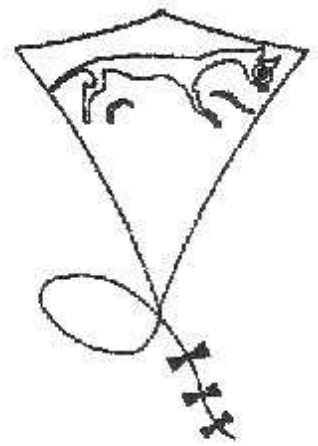


cowpat hill



WHITE HORSE KITE FLYER
SUMMER ISSUE 2002
JULY - SEPTEMBER

SNAP

At last another member of the W.H.K.F. branch of the "I Broke a Bone Whilst Flying a Kite Club". It has been a very lonely 12 years since I broke my ankle and my sympathy is with you Doug. If the hospital response to your explanation was the same as I got, you need all the support you can get. Seriously though I am sure everyone joins me to wish you a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing you on the flying field again soon.

Arthur

Update

All being well Doug is now on the mend and hopes to have the cast off next week (nice raffle prize) and hopefully will be back flying soon

We wish him all the best and a speedy recovery

Pete w

Sky Chat

Well again we have a very full **Cowpat** so I will not be doing a full report or it will take over to extra pages and extra postage. (Don't all cheer)

Firstly our thoughts go out to Eddie and Ann Megrath, Eddie has just had a major operation and is home recuperating. We all hope you make a speedy recovery and see you out with the wind in your hair.

Spare a thought to Pete & Tracey who under difficult family times have still found time to put **Cowpat** together.

White horse kite flyers
PO Box 585
SWINDON
SN3 4YR

Next I must thank all of you that donated to my birthday present, it has already and will give me many hours of enjoyment reading it. To say that I was gob smacked would be an understatement to receive such a present. Certainly I will never forget my Sixty-fifth Birthday and Stowe Festival. (see later)

Hears hoping for clean winds and tight lines. Neil

DIARY DATES

JULY

20/21st - Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.

27/28th - Tewksbury International Kite Festival.

August

4th - Lackham College. (W.D.T.)

4th - Royston Kite Festival, Hertfordshire.

10/11th - Middle Wallop Kite Festival..(W.)

10/11th - Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Maidstone, Kent.

10/11th - Whitemore Bay Kite Festival, Barry Island, South Wales.

11th - Club Meet at Barbury Castle.

17/18th - Cardiff, Wales???(D.)

17/18th - Bristol???(W.)

17/18th - Coventry Kite Festival, War Memorial Park.

24-26th - Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea, Hampshire.

25/26th - White Horse Show, Uffington.(W.D.)

31st Aug-1st Sept Bristol Kite Festival (Please check)???

September

7-15th - Dieppe International Kite Festival, France.

8th - Club Meet at Barbury Castle.

14th - Guernsey Kite Festival.

October

13th - "One Sky, One World" Club Meet at Barbury Castle.(W,D,T.)

Robinson's Ramble

SOME IMPORTANT NEWS: We have had a 33% increase in our liability insurance premium this year, to over £400, but more importantly the insurance company has increased the excess to £500 (that's a 50% increase!) I did enquire why we had such an increase, because we hadn't had a claim, only to be told that it was just a "general price increase for all liability insurance" I think it shows that we are following the trend that has been prevalent in the States for years, and becoming much more litigious, as a Nation.

Again I would remind you our liability insurance **does not** cover buggying, also if you have an accident with your kite the onus will be on you to prove that you weren't negligent! So if you are out on your own, flying, be very very careful, because in these days of litigation for almost anything, if you crashed your kite near a group of people, and were unfortunate enough to hit one of them, it's your word against theirs, *you could be liable!!*

I am sat here on mid summers day, wondering what happened to the summer! What I do know is that the *KITE* season is well underway. With Stowe, Weymouth, Swindon, Cleethorpes, Middle Wallop and Basingstoke festivals all gone bye, plus others. Like a lot of you that regularly attend kite festivals this is the first full weekend we have had off since the end of April, to say it's been busy is an understatement. At all of the above events, except Weymouth we have done workshops. For those of you who have never been to our Children's workshops, and feel that you would like to help please let me know, *we are always short of helpers!* I wouldn't lie, they can be very busy, but we approach the workshops with the aim of enjoying ourselves and passing on the joy of our hobby! It is very rewarding when you see the smile it puts onto the Children's faces. Of course the main aim of the workshops is to raise funds to enable us to stage our annual festival.

