

# PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE

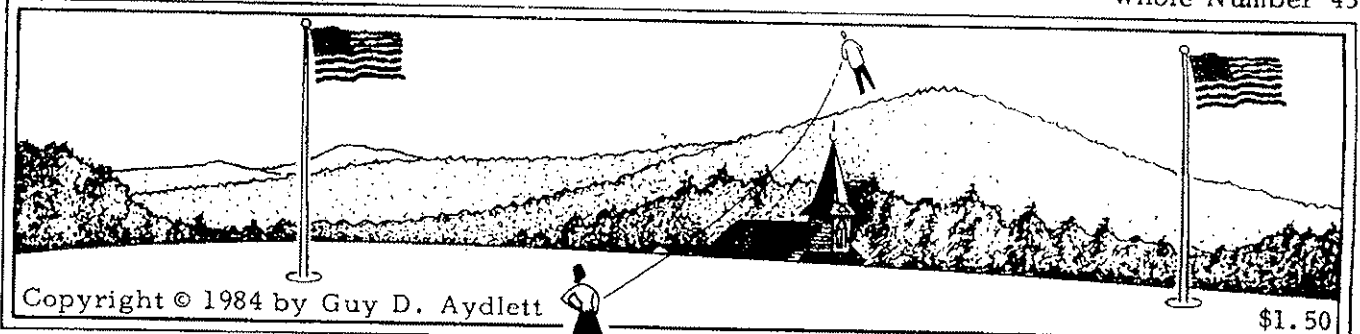
Box 7304 \* Charlottesville \* Virginia \* 22906-7304

# DATA ★ LETTER

VOLUME III, No. 6

June 1984

Whole Number 43



LITHO IN U.S.A.

## JUNE 1984

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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### Birthstone: Pearl

"—What is so rare as a day in June; then, if ever, come perfect days. . ."

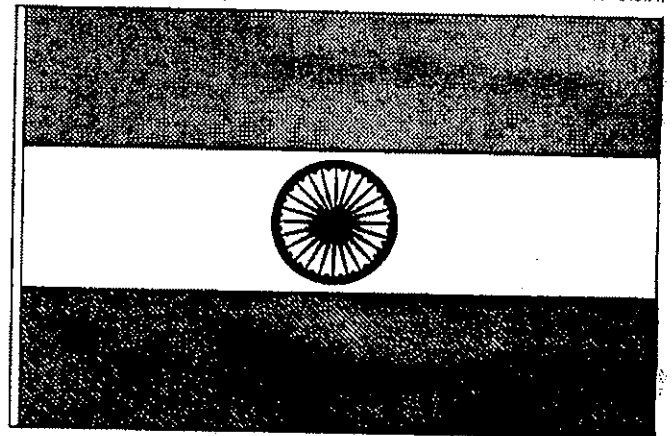
- 6th— First Day of Shavuot
- 13th— Full Moon (partially eclipsed)
- 14th— Flag Day
- 17th— Fathers' Day
- 21st— Summer Solstice

EVELYN and JOHN METZGER of Victor, NY have bestowed one of Steve Snyder's special *ultralight altimeters* on Ol' Daedalus, PMAF's *Quicksilver* flier and aeronaut: High living! The smart contrivance is worn on the wrist.

In the past, the Piney Mountain peak was our altimeter: when it kissed the horizon, we knew we were 500' higher than Hornbeam Hall.

### WAS IT THE PRINTER'S DEVIL WHO DID IT?

Although the graphics for the masthead of DL #41 were carefully prepared, the Flag of India was not shown to best advantage. The vital details reproduced poorly; not even up to the quality of a trial proof taken from *The Friendly Copying Machine*. Here is a better depiction—apologies to Mistah Bluce of Goa:



STRIPE COLOR CODE: TOP - ORANGE CENTER - BLACK ON WHITE BOTTOM - GREEN

### The Colorful Flag of the Republic of India

LELAND TOY has authored *Flight Patterns*, a 33-page guide to kitemaking that he worked up during the Virginia portion of his motorcycle tour of kitefliers' homes in 1982-83.

