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April 2007 NEWS IN REVIEW

www.kckiteclub.org

April Events in Review

April 2007 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 outreach events in the community. Many members enjoyed the month by attending more fun flying activities and events.

- **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.

The 2007 Flights of Fancy Kite and Model Airplane Festival

Saturday April 21st 2007 the KCKC was a major part of one of the areas largest and most successful area kite festivals in the clubs history. Flyers from all around the region attended the event and one of the strongest showings of KCKC flyers showed up to put on amazing displays. The events special guest this year was Don and Betty Murphy from the American Kite flyers Associations region 7 and came in from Omaha Nebraska.

Event highlights included:

- Children's Tent Area complete with kite making activities, music, and college for kids information.
- Open Public Flying and children's festival games area. Including a candy drop area for the large crowds.
- Professional DJ and event announcer.
- KCKC tent and information area
- Professional KCKC area flying field
- Radio Controlled Airplane landing strips and flying area.
- Food vendors offering Kettle Corn, Hot Dogs, and a variety of drinks.

The events weather was a breezy 80 degree day with clear sky's that seemed almost perfect. While some of the larger kites did fly the wind was a bit too much for a few of

the giant kites. Many members spent the day flying the kites and putting up wonderful ground displays. Special thanks go out to everyone that showed up and helped to make such a wonderful event.

Folks like Randy and Linda Larkey not only put up banners but also were very helpful in the children's tent where they works hard all day with the kite making activities. Dan Larkie put up some amazing kites and displays that amazed the crowds. John Roberts flew his wonderful Jordon Airform along with a cool quad line REV kite complete with ribbon tails. Many were seen pointing in amazement and John put on an amazing show. Ryan Pool (new KCKC member) helped Sean a lot with candy drops that were amazing to watch. Don and Betty Murphy flew many different displays that attracted kids and adults alike. Sean Beaver had the largest spinspace up in the air for all the local K-State fans.

Allen Gilson displayed an arsenal of kites and ground displays that were beautiful and we also saw him helping Don Larkie to put up some giants too. Steve Batliner was amazing. Once he found enough space the 100' tube tail went up with his stunt kite. Dozens of onlookers kept coming up to him with appreciation and questions too. New KCKC members Bear and Anne Leaming came out to fly too!

Chris Clark displayed a patriotic Beaver Banner which was very cool and a heck of an inspiration. Doug Hoffman managed to fly lots of different things and displayed a few large balls (which Don fixed later that night after the tear) Sharon V, Shawn R and Shayla we all able to attend and add some very nice kites to the event that afternoon. Shawn had a very nice new ram air lifter kite that was tough to launch but once it was up looked great! Former member Dave Ellis surprised many after he was able to get back in town early enough to be able to enjoy the event. Rebecca Warner, Dave Bartlet, Randy Haberly, Bob Rule, and Nick all attended and were seen throughout the day at the event as well.

Many other flyers attended but it was difficult to remember everyone names. If we missed you in this edition we can always add more to the next- feel free to submit your articles anytime.

Sixteen new members signed up at the event and the KCKC gave away kites as a part of that membership drive. The 2007 Flights of Fancy proved to be too much wind for the RC Airplanes but they had some amazing planes on display. What was good for the kite flyers was not so good for them- wind.

Overall the 2007 Longview Flights of Fancy was a huge success. By some estimation nearly 4000 people attended to watch the kites fly and attend the event. A follow up meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 3pm to discuss the event and to make improvements for next season. Anyone that attended is invited and should contact Sean Beaver for directions to the meeting.

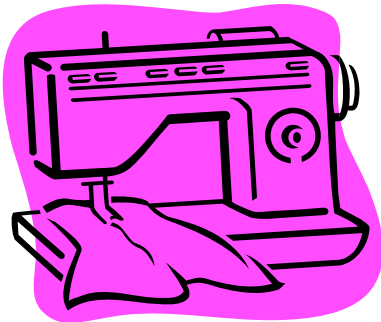
Over 100 photos of the event have been posted here:
<http://kckiteclub.org/events-LVCC.htm>

KCKC NEW MEMBERS



On behalf of the Kansas City Kite Club I want to welcome the newest members of the areas only kite organization. We hope to see you all on the flying fields soon.

