

NEWS LETTER

September 2003



Greetings from Yusni.

Again, where's the Newsletter ? Unfortunately this time we could not convince Steve Engel to write for us. He has done such great job for previous newsletters. Well Steve has been very busy, so I have been brave enough to undertake the job this time (actually Wing been twisting my arm to do it!..ouch!... aw..). So finally, I have string some words together, with some story from my trip to kite festival in Portugal, plus some tips to fly zero wind kite by Ron Kramer for beginners. So relax, enjoy..

What you get with this Newsletter

- *Report on Portugal 1st International Kite Festival*
- *2003 Kite Events Diary*
- *Invitations and events*
- *Featuring our senior kite flyer, Mr. Ng*
- *Flying zero wind stunts*

Picture Report on Portugal 1st International Kite Festival



Yes! The Merlion flying proud in Portugal



The sea creatures have taken to leaping into the sky. With that kind of sky, who can blame them?



Is that you Peter?



Not exactly kites... but aren't they beautiful.. Way to go, Colombia

More Pictures: http://welcome.to/s_k_a/



1st International Kite Festival in Coimbra, Portugal - July 25th to 27th 2003.

Dear kite flyers:

Coimbra Portugal National Culture Capital 2003, is honoured to invite you to participate in the 1st World Kite Festival to be held in Coimbra next July 25th to 27th 2003.

The spirit of this meeting is to get cultures all over the world together through kites lines since they are an unique technical and artistic expression of the very different feelings throughout our planet.

We've tried to set up a wide program with different attitudes towards culture, art and sport within kites and we already count on kite flyers from all continents.

Domingo León

Commissar I World Kite Festival of Coimbra

The invitation to Coimbra, Portugal for their 1st international kite festival sometime in March 2003 was a pleasant surprise. We were then hit hard by SARS. So it was nice to know that we are still welcome by others. But we were cautious. If SARS were to remain in Singapore by June, we would have to back off.

Things turn up well, and off we go, Gadis, Peter and myself to Portugal, the country that we know have left interesting historical monument in Malacca, Malaysia. The only other thing I know of Portugal is their soccer players and the fact that they are the next host of Euro soccer cup tournament. Oh, and a little bit of their fado music and their singer Dulce Pontes.

We don't know anyone there connected to kite. Not even an association. But we were confident that we will have great experience there. We were not disappointed.



City Tour



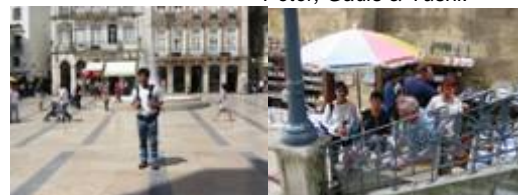
Churches old & new

All very old by Singapore history

Coimbra is a cultural city of Portugal. It is the home of the 2nd oldest university in the world.

On the 1st day of the festival, we were left on our own to explore Coimbra.

Peter, Gadis & Yusni.



Doing what we sometime do when not flying kites

Night life



What's on the other side of this door?

Continue...

1st International Kite Festival in Coimbra, Portugal - July 25th to 27th 2003.

Though the festival was only 3 days, it was packed with activities. We were given a city tour. There were kite parade, street performance in different area of the city. Arch kite flown across the Mondego river. All happening on the 1st day of the festival.

Street Animation



Man-in-black (wearing white?) with his zero wind kite



A parade of inflatable kite on the street

After the public been given a good intro of what the kite festival is about, we were all gathered at the flying field on the 2nd and 3rd day of the festival. As usual, no matter how many time you've been to a festival, it is always fascinating to see so many kites and inflatable on displayed in the air, on the ground, everywhere.



For us, SKA members, now's the time to showcase our own Merlion Kite. This would be a debut flight for our Merlion outside of Singapore. We were quite anxious. Would the wind be too light, too hard? We had both. But thanks to our flying skill ;-) up goes the Merlion (hurrah!).

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1st International Kite Festival in Coimbra, Portugal - July 25th to 27th 2003.

There's so much more to tell about our experience in Coimbra. But words just cannot describe it. Fortunately, there were many photographers to capture the good moments. So take sometime and check out the web site of our kind organizer - Domingo Leon:

<http://latiendadelascometas.com/festivales/coimbra2003/principalcoimbra.htm>

Well, before I sign off, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Domingo and his family for taking good care of our needs while we were there. And the local authorities for having us. 🍷

Thank You.

