

# Drachen Celebrating 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## A Large Mandate

After 10 years as a foundation, the challenge for the Drachen Foundation is not to lose its focus. What can we do that impacts more people rather than dealing solely with the kite community? We've expanded outside this community. We had to lay a foundation, and this is almost completed, although it will always shift.



Our mandate is people, culture, history. It's a large mandate.

In order to be more effective in its programming, the Foundation had to take the time to learn the complex kite cultures of Europe, Asia, and elsewhere. In the U.S., it is easier----a hobbyist culture.

Kiting is great to open up your head. You get into ice kiting, boarding, big time ocean sailing, aerial photography, innovative workshops and exhibitions, book publishing, even electrical power generation.

The future is going to be interesting for Drachen. We're going to keep paying attention to the niches of kiting. And technology is important for us. Right now, computerization and the Internet is what it's all about.

Our key job for the future? To be available with a great deal of online information and to assist people in taking that knowledge and making it physical----to make and fly a kite.

Ali Fujino  
Administrator, Drachen Foundation

## Zest for Fun

The Drachen Foundation makes a unique contribution in our global kite community. It combines a strategic view of the subject, human and financial resources, an eye for talent, and a zest for fun.

The practical results are kiter exchanges and workshops, a broad archive of research materials, traveling exhibitions, public outreach, and focused programs to preserve our precious kite heritage. Other individuals and organizations do some of these things; Drachen does them all.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Drachen's founding, I congratulate the Foundation on its accomplishments, and on behalf of kites everywhere, thank it for its vision.

David Gomberg  
President, American Kitefliers Association

# The Beauty Spot

Drachen is the beauty spot on the face of the over-all kite community.

Over the years, I've done what seemed useful to give Scott Skinner encouragement as a "kite artist." This is not an accolade hard-nosed artists easily (professionally, I might say) hand out to every amateur artist on the block---and it's a particularly difficult issue in the kite community, one I'm very fussy with myself, holding to the accepted standards in the art world, not the kite world. Scott, for me, has consistently shown the characteristics so difficult to pin down to anyone's satisfaction, with an artist's instincts and dedication.

This accolade from me is quite independent of other factors: friendship, whether or not this "artist" is a sweetheart or the opposite, or any other consideration than the "art quotient," again, so difficult to pin down without a lot of words---and so mysterious to the general public.

And isn't it a bonus that Scott, in person, apart from the artist and other hats he wears, is such an admirable and nice person?

Tal Streeter  
Kite scholar and collector

## Influence for Good

Drachen has had a great influence for good on kiting. It does things no one else can do. Examples are its paper kites workshops, small kites workshop, the importation of international fliers to teach kitemaking, touring exhibitions, publications. It's been a very positive influence.

Scott Skinner, president, and Ali Fujino, administrator, are a wonderful combination. With Scott, one person is in a position to make decisions that an organization can't. This makes for efficiency. One of Ali's roles is to say "no": an organization needs someone who can do this, and she can----diplomatically.

Bill Lockhart  
Former co-director of the Junction, Texas, kite retreat

## *Update on Cave Painting*

*Wolfgang Bieck and wife Mona Hie, of Bad Bevensen, Germany, made a second expedition to Muna island in Indonesia to more closely examine the cave painting of a man flying a kite that has now been viewed and photographed by several groups. The issue is age. Is the painting ancient---if so it may trump the Chinese claim to having invented the kite---or is it a modern day fake, as some suspect?*

*Bieck documented the mural with 360-degree virtual reality video and made closeup photos as well as pinpointing its GPS position within three meters. He made other tests about which he is close-mouthed, although taking a sample of the paint was not one of them, for reasons of conservation. Complex dating tests are presumably in the works right now.*

*An Indonesian group from Jakarta led by Sari Majid viewed the painting late last year but has not responded to questions about its findings.*