham@gbinney.freeserve.co.uk

The recipient charity will be selected on the night, so bring your nominations.

BOOK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!!!



Err.....It was the last one left

Ok hands up, how many of us have made excuses or had to think up some kind of explanations for that latest acquisition to the kite bag. Below are some common ones, but if you have more please share them with us.

- *It was in the sale.*
- *No, I do not love kites more than you.*
- *You're the one who said I needed a hobby.*
- *But I didn't have one with that colour on it.*
- *I need 2 more Shockwaves so I can stack them. .*
- *This kite will NEVER be this price again!*
- *No...This one is for you to hold.*
- *You know yellow is my favourite colour.*
- *You treated yourself to some new shoes, So.....*
- *This one will teach me to fly the other better*
- *It was the last one left*
- *WOW you have got too see this one*
- *You know I have always wanted this one*
- *This one is for the family*
- *I got this one so everybody would stay off mine*
- *I need too demo this style for someone*
- *You should see everybody else's kite bag*
- *I bought this one cheap for spare parts*

Please remember

...excuses are used at your own risk!

FREDFORM, the plans by Fred Broadhead

Why 'Fredform'? - 'Cos my name's not Flo. This is one from my light wind era, and one of those banker kites I often fly with a couple of sleeve multi-coloured drogues linked together. In fact in very light winds without drogues it outflies most deltas, with drogues it copes with quite high winds.

I had a long natter with Jim Rowlands at Coventry about 4 years ago to pick his brains. He lost me a bit getting very technical but having seen it fly and then looking at it on the ground, when asked if he would change anything answered, 'Nothing'. His point was that there are some five aspects of Floform design which matter for a great kite & whereas they can fly to a degree without all being spot on, that I got them all spot on, which is why it flies so well. Jim was surprised that it was the only one I have made.

The point of all this name-dropping is not inflate my ego but to convince you to make this simple kite. If people who have forgotten more about parafoil kites than I'll ever know are impressed why shouldn't you be. It will let you get into a little one-upmanship; watch for when there's a few floforms gently coming to earth as the wind drops, get your Fredform out and watch it going up whilst the rest are coming down.

If like me you want to be even sneakier get your Fredform out when there's only just enough wind for it, others seeing it up will often reach for their floforms, and you can sit back and watch their unsuccessful antics.

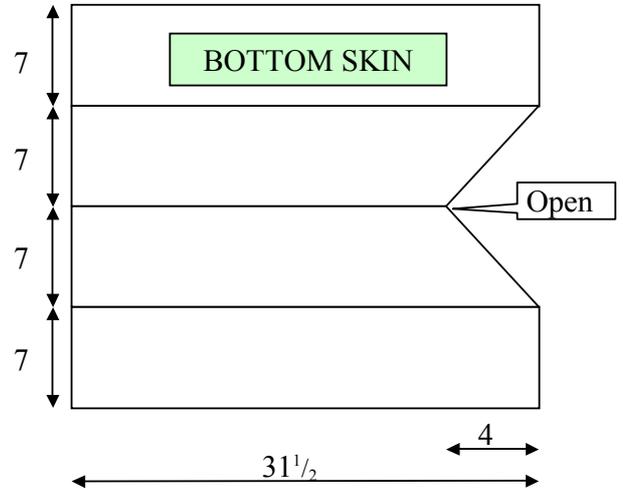
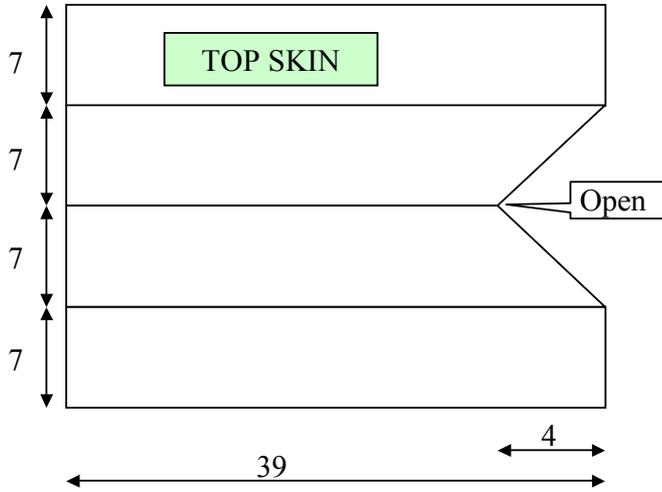
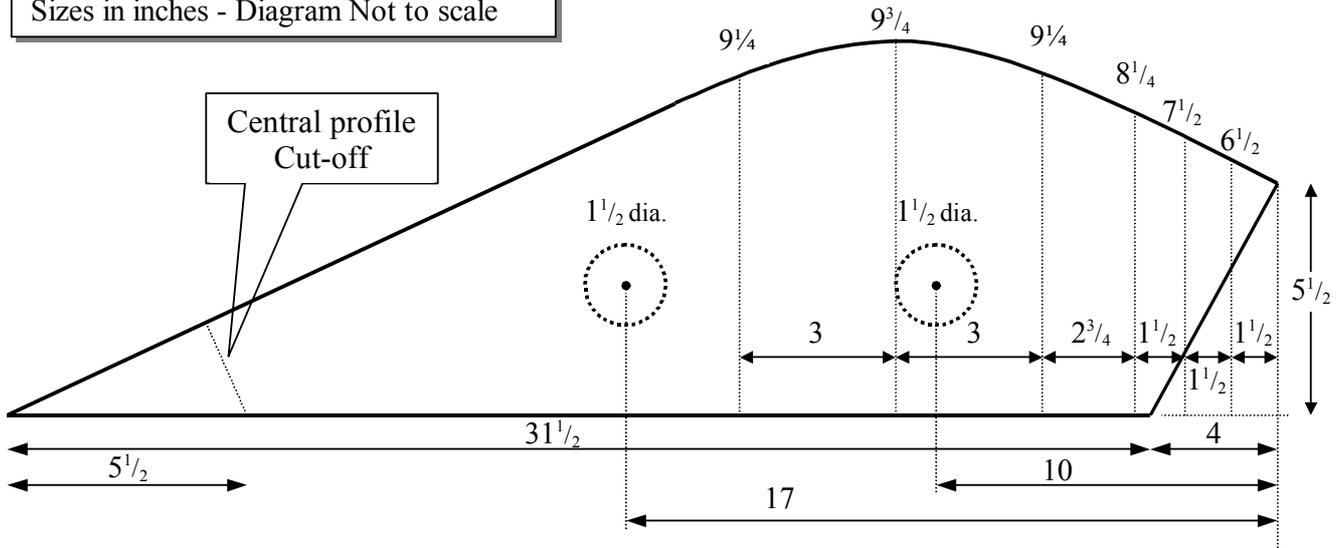
Construction

It's a simple parafoil sequence, with the 'V' at the trailing edge left open. The underside of the profile is straight, as is the rear section of the top and, although most sewing plans for parafoils show the aerofoil profiles being sewn to the bottom skins before the top, I do the opposite & suggest you do too.

