



The one and only Andrew Beattie (Chair of The BKFA) flying a kite more his size.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

COUNTY SHOWS CAN BE FUN

Some of you may already know that one of my other interests away from kites is the restoration and presentation of "hot air", steam and any number of ancient internal combustion engines. This hobby allows me to go to several steam and dedicated country shows up and down the country where I am able to camp onsite for the duration of the show.



One such show, namely the Kingsfold Steam and Country show has over the last couple of years allowed me to invite Kite Flyers to come along to demonstrate kites to the "paying" public, indeed this particular show has recently been renamed to the "Kingsfold Country Show and Kite Festival"

Needless to say, BKF members were

the first to be invited to Kingsfold and over a relatively short period this seems to be an established annual event with other kite clubs and individuals now being invited to attend, the kite section is relatively small compared to our own BKF festival but it is growing and it allows us to present our kites to an audience who may not even realise that we as kite flyers even exist. BKF also provide similar kite demonstrations at the Ardingley Country Show during the autumn, unfortunately some of the sceptics will tell you that we are providing "free" entertainment to enable the show organisers to increase the numbers of visitors and in truth that is what it is all about but we do get the chance of showing our kites off with a bit of free camping and at the bigger shows some pretty sensible evening entertainment

In and around Sussex there are many weekend events, indeed if you wanted to I am sure that you could book into a country show of one kind or another almost every weekend throughout the summer. Several of the shows I attend have asked me if it would be possible to organise a similar kite demonstration to that which we provide at Kingsfold and Ardingley, the question is, do you as kite flyers wish to increase this kind of cross platform event?

If you are interested in developing this possibility talk to me

on the flying field or send me an email:

admin@media-services.co.uk

Cheers
Big John



brighton
Kite
flyers

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OUT OF HIBERNATION!!!

Meeting Ray Oakhill in the Pavilion foyer at Weymouth, he greeted Hilary and me with the words "Glad to see you out of hibernation!". At the time, this seemed very appropriate. Weymouth is the first big festival of the year and one that I particularly try to attend. I usually manage to get to the AGM fly in at Telscombe, but being at work that weekend prevented me from flying or going to the AGM, so it has been most of the winter since I have flown any kites (although several have been built!). Thinking back though, Ray did have a smile on his lips, so he may really have been saying "you fair weather flyer, why haven't you been around all winter?". But of course, Ray is the complete gentleman

Whatever happened over the winter, the early May Bank Holiday (starting this year in April, so almost still in the winter) saw Hilary and me head off with the camper to Weymouth for a weekend of kite flying and shopping (I was doing the kite flying, just to make things clear). Due to the early date of this year's festival and the fact that my eldest had very selfishly moved out of his flat in Weymouth and moved back home depriving us of our usual accommodation, we had booked onto a camp site with electric hookups so that we could get the electric fan heater going in the evening. Travelling down in glorious sunshine with the sun-roof open, this seemed an unnecessary extravagance, but as we approached Weymouth we entered into a dense, clinging mist. This persisted until Saturday morning with it barely possible to see the sea from the promenade. Despite this, there appeared to be a few kites flying - at least there were kite lines tethered on the beach which disappeared into the gloom, so the assumption was that there were kites at the end of them.

A brief foray into the trader's area to see if there were any bargains to be had took long enough for the mist to start clearing and make it worth a trip back to the car to get out a few light wind kites. After elevenses, my roller was flying along with a few other kites on the beach, and by early afternoon, the sun was shining and there was an increasing wind. The roller was replaced with the large sled purchased last year at Kingsfold. This flew so strongly that Dave, John and I got out the club Manta Ray and using my sled as a pilot soon had the Manta in the sky. Once again, Brighton Kite Flyers were first with the big kites in the air. Later in the afternoon, the wind died down, but only after all of us had flown several kites, all agreeing that after a slow start it had been an excellent day's flying making the best of a relatively quiet beach.

Sunday morning we again woke up to heavy mist, but it cleared earlier than the day before with the beach fairly clear as we parked up for the day in the Pavilion car park. The BKF contingent of myself, Dave, John, Ray, Tony, Chris and of course Chairman Simon met up during the morning, but the wind remained very light until after the delayed opening ceremony. Despite this, the first event of the altitude sprint - avoided by the BKF team as being much too much like hard work - saw quite a number of kites in the air. Ray kept assuring us that the wind would change and pick up during the day, which aggravatingly it did exactly as he predicted. The BKF team was much in evidence during the afternoon again, both flying a good selection of our own kites and getting the Manta into the air for the second day running. This time, though, the wind was a little bit friskier and in a different direction than the day

before, so Manta spent much of the afternoon either dipping its tail in the sea, or attacking other kites as its fancy took it.

