

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE

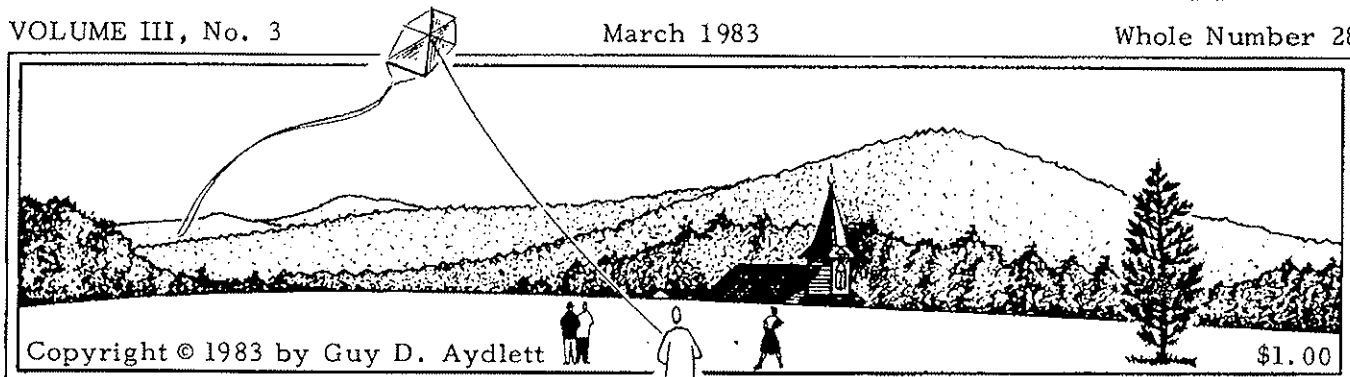
Box 7304 * Charlottesville * Virginia * 22906-7304

DATA★LETTER

VOLUME III, No. 3

March 1983

Whole Number 28



LITHO IN U.S.A.

MARCH, The Third Month, traditionally is a season of foul weather and strong winds in the northern hemisphere of the earth. Most kite festival promoters have learned to shy away from scheduling kites in March: too many canny fliers have learned to stay home and work up kites for more salubrious days. (The especially industrious have been known to manure their fields and tend their stills.)

This March, as usual, brings us St. Patrick's Day on the 17th; and PMAF is looking for a great, bright-green flag to fly. THE VERNAL EQUINOX happens on the 20th; and except at the poles, all parts of the earth experience light and dark periods of equal duration.

MORE: Passion/Palm Sunday is the 27th; the Pashal Full Moon is on the 28th; and the first day of Passover commences on March 29th.

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KITE MANUFACTURERS are invited to submit their products for PMAF flight reviews, but we are unwilling to be burdened with returning them. We'd much rather give them away.

*

ELIZABETH RICARD of Orlando, Florida goes kite fishing: ". . .Went kite fishing with my flukey delta—drastic surgery made her fly beautifully. Hornbeam. . .very ill that day; I forgot the filamented tape! Caught a fish! Too small to keep, but alive and wriggling—no one catching much—Heather threw it back—'Dere you goes, Fishy.' Need more weights—had a hard time catching fish with the bait 100' up in the air. So exciting! It really can be done! . . .High flyingly, —Elizabeth."

DOROTHY HORNBEAM and GEORGE BAWDEN, our foremost Ontario Canada booster, are recovering from recent critical surgery. Their kiteflier friends invoke healthful winds and fly high hopes for both convalescents in 1983.

George sent this: ". . .'82 was not a great year for me in that I was off work almost four months. . .but 7 days after the operation I was out flying kites—bit sore—but a great feeling.

"In '82 I was flying a nine-foot Canadian Flag from Delta Kite most times I was able to fly.

"One thing about kiteflying is that all kinds of people love kites and like to chat—it's usually just a carefree, relaxing time: watching the wind, meeting people, and having fun.

