



Blowin' in the Wind

Wings Over Washington Kite Club

From the President

Jeff King

The times, they are a -changing! Well, the seasons are, anyway. October?! It's fall, already! Where did the year go? As we look ahead through the fall and winter, what can we expect? Obviously, we can expect the return of good winds! I'm no weatherperson, but my experience has been that the hot times of summer are the worst for good winds. Fall, winter, and spring provide much better winds. Also, up and coming in the bottom of the year will be our annual meeting and election.

I also expect to have at least one more indoor fun fly before the end of the year. Additionally, I will be looking to schedule indoor practice/fun fly sessions with our church again in advance of the Air & Space Museum Indoor event in March. This coming year, I hope to schedule more sessions than previous years. Stay tuned; I'll be getting those dates and times worked out soon.

I would *love* to hold a workshop over the winter. I'm ready and willing to present a "Gentle Giant Buka" (design by Stan Kellar). We could also do the WOW mini-banners again. I'd love to get another kite in the mix too. If nothing else, we'll definitely hold a kite

repair workshop sometime before spring, perhaps even an "open style" pre-MKS workshop.

What else is buzzing out there? Paul Dugard came back from the Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF) at Long Beach, WA, with glowing reviews of the event. He's also keen on pulling our experienced Rev fliers together to practice as a team to enable us to really put on some serious quad line shows/demonstrations. I think we've got fliers with the requisite skills, and I agree with Paul that it's probably just a matter of learning some team maneuvers and practicing some routines. Consider how we've been practicing to tune up and enhance our indoor show at the Air & Space Museum. We may not be iQuad, but we could put on one heck of a show. We already do sometimes, but I think most would agree we could use a more polishing. I'm sure we'll be hearing, if not doing, more about this in coming weeks/months.

On the subject of shows/demonstrations, last year there was a suggestion to buy two sets of DynaKites so the club can put on impressive two-line train demonstrations. We did get pricing (which actually isn't too bad) but the



initiative lost steam over the spring and summer. We'll revisit that one again soon, too.

Just a quick note about club equipment. <http://www.wowkiteclub.com/wowkites.htm>. The list of who has which club kites is, I'd say, only about 60 or 70% complete. I *think* the list of kites and gear is pretty accurate. However I still don't have "possession information" on some of the kites. What I'd really like to note is that the club equipment and/or kites are available to all members for use at festivals or events. All it takes is a request and a little advance coordination to latch onto the gear. Be advised, though, that equipment is loaned out on a first come, first served basis. There's always the possibility it (especially the ground display) may already be reserved for a given date. Don't let that deter you, though! ASK!

Hopefully, the next time many of you see me I'll

Volume 14, Issue 2

October 2009

Special points of interest:

- Renew Now! Annual memberships were due 9/1/09.
- Annual Meeting and elections: Nov. 14th

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be wearing two shoes again! Should be out of the air cast (finally, blessedly) around Halloween time. See you soon!

Fair Winds and Following Seas!



Third Time's the Charm

Mike Mosman

This was my third trip to the International Friendship Festival in Sunderland, England. Every year on the weekend closest to the 4th of July the festival is held in the town of Washington, ancestral home to the very same family that spawned our nation's first president. As much as I enjoy kite festivals, and as much as I enjoy visiting the British Isles, one would think that both those things together would send me giddy with joy. It's true, but it took three times before that happened.

My first Sunderland Festival in 2007 was nearly a complete washout. That was, I'm sure, the rainiest weekend in England that year. The first day saw me dressed in my Gore-tex rain suit flying kites while most others huddled in the hospitality tent. The second day was canceled altogether because the field was too wet. The 2008 festival tried desperately to equal that epic prior year, but could only manage continuous passing showers with a few well-placed downpours...just enough to keep the public at bay.

