

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE

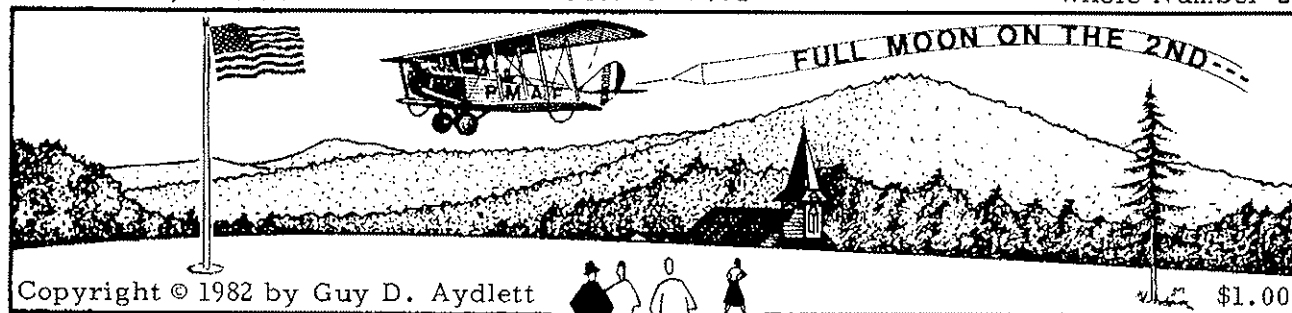
Box 7304, Charlottesville, Virginia 22906-7304

DATA - LETTER

VOLUME II, No. 10

October 1982

Whole Number 23



Dear Kiteflier:

BILL KOCHER of Lutherville, Maryland gets the Windancers' vote for the Best Samaritan of Kiteflying. JERRY HARRIS and family, who drove to Fort McHenry and were disappointed by no-show local hosts, were made warmly welcome by a solitary kiteflier who, although preparing to leave, unpacked and kept the Nashville kite family company in an impromptu kitefly and gabfest. That flier, Bill Kocher, upheld the Maryland tradition of hospitality; holds the grateful regard of Tennessee folk who visited Piney Mountain on their way home and flew one of Kocher's realistic mobile seagull kites above our pad.

THE WINDANCERS mailed a gracious note, dated 23 August, to our Piney Mountain:

"Dear Senior Trolls,

"We thank you very much for your wonderful hospitality to us last week.

"Your Piney Mountain is like a little spot of heaven there in the foothills, and it was so kind of you to share it with us.

". . . Saturday, I awoke late and saw the trees nearly bending in the wind. . . found a note from Jerry that he was out flying. It was a glorious day; perfect for just about every kite. Those days don't come along often in August, so we were out all day.

"My folks say they get our weather, so I imagine you've been doing some spectacular flying out there 'neath Piney Mountain.

". . . We enjoyed our visit. . . It was truly high adventure! Any time you need wind, just send for your Nashville fans!

". . . Karen, Jerry, Tyler, and Jake."

Piney Mountain Air Force enjoys sharing airspace with creative visitors; however, most of our experimental flight activity, on private lands, is limited to not more than ten participants—principally Virginians—on the days when we fly kites or ultralights.

We rigorously support FAA flight regulations and endorse sensible safety practices, but we otherwise hang loose; eschew nasty little pea-whistles, clipboards, bullhorns, and stopwatches favored by shrill-voiced, brassbound mob-hustlers and regimenters.

After digesting the above, if you still desire to fly with trolls and curmudgeons, do read the paragraph below. If you are a rash editor of a kiteletter, please stuff it in your calendar of No-Notice Kiteflying Events:

