



Washington: SHOCKING Muscle Building Miracle
Scientists Agree: NO is the Safest Way to Build Muscle Fast-Free Trial [Look...](#)



TODAY: Macbooks for \$123.89?
Alert: Macbooks are being auctioned on QuiBids for 95% off today. [Get details...](#)

Ads by pulse360

- Home
- Cars
- Jobs
- Real Estate
- Directory
- Classifieds
- Advertise
- Subscribe
- Front page
- Archive
- News
- Communities
- Sports
- Voices
- Obituaries
- Multimedia
- Entertainment
- Lifestyle
- Contact Us
- Marketplace

LIFESTYLE

[more>>](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

[more>>](#)

The WOW factor: Kite club members share a soaring passion

By THERESA WINSLOW, Staff Writer

Published 04/18/10

SHARE IDEAS

Share This

[• Comment](#)

[• Email This](#)

[• Get Email Alerts!](#)

Apr 20 - Healthy Living for Older Adults/Ballroom Dancing

Apr 22 - Boomers & Business: Creating Your Next Career

Apr 24 - Fearless Yoga: A Two-Hour Intensive Practice

Apr 24 - Bob's BMW Motorcycle Season Kickoff & Open House

Apr 24 - Earth Day Celebration and the 2nd Annual Family, Music and Kite Festival



Courtesy photo

Jeff and Joyce King's "C-Rab" the crab puffs up for the audience at a New Jersey kite festival last year. C-Rab measures a whopping 12 feet tall, 40 feet wide and 30 feet long.

Who knew crabs could fly? Jeff and Joyce King, for starters.

The Cape St. Claire couple are the proud owners of C-Rab, a smiling, giant, orange and red crab with black highlights that goes airborne in the spring and summer skies.

For a better idea of what the Kings' crustacean looks like, think of the balloons in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The big difference is that C-Rab is a kite, albeit a 12-foot-tall, 40-foot-wide, 30-foot-long one.

"He's only a year old, but he's seen some serious action," quipped Jeff.

Of course, it does take a little work to get C-Rab ready for prime time: about 15 to 20 minutes to prepare him to fly, and two to four people to handle him. The kite is so big that it creates a tremendous amount of force on the lines. "It pulls like a freight train," explained Jeff, a defense contractor.

The Kings showcase C-Rab mainly at kite festivals. They fly plenty of other designs at gatherings of the Wings Over Washington Kite Club. WOW, which has 46 members from the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, was formed in 1996. Jeff serves as president

of the group and another county resident, Dave Soutar of Pasadena, is one of two vice presidents.

The club encompasses everything to do with kites, from designing them to flying them.

"We just love the kites," Joyce said. "We leave the politics and prejudices behind and just fly our kites."

Sponsored

Alexandria Don't Risk It!
Learn more today about how you can be paying as low as \$15 a month for auto insurance. [Learn more](#)

marketplace

Select Advertiser

Select Category

Click ad below for more information

ONE OF THE BEST COURSES BY FAR... AND SO CLOSE TO HOME

The River Marsh Golf Club
The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay invites you to tune up for spring and take a test drive on our 18-hole, championship course.

18-Hole Limited Time Rates
For Annapolis area residents only

\$89 Saturday	Cart, greens fees, and range balls included
\$59 Sunday-Friday	Cart, greens fees, and range balls included

Must book 7 days in advance and bring this ad. Feel the Hyatt Touch® For more information, please call 410 901 6397 or visit chesapeakebay.hyatt.com.

HYATT
LUXURY HOTELS & RESORTS
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

Limited time offer. Rate good for one round per day. Valid for up to four players. Weekday and weekend rates valid through December 31, 2010. Based on availability. Promotional rates are subject to change anytime. HYATT logo, design, and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation. ©2010 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

Advertisement

DATS Dental Assistant Training Schools

Become an Entry Level Dental Assistant in Just 11 Weeks! **Tuition is Only \$2,800**

To Learn More About This Exciting and Fulfilling Career, Call: 877.777.8719

ANNAPOLIS LOCATION
180 Admiral Cochrane Dr, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
Classes Start April 27th

COLUMBIA CENTURY PLAZA
10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Suite 410
Columbia, MD 21044
Classes start April 26th

877.777.8719 • www.DATSMd.com

Some members take things beyond simple flying, specializing in sport kiting, which can involve choreographing flight routines and tricks, or kite fighting, where a flier tries to bring down a rival's kite.