The end of the afternoon saw the Rok fight, billed in the programme as a Team competition but with most entrants including Ray Oakhill and myself as individuals. The wind was quite good for a Rok fight, so there were a large number of kites in the air at the start of the competition. I found myself upwind of the Swifts who were struggling to get an 8 foot Rok in the air, so I decided to go for them. Unfortunately, I concentrated too much on this one kite that both the Swifts and I missed Pete Dolphin from the US homing in and taking us both out very early on. I returned to the side of the arena to watch the remainder of the fight surprisingly to find a very disconsolate Ray also out of the fight. As the beach begun to clear at the end of the day's flying, the evening was so nice that Hilary and I decided to take a walk around the Radipole bird sanctuary, something we had been planning to do for many years but never actually got around to doing. After a very pleasant meal, we returned to the Pavilion to meet up with John for the Mayor's reception and to watch some of Tony Cartwright's fascinating films of festivals from 20 years ago before going out onto the balcony to watch the superb firework display.

Monday started completely the opposite to the previous two days, waking to brilliant sunshine which slowly disappeared behind clouds during the morning. Despite the odd drops of rain during the day, the sun won overall and we all had another good day's flying, this time opting not to attack everyone else with the Manta but be rather friendlier with the Club Penguin which flew exceptionally well. Late in the after-

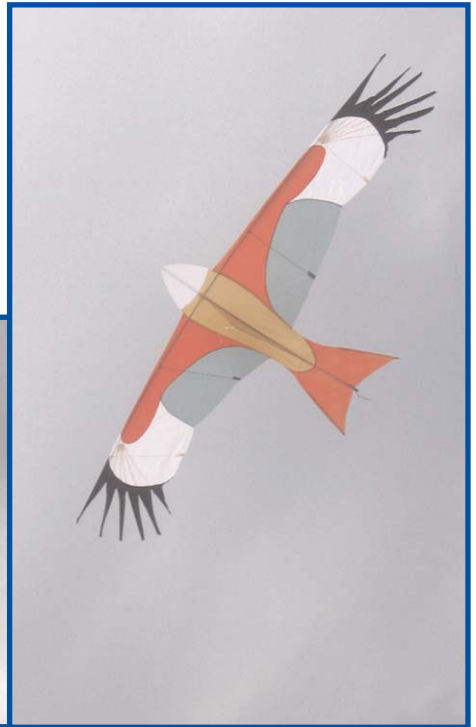


OUT OF HIBERNATION!!! continued

noon, Hilary decided that I had had enough kite flying and it was time to retrieve the camper and head off back to Sussex. Apart from having to negotiate an accident in the New Forest, we had a good trip back. All I need to do now is to get rid of all the sand which as usual appears to be everywhere. Perhaps we ought to bag it all up and take it back next year!

PS I cycle to work every day, putting in more miles during the summer, but still using the bike all winter. Over the past couple of weeks, more cycling commuters have been in evidence, with often a cheery "good morning" as we pass. I often think "so where have you been all winter!" Perhaps Ray was not so wrong after all

Peter Jackson



GOOD STUFF STRIKES AGAIN

The film entitled GOOD STUFF: THE STORY OF A MAN, A DREAM, AND A WHOLE LOTTA KITES has been nominated in a best short film competition this year at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City April 2005.

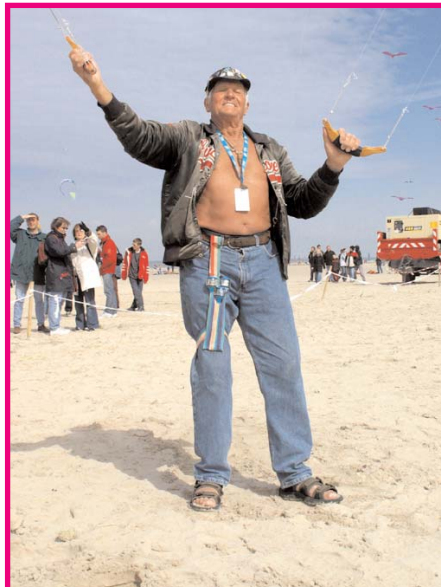
Film Synopsis (documentary short)
Optimism, humour, and a whole lotta kites provide Ray Bethell with the ability to face life's challenges. At 79-years-old, he is a world record holder many times over in multiple kite flying. He continues to break records and offer an escape to both young and old. Despite the unfairness of life, the human spirit endures "and that's good stuff."

Festival Synopsis

Robert De Niro founded the Tribeca film festival in 2002. In just 3 years it has become the Sundance Film Festival of New York City. With over 2000 film festivals in the world, Tribeca ranks among the top 20.

Within the Tribeca film festival is the Trigger Street short film competition taking place this year on April 28th, 2005. From thousands of submissions 30 finalists are chosen. From these finalists only 12 are nominated to be the overall winner of the competition. (GOOD STUFF is a nominee this year.) A panel of celebrity judges then chooses the best film.

While this year's celebrity judges are yet to be determined, last year's panel of judges included Bono (lead singer of U2), Mike Myers (actor), Sheryl Crow (singer), Liv Tyler (actress), Danny Devito (actor), Mike



Nichols (director of "The Graduate"), Annette Bening (actress), Billy Bob Thornton (actor), Andrew Stanton (director of "Toy Story"), Sydney Pollack (director), Dan Jinks & Bruce Cohen (producers of "American Beauty") (www.triggerstreet.com).
Anecdotes / World Records / Achievements

(From award winning web site www.raybethell.com)

2003 World Record 39 kites - 3 stacks of 13 kites each.

1994 World Record 3 kites - 12 hours, 12 minutes non-stop

1991 World Record 2 kites - 4 hours 19 minutes

2004 Achievement Ray is first ever recipient of Spirit of Kiting Award

1996 Achievement Ray flew 3 kites out of the back of a moving red convertible

2004 Awards Being Awarded the first Life Time Achievement Award, WSIKF Long Beach WA.

First Sport Kite Flyer to be inducted in to the Kite Flyers Hall of Fame.

Winning the Peoples Choice Award for the 12th consecutive year at WSIKF at Long Beach WA.

Being Awarded the first Spirit of Kiting Award by Kitelife internet Kite Magazine.

"GOOD STUFF" has received the following awards:

Best Short Documentary Film (2004, Cinequest Film Festival, San Jose, CA, USA)

Best Short Film (2004, Canadian International Film Festival, Toronto, ON, CANADA)

Best Short Midwestern Film (2004, East Lansing Film Festival, East Lansing, MI, USA)

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ANOTHER GREAT TRIP TO BERCK SUR LA MER

An early start! Isn't the Internet wonderful - thanks to the wonders of instant messaging (and the fact that I live half an hour from the channel tunnel) I was able to answer the question of "What time do I have to get out of bed tomorrow?" with a cocky reply of "Two hours before me, matey" when the Brighton contingent of our party was wondering about departure times. Imagine then my consternation when, on waking, leaping from my bed and throwing back the curtains to see if it was still dark, I saw Simon's car pulling up outside my house. He'd got out of bed three hours earlier than me just for a wind up ! (well worth it to see his face, Simon)

Having greeted Simon, Alan & the Daves in my pyjamas (& very sexy pyjamas they are too!) I showed them the kettle & toilet whilst I rapidly dressed, pausing only briefly to wake our overnight house guest, and to kick Mrs Badger out of bed. My daughter graced us with her presence, laughed about who would be so daft as to be out of bed so early and promptly went back to bed. Stuffing myself into the back of the Espace, we set off from Ashford at 6.30am. The morning was very still, and incredibly foggy as we bought euros at the Tunnel terminus.

It's always in the forefront of my mind never to upset the "Normal People", but it would seem that the "Normal People" have better things to do early on Saturday mornings and so the morning shuttle was practically deserted. Which was probably just as well - that gave us some space to play with a boomerang whilst the train sped under the channel to France.

The plan was to find a supermarket to buy a picnic lunch, which was easier said than done bearing in mind the vagaries of continental driving and our navigator's map, but we eventually pulled up outside a huge shop selling most foodstuffs known to science (and one or two which weren't) where we stocked up on vitals.

The store featured a very cheeky

salesman flogging cheap port to passing Englishmen.

A brief breakfast of croissants, jam doughnuts and absinthe laced beer (hic!) was rapidly scooped and we were soon on our way to Berck.

It took a little while to find somewhere to park; we left the car and had a wander firstly along the beach looking at the wonderful kites (and there were LOADS!), and then back along the prom looking at the various stalls.

We soon found more of our number (who, like the "Normal People", hadn't



got up quite as early as us) at the cheap wine & raw fish on toast stall, making very short work of cheap wine & raw fish on toast. We joined in and were serenaded by the locals who, accompanied by an accordion in some considerable pain, were singing a traditional local song about how daft the English are for paying good money for cheap wine & raw fish on toast.

Back to the car to pick up our pic-nic. It was at this point we realised that each of our party had bought enough at the supermarket to feed everyone, and so there was far too much to eat, let alone to lug back to the beach. So to the amazement of the passing French, we pic-niced in the car park. Fresh bread, ham, smoked salmon, a variety of cheeses, croissants, chocolate bread and four different local beers can't be bad!

Following a quick trip to stick one or two leftovers in the dustbin, we picked up Cat in the Hat and set off to the beach where we thought we'd join in the festivities. Totally ignoring the "No Kites" signs like everyone else was (this IS France, after all!) we hitched up to one of the many ground anchors that were scattered about and it didn't take long to launch.

Cat flew excellently and we then took turns to either sit with Cat, or wander about, soaking up the ambiance. I'd brought a couple of bottles from the supermarket and soon soaked them up ! As the afternoon wore on, it became quite chilly as the wind picked up, and at five o'clock we heaved Cat down and set off to find somewhere for tea. I imagine we had a pleasant drive through the French countryside. I don't know, I was fast asleep, disturbed only by the hooting of an irate driver as we vroomed past him on a roundabout. I was woken as we parked somewhere between Calais & Boulougne - we'd found a decent looking place that did a good set price three course meal and some decent beer too. A leisurely evening meal was enjoyed by all before making our way back to the shuttle terminus. We were lucky - we got on the shuttle with ten minutes to spare, but the rest of our party were nowhere to be seen. The next shuttle was over an hour later !!

Impacting the side of the shuttle only once before grinding to a halt, we decided against a quick boomerang session - it hadn't flown overly well in the morning anyway, and the nice man from the shuttle was watching us. So we exchanged pleasantries with the nice man and put our watches back to UK time. Fifteen miles up the motorway and home. Goodbyes were said, and as it had been such a long day, straight to bed. As I nodded off, my last thoughts were how lucky I was to be so close to the tunnel - the rest of the party had another two hours travel in front of them !!

Manky Badger

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WHAT SHOULD I READ

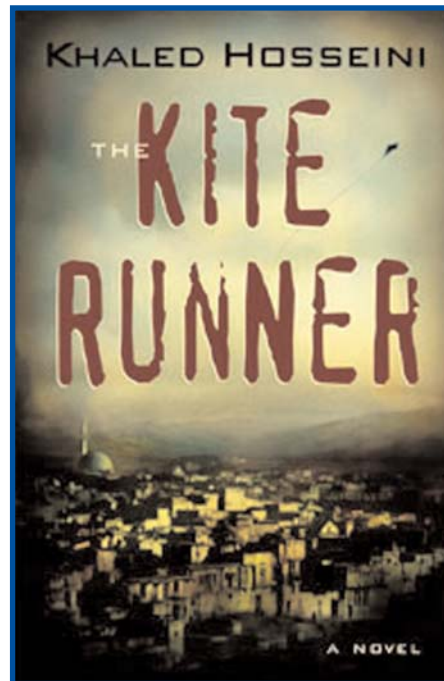
The name of the book caught my eye first and then the tiny little diamond kite in the top right hand corner: The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. The blurb on the back cover used words like 'powerful ... haunting... moving... unexpected... riveting' so I almost put it down, put off by the hype. Fortunately, the 14-hour flight ahead and the lack of time to choose something else moved me to buy it. This is the story of Amir, a young boy growing up in Afghanistan after the death of his mother, who is desperate to win the annual kite-fighting tournament. His best friend is Hassan, the son of a crippled servant, who is the best kite runner in Kabul and his job is to be the first to find the last kite to fall. That day changes their lives.

Although it seems that Afghanistan hasn't been out of the news for years, there is so much information here that was new to me and told with much warmth and humour in a way that is gripping yet not sensationalised. The novel starts in 1975 and running parallel to the personal narrative is the story of modern Afghanistan - the fall of the Afghan monarchy, the Russian occupation, the Mujahideen and the Taliban. With the kite as its central image, the story moves quickly between Afghanistan, Pakistan and the USA and brings us up to the present day with a heartrending conclusion.

If you're looking for a manual on how to construct Afghan kites - forget it. But if you enjoy a deeply moving, subtly told tale - read it.

Irene Golding
Brighton Kite Flyers

Winter, 1975: Afghanistan - a country hidden in the corner of Asia, ruled over by a fading monarchy on the verge of an internal coup. But in Kabul, twelve-year-old Amir has his own concerns. He is desperate to win the annual kite-fighting tournament to prove to his father that he has the makings of a man. Amir's friend Hassan is a low-caste Muslim and the son of a crippled servant but nevertheless the two boys play



together and defend each other against the neighbourhood's bullies. However, during the tournament, Amir takes advantage of Hassan's guileless devotion and commits a terrible act of betrayal which is to shatter their lives and define their future.

Amir finds that he can never escape the far-reaching consequences of his actions. Unfolding against Afghanistan's destructive history, from the fall of the monarchy to the terrifying oppression of the Taliban, The Kite Runner is the breathtaking story of fathers and sons, friendship and redemption, and, most horrifyingly, the casualties of fate.

'A devastating, masterful and painfully honest story of a life crippled by an act of childhood cowardice and cruelty ... although The Kite Runner is told with simplicity and poise, it is a novel of great hidden intricacy and wisdom, like a timeless Eastern tale. It speaks the most harrowing truth about the power of evil, personal and political, and intoxicates, like a high-flying kite, with the power of hope' -Daily Telegraph

'The shattering first novel by Khaled Hosseini, an Afghan doctor who received political asylum in 1980 as civil conflict devastated his homeland. Hosseini is the first Afghan novelist to fictionalise his culture for a Western

readership, melding the personal struggle of ordinary people into the terrible historical sweep of a devastated country in a rich and soul-searching narrative. Over the last three decades, Afghanistan has been ceaselessly battered by Communist rule, Soviet occupation, the Mujahideen and a democracy that became a rule of terror. It is a history that can intimidate and exhaust an outsider's attempts to understand, but Hosseini extrudes it simply and quietly into an intimate account of love, honour, guilt, fear and redemption that needs no dry history book or atlas to grip and absorb' Guardian - in full

'As Hosseini's narrative gathers pace, his sparkling descriptions of people, places and emotions never dry up. Hosseini is a truly gifted teller of tales - he knows that his story is an old one, but he also knows that it's a good one, and he's not afraid to pull every string in your heart to make it sing'

The Times - in full

'Hosseini's depiction of pre-revolutionary Afghanistan is rich in warmth and humor but also tense with the friction between the nation's different ethnic groups. The novel's canvas turns dark when Hosseini describes the suffering of his country under the tyranny of the Taliban, whom Amir encounters when he finally returns home, hoping to help Hassan and his family. The final third of the book is full of haunting images: a man, desperate to feed his children, trying to sell his artificial leg in the market; an adulterous couple stoned to death in a stadium during the halftime of a football match; a rouged young boy forced into prostitution, dancing the sort of steps once performed by an organ grinder's monkey ... in The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini gives us a vivid and engaging story that reminds us how long his people have been struggling to triumph over the forces of violence - forces that continue to threaten them even today'

Edward Hower,
New York Times

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KITES FOR WISHES

Kites for Wishes Kite festival Held on Asan Memorial Park on the beautiful Island of Guam March 20th 2005.

This was Guam's very first Kite Festival. David Gomberg and I were very lucky to have been invited to perform at this event to help make their first kite festival a huge success, which it indeed was. It was so well organized everything went like clock work -- the winds all week were in the 20mph range and the forecast for the day of the festival was for the same but thanks to Father Mike's all night prayer's, the day of the festival was a perfect 8-10 mph wind. The flyers were able to put on a great show to entertain the masses that came to see what Guam's first kite festival was all about. By the end of the day literally hundreds of children and adults were flying kites and from the look on their faces of pure enjoyment, it will become a weekend event for a lot of the families.

The Asan Beach Park is a kite flyers dream, big and wide open, so it really does not matter in what direction the wind is coming from, and just like Hawaii you don't have to worry too much about the weather. The average year round temperature is 77-86 f. The hottest months are May, June, and July. They really have only two season which they call the Wet and the Dry, there is not a snow shovel to be found on the whole Island

This was a premier fundraising event to benefit the Make - A - Wish Foundation of Guam, who grant the wishes of children with life - threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

It was the first formal introduction of kite flying as an organized sport on Guam. They set their goals to increase public awareness of the Make - A- Wish Foundation and to encourage referrals of children who may qualify as "Wish Kids". Another goal was to provide wholesome, clean, fun-filled family-oriented activity targeted at the youth with the introduction of organized kite flying.

The organizers also want it to become a signature event for the

Make-A-Wish Foundation in partnership with PacifiCare, and to increase school participation, both public and private, to develop the sport of kite flying on Guam. The hope is to raise the level of participation each year to eventually host an international competition. And last but not least, to provide another option for Guam's tourism industry as Guam is

can come up with for you", which she did and within an hour I was on my way to Honolulu Hawaii. But I was also thinking about my kites and baggage with this mix up -- would they arrive in Guam when I did? Would there be any one there to meet me when I arrived at my destination? But I worried needlessly because as soon as I walked off the plane,



traditionally a kite-flying nation. While on the plane I was contemplating about what have I got myself into, it was not just the 15 hours of flying, as I have experienced many much longer flights than this, but having to be at Airports 3 or more hours ahead of flight time, the long hours of waiting between connecting flights which in this case it was 28 hrs total from Vancouver to Guam just to perform at a 5 hour event, and to top it off, my first flight out of Vancouver to Seattle was cancelled. I was lost as to what to do, so I went to Air Canada travel assistance and asked the young lady if it was possible to get me on another flight to be in time to catch my connecting flights as I am going to Guam. I explained that I am deaf and asked for her to communicate with me with a yes or no. She looked at me for a few seconds and replied "with those Blue eyes anything is possible, please sit down I see what I

members of the Make a Wish Foundation Team greeted me with open arms and two beautiful ladies gave me a hug and a kiss and placed shell garlands of leis around my neck, and said "Ray, Welcome to Guam". The gentlemen took care of gathering up my baggage and kites, which by some miracle was on the same flight. This part alone made me feel that the long journey was well worth it. I was then taken to my hotel -- the 5 star Outrigger, where I was given a double bedroom suite on the 21st floor overlooking the beach and Ocean. The room was beautifully furnished; on the beds there were plush bathrobes and slippers, coffee, and special Guam cookies. Each day a plate of different sliced fruits were waiting for me when I returned. The hotel also supplied a nice breakfast and an open bar in the Executive Lounge, this kind of hospitality was given to me each and every day of my 7 day

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KITES

FOR

WISHES

CONTINUED

stay in Guam -- this was indeed a full sponsored invitation at its finest. I



found the people of Guam so friendly warm and very sincere. Each day I was greeted with hugs and smiles, and complete friendship. I was asked so many times during my stay if I return next year, my answer was "You Betcha,!!"

Guam is a very beautiful island the greatest attractions are in the surrounding sea. Scuba diving is high on the list of things to do, as underwater visibility is excellent. Surfing, windsurfing, canoeing, and kayaking are also very popular. There are many hiking trails, especially at Tarzan Falls in central Guam. Venturing off the beaten track is called boonie stomping in Guam. There is plenty to make anyone's vacation on Guam perfect, and now they have kite flying.

One of the highlights of my stay in Guam was visiting with Guam's Hearing Impaired Students. I talked to the students with the aid of the sign language teachers and once they knew that I was also deaf we were just like one big family and reaching out to these children was pure joy. Their faces were lit up with excitement, and then I did multiple kite flying demonstrations, but just like me they could not hear the music but were thrilled to the core when I refueled the 3 kites then broke away in my Crucifix formation. I am sure I made their day and they certainly made mine.

I was very impressed with how everything came together, especially seeing that this was their first kite festival. I take my hat off to all the members of the Make a Wish Team and also to all the wonderful volunteers, everyone took great care

of all the International kite flyers. Each day we were picked up from our hotel at 11 am first on the day's agenda was lunch and what lunches they were! You name it and you could have it, and each day lunch and dinners were at different restaurants with food fit for a king. Man, those Grammarian's sure like their food. After lunch and with Mr. Modegi from Japan, we did a series of radio interviews then we were taken to the park for pictures and interviews for media coverage and for some practice time.

After all the months of planning, the day of the festival finally came, every one was a little on edge as no one had a clue of how many spectators would show up for this very first kite festival, but again there were really no worries - school children began to arrive en-mass, spectators came from miles around, and soon the parking lots were full and the roadways jammed with traffic. Kite , Sponsors and dignitaries were featured on the center stage podium, the Wish Choir sang When you Wish Upon a Star, then they sang "Let's Go Fly a Kite" as the Commemorative Kite was launched by the Philippines Team and local enthusiasts. Then David Gomberg introduced yours truly, then I flew my Multiple kite "Romancing The Wind" kite ballet, This very special and unique Kite festival was officially open and from

start to finish was, as I said earlier in this article, a huge success. And I was very proud indeed to have been a part of it.

I had to leave the farewell dinner a little early as I had to be up at 3am to be at the airport to catch my 6-am flight to Japan, "Would I be able to wake myself up in time?" Again no worries right on the button at 3am Lou Lucena a member of the Make a Wish board gently tapped me on the shoulder then took my baggage down to the lobby while I got dressed, When I arrived in the lobby Lorraine Okada the president of the Make A Wish Foundation and other members of the board were there to thank me personally for coming to their festival, I was then driven to the airport and completely looked after right up to the departure gate by a member of the board with a hardy hand shake and a "thank you see you next year." And as I have already mentioned this was indeed a full sponsored invitation at its finest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Make A Wish Foundation for inviting me to take part in your first kite festival and also for your friendship and unrivalled hospitality. I travelled home with a great feeling that I had made many new friends, and would also like to thank you for your invitation to return in February 2006.

Thank you for listening.Ray.



George Webster has a new nick name after the Wirrel Festival he is now know as "SPUD" due to the fact he is a common Tater

ON A CHARGE WITH A LEATHERMAN

Those that know me will see that I always have a knife of my belt just in case. For quite a few years now it has been a Leatherman Supertool or the Leatherman Wave and both have served me very well.

The other week I went into a shop called "Peddlers" in Arundel, West Sussex (by the way if you show your membership card to BKF you get a 10% discount on all gear) to ask about a new knife as although very good it was getting old and in need of several things to be done including the blades being tightened and sharpened. I was told if I sent them back to Whitby's it would all be done under the guarantee, all I had to do was send it back recorded delivery and wait for it to be sent back. While I was in the shop I saw the new Leatherman that has just come out called the "Charge" and it looked a great bit of kit with loads of great features without being over the top, but do I need a third knife "No" was Corinne's answer.

