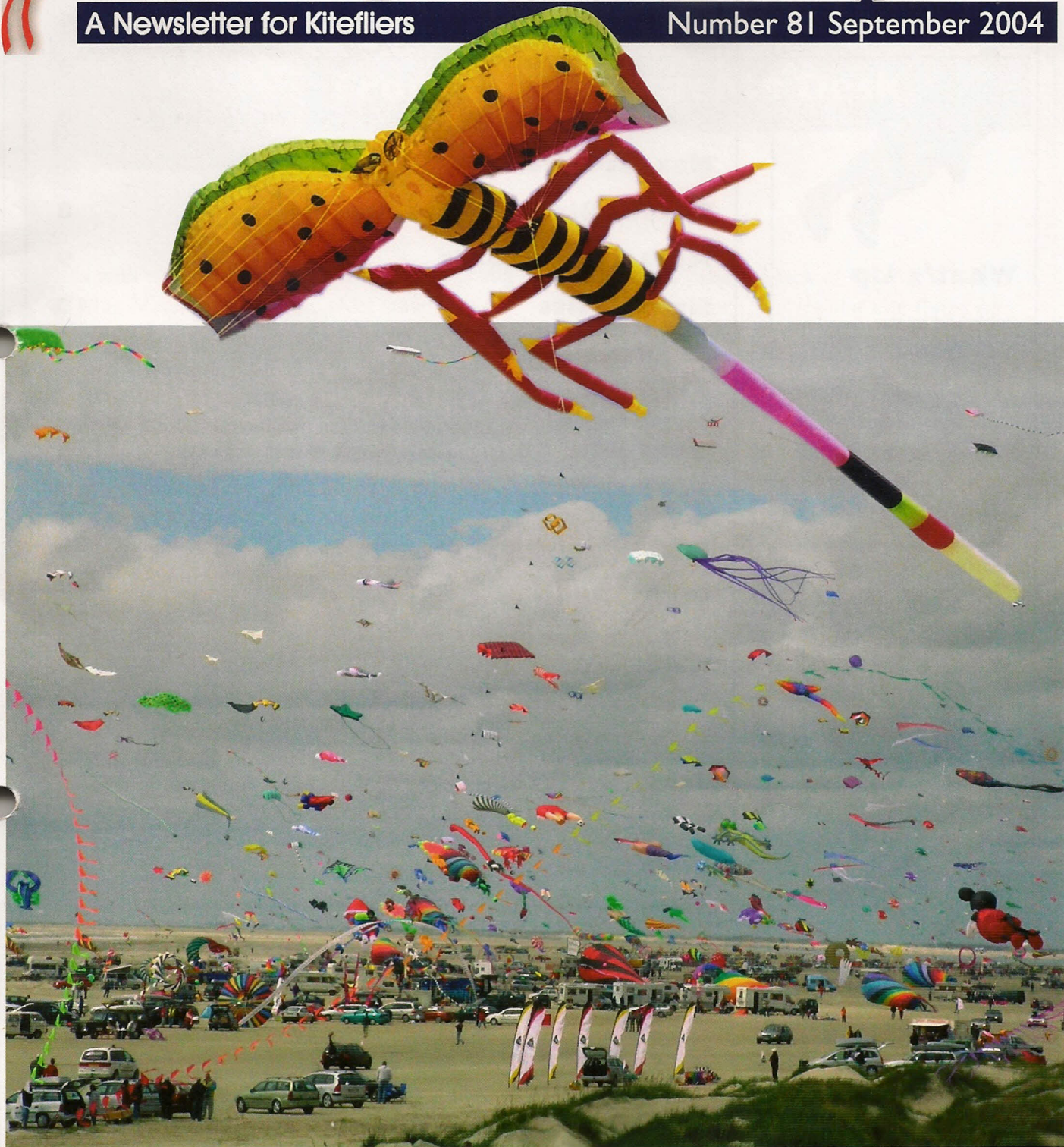




What's Up?

A Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 81 September 2004



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New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

Visit our website at: WWW.nzka.org.nz

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Welcome



What's Up

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Wellington.

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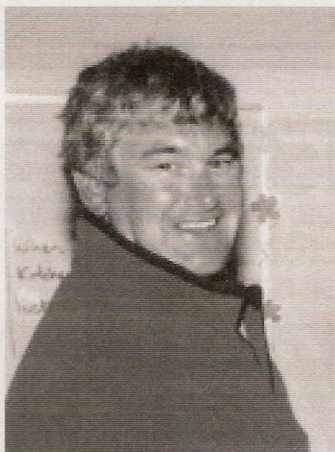
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The cover photograph on this issue is a composite of two shots taken during the Fano Festival by Richard Wotton.

The full story of his visit to the festival is featured on page 14.

Also in this issue you will find contributions by: Stephen Cook, Julie Adam, Peter and Anne Whitehead, Ted and Gretchen Howard, Geoff Campbell, and Gary Engvall of the American Kiting Association.
Thankyou - all of you.



Campbell's Comments

From the Presidents Desk

It is with a heavy heart that I record the passing of Max McGuire, one of the elder statesmen of kite flying. Max will be remembered for his love of flying his "ufo" and snowflake kites. By the time you read this, a memorial service and kite fly will have been held in his honour in Masterton, this event was kindly organised by Max's daughter Carol. Our best wishes go to Margaret, his wife, and his children.

Over the next few weekends, for some of us anyway, it will be a very busy time. The Wanganui kite flyers will have organised their 5th annual Ohakea /fathers day fly, over 2 days, the following Thursday the winner of the trans Tasman travel award, Richard Wotton, and his body guard (Myself) head over to the AKS's Festival of the winds at Bondi beach. With my heading over to this festival, I thought I had better breed some more bugs, so for the last week, in make shift conditions, I have been cutting out the pieces for more of our little critters, I only have to sew them now. The bugs are continuing to spread around the world, they have been spotted in Wisconsin, America, Germany and England. With the plans now appearing on a German web site we can expect to see them multiply more quickly around the world.

This winter has been one of the worst for getting out and flying. With my involvement in the show, "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor

Dream Coat", and the lack of wind or in some case's far too much, our regular kite flying on Sundays has been rather hampered.

As with most winters not a lot of organised kite flying takes place in New Zealand, is this because we are not as hardy as our American counter parts, who have a festival called "Kites on Ice". Perhaps we need someone to organise a "Cold Kiwi Kite Fly" say down south where it is really cold or in Waikouaiti, where only the hardy or should I say fool hardy go in the middle of winter. This is where the motor bike boys hold their version of the cold kiwi event, or perhaps wait till it snows around the chateau and nip up there for the weekend.

The Great New Zealand Kite tour is all go, if you are planning to attend one or all of the events please get in contact with the organiser for that venue or Ray McCully. If you are planning on attending, by booking early, you help the organiser solve one of their biggest head aches "NUMBERS" this helps when it comes to organising, among other things, catering and after flying venue's and events.

Don't forget to also book in for the annual kite workshop in Wellington at Labour Weekend.

Geoff Campbell

What's Up Next...?

2005 Kite Festivals Holiday in New Zealand

**Nelson Kite Festival —
January 21st –23rd,
Neale Park, Nelson**

**Hawke's Bay Kite Festival —
January 29th and 30th,
Tareha Park, Napier**

**Rotorua Art in the Sky 2005
February 5th and 6th,
Arawa Park Racecourse,
Rotorua**

Background

In 2002, a proposed International Festival was derailed by the uncertainty that followed September 11th. A subsequent attempt to get sponsorship for a festival in 2004 failed. The costs to bring high profile fliers to New Zealand are high, as airline sponsorship is not available outside of their current commitments. Currently there is not enough corporate sponsorship available for anything that is not a mainstream sport or big TV exposure event.

Smaller events can get funding through pub charities with some restrictions.

New Zealand is currently one of the most popular tourist destinations, and as most keen kitefliers link their holidays to kite festivals, why not capitalise on it?

Objectives and Principles

To run a series of back-to-back kite festivals at or near popular tourist venues and attract the world kiting community to have a kiting holiday in New Zealand.



There will be no sponsorship of any flier.

For insurance and numbers management, registration will be required for each festival but no fee.

Other features such as evening functions, clothing, badges etc are user pays.

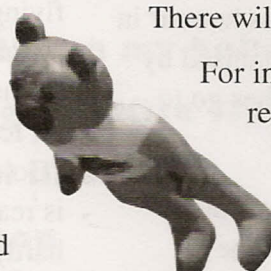
International Visitors Co-ordinator

Ray McCully will co-ordinate the promotion to overseas fliers and act as the liaison with each of the festivals. This ensures a consistent message goes to all fliers.

Update

Feedback from Anne says there is a strong interest in the tour from Dutch and German groups. Some additional information on the website was recommended and implemented.

