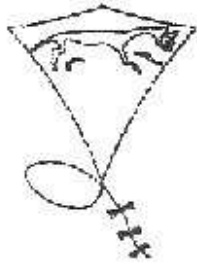


# Cowpat Hill

*White Horse  
Kite Flyers  
Summer Issue*



*1997*

*July - September*

## Daisy Appeal

Neil, Sue and family wish to say a very big heartfelt thank you to everyone for their kindness following Amie's accident. It is going to be a very long, uphill struggle for Amie especially being so far away from home. We are very lucky that she has a very positive attitude and is a good fighter.

Because of the nature of Amie's injuries we, as a family, have decided to start an appeal fund so as to buy equipment as and when needed. This is to be called "The Daisy Appeal." Monies had already started to come in from friends and well wishers and events and collections begun. So, we thought it only right to formally start an appeal fund. The reason for it being "Daisy" is that the family nickname for Amie is Amie-Daisy.

Thank you again and God bless.

Neil, Sue and family

**White Horse Kite Flyers  
PO Box 585  
SWINDON  
SN3 4YR**

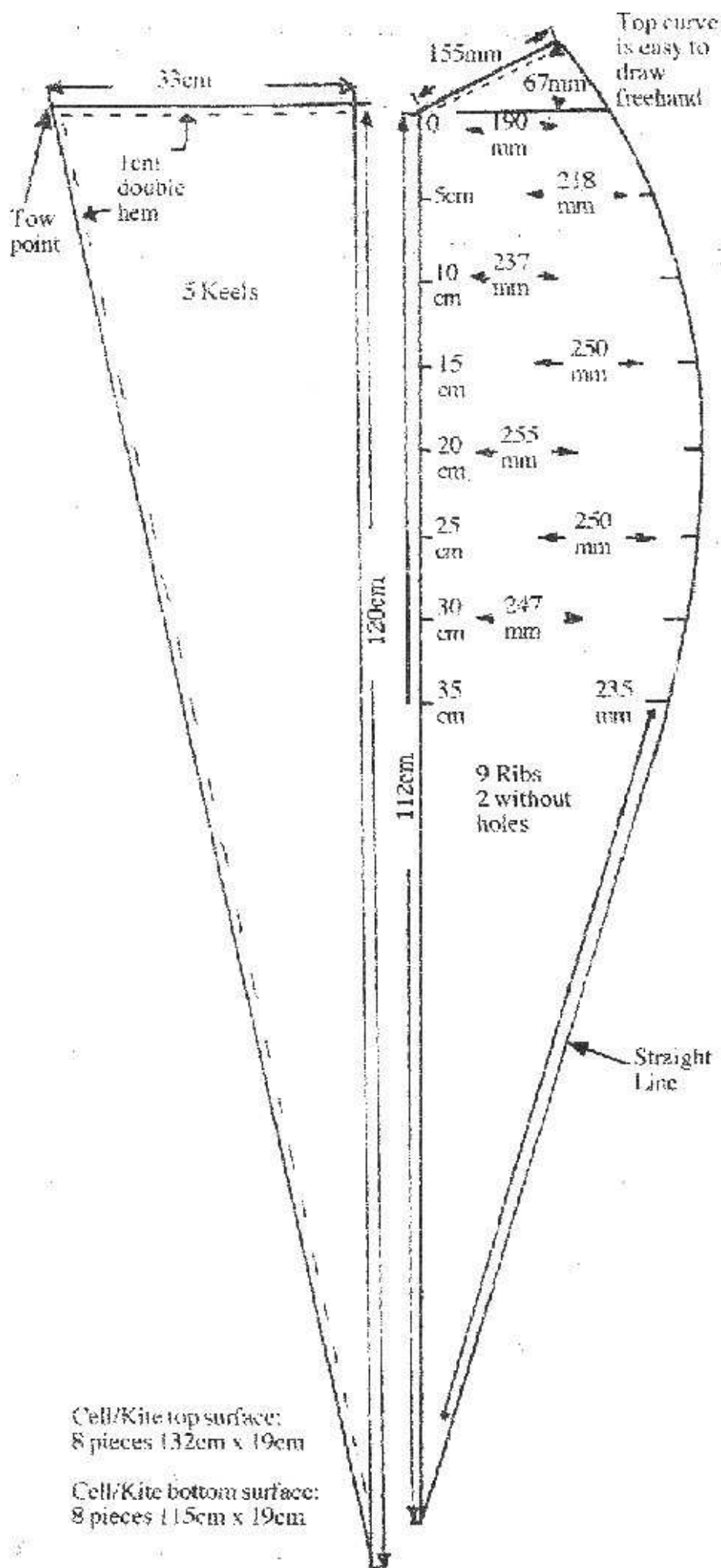
# Half a Mockform is, as they say, better than none.....

At Don's workshop earlier this year, the participants were, to put it mildly, Gobsmacked at the size of the finished Kite. Also the amount of Ripstop that the beast consumed was amazing. For most members, a kite of this size is quite simply a no. no. Not to worry for here is Don's Kite at a more manageable half scale.

It's not hard to make if you have made a Parafoil before, and even if you haven't, it's worth a go. First off, the templates can be made from card, small bits taped together will do and as you can see the Keels are a bit larger than the ribs. They become equal when you put a double 1cm hem on the front and bottom edge of each keel and the front edge of each rib. The two ribs sans holes are, of course, for the outside of the kite. Eight pieces of ripstop, each 115cm by 19cm are needed for the bottom of the kite and eight pieces, 132cm by 19cm are needed for the top of the kite.

Bridies on this kite are very easy. Don says it flies best flat to the wind. If you start with the centre line, C, at 5 metres, the two lines, R, are 1.5cm longer and the outside two are increased by a further 1.5cm. It's that simple.