My logic is the top profiles always have much greater curve than the bottom so to me it's easier to sew the more awkward curve to a straight line at the start, than when you may have to manage a large bulk of material through your sewing machine later. Also, I would advise you to cut your top & lower skins longer than the sizes shown as it is easy to find you've run out of material before you've reached the end of the aerofoil profile (I've done it) whereas if it's too long it's easy to trim back.



Fredform - by Fred Broadhead
 Sizes in inches - Diagram Not to scale



The 3 internal profiles should have the holes as shown. I'm not convinced the holes are vital but they seem the thing to do; I'm open to being convinced either way. If you intend to appliqué the underside it will be less obstructed if you use white ripstop for the central keel.

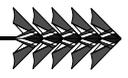
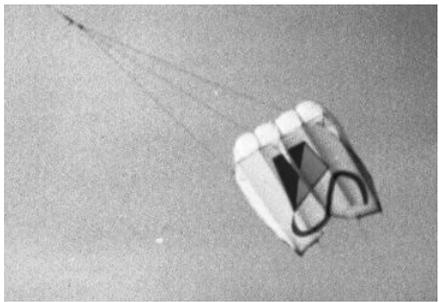
I've reduced all the sizes by 1/3 for a kite I have made for my wife, Jean, which, with a Donkey Tail drogue flies better than this one in some winds. It's too small to cope without a drogue but with it, it's great.

So what's a Donkey Tail? In effect short lengths of ribbon-sized ripstop stapled through their centres rather like a mop head & dangled on a line behind the kite. Tails, drogues, or whatever work better on most kites (& certainly on this one) if, rather than fixed to a single central point, are fixed to a 'V' line fixed, for example on this kite, to the two inner corners. It gives the drogue greater leverage to the kite & quicker

response by the kite. Incidentally in making my wife's kite I used a wheeled map distance reader to measure the length of the curved profile & therefore the length of the top skin and having tried other methods this one was absolutely accurate.

The rest is now up to you. I'm open to being questioned, but make it at this size first. If you ring and ask 'how will it fly if you make it ten times larger?' well how the heck should I know!!

Good Luck
 Fred Broadhead



9th Coventry Kite Festival

The War Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry

17-18 August 2002

(main day - Sunday)

10.00am - 5pm

Coventry Kite Festival is organised by the Cultural Development Team of Coventry City Council and The Midlands Kite Fliers.

Wind or no wind the park is a very pleasant place to be on a summers day.

Enjoy a picnic under the trees, listen to the music, play a round of golf, or go and fly a kite!

The park is popular with the local public with a very nice atmosphere, and previous festivals have been very well attended.

There will be Kite Traders and food vendors on site all weekend.

A professional public address system on both days so there will be music to fly to.

Saturday will be a free flying day to enhance the relaxed atmosphere.

Sunday will have a planned entertainment schedule

The MKF's own Sky Symphony sport kite display team will be flying too.

The park is large enough to accommodate single, dual and quad-line fliers, as well as an area especially set aside to occupy children, including the kite workshop, teddy bear dropping, rides, skittles and face painting.

**STRICT HEIGHT LIMIT OF 250 FEET AS COVENTRY AIRPORT IS NEARBY
NO KITES TO BE FLOWN ABOVE THIS HEIGHT AT ANY TIME**

Take the time to explore the rest of the park:-

Children's play area, cafe, tennis courts and gardens,

then buy a kite at one of the specialist kite retailers at the festival.

There are no car park charges, and no admission fee.

Car park passes are not required.

There are no cars allowed on the site but there is a very large car park right next door to the main arena.

For more details on this festival contact the event steward Alan Bill

ON-SITE CAMPING

On-site camping is available for kitefliers from 2pm on the Friday until 10am Monday.

No access for campers is available onto the park until 2pm Friday as barriers are kept locked.

Toilet/Shower block nearby.

Camping is free, but must be booked prior to arrival.

HOW TO GET THERE:

The War Memorial Park (Grid ref: Map 140 SP 325 772) is two miles south of Coventry City Centre, on the **A429 Kenilworth Road**.

The easiest way to get there is join the A45 Birmingham Road, and then turn right at the traffic lights (feeder) onto the Kenilworth Road. The park is about 600yds on your right



LÜNEN DRACHENFEST

19 - 21 OCTOBER 2001

It was a phone call from Simon Hennessey at 8am on Thursday that started it all. Did I want to go to Lünen in the mini-bus, as someone had dropped out at the last minute? Well, why not, there was nothing else on the calendar for that weekend.

We all met up at the Folkestone car park and piled all the kite crap in to a very large trailer - good thinking Mr & Mrs Swift! Jerry and Don Eccleston took turns driving through the night and you can imagine how difficult it was to sleep. The best place for me was a kerb in a German lay-by, but it was not for long, as we had to press on. Oh yes - the urine stains did wash out of my sweatshirt by the way!

Breakfast was found in the Hotel Persil (no I did not do my laundry there!) and 'Uncle David' (Gomberg) was there to greet us all. There was not a lot of flying done on the Friday, as it was not a festival day, but there was a lot of socialising and meeting up with friends from afar after a long time. Meals were available in the hangar, as usual, and as before there was unlimited food of a very high standard. I understand that this is sponsored by a German bank - not much chance of that in the UK, eh?

Saturday found us Brits with our own arena to fly in - wow! This was a real privilege and kept our kites clear of the spectators, especially children, who can easily get caught

gerdyne

January 2002

the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

up in bridles. The BKF's new Peter Lynn giant Teddy was flown on both days. We learned something new - that the pilot kite line was too heavy in the light winds, and that the same strength Kevlar worked wonders in the circumstances. Why is it that you can only buy Kevlar in Germany - is it that they are more unsociable than us, or do they all fly on Kevlar?

The usual Saturday night jamboree ensued with more good food and lots of German beer to wash it down, before staggering back to the school gymnasium to sleep. What with a bad night in the mini-bus and the noises in the night (you know what I mean!), even barefoot trips to the toilet were

disturbing, I think that if I go again I will own up to being a wimp and will opt for a proper bed in the local hotel! Sod the expense! Sunday was another good weather day (unusual for Lünen, so I hear), with t-shirt and shorts being the order of the day for me. A three round Rokkaku fight was called in the afternoon and an unusual experience that was. I had to persuade German onlookers to help me launch (where were my Brit supporters?! The judges were very particular about flying too high and all the flyers were pushed together in the middle of the arena. I understand that in previous years the competitors were herded together with a rope towards the end of the fight. I came in the last few in the first two rounds, but got cut early in the last one. All good fun for me, but the Germans were very serious about it all. Perhaps the Hoppe Revival Cup was the inspiration?

Monday at 4.15am was waking-up time, in order to get on the road by

5am. It was an uneventful journey back, via the obligatory stop at the chocolate factory in Adinkerke of course!

Despite the lack of sleep, it was an extremely enjoyable final festival of the year and I would like to thank Jerry & Carolyn Swift for all their efforts in organising it. I would also like to thank all the others who went and made it all worthwhile and so much fun.

