



# White Horse Kite Flyers Winter Issue 1999 January - March

## Our First Mince Pie Fly

After several years of being woken up too early in the morning by John Barker and friends.....

Oops! Must have forgotten to load ink in the pen, just like Doug Jones forgot to load film in his camera at the evening meal whilst trying to take group photos. Well John used to call us at 6.00 am our time to ask "What time is it?" Ha Ha Ha, real funny John! This year Marla & I decided to show up and surprise everyone in our Father Christmas disguises. We found out it is all true what we heard about the fly. Wet and cold! Wet for sure and not much wind. It was wonderful to see so many of you and to participate in the raffle. I bought tickets but Marla was not around for the drawing. Could she have raffle burn-out? I think not! The mince pies were good and they say the soup was also. Many thanks to Neil for all he does to make the fly possible. Marla & I may stay in bed next year and wait for John's call or we might not.....  
You never know where we might show up?

Happy kite flying

Ron and Marla

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# White Horse Kite Flyers

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

8 November 1998

### Welcome

In the absence of the President due to ill health the Chairman welcomed all the members to the AGM. Ron is waiting to go into hospital for a pacemaker to be fitted and the Chairman has sent the Club's best wishes.

### Apologies

Ron Gunter, Simon Hennessey, Jerry and Carolyn Swift, Martin Dibble, Sarah and Harriet Capwell, the Longbottoms, Len and Jen Purnell, Les and Tayah Purnell, Paul and Joy Methuen, Anne Broom, Caroline Bruce, Ron and Maria Miller, Sean and Cherryll, Sam and Dawn Zeiler, Sonny and Kathy Hamner, Rob Pratt, Barry and Kelly Crites, Greg and Sue Clark, Kim Drury, Dave and Susie Christenson, Vic Eshpeter.

### Minutes of the 1997 AGM

These were published in the December 1997 edition of Cowpat Hill. There are no matters arising.

### Chairman's Report

The full text of the Chairman's Report is published in this edition of Cowpat Hill.

### Treasurer's and Secretary's Reports

Copies of the accounts were passed to the club members at the AGM. 1997/98 represents the first year that the club has made a slight loss, however the stock of sled kites may be understated as not all have been received from the printer. The Inland Revenue got in touch with the club shortly after the festival, they were checking on the trailers at the festival rather than the club. Attendance at the workshops has not been as good as hoped, but thanks to those who did attend. Can all club members please make sure they tell others about the workshops when they can? It was suggested that Honorariums of £50 each be given to Janet Robinson (Treasurer), Dave and Jane Jones (Editor, Cowpat Hill) and Neil Harvey (printer Cowpat Hill). This motion was carried. It was suggested that the Club should consider a two-tier fee structure i.e. single and family. This was not passed. An increase in the membership fee to £8 with effect from 1 November 1999 was proposed by Dave Jones, seconded by Arthur Dibble and passed. New members will be charged pro rata on £8.

### Editor's Report

There have been problems with getting sufficient articles for Cowpat Hill, to the extent that the last edition was going to be the last as a week after the deadline only 2 articles had been received.

### Election of Officers

President - Ron Gunter (elected for life)

Chairman - Neil Harvey (proposed Alan Outram, seconded John Barker, passed)

Vice Chairman - Arthur Dibble (proposed John Barker, seconded Barry Poulter, passed)

Treasurer - Janet Robinson (proposed Pat Dell, seconded Janet Poulter, passed)

Secretary - David Robinson (proposed Barry Poulter, seconded Janet Poulter, passed)

Editor - Dave and Jane Jones (proposed Dave Robinson, seconded Arthur Dibble, passed)

A vote of thanks was given by the club to Dave and Jane for all their hard work.

Committee: Janet Poulter, Doug Jones, Dave Jones, Jane Jones, Martin Croxson, Brenda Purnell, Ron Miller, Pete Dawson, Caroline Bruce, Phil Scarfe. All are willing to stand for a further year. Pete Willis proposed for the committee by Dave Robinson, seconded by Jane Jones and carried.

### 1999 Festival

The contact at Wroughton has changed and the committee are experiencing difficulties in getting a meeting with her. As a result the plan is that the Festival will go ahead as this year. It was agreed that there should be a bar at the 1999 festival, although this will depend on Wroughton. The members at the AGM were asked to suggest international guests who should be asked to attend - as in past years

attempts will be made to tie in with Weymouth. Suggestions were Christian Baden Powell, Fritz Jansman, Jannika Green and Tom Geers. It was noted that whilst one trader has been lost, two additional fliers will be joining the festival, it was agreed that one new trader should be invited to the festival. Catering for the Saturday evening was discussed; Dave Robinson has identified a new caterer who might be interested in trading at the festival and has offered to pay a fee. Dave will see if the caterer would be willing to stay on for the Saturday evening although Dave will need an indication from club members of the numbers likely to want food so that he can tell the caterer. One member asked why we do not provide programmes for the public. Neil advised that it caused problems because the weather invariably results in changes to the order. However it was agreed that a blackboard would be used to publicise what would be happening.