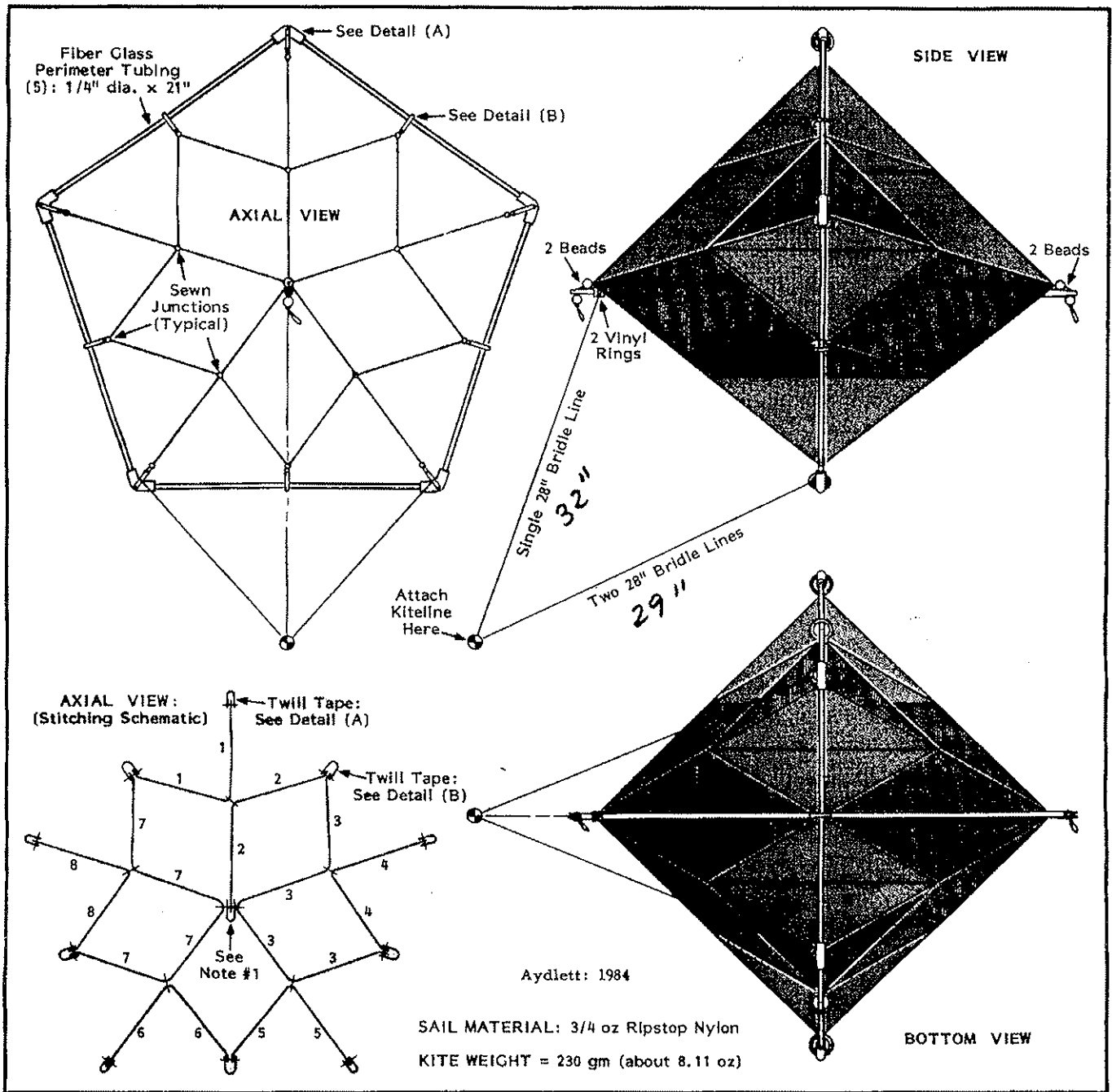
Lee's book includes plans and information for building and flying eight kites in a series graded progressively in an order of increasing skill requirements. The plans are a mix of traditional and new designs by early and recent kite experts.