Ray Oakhill

LIGHT MOTIFS

AN AOMORI FLOAT & JAPANESE KITES

- ▶ 14 November 2001 - 3 March 2002
- ▶ The British Museum (Room 24)
- ▶ Admission Free

Illuminated lanterns and flying kites celebrate the climax of The British Museum's contribution to Japan 2001, with a visual delight.

An extraordinary exhibition of colourful Japanese kites are displayed on the ceiling of the Wellcome Trust Gallery, while a giant float from the Nebuta Festival provides a striking back drop. In Japan prayers to the gods are pasted to the back of many kites while festival floats invite the gods to join in the festivities.

Nebuta are giant lanterns, up to 5 metres high and 7 metres wide, which depict dramatic three-dimensional scenes. During the first four weeks of the exhibition, a Nebuta will be constructed by the artist, Takashi Kitamura and his team in the gallery, allowing families and people of all ages to watch the progress of the work. The Nebuta is built with the support of Aomori city.

Mik Jennison (from The Guardian)



LONG BEACH KITE FESTIVAL 2001

20TH ANNIVERSARY WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

The WSIKF is by far my favourite of all kite festivals. It has all the markings that are felt and seen in the biggest and best European kite festivals, and yet it has a very unique flavour all its own - once you have attended this festival one makes a point of returning again and again. I have so often heard it said that the spectators and flyers alike plan their vacations to coincide with WSIKF. I make sure that this festival is the first to go on my schedule of events calendar, I've been returning every year since the early 1980's and I have had the pleasure of watching it grow to become one of the best and largest kite festivals in North America. In 1999, at the Kite Trade International, it was voted the best kite festival in the world. And, believe it or not, it could hold just about every kite festival in North America at the same time on its 28 miles of beach.

Over the years it has featured some of the best kite builders and flyers on this planet. This year's guests, just to name a few, included Peter Lynn and Anne Whitehead from New Zealand, Jos & Kaitje Valcke from Belgium - with all his beautiful creations, I am very proud to say that we have shared many kite festival's flying fields in Europe. In fact, just a couple of months ago in Narbonne (France) Jos was asking me all kinds of questions about Long Beach, as he was so very excited about going. Performing for the first time at WSIKF were the infamous Bay Area Sundowners from San Francisco, who

held the thousands of spectators spellbound with their awesome routines throughout the 7 day festival. As always, it was a great honour to once

again share the demonstration arena with this very talented team.

I don't know how many people at Long Beach noticed a very talented Rev flyer who flew all day, every day - amazing the kite flyers and the great crowds that were always gathered around him. He was not an invited guest, but came to the US and Canada on vacation with his wife and family, and the WSIKF was on the top of his list to attend. His name is Felix Motorman (*I think that should be 'Mottram', but I like 'Motorman' better - suits him! Ed*) - one of the original member of the famous Team Decorators from the UK, and if you ever get a chance to see this team

perform... don't miss it! They are indeed the best Rev team on this planet, who have been one of the main attractions at the Kites On Ice International Kite Festival in Madison, and will be performing there again for the fourth year in a row in February 2002.

Long Beach has so many events going on, plus all kinds of fun competitions, that it's hard to keep track of every thing that is happening. Always a great crowd-pleaser is the Rokkaku Challenge - sometimes, to me, it is more like an Australian Rules Football match... only using a kite instead of a ball. The spectators just lap it up and so do the contestants! ☺ I was not going to mention that we had two days of rain on Tuesday and Wednesday, but I heard that it was especially laid on (how they do that?!), so that it gives everyone a chance to socialise and catch up with old friends - sharing ideas, learning new things, showing off all their new creations, plus having a few 'cold ones' together. There was no chance to do any of that for the rest of the week, as everyone was far too busy doing their thing.

THE BACON SAVERS!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of Aerodyne - your efforts are very much appreciated...

▶ Ray Oakhill

▶ Mik Jennison

Toody Oakhill

▶ Ray Bethell



Thursday was a beautiful sunny day but the wind was blowing 25-30mph. I was in my glory, I flew all day and loved every minute! I love the challenge, and it is indeed a challenge flying multiple full size kites simultaneously in those strong winds. You have so many things to think about, especially executing intricate manoeuvres while literary being pulled down the beach, one's timing must be right on the money. It is very hard to explain the feeling I get while setting the kites up in to a refuel, then achieving this mode, then in to a double loop, then fly to the centre of the wind window just inches above the sand, then turn straight up into the full power zone, then at the very last minute - break off into my crucifix manoeuvre. The kites travelling like bats out of hell, only to come to a full stop and hover at the extreme edge of both sides of the wind window, with the centre kite hovering dead centre, 130 feet above my head. The most exciting thing is to have it all come together, while running down the beach at full gallop. Someone remarked, "Hey Ray, that is one way of sorting the men from the boys!" ☺

Friday, Saturday and Sunday were awesome, especially for the single line flyers. The wind was perfect and it looked like every kite that was brought to this festival was in the air. The sky above was full of over-flowing with kites of every description, showing off every colour in the rainbow - it was indeed a photographer's dream. Spectators were there by their tens of thousands, enjoying every aspect of this very special Long Beach 20th Anniversary International Kite Festival.

At 2pm on Friday my friend of many years 'Dan The Man' Nordgaard and his lovely bride Barbara Welch (both

of Seattle, WA) were married on the beach under a perfect blue sky, which was decorated literary with hundreds and hundreds of single line kites of every description and colour. What a magnificent and beautiful setting for a kite flyers' wedding! After the wedding they were brought in to the main demonstration arena and introduced to the thousands of spectators - they were deeply touched, as it added something even more special on their already very special day. I then flew a multiple kite ballet in their honour (this is my 3rd wedding that I have been invited to, and also to fly a multiple kite ballet on the beach at Long Beach). The reception dinner was held later at the Salmon BBQ Marquee.

Congratulations to the organisers, the sponsors and all the wonderful volunteers that put it all together and once again made it happen. I have already marked my schedule calendar for the year 2002. I would also like to express my thanks to my Team Crew: Fred & Gerri Adler, for all their help in helping me set up for multiple kite demonstrations. Also to my good friends the Bay Area Sundowners, who are always on hand to field crew for me - "Good Stuff!"

Thanks for listening.

Ray Bethell

ARDINGLY AUTUMN SHOW 2001

6 & 7 OCTOBER

How encouraging it was to have so much last minute support for the Autumn Show, after I very nearly made a cock-up of the whole event! In fact I am not so sure that it was my fault, that one of the organiser's e-mails disappeared into the ether.

We knew we were in for a blustery weekend and that is exactly how it was. Although we attempted to fly Teddy first thing on Saturday, conditions were getting worse by the minute and common sense prevailed, so he was put back in the bag. I was on my way to pull down my flowform, when the line parted and it sailed off across the road to end up in the top of a forty foot tree in a wood - AND it had the Brighton Kite Festival windsock attached. By now the wind was up to Force 5/6 and most kites were out of the sky.

