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SUMMER 2005 www.kckiteclub.org



AKA

The American Kitefliers Association recently added three members to the AKA Insurance committee who are employed in the insurance field. Also added was the chair of the AKA Traction Committee. They have donated countless hours trying to restore the coverage AKA offered before – namely, 24-hour liability coverage for fliers regardless of when/where they are flying and coverage for buggy activities at events. They have been stymied to date. Frankly, the insurance world has changed radically over the past few years, which means the AKA is looking at other options to ensure the AKA can continue to support kiting in the U.S.



Don Larkie's Snoopy flies over Team Larkey Banners. These banner techniques were taught at an earlier workshop. (Transitional Tail)

KITE CLUB MINUTES

KCKC met for a short meeting at our first Second Saturday of the Odd Month Fly. Although originally scheduled at Grace Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, it was moved a mile North to Aldersgate Church, 350 SW 150 Hwy, Lee's Summit. Thanks to Victor C. for suggesting the change, and Linda L. agreed not to scout fly locations at dusk. Aldersgate offered a nice fly location with plenty of parking, and lots of new people stopping by. Randy H. called the meeting to order, and it was concluded in 10 minutes. Randy covered these items:

- Election bylaws were changed. Officers will now be elected at the Fall Picnic, taking office at the Holiday Party in February. This will ensure plenty of time for planning for the next season.

Kite Club Minutes continued on page 2

The Kansas City Kite Club continues to benefit members. Are your 2005 dues paid? If they are, you have \$300,000.00 primary insurance any time, any place you fly, buggy, or wind surf.The Kansas City Kite Club

Kite Club Minutes continued from page 1

- **The newsletter will no longer be printed and mailed after this issue**, but sent electronically, and stored on the website. Funds that originally supported printing and mailing the newsletter will be applied for upkeep of the website. Members and Interested Flyers are encouraged to sign up for E-News (Club News page, then select E-News Archive and Sign-Up)
<http://www.kckiteclub.org/enews.htm>
- **Any KCKC Member/Associate that would like to continue to receive a printed/mailed copy of the newsletter should contact Randy H @ 816-584-1718.**
- Incorporation—Bob R is continuing to pursue this. Incorporation of the KCKC will limit financial liability to club assets. Currently, individual members and officers could be sued for actions or accidents of fliers and/or kites.

For questions or concerns, please contact one of the Kansas City Kite Club Officers. Names, phone numbers, and e-mail contact numbers are on the first page of this newsletter.

SIMPLIER BYLAWS???

Over the years members have complained about the complicated by-laws the KCKC has. These laws were originally enacted to comply with AKA Affiliation Rules.

Recently these rules were relaxed significantly. Let's take advantage of it! What do you want to do? What do you NOT want to do? Think hard!

Let's start thinking about ways to make leadership, elections, and decisions easier, and the club more fun!

EVENTS IN REVIEW

April 10, 2005 Second Sunday Fly, Heritage Park, Olathe, KS

This park is fast becoming a favorite flying spot. Spring breezes reunited us for an afternoon of kites, friends, and fun.

April 24, 2005 National Kite Month Fly, New Mark, KC, MO

Thanks to Dave M for organizing this first Fly of the Season. Dave had many of his Boy Scouts at the field trying out their new fighter kites. Randy H brought the new sound system. It was great, producing sound that could be heard clearly, but not over-powering conversations.

May 7, 2005 Kites Over Grinnell, IA Ahrens Park, Grinnell, IA

This is fast becoming a favorite area kite festival. KCKC members Dave E, Don L, Steve B, Team Larkey, and the Gilson family traveled to Iowa to have fun. This is a fun fly with lots of Gomberg/Peter Lynn single line kites. The Flying Fields are well-maintained grass parks, and Peter LaMaster holds an Indoor Exhibition in the adjacent gym. After his wonderful exhibition he eagerly taught anyone interested in trying to fly indoors, single, duel, and quad line kites. Steve B was recognized for "Best Handling of a Difficult Kite" flying his duel with 100' tube tail. But the real crowd pleaser was Don



Above, Team Larkey's Face Balls. Pilot and figure kites at Grinnell.



Events in Review...continued from page 2

Larkie with his inflatable line laundry, Snoopy, and his matching pilot kite.

