

MIKE NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN

JULY 2022





INFORMATION

CLUB FLY-INS

We hold club fly-ins each month (winter included) at various sites. These are informal events and are a great way of meeting other MKF members.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Your membership card may help you obtain discounts for purchases from kite retailers in the UK, and gain you entry to events and festivals free, or at a reduced cost.

Please keep them safe.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

All fully paid up members are covered by Public Liability Insurance to fly kites safely for 'pleasure' anywhere in the world with the exception of the United States of America and Canada. If you injure anyone whilst flying your kite the injured party may be able to claim on the club insurance for up to **£5,000,000**. The club has 'Member-to-Member Liability Insurance'.

A claim may be refused if the flier was found to be flying a kite dangerously - e.g. using unsuitable line, in unsuitable weather; flying over people, animals, buildings or vehicles. This insurance does not cover you for damage to, or loss or theft of members' kite/s.

BUGGIES, BOARDS & KITESURFING

Unfortunately, we are not able to cover these activities within the clubs insurance policy.

The MKFNEWS is pleased to print articles and photographs submitted by any interested party. All submissions are reproduced at the Editors discretion, however the Club cannot be held responsible for any views or comments contained in any such articles.

YOUR CLUB OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bill Souten

52 Shepherds Court
Droitwich Spa
Worcestershire, WR9 9DF
☎ 07840800830
billy.souten@btinternet.com



*I am sorry but I don't do 'Facebook',
If you want me either email or phone I'll always get back to you.*

SECRETARY

Dave Hardwick

Sunnyside, Cheadle Road,
Oakamoor,
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire, ST10 3AF
☎ 07598 392613



TREASURER

Julia Souten

52 Shepherds Court
Droitwich Spa,
Worcestershire, WR9 9DF.
☎ 07840800830

PHOTOGRAPH
TO FOLLOW

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Linda Richardson

19 Wigsley Close
Doddington Park
Lincoln
Lincolnshire, LN6 3LD
☎ 07925205616

PHOTOGRAPH
TO FOLLOW

WEBSITE MANAGER

Sam Hale

12 Briery Street,
Lancaster,
Lancashire,
LA1 5RD.
☎ 07895 009128

PHOTOGRAPH
TO FOLLOW

'MKFNEWS' DEADLINES FOR 2022+

MKFNEWS B. SOUTEN - EDITOR	'COPY' DEADLINE	PUBLISHING DATE
41	25 th September 2022	Mid October 2022
42	25 th December 2022	Mid January 2023
43	25 th March 2023	Mid April 2023
44	25 th June 2023	Mid July 2023



LEOMINSTER AND HEREFORD KITE FESTIVAL
 Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July 2022

BERRINGTON HALL

LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE, HR6 ODW

Featuring Kite Fliers from all over Britain



CAP 393
 Air Navigation: The Order
 and the Regulations
 TODAY'S HEIGHT
 LIMIT WILL BE
 1,000 feet
 MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS



MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

c/o 52 Shepherd's Court, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, WR9 9DF.

Email: billy.souten@btinternet.com - 07840800830

In the event of poor weather conditions the fly-in will be cancelled.

It is always advisable to check that the event is happening before travelling any distance

All our 'fly-ins' are Civil Aviation Authority and Site Owner approved.



MKFGB AUCTION

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

BERRINGTON HALL
SATURDAY EVENING
9th JULY 2022

DONATIONS ALWAYS RECEIVED
WITH GRATEFUL THANKS
AUCTION YOUR OWN KITES FOR
A SMALL PERCENTAGE - 10%

PAYMENT BY CASH, CHEQUE OR BANK TRANSFER.
Unfortunately we are unable to accept Debit or Credit Cards.

SEE BILL SOUTEN FOR DETAILS

Large collection of Dan
Leigh kites and other
kiting 'stuff' on offer.

KITE
TRAIN
kite
CHALLENGE

MKFGB

£100.00
CASH
PRIZE



How to make ... a kite



Let's make it!

You will need ...

- A piece of A4 paper
- Twine or string, at least 6 metres (20 feet) long
- A stapler
- A pencil or pen
- Hole punch
- A grown-up to help

- 1 Fold your sheet of paper in half widthways. If you like, you could decorate it first with paints, crayons or pencils.
- 2 Place your folded paper with the crease at the bottom. Bend the top left corner outwards and down, so that the point touches the crease. Do not fold, only bend.
- 3 Repeat with the corner on the other side, and then staple in place.
- 4 Make a hole with your hole punch towards the front of the crease.
- 5 Thread some string through the hole and make a knot to keep it secure. Wind the rest of your string around a pencil or pen.
- 6 Find an open space outdoors and have fun flying your kite!



There are lots more activities you can try at home or on a walk. Visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/for-families](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/for-families)

Fun at home

Kite Festival

9-10 July Berrington Hall, Herefordshire

Fly high with the Hereford and Leominster Kite Festival. See the sky above 'Capability' Brown's landscape filled with colour, and bring your own kite to have a go. You could even make one at home to bring along using the tips on page 53.





Shropshire Kite Festival 2022

16th and 17th July 2022

Lacon Childe School

Love Lane

Clebury Mortimer

Shropshire

DY14 8PE

raffle

kite stall

competitions

camping on site

www.skybums.com

01939 234486

kites@skybums.com



SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER
WILL BE THE PUBLIC FLY-IN
Supporting Local Charitiy



CAP 393
 Air Navigation: The Order
 and the Regulations
**TODAY'S HEIGHT
 LIMIT WILL BE
 1,000 feet**
 MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS



MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

c/o 52 Shepherd's Court, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, WR9 9DF.

Email: billy.souten@btinternet.com - 07840800830



In the event of poor weather conditions the fly-in will be cancelled.
 It is always advisable to check that the event is happening before travelling any distance
 All our 'fly-ins' are Civil Aviation Authority and Site Owner approved.



SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2022. From 10.30am
APEDALE COUNTRY PARK CENTRE
Blackbank Road, Knutton, Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 6AX

MKFGB
AUCTION
MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN
YOUR REMINDER
WE SHALL BE AUCTIONING THE 'CLUB KITES'
AT THIS YEAR'S AGM. This will include
the 'George Peters Kite Collection'



MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

c/o 52 Shepherd's Court, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, WR9 9DF.

