KITEMAKERS' COMPETITIONS

3

COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES

There will be two general groups of competition: (1) by type of kite, and (2) special awards.

AWARDS BY KITE CATEGORY

Subject to the conditions listed below, and according to the judging and scoring procedures described in detail in Chapter 6, awards will be given in the following kite categories. It is anticipated that, for each kite category, first, second, and third place awards will be given.

Each kite category will be judged separately, according to the same criteria, without regard to any kites flown in other categories. Identical judging procedures will be similar for each kite category: each category will be identified on each sheet. Judges will be given the judging standards for each of the four judging criteria (see Chapter 6) listed on a separate sheet for easy referral during the judging of each category.

Usually, there should be at least four contestants registered in a category in order for that category to be considered competitive. If there are less than four entrants, the Head Judge may combine a low-entry category with another if the particular kite categories have some similar attributes. (For example, Figure kites could be combined with Flat or Bowed Kites.) If there are less than four entrants in any category, which cannot be readily combined with another category (such as Cellular and Dimensional), then the Head Judge may decide that there will be no competition in that category, or that kites of that category may compete against kites of other low-entry categories.

The following categories of competition will usually be used in Kitemakers' Competitions at the AKA National Convention:

- Flat kites
- Bowed kites
- Figure kites
- Rokkakus
- Cellular and dimensional kites
- Soft and flexible kites
- Deltas and delta derivatives
- Stunt and sport kites
- Trains and centipedes
- Arch trains and ribbons
- Fighter kites
- Sky display
- Cooperative
- UFO (unclassified flying objects)

The Head Judge will assign kites, which do not readily fit within any of the above categories, to a competitive category.

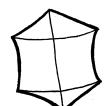
1.FLAT KITES: The lifting surface is a single plane. When configured for flight, the kite is flat when laid on the ground. Flat kites are usually a simple geometric shape. Hexagons, cobras, and della Portas are all examples of flat kites. Flat kites usually require tails for stability.



2. BOWED KITES: The lifting surface is a single plane, bowed by use of a fixed or variable dihedral or bowed spar. When configured for flight, the kite is bowed [not flat] when laid on the ground. Eddys, edos, Bermudas, rollers are all examples of bowed kites.

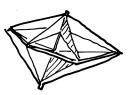
3. FIGURE KITES: The shapes of these kites represent persons, animals, or other objects. Examples of such representations include kites depicting birds, fish, serpents, and people. The figure represented by the kite should be

discernable to knowledgeable observers. Kites whose surfaces are decorated with pictures or representations of persons, animals, or other objects are not considered to be figure kites.



4. ROKKAKUS: Rokkaku kites must be six-sided and framed so that they are taller than wide. Their cross spars are usually the same length and are generally flown without a tail.

5. CELLULAR AND DIMENSIONAL KITES: The kite design, often with the help of sails, bracing, or wind pressure, forms a rigid three-dimensional structure. The wind flows through the channels formed by the sail surfaces which are also lifting or stabilizing surfaces. TriD Box, Snowflakes, Tetrahedrals are examples of cellular and dimensional kites.

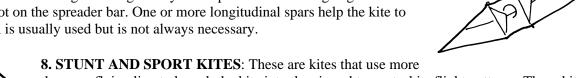


6. SOFT AND FLEXIBLE KITES: These three-dimensional kites depend on the force of the wind on the kite, not on a rigid frame, to give the kite its shape. These kites may change their shape depending on the force of the wind. Soft kites

> have no spars. Flexible or semi-rigid kites may incorporate spars, with the spars going in one direction or one plane only. Parafoils, sleds, and circoflexes are all examples of soft and flexible kites.

7. DELTA AND DELTA DERIVATIVES: These kites usually have triangular wings. They have spars on the leading edge of the

wings, which can pivot on the spreader bar. One or more longitudinal spars help the kite to keep its shape. A keel is usually used but is not always necessary.



than one flying line to launch the kite into the air and to control its flight patterns. These kites are designed for the purpose of making high-performance maneuvers in flight. The kitemaker must be able to control the flight of the kite through certain basic maneuvers to be specified by the Flight Judges to meet the minimal flight requirements of this category.

9. TRAINS AND CENTIPEDES: Trains and centipedes are multiple kites of any shape or structure that are connected by lines to each other. For this competition, at least five kites or segments of the train are required as the minimum number of kites attached to each other to qualify as a train. Centipedes usually have three or four connecting lines and trains usually have one or two. This is not always the case and is not the determining factor. Each member of the train need not be the same size and shape, but the entire flying structure should be a functional and visual sum of its individual parts.



