

Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 203 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

NEWSLETTER --
-- of --
-- December 1986

REPORT ON NEWPORT -- American Kitefliers Association Convention, Oct. 1986:



Kites, koi nobori, flags, windsocks, and spinsocks at the Newport Grand National Kite Festival.

The town of Newport was great: fine hospitality, lots of old friends and lots of new faces from the Northeast; good for kiting. Weather was fair. Friday had a light breeze early, then a gentle good wind, then a torrent of rain; Saturday, good all day.

We missed the Kite Trade Assn. meetings, including the trade show, because the airline lost our baggage. They found it in Boston, put it on a van to Newport -- and someone stole the van on the way!

That was just the start of our troubles. We also lost the delegation of kitefliers from the Peoples Republic of China and the two huge crates containing their kites!

We spent the whole day on the phone trying to find the missing luggage, one evening on the phone finding the missing delegation (in the New York P.R.C. Consulate) and one whole day finding their kite crates (in a PanAm warehouse at JFK

in New York). It took another whole day getting the delegation to Newport and another whole day getting the kite crates through customs and to Newport. The police are still looking for our luggage.

As you can see, there wasn't much time left for conventioning. But the schedule called for a Saturday noon flight of "the World's Longest Centipede" -- and we did make that schedule.

The centipede kite occupied most of two 4x4x4-ft crates, one for the head alone. This head was made of silk and papier-mache of traditional dragon design. It and the 320 panels (200 meters long: 218.7 ft.) were made by the Weifang Tractor Factory. Factory manager Li Ging-Xin was there in Newport to fly it, along with two of his key men, Sun You-Dai and Yu Cheng-Ji. These men had built the kite and flown it for the first time at the 3rd Annual Weifang International Kite Festival in April

of 1985. Liu Yu-Kui, of the Foreign Affairs Office of Weifang was the leader and interpreter for the group.

Shortly after noon Saturday, as scheduled, the wind seemed right. The audience was cleared from one side of the smallish flying field. Tom Casselman drove his van to the far corner and tied a half-inch line to the rear axle.

Then we cleared the flying field so we could lay the centipede out, much to the loud consternation of the stunt kites who were just finishing up with their trials. The field wasn't quite large enough, so the far end of the centipede had to be threaded between the trees, dangerously close. There is nothing worse than a centipede in a tree.

About 50 kitefliers and spectators held the kite up at shoulder height for launching, the wind speed having dropped below minimum. After a couple of false starts, the wind caught the kite and it went almost straight up -- accompanied by a tremendous roar from the crowd. This made it all worthwhile -- the twice-lost baggage, the lost delegation, the lost Chinese kites -- and the considerable cost of time and telephone toll charges.

Our East Coast colleagues will be pleased to know that "the World's Largest Centipede" now has an American home. Former Seattleite Brooks Laffler, of Kites Aweigh in Annapolis MD, bought it. It will probably fly again at the 1987 A.K.A. convention, being hosted by the Maryland Kite Society near Baltimore. --reporter Dave Checkley



LiuYu-Kui, leader and interpreter of the Chinese delegation, with the head of the huge 200-meter centipede kite

W.K.A.'s other representatives to the A.K.A. convention this year were Ken Conrad and goodwife Suzanne. Between them and Dave Checkley we know that:

-- Bob Price, 3839 Dustin Rd., Burtonsville, MD 20866, (301) 421-9620, is our new president --

-- Olan Turner, of Yardley, PA, is the winner of the Steve Edeiken "Kiteflier of the Year" award --

-- over \$17,000 was raised at the A.K.A. auction. We really needed this, with the fiasco which occurred with the former professional management company --

-- attendance was about the same: more than 300

-- A.K.A. will be run basically by volunteers in the new regime, with a paid newsletter writer --

-- another hit of the show was a spinsox 13x60-ft without a stiff leading edge; sold at auction --



Weifang P.R.C., "the World's Longest Centipede" kite, 218-ft -- too long for the flying field

Our W.K.A. observers testify that Tom Casselman did a terrific job as convention chairman. Thanks Tom.

The A.K.A. convention will be held in the Baltimore, MD vicinity. The work of putting it on will be done by the Maryland Kite Society, with the main burden borne by John Burkhardt, chairman.

The kite classes taught by Charlie Sotich (from Chicago) Elmer Wharton (also Chicago) and Nishi (from Japan) were overcrowded, partly because of inclement weather.

Following kiteflying awards at Saturday's banquet, gifts were exchanged with the delegation from Weifang, China.