Spoilsport - well not to be disheartened after a few phone calls I managed to borrow a knife from Leatheramn to look at and try and as soon as it arrived I swapped it over with my old one. I never realised just how blunt my old Leatherman's had got over the last 6 years although they seemed to cut everything I wanted it to, as for the "Charge" it would cut just about anything like a hot knife through butter, or better still kite line when it needs to be cut in a hurry.

Corinne was still not convinced and kept asking what it did that any other knife did not do, well where do you begin. Her first thing was look at the price? Ok she is right the "Charge" is not a cheap knife, but like most things in life you get what you pay for and it is well built and it has lots of safety features to stop it folding up in use and cutting you which Iheppened with a cheap imitation I once used, well worth the money to keep all ten fingers, (ask Alan).

In the case of the "Charge" not only do the two knife blades lock but so does the saw (Which was sharp enough to saw through a branch in the garden 50mm wide with ease) It has file with a simple to use locking release switch, much better than the old "Supertool" method of having to open another tool to close the blade, There are locking mechanisms on all the internal tools as well to stop these folding up in use.

Did this win Corinne over into letting me have one? Not quite, she then asked again "So it cuts like other knives but what it does it do that the other knives you have do not?"

Well the possible loss of my fingers would not win her

over, what would.

I tried these smile and "it's

just so good" but you know

Corinne. She came back again so

off I went to

think why I found

it so

good. As well as the knives on my Leatherman what do I use? I use the screwdriver most days and with the "Supertool" I have the screwdriver attachment which also fits on the belt in another pouch. One of the great features of the of the "Charge" is it's

new bit holder which turns into a screw driver is built in to the actual knife and the bits fit in the same pouch - although not the standard size, this gives me one less thing on my belt, and stopping me looking a bit like Captain Gadget. "Ok" she said "you win on that point but what else". Could I possibly be winning her over to the idea of letting me have one?

A few days later I took the knife off my belt for some reason and handed it to Corinne to hold and put in her bag. "Hey that's light", came back and yes it is compared to my other knives and I could see at once her opinion changed from why you want one to maybe you should get one.

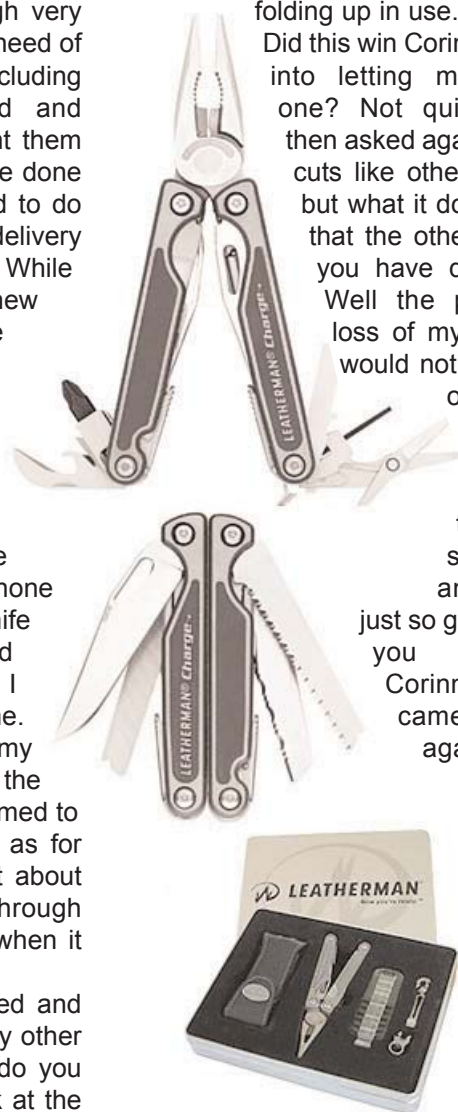
So those of you out there wanting one of the best knives around, don't mention how it cuts or how it works when trying to get agreement to buy one just let your partner hold it and she will see how well built it is, how it is just right to hold and most of all it's not too heavy and you wont need to go into all the features of the knife. As to why I want one it's hard to say a single point that makes it so good in my eyes but the build quality, the many features along with the general balance of the knife makes it a dream to use.