### **Other Events**

The club attended a lot of new events in 1998 and the committee has no reason to think that the number of events attended in 1999 will be any less. The club has been invited to Southend on Sea (at the suggestion of The Kite Society) but it clashes with Portsmouth, there was also some concern at where there would be sufficient space to fly. The festival will be in conjunction with a Nautical Weekend, which attracted 40,000 visitors over 2 days in 1998. 1998 saw the first visit by the Club to Cleethorpes, this was good festival but the site was small when the tide was in. Concerns have been raised about the lack of members at Barbury for club fly-ins during the season, however with the large number of events the Club now attends members find themselves getting spread a bit thin. The point was made that constitution of the Club includes a statement that members should go out and spread the word about kites and surely this is what they are doing by attending festivals.

### **Club Projects for 1999 and the Millennium**

The Chairman would like to see a new train built for the club, he suggested a star kite. There was a suggestion from the floor that this project should be tied to the workshop. However it was felt that they may be problems with trying to tie in with the workshop, as non-attending members may not get involved. The frogman's legs go down very well and the yakoo train is still being worked on.

### **Equipment Purchases for 1999**

A 10' by 10' put up tent was bought in 1998. There was a suggestion that music speakers should be bought, however it was agreed not to proceed as the cost to get good quality would be too high.

### **Any other Business**

Pete Dawson has got in touch with STACK in connection with a winter league. He will act as a contact point for anyone who is interested.

### **Close**

In the absence of the President the Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone who attended the AGM, also thanked all those who had helped during the year.

## **Thank You**

Dear Arthur

Thank you so much for making me the winner of the Halloween fancy dress. My mummy (Sarah to you) helped me all day to get ready and make my face to look like a witch. My brother Ashley said I didn't need any makeup on. The sweets you gave me for winning I shared with my brother. I don't know why. It was a shame that it rained so hard, but I had great fun getting wet. Well I hope to see you soon.

Big cuddles

Harriett

## Autumn Workshop 97

It was with some trepidation that for the first time I agreed to do a workshop on parachuting Teddies as a tutor. Workshops up to now had been as a participant or a helper.

This is to be WHKF workshop 5 and having seen the standards set in the preceding 4 by international names such as Sam Houston and Don Mock along with our indigenous Barry Poulter, Franchesca Caton and Jon Browning. I was a little nervous. This was not helped when I found I had people like John Caton taking part.

So, much preparation and a sack of Teds from Kitcability and we are off. Well I don't know what the participants thought but I had a great weekend and I have always believed that if the instructor enjoyed it, it has been OK.

I now understand the feeling of elation that the instructors get when their creations come together for someone else. When all four bears released perfectly and their 'chutes opened first time gave me a pleasure to make it all worth while. I can now also know the delight Franchesca felt to see a line of Super Teds flying high or Barry to see a collection of his Fan kites.

It only remains for me to once again to say thanks to every one who made this such a memorable week end not only the tutors everyone who organised the event, fed us, pandered to our every need but most of all to those with-out whom nothing could have been done :- The participants.

After this event I shall be honoured if any one else considers it worth while inviting me again.

Arthur

## Wanted

Wanted a good home for a Singer Industrial Sewing Machine, straight stitch only in good working order. It has been given by our President who has no longer any use for it.

Anybody interested in it please contact me Neil Harvey as soon as possible and if there is more than one person interested I will make a draw at the Feb. meeting at Barbury.

While we thank Ron for this gift we also wish him and Bet all the best for the New Year and hope that he has his operation soon and that it is a success.

Neil.

## Bears with Altitude

Head pounding, the fateful day assaulted my consciousness. After tablets, showering and breakfast the headache had not diminished but the decision to "sally forth" was taken. Three stops, forty miles and an eternity later the venue was reached. Going in I had just missed the briefing so I was shown to my place and collapsed into the chair. The course director gave me a packet of white powder and said "this will make you feel better". When the room came back into focus I was seriously behind with my task and set to with a befuddled vengeance.

Luncheon time came and was a pot luck affair and we all pitched in. We were instructed in the art of aircraft recognition by a single (some said simple) minded person with a Comet fixation. So much that all the planes seemed to be called Comets albeit by different manufacturers. Refreshed and confused, the second session started.