Yusni Yusof



Domingo & wife



Kite Events Diary 2003

| From | To | Event | Venue | Contact |
|--------|--------|---|-------------------|---|
| Jul 3 | Jul 5 | Jakarta Kite Festival | Indonesia | Le-gong@centrin.net.id |
| Jul 7 | Jul 8 | Pangandaran Kite Festival | Indonesia | Le-gong@centrin.net.id |
| Jul 9 | Jul 10 | Cilacap Kite Festival | Indonesia | Le-gong@centrin.net.id |
| Jul 12 | Jul 13 | Yogyakarta Kite Festival | Indonesia | Le-gong@centrin.net.id |
| Jul 16 | Jul 20 | Bali Kite Festival | Indonesia | Le-gong@centrin.net.id |
| Jul 25 | Jul 27 | Coimbra Kite Festival | Coimbra, Portugal | |
| Sep 8 | Sep 18 | Marseille Kite Festival | Marseille, France | |
| Sep 20 | Sep 29 | Taipei International Kite Festival | Taipei, Taiwan | http://home.kimo.com.tw/twka2002/ |
| Sep 20 | Sep 22 | China Chengde International Kite Festival | Chengde, China | Mr. Huang Qiang Tel: 0086-10-67170763 |
| Oct 1 | Oct 6 | China Yangjiang International Kite Festival | Yangjiang, China | Mr. Huang Qiang Tel: 0086-10-67170763 |

Invitation to Taipei International Kite Festival 2003 20-29 Sept 2003 (26-29 Sept 2003 for International participants)

Schedule

- Sep. 19 The Press Conference
- Sep. 20-21 Local Competition (Kite making/ Stunt Kite Ballet)
- Sep. 22-25 School Visits, Kite Demonstrations, Kite Seminar, Indoor kite performance at the Taipei City Hall And Workshop
- Sep. 26 The Press Conference for the International Kite Festival / Registration for International Participants
- Sep. 27-28 International Kite Flyers Demonstrations (Traditional, Creative kites / Stunt kites Ballet/Surfing kites/diving kites/Indoor Kites/ Night Kites / Giant kites / Workshop / Cultural Seminar) / Continuing of the local competition
- Sep. 29 Sightseeing for International Participants. The organiser would offer the accommodation, meals and the ground transportation during the festival.

More info contact Wing or visit their website <http://home.kimo.com.tw/twka2002>

Invitations & events

FROM :

FAX NO. :

Aug. 01 2003 14:54 P1

中国风筝协会 Chinese Kite Association

中国北京体育馆路9号 邮编: 100763 电话 (Tel) 86-10-67147626
No. 9 Tiyuquan Road, Beijing, China, 100763 传真 (Fax) 86-10-67133577

August 1, 2003

China Chengde International Kite Festival Invitation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm honoured to inform you that the China Chengde International Kite Festival, hosted by the Chinese Kite Association, is to be held from September 20-21, 2003 in Chengde city, China. Located closely to the Capital Beijing, Chengde is a very famous tourist resort. In the city there is the largest imperial garden of Qing Dynasty which is known as the "Mountain Resort". Besides this, you will find the imperial temple groups, where there is the Biggest Wooden Buddha in the world. You can also enjoy the beautiful site of the China Imperial Hunting Ground and Scenery of Bashang Grassland. The famous "Mountain Resort" has been listed into the World Culture Heritage.

On behalf of the Chinese kite Association, I sincerely invite you to attend this kite festival. We'll be responsible for your team's accommodation, meals and local transportation during the period of September 19- 22.

With best regards,



Wang Baosheng
Secretary General
Chinese Kite Association

Invitations & events

FROM :

FAX NO. :

