

Letters to the Editor

Spiritual Chiropractors

Editor's note: The following note arrived from a member of the firm which trained Drachen staff Ali Fujino and Elizabeth Snodgrass in desktop publishing.

Dear Drachen,

I happened to carry a co-worker's mail to his desk this morning and ended up reading issue No. 3 of the Drachen Journal in its entirety. I was having a horrible day and then the power of kite-oriented text and images adjusted my brain to its original, correct and happy disposition. I had no idea you were spiritual chiropractors as well as desktop publishers.

Your friend at Ivey,
Meredith Yeary
Training Coordinator
Ivey Seright Computer Graphics

Meeting With Jalbert

Dear sirs,

I read on the computer about Domina Jalbert and the parafoil. I thought you might be interested how I met Jalbert back in the '70s. I was on the beach in Boca Raton and I met this gentleman flying a kite. It being a parafoil, he described it to me and explained to me that he designed it after the wing of his Bonanza airplane. He sold me one of his kites and described his larger one that would pull a seven-man life raft. A couple of days later, I bought the larger kite from him plus a drum of parachute cord to fly it. I still have these kites. I also took a picture of him on the beach which turned out well. I still have that picture. Thought you might like to hear from someone who admired this fine gentleman.

Arthur Hill, M.D.
North Chatham, Massachusetts



Drawing by Richard Stine

Taking Issue

Dear Ben Ruhe,

I do have a problem with your sentence, 'All that was required was a powerful engine...and Bell would have had a flyable manned aircraft.' (Alexander Graham Bell's Historic Tetras, issue No. 3 of Drachen Journal.) Just because you can pull up a lot of tetrahedral pieces on a cord doesn't mean it is flyable. It would take a great deal to control and balance it, as well as manage the engine and the pilot. The problem of resistance to lift I think would have doomed that design as it proceeded into larger and more powerful versions.

I think after the other aeroplanes were successful, (Glenn Curtiss and his friends put together a powered tetrahedral machine, which I think managed to get off the ground. They wanted to do a nice thing for the old man.

Leonard E. Opdycke
Publisher, Aero Journal
Poughkeepsie,
New York

India Is Heard From

Dear Drachen,

Terrific issue. The best by far, so far. Hats off!

Ajay Prakash
Mumbai, India

Old and New Material

To Drachen,

The whole idea of the Drachen Foundation's Kite Journal, not flashy but serious, solid looking from the first page: I'm impressed. Digging out old and new material. This is my idea of something truly admirable in a kite magazine.

Tal Streeter
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com

The Drachen Journal

This journal is produced by The Drachen Foundation and is issued twice a year.

Single copies and subscriptions (including back issues) are free. Contact the Foundation's administrative office.

If you have questions or comments about the Kite Journal or kites in general, please submit them to the Foundation.



Drawing by Mary Jo McKinnon
Permission to use given by Joe Vaughn

About the Journal Staff

Editor and major contributor to the Drachen Journal, well traveled Ben Ruhe regularly contributes articles to special interest publications on subjects as diverse as boomerangs, tribal art and flint-knapping.

Scott Skinner, president of the Drachen Foundation, is a former pilot instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has been a kite enthusiast for two decades—designing, making, flying, collecting and teaching about kites.

Ali Fujino is the administrator of Drachen. A museum specialist since age 19 when she began work at the Smithsonian Institution, she has long been fascinated with anything that can become airborne.

Elizabeth Snodgrass is the desktop publisher of the Drachen Journal. She is an anthropologist by training and through her association with the Drachen Foundation has come to love kites.

Illustration credits

Ben Ruhe: Pages 2 (Streeter), 3, 4, 7, 8, 18; Ali Fujino: Pages 2 (Grauel), 5, 21; Blue Hill Observatory: Pages 10, 11, 12; www.skywindworld.org website: Page 13; Nicolas Chorier: Pages 19, 20; Ed Grauel: Pages 34, 36; United Features Syndicate: Page 37.