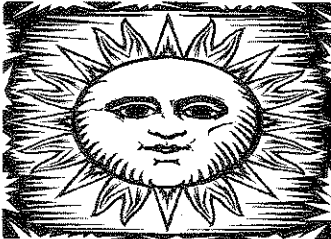
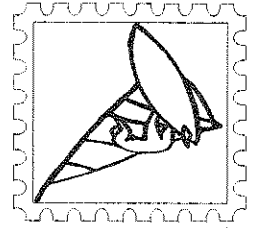


R.V.W.A.   
P.O. BOX 547  
RIO VISTA, CA 94571

RVWA  
NEWS LETTER  
FALL 2001



TO:

A. WINDSURFER  
1 WINDY SPOT  
PLANET EARTH 94639

### RIO VISTA WINDSURFING ASSOCIATION

The Rio Vista Windsurfing Assoc. is dedicated to promoting the safe utilization of the Sacramento Delta Levee system for use by Windsurfers and Kite Surfers. Pursuant to that goal certain donations are required to maintain levels of service at specific sites. In certain areas, a minimum mandatory donation is required. "The Sign" represents RVWA's single greatest annual expense. Therefore, those who use that facility the most are asked to help share the burden of those expenses. RVWA will begin to track usage of all areas and target improvements based on that usage as well as contributions from those areas. If you have recommendations that will enhance your particular area, contact an RVWA Board member to explain your recommendation. You are welcome to drop off written suggestions to the "Mayor at the Sign" or email through the Web Site.

**All areas:** Your donation of \$20 per year contributes to the maintenance of the sandbags, porta potties, and on-going moves to insure continued access to the River. All vehicles, RV's, Trailers, Boats in those areas must display valid license and registration as well as maintain their respective state's insurance requirements.

**The Sign:** The Rio Vista Windsurfing Assoc. (RVWA) manages "The Sign" windsurfing site on Sherman Island through a long-term lease granted by the California Water Resources Commission. RVWA is also required to maintain certain level of liability insurance. Due to recent increases in those expenses, a minimum mandatory donation is required by anyone staying at "The Sign" for more than 8 days in one month. If you are on site for 9 consecutive days, a mandatory donation will be required. This minimum mandatory donation is required by anyone or family who leaves vehicles, RV's or equipment on that site. **The minimum donation is \$100 per month or \$25 per week.** Higher donations will be gladly appreciated. Checks or cash are accepted. Payment will be made to Dave Geyer, Doreen, Cookie, Shela or Lane. If you have special circumstances, individuals may appeal to the board of directors for special consideration. We do not anticipate a charge for weekend use. The Sign area is not intended to be a storage facility - commercial storage containers will not be accepted. The Sign will remain open during the summer windsurfing season and will close for the winter season. Everything you have there must be removed during the winter season. A notice will be posed on the bulletin board when a closing date is determined. An attempt will be made to post a notice on the web site.

**You need a "Fin to get in."** Due to the limited number of available spaces, camping will be limited to RVWA Windsurfers. Families and friends of RVWA members are welcome as space permits. Those visiting campers are limited to two weeks without written permission from the RVWA Board of Directors.

## "As The Levee Turns" - Sherman Island, DaSign, 2001 in Review

by Dave Geyer

May 1st. Delta Dave arrives @ our own forest, called, DaSign. it's nice, it's sunny...but no porta potties. and I begin to unload my thousands of pieces of gear. bed cleared, dinner finished.  
May 2nd. All hell breaks loose as a North Wind visits for the next 2 days. I try to exit my trailer carefully but the wind catches my door so picture me sitting 10ft out (Chuck Daly later totally reinforced/reconstructed it). I struggled to make the walk up to the levee top to view the winds splendor and find our telephone pole to hang on to. and wouldn't you know it. Someone's sailing!  
Sail: 3.0 + rig: little. damn.

Well, welcome to the new season and while the wind dropped from the 50's for the remainder of the season, it did provide us with an above avg. collection of wind. The water temp. was good from Day One. Naturally, Florida John was there from the beginning and he soon erected his 100 sail, loft. I finally finished mine and Ed & Cherie showed up for a short spell as their new Baja property beckoned for 2 months 6/28. A red neck rookie showed up in his biggie RV and remained with us the entire season. Mike Devitt. says he plays tennis. The award for the classiest mixed dresser, not cross dresser, went Sadhanas' lesser half, Rob McKenzie. oh, their new trailer should have an award for the most unique decorating job. Also, Bob returned from Baja with his mom & dad again. So May & June provided plenty of good winds but July 14th was our 1st Roundup next door complete with cowboys, roping, castrations, branding & big needles. 130 total calves!