The festival is a marathon event with kite classes starting at 9:30, and concluding with a night fly. Dave E brought a large spotlight, and each time he shone it on Snoopy the crowd would clap and cheer. Team Larkey took their new Face Balls. Laurie G adopted a new cat—an Air Pet, which she took for walks, and later napped with. Linda L's favorite part? All of it, but she still laughs at a spectator's question to Dave E. Dave went early, set up his lifter kite and line laundry bears. When he had lots of stuff out, the sound system arrived and was set up directly behind him, one speaker on each side of him. The question? Dave was asked if he was the one that brought the sound system to entertain the crowds! With a speaker on each side of Dave's kite display, even Team Larkey thought that Dave's area was a bit loud!



Plan to attend in 2006!

Left to right, clockwise.
 Deflating a 120' Squid at Grinnell.
 Trilobite
 Steve B flying a difficult kite.
 Barb Meyer's Ladies
 Laurie Gilson with Air Pet Cat
 Dave E with some of his kites.



UPCOMING DATES

- Jun 3-5** TWISTED LINES Topeka, Ks
- Jun 11** CLINTON LAKE FESTIVAL Lawrence, KS
- Jun 12** SECOND SUNDAY EVEN MONTH, Heritage Park, Olathe, KS
- Jun 19** FOURTH SUNDAY EVEN MONTH, New Mark Middle, KC, MO (MEETING)
- Jul 9** SECOND SATURDAY ODD MONTH, Parkway Elementary, St Joseph, MO
- Jul 23** FOURTH SATURDAY ODD MONTH, Longview Lake (near Shelter 11), Lee's Summit, Mo
- Aug 5-6** OKLAHOMA CITY BALLOON & KITE FESTIVAL OKC, OK
- Aug 14** SECOND SUNDAY EVEN MONTH, Heritage Park, Olathe, KS (MEETING)
- Aug 28** FOURTH SUNDAY EVEN MONTH, New Mark Middle, KC, MO
- Sept 3-5** CALLAWAY KITE FLY, Callaway, NE
- Sept 10** SECOND SATURDAY ODD MONTH, Fleming Park, Blue Springs, MO (Lake Jacomo)
- Sept 18** DMAC, Ankeny, IA (11-4)
- Sept 24** FALL PICNIC Heritage Park, Olathe, KS (MEETING & MEMORIAL FLY FOR CHUCK)
- Oct 9** ONE SKY/ONE WORLD United Club Fly, Bethel Park, Columbia, MO
- Oct 30** FOURTH SUNDAY EVEN MONTH, New Mark Middle, KC, MO

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 3-5 TWISTED LINES Topeka, Ks Grant Bradbury Park

C: Bob Homan <http://www.kitefarm.com/tkf/festival13.html> (785) 273-3715

bjhoman1@cox.net This event will include AKA sanctioned competition, fun fly, buggy races, candy drops, kite store, t-shirts, and concessions. Friday start at 5pm till ?, night fly. Saturday-10-4 with indoor fly 7-9pm and live auction benefiting the American Diabetes Association. Donations welcomed. Sunday 10-4. Enter, and see if you enjoy the experience **Directions:** South on Topeka Blvd from turnpike to University Blvd. turn west 1/4 mile.

Jun 11 CLINTON LAKE FESTIVAL Lawrence, KS

Bloomington Park, Clinton Lake, Lawrence, KS 12-5pm. KCKC's 3rd Spring Fling featuring our Kite Surfers. Fly, swim, play sand volleyball, build a sand castle, try the new playground equipment, make giant bubbles, fish, and hike. Hot dogs will be off the grill around 1:30 pm. Once again the Topeka Kite Flyers, Army Corp. of Engineers, Red Bull, and The Lazer are on board. Camping is available. Contact Sean Beaver seanbeaver@hotmail.com for more info. So grab your ground display, blanket, and sunscreen, and have fun! Located a few miles west of Lawrence off of K-10. Follow the signs.

Jul 9 SECOND SATURDAY ODD MONTH, Parkway Elementary, St Joseph, MO

Last year a member requested a Fun Fly in St. Joseph. Here it is! We are flying at Parkway Elementary, 2900 Duncan, near Bartlett Park. 1-4pm.

