

COWPAT HILL

*The Quarterly Kite
Journal of the...
White Horse Kite Flyers.*

*Published during the
Spring, Summer,
Autumn and Winter.*

COWPAT HILL has been written, edited, produced, published and
printed entirely by WHKF members.

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KREATIVE KITES

AUTUMN QUARTER 1991

October - December

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*The Kite Journal Of The
White Horse Kite Flyers*

Kite *n.* light papered frame flown in
wind.

Discounts on kite sales from:

*Dave Tomlinson of **KREATIVE KITES** (inside cover),
offering WHKF members 5% discount.*

*Richard Marsh of **TRADEWINDS KITES** (back cover)
will allow WHKF members 10% discount with 6% on
all credit card transactions.*

COWPAT HILL - The WHKF Journal

Kite Festivals Etc...

*10th November AGM of WHKF
2.30 pm. Barbury Castle*

*Working on the basis that you will need wind to fly kites...
All the above events must be subject to local weather/flying conditions.*

Kite And Material Stores To Fly Try

THE KITE STORE

48 Neal Street, LONDON WC2

KITE and BALLOON Co

613 Garratt Lane, LONDON SW 18

MALVERN KITES

The Warehouse, St. Annes Road, Gt. Malvern

KITEABILITY

2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP

DUNFORD KITES

Cochrans of Oxford Ltd, Leafield, OXON

Any or all of the above kite suppliers should be able to supply materials etc that you may require to build your kites, why not send for a catalogue and see.

Remember, send a stamped & addressed envelope.

SKY CHAT

Members as you can see the layout and standard of this issue is not of the usual high quality. This is due to Richard being unable to produce it on his computer and his DTP package this quarter.

I am afraid I Neil have had to get out my hammer and chisel and stone blocks to write this issue. Makes me realise the amount of hard work and artistic flair Richard puts into "The Cowpat".

The main festival season is just about run and we are all thinking about '92. Making or saving up for new kites to grace the skies next year, where to go or not to go, have I the time or can I afford to go. Still lets all hope for the best, good winds and tight lines.

1991 has been a very full year for W.H.K.F. with many events and meetings attended. Workshops have been carried out in schools, fetes, youth groups and at art centres. Talks have also been given to a wide range groups and people, I do'nt think any of the speakers had to run for their lives, most have been royally entertained.

The other thing that has increased during this year is public displays. We as a group have been asked and been paid for putting displays on around the area and farther afield. This I think will increase during '92, requests are already coming in with more in the pipeline. These are a great chance for the W.H.K.F. to wave the flag and promote kite flying as a pastime and show what we can do as a group. It is an opportunity for all of YOU to show your kites off other than at kite festivals. So please come forward and offer your services, a diary will be started very soon of dates and venues. please do not be frightened off, we will not throw you in at the deep-end, we will break you in gently.

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER THE 10th at Barbury Castle.

There is alot to do and every position up for election, so please make an effort to be there. Its undercover although we may have some early lambs for company, not as we want you to act like a flock of sheep. Hopefully we will be able to give you great news on that day, so come and hear it first hand.

This month we have two articles from and about America from two of our members. One from Doug Jones about the recent trip to Longbeach Kite Festival and the other from Jody Hagaman, Westport USA who joined us after our festival in May, about what kiting means to her. Very many thanks for the time and trouble to write these articles for us.

If you have any or ideas for articles please send them in, its your newsletter.

I think I've prattled on long enough, anyway my wrist is aching with all this chiselling. See you all on the 10th of November.

Your Chairman Calling

Dear Members

When Ron and I started up The White Horse Kite Flyers we hoped that the group would be successful, but after this last year things have moved much faster than we had expected. The main event for us was our first Kite Festival. It was great to see all the happy faces that weekend, it made all the hard work worthwhile. Also all the events that "W.H.K.F." have been invited to this year to put on displays, to do workshops and give lectures. We hope that this introduces more people to the joys (and frustrations) of Kite Flying. But this does not mean that we can rest on our laurels. For 1992 we have to strive for greater heights.

