

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER -
- of -
October, 1985



AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION - San Diego, California October 3rd - 5th - was an unqualified success! This is the scene looking up the beach on Saturday, during the "AKA Nationals" - the AKA members-only kite contest. It probably doesn't show in this shot, but there are THREE kite trains here, two of 250 kites each, off on the left there.

WKANews asked each of our local members who attended, "What one thing sticks in your mind?"

Answers:

- "Convenience of flying field to hotel"
- "Beautiful spot -- free flying -- lots of room."
- "Nice time -- beautiful location"
- "Seeing kids involved in kites - a 12-year-old expertly stunting kites - but mourning the loss of a \$120 kite from trade show".
- A beautiful place - one of the most beautiful on the coast, I think"
- "Looking up the beach and seeing three kite trains that seemed to go clear up to heaven".

- "The ambience - good feelings created by the sights and the weather and the comradeship -- created a magic -- "

And so it went. And so it was. It was an unforgettable festival with kites from Thailand, Japan, England, Canada, Rhode Island, Chicago, to name a few; filling the sky for a beautiful spectacle.

Bottom line: Margo Brown is the new president of AKA. Margo is from McLean, VA, and her husband, Bevan, was the second president of AKA. Paul Thomas, also of Mc-

Lean, VA, is our new administrator of business affairs. Address: 1477 Chainbridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101; phone: (703) 790 8748. Paul seems familiar with the administrating business, seems like a nice guy and is head of the department in a larger business administration organization. He says that the AKAnews will likely be in a new format. An attempt to change the name from "AKAnews" was beaten back at the business meeting of the AKA convention. This seemed to be the item that received the most attention and debate at the business meeting.

AWARDS: WKA won their share, including the Real Biggie: the Steve Ed-eiken Memorial award to the Kiteflier of the Year, our own Chairman of the Board: **DAVID M. CHECKLEY!** Dave and his goodwife, Dorothea, are known internationally as Hosts To The Entire Pacific Rim.



Paul Thomas (L) and Bruce Kennington, Clarksburg, MD, assembling Bruce's train of box kites.

Kathy Goodwind won an important prize: People's Choice, Manufacturers' Kite. (see opposite page) By the way, this is the same kite with which she won "HIGHEST ANGLE" at Long Beach International Kite Festival. We forgot to mention this, last issue of WKAnews.

Tom Sisson walked off with two prizes: he got a 2nd in the "Flat Kite" category in the comprehensive contest. We've all seen him flying that red and blue flex-wing delta, swimming through the air at Gasworks Park. Not only that, but he was awarded a "Fun Prize" entitled: "California Attitude", chiefly because of his feather-decorated straw wide-brimmed cowboy hat.

Doug Hagaman, immediate past-president of W.K.A., was awarded a "Que Bonita" award also in the fun category for his marvelous display. It's unbelievable what all he hangs on the kiteline of his huge parafoil. He has a windsock that must be 500 ft. long, with balloon blisters along the way.



Our own Dave Checkley, holding the largest award in kiting, for "Kiteflier of the Year".



Kathy Goodwind, with her First Place winner, a Star Flake. It took "A.K.A. Member's Choice".

workshop for the Kite Trade Assn., held prior to the A.K.A. convention. Suzanne and li'l Nina accompanied him, naturally.

Larry and Francis Chirn showed up, half-way through a two-month trip by auto.

Jack Van Gilder, with Vi, had two vacations in one: The first four days they stayed in daughter Kris's home. She and family returned the day the convention ended and the VGs spent very important time with grandchildren. Jack had three convention jobs but (sob!) didn't win anything.

Our super-printer, Walt Sharp, mainly helped buddy, Randy Rouse, fly his big birds and bugs, but managed to put up some eye-impressers himself.

Mike and Diana Aurigemma, of City Kites, also joined the Northwest Contingent, along with Tacoman Larry Wiswell and wife.

Jim and Kay Buesing, who headed up the WSIKFestival in Long Beach, WA, were there.

Margaret Greger came home with a second place in the Non-Rigid category of the A.K.A. comprehensive contest. It was a smallish, well-designed, superlatively-sewn soft sled of a new design. Sorry, no picture. Margaret is our very-active WKA member from Richland, WA, remember.

We were glad to see Bob Stansfield, of a region not too active in kiting, Atlanta, GA, come in with the overall winner of the A.K.A. Comprehensive contest.

Randy Rouse was there with his stable of huge kites, including the 30-ft. bug kite featured in pictures, last issue of WKANews.

Tom Mallard, of Suspended Elevations Kite Shop, got there ONE HOUR too late to complete his presentation at the workshops. What do you expect? He RODE HIS BICYCLE 2,200 miles down!

Ken Conrad made a presentation at a



Tom Sisson, WKA president, with his two AKA Nationals kite-flying awards.

