

From The President

Jeff King



Short and sweet, short and sweet! That's what I've been telling myself regarding my "From the President" comments. I mean, who wants to read boring material from a stuffy ol' Presidente' anyway? Soooo, I'll be brief. 2010 was a busy, busy year. We played at or collaborated on numerous festivals—big and small—throughout the year. As always, I would encourage everyone to only do as much as you are comfortable doing, but please participate and chip in where you can. Step out and enjoy our hobby (obsession). It seems like we're always seeing or experiencing something new when kites get together.

2011 is here and the new "season" will be kicking off before we know it. It looks to be an exciting year, with lots of new (or at least different) things on the horizon.

We're still trying to make arrangements to continue our indoor events and still (yes) trying to organize a club mini-banner production line and kite repair workshop. Beginning this year, the DC kite festival in March will now be under the purview of the Cherry Blossom Festival, so we're beginning a new and hopefully fruitful collaboration there. And if you haven't noted yet, you should: The 2011 AKA Convention and Nationals will be in Wildwood, NJ, later this year. Having it in our neck of the woods is a great opportunity to participate at the national level, even if that means simply showing up and ooh-ing and ahh-ing at everything. WOW's already looking to have a significant presence at the convention. I hope you can join us!

Have a safe winter and I hope we'll see a lot of you at events throughout 2011!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	From the President	7	Annual Meeting and Election Minutes
2	AKA Info/Welcomes/WOW Badges	8	The Wrong Arm of the Law
3	Indoor Fly at the National Air and Space Museum	9	Pictures from Members
4	The Tropical Dream	12	AKA Membership
5	Pictures from Tobago	13	Join WOW
6	Outer Banks for Thanksgiving	14	National Kite Month

AKA INFO

Will Smoot

Dear WOWsters.

Most of you are AKA members and receive e-mails from the Regional Director and President. Do you know that you may also opt to receive the newsletters of other regions, or no newsletters at all? Have you looked at the new AKA website? To get into the members-only part of the website use the format "firstnamelastname" and your password is your member number. In a recent Presidential message Barbara Meyer pointed out several features of the new website.

In September 2011 the convention will be on the East Coast again, at Wildwood, NJ. I campaigned hard to have it on the Outer Banks but there were concerns about accommodating enough people. In 2014 the convention will again return to the eastern third of the country so start thinking now about places to hold a convention. If you have questions about the requirements contact any board member and ask for the Convention Requirements file.

The Events Calendar is a wonderful collection of information. If you are hosting an event, or just involved with one you may post your event on the calendar. Even non-members may list events. The AKA benefit is a \$1,000,000 liability coverage for AKA members for a cost of only \$150.

I would like to hear from as many of you as possible about your ideas for the AKA. What can the association do to make your favorite form of kiting even better? What could the association do to better promote kiting to the general public? What are you doing that works that other people might like to try?

Challenge the Wind,

Will Smoot
AKA Region 3
RD3@aka.kite.org

Welcomes

Barbara Birnman W.O.W. Treasurer

Welcome back: Paul Dugard & Susan Callahan, Cathy and Mike Mosman, Ron Kellis, Dave Soutar, Kathy & Tim Carr, Peter Hedin, Jim Cosca, Carol, Toby, & Dave Ashworth, Evelyn Rossbach 7 Al Ault, Butch Saunders, the Sitnick family, Elizabeth & Harold Ames, Ken & Margot Pettijohn, Tina, Megan, & Michael Miguel, Sandi & Tom Miguel, Healey Sutton & Mike Kelter, Brad Weiner, Joan, Dave & Garrett Passeur, Patsy Wencel, Steve Palmer, Joyce & Jeff King, Val Deale, Jackie & Richard Mervine, Val Govig, Mary Ann & Warren Lanning, Tina & Ron Jakubowicz

Welcome: Diane Shook, Laura Berg, Ronald Petralito, Bob Lauder, Cath & Eliot Shook, Keith Maynard, Adam Mandes, Heather, Erin, Lauren & Dan Field, Sharon and Dan Field, Sr, Gary and Dustin Weber, Donna Stahr, Don and Elena Stark, Kathy Sugrue