As given, the top and bottom pieces of ripstop are overlong. This is to enable you to form a nice 2cm hem at the trailing edge. The top and bottom surfaces are sewn together leaving the two

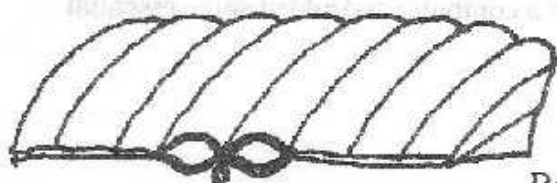
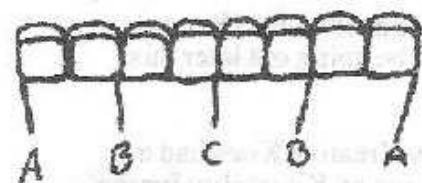


Cell/Kite top surface:  
8 pieces 132cm x 19cm

Cell/Kite bottom surface:  
8 pieces 115cm x 19cm

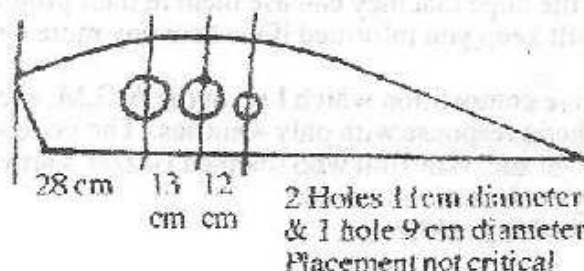
centre cells open for venting. Don also suggests that you can leave each cell partially unsewn to form 8 little vents. It's your choice.

Front View



Rear of Kite

Drawings  
not to Scale



Although the full size kite flies quite happily without a drogue, an optional loop can be sewn between the two vents for drogue attachment as and when.

Recently, during a fitful wind at Teston Bridge I est the smaller "Mock" was flying better than OAKIE I's full sized version, which kept flying on it's back.

 BOF WHKF 97

## Bears, Bears and more Bears

Yes, it is now official. Vic. Walker, with the assistance of W.H.K.F., holds the world record for the BMISS category A Teddy drop from a kite.

The record was to have been set at the Swindon Kite Festival. For those of you who missed it the weather was not good to us. (Please note the restraint I use for the sake of those with tender ears). Record Breakers' team, with camera crew and Cheryl Baker, turned up and braved the elements for long hours to watch the bears being loaded on to the drop rig only to be thwarted by the weather when we tried to get a kite airborne. First the Club's Albatross was tried and this had lots of bridles ripped out. Then it was the turn of my Strat. 7 which took off beautifully under the guidance of Martin Croxton. As it reached maximum altitude, several keels ripped out. I haven't had the nerve to investigate fully yet. At this point the attempt was abandoned.

B.B.C. are evidently a very trusting group as they left us with the camera in case the wind dropped on the Sunday and we could then record success. As most people are aware, instead of improving the weather deteriorated. We were therefore unable to establish a new record at this time.

The following weekend a call went out and I was asked if I would like to be involved in another attempt, weather permitting. So on the Sunday a number of us gathered at Barbury and whilst Vic. and his team loaded bears on to the drop rig, the remainder of us set up lines and launched my Strat. 9. This took to the air reluctantly but eventually decided to remain airborne. We all took a short break and the wind picked up a little. We checked the line for lift and it seemed all right. The shout went up and Vic. loaded his gear onto the line. The bears started to rise and twice the wind dropped giving us nervous breakdowns. But, at last, they were at a suitable height and Vic. pulled the release. The sky seemed to go dark as a cloud of bears started to fall, then there was an audible sigh of relief as the chutes opened in a myriad of bright colours. A truly memorable spectacle. There were 101 bears lifted and only 2 failed to deploy their chutes. Hence, witnessed by the Committee and numerous spectators, the record now stands at 99. Greg Lock held the record at 39 for 10 years, how long

before we break the 100 barrier?

Congratulations must go to Vic, who has dreamed of this record for many years and has dedicated his life and finances to the project for the last 8 months. We hope his wife will be glad to have him back.

The record was videoed by several Club members and these recordings have been sent to Record Breakers in the hope that they can use them in their programmes which will be going out later this year. We will keep you informed if we hear any more details.

The certificate competition which I set at the A.G.M. and was sponsored by Kreative Kites had a totally apathetic response with only 4 entries. The prize was eventually shared by Kiteability for the original design and Matt Hall who scanned Bazzar's artwork into a computer and added some essential detail. They each received one of the record breaking teddies.

Arthur

## A Progress Report on the Club Projects

The Giant Legs are complete and fly very well even if this was not apparent at Weymouth. Much hard work was put in by Neil and Dave and, with a little assistance from me, everything came together well. We must thank Martin Lester for his permission to use his design and all his advice on construction. Phil Scarfe must also be thanked for his work on scaling up the plans. A good combines team effort.

Enough completed disks of the centipede have now been returned to complete a fourth 30 disk section. This means that we can now fly a single 120 disk kite or two 60 disk ones. However, we only have one head. Does anyone feel like volunteering? If you still have any disks, completed or otherwise, we would be very pleased to receive them as they are always useful as spares when we get a hard landing.

The Yakko stack has not been as successful as I am having trouble finding a day with a good clean wind when I can sort out the bridling. After 15 sections the kite tends to go unstable. As over 40 sections have now been returned, I am looking forward to getting the problem solved. It is evidently possible as Martin Lester says he has seen stacks of 200 flown. With only 15 on the line I found it difficult to hold, so what will it be like with all 40? Watch out for low-flying kites!

Arthur

## Basingstoke Festival

At least this year it was dry. In fact the weather was glorious. Unfortunately, the wind was on the high side making it difficult to fly anything over about one square metre.

Displays by Sky Dance, Aircraft and the Decorators were very good even under these conditions. Steve Brockett worked very hard to put on a display but seemed to spend most of the time retrieving kites from the local housing estate. Let us hope his beautiful kites were not seriously damaged.

Although I did not go to the Saturday evening entertainment I understand from people who did go that it was a good evening with a very successful auction.

I had a great weekend bear bombing with Jerry and Carolyn and look forward to next year's event so many thanks to Loddon Valley for the hard work they put in to make the event so good.

Arthur

# Kennet Valley Kite Festival

Dear Dave

Just a few lines to inform you of the "Kennet Valley Kite Festival". This is the name suggested for the kite festival which will be taking place on the 26th and 27th of July this year at Henwick Worthy sports field in Thatcham, Berks.