The Annual Gary Rust Lobster Potluck happened Aug. 11th and we sold 140 tickets! Plus most of the guests brought their potlucks & Lasa donated a kegger. There was no Moe Dixon or Point restaurant this year so the raffle followed the dinner with our pres., Steve Smith doing the honors.

Our new co-webmaster, Brian Maloney, won the ABK camp for '02 + he out bid everyone in the Silent Auction for a weeks stay for 2 @ Baja Joe's in La Ventana. Way to go Brian!  
Other major donors: Delta Windsurf Co., Windsurf Diablo, Jason Voss, North Sails, Bruce Sheldon, and Windcraft.

New RVWA t-shirts were made available and donated by Wes & Allison. only a few smaller sizes were left. Rent wise, a new \$100. a month fee was introduced for those using the facilities on a long term basis.

The season ended typically, no wind, hot and time for this sailor to scoot home to his new indoor pool. Write me. I'll fill you in.

Thanks you all for your great cooperation and good times. what a great retirement!

Dave



## KITE KORNER By Jack Jones

I'm sure that anyone who has spent time in the delta has noticed the explosion of kiteboarders amongst us. Many of us dedicated sailors have tried it, or at least know a close friend who has. Some people like it, others realize that it's not for them. But since we're all sharing the same waterways, we can all learn from the lessons of others. Jack Jones, a local Bay Area kiter has contributed the following lessons learned.

### What good are "Kite-Mares"?

Probably everyone has heard a "kite-mare" by now, those nightmare stories that kiteboarders get themselves into. But rather than being just morbid storytelling, I think they serve the purpose of reminding even experienced kites to be constantly wary of things that can go wrong.

### Lessons to Learn:

In July, at Sherman Island Access, a kiteboarder attempted to launch at the top of the lagoon and was dragged through the water and over the rocks and hit his head on the guard shack. The ambulance arrived and he refused transport for reasons of his own, but what lessons did he learn, and what can we learn about this crowded, onshore sight as a kite launch?

**Don't launch in the Sherman Island Access Bay. Its too crowded and onshore winds will push you into the rocks, vehicles, people, berries, etc.**

Later that month, a SoCal kiter jumped without proper judgment of distance. His kite tangled with another kite. Luckily, the assaulted kiter had the presence of mind to unhook and let go. Both kites drifted over land and slammed into the levee. No one was hurt, but equipment was damaged and tempers flared.

Lesson?

**Always keep clear of other kites and water users, especially when jumping.**

In August, again at Sherman Island, a kiteboarder who was receiving a lesson, didn't body-drag far enough away from shore before doing his waterstart. He suffered a compound fracture of the knee and had to be life-flighted out by helicopter. He is still recovering, with some medical complications.

**Get away from land, and stay away from land. When launching and landing, be HYPER-VIGILANT to any situation that can go wrong!**

**Launching:** A female kiter asked a passerby to help hold her down while she launched. As the kite went up and started to pull, the inexperienced helper accidentally let one hand slip and the remaining hand grabbed her arm and spun her around causing her to lose control of the kite.

**Landing:** An experienced kiter found himself overpowered and yelled to someone on shore to catch his kite. The bystander managed to catch the kite but then didn't know what to do and accidentally let go.

The kite powered up and the kiter was scratched and bruised and his equipment damaged. The lessons?

**Don't expect bystanders to know how to handle a kite. Make sure you have a properly trained support crew to assist you with launching and landing. And, make sure you know how to depower your kite and wrap up your equipment by yourself on the water.**

### **The Grand-Daddy of Kitemares:**

The fall issue of Kiteboarding magazine tells a story of a kiter in Hawaii who got hit with an "updraft-burst" of wind. He was on dry land, and did a small hop to jump over a rope, when the wind-burst sent him skyward and lifted him 200 feet in the air! Amazingly, he was not seriously injured. The lesson?

I think the lesson here is don't launch directly upwind of people or damageable property, and when something weird happens, **Throw the Kite Away Instantly - Ask Questions Later.**

Ironically, the really experienced kites are most at risk in this scenario, because, like the Hawaii kiteboarder, they think they're good enough to "ride it out". Although we don't officially have this updraft burst phenomena that exists on Oahu, there are definitely gusts that can get you and those around you in big trouble.

**Be Smart and Stay Alive! Have a fun safe winter.**