

THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2006



NORTHERN
KITE GROUP

www.nkg.org.uk

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One Sky One World Pontefract



A Note from your Chairman

Hi Everyone, It's that time of year again, when we look back on what we have enjoyed over the last kiting season, and look forward to what is to come in 2006. One Sky One World on the 9th of October 2005, was our best ever turnout, with NKG flyers taking part at Pontefract Racecourse, Otterspool Promenade, and Lanzarote !!!!

Here are the results:

Pontefract had 42 flyers, who managed to fly 128 kites, Otterspool had 44 flyers who managed to fly 270 kites, Lanzarote had 1 flyer (who had escaped from Otterspool), and with Sea, Sun and Sand flew 6 kites. **So the N.K.G. total was: Flyers 87, Total Kites Flown 404.**

Our Light Up The Sky For Children In Need Event on 19th November 2005 held at Otterspool, was a resounding success, with members attending from as far away as Leeds.



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Jack Cunningham printed out sponsorship forms for us, Colin Savage produced car posters to advertise the Event. Gwen Williams obtained the Licence from Liverpool Council and she was the main co-ordinator of the event. The Party Tent was loaned to us by Flying Circus with Dazz and Karen picking it up and returning it to the Fylde. Neil Edwards and John and Gina Bellis provided the cooking equipment, the food was supplied by Ken and Olive Cain, Sharon and Liam Waring, Gwen and Sally, Julie and Simon Tebbutt, Mary and Jack Cunningham, Fred and Helen Kaz, and lots of other members who added to the delicious Buffet. Dave Green and Neil Edwards were our Auctioneers, of items donated by N.K.G. members.

The Sponsorship money was beyond our wildest dreams, with Peggy Lever and Lady collecting over £300 of Sponsorship from St Barnabas Church, the Mossley Hill British Legion, and her friends of Penny Lane. All of the flyers contributed and brought back their Sponsorship Forms, many members who couldn't attend the Event sent cheques to Gwen Williams. We collected the outstanding amount of £950 which no doubt will reach £1,000 by Christmas. I think we all should have a Big Pat On The Back.

The A.G.M. on Sunday 15th January 2006, will not be the marathon we had last year, but we still have items to make decisions on as a group. All that is left for me to say is , I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Contented New Year. I look forward to seeing you all soon

Your own Little Rocker
Enid.

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WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Andy Roberts, Gaynor Roberts, Kevin Robinson, Teresa Robinson, Scott Robinson,
David Wilson, Jayne Wilson, Bernard Crick, Mike Fogg, Chris Jones

A warm kiting welcome to you all, it's lovely to have you in our group.

EDITORS CORNER

A big thank you once again to those who have contributed to this issue of the magazine, and to all those out there who keep thinking they should send something in, please do! I don't bite and am happy to consider anything sent in as long as there are no copyright issues.

Dont forget you can view the all colour version of the newsletter on the NKG web site at:
<http://www.nkg.org.uk/Newsletters.htm> usually within a week of the printed version arriving on your doorstep.

Well done to all those who helped make OSOW and LUTS such great events as well, I enjoyed both thoroughly, and although I only managed to fly 3 kites at Pontefract, due to the fact I was having a lovely warm relaxed flying day, I will try harder next year...

As you read this winter issue of the newsletter I will be in Gujarat in India attending the Gujarat International kite festival so will be somewhat warmer than you, hopefully there will be plenty of pictures and a report on my return, unfortunately this means I will miss the AGM which is on the 15th of January, NOT the 22nd January as was originally intended. The details and directions are on page 11.

We have had one person drop out from the child protection course being run in Skelmersdale on January 24th (6:30pm-9:30pm) so if you do want to attend it please contact Enid, details are in the last issue, due to the high numbers of people wanting to go on the course the club has been unable to fund the full amount so there will be £11.00 to pay.



I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and New Year, and that Santa brought you what you wanted, and I look forward to seeing you all on the flying fields over the coming year.

Dazzz

The winning caption for the competition in the last issue was from Phil Ashton with "Thats mine or I scream!" Congratulations Phil, grab hold of me next time you see me and I will dig you out a prize! There's another competition on page 23 with a fantastic prize donated by Go Kites.

AINSDALE KITE FESTIVAL

This event was originally called 'The Kitebeach Extreme Sports Festival' and took place on the weekend of 29th/30th of October on the beach at Ainsdale-On-Sea. The NKG had earlier decided not to get involved but the organiser John Lewis approached 'Sky Artists Kite Display Team' at the Chester Festival requesting us to put on a display at his event.

This turned out to be the first event John had organised and we assisted and advised him and Sefton Council re height- limits, safety etc and ensured he provide us with an arena solely for us. John Lewis and his colleagues worked very hard to accommodate us NKG members. As NKG members' interest grew John changed the name of the festival to 'The Ainsdale Kite Festival' and promoted it as a display of all the aspects of kiteflying.



Photo courtesy of Dazzz



Photo courtesy of Ken Savage

Friday afternoon myself, Vanessa, Tom, Keith 'n' Lorna arrived on the beach with our caravans. It was getting dark and we had to set up our Arena. Fortunately Selwyn Forster (who was staying at Costa Del Pontins with his extended family) arrived shortly after and we all erected the arena. We could have had as much room as we wanted but we ran out of rope and energy. Saturday provided challenging wind conditions so much so that the main power kite event



Enid joins the beach patrol! *Photo courtesy of Dazz*

Sunday was a less windy but sunny day with a full display by attending members including Flying Colours and Dave Green putting on a show all of which seemed to be much appreciated by the public.

We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and particularly the venue. John Lewis and Sefton Council were greatly impressed and we are all invited to two further proposed events in 2006 which I would highly recommend to all who can put up with the elements. Next time the arena will be considerably larger.



Keith's birthday! *Photo courtesy of Dazz*

had to be cancelled as the wind was gusting on occasions in excess of 30mph. That did not stop the whole group managing to put on a good display. Fortunately the rain stayed off for most of the weekend.

We were all invited to the evening bash at the local pub and I think it is fair to say that we all played a full part in that part of the proceedings. Unfortunately one member did not realise that when an older female member invited him to dance a refusal would not be tolerated. He foolishly thought that running away and hiding in the gent's toilet would prevent him from being hunted down and dragged onto the dance floor. Judging by the remarks subsequently posted on the 'Festival Forum' later, I think it is safe to say the NKG played a full part in the evenings' celebrations.