Email: billy.souten@btinternet.com - 07840800830



GIANT KITES CULTURAL TOUR 2013

Cemeteries, Ceremonies
and Sacred Kites

Lousie 'Luisa' Wischild PhD

12/4/2013



This was the third small group cultural tour I've led to the Kachiquel Maya pueblo of Sumpango to observe and participate in their unique celebration of the Day of the Dead, featuring *los barriletes gigantes*, the Giant Kites. We were very fortunate to be joined again by master kitemaker and international kite exhibitor, Julio Asturias, who over my years of living in Guatemala has truly become a dear and inspiring friend. It is thanks to his willingness to generously share his time, his knowledge and enthusiasm as well as his practical guidance that this tour offers such depth.





States, does not come in rolls, but only in the familiar rectangular sheets. The construction of the kites begins with rows of white sheets glued one to the other to form a base. The base is lain over the drawing of the kite. The thinness of this paper allows the drawing for the kite to show through beneath it. The mosaic of multicolored tissue paper is then glued onto the base and subsequently applied in layers for detail and shading. Tissue paper and glue are not natural allies as the fine paper easily absorbs too much glue. Los barrileteros use delicate paintbrushes dipped into styrofoam cups of white glue which are periodically refilled from a gallon jug. They work on their hands and knees or sprawled sideways on the cement floor, gluing with precision, patience and persistence.



Once I asked Julio how many hours of work he thought went into the kites. He laughed and said, “We could not count it in hours, it’s easier to talk in months. His group, Happy Boys, begins work designing their kites for November in January. Below are photos from the group, Corazon Juvenil as they worked a Saturday night in September. The drawing at right is the original drawing for this part of the kite. It is then drawn by hand to the dimensions of the kite to give the outline for the placement of the pieces.

My fascination with the Giant Kites enticed me to Guatemala in 2011. But nothing I had seen on YouTube or in the descriptions I found on the internet prepared me for the reality of this creative undertaking. Every year I am amazed anew at the innovations in design and form in these kites. These enormous kites – some as large as a six story building, are ornate mandalas entirely made from tissue paper, *papel de china*, and glue. Nothing is drawn or painted on the kites. *Papel de china*, the same paper I used to wrap presents in the



Because of Julio our small group is able to see two of the kites as los barrileters work to complete them the day before the festival. The design of the kites is an absolute secret until the following day so we promise not to post any photos before the Festival. This secrecy applies not only to visitors, but also within the pueblo, so that even members of the same family who are working on different kites do not share the theme or the design of their kites with the rest of their family. For a culture as ancient and persistent as the Maya, this lesson in keeping secrets and in being loyal to a group may be an important key to survival.

It is breathtaking to see the Happy Boys kite as they complete work on this enormous and wonderfully detailed kite which illustrates angels carrying the spirit of the dead to heaven. Watching them complete work on the detailed images from the 2nd floor is like watching the images themselves emerge from the kite. The view from the ground floor shows the size of this hall. The last row of pics shows the kite at the festival. A truly remarkable achievement. Happy Boys is known as the most innovative of the group and counts architects among their group members. It is also the only group to take on a name in English instead of in Spanish or Kachiquel.









There are about 75 kite groups in Sumpango with over 600 active members, most of whom are single young men. What we are witnessed in the municipal hall is the culmination of months of hands-on labor, los barrileteros working after their “real day jobs” until 1 in the morning weeknights and then working again through the night on Saturdays.

While staying up all night every Saturday is one of the traditions of making the kites, the week of the festival, los barrileteros may go without sleep for the three nights preceding the festival, in addition to their usual Saturday. Perhaps they are too tired to be nervous about the looming and absolute deadline when their kites must be DONE. One of the kites we visited looked to have quite a lot of cutting and gluing left, but the kitemakers demonstrated the same calm focus I observed when I visited them in September, applying themselves to the task at hand with care.





Finishing the kite is not the last step in this arduous process. Indeed the crucial step is yet to come. The “small” kites, 6 meters (about 20 feet) and less will be mounted for display and then flown in competitions throughout the day. The kites larger than 6 meters – the largest this year was 22 meters – the height of a six story building – are mounted on an intricate lattice of enormous bamboo poles which require significant team coordination, precision and physical strength as well as another sleepless night– a true endurance test for the barrileteros. It is interesting to contemplate that the vast majority of the barrileteros are single young men between the ages of 10 and 22. They are guided by older experienced barrileteros who understand each part of the process of the making the kite. The commitment and dedication to this art is enormous.



The tradition of kites in Sumpango began when the pueblo was bothered by bad fortune. The brujas, the Maya healers, understood that the trouble lay with an ancient graveyard that predated the pueblo. They advised that on *dia de los muertos*, kites must be flown, complete with flechas, a fringe around the edges which makes a sound with the wind. This sound is believed to frighten away evil spirits. Originally these kites were made of banana leaves. Then

the Chinese introduced the thin brightly colored paper to Guatemala around 70 years ago. Julio remembers his grandfather bringing bundles of colored paper home from the city for making the kites.



But *día de los muertos* in Sumpango is honored in other ways than making kites. Because our group arrives the day before the kite festival, we are able to experience these other preparations that the pueblo's residents undertake in honoring their dead.

There is a special market of flowers, the traditional marigolds believed to guide spirits to their families through scent, white, yellow, purple chrysanthemums, fuchsia cockscomb all with the long stems cut this morning from the gardens of the vendors. There are also wreaths resembling those used in funerals in the States. Here the round shape evokes the corona, the circle of the sun which is sacred to the Maya. Some say that the rounded shape of the traditional 8 sided Maya kite represents the corona, and the 8 points of the octagon represent the solstices, equinoxes and cross quarter days between them.



We bought bunches of long stemmed chrysanthemums and cockscomb from the vendors for Julio's family to put at their gravesite. We wandered the indoor food market which was colorful and sparsely occupied by the late morning, sampling some of Guate's exotic fruits – rambutan and zapote. I discovered a new treat, the best ever candy, caramelized fresh coconut. It is the same sauce of raw sugar, panela, which

suffuses the more common sticky chunks of squash and sweet potato. But the texture and flavor of fresh coconut saturated in this caramelized sauce is *ricisimo!* I had another new Guate treat at our homestay– hot diced fresh pineapple in thin oatmeal served in a mug--delicious, nutritious and WARM.