The graphics are ably drafted in Lee's inimitable, pleasant style; and the text, too, is replete with endearing Toy-isms (the rascal even has adventurously pitched in his own system of pagination: odds left; evens right).

Round out your kite library by sending the small sum of \$5.75 to: Sky High Press, 1044 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

## STAR FACET

Scott E. Spencer's Modification of Stephen J. Robinson's Multifaceted Kite



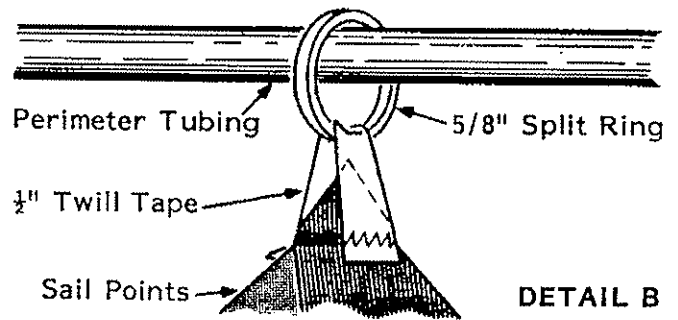
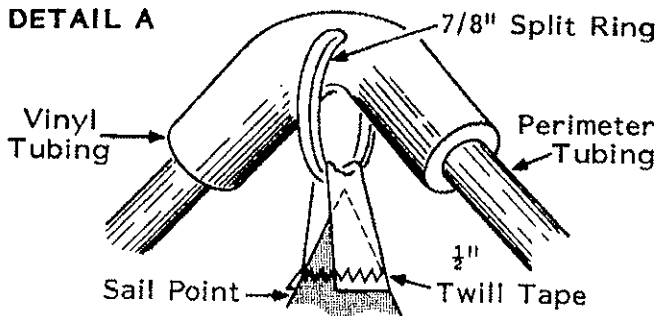
SCOTT SPENCER, Palmyra, New Jersey, donated this remarkably well-crafted kite to the PMAF archives ". . .so that you and the other tunneling trolls can see that facets aren't just high wind kites."

Scott is right: *Star Facet* has been flown over the Hornbeam flight pad and over more remote places. It flies well in moderate wind velocities as well as thriving in strong, gusty