Many thanks to John Welborn for his assistance and advice in arranging the insurance and applications to the CAA to raise the height limit restrictions.

Jim Potts.

NKG BALANCE SHEET 2005

	Income	Expenditure
Membership Fees	£ 1200.00	
Insurance 2006		£ 205.00
Magazine	£ 250.00	£ 867.55
AGM	£ 53.00	£ 231.00
Workshop	£ 400.00	£ 400.00
Beacon Festival	£ 1072.00	£ 277.44
Burrs Country Park	£ 200.00	£ 200.00
Chester Festival	£ 850.00	£ 800.00
Donation received from Flying Circus	£ 400.00	
Faceless	£ 100.00	
Clothing	£ 575.75	£ 476.20
Banners	£ 910.00	£ 838.00
Base Ball Caps	£ 31.50	£ 3.50
Enamel Badges	£ 32.50	£ 286.82
25th Anniversary Badges	£ 1.00	
Trophy Engraving		£ 5.00
Sale of Ripstop	£ 30.00	
Chair Person's Expenses		£ 71.37
Secretaries Expenses		£ 87.79
Treasurer's Expenses		£ 13.00
Bank Interest	£ 2.94	
Bank Statement		
Dicrepancy See ??/2/05	£ 3.00	
Sub. Totals	£6111.69	£4762.67
Balance B/F	£1650.43	
Balance C/F		£2999.45
Totals	£7762.12	£7762.12

We are coming to the end of another year. The year 2005 has been another good year for the group with membership increasing. We finished the year with 152 Full Members and 145 Family Members making the total membership 297. The balance sheet shows the funds are healthy, I think mostly due to the success of the auction at The Beacon Festival and the kind donations from Flying Circus and Faceless for the group supporting their events.

A Renewal Form is enclosed with this magazine for 2006 Membership. If you feel you would still like to remain a member please complete it and either bring it to the AGM (please put it in an envelope with your name on it) or post it to me with you remittance.

Wishing all members Happy Kite Flying in 2006, and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year.

Mary Jones (Treasurer)

FUERTAVENTURA KITE FESTIVAL

For the past 18yrs the 2nd weekend of November has seen the Fuertaventura Kite Festival take place. In all honesty that weekend seems to blend between the weeks prior too & following, what are the official dates – so it ends up being a festival of almost 2 weeks duration.

This was our second visit to this event. It's a 4hr flight from our region – or a gruelling 6 day paddle in your canoe (if you can keep up a steady 12 nautical mph) – but when you get there you would be forgiven for considering you had slightly 'overshot' your original destination, and landed on the moon.

Fuertaventura is not an island that a gardener would easily fall in love with. However, if your favourite colour is 'rustic brown' and flora & fauna bring you out in a rash, I suggest you head there immediately.



Picture courtesy of Neil Edwards



Picture courtesy of Neil Edwards

Fortunately for us kites, the Gods have provided the odd break in the scenery – and as you round the final 'rustic brown' bend before the Festival town of Corralejo, you are treated to the most beautiful azure coloured sea and a beach the size of a small desert.

The largest beach around is 'Flag Beach' and it is here that kite enthusiasts from around Europe gather to enjoy their hobby. This beach is approximately 3 miles outside of the town and many people hire cars to help get them to and from the site. Bus routes are in place also for those who want to use the local services, and once on the beach there is a welcome bar that will assist quenching any potential thirst.

For me, the main attraction of this festival is the easy pace at which it seems to roll along. You turn up at a time that suits you and fly whenever you feel like it. There is enough room for you to fly every kite you've ever owned (and are likely to own) – and once you're done with your time on the beach, you can head back to the town.



Picture courtesy of Neil Edwards

Correlejo itself is a busy place – even in November. There are 100's of restaurants and bars to choose from, though on this last visit we tended to avoid the main street and sought out those places that the locals tended to use. I will just have to pause for a brief moment to clean up my keyboard as the memory has caused me to dribble some saliva on it. –

Now then, where was I, oh yes.... For a three-course meal and a bottle of wine in the local eateries expect to pay £7 per person. At the tourist orientated restaurants you will pay more.

There are shops galore to keep those credit cards busy and within the town itself there are several small sheltered beaches if you've had your fill of the kite beach (God forbid).

Flag beach is fairly exposed to the winds – and hence a grand place for a nice bit of kiting, but be prepared for regular 20mph 'breezes'. Fuertaventura's own website states that November sees 16 days of that month with winds at Beaufort 4 or 5 – which is gentle compared to the month of June when the winds are at their busiest for 23 days of the month. To offset this the temperature is usually a nice comfy 20 degrees centigrade and rain is not a word you will find in any local forecasts.

Kite fliers from Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Spain and the UK are amongst those who regularly make this trip. Whenever you travel to a new festival you tend to see designs of kites you've not seen before, and this place is no exception. It appears to me that the Germans in particular have usurped all others when it comes to displaying fantastic single line kites. For those of you attending the AGM, we are hoping to have a DVD showing some of these wonderful kites.

A word of warning – this event is also a favourite spot for naturists, several of whom are your kite buddies – one of which (we'll call him Ray for the sake of anonymity) seems desperate to get his clothes off as soon as the plane exits British airspace. It takes a bit of getting used to but after a week I was very nearly tempted myself – only to be threatened with death by my nearest and dearest. "If you were meant to go naked, you would have been born that way," she screamed as my pants passed my knees. Oh well, maybe next time.

There is an organised night fly, which coincides with what seems to be the only 'official' gathering that takes place – a nice meal is offered to those who are keen to attend and there is proof positive that we Brits can drink more than the rest of Europe put together. For those that go to all the trouble of arranging these things, I raise my glass to you.

And so that's it – my review of one of our favourite festivals. It's certainly worth a trip and we managed it for a cost of roughly £250 including flights and self-catering facilities in a rather nice hotel – and remember, don't forget your toothbrush but if you forget your swimming costume – there's no need to worry.

The Highwaymen

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Two Sport Kite events were held this last month; with it has to be said - varying degrees of success. The first was held at Wakefield



and was to support those interested in precision based flying. Unfortunately this event was poorly attended and following several failed attempts to grow this aspect of Sport Kiting I have decided that the costs of supplying food and drink for people who fail to either commit or bother to turn up at all is no longer worthy of support. A shame.

