



Blowin' in the Wind

Wings Over Washington Kite Club

From the President

Jeff King

Spring, spring, spring, spring, spring....have you noticed it's spring? FINALLY, after that galactic winter with all that snow, spring, yes, has sprung. And we all know what that means! KITE SEASON!! (Bone of contention here...actually, I personally hold that all year round is "kite season", but you know what I mean...) As we hit the end of March and the Smithsonian Kite Festival is under our belts, we launch full-on into National Kite Month and the deluge of kite festivals and events that many of us attend throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall months. One thing I've been doing lately is posting more "eastern U.S." events on our calendar...stuff I find from the Ohio Valley, to Rhode Island, to Florida, etc. I'm doing this as I know our members

travel on business or personal trips and I want to provide as much information about events as possible in our neck of the woods...granted, what I described is a big "neck of the woods", but what the hey. No kidding, though, some of us do travel significant distances for events. For example, the Cape Fear Kite Festival (bottom of North Carolina) in November, and the Treasure Island Kite Festival (Florida) in January. There are certain other events sometimes attended even farther away, but the underlying thought here is that we're an east coast club, so I want to provide information about east coast events. Sooooo....take a look at that calendar. Break out your kites and participate! As we've mentioned before, you don't have to necessarily co-



ordinate a festival or volunteer at one (although we really really would love it if you would!), but by all means be a participant. Get out there, enjoy yourself, and show those kites off...maybe even share your expertise and interest with kids or others who take an interest. Hey, we're not just hobbyists...whether we're inexperienced or experienced, novices or experts, as Wings Over Washington club members, we're ambassadors for the world of kiting. Take an active part and enjoy the great outdoors...put a kite in the air!

Volume 15, Issue 1

April 2010

Special points of interest:

- Annual Meeting Minutes
- National Kite Month

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We Fell in Love

Mike Mosman

The Maryland Kite Society Kite Building Retreat last February fell on St. Valentine's Day weekend, which coincided with President's Day weekend this year. So when we once again assembled to build such interesting kites and to learn some new tricks, there was more than one reason to expect a romantic weekend.

Because of "contract difficulties" the MKS was forced to look for a new venue for their retreat. After a frantic search we landed at the Turf Valley Golf Resort in Elliott City. After many previous years in "utilitarian" hotels, when we walked into the first class resort at Turf Valley it was love at first sight. Swanky lobby, full service restaurant and bar, spacious meeting hall with lots of windows and light, and very comfortable rooms...there was very little not to love.

The program this year had three great kites. From Holland, Janneke Groen joined us to show off her Sode Dako (kimono style) kites done in a patchwork technique. Drake Smith presented his special version of a keeled Yakko kite. And I was honored to teach my latest invention, a star shaped single-celled kite called "GoogleFlex."

Snowmageddon came to town just before our retreat, and it

brought with it memories of being snowed in at a retreat some years back. The airports were closed on the day Janneke was due to arrive and we began to worry. Connections were made just in time and the program went off with nary a hitch.

In a hall with plenty of power and adequate lighting, an 8' long table for every person, and several cutting stations, we kite makers were living in the lap of luxury. We had so much room we were able to bring the ever trusty Steve Ferrel of The Kite Studio into the hall to enjoy the company of the participants as they worked.

When the banquet was served we were stunned by the great quality of the food. At dinner I looked around and, I think, counted at least six present and past AKA presidents. That's rubbing elbows with big cheese! It was a wonderful evening. But no less entertaining was the auc-

tion the following evening. There were plenty of great items, and great bargains.

The deep snow outside was a definite contrast to the warm feelings inside. By unanimous consent this MKS retreat was one of the best. We are looking forward to next year, which will again occur on St. Valentine's Day weekend, when we will continue our love affair with Turf Valley Resort and our kite building friends.



Scenes from Area Events



Air and Space Museum

MKS Retreat

Drachen Foundation

Jeff King

Just speaking anecdotally, I don't hear folks talk much about the Drachen Foundation. Don't get me wrong, I've heard lots of conversations about the Foundation, but it just doesn't seem to come up in kiter's conversations as readily as numerous other topics. Yet the Drachen Foundation

is an outstanding organization and an amazing kiting resource. If you haven't checked them out, you should! Find them online at: <http://www.drachen.org/>





KINDS OF KITES

A T H G Y J G N G L E D D Y B I K C N E
D N O M A I D J H J R O O Y M C X O B Y
T Z Z H R K X Q I K N E G K R O X D Q R
P H X C N J E V T G I E T X P D Q R H A
E F B A R N D O O R G L R H Z Y F A S T
Q G T R A C T I O N L G X B G E N G P I
L V L C K S Z N G I I N S B C I Z O O L
K Z P B H T G N K F O I E T B M F N R I
R C Q O F O L E D O F S Q D Q W J P T M
J I P L K Y C R A B A C M R O F W O L F
A N Q A R K D I H K R Q K V T S U Q P W
C F G U Z E A S N L A U N D C N I A R T
E L Z D M S L Y T O P A J B E R U G I F
S A R L T O T L M V C D T D Z B N T J X
I T O Z M F E D O T C R S E A U E S S X
H A K W X T T Q O R E H A U T I S O C F
K B K P O W E R V P J G J M L X W T S U
F L A T G K V Z O P E D R G E N K L C L
D E K T S Y C L N E R R X A D Z E A H X
X A U R C T Y M P X A E O B T D H S M K