Progress was a little better in the afternoon and when we had reached a certain point the director gave an informative lecture on planning and design factors. Further construction was then undertaken until the end of the session. One of our number having completed the task and the rest being about halfway through it. The trek home was a long but uneventful journey.

Day two dawned an hour early, something to do with the clocks or a time warp (*SPOOKY* or what!!). With me feeling bright and cheerful the journey to the centre seemed to take half the time of the previous day. The tasks for today appeared slightly more complex but with help and instruction from the course director all of us were able to cope.



Lunch was another pot luck affair, with the addition of a superb curry supplied by a member of another course. The lecture today was on meteorology, given by an eccentric and demented looking "N" (chairman), still being none the wiser about types of rain we returned to our labours.

To start with I did not think that we would finish the project in the allotted time. However, it all seemed to come together very quickly at the end and at 4.30pm the decision to launch was taken.

**SUPERTEDS ARE GO!!!!** The winds at the launch site were swirling and some difficulty was had with the launch vehicle. As no stabiliser (tail) had been brought I volunteered my Ted to act as a controlling influence. By now a large crowd had gathered and the rest of the Teds were attached to the line, take off, and all Teds are safely deployed. Pictures were taken to commemorate the event as the bears danced on line. Dave Robinson said "I like 'em, they are bears with attitude". "No!" said I, "they are BEARS WITH ALTITUDE".

In conclusion, I would like to thank everybody involved with this weekend for the thoroughly enjoyable time I had. With special thanks to Francesca for planning the course and for the medication, Janet for getting me more tablets and keeping our

coffee mugs filled and to the gentleman who supplied such a wonderful curry. I apologise for not remembering your name. My only regret is that I never took my camera. This was my first workshop experience and I was slightly apprehensive about it all, but now I can't wait for the next one and hope to see some more members at it (the workshop that is!).

Travor Hughes

## Sky Chat.

Well into another year we go, so firstly may I wish you all a prosperous New Year, and hope that you manage to keep your resolutions at least a few days.

Many thanks to those who attended the AGM and made it worth while. It is always great to hear members views on the way the Club should progress into the next millennium. I wonder if the Club will be about in the next century let alone in the year 3000 AD. At least it will not bother me by then.

Club projects and workshops are in hand, and details will be released as soon as possible, so be ready. The Club is going up in the air without the help of a breeze. We have just bought from Vic Walker a 48 foot mast. This will enable us to go dropping Teddy Bears on windless days and at events where there is not enough room to fly our kites. Just got to get Dave R fit to pump it up, think of his waist line. Instructions say 4 minutes for erection, the watches are out Dave. More power to the Tod Berets. What next Rocket launched Teds? (no I never said that)

Many thanks to those who braved the weather for The Mince Pie Fly-In. Well I told you it was just a clearing up storm, some of us had a lovely fly at dusk. But the SURPRISE of the day was the appearance of Ron and Marla Miller aka Mr & Mrs Christmas just to round off the day.

On quick count we have raised about £100 for The Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Many thanks again especially to all those who donated raffle prizes and bought tickets.

Did you see on Channel 4 on 29th Dec the programme on Stonehenge a little boy flying a White Horse sled kite at the Avebury Ring? Spotted by Doug Jones, the green tadpoles got everywhere.

Well better get on with my next project, what is it, you will have to wait and see. Wishing you tight lines and clean winds in '99

Neil

# Halloween Night Fly

What is the matter with this club? Are the majority of the members totally mad? We organised a Halloween Night fly for the Saturday evening and the weather was some of the worst we have had this year!

What happens? We get almost 50 people turn up with all the children in fancy dress, 12 special kites and 10 pumpkin lanterns and they all consume large quantities of chilli and mulled wine. They even go out in the torrential rain and try to fly their kites. I ask you "Are these people sane?" The answer is definitely "NO" they are kite flyers.

All I can say is a very humble "Thank you" to each of you who turned out on such a disgusting evening and made it so much fun. This is what we are all about, not who flies the biggest, fastest, most spectacular, cleverest or most expensive kite, but who flies? That puts us all on the same footing and whether you are novice or expert we should all have one thing in mind.

## THE ENJOYMENT of KITING

Finally I should like to thank Kennet Kite Fliers for the original idea. Do you have any more brain waves we can pinch?

Arthur

P.S. I had a call the following morning to show me that it had been a clearing up storm as it was by then a beautiful sunny day.

## For Sale

Toys for big boys, or big toys for hoys, or even big toys for big boys.

