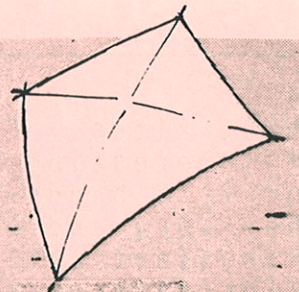


Kite flyer

The San Francisco Bay Area Kite Flying News



Vol. 6 No. 1

Jan.-Feb. 1983

HAPPY NEW YEAR _____

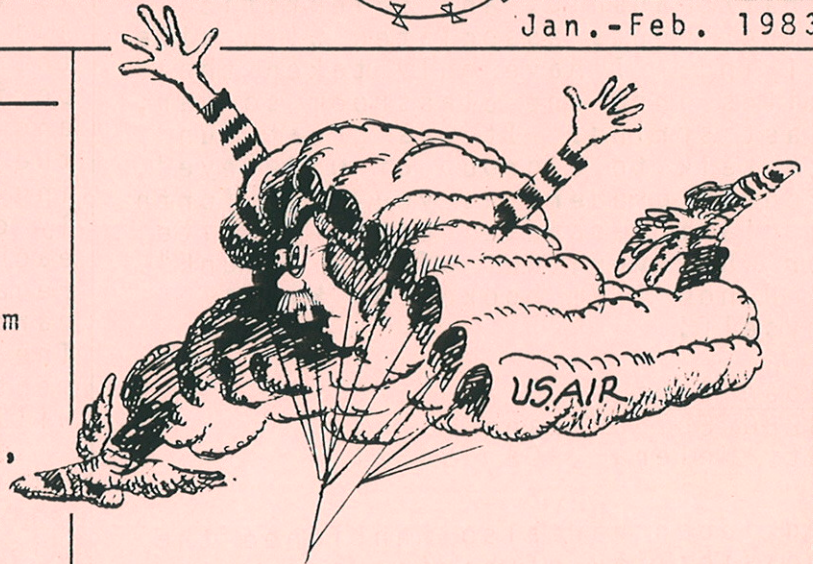
From the refrigerator door of Anon Y. Mous: "PROCRASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME AND THE GRAVE OF OPPURTUNITY".

This seems to be a timely truism as January slips past another issue of KITE FLYER deadlines. Your dear editor has found himself in the once sunny and warm, now cold and cloudy (it feels like San Francisco but with out the hills) southern Florida, Miami to be exact. The Snail is convalesing at the Coral Gables Honda dealership until I can pay off the bill for an open engine surgery.

While the bike is in the shop I was able to pick up a few odd jobs at the local Antique Show circuit in Miami. Working the shows has been a unique and interesting experience that pays relatively well for short term employment. (Tom Henry take note this is just up your alley.)

Although the weather and sharks have kept people out of the water at Miami Beach, you couldn't ask for a much better kite flying site. The broad beach is of a dense packed sand with no obstructions and surprisingly few people. I guess its hard to roll wheelchairs on the sand.

A note for you retailers out there, this place is dying for a quality kite shop. The only one that is here at the OMNI complex has switched over to a model airplane store.



DWG. BY C. MARCHIORI

U.S. AIR _____

For those who flew to the AKA convention on U.S. AIR airlines the October issue of the U.S. AIR magazine had a nice article on kites with the cover photo of one of George Peters beautiful Bird kites.

Local boy, Tom Henry's winged dragon kite was included in the photo spread on the inside. Typically the photographers were given credits but the kitemakers were not. One of these days they'll give credit where it's due.



DEAR KITE FLYER _____

I am involved in a voluteer group of women who work with a Trunk Museum here in St. Helena in the Napa Valley. At present there are three "trunks" which we take into elementary school class rooms. One has to do with the history of Napa Valley; one is about the Indian tribes who I lived here; and the third is

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about kites. Each trunk is full of interesting items and objects, and is a hands-on experience, as they say, and we're greeted very enthusiastically. The kite trunk illustrates with seventeen kites from around the world the history, craftsmanship, and scientific experiments associated with kite flying. I have only taken the kites into one classroom so far, last spring. It was great fun to talk to a group of wide-eyed fourth graders as you pull forth a giant Japanese centipede kite, or whatever, out of the "trunk". And now I am hooked on kites myself!