Simon Hennessey

Features of the Ti version:

- Titanium Handles • Needlenose Pliers • Regular Pliers • Wire Cutters • Hard-Wire Cutters • 154 CM Clip-Point Knife • Serrated Knife • Saw • Scissors • Wood/Metal File • Diamond-Coated File • Large Bit Driver • Small Bit Driver • Large Screwdriver • Ruler (8 inch/19 cm) • Bottle/Can Opener • Wire Stripper • Fixed Lanyard Ring • Quick-Release Lanyard Ring • Removable Pocket Clip • Eight Double-Ended Bits (you can buy extra bits if you require)
- Supplied with a premium Leather Sheath

to see more <http://www.leatherman-charge.com/charge.html>



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WAS IT REALLY TESTON

Having had problem all week with the Espace and not being sure it would be ready for Teston it was good news on the Friday morning that all the parts were in, but by 2.00pm my heart sank as one of the parts sent was the wrong one. A quick call to Paul and a quick borrow of a car from work, Teston was back on for us. We finally left Brighton at 4.00pm and had an uneventful trip up, arriving at just after 6.00pm. A lot of club members were there already and with their help we were soon set up and ready for a small beverage. Fish and chip supper has become the norm for Friday night and this year was no different with that eaten, we set about a quiet night

of chatting and drinking and finally went to bed around 1.00am to a very cold nights sleep.

Saturday soon came around which is more that can be said for Michael from Kiteworld who true to form was not out setting up at 6.00am as promised. With winds being light as normal for Teston we tried to fly kites



Time” to remove their keys from the boot of the car, 3 hours later and a very happy Bryan was seen holding the keys. I would add that the removal of the keys did in the end cause a problem with the engine and a £1500 bill, I won't go in to details as that is another story but even so a good time was had by all. Sunday soon came around and ther was still wind so we flew some of the clubs large kites without having to “Charlie Brown” them for a change to get the public in. Careful checking of the line lengths and a sturdy anchor (Paul's new Yellow Landy) saw both Teddy and the Cat out of the bags and flying, one in front of the large Oak and one behind. As the public arrived the large kites were put away and we carried on flying all day as the wind picked up and changed direction.

Simon Hennessey



and were soon all flying, well I say flying more like having a go, with the new Revolution single line air-yo. Then unlike most Teston festivals the wind picked up, and many more kites were seen flying The day soon came to an end and some of our friends from Orpington put on some evening entertainment by calling out “On



GET YOUR BKF HOODY BEFORE THERE BANNED



Could this be the end of some of the club clothing as we know it. As you are aware there is talk of banning hooded tops from shopping centres. As a sign that not all those that wear hooded tops are bad we are encouraging you to buy a club hoody and to club members we are offering a 10% discount (~~£25.00~~ - £22.50) for a limited period . Ok so we want to sell more so we are also offering 10% on club t-shirts to members as well (~~£10.00~~ - £9.00). Also this year the club is getting some new pins made which should be here in time for the festival. These

are being brought out in two standard colours and also a limited edition 25 of two colours if you want a set of the limited pins these will be on a 1st come 1st served basis.



The pins will be £3.00 each or the limited set of 4 for £10.00 price to be confirmed.

Useful Contacts:

Coordinator/Chairperson:

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 ✉ simon@BKF.org.uk

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 Simon Hennessey
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Aerodyne:

Simon Hennessey
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(BKF members only):
 Paul Hill
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Club Kites:

(BKF members only):
 Simon Hennessey
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Membership Secretary:

Peter Jackson
 ☎ 01444 451076
 ✉ Membership@BKF.org.uk

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

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Alan Outram
 ☎ 01737 771196
 ✉ alan@BKF.org.uk

Pins/Cloth Badges:

Simon Hennessey
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 ✉ simon@BKF.org.uk

Brighton Kite festival 2005

The time is fast approaching when we need help from all in BKF.

For many years our festival has gone without a hitch due to the hard work & dedication from countless members.

This year we are finding it difficult to fill some key roles.

They are;

Site security: Budding bouncers, bring your black bomber jacket, we need you day & night.

BKF Tent; Meet new & not so new members, then make them empty their wallets.

Children's workshop; If you are young at heart, help the young in body.

Loo cleaners; What can we say "brush supplied".

Car park attendants; You get to tell the public to keep their cars off the grass & where to go!

An impromptu Kite festival

While visiting the New Forest for a few days during the school half term holiday with my grandson. I was sitting as one does fiddling making something that would fly - an empty crisp packet - grandson flies it " Oh! that's good, can you make me one?" says a small voice - "If you've got an empty packet" says I.

Within no time at all, all the kids on the camp site are converging with their empty bags for my assistance, thankfully my stores in the van have straws and sticky tape a plenty.

Voila - the sky is in motion. This went on throughout the day as others arrived. The joy on their faces, the togetherness and interest was wonderful - a Mini Kite festival

Danny Rice, June 2005

Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible John Dimmock, Irean Golding, Mankie Badger, Danny Rice, Ray Bethal and Peter Jackson who have helped to make this edition possible. I must also say a very big thank you to Anne and Alan Outram who have edited aerodyne so well for the past few years.

Simon Hennessey

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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 aerodyne@BKF.org.uk

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

We have a range of sizes in all club t-shirts and hooded tops for sale T-shirts £10.00 Hooded tops £25.00 (£9.00 and £22.50 respectively to members for a limited period)

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