Add the above interest to the French group and a confirmed booking from Tasmania and you can see the numbers are starting to grow.



What's Up Next...?

The Kite Tour festivals will proceed as all the funding required to provide the facilities has been secured. The organisers are now working on securing further sponsorship so that we can provide further benefits to the fliers who provide the display.

It is important that NZKA members advise me of their intention to attend any of the festivals as soon as possible. An indication of your intention to join in the evening functions would be useful.

Evening functions:

On 15 January 2005 there will be a kite day at New Brighton Beach. I'm still talking with sponsors to confirm details, but at this stage the beach is booked and the planning has begun. Why not start your kite tour in Christchurch? I will arrange hospitality and scenic visits (Ashburton, Akaroa, Kaikoura, Hanmer Springs, Maruia Springs) and can help move gear, and probably people, from Christchurch to Nelson and further for the 2005 kite tour. More details to come. Let me know if you want more information as it becomes available - julie@kites.co.nz

- ◆ Nelson – Sat – spit roast/BBQ on field, Sun – catered dinner at a venue to be decided.
- ◆ Napier – Sat – dinner at a venue to be confirmed.
- ◆ Rotorua – Sat – buffet dinner and auction in the Racing Club rooms

Your festival organisers have a difficult job arranging evening functions etc when they have no idea of the numbers involved especially as numbers can affect cost. Because the tour is a new concept we do not have any past history we can use. Also with all events being in the



main tourist season there is not a lot of catering flexibility once you get past November.

We will have a good idea of overseas numbers by October but we need NZKA numbers as soon as possible.

Contact:

Ray McCully
Email: Ray.McCully@xtra.co.nz
Ph 07 348 3828
Fax 07 348 3821

Or post to:
7 Goodwin Ave Rotorua.

Other contacts

To register intention to attend any festival and make a hospitality offer:

Ray McCully
7 Goodwin Ave Rotorua
ray.mccully@xtra.co.nz
07 348 3828

To register intention to attend Nelson Festival

Ted & Gretchen Howard
info@kites-rainbowflight.co.nz
03 548 8707

To register intention to attend Napier Festival

Ian or Sharon Russell
rj.russells@paradise.net.nz
06 843 4359

There is more news on the Nelson Festival in 'Regional Lines' on Page 22.

Make a Genki

NZKA 7th Annual Labour Weekend workshop Raroa Intermediate School, Johnsonville, Wellington 23 – 25 October.

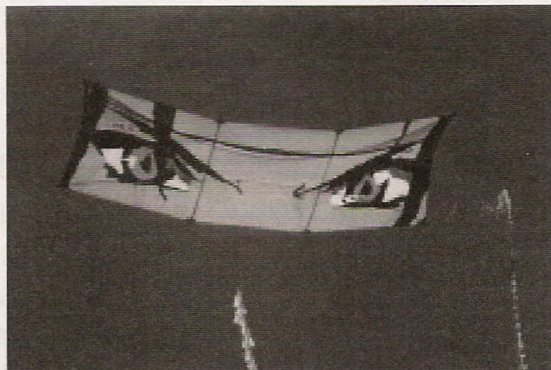
This year at the 7th NZKA Annual Labour weekend workshop we plan to have an easy kite design to teach you. Over the years the genki has appeared in a variety of guises.

Nop Velthuisen from Holland invented this style of kite in the late nineteen-eighties. (KiteLines Vol. 7 No. 2).

Confusingly, the name, Genki, is a Japanese word for health. This has caused some people to think it is a traditional Japanese design, rather than the modern European one it is. The kite is a fabulous soaring kite, and will fly in as little as a 4 kph wind without the tails. The stability is good, but it does require some attention. Tailless, it can occasionally fly right over the zenith and then catastrophically nose-dive. Giving it large amounts of slack line will usually let it right itself. In any case, the tails generally prevent this, and also allow it to fly in higher winds with greater stability.

There has been a range of variants derived from the original design, some members may recall Tony Wolfenden out here for the Wellington Wind festival in 1994 when he flew his genkis. Carl Crowell from the US has acknowledged Tony Wolfenden in his variant named the Wolf Genki. His web site is www.kite.com/kite/ckites.htm

While in Cervia one of the many wonderful kites we were impressed with was the poster genki which is a more simplified design. It has no keels and is straight. This makes it a great platform for graphics.



Those who are interested in attending please contact:

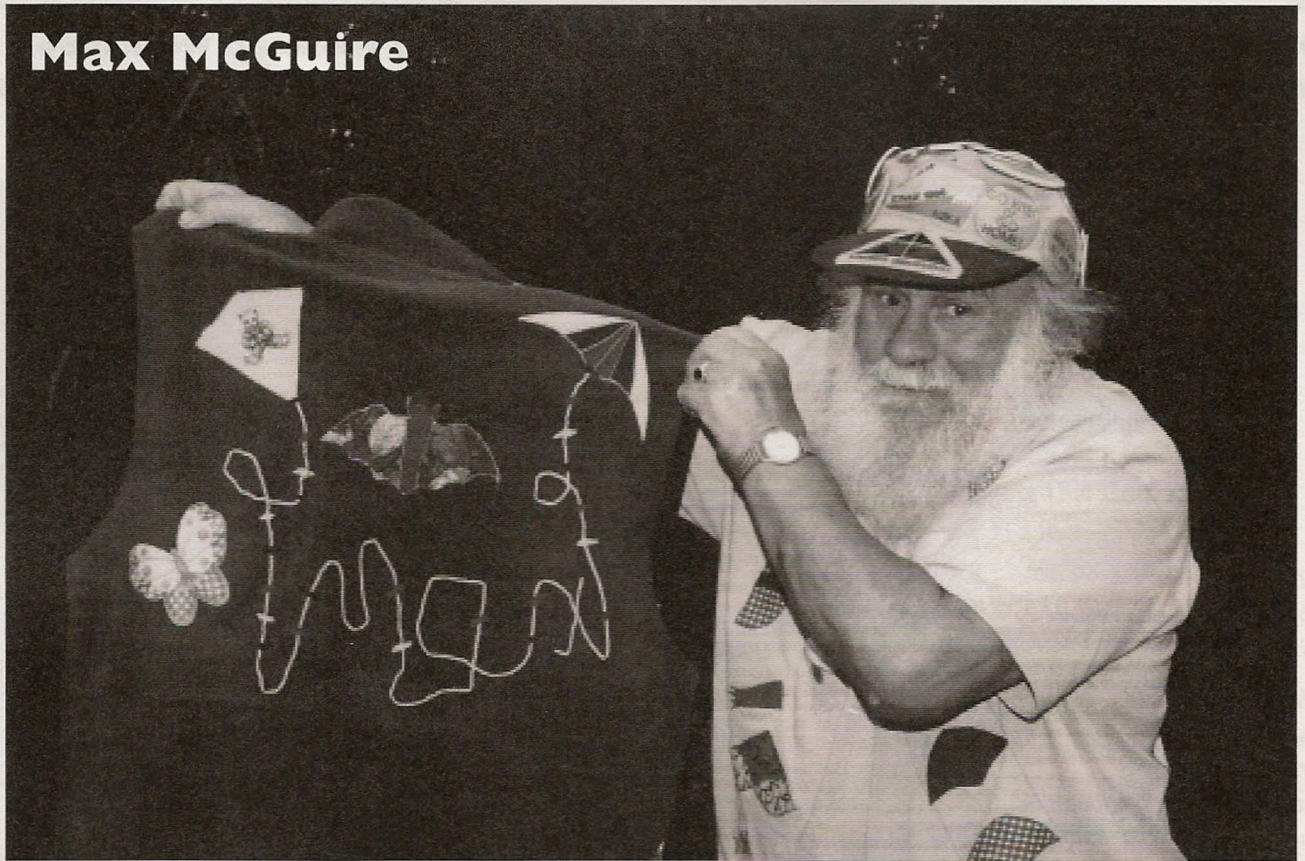
**Anne & Peter Whitehead,
59 Makara Road, Karori,
Wellington.**

Phone 04 476 7227.

Email drachen@internet.co.nz

Obituary

Max McGuire



Wanganui's grand old man of kiting, Max McGuire, passed away on July 17, aged 86.

Max joined the Australian Navy as a cadet in 1936, later rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and being awarded the DSM. It was during signals training that Max and kites first crossed paths, when he made box kites to raise the ship's radio aerial. The magic of kites was to stay with him for the rest of his life.

Max was nothing if not versatile. After his spell of hoisting things into the air, he spent some of the World War II years on secondment at Devonport, Auckland, as a diving instructor. When retirement rolled around, Max was asked where he'd like to retire to. "Right here in New Zealand will do me," was the reply, so Australia's loss was our gain.