After our opening expeditions to watch the barrileteros and visit the market, we had a traditional meal, chicken pepian, Guatemala's equivalent of *mole*, at our homestay. This was delivered by Vincent, Betsey's 10 year old son, who brought tray after tray of food up two flights of stairs to serve us on their terrace. We could see some of the tombs in the cemetery and had a panoramic view of Sumpango as well as interactions with kids on the terrace across the street. It was a great place to gather and have a beer or a soda.



We visited the cemetery that night to witness the Maya ceremony blessing Sumpango and the kites during this sacred holiday. The fire lit the canopy edged with flechas . Maya *nanas*, shamen, sat on their knees with their legs folded under them, woven cloth on their heads, stories embroidered onto their huipils. At various points throughout the ceremony we were all given candles to add to the fire which was rimmed with flowers.



After the ceremony in the cemetery we proceeded up the hill to campo where the Kite Festival would be held the next day. The vendors were already in motion -- this festival will be their biggest event of the year. The air smelled of grilling chicken, sausage and steak; there were kebabs and pizza, tamales and tacos, beer, of course, and also shots available from an eclectic collection of liquor. The next day the campo would become a canvas for the kites. The night before we saw only mammoth bamboo poles lying on the packed earth, the barrileteros working diligently with fence post diggers and machetes to create a hole adequate to support these central stabilizing posts. It took repeated attempts to raise them, their length and weight a challenge to secure in the hard earth.



We took to our beds at Sara or Betsey's house. I can't say that it was a quiet night as the 31st really is a general night of fiesta, but the clear blue sky at 7:00 AM and Vincent's pancakes got us on the path to the festival in the morning.



In the cemetery people were cleaning the graves and decorating them with flowers. Some of the graves are in cement monuments housing multiple generations of the Kachiquel Maya of Sumpango. Others are simple mounds covered in chac with marigolds. A few children flew their kites.





The roads along the cemetery and up to the festival were lined with vendors though the crowd was still thin. On the campo only a few giant kites had been mounted. This process would continue throughout the morning, each kite requiring room to be erected. The children's smaller kites were more prevalent. The contest for the small kites (under 3 meters) was in the morning while the 4 – 6 meter kites would be flown in the afternoon. Julio was stationed in the information booth as a part of the kite

comite. We received wristbands for premium seating, which is a great location to watch the kite flying contests and also a chance to sit down. And so we had a basic outline of the festival which would swell as the day grew with many Guatemalans and visitors from other countries coming to be amazed at this creative wonder of the Kachiquel Maya of Sumpango. Even so, few of them would know the amount of work and commitment this festival represented.

The morning was a great time for photos--before the vast sea of visitors and the abundance of kites made taking pictures increasingly challenging. Although as the crowds grow so did the greatness of the kites and the heightened excitement of the festivities. The images towered above us, these fragile magnificent creative achievements.



Of the diverse and magnificent array of kites, this was my favorite. Maybe it was seeing *nana Delfina's* face lit by fire and being held in the trance of the opening ceremony. The life of this kite, the strong and true face, the beauty of nature surrounding her,

the skill involved in creating this likeness from paper. . . I felt the presence of this kite all day, watching, hoping, leading. All of the giant kites incorporate the themes of birth, death and transformation, but each kite also speaks to a theme. This year the overwhelming theme was mother nature and the necessity of connecting with the earth. It's also interesting that for the three years I have attended the festival, the kites have featured many strong images of Maya women even though the kitemakers are overwhelmingly young men.

In the afternoon the spectacular kites of 4 – 6 meters were flown to the cheers and moans of the crowd. Each kite gets three chances to fly. Their flying time is recorded. The spirit of the crowd rises when the kites take off, but for some it is only momentary, while others swerve in tantalizing and unfulfilled promise. The crowd moans when kites fall to the ground, abandoned by the wind; the wind is fickle and the kites are big.

The festival winds down as it gets dark. We decide not to stay for the marimba concert but to find a quieter venue, one with a cheeseburger, followed by a couple of beers on the terrace of Betsey's homestay. At the campo the barrileteros and their friends are dismantling their kites. Some will be saved for

exhibition or for sale. Others have suffered the toll of the wind and are beyond repair. I looked through my photos five or six times before dropping into bed. I lent Julio my camera at various points so there were some interesting surprises.

On Sunday we had an 8AM appointment for a Maya ceremony with Delfina. We gathered sleepy-eyed at her house and sat in chairs around the cement base which holds the ceremonial fire. I had asked her to explain something about the ceremony, for although I had seen and even participated in numerous

Maya ceremonies, I was curious to learn more. Central to the ceremony is the fire which is completely circled by a Tepee of colored candles. The colors correspond to each of the *naguals*, the Maya glyphs which form the Maya calendar. These *naguals* also have corresponding animals and insects and together they create the Maya cosmivision which honors and acknowledges the earth and many facets of her existence. Each person also has a Maya *nahual* based on his/her birthday. Delfina talked about the characteristics of each of our *naguals* and we were given candles to offer the fire when our *nahual* was invoked. The candles represented things we would burn in the fire and also the dreams we wanted to energize. It was moving to witness everyone giving their candles to the flames while Delfina steadily prayed in *Kachikel* and fed the fire corn, seeds, corn liquor and sugar. Afterwards we were given *jocotes*, a sweet fruit, like a cross between a cherry and an apricot a glass of fermented punch and a kite she had made inscribed with our *naguals*.





But we had no time to linger. There were kites to be made – ours! For the third year in a row I learned that working with Chinese tissue paper is a challenge, especially if you get glue on your fingers! I was less pleased with my kite than in former years as I kept changing my mind about how to design it. My cohort, Jaqueline, Julio's daughter was helping me, but bears no responsibility for the outcome. The other group members however, came through with flying colors.









We were meeting Julio's family at the cemetery where we would eat lunch, which is traditional on Nov. 2, this sharing of food with the dead. It is believed they enjoy the aromas. And of course, there were more kites.