However, on a much brighter note! The growth of trick flying within the region continues to grow handsomely. And so it was that on the 27th of November a 'Better Flying Day' was held at New Brighton's Dips for all those keen to improving their 'tricking' skills.

Coaching staff had driven up from as far away as London, Cardiff and Coventry to assist – and thanks go respectively to Andy Phelps, Keith & Vee, and our good friend Brian Beasley.

The day started with setting up the now infamous NKG Hospitality Tent. With a good supply of hot drinks for all, and some wonderful pumpkin soup with French bread (supplied very kindly by Margie, Kate and Ella Fisher) we were ready to start. By 11am about 25 sports kites had taken to the skies, each going through well-practiced routines and trying to perform the latest manoeuvres. The Gods had provided us with steady winds and so it was we all set about improving our technique.

The advantages of attending days like this is you get to try all the latest and greatest kites that have come on the market. Andy Phelps had brought with him a handsome supply of these – courtesy of the STACK organisation – and everyone there made full use of his hoard. In fact, being the friendly bunch we are, if you generally see any kite you fancy test flying – you really only have to ask.

Standards ranged from beginners to expert - kites ranged from the older style American designs to the very latest British and European designs. Some of our flyers have been practicing so hard that they are now achieving standards that would truly put them on a par with some of the best in the country. Ian Parkes is one such flier – and no doubt you will see him performing on the circuit next year on both a regional and national level.

There is no competition format for these coaching events – so hopefully people don't worry about any competitive element that would otherwise put them off joining in. If this first event is anything to go by we are going to have to be careful it is not a victim of it's own success. So if your keen on furthering your trick flying skills or are desperate to know more about the finer points of trick flying – keep a look out for our next event... which we are hoping will take place on 26th February(Provisional). The best thing to do is keep a look out on our very own website – www.nkg.org.uk for the latest updates – and register early to avoid disappointment.

Thanks to everyone who helped on the day.

Neil Edwards

Sport, Team and Competitive Kiting (STACK) representative

LIGHT UP THE SKY 2005

The 3rd annual 'Light Up The Sky' event took place at Otterspool Promenade, Liverpool, on Saturday 19th November. What has now become an official NKG fund raising event in aid of Children In Need shows the commitment of club members to support a charity as well as fly kites. This year we raised a total of £1100, which is really a magnificent effort, not only by club members but also those who supported the event.

The day began early for some of the keen flyers, which were fortunate enough to enjoy a light but steady wind. At one stage there was even a decent display of kites in the sky, considering a puff of no more than 3-5mph; however, as the afternoon progressed, one by one the kites fell to earth. Dave Green and his able assistants gave local children a thrill to see their teddies parachuting out of the sky. The session ended with several sweet drops, a Dave Green speciality. It has to be said that Mike Lewis whose kite was used on this occasion had to do a fair bit of running to keep his kite aloft.

Dazzz and Karen brought with them a small marquee (courtesy of Flying Circus) and with all hands on deck this was erected in a matter of minutes. A marvellous selection of hot and cold food was available, thanks to all the members who brought goodies. There is no doubt that Ken Cain's home made soup and Sharon's curry warmed the cockles on this very cold but thankfully dry day.

The afternoon flying session was followed by an auction conducted by the renowned auctioneering duo, Dave Green and Neil Edwards, who's ability to make people part with their money is well documented! Whilst Neil and Dave slogged their guts out to squeeze the last penny out of everybody, Enid kindly catalogued the items and collected the money, and the total raised from sale was an excellent £150, so thanks to all those who donated items.

Following the auction, it was time to 'light up the sky'. But, by this time, the wind had all but disappeared and raising kites laden with lights was no mean feat. Many had to resort to a running launch but at the risk of losing sponsorship money it became a necessity. Running in the dark over a wet field is really quite difficult, particularly when you don't see the dog muck! A couple of really big well-lit kites (deltas) proved that there are kites that will fly in little or no wind. At the end of the day all hands on deck again to take the marquee down and under the supervision of Karen, in record time.



Picture courtesy of Fred Kaz

Whilst the day itself raised £526 through donations, a collection, the auction and some sponsorship money, the remaining £476 soon followed in the form of further sponsorships and donations, with the final £98 raised from a raffle held at the Christmas meal bash, on the 18th December.

Congratulations to everybody involved in making this such a fantastically successful day and for those club members who travelled quite some distance to help and support the event.

Thank you.

P.S. I'm sure everybody would like to join me in saying a special thank you to young Peggy (83yrs) who raised £312 through sponsorships. How does she do it?

Gwen Williams

NKG AGM 15TH JANUARY 2006

AGM Location 15th January 2006 12pm till approximately 4pm

The Community Hall All Saints Church, Culceth Lane, Old Church Street, Newton Heath, Manchester.

From M60 junction 22 follow A62 Oldham road towards Manchester. Old Church Street is half a mile past the junction with A663.

Old Church Street is off Oldham Road near to Carpet World which is at the junction of Oldham Road and Droylsden Road.

Old Church Street changes to Culceth Lane near All Saints church.

The Community Hall is just past the junction with Briscoe Lane and is behind some terrace houses and is approached by a short unmade road. Please do not park on the short unmade road. There is parking available in the School playground accessible from Droylsden Road.

You can access a map online by going to <http://www.nkg.org.uk/FlyingSites.htm>

There will be a £1 charge towards the cost of the meal provided (Meat and potato pie and Veg option)

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGE

The membership of the Northern Kite Group has grown in the past two years and the number required for a quorum at General meetings has grown with it. If the growth continues the numbers required for a quorum at the AGM will be much higher than the number of people we can reasonably expect to attend it.

Therefore it is proposed that the Constitution be amended as follows

Paragraph 5.2

be Changed from:- “A quorum of twenty percent of the Club membership aged over 18 is required to conduct business.”

to: “A quorum of thirty members personally present aged 18 or over is required to conduct business.”

Paragraph 6.4

be Changed from: “A quorum of twenty percent of the Club membership aged over 18 is required to conduct business.”

to: “A quorum of thirty members personally present aged 18 or over is required to conduct business.”

The proposal will be submitted under Any Other Business at the AGM and a vote taken.

John Welborn
NKG Secretary

LE VIRUS

Introduction

When I first became interested in stunt kites, it was suggested to me that since they were only made from sticks and fabric, I ought to be able to build my own. Of course I replied that these expensive commercial kites were highly technical devices and I couldn't possibly hope to make one myself.