Elevated to Lifetime Member status (with voting privileges):

Bevan Brown

WOW Badges:

If anyone is interested in ordering a WOW name badge – blue background with white lettering and logo – please submit your order and payment by Monday, 21 March 2011 to Barbara Birnman. The cost for each badge is \$6.00. When submitting your order, please list how you would like your name and/or nickname to appear. If you have not submitted your payment by Monday, 21 March 2011, the badge(s) you requested will not be ordered. Checks should be made out to Wings Over Washington Kite Club, and should be sent to Barbara at: 13406 Staffordshire Place, Germantown, MD 20874. All orders received will be acknowledged.

Annual Indoor Fly at the National Air and Space Museum:

Barbara Birnman

Barbara Birnman is working with Archie Stewart and the Event Coordinator at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) to coordinate the 2011 Indoor Fly – it will be a tribute to Margo Brown. The date is Saturday, 19 March 2011. The event is going to be a bit different this year – a list of flyers has been assembled, and they all have been invited as this goes to press. Most of the invited flyers either started the event with Margo or are long-time participants.

Because of the special nature of the event this year, a Tribute to Margo Brown, it will be much more organized/controlled than in past years. All flyers are being asked to wear black, as are all other volunteers; if that is not possible, we ask that everyone who does volunteer dress nicely – no beat-up jeans, logo t-shirts, etc.... If you would like to volunteer to help out for the day, you must sign up with Barbara Birnman prior to Friday, 14 February 2011. All volunteers must arrive to help set up in the early morning (usually around 7:00 a.m.) and also help to break down in the afternoon (usually around 3:00 p.m.). Those volunteers who do not have a specific task must be willing to walk the museum flying small kites, interact with the crowd, spend some time at the children's

kite building area, and generally be available the entire day to “work.” It is not a day for kiter volunteers to tour the museum, come late, or leave early – please keep that in mind when signing up to volunteer. If you want to sign up to volunteer, please provide the names of all of the people who will be in your vehicle, license tag number and state, make and model of your vehicle, telephone number, and your email address. This information may be sent to Barbara at

birnmaba@mail.nih.gov NASM provides parking for us on event day in their underground garage, but you must be on the list; they also provide lunch for the volunteers.

The invited out-of-town flyers are: Archie Stewart, Pauly Berard, Curtis Mitchell, Peter McMasters, Lisa Willoughby, Ian Willoughby, Amy Doran, Connor Doran, John Roggerio, Will Sturdy, and Scott Weider. The invited local flyers are: Tom Humphrey, Jeff King, Mike Mosman, Dave Ashworth, and Paul LaMasters. Terry Murray will be the announcer with back-up from some of the locals when he wants to take a break. Flyers will bring their music to the event or provide it to Terry in advance, and a flying schedule will be worked up – there will be a

schedule this year. We hope to have flyer bios available for the public, as well. Harold Ames will be building “one-inchers” in the lobby, if he is in town. Mearl Balmer will be setting up his KAP display. Drake Smith, Jon Burkhardt, and Adrienne Balmer will be setting up their fabulous, hand-made single-line kites for display – we are also hoping to get Will Sturdy's Grand National Champion kite on display, as well. Barbara has asked Chris Stankus to lend us some Jackite doves to display around the museum. WOW will have a table or two in the lobby. We have not yet firmed anything up with Bevan Brown for a display like Margo normally sets up. Kites of Asia is the theme for 2011.

If anyone would be willing to host an out-of-town flyer or two for that weekend, please let Barbara know as soon as possible. Hosting entails picking up/dropping off the guest(s) at the airport, transportation to/from NASM, and generally taking care of the guest(s) for the entire weekend (i.e., meals, etc....). Flyers will be arriving on Friday, 18 March 2011 and will be departing on Sunday, 20 March 2011.



THE TROPICAL DREAM

By Jim Cosca

I woke up in a dream the morning of the 27th of December on a Tropical island with a bunch of my closest friends flying kites to great music for people to enjoy and embracing the atmosphere...