Aug. 01 2021 14:54 P2

China Chengde International Kite Festival Regulations

1. Hosted by: the Chinese Kite Association
China Sports For All Administration Center
Sports Bureau of Hebei Province
2. Organized by: Sports Bureau of Chengde City
3. Venue: Chengde City
4. Competition period: September 20-21, 2003
5. Number of participants: Each team is allowed to enter a maximum of 4 persons.
6. Type of Kites: All types of Kites are allowed
7. Awards:
 - 7.1 Awards for the Best Shape, Best Kite-making, Best Craftsmanship and Best Flying shall be presented.
 - 7.2 The Biggest Kite and Longest Kite will be evaluated.
8. Hospitality:
 - 8.1 The International travel expenses shall be borne by all the participants while the Chinese Kite Association shall cover the accommodations, meals and local transportation for them during their stay (from September 19 to 22) in Chengde.
 - 8.2 The entry fee to the tourist site shall be borne by the participants themselves.
9. Schedule:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.1 September 19 | Registration |
| 9.2 September 20, 21 | Competition and Sightseeing |
| 9.3 September 22 | Departure |
10. Application and Confirmation:
 - 10.1 Please apply to the Chinese Kite Association for participation by September 1.
 - 10.2 The first 5 teams of 20 participants will be accepted by our confirmation letter.
11. Please Use Tourist Visa for Entry.

Contact Person: Mr. Huang Qiang
Tel: 0086-10-67170763, Fax: 0086-10-67133577



Veteran Flyer – Mr. Ng Thang Eng

By Steve & Rocky Engel.

At eighty years of age and still flying strong, Ng Thang Eng is the grand old man of the SKA. Indeed, Ng is the oldest and most senior member of the society, having the distinction of being only its second member. Of the many hundreds of kites build in the past, today, Ng keeps fifty to sixty kites and among his most treasured, bamboo frames and several stacks. Ever keen to use whatever materials are available, Ng purchased 3 kg of surplus Tesco supermarket plastic bags to build a stack. When it was first constructed, the kite was made up of ninety panels and still has sixty panels left. In addition to his longevity, Ng has traveled to an astonishing array of festivals around the globe, including events in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Taiwan as well as shows in New Zealand and France. And, just as colourful as his collection of kites, is Ng's remarkable life.

Born in China in 1923, Ng left for Thailand at the tender of age of ten. Five years later his father died and, three years after that, Ng moved to Singapore. Six months later the Second World War broke out. During the Japanese occupation of Singapore, Ng worked in the family shop, the retail business remaining his primary employment until his final post as a liquor salesman. However, Ng's true heart was in the world of kite flying.

As a youth, Ng flew Thai fighting kites. In Singapore, after closing hours, he would engage in rooftop kite fighting, balancing one foot on the roof of the shop and the other on the roof next door. These sessions would regularly take place between 5.30 and 7.00 in the evening. As his commitment to kite flying grew stronger, Ng began making his own flying wonders in earnest, even using the material for his wife's sarong to fashion a train. Later, he embarked on a train kite utilizing ripstop as well as adding an umbrella kite, three octagonal kites, one dragon and three trains to his prized collection.

Today, Ng is the proud father of five children and twelve grandchildren and flies in tandem with his SKA partner Danny Teo. How high can one man soar? 🚩



Top left: 3 stack octagonal kite

Bottom left: dragon kite

Top right: Tesco stack

Bottom right: Ng with other members at Pasir Gudang Festival 2003





Ron Kramer - Fly indoors? How?

<http://www.houseofphotography.com/kramer/indoors.htm>

Why? and who should fly indoors?

As many of you know, I really learned to fly indoors before learning to fly outdoors. This is what happens when you get into the sport in the dead of winter. Learning to fly indoors was a great asset when I moved outside, because flying indoors really teaches the flier the subtle finesse controls and tricks that are very helpful when flying outdoors. The other reason to fly indoors is - it allows you to enjoy the sport year round, even if you don't live in areas that offer kite friendly weather conditions. Even if the weather is good outdoors, INDOOR kiting is still great fun and in addition to being great exercise, it's also very challenging.

The Equipment

When learning to fly indoors it is important to have the proper equipment. There are many SUL (super ultra light) kites available on the market, but as of this text there is really one kite that is recommended by pretty much everyone as 'the best beginner' kite to learn with... The "Wren".

The "Wren" which sells in the area of \$100.00 (U.S.) It's not the most advanced kite as it won't do tricks as easily as high performance indoor kites like those offered by Prism (3d, Ozone, Vapor) but it's slow speed and mushy response make it the best choice for anyone wishing to learn to fly indoors. I think of it as a trainer, much like a new pilots learns on a trainer aircraft rather than a Beechjet.

Another factor to consider is line length, which can be as long as the ceiling of your indoor flying location is high... but when starting out **I recommend line lengths of 11-13 feet**. Shorter is often easier, but getting to short doesn't allow the kite enough float time and keeps the new pilot moving more frequently because the kite can't travel the extra distance that is allowed with longer lines. If you stay in the 11-13 foot range you should do fine.