Ah, but this year was different, different in that it had sunlight. Mind you, we still had the requisite rain, but it at least had the courtesy to hold off until we were all gathered in the giant meeting tent for dinner. So, during the day I and all my great international friends were out with our kites in the air and the public to watch. (I had begun to wonder if there were actually any people who live in Northern England that go to kite festivals. Turns out, there are thousands of them.)

The 2009 Sunderland Festival was a smashing success. For me it was even more special because I and my English friend, Phil, were treated like VIP's when we got there. The fact is, I just don't get that kind of attention at home, and it certainly makes it worth the trip over. On top of that, because July 4th actually fell on Saturday, the annual ceremonies at Old Washington Hall would be held on a festival day, and Phil and I had a special invitation to attend. Pauline Taylor had

even arranged our transportation there and back. (Pauline, as an event organizer, is miles ahead of anyone else I know.)

We were almost late for the gig at Old Washington Hall. The BBC buttonholed me on the way to the bus. They had to have an interview with the Yank (Who, me? Really?). When we got to the ceremonies, the host escorted us directly to our seats down front. (They saved us seats? Sweet!) The show blew me away. There were speeches by the local Mayor, a dignitary from Washington, DC, and the resident

Daughter of the American Revolution. The local school (JFK Elementary, no less) put on a skit praising President Obama (Yes we can!). We recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and sang the American National Anthem...on British soil! (Phil suggested that may be a rather rare event in England.) Then, we had tea with the Mayor in the Old Hall and a special tour of the place. And the day was not even half over yet!

Back on the field, I got to fly with Steven Hoath and the Flying Squad. I now consider him and his group, old friends. I got to pull out my latest kite and show it off. It's the reigning AKA Grand National Champion. After a great day flying, we all met in the art exhibit tent where we found two things that are extremely rare in the USA, a huge collection of very well done art kites and...free beer! (Is this a great festival, or what?)

Sunday was just another great day of flying interrupted only by a VIP lunch with

the Mayor and the American dignitary Mrs. Scott, the Secretary of Washington DC, who was attending the event with her whole family. I was very amused when the local paper journalist had Mrs. Scott and I pose together, her pretending to be interested in the kite pins on the vest of this scruffy kiter who looked like he just crashed the lunch party. Anyway, the



Mike with Mayor of Sunderland and his wife

lunch was fabulous.

In fact, the food was great everywhere. The Hotel made us great breakfasts in the morning and wonderful buffets Friday and Sunday night. The Saturday banquet was...interesting...but no one went hungry. On my trips to England I keep looking for this bad English food I'd heard about, but I've yet to find it.

So it was fun, food, friends and flying...it really doesn't get much better than that. The Sunderland International Friendship Festival is now one of my favorite events. I'm going to make every effort to be there in the coming years, even if they quit pretending I'm a real VIP.

Also, now that I know that the sun really does shine in Northern England, I can expect that there will be lots of people watching lots of kites flying lots of kites when I get there. But I won't be fooled. I'll always remember to pack my waterproof boots.





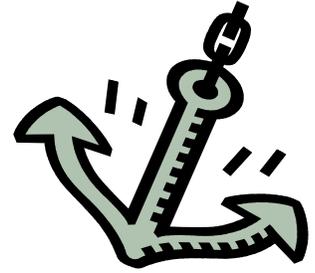
Anchor, Anchor, Anchor

Jeff King

Ask any experienced flier of the big stuff how important safety is, and they'll quote you chapter and verse. Yet, even smaller kites can become challenging in certain conditions. One time it took two of us to haul down a Power Sled 36 at Wildwood on a high wind day. Yes, it was pulling that hard. Have you ever read about not using those simple two-handled plastic spinner spool winders to pull a kite

All of this leads to the point I want to make: When flying a kite capable of generating tremendous pull, whether it's just a ROK in high winds or a giant show kite, it is critical to anchor properly and exercise the proper safety precautions. Kites have been known to (and will continue to) pull anchors; even anchors that were put in by skilled professionals with a lot of experience.

it sport kites, traction kites, large show kites or whatever; ask a few questions of experienced fliers before diving in. Better still, get some mentoring or training. The club (and the kiting community at large) has any number of subject matter experts, and just asking for tips or advice may just allow you to prevent an accident from ever happening. An ounce of prevention and all that...Have fun out there, but be safe!