Joan Sept
3280 Ehlers Lane
St. Helena, CA 94574

ed. Joan had also mentioned the possibility of having someone who is knowledgeable about kites come and talk to the new docent training group, perhaps in spring. If anyone can help her out please write.



DEAR KITE FLYER _____

In the Sept.-Oct. issue of K.F. Vol.5, No.5 you requested that I draft a set of comprehensive rules for judging a kite contest, including a definition of "most unusual or unique".

In my opinion it would not be helpful or desirable to establish detailed or rigid rules; such would only furnish additional talking points for persons claiming that the judges were wrong in some particular instance. As a contestant I would be perfectly satisfied to leave my fate to the unfettered discretion of the judges. We must assume, of course, that the judges will give regard to the ordinary dictionary meaning of the words used by the sponsors in designating the various events of the contest. Moreover, it would be an almost impossible as well as unnecessary

task to draft a set of rules that would cover all of the hundreds of different types of kites that might be presented.

The most important matter in connection with the problems you raise is to select proper judges. The judges should be persons who are thoroughly familiar with and experienced in the arts of kite making and flying. Most important of all, the judges should be able and willing to make all decisions impartially on the basis of the merits of each kite or entry and without regard to any desire to have some particular person or friend prevail. The sponsors should secure a statement from each judge that he is willing to do this.

If we have such judges, we can safely leave it to their sole discretion to make proper determinations within the classes named by the sponsors. The winners can go home happy, and the losers can gracefully grit their teeth until the next contest.

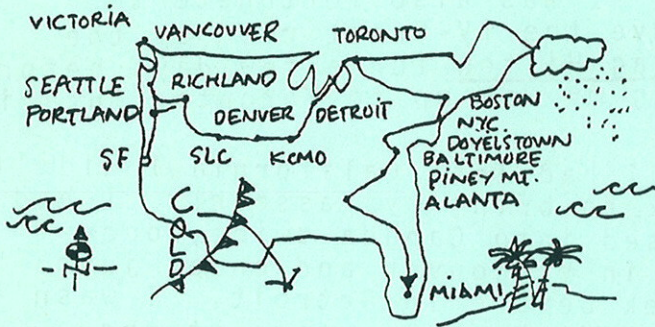
Such practices are successfully followed by camera and home movie clubs, where judges are required to select the "most beautiful" or the "best" picture and where, as with kites, it is not really practical to set forth specific guidelines as to what is "beautiful" or "best". For important contests, these clubs bring in non-member experts as judges. Although some groups, such as the Rolls-Poyce Owners Club, and antique automobile clubs have indeed established finely detailed rules, check lists, etc., for their contest, this was done only after thousands of hours of work, years of effort, and much hassle. I would not advise it for your events.

Thomas B. Caldwell, Ret. Judge
San Mateo, CA.

ed. Thanks Tom for your fine thoughts regarding the problems
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regarding judges in kite contests. I know that Carl Brewer has been working on a Judges school up in Washington state but have not heard from him lately. Any other comments on this are welcomed and encouraged. Please write.



ON (AND OFF) THE ROAD AGAIN

October 5, 1982

It should have been a hop, skip and a two day jump to Detroit from KCMO, but halfway thru Southern Illinois my Ga-zee-bo cloth motorcycle cover decided to do an Isadora Duncan number and wrap itself around the rear disk brake. I was fortunate to be traveling on the red lined highways on the AAA maps and not on the interstate, and was able to pull off the road with out a problem.

When the smoke cleared, it was obvious what had happened. Two pieces of baggage on the rear luggage rack had decided to jump ship, allowing the cover to slip out of it's place and get tangled with the brake.