I spent a year messing about with relatively cheap kites that were either limited in performance or were secondhand kites born of a previous era of kite flying. It became clear that I needed a kite of modern design so that I could stop blaming the kites and start to address the shortcomings of my own kite flying technique. My year's experience of flying and repairing kites showed me that they really were just sticks and fabric. I realised that with my basic DIY skills and a little sewing practice, it would be quite feasible for me to make my own kite. The only problem would be the design: I couldn't hope to lash something together that would perform like a modern stunt kite just by accident.

Le Virus

Enter Le Virus. A very generous and talented Belgian kiteflyer called Christian Derefat had clearly come to a similar conclusion to myself but, unlike me, he also happened to have the skills to design a kite that would be competitive against modern commercial stunt kites. He designed and built Le Virus and released the plans to the world.

Other kite builders quickly realised that this was a rather nice design. Discussions on kite-oriented bulletin boards resulted in collaborative websites being set up, the best of which now has a gallery of about a hundred Virus photos that have been sent in by their proud makers. Links to these Internet resources will be given at the end of the article. You won't get enough information here to build your own Virus without referring to the websites and obtaining a copy of the layout.

So here is a very sketchy outline of how I went about building my Viruses (yes, like most Virus builders I have made two and have plans for another).

Plans and templates

The plans are available in several formats and I opted for the PDF version which prints out on an ordinary desktop printer onto 32 sheets of A4 paper. As long as you make sure that the printing is being done at 100% size, this produces a surprisingly accurate plan once the pages have been stuck together.

When you are building a panelled kite you need templates for cutting out the panels but also need an outline plan so

that it can all be assembled correctly. This is important because the same templates are used twice - once for each side of the sail - and if the results are not very nearly identical, the finished kite will be lop-sided. I cut round the outline of the wing and glued the paper to some thick card, which was trimmed to fit the outline. If I were doing it again I might not bother to glue the paper to card at this stage as it turns out to be a bit wasteful of card.



Picture courtesy of Stuart Baldwin

I then traced the outline onto another piece of card to provide the layout guide. Next, I cut out the

panels from the original printout (now mounted on card) and used them to produce another set of templates with an allowance for the simple overlap seam where the panels are joined together. I used about 8mm on each edge, which turns out to be about twice as much as is really needed, but provides a useful margin of error for beginners. My latest project is a Nazko, which is a similar but larger sport kite, and the seam allowance for that is 4mm on each edge, giving an overlap of 8mm which has proved to be ample. These templates with hem allowance are the ones that will be used to cut out the sail fabric and are probably the only ones that really need to be mounted on card. I also copied the orientation markings from the original printout to the working templates.

The Sail

I cut out the sail panels from ripstop nylon using a hot soldering iron and making sure that I laid the template on the fabric with the threads going the right way. It is important to do this because fabric stretches differently depending on whether it is being pulled in line with the threads or on the bias. The design calls for simple glued and 3-step zig-zag stitched overlap seams. This is a very simple construction that is used in many of the top commercial stunt kites. I used miracle tape, which is a kind of double-sided sticky tape that is designed specifically for sewing through, for my first Virus. Unfortunately Miracle Tape is also quite expensive at about 50p/metre and cheaper double-sided tapes can gum up the sewing needle, so I experimented with using heavy-duty Pritt stick adhesive on number two. Pritt works quite well on ordinary ripstop nylon or Icarex polyester but one of the fabrics that I was using for both viruses (because it is a striking yellow) had an unusually slippery coating that resisted most efforts to stick it.

One thing to bear in mind is that you will be making two half sails that are mirror images of each other but you will be using the same half-sail outline to position the panels. This means that if you want your kite to stand up to close scrutiny you have to make the panels overlap in the opposite way on the second half to the way they overlapped on the first. I found the sewing to be quite straightforward, apart from the slippery fabric problem. Every time you start and stop sewing seams it leaves loose threads so I tried to arrange to do as much continuous sewing as possible on each trip to the sewing machine. The Virus doesn't seem to be designed with seam continuity in mind but the Nazko that I have just completed, which is a later design, has a clever sail pattern that uses seven panels for each wing but involves only three seams and no sharp corners.

Construction details

The websites listed at the end of this article will describe the detailed construction but there are still areas where you will have to make it up as you go along. For instance, I was unable to obtain Mylar laminate for strengthening key areas of the kite so I used Dacron leading edge material and extra layers of ripstop nylon as I thought fit.



Picture courtesy of Stuart Baldwin

I have now made two Viruses and there are some areas that became much easier on the second one. Perhaps the most startling improvement in ease of construction was with the attachment of the leading edge tunnels. These are made from 50mm Dacron tape that has been creased along its length by folding it and running the fold over the edge of a table. On my first Virus I went to considerable trouble to glue the Dacron in place before sewing and ended up using superglue (cyanoacrylic) because there was nothing else that would hold the stiff Dacron fabric in place. Before I made my second Virus I read an

article by Ian Newham, who is an experienced kite builder and designer. He said that when he was sewing leading edges he just pushed the sail into the folded Dacron and sewed. I tried this on the second Virus and it works! All you have to do is get the next few centimetres in place at a time and sew them. A whole leading edge only takes a few minutes now, but do make sure that your sewing machine is set to stop with the needle down.

Materials

The Virus design specifies the kind of materials that more expensive sport kites are made of, such as Icarex ripstop polyester fabric and wrapped carbon spars. For the sake of expediency, and because it was my first go at a proper sport kite, I chose to use the cheapest materials that I had to hand. So Virus number one used bargain-basement ripstop nylon, including a certain amount of balloon fabric, and basic quality carbon fibre tube from Decathlon. The fittings also came from Decathlon but these are mostly quite good quality and I used more or less the same on my more serious attempt at Virus number two. Virus One flew quite nicely in dry weather but was lacking in strength and stiffness. I soon broke a lower spreader and had to repair this and add internal reinforcements. The balloon fabric used in Virus One was hopeless when it got wet and it went all baggy, like a woollen swimsuit (older readers will know what I mean by this!).

Virus Two was constructed using the Skyshark and Exel Extreme spars that are specified in the design and uses kite-quality ripstop nylon throughout. It is much stiffer and stronger which makes it a much more interesting kite to fly. Future plans include the construction of a Virus ultralight, using Icarex fabric and a frame specification that has been developed by correspondents on a German kite forum. If this is successful then I will consider cutting vents in Virus Two to extend its wind speed range beyond the current 15 mph or so.