For those of you who managed to get to Swindon for this year's festival, I hope you had a good time! I have had some very good feedback; some people enjoyed Lydiard Park *more than* Wroughton. Financially, we broke even; we didn't have any complaints from the Traders (their fees help fund the event) so all in all it was a great success. I hope you feel the same? if not let us know your complaints so that we can endeavour to put it right next year. The date for next year is 10th/11th May 2003, at Lydiard Park.

Earlier I said that we broke even financially at our festival, this was due mainly to the superb raffle run by Marla, the raffle this year raised about £500, which was half of what it costs to run the festival! Can I thank those people who helped Marla run the raffle, also all of you who donated prizes and, of course all of you who bought tickets, also a very big thank you to those of you who helped put the site together on Friday and those who broke it down on Sunday, not forgetting the "Car park" attendants!!

Regards

David Robinson

World Championships 2002 - Berck Sur Mere

It's Good Friday and the phone is ringing. I pick it up and its Kathy Jarvis STACK UK National Director. Would I like to take Matrix Management to France for the World Championships as Vortex have had to drop out due to ill health. I picked myself up from the floor and I could hear a voice saying, " Yes, of course we would love to go! I'll call the team and ring you back". I phone Doug Manners my No 2 and he said he didn't have a passport and couldn't get the time off. I phoned Pete Willis my No 3, he said he didn't have a passport but would get one and the time off work, great one down one to go. I phoned Pete Dawson my No4; I know Pete's got a passport as he'd recently been to the Fort Warden Kite Workshop. Pete said he would have to clear it with work and his wife (or was it the other way round?) On Easter Sunday I wrote a three-man precision routine and made some copies. On Easter Monday we had a team practice and we flew the STACK UK 2000 Boot Camp ballet as a four-man team. On Tuesday I went back to work and asked if I could take the following week off to fly kites for Queen and country. To my surprise I got the time off. I phone Pete Dawson and he too had agreed to a week off with his company (and wife). I then received a phone call from Pete Willis who was standing at a train station in Swindon waiting to go to Wales to get his passport. By the end of Tuesday all the U.K. arrangements were in place for us to go all we had to do was get the routines sorted out. On Wednesday I tried to contact Gerard Clement the French organiser. He was pleased that we were going to make the event and got the Berck Tourist Board to contact me. Now my spoken French is not very good and the Tourist Board's English was not that good either. At one point there was three French people on a speakerphone trying to explain to me what I needed to do. Eventually I received a call from Eurotunnel and the people there were really great. They prepared all our travel arrangements and faxed them through to me as our email system was down. Wednesday night we took some digital team photographs and stick flew the precision routine for the first time! Thursday night I examined all my team Matrixes and the spare set and made sure everything was as it should be. I arranged all the spares kit, checked the lines and spares and generally worried. On Friday night I packed my clothes bag, what should I take? As usual I packed too much.

6:00 Saturday morning and the Pete's arrive, we load up the car and roof box, say goodbye and get set for the adventure of a lifetime. We never expected to be competing in an event such as this and we were going to do our best. To my surprise the trip was very uneventful and we arrived at Eurotunnel with time to spare. After a quick breakfast we were back in the

car and boarded the train. Once everything was settled we got out of the car and checked the clearance between the roof and our roof box - 2"! The train only takes 30 minutes to cross the channel and before long we were in France. We turned onto the motorway and continued on to Berck. Some of the motorway is a toll road and just before you leave to take the minor road to Berck there is a tollbooth. We drove up to pay and another English car pulled up behind us, it was Phil and Kathy Jarvis! We were surprised to see them as they were supposed to be taking an earlier ferry. Kathy gave us all a Team UK sweatshirt each, which we are very proud of. We continued in convoy to Berck.