Olympic style medals were given to them and to Mauritzio Angeletti (Italy), Peter Waldron (England), Skye Morrison (Canada), and Takeshi Nishibayashi (Japan).



Takeshi Nishibayashi ("Nishi") rigging giant Shirone (Japan) "O-Dako", 16x24-ft, assisted by local Newport kitefliers. They had learned to fly it the year before at the Newport Black Ships Festival. David Checkley, Seattle, has the skin of one also.

KITE TOURS

Our Weifang kiteflier friends have invited us back for their 4th Annual Weifang International Kite Festival. With All-China competition this year, it promises to be bigger and better than ever. David Checkley is now working on the itinerary to leave Seattle on March 28, 1987 for Shanghai thru Tokyo. There will be 12 days in China, including Weifang and Beijing.

It's on to Bangkok then, to take in the big kite festival at Pattaya on April 11-13th. Our old friend Prinya Sulchid ("Superman"), who many of you met at Lincoln City, OR or at the San Diego A.K.A. convention, will be in charge. He has also invited Peter Lynn (New Zealand), Shakib Gunn (Singapore), -- they were with us at Long Beach, WA in 1985 -- and many others.

Pattaya is a beach resort on the Sea of Siam, about 150 km (90 miles) south of Bangkok. After Thailand the group will return through Hong Kong, with a few days to fly kites with another old friend, James Au, President of the Hong Kong Kite Association.

Those with less time and more desire for Japanese kite festivals are in luck this year. The 1987 Japan Kite Association festival will be held at Niho beach resort near Shimizu, less than an hour's drive from Namamatsu, on May 2-3rd.

Hamamatsu, the world-famous kite war, will be held May 3-5; back-to-back -- who could ask for more?

Early reservations are very necessary to get hotel space in Hamamatsu.

For reservations or additional information contact:

David Checkley
P.O. Box 9081
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 284-5350

TESTIMONIAL (not a commercial)

"I have always wanted a Doug Hagaman parafoil. But I took it as a matter of pride to make one myself. I was delighted when Lee Toy published plans and directions. I bought \$40 worth of ripstop for a 5x7-ft model, more than I had ever paid for a kite in my life. I applied an Alaskan Indian design onto the bottom panel surface.

"That was two years ago. I recently gave up and had Doug finish it for me. When I tested it in a gusty wind of 10-20 mph I found that the construction price was well worth it. It rose with almost frightening power and flew at about 80 degrees. Doug is probably the world's best parafoil rigger."

-- Jack Van Gilde



"PAINT THE SKY"

-- handmade Hagaman Parafoils

**FORT WARDEN KITE
RETREAT WEEKEND**

— Friday afternoon March 6 to Sunday afternoon March 8, 1987 —

— cost: \$65.00 (includes rooms, meals, and banquet)

— workshops and classes: small charge for materials and some kite building projects —

— SurPrize for each attendee —

— a great late winter break!

This will be our 4th annual retreat weekend. We used Ft. Worden chapel for workshops the first year with 44 people in attendance -- a roaring success. 1985 saw attendance grow to 58 and people were crowded out of the chapel. 68 people enjoyed the fellowship of being in one room (the U.S.O. Building) last year, March 1986.

It has been a problem in the past that people have waited until the last minute to send their fees. Poor Larry and Marleen Zilar had to handle money during registration and this was a bad situation. So this year the committee has been forced to make the rule that the above advertised fee is only good until Feb. 15, 1987. After that, all registrations will be \$75.00.

This year there will be two packages:

- (1) The whole schmeer: \$65.00
- (2) Workshops only: \$20.00

One workshop: \$20. Ten workshops: \$20. (Those who want to only take certain meals with the group - fine - just pay at the dining hall door: Breakfast \$2.75, Lunch \$3.25, Dinner \$5.25, Banquet \$10.50)

There is one other fee involved with the weekend: a handmade item for the "SurPrize Exchange". Last year we asked you to bring a



Fort Worden Kite Flying Field (formerly U.S. Army Coast Artillery parade ground); view from dormitory porch of Kite Retreat Weekend participants.

SurPrize Exchange to cost less than \$10. This year we are stipulating that the SurPrize be HANDMADE (at least in part). And please hand-autograph each item.

Remember that it's B.Y.O.B. & S. (Bring Your Own Bedding & Snacks) again this year. Our friends from A.O.K. and B.F.K.A. will again be handling the on-site work.