Do not be lax about your anchors! Learn proper anchoring techniques. Ensure your anchors are put in properly and with considered thought to the size and pull of the kite, and to the expected wind conditions--not just the conditions *when* you're anchoring, but also the conditions forecast for later. Actively monitor the anchor and kite throughout the day. A sand anchor with a berm on the lee side of the hole may be compromised if

down under tension because "the winder could break?" That has actually happened to my wife. A simple 6-foot delta squished that tube like an eggshell. The danger increases as the size of the kite and the strength of the wind increase.

There are many examples of large kite incidents out there as well. There's the tragic Steve Eideken incident. There's the ground bouncer up north that pulled its stake and the stake struck a child, who thankfully was not seriously injured. There's the spiky ball that pulled its stake and went for a ride at Rockaway. There's the large show kite pulling its sand anchor down the beach at Wildwood and another large show kite that pulled a huge steel stake right out of the ground in North Carolina. There's my personal favorite example of the giant tube at Wildwood that actually started dragging the Ford F-350 to which it was anchored, thus necessitating another anchor for the truck. These stories are just a few examples. There are many, many more.

the winds shift 90 or 180 degrees later in the day. The same applies to steel stakes at non-beach venues. Stakes should be angled directly into the wind, at times doubled, and monitored to help avoid compromise. There are other types of anchors out there, as well. Use them in accordance with their recommended usages and tolerances, and always keep an eye on them for early warning signs of loosening or compromise.

Many of us have learned kiting safety lessons the hard way; it happens, but my friends, the school of hard knocks is not the way to go when dealing with potentially dangerous kites. When you're venturing into a new area of kiting, be





Scott Spotted in Dieppe

Barbara Birnman

I wanted to let you know that Scott Spenser travelled with Paul and me to Dieppe, Canada earlier this month, and I have a story for you all. I know that Scott enjoyed the trip; he spent every day at the festival, which began on Wednesday, 12 August 2009. But, by Sunday, the last day, I just couldn't decide where he should "reside."

As I emerged out the front of the USA tent on Sunday morning, the ground display that was so beautifully lit at the Saturday night fly was right in front of me, and it just seemed the perfect place for Scott. I don't know if Phil Broder got a photo of Christine's (McGee?) ground display the night before, but he did get a photo on Sunday morning. I am sure my description will not give the display justice.

From what I have been told, Christine does some set work for Cirque de Soleil, and this display was actually used in a Cirque set. I'd say there are about 12-15 banner poles, all with white, silky feathers on them, but some have a "topper." This "topper" kind of looks like the top of a fleur-de-lis and is all white; it also has heavy white threads (maybe 4-6 inches long) positioned in small bunches on this "topper." Mounted in the center bottom of the topper, attached to the banner pole, is a porcelain-looking white face with the eyes and mouth cut out; at night, the

touch light mounted between the face and the backer softly illuminates the top, especially showing through the eyes and mouth. It is very surreal, and knowing how Scott seemed to love ground displays, I thought that this was the perfect place for him.

Well, it didn't end there. When the auction began on Sunday night, Christine had donated one of the incredible banners. I couldn't believe it. It's a good thing that Joyce and Cliff Quinn drove because I was leaving with the banner, and it certainly would not fit in my kite bag or on the mini airplanes we flew to/from Dieppe (one was a prop!). So, yes, I ended up with the banner, and when everyone who bid against me heard the story, they were all very happy that I got the banner. So, I have the feather, the Quinns' have the topper, and we hope to meet up at Sunfest (actually, the Quinns have some more of my stuff - I don't know what I would have done if they had not offered to transport some of my new stuff that I got in Dieppe - thanks, Joyce and Cliff!). Actually, I met up with Joyce, Andy, and Syl at Sunfest, and Andy transported my stuff from Joyce's residence to Ocean City; so, thanks to Andy and Syl, as well. So, I now have all my cool stuff from Dieppe!

