

Seaside Church Hosts Kite Fly Plus A Make-Your-Own Workshop

BY SUSAN USHER

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a kite! And like Superman himself, the best of them leap into the air, defying gravity as they soar aloft—fire-breathing fighting dragons, space ships, diamonds, boxes, octopi and even exotic birds with fanciful tails. Kite-making has been popular in China and other Far Eastern countries for centuries, and kites have played important roles in science and warfare through the ages. Alexander Wilson and Thomas Melville of Scotland used kites in 1749 to carry thermometers aloft for the first high altitude temperature readings. In 1752, Benjamin Franklin used kites in his infamous study of light-

ning. Australian Lawrence Hargrave's invention, the box kite, was used in meteorological and aerodynamic studies, while Alexander Graham Bell used the tetrahedral kite when exploring problems of airplane construction. The first aerial photographs were taken from a camera suspended on a kite. In World War II kites bearing the pictures of enemy planes were used by fighter pilots for target practice. And on the open seas, huge box kites were flown above war ships to ward off attacking enemy aircraft. Long steel wires suspended beneath the kites could damage an approaching plane and even force it down.

But most kite makers and kite flyers aren't out to make advances in science or warfare, or to set a record. No, they're out simply to have a good time, enjoying an activity that's almost synonymous with spring. Seaside United Methodist Church at Sunset Beach is doing its part to help. On Sunday, May 16, kite flyers will gather on the strand in front of the gazebo at Sunset Beach to play and to compete (at no charge) in Seaside's second annual kite fly. Last year 200 to 300 fliers participated over the course of the afternoon and this year an even larger crowd is expected, said spokesman Ginger DeBerry. She's hoping for clear skies and moderate winds of 4 to 15 miles per hour—optimum flying conditions for all but the lightest of kites.

Teal-colored T-shirts featuring the logo for this year's event are available at the church after Sunday services and during fellowship time at the church after the community kite fly. Cost is \$8 each, and the shirts are available in children's and adult sizes through extra large. Starting this year, the shirts will be offered in a different color each year.

The fun starts at 12:30 p.m. with stunt kite flying demonstrations by Klig's Kites of Myrtle Beach, S.C. DeBerry said competitive events are planned for girls, boys, men and women in all age groups, with additional prizes for the kites themselves—highest flying, longest flight, smallest kite. "There will be all sorts of prizes," she said. "We want to involve everyone. We want everyone to have a great time!" Entries can be store-bought or homemade. To add to the fun and anticipation, Seaside UMC will conduct a free kite-making workshop Saturday, May 8, starting at noon at the church on N.C. 904 south of Grissetown. Materials will be available at no charge, along with advice for making and flying a kite.

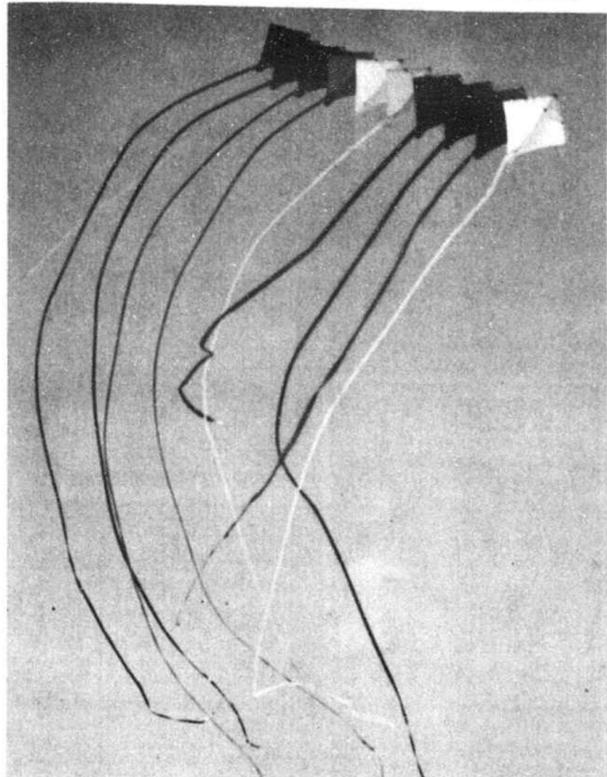
"Volunteers from the church will be there to give instructions," said DeBerry. "We'll have basic patterns for beginner and more advanced kite makers."

For Seaside UMC, the annual kite fly is a fine outreach into the com-

munity it serves. "It's good, clean fun for anyone and everyone," said DeBerry. "It's

fun for adults as well as children. "It's a chance to be a kid again, to let down our hair. A chance to re-

capture memories of our childhood or perhaps fulfill some dreams we were unable to fulfill as children."



FLYING MULTIPLE STUNT KITES like this takes teamwork, but provides a beautiful spectacle in the sky. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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County Announces Program To Recycle Telephone Books

Wondering what to do with that bulky old out-of-date telephone directory? Brunswick Countians receive more than 62 tons of phone books every year. In an effort to keep some of them from taking up landfill space, the Brunswick County Recycling Program will be collecting telephone directories this year. The collection project will be done in two phases because both the Southern Bell and Atlantic Telephone companies serve the area, Recycling Coordinator Mary McCarley said. The first collection will be for customers of the Southern Bell district, including the Leland, Southport and Oak Island areas. Collection will begin Monday, May 10, and will continue through Friday, June 11. Telephone books may be dropped off at the following locations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (although some drop boxes may be open on weekends):

Northwest Park, N.C. 74/76, Leland; Leland Park, Village Road, Leland; Smithville Park, N.C. 133/87, Southport; Old City Shop, Fodale Avenue, Southport; Long Beach Recreation Center, Oak Island Drive, Long Beach; Boiling Spring Lakes Town Hall, Boiling Spring Lakes Drive; and at the public assembly building at the Brunswick County Government Center, Bolivia.

Look for the labeled container in which to deposit telephone books. If a business or industry has a large volume (more than 10), arrangements can be made for pick-up by calling McCarley at 253-4488.

All phone books will be accepted at each site. However, a second group of collection locations will be announced later for Atlantic Telephone Co. customers.

PTA Meeting Will Include Variety Show

The South Brunswick Middle School PTA will meet tonight (Thursday) to elect officers of 1993-94. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the school. Following the business meeting, the SBMS Careers Exploration class will sponsor a student variety show. Talents to be showcased range from instrumental guitar to tap dancing. "The students have been working on this project for two months," said Jackie Burger, Careers Exploration teacher/advisor. "They are excited and looking forward to showing off their talents to friends and relatives."

Burger and fellow teacher/advisor Mike Williams helped the students organize the show. "It was the students' idea. They planned it and they've done the work," Burger said.

Several teachers, including Steve Skillman and Donna King, will perform along with the students.

A charge of \$1 per person or a maximum \$3 per family will be charged for the show. Proceeds will go to the Careers Exploration classes.

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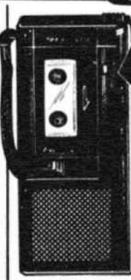
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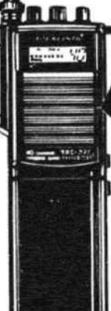
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