1. BURLINGAME MIKE & PEYTON MBURLINGAME@KC.RR.COM
2. CARRY BRIAN & NANCY BCARRY101@AOL.COM;
BRIAN.CARRY@HCAMIDWEST.COM
3. Creemer Trafton, Kerrie, Oliver & Sadie tocreemer@ultraxinc.com
4. CURTIS VICTOR vrcmc@aol.com ; victorcurtis@sbcglobal.net
5. DOUDRICK BOB & JOANNE GGMJO@SBCGLOBAL.NET; KCOFIUC@SBCGLOBAL.NET
6. HERNDON LARRY LAHINLSMO@HOTMAIL.COM
7. Heyen Wendell & Linda lwhyen@msn.com
8. LADAS JOHN & JILL JILLJOHN1@PRODIGY.NET ; JILL.LADAS@MCCKC.EDU
9. LANGE RANDALL & KAREN KLL@KC.RR.COM ; REL@KC.RR.COM
10. LEWIS RYAN RSLEWIS@KC.RR.COM
11. MAHMOOD AZHAR MIAN816@SBCGLOBAL.NET
12. MONTGOMERY JOHN MEKRALY@NETZERO.COM
13. PENROD CZERENDA CZERENDA@GMAIL.COM
14. Pool Ryan rpool@everestgt.com
15. SUPPENBACH LARRY & ROBIN
16. TADLOCK CURT, CATHY, COLTON & CONNER C.R.TADLOCK@GMAIL.COM ;
CAT_TAD13@YAHOO.COM
17. VONFANGE IAN, ROBERTA & JOEL IANVF@SBCGLOBAL.NET ;
BERTAFANG@SBCGLOBAL.NET



The 2007 Dave Ellis Skyak Class

KCKC is proud to have master kite maker and former member Dave Ellis on hand to help anyone who wants learn to make some of the coolest kite designs you will ever see. This month Dave put on a Skyak Kite Making Class at his home on April 22nd.

Do not know Dave? David Ellis is a retired educator that keeps busy teaching Chinese Kite classes at the preschool level. He has four grown children and six grand children.

He became involved in kites in 1991 while teaching third graders, and started sewing kites in 1995. He also has kite history and kite making classes during the spring and summer each year in the area schools and preschools. Each year the children in our metropolitan area complete over a thousand kites with his help.

Dave likes to make kites that are out of the ordinary, and also likes to share what he discovers. He started having kite making workshops in the Kansas City Kite Club in 1997. Many of his students have overtaken him in their ability level, and now some of them also present projects for our workshop sessions.

Here is what Dave had to say about this month's class

Sunday, April 22, was the date for another KCKC kitebuilding session. This was a limited size class because of limited materials on hand. There was room for 4 entries. One person called to cancel the last minute, and another did not show at all. This was fine, because the kite is a bit complex, and it was great having the time for individual help. That made it a much more relaxed class for me, but was still a bit stressful for the participants. One participant had to spend about 30 minutes ripping out a long seam.

John Roberts, and Victor Curtis both completed their kites, complete with flying line and custom line winder. Both took home a unique edge binding tool. Victor had to leave early, but John stayed on long enough to make a bag for his kite, and one for the spars.

The kite is nearly 4 ft long, and has three vanes, one of which acts as the keel. It is capable of flying in most any wind speed above 5 mile per hour. For the stronger winds it does better with a tail. It is a rather active kite, which adds to its appeal, for me. Some people say that it has a banana shape. Others say a football shape. I say neither, it looks more like a kayak. A child in California said they look like "Skyaks". That is the name I prefer.