WINTER RETREAT -- Maryland Kite Society, Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, 1987

A letter/notice came in the mail just today announcing the event. \$176.00 single, \$270 double, at Great Oak Landing resort on the East Shore of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay -- a beautiful spot in the beautiful countryside.

Reservations are to be made directly with the Great Oak Landing, P.O. Box 527, Chestertown, MD 21620, or phone (301) 778-2100 by Jan. 16.

Contact: Timothy L. Thompson, Retreat Shepherd, 239 N. Lakewood Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224, (301) 276-4509.

The "L-DELTA" Kite

--by Keith Leasure

As has been mentioned in the W.K.A. newsletter in the past, there IS something important about the treatment of wing tips on deltas. I'm sure that Tom Mallard and Jack Van Gilder have hit on something.

Here is the diagram of the type of delta that I have been making for some years. I have made this kite with a three-inch (3") wingspan and have just finished one that is twenty feet (20').

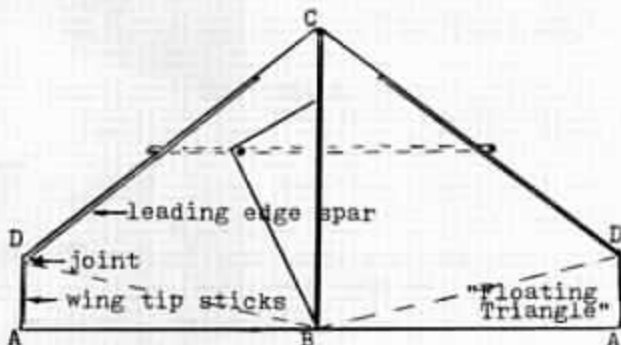
The 3-incher was made of whiskbroom straws and saran wrap. The 20-footer was made of 1/2-inch outside diameter hollow fiberglass rods and 3-mil polyethylene tarpaulin.

I joined the 1/2-inch hollow fiberglass tubes with 12-inch-long dowels inside, gluing the dowel to one tube, allowing it to be disassembled. I also slipped a 1/2-inch inside diameter aluminum tube about four inches long over the joint.

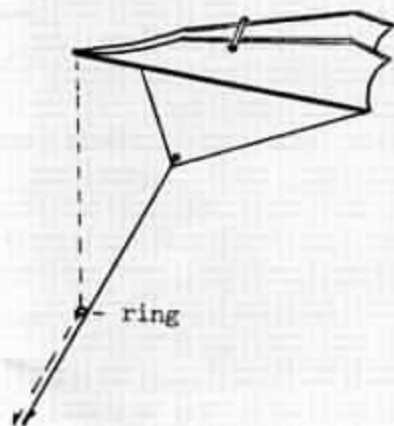
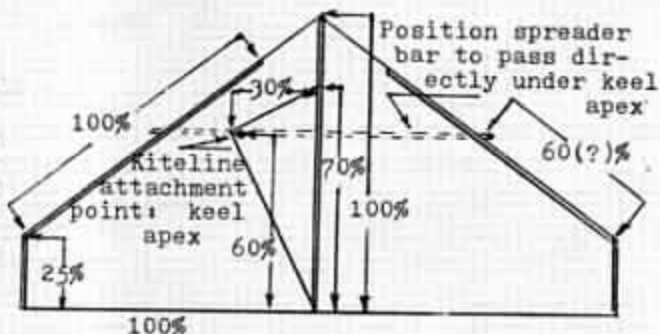
SAFETY!

I have been flying the big kite on 240-lb. test nylon line -- with gloves. A couple of kids who happened along to sample the pull have been tugged over the turf. So I rigged a safety line which I can also use to trim the flying attitude of the kite. (shown at right)

The trim line is about 60-lb strength. The ring on the main kite line is far enough down the line that the trim line goes more or less straight up from the ring to the nose of the kite.



There's no direct connection between the wing-tip sticks and leading edge spars. This forms a floating triangle (A-B-D) which moves with wind forces. It seems to fly better with the wing-tip sticks than without them. It also flies better than the same kite with floating triangle cut off.



EXPERIMENT - Keith Leasure - cont'd

I cut out identical 5-foot wing span deltas of 1-mil trash bags. One was built with the standard keel (proportional plans on page 6) and the other was bridled with 7 strings attached to the keel stick over the same length as the keel in the other kite -----> These bridle strings were fastened to a small ring located at the same spot as the bridle attachment point on the keeled delta.

The two kites were flown in Edmonds, WA, by two people, side by side, each person alternately flying both kites. The results were the same for both fliers.