Berck is a seaside town and all the parking down by the beach was full. We had to park half a mile away and walk down to the beach to find out what was going on. Later it transpired that we had missed the pilots meeting that explained to everyone what was happening. We were directed to the tourist office and told where we were staying, they also made official looking badges for us, complete with photocopied photographs. We went back to the car, picked up the kites, went back to the beach and met up with the other flyers. We were due to demo in about an hour and then take part in an all team megateam. We handed in our music and waited. The field direction was very laid back and someone said, "You're on after Ray Bethell". Ray did his wonderful routine and we headed out to the middle of the arena only to find another team already setup. So we waited. The PA burst into French life and ended with something about Team Matrix Management. Next thing I knew the team in the arena was flying to our ballet music! I found an official looking person and tried to explain what had happened, he was very apologetic and we did get a mention on the PA, then we were flying in front of the biggest kite festival crowd I have ever seen. The wind was appalling; it was blowing over the buildings and gusting everywhere. We finished without crashing and received a big round of applause. The next thing I know we are standing in a line of forty kiteflyers trying for a megateam. The French teams were at the head of the line and look really good. They take off in teams, this works well until you get around twenty kites in the sky, after this physics comes into play and it becomes more difficult to get the teams onto the end of the follow before the front comes round again. I don't think we got all forty into the sky at the same time; it was a bit like knitting with kites! Back to the hotel (well bar with rooms above!) and get ready for the meal. We all met up for a meal in a restaurant downstairs from the local swimming pool. It was decorated with some amazing Indonesian kites, the meal was good but the company was better.

Day two, up at 7:30 (6:30 U.K. time) and down for French breakfast, half a French loaf and a cup of coffee. Down to the beach and time to practice. There was a pilot's meeting at 10:00 so we flew for a while and then went to the main tent for coffee and the briefing. We were told that the sponsors for the weekend (Susie WAN) wanted everyone to wear their white body warmers, they are really nice garments and kept the cold sea breezes out. The show started at 2:00 so we had time to fly and meet up with the other teams. We flew our ballet again in the afternoon and once again I was grounded during the manic megateam. Back to the hotel and get ready for the meal, we met up with the U.K. contingent again and had what was probably the worst meal of the week. We left for a reasonably early night but got sidetracked into one of the American teams hotel bar where we spent too much time talking kites!

Monday and practice day, down to the beach and start working on the precision routine. It was slow painful work. To start with the wind was good, a steady 8MPH but as the day progressed things got worse, the wind increased and became very gusty. At 19:00 we were still on the beach, Kathy and Phil Jarvis came over and gave us some really useful coaching. We left the beach at 20:00 and went back to the hotel totally shattered. We went for a quiet meal and returned to the hotel for an early night.

Tuesday and first competition day. I am feeling really nervous. We go for the pilots meeting where we are told the precision figures we have to fly and then the flying order. First up Matrix Management. I can't believe it; we're going to open the World Championships. 10:00 rolls around too quickly and we are beckoned into the arena by Kathy Jarvis. We fly the three compulsory figures and they are o.k. We fly the precision routine and we finish without crashing, we don't get disqualified, we're over the moon! The rest of the team fly they're really good but some get problems with the wind. We go and find lunch. 14:00 and we are ready for the ballet, the music starts and off we go, yellow flag from the left line judge, we all move right. The final bar of The Imperial March and we leading edge land - OUT. Day one finished and I collapse in the sand, what a day! We stay and help groundcrew for Speed (the Japanese team) they are setting up and then something goes wrong, they are asked to leave the field. The small female flier is in floods of tears and we try to console her. It appears that one of the team received a red flag for flying over the arena. Just as Speed have almost left the arena Kathy Jarvis runs up and calls them all together. It looks as if the line judge called using a red instead of a yellow flag. Speed setup again. Speed fly as a four-man team for precision but five for ballet. They fly a wonderful routine but one of the team lands over the

boundary in the crowd! Instant disqualification. We watch the rest of the teams, Overdrive fly a stunning routine considering the wind. Back to the hotel and out for a meal. Tonight we go for an Italian meal with the American contingent. The food is great and the wine flows, mainly over Pete Willis! We go to bed late again!