We were due to demonstrate in the arena at 11.30am and decided to fly very low and just describe the kites, rather than give a full blown demo of Hyperkites, Rokkaku fighting etc, which was our original intention. This display was very mediocre, compared to what we intended, but the weather rules all!

Saturday afternoon was devoted to a magnificent effort by the newly formed Brighton Kite Rescue Team; members being Ray, Simon, Danny Rice, Danny Steer, Ron, Alan and Paul. Armed with the essential tools of the trade - bow saw, flexible saw, catapult, grappling hook, various lengths of line and a roach pole - we set off for the woods. As we approached the offending tree, we were accosted by the owner of the wood, who wanted to know why we were trespassing - even though we had already asked permission of his wife (funny how some people fail to communicate isn't it?!). He was very pleasant and so understanding that he carried over a three section ladder, but forty feet is a long way up! He also gave us permission to cut down the trees and even offered the use of his chain saw! We were reluctant to do this, but the wood had not

been coppiced for some years, so we cut down a small one to reach the windsock. Although it was still attached to the kite, the connecting line broke the loops, so we had the windsock down in about fifteen minutes, but no kite! This is where the catapult came into its own. Danny Rice used a 10mm nut with thin monofilament attached to get a stronger line over the kite, but we still had problems with the branches and bridle lines. The nut was replaced by a 4oz fishing weight and thoughts of getting hard hats predominated! Then the ladder was used with the roach pole to get in contact with the kite, which had dropped some distance by then and more branches were broken off. Eventually, after three hours work, we could reach the bridles with a part closed knife on the end of the roach pole, by standing on the top of the ladder, and the kite fell to the ground accompanied by big cheers! It had a ripped keel, one torn panel and a few smaller holes, but it will fly again! (*It's now fully repaired and back in action. Ed*)

Sunday morning produced similar weather, but mad Andrew Beattie decided to fly the Manta Ray - not a good decision! The lifter kite alone was a real handful and the lines were really singing when the Manta lifted, so it was brought down in a hurry - well, as fast as we could (nothing can be done in a hurry where big kites are concerned!). He decided that we should attempt to fly the Manta, Gecko and Octopus in the main arena during our slot, but the wind picked up suddenly to nearly gale force and all thoughts of kite flying were abandoned for the rest of the day. Apart from John Barker, that is - who was seen trying to fly a multisled in a gale and torrential rain!

As I sit here writing this, the van is rocking in the wind and the rain is beating on the windows. Not a good weekend for kiteflying, but we had some laughs and it was a good social occasion as always. My thanks to all who came along and supported the event (and helped to rescue my kite!).

Ray Oakhill



GOSPORT KITE FESTIVAL & EURO CUP 2001

OR 'OAKIE GOES TO A STACK EVENT!!!'

12, 13 & 14 OCTOBER

I can hear all you dedicated single liners out there saying, "What is Oakie doing at a STACK event?" Well, Kathy Jarvis sent me details of The European Sport Kite Championships 2001 and as we now had our 40ft Peter Lynn Teddy to show off, I thought it might be an added attraction to a multiple line event.

Kathy was very enthusiastic and allocated a large area with clean winds in which to fly. The site is very large with short grass and is open to the Solent on the south side, where the wind was coming from over the three days.

It was the first time that I had attempted to fly the bear on my own, so having securely fixed the ground anchor, I fed out the flying line (1.25 tonne Kevlar) doubled up to keep the bear fairly low, and attached and launched the pilot kite. Inflating Teddy was the most difficult part, as trying to get air in through the

vent on your own takes a lot longer than with two people - who can stretch the opening far wider, but eventually it filled up and away went Teddy. He could be seen from a long way and I heard that several people were attracted to the festival by the bear. He was certainly well photographed during the weekend. The event was supported by Kites Over Gosport, Solent Kite Flyers and, of course, Gosport Borough Council (plus too many other sponsors to mention). The Solent Kite Flyers ran a children's kite making workshop, which did not feature the ubiquitous sled kite -

but a wider version of a Malay with fringed edging, a short tail and only one bridle point.

This was designed by one of the club members, who got fed up with making sled kites at workshops and who also pointed out that when sled bridles got twisted up and shortened - the kite would not fly. The White Horse Kite Flyers organised two line flying lessons and I watched Pete Dawson giving his all, for what must have been an exhausting three days.

As most of the kite flyers were camping at the Kingfisher campsite, Friday night turned into the usual jamboree. Surprisingly, the food at the on-site pub was reasonably priced and good. There were even four brands of real ale on tap! BKF - where were you?

FORT WARDON 2002 INFO

I have all the information about the kite workshops at Fort Warden, Washington State, USA, which take place from 1st to 3rd March 2002. There are 21 tutors taking part, so there is something for everyone. If you want to know what it's like, contact Simon Hennessey, who went last year.

If anyone would like a copy of the itinerary, please forward four first class stamps to me to cover photocopying and postage.

Ray Oakhill

The weather on Saturday was the same as Friday - warm and sunny, t-shirt and shorts time... in October?! Dave McArthur joined me early on and we launched Teddy again, but on double the length of line this time - confidence was growing! A Rokkaku fight ensued in the afternoon and I came somewhere in the last five or six - who cares? It's just a lot of fun.

The highlight of the weekend for me, was the Saturday evening banquet and auction on Spithead Bank Fort in the middle of the Solent. Ever since I was a kid of ten, I had wanted to see inside one of these Victorian forts, which I had viewed from the ferry on numerous visits to the Isle of Wight. So now



my dream had come true and I was able to wander around unhindered through the tunnels, kitchens, forge and ammunition stores. There were information cards at each location and one could get a very good picture of life there during the war-time occupation.

Sunday turned out to be overcast. The wind had veered to southerly and was increasing throughout the morning - so although we flew Teddy for a couple of hours, when the wind reached 12mph we knew it was going to get risky! There was a promise of rain as well, so Teddy was put back in his bag. The final Rok fight was scheduled for just after lunch and Paul Reynolds (who can talk for England!) paged me on the PA to go and fight, but I had just eaten a large and excellent lunch and was not in the mood for running around! However, the temptation was too great and I went out to assemble 'Slack Alice'. The culmination of the event was me with my little one metre Rok against a team of Andy Wardley and Carl Robertshaw with their two metre Rok - and they were playing dirty tricks, trying to trip me up with their line and remove my hat to boot. My appeals to the judges fell on deaf ears! The final result was a draw - and I wasn't flying on sisal washing line!!

The prize-giving and final awards were presented in the afternoon amid increasing rain, but in no way did that dampen the enthusiasm of all who were there. If they didn't get wet from the rain, then they did from the champagne that was sprayed around. This, for me, was a thoroughly enjoyable event and I congratulate all who put in the hours to organise it - most of all Kathy, who I know was in trepidation at running her first ever kite festival.

