

## INVITATIONS

For more information or if you intend to participate in any kite-flying events, please contact Wing Lee (see last page for contact details).



### 3rd GOA KITE FESTIVAL

Goa, India  
December 10-12, 2004

The Goa Kite Festival is organised as part of the closing of the International Film Festival of India. In a carnival of sorts, kite flying will be held at the Miramar Beach.

### PHNOM PENH KITE FESTIVAL

Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
December 11-12, 2004

The Cambodia Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts is organising a kite festival to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Khmer Kites rebirth. The invitation is for **two** persons.

### GUJARAT INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India  
January 11-14, 2005

This festival is organised by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat to coincide with the Hindu festival of "Makarsankranti" which is traditionally celebrated with flying of kites in India.

### 10TH PASIR GUDANG INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL 2005

Johor, Malaysia  
February 23-27, 2005



The theme for this event is "KITE, CULTURE, SCIENCE". Participants are encouraged to bring kites that support the theme. Each country is also given display space for additional kites. Representatives from more than 20 countries are expected at this festival.

For the forthcoming Pasir Gudang festival, we will focus on entertaining the crowd with kites. SKA members will continuously move round the perimeter of the flying field flying their kites.

One member will use a kite to hover an inflatable dummy over the crowd.

If you are interested in attending, please submit your name to Wing Lee immediately.

# SKA Activities

June 19-20, 2004

## Kite Flying at Singapore Dragon Boat Festival



*Tan Poh Wah with his dragon kite.*

July 9-11, 2004

## 12<sup>th</sup> Jakarta Kite Festival

Yusni, Gadis, Azmi and Siti are representatives at this festival.

July 15, 2004

## Kite Workshop at Woodgrove Primary School

Yusni and Gadis conducted the workshop.



*Students adding color and design to kite.*

September 11-19, 2004

## Marseille Kite Festival

Attended by Yusni and Gadis.



*Yusni and workshop participants*

September 11-19, 2004

## 13<sup>th</sup> Dieppe International Kite Festival

No invitation, but Yusni and Gadis made a stop in Dieppe on their way to Marseille.

September 18-19, 2004

## Kite Workshop at Singapore F1 Powerboat Grand Prix



*Kites submitted for painting competition*

October 9, 2004

## Kite Workshop at Sumitomo Chemical Singapore Family Day

A thank you note from SCS:

*From: Michio Nagao (SCS)*

*To: Wing Lee*

*Dear Mr. Wing Lee,*

*Thank you for supporting our company function. We, especially myself, enjoyed a lot, feeling like returning back to a childhood in old days. I was happy to remember how to enjoy flying a kite.*

*Again, thanks and best regards,*

*NAGAO MICHIO*

October 30-November 1, 2004  
**Frejus 8th International Festival of the Air**  
Gadis is back in France for this event.

October 31, 2004  
**Singapore Kite Association 23rd Annual General Meeting**  
The annual meeting was held at Pasir Ris Park.

The committee for 2004/05 are:

President : Lee Wing Hong  
Secretary : Gadis Widiyati  
Treasurer: Peter Teo

November 7, 2004  
**Kite Workshop for Clean and Green Week**  
The theme for the campaign is "Think Green!" The event is held at Marine Cove.

November 10-14, 2004  
**Nantou International Kite Festival**  
Kite flying in the high winds of autumn. This event is attended by Tan See Liang, Tan Poh Wah and Peter Teo.

## STEVE AND ROCKY ENGEL HAS MOVED TO BEIJING

### Steve writes from the 13th Dieppe International Kite Festival...

What you need for a really good kite festival is a good flying field, good wind, good sunshine but most of all, people who like to make, fly, watch and immerse



themselves in all things kiting. For nine days in September all of these were present in the delightful seaside town of Dieppe in

Northern France. All, that is, except for the wind which seemed either too much or too little with lots of lumpy bits in between. The theme this year was 'woman and kites' and special guests were Malaysia.

Gadis and Yusni managed to attend from Singapore for a few days and we were also most fortunate to be able to make it for few days traveling from Malaysia. There was a grand plan devised for us SKA members to meet up on the one evening that we were all in town at the same time, but a flat hand phone battery spoiled the rendezvous.