Attach one end of the lines to the kite using a larks head knot, of course. On the other end - (you use handles outdoors). These tend to be too big and cumbersome indoors and eliminate the subtle tactical feedback you get from the kite. When flying indoors you need to 'feel' the line tension, the slack, the amount of pressure applied to each line in order to really become a skilled pilot. Much like a good fisherman keeps a finger or two against his fishing line so that he can detect slight disturbances and vibrations affecting his line. Experience tells him his line is dragging against an underwater plant, may get snagged in a stump, or has some interest by the critter he's after.

Below Kevin flies a Wren



Dan flies his home made wren clone on 13 ft lines.



Typical 11 and 13 foot line sets on a single winder

A indoor pilot also learns to detect what the kite is going to do next. In some cases you control the kite indoors, but at other times you respond to what the kite does on it's own, so that the pilot and kite are affecting each others actions as a team. For this reason experienced pilots generally use no straps or handles.

I recommend simply using the typical heavy sleeving that comes on good linesets. You can sleeve your own home made line sets or buy them already sleeved. It is customary to have loops in the sleeving to attach to kites that we fly outdoors. Indoors we just hold these loops with our fingers. This allows good tactical feedback.

Some people like to use 'small' finger handles. These are inexpensive and very light weight. You can use them if you like but they are not necessary.

Another helpful tool is a pair of home made training sticks. Like the use of training wheels on a bike, training sticks will aid a new indoor flyer enough to learn - then can be taken away once the basics become instinctive. The sticks give additional length to the new pilots reach allowing the indoor flier to give more pull when needed and to allow the flier to take up slack more quickly. Taller people with longer arms tend to pick up indoor flying more quickly. With the aid of training sticks smaller people can also benefit from a longer reach.

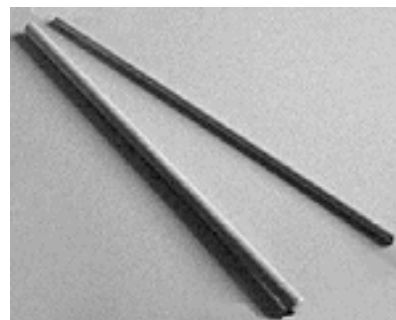
To make a set, buy a piece of wood dowel from your local hardware shop. A piece in a standard length (around 3 ft.) costs only a couple bucks and can be cut to a working size. We've found that cutting two pieces of about 14 inches in length works well. The dowels come in different diameters which really doesn't matter. Buy a diameter that is comfortable in your hand. Usually 1/4 to 1/3 inch in diameter is used. Once cut to the desired length. Use a steak knife or other tool to cut a slight line around one end of the stick. This is where you will attach one end of your lineset. The cuts in the dowel allow you to tie the lines around the cut area and will stop your lines from sliding off the end of the stick.



No handles are needed simply hold on to the sleeving loops



Option finger handles will work but really aren't needed



Dowels, different diameters... any size will work



Close up of cut in the dowel to keep the line from slipping off

For more info on Ron Kramer, visit his website:

<http://www.houseofphotography.com/kramer/kites.htm>

...Cont

Indoor Flying Technique

Once you have your equipment setup, the best way to learn to fly indoors is by performing some basic maneuvers. The first to learn is the "up and over". Stand the kite up against a wall or have a friend gently hold it upright while on the ground. Back up so that you have plenty of room around you. And remove all slack from the lines. Holding your sticks or your loops, apply pull to both lines equally to make the kite lift off the ground and climb. Once the kite is at about a 45 degree angle from you, pull the lines back over one shoulder and turn your body so that you continue to face the kite as it passes over your head. With the kite heading nose down... as it reaches about eye level pull one line or give one line lots of slack by reaching forward with one hand. This will make the kite turn from nose down to nose up position. At this point return your hands to a even position from the kite and give slack to land both wing tips on the ground. Before the kite falls over (it won't stand on it's wing tips for long, re-launch and repeat the steps above.)