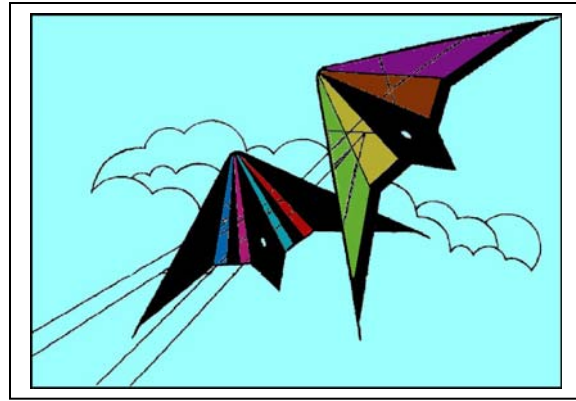
I believe that there may well be another limited size class offered this summer sometime, perhaps in July. There will be no outdoor work done as in years past, though. That is another good thing about the limited size offerings. If you go take a look at the class offerings from years past you might find one that interests you. Feel free to contact me, and we may be able to set something up. Many of the past class projects can be seen at <http://www.kiteguy.info> on the kitebuilding page.

I get to do some traveling in June, and again in August. Looks promising for attending the AKA Convention in Washington in October! (If I can convince Chris (For her birthday) that we should go visit her favorite sister, and celebrate, the first week in October.)

For more information on kite making classes contact Dave directly at kiteguy@everestkc.net or 913-648-4925.

Flying Basics for
Dual Line Sport Kites

From the book [Stunt Kites!](#)
by David Gomberg
Please see more @
www.gombergkites.com



Stunt kites can do things no other kites can do. In the hands of a skilled flier, your stunter can amaze onlookers as it loops, dives, and dances its way across the sky under complete control.

With a little information and a bit of practice, you can become that skilled flier. Stunt Kites! was written to help you. To get things started, we're providing a few brief excerpts from this useful book which may make your first flight a bit more successful.

Layout and Launching: For beginners, your flying line should be between 75 and 120 feet long. Shorter lines reduce response time and make the kite move too fast for most inexperienced fliers. Longer lines make maneuvers harder to complete. After you unroll the lines, make sure they're the same length and that they're securely fastened to your handles and kite.

Have your helper pick up the kite from behind, and hold it by the base and center struts. Keep a little tension between the two of you so that the flylines are off the ground.

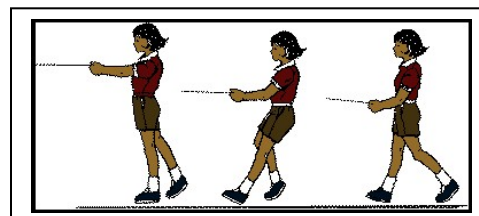
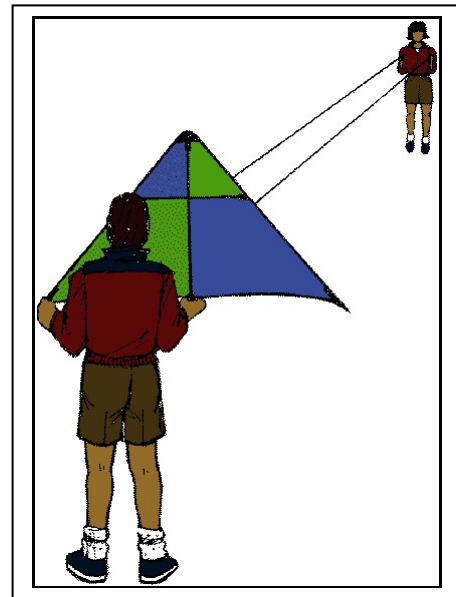
Now complete the "Pre-launch Checklist". **Do everything** on this list before every launch.

Pre-launch Checklist:

1. Check the area under where your kite will be flying for possible hazards - mainly people.
2. Look behind you to make sure you have a clear path if you need to back up.
3. Make sure your flylines have equal tension so that the kite will launch straight.
4. Check the sky for other fliers.

On your signal, your helper should give the kite a gentle upward push, then let go. There is no need to be forceful. Just toss it.

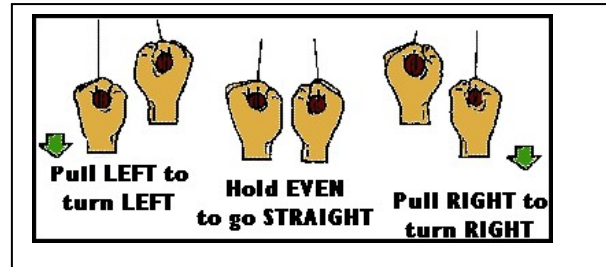
And guess what? **YOU'RE FLYING!!**
For self launches, anchor or "stake" your handles down, then walk back to the kite and



stand it up using the flylines as a tension against the wind. Be sure the kite isn't standing straight up when you're done. Unless it leans away from the handles a little, it will try to take off and fly by itself!