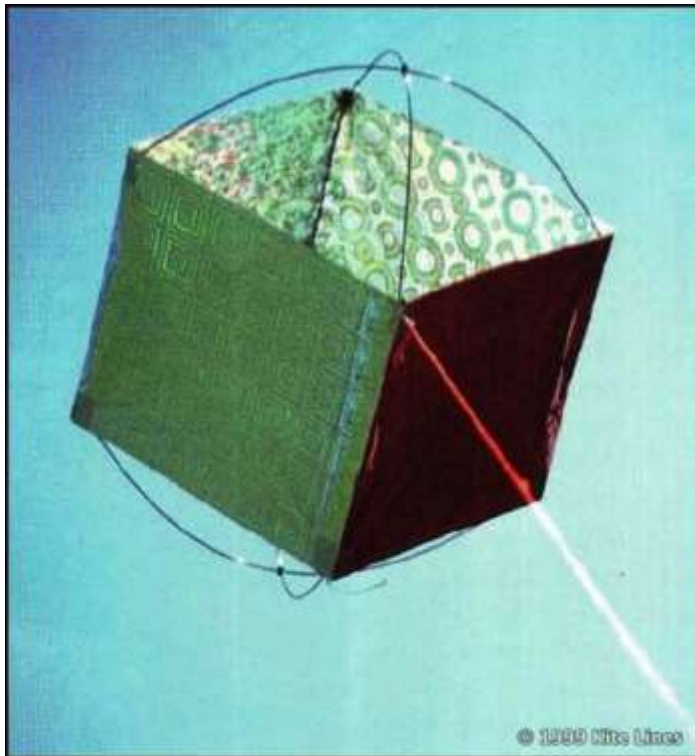


As always the time flew, even though Julio and I had extended the tour four additional hours this year. Before we knew it we were saying our thank you's and hugging each other goodbye. Part of our group would take the shuttle to Antigua. Becky, Scott and I would take the chicken bus back to San Pedro. Or rather, after the direct chicken bus to San Pedro went whizzing by, despite my jumping and yelling, we would take two chicken buses, one minivan and ride the last ½ hour to San Pedro standing in the back of a pickup truck. Fortunately, my companions were up for the challenge. And certainly it was a community-based way of getting home!

Each tour is more than the amazing sites and the extraordinary adventures, it's about the companions on the journey who enliven my memories. Thanks to everyone who participated. Que te vaya bien.

The "Sedgwickcube"

POSTED ON [APRIL 1, 2009](#) BY [KITELIFE ARCHIVE](#)



We first saw this kite bobbing over the boardwalk at Ocean City, Maryland during the 1998 Maryland International Kite Expo. Strolling underneath was its genial maker, Lee Sedgwick of Erie, Pennsylvania. The shiny kite had concave spars bowed out of each end and a sliding bridle that enabled him to roll and bounce it over the ground and tumble and flick it around the sky, almost like a fighter kite. When Sedgwick donated his kite to the auction at the Ocean City event, Mel Govig bought it and was pleased when the maker agreed to permit us to reproduce the plans.

Sedgwick makes no claim to originating the kite. In fact, tracking the trail of the cube kite proves again how good kite ideas bounce around.

Sedgwick traces his knowledge of the cube back to Alix Martin of New York City, who was selling a few similar kites at the 1997 AKA convention in Wildwood, New Jersey. She, however, had scaled up her kites from a two-inch tumbling cube made by Charlie Sotich of Chicago, Illinois. That little kite was auctioned at the 1991 AKA convention in Jacksonville, Florida to David Klein, owner of Big City Kites in New York City, who showed it to Martin. However, some years ago we published a photo from Gubbio, Italy (Winter, 1991-92) of a much larger cube kite decorated as a

gambling die, being shown by Thorsten Schacht of Denmark (who is one-third of the team known as Dr. Hvirvelvind). And plans for a quite similar dice kite, about one meter square, appear in the 1995 book, *Box Kites: Making and Flying*, by Dr. Bill Cochrane. Finally, at the 1999 AKA Convention in Muncie, Indiana, we discovered our friend Barbara Hall flying two small dice kites branching from one line, which she had made in salute to the gambling mecca of Atlantic City, New Jersey, near her home.



On left, variations on the one-cell theme: a pair of dice kites made and flown by Barbara Hall at the AKA convention in Muncie, Indiana. The kite "took off" commercially in 1998, after the Shanti Kite Company negotiated with Martin for rights to make her box. The single-cell market niche now also includes the Triad and the PopKan. (See our reviews of the Cube and Triad in [Kite Lines, Spring 1999](#), and of the PopKan in this issue.)

Sedgwick was drawn to the design in an ongoing search for a fighter kite that would relaunch from any position on the ground, and guessed that the sliding bridle would be the key. (*Kite Lines* first documented the use of such a system in the "convertible cubics" of Japan's Takaji Kuroda, Fall, 1980.) Sedgwick made his kite from four textures of metalized Mylar®, all silver except for one side in red. But he notes the kite could be made from an array of solid hues, or even just a single sheet of material. And while Mylar works well, "almost anything" can be adapted as sail material (ripstop, Tyvek®, tissue). Further, he has seen other makers use wood dowels and even drinking straws as spar material.

Materials

- One 9" x 42-1/2" strip, or four 9" x 11" pieces of Mylar or other lightweight covering material (our sample was made of Mylar commonly sold as gift wrap.).
- 0.05"-dia. carbon fiber rod, cut into four 17-1/2" lengths and three 9" lengths (for spars).
- 0.07"-dia. carbon fiber rod, cut to one 9" length (for leading edge) 10 vinyl end caps, 1/16" dia., for spar connectors (Plastic tubing of similar diameter may also be used, cut to 10 lengths of approximately 3/8" ..
- 13" of 200-lb-test pre-stretched Spectra® line, for bridle..
- One fishing snap swivel 1/2" long.
- Glue (for Mylar, contact cement works best.)
- Ripstop nylon patching tape, 1" wide.

Construction

- If using one long piece of material, layout horizontally and mark vertical spar positions (Fig. 1). Measuring from one end, mark top and bottom edges every 10-1/2": at 10-1/2", 21", 31-1/2" and 42". (The extra 1/2" at the end becomes a flap to "close the box" later.) If using four pieces of material, tape or glue together by overlapping 11" edges by 1/2". Do not tape or glue the last flap yet, leaving the material lying flat.
- Cut vertical spars to 9". Pierce eight vinyl end caps, as near to the closed end as possible, and slide two of these tubing connectors onto each spar. Position 1" from ends (Fig. 2).
- Crease the sail material carefully at each marked position. Lay vertical spars on sail material at each fold, with end cap connectors pointing out. Glue the spars in place at top and bottom, using enough cement to completely surround the spar and base of connectors (Fig. 3).
- Connect spreaders for top and bottom using two vinyl end caps. Using a needle, pierce two holes in each cap, perpendicular to each other and separated by approximately 0.07". Insert two 17-1/2" rods halfway in each cap to form an X pattern, and set aside. Spars

should fit snugly in the tubing (Fig. 4).