Not one to sit on his hands, Max bought a pub in north Auckland before selling it and working

all over the country for Lion Breweries for a number of years. After he really retired from the workforce, he devoted many hours to kite-making classes at Wanganui district schools.

Margaret and Max were a regular feature of kite festivals, when they would turn up in "Joseph", their technicolour Datsun, towing a little caravan. Margaret says that as often as not, Max would leave a kite day without flying his own kites because he'd been busy all day helping the kids who needed a bit of expert guidance. That's the kind of person he was.

Max is survived by Margaret, his companion for 23 years, and Neal, Grant and Carol. We'll all miss Max's cheery face and gentle nature, and we'll think of him when we see that empty space in the sky.

Richard Wotton

Queens Birthday Weekend Workshop in Napier

Once again the Hawke's Bay team hosted a splendid weekend workshop with Jim Ayres guiding us through making small kites and decorating kites.



Clockwise from above: Pacific Bird.



The Prez showed up briefly and made a – didn't stay long enough to show us any tricks, though

Jim holding a collection of his painted and coloured paper kites

It was a quiet weekend with everyone keeping their heads down and working hard.

A bright birdman kite



People came from far and wide – from the Mainland, Wellington and Rotorua – faces that were familiar and all happy to be there again. Some, however, slept in and didn't make it until much later in the day (we hear its a problem bringing some people into wine country, eh Geoff).

Day one began with a talk about materials, processes, techniques, inspirations and some jolly good stories. The kite boxes were opened and kite after kite after kite was pulled out for

viewing. Jim's ability to share his love of kite making and inspire others is difficult to put into words – it has to be seen to be believed. He freely shares his designs and ideas and is a joy to work with.

When it came to lunchtime, we all headed off to the Warehouse to purchase packs of 30 felt pens for \$4.99 – and what a bargain they proved to be with 29 of them dry! (They are \$7.99 from Paper Plus and are much better quality). By the end of the day we had made a kite and

developed stiff necks bending over drawing feathers and scales. There were many plans underway and the room was left slightly tidy until morning.

Sunday morning rained hard and we had heavenly choir practice echoing around the kite workshop. The boys spent a bit of this morning with a remote control car taking kites for a test run around the hall, so at lunchtime we headed back to the Warehouse to check out the bargains – radio control, steering forward and back, with

Small is big in Napier



something to tie a kite on to – and all for only \$29.95!

By the end of the weekend most of us had a couple of kites and dozens of ideas tucked away.

One of the best moments was seeing Karen (I just came to Napier to read my book) Wibley, drawing feathers a bird kite on Sunday afternoon and saying “Isn’t this the best fun!”.

I came home and have spent many evenings fluffing about with paper shapes and turning them into birds. I discovered that I could draw – and it has been hard to stop me since.

Thanks, Jim – for another wonderful workshop and an endless supply of things to do.

Thanks also to Sharon and the Napier team for organising a great weekend.

Julie Adam

Left, from the top:

Pounamu Kite

Raelle finished two kites.

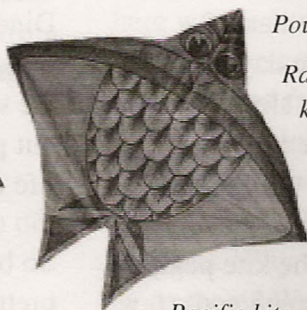
Sharon busy making a collection of tiny kites.

Pacific kite – this shape was from last year’s workshop

Birdman kite.

Julie’s owl

All photos by Julie Adam.



More Kite Records

Largest Delta

– 1,406 sq ft – 131 sq meters
37 ½ feet high with a wing-span of 75 ft. Flew in San Diego on 4 September 1982 for 25 minutes.

Largest Peter Lynn Tri-D Box

– 1,135 sq ft – 105 sq meters
Built in 1982 of ripstop nylon with aluminium spars, this kite measured 40 x 35 feet.

Longest Thai Cobra kite

– 2,313 feet – 705 meters
On 15 November 1987 a crew of 16 fliers flew this 128 lb kite in France. They estimated that the kite took 2,000 hours and 45,000 francs to build.

Most consecutive days of individual kite flying

– 366 days. Bill Mosely of Converse, Texas flew one or more kites every day from 25 October 1983 to 24 October 1984, a leap year.

Most kites on one line

– 2,233. The record was set in Japan flying 13 x 13 inch (34 x 34 cm) diamond kites made of bamboo with plastic sail material.

Most dual-line kites stunted in train

– 179. On 23 August 1986 at Long Beach, Washington flying a stack of modified Hyperkites.

Most kite books written by one author

– 20. Kazuo Niisak, of Japan, wrote about 20 kite books between 1969 and 1987.

From: *Kiteworks, Explorations in Kite Building & Flying* by Maxwell Eden

Flying Visits

We had been planning to go to the Italian Kite festival at Cervia for some time. This was finally the year after hearing all the stories of drinking wine on the beach and flying kites. What could be better. I remembered Cervia from 1986 when it was a very small local festival. The only bad thing I remembered was nearly injuring a sunbather when my 6 metre Tri-D power-dived out of the sky. It was being flown by a group of enthusiastic Germans at the time.

Fast forward in time to 2004 and we are planning for Cervia. The problem I had was what else to do after you had gone all that way. Cervia solves one of those problems because the festival is weekend to weekend, so you get lots of flying time, and time to get to know other kitefliers.

So here we are in the Marevita accommodation in Cervia on Saturday morning. First day of the festival. Damn we at least a kilometer from the beach and someone has brought about 25 kilos of kites. That's OK I scout around amongst the people I know and find Jurgen Ebinghouse. He's famous for some big inflatable kites. So that is my luggage problem solved and they have containers on the beach, for storage at night. Problem solved.

Saturday morning at the beach. Well I'm a bit disorientated, as it does not look quite like last time. Seems to be a few trees missing, (that's OK) but the buildings are not quite the same. Well considering I mixed up Bondi and Manley a few years ago, this is fine.

The Italians had a plan for different countries to fly at specific times, and a few other



The beach at the Italian Kite Festival, Cervia.

art type events to happen at different times. I think there was even to be a Rokkaku challenge. These plans did not always seem to eventuate. Everyone just got on and flew kites. One day turned into the next and we had a great time. The winds hardly ever moved more than 15 degrees during the day, and always did it very slowly. The wind comes up later in the morning so there was never any hurry, and usually by lunch time you could leave the kite pegged off and retire to lunch and a few wines. I hear all the OSH supporters decrying this as being unsafe. Well I can only say that you could stand out by your kite all day and nothing would

happen. You would get bored waiting, or you could retire to lunch at Dino's. From Dino's you would be able look out over the field through scenic windows, so if any thing went wrong you could walk out and fix it, and then return to Dino's. Dino also understood these things happen and didn't think we were trying to skip out with out paying, so that also made life easy.

So basically every day was pretty much the same, in terms of flying and action. We had one night fly which was memorable for the fact that there was not much wind, a heavy dew was making everything very wet and



Part of the 'Gibson Girl' display at Swindon.

they had a remote controlled hot air balloon of about 8 – 10 meters diameter. Also on this night they set up a lot of sand and wood sculptures that they then either set alight or burned tea candles in.

The new kites that we saw (and this is only a small recollection of what was there) were some kites made out of feathers, kites made out of plastic bags, the best being a sizable representation of a goldfish. There is a very nice rectangular graphics platform with no keels called poster Genkis. Kites from Zoone including sentinels and sharks (Look at www.zoone.org).

Some of the No Limits team of kites including some of the Sesame Street characters, a large Count Vlad, and the Genie from Ali Barber. There were lots of art Edos from Holland and then other art kites from Robert Trepannier and Claudio Capelle.

The hardest thing was packing up on the Sunday of the second weekend after the good times, good wind and good companionship from all the flyers.

We decided to go to the Swindon International Kite festival at Wroughton Airfield. We had heard all sorts of things about this, and one of the rumors seemed to involve traction engines. So I had a little trepidation about going. But its better than have horse rides in the vicinity of flying kites. So here we are at the customs and immigration counter coming into England from Hamburg, and the question is where in England are you going. Swindon! Oh there's nothing to do there. Why would you want to go there? We explained we were going to a kite festival, and that still seemed to bring on questions of "Why?" The obvious answer seemed to be "Well, someone has to do it." So

that's it, we are finally through customs.

Swindon was an interesting festival, in that the Saturday was raining just about all day, so there was not much flying other than a few of the Peter Lynn things that he had. We all took it in turns to keep the kites up. Some of the buggiers were flying on the runway, but not much else flying was going on.

Sunday was a day of no wind till about 2 – 3 o'clock, and even then there was not much. Just enough wind to dry off the wet kites from Saturday. So there was not a lot of flying done, but it was great to be there, and it turned out that there were no traction engines on the kite field. These type of things were relegated to the hangers.

