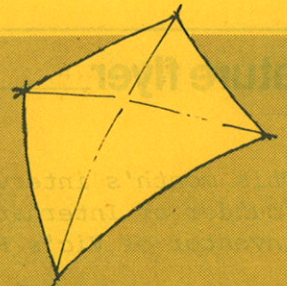


Kite flyer^{TM.}

The San Francisco Bay Area Kite Flying Newsletter



Vol.1 No.2

September

KITE FLYER - OUR PROGRESS

Our KITEFLYER first ever kite fly, July 30 at the Berkeley Marina, was an overwhelming success due entirely to you, the participants. Fancy ribbons made by Leland Toy were presented to the following flyers for having outstanding kites in the following categories:

MOST BEAUTIFUL - George Ham for his 30 square foot "stained glass" parafoil and Rose Craig for her incredible white Marconi rigged jib kite.

MOST INNOVATIVE - Rose Craig again for her Marconi kite and Neil Thorburn for his original U. F. O. kite.

HIGHEST ANGLE OF FLIGHT - Victor Laundry for his Thorburn pagoda kite and Tim Burkhart for his beautifully crafted fighter kite.

SMALLEST FLYER - Eddie Whalen for his 4 inch by 5 inch French Military Coyne kite and tiny reel made with buttons and match sticks, and Bill Archer for his 10 inch by 12 inch Eddie kite.

SPECIAL SPIRIT AWARD - Mrs. George Ham for her encouragement for everyone and her support of George and his huge parafoils. All "kite wives" deserve a special award.

Our thanks to all of you for making our first ever event a success.

To date we have recieved membership checks from thirty interested kiteflyers from all over the West Coast. We think this is a great start and will expand and grow as fast as membership fees allow us to.

We are considering having a member classified section in the next KITEFLYER issue (November 1978) free of charge. If you are a member and have something kite related that you want to sell or buy, send us a note (short) and we will include it in the next issue.

The letters we have recieved have indicated

that a vast majority of subscribers want a detailed "how to" column each issue. We are very excited to be able to start this column in our next issue with plans and details for building both eight and twelve foot delta kites designed and built by an 89 year old farmer from Farmland, Indiana. Preparations for this article have already begun.

Some subscribers have requested organized kite flys once a month, and others once a year and everything in between. Because of the time and effort it takes to sponsor a kite fly we plan to limit ours to about six per year and if another kite event falls during the approximate scheduling of ours then we will participate in their kite fly. This is the case with the FAMILY DAY KITE FESTIVAL September 30th. Read our "COMING UP" column for details.

Finally, we want to remind you that this is your newsletter - keep us informed so we can keep you informed. Drop us a line soon.

Thanks again,
Paul and Lee

THANK YOU

Our thanks to kiteflyer Henry J. Breuer and Associates Graphic Design of 927 East Blithedale Ave., Suite 5, Mill Valley, CA 94941 for all the help in the new KITEFLYER graphic design and layout. Member participation of this type is really appreciated. Henry is new to kite flying and has jumped in with both feet having already built three large sleds. Thanks Henry !!

feature flyer

This month's interview is with Vic Heredia, founder of International Kit Company and inventor of Vic's Fighter Kites.

Vic was interviewed via phone by Harry Critchfield, media director for California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California, for KITEFLYER NEWSLETTER.

Ten years ago when Vic came to this country he asked his friends why nobody flew kites over here like they did in India. No one seemed to know, but were anxious to start flying again. Vic built a couple of "Fighters" to show his friends how they were made, and was an instant attention getter. Because Vic knew that an expert was required to build a very good fighter he sent to India for some professionally built fighter kites. Everyone that saw them fly wanted one and Vic realized a good thing when he saw one.

Three problems needed solving to give fighter kites universal appeal: They needed an expert to prepare and fly them, they were not collapsible and fighter kites became damaged too easily.

Vic worked on these problems, and by 1974 he had developed a collapsible, durable fighter kite that anyone could fly with ease, yet gave the expert kite fighter plenty of control and action. Vic obtained a U.S. patent on his fighter kite, and the International Kite Company became a reality.

Vic said that flying a kite in India and flying a kite in this country are very different experiences. In India you cannot put a kite up without having someone else trying to cut your line with their kite. The first time he saw people flying kites for pleasure in this country he was surprised, and thought "How lucky people are here to be able to fly a kite without someone trying to cut them down."