This is a joint venture between ourselves at Kreative Kites and the Newbury District Council, which is also being sponsored by the local free paper, the Newbury and Thatcham chronicle.

The festival is intended to be a weekend for the family with the emphasis being on having fun and for the non kite flier to get acquainted with what we take for granted!

Arthur has confirmed that he will be parachuting fauna and carrying out sweet drops, there will be the Club workshop, several varied kite traders and a good selection of food vendors.

There is camping available on site with excellent facilities as you would expect from a new sports complex and a good flat site from which to fly.

I hope you can find room in the next issue of "Cowpat" to include some of the above information and, should anyone require further info., they can contact me at the shop on 01635 528 400.

P.S. I have just received a flyer from the printers for the Festival which I have enclosed, perhaps you could use this in "Cowpat"?

Regards

Dave  
Tomlinson

Parachuting Teddy Bears  
- bring your own bear!  
Rokkaku Fighting Kites  
Kite Stalls & Refreshments  
Kite Workshops & Flying Displays  
Sweet Drops... and much more  
**admission free!**

The First Kennet Valley

**Kite** FESTIVAL

Henwick Worthy Sports Ground Thatcham Berkshire  
**26 - 27 July 1997 10.00 - 5.30**

# Kite Festival Ethics

An open reply to Peter Lynn

Dear Peter,

I am sure you do it deliberately. You know that you are going to stir up a hornets nest!

Few of us who regularly fly on the UK Festival scene would disagree that you have "got something right". Without wishing to grovel to far and over inflate your ego (!), you have got quite a lot right. Indeed, I would go so far as to suggest that some criticism is motivated by envy - most of us would love to own a 'Peter Lynn' or at the very least to be able to afford the fabric that goes into one.

For me at least, my disagreement with you is based on the very thing which you say yourself, that festivals are for spectators. In order to be a spectacle, diversity is essential. Three big Peter Lynn's is not enough, but if there are too many "crashes and wild kite behaviour", that is all that will be left - I for one am unlikely to fly again at Bristol for that reason. Other international flyers are there and should be able to fly without fear that their creations are going to be trashed.

Any of us who fly must take safety seriously. It is only going to take one fairly serious accident and the regulators will be all over us like a rash. I know you take safety seriously, but sometimes Peter it goes wrong. Concrete blocks dragged at Portsmouth, lines sweeping down under full tension at Bristol, sand in a tail which then swishes around like a loose fire hose (it hurt!). If I am in a flying arena I must be on the lookout, but outside that arena in a public area I have a right to assume that the organisers and the flyers are concerned for my safety.

No-one has a right to the sky. However, in some cases (not all), staking out is done for a purpose, maybe a bit of 'bear bunging', always a popular spectacle. As for those who 'muscle in', it can be dangerous and it does show a certain lack of manners. I agree others should not hog the sky but who is the judge of what best use is. From recent experience in China, the kite the furthest away would be the greatest spectacle for the Chinese, although I will confess to being baffled as to why - its a hell-of-a-lot of string to get back in!

I may not agree with your premise, but I do agree with some of your conclusions. Hours of team and trick flying can be very boring and I watched many people at both Bristol and more recently Basingstoke who were clearly very bored. Sorry guys, but unless it is a precision routine to music, like the Dccs, Skydance or Aircraft, it is exciting for you and for the people you are competing with but not really for anyone else who is not an expert.

As to your comments on authority Peter, you are right. Organisers have bought the right to call the shots. We can give feedback, we can vote with our feet, but at the end of the day it is their show, so if they want four hours of four line precision - OK but we may not be around to watch! I think there will be very few occasions when as flyers we can contradict the organiser, since to use your measure, optimising spectator/sponsor interest is going to be rather subjective (unless they all leave!).

I fully accept your comment about the needs of showmanship. I also like to try and put on a good show. It should be all of us however, not just a few and the risk of being insensitive to other flyers is that it will be just that, a few. You are right when you say that a small number of people will be more co-operative. The larger the number the more important it is for us to go the extra mile and try and co-operate to ensure that it is the best spectacle possible.

I would share with you in calling for more care in field layout - and indeed more flexibility to take into account particular wind conditions. If your large kites are downwind of everything else, no-one should have a problem. Put the two/four liners upwind of everything and they should be happy. Again to quote Bristol as an example we both know, the actual layout was the complete opposite so complaints all round.

I would ask you remember that the family who come along for a pleasant get-away-for-the-weekend are just as entitled to be part of the spectacle as you or I. They may contribute in different ways but contribute they do. Provided always that they don't try and hog the sky and they fly safely, who are we to criticise if they nail a rok up for the day. After all, I KNOW that we have all done it.....

To close, I suspect that we are both aiming for the same thing, a happy, safe spectacle. I also believe that our methods of achieving it may be a bit different - I think we need to share a beer some time!

Jerry Swift

## China '97

Many, many years ago, as a young sprog Midshipman in the Royal Navy, I served on a beautiful if small converted minesweeper called HMS Wolverton. She was stationed in Hong Kong and we spent our time roaming the high seas (well mooching around HK) looking for illegal immigrants. Most days I could look across one bay or another and see the People's Republic of China. I was forbidden from going there, a prohibition which lasted after I left the service. I always dreamed of going to mainland China - never did I imagine that it would be as a kite flyer and NEVER on such a grand scale.

Stafford Wallace called Carolyn and I shortly after Christmas. He had been invited to Weifang and did we want to go? We knew immediately that we did, the problem was a) paying for it and b) time off for Carolyn - with my line of work, I can at least call the shots. The government of Shandong Province were being very generous once we arrived in China, but we still had to find flights and accommodation at the start and end of the trip.