Ray Oakhill

MEMORIES OF GREG



Greg was intimately involved in my discovery (or should that be rediscovery?) of kites. For a couple of years he was my guide into, and occasional mis-director around the world of 'aerodynes'. This newsletter still bears the name he gave it - it's all too typical of Greg that the word 'kite' was far too simple a title for a creation of his.

For that reason, in most of my earliest memories of 'serious' (but not 'po-faced'!) kite flying Greg is not too far away. Disbelief, encouragement, derision and amusement were all part of the experience along with his constant urging to find something bigger and better (preferably in public) to do. Getting on with it was the thing that mattered. Ideas went straight from the inside of his head into practice and if it didn't quite

pan out the way it was meant, well - there was always another day and another left-field concept on the way.

I first met Greg in the summer of 1989. That meeting was the start of my involvement with kites and the Brighton Kite Flyers. The true beginning occurred a year earlier on a train journey to see some friends in Wales. An unscheduled stop in open countryside was enlivened by the antics of a lone flyer with a 3-stack of Peter Powells in a

field by the side of the track. I watched entranced until the train moved off. It was this memory that resurfaced the following summer when I spotted an entry in the local paper stating that there was a 'Free Kite Festival' at Waterhall Playing Fields the following weekend.

Sunday was a gorgeous day, Waterhall was cooking and to a complete newcomer the air seemed filled to bursting with kites of all sizes. I was standing watching a couple of men wrestling with a seemingly unresponsive bundle of red cloth and endless loops of string. The wiry little guy looked around, spotted me

and literally teleported himself to within 6 inches of my nose. "Make yourself useful", he said and handed me a

pair of (very tatty) gardening gloves and a loop of what looked like one of the QE2's mooring lines - "and don't let go". He then teleported himself back to the bundle, picked it up and with his companion, legged it off into the far distance. The pair of them then went back to communing with the red bundle and I stood there feeling rather at a loss. I'd just about decided that I was going to drop the line and walk off (so what's he going to do - break my legs?), when a

tremendous yank on the line dragged me a couple of yards and the red bundle had transformed itself into 80 square feet of flying machine. The rest of Sunday was spent (willingly!) as Greg's 'gopher'. In between, I flew two Strats, a handful of deltas of various parentage, bungeed a bear called Gamley (ask the BOF) and wrestled with a humongous six sided object framed with telegraph poles that Greg swore was called a Rokkaku.

A SPACE IN THE SKY

We were sad to find out that Greg Locke had passed away in the autumn of 2001, the news coming from his son Alasdair.

Greg was the leading light of the Brighton Kite Flyers from its inception in 1979, together with John Barker, Allan Martin and David White (although I'm not quite sure of the exact details), until he eventually moved away from kites in 1992. As far as I know, he ran the club pretty much single-handedly together with organising the first 13 Brighton Kite Festivals - from '79 on Telscombe Tye to '91 at Waterhall Playing Fields.

Although my kiteflying activities began in Bristol in '84, it wasn't until 6 years later that I met Greg at Brighton. I'd heard many madcap tales from home of his various kiting exploits, which incorporated numerous world record attempts; including altitude, flight duration and a kite powered Channel crossing (I'll try to dig out some archive material for future newsletter issues). However, nothing could have prepared me for meeting a man quite so fired up about kites! It was pretty contagious, everyone around him was quickly infected by his enthusiasm and involved before they knew it.

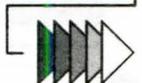
Amongst other things, he soon had me commentating and judging a Rok fight for the first time - which got me into terrible trouble with Alan & Carole Peacock, as when I asked Greg what the rules were he replied, "Just make them up"! I guess that's what made him such a fun kiteflier to be with, as 'rules' and 'kites' were two things that didn't coincide in his world.

Toody Oakhill

For the next three years (until Greg quit kites) I was privileged to be part of his escapades. Does anyone remember him trying to bodysurf the lake at Petworth House in a wet-suit and zero wind? The incidents are many and legendary - not least for the inability of those involved to agree on all the details! The version you get depends on who you talk to...

And yes, I did get to fly a 3-stack of Peter Powells that evening - thank you Greg.

Mik Jennison



BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

1ST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Our monthly general fly-in days - a chance for club members to meet up and fly together. Refreshments are available at The Badgers Watch pub, across the coast road opposite the flying site.

- ▶ **Event:** Club Fly-in
- ▶ **Venue:** Telscombe Tye/Brighton/East Sussex
- ▶ **Date:** 1st Sunday monthly throughout the year
- ▶ **Time:** 11.00am - 5.00pm
- ▶ **Site:** Next to the A259 coast road between Saltdean and Peacehaven
- ▶ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 392 017
- ▶ **Parking:** On the roads next to the site or in A259 lay-by
- ▶ **By Bus:** Nos: 14/711/712/713 from central Brighton
- ▶ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft
- ▶ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill

BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

2ND THURSDAY MONTHLY (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER)

Six mid-year monthly flying evenings at our festival site - with a get-together afterwards at The Swan pub at nearby Falmer.

- ▶ **Event:** Club Social Evening Fly-in
- ▶ **Venue:** Stanmer Park/Lewes Road/Brighton/East Sussex
- ▶ **Date:** 2nd Thursday monthly from April to September (inclusive)
- ▶ **Time:** From 6.00pm
- ▶ **Site:** Next to Sussex University
- ▶ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 342 088
- ▶ **Parking:** On the road through the site
- ▶ **By Bus:** No: 25 from central Brighton
- ▶ **By Train:** To Falmer Station
- ▶ **Height Clearance:** 200ft
- ▶ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill

FURTHER BKF INFO

- ▶ **Coordinator/Chairperson:**
 - ▶ Pete Linnell
 - ☎01273 683082
 - ✉pete@peterlinnkites.co.uk
- ▶ **Membership Secretary:**
 - ▶ Corinne Hennessey
 - ☎01273 582309
 - ✉corinne.hennessey@btinternet.com
- ▶ **Events Coordinator:**
 - ▶ Ray Oakhill
 - ☎01273 306842
 - ✉rao@mistral.co.uk
- ▶ **Editor:**
 - ▶ Toody Oakhill
 - ☎✉01273 243528
 - ✉toody@whizzieworld.com
- ▶ **Club Library:**
 - (Loans to BKF members only)
 - ▶ Pete Linnell (see above)
 - ▶ **Club Merchandise:**
 - Enamel Pins/Cloth Patches:**
 - ▶ Ray Oakhill (see above)
 - T-shirts/Sweatshirts/Pens:**
 - ▶ Alan Outram
 - ☎01737 771196
 - ✉alanoutram@connectfree.co.uk
- ▶ **Brighton Kite Flyers Website:**
 - <http://www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk>
 - <http://www3.mistral.co.uk/prchitty>
 - Webmaster:
 - ▶ Phil Chitty
 - ☎01273 305831
 - ✉prchitty@mistral.co.uk

BRIGHTON KITE FEST INFO

- ▶ **Brighton Kite Festival 2002:**
 - Date: Sat 20 & Sun 21 July
 - Time: 11.00am - 5.00pm
 - Venue: Stanmer Park/Lewes Road/Brighton/East Sussex
 - Organised by the Brighton Kite Flyers Festival Team
 - Joint Festival Coordinators:
 - ▶ Simon Hennessey
 - ☎01273 582309
 - ✉organiser@brightonkitefestival.co.uk
 - ▶ Alan Outram (see above)
 - ▶ **Brighton Kite Festival Website:**
 - <http://www.brightonkitefestival.co.uk>
 - Joint Webmasters:
 - ▶ Mik Jennison & Toody Oakhill
 - ✉webmaster@brightonkitefestival.co.uk

CURRENT COMMITTEE

- ▶ **Chairperson (Officer):**
Pete Linnell
- ▶ **Secretary (Officer):**
Simon Hennessey
- ▶ **Treasurer (Officer):**
Gill Pitman
- ▶ **Committee Members:**
Norma House
Alan Outram
Danny Steer

USE THIS SPACE...

