



# Blowin' in the Wind

Wings Over Washington

## From the President

Jeff King

Another year, another president, another set of officers....well, sorta. We've got the same group of officers as last year, with the exceptions of me as President and Dave Soutar as a new VP. I'd like to offer thanks both from myself and on behalf of the club to Paul LaMasters for serving as President. We really appreciate your service, Paul, and I hope we can continue to keep WOW going as one of the most recognized and premier kite clubs in the country.

As I write this, we're just about to come up on the Air and Space Museum Indoor Fly followed immediately by the Smithsonian Kite Festival. If you've been around kiting or have followed kiting for even a little while, you probably already know that the Smithsonian is basically the de facto kick-off event for the kiting season. Although that's not formally defined as far as I know, the season is roughly March through October, so here we go!

I encourage you to get out and participate whatever festivals you can. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the various aspects of festivals (set up, tear down, kids kitemaking, etc) and I highly encourage you to come out and pitch in to whatever degree you can. General participation helps make the festival, too! If you just come out to fly and participate, it's a help. And after all, filling the sky with color and motion, acting as am-

bassadors of kiting, and having fun are what we're about!

I can't say we've got any major new initiatives on the board for 2009, but we are looking to better share the coordination of festivals among the officers and membership.

Also, as has been noted in several e-mails and forum postings, we'll be having indoor sessions plenty of times this year.

One area we haven't been too active in, especially recently, is workshops. We held a kite repair workshop back in December. I would really like to have a kitemaking workshop once a year. I never realized until I started looking into it just how much planning and organization goes into pulling off a workshop. This is probably why we don't have them more often. I began looking into various plans and supply costs already and had hoped to have a workshop before the Air and Space Museum Indoor. Unfortunately we couldn't get it in.

The great positive we have in this area is the number of experienced, even master kite builders in our club. Whether the presenters we coordinate have personal experience with the kites being made at a workshop or not, the nice thing is that with the amount of experience we have available, we can pretty much tackle almost any plan we set out to. Of course, we wouldn't want to use plans that are too



crazy or complex, but the bottom line is we easily have the ability and experience to hold workshops and it's something I want to pursue for the club.

Of course, kitemaking is just one area of the overall kiting experience. There is everything from miniatures to show kites, single line to quad line, and engineering, artistry, and craftsmanship throughout. What other initiatives might we look at to better serve the club membership? I welcome any ideas. Perhaps we could hold flight schools for those interested in dual line or quad line flying? Possibly mini-workshops in conjunction with other events, for example presentations on no-sew techniques, bridling, or aerodynamic considerations in kite engineering. These are things we could easily do as part of other events. How simple would it be to hold a flight school at a First Sunday Fly? I'm just kicking around some ideas here, but it seems to me that opportunities abound!

I'll close with a reminder that WOW is not just a collection of casual kite fliers. We have mem-

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### Special points of interest:

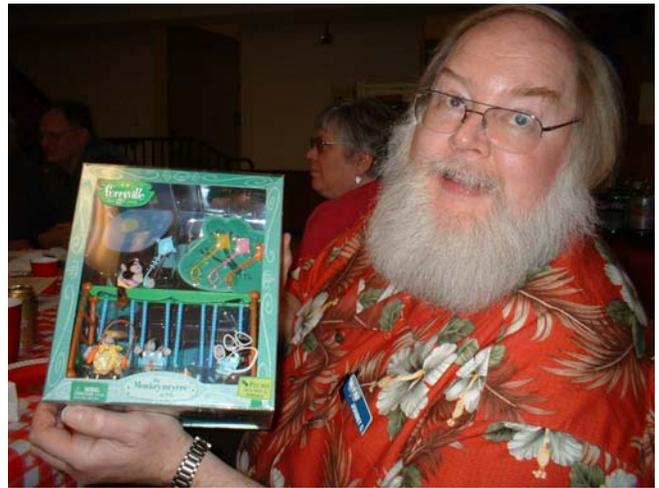
- WoWear coming soon.
- AKA wants your opinion

