

Summer's a Buzzin'

Well, here we are; the start of the summer. We have already had a few hot weekends with great kiting winds, one even managed to coincide with a **SEKA** fly-in - more on that later. We had another very successful foray into foreign parts (namely France - not that scary really!) with "SEKA Bash 1" and at the same time we had a good crowd representing the club at FlexiWallop1. We are now looking forward to Extreme Eastbourne and Kites Over Capstone to get out there and make ourselves known, pushing the **SEKA** message to the great unwashed masses.



The last few months have been bad for kiting with bans kicking off all over the country. In our area we saw the infamous Richmond Park ban and a threat of further restrictions at Camber. We have an update on these later on in the newsletter. In case you missed it, we got a mention in PowerKite Magazine on the subject of bans and with a bit of luck, there will be a write up of SB1 in the next issue too.

Whether it's to do with the improving weather or not, the turn-out at our regular fly-ins has been increasing steadily. They are a great opportunity to meet up with other club members, see what other kit is out there and chat about kites and other stuff too. They are really relaxed and when the weather is good, partners and families usually join in as well. If you don't do this sort of thing much, give it a go - it's great fun and we are always glad to see new people turn up.

And here is the News...

Club News

The process of getting the member's handbooks printed has taken much longer than we expected, but we now have the sponsorship, the proofs are all approved and the presses are rolling. We will be sending these out during July, so keep an eye on your letter box! Each handbook will contain a membership form so that you will have one handy if anyone asks you about joining. We also have a load of professionally printed flyers available, so ask your Rep or a committee member for a handful of these to give out if you meet up with potential SEKA members.

Everyone should now have one of the shiny new membership cards. If you haven't got one, get in touch with Kate (club secretary) and she will sort you out with one.

Sadly, two of our Area Reps have found that they can no longer carry on in their roles due to other responsibilities. Pete (**Bigbird**) and Clive (**Filthy**) will still be active club members but leave their London and Kent areas after a year or more of tender care. Matt (**Creaky**) has taken over the Kent area and as he was already a very active member of the club, we look forward to how he will take Kent forward. If he keeps out of hospital long enough, of course! London, however, is still up for grabs. If you fancy a challenge and can spare the time to organize fly-ins, liaise with local shops and councils, deal with issues and act as a local contact point for SEKA in the London area, please get in touch via the forum. There is no official deadline for applications, and we are more concerned with finding the right person for the job than filling it right away.

If you use the forums, you may have already noticed that we have some advertising banners for kite shops in our area. These are paid adverts and we hope to build this up to help swell the sadly depleted coffers. So far, **Kitemarket** in London and **Airhead** in West Sussex have signed up. Please consider these shops when you buy kite gear and if you do use them, let them know you heard of them through SEKA.

Fly-In #17, Greatstone 18th June

The wind was a steady and unbelievably clean onshore starting at 7mph but picking up as the tide turned. With clear blue skies and unbroken sunshine, temperatures rose to the high twenties making it a perfect day for the families and friends as well as the 14 SEKA members who turned up.

Roger Mellor started off flying his 11m razor and Dr Manic even tried it but it soon became too much of a handful and he downsized to the 8.5. **AIR-S** was flying his 13m Flysurfer Psycho2 all day, pulling off some great tricks on his board, airborne 360's in the buggy and when not on wheels, he seemed to spend long time just hangin' (upside down). Probably his coolest trick of the day was to launch, walk out, do a casual jump, slip the board on his feet and ride off. It's a family thing though, **PHU72** and Jane (Dad & Mum) were buggying when



they weren't filming and even his younger brother Darren as jumping and buggying with the 4m Samurai.

As the wind picked up to a steady 15mph, **TCPM** showed off with some long runs on two wheels and some jumps, somehow managing to break the seat of his buggy in the process. There were plenty of other freestyle buggiers zipping around with rarely more than two wheels on the ground and popping 360's. The cruisers were blatting from one end of the beach to the other, kite inches from the sand making it look so relaxed and grinning madly as they talked of the wind boost at the south end of the beach.



The wind suited everyone: **Cuckfield Flyer**, **Axelent**, **TCPM** & both of **PHL172**'s boys were doing impressive



jumps taking advantage of the steady breeze to get good hang times. It was good to see **Creaky** who joined in with the new game of balloon popping with Revs. Many thanks to **Cuckfield Flyer** for the loan of his Rev 2. Most Revs can be likened to gnats on speed but this one is more the Scottish midge on acid with an attitude as **Breezer** found out when he wiped out close to the Rev flyers who turned round to see what was happening & the Rev II then decided to pick a fight.

People started packing up around 6pm but the tide was still out and the wind was still fantastic which made leaving very hard. All in all a day to remember, not only because even though the beach was full of day trippers and other non-flyers, we still had plenty of room to fly and as far as I know, there were no tangles between **SEKA** flyers and the public.

