

Newsletter of April 1976

Calendar of Events:

Many class members will be along at the Sunday afternoon fly-in's:  
 April 11: Gasworks Park  
 April 18: Stan Sayers Park  
 April 25: Bay View Park, north of Pier 70

How about joining them? We start flying at 1:30 p.m.

KITE CLUB MEETING:

April 27 at 7:30 p.m.:  
 Science Center -- Subjects: plans for future, kite movies and slides. Important meeting! Mark the date!!

A report on the Seattle Center contest, March 27th: First Prize: Gary Strodtz had 28 out of a possible 30 points with his nylon ripstop multi-colored winged box kite with a tail at least 30 feet long. \$50 will buy quite a bit of rip-stop. Second Prize: went to a young fellow by the name of Steven Arnett who had a well-designed high-flier of orange material of triangular, keeled, delta-wing configuration with a nice fringed tail. Third Prize: went to Jack Van Gilder with his newest edition of a Northwest Indian design of a Thunderbird made of tyvek and rip-stop on a delta chassis. Steve and Jack both had 27 points. Ten points were awarded for "Flight Performance", "Beauty", and for "Craftsmanship". Thanks much to judges Dave Checkley, John Dusenberry and Jim Carnwath. The rain held off just long enough. The kite-eating trees at the Center had their fill! The crowd like the most-familiar kite in the Northwest; Bill Spezia's "Hermie, the Friendly Bat". The next day a smaller crowd was on hand for a kite fighting demonstration. Bruce Kimball, who works at the kite shop, VanGilder and another fellow were all cut down by Bill Fung. Bill says that he learned to handle a fighter kite in his youth in Hong Kong. The Fun Forest at

the Seattle Center again provided the prize: \$20 cash. You would think that more people would try for a prize of that size, right?

Science Center Exposition, March 13 and 14 saw many hard-working members. Ken Conrad, with his broken arm barely healed, spent most of both days helping people make small cobra kites at 50 cents each. Tom Sisson's design for a garbage bag sled kite went for 25 cents and also like hotcakes. Bill Lee and Harold Writer must have helped 100 kids each with them. A new-member couple (my memory for names is deteriorating with age) had this activity organized all over the floor of the balcony when we ran out of table-top space. Great! It seemed as though people were most awed at the indoor flying of the little tissue paper deltas in the Eames Theater. The "bottom line" was the number of paid admissions over the number last year. We shared these with the Science Center to the tune of \$484.

Speaking of flying kites indoors: Guess who holds the record for flying the first kite indoors at the new Kingdome Stadium? A small tissue paper delta went up to the loudspeakers, almost to the ceiling, before running out of flying room. Don't be too surprised if us WKAers wind up putting on a demonstration during the half-time of some football game there!

Your Executive Board met over-lunch on March 3 and will recommend several items to the membership at the next meeting, April 27.

1. the projected movie should be discussed
2. ? purchase the two series of the Maryland Kitefliers' sound slide shows that we now have on loan. We would leave them with the Science Center office for anyone to check out -- with permission from one of the officers first, of course.
3. be cautious of frittering away of our treasury.
4. We feel that we could incorporate. Are there any lawyers in our membership who would give us a hand with this? Remember, we do have liability insurance now.
5. We would like to set up a "Tony Toledo Memorial Award", maybe buy a real nice trophy-like memento and add the name of each year's Member-Who-Has-Contributed-the-Most. Or, the Most-Improved-Kiteflier Or, the Member-Who-Has-Hoedged-all-the-

Prizes" that year. Or something. Can we hear your opinions on this?

Classes: the two classes per week are coming along fine. Tuesdays at 7 pm and Saturdays at 10am at the Science Center. Members are welcome -- nay, urged -- to sit in. This week, April 6 and 10 will be on Box Kites and Conynes. April 13 and 17 will be on Reels, Tetras, Fighters and Brazilian Falcons. The last week, April 20 and 24 will include line climbers, orientals and bird kites and airplanes; and anything that has not been covered.

LAST CALL! !! Dues for 1976 are due. We will be making up the new roster starting April 15. \$3.00 means you received our newsletter for another year. If an application blank is enclosed in this newsletter, it means that yours are due. Get with it!

Gig Harbor was a ball! Our kite-making workshop took about an hour or so at Willie Pollock's Toy Cupboard shop. Then Tom Sisson and Van Gilder went up to the meadow at Skandia Gaard to see if anything would fly in that light wisper-of-a-breeze. Two kites stayed up: a Bill Lee special tissue paper delta and of all things - a plain ol' dinkie two-sticker Eddy; tissue. There must have been thirty people or more. Willie wants to make it an annual affair - the third weekend of March.

10th Annual Maryland Kite Festival: Anyone care to grab off their \$300 prize? All you have to do is to make the grand prizewinner and mail it to them. They'll fly it for you! For more info, phone Dusenberry, Whitman or Van Gilder. April 14 deadline.

Editors note: Any members with interesting stories to share or with dates of upcoming events .. please drop them in the mail to AKA c/o Seattle Center

SEE YOU APRIL 27th at the meeting!

Good Flying \*!