

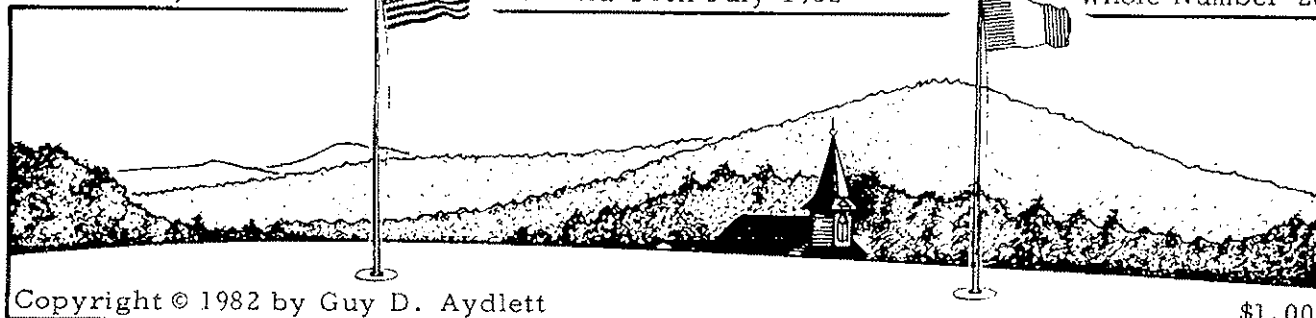
PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE

DATA - LETTER

VOLUME II, No. 7

4th and 14th July 1982

Whole Number 20



LITHO IN U.S.A

Dear Kiteflier:

WINDANCE SOCIETY of Middle Tennessee, a year old in May 1982, flies the loveliest name we have yet seen applied to any kite club. JERRY HARRIS, President, writes: ". . . This month [May] is the first anniversary of the Windance Society and we are delighted that you are interested in us and want to mention us in *DL*. History and latest (first!) newsletter enclosed.

". . . The Vernal Equinox found more than 500 [!] kite fliers at Centennial Park flying wall-to-wall. Very colorful and very encouraging after all our efforts. The night flight was less well attended but we managed to put two dozen chemical (Cyalume) lights aloft and several flashlights and one strobe. In spite of the chilly air, we flew for several hours.

"The electronic music was a perfect accompaniment to the day's festivities and I still enjoy listening to it to recall the fun of the event. We did successfully capture the kite sounds and broadcast them during the day. We listened to a variety of kites on several kinds of line. Monofilament seemed to produce the best musical response, although none but a kite lover would call it 'music.' Unfortunately, the tape recorder malfunctioned and no copy of the phenomenon exists. I still have the rig we used to perform the stunt and I will try to record the sounds again."

[Editorial Note: We are asking Jerry to describe his string-music recording technique for *DL* readers. More about it in a later issue—we hope.]

During March 7th through the 31st, the Windancers entertained more than 700 persons with "Art on a String, Music on the Wing"—an ambitious kite exhibit, reception replete with champagne, and Jack Tamul's music (workshops, too!)—in Athena's temple, the Parthenon replica in Nashville.

Jerry's Windancers are living proof that kite festivals are more wholesome than the typical regimented kite contests in which whole "families bent on raking in the loot" and the "official structure of the event[s]" have intimidated general public lay-fliers; caused them to stay away "in droves." The Windancers have tried both; and as Jerry aptly puts it: ". . . The wind is the best judge. . . we humans should not attempt to replace airy sanctions with material prizes.

". . . Any 'contest' which requires measurements or timing to determine the 'winner' is a drag, I say."

The more typical boilerplate kite contest, "Reach for the Sky," organized by a public relations firm and sponsored by a big corporation, was sparsely attended and disappointed its promoters, according to Jerry: "Even though they hired Windance to act as judges and counsel them. . . the contests were a pain to run and judge and stood in the way of enjoying the wind. . . ."

In the Windance Society's History, this sentence says it all: "We will dance on the wind year-round in beautiful Tennessee."

Write to: Jerry Harris, President, The Windance Society, 410 32nd Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212.

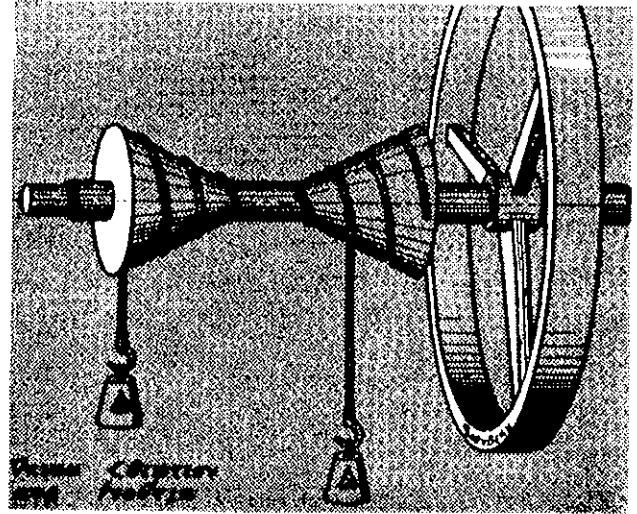
(Page 1 of 4)

(more on p. 4)

WHAT IS IT?