Turned out, it wasn't a dream!

My friend, Rev. Valerie Critten-Stewart along with Sherma McDougall-Williams of The Tobago Division of Tourism and Transportation was generous enough to invite 7 of us from the US to join in celebrating the 10th Annual Flying Colors Kite Festival! There were a total of 11 Americans on hand for the various festivals and kite events that took place during the week after Christmas. This is the time that kite flying is celebrated most in Tobago.

What an incredible experience!

We spent our visit touring the island checking out the incredible landscape, culture and cuisine as well as seeking out the best places to fly kites.

We flew on numerous beaches and sports fields with the locals that all were eager to show us their own home made kites. These kites ranged in sizes from as small as your hand to in excess of 20 foot tall "Mad Bulls" as they called them!

Kite flying is a very big part of the culture of Tobago. Everywhere we went we saw people young and old walking with or flying their kites, popping them up in neighborhoods among houses and even in the rain forests that covered most of the very mountainous island.

While there, we as a group become pretty famous as the American Kite flyers. We even had two separate live TV interviews! One on their Morning News Show and a second interview on an evening Sports show. Both of which were rebroadcast multiple times during our visit.

There was a family kite fly the first day we were there and we all learned quickly just how much these folks loved to fly. Several other planned kite events took place during our stay including an indoor/outdoor demonstration at the local shopping mall. (Yes, complete with food court that had several US companies)

The kite fields at each event would fill up quickly with local kites of all sizes. While flying there was something else that became very apparent to us. The Tobagonians also love to play Caribbean music. Loud. VERY loud.

We flew our kites to their music and when it came time for us to demonstrate sport kites flown to our music the crowds looked on with amazement. Most had never seen a sport kite fly let alone see a team demo flying to music.

I know we left quite an impression on the good people of Tobago. I'm guessing that they have a real interest in the modern designs and techniques that we brought to them.

I'd like to thank all of the sponsors and good people that made our trip possible.

I know we all will remember this journey for many years to come.



Tobago 2010

(Pictures courtesy of Tom and Sandy Miguel)





Outer Banks for Thanksgiving

By Paul R. LaMasters

W.O.W. Vice President

Barbara and I shared a fantastic adventure, flying kites and eating Thanksgiving turkey with the Shook family in Corolla NC this year. About 14 of us shared a rented home nearby, repairing kites and discussing the finer points of our unique pass-time in between our flying sessions. A

grand time was had by all, for as long as we each could stay!

Of course the King Family stunned everyone driving by with a huge “tethered blue whale” gently swimming

above the tree line. In fact, the local police demanded he leave it up until one of the officer’s mothers finished her grocery shopping!

You could see a pilot kite high above too. Literally from miles away (a Sutton 450, no less!), which drove much of the vehicular traffic to personally investigate our hidden location and our other kiting activities. A text description hardly does it justice, but how about this... Mel is a couple of car lanes in width and 100 feet of length. It blocks out the sun like a total eclipse!

I can assure you, we’re keeping this TOBX event on my family’s kiting calendar for next year and I hope you might consider joining us as well.

-“REVflyer”

PS: Lots of sport kites and sharing of knowledge went on also, in fact we plan to put on a Revolution sport kite clinic over President’s day (February 18th thru the 21st, 2011) to reunite us. With any luck at all, it will also include a sanctioned indoor competition for AKA points . . . all for around a hundred bucks!



(Pictures courtesy: Joyce and Jeff King)

November 2010 Annual Club Meeting and Election Minutes

WOW 2010 Annual Meeting

Dave Ashworth – WOW Secretary

The Wings Over Washington Kite Club annual meeting was held at Bladensburg Waterfront Park at Colmar Manor MD on 13 November. 14 WOW members attended the meeting and included Tom and Sandi Miguel, Harold and Elizabeth Ames, Jeff and Joyce King, Dennis Hawley, Jim Cosca, Mike Mosman, Dave Soutar, Paul LaMasters, Paul Dugard, Ron Sitnick, and Dave Ashworth.