Also in India it often takes two people to fly a fighter kite, one person to handle the line, paying it out and drawing it in as needed, and one person to actually fly and control the kite. This technique was seen being used by some of the contestants at the Father's Day Kite Fly at Golden

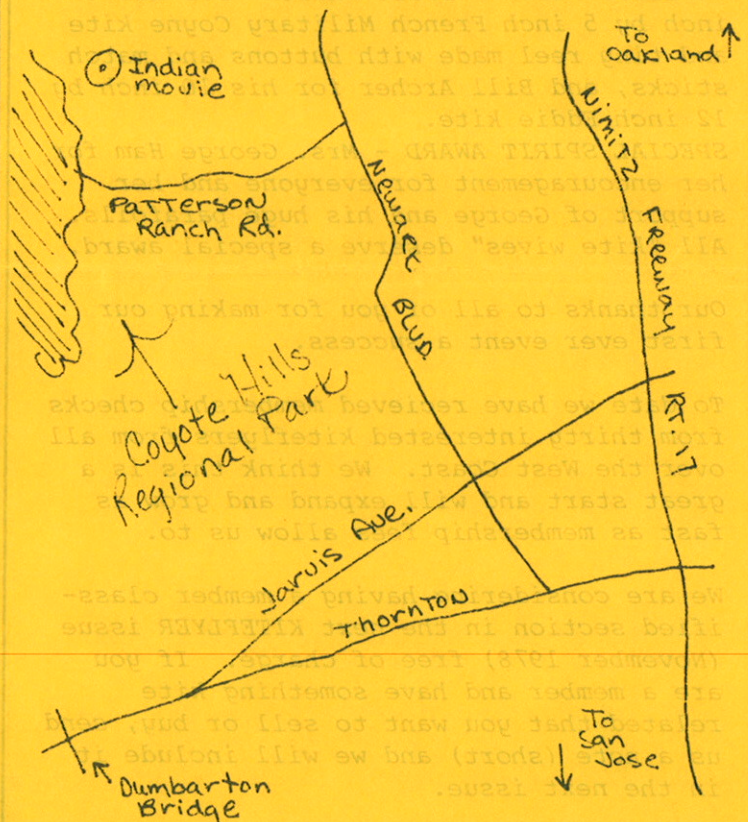
Gate Park. (Vic won the award for individual fighting at the Father's Day contest with a Vic's Fighter).

In closing Vic gave us some information that every kiteflyer wants to hear--His favorite flying spot--Mission Bay Beach in San Diego is the best flying place in all of Southern California. According to Vic, he likes this spot because the wind is good and constant, because of the beauty of the place, and because there is grass to fly from rather than sand.

Our thanks to Vic and Harry for their time and for this interview.

kite sites

About 20 miles South of Oakland, and across the Bay from Palo Alto lies a very picturesque, but little known East Bay Regional Park, Coyote Hills. Coyote Hills Regional Park offers over 1,000 acres of wildlife sanctuary, grassy hills, fresh water marshes, willow runs and incredible kite flying locations. Located on the Bay and including many low rolling hills, the winds are almost always blowing, and during early evening are sometimes very brisk.



(Continued on Page 3)

(Kitesites Continued)

Biking and hiking paths, as well as boardwalks provide innumerable kiteflying spots. I flew several strong wind kites from a beautiful rock promontory above the visitor's center during the late afternoon, and I wished for a long tail on my Eddie Kite!

There are excellent picnic tables and barbeque sites available, and outstanding programs at the park. These include guided visits to a 2000 year old Indian Village Shellmound, and films on Indian Village life. There is a great variety of events to fill your family's day while you sneak off and fly kites to your heart's content.

Park hours are from 8 a.m. to posted closing hours. Parking fees are \$1.00 weekdays and \$2.00 weekends. Phone for any additional information you require. (415) 471-4967.

KITE CLASS

"THE COMPLETE KITE CLASS" is being offered in the Fall extension program at the California College of Arts and Crafts. The ten week course will cover history, construction and flying of kites from simple two stickers to the complexities of the parafoil.

The class is taught by Harry Critchfield, collector and traveler, and Leland Toy, kite maker with a 3,000 year background, and the associate publisher of this newsletter.