THE HORNBEAM ARCHIVES continue to delight researchers with delicious mysteries. The item shown at the right emerged from a file labeled "WINDERS," but the "AMISH PRAYER WHEEL" file suspiciously was as vacant as Beelzebub's conscience.

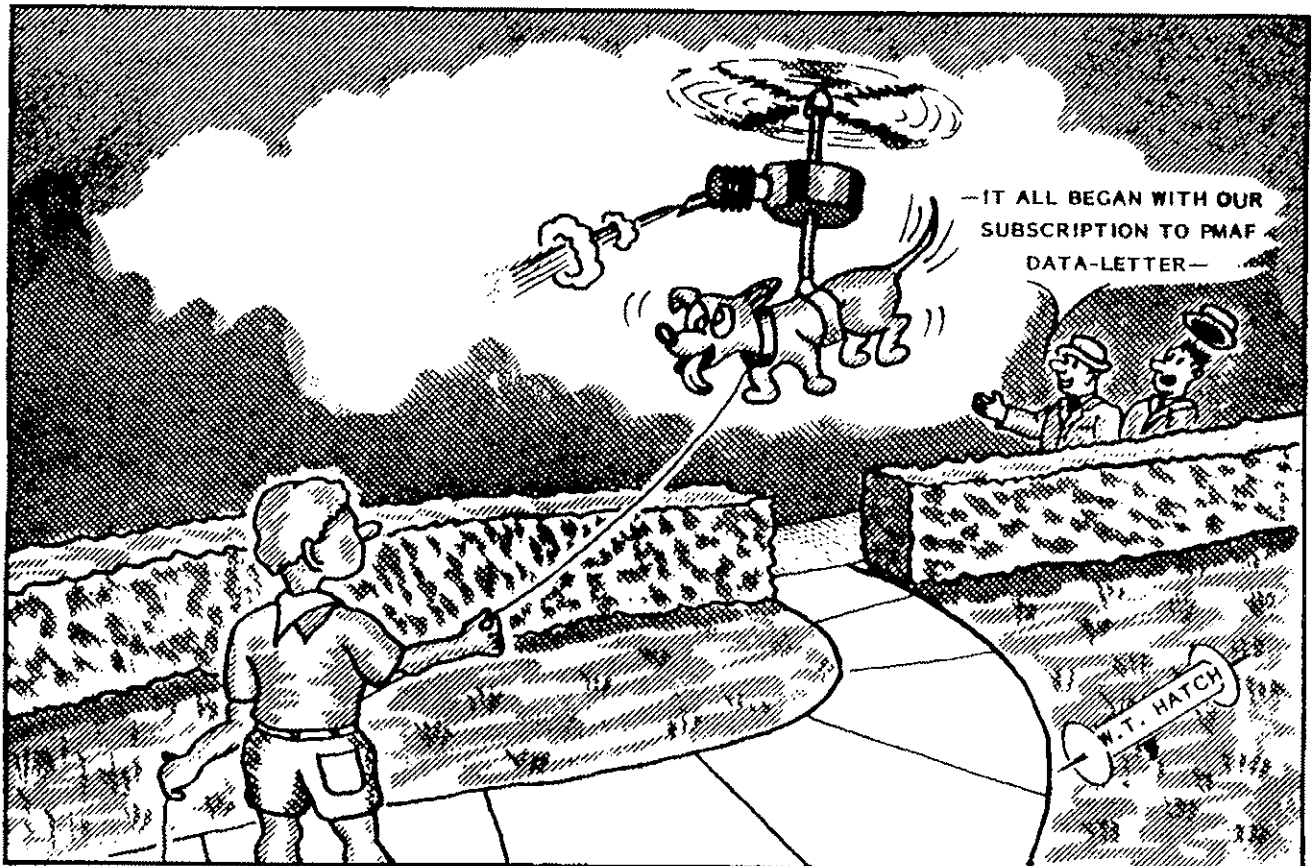
Who is willing to write an essay or poem of not more than three hundred words that most accurately describes what kinematic marvel the device is—or is not? Appropriate rewards or punishments will be devised for the five scribes whose works most successfully tickle the fancy of Tylda, PMAF's Literary Troll Lady. Besides being printed in *DATA-LETTER*, each magnum opus will haunt its own niche in the convolutions of The Hornbeam Archives (said by slanderers to be *labyrinthine*, but long-dead Daedalus had no culpable part in their spawning).



