

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE

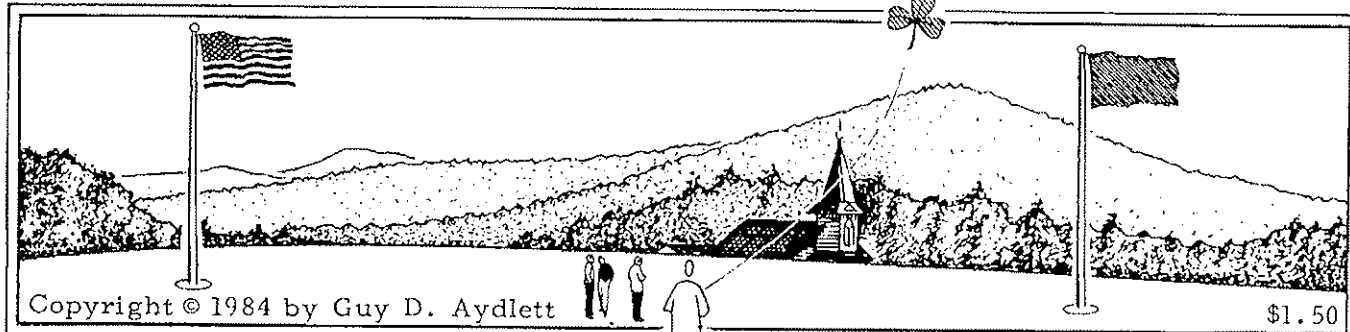
Box 7304 * Charlottesville * Virginia * 22906-7304

DATA★LETTER

VOLUME III, No. 3

March 1984

Whole Number 40



MARCH, The Third Month, gives us 31 days. North American fliers must beware of chills, chilblains, and equinoctial gales.

ROSH - CHODESH comes on the 4th and 5th; Ash Wednesday is on the 7th; and the Fast of Esther is on the 15th.

THE BUZZARDS, according to legend, always return to Hinckley, Ohio on the 15th, which is a Thursday. At Piney Mountain, buzzards and eonons are to be seen every Thursday.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY celebration and overt Full-Mooning may be combined on the 17th.

AULD SOL crosses the Equator on the 20th.

SWEDES AND TROLLS settled in Wilmington, Delaware on the 29th of March in 1638. Fluff a pillow and burn some feathers on the 29th.

*

CHET HOWARD, Director of Japanese Antique Clock Museum, Kamakura, Japan, says: "I am sending. . .[you] a kiting book recently published here. . . ."

"I have heard that you now fly kites from the end of the tail, not the end of the string [We do both. —N.]. Under the AFR's of the PMAF, for such flights who gets to log pilot-in-command time. . . .?"

[As the Quicksilver MX is a single-seated vehicle, the pilot-in-command is almost always The Oldest Troll; but sometimes the PIC is any other pilot rash enough to risk his mass in our pretty little bluebird. —Nisse.]

CHET SNOUFFER, according to the January issue of AIRMAIL, the newsletter of Central Ohio Kitelliers Association, threw his boomerang in December of 1983 and it flew until it returned to him in January 1984. The throw was made on New Year's Eve; the 'rang flew back a few seconds after midnight, according to Coordinated Universal Time (Zulu).

Chet is a smart kiteflier who can find other flying fun when the wind deserts his kites.

ROBERT L. VENABLE, M.D., of Plymouth, North Carolina, is another kiteflier who is a vigorous supporter of the boomerang sport; and he has been putting subtle pressures on our PMAF folk to get back into boomeranging.

(The Auld Curmudgeon of Piney Mountain made and flew his first boomerang about 58 years ago. With clean living, he might have become a champion 'ranger; but at an early age he discovered powered biplanes, extra-dry martinis, and the fullness of the moon.)

Bob must think that if a boomerang makes many happy returns, it'll raise considerably smaller bumps on the bonce than those that arise from pranging an ultralight. . . .

JOHN B. MAURO, an active Richmond, Virginia kiteflier, is treasurer of United States Boomerang Association (USBA). You can become a member by sending \$5.00 to John at: 4030-9 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225.

A member of USBA is eligible for discounts on boomerangs and accessories; also, he receives Return Mail, the quarterly newsletter edited by Ali Fujino Miller, USBA president.