"There's so many aspects of it," Jeff said. "It appeals to everyone."

Club members, who range in age from 14 to 75, gather once a month at the Washington Monument for group outings, but there are also opportunities to fly ultralight kites indoors, like at an annual event at the National Air and Space Museum or at a Crownsville church two or three times a year. Plus, members fly individually for practice or pure enjoyment.

"It never gets boring," said Jeff, who estimates he spends 10 to 12 hours a week on kite-related activities and has close to 100 kites. "There's always something happening."

Soutar has even more kites - about 180 the last time he checked - and has been flying them about 30 years. He's never lost his enthusiasm for the hobby or for the good feelings it generates.

"To put it bluntly, it's the most relaxing hobby I've ever had," he said. "If I could, I'd fly them seven days a week."

An elderly man Soutar once met who'd been flying kites for 92 of his 97 years told him that every time he put up a kite, all his problems went up in the sky along with it.

"And that's exactly how I feel," explained Soutar, who is retired from work as technical service manager for a chemical company. "It's the most nonthreatening, noninvasive hobby. It's a stress-reliever and it's a way of building camaraderie with like-minded people."

As he spoke, he glanced skyward toward the two ultralight kites he had soaring about 300 feet above Sunset Park in Pasadena, despite the lack of wind. The smallest of two weighs just 2 1/2 ounces. The larger one measures 10 1/2 feet tip-to-tip, yet weighs only 3 to 4 ounces.

Larger kites require more wind, though sometimes not a whole lot. C-Rab, for example, only needs an 8- to 10-mph breeze to get going. Soutar said there are kites specially designed for high winds. The smaller of his two ultralights, though, shouldn't fly in winds that top 12 mph, he said.

Line items

The Kings, who are both in their 40s, didn't bring C-Rab with them on their visit to Sunset Park last weekend, but did unfurl another giant kite. This one was a 250-square-foot, star-spangled airfoil with 100-foot-long tails.

It came in a duffel bag resembling the kind of large tote that hockey players use, and took a few minutes to unravel before letting the wind lift it up.

The red, white and blue kite added to an already colorful scene, since at various times that morning Joyce had a six-sided Rokkaku fighter kite airborne and Soutar's two ultralights were hovering.

At kite festivals, Jeff said, the scenery is even more spectacular. "The whole sky is filled with kites," he said. "It's just awesome."

Before they unfurled the airfoil, Jeff demonstrated some tricks on a quad-line kite, including several dramatic twists, turns and dives to the ground. Club member Richard Mervine of California, Md., is big into sport kiting, though he favors dual-line models.

Like Soutar, Mervine said he finds it relaxing, though putting together a routine, which he compared to ice skating or ballet, takes a great deal of concentration. Mervine, who is in his 60s, practices several hours a week. "It's made my mind sharp (and my) reflexes fast," he said.

Google Custom Search

LOGIN

Username:

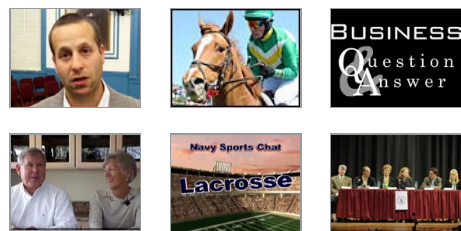
Password:

or [Create An Account](#)



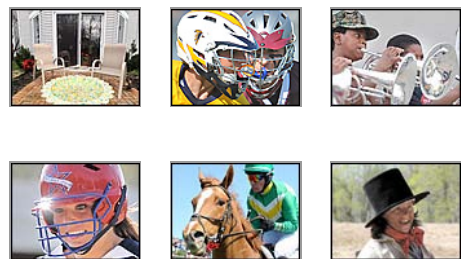
Update your FUN with our weekly Entertainment e-mail sign up now!

VIDEOS [more>>](#)



[BUY PHOTOS & VIDEO>>](#)

SLIDESHOWS [more>>](#)



MOST READ STORIES [more>>](#)

- #1 - Fire startles downtown Annapolis
- #2 - Rite of spring: St. John's crushes Navy at croquet
- #3 - Police Beat
- #4 - Actor Danny Glover, 11 others arrested in Gaithersburg
- #5 - Crownsville man guilty in drug-fueled assault
- #6 - Busy Bodies: Welcome to Beach Body 101
- #7 - DISA expo lures 5,500 job hunters
- #8 - Mids swamped by wave-off
- #9 - City's deficit jumps \$1.2 million
- #10 - Arundel Digest

MOST COMMENTED STORIES [more>>](#)

- #1 - Suit to be filed in Crofton teen's death

Jeff said there's no real downside to the hobby, although it can get quite expensive. C-Rab, for instance, carried a price tag of \$3,700 and the airfoil kite cost \$1,500.

