

Teddy & the gang meet a new friend. Is this the youngest BKF member, as we speak?

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

RAMBLES FROM DAVE FROM MIDDLE WALLOPE

Middle Wallop airfield in Hampshire is one of my favourite flying sites. However it is also liked by the British Army and is their flying school so it is a privilege to be able to use it twice a year. In May and August, Roy Broadley from Kites Up organises two festivals on the airfield. Because there are 800 acres of short grass there is a lot of space for all types of flying and a line of 200 red flags separates the general flyers from the buggy and board enthusiasts. Great for people like me who find being dragged around by an airbed on lines as interesting as watching grass grow. Each to his own and that is what you can do at Middle Wallop. It is so BIG that, as a considerate flyer, you will be able to find space to fly your favourite type of kite without obstructing other flyers.

I arrived on Friday afternoon and found a space in the car park, it is not possible to get on the airfield until the Army stop flying for the day. The gates opened at half past five by which time both car parks were full and we all drove on to the airfield to set up. This year the traders were lined up along the edge of the runway instead of dividing the flying area, a very good arrangement. There are no organised arena events at the Middle Wallop festivals but STACK have their own arena and run their competitions over the weekend. This

gives an opportunity for those who like skilful multiline flying, to see some of the best flyers in action.

The weather was good for flying, the wind was there all the time and only a few showers all the long holiday weekend. There was even enough wind on Saturday night to allow night flying with lights. I flew single, two line and quad line kites, I'm master of none but trying, and had a great time. I was in the middle of a long fly with the Sky Dancer when the safety marshal asked for all kites to move away from the top end of the field to allow two Army aircraft and two helicopters to take off. That was the first time that had happened to me at Middle Wallop and I was actually quite glad to have a break. The flying conditions are so good there you wear yourself out. When the aircraft returned in the early evening they gave us an immaculate close formation fly-past before turning off in sequence to land.

During the weekend I bought a DVD "Flying Techniques" by Carl and James Robertshaw and Andy Wardley. In the small print on the back of the case it says "aimed at kite flyers who want to take their skills to the next level". Having now watched it, I agree with that, you need to have quite a bit of experience to appreciate the skills being explained. I believe it should be called "Advanced Flying

Techniques", but that is a minor quibble. This is excellent information, right up to the minute, explanation and demonstration of the latest two line aerobatic manoeuvres such as the "Comete" and "Jacob's ladder". A brilliant section by Andy Wardley with the Airbow, a must if you are going to or just have bought one. Great demonstrations by Carl and James with Revolutions and Matrix and a fascinating insight showing how they plan and practice their Evolver routines. There are also lots of hints and tips on basic techniques, all in all a good buy.

I came home late Monday afternoon, tired but happy, looking forward to August for my next visit to the biggest lawn in England, And another fun packed weekend of flying.

Dave McArthur



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THE 6TH SOUTH PADRE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL & SPORT KITE COMPETITIONS FEB. 2004

I have been to many Islands around the world including Hawaii, Fiji and the famous Frazer Island in Australia I have enjoyed flying on all of them but I must say South Padre Island on the Gulf of Mexico to me for kite flying has to be the best, and at the right time of year it is a Kite flyers dream, with super 10 mph winds coming off the ocean and literary dozens of awesome flying places along this 34 mile long stretch of pure white sand (by the way it is ranked as one of America's top 10 beaches) which is bordered on the East by the emerald water of the Gulf of Mexico and on the West by the Laguna Bay, the whole Island is a perfect play ground for what ever you have in mind, sailing, surf and boat fishing, windsurfing, kiteboarding,(which has become the Islands hottest new water sport because of the ideal conditions at Laguna Madre's waist deep water and consistant winds) horse back riding, kite flying. Man you name it you can do it on this Island of paradise located on the tropical tip of Texas where the Snowbirds or "Winter Texans" flock to, to escape the cold of the north, and I like to mention it is also a Treasure hunter's paradise as way back even before I was born: numerous galleons laden with gold and silver bars coins and priceless jewellery on there way to Spain were blown off course to Padre Island, where they foundered on sand bars and the surf smashed there hulls to pieces, the thrill of just finding just a single 400 year old Spanish coin would be some thing else.

