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October 2006 NEWS IN REVIEW

www.kckiteclub.org

October 2006 proved to be the another great month of action packed activities and events that the Kansas City Kite Club participated in. Thanks to all of you that showed up to help the KCKC continue to promote kite flying education events in the community. So many members enjoyed the month by attending more educational fun flying activities and events.

• 2006 Columbia Fun Fly

Saturday October 14th was the date of this years Columbia Missouri Bethel Park fly. The Kansas City Kite Club, the Gateway Kite Club of St. Louis, the River Breezes Kite Club of Jefferson City, and kilters and citizens of Columbia, MO all filled the sky with kites.

Nice...Not as big as last year, but it turned out to be just us fliers, so a lot of visiting took place.

Allen Gilson came by himself--the girls were camping with GirlScouts, Scott and Shane drove together with Shane's kids, Steve Batliner came with Chris Clark. Four different fliers from St. Louis, and a couple from local areas.

We did have a flier who came up from Joplin, nice kites. A fairly new flier from.....Lee's Summit who wanted to know if Kansas City had any fly's.

We had a good time. The boom box we had was a little small, but it worked and John Grimshaw brought CD's so we used his. Got back to KC about 8.

• Blue Valley Parks and Recreation Educational Pumpkin Patch

The Kansas City Kite Club was on hand to help educate the public about kites at the 2006 Blue Valley Parks and Recreation Departments yearly Pumpkin Patch Festival. This year's event is the second year the KCKC has been invited to fly at this wonderful event that had an extensive array of kid's games, events, and activities. Saturday was scheduled but rain postponed the event one day and we were glad that it did. The wind was strong and

from the west making the field very feasible for us to fly. Many members showed support by attending the event. Highlights included extensive ground displays, candy drops for the kids, giant kites, and new kites flown on a great wind day.



Steve Batliner was back in action and a definite crowd favorite flying his new Legacy kite with his 100foot tube tail.



Scott Weimer and Ryan Larkey were on hand to enjoy themselves.



Kids at the event were treated to a candy drop with help from the Gilsons.



Amazing ground displays were a huge success with the over 1000 that attended the event. Molly Keehn from Blue Valley Parks and Recreation said after the event "with the rain yesterday we were worried that folks would not come out on Sunday but thanks to the great kite show and displays put on by the KCKC we were amazed to see record attendance again this year" Thanks KCKC!



Many spectators witnessed the KCKC displays and kites all day at the Pumpkin Patch. Superman was there and he seemed to get a kick out of the kites.



The Manta Ray and the giant spin sock were able to get up about 250 feet attracting a large amount of walk in visitors to the event.



Snoopy fly all day at the Pumpkin Patch thanks to Don Larkie helping him get positioned over the Patch. Thanks Don!



The crowds were steady all day long.



KCKC member Rob Furman and his camera equipment made it out to the event not to fly but to shoot some fine footage of the club in action. Rob recently released a video of the Kansas City Kite Clubs Heritage Park event last month. Click [here](#) to watch it! Impressed? We are- thanks for the great video Rob. Should anyone be interested in learning more about Robs work feel free to contact him any time at <http://www.furmanart.com/> Great photography and professional video services at a reasonable price for any occasion.

- **The KCKC Monthly FLY's**

The KCKC Monthly fly's were held at New Mark and Heritage parks this month as planned. Many of the KCKC members came out to both events to relax and fly.

Upcoming Events

<p>Sewing Workshop November 4, 2006 North Community Room 110th and North Oak Kansas City, MO 1-4 pm</p> 	<p>Saturday, November 4, 2006 Workshop, Time 1-4 pm Address 110th and North Oak, Kansas City, MO Workshop—3 Pack Expectations—Currently, I am planning to present a sled kite. Participants will be making 3, hence the name. Great Holiday Gifts! Costs should be about \$20 a kit (three kites per kit.) Please reserve ASAP so I can have your kit cut out. Contact info: Linda Larkey airhead@kc.rr.com or 816-415-9363 Cell day of workshop 816-509-3979</p> 
<p>February 3, 2007 SATURDAY</p> <p>WORKSHOP</p> <p>North Community Room 110th and North Oak Kansas City, MO</p> <p>1-4 pm</p>	<p><i>Saturday, February 3, 2007</i> <i>Workshop, Time 1-4 pm</i> <i>Address 110th and North Oak, Kansas City, MO</i> <i>Workshop—Possible Indoor/Outdoor Bird Kite designed by Don Larkie</i> <i>Expectations—Stay Tuned</i> <i>Contact info: Linda Larkey airhead@kc.rr.com or 816-415-9363 Cell 816-509-3979</i></p>

- **AKA CONVENTION PERSPECTIVES**

Below are a few KCKC members perspectives on the recent AKA Convention in Des Moines. Thanks to all that submitted each article.

