

WANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
MAGNIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 300 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

NEWSLETTER OF AUGUST, 1980 - -

Fourth of July Kite Festival at Copalis:

Three cars of WKAers went to the ocean the day after the 4th and had a ball! J. C. Young flew the 120-disc dragon kite belonging to his friend, Mr. Chun, of Taiwan, and it was gorgeous! J.C. said that it was the most he had ever flown. Under the dragon, he hung an American flag to the kiteline. As J.C. explained: "In China, there is a tradition that on national holidays, the national flag is flown under a large dragon kite. This symbolizes that the dragon, being fierce and protective, will bring good luck to the nation for the next year."

Van Gilder found that 8 - 10 mph breeze is perfect for his delta train. All 108 of them hung there in the sky, tied to his Rabbit bumper, all afternoon. He got a special little award for that in addition to "Longest Tail". He cheated, though he used a Stormy Weathers "Winged Victory" kite to haul the 300 ft. of tail aloft. Vi VanGilder, John Dunesberry and Mark Schlogger were the other WKAers.

Virginia City, Montana: wait until the A.K.A. convention! Dave Dubs', of Billings, took his delta train to their kite festival there, created a hit and says that he plans to fly it in Seattle Oct. 4th and 5th on the flying days. Dave sent newspaper pictures of the tissue-paper delta train and the clipping is hanging on the bulletin board at Great Winds if you want to see it. Great!

Annual Port of Seattle Kite Contest, Sept. 20th:

Reports are that the breeze was just a mite stiff, making it perfect for J. C.

Young's own 80-disc dragon kite. It show-up very well in the neighborhood weeklies of West Seattle and Federal Way. Down at Great Winds, Carl has the clipping -- because he made the paper also.

Winners:

Fighter-kite Maneuvering Event: Andy Louey
Long Line: Bill Lee
High Flier: Bill Lee
Long Tail: Yo-Lin Chin
Most Unusual: Carl Brewer's helicopter kite
Novice event: Gaye Sadow (a gift certificate from City Kite Co. was the 1st Prize in each case. How 'bout that, Gaye?!)

Kite Society of Wisconsin: At the same time that WKAers were contesting at the Elliott Bay Park, Jack Van Gilder was attending a company convention in Milwaukee, WI. Valerie Govig gave him the names of four different kitefliers there, he wrote ahead and had a wonderful time with Newt Stansfield, Jim DeYarman and their wives and John Skiera at a gathering hosted by the DeYarmans. The Wisconsinites are about where WKA was when they were two years old also.

Besides the will-to-succeed and a grand bunch of people, which is most important, they also have a wonderful kiteflying site. They call it "The Landfill" -- it's an addition to their lakeside, towntown, park. Thanks again for your hospitality!

Visitors: WKAers had a chance to meet and host the president/organizer of the Norwegian Kite Assn. in mid-July -- Martin Roubik and his wife, Ellen. They were headed from Japan, where Martin had been studying Japanese architecture as it might be applied to Norway, to San Francisco. But they ran into a bunch of wild kilters in Japan, including Hiroi and our friends in Shirone', and they insisted that the Roubiks make a stop in Seattle. Between Ken Conrad and Suzanne Sadow, Dave Checkley and ol' Van Gilder, we showed them around some. Never know where your next friend is going to be introduced from, do you?

Bon Marche Sports Day: We are in on the planning of this big contest at Sand Point Park (Magnuson) on Sept. 14th (Sunday). This time, we hope the parking problem is licked for us ol' guys with lots of kites.

THE BIGGEE - - Third Annual American Kite-fliers Association national convention and kitefly - - October 3 - 4 - 5th in Seattle

Things are getting organized but - - we need HELP! Please phone Joe Voellmeck, Convention Chairman, 283 1882, and let him know how you fit in -- what you can do -- what your special interest is. Don't sit around and wait to be called on the phone -- someone has to take the extra time to make that phone call -- and nobody likes to make begging phone calls. Just ask me -- I've done too much of it.

Here's an outline of the Grand National Convention Kite Contest:

Where: Magnuson (Sand Point) Park.
When: Saturday, October 4th; first event to start at 10:00 am.

EVENT #1: Junior Comprehensive: two age classes: "Under 12" and "12 Through 15". Score sheets to be turned in by noon. Will be judged on "Performance", "Craftsmanship" and "Beauty in the Air".

All kites for above event and for ALL events must be flown by their own makers.

EVENT #2: Two-Line Control: In the interests of time, this event will be run in heats of three kites each. First place winners to go on to finals. Each heat will consist of mandatory and free-choice flying. (This event has gone on ALL DAY at other contests; very hard on the judges)

EVENT #3: Limited Wing Area Event: 1 pm. Kites limited to lifting area of 625 square inches, including tails and fringes. Vertical-rying, non-lifting surfaces less than 10° off vertical are excluded from area calculation. All other areas calculated by actual area, not "shadow" areas. Each heat will be hand-launched simultaneously. Flyer accidentally grounded may petition judges to participate in later heat. Flyers may not move from launching area -- about 15 feet deep.