One piece was my down sleeping bag, an unfortunate loss but replaceable. The other piece was my KITE bag, with kites that were for the most part irreplaceable considering that the AKA convention was two days away, and an important stop in this Journey.

There was little I could do about looking for the bags lost at sea until I took care of the immediate problem of removing what remained

of the Ga-zee-bo. As I was working on this task, a motorist drove up with my sleeping bag in hand. I inquired about the kite bag but he hadn't seen it. At least I had a bed for the night. Soon after he left an Illinois Highway Patrol car pulled up and offered assistance, so I sent him down the road looking for a blue duffel bag that was filled with kites, he must have thought I was crazy, but then again he may have noticed my California license plate.

In a bit he returned, but without my kites, he thought that most likely they had already been picked up by someone.

I was angry at myself for not securing the bags better but was ready to accept the reality of the situation. When I finally got the last of the Ga-zee-bo free from the brake, I started searching the gullies along side the road I had just traveled down.

It was getting towards late afternoon and the low October sun light was fading fast, I didn't have much more time to search but would look until the sun was completely down, after all I had carried them since August, over 3,000 miles, I could look for them for another ten minutes.

Just then a family in a jeep pulled up and stopped. The driver asked if I had lost something. When I told him about the kite bag, he said that he had them at home. I couldn't believe my luck, I guess someone up THERE was looking out for me.



The Detroit AKA convention was the best I've been to, thanks no doubt to the excellent job that Hank and Nancy Szerlag did as co-chairmen of the event.

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Many thanks also go to the 5/20 Kite Group for their hard work during the festivities.

In general the seminars given by the kite people including Jack Van Gilder, Bill Tyrrell and Garry Woodcock were excellent in format and content. The only presentation that fell short was one on ADHESIVES given by a rep for 3M products. She had no idea what kite people wanted or needed in the way of tapes or glue that 3M manufactures. This subject was of great interest but should be presented by a person who is more in tune with the kite world.

The trade show, organized by Pat Gilgallon represented kite manufacturers from all across the U.S. as well as Vertical Visuals from England. New kites on the market include the entire VV line of about a dozen kites, Dom Jalbert's "Barn Door" kite, Brooks Leffler's Boxes. "Wild" Bill Isenhardt had come from Ohio with some nice looking, all wooden kite reels he's hoping to market.

We enjoyed two excellent days of kiteflying at two beautiful country clubs. It was nice for a change not to have to use the bushes. At one of the clubs we even had a SIT DOWN buffet for lunch, at least for those of us who could tear ourselves away from the flying field.

The business meeting was so short that I missed it. The Auction raised much needed funds. Auctioneers this year included Mel Govig, Rick Kinnard, and new comer and professional caller Ron Witt. The awards banquet was liven up when a singing telegram and belly dancer arrived for Mr. Tyrrell who celebrated his big four - 0.

For me the best part of the convention has always been the PEOPLE. I've always enjoyed making new friends and sharing time with old ones. The AKA

convention has never fell short in my expectations in this department. I am already looking forward to Ohio in 1983.

After the convention I wound down with a short visit to Clyde and Dorothy Smith and Adrian and Jody Conn. I was also fortunate to reserve the TV-Guest room at the Szerlag Hilton for a few days before making my way up to Toronto, Ontario.

When I had left California I didn't think to bring my passport. I had crossed into Canada twice, once when in Vancouver and once, just a week before in Detroit. I wasn't prepared when this time at the custom booth, the man asked me to please stop in the Customs Immigration office before he could let me across the border. I guess I didn't look too friendly bundled up in a black ski suit, heavy mittens, and a full face ski mask under a black motorcycle helmet.