There were some interesting exhibits going on, because on the airfield is about 4 large hangers that take some of the over flow from The Science Museum. This gave them under cover exhibition space.

Werner Schmidt (Werner visited NZ in 1995) to show some of his historical reproductions of Hargreaves, Grunt and Cody used this space. These kites were magnificent pieces, some of which had original fittings. There were other people who had bits and pieces from their historical collections as well.

Flying Visits



A grunt Kite on display

Then we had a group who collected Gibson Girl kites and associated paraphernalia. They had over 20 Gibson Girl kites on display, plus some of the transmitting devices that the downed airman was supposed to use, plus displays detailing the history of the Gibson Girl Kite.

Mikeo Toki was there (remember him from The Wellington Wind Festival and Bondi) running all day classes for the children to make origami kites, and demonstrating his painting techniques.

Ian Merideth was there (remember him from Wigram) with the buggy group. Also, of course David and Janet Robinson and Ron Dell who came out to NZ in 1994 and attended the Wigram festival.

Anne Whitehead

The NZKA has a range of smart looking badges, stickers and embroidered patches for sale.

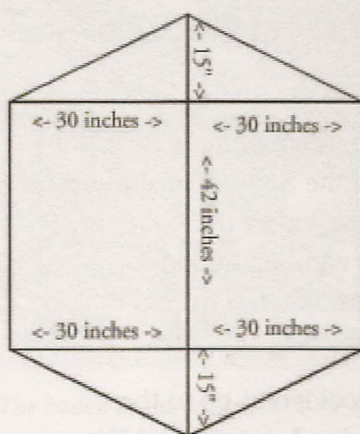
**Available from:
Anne Whitehead
Phone: 04 476 7227**

ROKKAKU CHALLENGE

Rokkaku Plans

Did you read the article by Stephen Cook on the Rokkaku Challenge in the last issue?. By coincidence the same month the American Kitefliers Association ran this plan in 'Kiting' magazine.

The Author, Gary Engvall, was happy for us to print his plans and after getting clearance from the AKA here is the complete run down on building a 6 Foot Rokkaku.



**Finished Dimensions
6 Foot Rokkaku**

The Rokkaku is probably one of the most versatile kites any kiter could have in their kite bag. Rokkaku are probably most commonly used for kite battles, but they are also great lifters for laundry and can be stable enough for KAP (kite aerial photography) or kite rescue (using a kite to lift free another kite which is caught in a tree). Rokkaku are also forgiving kites to build, making them an ideal early project for the new kite maker.

Size matters: Probably the first thing to discuss is what size and shape to make the kite. The word 'rokkaku' means 6 sided, or 6 cornered, kite. So the shape is essentially an elongated hexagon. Just how much elongated may depend on whoever is giving the dimensions at any given moment. Tradition says that most rokkaku are made to ratios of 3,4,5 or 4,5,6. In these ratios, the first number is the height of the main body, the second number is the width of the kite, and the last number is the total height of the kite. So, a 6 foot tall rokkaku, made to 4,5,6 dimensions, is 6 feet tall, 5 feet wide, and the middle is 4 feet tall. That makes each 'end triangle' 1 foot tall, and 2-1/2 feet wide.

Having said all that, mine are usually 3.5, 5, 6. There is a simple reason, and it has nothing to do with aerodynamics. The first rokkaku kites I made were made to Mel Govig's Sanjo Rokkaku Plans. I made them long before I heard about 3,4,5 or 4,5,6, and they flew great. So, once I did hear about the ratios, I was content with the dimensions I had been working with all along, so I stayed with them. Plus, the math works out pretty neat.

These plans are for a 6 foot rokkaku, since that is the most common size used for battle. The reason there is a 'size' stated for battle is that, the smaller the kite, the easier it is to maneuver to put it where it is needed. So a minimum size is usually stated (and frequently ignored) for most battles.

Materials List:

3 yards of 3/4 ounce ripstop nylon (43" for Main Body. Both ends (4 pieces) may be cut from 1 yd of 41")

Add any extra material for appliqué.

4 eyelets (Dritz), eyelet setting tool (Dritz)

4 inches of velcro (4" of hook, 4" of loop)

Dacron, 3.5 ounce, 6" x 18"

Webbing, 1" wide, 36" long.

50 feet of 150 pound line for bridle and tension lines.

Frame:

3 pieces of Pro Spar 19 for the Spine

2 FET 291 to ferrule the Spine together

5 pieces Pro Spar 16 for the Spreader (see note*)

4 ferrules for the RPS 16.

4 vinyl end caps for Pro Spar 16, 2 vinyl end caps for Pro Spar 19

* NOTE: It is important not to have a ferrule at a bridle point or where the spine and spreaders cross. An internal ferrule joint is weaker than the stick and tends to break in these spots. But a ferrule on only one side of the kite can cause it to flex differently side-to-side, and cause it to lean or spin. Best is to use a short piece of stick in the middle, ferruled on both ends. The easiest way to make the sticks the correct length is to put vinyl end caps on two full sticks, insert the capped ends into the Spreader pockets, and use a pencil to mark the sticks where they overlap. Cut on those marks, and there will be two Spreaders the correct length, and the short pieces are the inserts to go between them.

Tools:

- ◆ Sewing machine that works.

- ◆ Thread: HB (or HSB) -33 nylon, or V-30 polyester are preferred.
- ◆ Needle: #14 (90) Regular Point
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Seam Ripper
- ◆ Straight edge (6 foot is best. Find some cheap aluminum flat stock at the local home improvement store.)
- ◆ Measuring Device. I use a regular metal tape measure, not one of those stretchy plastic sewing measuring tapes.
- ◆ Hot cutter. It is more accurate than scissors, but scissors will work if nothing else is available.
- ◆ Hot Tacker really helps.
- ◆ Duct tape. I use it everywhere. It is a great way to hold parts in place for sewing.
- ◆ Template for cutting End triangles.
- ◆ Glass table for hot cutting and hot tacking really helps.
- ◆ Saw (hack saw or Dremel wheel) for cutting spars.

The Kite

To cut the parts using 1/2" allowances, the Main Body should be cut:

43" by 61-1/2". (42" tall plus two 1/2" seam allowances = 43". 60 inches wide plus two 3/4" hem allowances = 61-1/2") Some people prefer to work with smaller pieces, and make the Main Body in two pieces.

In this case, each piece should be cut 43" by 31.25". (30 plus 1/2" seam allowance, plus 3/4" hem allowance.

Construction Note:

The easiest way to make the triangles for the ends is to make a template out of posterboard. Posterboard is available at most craft stores, even Wal-Mart. Start by measuring in 1/2 inch along any 2 adjoining edges. Draw lines 1/2 inch in from these edges for the seam allowances.

Fly to page 18 for more...

Fano 2004: the uncut version

As a kiteflier and former printer, I've concluded that Fano for kilters is the equivalent of ink for printers: it gets in the blood. The 20th International Kitefliers' Meeting on the Danish island did nothing to alter that opinion.



This skyful of kites was shot by German flier Christian Harms.

Last year, when Dalwyne and I hadn't long been back from our first visit to Fano, we decided that I'd go back this year. A flurry of phone calls and emails ensued, then it was all systems go. Having done it all only 12 months earlier, the process of getting there went smoothly.

On the 12-minute ferry ride from the west coast city of Esbjerg to the island, I was given a sharp reminder of the local weather: I had to put on two jackets to keep out the northerly chill. And let's not

overlook the fact that this was midsummer. Transport arrangements were a lot simpler on landing than they were last year, too. I dialled up Eva and Ralf Dietrich, my hosts for my first three nights on the island, and Ralf collected me within minutes and transported me directly to the beach. How lucky can a kiteguy get?

As the Dietrichs are avid historic kite enthusiasts, it seemed appropriate that the first kite out of my bag should be the replica French wind gauge lifter. After

blowing out the cobwebs we headed off to the Dietrichs' rented house, where I began catching up on some the sleep I'd missed in the previous couple of days.

At these Fano meetings, the number of fliers steadily increases each day, but this year we all had to cool our heels on Tuesday and Wednesday, as there was a gale howling straight down the beach. As bad luck would have it, on each of those days I had to ride my bike 2km up the beach – right into the



Clockwise from top left: English flier Carolyn Swift, with Willard, the only British paratrooper to have jumped into Tiananmen Square, Beijing.

Rainer Grafmanns with an 80-year-old Steiff Roloplan. This German family business was famous for its Teddy bears, but when business slowed they diversified into kites.