"On the west coast they call it *Fishing for Angels*; but so far, no luck—my kites are just not pretty enough, I guess. Blue Skies in '83, —George" [*And to you, too, George.*]

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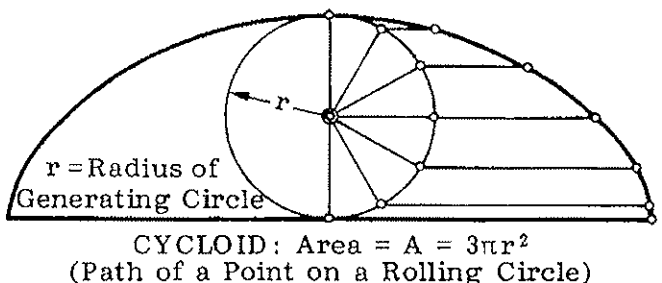
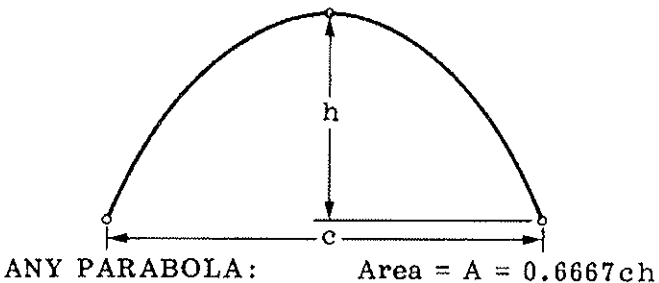
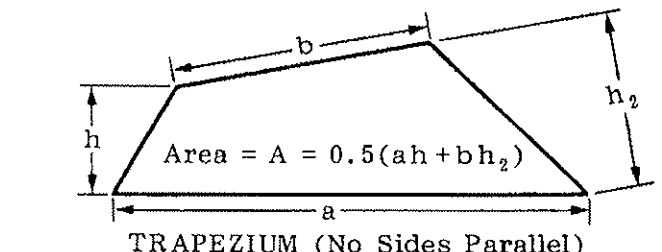
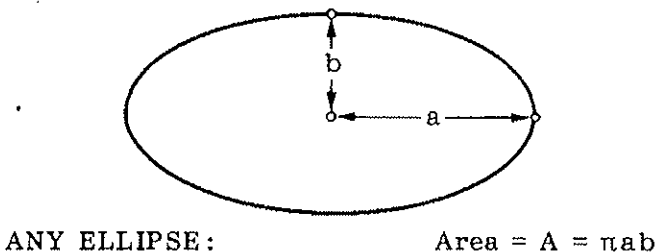
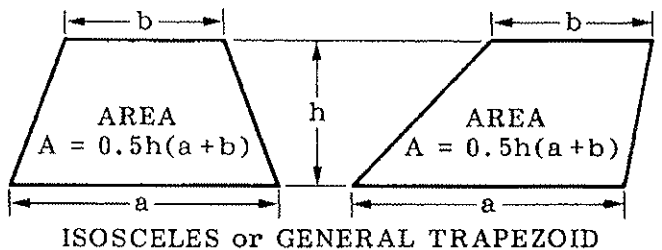
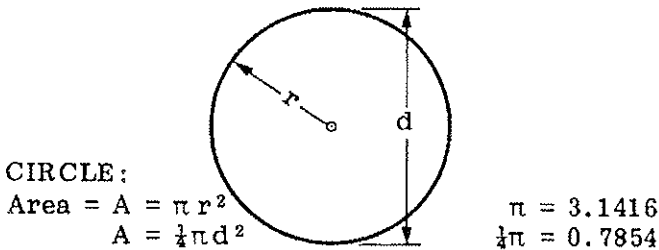
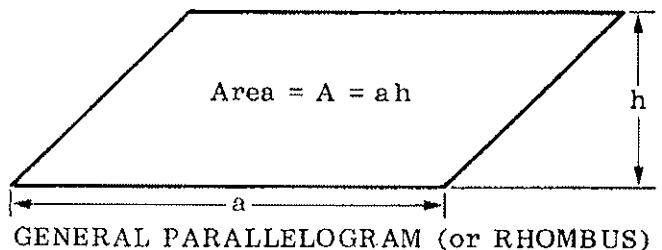