Old Stone Face at the office was not about to let a crazy kite flyer into Canada with out proper identification. Jobs were scarce and she was afraid that I was going up there for keeps. I really couldn't blame her for thinking that, considering the way the Snail was loaded down. This was about the only time I really got upset by the "officials", and it made me more determined that I would get across the border. Luckily there are two border crossings in Detroit. I simply went to the other one and told the guard I was just going the town across the river to visit over night. I had felt a bit paranoid that the 'Old Stone Face' might have warned the other border about me and my devious intentions but I made it thru with flying colors and was soon making time on 401 to Toronto.

I had a chance to visit Ray Wismer's "Touch the Sky" kite shop on Yonge Street, one of

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Toronto's more interesting and colorful avenues. Ray's shop is well stocked for the hobbieist as well as the consumer. Although import duties made American produced kites rather expensive, Canadian kites and some imports from the orient and England were real bargains.

It rained the entire day I was able to spend with Garry Woodcock. We visited two of the flying sites that Gary uses to do some of his aerial photography, Humber Bay Park and a Mississauga Marina. I had a great time exploring his basement workshop and comparing notes on newsletter production techniques.

From Toronto I dropped back down to Boston to spend some time. I was able to contact the K.O.N.E. group and we got together at Larz Anderson Park for an excellent day of flying. I was fortunate to spend some time at the Moeller's Computer Center to get out the last issue of that wonderful yellow journalism that you recieved a couple of weeks ago. When the puddles on the ground started to freeze solid, I took it as a sign to move on.

NOVEMBER 17, 1982

I arrived in the BIG APPLE at 5 pm, and immediately knew I should have arranged to come in on the weekend. I only got lost once and ended up on a bridge that took me to the Queens district. Eventually I reached my destination in lower Manhattan, East Village.

The most important place to visit in regards to kites was the grand daddy of all shops - "GO FLY A KITE". This is the place that Dinesh Bahadur had his apprenticeship under his late uncle. The Lexington Avenue outlet is managed by Karen Schlesinger. At the time of my visit I didn't see any kites of much interest and no kite making materials or kite books to speak of.

It appears that the main line of merchandise is what "Go Fly" manufactures in Connecticut. I did get a chance to go flying with Mat Feder who I met while at the store.

Mat is a local kite flyer who frequents the "Go Fly" shop. He was on his way to help teach a customer from Florida how to fly a stack of Flexifoils and since I was available I asked if I might tag along. We eventually ended up at a park at the foot of the Verrazano Bridge on the Staten Island side. It was an excellent place to fly kites despite the broken glass and debris, the wind was smooth and steady and the New York skyline can't be beat.

I was fortunate to spend a day with Tal Streeter up in Purchase at the S.U.N.Y. campus where he teaches at. We didn't have the time to fly any kites but did tour his work space and got some idea of Tal's latest works.

SOMETIME AFTER THANKSGIVING

It was just a short ride down to my next stop, Doylestown, Pennsylvania home of the Fabric Lady who is actually a MAN. But as Bill Tyrrell says "who would trust buying fabric from the "Fabric Man" the "Fabric Lady" sounds better. No matter what Bill wants to call himself there are hundreds of people who are happy that he is doing what he does, which is to sell fabric and other things for making kites. His customers flock to his door from all around the country as well as from foreign countries around the world! When Bill isn't busy filling orders he's busy designing and building gigantic monstrosities that are some times larger than a small house. His latest kite was a Peter Lynn box kite that was 40 feet long. He had it at the AKA convention in Detroit and attracted quite a crowd. cont.

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While in Doylestown we hit a week of 70 degrees temperatures that even had the trees confused to the point of sending out new buds. The C.D.V.K.S. came out in force to fill the sky at a weekend fly in New Jersey in the honor of an out of town guest. It was one of the most beautiful days of flying since the convention.

I knew the weather couldn't hold out much longer so with fond farewells I departed for two days in Baltimore before moving on to Washington D.C. In Baltimore I visited the home/office of Mel and Val Govig and KITELINES magazine. I also dropped in on the Shaners to take a look at the AKA offices as well as the yet to be completed future offices. Everything looked to be in order.