Jul 23 FOURTH SATURDAY ODD MONTH, Longview Lake (near Shelter 11), Lee's Summit, Mo This is a favorite fly spot, close to the lake for winds.

Sept 10 SECOND SATURDAY ODD MONTH, Fleming Park, Blue Springs, MO

Remember the wonderful location of OS/OW 2004 near Lake Jacomo? We are flying there again!

Sept 18 DMAC, Ankeny, IA (11-4) 11 am-4 pm Ankeny, Iowa (Just East of Des Moines)

This Fly is coordinated by Don Jaspers and the Des Moines Area Community College is held on the park-like ground of the DMACC College. They have a good size draw of large single line kites, kids kite-making classes, kite vendors on site, and other perks. An excellent time for a day event. For more information contact the "Minnesota Kitedoctor" at kitedoctor@comcast.net or call 651-738-8109

Sept 24 FALL PICNIC Heritage Park, Olathe, KS 11-4pm. Lunch around 1:30pm. (MEETING & MEMORIAL FLY FOR CHUCK) Heritage Park 16050 Pflumm, Olathe, KS Bring side dish, drink, and kites. Club will furnish main dish and plates.

Oct 9 ONE SKY/ONE WORLD United Club Fly and Pot Luck, Columbia, MO

11AM-4 PM Sunday Bethel Park, 4500 Bethel Street, Columbia, MO 11-4 pm.

Grilling around 2pm. Bring a side dish and drink.

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Parks/Cosmo-Bethel/index.html>

CHUCK BLACKWELL MEMORIAL FLY

KCKC lost an important member this spring when Chuck Blackwell passed away March 24, 2005 of cancer. He will be greatly missed.

Please join us Saturday, September 24th at Heritage Park 16050 Pflumm, Olathe, KS to honor Chuck. Fly, or display any kite that reminds you of Chuck, and share the memories and joy that Chuck brought to you.

Chuck loved kites and flying, and he shared the joy that he found in kites with others. Chuck has probably led or influenced about half of the current KCKC members into this odd sport/hobby/passion. He strongly believed that you get back what you put in. Chuck put everything into his passions he believed in. He felt he got a lot back.

KCKC will also be accepting nominations for the 1st Annual Blackwell Award, for an area kiter best representing the values, beliefs, and attitude that were Chuck's. Chris Blackwell will present the Blackwell Award.

FLY SCHEDULE

After years of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month to fly, the Kansas City Kite Club has revamped its Fun Fly schedule. On EVEN months (April, June, August, October), the KCKC will fly at these locations on Sundays: 2nd Sunday of Even Months—Heritage Park in Olathe, KS, 4th Sunday of Even Months—New Mark Middle School in Kansas City, MO. Odd months will be at Odd locations on the 2nd and 4th SATURDAY of the month. Check the website for maps and locations. Hopefully, this will give us the best of both worlds with a permanent location to find us, and the freedom to try new locations and involve Kansas City in our fun!

Fly with us!!!!

This will be the last PRINTED KCKC Newsletter mailed.

To continue receiving kiting news, please sign up for electronic delivery at the E-News link at www.kckiteclub.org. This will enable smaller, more frequent newsletters, with no postage or printing costs!

Anyone who does not have convenient access to electronic delivery (internet), please contact Randy H. @ 816-584-1718 immediately to arrange for a printed copy to be mailed to you.

Shared Words in Remembrance of Chuck Blackwell



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Bob Rule gave a very touching speech at Chuck's memorial service. Bob's speech is included in its entirety for those that were not able to attend the service.

Bob Rule's shared words:

We have all been blessed by having Chuck in our lives. I often wonder how people meet. I met Chuck about 10 yrs. ago on the kite field. I've met a lot of good people in kiting but something told me that Chuck was going to be special.

Chuck had so many good qualities. He was always honest and loyal. I always knew that if I asked him something he would tell me exactly how he felt and his loyalty was without question. For the last 6 or 7 years Chuck and I, and others would go to The Day At The Lake, an annual event that gives people with spinal cord injuries the opportunity to participate in water sport activities. I had invited him the first year and from that year on he always took that day off without question.