Wednesday up at 6:30, quick breakfast and down to the beach. Practice until 9:00 then into the tent for the pilot's meeting. We are drawn to fly sixth; unfortunately we have to stage in from down wind of the main arena. The wind has increased. I am measuring 25MPH gusting 35MPH. It's like being in a sandblaster. Overdrives are going to be our groundcrew today! We go out onto the arena and start our precision figures. We are flying mega vent Matrix on 300lb line. Lining up for the first figure and I am being pulled across the sand. We get all three figures without crashing. They may not be perfect but they're not bad considering. Into the precision routine and I hear a bang I try to see what has happened, the spine of my Matrix has shattered. 2/3rds of the way through and I've backed the team into a corner, the wind drops and we haven't got a chance. Kathy Jarvis shouts minimum time just as I shout out. I am absolutely shattered. We crew for the American 6th Sense team and then go for lunch. Not a lot gets said over lunch we're just too tired. 2:00 and back for the ballet. I've mended my kite and we're feeling a bit better. Our slot comes around really fast, the wind is still nuclear but has moved around a bit so it is a bit cleaner. The middle of the window shifts over half of the arena. The music plays and we start to fly, half way through and we do a 3-kite burst. Pete Dawson flies down and into the ground, the ground crew are there put Pete's kite back together and he gets back in exactly on time! We finish, we crashed but recovered well and we didn't get a red flag. Back to the hotel and ready for the meal. We go for a Chinese with the Americans. More good food, beers and kite chat. We stay too long again!

Thursday last day of the competition. Down on the beach for a practice then into the tent. Get the figures and we are drawn to fly 9th. Into the arena and the winds awful again. We fly the figures and then fly through the routine, we don't crash and we don't red flag. Wow, that's precision done. We crew for Speed, the Japanese team and then go for lunch. I've got quite good at ordering food in French now so I try something different and its not bad. Back to the tent for the last meeting and then out onto the beach to fly. We fly the Imperial March for the last time and we don't crash. Speed fly their ballet routine and this time they don't get disqualified, everyone is really pleased for them. Back to the hotel and then out for a

meal. We go back to the Italian restaurant. We order a very unusual meal (my French strikes again!) and leave much later than we should.

Friday and we don't have to fly. We get up late, eat late and go and see what's going on. Everyone in the main tent is wondering who the winner will be. We're sure it's going to be Overdrive but we're going to have to wait until the party to find out. We check out the stalls and kite shops along the sea front. France seems to have much more enthusiasm for kites than the U.K. and it shows. Most of the shops are sporting posters, kites and other kite related objects. Along the front are numerous stalls; two of them are selling Chinese and Indonesian kites. The prices are really good and I make a mental note to spend the last of my Euros on Sunday before we go home. Down on the beach Ray Bethel is entertaining the crowds, Ray has been flying all week, he's the first on the beach and usually the last off. Ray lands one of his kites in the sea and the tails fill with water. I go and help relaunch and get soaked for my trouble!

Party time and we head off for the town hall. In the middle of the hall is the biggest buffet I have ever seen, the French really have this food thing sorted. On the stage is a French folk group and nestling at the front of the stage are three of the biggest cups I've ever seen. The Mayor of Berck opens the show and has an interpreter to help him along, then we get let loose at the buffet. They bring on the wine and it's in special World Championship bottles! Then the results. We are amazed when we don't place last. Flame, the other U.K. team finish 8th and are pleased. The American teams get 5th and 4th and are over the moon. France gets 1st, 2nd and 3rd with Overdrive winning. The place goes ballistic! We party on, we dance and we get lots of things signed as mementos. We leave too late again.

Saturday demonstration day.

Down to the tent and the results are posted on the walls. We are really pleased when we find out we placed 9th each day, which means we beat two teams every day - not bad considering the total lack of practice we had. We flew in a UK megateam in the afternoon with Carl and James Robertshaw leading. We then did our ballet and finally realised how many people were watching us, it was awesome! The last megateam comprised of two teams flying together in the arena but avoiding each other. In all an equalled world record of 39 kites. We packed our kites for the last time and headed back to the hotel. That night we eat at the Chinese again with the Americans. Lots of swapping of business cards. We were really tired and

ready to come home. It had been a fantastic week and something we'll remember for a very long time.

Sunday Home today. We packed up and said goodbye to the hotel. I moved the car and we shoehorned all the kites and bits back in. We had some Euros left to spend and lots of goodbyes to say so we set off to the main tent. It was a very emotional morning saying goodbye to all the people we had been involved with for the week. We left having made many new friends from around the world. On the way back the car was very quiet. I think the Pete's slept for most of the way back!