It was so nice to get back to the Island as I had some great memories from my last visit in 2000, I had a good flight into Valley International Air port at Harlingen late evening Thursday and only had a 30-minute wait for my friends and team mates Gerri and Fred Adler from California to arrive, it is about an hours drive from Harlingen to South Padre Island Jim Geyerman owner of the Wind chasers of SPI Kite Store and my sponsor was waiting for us and took us to dinner, the talk over dinner was mostly about the weather as it has been cold and lots of rain of late and not any way near what it is normally

like and Jim was kind of worried about the kite festival and competitions on the Saturday and Sunday but I told him no worry Jim... I always bring the sun shine and good winds, well the Sun and Wind Gods must have been listening because the festival was bathed in sun shine and wind, which was blowing 18 to 20 mph on Saturday, the festival was a huge success both days from start to finish the competitions were put off until Sunday hoping that the wind would not be as strong, again the Wind God was on our side with a steady 12 mph wind the competitions ran with out a hitch thanks to the



organizers Guy Blatnik, Steve Mutter and Jim Geyerman, and Tom Chaffee once again did a great job on keeping a running commentary on what was going on plus answering the many questions from some very interested spectators, this being there first kite festival that they have attended and were very impressed especially with Masters Team Ballet and I like to mention that SPI Team was one of the Teams that represented the USA at the World Sport Kite Championships in Berck France last April this was another added bonus for the hundreds of spectators, and the back bone to all sport kite competitions is without a doubt the sound system, Geoff Clifton once again did a fantastic job and was right on cue with everyones music.

I was given my own arena to give all day multiple kite demos, and as I mentioned before this Island is a kite flyers dream, as there is enough room on this 628 acres of flat as a pancake sand area where they hold the festival for everyone to have his very own flying arena, and the beauty of it is that it is only a few minutes drive from the town,

The dinner and auction was also a huge success there were a lot of great kite buys and most of the kite flyers took full advantage to stock up their kite bags, the food was great and plenty off it, I noticed that Jeff McCown the captain of SPI Sport Team and his team members even went for seconds and thirds...hard to believe I know...but I know this for a fact as they tried their hardest to push their way in front of me each time:

After the festival my sponsor Jim Geyerman had me stay on a few more days to fly on the beach which was only a few steps away from where he had booked us to stay, Gerri and Fred Adler also took full advantage of their first time on this Island and also stayed a couple more days, the weather and wind was perfect for us to fly team with our stacks of Dyna kites which attracted lots of attention from afar, I was in my glory flying team plus flying multiple kites from early morning until dusk.

On my last day before heading back home Jim said " want to take you for a drive along the beach", 5 minutes out of town Jim drove off the main road and on to the beach and drove for miles and miles on beautiful white sand and we passed literary dozens of awesome flying sites flat as a pancake and straight as a die, open to the ocean on both sides, super deluxe places to fly regardless what ever direction the wind would be coming from. The whole Island is a kite flyers paradise, plus the bonus of finding an old Spanish treasure when pulling up your ground stake, but as always the real treasures for me is seeing the pure joy in the spectators faces at the kite festival.

Thank you Jim for a great festival and for your invitation to your 7th Kite Festival in 2005, many thanks to all the Kite Flyers who made my team mates and myself so very welcome see you in 2005 if not sooner.

Thank you for listening

Ray,

ps, if anyone is interested in seeing the results of the competitions You can find them at:
www.kiteshop.com

THE BRADLYS DO NOT HALF GET AROUND

First there was Berck. We left home on the evening of April 23rd and took the caravan to Folkstone Racecourse. We were picked up early Saturday morning by Simon, Ron, Alan & Dorothy when we then went to the tunnel station to board a train for Calais. At the terminal we met up with other members of BKF and Team Elf. After a scenic drive to Berck via a hypermarket in Boulogne to stock up on food we arrived in Berck about 12:00. Having parked up we then ate our lunch and made our way to the beach to be confronted by a sea of kites of all shapes & sizes. A stroll along the promenade to visit the traders proved fruitful, we purchased 2 'dragon' banners, a traditional dragon kite and a balanesian Dragon. We spent some time on the beach looking at all the wonderful display kites, including inflatables from David Gomberg one of which was his blue meanie. Many british kite flyers were present, including Ray Bethal flying his 3 2 line kites. There was also an interesting wind garden, the flowers being made from plastic drinks bottles. We left Berck around 5:00 and made our way back to Calais, stopping en route for a super meal. We arrived back in England about midnight after an interesting day - will definitely go again.

Weymouth. We travelled to Weymouth on Friday night and parked the caravan in a local camp site. Saturday morning we arrived at the flying beach and met up with Simon who then organised flying passes for us. We tried to fly some of the larger kites but as there was very little wind we were not very successful and around lunchtime we gave up and walked round to the harbour. Saturday evening a group of us went to a fish & chip bar for a meal and then eventually ended up at Simon's flat for coffee. Sunday proved a bit more successful and managed to fly some of the larger display kites. Sunday ended with a reception in the pavillion followed by fireworks, the start of which was counted down by Charlotte Hennessey. After the fireworks we wandered round to the funfare where Victoria went on a ride which while spinning the occupants also turned them up side down. This

was watched by Margaret, Malcolm, Simon & Charlotte and we all decided that we didn't want to join Victoria. We woke up Sunday morning to fine rain so decided to pack up and go home. Even so we had had another enjoyable kite flying weekend. Swindon. We decided just go to Swindon on the Sunday. We loaded up the car and even though it was raining we decided to go anyway. On the way the sky brightened up and we thought we were in for a good day weather wise - we were however wrong! As we got nearer to Swindon the weather deteriorated and by the time we arrive at the airfield we were in low cloud. After looking around the hangers and catching up with various people the weather improved and we were able to fly a few kites. Not the best festival for weather but the company made up for it.

Rougham. After much deliberation - because Victoria has to attend wind orchestra practice Saturday morning, we decided to pick up Victoria from rehearsal and get to Rougham late Saturday evening. We arrived at 7:00 and after Simon 'drove' our caravan into its allocated space we joined Force Nine kites and other BKF members in a barbecue. This was followed by fireworks and further socialising at the Froce Nine Stall.

This included a presentation of birthday cakes to Mark and Simon who had birthdays very close to the festival (see picture). Sunday proved



a successful kite flying day and at one point with the help of Ron Dell and Ray Oakhill, we had 4 of our larger kites in the air, our green delta with the links tail, our 5 sided snowflake, our six sided snowflake and our black dragon Rokkaku. During the afternoon we relieved Simon & Paul who were flying the Manta. After

another super weekend we arrived home about 8:00.

Tewkesbury. We left for Tewkesbury about 6:45 Friday evening, arriving about 8:30. Friday night we were wakened by rain and thought we were in for a wet weekend. Saturday was cloudy but dry and there were times when we managed to fly a few kites but the wind was rather gusty and it was not very easy to keep the kites in the air although Malcolm did manage to fly some of his oriental kites - dragon, carp & owl. Victoria & Malcolm also entered in the individual Rok fight but didn't win. Saturday evening we attended the buffet provided by Golden Valley Kite Flyers and discovered another BKF member - Maurice. Sunday there was more wind and after rebridling our new hexagonal kite we managed to get it to fly - a bit unstable. We adjusted the bridle & eventually managed to get it to fly well. As well as individual rok fight, Malcolm & Victoria also entered a team Rok fight with our green Dragon kite. This was cut down and floated away - landing on the roof of the school - fortunately Malcolm managed to retrieve it with no further battle scars. Sunday evening finished with an auction. Monday morning was cloudy so we packed up the awning while it was still dry - fortunatley it didn't rain until after we left for home. The wind proved better on Monday and we finished the day flying the Hex which was really stable & dominated the skyline. We left around 6:00 after a super weekend.

Margaret, Malcolm & Victoria

SO YOU THINK BUGGYING IS NEW

George Pocock a schoolmaster used the power of two kites, in 1820's, to pull a carriage at speeds of up to 20 mph on his 1st attempt and then on some of his later trips speeds were recorded at over 100mph. Because road taxes at the time were based on the number of horses a carriage used, he was exempted from any taxes and tolls! Once he connected several kites to a carriage and pulled it from Southampton to London.

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THE BKF RALLY @ ROUGHAM

Well what an eventful weekend!! Both on and off the flying field. We arrived at Rougham on the Saturday after a three hour drive from Brighton to find various BKF members on site and nomiS on his own at the other end of the field. We drove over to use the car as a ground anchor through grass which was higher than the bonnet of the car. A strange experience, driving through grass that appeared to part like water as you drove through it. As the weekend progressed it appears that many people enjoyed this sensation as lots of cars drove across the field rather than using the cut road way around the edge. Still, back to the flying.

Up went Manta, followed by Teddy and the new acquisition, a Peter Lynn Penguin. We then flew Ollie and two lobsters from our car. By this time utterly exhausted, htebasilE evaD, noR and I collapsed into chairs and got our breath back. No sooner had we sat down than the wind dropped and everything fell out of the sky. This seemed to be the agenda for the day - Wind, run out inflate the pilots, every thing rises majestically into the sky, we sit down grab water etc, wind drops and all fall down. Then wind again and we start all over again. All the time the sun was getting hotter and hotter and hotter.

Still that is half the fun of kite flying; another aspect of the hobby and kite festivals is acquiring new kites. Jackie & Hugh Pennie came over to say that they had decided to have a clear out of their kite bag... fatal to my wallet, I came away with 14 new, to me, kites..... Oh how do I explain this one when I get home..... Let me think, I know I will use the same excuse that she who must be obeyed uses..... "look how much I have saved by buying these bargains".... Yes that will work..... Anyway she never reads Aerodyne.

The afternoon passed and we baked and still the wind was up and down and up and down, By half past three we had had enough of this and left the kites down and wandered off round the traders and other stalls. Here we bumped into Martin (Firework) Corrie one of the organisers of the festival. Between nomiS and Martin it was decided to fly

the large inflatable in the arena at 4:30 to close the events for the day. Well we folded the kite up and carried it across to the arena. Laid out the fabric narrowly avoiding being decapitated by an exhibiting flyer doing his display. At the time of our slot we were ready but no wind, not a breath. So what now? Well as readers will be aware BKF members are not adverse to a spot of "Charlie Browning" (see October 2003 issue and our exploits at Teston). So how to drag a kite that is 100 feet long and

And staggered back to the "base" camp where we had left the rest of the kites and stuff. Now you will recall that the field was a silage crop and as such the grass was high. Well nomiS had set up camp in an area that had very sparse grass and was mainly sand, we now discovered why, the biggest ants nest you did ever see! Everything was covered in ants that were furious at being disturbed, we all got bitten and stung by these insects as we packed away the kites. Saturday evening was drawn to a



weighs in at 50 kgs? We will use a car!!! So with evaD and I holding the wings apart and nomiS at the wheel of his car we started, and failed as we ran out of arena just as the kite got airborne. Still never being ones to give up at the first attempt the whole thing was dragged back to the starting point. This time with the addition of a pilot kite and two more helpers we achieved the impossible flight of a large inflatable in zero wind. All going well until a small child ran in front of nomiS who had to stop suddenly. This had the effect of dumping the Manta straight down. Heading straight for the spectators luckily I could reach the bridle lines and steer the kite to a relatively empty part of the park, much to the annoyance of a collie dog who was most distressed to see such a large animal with huge teeth and gaping mouth falling out of the sky straight for him and his mistress. This was the final straw we gave up!!