WOW Meeting Minutes

Indoor Flying – The church that has been used in Annapolis MD for indoor kite flying has proposed a very high usage fee that would effectively prevent us from using the church. There is a new building manager at the church and Joyce King will investigate whether an arrangement where we can continue to use the church is viable.

Club Equipment – Jeff King mentioned the need for new banner poles and some other equipment since several poles are old and in poor condition. It was also mentioned that WOW has purchased two Peter Lynn “Sky Cars” from Gomberg Kite Productions International. Dave Ashworth mentioned the need for a consolidated inventory of club assets and will provide a list of his club assets to Jeff King.

Also, Martin Blais will be approached about creating a unique WOW kite for the club, as we’ve been so far unsuccessful at getting a replacement for Captain WOW that perished in the Kings’ 2008 fire. The club will need to get a cost quote to determine whether the budget commitment is reasonable.

Holiday Party – An idea that was briefly discussed was the offering of door prizes such as providing free entry to the MKS kite building workshop in February or the 2011 AKA National Convention in Wildwood NJ. An additional discussion topic was the donation of kites from WOW kite builders for the auction.

Smithsonian Outdoor Kite Festival – No festival is planned for 2011 by the Smithsonian. This is primarily due to their lack of any funds to cover the normal expenses. Following the WOW meeting, information was received that the kite festival may be incorporated into the National Cherry Blossom Festival on 27 March.

MKS Workshop – The 2011 workshop will be held at Turf Valley Golf Resort which is the same location as last year. Since President’s Day weekend was not available at Turf Valley, the workshop will held over Valentine Day weekend this year.

Announcements about the details will be provided when available.

WOW Workshops – The intent is to have workshops during the winter months that focus on banner construction and kite repair. Location possibilities include three churches where John Oxenham, Jeff and Joyce King, and Paul Dugard are members.

WOW Annual Ballot – The ballot this year included changes to the club’s bylaws in addition to the election of officers. A total of 22 votes was received through e-mail and submittal of ballots at the annual meeting.

WOW Bylaws Changes – The first changes to the WOW bylaws that were adopted in 1996 were proposed this year and included in the WOW election ballot that was provided to all the active members. The six proposed changes to the bylaws were all approved by majority votes of the membership. The new bylaws will be distributed via the next newsletter, and will be updated on the website.

Election of 2011 WOW Officers – Based on the votes of the WOW membership, the following are the elected officers:
President: Jeff King
Vice Presidents: Dennis Hawley, Dave Soutar, and Paul LaMasters
Treasurer: Barbara Birnman
Secretary: Dave Ashworth

The Wrong Arm of the Law

(How I Saved Kiting on the National mall With a Box of Donuts)

By Mike Mosman

It was the first Sunday of November in 2010 and, as usual I was headed down to our regular Wings Over Washington Kite Club gathering at the foot of the Washington Monument on the National Mall. I knew Paul LaMasters would be there with sandwiches made by his thoughtful wife Barbara, and I didn't want to mooch with nothing in return, so I stopped at the donut shop and bought a half dozen donuts. Cost: \$5.

Arriving at the Mall I saw that Paul already there. No mystery here, he's an early riser and usually beats everybody there by an hour. But as I strolled up with my typically too large load of kites, I noticed Paul, looking quite distressed, was packing up. "Turn around and go back," he said, "The Park Police have just informed me that kite flying on the Mall is illegal without a permit, and they've threatened to confiscate our kites if we try to fly here." Paul is on the committee for the Smithsonian Kite Festival, and knows what a kiting permit on the Mall costs, so he was very upset. Effectively, kiting on the Mall was now shut down for us casual kites.

Odd, I thought because in 1966 Paul E. Garber, curator for the National Air and Space Museum, founder of the Smithsonian Associates, and organizer of the first Smithsonian Kite Festival successfully petitioned the U.S. Congress to change the law prohibiting kite flying on the Mall in order to allow the public to more fully enjoy "our nation's front yard" by flying kites on it. And now a young park policeman had seemingly (with his commanding officer's approval) rewritten a 44 year old statute.