Just a quick thank you to Kathy Jarvis STACK U.K. National Director for asking us to take part, definitely an experience I'll never forget.

NEWS FLASH

Brighton Kite Flyers have confirmed that they have already got the licence for the Cider Wagon for this years festival. Sorry chaps I am away on holiday at that time this year but best wishes for a great festival.

Save me a pint or two.

Arthur

SOUTHAMPTON REPORT

The second dry one in a row for Solent Kite Flyers. They certainly deserved some better luck after some of their earlier ones. On the down side however the wind was atrocious on both days being very blustery and variable on the Saturday and intermittent flat calm on Sunday.

The vast STACK arenas spoilt it a little for me, but as you know that is not a discipline that I am over enthusiastic about and it did rather restrict space for others. However it was the usual friendly atmosphere and a very enjoyable weekend with plenty of good socialising.

I was asked to do the Teddy Bear Parachuting and I am sorry I did not do better but no one came to have their Bears dropped on Saturday and on Sunday when the wind eventually picked up I had trouble finding space to put my rig up any where near the car so eventually gave up and socialised some more.

Arthur

Swindon Festival at Lydiard Park

Right up until actually leaving the house Saturday morning, I hadn't decided whether to go to Swindon or Rougham – Swindon eventually won on the grounds that it involved the least traveling...and I hadn't been there before.

An "easy going" event - facilities were basic but functional, camping was cheap enough, lots of food stalls (saved me having to cook) I do like "Georgio's Posh Pancakes" - met them first a couple of years ago at Middle Wallop - excellent nosh! The mobile bar was handy for the odd shandy too (though I wouldn't want to get drunk at those prices). Several kite traders and a children's workshop...

Lots of space to fly and few trees – though this didn't stop the "WHKF rescue squad" being called in on several occasions! I've always been fascinated by the way people will insist on flying right in front of the only tree for miles!

When a lack of wind prevents teddies being dropped from a kite, the WHKF has the answer – a huge, trailer-mounted, ex military, telescopic "teddy tower"... does the military drop teddies then? I suppose the brave little beggars must get their training somewhere. One "Ted" obviously has a bit to learn about navigation, his idea of a good landing involving hanging half way up a tree – another job for the ever ready rescue squad.

Saturday, both wind and weather were good. In the evening I learned a fair bit about twin-line flying in "almost no wind" conditions – really nice night for it. Scrounged a go on a "light wind" kite, only to discover that it's got little to do with the kite – it's the flier that makes the difference innit! Speaking of fliers, Team "Matrix Management" were there both days to impress the crowd with an excellent display of formation flying....

Sunday was overcast with no wind until the afternoon when it seemed unable to make its mind up what to do... about average for a kite festival then! A lot of kites took to the air once the wind sorted its act out, certainly enough to impress the public that had turned out. Speaking of the public, as well as explaining, a couple of times, that flying the twin-liner you've just bought really shouldn't involve waving your arms about like a rabid windmill – I was asked on one occasion:

"Can you tell me why this won't fly, I found it in the garage?"

Er yes, it's got no spars – get yourself some dowel and cut three lengths to make the fabric tight here, here and here. While you're at it this stick's broken and needs replacing – you'll need to work out the lengths to make the kite symmetrical when it's assembled...

“Ooer, I'll put it back in the garage!”

Ok....

Met some neat kite designs I'd not seen before, and got attacked by what has to be the biggest pair of legs on the planet!

A 1000 foot height clearance had been acquired, which meant I spent lots of time winding in line – have you ever wound 1000 feet of line (with a Rok on the end) back onto a halo reel? Kites go up a lot quicker than they come down!

The threatened rain finally showed up around teatime – just as people were packing up anyway...

With little financial backing and a comparatively small membership, the “White Horse Kite Fliers” did a “brilliant” job – wonder why mine was the only MKF tee shirt there? Come on people, these smaller events need your support too...that's how they become bigger ones!

If you've never been to a Festival – why not? They're great sport!

Jim C

A large empty space in the sky

I have just learnt of the sad loss of our good friend Carlos, who was found dead on the morning of 11th June. He was the most well liked and generous person I know, and everyone seemed to know him. He would help anyone and was a great supporter of the Club.