very pleasant close by a BBQ and gathering at the Kiteworld tent. Even if someone who shall be nameless made me the colour of beetroot by mishearing a totally innocent comment (so he says) and then perpetuating the misunderstanding even to the extent of phoning she who must be obeyed to check if I could actually do what was requested! (sorry to be so cryptic but if you were there you will understand and if you weren't then you don't need to know, but you could ask someone who was and you may be told) And so to bed - Peter Linnell, who had had, set up on site his caravan after it was repaired for him to use. As he was unable to attend so Rougham his caravan was lent to nomiS and as it was a 3 birth nomiS suggested that hteB and I share, to save putting up our tent. He also asked noR to stay when it became too late for him to drive home. So nomiS went from

T H E B K F R A L L Y @ R O U G H A M

continued

having a double bed to himself to ending up on the floor of the van. Still four of us in a small caravan was very cosy and noisy as all four snored - at one point so loudly that I woke myself up with the racket!

Sunday morning was as still as still could be. Not a rustle or movement at all. So what to do at a kite festival with no wind and at 6:00 am? I know set up kiteworld's stall for them. By the time Michael and Linda got out of bed the stall was open and set up.

Michael then decided to fill a hole in his display with a wasp kite from premier this kite was very complicated and we set a stop watch on him twelve minutes later we could not resist "helping" and a full twenty minutes later the kite was ready.

After several cups of coffee from Linda the decision was taken to try to

get something into the air. As the trailer was opened the remainder of the ants that got caught up yesterday tried to escape through us rather than round us.

The manta was lofted skywards and as on the Saturday it went up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. As the day progressed the wind got better and better and by the time to pack up it took several BKF members to bring down the beast.

All in all a good festival and many thanks to Suffolk flyers and all those who organised Rougham 2004. See you in 2005.

By then evaD may well have a proper banner.

lauP IliH

N O T A R E A L K I T E F E S T I V A L B U T G R E A T F U N T O F L Y A N Y W A Y

Cuckfield Bank Holiday Fair

Well the forecast was iffy, but we had promised to fly so we set off to arrive at about 8.30am. Found Paul and Beth Hill along with Amy, Paul partners Daughter, already there. A boot sale was taking place so before we flew we had to have a look around didn't we. Alan Outram may be hard of hearing but his nose works well, he had smelt the boot fair from miles away and turn up just as we were going in. While looking round the kids brought more toys, and Alan restocked his garage with bits and bobs (sorry Anne).

Once out in the parking area again the wind had picked up a bit and we managed to put up the club manta ray. Soon after, Mark and Michelle turned, up along with the Crags, then Dave and Tracy with their nipper. More kites were brought out of kite bags and flown. The manta was soon joined by the penguin and later in the day Teddy showed it face to the delight of the children watching. The public soon started to arrive and watch, some came up and talked to us about the kites and what was going on, some even had kites in the cars and came and flew which was

nice to see. One man had just brought a new quad line kite and was having trouble flying it so Paul and I fixed the line length and bridle (must be the single line flyers in us to make this possible) and he went away very happy with a kite that now flew promising to see us at Brighton.

The number of cars entering the show soon made the flying area smaller and smaller. We did however manage to hold enough ground to keep on flying all day. Paul and I had a try at team flying and we will soon get there with a bit more practice. Next week we may even try a full team with Dave as well.

Towards the end of the morning we were thinking that we would have to bring down the kites, as the area we were flying in, was again being taken over by parked cars. However after a quick word with the attendant this stopped and we kept flying till the end of the day, even managing to put up my large spinning doughnut for the 1st time this year.

Thank you to all those who turned up, what do you think same again next year, or try something else. Just let me know what you think.

Simon Hennessey

T H E A R T O F T H E W A U

The beautiful island of Langkawi, Malaysia in January - lots of sun and sandy beaches, but winds that average merely 2 mph at this time of year, so only the lightest of kites will fly. A trip to the Malaysian Craft and Cultural Complex at Teluk Yu provides an entertaining diversion, not least because of the 3.5m traditional Wau which greets you hanging from the ceiling of the entrance hall.

There are three museums located within the grounds of the complex; one of them, the Heritage Museum, features crafts associated with Malaysian culture, including spinning tops and drumming. More importantly, it has a permanent static display dedicated to the art of making kites, with many beautiful examples on display. At the time we visited there was an extra display of kites which had been made on site the previous month by a kitemaker from Perlis.



The wau, which resembles the shape of the letter wau from the Arabic alphabet, is the most popular traditional kite. There are many types, the commonest being: Wau Bulan (Moon); Wau Kuching (Cat); Wau Ikan (Fish); Wau Jalabudi (Woman) And Wau Daun or Barat (Leaf), they are named after the particular shape or a feature of the kite. The kites are large, often 2 to 3 meters high. The frame is made from bamboo with a sail made from layers of cut and pasted coloured paper, and beautifully decorated using traditional designs of leaves and flowers. The wau bulan has a long nose which supports a bow drone. In competition the drone is usually made of rattan, but for less serious flying re-cycled video tape is used,

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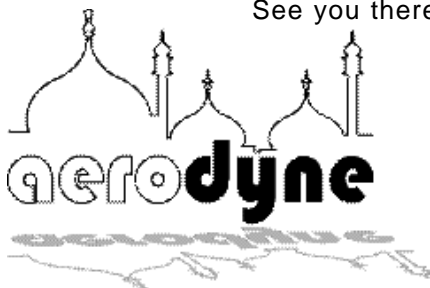
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fly - in reminders

Our Monthly fly-in is where we try and get as many of the club members to fly together. These are held on the 1st Sunday on Telscombe Tye, East Sussex, 2nd Thursday at Stanmer Park 6pm. Remember that during the summer members may well be attending kites festivals, but the fly-ins are still on.

See you there



Merchandise

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Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible Ray Bethall, Paul Hill, Dave McArther, The Bradly's, Terry & Irene Golding for articles. I know it seems we keep going on, but Aerodyne is only possible with your help, so thank you again to those who help.

Simon Hennessey

Next Issue

Story of a young girl who wanted to be one of Ray Bethall's kites. Hopefully a write up on the Brighton festival and Petworth.

We have a range club t-shirts and hooded tops for sale
 T-shirts £10
 Hooded tops £25.00

Please contribute to your club newsletter - even the smallest of items is welcome. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise.

Contributions should be sent to:

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Deadlines dates:
 January issue - 1 December
 April issue - 1 March
 July issue - 1 June
 October issue - 1 September

THE ART OF THE WAU

continued
 In competition flyers all use the same length line. Kites of similar style, shape and size are judged not only by how high they fly but also by how well they are decorated. After being launched by a team of two and flying for about 10 minutes, the flying line is attached to a protractor or spirit level to measure the angle of flight and height. Sometimes the speed of ascent to a set height is also part of the competition. Pictures of the kites in the complex can be found at:

<http://terry.fotopic.net/c117731.html>
 If you are in the region a good time to see Waus flying is at the Pasir Gudang kite festival in Johor Bahru, southern Malaysia which is usually held in mid-February. Closer to home, some beautiful examples of waus and other kites were to be seen (and purchased) on the Malaysian stand at Berck this year, they will also be at Dieppe International Kite Festival in September.

Terry & Irene Golding

A very big Thank you

We would like to put out a heart felt thank you to those the firemen of Red Watch of Newhaven & Preston Park for their gallant efforts in retrieving our lifter from the top of the football stadium floodlight while we were flying at the RNLI fete held at the Newhaven Fort Recreation and football ground. As a thank you we have donated £50 to the FSNB fund.



Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne' the BKF cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the BKF