As you know our Annual General Meeting is on Sunday 10th of Nov at 2.30 at Barbury Castle Farm by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Simpson.

I do hope that as many of you as possible will attend this meeting. There is a lot to be discussed and voted on. It is your club and its your views that we required and to be acted upon. As I said at the beginning the last year things went very quickly, to quickly in some ways. Once the idea of a festival was entertained a committee had to be formed. This was more or less co-opted and your approval was asked for and given. But this year I want the committee to be elected by you, and a draft constitution drawn up. Just as all democratic bodies should be.

You are probably aware we are going to run The 2nd Kite Festival at Lydiard Country Park on 9th and 10th of May 1992. Thamesdown Arts and Rec. are keen for us to do so again, but alas they have no money to help. So this year we know now that we are on our own and not expecting any help from that direction. So I want you all to put on your thinking caps on and think of things that YOU would like to be at, or done at the Festival.

May I suggest some lines for you to think along:-

Arena lay out and marking
Demonstrations (types)
Competitions, types and awards
International and invited guest flyers and their costs
Workshop
Pre-festival displays
Trade and Fringe stands
Programmes
Sponsorship
Car Parking
Charities and their involvement
Evening entertainment, Bar-B-Que, Music
PLEASE IDEAS PLEASE and if you are prepared to be a committee member or do anything else for the Festival or during the year please dont be shy tell somebody.

On a personal note I do apologise to all those members who's names I forget or get wrong, the others say its my age. Perhaps I will grow out of it.

Here's to a good and lively AGM and an active '92

Neil Harvey
Acting Chairman.

Letter from America, by Jody Hagaman.

I first got into kiting over 10 years ago, since that time I have met many wonderful people from around the world and seen thousands of kites. The experience in kiting has done many things for me, it has made a shy person blossom and become more outgoing.

I now love to meet new people and especially love to travel. Going to England was a wonderful experience for me, I hope to go there again and other places to meet even more kite people. Kites are not just kites, they are a work of art flying in the sky for me. They express the inner feelings of the person who has made the creation. The person at the end of the kite line is usually a nice person who enjoys being outdoors.

I might add that I'm not an avid kite person. I call myself a closet kite flyer as I get a special feeling when I want to fly and that's when I fly. When I first arrived at the festival in Swindon I flew one of our H-5 parafoils. It is small, easy to fly and I felt happy to be in England.

Kite flying is many things to many people all around the world. It is a way to meet new people, socialize, make new friends, share ideas and travel.

The one thing that I do try and stay away from is the politics in kite flying. Yes there is politics in kite flying. If you belong to a club or the AKA there is politics. Now some clubs have a good attitude, they have fun. Westport Windriders is one of the clubs that knows how to have fun. (Guess I am prejudiced because I am a member of this club) They have a fun fly with a potluck every month. Plus they put on a wonderful festival every year that all the members help to host and volunteer their time. (David and Janet have said they would like to come to the 1992 Westport Festival) The reason this club has managed to do so well is because we do not have dues, president, etc., etc. We have a group of people who love to fly kites and have a good time. That is what kite flying is all about, FUN. I would like to add that much planning is done by Jeri from PIC-A-PATCH KITES to make the festival interesting and FUN. She is the lady with much energy and goodwill when it comes to kiting in this area. Plus we have a wonderful editor who puts much time into our newsletter. His name is Chuck Reese, he does this without any pay, just gratification that he is putting out an interesting newsletter. A lot of his articles are done by people like you and me. Money is raised at each of our potlucks to pay for our newsletter and the rental of a hall that we use every month. People donate door prizes to keep us excited, others donate items that are auctioned off. This I feel is the perfect way to have a kite club. NO DUES, JUST FUN....

I do not know if you all know what a potluck is, so I will explain. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting brings a delicious food item of their choice for everyone to enjoy. Believe me we do eat well as we have lots of good cooks, who make wonderful food for us all to enjoy. All of our meetings are fun for everyone, from young to old. Sometimes we have video's of fun kite times or we will show slides of past festivals. Doug will be doing one of our travels to England.