He was widely known for his great sense of fun and his distinctive laugh as well as for collecting more kites than he could fly. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Business people and residents of Portishead, where he lived and worked, have made tributes to him. He was a character many knew and was the sort of person who would do anything for anyone. He supported every charity possible and was the main helper for the Portishead raft race, supporting Portishead Inshore Lifeboats. We know he will be sadly missed within the kite community too, whether Rok fighting, bidding at auctions or just generally having a good time.

Our thoughts are with his wife and family in this sad time.

Martin Parsons Chairman, Avon Kite Flyers

BLOWN AWAY AT STOWE

OK so I am going to get the old WHKF treatment for this and it will not be forgotten but for my third camping festival in a row I got wet. When I see Simon Hennessey I will take him up on his kind offer to get his daughter to show us how to pitch a tent. In my defence however I would like to point out that 50mph winds and torrential rain do make it very difficult to stay dry unless you have a brick built tent.

On the Friday I took the afternoon off to help Neil set up and I was also wanted there to do a TV interview on parachuting bears. I got set up with the usual rig under a 12-foot meg-delta and dropped the first couple of test bears to check out the gear. All went well and I walked off across the field to retrieve them as Neil walked the other way to connect some PA speakers. As I turned to return I was greeted by the site of our newest 20x10 marquee taking flight and clearing the top of the National Trust's one. It was heading straight towards me complete with ground anchors and plates and trailing a broken PA cable. I did the only thing humanly possible under these circumstances and panicked. I ran and was very glad of having lost weight but it would have done me no good if the marquee had not met one of the fences round a young tree. I remember screaming to Neil but what good that was supposed to be I don't know, as he was 100yds away and even a fine body of a man like that could not have saved me.

We were both at the scene of devastation fairly shortly trying to remove canvas sides to stop further damage and as we looked up the Trust's marquee decided to join the fun and also took off. The extra work involved for every one was increased hugely and by the time it came to have a meal down the pub to celebrate Neil's birthday we were shattered and I slept well if a little cool in my tent partially sheltered by the club trailer.

In the mean time Roy had set up his palace and Chalkie's was about half assembled held down with enormous straps and ground anchors. Saturday was not the driest day we have ever had for a festival and by bedtime it was torrential and the wind gale force. However I turned in and went to sleep quickly despite the noise. At about 1am I woke with a start as I got a shower in the face. The wind had increased and was blowing the rain straight through the canvas so I decided to get all my gear into the car including myself and stop is getting soaked. Most of the gear was fine but I was like drowned rat, stripped off and towelled down in the car and got into my sleeping bag and pulled a blanket over my head not expecting to get much sleep.

At 8.30 the next morning I woke when I heard Pete W speak to Neil.
As they say there is no peace for the wicked.

And I don't care what Chalkie says I think the Worzles are fantastic.
They talks proper English and their music is great, so drink up ye cider my
friends.

Arthur

THANK YOU FROM THE TICKET CHICK, RAFFLE QUEEN OR THE PUSHY B----FROM AMERICA!

I just really want to thank all of you for having a good time with the raffle.
Your wonderful donations are what makes it happen. We the White Horse
Kite Flyers had a great event, with lots of fun and wonderful people. If we
did not raise enough, just let me know and I will jet right over there and
help with another raffle (any excuse to get there).

Not only do I thank all of you, but also I must say "Thank You" Charlie
Sotich, for making and donating his great small kites. I am going to give
you Charlie's address and if you would like to send him a "Thank You
Charlie" note, you might get something back? If you were one of the lucky
ones to get his kites in the raffle, please drop him a note.

I must tell you I do not like being away from my other homeland and that I
miss you all, can hardly wait to put my feet back on your soil.

MUCH THANKS!

The Ticket Chick, The Raffle Queen and The Pushy B---- from America,
oh and my new name, The Raffle Diva, whichever one works for you.

Love you Lots,

Marla

P.S.

Charlie Sotich

phone 001-773-735-1353

3851 W. 62nd. Place

Chicago, Illinois 60629

USA

P.S.S.