Another option to pulling both arms over one shoulder is to pull both sticks up and behind your head (a wrist will pass by each ear) and just as you can't bring your arms back any further rotate your body to face that kite that has passed over head and is now behind you. The kite will continue to go straight and is now headed toward the ground on the opposite side of your body from where it started. Just before it hits the ground (when it is about eye level with you.) pull one line (or give one slack) allowing the kite to turn. Once it has rotated from nose down to nose up position. Evenly position your hands together once again to stop the kite from rotating. Give both lines slack and let both wing tips of the kite settle to the floor. Just as they do - pull both lines again to repeat the maneuver. See how many repeated up and over moves you can perform. Once you've gained a bit of experience perform the same maneuver without letting the wing tips touch the floor.

Also as you pull the kite upward during the launch, take a step backwards. The backward movement of your body provides a small amount of air to full the kites sail as if you had a gentle breeze 'indoors'. As the kite passes over your head and you turn to keep facing it - it's a good idea to take a step backwards the opposite way (away from the kite). Getting into the practice of always backing slowly away from the kite will aid greatly in keeping it in the air.



Tom demonstrates the basic "up and over" maneuver. This is Tom's 4th indoor flying session



Bill demonstrates the use of training sticks

More will be added soon to the basics - but for now let's fast forward to a trick

Here is a small sample of the tricks you can do indoors. In addition to axels, helicopters, side slides, 540's etc... which I hope to show here in the near future.

This is a quick explanation of how to perform the fade. You do a up and over and then reach/walk forward as the kite nears the ground. This will 'pancake' (flatten) out the kite so that it moves nose away from you and has it's belly down.

At this point give the lines a smooth pull followed by slack during the flip. If timed correctly the kite will flip over on it's back, nose toward you. At this point since we have no wind... you will need to walk slowly backwards to keep the kite in a stable or rising fade. 🍷

For more info on Ron Kramer, visit his website:

<http://www.houseofphotography.com/kramer/kites.htm>

What's Shakib up to ?



19 July 2003

Our founding member hosted
a VSS Outdoor Social Activity (Vegetarian Society Singapore) at Marina South. The event began
with story telling followed by flying of miniature paper butterfly paper kites.



Limited Stock Available
SKA Tees @ S\$10.00
Asian "free" size only.

