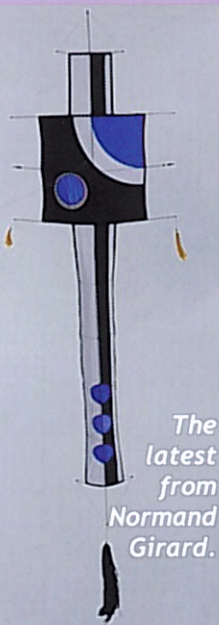


RUNWAY SHOW

BY CARLOS SIMOES



The latest from Normand Girard.

This Saint-Honore, Quebec, festival is a world class kiting event! This was the 14th annual edition, set at the Chicotimi-Saint-Honore Aerodrome Airport. Flying kites at an active airport is a very unique feeling. Each year the festival features vintage, modern and military aircraft, a carnival with interactive activities for the public, and of course, major kite flying demonstrations. One runway is left open for aircraft to take off and land while the rest is divided up into demonstration fields for

us to fly our kites. A large group of traction people take over one of the closed runways and buggly all day long.

It is truly amazing to see and hear a Canadian Air Force F-18 jet performing fly-bys while you are flying kites just a couple of hundred yards away. The canary yellow WWII Harvard trainer has very distinctive sounding twin props and was also a big crowd pleaser!

This annual event extols the warmth of the Quebec people. The men greet each other with handshakes and will add a hug for good friends new and old. You also exchange double kisses with all the ladies. It's all very European! The community volunteers are the backbone of this massive event. They really go out of their way to ensure we all feel at home. Heck, by the end of the event we were hugging all of volunteers and cooking staff!

Saint-Honore is two hours north of



Jacques Letourneau and Meg Albers

Quebec City. It's a terrific scenic drive through one of Canada's best preserved national forests. Several of the international fliers stopped along the route for their "Kodak moment" in the wild. Many get a kick out of the "Beware of Moose Crossing" signs along the highway. I have seen several photos on Facebook with these fun images.

This event features some of the best flyers from around the world. This of course includes some great homegrown Canadian and American talent too! Team Think Big and Team Chaoskiter are from Germany. From Spain there was Los Hermanos Gonzalez. Finally, Italy was represented by Claudio Capelli.

Christian Laskowski and Alex Ruger



Carlos Simoes' Celtic Dogs

of Team Think Big had some fun inflatables. There were huge bugs known as Zum Zums, Bob the Builder and some funky sharks too! Walter and Stefan Bloem of Team Chaoskiter had superhero bears and several inflatable French Asterix characters. Pedro and Esteban Gonzalez of Los Hermanos brought some Red Devils and Chinese Opera Mask kites. Claudio Capelli is a master painter. He flies amazing art work on framed kites. In the sky his kites look like floating art.

Canada has its own well-known kites artists such as Robert Trepanier and Jacques Letourneau. The images range from traditional Quebec art to haunting human forms to whimsical historical themes. Christine McGee and Daniel Remillard are also kite artists but it's



Claudio Capelli

their night flight set of banners that I will remember best. Also featured were traditional appliqued kites by Michele Berube, Normand Girard, Carl Bigras, Andre Bernard, Dave Robinson and Rene Campeau. They featured unique framed kites that look like sea life, funky aliens, mad cows and serpents! Some pretty incredible pieces! Of course my buddy Gary Mark and I were there with our large show kites and some homemade ones too. Quebec has a large group of quad- and dual-line flyers. Jean Lamoureux is the sole Canadian member of the Windjammers and performed several demonstrations for the crowd with his Canadian themed stack of kites. Jean Lemire is one of the few people that can fly three stunt kites together. He is the perfect example of great Quebec talent! Over on the traction kiter's runway one particular homemade buggly had seating for four people. It was awesome to see the group travelling together up and down the runway! Sometimes you just have to sit back for a bit and take it all in.

The USA was also well represented with John Barresi and Steve DeRooy of iQuad. I know they had a great time fly-



John Barresi and Steve DeRooy