DEADLINE DATE is Groundhog Day, 1983.

*

CONTESTS and QUIZZES: The raincoat—or other garment—kite contest has so far excited no returns from our kite genii, but remember that the deadline has been extended through the end of the year (see *DL #16 & 18*). "Trone"; "forpet"—The definitions are due on or before Bastille Day, 14th July. Only two readers have responded so far. The contest to identify chopmarks, logo's, and doodles (*DL #18*) has had poor response, too. Get busy: Deadline is 31 July. Identify even three or four pictures and you may end up a winner!



TOM CHRISTENSEN'S ROTOR KITE EXPERIMENTS

TOM CHRISTENSEN of Sprague, Washington sent PMAF descriptions and tabulated findings on some of his rotor kite experiments that have been going on since 1976, the year that "GREEN JEANNE, a Rotor Kite of the Spool Kind" was published in *Kite Tales* (May).

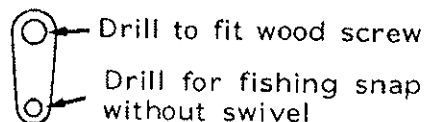
Tom said: ". . . In appreciation of the information [in *Data-Letter*], I am enclosing the tabulated results of my several years' efforts and conclusions (Right or Wrong) since the earth shaking news of GREENE JEANNIE.

"The gist of it all seems to be: Use styrofoam and white glue as much as possible, with lesser substitution of 'Blue Board' [a denser bulk styrofoam than the general insulation grade panel material] for added strength. . . .

"The new three-lobe Hornbeam 661 is easily made, flies well, and is easily repaired. I have made two.

"For the purist, however, the 290-A [an airfoil shape mentioned in the Green Jeanne article]. . . has both good lift and rotation in light kite winds. The long dimension of the cross section should be 7" or 8". I find that less than 7" is not structurally sound, and more than 8" rotates too slowly except in strong winds. For this type of kite, the best combination of materials is styrofoam covered with plastic model aeroplane cover that can be shrunk with a slight application of heat.

"The ribs were cut with a metal template and strung on a 3/8" or 1/2" square kite stick, with an inch or so protruding beyond the stabilizer to take a 3/4" x #4 or smaller wood screw. . . [use] a 1/16" thick brass or copper 'soldering lug' [for attaching the two-string kiteline] made as follows:



"The head of the screw & lug should be liberally daubed with good sticky auto chassis grease.

". . . I personally prefer to fly this type of kite on a two string reel. That way, I pretend to have trouble controlling the kite. This usually brings a crowd of the curious with a lot of well-meaning advice. As you know, we all like an interested audience.

". . . It has been an interesting project studying the flight characteristics of rotational flight.

". . . Kite flying is fine, but a kite must do something; not just sit up there at the end of a string. . . ."

#	A	B	C	D	W	S	W/S	F	G	H	N
1	9.0	36.0	-	9.0	4.00	2.25	1.8	-	a	-	1
2	13.1	54.0	-	13.0	13.50	4.90	2.8	-	b	-	1
3	9.0	36.0	9.00	9.0	4.75	2.25	2.1	c	a	a	2
4	9.5	53.5	5.94	9.5	8.50	3.52	2.4	c	b	a	2,3
5	14.5	48.0	12.00	14.5	19.50	4.83	4.0	d	b	a	4
6	9.5	36.0	5.14	9.5	8.75	2.37	3.7	e	a	a	5
7	7.8	24.0	4.00	8.0	2.20	1.30	1.7	f	a	g	6
8	9.4	36.0	18.00	9.0	5.50	2.34	2.3	d	a	a	7

H-661
 $A = 3.14r$

290-A
 $A = 2.57r$

[Special Note: See DL #10 for details or discussions of H-661, 290-A, and other sections.]

CODES: # = Kite No.; A = Semi-perimeter of rotor foil; B = Length of rotor body between outer stabilizers; C = Rib spacing; D = Stabilizer diameter; W = Kite weight (oz); S = Kite area (ft²); W/S = Loading (oz/ft²); F = Covering; G = Stabilizer material; H = Rib material; N = Notes 1 through 7 (see "NOTES," below).

MATERIALS: a = 1/2" styrofoam, 0.69 oz/ft²; b = 1" Blue Board, 2.8 oz/ft²; c = Pactra heat-shrink film; d = Corrugated board, 0.6 oz/ft²; e = Corrugated board, 0.93 oz/ft²; f = Rice paper; g = Balsa wood fabrication.

