

February 1985

Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

NEW YEARS DAY kitefly: Golden Gardens Park, Seattle.



Our twelfth annual "Protest The Bowls" fly-in, the weather permitting every year on this most-unlikely of days. The usual crowd of news-media types really liked Doug Hagaman's display, pictured here. Reports are that about 20 kites were in the air at a time, on the cold day, as WKAers came and went all day.

W.K.A. ANNUAL MEETING: Held the next day, elected Tom Sisson to his second term (not in succession) as president. Kathy Goodwind, of "Suspended Elevations" kite shop, was elected secretary/treasurer. Our heartfelt thanks to Doug Hagaman and Carl Brewer for doing fine jobs in the same offices during 1984. Does everyone realize how the WKA is organized? We have only the two elected officers noted. By custom, the sec/treas succeeds the president

the next year. The president, also by custom, advances to the board of directors. David Checkley was our first president and therefore "Chairman of the Board". Congratulations especially to Kathy, our very first lady elected official.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: "Hello again! I hope we can meet together more often in 1985, like every other month. By keeping the business portions of the meetings shorter, we plan to have kite-related programs as part of the meetings: Visiting experts, pictures/slide shows/video shows, show-and-tell sessions, etc. We need your help: telephone committee and, especially, with our annual Science Center "Kite Fair" held the last weekend of March. Come prepared to fill your slot at our next meeting, to be announced."

KITE RETREAT WEEKEND: March 8, 3:pm, to Sunday, March 10th, 3:pm. Two nights and six meals for \$50.00 per person: we're holding the price line. Fort Worden State Park, on the outskirts of Port Townsend, WA, is as near-perfect a spot as we could find. Here's the

view of
parade
ground
with our
rooms in
the building to
the far
right.
Note the
view of
Puget Sound
and the flying
field.
The U.S.
Coast Artillery



thought that they were building a drill field here in 1903 but in actuality it is the best kite-flying imaginable. Our rooms are all single and double-bed and are clustered around day-rooms large enough for workshops and meetings. Our main kite-making, sewing, display, instruction space will be the former chapel. David Checkley said, upon return from the 1984 Weekend, that he has seen many mind-boggling sights in his world kite-travels, but when he walked into that chapel and saw 23 sewing machines operating on about a ton of

multi-colored ripstop nylon, scattered all over the floor, he was properly boggled.

But, actually, PEOPLE are the real reason for attending. Shown here, on the parade ground with the chapel in the back ground, are a handsome couple looking on as Dan Kurihashi displays his kite train to David Checkley, Margaret Greger and Marleen Zilar. All have signed up again this year.

We are planning instructional seminars and hands-on training in beginning kitemaking, intermediate and "expert-level" idea-exchanges. A partial list of instructors includes:

LEE TOY, San Francisco; Diana Aurigemma, Seattle banner maker; Dan Kurihashi, Vancouver, B.C.; Nigel Spaxman, also of B.C., will lead us through the complexities of doing-your-own Flexifoil (expert-level!); Greg/Margaret Greger; Kathy Goodwind will have kits available so that after about four hours with her, we'll have a \$50 "Siminole Patchwork" delta; Doug Hagaman will instruct us in 6 ft. diameter, 40 ft. long spinning windsocks; Gene Smiley, Kevin Sanders, Harold Writer, Grant Raddon (Portland) will all be prepared to lead sessions on various kite subjects. As you can see, your committee has really been doing their homework and has had a very good response.