Jeff also makes a few of his own kites, which can be cheaper than buying them outright, but his creations are far less elaborate than C-Rab or the airfoil. Club member Mike Mosman of Columbia, a national grand champion kite builder, takes things quite a bit further, using his engineering background to create innovative and elaborate designs, Jeff said.

Mosman, who started building kites in 2002, said he gets a great deal of satisfaction from flying them, as well as a sense of achievement. "Sometimes, guys make such beautiful pieces you don't want to fly them," Jeff added.

He got into the hobby seven years ago after taking a trip to Ocean City and seeing people fly kites. He thought he'd give it a try himself and was quickly hooked. His wife joined in soon after.

"We had separate interests before," Joyce said. "Now we have something we can do together."

The Kings have been married 27 years and have two children, 23 and 19.

"Now that they're older, on the weekends we go and play and they work," Joyce laughed.

For more information on Wings Over Washington, visit the Web site at www.wowkiteclub.com.

(17 comments)

[#2 - Teen gets 50 years in rape of child \(11 comments\)](#)

[#3 - Annapolis High principal named best in state \(9 comments\)](#)

[#4 - Father wages court battle against funeral protests \(9 comments\)](#)

[#5 - City's deficit jumps \\$1.2 million \(8 comments\)](#)



[AP VIDEO](#) [more>>](#)

YOUR COMMENTS

[REGISTER](#) . [POST](#)

[RULES OF PARTICIPATION](#)

If you encounter other problems, please email ewiffin@capitalgazette.com and include your name, username, and any errors or messages that are displayed. The more information you can provide, the better able we will be to assist you.

In order to post or vote on a comment, you must be signed in with a hometownannapolis account.

Take a look at a summary of [Commenting Guidelines](#).

LOGIN TO POST A COMMENT

If you encounter other problems, please email ewiffin@capitalgazette.com and include your name, username, and any errors or messages that are displayed. The more information you can provide, the better able we will be to assist you.

Username: Password:

[Forgot your username?](#) [Forgot your password?](#) [Create an account](#)

Search [HometownAnnapolis.com](http://www.hometownannapolis.com)

NEWS	COMMUNITIES	SPORTS	ENTERTAINMENT	LIFESTYLE	ONLINE	CONTACT US	MARKET PLACE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives Business Columnists Environment Government Local Naval Academy Obituaries Opinion Police Public Record 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Annapolis Broadneck Crofton Crownsville Edgewater Kent Island Millersville Odenton Pasadena Severna Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Naval Academy College Professional Outdoors Sailing/Boating Golf Tips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entertainment Calendar Child's Play Movie Showtimes Dining Review Tour Annapolis Live Music Contests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifestyle Automotive Food/Wine Home & Garden Ask a Vet Seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise Archive Blogs Calendar Comments Contact us Cookbook Slideshows Video AP Video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise Advertise Classified Advertise Online Advertise Print Contact Us Contact Capital Contact Online Capital history Carrier supplies Deal of the Day! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars Classifieds Coupons Find a newspaper Hotels/Lodging Homes Jobs Local Directory News Archives Photo reprints Restaurants
			VOICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blogs 	SPECIALS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 09-10 Guidebook Reader's Choice Waterfront Living 	SUBMIT INFO:		

- [Region](#)
- [Story index](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Get news alerts](#)
- [Send news tip](#)
- [Traffic cameras](#)
- [Severn](#)
- [South County](#)
- [West County](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Glen Burnie](#)
- [Bowie](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Share Your Ideas](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Capital Style](#)
- [Public Housing](#)
- [Anniversary](#)
- [Band info](#)
- [Birth](#)
- [Calendar event](#)
- [Engagement](#)
- [Letter](#)
- [Obituary](#)
- [Wedding](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Internships](#)
- [Legal ads](#)
- [Send news tip](#)
- [Stop delivery](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Share Your Ideas](#)
- [CONTACT:](#)
- [Bowie](#)
- [Crofton](#)
- [Maryland Gazette](#)
- [West County](#)
- [Subscribe](#)