Included in the collection of kites from the late John Dalemán, which I am selling for his partner, were two turbines. Why might this be of interest to a WHKF member you ask? Well, it's all about size (as usual). One is just plain big and the other ginormous.

The smaller of the two is about 30 feet long but has been applied so would be a job for a stitch ripper and some new panels. The other is well over 50 feet long with multicoloured panels and a few small rips. A serious piece of kit.

If you are interested, give me a call (01502 712570) and we can sort out a price, they have to go to a good home, and someone with a lifter to suit.

Don't expect me to post them, they are big.

## To All

Well another year is over, a few more places visited and more friends made. Looking back, it's been a good year, doing workshops and flying at most events. The weather has been pretty good too.

We arrived nervously for the workshop, we didn't know what to expect, but Tracy & I took our places and set to work. Soon the nerves were gone. It was so relaxed and people were very helpful. At the end of the two days we had both managed to finish our projects. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and a big thank you to all who made it happen. If you haven't tried a workshop, have a go, don't be nervous, I'm sure you will enjoy it.

What will the new year bring? Lots of new events, wife permitting (only joking, she's as bad as me)?

In the new year I am looking to buy a 4 line soft kite. I have flown 2 types, thanks to Doug Manners and Arthur Dibble, but I would like to try a Sky Tiger before I buy at our festival. I am told that they have a different feel to all the rest. So, if anyone has got one, and is willing to let me have a go, I would be very grateful.

If anyone is interested in buying some ripstop (balloon quality I am told) at £1.75 a metre see me or give Graham a ring at Arundale. He is willing to sell it to WHKF members. He has about 10 colours in stock. He also has lines (100 lb to 720 lb) by the roll. The minimum order is £100 but perhaps several of us could get together. Let me know if you are interested.

Hope you had a good Christmas and that you got all you asked for. Happy new year to all, see you on the flying field.

Pete Willis

## Robinson's Ramblings

October saw another successful workshop, for the White Horse Kite flyers, with Barry Poulter's Fang kite, Franchesca Caton's Superted and Arthur Dibble's Teddy Bear Dropping Rig. We didn't have too many people this year but those who came said that they thoroughly enjoyed it and what a wonderful workshop it was! It was a great social event, of course, as well. Lots of re-quests for another one in February but unfortunately, due to time, or lack of time I should say, this won't be possible. We are making plans to get Sam Houston back in October to do a four foot Roller - **no sewing involved!** This will be a stuck-down Roller with double-sided sticky tape as per the Genki which he did about two years ago now. Should be a wonderful class, with lots of interest already. This class will work out at about £45 but what we'll do is put some final bits and pieces, when we've got it all together, into the next magazine, with a booking form. As per all the others, there'll be a 50% deposit. I warn you, if it's anything like Sam's first class, places will go quickly. Last time I had a waiting list. We can only accommodate about 20 people. We're going to try to do it on one day but, for those people who think that they might want more time, I'm going to try to get Sam to do it over two days. So you'll have the choice of doing it in one day or taking longer if you wish. We'll then have some flying out on the School playing field in the afternoon. Again, there will be a pot-luck lunch (this is where you bring food and we share it). Please wait for the booking form and details in the next magazine - don't be tempted to ring me as I won't be able to take a booking without the form.



# Chairman's Report 1998

Well another year, another AGM. Is it really 12 months since we were here talking about the Club and what to do during the next year?

I think the Club has done pretty well this year. We have attended more events, many for the first time. We have also had more helpers and this is very pleasing and judging by their comments they have enjoyed themselves. We have had many comments from event organisers thanking us for our efforts (even if the weather has not been in our favour). In addition, many members of the public have passed on their thanks.

Life never seems to be easy, at some events they think we can fly our kites from a pocket hankie sized arena, or under trees or buildings. Things are getting better, mainly through good planning and site visits.

The weather has been mixed, we had good weather for our festival (*makes a change - Ed*) but at others we encountered "clearing up" storms.

The workshops went well this year, the participants were well pleased with the results. I would like to thank the instructors for all their hard work, beforehand, and on the day, to enable these classes to run smoothly. It would be nice to see 1 or 2 more in each class.

Once again WHKF members have travelled abroad, flying the WHKF flag. I believe that they all enjoyed themselves. We have also been visited by overseas guests. We have been Marlaized 3 times. The first visit will never be forgotten with Dave Robinson's Dipsy gotcha. Dave may have been 50 but it must have knocked a few years off his life. What a shock!!

I have been going on too long so I will shut up, but before I do I must thank everyone who has helped the Club this year. Too many names to mention and I'm bound to forget someone. It was great to see you spreading the gospel about kites to a wider audience, keep up the good work.

Before I finish, I feel I must pass comment about Halloween night. What a night, the clearing up storm definitely came too late, but thank you for the efforts you put in to make the night a success. Shame about the rain. Many thanks to Arthur for all his hard work and to Lynn and Brian for the food. Must do it again and hope for a dry windy night.

Talking of Lynn and Brian, we are indebted to them for all they do for the Club, both up at Barbury and in the corridors of power.

Finally, here's looking to the future with your hand on a line in '99.

Neil

# News from the East

Since joining WHKF 3 or 4 years ago, I've only managed to meet up with the odd member (we have lots of those - Ed) at Weymouth and Blackheath. We are out on a limb here at Norwich with Old Warden and Blackheath being the farthest most of our members venture.

I am the treasurer and one of the founder members of the Thorpe Kite Flyers. We have been very active for a number of years and maintain a membership which fluctuates around the forty mark.

We have a fly-in every Sunday and CIA clearance for 1000ft once a month.

As well as the Sunday meetings we put on displays at many events during the year, sometimes supported by the very able display team "The Sky Divers" Colin, Steve, Nigel and Barry, who are club members.

Our events organiser and secretary, John Arnott, got together a good package of events for the '98 season. As well as a number of village fetes and charity events we had successful displays at The Norfolk Police Gala, Aylsham Show, Blickling Hall (NT) Hot Air Balloon and Kite Event, the International Girl Guides meeting at Holt, Great Yarmouth Carnival and the Mencap Fete at R.A.F. Coltishall.

We have our own Parachuting Teddy Bear expert, Derek Patfield. He is also club librarian. Being an ex WW2 bomb aimer he makes sure they drop in the correct place. Well sometimes!!!

Peter Waldron, assisted by his wife Beryl, runs a very good kite workshop at our larger events. Whilst a number of us dabble in Indian Fighters, John Miller has got to a standard where he is able to put on a creditable arena display.

A number of us are quite proficient with four line kites. I like to think that these are my speciality.

As a club we put on good displays and together with our banners we add colour to the fetes and galas we attend.

At present we do not have a club display team. The Sky Divers are members but operate independently and support us whenever they have free time. This is a pity as the public do like to see "them that fly like the Red Arrows". Malcolm Overton and myself are trying to get together some sort of routine with revolutions. The Decorators need not worry!! Still, you never know.

Our final event of the year is the A.G.M. in December, this is usually a very well attended meeting followed by a raffle and a three course meal.

Finally, I noticed in the December issue the Editor's comments with regard to lack of material for Cowpat. Do all clubs suffer from this problem? I hear complaints being made about our T.K.F. magazine. Mostly they are made by people, like myself, who cannot be bothered to put pen to paper. If it were not for our secretary, John Arnott, I doubt whether we would have a magazine at all. He composes, prints and issues. Sometimes there are items by members but not often. I feel part of the problem is that a lot of people think that they have very little to write about that would be of interest to others. To that I say, just write and let the editors make the decisions. After all, that is their job.

Hope to see you at Weymouth and Wroughton in '99. In the meantime have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Benstead

# Our Year

Dear Dave

I've just received my latest copy of Cowpat Hill and see that once again you are short of articles. I must admit that I had intended to write something for the "Dibble free" edition but unfortunately 1998 seems to have thrown a fair number of problems at the Irvine family and for one reason or another I just don't seem to have had the time. So I thought now would be as good a time as any with One Sky One World tomorrow!

We had 1998 planned out in advance by February with all the festivals and events we were going to visit, unfortunately over our first festival of the year (Stowe) some very helpful person stole our caravan. This tended to make staying at festivals a bit of a pain as we hadn't budgeted on staying in B&B plus paying off the remaining funds on the caravan not covered by the insurance (they don't tell you that when you sign up!)

Stowe was a nice festival if somewhat wet. My son David and I attended as Scouting representatives and camped in the mire. Sadly, few other Scouts attended even though we advertised it locally through our district. From what I remember of the weekend the winds were light and there were mixed showers. We managed to buggy at the end of the festival site although, because of the slope, it was quite difficult to make it back to the top in the light winds.

At Weymouth we had to make some quick arrangements to stay over the weekend. We assisted Arthur with the bear dropping and had a great time. Again the weather was variable and if you look carefully at the picture in Kite Passion of this years Weymouth you'll see a slumped-figure in a blue anorak with hood tightly around his head. Yup, that's me!

Our own festival was up to its usual standards, although the snow held off for another year. I was sad that we were unable to stay for the Saturday night but bought raffle tickets anyway. I had seen a strange three sided kite in the tent and thought that it looked really interesting. Imagine my delight when I was greeted with "I hate you Irvine" from a certain Chairman, yes the kite was mine. We spent all of the Sunday trying to fly this three line kite. It's a Synergy 333 and a limited edition too. I can't thank Marla enough for donating it to the raffle as it certainly is a talking point wherever we fly it. In fact, the rest of the family like it so much I've had to make 2 copies so that I can fly one myself. Of course with two the same you can fly one in each hand which totally scrambles your brain!

I have finally resolved the problems with my bear dropping winch and include the diagram for others to use if they wish (*you'll have to wait until the next issue - Ed.*). We represented the bear bombing division of the WHKF at the Hengistbury festival together with Pete Dawson and family and Doug and Angela Manners. Hengistbury is always very busy with kids and parents lining up from 10am to 5pm without a break and this year was no different. Doug and I both had rigs running and there was a steady stream of bears falling to the ground. One of the low spots was when I had to retrieve one of my bears together with 'chute from a middle-aged couple who had decided to walk off with him. They were most surprised when I asked for my bear back and tried to say that the children had told them they were free. I must admit this is not the first time we have had our bears stolen and I am wondering how best to ensure that more don't go missing. It is very difficult to keep track of multiple bears when the crowd is as large as at major festivals. Any suggestions gratefully received.

Whilst on the subject of bear dropping, we attend a number of local fetes to wave the WHKF flag (or green T shirt) and whilst at one such event one of the grown ups started taking the mickey out of David for dropping bears. He suggested that bungee jumping

would be more appropriate. David, not to be outdone, then made up a bungee jumping rig on the spot and had the crowd in stitches as multiple bears bounced up and down on the line.

We've been involved in a number of Scouting activities over this year, the major one being the 1998 Air Activities week at Pembrey in Wales. I took my kites and the buggies and ended up giving buggy rides to around 50 scouts along the fantastic sands at Pembrey. The following day I had difficulty in standing up (not the beer, honest!). I have since been approached to design a quad kite for the scouts to buggy with. It's there on paper but yet to be prototyped. David and I are off to the Scout Air Activities conference next weekend together with Pete Dawson we will be running kite making workshops and giving demonstrations, so hopefully we can entice some new converts to the wonderful hobby we all share. Unfortunately I will not be able to make the workshop this time as I am otherwise accounted for but I'll try for the next one. We hope to see everyone at the AGM or at the Mince Pie fly-in.

Best wishes

Doug, Rosie and David Irvine.

## The AKA Convention and Otherthings

In October Andrew Rummings, Phil Scarfe and I (Doug Jones) went to the AKA Convention at Ocean Shores in Washington State, USA.

I had been tempted to go since my last visit to Ron and Marla Miller last October ('97). When I learned that Andrew and Phil were also planning to go we got together and bought 3 return tickets to Seattle.

Andrew left a few days before Phil and I, so he spent some time learning about moonlight walks with Sam Houston. It appears that there is no such thing as jet lag in Sam's book and so Andrew stayed out until 3am on Mount Rainier, but Sam let him have a lay in bed and woke him at 7am for further trekking.

Phil and I arrived on the Friday to be met by Marla and her grandsons Mason and Vance along with Andrew. It was realised that Andrew was having a "real cool time", he was also hyper with excitement.

On arrival at Ron and Marla's house we had a quick wash and brush up before going for a meal at Point Defiance. Later we retired to bed.

Saturday dawned and it was off to Long Beach, via Costco for such essentials as jelly beans etc, for it was One Sky One World. On arriving at Long Beach it was a quick look at the kite shops and museum and then down to the beach for a quick kite fly. That evening we were entertained by Jim and Kay Buesing. On Sunday we made sure that we were counted flying kites. Phil was able to put up a variety of Wallace and Gromit parafoils and Big Red made its first appearance on this US trip. Before returning to Tacoma we had to take in one of Mason's gourmet recommendations, pizza at Bubas.

Eventually we arrived at Ocean Shores. Ron had to stay behind and work for a couple of days. Marla stayed in the Shilo Inn with her 3 telephones and televisions, one for each room in the suite including the loo. The 3 of us stayed at Sam and Ann's beach hut (a palace on enough ground to build an entire estate in this country). It was difficult to know who was the more hyperactive, Sam or Andrew. Sam is always chatting, bringing things out to show you, while Andrew is so excited about everything he sees.