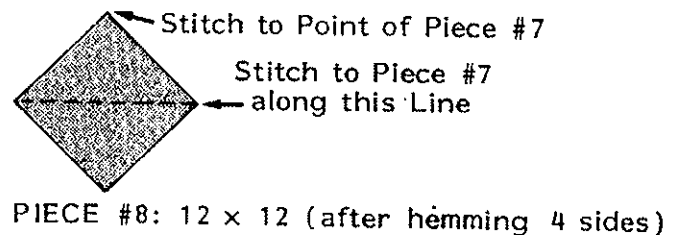
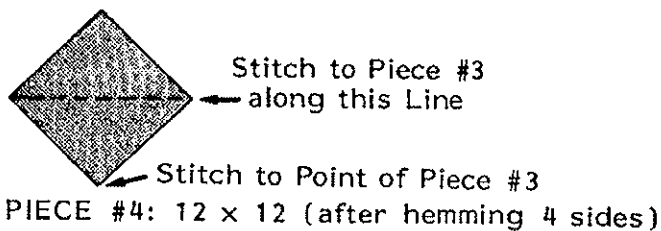
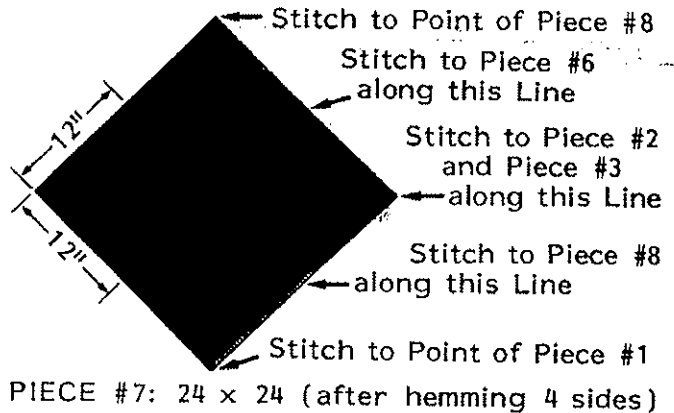
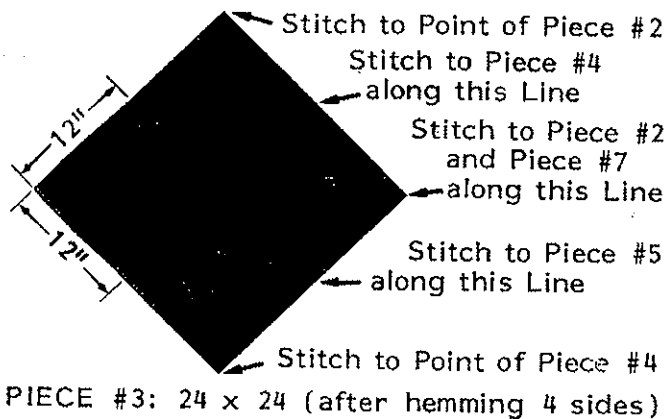
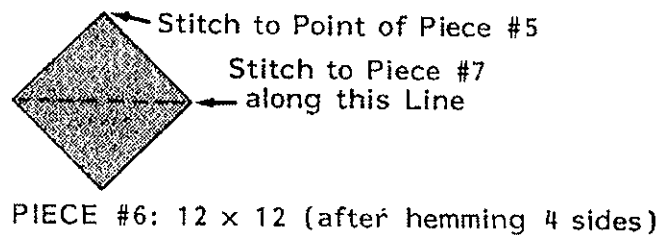
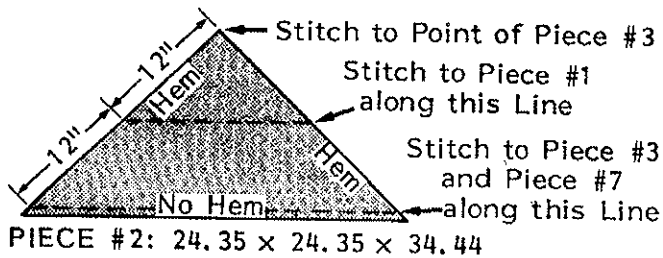
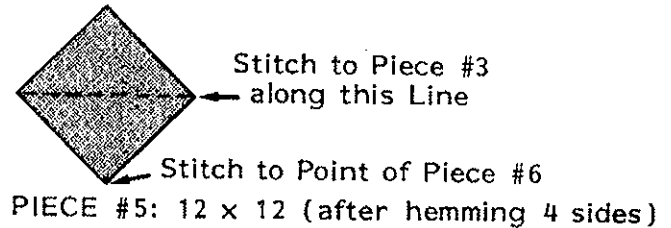
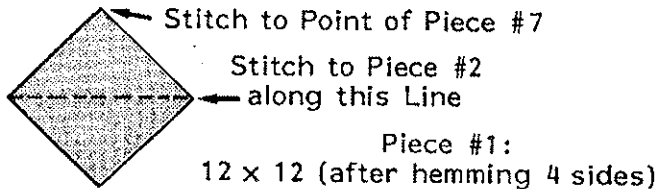
conditions. Its jewel-like appearance in flight guarantees spectator interest; it's a wonderful conversation starter.

At the possible risk of muddling the mysteries of facet kite construction even further than has been done, Nisse has honed ruling pens, pounced the rag paper, and produced the accompanying assembly drawings and details. He hopes you'll not catch strabismus.