Kathy Goodwind's workshop on "Fabric Integrity" was well-received. This was the first time for veteran Nishi (Japan) to present a workshop on the different kite designs possible with the use of new materials. He got a long fine in English. Charlie Sotich of Chicago showed how to make a beam, weighing scale with a yardstick. Fran Gramkowski showed an array of fiberglass spars which his kite supply shop provides. His advice: "Plan ahead", so your joints will match spar sizes.

The San Diego Stunt Kite Team, Don Tabor, peerless leadertype, led a discussion on team flying that was very interesting. The last workshop was a discussion of kite club leaders and editors. It was interesting, tossing ideas round about. Jon Burkhardt, of Maryland's M.K.S., Fred Bell of Ohio C.O.K.A., genial Hugh Harrison of Vancouver's B.C.K.A. and us W.K.A.ers all joined in that one.



Tom Kowalchuk, Victoria, B.C., steps in to help Adrian Conn, Windsor, Ontario, assemble one of his humungous state-of-the-art kites.



Second only to the beauty and handiness of the convention site was this convention noted for its good organization. Rick Bell must have had many computer friends. There must have been some glitches, like Kathy losing a valuable kite, but we didn't notice any others.

Another bottom line: \$15,000 was raised at the kite auction for A.K.A.'s financial well-being.

IN MEMORIUM: We mourn with Tom and Jean Sisson on the sudden, accidental death of their son, Duane, Sept. 12th. Some of us were at the memorial picnic which the family held at Lincoln Park.

Tom came SOG-O close to being chosen Kiteflier of the Year in the Steve Edsiken Memorial Award standings for the second year in a row. He has been an outstanding president. We have not had to raise dues and are financially solvent in great part due to Tom's efforts.

Rick Bell, Chairman of the A.K.A. convention, 1985, standing by his company, Hyperkites, San Diego.

LOST AND FOUND: Margaret Holtzbauer, at 762 3053, has a kite that was left behind at our WKA Science Center Exhibition. It is a good one -- a Professor Waldolf "Magic Box". Owner, phone.

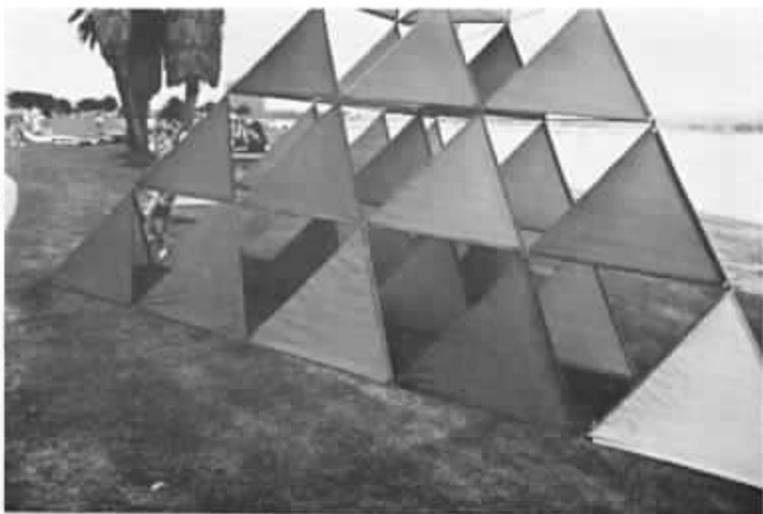
GIFT SUGGESTION: Ken Conrad sez: "Why not gift your friends, relative, whatever, with a membership to W.K.A.? Only \$5 bucks, still.

WKA DIRECTORIES: Just send our effervescent secretary/treasurer, Kathy Goodwind, a stamped (two stamps, please; we're a pretty big club, y'know) envelope, addressed: 1915 No. 34th, Seattle 98103.

THAI KITE TEAM VISITS - On their way to the AKA convention in San Diego, the Thai kite team of Prinya and Pennsiri Sulchid ("Superman") (on their honeymoon) and Charis Wongsuwan were guests of the Checkleys (where else?). Doug Hagaman, ex-president of WKA, motored up from Lincoln City, OR, in his old, beat-up, still-prightly VW van. He took them and their bamboo to the Lincoln City kite festival, sponsored by Steve Lamb's "Catch The Wind" kite shops.

JAPAN KITE ASSOCIATION team visits - on their way to the AKA convention. Masaaki Modegi, Takeshi Nishibayashi ("Nishi"), Satoshi Hashimoto and young Tou Key were in town for the weekend before the convention, Sept. 25th-30th. Again, they were guests of the Checkleys. We had a kitefly together (see photo, over) at Gasworks Park and then a dinner/reception at Checkleys on Saturday evening, Sept. 30th.

