

WASHINGTON KITEFLYERS -
Newsletter of December, 1974

First, a fill-in on our Oct. 15th meeting: about 35 in attendance at the Science Center's Eames Theater; most of the evening spent viewing movies and slides of the summer's activities -- the various contest -- Dave Freeman's view from 'way up there in a hang glider -- Checkley's wonderful movies and slides of about a jillion kites in Japan -- VanGilder's trip to visit the Long Beach club.

Official Business: Bob Follert's nominating committee did a four-minute railroad job, the upshot of which is that Jack VanGilder is your new pre- ident, John Dusenberry is your new secretary and Dave Checkley agreed to be a sort of executive committee chairman. Dave Freeman and Bert Goe will fill out this august body.

Trips: 'Tis the season to seek sunshine: VanGilder found his in Barbados, in the Caribbean, visiting his Peace Corps daughter, before Christmas. He hoped to photo some of the famous Bajun kites. But it seems that other countries are even more hide-bound by tradition than Americans: they absolutely have no kites any other time but that prescribed by their forefathers. He returned with only some shots of Bajun kids flying his own kites and Peace Corps kids flying theirs. No Bajuns.

VanGilder's cousin, Bill Schumacher, returned from a trip which included Bangkok recently and reported the same thing. Kite madness in the spring with thousands filling the air, but NOTHING at other times.

FLY-IN:

The Sunday after NewYear's, your local W.K.A. will be at Golden Gardens - after noon. Despite success of competing with the Bowl Games last NewYears Day, we will delay the new-traditional NewYear's Fly-in until Jan. 5th. Weather permitting, of course. Be there!

COMING EVENTS:

A letter arrived before Christmas from Howard Gutknecht of the Seattle Center suggesting that we help organize a bigger-and-better kite festival. It has traditionally (two years, now) been held at the opening of the Center on April 15.

This will work in nicely with a planned kite display and workshop at the Science Center for March 15 - 16th. -- kinda like the Model Railroaders put on so successfully. Then, a couple of weeks later, South Center Shopping Mall wants us to transfer everything down there, plus having a fly-in. They have acres of room.

Had a letter just this week from Honolulu. Their big International Contest comes off March 1st this year with prizes for Jr. and Sr. events: "Most Beautiful" -- "Battle of Kites" -- "Largest" -- "Highest" -- "Distance Flyer".

Most kiteflyers, in the club and outside, sort of point toward the Seattle Center festival because if those real nice prizes. It's a real thrill to hear your name announced as the winner of an event, but when you peek in that prize envelope at the Seattle Center, there is a fifty-dollar bill peeking back at you. Pays for a lot of spars and covering.

Speaking of spars: has anyone else noticed that $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch dowels have gone from 9¢ to 24¢? Each.

After our W.K.A. cooperative club effort during the Bellevue Arts and Crafts Fair of putting 71 kites on one string, there was some talk of going after the world's record as recognized by the Guinness Book. Now, in their "Windy Notice" the Maryland Kitters inform us that their Bill Bigge pushed the record up to 261 - ! He had 500 ready to go but ran out of time. Give up?

Bill Spezia and Van Gilder were all set to show the Ice Canades how to fly kites on ice while they were in town Thanksgiving weekend -- but Ice Canades failed to cooperate by not replying to our overtures. We did prove that it actually works, tho

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

7:30 at the Eames Theater of the Pacific Science Center -- Tuesday, January 14th. Agenda: beautiful sound movie on kites by Dinesh Bahadur -- demonstration on the new technique of heat-bonding polyethylene paint-

Washington Kiteflyers
Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. No.
Seattle, WA 98119



James R. Carmath
12024 86th St. N.E.
Kirkland, Wa. 98033

er's drop-cloths (Sears).--
information on latest kite
designs and plans -- infor-
mation on availability of cheap
soldering irons for heat-bond-
ing -- making firm plans for
the coming exhibitions.-- AKA
shoulder patches -- lots of
good sharing of techniques.
Don't miss it!