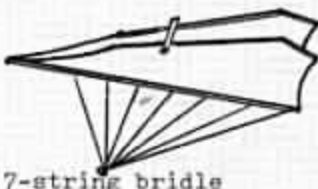
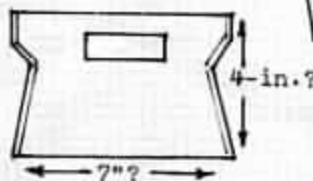
The breeze was light to moderate. The keeled delta flew easily, holding steady at about 200-ft. The string-bridled delta launched nicely but soon started slowly to swing from side to side in increasingly wide arcs until it grounded on one side or the other, on several tries. Adding 30 feet of vinyl flagging for tail stabilized it considerably but the kite inevitably crashed.

Meanwhile, the keeled delta just floated along at 70-80 degrees.

KITELINE WINDER -- quick, compact and cheap: Corrugated cardboard plus 1/8th-inch dowels

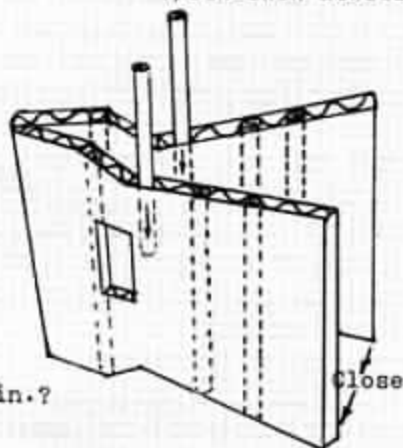
We all know that there is no perfect kite-line reel. But this general idea meets the above criteria, plus a few more, including flexibility of size and shape.

We all have sticks lying around: 1/8th-inch dowels window shade bamboo, shish-kebab skewers, etc. Same with corrugated cardboard. Just cut string winder to desired shape with corrugations aimed in the same direction as the string will be wound. Insert a few strategically placed sticks and close the ends with good, tough tape. The idea here is to stiffen the winder so that it won't collapse under the pressure of many winds of string.



I then took the second keel, which had not been used, and wove it back and forth through the seven strings of the bridle and taped it in place. It was not as securely fastened as the heat-sealing of the the other kite, but this kite now joined the other, up there at 70-80 degrees, flying steadily.

My next experiment will be with ruddering the keel.



-- Jack Van Gilder

SCHEDULE

January 1: "Protest the Bowls" fly;
Golden Gardens Park, New Year's
Day, 10:30 a.m. to freeze out.

January 15: W.K.A. Election and
Business Meeting, Pacific Science
Center, 7:00 p.m.; show and tell
until lockup at 9:00 p.m.

Nominations

President: Jim Nettles and
Duane Davis

Vice President: Tom Sisson

Secretary: Margaret Holzbauer and
Lynn Nettles

Treasurer: Bob Hanna

Nominations are also welcome
from the floor of the meeting.

March 6, 7 & 8: Fort Worden Retreat
Weekend (see page 5).

March 28: Smithsonian Kite
Festival, Washington, D.C.

STILL IN THE WORKS:

April (whole month): Mercer Island
Arts Council Exhibit "Kites as
Art"; entries will be juried. If
you have something really arty,
phone Jack Van Gilder, 938-0550;
to help with workshop, phone Tom
Sisson, 725-3615.

April: Science Center Exhibit; get
to work and make kites to show.

May 25: Memorial Day Kite Festival
during Bellingham's Blossom Time
Festival (still tentative).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Loren Braun -- Lacey, WA
Steven Gray -- Bellingham, WA
Marilyn Greve -- Redmond, WA
Ruth Stephens -- Seattle, WA

NEW ROSTER: thanks to David Julian
and his IBM-PC. Send SASE to the
official W.K.A. address for the
roster including the above new
additions.

CURRENT W.K.A. OFFICERS:

President:	Kevin Sanders	243-2264
V.P.:	Kathy Goodwind	633-4780
Sec:	Margaret Holzbauer	762-3053
Treas:	Virginia Knowles	523-5878
Editor:	Jack Van Gilder	938-0550
Past Pres:	Tom Sisson	725-3615

FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

-- send name, address, and phone
number to our address below with
your check for \$8.50. This will get
you six newsletters during the next
year, letting you in on the fun of
kiteflying with other enthusiasts.



Michael Carroll
P.O. Box 215
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

WAWAWA
Washington Kitefliers Association

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

TO: