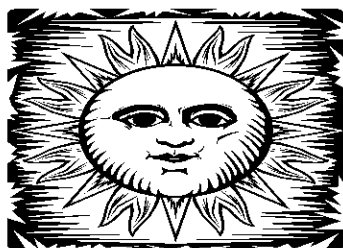
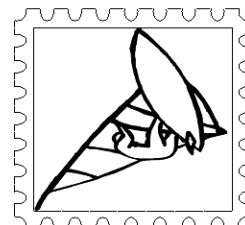


R.V.W.A. 
P.O. BOX 547
RIO VISTA, CA 94571

RVWA
NEWS LETTER
MAY 2002



TO:

A. WINDSURFER
1 WINDY SPOT
PLANET EARTH 94639

THE ACCESS

After many long years, parking and sailing at "The Access", it will be ours once again. We will begin construction in May. .

"How can I assist in this landmark project?", you ask. Well, I'll tell you what we need and you let us know what you can do.

We need: Telephone Poles to line the parking area, Gravel and Base Rock to make the entry road, Heavy Equipment to deliver gravel and level the road, Wood and Carpenters to build five sets of levee stairs, Monetary Donations for related expenses, and Manual Labor to put it all together. Call Brian at 510-346-7263 to let us know how you can help.

We will be announcing the date of the work party once we get the materials together. Please call Brian ASAP if you can help with any of the things listed above. Sailor and kiter power is what makes our lifestyle possible.

Thank-you Indian Bob and Mina!

While preparing for an early spring sailing session down at the access I was pleased to notice how clean the beaches were of logs, debris, and garbage. It seems that Indian Bob and his wife Mina, have been working very hard all winter (they've been camped in the park since late last summer). They've been busy collecting trash, sawing logs, mowing weeds and grass, and clearing out brush to make more room for all of us.

Be sure to stop by and say hello to Mina at the guard shack. She'll be collecting fees and selling season passes this season in the absence of Jake, who passed away last summer.

AS THE LEVEE TURNS ? Early May, 2002, by Delta Dave

Greetings everyone. I hope you've all enjoyed a great winter. Rick Campbell sent me some pics of the Winter Scene from DaSign and it all looks so nice and green. Hope that's an indicator of the scene to come beginning May One when we officially open our beloved campsite. If you've been checking on our web site @ "<http://www.rvwa.com>" throughout the winter then you've been kept abreast of the latest happenings. We've had sadness and we've had smiles as life goes, but now the time is for focusing on the new season with perhaps new sailing equipment, new children, new situations at home and a just plain readiness to prepare for lots of sailing!

Aside from my daughter and her 2 year old beautiful Vanessa moving in here @ home, a great house sitter for this summer, I'm trying to write this edition of ATLT on my new iBook/laptop and the font keeps changing at each paragraph plus I don't exactly have the iTunes under control, same ole "Transport 1" by Oldenport.hmmmm, such problems.

Ed Liddle phoned me a couple of times during the winter, Guess Cherie is still down in their new home in Mexico just sweeping away, surfing and tilling the soil for Ed. Rick Campbell Of Enrom fame apparently survived the collapse and will be staying in this area and is forming a new company, Campron. just joking Rick.

If you're considering making DaSign your summer place, know it's \$100. per month for each vehicle! Regular memberships continue @ \$20 for a single for the season and are due now. Each article in this newsletter produced/coordinated by Cookie is a volunteered item so you'll probably read additional reminders of the above, this is intentional.

Right now the grass/weeds are green & short including the punji sticks as George Ground, a powerlines sailor, brought his heavy duty weed cutter with tractor from Manteca to 'visit' the DaSign/powerlines, and we received clearance from Farmer Richard next door to tap into the water source utilizing it for watering only when the big pump can be heard. I can work with that. I just hope Steve has had the time to make it a reality.

Welcome to a new season. Stop by and say Hi when you arrive. I love this retirement stuff!

We regret the passing of our friend Ron Stanford. Ron was on vacation in Hawaii when he was hit by a truck. He was riding his bicycle on a narrow bridge when the accident occurred. Ron lived in Reno Nv. with his wife Lori. His favorite sailing site in the Delta was the sign. We will miss Ron's ready smile, and his eagerness to sail in any conditions. We hope to see Lori at the sign this summer.

GETTING IT TOGETHER

By Cookie

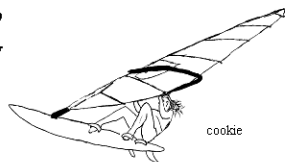
It's time to get things together for the new season. This day finds me in my closet looking for my wet suit and harness. "Oh, there it is." I say aloud to myself. When I pick up my wet suit, it is only a shorty. My disappointment was comparable to missing a jibe. Sooo...I start throwing things out of my closet looking for my long wet suit. An hour and a half later my closet is completely empty, and I still haven't located my long wet suit or harness. Two more hours pass, and I now have a neatly rearranged closet and no wet suit or harness. Oh well, at least my closet is clean!

I must have left my wet suit and harness in the garage. Yes, you guessed it, I moved on to my garage. The desired items were not in plain site. I squeezed past the lawn mover and the table saw. This is the corner where I keep windsurfing stuff. There's my boom and board, but no wet suit or harness. Now I am starting to feel panic come on. I put the lawn mower and table saw on the patio so I can see better. The panic intensifies after all of my windsurf stuff has been removed and still no luck. My eyes go out of focus and my heart begins to pound. I make record time of tearing apart the garage. Bicycles, lawn chairs, and tools fly out of the garage door (I hope nobody decides to walk by right now). I can't believe my eyes! The garage is empty!! Tears well up in my eyes. Where did I put that stuff?

"Calm down," I tell myself, "There is nothing you can do about it." Everything is carefully put back into the garage. I have now developed a mantra of, "At least it's clean." Where shall I look now? Could it be behind the couch or under the bed? The whole day has been lost cleaning and looking for my valued items.

It's dark now and time to meet some friends for an evening of fun. It will do me good to get out of this spotless house. Refreshments are required for the night. I grab my ice chest and throw in some ice. But wait, what's in the ice chest? It's my wet suit and harness!! What in the world is it doing in there? I have emotionally just completed my first loop! I am sure I could go out and do a few more!

Oops! I guess I just gave up my secret for getting spring cleaning done.



Kite Corner

By Jo

Hopefully Delta windsurfers are beginning to feel more comfortable around the Delta kites and vice-versa. Team Rio Beach and the Sherman Island Access corner area have become popular kite launches. This doesn't seem to be a problem in lighter winds, when there are no windsurfers in the area. However, these spots become very crowded as the wind picks up. As you well know, this can be potentially hazardous for all water users. Remember that there are other places to launch if your favorite spot is crowded.

Kiters please remember to be courteous on the water and on the beach. What you choose to do out there, affects all of us. Here are some Do's and Don'ts to help us co-exist and enjoy our passions together:

- Do help each other out if someone needs assistance.
- Do respect the rights of other water users and remember that many people are extremely intimidated (freaked-out) when you come around them on the water or on land.
- Do ask an experienced Delta kiter if you need local knowledge regarding launching, landing or kite handling.
- Don't launch upwind of popular windsurfing zones if you know you can't stay upwind.
- Don't Be a Jerk! Your actions reflect how others perceive kiting.

The Kite Launch, located on the Baja Road, is the least crowded of all Delta kite launches. At this time there are no sandbags there, so at our clean up day, help is needed there. The best features of this launch are that it is far away from any windsurfing launches, and it's virtually obstacle-free. And remember-if you choose to launch downwind of the Baja Road, there are low power lines that parallel the levee road.

The Way Things Work

by Brian Geasa

After several years of waiting, we are finally getting the area know as “The Access” back. For those of you that aren’t familiar, this is the large area just outside the County Park. It was one of our finest sites, with several stairways and half a dozen sandbagged launches. It was taken from us by the Army Corps of Engineers for a levee test section after a time consuming fight to keep it. The Department of Water Resources has agreed to lease it to us again on a trial basis.

The effort to get it back was also time consuming. We wrote many letters, made calls, and sent emails. We attended several meeting at various places in the dead of winter.

Many other projects that seem to “just appear” in The Delta are also the products of many hours of behind the scenes work.

The County Park saw huge improvements due to many meetings in Sacramento gathering support and funding for the windsurfers needs. The design and placement of the permanent toilets, increased launch areas, and additional parking were all a direct result of these meetings. The funding came primarily from the Department of Boating - after long discussions explaining why improvements made in areas used by windsurfers (who pay no boating fees) would actually benefit the boaters. Somehow it worked.

Windy Cove was a huge political victory. The basic plan had been drawn up for years, but no funding was available. In addition, there were endangered plants, and other environmental concerns. Over the course of a couple of years, RVWA gathered support in Sacramento to allow us to build the park with resources donated by RVWA members and volunteer labor. The park was an immediate success. After a couple of years of successful operations, the State Parks further improved Windy Cove with paved parking and permanent toilets.

And The Sign parking area was leased to us after many meetings and clearing user permit hurdles with the Department of Water Resources. We will have continued use of this property and it will be combined with the lease for The Access.

We have been able to make all of this happen using of the combined power of the RVWA members. Your membership is important - not only for the funds necessary to maintain these sites, but for your collective political voice.

Even if you sail at one of the sites (such the parks) not currently maintained by RVWA, you now know that it is there because of the RVWA membership. All of the sailing in The Delta is launched from private lands or the parks. If RVWA were to disappear most of the Delta sailing sites would disappear with it and the few remaining sites would become dangerously overcrowded.

Your membership is important. Sign up today.