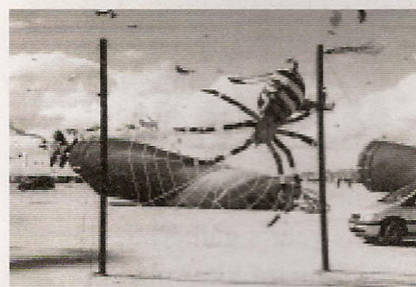
The lads on the beach: standing, Greg Clark (USA), Ralf Maserski (Germany), Richard Wotton; kneeling Ulli Draheim and Holm Struck (Germany). Photo by Holm Struck.

Plenty of assistance was needed to launch this 3.6 metre Roloplan into a stiff breeze.

Left: Most people gave this big guy's beach house a very wide berth.

year, and it was great to see them again.

On Thursday I collected the NZKA tour kite from Peter Lynn and gave that an airing until the rain began to bucket down. Oh well, it was a change from just plain wind. That night, at the



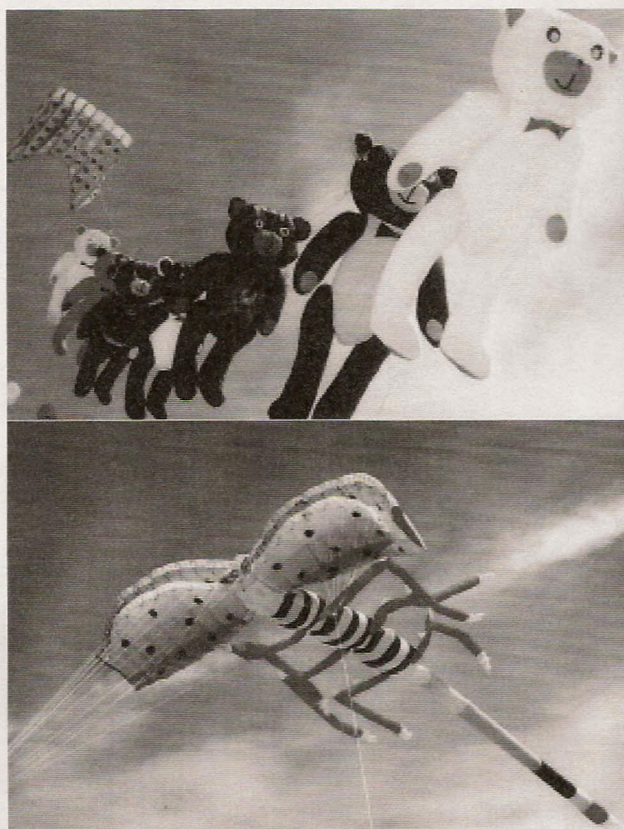
teeth of the gale. The first time I managed it in low gear, and the second day it was easier – and probably faster – to walk. However, coming back was a breeze! I was intrigued to see a small station wagon being powered down the beach by a parachute attached to its front end. Wednesday saw a change of address for me when I moved from the Dietrichs to an apartment with German fliers Ralf Maserski, Holm Struck and Ulli Draheim, and Washington, USA, flier Greg Clark. Dalwyne and I had met all these guys last

Fano 2004: the uncut version

Clockwise from right: A dramatic view of a bunch of wind turbines. Photo by Christian Harms.

This magnificent dragonfly is by Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig.

Bears by the lineful!



traditional “meet and greet”, I caught up with one of the top people on my “to meet” list: Florian Janich, the designer of my Lamson Aerocurve variant. Florian is a very likeable guy and it was great to finally catch up with him in person, after many email exchanges (most of which contained the word Lamson somewhere).

Friday morning saw the conclusion of the 2004 Fano Classics workshop, run by Ralf Dietrich and Falk Hilsenbek. This year’s Classics theme was meteorological kites, and the

chosen workshop kite was the English Potter. Made of cotton and wood, this three-celled, winged box kite probably dates from around 1900 to 1910. The Classics fly was held at the north end of the beach at midday on Saturday, and as well as the workshop replicas there were all sorts of early designs on show. Having had my interest in historic kites sparked by last year’s Fano trip, the Classics fly was one of my highlights.

For historic kite buffs, a feature of this year’s gathering was an exhibition of kites made by Arno

Haft, a Hamburg watersider who began flying kites in the 1930s. Haft built his own camera for aerial photography, and a number of his birdseye photos of Hamburg were included in the display. He generally flew his kites at a height of about 800 metres, from a central Hamburg park, and this eventually led to a run-in with the polizei. Around 1960, when he was told to get them down to an acceptable height, he preferred to pack his equipment away for good, and never flew again. In 1995 he donated all his gear to a Hamburg museum, which was

Fano 2004: the uncut version

kind enough to loan it to Ralf Maserski, Holm Struck and others, who mounted the exhibition and produced a small catalogue. Haft died in 1997, at the age of 92.

Saturday afternoon saw by far the best display of the week, with thousands of kites in the air, and every conceivable type of line laundry and ground toys to fill in the gaps. The only drawback associated with so many kites flying together – seriously, folks, it can have its downside! – is that if there's something in particular you're looking out for, it can be very difficult to spot in the crowd.

Flying for our apartment crew got off to a slow start on Sunday. The last people on my "to meet" list were German fliers Renate Trettin and Rainer Grafmanns, who visited us in New Zealand last November, and they joined us for a very leisurely breakfast. After an equally leisurely afternoon's flying in a nice breeze, it was back to the apartment for a fresh-up and a nosh-up, then off down the beach to Eva and Ralf's for the "Après Classics" party. The 2km trip was enlivened by Ulli, our driver, engaging in a drag race with fellow German flier Chris Kolz, who was also heading for the party. I don't know how far over the 30km/h limit we were, but it's my guess that if a radar cop had been parked on the beach we'd all still be in the slammer. (When I told Ulli previously that Malcolm

Campbell made an attempt on the world land speed record at Fano in 1924, maybe I should have pointed out it was Fano, Italy.)

Leaving Fano a couple of days later was an action replay of last year – cold wind and rain. Still, better to leave in weather like that than it would be in perfect flying weather, I guess. Riding back on the ferry, I reflected on the chill of the North Sea breeze, the warmth of the friendships made and renewed over the previous week, and the many hours of pleasure ahead in building the kites I'd added to my list of projects. I also reflected on the fact that I won't see so many kites in the air at any one time until I return to Fano. As I said, it gets in the blood.

Richard Wotton



This pair of giant bees just buzzed around all day.

All photos by Richard Wotton.

What I did on my holidays – by Grizz

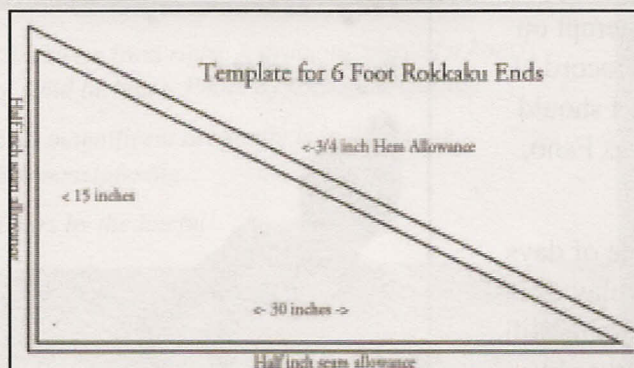


I went down to Christchurch for the July school holidays to stay with Julie and fly at the TV2 KidsFest Air Time activities. I spent lots of time hanging out with my friend Raywind and checking out Christchurch from above. Here are some photos of me flying above QEII stadium (we won!) and Hanson Park.

If Julie could get the aerial photography thing sorted out, the pics from my end of the line might have been worth looking at.

Did you know that kites have been flown in the Far East and around the Pacific for over two and a half thousand years? The first recorded kites were made and flown in China. These were highly decorated and made of silk and bamboo. Many early kites were bird shaped and symbolic of folklore and legend. Their uses were mostly for pleasure, people would fly their kites or watch others flying theirs.

Continued from p13 Rokkaku Plans



Along these lines measure the 15" and 30" for the triangle and draw a line between them. Then measure out 3/4" from this line and draw a line for the hem allowance. Cut out the template and use it to cut 4 end triangles. Cut 2 one way, then reverse it (flip it over) and cut the other 2.

Important

It is important to know the fabric and to know the difference between Warp and Weft and to make sure that the Warp threads are aligned along the outer (hem) edges of the end triangles. Folks coming into kite making from other sewing disciplines like Quilting or making clothes know that the fabric has Grain. Warp and Weft are the grain, but the Warp threads are straighter and run along the length of a roll, the Weft (or Fill) threads run across the roll and tend to be very wavy or curvy and therefore less stable, more apt to stretch. So put the longest edge of the Triangle Template against the outside edge of the roll, not across it. It looks like it uses more fabric, but it is well worth it in the long run.

Assembly:

Find 2 complimentary end triangles (a left and a right). Put the 'good' sides together, match up, and sew along the shortest side, using 1/2" seam allowance. The best way to sew an accurate allowance is to have a mark on the throat plate (needle plate) of the machine.