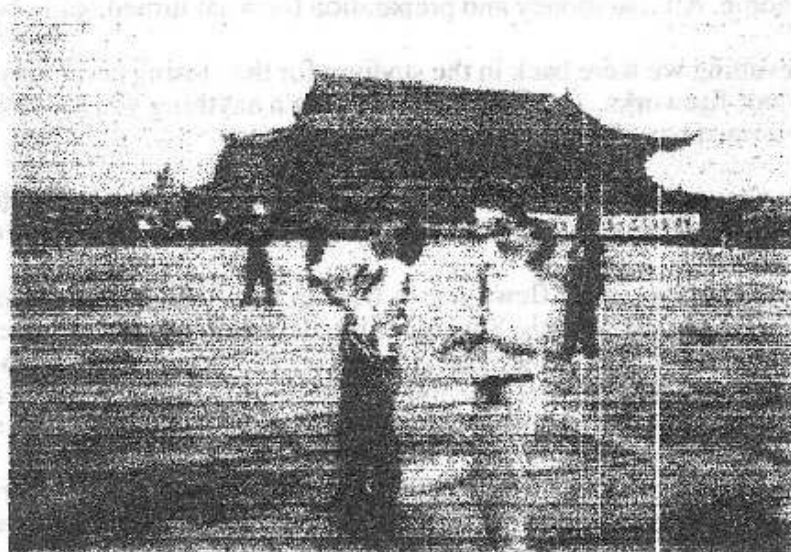
Stafford had put together a brilliant itinerary. Beijing, Nanjing, Weifang, Qingdao and back to Beijing with an additional three days to see the Great Wall and the Summer Palace. Carolyn and I had to cry off on the last bit because of a lack of time - we will go back and see them.

Much discussion followed over the ensuing months with me arranging visas and Stafford constantly faxing China to try to get the trip sorted out. Finally it all came together and we arranged to meet at Heathrow Terminal 4 for the flight to Beijing.

The party included Carolyn and I, Mick and Norma House from Brighton, Reg and Margaret Brobson and Denise Miller from Skegness and John and Joan Larson from Sheffield. The Larsons and the Brobsons are all with MKF. Stafford led the group and we were joined in China by Carmel Carlotta from New York. There were other Americans and Canadians over for the festivals but they were travelling with different groups.

A day in Beijing seeing the Forbidden City, and we returned to our hotel where we met a couple from the China Aerospace Corporation who have their own kite club. They wanted to see everything we had bought with us so an impromptu kite exhibition was arranged outside the lifts. We got some very strange looks. It was also my birthday; the hotel had noticed from the registration card and I got a present - a wonderful tea set.

The following morning saw us off to the airport, a largely wasted day (you got used to that - for such an organised country things do seem to go wrong sometimes) and eventually a flight down to Nanjing, about two and half hours away. We were met at the airport and driven another two hours - to a festival we knew nothing about!



Wujin City is a large rural town and judging by the reaction, westerners are not a common sight. We were driven in buses to a very small field, surrounded by earth banks which was apparently an ancient historic site. Lunch time and we were driven off to a 20 (ish - I wasn't counting) course banquet organised by the local government.

Speeches, presentations of gifts, business men trying to get us to invest, the meal and karaoke, this was to become the usual pattern of events with us dragged around from festival to festival showed off to the television cameras and interviewed, photographed and generally gawked at. Carolyn and I felt it was a small price to pay but others were none to happy. I suspect that throughout the 18 days we only flew on about four or five, and ten for seldom more than a few hours.

Just to touch on the food. Carolyn and I loved it, but it is not for the fainthearted nor is it for vegetarians. The Chinese regard us as honoured guests and as such they pride themselves in putting meat and fish in everything and only serve rice as a last resort at the end of a meal as this is regarded as a poor mans dish.

Accommodation throughout China was generally pretty good, indeed in some places it was excellent. There were one or two slightly "strange" hotels where we felt rather more observed than usual and where although the hotel was to western standards, evidence of western occupation was rather lacking.

After Wujin we were bussed back to Tianjin, a suburb of Nanjing for the second festival (the first one we had expected). The opening ceremony and the festival itself were held in the town stadium and we were fairly impressed with that one, but bigger was to come - MUCH bigger.

A bit of sightseeing around Nanjing and then on a train for the overnight journey to Weifang. The train journey was quite an experience and did cause a certain amount of friction between the westerners present. But we got over it.

We stayed in the centre of Weifang. Several trips including a school and the kite factory at Jianjaibu were included in our itinerary but there really was not enough time, the more so because I had been doing some research back home and there were a few places I wanted to visit.

A few evenings later we were taken to the opening ceremony in the city stadium. The estimate is of around 150,000 people in the stadium either watching or taking part.

Imagine the opening ceremony for the Olympics and you are one of the athletes walking behind your national flag. Well that was what Weifang is like - it is an un-real experience.

The following day saw the festival itself, about a quarter of a million people spread around a huge dust bowl which was the flying site and some truly wonderful kites. We tried some bear bunging and flew all morning - we missed the kite festival! We were so busy trying to fly, talking to the crowds, trying to entertain, that we both failed to look around all the other kites. Lunchtime came and everyone else went home. All that money and preparation for what turned out to be a half day festival!

That evening we were back in the stadium for the closing ceremony, presentations followed by an hour and a half fireworks. Fairly lethal and as big a anything you will ever see in the west, and much more of it. It must have been literally tons of explosive.

We then travelled by bus to the coast at a place called Qingdao. This is a new festival held on the beach rather outside town. It was a good way to wind down after the excitement of Weifang.

A few days later and we flew back to Beijing and what for me was possibly the kite flying highlight of the trip, flying in Tianamin Square with fellow enthusiasts from the city. Wel 'Ard was well dropped. Undoubtedly there were more spectacular moments, undoubtedly there were finer and more spectacular kites elsewhere in China, but being there that afternoon and just flying with ordinary kite flyers seemed to us to be more about what this obsession of ours is all about.

The rest of the group went on to do some sightseeing whilst Stafford, Carolyn and I flew home. We made friends from all over the world, we had a truly magical experience and we will go back one day.

Jerry Swift



# Sky Chat

First of all, I would like to thank you all for making my birthday a day to remember. Thank you for all the cards and presents, especially the Kite. My heart did stand up to having to cope with a chicken and its contents and with all the lies associated with it. Brilliant! I do hope that all who managed to come to the party enjoyed themselves. Also a big thanks to Sue and the family.