A BIRD KITE FROM THAILAND

A Primitive Creature Dissected and Documented by Guy D. Aydlett

THIS SOUTHEAST ASIAN KITE was among a group of excellent specimens that came to our archives from JOHN DOUGLAS FORBES, AKA Life Member, teacher, flier, musician, writer, architect, water witch—a man of parts in the true sense of The Renaissance. The professor has traveled the world and flown his kites in many world capitals; has added to his collection by acquiring ethnic kites of distinction.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

In common with most oriental kites, this is another admirable combination of biodegradable, natural materials: principally bamboo, handmade natural fiber paper, cotton string, rice paste, and bold water color decorations.

The bamboo framing is all hand split to an average-piece cross section of 1.5 x 5.0 mm. Uncorrected tapering of the pieces appear to have little or no effect upon the splendid flying qualities of Foock Hin's creation. (Yes, the kite is signed; it comes from 14/8 Oriental Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand.)

The paper appears to be a coarse version of a kind the Ideal Model Airplane Company used to sell to us rubber-powered model airplane freaks about the time Lucky Lindy was solo flying the Atlantic and keeping his eyes propped open with matchsticks or toothpicks. Ideal sold the paper as "bamboo paper," but in recent years I have seen similar papers—papers reputed to be "mulberry fiber"—in art stores that cater to fine arts printmakers. Anyway, the paper is light, tough, porous, and has many random swirls of long fibers in its makeup—definitely a hand-woven paper.

Cotton string flexibly secures the ventral fin or keel, a perimeter of 2.0 x 2.0 mm split bamboo covered with the coarse paper, to the longeron. (Did the ventral "keel" originate in Asia?)

CONSTRUCTION HINTS

Make a cardboard pattern by spotting the layout points from the coordinates shown in the Back View drawing on the facing page.

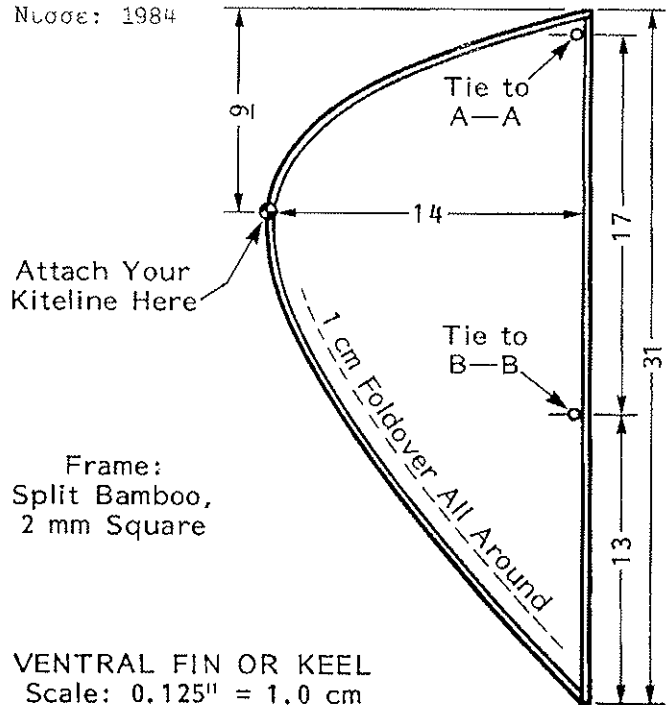
The coordinate shorthand helps to keep the drawing from being cluttered with a rete of witness lines, extension lines, and leaders.