I vowed to return the next week for the Ding-a-ling kite fly at Fort Mc Henry sponsored by the H.K.S. and then ran down to Washington, D.C.

It had really gotten cold by this time so I decided to contact Paul Garber at the Smithsonian to see if it were possible to get together. I was surprised but pleased that he said that I should come down later that morning. I enjoyed several hours of conversation and a nice lunch with Paul at the Air and Space Museum, he's really a wonderful person. He was sorry that I could not see the kite exhibit since they had to remove it to make room for something else.

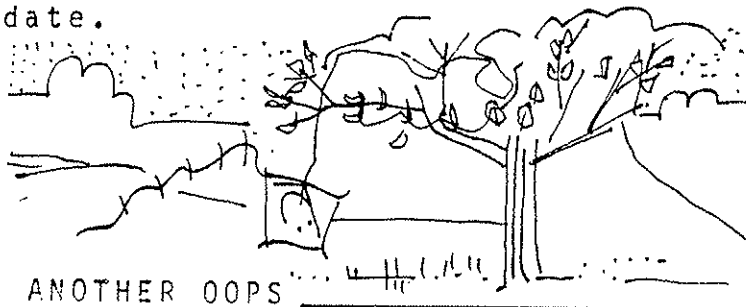
I contacted Jon Burkhardt to go up to the M.K.S. fly that weekend but woke up the morning of the fly with 6 wet inches of new fallen snow with more coming down. We got together anyway and went out to an industrial park where Jon flies at and had our own private ding-a-ling fly. It was absolutely beautiful. The new snow glistens in the sun light without a mark on it, Winter has announced its arrival.

Later in the week I got together with Bevan and Margo Brown for a nice dinner at their home.

I waited several days to let most of the snow melt and then high tailed out and down to Virginia and stopped by the Piney Mountain senior Troll and non-editor Guy Aydlett and side kick Dot.

By the next morning the snow had dissappeared and we even had enough breeze to loft a few kites. It was great to see the many kites presented in past issues of P.M.A.F. Data Letter take to the sky. For those of you fortunate enough to visit the Beauforce Stringfellow Estate, do make a point of visiting the flying field, the two flag poles, church and mountain in the background do in fact exist exactly as in the travel brochures!! For those of you with enough advanced warning, you will be greeted with the flag of your state, country or galaxy. You'll increase this chance if you send one in to the Flag Keeper before you arrive.

With the eminent cold front of winter approaching I took leave of the warm walls of the B.S.E. and aimed the trusty Snail south. I made it to Alanta, Ga. for the Xmas holiday and then continued down to Miami, Florida, which finally brings you and I up to date.



ANOTHER OOPS

The last issue of that ever popular KITE FLYER was dated incorrectly. Vol.5 No.6 was for Nov.-Dec. and not Oct.-Nov. but since none of you caught it, I guess it really doesn't matter.