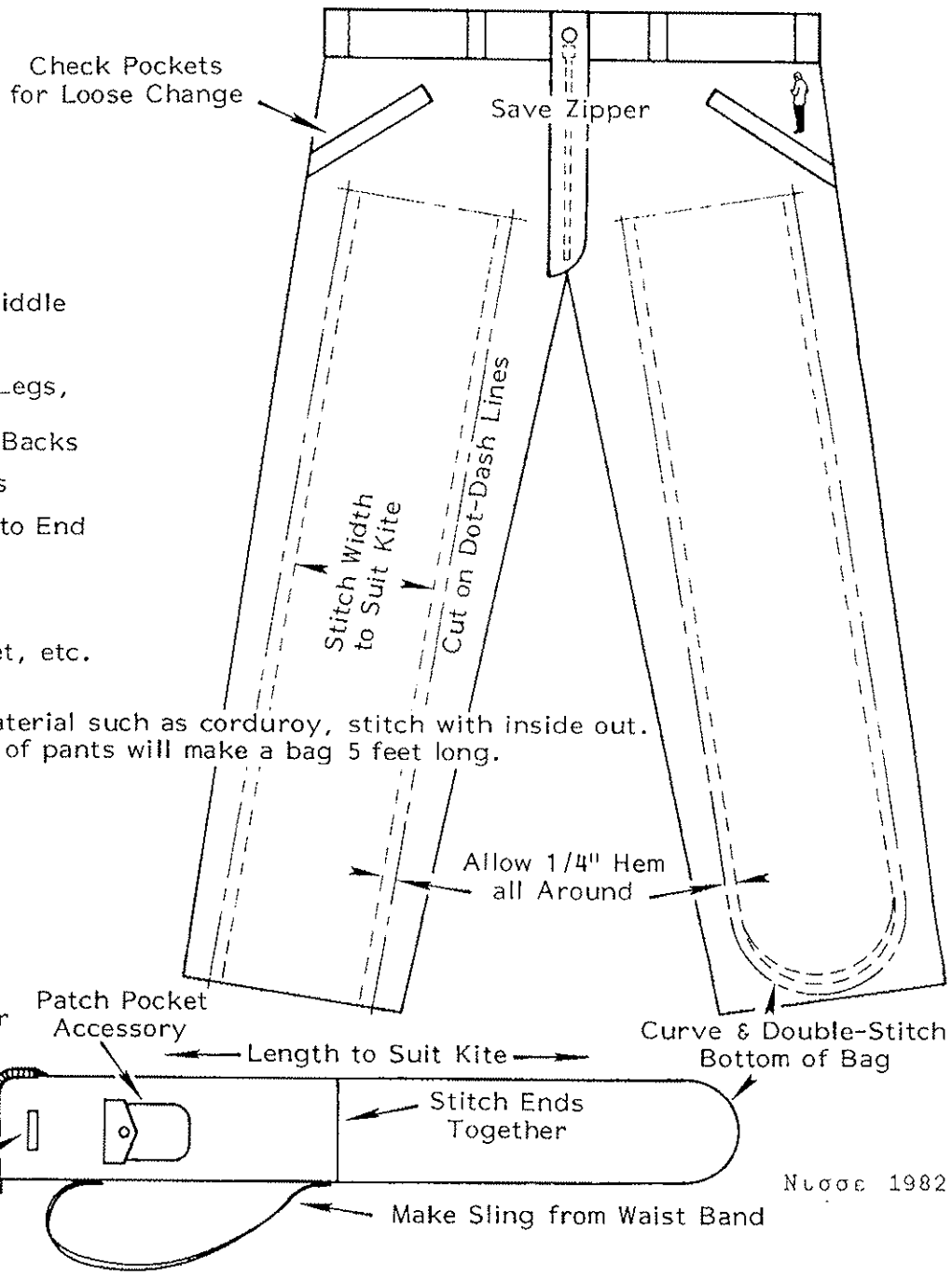
PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE: Small group, no-notice, reserved kiteflys on even calendar-numbered Saturdays. Out-of-towners must send SASE for reservations and list of tourist accommodations. Send inquiries to: Guy D. Aydlett, Piney Mountain Air Force, Box 7304, Charlottesville, Virginia 22906.

P. GHEE PENN of Hog Island, VA writes: "That W.T. Hatch subscriber from Rivanna Bank Shipyard is not the only fellow who makes good use of PMAF DATA-LETTER.