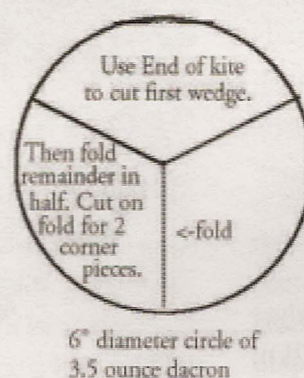
One of the things Kite Making Judges look for is for the Plain Seams to be folded and sewn (felled)

in the same direction, so you might want to take that into account as you make your kite. In other words, if the fold for the top triangles goes to the right, the fold for the bottom triangles should go to the right as well, when the kite is sewn together. When the ends are sewn together, take the Main Body and fold it in half lengthwise and just pinch the fabric in the middle to have a place to line up the middle seam on the Ends. If the Main Body was made from two pieces, line up the middle seam of the Main Body with the seam in the End. Place the End and the Main Body together, good sides facing, and align for sewing. If you are using a Hot Tacker, start at the middle and tack along the seam to the outside, then go back to the middle and go the other way. This is the best way to make sure the End is centered on the Main Body. Sew the Ends to the Main Body. Trim off the little bits that stick out from the seams.

Mark all around the outside edge 3/4" in to form the hem. Use a #2 pencil to mark the hem on the good side of the kite. That always seems to be a point of confusion in the workshops.

Now, don't get ahead of me here.... FOLD on the line, all the way around. STOP.

Reinforcement patch detail:



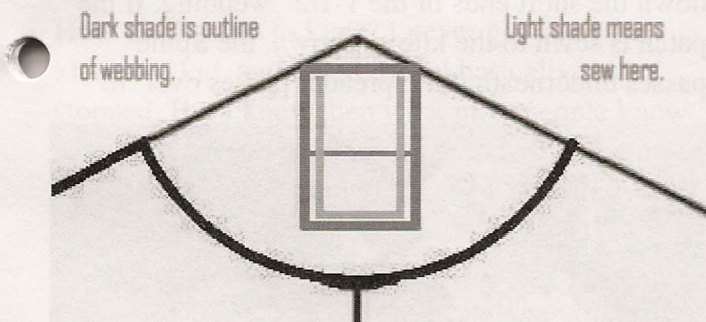
Fold again, bringing the raw edge of the fabric in to be just shy of the first fold. Ripstop has great 'memory' and holds a crease very well. When done, there will be a double folded hem that you haven't sewn yet !!! Set the sail aside for a few minutes.

Find the 3.5 ounce dacron. Out of this cut 2 circles, each having a 3" radius, or a 6" diameter. Place a circle under the corner of one END of the kite and mark a wedge on the circle, the point of which is at the center of the circle. This will be the reinforcement patch for one end of the kite. Take the remainder of the circle and fold it in half, and cut on the fold. These 2 pieces are for the 2 corners of the kite.

Place one of these Dacron pieces on the kite so it is just inside the kite body from the folds for the hem. It shouldn't interfere with the fold. If it is 1/8 or 1/4 inch away, that's okay, it will be covered by the Hem later. Hold it in place with duct tape (DON'T sew over the tape) or seamstick and sew only on the curved part. Do this with all 6 patches.

After the patches are sewn in place, then sew the hem. The hem folds over on top of the patches for a very professional look.

After the hem is sewn all the way around, it is time to install the webbing for the pockets for the sticks. Find the webbing and cut 5 pieces that are 3 inches long. These are for the 4 corners and the top end.



The top pocket is the easiest, so start there. Take a 3" piece of 1" webbing, and fold over a little over an inch. When making a pocket for a stick, it is important that the ends of the pocket don't meet up. It is much easier to insert the stick if the ends of the pocket are slightly off-set. Place the folded webbing so that the opening is towards the body of the kite, and the webbing is centered on the pocket, and the corners of the fold are against the edge of the hem.

Corner pockets are done the same way. Take a 3" piece of 1" wide webbing, and fold over a little over an inch. Place the webbing on the corner reinforcement so that the corner of the fold of the webbing is in the corner of the kite and the fold of the webbing is along the edge of the kite.

Now for the fun stuff. Find the leftover webbing. Hot cut a 4" piece and a 9" piece. Find the velcro.



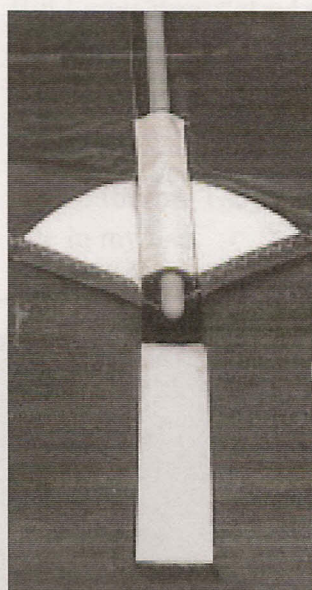
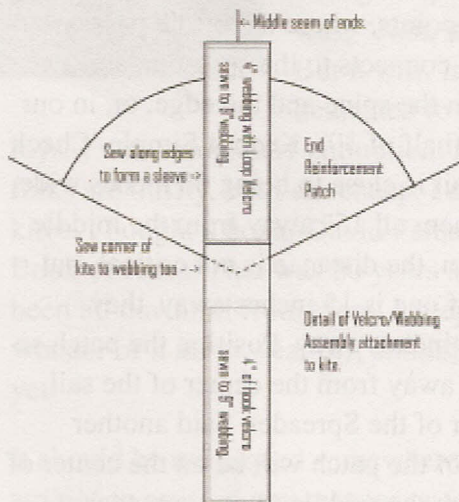
Detail of Bottom webbing and velcro assembly.

Sew the 'loop' velcro to the 4" piece. Just lay it on there and sew around the outside. Put it aside. Sew the hook velcro to one end of the 9" piece. Lay the

9" piece down velcro up. Put the 4" piece on the non-velcro end, velcro side up. Sew the 4" to the 9" as close to the edge as you dare to form a sleeve

(don't sew across the

short ends!) between them. Then sew this assembly to the bottom end of the kite, so that the 4" 'loop' velcro end is on the kite, and the



'hook' end is hanging off. There should be

about an inch of webbing with no velcro, and this should be on the edge of the kite. Said another way, the corner of the bottom of the kite should be in about the middle of this 'no velcro' area. It is better to have it too far onto the kite than not far enough. Too far makes it easy to tension the sail when the sail gets damp and stretches. Don't worry, it goes back to original size when it dries.

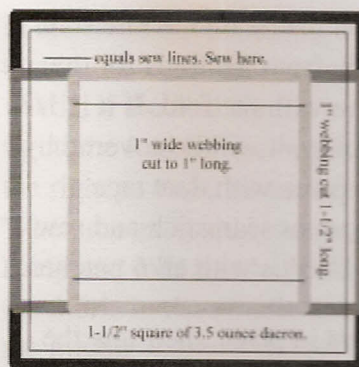
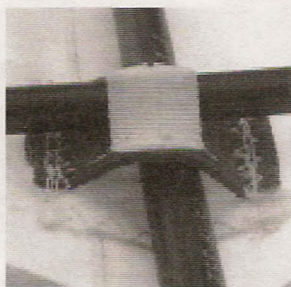


Dave Gomberg would say to make sure the Velcro/webbing sleeve assembly is well on to the kite to make sure it couldn't be grabbed by another flying line to tip the kite. In fact, Dave would probably say to put it on the top of the kite . . .

The last step in sewing the sail is to install 6 reinforcement patches, 4 for the bridle to pass thru the sail, 2 that will anchor the Spine to the sail and the Spreaders to the Spine. Find the Dacron and cut 6 pieces that are 1-1/2" square. Bridle patches first. The bridle points, where the bridle passes thru the sail and connects to the spreader, are halfway between the spine and the edge, or, in our case, 15 inches (half of 30). Keep It Simple. Check to see that the sail is close to being 60 inches wide, and just make them all 15" away from the middle of the kite. Again, the distance is not critical, but consistency is. If one is 15 inches away, they should all be 15 inches away. Position the patch so its center is 15" away from the center of the sail, and in the center of the Spreader. Said another way, the center of the patch will be on the center of a line drawn from the middle of one spreader webbing to the other. Remember that the patches are bigger than the webbing by 1/2", so if the webbing lines up with the seam of the ends of the rokkaku, the patch will overlap the seam by 1/4". Position the patch, sew it to the kite, then punch a small hole in the center of the patch and install an eyelet.