At the time of writing I am just completing another internet kite: the Nazko, which is a larger stunt and precision kite, and have used Icarex polyester and Skyshark P300 in its construction. Incidentally, I have found it easier to work with Icarex than I did with ripstop nylon, but this may just be because I have had more practice now. I am also using re-positionable spraymount to hold the panels down on the wing outline while I glue them and this has allowed much better accuracy. If you try this then be sparing with the spraymount and hold your breath while spraying!

I buy materials from UK kite retailers where possible but have had to resort to the French supplier Bilboquet for some of the more exotic materials.

Resources

Le Virus Homepage:

<http://koningspage61.no-ip.org/levirus/index.html>

Virus discussion on Gone With The Wind (free registration required):

http://www.gwtw-kites.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=17325

Virus discussion at Kitebuilder:

<http://www.kitebuilder.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=1426>

Nazko Homepage (in French):

<http://kitesinthesky.no-ip.com/default.aspx?m=4&w=1&p=1>

If demand is there I will donate copies of my Virus and Nazko templates to the NKG library. I am also considering producing a hard copy version of the on-line building instructions that would also be deposited in the NKG library.

Stuart Baldwin

NKG FLYING SITES

Away from the Forum we've got some useful information pages on the website. Following requests for feedback earlier this year I've added some plans for making a few kites that have appeared in the magazines over the last few years. Another addition since the site's relaunch included being able to read the newsletters on-line.

This month I'd like to focus on what you want to get out of the list of flying sites we use. First of all do you want it just to be a list of venues regularly used for the monthly fly-ins or would you like to see it expanded to cover other sites in our region.

At the moment the sites that can be found on www.nkg.org.uk/FlyingSites.htm are:
Baieldon moor, Beacon Country Park, Birchwood Forest Park, Clayton Green Leisure Centre, Heath Common, New Brighton, Newton Heath, Otterspool, Pontefract, Stainland and Temple Newsam.

Against each one we've got a short description of how to get there and a Multimap link for those still confused. What else would you like to see on there? Maybe what parking is there, what facilities are there (toilets, nearest pub, food, etc), other comments, etc. I could even include photos.

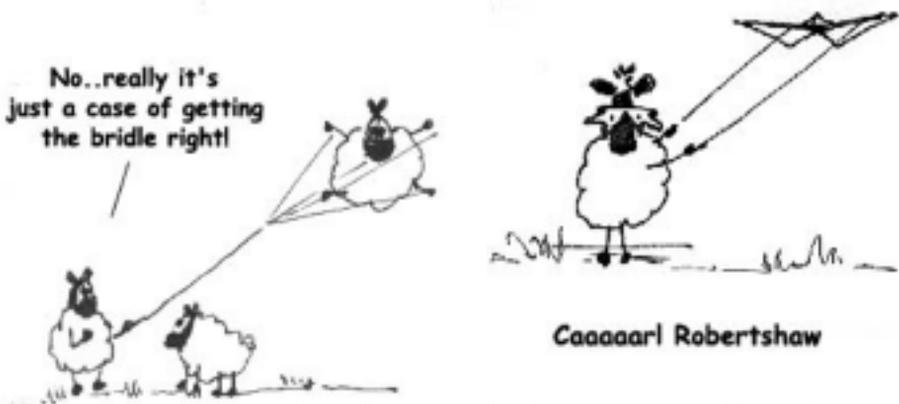
It has also been suggested that your list of flying site information could be a future Newsletter supplement and handout for new members.

So to summarise please send me your.....
Corrections to current details
Ideas of new sites (plus any details if you have them)
Ideas (and details) for extra site information

I don't know most sites as well as other people so I'd really appreciate your help. Either email me, PM me, or respond to the thread on the Forum.

Thanks

Peter Bindon
NKG Webmaster



Kite-oons are copyright Dr Mike Armstrong <http://www.spec.u-net.com/kite-oons.htm>

VANNES (MORE THAN JUST A KITE SHOP)

At the time this magazine is dropping through letterboxes, the Christmas decorations will have been put away for another year and many people will be planning for their annual time in the sun. I think it's fair to say that, based on conversations with other group members, many of us will end up paying a visit to our close neighbours across the channel. If you find yourself in France sometime, do yourself a favour and try to get to a wonderful town called Vannes. The town is in Southern Brittany but is also easily accessible if you are making your way down the west coast to the popular resorts in the Vendee area, being situated just off the N165/N166 motorways.



Picture courtesy of Ian Parkes



Picture courtesy of Ian Parkes

Vannes itself is situated at the head of the Gulf of Morbihan, or inland sea, and is picture postcard pretty; you could point your camera just about anywhere and take the perfect holiday snapshot. Within the town walls are many winding medieval streets with little squares here and there, set out in no particular order and although the town is fairly small it's easy to waste a couple of hours just wandering, sitting, eating and drinking then wandering some more. Outside the walls and

ramparts there are beautifully tended gardens with more medieval buildings dotted around and of course the harbour with the usual array of ice cream and waffle shops mixed in with the harbour side café bars. If you look carefully at the old shops you will also see, almost hidden, a small wooden sculpture of the town's founder father Vannes himself with his wife.

For all this wonder and charm, Vannes has another gem of more note to us kite flyers. Tucked away down a small side street, known as Rue St.-Guenael, behind the cathedral, you will find a rather small looking but very colourful shop called Bilboquet. From the outside the shop makes a very sharp contrast against the surrounding sandstone buildings, having been painted bright red and being stuffed to overflowing with colourful objects from wooden toys and kites to juggling equipment.



Picture courtesy of Ian Parkes

On entering the shop, the ground floor is devoted to toys and juggling props. Bilboquet stock lots of old fashioned brightly coloured wooden toys and traditional childrens games. If you like to juggle, Mr. Babache and Henry's brands are very well represented with clubs, balls, diabolos and other assorted props and the shop assistants seem only too pleased to give advice and demonstrations if you ask. We bought a diablo whilst we were there and were given a comprehensive display of mind boggling tricks by the in-store 'jonglerie' expert.