"My wife's a very meticulous housekeeper. Every night, she spreads an old copy of DL on the floor under our cuckoo clock. I am enclosing a check for a two month supply." [Editorial Note: DATA-LETTERS of prime bombing quality are getting scarce. Maybe G*D*V*K*S could handle your next order.]

(more on p. 4)

MAKE KITE BAGS FROM YOUR OLD PANTS
 (A Timely Hint for Thrifty Kitefliers)
 by CARL POEHLER*



PROCEDURE

1. Split Pants up Middle
2. Save Zipper
3. Lay out Bag on Legs, pin to hold, and stitch Fronts to Backs
4. Cut to Hem Lines
5. Sew Halves End to End
6. Insert Zipper
7. Turn inside out
8. Add Loop, Pocket, etc.

NOTE: For sided material such as corduroy, stitch with inside out.
 One pair of pants will make a bag 5 feet long.

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*CARL POEHLER JR., Massachusetts, is a talented kiteflier and architect. He tells us his clever recession-beater design is "a kite bag plan for impoverished kite persons. Use

it as the trolls see fit, but with dignity. . . [it] is my answer [for] the temporarily embarrassed kite person; a kite bag to be had for the stitching and one old pair of slacks."

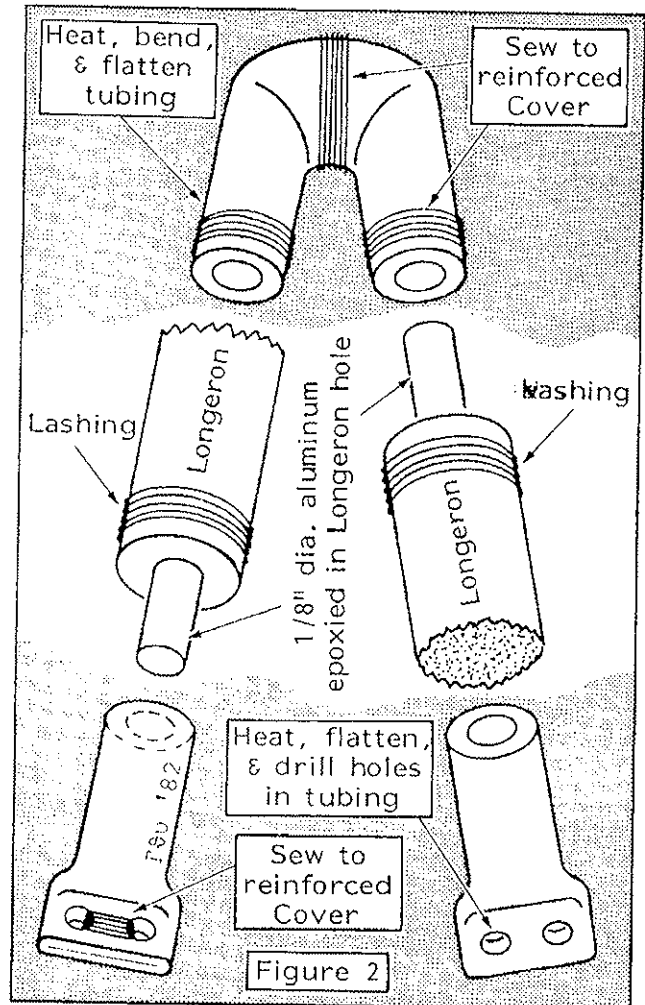
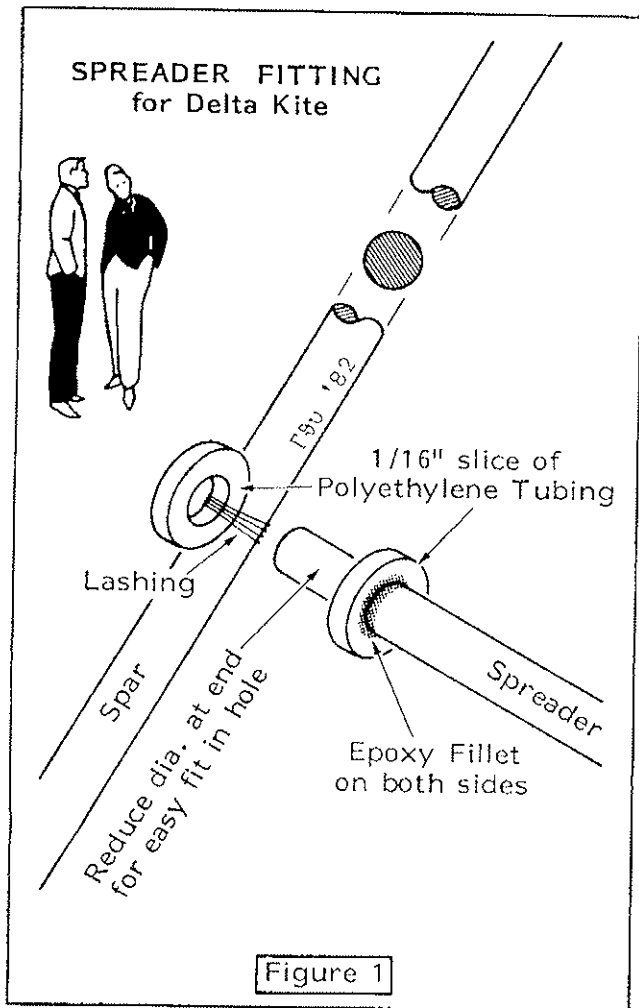
PLASTIC TUBE FITTINGS FOR SPARS, LONGERONS, AND SPREADERS