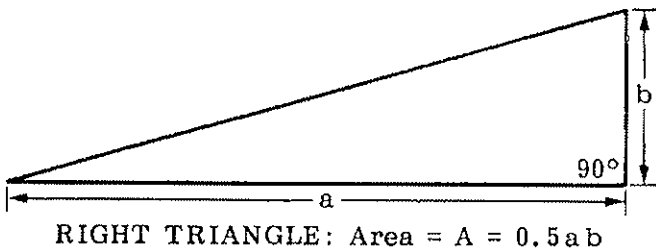
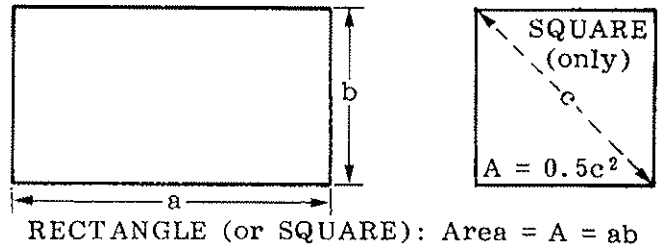
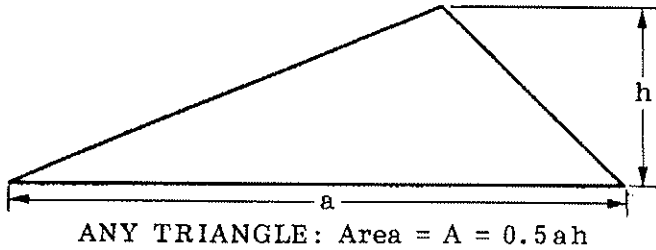
AL HARGUS III, of Chicago, says: ". . .The Hornbeam Mark I is. . .the best [Alliflex] design I have ever encountered. The Chicago Sky Liners, our kite club, has used [Mark I] on several occasions. . .We give about seven or eight demonstrations on kitemaking every year. After trying several designs, we settled for Hornbeam because it is easy for kids to construct, decorate; flies in most any wind.