Again thanks to all those who helped at the Stowe Gardens Festival. It is likely to become a regular festival in a wonderful setting.

Well, after a very wet and windy festival at Wroughton and a far from ideal Weymouth, it was great to have some lovely weather from the other side of the pond. First off had a weekend at Westport, winds could have been a little better (do not believe Dave R. who says "the winds always blows nice and steady all day." Still, I met some old friends and many new ones, some that were names from Kiting books and Magazines and now I can put faces to the names.

I then had a week in Canada with relations which was most enjoyable. I also managed to see Aime and Olive Barsalow, the kite flyers who were at Weymouth 2 years ago with their polar bears and Mary Poppins kites among their collection.

Back to the States to meet the rest of the reprobates on their arrival and straight off to The Ocean Shores Kite Festival. This time the winds were kinder to start with but gradually building up on the Sunday. But the Starving Horse International Touring Squad was up to the task. The Legs flew brilliantly and were a real show stopper. the Albatross and all the other parafoils and flowforms with windsocks filled our arena and, with Bazzer's Edos, Sleds etc., we made a splash of colour in the sky. Bazzer went on to enter some of his kites into the competitions and did Very Well. We did not have a chance to fly the group's Starving Horse International Touring Squad's Rok due to the strong winds Sunday afternoon as the flight was cancelled. Again we met more old Kiting friends and many more new ones.

After the weekend's highs, we all left in a camper for sightseeing trip of the area. I will not bore you with the details but just to say we had a lovely time and thanks to the rest of the Squad especially Dave for his driving. Health Warning - If you don't like your leg being pulled - don't go on one of these trips. Back for a Father's day Festival at Seattle on the Sunday. Not a very good site but plenty of people and very little wind but, as so often happens at home, the workshop sled kites were flying everywhere while everybody else was struggling to get something in the air. Sol's Law applies out there as well. Just as the festival was winding down the wind got up and so did our legs to dominate the sky. Back to earth on Monday to pack all the kites and windsocks ready for the home trip, but that's another story. The last few days just time for a bit of shopping and sightseeing before the trip home and back to WORK.

I must thank all of our American friends and hosts for all their hospitality - especially Ron and Marla Miller.

On a more serious note, I have to warn you, the Club, that, for the foreseeable future, I will not be able to give as much time to the Club as I have in the past due to family commitments. I hope you will understand. See elsewhere.

Neil

# E-mail from Ray Bethell

Hi Peter:

It was great to see all the gang at Ocean Shores this last week end, I went looking for them Sunday afternoon but they were packed up and gone, I can't understand why! they winds were only blowing 23.5 mph, and at your festival they were blowing 35-40mph:-)

I had a great 3 weeks in California here is what happened.

I did well in North CA, they really looked after me well good hotel, good festivals, done some good demonstrations, thousands of spectators, had my own field, plus special demos in the main arena, on the last day I was presented with the North CA club Jacket and a life time membership, great jacket red white and black with a there logo in full color on the back, I was there a week then moved on to LA for a few days with my sponsor then off to Long Beach for 4 days super hotel and food I'd not want for any thing. could not spend money even if I wanted to, in two weeks I spent 4\$ [ 2 pounds ], that was on a milk shake on the field one day and my sponsor gave me heck, and offered to pay even for that. I am so lucky to have two sponsors like this one in CA the other World Cup owner in Washington,

I did not know what they had planed for me to do until the first day of the competitions, they had every thing arranged, Video, media, etc. this had never been done or even thought of before, 3 stacks of 4 kites, 12 in all to be flown simultaneously, they pulled like 12 T 2s but I did it passes, right and left turns, dives, one stack up two down, refuel all 3 stacks, then a break away. then a perfect 1-2-3 landing right in line with each other as in a refuel mode. the kite manufacture was over the moon also the sponsor as they had every thing made two weeks before, tee shirts, pins, etc. they went on sale right away and were sold out after a while, you got to hand it to the yanks they are good business people, they can smell a dollar bill at 500 yards, well that was one down and one to go that is if I was able to do it, the next day Sunday I would attempt another record that was to fly all 3 stacks for as long as I could, the winds were again 10 mph so up they went and I flew them as a 3 man team, refueling dozens of times passes, dives, etc. until the wind picked up to 12 plus mph so I had to land the clock was stopped at 1 hr 43 minutes, of non-stop flying, quite a few flyers came over to try flying one stack with one hand and the longest was no more than a few minutes, after that I was called in to the main arena and was presented with my own pin, with a 3 stack logo in color, also tee shirt with logo, and fax papers, writing paper, envelopes, luggage labels all with my name and logo on, all I can say is !GOOD STUFF!. They also made a special pin that can not be bought and well be a collectors pin as only a few were made, they are for me to give to very special people, in my life.

The kite manufacture Tight Lines kite CO and Sky Shark Airframes and sponsor back this record attempt to the hilt, I was given all the kites to keep and 3 individul kite bags with my name on plus a new kite bag to hold and carry them in, they are putting there heads together for next years event, I am wondering what my Washington sponsor has up his sleeve for Long Beach WA in Aug.

Kind regards to every one, Ray

"When You Listen to the Wind, Remember Me"

## Water, Water Everywhere

Well, once again, our Festival has kept its reputation for interesting weather. We have, in the past, had one problem or another so this year for a variation it threw most things at us. Between Friday morning, when we started to set up, and Sunday evening, as we cleared up, (perhaps this should be mopped up) we had:- rain, hail, snow, howling gale and during Friday night some quite acceptable conditions.

As those of you who actually read this publication will know we were scheduled to attempt two world records this year, the first the BMISS category A drop and the second the scouts trying for the largest Rokkaku battle. I have given details of the first in another article possible published in this edition. As for the second, the turn out of scouts and guides was not as large as expected and trying to build, decorate and fly paper roks. in torrential rain with wind gusting to about forty m.p.h. was not feasible for first time flyers. However, I am given to understand that another attempt may be planned for our

One Sky One World meeting.