by PHILIP J. MODJESKI*

I have found good use of a stiff polyethylene tubing $1/4"$ O.D. \times $1/8"$ I.D. To secure the spreader on the snub-nosed delta [for example, see "Superlight Snub-Nosed Delta" in DL No. 14, p. 4], I cut $1/16"$ thick sections of the tubing and lash 2 sections to the wing spars at the spreader junctions, and 2 other sections are secured to the spreader ends with fillets of

quick drying epoxy cement (see Figure 1).

This tubing used in another way has also worked well on other kites. For example, in building the Hornbeam "Quintessence" [a tailless, keeled pentagon kite in DL No. 15, p. 3], heat-formed tube fittings obviated the need to fix the longerons to the cover with an adhesive, or to have to slide them in sewn casings or pockets (see Figure 2).



*DR. MODJESKI, retired faculty member and administrator, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, commenced making and flying kites in early 1981 following his exposure to the Sanjo Rokkaku kite plan in DATA-LETTER No. 4.

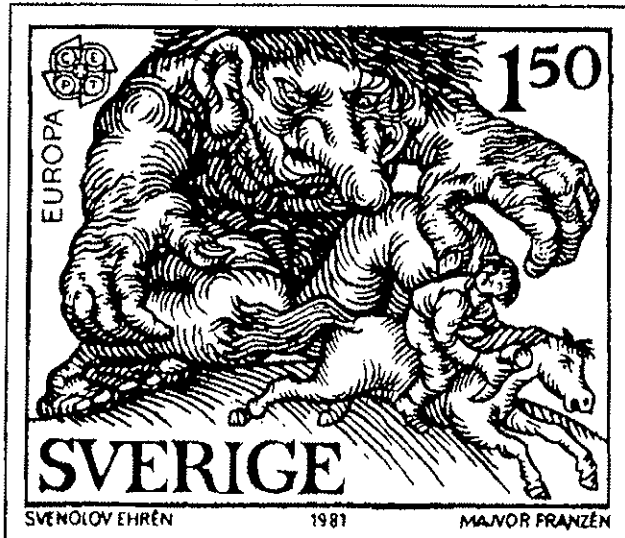
His many interests include wood-carving, expert automobile repairing, and fancy joinery; and the many kites he has made since that first one all exhibit superb craftsmanship and ingenious techniques of assembly.