On the day of our visit I happened to be wearing a Fractured Axel T-shirt which was noticed by one of the staff who visits the FA club website. We had a short conversation and I was promptly despatched to the kite department in the basement. Bilboquet stock an impressive array of all types of kites from single liner kiddies and adult kites through sport kites to quads and power kites and have a large array of accessories to go with them. Everything is there from buggies, boards and kite-surf equipment to linesets, framing materials and fittings. They also do a nice range in kite-wear with some trendy tops from l'Atelier. The thing which amazed me most was the number of hard to find French kites from R-Sky and l'Atelier that were available. If you want a French kite from either of these manufacturers you should find it here (though not necessarily in the colour you want, as I found out!). There are kites hanging from the ceiling, kites on the floor, kites on the walls and filling the bins behind the displays. Although the predominant kites seem to be from the two current big players in the French market, there are also kites available from other reputable manufacturers.

The overall level of service is excellent again and you have some of the top sport flyers in the world on hand to give advice. Greg Reynes (2nd place in the individual event at the Freestyle World Cup in May 2005) was in store and working at the checkout! The shop also provide a mail order service and the packing area was very busy with lots of those nice triangular brown boxes being packed and labelled for some lucky recipient. I eventually succumbed and emptied my wallet to the tune of a Nirvana UL which I knew I had to have. I really wanted one in yellow but they were out of stock so I ended up with teal instead; well, you can't have everything.

All in all we had a great day out in Vannes with the added bonus of a kiting theme. Even without the shop, the town is well worthy of a visit and is in a beautiful part of France. If you can't get there in person the shop has a very good website with up-to-date stock information at www.bilboquet.com, so it's easy to pay them a visit on the internet.



Picture courtesy of Ian Parkes

And if you can't get to Vannes but are perhaps planning a short break to the French capital there is a smaller branch with a good, albeit cut down, range of items at 25 Rue Henry Monier in Paris near Pigalle (you can get there via the Metro from Saint-Georges or Pigalle stations). We visited this shop at Easter and believe it or not, the sales assistant there was none other than Richard Debray (several times French, European and World Freestyle Champion).

So if you're in the area and it's at all possible, make sure you visit a small piece of kite heaven. You won't be dissappointed.

Ian Parkes

NKG NOVEMBER FLY-IN WAKEFIELD

This meeting had formerly been arranged to take place at Roundhey Park, in Leeds. Due to the fact that a separate event had been arranged to take place there, by the park authorities, the venue for the fly-in was moved at short notice to Heath Common in Wakefield. The date fixed for the meeting was the day immediately after the day appointed for the Light Up The Sky event, which of course, meant that some of the members attending had little time to finish unpacking their kiting gear from the boot of the car, before reloading it again ready for the fly-in. Nevertheless, thirteen NKG'ers turned up ready and willing to get some colourful ripstop into the sky.

The flyers present waited patiently whilst the dog handlers, present on an adjoining site, put their charges through the appropriate training routine's. This is a regular feature of Sunday mornings at this particular venue and is well worth watching but it was felt that flying stunt kites in the same vicinity might distract the dogs.

As well as being the November 'Third Sunday in the Month' Group fly-in, this was arranged to be the day on which members wishing to take part in the S.T.A.C.K. precision compulsory figures flying competition could do so. Five of the members present had come along in order to compete and so as soon as the canine enthusiasts had vacated the site, last minute final practice for the competition began.

Other members were putting on a good display of single line kites and soon they had several show kites in the sky, including a rainbow Genki, several extended Delta's, a large yellow coloured Flow Form, a blue and black Gecko and a four liner soft kite. In the light breeze which was blowing in the earlier part of the meeting, some of the flyers were working hard in keeping their kites in the sky and yet, an Indian fighter kite was bobbing away quite merrily without much effort. A couple of Jim Potts little bird kites were fluttering away at the top end of some rather long Roach poles.



Picture courtesy of Simon Tebbutt

Towards one-o'clock the wind did pick up a little and it was decided that the figures competition would commence at 1-30 PM. Actually, it was a little later than that but, as there were only five flyers taking part, it didn't take too long to get through the programme. The competitors had to fly a L.S.I figure, a split eight and an octagon, in any order. The results of the competition can be found on the NKG website. Sufficient at this time to say that 'yours truly' came in at fifth position. Well somebody had to come in last, didn't they? Thanks to the three judges who gave their expert opinions on the standard of the flyers taking part.

After the competition it was a case of free flying until the sun began to slip down towards the horizon. Some had had a late night the evening before, with L.U.T.S. and the Children in Need appeal, so it was a case of pack-up and head for home, as some of the flyers had a long journey to travel, including Gene and Margaret Watson from Kirby Lonsdale, a round trip of over 300 miles. That's dedication for you!

Jackcee

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Now that Christmas is over and the novelty of your new iPod, Xbox, mobile telephone cum camera or whatever mega giga electronic do-da it was that Santa left in your stocking, has worn off, it is now time to get back to that good old faithful diversion which has been satisfying mans desire for an entertaining, uplifting, educational leisure activity for centuries.

None of the above mentioned gismos will ever utter a sound equally satisfying as the whistle of the wind blowing across the taut lines of a high flying kite, as the kite flyer and Mother Nature herself try to overcome the forces of gravity. No batteries to discharge, no pollution, no top-up fees required and no expensive electricity bills at the end of the quarter. No interference with other peoples leisure time either.

Whilst you and I are out there flying our kites, they can watch their Coronation Street, Albert Square, Queens Speech or even take themselves off to the January Sales, unhindered by our presence.

I have packed away the Christmas decorations, sawn up the Douglas Fir tree, disposed of the turkey frame, scratched my arms from wrist to shoulder whilst removing the holly from every nick and cranny in the house, I consider that I have served my Christmas penance. Now let me get back to flying my kite.

I look forward to meeting all of my NKG friends back on the flying fields....as soon as possible!

A Happy Kiting New Year to all.

Jackcee

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ONE SKY ONE WORLD

I've been asked by our EDITOR to do another write up for our club mag . This time I'ts all about our day at Pontefract Racecourse for One Sky One World .

For those of you that are new to the club and wondering what One Sky One World is, it's an annual kite flying event organised around the world, to promote world peace, freedom, and enviromental awareness. The total number of kites flown at each event on this particular day are then counted and verified alongside all the other organisations around the world, and we eventually get a global total. It's fantastic really when you think about it.