At 60-second mark, flyers will wrap several turns of line around hand and stop extending or retrieving line. Judges will immediately award points to top five kites in HEIGHT (not angle or distance).

Event will continue another 30 seconds. At 90-second mark, judges will award points to top five kites in ANGLE (not height or distance). Highest point accumulation wins.

Events will follow in order with no fixed time schedule -- when ready -- when announced.

What we're trying to do here, with the standardized-size high-flying event, is imitate the Model Airplane Club of America. This is in the nature of an experiment to see if it won't make engineering-bent flyers experiment to see what WILL fly the "best". "What is best?" This is our attempt to find out if it is measurable.

EVENT #4: Open High-Flyer -- same as above, with no size limit. We are wondering if winner of #3 will take #4 also.

EVENT #5: Most Artistically Beautiful: -- judged while flying at least 2 minutes. Judges will be looking for "Kites As Art" rather than garrishly decorated kites. Purely subjective.

OPEN FLYING: Fliers are urged to show as many kites as possible in flying area. During this time, kites will be selected for "AKA Members' Favorite", "Most Spectacular Display of Multi-Plane Kites", (120-disc centipedes; 2,287-kite trains, etc.) "Worst 4-Person Tangle", etc.

Prize ribbons and certificates will be presented at banquet, Saturday evening. Or at conclusion of "Rain Date" (hopefully unnecessary) on Sunday.

At a convention of this sort, one of the most exciting things I found, on attendance in Maryland, was the meeting with people whose names I knew but faces and kites I didn't -- putting the two together. A real thrill.

Get those registrations in SOON!

Report on Science Center exhibits

Our "bottom line" -- money -- from the Science Center, based on box-office draw, was \$ 75. Three years ago we made \$1,110. Fat City to the Pits, eh? But the SHOW? It was just real nice and comfortable.

"- will be coming out OK, though, thanks Lisa Tranquada, our Community Relations contact at the Science Center. They are paying us \$600 to conduct kite-making projects ("Make Your Own Kite: 25¢") each weekend until August 23rd. And our treasury can sure use it. We are down to the point where (maybe you noticed) we could not afford pictures in our newsletter this time.*"How the mighty have fallen":

Anyone feeling flush is invited to contribute \$5 or \$10 to the cause.

The Gossimer Albatross is finishing its stay at the Science Center, surrounded by kites, this morning. It's moving on to San Diego from here, we understand.

* Also, all we had in the way of pictures was color snapshots and the printers can't use them.

Labor Tours: Mrs. Campbell, owner is putting together another kite-flying ride on one of their tour boats for the children patients of the Childrens' Orthopedic Hospital. WKA members are invited to go along for the ride and help fly the kites. This will be Sept. 1st -- Labor Day --. Anyone wanting to get in on a wonderful, satisfying time, phone Jack at 938 0550. First five people is all we have room for.

Due to Citizens' Complaints, as they call it in the Municipality, we are scheduling kiteflies at different parks again. Look with care at the schedule. If you have any favorites, be sure to phone 938 0550.

Checkley, Voellmeck and Van Gilder have all visited Edmonds Community College recently to check over their huge parafoil they are constructing: about 50 by 75 feet! They are going to try to fly it at our A.K.A. national convention. What a mass of material! Harry Osborne is some kind of a ramrod, I'll tell you.

SCHEDULE of coming events:

August 17th: Regular Sunday afternoon fly -- at DISCOVERY PARK -- fly near South Entrance on W. Emerson St. -- park in the neighborhood and walk to the field in the southwestern corner, above the bluffs. 1:30 pm.

August 24th: Sand Point (Magnuson) Park -- fly off your tailgate in the parking lot

August 31st: Stan Sayers (Genessee) Park -- by the Hydroplane Pits --

Sept. 1st: Labor Day -- Harbor Tours for first five lucky people to phone 938 0550.

Sept. 7th: back to GASWORKS -

Sept. 14th: The Bon Marche kite contest at Sand Point (Magnuson Park) -- first event 11:00 am. How's this grab you?: \$600 in prizes -- distributed around -- not concentrated in Firsts this time. They promise favored parking for WKAers. Phone 938 0550 for passes. Do that, or walk a mile!

-- age 12 and under: craftsmanship, flight performance and creativity point system.

-- novice event -- "Most Interesting Kite"
-- Largest Kite -- shadow measurements -
-- Most Beautiful -- artistic quality --
All kites must fly two minutes.

Sept. 21st: Stan Sayers (Genessee) Park

Sept. 28th: Gasworks Park

Oct. 3rd, 4th and 5th -- American Kitefliers Association national convention and kitefly/contest.

WANT-Ad: FOR SALE: WWII Navy Gibson Girl box kite; folds up umbrella-fashion; original, with case; Price: ? Phone Dick Conover - 784 5209 evenings

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