Third Time’s a Charm

After two cancellations, we are again planning our 43rd Annual Convention in Ocean City. So much has changed, so much is the same. While the pandemic is still a concern, it seems less threatening this year and there is a groundswell of excitement to get together again and fly our kites.

Our planning for the cancelled 2020 Convention was driven to a large degree by members asking for changes to the Convention format. Some requested specific changes but many simply said, “Let’s try something different.” Ironically, now that some of the changes have been discussed for nearly three years, they may not seem new but they are worth repeating. One big change is that almost all our events will happen around the host hotel, The Princess Royale. Many fliers will park their cars on Monday and not need to drive for the rest of the week! Walk from your room to the beach and fly.

The Kitemakers Committee and the Sport Kite Committee are offering lots of new ideas for us to try at this year’s Convention. Both committees are focused on providing challenging competitions for those who like to compete, but are also expanding the activities that are less about competition and more about the joy of sharing kitetime with friends. The great thing about these changes is that they are just fun experiments. If we like them, we can continue to use them and if not, we can do something else in future years. Details of all Convention competitions will be listed on our website at www.kite.org. Here are some of the things to look forward to:

- All Convention meetings, indoor flying, and other activities will happen in our host hotel, The Princess Royale.
- Most outdoor flying will happen on the beach directly in front of the hotel.
- Only outdoor sport kite competitions will be held on a wider beach at 511 Boardwalk.
- Sport kite free flying will be on the Princess Royale beach with the other kiters.
- Kitebuilding competitions have been changed to encourage more participation.
- There’s more emphasis on free flying time, celebrating the art of kiting.
- We have planned new workshops, great food, and a shorter Awards Banquet.

Every morning, there will be an amazing choice of workshops held in four rooms for two sessions: 9:00-10:15 and 10:30-11:45. We will also offer optional afternoon workshops that will be held ONLY if the weather prevents us from flying outside. The times and locations of these workshops will be posted each morning in the lobby of the hotel. The sewing workshop room will be open all day, rain or shine.

We are lucky to have such a generous community of artists who are volunteering time to share their kite passion with Convention attendees. All workshops are free to registered attendees only. Most classes do not require any materials, while others offer the option to buy materials at the workshop. (If you want to take a sewing workshop, please note that on your registration.) The list (see page 12) is subject to change, and an actual schedule (plus materials list) will be published online no later than September 1, 2022.
Questions about the Elephant in the Room

Is the Convention going to happen? The highest priority in making this decision will be the health and safety of all parties concerned. This article is being written in mid-April and the trends are positive for moving forward. We will be monitoring the recommendations from the CDC and the Maryland health department and basing our decisions on their guidelines. At present, it seems possible the Convention will be able to occur in October, but only if we continue to organize for it now. At the time of this writing the answer to this question is a resounding YES!

When is a final decision going to be made? The AKA contract with the hotel allows us to cancel the event prior to August 15 for a minimal fee. In addition to health and safety issues, the decision will also be made based on how many people register. This year the early-bird registration deadline has been changed to August 1, 2022. Based on the number of paid registrants at that time, the Convention Committee will prepare a report for the Board of Directors’ meeting on August 2, 2022, and the Board will decide if the Convention will be held or cancelled. Email notice will then be sent to all registrants.

Will there be a refund if the event is cancelled due to the coronavirus? If the AKA cancels the Convention, all registration fees will be refunded 100%. Separately, if individuals cancel their own registrations for any reason prior to August 11, 2022, their registration fees will be refunded 100%. From August 12-September 11, 2022, persons cancelling their registrations will receive a 50% refund. After September 11, 2022, there are no refunds for cancellations. (Please note that the AKA has no control over hotel reservations and/or refund policies.)

Can I register now and pay later? Yes. You can register for the Convention today and pay any time before August 1, 2022 to receive the early-bird discount. Unpaid registrations will automatically be suspended after August 1 and will need to be renewed at the non-discounted registration rate.

Registration Information

Basic Registration
Basic registration includes access to all Convention activities, and includes one ticket for the Friday banquet and one ticket for the Saturday Banquet. You also receive one convention logo patch in your registration goody bag and a name badge and lanyard. You must purchase a basic registration in order to compete.

One Day Registration
Allows access to all the scheduled activities and workshops for that day and allows watching, but not participating in, competitions. It does not include a banquet ticket.

Child’s Registration
Children under the age of 12 may register for 20% off the fee at the time of registration.