10. ARCH TRAINS AND RIBBONS: Arch trains consist of multiple kites linked end to end with a common line and tethered (or held in place) at both ends of the train. Arch ribbons are formed from a continuous piece of fabric that is tethered to the ground (or held in place) at both ends of the ribbon.

11.FIGHTER KITES: Fighter kites are single line maneuverable kites. The kitemaker must be able to control the flight of the kite through certain basic maneuvers to be specified by the Flight Judges to meet the minimal flight requirements of this category. Examples would be hata; buka, and others



12. SKY DISPLAY: The entire display of all elements attached to a line or lines supported by a kite or kites, including the kite(s). All items attached to the line(s), and the kite(s) must be hand made by the competitor. The builder is free to use his or her imagination and is limited only by his or her creativity. As in every other category, the entry will be judged for Flight, Visual Appeal, Craftsmanship, and Structural Design. Not included in this category are entries that consist solely of (1) a kite and a kite tail, (2) kite trains or arches, or (3) a banner or banners.

13. COOPERATIVE KITES: These are kites made by more than one person with significant contributions by all parties. They will be judged by the criteria appropriate for the type of kite entered. The intent of the cooperative category is to give kitemakers an opportunity to work together to produce unique kites that could not be produced otherwise. All parties should significantly contribute in a "hands-on" fashion to the successful completion of the kite entered into this competition. Individuals _who successfully make a kite from published or personal plans of another DO NOT QUALIFY for the Cooperative category; persons who order a kite from another kitemaker DO NOT QUALIFY for the Cooperative category. In Kitemakers' competitions, a kitemaker may be affiliated with multiple cooperative teams, but may be affiliated with only one cooperative team for each different kite category. Only one kite may be entered per category (kite type) by any contestant; either as an individual or part of a cooperative team. Group projects involving kite clubs do not count as the one cooperative entry in the category. Only one trophy will be awarded to any one team. Winners in this category will not be considered for the Novice Awards, and will not lose their novice status.

14. UFO (UNCLASSIFIED FLYING OBJECTS): This competitive category will be used only when there are kites entered in the competition that do not readily fit within any of the above categories. Prior approval of the Head Judge is required to enter this category.

SPECIAL OR OVERALL AWARDS FOR KITEMAKERS

The following is a list of optional awards, which may or may not be given, at the discretion of the judges, in light of the kites entered in any given competition. Except as noted elsewhere, only one prize will be given for each of the following awards, but the judges may elect to identify key contestants in each category as a means of honoring the efforts of those kitemakers.

GRAND CHAMPION — The winner in each of the above competitive categories becomes eligible for this award. The Judges will assess the merits of the individual category winners against each other. The Grand Champion will not necessarily be the entry having the highest point total in the judging of the individual kite type categories. The Grand Champion also maintains first place in his or her category.

MOST INNOVATIVE — This award will be determined by the subjective judgment by the Judges for uniqueness or innovation in design of frame, use of graphics, or flight characteristics. This award is open to all kites in the competition, not just those that have the highest scores in their categories. Any kite or component entered in the competition will be considered.

NOVICE KITEMAKERS — Kites made by persons who have never won an award (first, second, or third place) in any kite category at any previous National Kitemakers' Competition at an AKA Convention are eligible for this category of awards. All persons who qualify as novice kitemakers and declare themselves to be novices automatically qualify for this award. All total competitive scores in all the competitive categories, except cooperative, of all kitemakers who meet the

above criteria for novices will be ranked, and awards will be presented to the three-novice kitemaker with the top overall score. (After receiving an award in this category, a kitemaker will no longer be considered a novice

MIXED-MEDIA KITES — This category includes those kites whose surface has been altered by the application of paint, dye, paper, or other material to enhance the visual appeal of the kite. The sail material can be paper, fabric, tyvek, Mylar, plastic or other. Kites made totally of fabric without painting or other surface enhancement are not eligible for this award.

BEST USE OF TRADITIONAL MATERIALS — An award may be presented to the kitemaker whose kite most closely adheres to the original techniques and materials in use when kites of this style were first built.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION — At the discretion of the judges, an award may be given to a kite or kitemaker exhibiting exemplary qualities. This award would probably be given to a kite or kitemaker not receiving other awards.

HIGHEST SCORE- An award will be given to the entry that receives the highest score in each criteria: Flight, Craftsmanship, Visual Appeal, and Structural Design from all categories combined.