Pontefract more than doubled last years figures 42 members turned out and 128 kites were flown. Wind conditions however were poor, but kites did fly, but then they would fall, fly again, fall again. Dazzz's Jordan Airform that had tails galore attached, managed to bring a Conyne Delta with tails, and a Rhombus flow form crashing down to the ground in a massive tangle. Member's ran to salvage the mess, unfortunately Dazzz was not at the scene, he was too busy eating apple pie !!! commenting from his deckchair that his airform was still flying !!! has the man no remorse!!!

The stars of the day though had to be Sarah and Peter Bindons children George and Thomas. They tried they're best all afternoon to fly has many kites as they could and both deserve a medal for their efforts. They even joined in when Simon suggested an altitude sprint and George won. Well done both of you !!! Not forgetting John Welbourn's granddaughter Zoe she too managed to fly her kite. I think most of the group had an enjoyable time let's hope that next year's is even better.

Julie Tebbutt

MISSING VIDEO

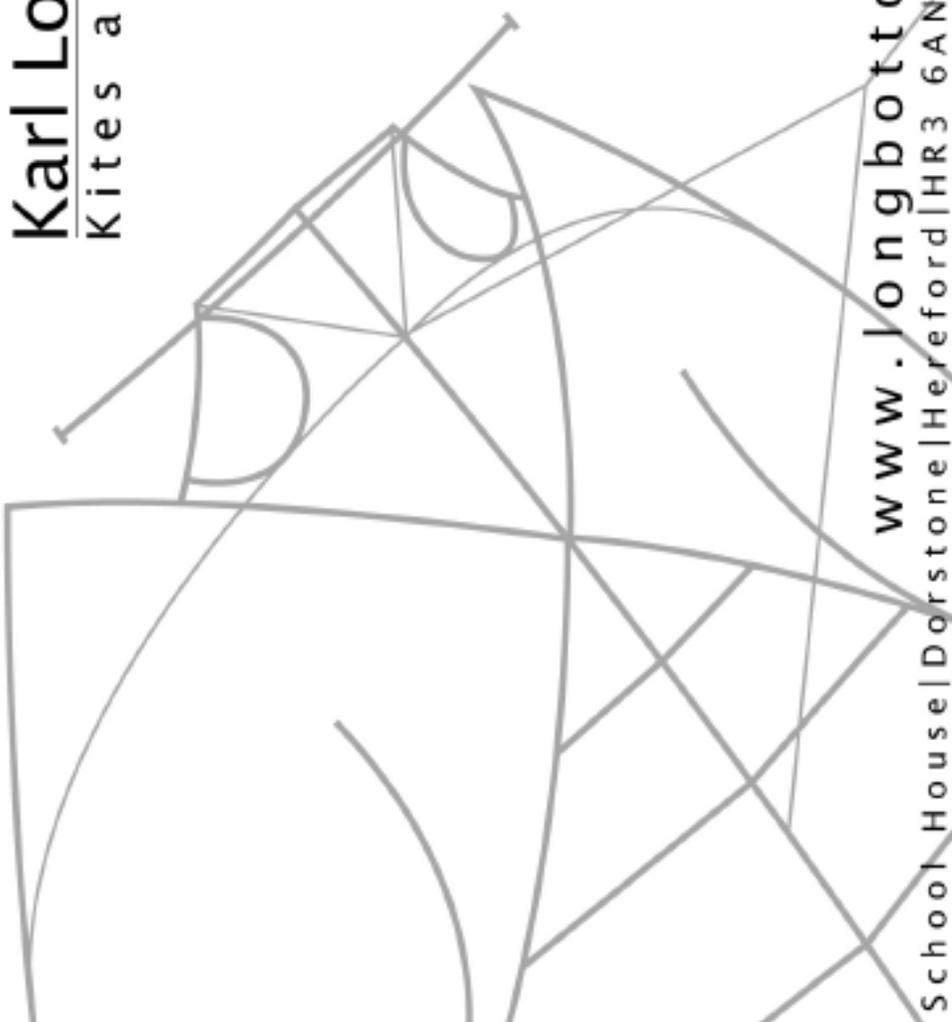
A few years ago in the year 2002 I was able to attend the kite festival in Dieppe. Whilst I was there I was enthralled by a demonstration of quad line kite flying, given by two flyers, a man and wife team belonging to The Bay Area Sundowners, each flying an aerial ballet routine with Revolution kites. The music used for the demonstration was a song called 'From this Moment', sung by Shania Twain, a haunting piece of music, to which the flyers (Mark and Jeannette Lumas) had added a further dimension with their skilful flying.

Fortunately NKG members Don and Di Norman had their video camera with them and managed to capture this performance, along with several other items from the festival. Upon returning home, Don and Di kindly made a copy of the video they had recorded and presented it to me. I enjoyed watching that recording on several occasions but foolishly lent it out for some other member to view...and it didn't come back. When some time later I mentioned this to Don and Di they kindly made me a second copy from their original. About twelve months ago I allowed another member to borrow this second copy and so far, that one hasn't come back either.

So I would be grateful if you would all have a quick rummage through your kite video's and if you find one there which starts with a bit of trick flying, then goes on to Rev flying and later, to four stacks of Dyna kites, fitted with long tails, flying to the music of Vangelis's music 1942, the theme music from the film "Conquest of Paradise" and finishes with the night fly, then it could be mine and I would be grateful for its return.

If you do find that you are holding the missing item, there will be no recriminations, just bring it to the AGM with you and make an old man happy again.

With thanks Jackcee



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XMAS FLY-IN OTTERSPOOL 18TH DECEMBER

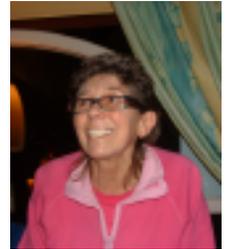
Sunday 18th December was the day appointed for the NKG Christmas party and although the invitation was open to all members, the flyers attending were mainly the members who regularly fly at Otterspool. So, following a well supported fly, in the afternoon at about 4 o'clock, just as dusk was falling on these short wintry days, the flyers downed kites and retreated to the warmth of the nearby Otterspool pub/restaurant. Here there was the usual exchange of hand delivered Christmas cards and also the presentation of one or two rather cheeky, but well accepted, christmas gifts. It is not for me to divulge the nature of these gifts but Dave Green will now need to add a size forty double 'D' bra to his lingerie drawer and Colin Savage is no longer the 'swinger' that he used to be.