Banquet Tickets
Extra tickets will be on sale on a first-come first-served basis for $60 per ticket. You do not have to be registered to buy and attend any of the banquets. If you want to ensure your ability to attend the banquets, you are strongly encouraged to pre-register prior to September 11, 2022. The AKA must commit a final banquet count prior to the Convention, meaning that if you register at the door or try to buy extra banquet tickets at the event, they may not be available.

Please check all that apply:

___ This is my first AKA Convention
___ I want to bring my sewing machine for workshops
___ I plan to enter the Sport Kite Competition or fly demonstrations
___ I plan to enter the Fighter Kite Competition
___ I would like vegetarian or gluten-free meals
___ I have the following accessibility needs:

____________________________________

I am willing to help in the following areas:

___ Auction/Receiving/Set-Up/Runner/Cashier
___ Sport Kite Competition/Judge/Field Director/Pit Boss/Other
___ Kitemaker Competition

Waiver
In consideration for the right to compete, as well as participate in the American Kitefliers Association 43rd Annual National Convention and Grand National Competition (the Event), I hereby hold the American Kitefliers Association, the City of Ocean City, Maryland, the Princess Royale Hotel, the sponsors, promoter, and any and all other persons associated with the Event harmless and release them from any and all liability in connection with my participation. I further agree that the Event may use, without payment, permission, or restriction any photograph, film, tape, or digital image in which I may appear for any purpose whatsoever. I understand that the AKA does not control the weather, and that there will be no refunds given due to cancellation of any events after September 11, 2022. NOTE: by signing on behalf of a participant less than 18 years old, the parent or guardian also expressly agrees to all of the above agreement.

____________________________________

Signature
# Registration Form

**REGISTRANT NAME 1** ____________________________________________________________

**REGISTRANT NAME 2** ____________________________________________________________

**STREET ADDRESS** ____________________________________________________________

**CITY** ____________________________________________________________

**STATE/COUNTRY** ____________________________________________________________

**ZIP CODE** ____________________________________________________________

**PRIMARY PHONE** ____________________________________________________________

**CELL PHONE** ____________________________________________________________

**E-MAIL** ____________________________________________________________

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## PAYMENT METHOD

- [ ] Visa
- [ ] Mastercard
- [ ] Discover
- [ ] AmEx
- [ ] Check

**CREDIT CARD #** ____________________________________________________________

**EXP. DATE** ____________________________________________________________

**NAME ON CARD** ____________________________________________________________

**SECURITY CODE** ____________________________________________________________

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**Register online at** [www.kite.org](http://www.kite.org) **or mail this form to:**

AKA, PO Box 699, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924 USA

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<th>EARLY REGISTRATION</th>
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| Child Registration 20% discount | |
| Extra Banquet Tickets | Friday | Saturday | $60/ea. |

**Registration Total** | $800 |

**Cloisonné Pin** | $10 |

**Extra Convention Logo Patch** | $12 |

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**All Convention apparel listed below must be ordered no later than August 1, 2020.**

- **Short Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - S  M  L  XL
  - white only
  - $30

- **Short Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - XXL  XXXL
  - white only
  - $35

- **Short Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - XXXXL  XXXXXL
  - white only
  - $40

- **Women’s Short Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - S  M  L  XL
  - white only
  - $30

- **Women’s Short Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - XXL  XXXL
  - white only
  - $35

- **Long Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - S  M  L  XL
  - white only
  - $35

- **Long Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - XXL  XXXL
  - white only
  - $40

- **Long Sleeve T-Shirt**
  - XXXXL  XXXXXL
  - white only
  - $45

- **Polo Shirt**
  - specify Men’s or Women’s
  - S  M  L  XL
  - white only
  - $45

- **Polo Shirt**
  - specify Men’s or Women’s
  - XXL  XXXL
  - white only
  - $49

- **Polo Shirt**
  - specify Men’s or Women’s
  - XXXXL  XXXXXL
  - white only
  - $54

- **Crew Neck Sweatshirt**
  - S  M  L  XL
  - white only
  - $38

- **Hoodie**
  - S  M  L  XL
  - white only
  - $56

- **Hoodie**
  - XXL  XXXL
  - white only
  - $66

- **Hoodie**
  - XXXXL  XXXXXL
  - white only
  - $70

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**PAYMENT METHOD** | **MERCHANDISE TOTAL** | **ORDER TOTAL**

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**SIGNATURE** ____________________________________________________________
**Kitemakers Competition in 2022**

As reported in previous issues of *Kiting*, there are a number of changes in this year’s Kitemakers Competition. These changes are meant as an experiment for one year. The goal is to encourage more member participation in kitemaking and flying activities at the Convention.

The biggest change: every field competition will be judged by the competitors themselves. Fliers will rank the kites being flown in their category and the highest ranked kite will win the category.