ROKKAKU

BY DAVID ELLIOTT

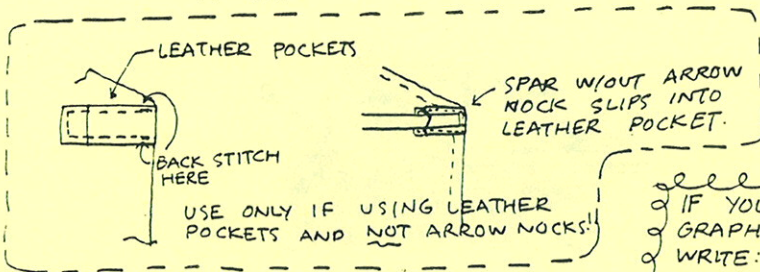
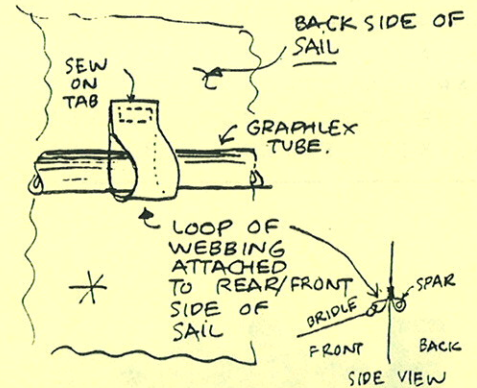
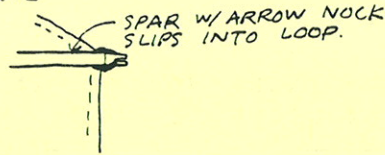
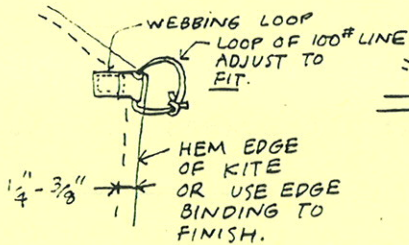
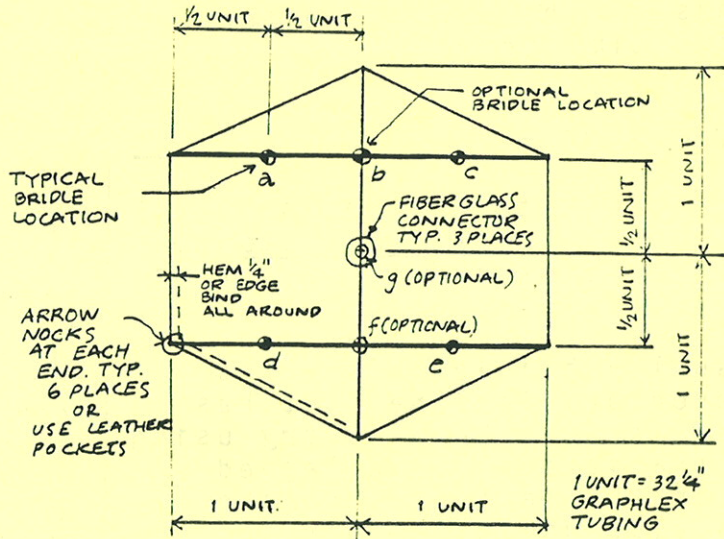
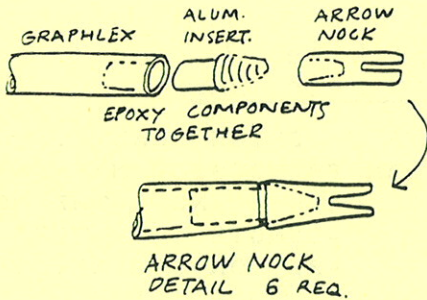
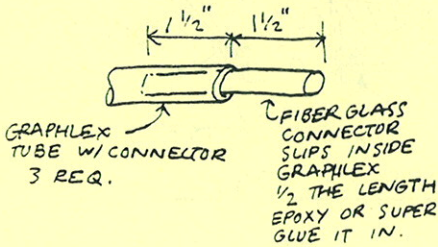
MATERIALS

- 6 - $\frac{5}{16}$ " ϕ TUBULAR GRAPHLEX 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ " LONG
- 3 - FIBERGLASS CONNECTORS FOR GRAPHLEX 3" LONG
- 6 - LEATHER POCKETS OR 6 - ALUMINUM INSERTS PLUS 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " EACH
- 6 - ARROW NOCKS
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ OZ. RIPSTOP NYLON TO COVER APPROX. 22 SQ. FEET.