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. Please include a stamped sae for return.

Please send contributions to:
Toody Oakhill
Brighton Kite Flyers Editor
Ground Floor Flat
10 Buckingham Street
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3LT

✉toody@whizzieworld.com

Deadlines for inclusions:

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

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 Editor or of the Brighton Kite Flyers.



42 ROMAN CANDLE 63.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Sky Dive Squad. The International Brother ans Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. How many times can we take the pitcher to the Mindless Drivelwell before we drop the thing and smash it to bits? Politically correctly speaking..WHO GIVES A TOSS.....

MYSTERY RULEMAKERS CLIP SKYDIVERS WINGS, yoo wot!

THEY'RE COMING TO TAKE ME AWAY HA,HA, TO THE FUNNY FARM, WHERE EVERYTHING IS SO LOADED UP WITH EURO B'LL CKS, ITS ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU WEEP,COS THESE RULES COULD APPLY EVEN TO PARAFUNA, HA,HA, HEE,HEE.....

AND THE REALLY PEACHEY BIT IS THAT THESE RULES EMANATE FROM SHADOWY BODIES THAT ARE NOT EVEN PART OF THE E.U., BUT WHICH THEY USE TO FURTHER THE HOLY TASK OF EVER INCREASING EURO INTEGRATION.

So what are these crazy rule and who are the mystery rulemakers?. If the Euroloonies have their way, huge numbers of recreational Sky Users will be ever so slightly miffed when they discover that a few years hence they will all be forced to carry what is known as a Mode S transponder, complete with its own power supply.

At present these bulky 'squawk' boxes at £6,000 a pop, need only be carried by commercial aircraft flying in controlled airspace, such as around airports to keep in touch with air traffic control by radar. If the Eurotossers have their way these boxes will be mandatory for all aerial vehicles, including Skydivers, and aint we Skydivers?

If you think this is typical Euro madness, wait, it gets better. Just as these rules become law, the technology will have moved on from a system based on radar to a system using satellite s, thereby rendering Mode S transponders thoroughly obsolete.

Who, you may ask are these mystery rulemakers? According to PILOT magazine the squawk box caper is the work of EUROCONTROL, hows that for a sinister name, a regulatory body made up of the aviation authorities ??? of more than 30 countries who are accountable to no one but themselves

This shadowy mob, one of dozens europewide are not an elected part of the E.U., but guess what, the E.U. is amazingly keen to endorse their efforts, which, lets face it, is par for the course for that meglomaniac Brussels shower. Its all part of the master plan for for a euro super state which is insinuating itself into every aspect of our lives

As usual through many many unelected and secretive committees such as EUROCONTROL, ugh, nasty, the e.u. has found another clever way to use such arms length bodies to further its own secret agenda which is behind everything it does, namely full european integration, and as always to be democratic, accountable,honest and open is the last thing on its mind.

Ve haf vays of making you comply, you rotten mangy moth eaten poor apologies for Parafauna of a soft cuddly toy persuasion, if ve say that up with this ve insist you put, then up with this you will be putting, like it or lump it.

All together now, THEY'RE COMING TO TAKE US AWAY HA, HA, TO THE EURO FUNNY FARM, WHERE EVERYTHING IS TICKETY BOO



SOCK IT TO 'EM BIG TIME

WE LIKE BEARS, AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO SHOW IT?

NOPE, YOU CANNOT DO BETTER THAN THE BRIGHTON MOB WHEN THEY DECIDED TO COMMISSION A 40ft TEDDYBEAR WINDSOCK FROM PETER LYNN.

Its certain that nobody will need to ask where the Kites are when this thing is aloft, as it can be seen from miles away. Mind you, problems could arise, if, this bear, like a lot of others develops a taste for the neck oil. Holy Cow, can you imagine what would happen down the Gun and Ferret if this lump turned up, intent on getting plastered.

Could be that the landlord would think he had won the lottery, that's if he had enough barley pop in stock, but it would be a bit of a bummer buying a round if old 40ft was in it.

In the last issue of Aerodyne it was suggested that the BOF could probably think up a name for the Bear, seeing as how it had not been christened, he did and as usual everything he suggested was too rude and yah boo sucks to the wag who said it should be called Hammy, coz it looked like a Hamster with its cheek pouches full. No it doesn't you rotten sod, its a nice chubby teddy bear, and I ask you would Mr Lynn flog the Brighton Mob a Hamster masquerading as a Bear?

Oh, all right then we'll tell you what the least rudest name suggested by the BOF was, but we'll have to abbreviate it in case the Macrame Knitters get the usual hump, as they do. Its B.U.F. Bear, and if you cant work out what BUF stands for then quite honestly, you should'nt be allowed out without your mother.



Build a Bear Workshops

WE'RE NOT SURE IF BUILD A BEAR WORKSHOPS OR SOMETHING SIMILAR ARE ALREADY IN THE U.K., BUT IF NOT ITS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME

So what is a Build a Bear workshop?. Prof Mike Dallmer says that they are in numerous locations throughout the U.S. and its a lot of fun for Bear lovers. It goes like this.

The workshop has a large number of different empty? Teds. you make your choice then proceed to a stuffing station where the Ted is filled with stuffing then sewn up. You then go to what they call the bathing station where you comb out the bear and blast it with compressed air to nicely fluff the bear up. At this stage, the bear can be left in the naughty naked nuddy, or if you prefer you can tog the little sod up in some clothing, a large variety being available at extra cost.



Prof Mike says the variety of beary schmutter is quite amazing and even included a Pilots outfit. However there was no Skydiving outfit and for that matter no Parachute however be that as it may it was a great deal of fun and six bears came to about \$100 which if these Build a Bear Workhops ever show up here would nodoubt be around £200.

WORKSHOPS, WORKSHOPS.....

Whilst on the subject of workshops. Prof Dallmer recently did a para fauna workshop for the South Jersey Kite Fliers.

Mike says it all went off quite well even though it was quite hectic making up 15 chute and pack kits. The good thing is that 15 poor beknighted sods have been introduced to the joys of Bear Bombing. and as you know, its all up for them as there is no known cure for that particular affliction.