Events

Extreme Eastbourne is now nearly upon us. I am sure you will know about this by now, but it is worth mentioning that this event has got bigger for us as the preparations developed. Instead of the original display stand plus a small area for a spot of static flying, we now have a huge display arena where invited riders will be doing regular demonstrations of freestyle buggying and boarding. Next to this, we will have another arena for static flying where we will be able to give members of the public a taste of powerkiting. On top of that we have the static display which we hope will be crammed with pictures, kites and other equipment. If the weather looks kindly on us, this will be a cracking event for everyone. Contrary to the original ideas, there will be plenty of opportunity for all of us to have a fly at some point each day.



What we still need, though, are volunteers: **SEKA** members (that's you) who can spare anything from half a day upwards to man the displays and talk to people about kiting, keep an eye on crowd safety while the demonstrations are underway and help people who want to have a go. Please help. As is often the case, there are a few who always offer help but this could be a "bit of a do" and so we need as many people as we can to come along. Stay over at a B&B or with the others at a local camp site and make a holiday of it. Get in touch with any of the reps or committee straight away if you fancy coming along.

SEKA will also be attending the popular **Kites Over Capstone** festival which, this year, is being held on the weekend of 20th and 21st August. Capstone Country Park is situated just outside of Gillingham and is a useful venue for flyers from mid-Kent. The festival weekend will see displays of all forms of kiting, including performances from Team Revolution. Apart from kite making and flying, there will also be plenty of other activities for children including a bouncy castle and face painting. Food and beer tents will no doubt also be popular!

This is a great weekend for **SEKA** to spread the word to the general public and members are invited to attend to help chat to interested parties. Bring your kit along as there will, of course, be chance for a fly although space for traction kiting is limited. Overnight camping is available for members free of charge so why not make a weekend of it!

Interview - Creaky a.k.a. "Lord Creaky of Kent"

Name: Matt Bristow

Alias: Creaky

Age: 34

SEKA member since: May 2004

Residence: My mansion in Kent



OK, we'll start with the most obvious question: Why "Creaky" ?

Because I have a habit of 'breaking' myself when participating in sport and I have done certain things so many times getting out of bed in the morning is a slow and sometimes a painful process!

The worst hasn't even been while kiting I think it was the 18 stitches in my head from a split scalp whilst playing basketball even worse it was a guy on my team that did it! After a while things like the fated launch in Les Hemmes don't really hurt that much you are just flying through the air thinking to yourself 'right next time I wont approach that like that' I definitely look at it as a learning curve.

How do you fund your kiting addiction?

Other than making my wife (Jo) work. I design and build web sites

How long have you been flying?

I've been flying for about 18 months I suppose, god it seems much longer. Thanks to my brother-in-law (Static) We went and bought 2.2m HQ Symphonies which I still keep in the car as its great for those little flying fixes. It also came on honeymoon with us.

What sort of flying are you into?

I have been boarding for nearly a year now there's nothing like nailing a move you have been working on. I fly deltas very badly, but get enjoyment out of it. Over the past month or so I have been getting into flying revs, it's the only flying I can do when I am out of action. I also still really enjoy static jumping as well and with the Frenzies you really get that floaty feeling.

What kites have you got?

What the ones Jo knows about or truthfully? A couple of Frenzies, a 3.5m Bullet, Flexifoil Fury and my Symphony, oh and a little man on a parachute! Apparently I have a Rev SUL in British Customs as well but it been there for 6 weeks so I'm not holding out much hope of getting it.

For you, why de-power over fixed bridle?

It was just a completely different feeling than fixed bridles also the safety aspects of the 05 Frenzy in particular for me for obvious reasons. Also not having to cart loads of kites around for every wind condition was a bonus.

Why did you join SEKA?

Mainly to meet other people that fly as well as get advice from people with more experience. Even though it's you, your wheels and your kite I don't think that kiting is a solitary sport, you benefit from playing off other people.

It has more than lived up to what I thought it would be where else could you meet like minded misfits be accepted! In the future I would love to see a big SEKA UK event kind of thing, but that would take an enormous amount organisation. Also, as we get bigger I can see that there will be more local mini meets as they are starting to have at Whitemans and Epsom downs at the moment

Best kiting moment?

First fly with a Frenzy - the grin never disappears.

And the Worst?

Every time I injure myself and realise that I won't be able to fly traction for a while.

Best Kiting trick nailed so far?

Oh so many to choose from!

I'm a fan of ground based tricks like switches and power slides the lazier the rider looks whilst doing the trick the cooler the whole thing looks. If anyone wants some pointers on the 'Superman Face Plant' just ask me next time you see me at the beach

Favourite kiting location?