For example, if there are six fliers in the Bowed category, they will gather on the competition field at the allotted time. Each will fly his/her bowed kite and compare it to the others in the sky. Then each of the six fliers will be given a scorecard and they will rank the bowed kites 1-5. The votes will be tallied on the field and winners declared. Ideally, this would take about 30 minutes and then a kitemaker could compete in the next category, where the process will be repeated.

For the Grand Champion competition, all kites winning first place in the various categories will have the opportunity to fly their kites during an allotted time on one afternoon. The Grand Champion will be chosen by the members of the Kitemakers Committee, who will vote using the ranking system previously described. The People’s Choice awards will be held as in previous years, and awarded at the Saturday night banquet.

The second significant change is that kite categories having less than three competitors will be eliminated as a unique category for this year. In these cases, “dissimilar” kites may be flown with others in order to have a competitive category. Because of this, the number of competitive kite categories will be reduced to six this year. They will be:

- Flat kites
- Bowed kites
- Cellular and Dimensional kites
- Soft and Flexible kites
- Multiline Sport kites
- Traditional Material kites

Additionally, the committee may award the following categories from the week’s activities:

- Novice kitemaker of the year
- Most innovative kite
- Best flying kite
- Best visual appeal
- Best structural design
- Best overall craftsmanship

**Sport Kite Competitions and Demonstrations in 2022**

In April, the 2022 Sport Kite Committee conducted a survey of our membership to estimate the number of sport kitefliers coming to this year’s Convention. There were sufficient responses to host outdoor sport kite demonstrations, several outdoor sport competition events, and two indoor sport kite competition events. The seven sport kite competition events we anticipate hosting at this year’s convention are:

**Outdoor Sport Kite Competition Events:**
- Individual Dual-line Precision (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Individual Dual-line Ballet (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Individual Multi-line Precision (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Individual Multi-line Ballet (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

**Indoor Sport Kite Competition Events:**
- Open Individual Indoor Single-line
- Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

The four outdoor individual sport kite competition events are being run as Open class, where all skill classes for each event will compete together as one skill class. The other three sport kite events already exist as Open events.

Due to the unfortunate impacts from COVID-19 on regional events, there will not be any sport kite pre-qualification requirements to compete at this year’s Convention. If you register for the AKA 2022 Convention, you will be able to compete in the anticipated sport kite competition events listed above.

The above seven sport kite competition events are subject to change based on the actual registration numbers for this year’s Convention. When you register, be sure to check the question saying you want to fly sport kites in competition and/or demonstrations. If you check that question, you will be contacted later with more detailed information and asked to provide a list of those events in which you wish to compete. Sport kite competition events with less than three registered sport kitefliers will not be held.

The outdoor sport kite competition events are anticipated to be hosted on the beach east of the Kite Loft, located at 511 Boardwalk. The indoor sport kite competition will be hosted in the evening within the Princess Royale Resort located at 9100 Coastal Highway. The outdoor sport kite demonstrations will be hosted on the beach to the east of the Princess Royale.

The sport kite competition results and the associated awards will be presented to the successful sport kitefliers at the completion of the sport kite competition for that day.
Convention Workshops

These workshops are current as of June 24, 2022. This is a partial list of the workshops being offered at this year’s Convention. For a variety of reasons, workshops may be changed, canceled, or replaced without notice. Please check back for updates.

Geoff Bland, MAKE AN AEROPOD

The AKA Flight Technologies (FliTech) Committee, in partnership with NASA’s AEROKATS and ROVER Education Network (AREN), will sponsor an Aeropod instrument platform workshop. Participants will assemble “MonoCams” and learn to prepare, fly, and retrieve images from these novel devices. Two sessions are planned: one early in the week for assembly, and one a few days later to share your collective aerial perspectives from a fun week of kiteflying!

Ronda Brewer, DEMYSTIFYING KNOTS

Throughout the ages, people and animals have used knots and knotting techniques to give more form and function to their lives. Not only have they discovered the importance of the different applications of various knots, but what line or rope to use as well. In this class, we will discuss the different aspects of knot assembly—parts, names, techniques, and usages. We will then have a hands-on session with multiple projects to practice.

Jon Burkhardt, WHY WON’T MY #$%^&! KITE FLY?

Most of us have built kites that struggle or utterly fail to stay aloft. What’s wrong with these beasts? Some of them might deserve just one more chance before they meet the trashcan, while others, well…? Fixes could range from simple tweaks to total redesign and reconstruction. Share your stories and share your solutions. Come to participate. Bring a kite that’s frustrating you; we’ll have time to talk about some of them. Show me yours and I’ll show you mine. Let’s have some fun.