Our first decision was to have a talk with the Park Rangers at the nearby Ranger Station. This little stone building is known by a few tourists for its information desk staffed by friendly Rangers, but we WOW members know it as the closest restroom to our flying spot. Paul started right in quizzing the Ranger on duty why the park rules had suddenly changed, but I could see that he was still steamed up over his recent experience with the stern-voiced and well-armed figure of national authority, so I gave him the "go outside and watch the kites" look. Then I turned to the young and pretty female Ranger, flashed my old codger smile and said, "Do you like donuts?"

Before long I had my hand on a copy of 36 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations), but it said nothing about kites. "What should I do?" I asked my Ranger friend. "Call the Park Police Chief at Station D1," she said, munching a donut.

"Here's his number." (I noticed it was the same number I keep in speed dial under "Park Police" on my cell phone.) I went outside to make the call.

The Chief seemed to know right away what I was talking about. He patiently informed me it was covered in Section 1.5, "Closures and public use limits." Back at the Ranger Station Information Desk, now attended by two young and pretty Rangers munching donuts, I asked if there was any way I could get a look at Section 1.5. No problem. Soon, they produced another printout, but yet again no words at all referring to kites, allowed or prohibited.

Once more on the phone with the Chief, I asked him if he could possibly help me find the part in Section 1.5 about kites. After putting me on hold for a few minutes the Chief came back sounding a bit tired of the whole conversation. "Look at Item #13."

As I and my two lovely Rangers were searching the net for the elusive Item #13 yet a third lady Ranger came in, saw the donut, and asked who's they were. "For you ladies and all your help," I said. The box of donuts quickly disappeared into the back office and soon thereafter out came a third printout, this one titled "National Mall Superintendent's Compendium, April 25, 2008."

Compendium? What's a *compendium*? It turns out it's an addendum to 36 CFR with an additional set of *discretionary* restrictions specific to the National Mall. And there, under Section 1.5, Subsection (c), "Public Use Limits," was the all important Item #13 which indeed prohibited flying kites "using glass-coated or other abrasive non-biodegradable kite string..."

Hey, wait a minute, I thought, this sounds real familiar. Indeed, about five or six years ago I had to call the Park Police complaining about another group of kites performing their traditional Afghani pastime of flying kites with manja, or glass-coated string. When they were bored cutting each other's kites, they started to cut WOW club members kite lines. (This explains why the Park Police is on my speed dial.) We asked Park Police back then to crack down on the use of manja, as it is illegal just about everywhere and it can really hurt people, pets, birds, and Park Police patrol cars. We helped them with the proper words to use should they ever need to mend park rules. WE WROTE ITEM #13!

It was time to once again speed dial my old buddy, the Chief. By this time I was standing in the parking lot with a handful of glum kilters who were seriously contemplating committing civil disobedience. "Officer, I really don't want to be a pain in the butt..." I knew I was really trying the man's patience when I gave him the quick history lesson about the fighter kilters with their manja, and insisted we are NOT those guys. "OK." He said finally, "as long as you don't use glass-coated lines and clean up all you kite materials, I guess you are good to go." That was all I

needed to hear. "Boys" I yelled, "Let's go fly some KITES!"

We flew kites all day and were not hassled again. (Paul was reluctant to pull out any kites because he was sure the ever vigilant Park Police were waiting behind trees to pounce on us.) As we were leaving that afternoon we popped in the Ranger station to once again thank the ladies for helping. *They* thanked *us* for helping them clear up this "dispute" between the Rangers and the Police. The Park Rangers really were on our side. And it only cost a box of donuts.



Pictures submitted by WOW members:

Sunfest Ocean City, MD Sep 23-26 2010

Pictures by Laura Berg





Foolish Hat Fly

Sandy Point State Park, MD Jan 1, 2011

Pictures by Dave Soutar





The King's New Life Size Blue Whale Kite 2010

Pictures by Joyce King



Mel peeks over the trees at the Currituck Heritage Park, Corolla, NC.