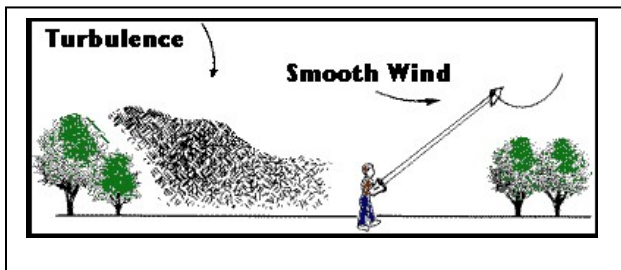
Now go back to the handles and carefully pick them up. Try not to let the kite move and keep equal tension on both lines. Remember your Pre-launch Checklist! Now take three or four quick steps backwards and you're off!!

Steering: There are three and only three basic steering movements. Any maneuver you do, from simple to the most complex, will just be a combination of Left Turns, Right Turns, and Straight Lines. That's all there is to it! Remember that "straight" can mean flying straight in any direction, not just up. Keep turning to the right and you will eventually complete a loop. The fact that the lines have twisted has absolutely no effect on the way the kite flies. Right is still right and left is still left. To get rid of the twists -- just turn in the other direction.



Pulling back on your handles will make the kite fly faster. Your normal reaction in a crash will be to hold the handles tighter and to pull back on them to try and save the situation. That is exactly the wrong thing to do. You'll just make the kite accelerate and hit the ground harder. If you think you're going to crash, try moving toward the kite to slow it down or letting go of the handles. While you're flying, keep your arms at your sides. Holding them higher doesn't make the kite go up and holding them farther apart only makes you tire more quickly. Let the kite do the flying while you just steer.

Picking a Flying Site: Your first flying experience will be much more successful if you find a site with smooth wind and little turbulence. On a field bounded both upwind and downwind by obstructions, you're better off flying as close as you safely can to the downwind end of the field.



Landings: A normal, planned landing takes advantage of the fact that, as the kite flies farther "out" to the right or left, it loses drive and speed. A landing is simply flying the kite to the point where it runs out of forward drive at the same time it reaches the ground.

Safety and Courtesy: A maneuverable kite is a PROJECTILE -- capable of doing injury and property damage. Even in a moderate wind, a typical stunt kite can be moving at over 60 miles per hour. If someone gets hit by anything moving that fast, it's going to hurt.

Always remember the three "C's" of responsible kiting:

Caution, Courtesy and Common Sense.

From the book [Stunt Kites!](#)

by David Gomberg

Please see more @ www.gombergkites.com

Upcoming KCKC Events

<p>KC Riverfest 2007</p> 	<p><i>Friday and Saturday, June 29th & 30th and July 1st 2007 for a rainout date</i></p> <p><i>Address* Berkley Riverfront Park</i></p> <p><i>Expectations* Large advertised event for the local community to have the largest outdoor festival and fireworks show in the Midwest. 60,000 Visitors expected!</i></p> <p><i>Contact info: Sean Beaver or Stephany Rosenholtz</i></p>
<p>One Sky One World</p> <p>Sunday , October 14th 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Columbia Joint Fly 2007</i><i>11am to 4pm</i>

KCKC membership reminder

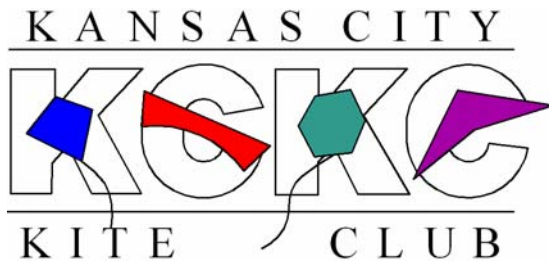
Thanks to everyone that helped with this month's submissions, photos and articles. As a reminder any member can submit an article or idea for this monthly communication tool the KCKC uses. We would love to have your contribution.

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