As one would expect, there was representations from many different countries including a first ever appearance from Morocco. Naturally, France was very well represented showing off kite making skills that were not just good, they were perfect with sewing machine prowess second to none. Then there was a gentleman from Sweden who flew 6 or so goose feathers in exceptional beauty and simplicity. Malaysia built and flew a giant wah and as ever, Peter Lynn filled the sky with a vast area of rays and pussy cats. A delightful lady sat with two teddy bears in deck chairs. The teddy bears were having a picnic and

flying miniature kites. Ray Bethell from Canada amazed the crowds with his three stunt kites flying simultaneously but did claim to have a world record for flying 39 stunt kites all at the same time! A very brave man from Brighton, England hung onto a stack of about 40 x 6 foot Flexifoil kites and was able to land and take off at will. Our favorite stunt display came from the British team 'Too much fun' who were not just good at flying as a team, they were able to give the kites personality. Sometimes their kites were romantic, sometimes naughty, funny or just plain clever.

Kite flyers and kite makers use festivals for creative or buying ideas. Perhaps more importantly but sometimes difficult to admit, we like to show off. We want others to see what we have made and how well we fly. An audience just makes you want to show off all the more and when you get a 'tres jollie madam!' or an 'oh la la, ces't magnific!' (sorry, don't know how to write in French). So, with that sort of encouragement, you get up even earlier the next morning and show off even more. Then, in the evening the sun burn, the exhaustion but the fine French food and the most excellent wine. We were there, we got lots of ideas for Pasir Gudang next February and we had a wonderful time.



Our dear SKA friends from Singapore seem so far away. Its 2 ½ years since we left Singapore to live and work in Malaysia. Our hope was that we would return but now we have just transferred to Beijing! It's the start of a whole new adventure. It is a country where many more people fly kites than speak English. Every day we see kites over the city and there is even a kite market where nothing but kites are sold. Want a three line dragon kite with chicken feathers? S\$15, no problem lah!



So, we'll be down to Pasir Gudang and we will have to build something specially for it. Perhaps a Beijing 2008 Olympic logo with suitable Chinese drogues.

Best regards

Steve and Rocky Engel



PETER LYNN KITES

Peter Lynn Ltd.  
 105 Alford Forest Road, ASHBURTON, NEW ZEALAND.  
 PHONE: +64 (0)3 308 4538 OR +64 (0)3 308 0030.  
 FAX: +64 (0)3 308 1905.  
 Email: [plk@peterlynnkites.com](mailto:plk@peterlynnkites.com)  
[www.peterlynnkites.com](http://www.peterlynnkites.com)

In 1816, inventor and Presbyterian minister Robert Stirling gave his name to a form of heat engine: the Stirling cycle engine. His grandfather, heir to the McGregor clan lairdship, was saved from the Sassanach's pogrom through adoption by the Duke of Stirling- so they should perhaps be called McGregor cycle engines- nah, doesn't sound right.

Robert Stirling did another thing well- he chose his parents carefully-with the consequence that he lived to a ripe old age and eventually attained the official title "Father of the Church of Scotland". One of his sons,

James, became a prominent engineer, and another became finance minister of the independent nation of Hawaii- but these things are by the by. Stirling cycle engines have seduced generations of engineers through their theoretical promise of high efficiency. Billions of dollars have been dissipated on this dream, careers and businesses dedicated to their development have foundered with monotonous regularity in the 200 years that S. engines have been around. (their genesis predated Robert Stirling; Sir George Cayley, better known as an early pioneer of flight, proposed a similar engine in 1804).

In 1961, just 15 years old (my doesn't time fly), I came across a Phillips 102C Stirling engine and fell in love for the first time (or maybe I'm getting confused with Jennifer Houston). The Phillips (of Eindhoven) S. engine program started in the 1930's and wasn't finally canned until the obligatory multi-millions had been dissipated, well into the 1980's. In spite of knowing this dismal history, Don Clucas, the next door neighbour's kid, and I started a Stirling engine development program of our own in 1988, - another case of the wrong head making the decisions(?), but in this case it was the big one.

Don, hadn't been regarded as at all academically promising, but loved machine tools. Ours being the closest ones, he worked for me part time from when he was 13- and full time for some years from when he left school a bit prematurely.

As it happens, opinions about Don had been dead wrong, and when he began his PhD in engineering, he chose Stirling engine development as the subject with commercialisation as the goal. He must have caught the disease from me while hanging around here years earlier.