By:

David Ellis *Retired Educator and long time KCKC member and friend.

I am still trying to recover from the convention. It wore me down more than I thought.

There were a fair amount of people that were able to make it up. I saw Team Larkey, the Gilsons except for the youngest, John Roberts, and Steve B. showed up on Saturday. I saw Bob H. and his wife as well as his friend Bob with his significant other there, as well. Greg Bethal from Hays, KS was there, too. He was asking if he should join KCKC, as there is no club very close to him. (I wonder....are there any other kite clubs in Kansas?)

John Roberts came home with two trophies from the fighter competition. Greg Bethel brought home 3 trophies. Linda L. was involved in a first place win with a cooperative group from MAKR. I just came home tired. LOL

KCKC helped bring quite a bit of \$\$\$ in their donations for the AKA. I am not sure how much each was sold for, but I think that it was somewhere close to \$500 for each of three donations. I hope that someone there took a lot of photos that can be shared. I only took 13 pictures, and they did not come out very well. I could not get my camera to go along with me when I needed it.

I picked up a couple of good ideas while there at the Nats. One for an easy way to lay out material and cut it for making banners. It is possible to cut a width of material that is 15 ft long on the diagonal making just one cut about 3 ft long. That gives two identical pieces for two banners, or put them together for a double thickness banner.

The other idea was how to make a wind harp. I have been wanting to do that, now to get the materials.....Actually I picked up a bunch of tips and hints for making kites, too. I attended the fighter kite class and made a fighter. I have not had a chance to fly it, yet. Sometime soon, though....

By: Randy Larkey * Long Time KCKC Member

I had fun at the convention. While Des Moines was my first convention, I have been in kiting for a few years. I enjoyed the hotel in regards to being able show banners, kites and other colors on the balconies outside our rooms at the Holiday area. The best part of Convention was meeting new people from the US and other parts of the world, as well as old friends. It was a fun atmosphere all week. I enjoyed seeing my wife's logo for the convention on everything. That was a real hoot. There were a lot of workshops, plus several activities going on most of the time (never a dull moment). I had been to Kites On Ice in 2002 with my son, Ryan, and had met Craig Wilson there. It was a pleasure seeing and talking with him again. I was fortunate enough to be on the ground crew for the Mega Flag (World Largest Kite) on Thursday. That was big fun! Got to meet Jim Martin. He was a funny guy. But when it came to the Mega Flag he was serious. He had to be. That is a big kite with serious rules. The Flag did fly for a few minutes and it was great fun to see and to help with. I had a good time at convention and hope to go again. Thanks to all the other kites who attended and made it such fun.

By: Randy Larkey *Former President of the KCKC and Long Time KCKC Member

AKA Convention was an amazing time but, it was not the kites that will stay in my memory. It is the fellow kite cult members that will stay with me. To spend time with so many people that share the same hobby and to share ideas and techniques with them was my favorite part of my week. The kites, banners, and ground bouncers were all great but would have been worthless if it wasn't for so many great smiling faces of people that actually knew what they are looking at. That was my favorite part of AKA Convention.

By: Linda Larkey * Long Time KCKC Member and Volunteer

I was asked to describe my impressions of Des Moines 2006 as a first time attendant. That is hard, because there are so many impressions! First, it was an unbelievable thrill to see the logo that I submitted all over the convention. The blue shirts were absolutely beautiful, and it was fabulous to see a computer graphic turn into pins, shirts, and huge projections on award screens. If you want to try for that special thrill, remember that entries have to be submitted very early—probably next February.

Another unforgettable memory is standing on the third floor balcony and seeing all the kites and banners displayed around the Holidome—and watching indoor kite flying below our balcony. Ryan rigged up a tether to lower and lift his Guildworks Truss for indoor flying to keep from breaking it down each time.

The indoor competition flying was GREAT! And really neat that one can compete at a national level without a custom kite. Nelson Borelli, the third place winner, did have a custom kite, but claimed his kite could be made for under a buck. His talent, along with his all of his competitors, was unbelievable.