Andrew took along a number of his miniature Cody Kites. I think he was a little disappointed by the initial interest shown at the convention, but suddenly everyone was after one. When Sam saw Andrew flying one backwards he coined the name "Wrong Way Rummings". At first Sam told this was after an American Footballer nicknamed "Wrong Way Corrigan". We later found out the Corrigan was in fact an aviator who said he was going to fly non stop, from New York to the west coast. In fact he ended up in Europe, the excuse being that he misread his compass.

Meanwhile, at the AKA Convention we set about flying the required kites at the afternoon fly ins to get our pins. There are five pins, each representing a type of kite, such as delta, rokkaku, box etc. When all pins are collected they form a large eddy kite.

In the convention rooms there were classes on sticking kites together, by Sam Houston, high technology kite parts, by Kathy Goodwind, miniature kites, kite aerial photography etc. At the sale room I met Jody Hagan again.

At the banquet there was the auction. Most of the items were way above anything we could sensibly afford. A Gibson Girl was sold for \$570 (about £300). I have never seen one go for more than £100 in this country. Several kites went for more than \$1000 and generally the prices were in the \$500 to \$800 range. I bought a car number plate with Oklahoma KITER. It looks good on my bedroom wall.

Ron won the star prize in the raffle, a buggy complete with 2 kites and a crash helmet. Buggy Boy Miller?

One noted attendee at the convention was Stafford Wallace, who almost choked to death when he asked about our air fare. He wished he'd never asked.

Our fares were exceedingly cheap, any cheaper and they would have almost been paying us to go.

On arrival back at Tacoma it was washing and generally relaxing with a trip to Seattle with Kim. Phil went looking at "Hot Cars" with Marla's brother.

Phil and I came back earlier than Andrew because we had to return to work. In that time Andrew had plans to cycle and roller blade to everywhere in the state of Washington.

Our thanks must be given to Ron and Marla Miller for arranging everything and to Sam and Ann Houston for putting us up at Ocean Shores. We had a great time and look forward to seeing our American friends again.

Doug Jones

## Internet News.

Well, not a lot really ! I have changed servers (that's the communication company that links me to the internet, for those who don't know.) and in doing so the web page I kept for the club has now gone. If anyone on the internet wishes to contact me then e-mail to:-

[peter@whkf.freescrve.co.uk](mailto:peter@whkf.freescrve.co.uk)

I would be pleased if one and all did do so as I wasn't able to transfer the addresses I had collected over to the new system ! but at least if there is anything of importance comes up you'll know.

As to the web page, if there is interest then I'll look at rejuvenating it, but just like the

magazine, it does require input to make it worthwhile. Trying to update the site monthly is quite a chore when no-one inputs any gossip !! (yes Dave, I know how you feel !) I'll see about putting up a test page in the new year so check out the site then:-  
www.whkf.freemove.co.uk I believe, but not until mid January.

Did you know.... I just ran a search on how many web sites there are on Kites and kite flying - there are some 195,630 sites !!!! and this club was one of them!

Regards

Peter Dawson.

The owd boy wot dew the edimatorial say if yew dont send him some owd squit fur the parish magazine then there ont be one, but dew you do dew then he can dew one. Niver one to tarn down a chance for a mardle I set down with my owd scamulator and this duzzy heap of stuff cum out. Thas a good job thers a control wot fun that from suffik into hinglish wot yew lot down there can figure out, cos we have a rum owd time trying to latch on to woy yor a sayin of. Im agoin to press that owd buttink now!

Isn't technology marvelous

## Rescue Kites

Often, when you dare, or care to admit to flying kites in non kite company, some one will tell of early flying experiences with a 'yellow box kite' which they then sadly go on to say, that they don't know what happened to it. Kite flyers 'of an age' are more precise and tell of early experience with 'Gibson Girls' which of course can be misconstrued by those not in the know. My own early flying was with an immaculate GG, and no, I don't know what happened to it either. The interest paled somewhat when an Item on the old Nationwide programme showed a kite which could be 'steered'. This was excitement to a teenager and by dint of contacting the BBC managed to buy a Dunford, mail order, from the man himself. Mind you steerable was an arguable term.

Returning to Kite flying many years later I found that the GG was now sought after and treated with a certain reverence. Quite by accident I became the owner of a very tatty example and set about finding a complete set (without paying the prices demanded by some hopeful souls in magazines).

The development and history of the system are well known and much detailed research on the GG has already been completed, including a number of theories and speculation as to the origin of the name, and there is nothing I can add to any of this except questions. Hugh Andrew appealed for information in an old issue of Kite flyer and at one stage was planning to publish the results of his investigations, did this ever happen?