My top 3 in no particular order as they all have their own merits would have to be Les Hemmes, Sandwich Bay and Greatstone.

Favourite kite, or bit of kit?

Kite wise definitely my 10m Frenzy. Kit wise that would depend, in winter my thermal long jons.

Anything else you are in to?

Single track Mountain biking, which I am starting to do a bit more of again these days

Do you use the word "Dude" in normal conversation?

Absolutely not! Why would I wish to refer to a camels sexual organs in normal conversation?Man!

Do you have a last word or piece of advice for everyone reading?

It never hurts as much as it looks like it does.



Yeah **Creaky**, of course.

Bans

A major concern of **SEKA** is the availability of good kiting sites and the possible future restriction on their use. This has been highlighted recently with the plight of Richmond Park in Surrey where the authorities wanted to ban kiting due to the possible detrimental effect this could have on the numbers of skylarks. Whilst **SEKA** itself has not been directly involved in discussions with the Royal Parks, the local flyers, most of whom are **SEKA** members, have been engaged in active and encouraging negotiations. They demonstrated to the authorities what power and traction kiting actually involved, highlighting the safety aspect of the kit and the responsibility of the flyers. From what was originally an outright ban on all kiting activities, the current proposal is for flying zones to be implemented in the park with some form of licensing of insured flyers. This should help keep this valuable site open for kiting for the future and will also hopefully encourage other authorities and councils to seek a compromise solution rather than implement a ban. Kiting is still banned temporarily in the park whilst further discussions are still scheduled but for Richmond the outlook for kiting there now appears much more encouraging.

A similar situation was feared at our "Mecca" beach – Camber. Rother District Council has become concerned about the popularity of kiting there with the ever increasing possibility of accidents either involving kites or members of the public. This possibility obviously increases as the summer approaches. A meeting between the council and **SEKA** has been scheduled to see how regulations may aid the situation. In the meantime, we do of course encourage all of our members to set up between the groynes rather than out on the sand bar to maximise kiting space, being especially careful of holidaymakers and non-kite aware individuals, and generally acting in a responsible fashion which promotes both the club and the safe image of our sport.

Site review Port Solent

Port Solent is a fairly new Marina located near Portsmouth. It has a few shops, pubs and restaurants but is fairly out on its own. It's easy enough to find – there are brown signs all the way from the M27 and from other directions. Follow these until you enter the Port Solent road then follow that all the way until you reach the car park. Opposite this you will find the flying site.



The site has 2 grass areas suitable for both buggying and boarding, with one about 3 times the size of the other and the whole area is probably about 10 acres. It is generally very flat although there is a small hill at the Eastern end. Both fields are good in Easterly, Southerly or Westerly winds, but the smaller field can be slightly better in a Westerly than the larger field. In a Northerly, this smaller field can also be better because it is more open, but generally Northerly winds at Port Solent are extremely gusty due to Portsdown Hill to the North which overshadows the whole Portsmouth area. In Summer the grass is flat and hard, but in the Winter it can get a bit boggy because this is all reclaimed land.

This land is owned by Portsmouth Council and officially there is a ban on buggying or boarding on council owned land. However at Port Solent they do not enforce these rules and **SEKA** have already been in talks about making it an official location for kiting. The area is also used by dog walkers but generally they are few and far between as there is not much housing nearby. We would always recommend setting up kites and equipment towards the edges of the flying areas leaving space in the middle for flying, but please not too close to the road and don't forget the wind could easily switch direction.

There are generally a few kites there most nights of the week when there's a good wind so feel free to come down and say hi.

SEKA Gear

Are you sure you've got enough T-Shirts to last the Summer? Surely you could do with a nice new SEKA shirt? There's lots to choose from including special SB1 and FW1 editions as well as personalised ones with your forum handle. All proceeds go to the club kitty. Order through the web site - look for the "SEKA Clothing" link down the left hand side of your screen.



And Finally...

Thanks again for being part of SEKA, things are really picking up for the club; we have heard a few comments from unexpected places that we are becoming a respected organisation and eyes are certainly on us. Keep pushing the SEKA message that kiting is for everyone and we can fully enjoy our sport without putting anyone else at risk, or making a nuisance of ourselves. On that note, remember that with the summer the parks and beaches will fill up with non-kiters, so choose your space carefully and be prepared to stop or even go home if it gets too crowded. It's no fun dodging the crowds anyway.

Here's to a long hot and windy summer! Pip! Pip! Where's the Pimms?



If you have any comments on the newsletter, or articles you would like included, mail us at PressSec@seka.org.uk.

Thanks to **Vespa**, **Spook** and **Creaky** for providing articles and information for this newsletter. Photos are taken from the SEKA gallery on the web site at <http://www.seka.org.uk/gallery>.

SEKA
Supporting Everyone's Kiting Activities



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