Spine Patches

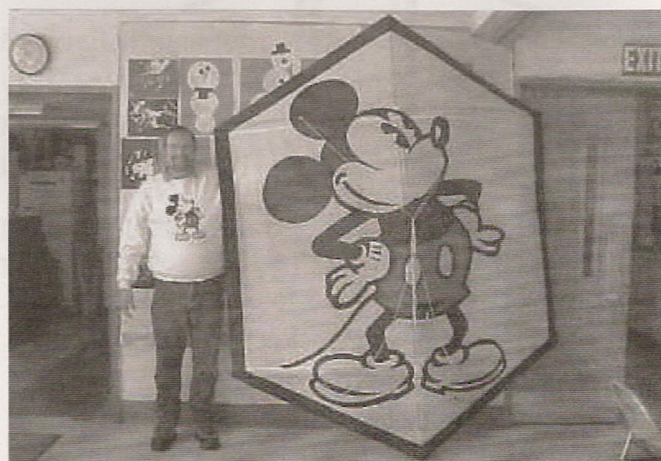
First, the 'over/under' discussion. There are two 'schools of thought' for whether the Spine or the Spreader should be closest to the sail. I'm a 'spine-to-the-sail' guy, for the following reasons. The Spreader gets bowed, it pushes against the sail. It should push the Spine against the sail. When it has to pull the Spine with it, it puts added stress on the tie or sleeve that is connecting the Spine to the Spreader. Also, with the Spine continuous along the sail, not broken up by the lump of the Spreader, the sail presents a 'cleaner' surface to the wind stream. Less drag equals greater lift. So, on my



Detail of Spine/Spreader Patch

kites, I solve the 'over/under' question by making a Spine/Spreader sleeve patch which only allows installation in one way. Take some one inch webbing and cut two pieces, one at 1" long and one at

1-1/2" long. Sew the 1" piece to the middle of the 1-1/2" piece, forming a sleeve that runs parallel to the length of the 1-1/2" webbing. Place the assembly across a 1-1/2" square of Dacron. Sew down the short ends of the 1-1/2" webbing. If the patch is sewn to the kite as shown, the Spine passes underneath, the Spreader passes over it.



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Gary Engvall

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Web: <http://members.cox.net/gengvall/>

Rokkaku Plans:

<http://members.cox.net/kiter/rok/rok6.htm>

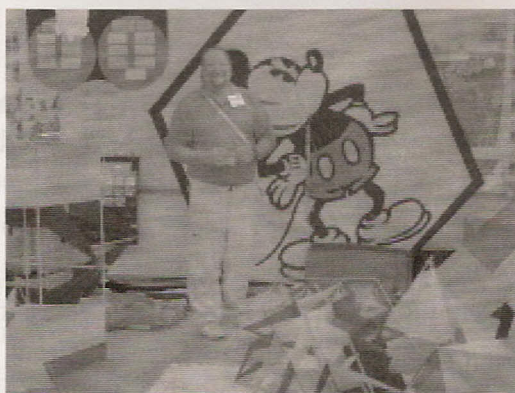
Dear readers, you have three months to finish this stage of building a Rokkaku - in the next issue of 'What's Up' the article will conclude with the instructions for bridling your kite. Now here is a little more about Gary Engvall who worked it all out...

Gary Engvall: Kite Flyer

I fly kites. What kind of kites? Yes. I have made and flown stunt kites, quad kites, stacks, fighters, and single line 'show up and throw up' kites. I have flown in sport kite competitions, fighter competitions, and rokkaku battles. I have entered and judged single line competitions.

I probably should say that I prefer one over another, but it just isn't true. Kites is kites.

How did I get in to kites? I never got out. I flew kites as a kid, and loved it, and basically never stopped. But I knew then what most people know about kites: They are box, diamond, or delta, made of paper or plastic, and they can be bought in the drug stores in the Spring. Kite Season is March and April (*up here in the northern hemisphere, anyway. The point is, most folks think that kite season is only 2 months long.*) Once upon a time, when I was about 30 years old, I was flying a small plastic delta in the back yard, in the very late Spring. It got too gusty, and the kite got away from me. My biggest concern was replacing the kite, since the 'season' was, technically, over, and there wouldn't be any more kites in the stores.



At the time I was in Sales, and I had a large territory that was far from home. I was driving thru an unfamiliar town in western Massachusetts when I saw a store called 'World on a String'. My first thought was; "Nah, it couldn't be." But it was. It was a store dedicated to kites and flying

toys. I was completely enthralled. But, well, some folks are thrifty, but I am cheap. I didn't buy any kites. I bought a book. David Pelham's Penguin Book of Kites. That was 20 years ago, and it has been all downhill from there. I keep waiting for the wonder of it all to wear off, and it hasn't happened yet.

It should be mentioned somewhere in here that I am not an artist in any manner or form. Most of the kites I make have limited 'straight-line' graphics. But I am a pretty good technician. It can be said that I care more about how a kite works than how it looks.

Rokkaku kites have long held a place of high regard for me. They are the most versatile of any kite in my bag.



Submitted by Julie Adam, these photos show a flying day at QEII Park in Christchurch. You can read more about the day in 'Regional Lines' over the page.

Regional lines

News from the regions

Nelson

Visiting Kiteflyer

We recently had a surprise flying visit from a passing tourist, who was excited to find the kite shop, and introduced himself. He was Paul Fieber from Madison, Wisconsin, USA. He is Region 6 Director, American Kitefliers Association (Region6@aka.kite.org). Region Six covers Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He joined me and Sam for a sunset kitefly at Neale Park. He put up a modified Genki kite with the University of Wisconsin "Bucky Badger" emblem. There was just enough wind to fly and as the sun set, the wind gradually diminished, and the kites fell to the ground. On packing up the Genki, he showed me his small collection of travelling kites: a nicely applied delaporta kite, and an interesting little tumbling box kite with a sliding, single line bridle point. This was a real ultra light, and worked well indoors. Paul was unable to stay in Nelson any longer than a day, but appreciated his brief fly at Neale Park in a magic Nelson sunset.



*Clockwise from above:
Paul Fieber with his
tumbling box kite.*

*'Bucky Badger' coming
in at sunset.*

Paul's travelling bag.



Kite Festival this coming Summer is going to be a big one! January 21-23rd, 2005

Plans are underway for our major event this summer. The Nelson Kite Club 'Nelson Summer Kite Festival' combines with the NZKA co-ordinated 'Great New Zealand Kite Tour'. Neale Park areas for public flying will probably be

restricted to allow for expanded festival kiteflyer numbers. Registration will be free.



*A kite's eye
view of Neale
Park.*

*All photos:
Ted and
Gretchen
Howard*



We are organising for :-

- Set up field, marquees, tents on Friday 21st. General flying.
- A BYO take-away meal on the field Friday evening.
- Warm-up day, possible buggy or landboard racing on Saturday 22nd.
- A catered BBQ spit meal on the field Saturday evening (Ted & Gretchen's backyard is too small!)
- Public day on Sunday 23rd.
- Catered meal at the Granary, Founders Park on Sunday evening.
- wind-up, pack-up, genral flying on Monday 24th.

This is likely to be the closest Nelson will get to hosting an international kite festival, so especially all you Mainlanders, come along, be prepared to pitch in and help make this possible, and a success.

Please contact us as soon as possible to register your interest in attending this event. We need this to book and confirm numbers for catering for Saturday and Sunday nights meals.

Accommodation is likely to be booked out closer to the time, so book in now. For visiting kitefliers, we can offer limited camping on the field (you will be field security around the gear overnight : that's our excuse to the city council!).

Once you have registered your interest, further updates will come out to you as we get closer to the event.

Contact:

Ted & Gretchen Howard
ph/fax 03) 548 8707
ph 03) 546 7731 a/h

email at : kitesfun@ihug.co.nz

Kite Shop For Sale

Looking for a change? Want to live in a sunny location, with a great kiteflying scene, and a fantastic flying field? After 12 years of successful operation, the Nelson based Rainbow Flight Kite and Fun Shop is on the market. We will be able to offer ongoing support to the new owners. For more information contact us, or look at this website : <http://www.realenz.co.nz/showcase/889422.htm>

(Ted will continue to make and wholesale kites and juggling equipment, and Gretchen is in demand as a Tai Chi and dance instructor)

Contact:

Ted Howard
Rainbow Flight Kite & Fun Shop
5 Montgomery Square
NELSON

ph/fax 03) 548-8707

www.kites-rainbowflight.co.nz

Canterbury

A quiet few months with hardly any wind, but now that we've had a bit of rain the rugby players have turned the park into a mud bath. The usual flyers turn up most Sundays and fly lots of kites for short periods of time. We in the south tend to hunker down and make kites for a few months and only venture out when the sun shines, so it is all pretty quiet. I've been hearing about some exciting new projects in the workrooms and hope to see them next around the end of October. I've also got a few in process following up on my visit to Napier at Queens Birthday, so as these are completed they'll get out and about.