If you really want to see a raffle, come to Fort Worden Kitemakers
Conference. If you don't know, I do sell raffle tickets for 70 pence, and the
winner will get, Registration, Housing, Food, Shirt and Badge for two
people. Drop me a note if interested. You can ask about 2003 teachers!
5440 North 49th.

E-mail

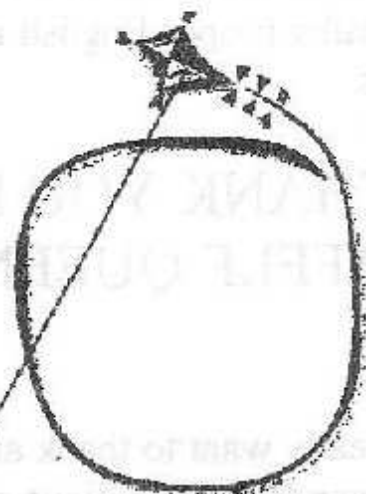
Tacoma, Washington 98407

kytpepl2@aol.com

USA

14-May-2002

White Horse Kite Flyers
PO BOX 585
SWINDON
WILTS SN3 4YR



Dear White Horse Kite Flyers,

Thank you so much for a splendid day I had on Sunday 12th May 2002 at Lydiard Country Park.

For me, Swindon Kite Festival was a success and I hope it was a profitable one for you!

I enjoyed the site - much, much better than Wroughton Airfield - the scenery is better and more interesting as was demonstrated on Sunday afternoon when there was a collection of kites attempting to rescue a Teddy-Bear that had misguided its parasailing flight and landed in a tree! Such a delight!

The traders were a good lot and the food was fine.

I do hope that you will continue at this site, great fun!

Best wishes,

Nicky C

Nicky Cruden



Worcester

The last time I went to the Easter fly-in at Worcester was about 6 years ago and I found that it was a very pleasant laid back meeting then. That visit marks an important time in history for me, as it was the first site I ever tried out my electric winch for the parachuting bears. The rig then had no switches or plugs but just the motor and capstan with a remote battery and a pair of wires that I held onto the terminals whichever way round I wanted the motor to run. There were so many good comments I went on to produce the unit I use now.

Other arrangements have meant that I have not been there since but this year I decided it was time for another visit. It is still a very friendly easygoing meeting much like it was then. I had a great run over so was flying before most people turned up. I got fed up and decided to drop some bears and one of the organisers came over and said that there fauna bomber had not turned up so could they send people to me. Well what could I say? Have I ever turned down the chance to play the fool?

It really gave the feeling of coming back to where it started and I had a great day. Just remember a Teddy is for life not just Christmas.

Arthur

Surfin' ~~USA~~ WHKF!

Just in case anyone's forgotten. The Club's web page (whkf.org.uk) is still alive and well, in fact it's gone through a bit of an update! I've been tidying up some of the areas and improving site security, adding a couple of things you all might like. Not that it's anywhere near some of the sites I've seen of late. Anyhow we're open to suggestions on items you'd like to see, change or scrap!

One item that the site is short of is Photo's, but for that to work I need your help. If you have any photos of novel, interesting or unusual of a kiting or club nature do let me have a copy, or allow me to scan them.

There's quite a few come together on the Matrix Management site of our trip to Berck.

That trip did wonders to the site counter! We've had some 8000 visitors since I set it up a couple of years ago, but the site had some 500 "hits" in April from our promotion of the site while in France.

One other factor you could be interested in, the site also has a "Classified Ads" section, so if your selling or wanting anything kiting, then do drop me a line (peter@whkf.org.uk), or phone me on 01367 710 791.

Tracy and Pete Willis like the site I know, between us we try and keep the diary up to date so everyone knows what's going on. And Tracy does appreciate the articles being sent via the site, it saves her a lot of time when she has to compile the Magazine. So keep them coming to cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk

One thing I think would be good for the club would be a directory of everyone who's got web access. I've tried to do this in the past, but not many replied then, I'd like to consider doing this again. Just e-mail me and say you are willing to be listed, I will then collate the list and issue it twice a year to those on the list.

It would be so easy for the club to contact each other if this were available. I don't mean to add this to the web site, but keep it contained separately, and limited to within the club. All I would propose is a list of Names and E-mail addresses that could be copied to each other. No other information would be kept, so not to get caught up in the "Data Protection Act". I'd be interested in the membership's thoughts toward this (yes, I'm only too aware of the "Jokes" list that runs within the membership!).