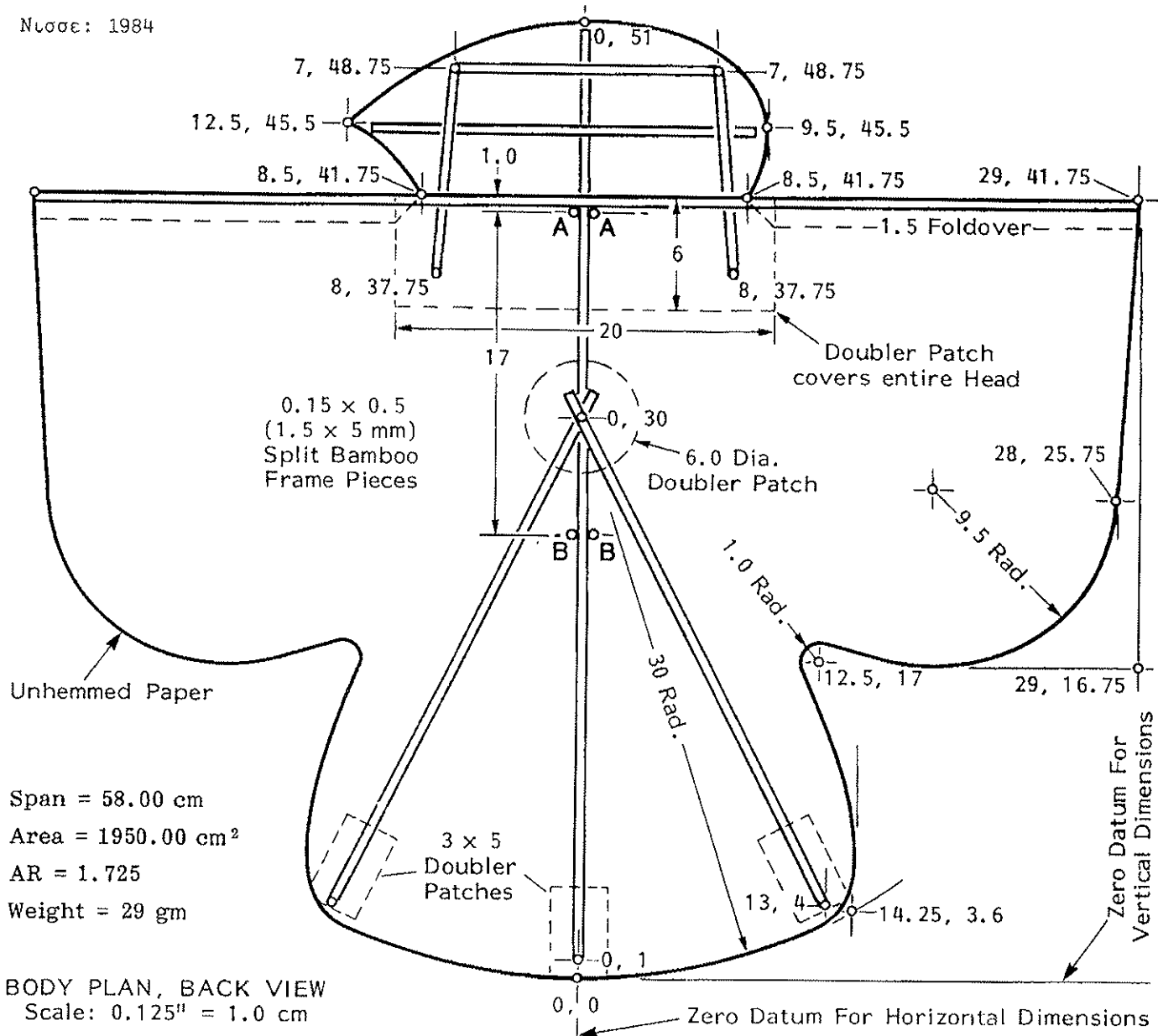
To find a point, for example, (29, 41.75), measure 29 cm to the right—or the left—of a vertically drawn centerline; measure 41.75 cm up from a horizontal datum line. This point is the locus of a wingtip. All other points are located similarly: each first number denotes



Color Code: B = Black; C = Cyan; G = Green; M = Magenta; R = Red; W = White; Y = Yellow

Note: 1984





Span = 58.00 cm
 Area = 1950.00 cm²
 AR = 1.725
 Weight = 29 gm

BODY PLAN, BACK VIEW
 Scale: 0.125" = 1.0 cm

a horizontal distance, or *abscissa*; each second number denotes a vertical, or *ordinate*.
 Although the original kitemaker never used a measuring stick, protractor, or compass on his creation, I offer here dimensions carefully taken from the original—some admittedly averaged to accommodate pardonable variations in symmetry—a legacy from rule-of-eyeball. Where curves are not scientifically defined in the drawings, fake them between the points; eyeball them; the Thai kitemaster did—with scissors—and his kite flies near the zenith.
 Trace the bird outline on a single piece of paper and cut it out with scissors. From the pieces of waste, cut the doubler patches that appear on the drawing, above. Also cut four fringed streamers: 4 cm wide and 40 cm long.

Use rice paste (rice boiled until it is smooth and thick) to fix the 49.5 cm longeron to the centerline of the kite body. Next, paste the lower diagonals and the head reinforcers in place. Then, paste the 58 cm spar in the folds of the wing leading edges and reinforce all of the frame joints with pasted doubler appliqué at their appropriate locations.
 The belly curve of the ventral bamboo may be managed by heating the bamboo over the flame of a candle. Allow about 1 cm of extra ventral paper to fold over and paste around the perimeter framing.
 Decorate the body and the ventral fin with brilliant dry colors mixed in thin rice paste. Paste the streamers to the tail-corners, tie the fin to the body; kiteline to the fin: FLY!