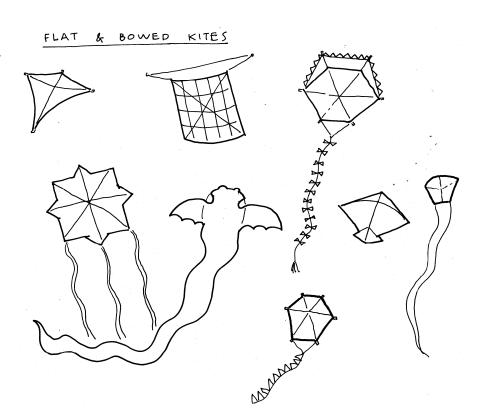
OTHER AWARDS

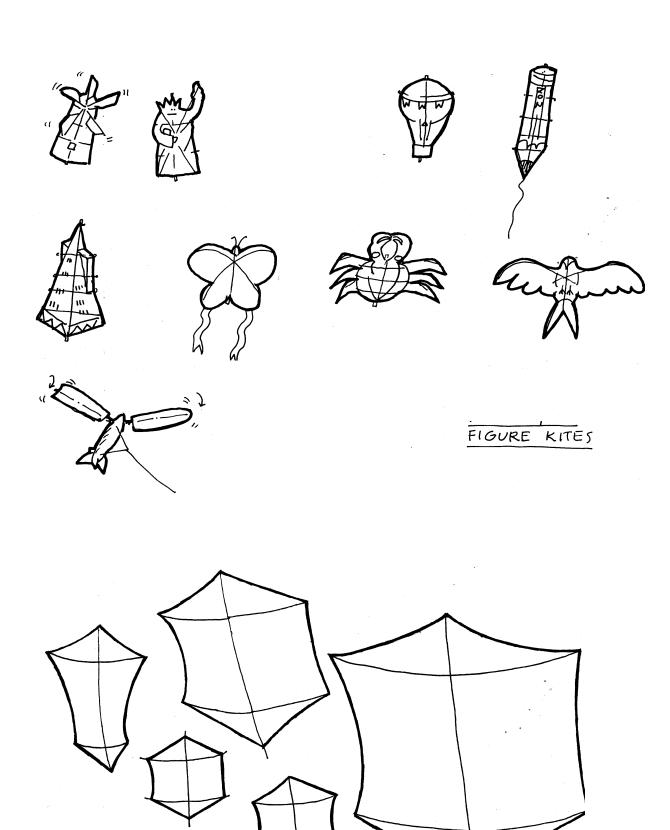
AKA usually makes awards that are not based on the opinions of the judges of the Kitemakers' Competition. These awards typically include the following:

PEOPLE'S CHOICE — This award is based on a vote of all registered attendees at the convention. All kites flown by registered convention attendees are eligible.

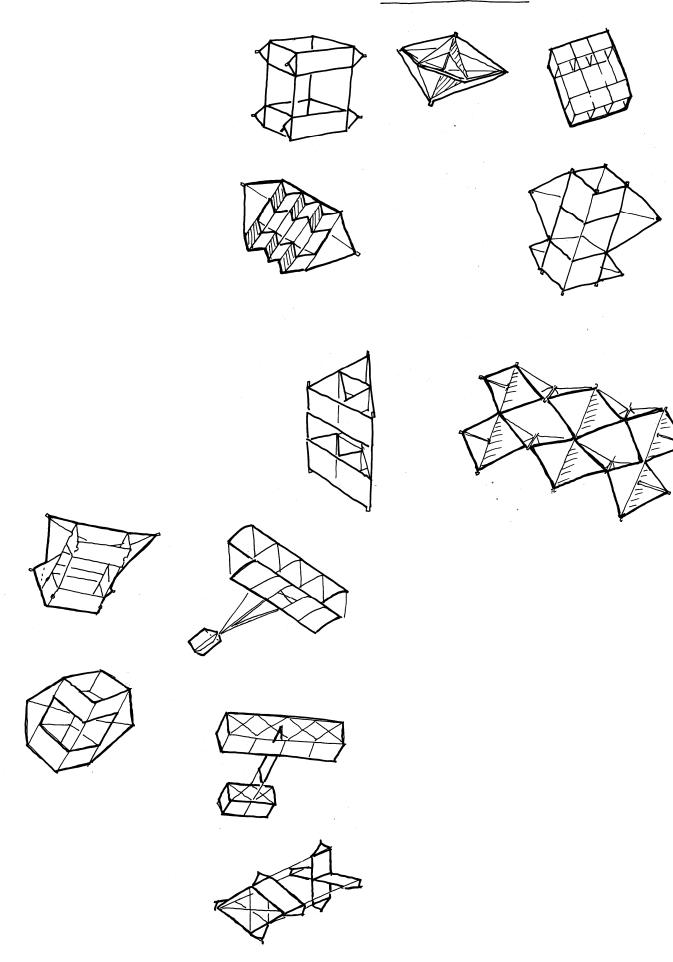
BEST KITE ACCESSORY — Anything that doesn't qualify as a kite may be entered. Examples include windsocks, reels, banners, tools, bags, or windbreaks.