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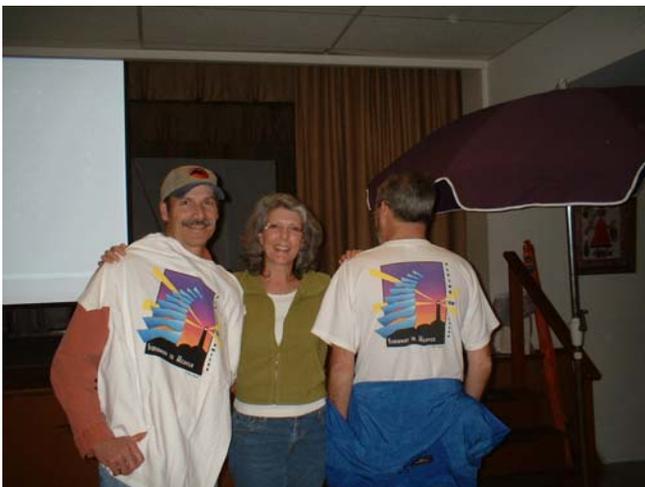
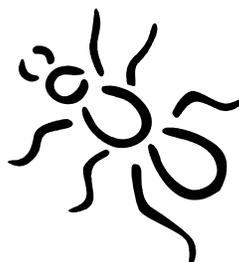
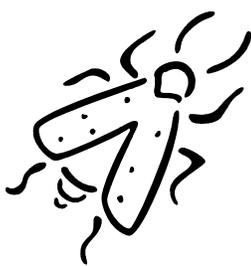
bers with significant experience in every area and aspect of kiting. If you find yourself with a question or in need of assistance in any area of your kiting experience, your club colleagues can help. Don't be afraid to ask! See you in the sky!

Jeff King



# Holiday Picnic

2009





# Annual Meeting Minutes

Dave Ashworth

The WOW annual meeting was held at Lake Fairfax Park on Sunday, November 16th. Club members in attendance included Harold and Elizabeth Ames, Jim Hodges, Jim Cosca, Paul LaMasters, Tom Butler, Tom Humphrey, Mike Kelter, Healey Sutton, Tom and Sandi Miguel, Dave Soutar, Paul Dugard, Dennis Hawley, Andrew Albosta, Jeff King, and Dave Ashworth. The following topics were discussed.

**Event Volunteers:** A continuing concern is the many requests that the club receives for participation in events throughout the year. It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the club officers to take responsibility for organizing, requesting volunteers, and staffing the events in which WOW has agreed to participate. The officers will decide how to share the burden of coordinating events.

**Holiday Party:** The annual holiday party will be held on 24 January at the Bethesda Presbyterian Church. WOW will pay for the main entrees for the party. Party participants are expected to bring appetizers and deserts for sharing with the club. Barbara Birnman will be the overall coordinator. Kathy Mosman will organize the bag raffle. Jeff King will coordinate and organize auction items. Harold Ames will be the auctioneer for the club fund-raiser.

**Newsletter:** Elizabeth Ames will continue to be the newsletter editor. There was discussion about the need for a mailed newsletter and use of the WOW web site as an alternative. Elizabeth Ames mentioned that the

mailing of the newsletter to all the members cost the club more than \$80 for each edition. Since more than 90% of the members has e-mail and Internet access, it was generally agreed that the WOW web site should be the major mode of transferring information to the membership. Those without e-mail could still be mailed a paper copy. The intent is to continue to publish a newsletter when there is sufficient information to make it worthwhile but it would probably be once or twice a year. A plea was made to support the website and newsletter with articles from the membership (on any loosely related topic!).

**Workshop:** Paul Dugard agreed to investigate the availability of his church for WOW workshops in early December for a day of kite repair and possibly late January-early February for a kite building workshop that could be more than one day. Dave Ashworth will continue as workshop coordinator. **WOW pins:** The club is out of pins and will need to make a new order. Paul Dugard agreed to coordinate a contest where club members can provide pin designs and the most popular design will be used for the next generation of WOW pins.

**Kite Flying Events:** Jeff King mentioned starting indoor practice events at his church on several Friday evenings, as we did last winter, prior to the Smithsonian indoor demonstration in March. All those who participated last year showed enthusiastic interest in doing this again. Tom Butler is planning on checking locations in Winchester VA that

would be suitable for an indoor competition. The intent is to organize an event sponsored by WOW and get AKA sanctioning as an official indoor event.

**Dynakite Trains:** Jim Cosca mentioned that the greatest crowd pleaser he's seen is multiple trains of dynakites. The members agreed to look into the purchase of 24 dynakites to fly at events where WOW has been asked to do demonstrations. Depending on the price, an alternative that will be considered is to conduct WOW workshop to build a set of kites that could be used in trains.

**Past WOW presidents:** Jim Cosca offered to provide a chronological list of past WOW presidents that can be posted on the WOW web site.

**WOW elections:** An e-mail ballot was provided to WOW members and letters were sent to those members that do not have e-mail. 20 members responded to the e-mail. None of the positions were contested and the following is a list of officers for the coming year.

**President:** Jeff King  
**Vice Presidents:** Dennis Hawley, Dave Soutar  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Birnman  
**Secretary:** Dave Ashworth  
**Webmaster:** Jeff King will continue as Webmaster for the near future.