". . .Last summer, my brother used a modified Hornbeam in the city kite festival: 8" height; 15 side-by-side. He painted it like a piano keyboard 60" wide. He won first place for the most unique kite. . .GOOD WINDS."

HOW TO FIND THE AREAS OF PLANE GEOMETRICAL FIGURES

by Mensoo Raishun

CREATIVE FLIERS with analytical notions have written to PMAF and have requested some easy methods for determining the areas of their kites. There are easy methods, but they usually apply to the figures that have simple shapes. Many times, a complex planform can be divided into simple shapes, their areas calculated, and their sums totalled to yield an accurate area determination; but as Euclid was supposed to have said to Pliny, "There is no royal road to geometry." But offer the material shown below to your calculator; the road'll be almost royal:



AREAS OF REGULAR POLYGONS may be determined with this general formula: $A = nr^2 \tan \frac{1}{2}\alpha$; Where: n = number of sides; r = radius of inscribed circle; $\alpha = 360^\circ/n$ (see page 3, DL #26).

JON BURKHARDT, Bethesda, Maryland says this in his DL subscription renewal: ". . .I'd be more than happy to trade a few mouldy greenbacks for another year of mirthful enlightenment. What a delightful trade. Keep'm coming. The filthy lucre is enclosed. . . ."

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BROOKS LEFFLER, proud owner of the Kites Aweigh store in Annapolis, says: ". . .I agree with your comment [DL #27] that kite inventors might best save their strength seeking patents —But that sure sounds as though you've mellowed a bit. (Careful, you have a reputation to maintain.)"

[Editorial Note: Ol' Brooks must sometime get a peek at some of the PMAF correspondence before he concludes that our reputation for curmudgeonism is languishing. We continue to receive a heartening quota of sulphurous nastygrams from folk who enjoy shooting silver bullets at hex-doll images or portraits of Hornbeam. Hawk-eyed markspersons burn or blast full-moon effigies of our hurdie with righteous frequency. Our reputation abides.]

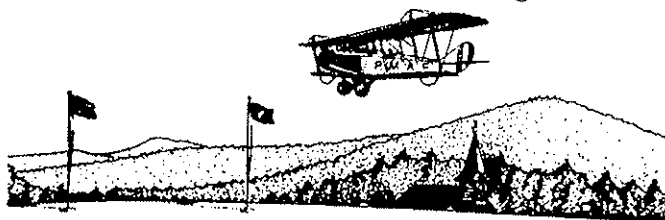
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OLAFUR HAGARSEN, of Lappmark, Norrland says: ". . .Many are the interesting plans in DL, but are you not short of photographs?" [Nope, merely short of kronor for halftones.]

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DELL TUTRAYNE, Seattle, Washington says: ". . .PICTURES! Omigod, so that's what The Oldest Troll looks like. . . Dorothy is much prettier. Are you like AKA News—getting a bit short on plans? [Nope, and AKA should not be, either. Most DL plans are available to AKA for reproduction with proper credit captions appended. The Oldest Troll, an AKA life member, supports AKA's creative fliers; needs only to be courted for technical help.]

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE DATA LETTER
P.O. Box 7304, Charlottesville, Virginia 22906



DATA LETTER, a monthly publication, comes from Hornbeam Hall, which harbors editorial dungeons and adjoins a fickle-winded flight pad in the historic County of Albemarle, Va.

A year of 12 issues, by first class mail in North America: \$8.50. Overseas subscriptions by airmail: \$12.50 (All drafts in U. S. dollars).

COKA (Central Ohio Kitefliers Association) is vigorously preparing for the 6th Annual AKA Convention in Columbus, Ohio: early October.

COKA was organized on 12 July 1980; selected MILLER MAKEY as Fearless Leader and ebullient BETTY MAKEY as Faithful Scribe. The group laudably keeps formalities, dues, and business meetings to a minimum. Emphasis is placed on field days; P.M. kiteflys on all Saturdays that have even-numbered dates.

As evidenced by their hosting the 1983 AKA Kite Bash and bringing out an ever-improving newsletter called AIRMAIL, the stalwarts of COKA have found comfortable, enviable stature in the realm of kite societies. (Only one piece of bad judgement has surfaced so far: COKA says it is proud to have a PMAF troll roosting in its roster of about fifty members.)

North Americans may send \$4.00 for membership and AIRMAIL subscription to: COKA, 2557 Clark Drive, Grove City, Ohio 43123.

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PMAF FLIER CITED AS AVIATION PIONEER



CHARTER MEMBER

This is to certify that

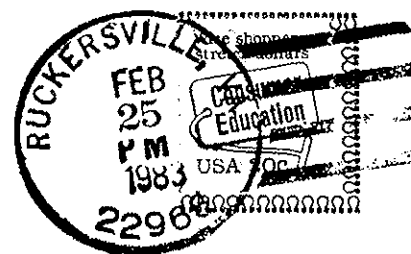
BEAUFORCE STRINGFELLOW

following in the footsteps of the Wright Brothers and possessing the spirit that helped open the frontiers of ultralight aviation is hereby recognized as an aviation pioneer and Official Charter Member of the AOPA Ultralight Division



1982-1983

Vic Powell
Vic Powell
AOPA Ultralight Division



Feb 1985
(S 332)

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