I have probably gone away over my limit of 500 words but when one is writing one does not count the words, just feelings. In closing I would like to say that we very much enjoyed our time in England and wish it could have been longer. We would like to thank The Great Britain Kite Society for inviting us, The White Horse Kite Flyers and of course Martin Lester for great hospitality. Without all of you we would never have been able to experience England at its best. We thank all of you who we met and talked to and hope to see you all again.

It was wonderful to have Dave and Janet Robinson, Doug Jones and Martin Croxton visit in August to attend the Long Beach Kite Festival. We hope you will all be able to attend one of the many festivals here in the U.S.A.

Fly Safe, Be Happy and Enjoy..... Jody Hagaman.

The American Experience by Doug Jones.

W.H.K.F. visit to W.S.I.K.F.

About a year ago it was thought that it would be a good idea to go to Longbeach for the Kite Festival. After a lot of muttering about affording it, four of us were positive about going.

So on the 17th of August 1991 Janet and Dave Robinson, Martin Croxton and Myself, Doug Jones arrived three and a half hours early for flight BA 84 to Seattle to be told the Germans had already put their towels on the window seats. The flight was uneventful, landing at Vancouver some 10 hours later where all the Germans got out and so we had window seats to watch the refuelling and for the 20 minute flight on to Seattle. During this time I could not help but reflect, I suppose when we come back to Canada all the best places would have been reserved by the Germans.

Arriving at Seattle we had to decide who was going to rob us first; the luggage porter or the the car hire company, as it turned out it was a draw.

We then set out for a Mc.Donalds to decide on our plan of action, having phoned Doug and Jody Hagaman and decided to go for Westport. On arrival we discovered that there was no motel available and so Dave, Janet and Martin found themselves sleeping in an R.V.(mobile home) I was on Doug and Jody's sofa.

The next day we were recovering from the day before with a look around Westport and anap in the afternoon in the motel. Later in the afternoon we went to see Doug Hagaman completing Daves parafoil.

Watching Doug making kites make one realise that everyone else I know who makes kites suffer from impatience. Doug will stitch 10 inches then inspect his work, I am sure he counts every stitch.

In the evening it was partytime at Doug and Jody's along with several of the Westport Kite fraternity. On the Monday it was finally off to Longbeach via the Pacific County Court and an Indian Reservation. To be honest an Indian Reservation looks no different except that there are a few Red Indian children and you see a shop proclaiming, " Chief Charlies Fireworks and Video Shop". The landscape was reminiscent of Scotland with a lot more trees. The Pacific County Court was an impressive building having been built because a bunch of ner do goods hijacked the old court in the wild and woolly west days.

On arrival at Longbeach we booked into The Souwester the 5 star establishment of the Pacific Northwest Coast, the colour of the stars need not be discussed. Suffice to say that when you told someone you got a knowing smile. Martin declared that the place was suffering from dry rot, he is a builder and should know. The next day it was serious kite flying at least for Martin and myself. for Janet and Dave it was serious pin trading. For the rest of the days of the festival it was the same pattern generally speaking though it was rumoured that Dave did fly a facet on occassions.

On the Wednesday we all went on a trip along the banks of the Columbia River. to show how big the river is, at Astoria the bridge is over 5 miles long, when we crossed there was a ship tied up at Astoria it looked deminutive, later I found out it was the fifth largest ship in the World. We travelled as far as the Bonnerville Dam a distance as far as the length of the River Severn except the river is still over a mile wide. The scenery was fantastic, things we saw included:-Eagles, Mt. Hood Mt. St. Helens, Foxes, the Columbia Gorge, Portland and Waterfalls.

Next day was kite flying again and it is worth mentioning some of the characters at the festival. There were two men , one dressed up as Benjamin Franklin the other as Samuel Cody, I could not help wondering why no one was dressed as Alexander Graham Bell at least it would have given a lady a chance to dress up as his wife.