He was always so eager to share with others. I remember times when we would have a new kiter on the field and Chuck was always one of the first people to go and introduce himself, he knew no strangers. If a kiter was having difficulties...Chuck would always be there to lend a helping hand, whether it was fixing a broken kite or spending time teaching them to fly.

Chuck loved to share his knowledge of kite building with everyone. He was always at the kite making workshops and often gave of his personal time to others to help design and

build kites. There were often times that Chuck would make something for his own kites, whether it be a tube tail, soccer ball or his wind turbines, and I would comment how good it looked. Usually within a couple of weeks he had made the same thing for me in my favorite colors. I don't think there is a kiter here that doesn't have something beautiful and special that Chuck made for them -- never taking money. All he wanted to see was the smile and joy it brought.

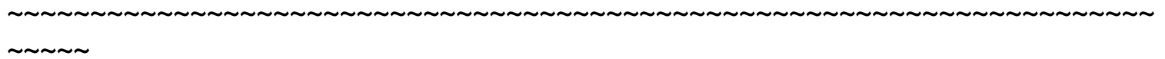
I remember when Chuck started having the headaches. He was concerned but not worried. After he had his surgery and found out the cancer had returned I believe he felt like he and the doctors should have caught it or been able to do something more. He then started to realize that this happened to be the "hand he was dealt", and that god must have a bigger plan for him.

Chuck realizing that he was not going to be with us forever decided to travel a bit. He and his sister Kim spent time in North Carolina. Then he, Kathy, Chris, Pat and a friend of Chris's spent time in Hawaii. In September he and I joined Steve, Lori, Walt and Marge at the Lane's lake house in the Ozarks, what a beautiful day. Then about a month ago he went with Steve and Lori to the Vanderpool's for Sharyn's birthday.

Chuck always showed so much courage. I know Chuck was not afraid to leave us. He knew Kathy and Chris would be okay. The thing that concerned him most was when he did become very sick he did not want to burden his family with his care.

Last Thursday morning god called Chuck home. We honor Chuck's memory by sharing with others what he taught us. Be honest, loyal and share. I believe that we will all join him again one day in one beautiful field in the sky with kites in hand.

God blessed us with a son and brother, a husband and father, and a true friend.



Johnny Robert's shared words:

I've told others of my favorite times. Some of my best kite times were quiet evenings out behind UMB off Barry Rd and I29. It would get late and only Chuck, Bob, and I would be left. We would have a couple of the single lines up and would not be able to see them. Just the lines going up in the dim glow of a street light. With a good moon we could see them shadowed far above us. We would be sitting in front of the cars on the edge of the parking lot, Chuck would have supplied a couple of beers and we would relax in the cool breeze and just talk in a rambling conversation about anything and everything. Life is good when it is like that. We live on in others memories when we are reminded of and continue to make new moments of sitting with friends and enjoying a cool and refreshing breeze while our kites watch over us.



Chris Moore's shared words:

Chuck embodied what kiteflying means to so many of us. Warm winds and shared smiles were a regular part of what made flying kites special for Chuck. Chuck was always eager to share his talents with others and went out of his way to help make others feel welcome. I will always remember the special times we shared.

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Sean Beaver's shared words:

I want to be of value in whatever days left to me. I want to do it with dignity . . . Just Like Chuck did! When I take my last breath, I want to be remembered not for any property or valuable things in a monetary sense, but for what I was capable of doing and what I have done for others. Chuck is my teacher in many ways of getting it. Life teaches us how to survive, while death teaches us how to live. Life is a taskmaster, while death is a master teacher. We cannot learn how to appreciate the preciousness of life without coming to grips with the reality of death. Chuck was one of those who was motivated to make something of his life before death put an end to his aspirations. If only we all could do 1/2 as much for others like he did. Every time I see a kite in the air the rest of my life I will remember his great flights of inspirations, kites, and teachings. If you have ever wondered how you can be in classroom and not know it just think of the day you met Chuck. He has taught us all something in life's classroom.

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**Shared Poem from Carolyn Barnhart and the Lane Family:**

"Corner of the Sky"  
Rivers belong where they can ramble;  
Eagles belong where they can fly.  
I've got to be where my spirit can run free,  
Got to find my corner of the sky.