Very Respectfully,  
Dave Ashworth, WOW Secretary

# Treasury Notes

Barbara Birnman

**Current balance in bank account: \$7130.46 (we have some outstanding expenses)**

**Picnic expenses: \$617.35 (including room rent). 42 attendees = \$14.70/person.**

**Proceeds:**

**Bag raffle = \$ 310.00**

**Auction = \$2748.00**

**Grand total = \$3058.00**

**Thank you letters will be sent to all donors; thanks to everyone who participated both as donors and bidders!**

**WOW made donations to The World Kite Museum and The American Cancer Society in memory of Scott Spenser.**

**WOW will again sponsor two awards for the 43rd Smithsonian Kite Festival.**

**WOWear: The embroidered logo from Cabela's is almost finalized. We will send out an email and post ordering information on the website as soon as it is finalized. We are also working with Land's End for WOWear.**





## Indoor Flying Time

Jeff King

Once again this year, we've coordinated some indoor practice times leading up to the Air & Space Museum Indoor. Practice is the primary (but not only) reason for these sessions.

Hopefully this year the days & times will be a little easier for folks to attend. These sessions will be on SATURDAY AFTERNOONS from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at the Bay Area Community Church in Crownsville, MD.

The scheduled dates are the following Saturdays remaining: March 7th, and March 14th. However, if we want, the church can let us have Tuesday evenings those weeks. I would appreciate any feedback about whether to pursue those evenings.

Here are the conditions for participation: Fliers will be required to sign standard AKA waiver forms for participation, and participants will be responsible for their share of the church's usage fee. For us the fee is \$70 per event/day. Unfortunately we couldn't make participation free. So based on that figure, calculate \$10 each if there are seven fliers.....more if less fliers, less if more fliers.

The space is roughly the size of a school gymnasium. Also note (important), the ceiling is approximately 30 feet high, however there is a lighting and A-V bank hanging down on one side to approximately 20 feet high. Based on our experience flying here last year, we recommend using 12-foot or shorter lines. (You can probably get away with 15-foot

lines, if careful, but you'll certainly be safe with 12'.) These lengths are about what we generally have to fly on at the Air and Space Museum.

Bay Area Community Church is at 884 Chesterfield Road, Annapolis, MD. Despite the Annapolis address, it's actually closer to Crownsville, just near the Maryland Renaissance Festival grounds. <http://www.bayareacc.org/>

Note while we're announcing these as "practice sessions", they are wide open for anyone who wants to come out and fly indoor for fun, or to give it a try for the first time. Experienced fliers will be around to provide some training and guidance. It's also not a bad venue to try out new indoor designs if you have any (hint, hint, kitemakers).

Further, we have obtained (are in the process of...) sanctioning for this event as a continuing event in 2009, so we can do indoor flies multiple times this year (same location) if we choose to, depending on availability and coordination for the church space.

One last note for our regional sister clubs and kiting friends who see this, you are more than welcome to come join us if you wish to!

Hope to see you all there! Jeff

## AKA Corner

Will Smoot, AKA Regional III Director

As always the AKA is offering a raffle for a Registration to the AKA convention. You may use it for yourself, give it to someone, or save it to use at the following convention. The cost is only \$1.00 per ticket and I have several books.

New this year is a raffle for a hotel room for 6 nights at Rochester. This is for 6 nights at the Grand Kahler hotel where all workshops and meetings will be held. Tickets for this will be \$5.00 each. I expect my supply of tickets to arrive any day so you may get these through me as well.

The Board of Directors exchanges e-mail frequently, and this weekend held a conversation using our conferencing system. Much of the discussion was about finances. I would like your feedback on any or all of the following:

- Bring back a monthly or quarterly raffle of kites and kite related items
- Forget the food on Friday night – just have the auction
- Establish a Junior AKA Member status for those under 18 who would not be an associate member because there is not anyone else in the household interested in kites. This

## Calendar of Events

### March

**1st**—1st Sunday Fly, Washington Monument Grounds

**7th**—Indoor flying practice session, Bay Area Community Church, Crownsville, MD 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. \$

**14th**—Indoor flying practice session, Bay Area Community Church, Crownsville, MD 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. \$

**14th**— King George Kite Fly, Litchfield Farm, King George, VA (corner Rte. 218 and Rte.206) 1:00p.m.—3:00 p.m.

**21st**—Indoor fly at National Air & Space Museum

**28th**—Smithsonian Kite Festival, Washington Monument Grounds

### April

#### National Kite Month

**5th**—1st Sunday Fly, Washington Monument Grounds

**24th-26th**—Maryland International Kite Expo; Ocean City, MD.

### May

**3rd**—1st Sunday Fly, Washington Monument Grounds

**22nd-25th**—Wildwood International Kite Festival, Wildwood, NJ

person would be under a certain age, as mentioned, and only receive an electronic copy of the magazine (assuming it can be converted)

- Post the auction items on the internet and allow non-attending members to bid either through a person at the auction (cell phones) or using our conferencing system.

Challenge the Wind!

Will Smoot  
RD - Region 3





**Wings Over Washington**

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The nation's capital kite club

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**WoWear  
Coming  
Soon!**