Paul Dugard, BUBBLES, BUBBLES

Learn how to make your own “Big and Large” Bubble Solution. Bubble machines, wands, and loops will be on display. All materials for this workshop will be provided including those needed to make a loop and wand to take with you. This will be a hands-on bubble workshop with minimum time spent on lecture. Safety and proper use of bubbles explained.

There will be group testing after class. No prior experience required.

Lindsey Johnson, ADVANCEMENTS IN 3D PRINTING

At previous Conventions, Lindsey introduced the kiteworld to 3D printing and its many applications in kite building. This class will start with the basics of the technology then move into exploring the changes of the last few years. Printers are now cheaper to buy, and the materials and processes have advanced in exciting ways. There are more kite people than ever using 3D printers and the body of expanding knowledge will be explored. If you’re into 3D printing or are curious, you won’t want to miss this class.

Chuck Jones, MAKE AND TAKE FIGHTER KITE

Chuck is well known for building kites with traditional materials. This year he will lead workshop participants in making fighter kites using all biodegradable materials. They fly great indoors, or in light wind outdoors.

Susie Jo Skinner, MAKING MINIATURE KITES

Make a miniature kite, complete with carrying case and flying stick. Kites will be made with tissue paper sails and nylon spars. All supplies and tools will be provided. Beginners to advanced kitemakers are welcome.

Mike Mosman, WHAT’S IN YOUR KITE BAG/TOOLBOX?

Mike will bring his kite bag and toolboxes to this workshop show those items he finds essential or handy, and then ask the participants to show or describe their favorite kite bits and gadgets. It should be very interactive and, possibly, you’ll get a peek at some “trade secrets.”

KITE COMPETITIONS

There are lots of changes in this year’s kite competitions for kitemakers and sport kite fliers. Workshops will be scheduled early in the week will discuss those changes and answer questions. A second workshop at the end of the week will be an opportunity to discuss how the week went and what we might do in the future.

FUN FLYING WORKSHOP

Want to make something but not compete? Challenge yourself to make kite designs with fish, patchwork patterns, a flock of birds, three sticks of equal length, or a ground display (some samples shown). A new challenge involves making line climbers. See Kiting, winter 2020 or www.kite.org for more details.
Sewing Workshops: BRING YOUR OWN SEWING MACHINE

The last few years, the AKA Convention has held hands-on sewing workshops; they were a big success. This year we’ve expanded the offering of classes and time to sew. A dedicated room for sewing machines will be available in the mornings for classes and in the afternoons for individuals to work on their own. When not in use, the room will be locked for security.

In addition to their machines, attendees should plan to bring accessory tools such as scissors, straight-edge, thread, etc. Most sewing projects will require pre-purchase materials. To facilitate this, members must check the box on the Convention registration form indicating their desire to take one or more sewing classes. If you check this box, by mid-August you will receive an email with a list of materials and the costs (if any) related to each sewing class. Sewing classes are limited in size and registrants will have a reserved spot based on the order of the responses in August. If you have questions regarding sewing classes, email us at aka@aka.kite.org. All members are welcome to attend these classes if they wish to audit the class without a sewing machine.

Mike Dertien and Craig Rodgerson, AKA CONVENTION ARCH KITE

Let’s build the 2022 AKA Convention arch and fly it on Saturday! Not a kite builder? No problem. Mike and Craig are teaching classes in kitemaking using the arch panel format so you can join in the fun! Four sessions will cover all you need to know to make a kite arch panel. This is also the very basic knowledge needed to sew a kite and a great time for beginners to see if kitemaking is for them. All kitemakers will be welcome to drop in and make custom panels for this community project. The finished arch will be sold in the auction on Friday night with the high bidder taking it home after Saturday’s flight!

Charlie Dunton, DUNTON-TAYLOR BOX DELTA

Do you have a kite in your bag that sets up in seconds, is fun to fly, can be flown by anyone, and flies in winds from 0 to 20+ mph? This workshop is your opportunity to build the Dunton-Taylor Box Delta. If you can sew straight and zigzag stitches, this 31-inch-tall ripstop nylon kite can be built in less than six hours at a cost of about $75. Bring your sewing machine and let’s fill the sky at Ocean City with a mass ascension of handmade Dunton-Taylor kites.

Would you like to sponsor Convention activities or events? Please email the AKA office at aka@aka.kite.org.

This is a partial list of the workshops being offered at this year’s Convention. For a variety of reasons, workshops may be changed, canceled, or replaced without notice. Schedule information will be available here after September 1, 2022.