*~ Author: Stephen Schwartz*

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Rebecca Waner's shared words:

There are people that just bring other people together. Chuck was a person that could draw people to him. People liked him. At first glance his towering frame could be quite intimidating but spend just a moment with him and his personality showed the gentle giant that he was. I met Chuck when my son, Travis, had received a kite for his 10th birthday; I walked up to this stranger and asked if someone could help him learn how to fly a dual line kite. He took Travis out to the field and with great patience showed him how to fly his new kite. He went on to show him how to fly other larger kites and complimented his skill. Travis still picks up the lines to fly kite along the beach when we are on vacation. Thanks to Chuck's patience and encouragement that first day, it has become a family vacation tradition to bring a kite along with us wherever we may go.

Dave Bartlett's shared words:

Empty Places in the Sky: Chuck Blackwell

Chuck Blackwell lost his battle with cancer on March 24, 2005. Chuck inspired us all by his dedication to the Kansas City Kite Club. He was always the first on the field setting up a ground display, right after he had a kite in the sky. He was always the last to leave the field. Chuck gave up his own time more often than can be imagined to plan kiting events here in Kansas City. As you pulled up to the kite field you knew Chuck was there, because you would see the ground display and hear a Phoenix burning through the sky before you spotted it. He was the keeper of club equipment and he always took the lead of setup crew for our events. His meticulous nature made our fly's, both outdoor and indoor, so much more fun, because he had always handled everything.

Chuck's eye for detail is what made him shine as a kite maker. His appliquéd rokkaku's were the envy of every club member that had the opportunity to see them fly. If you were to comment on how incredible the detail of the appliqué or how he was an artist at the sewing machine, he would lower his head and say a quiet "thanks". His heart was always in the right place when helping aspiring kite makers, whether at our club workshops or offering a reassuring word of encouragement when you asked a question about how to proceed on a project. Chuck always made several projects or donated from his kite collection for our club fundraisers.

Chuck started kite flying in 1990, because "I thought dual line kites looked like fun." A favorite of all club members is when Chuck would fly his train of Phoenixes and then as you watched and listened he would axel them. We would all ooh and ahhh, and Chuck would flash his smile of thanks and appreciation that we enjoyed his skill as a kite flyer. Chuck was also a member of the Reno Nevada Kite Club, after making acquaintances at

WISKF and other flies. Chuck always lead the way to the Westlake Kite Festival in Lahoma, Oklahoma or Twisted Lines in Topeka, Kansas. It was at Chuck's urging that most of us went to our first full-fledged 'out-of-town' kite festival. Chuck's support of kite flying and belief in the good work being done by the AKA inspired many of us to join the AKA.

His love of the relationship between kites and the wind, will remind us that his spirit will always be riding the wind.

The Memory of Me

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
of happy times, and laughing times, and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry
before the sun of happy memories I leave when life is done.

~unknown

We would like to thank the Kansas City Kite Club for the kite shaped arrangement that was sent to the service for Chuck.

Chuck made many friends over the years on the kite field. He really loved flying and making kites.

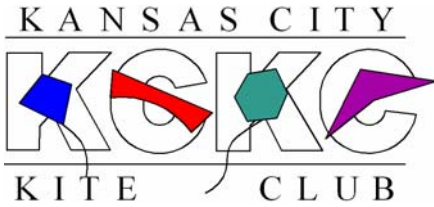
We hope everyone who possesses something Chuck made will enjoy it and fly it often because that is what he would want you to do.

The Blackwell Family.

There were many caring and thoughtful words shared in the online guest book for Chuck at <http://www.legacy.com/KansasCity/Guestbook.asp?Page=Guestbook&PersonId=3339827>. Please take a moment to read what others have posted. You may also sign this guest book. The website will remain open until March 2006.



May our friend rest in peace.



Join the Kansas City Kite Club!

Membership Dues (Jan-Dec)
\$15 Individual: \$20 Family

Name _____
Family _____

E-Mail(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

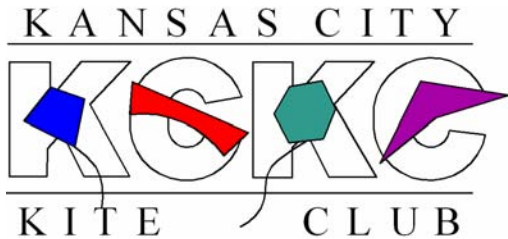
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