PINEY MOUNTAIN PILAFF, THE WORLD FAMOUS BOOSTER CURRY

Story Researched and Recipe Civilized by Gaston le Pouffe

APOCRYPHAL LEGEND has it that this distinctive ante bellum recipe, cooked up by the web-footed, clam-digging members and minions of the Thatch Family in the County of Currituck, North Carolina, was brought to Virginia's Piedmont by a scion of the family, Orren Beem The Flatulent, in the spring of 1865 immediately following the sad formalities in Appomattox, a small town in mid-Virginia.

According to the story, the tasty dish was made to fortify and sustain chilled wretches staked out in frigid duck blinds built in cold shallows of Currituck and Albemarle Sounds.

My British sources favor the belief that our classic kiteflier curry originated in Airedale, a valley in Yorkshire, or—probably—in Ayr, a seaport on the Firth of Clyde, in Ayrshire. The Ayrshire provenance may be the accurate one. It is known that Huffie Pibroch, a Scottish gunner's mate, kiteflier, and part-time seacook, shipped from the Clyde in the early 1800's and was shipwrecked on the Carolina banks. It is believed he crossed the Sound and settled with the Thatches of Currituck.

Maybe kites and curry were brought simultaneously to Scotland by sailors from India or Malaysia in the early days of the spice voyages. If from India, the curry dishes might have incorporated bean sprouts rather than ground meat. The Ayrburger content of the Scotch recipe might have been an expedient substitute for the beans, I think, but we'll have to let a lot of conjecture drift around, won't we?

Whatever the reasons, sound or insubstantial, scholarly drafted or bloatedly puffed, a kiteflier thrives on curry. Here is the recipe:

PINEY MOUNTAIN PILAFF WITH CURRY

To 3 Jo(h)n B's: Barker, Bloom, & Burkhardt

Select and measure these items with care:

- 1 Pound of lean ground beef
- 1 Cup of long grained rice
- 2 Liq. oz. of olive oil
- 1 Cup of chopped sweet peppers*
- 1 Cup of chopped celery*
- 1 Cup of chopped onions*
- 2 Tablespoonsful of butter
- 1 Ounce of curry powder**
- 2 Pounds of peeled tomatoes
- 1 Liq. oz. of soybean sauce
- 1 Liq. oz. of Worcestershire sauce
- 4 Liq. oz. of golden sherry wine

* Do not chop the vegetables too fine, or the pottage will lose brilliance of taste.

** The novice and the timid will use less; the experienced and the bold, more.

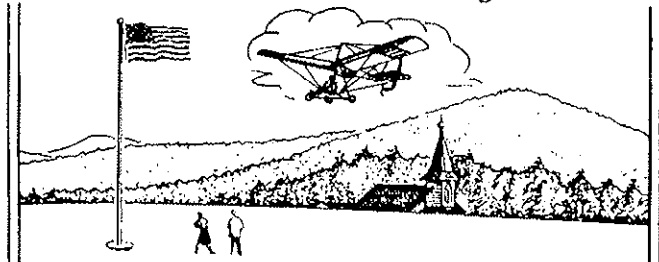
Combine the ground beef, the rice, and the olive oil in an iron skillet and fry the contents until the rice is colored to a golden brown.

In another skillet, lightly sauté the sweet peppers, celery, and onions in the butter.

Place the contents of both skillets in a four quart casserole or similar vessel that has a snug-fitting cover; add the rest of the ingredients, stir well, cover, and simmer the mixture about 45 minutes in a moderate oven, or until the rice acquires a fluffy tenderness. Do not overcook. Serve promptly with salad, whippoorwill bean soup, and fresh broccoli.

This recipe makes 6 to 8 hearty portions.

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE DATA LETTER
Box 7304 * Charlottesville * Virginia * 22906



DATA LETTER originates at Hornbeam Hall, the Albemarle County den of fliers who love our Earth planet and cherish the privilege of living and flying in its tenuous atmosphere. Receive 12 meaty issues by first class mail in North America for only \$10.00; by airmail to overseas fliers: \$12.50 (U.S. Dollars, only).

FIRST CLASS MAIL