

# AKA 2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

## Workshops at the Convention

**Ron Bohart**, DYEING FOR A COLOR: This workshop will walk you through the materials, tools, and techniques you will need to successfully hand dye ripstop nylon, with time for questions.

**Jon Burkhardt**, JUDGING HANDMADE KITES: Two sessions, one before the competitions where participants can meet the judges, find out what they are looking for, and how they determine who wins.

**Ken Conrad**, MAKE A THREE-BUTTERFLY TRAIN: Lifelike GW Butterfly kites make an eye-catching kite train! Assemble three Tyvek and fiberglass butterflies. (Two sessions.)

**Cat Gabrel**, MAKING FREE KITES FOR KIDS: Learn how to put on a kite workshop for kids by teaching kids in the Seaside community how make and fly their own kites.

**Jim Desrosiers**, ANYBODY CAN ENTER THE LOGO COMPETITION! As the designer of this year's convention logo, Jim is sharing tips on how to design your own logo. This is Pechakucha 20X20 style presentation (less than seven minutes) followed up by a question-and-answer period. We'll review past logos and cover the process of designing this year's logo. Your choice of digital or hard copy information package included.

**Lindsey Johnson**, 3D PRINTING FROM SKETCH TO FLIGHT: Explore the world of digital design and fabrication, and how this amazing technology applies to kitemaking. Learn about different types of design software, printers, their strengths and limitations, the different types of plastics available and how to choose the one to use. During the workshop 3D printers will be set up to print one or more kite-related items. Other items will be on display.

**Chuck Jones**, MAKE AND TAKE LIGHT-WIND KITE: Chuck Jones is known for his work with traditional materials. This year he will lead workshop participants in making a kite similar to an iFlite using grass leading edges, a bamboo spine, carbon spreader, and produce-bag skins — an almost biodegradable kite. These kites fly great indoors and in light winds. This workshop is not a project for beginners.

**Alexa King**, TRASH BAG DELTA KITE: No sewing required, this make-and-take Class will not only produce a kite that you can fly indoors or out, it will teach you how to replicate a successful flyer over and over.

**T.Z. Lee**, IN PURSUIT OF THE AKA MISSION TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT KITES: Learn how to scout out potential venues for kite displays; budget for all potential costs; negotiate with management to arrange a kite display; hang kites in public and private venues to respect

rules and property; arrange kites for maximum visibility and beauty; and yes, educate the public about kites and kiting.

**Suzanne Sadow**, MARGARET GREGER'S "VIETNAMESE KITE:" Just for fun, experience Suzanne's slightly unusual spin on Margaret Greger's version of this fanciful, easy paper and bamboo favorite!

**Russell Schwarz, Chuck Jones, Geoff Bland**, KITE DURATION ALOFT WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT: We will present our up-to-date plans for the attempt, scheduled for March 2025. Discussion will include optimal kite designs, site location, and accommodations. We welcome input from the assembled members who have a wealth of kite knowledge. Recruiting for participation is also part of the program.

**Phillip Whitaker**, A FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE TO THE CONVENTION: Is this your first AKA Convention? This workshop is an opportunity to meet other kitefliers and hear tips to get the most from a convention experience.

MAKING MINIATURE KITES: Make a miniature kite complete with carrying case and flying stick. Kites will be made with tissue paper and nylon spars. All supplies and tools will be provided.

### **Sewing Workshops: BRING YOUR OWN SEWING MACHINE**

The last few years, the AKA Convention hands-on sewing workshops have been a big success. This year there will be a dedicated room for sewing machines 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 to ensure security. In addition to their machines, attendees should plan to bring accessory tools such as scissors, straightedge, thread, etc.

Most sewing projects will require pre-purchased 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-July 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 July. If you have questions regarding sewing classes, email us at [aka@aka.kite.org](mailto:aka@aka.kite.org). All members are welcome to attend these classes if they wish to audit the class without a sewing machine.

**Robert Brasington**, WRAPPED DIAMOND SEWING WORKSHOP: Join Tasmanian kite artist, Robert Brasington, in a two-day class on the Wrapped Diamond, an elemental, simple classic, with a twist. The asymmetric graphics give the platform a unique appearance. The kite head is 850mm (34 inches) high. The twin organza streamers are 4M long. All materials

will be supplied. There are four colors in the graphic. A basic appliqué technique is used. Attendees are encouraged to select their own custom colors prior to arrival. Price per single kite will be about \$40 USD.

**Brian David**, MAKE AND DONATE FRINGE DELTA KITE: Instruction will be provided about how to sew a 42-inch fringe delta kite that will be donated to the Foster Grandparent Fun Fly at the Washing State International Kite Festival in 2025. Once you learn the techniques, you can make three or four more by taking extra kite kits to be finished by you at a later date. There's no shortage of kids needing kites. (Class time: 4 hours.) Link to this YouTube instructional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFGMQykpYgo>

**Mike Dertien**, FROM PAPER TO SAIL: While there are a lot of kitemaking plans available from books and the internet, many of these plans assume pre-existing knowledge or experience converting a diagram into cloth. This class will help provide that knowledge with practical guidance on seam allowances, making patterns, cutting fabric, sewing seams, stitch styles, pockets, and more. (This class is for all levels.)

**Lindsey Johnson**, LEARN TO SEW A FALENA: Join us for a unique workshop experience creating a Falena, a winged ground display inspired by a Kenyan bee. Learn sewing techniques to craft these stunning pieces using laser-cut fabric and organza tails, with 3D printed fittings. All materials provided for \$35.

***This is a partial list of workshops being offered at this year's Convention. For a variety of reasons, workshops may be changed, canceled, or replaced without notice. Exact meeting times will be provided in the Convention Program upon arrival.***

**Thanks to the members of the Convention Committee who have worked hard for the last year to make all this happen.**

**Register\* today at <https://members.kite.org/event-5749873>.**