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2009 AKA Convention Awards:

Mike Mosman

- Most Innovative
- 1st Place—Cellular and Dimensional
- Highest score in structural design

CONGRATULATIONS!

Whistle Up Some Wind

Jeff King

Some of us are familiar with Bill "The King of The Wind" Ochse, founder of the Kite Loft, and his penchant for whistling for the wind. Bill's retired now but can still be seen around Ocean City and, from time to time, still whistling for the wind. Whistling for the wind is an old sailing superstition - or custom - that goes way, way back. I don't really see many kites doing this (actually, I haven't seen *anyone* other than Bill do it), but I think it'd

be great if more of us did. Then again, it's just a silly superstition...right? But it is charming and fun and I think fits right in with who we are and what we do. So next time you're out to fly and find yourself becalmed, whistle for the wind! Who knows? It might just work!





Wow Wear Orders

If you are interested in ordering items from Cabela's featuring the WOW logo, the account has been established. The logo is embroidered as opposed to screen printed. There are just a few items that Cabela's offers that cannot be embroidered, and the customer service representative will let you know if you have chosen one of them when you call. We have two sizes of logos, a smaller one for use on hats, the front of a shirt, etc., and a larger one for placement on the back of an item like a jacket, vest, sweatshirt, etc.

The staff at Cabela's is VERY IMPRESSED with our logo; they think it is really nice looking. Cabela's has produced a high quality embroidered logo for us; it is very tight and very smooth.

The minimum order is one item. Each



order will be paid for by the person placing the order; you may not charge your items to a central account because one does not exist. It's a pay-as-you-go system.

Once you have selected your item(s) from the Cabela's catalog (<http://www.cabelas.com>), you will contact the Customization Department to place (and pay for) your order; do not use the regular Cabela's telephone number. The telephone number for the Customization Department is 877-892-4424; their email address is embroidery@cabelas.com.



They will ask for the WOW customer number which is 40170229.

You will need to decide which size logo you want on each item that you order:
*the smaller logo is 1.77" x 3.5". The ID # for this logo is 30014468. The embroidery cost per item for the smaller logo is \$5.00.
*the larger logo is 4.96" x 10". The ID # for this logo is 30014470. The embroidery cost per item for the larger logo is \$12.50.



Exposing the Club

Jeff King

Whoa! Perhaps *exposing* isn't the right word, how about *promoting*? More to the point, I'm talking about promoting the club's value. I'm dancing around the recent additions to the website that make more information available about the club and our activities. I pointed these out in e-mail and a forum post earlier this year, but I'll mention them again. The website now has the following:

- an "About Us" page that tells WOW's history a little more in depth
- a "Press" page for news items about us (Please send these to me if/when you see them!)
- a "Newsletter" page where you'll find the newsletter

- and a "Subject Matter Experts" page that lists club members with particular expertise.

I want to touch on the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) page just a little bit. If you hold certain expertise and would like to be listed, let us know. Please be realistic--if you're not really an expert, please don't claim to be. Yet, this page need not be limited to superficial definitions of kites and kitemaking skills. Consider associated experience that plays well with kitemaking and kiting. For example, if you're an expert at sewing machine repair, that could be a very valuable skill/service to our membership. If you're an expert seamster/seamstress, but per-

haps not necessarily a kitemaker, that could also be a valuable skill/service to our members who may be seeking sewing or appliqué advice.

We have often held ourselves up as willing and able to help people learn about kites. What I would like to do is take that a step further and focus that outreach by identifying expertise and who has it.