A good raffle was held on the Saturday evening with some excellent prizes. A large number were given by our American friends including the star prize of a beautiful quilt from Sue Clarke which was won by Pat Dell. We would like to give our thanks to all who gave prizes all who bought tickets. Saturday evening also included a talk by Hugh Stretch Tucker on Jalbert and his parafoils. I wish others had been as interested in this as I was then perhaps we could have heard better. The hog roast went down well and we hope that they will consider returning next year because the weather must be an improvement.

For me, one of the highlights was to see Ray Bethel flying three kites at once without a single complaint that he was getting soaked to the skin and blown all over the field. It gives me hope to see someone of his age, one of the world's best, still enjoying our hobby even in such adverse conditions.

On the lighter side, the carrot made by Doug Jones for Sonny was brilliant and the first vegetable I have ever parachuted. He was seen to walk to the plane at Heathrow with it still held firmly in his arms.

Not much else happened over the weekend apart from the stalwarts with kites and some idiots with buggies who seemed to enjoy the large triangular concrete and circuit. Please don't despair, next year can be no worse so please get it in your diaries for the same time next year. Many thanks to all who came to help or participate, without you there is no festival.

## Yes, someone does read this garbage

And that's even when we write half of it. It was good to see an article from a new member in our spring '97 issue. I am sorry I can't place you yet Mike R. It is probably due to my age but I hope we will meet if we have not already done so.

Let me see if I can help with some of your questions. You have joined W.H.K.F. so never mind the colours, sod the tricks it can do; is it BIG? If so, O.K. by us. (Note BIG starts at 150 sq. ft.)

What do you think we are b\*\*ding professors or sumink? If you want all this technical stuff buy "Kites" by Moulton and Lloyd. (Dave will sell you a copy) and the details given in there are better than we can give you. Most of us seem to work on the principle:- If it looks right it will probably fly.

As to your last question, this is the easy one which will only take a life time to answer. Kite flying in whichever from you chose is A WAY OF LIFE and an addiction for which there is no known cure.

Welcome to our world, enjoy it and please come and ask me anything about kites. I can usually tell you a good source of information even if I don't have the answer. By the way, you can always find me by looking for Teddy Bears hurtling earth wards.

Arthur (another 2. can't anyone else in this club write?)

## Swindon - Wet & Windy

Dear Dave and Janet

Just a note to say how sorry we were that you had such rotten weather for Swindon - what a nightmare! We had a similar start to Weston last year, and the year before, but luckily both times it did clear up eventually.

We had hoped to come en famille this time but I'm afraid I chickened out with the weather as both children have had rotten colds. We did entertain Stretch Tucker though so hopefully we helped a little.

As you may know, Weston is a little later this year - 19/20 July. Any members of White Horse are more than welcome though I know you have quite a few other diary commitments.

I'm sure we'll catch up soon.

Avril Baker

# Whither Kitesailing

I've been working fairly much full-time on kite-traction, with a primary focus on kite sailing since 1987, having been in the fortunate position of having a business and wife that can just about support this level of personal obsession/indulgence. It's great fun and I'm feeling quite pleased with the progress in the field to date (mine and others), but are warm feelings good enough? Just how does the world of kite sailing stack up as at the beginning of 1996?

Just to define some terms; I'm considering here only systems capable of upwind courses and that use kites attached by lines only (i.e. not tilt rig sail boats). There may be good things happening in some places that I don't know about but there are definitely good things happening with the Roeseler Team (Kiteski™) and Bruno and Dominique Legainoix (Wipicat™). Interestingly, there is almost no conflict between Kiteski, Wipicat and us even though we are working on essentially the same problem because each of us has chosen to concentrate on slightly different aspects of this problem. The entire kite sailing field has so far seen a very good level of cooperation between researchers with little overt copying even in the absence of comprehensive intellectual property rights coverage of the breakthroughs that have occurred (such coverage is virtually impossible to finance anyway). If blatant ripping-off occurs there will be no rational justification for continuing to do the needed research anyway, so let's hope!

What progress is Peter Lynn Ltd. making in kite sailing? As it happens we have been entering an open class sailboat race each New Year's Day for the last three years and so we have a rather objective assessment of our progress. This race, "The Clearwater Cup", is three laps of an upwind/downwind course with the main marks about 3 km apart. It starts at 2.00 p.m. irrespective of the conditions on a New Zealand alpine lake with has become something of a win-surfing Mecca. The race is open to any sail-powered craft that weighs less than 100 kg without crew and has traditionally been won by "A" Class catamarans (single person 5.5m x 2.3m x 14m<sup>2</sup> development class multihulls). In recent years windsurfers have been collecting some wins, but we are talking about very hot talent (not quite Olympic gold medalist Bruce Kendal, but some of the very few in the world who can frighten him). The upwind performance of these guys is amazing - it has to be to stay ahead of the cats.

In 1994, winds 20-30 km/hr Phillip McConnachie on a kitesailer (buggy-based) with a 5m<sup>2</sup> started out confidently enough, rounded the first (reaching) mark but was not able to get to the top mark even once. He was put out by the tough rough conditions, poor upwind performance and being slightly overpowered.

Back again in 1995 with more experience, a new boat with the same buggy layout and a bit lighter wind (7.5m<sup>2</sup> Peel), Phillip eventually completed one full lap, coming in just as the winner, a windsurfer, finished three laps hotly pursued by the cats.

In 1996 three of us started on kitesailers, wind was lighter (7.5<sup>2</sup> to 10m<sup>2</sup> Kites). Phillip McConnachie was on a 3.5m catamaran kitesailer with an 8m<sup>2</sup> 4-line Pawa. Pete Lynn (junior) was on an outrigger style trimaran kitesailer and I was on a 3.5m long catamaran kitesailer with almost surfboard-like hulls. All of us easily made the top mark. Our upwind elapsed times were double that of the top windsurfers and cats, our downwind times were under half that of the next fastest craft and our overall times around the course were 1.5 times that of the winner (because of spending far more time sailing upwind than downwind). So now we are half as fast as the competition upwind and twice as fast as the competition downwind: progress indeed! This would have beaten any windsurfer in the world 10 years ago. This was the good news. The bad news was that Phillip and Pete never made it around a mark set in the huge wind-shadow of forested island on the way back up from the bottom mark, even the yachts could be heard cursing this shadow and Phillip with 50m lines just had no chance. I had 80m lines and the benefit of watching Pete and Phillip crash there first. They had a total of about 8 crashes here with much paddling back to shore and relaunching over 1.5 hours. I had a total of 5 relaunchees during the race (though 2 of those were before I even crossed the start line), these relaunchees cost me a total of just over an hour. I finished in 4 hours 5 minutes elapsed time, the winner was a Hobbie leading a windsurfer and another cat by about 1.5 minutes to complete in 2 hours 10 minutes.