Happy Flying, Peter Dawson.

NEARLY LATE !!!

Hi all and so to the next issue better get it made up so Neil can print it!!
Ok lets just send these e-mails and we will do it as we have a free evening
For once (can't remember the last one) ok so press connect and mmmmm
BANG pc shut down all electric in house goes off!!!!

Well after resetting the mains and taking five from the shock it looks like
The pc died again!!! But this time terminally. So after an hour long phone
call (don't you just love modern voice automated service) I got a human!
Who said in his wisdom I think it gone wrong, well I knew that. I want
A man out to fix it. Well more time and hang on a bit more we got there
And so the man came and fixed it two teas later!! So were back and this
copy's been a bit of a rush to get done so if not up to it usual high standard
we do apologize now thanks

Peter and Tracy,

Sky Chat Part Two (or who can't count the number of pages)

It must be a sign of old age, I miscounted the pages before printing so now there is a spare page for me to waffle on. (What a shame)

There has been a lot going on since I really had to put pen to paper, so I will try to remember a few of them.

The year started off with Kathy Goodwin and her Swindon Star Workshop. This workshop was well received and supported and judging by other articles in previous **Cowpats** enjoyed by the participants. Then soon after that there was a mass invasion of Fort Worden by The Brits. This a week-end not to be taken lightly. Don't forget your Raffle Tickets is the first cry to be heard on arrival. Then after meeting up with a few old friends its time to get a good nights sleep as you will need all the energy you can muster to last out the workshops and The Raffle. Still I would not miss it for the World and all the camaraderie, if you ever get the chance to go DON'T miss it. I must thank all the American Kite Flyers that put up all of us in their various houses, their hospitality is unbelievable. I was even luckier as I had another month out there after the rest of the gang left to go back to the grindstone. The first two weeks without Sue, Amie and Carl, they were to join me later. Time to recharge my batteries, some hope. I went off to Linsey and Ronda in Lincoln City, Oregon for a few days. Boy did we pack a lot of things into those few days. As most of you know that I'm a bit of an aircraft nutter and knew that The Spruce Goose (the worlds largest aircraft to date) is housed in Oregon and would love to see it. This was the main reason of going down to Linsey & Ronda's, but that was just the icing on the cake they put out for me. Trips around Lincoln and the coast, looking at some of Linsey's work as a carpenter in some very posh houses and eating in some very renown places. We also fitted in a visit to another air museum in the largest wooden building in the world. I did check up when I got home and it was. Not American bull. We also went to a very large Cheese Factory and sampled their wares, plus some very nice ice cream. Then back to Tacoma and the Miller's to await Sue, Amie & Carl and another round of trips and **retail therapy**. Still that's another story.

Back to reality and the start of the festival season. Not the kindest of starts at Stowe as you will have seen from Arthurs account. Still we did have wind. The week end was of course very memorable to me and your present to me. Then off to Weymouth, camping this year in the new tent acquired during retail theraping in the States. All went well and a good time was had by all. Then came our own festival at Lydiard, this was after abortive attempts to hold it at Oxford Balloon Fiesta and /or Marlborough Common. Back to where we started out all those years ago. The weather was kind to us and we were able to repay some of the hospitality to the Skeer family. Then on to Cleerhorpes and another 1,000 kite workshop. My thanks to all who helped to make the kites and it is wonderful to see the sky full of green tadpoles and many happy smiling faces of the children.

I have just about filled this page and more or less up to date, but do not forget that help is always welcome at any of the workshops and displays and usually there is a cuppa on the brew.

Hoping for more clean winds and tighter lines. **Neil.**

And so!!

Well where does the time go it only seems like yesterday we put the last cowpat together and we were at sunny light wind stowe. So here we are half way through the year and as busy as ever with the kite workshops and displays. The last few months have been hectic ones to say the least and this edition nearly didn't reach its deadline, talking of deadlines articles for the next cowpat must reach me by the 1st of October. Thankyou to all who supported this edition see you all on a flying field

TRACY

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 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 kites 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 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:

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

and

Lynn & Brian Simpson on: (01793) 845346

COWPAT III J.

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers

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