When I step back and look at the level of expertise we have in the club, it's stunning. It's a pleasure to be associated with so many skilled people. I'm very proud of the folks identified as SMEs who are willing to be listed and lend their expertise to others. Kudos to ya! See you in the sky soon!





Annual Meeting/Elections/Indoor Fly

Jeff King

It's on again, gang!! We'll be holding another indoor fun fly event on Saturday, November 14th, from Noon to 6:00 PM. This is a one day event and will be at the same location as our previous indoor sessions: Bay Area Community Church in Crownsville, MD. If you have no indoor experience but would like to give it a try, come on out! Novices welcome! I'd also encourage the experienced fliers to actually fly full routines over just practicing, but what the hey, practice is fine, too! We'll be exercising a smidge more control over the floor this time out, so things don't get too crazy with multiple fliers getting in each others' way out there.

WOW will also take time out for about 45 minutes, give or take, to hold our annual meeting and elections. We'll try to keep it short & sweet so as to not impact the flying too much. Of course, any non-members attending will be free to continue flying while we take care of the meeting. (Veteran members of WOW will note we're changing our usual venue for the annual meeting in light of recent years' challenges at Lake Fairfax Park. While we considered several other locations, the most compelling factors for holding the meeting in conjunction with the indoor were the timing of the indoor (falling at annual meeting time and suffi-

cient time for getting out the notice) and the "weather safe" indoor venue). *Also, please note that if you do not renew your WOW membership by October 31st, you may not participate in the meeting/election.*



The same conditions as before will apply for participation in the Indoor Fun Fly: **ALL fliers will be required to sign the standard AKA waiver form for participation, and participants will be responsible for anteing their share of the church's usage fee, which for us is \$70 per day.** Unfortunately we cannot make participation free. So as an example, 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, 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', unless you're very, very tall.)

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/>

For our regional sister clubs and kiting friends who see this, you are more than welcome to come join us!

If there is any change to these plans, you will be notified. Hope to see you all there!

One last reminder: The common WOW membership expiration date is August 31st. If you haven't sent in your membership renewal, please do so ASAP! You're overdue!

Annual WOW Membership

Due 9/1/09







Membership Application

New Member Renewal
 Reinstatement Merchant Member
 Don't publish my name in the Directory
 Don't distribute my name outside the AKA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

URL: _____

Other Family Members: _____

Visa/MC/Discover/Amex #: _____

Signature: _____

My primary interest is: single-line kites multi-line kites kitemaking fighter kites traction kites K.A.P

Join online at www.aka.kite.org

Membership Dues	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	Amount
Individual (KITING via 3 rd class mail)	\$35	\$68	\$101	_____
KITING via 1 st class mail	\$43	\$83	\$123	_____
Canada or Mexico	\$43	\$83	\$123	_____
Overseas	\$45	\$87	\$129	_____
Sponsor (KITING via 1 st class mail, Includes tax deductible contribution)	\$100	\$200	\$300	_____
Additional family members in same household				
Per person add:	\$5	\$10	\$15	_____
Please remit in US\$				
Sorry we cannot accept Canadian cheques				Total _____

Send this form with your payment to:
American Kitefliers Association
P.O. Box 1614
Walla Walla, WA 99362

For information call
800-AKA-2550

Referred by _____
Local kite club _____

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Wings Over Washington Membership Form

Single Household

New New
 Renewal Renewal

Membership Dues

Single members—\$20 new, \$15 renewal
Household—\$25 new; \$20 renewal

Membership runs from 9/01 to 8/31 annually. Prorated rates are as follows:
\$15 annual—\$1.25/month
\$20 annual—\$1.70/month
\$25 annual—\$2.10/month

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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Wings Over Washington Kite Club

C/O Barbara Birnman
13406 Staffordshire Place
Germantown, MD 20874



The nation's capital kite club.

WWW.WOWKITECLUB.COM



Annual Meeting and Elections

Saturday, November 14th

**Bay Area Community Church
Crownsville, MD**



More Details Inside