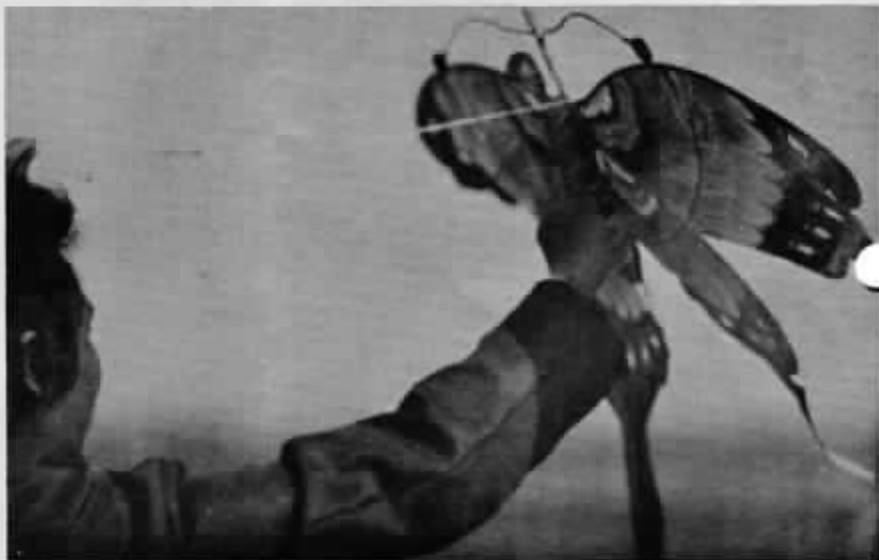
In fact, the response has been so good that we've had to put a lid on attendance. Because of the size of the chapel and other meeting rooms, we've had to limit attendance to sixty (60). We have thirty-two signed up at present. They who get their \$50.00 checks in to Kathy Goodwind first will be guaranteed beds. But -- if you would like more information on location, ferry schedules, diagrams of room layouts, items to bring (VERY necessary) contact her anyway. Note the postcard enclosed herein. Or -- phone Jack at 938 0550.



COME FLY IN CHINA AND JAPAN

-- David Checkley

Three choices are available for this, the twelfth annual Asian Kite tour: March 27th to April 27th (four weeks): A visit to China, including Weifang and area, Shanghai and back; April 15th to May 6th, starting in Shanghai, north with the first group to Weifang area again, then to Tokyo Japan, area and on to Hamamatsu festival - or - if you have six weeks, BOTH OF THEM!



CHINESE BUTTERFLY KITE being tested by Weifang kiter

Close to Weifang, tourers will stay with farm-families, flying in the fields. After the festival, you'll

fly with kites within the city of Beijing and out on the Great Wall, visit a special kite exhibit and kite factory. Then, it's south to Tai-shan to China's holiest mountain, to Qufu, staying in the ancient Kong family mansion.

In Shanghai, you will join the second group, returning to the Weifang area, to meet with the Weifang Kite Assn., visiting factories and, of course, flying kites.

While the second group is seeing the sights the first group had already seen, the first group will break up, some returning home and others touring Guilin in Southern China before joining the second group again April 25th to fly to Tokyo.

In Tokyo, you will participate in the annual Japan Kite Assn. fes-

tival, this year held at Itabashi, a suburb of Tokyo. Next day you visit Tsukuba for EXPO 85, the World's Fair, nearby.

May 1, you take the Bullet train to Hamamatsu, visiting kitemakers of Shinzuoka Prefecture. The big kite festival is May 3rd and 4th. Most WKAers know about the Hamamatsu festival from PBS special, "Kite War at Hamamatsu" and the April, 1977 National Geographic. It's often described as "the world's biggest sporting event", with some 2.75 million visitors yearly.



Hamamatsu, a city of 400,000 midway between Tokyo and Kyoto, off the regular tourist track, has about 60 older neighborhoods, each fields a team of 50-150 kitefliers.

PREPARING TO LAUNCH HAMAMATSU FIGHTING KITE

Using kites up to 12 ft. square, they entangle and cut opposing teams' lines, sawing the lines in cadance to chants, bugles, whistles and drums -- absolute bedlam!

The kites are flown in honor of first-born sons, whose families pay for the kites and host the kitefliers in front of their homes following the evening's festivities -- parades of elaborately decorated floats filled with children and old folks playing cymbals, drums and flutes. Floats are pulled by neighbors in matchin costumes.

This is not your usual tour. Both the Japanese and Chinese kite groups know us and greet us like brothers and sisters with hospitality.

There are a few spots left open on the tours. Phone David Checkley at (206) 284 5350, or write him at 678 West Prospect St., Seattle, WA, 98119.