Development started in what is now our kite buggy workshop and in a company created for the purpose: Stirling Research Ltd. By the early 1990's there was some progress but by then I was being monomaniacal about kite buggy and kite traction development, which frankly seemed more promising to me. So, either through neglect or opportunity, I've never known which, Don shifted back to the University at Christchurch (100km north of here) and eventually gained financial support from an electricity retailer who contributed the obligatory

many millions through WhisperTech Ltd, a company they established for this development. Stirling Research Ltd remained in Ashburton and later became our specialist kite research and development arm but has more recently also moved to Christchurch - for Chris, Pete and Fiona's lifestyle preferences and the beach rather than for access to electricity consumer tithes, unfortunately. By last year, Whisper Tech had completed extensive on-site testing in Europe of their main product- a household combined heat and power unit the size and shape of a dishwasher using reticulated natural gas and a Stirling engine to generate a bit less than 1kw of electricity, rejected heat from the engine then being applied to domestic water heating. By my figuring, at this stage the unit was just a very expensive (like \$25,000) domestic water heater that could also produce about \$3 worth of electricity per day for self-use or re-sale to the grid- and didn't make much economic sense. The engine design was basically unchanged from 1993 but a huge amount of design and development (like 30 staff full time for 10 years) had gone into refinement, accessories, heat exchangers and 'compliance' issues (that is, to persuade grid operators not to discriminate against the electricity it generates on the basis of race).



Two months ago, Whisper Tech secured an order from England for 80,000 units which has allowed them to get the per unit price down to approx. \$4000. For the multiplicationally challenged, this adds to something over \$300mil- 2 to 3 times the world kite industry's total yearly turnover I would guess, and makes Don's design by far the most successful Stirling engine the world has ever known.

Perseverance beyond all reason and economies of scale have finally cracked the problem- and now that the per unit price is low enough to make the system economic for the average European home owner, other major markets will follow in short order.

After 200 years of failure, success at last- and it came out of my 'garage', and, it happened while I was wasting my time flying kites!

Ouch!, It seems those early critics were right all along with their "when's he going to stop playing and do something useful". I remain unrepentant though!

There, I knew I could tie this into a kite subject newsletter somehow.

Congratulations Don, what a saga.  
Can I have one to play with?.

Back in our 'minor players' world, kite stuff is in fact going very well: The Flag design is learning to fly better and better and has become a significant part of our total sales as we explore various graphic possibilities- see the attached photo of Jenny's 10m x 6.5m. Three Blokes\*.



Jenny and I are just off to the USA to get photographed and fingerprinted and then for me, there's only Japan still to do this year. It's been a bumper year for big kites- the best ever I think. Kite Traction is also hitting a high. Phantoms, our new range of Arc stylekites for land based kite traction now have their own fan club and are causing a real buzz- and you ain't seen nothing yet: the LEI's had better watch out- and there's a bit of Venom in this.

\* Jenny swears they are geisha ladies but they look suspiciously like cross dressing Kabuki actors to the rest of us.

Off to Seaside to do some KiteSailing, see you next month,

Peter Lynn,  
Ashburton NZ, Oct 1 '04



## KITES FOR SALE

Blank paper kites, made from white rice paper suitable for workshops are available from SKA. Use individual creativity to add design and paint. Each kite comes complete with bridle, colorful tail and a spool of string. To purchase for personal use or for workshops, please contact Wing Lee.



## HOW TO CONTACT SKA

*President*

**Lee Wing Hong**

Email : [winglee@pacific.net.sg](mailto:winglee@pacific.net.sg)

Tel : 6445 2096

Fax : 6445 3986

*Secretary*

**Gadis Widiyati**

Email : [gadis@singnet.com.sg](mailto:gadis@singnet.com.sg)

Tel : 9787 0534

*Treasurer*

**Peter Teo**

Email: [peterteosl@yahoo.com](mailto:peterteosl@yahoo.com)

*Founding Member*

**Shakib Gunn**

Email : [shakib@singnet.com.sg](mailto:shakib@singnet.com.sg)

Tel: 6440-2459

*Website:*

<http://colors.at/ska>

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A DAY OF FUN!

# think GREEN!

7 NOV 2004  
EAST COAST PARK CARPARK C4

BRING THE  
WHOLE FAMILY!

## THE "GREEN-KITE" MAKING COMPETITION

ALSO LOOK OUT FOR ...

KITE MAKING WORKSHOP  
(limited space! first 50 participants only)  
KITE COLOURING CONTEST  
(limited space! first 100 children only)

STORYTELLING FOR KIDS  
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