- Close the box by gluing the last 1/2" flap of the material to the first edge, with the spars on the inside forming each corner of the box.
- Reinforce all eight corners of the box on outside edges with ripstop tape, about 1-1/2" long pieces.
- When final seam and reinforcements are dry, assemble the completed cell by inserting the X-shaped cross-spreader assemblies into the tubing connectors of vertical spars (Fig. 5), bowing the spars outward. Slide the spreader spars in connectors as necessary to make the cell "square."
- To assemble the sliding bridle, carefully punch two holes in sail material at each end of the 0.07" leading edge vertical spar. Thread and securely tie the heavier-weight Spectra line at one end.

Slide the round or closed end of the fishing snap onto the bridle line. Now tie the bridle line to the other end of the same spar, making line as taut as possible without bend bending spar. Too much slack prevents the fishing snap from sliding properly.

Flying

Attach flying line directly to the fishing snap, or use another snap swivel on the end of the flying line. When the line goes slack or unusual gusts strike the kite, the sliding fishing snap allows the kite to flip over and fly "upside down."

Sedgwick recommends using 20-lb-test line for the first 10 feet, then 30- to 90- lb-test for the rest of the line. He says the lighter line near the kite makes it float better. He also suggests the kite flies best on only 40 or 50 feet of line, with the line fully extended from the spool. In our experience, gentle pumping of the spool is enough to make the kite do its thing.

The maker also has experimented with tying a line through the center of the box between the junctions of the cross-spars, to increase tension for sharper movement. Sedgwick says this kite keeps offering him new games to play.

"The kite is awesome," he says. "You can fly it at night, indoors or out, in low wind or high."

The "Sedgwickube"

(drawings not to scale)



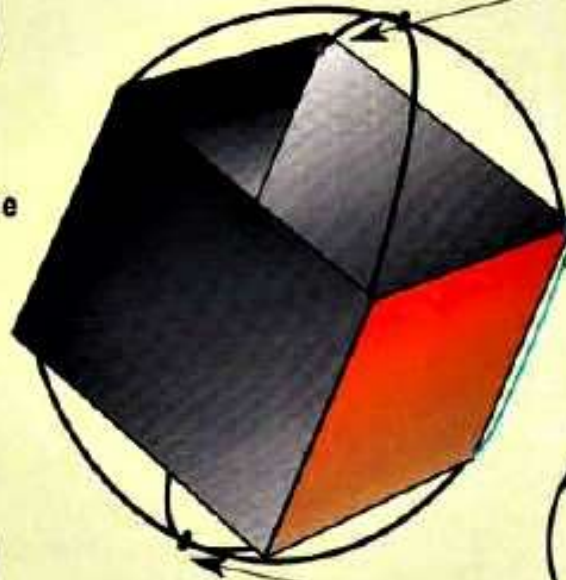
FIG. 2
spar fittings are made by passing vertical spars through vinyl end caps



FIG. 3
fittings and vertical spars are glued into place at each corner



FIG. 5
cross spars insert into end cap fittings



snap slides freely on taut bridle line

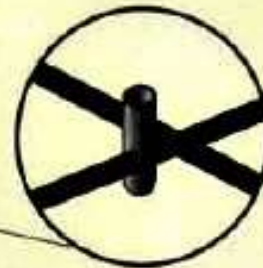
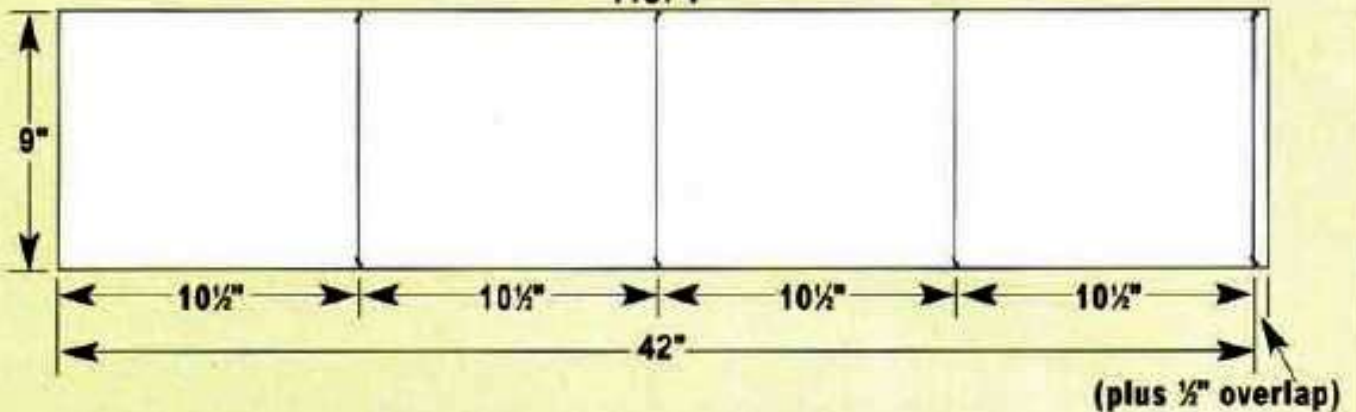


FIG. 4
cross spars are joined by vinyl end caps, pierced at 90-degree angles

FIG. 1



Fighter Kite Plans

These are plans from many different kite makers. Some you may have seen on other web sites and some you may not have ever seen.

From each of these plans, diagrams or text files, you must draw the full-sized kite to make your template or pattern for the kite's skin.

Most of the kite plans listed here call for a carbon fibre rod for the bow of the kite. Bamboo can be substituted for the carbon fibre rod. If you use bamboo, cut the bamboo to the length of the bow called for in the plan, then shape the bamboo so when its ends are positioned at the wingtips of the kite skin, the bow shape fits closely to the curve of the bow shown in the kite plan.

The White Angel Fighter kite plan and full size pdf template by Roberto Dinatale
Scott Bogue's Coho 95, the 2010 line touch world cup winning kite!