BABY SHOWER: Jean Sisson and Milly Mullarky hosted a baby shower for Suzanne Sadow/Conrad in early November. One of the activities at the gathering of kitefolks was a guess-the-arrival-date pool. When

NINA CONRAD arrived, Jan. 10th, guess which ol' fox had guessed within ONE day? Harold Writer, outside the Ancient Julian Wolf, the Oldest fox around, that's who. Ken survived. Zuzanne stayed in the hospital for 4-5- days recovering from a C-section. When a kid 8:3 lbs tries ti get out of a girl the small size of Suzanne, you can see why it is three weeks late and with great difficulty.

GREAT WINDS: Ken recovered enough to report that he had received a shipment of kites from China. YaQi Ha, kitemaster, is head of the factory where they were manufactured. Also, you should visit Great Winds to gaze in awe and wonder at the 1984 A.K.A. Convention panorama photo. For \$50.00, you can order one for yourself from: Oscar Bailey, 2004 Clement Rd., Lutz, FL, 33549. 8½" by 5 FEET long!

CITY KITES: Mike Aurigemma reports that Diana's banner factory is turning out a new line of patchwork deltas and bird kites for their shop. His favorite is her flamingo kite. Pink, y'know. He also says to watch for a FATHER'S DAY fly in June.

SUSPENDED ELEVATIONS, Kathy Goodwind and Tom Mallard's shop near Gasworks Park, survived a series of catastrophies that landed Tom on the front-page-above-the-fold of the Fremont neighborhood newspaper: a) Gasworks Park, everybodys' favorite kiteflying spot, was closed for about five months; b) their building was sold and they had to move the shop, and then c) just as they were back into business again, the city dug up the street! If it hadn't been for newspicture and a lot of local kiting friends -- well, times were tough for a while. But do they cry and complain? Not that I've heard. It gave them time to make up a bunch of very unique kites, like triangular box kites, etc.

HARRY OSBORNE phoned to report that he still has hopes of opening a kitemaking-and-selling shop in Long Beach, WA. He says that the Washington State International Kite Festival will be held there again August 19th to 25th, somewhat restructured.

JULIAN WOLF, he of the quaduple heart bypass surgery last fall, is going through rehabilitation. He reports that the other joggers using the local jogging track do double-takes when he chuggs along, Walkman phones in his ears and kite trailing behind and o.verhead!

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE DATA LETTER has ceased publication (sob!)



Guy Aydlett is now into balloons and ultralights. His October, '84 issue detailed plans for a flying anvil. A doubting-type Seattle kiteflier challenged him on it. Above, Guy's answer to said doubter. SPECIAL OFFER: Nicely-bound volumes of PMAFDL, twelve issues per volume, four different volumes; \$12.50 each to AKA or WKA members and former DL subscribers (\$15.00 to strangers and non-fliers). Box 7304, Charlottesville, VA, 22906.

TO CALIFORNIA: Both the Bob McCorts and Carl Brewers have moved to the Sunny South. Our loss is Big-C's gain, darn it.

SPARE BEDROOM: Checkleys plan to stay in a small house while attending the Fort Worden Kite Retreat weekend. Dorothea likes to cook, you see. They would like to hear from anyone, to share cost.

To:
Kathy Goodwind, Sec/Treas
Washington Kitefliers Assn.
1915 No. 34th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

MILLY MULLARKY wasn't fooling, last issue, when she advertised for a new editor. The is a pro in the same work she was a volunteer, before. So, Jack Van Gilder is filling in until someone permanent comes along. Please: save my hide by phoning 938 0550 with items of kiting interest, eh?

From:

Kathy, I would like more information on WKA's Fort Worden Kite Retreat Weekend before I send in my \$50.00. Please send information sheet to:

clip and mail

(enclosed in envelope) Here's my check. Nail down () places for me and the family before it's too late, and you're full-up. Name and address:

I would be interested in a bedroom in a house with Checkleys. I will phone them at (206) 284 5350.

From:

WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association To:

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 981

Michael Carrol
10-15 Hunters Glen Dr.
Plainsboro, N.J. 08532



WAKANA