NEVER KNOWN TO REST FOR A SINGLE MINUTE, MIKE HAS ALSO PRODUCED A LITTLE BOOKLET ENTITLED P.A.W.S. PARACHUTE AND PACK.

This is a nice little introduction to Fauna Bombing from scratch and should be extremely useful to anyone kicking off in our favourite pastime. One thing of note, in the material requirement list, Mike mentions the BLACKS Downrigger Release Clip, stock

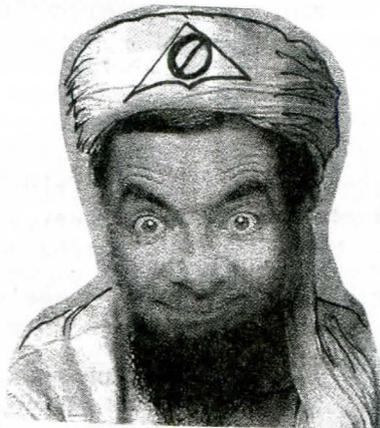
YES! IT'S OFFICIAL!

The Hunt for Ozzie and the Tali Teddies!

WATCH OUT, WATCH OUT OZZIES ABOUT!

BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER IF THOSE DOWN HOME GOOD OLD BEARS FROM FROM OVER THERE GET THEIR WAY. SEEMS AS IF THAT OSAMA BIN TAL TEDDY HAS BEEN STEPPING ON MORE THAN A FEW TOES.

WORD IS THAT THE GOOD OLD BEARS HAVE A REALLY SOOPA DOOPA PREZZIE FOR OUR OZZIE WHEN THEY CATCH UP WITH THE LITTLE ANSCHOLE.

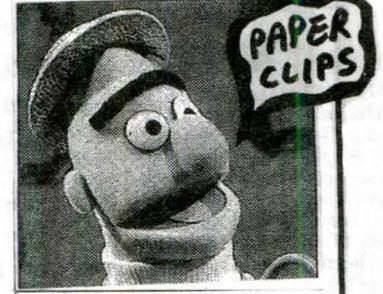


MR BEAN LADEN TAL TEDDY

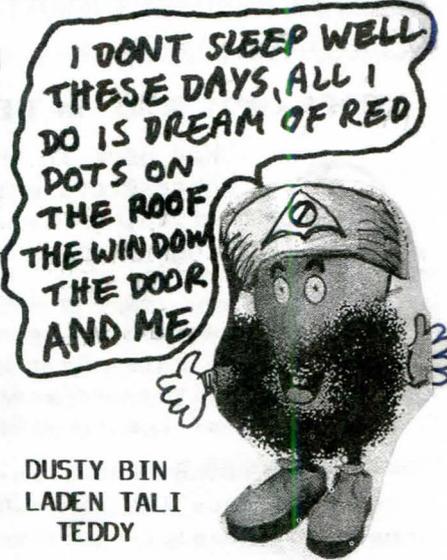
WHO WANTS TO BE A DEAD MILLIONAIRE?



FOR ONE MILLION SQUIDS.....
WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY RESIDE?
A. Rubble Villas. B. Under a Stone
C. A Bomb Crater D. Scope Crosshair



generated image of what Bin Liner now looks like.



DUSTY BIN LADEN TAL TEDDY

Who is depriving a village of its idiot?



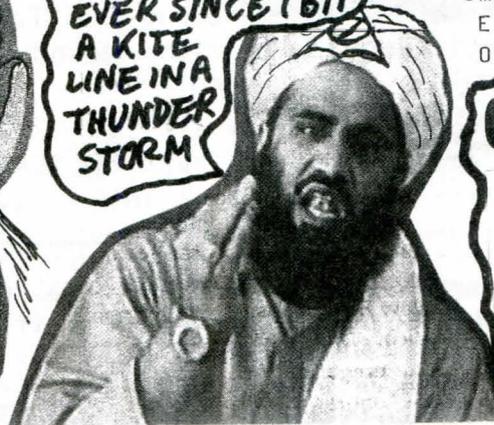
MUTTON DRESSED AS LAMB - but don't care? Attractive, humorous male, 40s, seeks short-skirted female, 45-plus for fun and frolics - steve909@



What is it with these Tali Teddies that makes them go bad? We can understand them not caring particularly for Parachutes as that is a Bottlejob thing, but why oh why do they hate the one thing that makes it all worthwhile namely KITES.

Are they off their Rockers, or are they so far up their own fundamentals that they have really lost the plot.

Whatever it is that has made them go on the turn we can do without and so can the world for that matter, so if you see any of these Loony Toons, Rat em out, Grass em up, Finger em, give em the Hex and the Evil Eye, Up with the Good Old Down Home Bears.



FLEA-MENDOUS

PROFESSOR Tomlin's celebrated flea circus — minus fleas — yesterday sold for £4,500 at auction. A six-inch Teddy bear rescued from the Titanic went for £9,000 at the Museum of Childhood sale in Ribchester, Lancs.

Watch out, a pricey FLEA THIEF is about, with an itchy bum.....

So, the celebrated Flea Circus was minusthe Fleas when it was knocked down for £4500, oh yea..... HEE, HAWW,BLUE LIGHTS,HEE,HAW, BLUE LIGHTS....ORLIGHT, HANDS ONHEADS,WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH YOU FEEVIN TEDS..... ALL CARS,ALL CARS, Last seen heading in a southerly direction at a fair rate of knots and scratching his Jacksie, at yention is called to that well known TEDDY BEAR TEALEAF '9K' believed to be in possession of a complete Flea Circus.

Holy Cow, whatever next?, we've had to put up with the furry little Barstewards stinking of vey stale beer or being infested with a variety of livestock toy too disimilar to the dreaded Moth, now we must expect the little swine to be alive with Fleas..... Hells Bells all of a sudden I feel itchy all over.

ANOTHER EMPTY SPACE IN THE SKY.....



Way back in those far off days before the BMISS existed, certain Kiting characters were endeavoring to perfect the art of boombing a variety of of things byparachute from kites. Note the word boombing. some of the things dropped did hit the ground with a boom

At the fore front of these charactors was Greg Locke, who truly did march to the sound of a different drum. A co-founder of the Brighton Kite Flyers, Greg was a larger than life Kiter who was over the top in everyth-Kite, and whatever he did in Kiting, he hit head on at 100 mph. Greg was a Kite loony of the very first order.

The Kiting capers that Greg got up to, are far to numerous to mention here, save one hilarious incident when Greg blew the backside off of Gamley Bear with one of his notorious exploding smoke flares. we almost bust our guts laughing.

Sadly Greg passed away recently after a long illness, and its true to say that we will never see his like again, for when he was born, they surely did break the mould and although not everybody could get their heads completely around everything Kites that he did, those who remember him in full flow would surely accord him the best epitaph a person could have "HE MADE ME LAUGH" and how better would you want to be remembered?..... Farewell Greg, nice to have known you.....

WHOOPS A DAISY, WHO'S A BIT NAUGHTY?.....