BRIDLE WITH 60# TEST BRAIDED NYLON (DACRON IF YOU HAVE IT)
 NOTE: AT EACH BRIDLE POINT, TIE FRAMING MEMBERS TO SAIL.
 USE WEBBING LOOPS ATTACHED TO BACK SIDE OF COVER.*

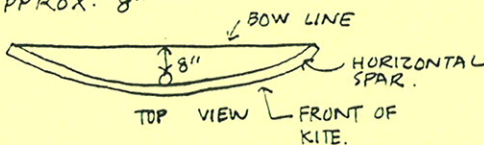
BRIDLE LENGTHS

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| a..... | 69" | NOTE: BRIDLE LINES SHOULD |
| b..... | 66" | PASS THRU |
| c..... | 69" | SAIL & AROUND |
| d..... | 77" | SPARS. |
| e..... | 77" | USE GROMMETS OR SEW ON |
| ~optional~ | | WEBBING LOOPS ON |
| f..... | 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | THE FRONT |
| g..... | 69" | OF KITE.* |



USE ONLY IF USING LEATHER POCKETS AND NOT ARROW NOCKS!!

YOU MUST BOW THE TWO HORIZONTAL CROSS SPARS APPROX. 8"



IF YOU CANNOT FIND GRAPHLEX TUBING OR CONNECTORS WRITE: HIGH FLY KITE CO. P.O. BOX 3626 CHERRY HILL N.J. 08034 FOR CATALOG

THIS KITE FLYS IN WIND 10-15 MPH AND IS QUITE WELL BEHAVED IF BRIDLED CORRECTLY, IT DOESNT NEED A TAIL !! FLY ON AT LEAST 100# TEST.

GOOD FLYING!!!

ALMOST 360 DEGREES

Oscar Bailey's now famous AKA in-the-round Photo is now available at cost \$48.00 post paid. The photo is about 12"x 60" and is in living color. For those of you included, it's a must for those of you who couldn't be there, you won't believe it. Contact: Oscar Bailey 2004 Clement Rd., Lutz, FL 33549. (unfortunately Cory "YaWannaBuy aTeeShirt" Jensen from Seaside, OR. was completely cut off from both ends of the photo, better luck next time Cory!)

KITE OF THE MONTH _____

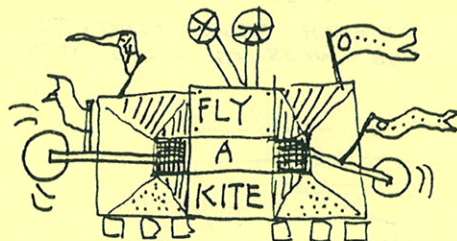
This month's kite design is a ROKKAKU made by David Elliott who is a member of the K.O.N.E. group from the Boston area.

Dave usually bridles his kites with seven bridle lines but has informed me that he will try using a more traditional five legged bridle on the next one he makes. Dave is also using leather to make spar pockets on the sail but I have suggested using an arrow

nock assembly on the spars in conjunction with a loop of line to connect the sail for an alternative detail.

The nicest part of Dave's design is the collapsing spars are all interchangeable, they are all the same lengths, unlike a traditional Rokkaku.

Thank you David for a nice design to add to our notebooks.



FLIGHT SCHEDULE 1983

FEBRUARY 13 -Heart Kite Day

For the rest of the year no-notice kite flies on the first SUNDAY of each month.

KITE FLYER'S FLIGHT PAD IS LOCATED AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MARINA GREEN. WE USUALLY GATHER NEAR THE MONUMENT AT THE MID-LENGTH OF THE GREEN. THESE FLYS ARE NON-COMPETITIVE. SEE GEORGE HAM FOR YOUR I.A.K.U. CARD.

BY WAY OF STANDARD REFERENCE--KITE FLYER NEWS IS AVAILABLE SIX TIMES A YEAR (WEATHER PERMITTING) AT THE MINIMAL COST OF A TRIP TO DOGGIE DINER--FIVE BUCKS A YEAR. SEND ALL MONEY, TRADING STAMPS OR GOLD BARS TO: KITE FLYER, 1883 GRAND VIEW DRIVE, OAKLAND, CA 94618

Kite flyer

1883 GRAND VIEW DRIVE
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
94618