The Black Devil Fighter kite plan and full size pdf template by Roberto Dinatale
part 1 of 4: One way to design your own fighter kite, a youtube video by bruce lambert.
part 2 of 4: One way to design your own fighter kite, a youtube video by bruce lambert.
part 3 of 4: One way to design your own fighter kite, a youtube video by bruce lambert.
part 4 of 4: One way to design your own fighter kite, a youtube video by bruce lambert.

A plan drawn by Cameron of Peter Stauffer's Swallow fighter kite.

A plan of a tukkal kite from Karine and Ludo's wonderful book, "Cerfs-Volants Traditionnels de Combat a travers le monde"; French.

Several plans from a special issue of Manjha Club Newsletter; French & English.

Several plans from a Manjha Club plans booklet; French & English.

Afghan fighter kite plan from Ludo and Karine's book; French.

BASF - Bruce Lambert

Bizzy - Tony Slater

Buka Diagram - Bruce Lambert

Buka Text Plan - Dennis Crowley

Cayenne..a competition fighter kite - Mathias Rosebund

Crazy Chicken - Gerhard Zitzmann

Desperato - Leyland Toy

Dog Series - Bruce Lambert

Donna's Dog - Bruce Lambert

Dot - Dennis Ische

Draco One - Giacomo

Dragonfly - Tom Humphrey

Experimental Bukas-Rob DiStefano

F3 - Bruce Lambert

Firefly - Tom Humphrey

Frantic Gecko - Gerhard Zitzmann

Goody - Tony Stater

HATA - Peter Stauffer

Huntin' Dog - Bruce Lambert

Jesabell - John Gordon

John 3:16 - Manny Alves

Josephene - Peter Stauffer

Kerori - Malcolm Dick

Korean - Malcom Dick

Kula - Bandana Gang

Lightning Bolt - Dennis Ische

M Light - Mike Coons

Opus - Larry Green

Original D26 Plan - Bruce Lambert

Publix - Walt Whippo

Raptor - Steve Childers

RockA Fighter - Brian Johnsen

Saucy Owl - Gerhard Zitzmann

Silhouette - Jeff MacInnis

Spot - John Mckenzie

Starman - Peter Stauffer

Surinam Fighter - Unknown Designer

Titus - Manny Alves

Tukkal - Stan Keller

University Fighter Dimensions - Joe Siros

Vari-Fighter - Ed Alden

Vic's Kite - Designer Vic

Volunteen from Chile - Designer Unknown

Volunteen - John Mckenzie

Wood Tick - Woody

Zorro - Gerhard Zitzmann

WC/2001 Winning Kite (Donna's Dog) - Bruce Lambert

WC/2002 Winning Kite (NAFKA Standard) - Chuck Lund

WC/2003 Winning Kite (Tangler) - Bruce Lambert

fighterkitecentral.com/making-plans.html

Making Traditional Style Fighter Kites



The links above will lead you to various information about how to make Traditional style fighter kites; many plans and full sized

templates, details about how other kite makers make them, plus tips and sources of where to buy materials and lots more.

Traditional fighter kites are typically kites made with indigenous materials available to the region where they were first developed. Usually this means the frame of the kite is made of split and shaped bamboo or cane and the covering or skin of the kite is made of paper of some sort, usually a tissue like paper, rice paper or other lightweight paper, but in some countries/regions leaves were used.

Countries and/or regions each developed their own style of fighter kites that they used in wars in the earliest years, and for competitive combat as entertainment later in more civilized and recent times. These kites were often regional or national artistic treasures because they were highly decorated with paints or other means.

Information offered here is oriented toward the traditional style, design and construction of fighter kites where the materials don't include the synthetics of our more modern era. However, if a fighter kite plan or template or detailed construction description includes synthetic materials, and you'd prefer the original materials; simply substitute split, shaped bamboo for carbon fiber or fiberglass for the frame materials and use paper for the skin or covering of the kite. White glue is a good alternative to the typical rice based paste used traditionally to make most traditional style fighter kites.

If you have fighter kite construction related information, plans or tips for making either traditional or American style fighter kites you'd like to share with the rest of us, please email me with your info and I'll include it on the appropriate page and of course you'll be given 100% credit for it.

BigGrins, bruce

fighterkitecentral.com/making-plans.html

Full Size Kite Templates or Patterns

The templates listed on this page are full size printable patterns of 1/2 the fighter kite, as if the kite were split along the spine. All you do is print the pages of one of these files, tape the pages together and you have a full sized kite pattern. For more detailed information about how to use these files read the file 'how to print and use full sized templates'.

In addition to the templates listed here, there are many additional fighter kite plans on the 'Plans' page that do not have full sized templates patterns on this page. Plus on the 'Step by Step Building Info' page there are detailed articles describing various construction methods, some of them include either plans or templates.

Most of the templates listed here call for a carbon fiber rod for the bow of the kite. Bamboo can be substituted. If you use bamboo, cut the bamboo to the length of the bow of the kite template, then shape the bamboo so when its ends are positioned at the wingtips of the kite skin, the bow shape fits closely to the curve of the bow shown in the kite plan.

How to Print and Use Full Sized fighter kite Templates
How to make fighter kite bridles

Carl Anderson's EZ fighter kite instructions and template.
Template for Jeff MacInnis' famous Silhouette light-wind fighter kite.

Template for Carl Anderson's Gumby-2.

Template for Carl Anderson's 'Blockhead' Fighter Kite.
SlowHunter2 Bruce Lambert

Template for Bruce's GoodDog2 Fighter Kite.

Template for Doug's SWALLOW fighter kite.

Template for the BRUZILIAN fighter kite - Dave Young

Fat Boy Blakenator Fighter Kite- Dave Young

Split Tail Scooter Fighter Kite- Bruce Lambert

Scooter2 Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

GoodDog - an easy to make fighter kite - Bruce Lambert

Scooter Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Hummer the Hammer Fighter Kite - Mathias Rosbund

BASF Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Donna's Dog Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Falcon Fighter Kite-Brian Johnsen-Jeff MacInnis

Hot Dog Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Indoor Dog Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

MUK01-2 Fighter Kite-Merwin Updyke

No Dog Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Pfighter 3hree Fighter Kite - Ralph Resnik

Pokey Long Dog Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Slo Dog & Slo Long Dog Fighter Kites - Bruce Lambert

Spunky Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Summer'05 Fighter Kite - Gerhard Zitzmann

Sun Dog Fighter Kite - Bruce Lambert

Tangler Fighter Kite- Bruce Lambert

Xpfighter 460/a4 Fighter Kite - Ralph Resnik

Xpfighter 460 v0305 a4 Fighter Kite - Ralph Resnik

Xpfighter 460 v0305 Fighter Kite- Ralph Resnik

BROAD HAVEN MAY DAY 2022



Photographs courtesy
of Rick Holzmann

with grateful thanks from the









Interesting 'Rokkaku' spotted by Janet and John Elvin on the beach at Broad Haven this year.

