



# Weather MINDS

Minnesota - Iowa - Nebraska - DakotaS

## President's Message By Larry Browning

As many of you know, a year ago we tried an experiment for our first meeting. It was a family picnic where we could all socialize and bring our families and watch Dr. Dave Graper from SDSU launch rockets. I still remember how much fun the kids (my daughter being one of them) had chasing the rockets and bringing them back. There also seemed to be a lot of interest among the members in regard to rocketry as a hobby. Of course, Dave is interesting to talk to not only because of his rocketry knowledge but also because of his interest and expertise in plants (he's a regular on PBS's "Garden Line"). The point of reminding everyone of this is that it seemed like a good idea and we're going to try it again.

This year instead of a rocket launch we thought kites would be a good theme for our family get together and picnic. Kites seem even more appropriate for our group since they depend on the physics of the atmosphere to fly. Personally, I've developed an interest in the last year concerning kites. It seems they are much more involved than I had imagined. They come in all kinds of shapes, sizes, and colors. They are

*Continued President on next page.*

**Weather MINDS**  
**meeting Tuesday,**  
**September 12th, 2000**  
**4:30 PM at Kuehn Park in southwest**  
**Sioux Falls**

**Meet at Kuehn Park at 4:30 PM. Kuehn  
Park is between Roosevelt HS and  
Assembly of God Church on west 41st.**

## **WxMINDS Flying High** **at next Meeting** By Mike Dirksen

WxMINDS will be flying high at the September 12th meeting to be held at Kuehn Park in southwest Sioux Falls. A picnic is planned so bring your family, picnic lunch and a kite if you have one. If it is hot that day you might want to bring extra drink. The park shelter has been reserved from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm so rain or shine we should be able to meet. See the map on the next page on how to get to Kuehn Park. If you have any questions you can call Joanne Puetz Anderson at 605-692-8742 or email her at [jpawx@hotmail.com](mailto:jpawx@hotmail.com)

## President Continued

used to propel surfboards on water and buggies on land. They lift cameras, instruments and even people. They can be made to fly indoors as well as out in wind speeds from zero to 30 mph. They can be works of art but they all work because of a delicate balance of forces. They can cost almost nothing, or hundreds of dollars. And best of all they are on sale now.

If you are interested in pursuing kiting as a hobby, a good place to start is the American Kiteflyers Association (AKA). They have a web site (<http://www.aka.kite.org>) and an extensive list of links to other resources (<http://www.aka.kite.org/links.shtml>). From their site you can download a manual (for free) entitled *Kites in the Classroom* which has a number of plans for kites and other good information. The plan I liked the best for a picnic was for a kite made from a Styrofoam plate, string, tape, and a plastic strip for the tail. So instead of throwing away your plate after dinner, you could turn it into a kite. What better way to recycle? Of course you might want to wash the plate first. There is also a safety code for kite flying which is always good to keep in mind.

So please join us for an afternoon of fun with friends and kites. Please feel free to bring your family and any and all people who might be interested. And if anyone is interested in being an officer, don't hesitate to mention it!

Larry

PS. I have a lot of kites to share, so don't hesitate to come if you don't have a kite. I'll also bring my portable stove for making hot chocolate, tea, coffee, etc.

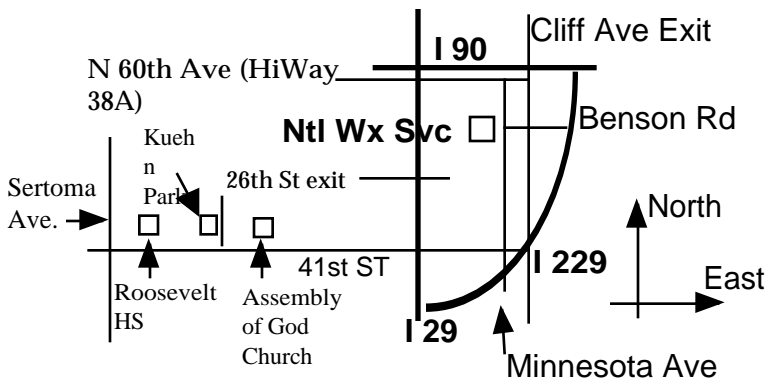
WWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW

## From the AKA publication *Kites in the Classroom*

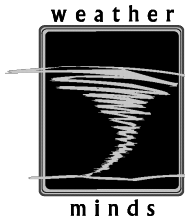
Submitted by Larry Browning

### SAFETY CODE:

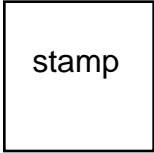
1. NEVER FLY YOUR KITE NEAR POWER LINES. If by accident a kite becomes tangled in power lines, LEAVE IT THERE. Notify your local utility company of the situation.
  2. Kites should be flown in flat, open areas away from buildings and roadways (e.g., beaches and parks). FLY ONLY WHERE THE KITE WILL NOT CREATE A HAZARD.
  3. Never fly a kite during an approaching storm or in rain as WET LINE WILL CONDUCT ELECTRICITY. LIGHTNING KILLS!
  4. DO NOT USE WIRE AS FLYING LINE (even if it is plastic covered).
  5. Always observe local air safety regulations. Avoid flying in air traffic patterns close to airports.
  6. Large kites can be dangerous and require extra care. Wear gloves when flying large kites.
  7. Do not let children fly kites that are too big for them to handle.
  8. Do not let line run through the fingers at a fast rate as this will result in a bum or cut.
  9. Do not use blades or pointed objects on a kite or line.
  10. Do not throw heavy objects at an entrapped kite. Cut the line and try to have the kite fly itself free.
  11. Never leave a kite tethered and unattended.
- GOLDEN RULES:** - Remember that everyone has the same right to the sky. Try to keep a safe distance from other fliers. - Remember you are an ambassador for kites and your actions may affect the chances of others to enjoy this sport and pastime.



[www.engineering.sdstate.edu/~physics/wx\\_minds/index.htm](http://www.engineering.sdstate.edu/~physics/wx_minds/index.htm)



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Mailing Label

WxMINDS webpage address-- [http://www.engineering.sdstate.edu/~physics/wx\\_minds/index.htm](http://www.engineering.sdstate.edu/~physics/wx_minds/index.htm)

### **The Newsletter: Digital or Snail Mail** By Bryan Ruby

This fall will mark a renewed effort to placing our newsletter onto the Weather Minds homepage. We will be placing the newsletter online in the Adobe Acrobat format (PDF) which should speed things along. Through a free plug-in that you download from Adobe, you'll be able to view and print our newsletter through your internet browser.

We'll have all the necessary links on our Weather Minds homepage by the end of September at: [http://www.engineering.sdstate.edu/~physics/wx\\_minds/news.htm](http://www.engineering.sdstate.edu/~physics/wx_minds/news.htm)



Of course, you may not like to read the newsletter online and prefer the print copy sent to you. Don't worry! We will continue to send a copy of our newsletter to all members through the postal service. For those of you that aren't members but have been on our mailing list the past few years, we're happy to continue sending you the newsletter through the mail. However, if you are not a member, please let us know that you still want to be on our mailing list. You can reach us either by e-mail at [wxminds@bryansplace.com](mailto:wxminds@bryansplace.com) or by sending a note to the return mailing address on this newsletter.

