

## THE WIND IN THE WIRES

on kill devil hill  
kittyhawk kitemen  
taped together their prayers  
and put this thin  
matchstick miracle  
to flight

this ungainly animal  
of skintight stretched tarp  
and its brittle airframe bones  
just waiting to be broken  
airscrewed its way down  
that bicycle track

a gasp at air  
that caught and clung  
to the lower limbs of the wind  
this their whirring dream for sky,  
man's hand stretching  
with wonderful wings  
in airs above the ground,  
leaping like icarus up  
the incredible staircase  
casements of air toward the sun

finding a whole new world  
up that low wind wall,  
where the age of flight is seen  
in winged victory's unchained dreams,  
and that magic moment posted  
over kill devil hill

where kittyhawk kitemen  
became brethren wingmen,  
up with the envied urge of startled birds  
to rise to sky in flight  
that also sings in their veins –  
born then and there in the whistle  
of the wind in the wires.

– Eric Ivan Berg