Photos courtesy of Ken Savage



The management at the pub had reserved an area of the restaurant for us to occupy and so after a jovial hour or so spent in the bar, the forty three members attending took their places at the dining tables. Member Flo Barnes had previously made all of the booking arrangements and the diners requirements had been chosen from a wide selection of dishes available from an extensive menu.



These were quickly served by an efficient and helpful staff and for a short time the peace was only disturbed by the pleasant sound of the clicking of cutlery and crockery and soft murmurs of appreciation. Between courses, Mr Joe Barnes proposed a toast to 'Absent Friends' and to those absent through sickness, a quick return to better health in the coming year. This was well received.

Dave Green acted as Master of Ceremonies in his usual jovial manner and after the meal thanked all who had attended and specifically thanked our chairlady, 'Rocker' for her efforts on our behalf, over the past year, Mrs Flo Barnes for making the arrangements for the party, Gwen Williams and Sally for their efforts towards the success of the 'Light Up The Sky' event



which had, to date, achieved the magnificent sum of £1100.00 to donate to the 'Children in Need' appeal and to the members who had today donated prizes for inclusion in the raffle to help reach this grand total. Dave also welcomed by name, one or two new members to the group.

There was a plethora of camera clicking and flashing of bright lights during the evening, the main participants being John Belliss and Ken Cain and so I think that there will be one or two photographs to be displayed in the magazine, I trust they will display the GOOD TIME THAT WAS HAD BY ALL.

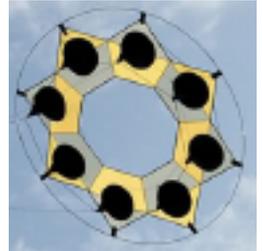
Jackcee

CAPTION COMPETITION



This issue we have another caption competition, the following picture of one of our members caught during the 2005 Bristol Kite Festival during some illicit bongo playing seems ripe for comment...

The prize for the lucky winner is this HQ Flex Ring worth £59.00 kindly donated by Marie & Tony from Go Kites. The Flex Ring is a kite out of the ordinary. This creative model is capable of flying both horizontal and vertically and shows two completely different appearances. The Flex ring flies very stable in a wide wind range.



Entries to your Editor by the 31st March 2006

KITE WORKSHOP 12TH MARCH 2006

After the success of last years workshop we have decided to run another one making the Winged Box below, those who saw it flying at Chester were very impressed with its performance. (The workshop version will have a normal double folded hem not the edge binding pictured) Due to the number of spars the carbon version is a little dearer than the Dowel framed version, If the numbers are sufficient then we could do the both kites at the same time.

Option 1:

Carbon framed Kite

Size 1.1m span 1.45m length.

Cost per person:

Based on 10 people £60

Based on 6 people £70

Option 2

Dowel framed Kite

Size 1.0m span 1.15m length

Cost per person:

Based on 10 people £45

Based on 6 people £55



Date: Sunday 12th March 2006 starting at 10am

Venue: ERYCA Hall, Queen Street, Hoddlesden, Darwen,
Lancashire, BB3 3LY (5 minutes from junction 5 on the M65)

Participants would need sewing machine, extension lead, pencil, ruler, scissors, thread, and preferably a cutting mat and knife and the class should take about 4-5 hours. Some kite building experience is required.

Places are limited so please send a £10 deposit per person and your contact details and kite preference to reserve your place, (make cheques payable to NKG) to Dazzz, 39 Blacksnape Road, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 3PN or telephone 01254 776819 for more information. Closing date is 28th February 2006.

Dazzz

KITE CALENDAR

January

Sunday 15th NKG Annual General Meeting Newton Heath Manchester

Sunday 15th Makar Sankranti kite festival, Leicester

Sunday 22nd STACK UK Precision Skills Coaching day. Lansdowne Playing Fields Bath

February

Saturday 4th NKG Indoor fly-in Clayton Green Sports Centre, Nr Chorley

Sunday 12th MKF Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham

Sunday 19th NKG Monthly fly-in Roundhay Park Leeds (Provisional, Directions below)

March

Saturday 4th NKG Indoor fly-in Clayton Green Sports Centre, Nr Chorley

Sunday 12th MKF Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham

Sunday 19th NKG Monthly fly-in The Dips at New Brighton (Provisional)

Sunday 26th STACK UK 'Better flying' coaching day, Midlands area - location to be confirmed

April

Sunday 9th MKF Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham

Sunday 16th NKG Monthly fly-in Pontefract Racecourse (Provisional)

19th-23rd Plein Vent Kite Festival 2006, Houlgate, near Caen, Normandy, France

Sunday 30th Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset

Sunday 30th 9th Beverley Kite Festival, The Racecourse, Beverley, near York, Provisional

May

Monday 1st 9th Beverley Kite Festival, The Racecourse, Beverley, near York, Provisional

Monday 1st Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset

6th-7th Swindon International Kite Festival, Science Museum, Wroughton, near Swindon, Wiltshire

13th-14th 9th Cleethorpes International Kite Festival, Lower Promenade, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire

Sunday 14th MKF Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham

20th-2st 9th Suffolk International Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury st Edmunds, Suffolk

Sunday 21st NKG Fly-in Otterspool (Provisional)

All the NKG fly-ins listed are provisional until agreed at the AGM in January

Roundhay park directions (NKG February fly-in)

Directions - M 62 from West.

Leave M62 at junction 27 on M621 to Leeds. Look out for brown signs to 'Tropical World'. Follow A58 M then A58 signposted Wetherby. At Forde Greene pub on right at traffic lights go straight on and bearing left (not bearing right on A 58). Continue past Tesco on left. At traffic lights (Oakwood Clock Tower on left) turn left into Princes Avenue. In about 60 yards turn right then left into Park Avenue. Next left into West Avenue, parking at the top.

Directions - M 62 from East and South

M 62 junction 33 take A1 north. Follow signs for Leeds on A 63. Join A 6120, outer ring road westbound. At roundabout junction A 58 continue ahead on A 6120. At next traffic lights turn left into Park Lane. At 'T' junction left into Street Lane which runs into Prince's Avenue past 'Tropical World'. Continue down Prince's Avenue with the flying site/playing fields on your left. At end of field turn left and left again into Park Avenue. Next left into West Avenue and park at the top.

(Thanks to Jim Potts for the directions)



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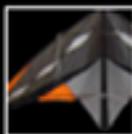
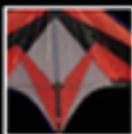
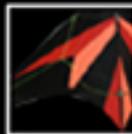
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