One of my colleagues at work attends Radio Rallies on a regular basis and I asked him to keep a look out for 'yellow tubes' Eventually he found one, and at a sensible price, but to his surprise the stall holder presented him with a very large gubbins that 'went with it'. Yes, the transmitter. The first question that comes to mind after reading the instructions was. Did anyone ever use one in anger? Putting together the kite and working the transmitter on dry land is complicated enough, but the thought of being in a dinghy, bobbing about after having parachuted from a stricken aircraft does not bear thinking about. The instructions are long and detailed, erecting the kite, attaching the aerial, launching and winding the kite out, putting out the earth line, the drogue and then attaching the winding handle to the generator in the transmitter. With the box 'gripped between the legs' and a wide strap round you, the instructions were then to turn the handle steadily at 120 RPM for 2 minutes to 'warm the valves up' before starting to 'key' whatever signal was the order of the day, while

still turning the handle. I have tried it and my arm was cream crackered very quickly.

Was, then the GG system a success? Judging by the numbers on the post war market, not too many ended up in the sea. How many thousands must have been produced. I note a GG winch was sold at the Kite Society auction several years ago for £25, reflecting the collectors interest.

At a local festival, some years ago, an aircraft enthusiast turned up with a car boot full of 'interesting' kites, and as well as a GG he produced an amazing Rocket propelled self erecting aerial kite. This form of kite was described much more accurately by David Hughes in the Kiteflyer, but here is an abridged version. The first major and obvious difference is that this is a traditional Conyne, not a box. This overcame the problem of having to put a box kite together and then tension it by having the kite assembled, complete with all its spars, and then folding the wings back on themselves by having the main spreader in two halves with joints which slid down the longerons. The 2 top longerons and spreader are of Dural but the single lower longeron is spruce. The spreader was put under tension by 2 pieces of elastic connected to the front of the longerons. In order to keep the kite folded it was wrapped in a fabric sabot which was stitched along its length to provide cells for the line and held together, in the manner of a hinge with, 6 ordinary split pins through the 2 halves of the hinge.

The method of operation was to rest the kite in its sabot in the bottom of the dinghy, pointing upwards with the aerial line attached to the dinghy, and with the other end of the sabot attached by a line to a rocket which was then fired from an adaptor or adapted Verey pistol. In theory, off went the rocket and the line unraveled, at the top of the flight the line tightens, pulls out the pins, the sabot is pulled off and the elastics pull the spreader into the normal position and there you have a flying Conyne.

The whole caboodle is packed into a large flattened cardboard tube 3ft long 6 inches wide with rockets, stabilising drogue, kite in its sabot and line. A substantial piece of kit.

Research showed this launching system to have been patented by one John Wheelwright of Tonbridge Kent in October 1945, although he applied for the patent in 1942. The model I saw was made by AVRO in 1944 and know of at least one more of these owned by a well known flyer from Kent. Are there any more out there?

Amazingly out of the car boot came yet another Aerial kite, again a Conyne, but this time telescopic. Both the longerons and the spreader were in 2 halves which slid up and down each other in guides made of 2 pieces of brass tubing sweated together. The whole assembly was held rigid by sprung wires within the tubes, exactly the same as on an umbrella, the spring shaped with a gentle ramp to allow the kite to be erected but with a vertical face to stop it folding up again.

The kite when telescoped is rolled and pushed into a very stout cardboard tube which acts as a form of reel with the aerial wrapped round a center portion which has two checks to keep everything in place. The kite in its flying tube is then put into a screw topped cardboard tube similar to a GG but much longer and bigger in diameter. The outside of the tube has detailed instructions for rigging the kite, flying it and attaching an aerial. The illustration is of it being flown from a boat rather than a dinghy, so is this a military kite or a later development for civilians, it is all in an orange yellow which indicates it could be service issue of some sort, possibly American, can anybody help with further information?

I hope I am not alone in finding older kites fascinating, so perhaps some of the more knowledgable amongst you out there could delve into the archives and find some gems.

Hugh

## And finally a note from the Editor.

A very big thank you for all your kind words at the AGM, they were very much appreciated. The plea for articles seemed to have worked. Once again thank you very much because I nearly have enough articles for the next magazine as well, but don't let that put you off putting pen to paper. If you want to send your article by disk, that's OK. Our Apple Mac will quite happily read PC disks, but it would make life easier if you saved your document in text format. We will do our best to return your disks. We may soon have an E-Mail address, so watch this space.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and that Santa (not the Miller version) was kind to you. It was great to see Ron & Marla again.

Finally, best wishes for the new year and I look forward to seeing you all on the flying field, some time in '99.

## 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 aeriads.
- 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

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