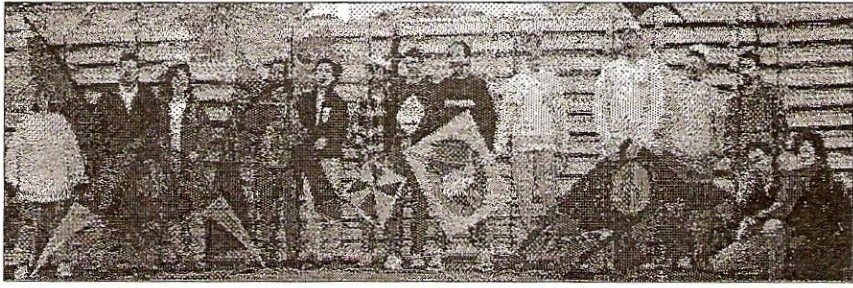




First Indoor Fun-Fly at Lakehurst

by Peter Lee



Lakehurst is a little town smack in the center of NJ. Its claim to fame is the Naval Air Station, with its history of dirigibles and the most spectacular aero accident ever recorded. 60 years ago the Hindenburg crashed and burned here. 50 years ago anti submarine patrols sortied daily to

battle the U-boats menacing the mid Atlantic sea lanes.

Today, Lakehurst is an engineering center for the design, test and support of aviation equipment on our aircraft carriers and helicopter-equipped naval vessels. Mighty Hangar I (which once housed entire squadrons) is now a landmark and is used for training and warehousing. It also makes for one grand daddy of a place to hold an indoor fly.

Sunday morning started with a stomach full of butterflies. The fear that some mix up would deprive us the use of the hangar was always on my mind. Also, I couldn't help but wonder who if anyone would come. But as the day progressed, members of SJKF, MOCK, LVKS and even KAK (Dave and Sherri Arnold plus Jeff Burka drove all the way from Washington D.C.!) started to trickle

in. I would like to think that all were immediately awed by the sheer size of the hangar. We were given the use of approximately 1/4 of the hangar, and that was over a football field in area with a ceiling in excess of 125 ft.

We had almost every kite conceivable: there were Synergy

"Yes, we want to fly our kites inside the hangar."
 "No, this is not an April Fools joke."
 "No, we do not need wind to fly our kites."
 "Yes, I'm serious, please let us use your hangar."

Decas, Revolutions, fighters, dual liners of

countless makes and even a flexifoil. The most used kite was probably the X4R that Diana Strauss won at the SJKF raffle just the day before. She was nice enough to lend it to the club and many club members took their first try at indoor flying with that little gem (the kite, not Diana). This

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it's been a busy spring! It seems that one weekend after another the South Jersey Kite Flyers have been *somewhere*, sometimes three events on the same day!

On May 6th and 7th, we were represented at the Bucks County Kite Fly at Core Creek Park, the Cinnaminson Appreciation Day Fun Fly/Workshop, and at the Mid Atlantic Stunt Kite Championships (MASKC), an Eastern League event in Ocean City, MD. Unfortunately, due to

these commitments, we couldn't accept our invitation to the the Boy Scout Jamboree. We were able to provide the Camden County Boy Scouts over 460 sled kites to make and fly at the Jamboree.



On April 29th, SJKF attended the Belmar Regional Kite Competition in Belmar, NJ as well as LVKS's Kite Day in the Park near Reading, PA. Andy Gelinas and his crew put on a great event and made us all feel very welcome.

Well, I'd better leave some room for the rest of the articles. Keep those photos and articles coming in, keep the wind at your back, and *good flying!*

-john smith

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