“Mel”

(Short for “Melville”)
The Blue Whale Kite



Mel and a “baby” whale at the Cape Fear Kite Festival.
(The baby belongs to Dennis Hawley)





American Kitefliers Association

Sharing kites with the world!

Membership Application		Join online at www.aka.kite.org				
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Membership Dues	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Member	Individual (KITING via 3 rd class mail)	\$40	\$78	\$116	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't publish my name in the Directory		KITING via 1 st class mail	\$50	\$98	\$146	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't distribute my name outside the AKA		Canada or Mexico	\$50	\$98	\$146	_____
		Overseas	\$50	\$98	\$146	_____
		Sponsor (KITING via 1 st class mail, Includes tax deductible contribution)	\$125	\$250	\$375	_____
Name: _____		Additional family members in same household				
Address: _____		Per person add: \$6/YEAR				_____
City: _____		Please remit in US\$				
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____		Sorry we cannot accept Canadian cheques	Total			_____
E-mail: _____		Send this form with your payment to: American Kitefliers Association P.O. Box 1614 Walla Walla, WA 99362				
URL: _____		For information call				
Other Family Members: _____		509/529-9171				
Visa/MC/Discover/Amex #: _____		Referred by _____				
Signature: _____		Local kite club _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK THIS BOX IF YOU DO NOT WANT AUTOMATIC RENEWAL						



Join



Wings Over Washington is a kite club open to all flyers. The club holds official flies the first Sunday of every month (*year round*) on the grounds of the Washington Monument. We also provide a communication link with other kite enthusiasts all over the mid-Atlantic area. The club is an affiliate of the [American Kiteflyers Association](#) (AKA).

Click on the link at the bottom of this page for a printable membership form!

Membership in the club is \$20.00 per year (*\$15.00 for renewals*) for an individual, or \$25.00 (\$20.00 for renewals) for an entire household. The common membership expiration date is 8/31. Please review the below carefully. If your new or renewal application period begins prior to 8/31, please pay according to the following:

New Family Membership:

If you join between / you pay:

- 09-01 & 11-30 / \$25.00
- 12-01 & 02-29 / \$18.75
- 03-01 & 05-31 / \$12.50
- 06-01 & 08-31 / \$6.25

Family Renewal: \$20.00

New Individual Membership:

If you join between / you pay:

- 09-01 & 11-30 / \$20.00
- 12-01 & 02-29 / \$15.00
- 03-01 & 05-31 / \$10.00
- 06-01 & 08-31 / \$5.00

Individual Renewal: \$15.00

Once you are a member, your renewal date will be 9-1 of the next year.

Membership Benefits

- Club Newsletter
- Notification of area (and regional) kite events
- Club Pin (with initial membership)
- Use of [Club Kites](#) & Equipment
- Ability to purchase **WOW Wear** (Club Logo Shirts, Additional Pins, etc)
- Special Discounts from Kite Retailers



Upcoming Events:




March

- 6 – First Sunday Fly – The National Mall – Washington, DC
- 19 - Annual Indoor Fly – National Air and Space Museum -Washington DC
- 19- King George Kite Fly – King George – Virginia (Elizabeth Ames)
- 27 – Cherry Blossom Festival – The National Mall – Washington, DC

April

- 2 – Solomon’s Island Kite Festival – Calvert Marine Museum – Solomon’s Island, MD
- 3 – First Sunday Fly – The National Mall – Washington, DC
- 9- Rockfish Valley- Nellysford, VA (RAF)
- 16 – Bel Air Kite Festival – Bel, Air, MD (Allan Ault)
- 22- The Great Delaware Kite Festival – Cape Henlopen , DE
- 29 – 1 May – MIKE/MASKC – Ocean City, MD
- 30 – 1 May – Atlantic Coast Kite Festival- Virginia Beach/Portsmouth VA



COMING SOON TO AN AREA NEAR YOU
MARCH 27-MAY 1, 2011   

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The nation's capital kite club

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