Interesting sidelight: The older flyers are veteran America-visitors, having attended kite festivals many times here, including the "Black Ships" festival in Newport, RI, this summer. But Tou Key is different. From a distance, you can tell he's different; He's 6 ft. 1 in. His dad is an old friend of Nishi's and the older ones



Large tetrahedron, little kid, AKA convention. Jack Van Gilder's grandson, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -year-old Ian Keirse, peers through a twenty-four footer.



Thai "chula" kite, at AKA convention, San Diego. You don't see too many of these in the U.S.



W.K.A. entertains Japan Kite Team with a kitemply at Gasworks Park, Sat., Sept. 30th before a dinner/reception at Checkleys', that evening.

the most of it, manipulating the kitemply so that it flapped its wings right OVER the 50-yard line, in the center of the field.

The wind that day was unusual: It was PERFECT! It was blowing about 8 m.p.h. right out of the east, right over the field. So, standing in the practice field to the left of this picture (right-) we could put our kites right down the chute between the stands.

Remember: There is still probably time for you to volunteer to fly kites at the Husky games against U.S.C., Nov. 16th, and Wash. State, Nov. 23rd. Phone Jack, 938 0550.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING: (VanGilder speaking now!) I had a perfect example of drag factor on kitemply this summer at Marrowstone Music Camp. I started to put up this train, with 120 kites on it, over the parade ground. But the breeze just a little bit much, so tied off the train when it reached sixty. I then put up the other sixty. At the top of my train, I use 100-lb. seire twine, in the middle, draw-drape cord and on the bottom, 1/4-inch diameter sisale rope (so I won't cut my fingers).

The top half of the train, flying right alongside the bottom half, had twice as good a flight angle!

are enjoying introducing him to joys of the jet-set international kite festival circuit.

Seen below is the University of Washington football stadium, where the Team Japan flew kites that Saturday morning before the get-together at Gasworks Park. You should have seen Nishi's ten-ft. eagle kite! It is constructed of hi-density poly and many small-diameter fiberglass rods. These made the wings very flexible and he made the



Jack Van Gilder's train of 45-in. deltas flies over Husky Stadium Sept. 28th, with Team Japan. It's old, beat-up but still flies.



-- here's a rough sketch of our patches. They're green on yellow background, like before. And the winner of the design contest - - is -

MONA SMILEY-FAIRBANKS

Her prize: A year's membership in WKA and a completed patch. Runners-up Erte Bourlet, Yelm, WA, and Brad Cooper and Margie and Sari Moore, all of Seattle, are receiving free patches as runners-up. Judges were Margaret Holzbauer, Bob Hanna and Tom Sisson. Walt Sharp picked them up at the manufacturer and flew them to San Diego and Tom Mallard and Kathy Goodwind expedited ordering. (in time for the convention) Patches will sell for \$3.50 and are now available our three Seattle kite shops, Suspended Elevations, City Kites and Great Winds.

Tom asked Mona about herself: "Being an artist who was born and raised in Seattle, I've often marveled at the intricate balance of art and science in nature. My art has always been influenced by our close ties to nature and Seattle's large Asian population. I have spent a lot of my leisure time on or near the water by our home in North Seattle and in the San Juan Islands. It hasn't been until recent years that my husband, David, and I, along with my par-

ents, Gene and Vera Smiley, have taken full advantage of the water's wonderful friend, the wind, and enthusiastically started flying kites. But we had flown kites off the ferry going to Orcas Island since I was a child.

I have made numerous unflyable kites, mainly for their design value but I am now anxious to make a place in the air for myself. I am currently working for Nordstrom as a graphic designer but hope to one be able to devote all my time to fine art.

The science of kite flying has always amazed me and it is true, what Frank Lloyd Wright said, "Form follows function". What beautiful forms kites have taken, on down through time and still been true to science. I am proud that my patch design was chosen to represent W.K.A. and hope that some day I can master the science of kite flying."

Lincoln City, OR, Kite Festival: We can't seem to find anyone who went. Reports anyone? Better yet: Photos, anyone?

Lincoln City News next issue. VOLUNTEER NEEDED: We really NEED someone to take a sample copy of another constitution of another club and make it fit our needs. "Our needs"? We have GOT to gain our non-profit status with the State of Washington. Otherwise the president of W.K.A. has to pay income tax on the interest on our club checking account. Call Tom Sisson, 725 3615.

WKA MEETING: -- general membership. Some months ago, in an effort to get people out to meet other kitefliers from the area, we tried the idea of holding WKA club meetings in homes. Well-1-1-1, about three people showed up. So we're going to try a different tack: Teaching meetings.

After about three items of business, (OK of a Ft. Worden Kite Retreat Weekend again, a financial report and a nudge to get us thinking about new officers in January) the fun starts:

Tom and Jack will have material and plans available (50¢ and 10¢ respectively) and will lead those who would like to participate through the mak-