We had Grizz at the last kite day, where he met some boys from a local Health Camp who had

never flown kites before. They helped get me get him airborne and really liked his "fart" zipper. The boys have been making their own kites to bring down to the next kite day – so Grizz deserves a medal as our kiting ambassador. (Actually he took a token home with him, but Geoff has probably eaten it by now!)

Simon and I are off to check out Dieppe and Scheveningen and will be back in time for the October fly. We'll miss the mud and look forward to being back for some spring weather.

Julie Adair

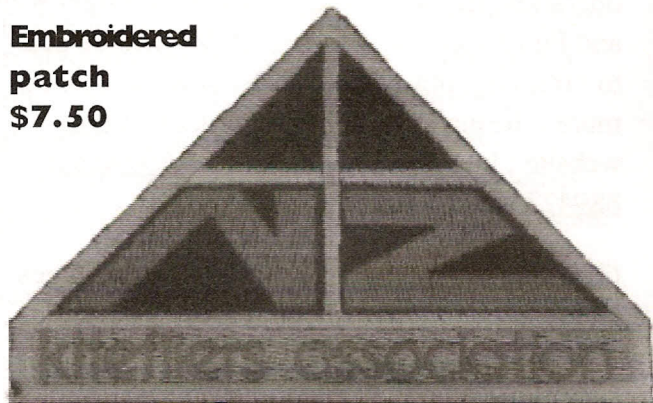
NZKA Regalia

The NZKA has a range of smart looking badges, stickers and embroidered patches for sale.

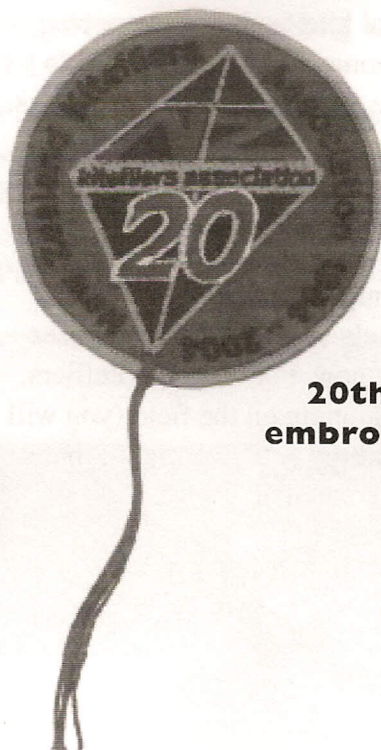


Lapel pin \$5.00

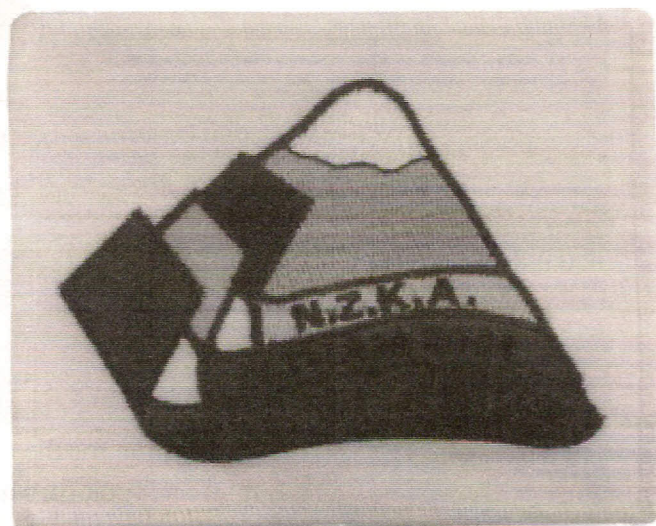
Embroidered
patch
\$7.50



Windscreen
sticker
\$2.50



20th Anniversary
embroidered patch
\$11.00



Eltham 2001
embroidered
patch
\$7.50



Eltham 2001 lapel
badge \$7.50

**All available from:
Anne Whitehead, telephone: 04 476 7227**

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Phone: 09 358 0991

Bay of Plenty

Fergusson Park, Tauranga
Contact: Ray McCully
Phone: 07 348 3828

Christchurch

Hansen's Park, Opawa
Contact: Julie Adam
Phone: 03 365 3907

Napier/Hastings

Anderson Park, Green Meadows
Contact: Sharon Russell
Phone: 06 843 4359

Nelson

Neale Park
Contact: Ted Howard
Phone: 03 548 8707

Clarks Beach

Stevenson Road Park
Contact: Jim Ayers
Phone: 09 232 0251

Wanganui

Springvale Park (every Sunday)
Contact: Richard Wotton
06 343 2770

Wellington

Elsdon Park
Contact: Tony Fitchett
Phone: 04 478 5575

Flying days

September 2004

5 Wellington
Clarks Beach,

12 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

19 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

26 Auckland
Taupo
Wanganui
Christchurch

October 2004

3 Wellington
Clarks Beach

10 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

15 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

31 Auckland
Taupo
Wanganui
Christchurch

November 2004

7 Wellington
Clarks Beach,

15 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

22 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

28 Auckland
Taupo
Wanganui
Christchurch

December 2004

5 Wellington
Clarks Beach,

12 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

19 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

26 Auckland
Taupo
Wanganui
Christchurch

Photographs

If you want copies of any of the photographs of the 20th Anniversary Festival featured in *What's Up*, prints can be obtained from Richard Wotton, for just \$12.00 per print. There are many more photographs that will appear in future issues.

Contact:

Richard Wotton
Phone: 06 343 2770
44 Wairere Road
Wanganui
richardw@sarjeant.queenspark.org.nz

'What's Up' thanks Richard for the huge contribution he makes to the magazine.

Trade Directory

Below is a key list of what kite retailers around the country are offering.

Key: Sl-single line, Dl-dual line, C-custom made kites, Bu-buggies, F-fabric, Ka-kite making accessories, Re-repairs, Kw-kite making workshops, D-demonstrations, Bm-books and magazines, W-wind related articles, G-gift items, O-other recreational items, Mo- mail order catalogue, Kk-kite kits, Ex-exhibitions, Rl-reference library.

Kiteworks

111 Symonds St, Auckland.

Phone/Fax (09) 358 0991

Services offered: Sl, Dl, C, Bu, F, Ka Re, W.

Rainbow Flight

5 Montgomery Square, Nelson.

Phone/Fax (03) 548 8707

Services offered: All services provided

Skylines and Bylines

The Kiteshop at The Arts Centre,

P.O. Box 2194, Christchurch.

Phone (03) 365 3907,

Fax (03) 337 2669,

mobile (027) 431 7716.

E-mail: julie@kites.co.nz

Services offered: Sl, Dl, C, F, Ka, Re, Bm, W, G, O, Mo, Kk, Ex, Rl.

A Kiwi Kite

1a Sunshine Rise, Raglan.

Phone (07) 825 7290.

Services offered: Sl, Dl, C, Bu, Re, Kw, D, Ex, Rl.

Raven Kites

1 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.

Phone 06 348 5805, fax 348 5806.

Services offered: Sl, Dl, Bu, C, power kites.

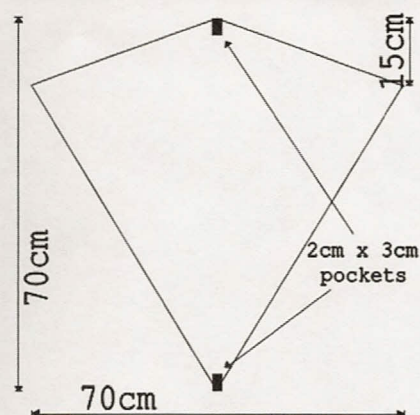
The NZKA Kite arch project

The members' arch is for every member to make at least one kite. It can be any colour or pattern but should follow the outline shown. The kite should be as individualistic as possible, expressing something of the member. It can be a design you like or have used on one of your kites – for example, you might be a "pale blue" person and a kite of simply pale blue may be just your thing.

If you don't feel confident making the kite by yourself, enlist the help of another member, but it should be your design.

The kites for the NZKA arch are made from three quarter ounce ripstop. The dimensions are shown in the diagram alongside. The kite should be hemmed all around and two pockets only fitted, one at the top and one at the bottom. You do not need to provide a spar or any bridle points, just the skin. The kites will be joined onto a single line by dedicated volunteers to form an arch.

If you require further information, contact Tony Fitchett, Peter Whitehead or David Bowie. When you have finished your kite send or give it to David Bowie or Peter Whitehead, or send to P.O. Box 56, Wellington, for joining to the line.



The Association has available ripstop scraps which have been kindly donated by Peter Lynn Ltd.

Happy kite building!

The big and the small of it

Right: Small is big at the Napier Workshop.

Photos: Julie Adam



Above and right: Nothing about the Fano Festival is small.

Photos: Richard Wotton