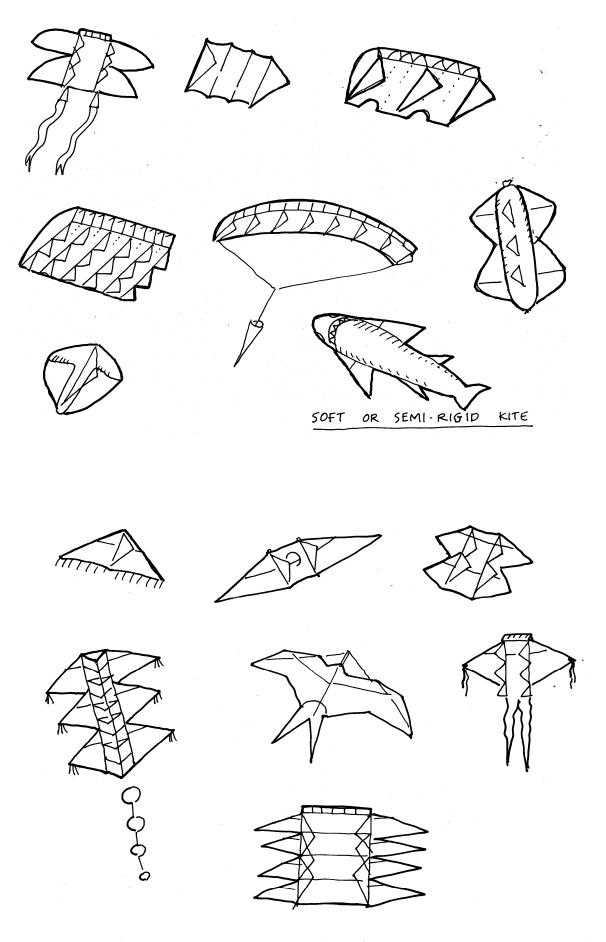
The pages that follow contain representative sketches of many types of kites. Leland Toy and Jon Burkhardt drew these. They are for your inspiration and historical reflection. These sketches are not intended to be precise interpretations of the competitive categories.



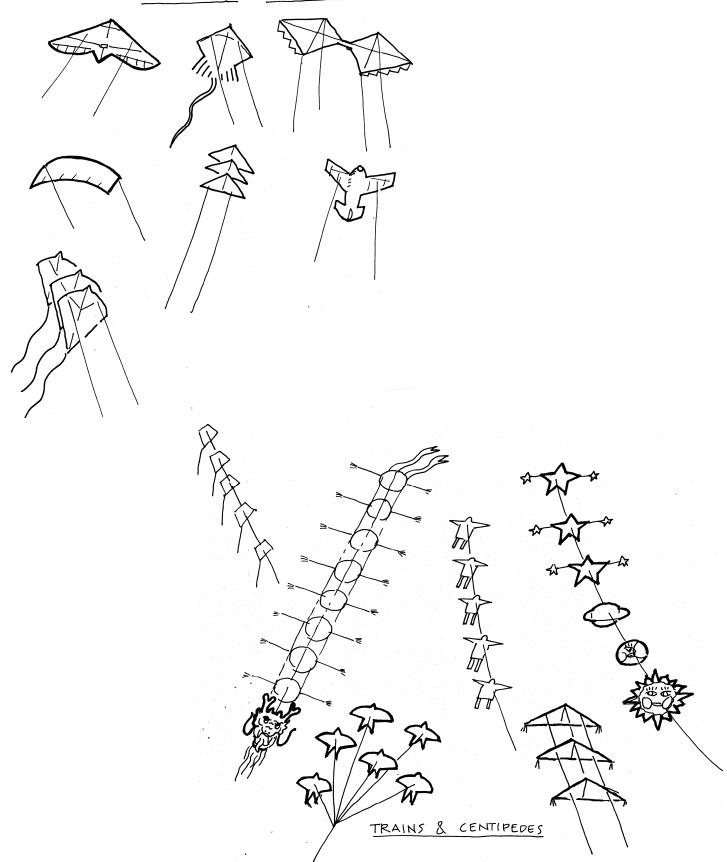


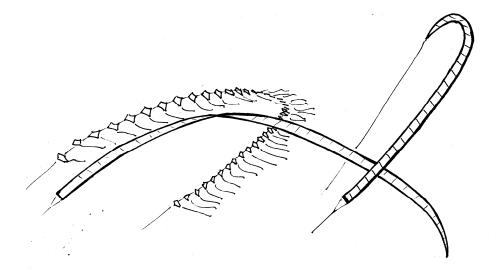
Rokkakus





DELTA OR DELTA VARIANT





EASTERN KITES - TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION

Arch trains & robbing