Email Wing
Winglee@pacific.net.sg



SKA PINS

29 mm diameter
10 Pins for S\$15.00

Email Yusni
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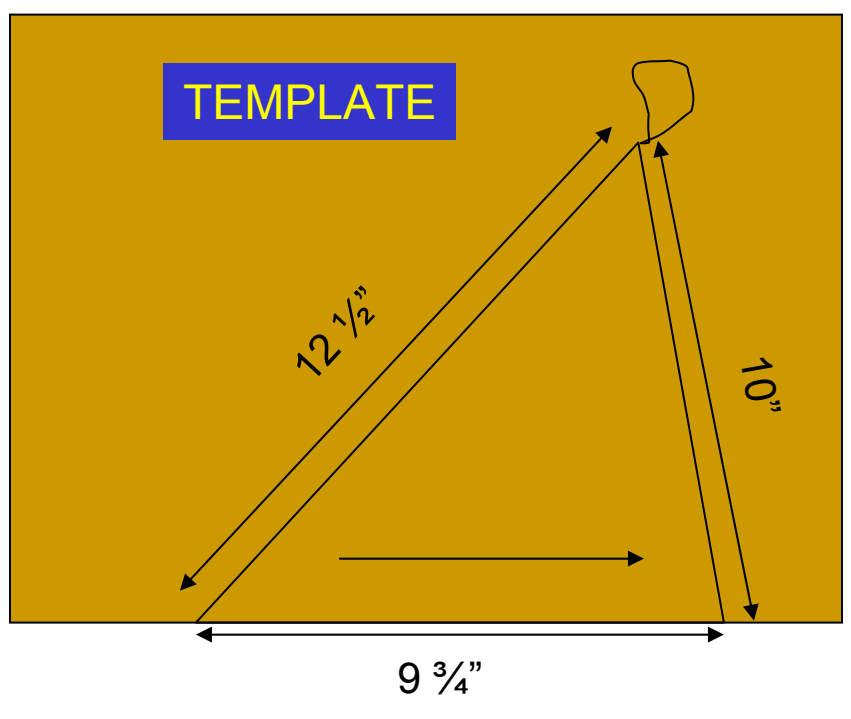
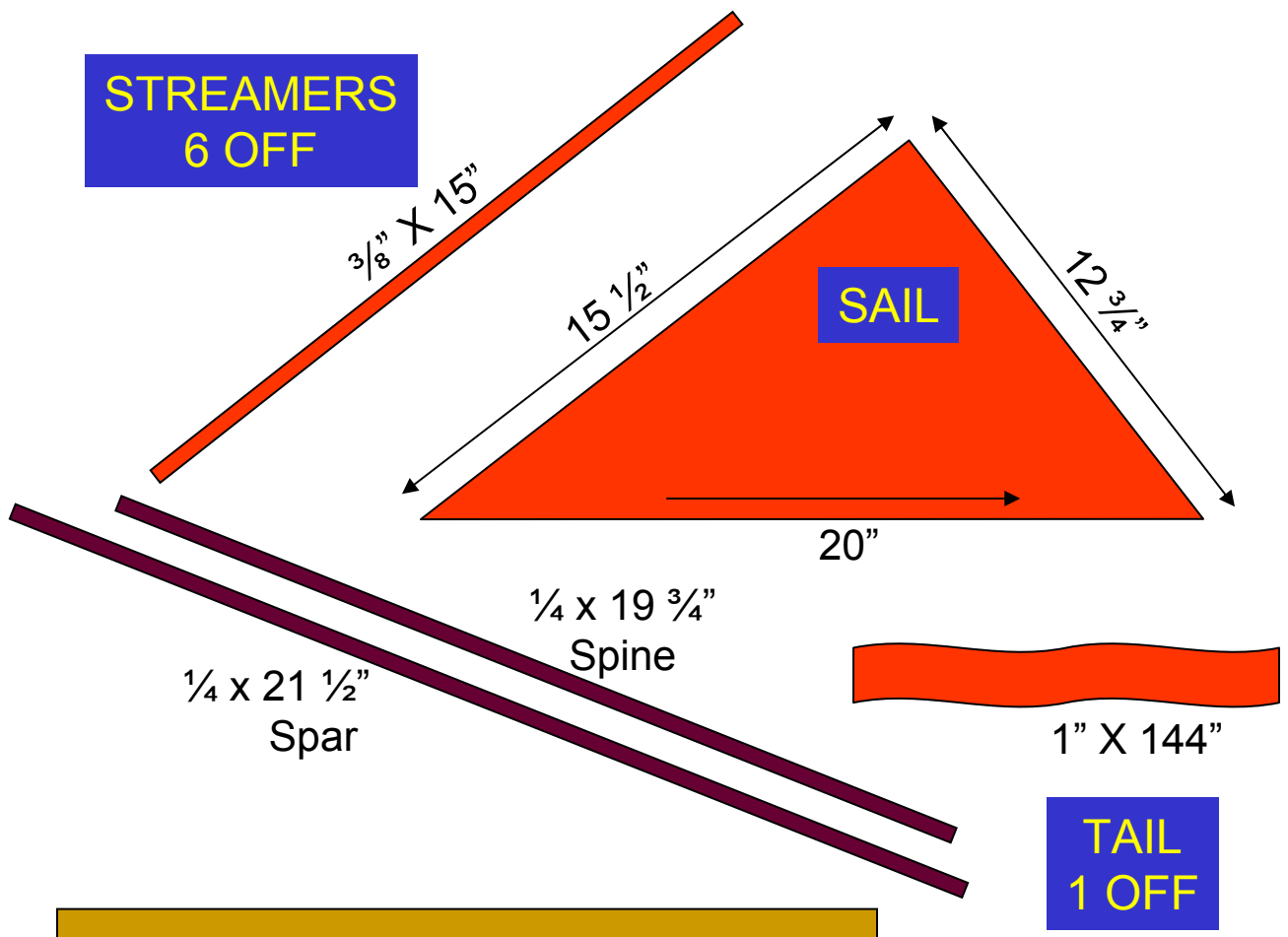
tel 9787 0534

shakib@singnet.com.sg

tel 6440 2459 fax 6440 2659

Classified: Wanted

A kite-kit with the following specification. Interested individual who could produce these please contact Wing at 6445 2096
Or email: winglee@pacific.net.sg



The specification shown here is for an Eddy Kite (diamond shape kite) that we will use for our workshop. The materials are as follows:

- Bamboo for the spar and spine.
- white plastic or paper for sail.
- hard cardboard for the template.
- paper crepe or plastic for streamers and tail.