The kites varied a lot, single line kites were well separated from the stunters, then of course there was Superman who was separated even further away. Superman is a Thai star who will turn up at various kiting events through-out the World free gratis and for nothing. His kite is a Cobra measuring 1 kilometre. (ideas not be mentioned at next kite festival organising meeting).

Mr. Marouka a Japanese kite flyer of some considerable note the World over who borrowed my kite to take some aerial photographs. He said or I think he said it was because it was the the steadiest suitable kite at the festival for the job, well thats what made it for.

There was a Royal Thai Kite Team there in thier official uniforms. It seems that the King of Thailand has an official team of kite flyers. Australians were represented by a man from Tasmania with a Sutton Flowform (sorry I have forgotten his name) The Canadians were very well represented, they were flying numerous kites, one represented all the provinces plus the 2 territories, another flew some giant variants of Sutton Flowforms. The British were there to a chap from Yeovil, not sure what he was flying. I almost forgot there were 4 from W.H.K.F. flying various legs kites, parafoils and rokakus.

The rokaku fight need not be mentioned because we were disqualified, the politest thoughts at the time was "it was a fix". Come to think of it the thought still lingers. At the end of the festival Doug Hagaman flew a black parafoil while a speech was given in memory of Donima Jalbert who had recently died.

The kite festival being over we made our way back to Westport where after going on a crabbing expedition with Larry and Ian, we said fairwells to Doug and Jody Hagaman.

We then made our way up through the Olympic National Forest, 200 miles of wall to wall trees, mountains and lakes to Port Angeles for the ferry to Vancouver Island. There is a kite shop in Victoria quite a small one, but very high quality stock. We spent the morning in Victoria before setting out for Duncan which is said to be a Native Heritage Centre, could be said to be a good sales ploy. I found it very interesting though the others were not so satisfied.

After Vancouver Island it was back to Seattle via the outskirts of Vancouver. Seattle is a place I would like to get to know better, 2 excellent kite shops, Thousands of kites in each shop. We went up the space needle, travelled on a monorail, had an extremely interesting trip around in a taxi for \$ 10. The taxi driver was one of the nicest people you could have ever wished to meet. After Seattle it was back to England with very good seats on the aircraft thanks to a friend of mine but thats another story.

I am afraid the chronical is a bit skimpy but if I mentioned everything it would need about 100 pages. the things I will not forget are the friendliness of the people over there especially Doug and Jody, Larry and Ian and also Al and Creda Axon.

Doug Jones.

Sounds like you all had a Great time over there, Thanks again Doug.

CROWDS FLOCK TO INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL



The skies above Weymouth Bay dotted with kites of all shapes and sizes during the International Kite Festival. (EBL)



Just a couple of pictures of The Weymouth Festival including "That Modest Group"

The White Horse Kite Flyers.

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Kite Flying Safety Tips

- **The NEVER'S Of Kite Flying**
- Fly a kite in wet or stormy weather, try to keep your kite line dry.
- Fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.
- Fly a kite with wire or anything metallic in the line.
- Fly a strong-pulling kite without wearing GLOVES.
- Leave odd bits of flying line etc on the flying site.
- Fly a kite at over 200 feet*.
- *Kite Festivals may have C.A.A. clearance to fly higher... ASK!
- **The Things To AVOID**
- Motorways, roads, car parks, railway lines or buildings.
- Airfields and low flying air traffic patterns.
- Members of the public... stunt flyers, please take care!
- Those kite-eating trees.
- Animals, they can be frightened by kites
- *Remember...your kite can get really quite lonely up high in the sky, just occasionally, look up and give them a little SMILE...*
- ...AND PLEASE, MIND THOSE POWER LINES!

Where the WHKF go fly their kites

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS fly at Barbury Castle Country Park, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts on the SECOND Sunday of each and every month!

Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts for the Wilts area are:

*Ron Gunter on: 0793 770784, Neil Harvey on: 0285 740295
and Dave Robinson on: 0793 824208*

The COWPAT HILL Journal

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