So what did we learn?

That the 4 line kite was far superior in not collapsing. Phillip's fight with the island was about having

no wind there at all; he experienced no other problems with the kite, whereas Pere and I for all our experience did lose our kites about once per hour on the average during these racing conditions.

That the big gains over 1995 came from hydrodynamic improvements. Unfortunately there is no real chance for significant hydrodynamic gains as the boats we are now using are highly developed. Worse still, we benefited from a breakthrough hydrodynamic trick which, when applied to other sailboats, will improve their performance, and put us back a notch in relative terms.

That the L/D of the kites is the problem. Of course we sometimes attain line/kite system L/D ratios of over 5 but our sailboat competitors sail L/D's of 9 or more. We have no chance of footing it with conventional sailcraft on upwind courses until we can get kite L/D's of 9 or so as well. This is the subject of a separate article, suffice to say that it is no accident that all styles of practical traction kites be they hard, soft, 2-line or 4-line have topped out at usable L/D's of not much above 5. This is no coincidence.

I think our relative performance would have slipped a bit in stronger winds as windsurfers' downwind performances improve rapidly when winds exceed 9m/s or so. In very light wind (drifters) our relative performance would slip drastically as windsurfers can "pump" and "A" cats get very slippery fast in the light.

Kite collapses and our lack of water-launching ability don't worry us too much. Both Kiteski<sup>TM</sup> and Wipical<sup>TM</sup> have usable kite re-launching systems and we can develop such a facility when we need to which will not be until I can find an answer to the major problem of kite L/D (if there is one!) because I won't invest the time in developing a re-launching system until I know what our kites are finally going to look like (different systems suit different kites).

I wish I wasn't committed to so many festivals (more than 25 I think in 1996 so I could have more time for kitesailing!

Peter Lyon  
Ashburton, New Zealand  
January 1996

## Puzzle

Identify the following proverbs and well known sayings:

TMCSTB - too many cooks spoil the broth

BWBB

AWPNB

RWNBIAD

BLTN

USW, DWF

RSAN, SD

Y NKWYCDTYT

CBAH

ARSGNM

SASA

TGIAGOTOSOTF

LSDL

EVMTMS

# An American Adventure.

Wow! Cool! Awesome! just a few of the superlatives aimed at the Club's kites, when a motley crew of White Horse Kite Flyers recently visited two festivals on the North-West Pacific coast of the U.S.A. The first festival was at Ocean Shores, a seaside resort about 120 miles south-west of Seattle. Janet, myself and Martin Croxton, who travelled with us, had been to this region several times in the past. (Ocean Shores is quite close to Westport). On this trip we had some company, Neil Harvey (the Elder Statesman), Phil Scarfe, Barry (Bazzer) and Janet Poulter. Barry had only just returned from Japan where he had been to a festival with the "Boop Troop"!

We were transported to the festival by our hosts, Ron and Maria Miller, arriving mid-morning at the holiday home of Sam and Anne Houston, who very kindly looked after us over the weekend of the festival, feeding us as soon as we arrived. Here we go again with the food, you will understand my problem with food if you read my article in the last magazine. I enjoy it too much!! We ate lunch then left for the beach. Guess what? The wind was blowing at about 15 m.p.h., perfect. Martin and Neil were first out onto the beach and had kites up within minutes of our arrival. Phil disappeared almost immediately. He had recognised a kite of Harry Osborne's, so he went to find him. Harry makes very large flow-form type kites and he and Phil had been corresponding. Phil had only ever seen pictures of Harry's kites before so he was in his element when he spotted one in the "flesh". They chatted for hours. You could tell this was going to be a good festival. The organisation was excellent from the beginning, several arenas marked for different types of kites. We were directed to the large display kite arena where several tyres had been buried. These were all colour-coded with flags according to the size of the kite they would take. We had soon tied off the "Scuba Diver Legs" and got them in the air. They looked sensational! Just imagine, the sun is shining, the Pacific Ocean rollers are crashing onto the beach, the wind is blowing perfectly. What more could you ask for?

Saturday morning arrives and Neil and myself are asked by the organisers if we would help judge the single line competitions. Bazzer had entered three kites into the "Flat and Bowed Section". He also entered the "Highwayman" banner into the accessory section of the competition. Neil and myself did the typical English fair play bit and admitted that we felt awkward judging a fellow countryman's kite. However, we were reassured that it wouldn't make any difference because the top and bottom marks were to be disregarded. The judging took about 4 hours, a marathon to Neil, who was suffering from a trapped nerve in his leg. The results weren't announced until the banquet in the evening. Bazzer took all three prizes in the flat and be "Flat and Bowed Section". Yes 1-2-3! and first prize for his amazing "Highwayman" banner. Well done Bazzer!!

Sunday, we arrived on the beach to find the wind had increased in speed to about 25 m.p.h. However, Neil, Martin and Phil, with help from Harry Osborne, decided to launch the 330 sq. foot Albatross. I stood well clear as they seemed to be having some initial launching problems because of the strong wind. Eventually, it rose into the sky and, although the wind was strong, the Pacific winds are so good because they are so clean. The kite flew brilliantly, here's another superlative coming on, it looked **majestic!!** People came from all over the beach to take a look at it. Who said single line kites are boring? Well done lads (and the Elder Statesman) for launching the Albatross in such strong winds. It made my weekend just to see it sat there, in the late Doug Hagaman's words, it was "Nailed to the sky".