In early August, Philip brought a careful of his kites to Piney Mountain; many of them freshly made and never flown. One by one, he assembled and faultlessly flew his Eddy kite and fine examples of just about every kite design that has appeared in our modest little kite publication. His Hornbeam "Quintessence" haunted the zenith like a homesick angel, and his carefully balanced Hornbeam Rotor 661 kite whirled in the welkin with silk-slick vibrationless precision.

HELGA VARMEGUPP, Hundentand, Lappmark: ". . .The benign trolls of your Piney Mountain environs must be descendants of the coterie that accompanied Leif Ericson to the shores of Delaware ca. 1,000 A.D.

"You must know that some of the ancient trolls were not very nice; caused a great amount of trouble in Scandinavia until Odin cut off their heads, turned them into stone, and set them on the hilly slopes of Easter Island. Legend has it that their bodies were pickled in *brändvin* and interred in the fenlands of Pungo, Virginia; there to stay until all New Jersey kitefliers become sober, industrious, and housebroken.

"To my letter envelope I have attached a 1.5 kronor postage stamp that portrays how the wicked giant trolls might have looked in the olden days [see cut, below].



"Our older folk in Norrland do not read English very well, but all of us enjoy the picture on the front page of *DATA-LETTER*. We look forward to see each time what little detail is changed; besides, kite flying isn't too bad, either. Some of the trolls of only five years in folkschool do not always understand your detailed drawings on kites; they think one has to have a university degree in engineering or orgyecture to fully understand, but you can be assured that the Trolls of Skellefteå say many *hej's* and love and stuff to their Piney Mountain kin."

*

— DATA-LETTER DATA —

12 issues by first class mail in North America: \$8.50; back issues, \$1.00 each, net. Overseas subscriptions (airmail) are \$12.50; back issues, \$1.50 each, net. ALL DRAFTS MUST BE IN UNITED STATES DOLLARS.

Page 4, PMAF *DATA-LETTER*—October 1982

PHIL SCARFE of Reading, Berks, England wants to compare notes with *DL* subscribers who design, make, and fly Marconi kites: ". . .Thank you very much. . .for the info about Captive Flight Autogyro. I managed to chase up four sets of [autogyro plans] for friend Christensen [of Sprague, Washington]; he seems very happy and I'm keeping an ear to the ground for more goodies for him.

"I'm still building my technical library for the happy day I can get back to kitemaking, so [this is] a request how can I find out more about Marconi's—beautiful light-wind flying machines.

"I have the following: [a] *Kite Lines* article; *Your Book of Kites*—Clive Hart; Pelham's (of course); *Kite Craft* (including the enigmatic, upside down four-masted schooner of Art Kurle); and the (I believe) original Marconi Box. But as I am greedy, I want more!

"Have you anything or know of a demon Marconi freak I can write to? . . .Phil." [Demon Marconi freaks may write to Philip Scarfe, 142 Thirimer Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG3 6XL, ENGLAND. (If you seek information from Phil, be sure to include two Universal Postal Union Coupons with your inquiry.)

Those who are not familiar with the term "Marconi Kite" may be willing to swallow the following short explanation:

Marchese Guglielmo Marconi did not invent the "Marconi Kite." He did, however, elevate wireless telegraphy antennae for his successful transatlantic radio signal experiment with the aid of the Baden=Powell "Levigator" kite, an adaptation of the Japanese "Sanjo Rokkaku" (see *DL* #4, p. 4, March, 1981). In later years, the jib-headed Chesapeake Bay "Bugeye" sail rig was adopted, refined, and employed on nearly all modern sailing yachts. Since their masts were bedecked with shrouds, stays, and spreaders that made them resemble early Marconi wireless antenna masts, their rigging became incorrectly but firmly named "Marconi Rigging" (in a similar way, William Allison's Flexible Kite invention—"flexible flyer"—popularly but incorrectly is called "sled," or "sled-kite").

What is a Marconi Kite, then?

A Marconi Kite is just about any kite with lifting surfaces rigged in the manner of the "jib-headed"—triangular—sails commonly seen on modern sailing craft. Usually, an edge of each is fixed to framing or a line.]