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| TRACTION | MARCONI | SOFT | TRAIN |
| DELTA | POWER | PARAFOIL | EDDY |
| INFLATABLE | SINGLE | FIGURE | CODY |
| DUAL | STUNT | GENKI | SPORT |
| DOPERO | SODE | SLED | ROKKAKU |
| QUAD | FIGHTER | BARNDOR | BOX |
| MILITARY | ROLLER | TARGET | DIAMOND |
| FLOWFORM | EDO | DRAGON | YAKKO |





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.



What Kind of Kiter Are You?

Jeff King

I've been rather fortunate in becoming the sort of kiter I am. A number of you have heard me describe myself as a "generalist" or a "jack of all trades". Whereas I started with very simple small single line kites, my interests have grown and expanded over my relatively few years as a serious kiter. With the wife coming along for the ride, from those small single line kite beginnings I've dabbled in dual-line sport kites, quad-line sport kites, kitemaking, miniatures, fighters, indoor flying, running Rev Games at festivals, power

kites, inflatables, and medium to giant show kites. Now, on any given flying day you might see me flying any one of those things (or even now presenting a kite plan at a kitemaking workshop!). This was and is my kiting path, and there are others like me. But there are also fliers who are specialists--those kites who specialize in one particular aspect. Truthfully, I sometimes envy the specialists when I find myself feeling a bit overextended or like I'm just doing too much. But the bottom line is: There is no wrong way to enjoy kiting; the

right way is whichever way you enjoy. If you're reading this newsletter, I'll wager you already knew that. Good flying to you! :)





Annual Meeting Minutes

Dave Ashworth

The WOW annual meeting was held in conjunction with an indoor kite fly at the Bay Area Community Church in Crownsville MD on 14 November 2009. Approximately 18 members of WOW attended the meeting and the following topics were discussed.

Annual Holiday Dinner - The annual dinner is planned for Jan. 30th at the Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Barbara Birnman has coordinated the food arrangements in the past and would like relief from that responsibility this year. A volunteer is needed to take over the food responsibilities for this year's dinner. The volunteer support for the auction and bag raffle will remain the same as in previous years. The gift exchange was discussed because of the concern about the excessive amount of time it consumes. Elizabeth Ames agreed to be the coordinator of the gift exchange and the process will be modified to shorten it's time.

Workshops - There are three potential workshops being considered: The first workshop will be on 23 January and it's likely location will be at the Bay Area Community Church in Crownsville MD. The two objectives are building a buka kite and general kite repair. The second workshop will be the construction of a new Capt. WOW kite. Martin Lester, the designer of Capt. WOW, has been contacted and WOW plans to purchase a kit with instructions from Martin. Jim Cosca and Paul Dugard participated in the original Capt WOW construc-

tion and will coordinate the effort. The date will depend on when the kit is available.

The third workshop will be for building additional WOW banners. Dennis Hawley mentioned that he has a number of partially built banners that should be completed. Dave Ashworth has a supply of red, white, and blue banner material. A date for this workshop has not been established.

AKA Insurance - In 2010, the sanctioning fee will increase to \$150. Separately, the AKA has requested that WOW events be added to the AKA website. Jeff King will add the events to the website.

Complementary WOW Memberships - Complementary memberships have always been offered to people/commercial enterprises who have helped WOW. With the expanded use of the internet to provide newsletters, there is essentially no additional costs to WOW resulting from these memberships. Complementary members, since they don't pay dues, do not have voting rights. This policy of supporting complementary memberships will continue in the future.

Smithsonian Outdoor Festival - This festival has significant financial problems this year. A meeting was attended by Harold Ames and Paul LaMasters on November 12th. The festival planning is continuing with the assumptions that the financial problems can be addressed. It is expected that there will be significant

changes to address required cost reductions such as elimination of the post festival party.

Sanctioned Indoor Competition - WOW is considering use of the Bay Area Community Church to have a AKA sanctioned event. Jim Cosca, Mike Mosman, and Dave Ashworth agreed to explore what would be needed to sponsor and support this event.

Election of Officers - The candidates who volunteered for positions, prior to providing e-mail ballots to members, were limited to one entry for each position. The four candidates were present incumbents: Jeff King - President, Dave Souter - Vice President, Barbara Birnman - Treasurer, and Dave Ashworth - Secretary. 12 responses to the E-mail ballots were received. At the annual meeting, Dennis Hawley, also an incumbent, was nominated for the other vice president position and approved by those voting at the annual meeting.



Wings Over Washington Kite Club

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The nation's capital kite club.

WWW.WOWKITECLUB.COM



NATIONAL KITE
MONTH

MARCH 27-MAY 2