NOTES: 1) Hornbeam 661 Section, simply made, flies well; 2) 290-A Section, good flights in average winds; 3) Too long for strength, but good flight characteristics; 4) Rotates slowly, but flies well in brisk winds (290-A); 5) Good in brisk winds, but heavy (290-A). Has redundant 3rd stabilizer in center; 6) Made after Green Jeanne design, flies O.K., fragile, not easily repaired; 7) O.K. in average winds, but three 290-A ribs not enough.

(more from page 1):

CERF-VOLANT CLUB de FRANCE: There is yet time to rig a camera on your kite and to win that 1,000 franc first prize for the best aerial photograph submitted in this year's contest. Nine other cash prizes are offered. 30 November 1982 is the deadline date for the submission of entries. There is time to send two International Reply Coupons (buy them from the postoffice) for airmailed contest particulars from: Cerf-Volant Club de France, 17 rue Lacharrière, 75011 PARIS.

KITEFLIERS OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER's "Constructing the Sail and Camera Cradle," part of "AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY," an article by Richard Platt, shows an excellent rig for a line-suspended camera. If you send a £2 international money order to G.R. and Jon Bloom, we'll wager that you'll promptly receive an airmailed copy of Issue No. 11, an excellent 24-page quarterly that also includes a copy of the Cerf-Volant Competition rules. Write: K.O.N., 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1EU, ENGLAND.

THE WINDY NOTICE, Maryland Kite Society's bi-monthly publication, is ably edited by Chief Quill-Driver FELIX CARTAGENA, an activist who has already produced his first three issues in the new Volume 14. Felix is enviably supported by two articulate official reporters: lovely Ellen Rubenstein (Just Tellin') and Bill Kocher. PMAF understands that trolls are in short supply in Maryland: one migrated to Newfield, NJ; but the good looking ones came to our Piney Mountain.

Felix has fomented a series of contests to encourage his readers to participate in the airy spaces of *The Windy Notice*. Categories are: Articles, Kite Designs, Original Artwork, Photographs, Poetry, and Limericks. The Limerick Contest—the first—has been won by MARAE PRICE; the next contest, "Kite and Gizmo," has a deadline date of 15 August 1982. Participate in the contests by joining The Maryland Kite Society, P.O. Box 10467, Baltimore, MD 21209. The \$8.00 dues also covers the cost of the newsletter.

BCKA WINDSOX is an eight-page publication of British Columbia Kitefliers' Association, a neighbor who flies in close rapport with WKA, Washington Kitefliers Association. Membership and the newsletter may be arranged by sending \$5.00 Canadian to: British Columbia Kitefliers' Association, c/o Rosemary Meyer, Sec'y., 3991 Puget Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6L 2V3, CANADA.

EDDY KITES were the fashion in at least two other kiteletters recently. Besides our full page presentation on page 4 of our *DL* for June, *Kite* (of England's Northern Kite Group) featured on its cover a portrait of William A. Eddy and a facsimile of Eddy's 1900 patent drawing. Proving that great mentalities grope through similar conduits, Leonard Conover's May *Tight Lines* provided a full-page Eddy kite plan.

VICTORIA KITE CLUB, British Columbia, features lifetime memberships, workshops, a library of kite newsletters and magazines, festivals, and an annual newsletter. Send your inquiry with an enclosed envelope and an International Reply Coupon to BERNARD STEWART, VKG, 207-1615 Belmont Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8R 3Y9, Canada. [Re the practice of sending SASE's (Self-Addressed Stamped Envelopes), always include one if you ask for information from any kite club; most are nearly as poor as PMAF.—Nisse]

GORDON S. FAIRLEY of Salem, OR says: ". . . Thanks for the Hornbeam Rotor Plan!

"That's a great idea to collect addresses of guys who share a common specialized interest; i.e., autogyros etc.

"I would like a list of these, and you may certainly add mine to the lists!

". . . You can't imagine how really happy I was to receive all that wonderful info pack you mailed me!

". . . I am gathering all the information I can on captive autogyros.

". . . Presently our "SKY-GYRO" prototype commercial autogyro is about ready for flight tests after which we will 'freeze' the design and start producing them for sale.

". . . I've loved all manner of kites, but the autogyro holds a strong fascination for me. . . ." [Piney Mountain Air Force looks forward to field-testing the "SKY-GYRO."]

PHOEBE B. BOEBE, Pootatuck, Connecticut: ". . . Our world famous *Tiger Trimmer* was created for fashioning picture moulding mitres or for shaping the ends of kite sticks. There is no truth to the apocryphal story that *Tiger Trimmer* was intended to be used by veterinarians who specialize in attenuating big boar-cats. . . ."

P.M. HAMILTON, Surrey, England: ". . . I am indeed mightily impressed by the logodaedaly of your editor. True, the luculent narrative does at times metagrobolize me, but the gist shines through. . . ." [Ouch!]