They believe that it came from a 'Costco' Store. It was being flown by a local resident. I think John was quite envious!!!!!! He thinks it is the best 'cheap' kite he has ever seen.

Perhaps you can help us track them down....

Ed.



**BROAD HAVEN
MAY DAY 2022**



Photographs courtesy
of Rick Holzmann

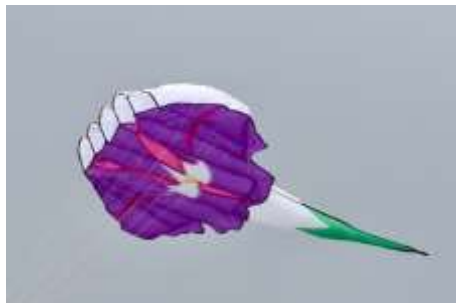
with grateful thanks from the

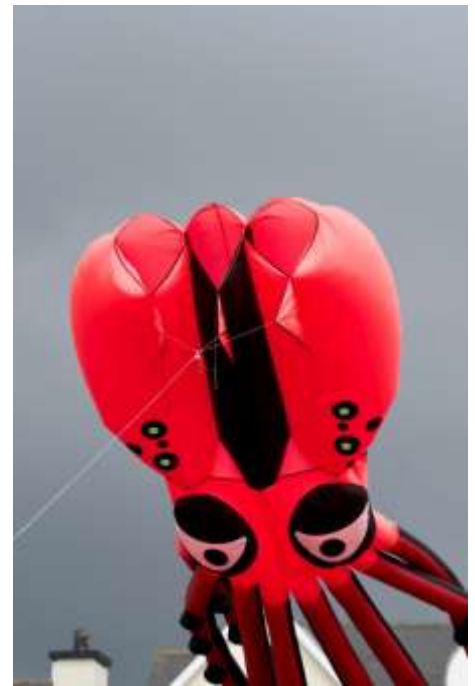
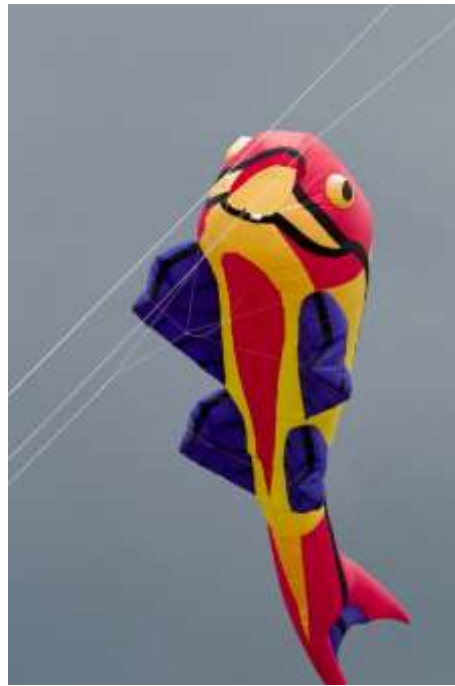
BROAD HAVEN MAY DAY 2022



Photographs courtesy
of Michael Taylor

with grateful thanks from the Midlands





BROAD HAVEN MAY DAY 2022



Photographs courtesy
of Michael Taylor

with grateful thanks from the Midlands

Found by several kite fliers on the beach at Broad Haven this year!

Sand collars



Sand collar from the moon snail *Neverita josephinia*



A somewhat damaged sand collar of *Euspira catena*. When the light is shining through the collar, it is possible to make out the individual egg capsules within it.

Sand collars are the characteristic egg masses of one family of sea snails, the moon snails, marine gastropod mollusks in the family Naticidae. These egg masses are often found washed up either whole, or sometimes in fragments, on sandy beaches where moon snails are living, either intertidally or subtidally.

Description

When they are intact, sand collars are shaped rather like an old-fashioned detachable shirt or blouse collar (hence the name). The sand collar consists of sand grains cemented together by a gelatinous matrix, with the embedded eggs contained within the matrix. The collar is laid by the female moon snail, and the size of the sand collar gives an indication of the size of the adult female moon snail that laid it; larger species of moon snail lay larger sand collars.

A fresh sand collar feels stiff and yet flexible, as if it were made out of plastic. Each sand collar contains thousands of capsules, each one housing one or several live embryos. In species with planktonic development, these embryos hatch out as bilobed veligers. After the eggs hatch, the sand collar disintegrates.

Naticidae



Naticidae, common name **moon snails** or **necklace shells**, is a family of medium to large-sized predatory sea snails, marine gastropod molluscs in the clade Littorinimorpha. The shells of the species in this family are mostly globular in shape. Naticidae is the only family in the superfamily **Naticoidea**.

It has been estimated that worldwide there are about 260–270 recent species of naticid snails.^[1] This group is assumed to have originated in the late Triassic or in the early Jurassic.^[1] Members of this family can be recognized by the shape of their shells, distinct appearance, or by their predatory behavior.^[1]

Distribution

Naticids are widely distributed and occur worldwide. The greatest diversity of both species and genera is found in tropical regions. Even so, naticid snails are also plentiful in temperate, Arctic and Antarctic waters.^[1]

Habitat

Moon snails live on sandy substrates, at a great variety of depths depending on the species (from the intertidal zone to thousands of meters in depth).^[1] They are often seen ploughing along in the sand searching for prey.

Indira Naidoo on the joy of kite flying: 'Like taking a dog for a walk in the sky'

The enchantment of a kite is that it pulls you into a new focus – there is no room in your head for anxiety or rumination



'Flying kites is all about finding the right balance. It's the art of knowing when to hold on and when to let go.' Photograph: Mark Metcalfe/Getty Images

It's 4.30am. This is my favourite time to write. Banging away at my keyboard in the almost-morning when Mark is asleep in the other room and the city is yet to stir. When I have only the wind for company.