Tuition is \$90.00 for non-credit and \$110.00 for credit. Two units of environmental art credit may be earned by participating in class and completing an assigned project.

Classes will be held Fridays from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm and will run from October 6 through December 8.

Registration will be held at the first class meeting October 6 at 2:00 pm in the Media Center of C.C.A.C. Broadway at College Ave. in Oakland. Call Harry Critchfield for further information at (415) 653-8118.

OH YEAH?

An interesting note from Jeff Jarvis in his "Take 5" column in the August 27 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

Wouldn't think it would be fun reading San Francisco police codes, would you? Well look what we found under Section 28: "It shall be unlawful for any person to raise or fly any kite...without obtaining in the first instance a permit to do so from the chief of police." That applies only in the northeast quarter of The City-bounded by Divisadero, Castro and Army streets and the Bay, which includes Marina Green. Next, we'll find out it's illegal to jog there.

What do you think of that, George Ham?

AMERICAN KITEFLYERS ASSOCIATION

KITEFLYER NEWSLETTER has been officially welcomed into the world of the American Kiteflyers Association by Valerie Govig, the Editor of Kite Lines Magazine, their official quarterly publication.

To date, there are no official standards for forming chapters except that we correspond with them occasionally to let them know that we exist. As we have included Valerie on our mailing list, that requirement has been fulfilled.

Lee and I have been invited to attend the AKA meeting this Fall, but time and funds are not available this year, so if any of you are headed toward Ocean City, Maryland, around September 22, let us know so you can represent us less fortunately!

It seems the Bay Area has quite a reputation in the East as Valerie's letter begins: "It always did seem to me that there ought to be a Bay Area kite club, given the amount of flying done in the area. Surely not everyone is simply a manufacturer."

We will keep you posted about the American Kiteflyers Association as changes occur.



coming up

Sunday, October 1 will be the FAMILY DAY KITE FESTIVAL sponsored by Solutions Advertising Agency. KITEFLYER NEWSLETTER will use this day as our next official get together for friends and members due to policy outlined on page 1.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Moscone have declared October 1 as Family Day, and the up-coming kite festival is to celebrate that day. Hopefully this event will become nationally known for San Francisco's kite participation.

Martha Ziegler is heading up the kite festival information for Solutions. Martha has invited KITEFLYER subscribers to volunteer their time to assist during various events on both Saturday, September 30 for qualifying rounds, and on Sunday, October 1, for the finals. Phone Martha at (415) 322-0251 if you are interested in helping. It sounds like a great opportunity and lots of fun for all of us.

We urge all of our members to participate in this kite fly and to use the enclosed form to pre-register for the festival and fun. You may want to jot down on the registration form that you are a subscriber of KITEFLYER NEWSLETTER.

Look for our KITEFLYER banner and our "A" frame sign board at the kite festival displaying outstanding photographs of our members and their kites. SEE YOU THERE.

CLOSING AND OPENING

We were sorry to hear that ABOVE AND BEYOND KITE SHOP, the only kite store in Berkeley, has closed its doors for retail business. Tim Burkhart will continue his mail order business from his home. Tim reports that eventually he may re-locate his retail business elsewhere in the Bay Area. Maybe one of our subscribers would like to start a new kite store in Berkeley. Tim has shown it can work - write to us at KITEFLYER if we can be of any assistance helping you in a new venture !

On a happier note, HIGH AS A KITE has opened a new location at 61 Beach Street in San Francisco near the cable car turnaround. Right now there is a small room downstairs and a stairway full of kites. Very soon (after fire department regulations are met) several rooms upstairs will be opened offering a full line of kites and accessories. It seems Stephen Zent has a thing (a good thing) for stairways, as his Sausalito store at 691 Bridgeway is upstairs, too.

Good luck to Stephen and his gang in their new venture--try to make a point of dropping by one of their two stores to say "Hi" from KITEFLYER NEWSLETTER.

TYVEK SOURCE

L.G. Striegel Mfg. Co. 1223 Arcade Ave, Louisville, Kentucky 40215 is a source for tyvek. A nine yard by 36 in. roll of tyvek is \$6.75 post paid. Tyvek can be glued or sewn, is tear resistant and water proof.

Kite flyer

861 Clara Dr.
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14 September 1978