One of our agents informs us that a local to him mob, were endeavoring to raise funds, for what, we're not sure,by bombing Parafauna from a local flying schools Cessna

Ahem, far be it from us to point out that this is a bit naughty and highly illegal under the current air navigation orders promulgated by the C.A.A., and notwithstanding put the kibosh on this groups anonimity, by grassing them up to the Feds, we can only say that its this kind of infra dig activity that gets us all a bad name. Tu,tut,not the done thing dont'cha know.....psst any pics? we can obliterate the cessna reg No

NO LIMITS, OR SO THEY SAY.....

If any of you dropniks out there fancies a go at the STUFF THE JOLLY OLD RAG nonsense, then a firm called "motiveark" may be right upyour street.Amongst an amazing array of experiences are a couple of parachuting ones.

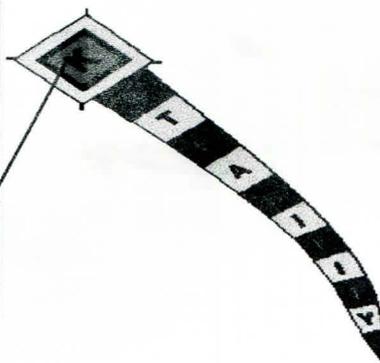
This mob offers a two day Basic Parachuting course at £185 and a Tandem Skydive Experience for £235. just the job if you want to find out what its like. find them at www.motiveark.com or 08700 555 666.....

As ever its the usual to the Teddytorial c/o The Boring old Fart, 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx,UB7.7TY,in what will be, England Forever, Oh an if you think we are a bit paranoid with all the Euroballocks, just ponder this, by the time you are

Kite Event Contacts

Contact	Address	Telephone	Email
Kites Up	Roy Broadley	01256 812487	kites@kitesup.co.uk
The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY	01206 271489	Events@thekitesociety.org.uk
Scruffs	77 Oxford Street, Pontycymer, Bridgend CF32 8DD	016560871871	margam@kiteshops.com
Martin Corrie		01206 299560	
Neil Harvey		01285 740295	
Simon Hennesey		01273 582309	Simon@hennesseys.co.uk
Joanna Mersey	Bignor Park, Pulborough, Sussex RH20 1HG	01798 869214	
Richard Nourse	85 Bells Orchard Lane, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4HP	01929 554690	richard.nourse@virgin.net
Frédéric Pouillaude	2 Place de la Mairie, 62170 Saint Aubin, France.	03 21 89 55 98	cerf.volant@wanadoo.fr
Neville Wing	9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QX	01684 295132	neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk
Great Ouse Kite Fliers	Peter West	01733 269687	Gokf@btinternet.com
Force Nine Kites	40/42 High Street, Clacton, Essex CO15 1UQ	01255 221059	Sales@fnk.co.uk
Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
Bryan Cattle	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
Kiteability	2 Garfield Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 4RP	020 8804 9080	Patnron@kiteability.co.uk
Joanna Mersey	Bignor Park, Pulborough, Sussex RH20 1HG	01798 869214	
M.K.F.	Alan Bill, 90 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B44 9DE	0121 360 1955	
Dunstable Kites		01582 662779	sales@dunstable-kites.co.uk
White Horse Kite Fliers	P O Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk
Al Cosgrove			Alan.cosgrove@ntlworld.com
Phil Womack		07957 308734	Fylde@fly.to
Andrew Pidgen		024 7232 3004	
Kreative Kites		01635 528400	kreativ.kites@argonet.co.uk
Malcolm Goodman	134 Thames Road, Billingham, TS22 5EX	01642 550827	Thekiteman@ntlworld.com

KITEABILITY
KITES & MATERIALS
2 GARFIELD ROAD
ENFIELD MIDDLESEX
EN3 4RP U.K.



"How time doth fly" Old Harry said
 "I must be getting old"
 "No sooner a rhyme is done
 Another must be told"

Santa is back home again
 Delivered all his toys
 Hope all events are back on line
 For kiteing boys and girls

Blow the winter cobwebs away
 Now get out in the sun
 A new kiteing year is here
 With kite friends and fun

Don't forget your kiteing bits
 It won't be long you see
 So come and get your order in
 To..... **KITEABILITY.**



PHONE / FAX: +44 (0)20 8804 9080
EMAIL patnron@kiteability.co.uk
WEBSITE
www.kiteability.co.uk
Proprietor: Mrs P Dell

Kite Event Calendar

April		
6-15	Berck Sur Mer International Kite Festival, France.	gerard.clement@free.fr
21	Streatham Common Kite Day, London	Bob Colover, bob.colover@easynet.co.uk
27-28	Stowe Garden Kite Festival, Buckinghamshire.	Neil Harvey
May		
5-6	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset	The Kite Society
5-6	Beverley Kite Festival, Racecourse, Beverley, Yorkshire (Provisional)	MKF
11-12	Suffolk Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	Martin Corrie
11-12	White Horse Kite Fliers Kite Festival at Oxford Balloon Fest	White Horse Kite Fliers
18-19	Cleethorpes International Kite Festival	Andrew Pidgen
25-26	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Hampshire	Kites Up
June		
1-2	Fylde Kite Festival, Lytham St Annes, Blackpool, Lancs	Phil Womack
2	Ashdon Kite Festival, Grounds of the Waltons, Ashdon, Essex	01799 584339
1-4	Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend.	Neville WIng
8-9	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke	Al Cosgrove
9	Peterborough Kite Festival, Nene Country Park.	Peter West. Gokf@btinternet.com
8-9	3rd Beacon Kite Festival, Lancashire	Ste.ve@ste-aspey.freemove.co.uk
15-16	Colchester Kite Festival, Abbey Fields, Colchester	Force Nine Kites
15-16	Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Maidstone, Kent	Kiteability
20-23	Fano Kiteflier Meeting, Denmark	00 49 40 21 3848
22-23	Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Playing Fields.	Michael Lowe
29-30	Shrewsbury Kite Festival, Sundorne Playing Fields.	
30	Rockingham Castle Kite Festival, Leicestershire	Neil Harvey
July		
6-7	Sunderland International Kite Festival, Washington, Tyne & Wear	Malcolm Goodman
13-14	Newbury Kite Festival	Kreative Kites
14	Petworth Kite Festival, West Sussex	Joanna Mersey
13-14	Barmouth Kite Festival, Barmouth Beach	
13-14	Silloth Kite Festival, Cumbria	
20-21	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	Simon Hennesey
27-28	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival	Neville Wing
August		
4	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath	Ken Charles 01223 207213
10-11	Whitmore Bay Kite Festival, Whitmore Bay, Barry Island, Wales	Www.thekiteman.com
10-11	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Hampshire	Kites Up
10-11	Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Maidston, Kent	Kiteability
17-18	Coventry Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Coventry	M.K.F.
24-26	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
September		
1	6th Hunstanton Kite and Car Event, Norfolk	Bryan Cantle
7-8	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court (Provisional)	
7-15	Dieppe International Kite Festival, France (Provisional)	infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org