I can't see the wind but I know it is there. I can see how it plays. How it whistles through the seal of my balcony window, turning the wooden blinds into a vertical xylophone, how it quivers through the winter seedlings I've just planted in a row of pots, or how it skates across the moonshine mirrored on Sydney Harbour.

It must be fun to be the wind, to dip and dive and rumble and roar or just disappear quietly without a whisper. I've been watching the wind more closely these past few months. Of all the forces of nature, it's the most elusive, always in hiding, only its actions giving away its presence. I want to harness those powers.

Which is why I'm planning to do something I haven't done since I was 10 years old. I'm going to fly a kite. And I'm going to do it with Michael Richards, who knows a thing or two about kites – and the wind.

Michael and I are meeting outside the art gallery in the Domain. The lawns are buzzing with crowds arriving to see the finalists of this year's Archibald Prize for portraiture. At this time of year, I would normally be with them, in the dim light, doing a crab shuffle from portrait to portrait, intently examining the walls of famous faces.



It's as though the kite is an extension of my body and my hand can touch the sky. Photograph: Noah Seelam/AFP/Getty Images

Yet these days, indoors holds so little appeal. I want to shout to the throng: *Hey! Hang out with me instead! I have a date with the wind! My re-enchantment with nature has rekindled my inner child. I can't wait to scamper through the grass, under the sun, squinting into the wide blue sky, tethered to a long-tailed comet. I can feel the joy rising just thinking about it.*

Michael arrives carrying a long canvas bag big enough to fit a canoe. *What's he got in there?* A kite that size could take us to the moon. With his gentle weathered features under his battered hat and his khaki attire, Michael could have walked out of a verse of *Waltzing Matilda*. People often use the phrase *He walks with a spring in his step* – well, Michael is one of those people who truly does.

Michael has been teaching people to fly kites for 30 years. In fact, seven years ago Michael and a group of his mates broke the world record for the highest-altitude kite flight. Their base camp was an isolated sheep station in outback New South Wales so they wouldn't disrupt flight paths. Their determination was impressive: after 40 attempts over 10 years they finally cracked it, sending their kite an extraordinary 5km into the Earth's atmosphere. *Five kilometres! I'll be happy just to get my kite off the ground. I feel a flutter of performance anxiety.*

The Domain will make a perfect launch pad for my maiden lift-off – a large field of open grass, trees far away on the fence line, with no powerlines or obstructions. I'm concerned there's only a kiss of a breeze, but Michael assures me the wind will appear when we need it. It blows differently this time of the year, here, near the Royal Botanic Garden. It tends to come off the water and change direction quickly. I'll have to keep my wits about me.

Michael unzips his bag of assorted contraptions and pulls out a packet. It contains the kit for the first kite I'm going to flight-test. It's a design similar to the ones from my childhood – a diamond shape with a long tail. It has a texture like paper but Michael explains it's made from Tyvek – a polyethylene fabric that's lightweight, durable and waterproof.

I tape down the two fibreglass rods in a cross on the back and then thread through some string attached to a spindle. The final touch – tying two long, blue and red shimmering ribbons to its bottom point that will act as a tail, giving the kite drag and balance

My flying machine is ready.

We stride out into the middle of the field, following in the footsteps of all the great aviators who have gone before us. Michael holds up my kite and asks me to walk a few metres to the west away from him and then to give a tug on the string. The breeze is much stronger here surprisingly. Little gusts are swirling around my head, tossing my fringe in my eyes.



You're completely engrossed in the moment and the pressing task at hand – keeping your kite airborne. Photograph: Grant Pritchard/Alamy

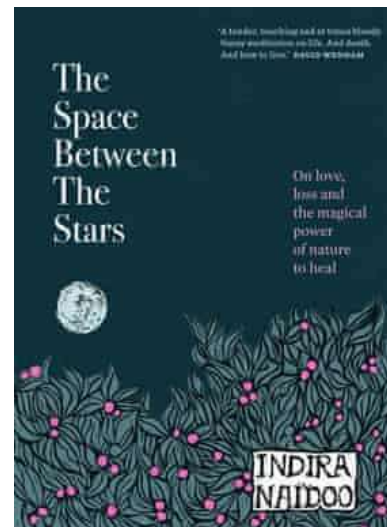
I follow Michael's instructions and watch as my kite gently lifts into the air as if powered by magic. It hovers there for a bit until I release more string, and then it's like taking a dog for a walk in the sky. The kite yanks at its tether, demanding more slack as it veers left then right, climbing higher and higher.

I start giggling inexplicably as sunlight bounces off the trail of shiny ribbons. Something as simple as watching this little kite dart and loop in the breeze is filling me with a giddy delight. It's as though the kite is an extension of my body and my hand can touch the sky. It's as close as I can get to being airborne myself.

Michael is enjoying my reaction. It's why he likes teaching so much. And the teachers in his school groups get just as affected as the kids. Increasingly Michael is being asked to use kite

flying to help students better engage with science and nature. He sees kids who struggle in the classroom come out of their shell during a kite session. They relish being freed from their four-walled enclosures and engaging in a battle of wits with the wind.

The enchantment of a kite is that it pulls you into a new focus. It takes you to the *periphery of your ordinary attention*, as biologist EO Wilson so perfectly describes it. There is no room in your head for worry or anxiety or rumination. You're completely engrossed in the moment and the pressing task at hand – keeping your kite airborne.



Photograph: Murdoch Books

At times it can require the utmost concentration, tugging at the string when the wind dips, releasing more slack as it picks up again, scooting a few steps here and then doubling back just as quickly. And then, in the next instant, nothing much is required from you at all other than just holding on and letting the current you've captured do all the work.

Flying kites is all about finding the right balance. It's the art of knowing when to hold on and when to let go. To be a successful kite flyer is to be in a waltz with the wind, you and your dance partner drawing on each other's strength, supporting one moment and then allowing yourself to be carried the next.

I'm not very good at allowing others to carry me. Too accustomed to being the big sister, the school prefect. As I flew my kites, I could see how I held the string too tightly, not letting the wind do some of the work. You're always going to lose if you try to fight the wind. Surrender yourself to its currents and, like a kite, it will propel you forward. *This is an edited extract from The Space Between the Stars by Indira Naidoo, Murdoch Books, RRP \$32.99*