I really enjoyed meeting members of the AKA. I met spouses of fellow MAKR (Midwest Area Kite maker's Retreat) participants, and saw my MAKR family actually flying kites, and not building them. I deepened relationships with fellow AKA members, and learned to slip on waders when Dave Gomberg begins to talk. I can now put faces to most of the names that I read about in Kiting! I watched the Mega Flag launch!

I learned how to make a PVC wind harp from Stephen Ploof on the flying field. Steve and Kathy Adelson are challenging me to participate in a ground display blow-out the next time we both attend an event. Steve and Kathy had two more banners than the last time I saw them! I learned that Jim Martin, Jr., "owner" of the Mega Flag, is also interested in miniature kites. I had a fabulous Monday evening with Ronda Brewer helping her prepare for her Knotty Classes. I visited with Scott Spencer and experienced his Garden Ground Display. I took classes from Mr. Chen, Scott Spencer, Charles Stewart, Jim Martin, Jr. and others. I bought raffle tickets from Marla Miller, and, yes, she doesn't give change, doesn't even offer it! I met Region 13 Director, Linda Sanders, Aussie Aussie Aussie.... Oil! Oil! Oil!

I had a great time at the bag raffle. While none of my own tickets were pulled, I did find a fist-full of tickets. While I was returning them to the ticket table it was discovered that the number that was stamped on the tickets indicated they belonged to Corey Jensen. Knowing how busy Corey was that week, another conventioneer (not Marla!) and I divided the haul and preceded to drop Corey's tickets into bags we were SURE that Corey would want to win. Alas, I didn't get to see how many of those lucky tickets were pulled, but I know that Corey would have been very appreciative of our efforts on his behalf. If he had known.

I saw my own Regional Director, Don Murphy, be named REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR! He was speechless! I watched someone I nominated be awarded the Steve Edeiken Award. Apparently more than just me thought the Dalmer's deserved recognition!

I was fortunate enough to be asked to participate in the Midwest Kite makers Auction Project. It was great being asked to make and donate an item (or two) along with some of the best kite makers in the nation. I am thrilled that Gayle Woodul will be displaying the banners I made, and hope that Jim Martin, Jr. enjoys the Dog and Cat ground bouncers. Maybe he can come up with a cool name for them! I do hope he didn't expect us to spend hours and hours creating a unique item for the auction

and still name them. I grew up on a farm. Jim, if it was going to the freezer or to the sale barn, it didn't get a name. Please send all name suggestions to Jim at jmartjr@carolina.rr.com

I did have regrets.....I regretted that I didn't have time to take ALL the classes, watch the kite building judging more, or see more of the sport and fighter kite competitions. Convention is very much like a three ring circus---lots of exciting stuff going on right next door to each other, but you can't see every act. You have to pick and choose, knowing you may be missing the "best act." I also regretted that kilters from the coasts had to travel so far, leaving so many of their kites at home. On the other hand, I did get to meet the kilters, and I may not ever get to travel to the coasts to see them along with their wonderful kites, so it was nice meeting them. The winds we experienced were fairly typical for the Midwest—I can't imagine why we have fewer numbers of kilters in the Midwest with the winds we have, can you?

Des Moines welcomed a new AKA President with the election of Susan Skinner. Susan has announced that the 2007 Executive Committee is First Vice President Barbara Meyer, 2nd Vice President Gayle Woodul, Treasurer David Butler, Secretary Kathy Brinnehl and Directors at Large Mike Dallmer, Mike Shaw, Ronda Brewer and Russ Faulk

All, in all, I had a great time at convention, and I hope I can attend again—but it may have to be in three years when convention is back in the Central Region again!

Linda Larkey

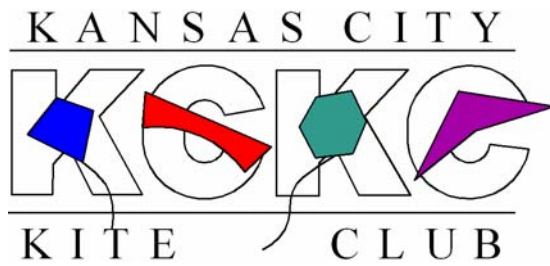
Thanks to everyone that helped with this month's submissions, photos and articles. As a reminder any member can submit an article or idea for this monthly communication tool the KCKC uses. We would love to have your contribution.

Sean Beaver

President
Kansas City Kite Club

Sean is available by email at seanbeaver@hotmail.com or you may call him at 913-238-9333 for comments or questions. We would love your suggestions about ways to improve the KCKC.

Imagination is the highest kite one can fly.



**Join the
Kansas City Kite Club!**
www.kckiteclub.org

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