**DETAIL A**



**DETAIL B**



**NOTES:** 1) Sew a 1/2" wide twill tape loop at the center of the axis seam. Make the loop large enough to accept the mast diameter. At each end of the sewn seam, stitch in about 3" of a 12" length of stout, braided line. Slip two 1/2" dia. wooden beads on the free end of each line; tie off with a keeper knot (*Side View*).

2) The mast is 0.350" dia. Graphlex® tube: 2 pieces tenon-jointed at the center to make a 35" length. Nylon arrow nocks in the ends permit tensioning the sail axis by stretching the apex bead-lines into the nock slots.

3) To buy *Star Facet*, send \$40 to Scott's shop: 333 Garfield Ave., Palmyra, NJ 08065.

**DEAR SUBSCRIBER, PLEASE READ THIS:**

Your *Data Letter* address label is marked with your own code number; for example, the symbol for writer *Lucie Ferr* is (F587). Above your code number is printed the month and year through which your subscription is paid up. Again, for example, *Lucie's* label shows "Jan 1985," and means that her last paid-for issue would be Vol. V, No. 1, Whole No. 50.

Assuming we terminated the publication of *Data Letter* at the end of 1984—and we may have to do so—we'd feel obligated to send to *Lucie* a pro rata refund, or the equivalent of one-twelfth of her unexpired subscription.

One or two loyal enthusiasts may ask: "Is it really necessary to terminate *Data Letter*?"

A quick answer is: "Maybe not necessary, but it may be the best course for an ancient Pegasus whose skills and wits diminish as his teeth lengthen. Retire? We'll see, we'll see."

Observant readers already know that *Data Letter* has not been a profitable venture, but it was never intended to be. Otherwise, our standard monthly deficit of \$100-plus would have caused us to quit publishing at the end of the first year, cut losses, nail the office door shut, and go and cultivate our garden.

Three to four years ago, kitefliers communications were languishing in near limbo; but a scattering of kite clubs and individuals saw the need for newsletters to partially fill the void while the "big" publications sorted themselves out. The network of friendly editors, near-editors, non-editors, and never-editors does very well, we think. Our PMAF folk are proud to be part of this cadre of patient pioneer fillers-of-the-void. We wistfully hope the larger publications, both non-profit and commercial, will become healthier, fiscally efficient, and capable of producing punctual,

ever-improving services—economically—for all kitefliers; diminish the need for unshorn, independent kiteletter publishers.

In anticipation of the real possibility that *Data Letter* may end with the December 1984 issue, here are some logical questions you, the subscriber, may ask about your status; and here are some answers:

Q: My subscription will expire before the end of 1984. How can I get the additional issues to complete all of Volume IIII?

A: You will receive a renewal notice with a pro rata subscription price (rounded to the nearest dollar) adjusted to the number of issues you need to complete the year.

Q: Can I still give a friend a gift subscription of Volume IIII, the whole year of 1984?

A: Yes, while the back issues last.

Q: If you decide to terminate *Data Letter*, when will over-subscribers receive their refunds?

A: Within a month after the announcement.

Q: If I cancel my subscription at any time, do I get a prompt refund?

A: Yes.

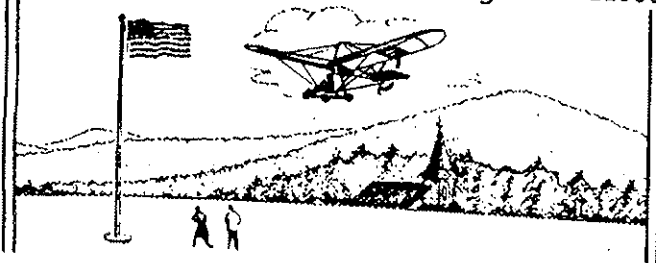
Q: Have you run out of kite design ideas?

A: Nope. 100 more are on the back burner.

Q: In future, will it still be possible to buy bound volumes of *Data Letter*? Unbound volumes? Single issues? At AKA discounts?

A: Yes, bound volumes will sell for about \$15.00; unbound volumes for about \$12.50; and single issues (some may be facsimiles) at about \$1.50. AKA discounts? Yes, for sure.

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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.

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