There is lots more I could write about our holiday but I am running out of time - the deadline is about 30 minutes from now! However, before I close, I must thank all of the organisers of the Ocean Shores Kite Festival for their superb organisation and, of course, their hospitality, which was second to none. I would also like to thank Sam and Ann Houston, Greg and Sue Clarke, Jeanne and Don Mock and, of course, Marla and Ron Miller for all their generosity and hospitality. Just before I finish, I must add that we were also invited to a one day festival at Magnusson Park, Seattle, a nice event, totally spoiled by a lack of wind, what has happened to the weather this year? However, just as the event was officially closing, the wind picked up, so we launched the "Scuba Diver Legs" which were appreciated by all those people left behind after the event closed.

David Robinson

# WALLOP 97 2&3 AUG

On Middle Wallop Airfield, A343 Andover to Salisbury road (Hampshire)

**10AM TO 5PM ENTRANCE £2.00 EACH  
CAMPING FREE ( UNDER 16'S FREE )**

**kites kites kites kites kites kites  
buggy buggy buggy buggy buggy**

**kite traders**

**food traders**

**beer tent**

**army flying museum**

**800 acre site**

parachuting teddy bears

buggy competition

tandem buggy rides

rokkaku fighting

kite work shop

boomerang display

*contact kites at 01256 812487*

*or Mike Shaw (BBC) 0468 765887*

## Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Aug 2nd & 3rd 1997.

On the A343 Andover to Salisbury Road(Hampshire).

10 am to 5 pm both days.

The 1997 Middle Wallop Kite Festival is going to be bigger and better this year....

We have negotiated an entrance fee of £2 a person (which goes to the upkeep of the science museum--children under 16 get in for free), this includes free camping for those who stay on site.

We are organising a beer tent, with reasonable prices, there will be two food traders and an ice-cream vendor, staying open for as long as people want them to.

As I'm sure a lot of you already know, there are 800 acres of flying space--England's Largest Lawn!--, of which some will be allocated for buggying(please adhere to this).Providing you have B.B.C. Insurance, there will be no charge-FREE- to buggy. There will be a Kite Workshop for the kids, parachuting teddy bears, tandem buggy rides, a "friendly" Rokkaku fight and Boomerang displays.

There will be two trophies to be had, for a round of the Middle Wallop Buggy Challenge. Safety will be paramount, so please be carefull!

For all you single line fliers, bring your kites-large or small-and lets fill the sky with colours!! Colin the Cobra will be making an appearance-yes, he is well and truly airborne!

We want to make this a good weekend, so please come along and give us your support. See you there!!!

Contact Roy Broadley(Kites Up) 01 256 812487 or

Mike Shaw (BBC) 0468 765887 for any further details.



# North Coast Sky Painters

Dear "Starving Horse"

The North Coast Sky Painters thank you immensely for your participation at the festival. It was a wonderful success and lots of fun. The professional sound system accomplished the difference. The volunteer Grays Harbour Sheriff's Department estimated between 35000 & 40000 people in attendance over the 3 day weekend. What a crowd! Eric and I add our personal thank you, as well.

I'm sending you a copy of the pictures and articles in the newspaper from the Ocean Shores area, with Martin, in his chicken shirt, in full blazing colour. The article was on the front page of the Daily World but, I guess, we have to excuse the reporters who know nothing about kiting. He wrote that the spin sock Martin was helping to put up was a "windsock style kite". Oh well, it was still good coverage and nice pictures.

Eric, the club and myself want you to know how much it meant to us and our festival to have you present. We truly had an international flavour this year and all our members enjoyed meeting you. Of course, that is over and above the joy of seeing your kites and sky in the air. You have some beautiful things and wonderfully made kites, I can see why Marla has some of you making things for her. The BIG "stuff" attracted spectators and our members were awed by them. It was a shame we had too much wind for some of them on Sunday.

The donations made and the funds raised at the Awards Dinner has put us over the top again with a profit to help next year's event. Your club and your Travelling Squad has an open invitation to join us next year or at any other year you might plan a trip to the northwest. Please, keep in touch and let us know whenever you can return to the U.S.

If you know of any problem areas or have other suggestions for the betterment of our festival please let us know as well. You and the other kite flyers came up with positive ideas to improve the event from year to year and we tried to handle most of the suggestions.

Thank you again for everything and we hope you had as much fun as we had.

With the wind to your back,

Dee & Eric Halverson  
North Coast Sky Painters.

## New Kite Store

Details have just arrived of a new local kite store offering 10% discount to club members.

Bob Greatwood  
MEADOWLAND KITES  
P.O. Box 2250  
BRATTON  
WESTBURY  
BA13 4YG

Tel: 0467 202285 or 01380 830842

## Dates for your Diary

12/13 July	Brighton Kite Festival
19/20 July	Golden Valley Kite Festival, Tewksbury
20 July	Blackheath
27 July	Carnielot Fliers Giant Fly-in, Honeydown Farm, Crowkerne
2/3 August	Middle Wallop Kite Festival
9/10 August	Teston Bridge, Kent
10 August	Hengistbury Head **
17 August	Blackwater Valley **
17 August	Coventry
23/24/25 August	Portsmouth
6/7 September	Bristol
14 Sept	Castle Carey Kite Day
20/21 September	Caernarfon Kite Weekend, Cynnog Fawr, North Wales
28 September	Old Warden

All events are liable to alteration or cancellation, please check with David or Janet if you intend to go.  
\*\* Lots of help needed.

## And finally a note from the Editor.

Thankfully, not much space for me this time, I was pleased to receive all your articles.

## Kite Flying Safety Tips

### The NEVERS 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 pylons.
  - 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.S. 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...sunt flyers please take care!
  - Those kite eating trees.
  - Animals, they can be frightened by kites.
- Remember...your kites can get really quite high up high in the sky just occasionally. Look up and give them a little SMILE.*
- ...AND PLEASE MEND THOSE POWER LINES!**

## Where the WHKF go to fly their kites

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

Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts are:

Ron Gunter on: (01793) 770784

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976

and

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

The COWPAT H.H.J. Journal

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Editorial Team: Dave & Jane Jones

15 Bucklebury Close, Stratton St, Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JH

Tel: 01793 823493

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