

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER --

-- of

-- October, 1986

WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL -- Long Beach, Washington



Photo by Doug Hagaman

Thousands of spectators were greeted by the good weather traditional of the "WSIKF", held annually the 3rd week in August. It's five years old now. The festival committee estimated that about 10,000 people daily thronged the beach during the seven day affair. As far as is known, this is the only week-long kite festival in the world. Fliers came from around the country to fly or to watch as amateur and professional kite fliers competed for prizes and attempted to break flying records.

As in past years, records were broken. California kiter Ken Fredericks established a new world record when he raised a string of 179 modified Hyperkites into the sky above the dunes, besting the old record of 155. The last day, Sunday, saw a mass kite fly-in. An apparent North American record number of kites, 1,031, were in the air at one time. The unofficial count will be veri-

fied later by use of photographs, said Kay Buesing, coordinator for the festival.

Launching Sunday's "Celebrate America" theme was a 150-foot long Statue of Liberty dragon kite loaned to the event organizers by White Bird Kites, of Hawaii.

Katsutaka Murooka demonstrated his kite-borne still and video cameras, which dangle about 200 feet from the ground and are triggered by remote control shutter releases he developed.

Murooka, who lives in Tokyo, devised his system of kite photography six years ago while doing aerial surveys of building sites. His work sponsored in part by the Konica Camera Co., has taken him around the world.

Martin Lester, of Bristol, England, another special guest at the

festival, demonstrated 3-dimensional dities in the shapes of the space shuttle, bald eagles, geese, flamingoes and sharks during the week. Lester was generous with his special handmade kites, lending the strings to onlookers curious to know what it feels like to fly a shark or space shuttle. (adapted from the "Chinook Observer", Long Beach, WA)

It's always interesting to hear what others have to say about us. Here's some excerpts from the Associated Oregon Kites newsletter

Monday: -- proceeded to the beach. We were surprised to see how many people were already there - the sky was full of kites and the festival wasn't even begun!

Tuesday: -- Handmade Kite day -- 37 participants competed in 6 different categories for very impressive ribbons. New this year was the Garbage Kite Competition. Entrants were given 30 minutes to collect debris from the beach and fashion it into a flyable kite. The results were creative and in some cases hilarious. -- notables of kiting world began to arrive -- Doug Hagaman -- giant parafoils and windspinners and giant everything hanging from his lines -- Hyper Stunt Kite Team arrived -- synchronized flying -- Zilar's flew their display of flags --

Wednesday: Kids Day -- 69 kids participated and helped make the day's events a lot more fun -- Martin Lester, Engkard, -- beautiful works of art. (We also checked out his earring each day -- my favorite was the miniature kite reel!) -- Murooka -- attached camera to the line of his beautiful rokkakus or parafoils -- -- evening AOK hosted potluck barbecue for Lester and Murooka -- presented us with autographed copy of book.

Thursday: -- wind nasty in morning -- AOK kite hospital saw lots of patients -- Individual Competition -- 42 contestants registered. AKA pre-



Katsutaka Murooka and Martin Lester

sident Margo Brown and daughter, Stephanie, came -- Corry Jensen was spotted here and there - easily recognizable sporting his black tie & tux

Friday: Stunt Kite Day: No wind -- but Zilar's giant bubble machine provided entertainment -- until wind came up. -- dusk -- the mayor's annual fireworks display and night fly. Doug Hagaman impressed all with his laser light show on kites.

Saturday: Team Competition! Genny Forsberg again served as team captain and assigned each of us to various events. (She even loaned some of us to another club so that they would get a chance to win.) But hard as they tried, they could not keep up with us. We smeared them. A.O.K. WON THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP!!! (Good work, Team!) -- banquet -- attended by over 160 kite enthusiasts and dignitaries from all over the U.S. and the world.

Sunday: -- another beautiful day -- At 1:00 the Big Count started with kites of every size, color and shape filling the sky. Did you ever try to count how many kites are in a given section of sky? It's hard! But it was absolutely beautiful.



Martin Lester's "Bird Man" kite.

From "Skylines", newsletter of the Chicagoland Sky Liners Kite Club, as reported by Mike Steele: " -- packed the van -- Friday -- reaching Pacific Coast -- Monday a.m. -- anticipating my first view of the ocean but all I could see was mud. -- I had traveled 2,200 miles in 2½ days and the lousy thing dries up! -- Then I remembered the tide; it must be out. Wednesday; -- Kids Day -- biggest hit of the day was a visit, kite in hand, by Ben Franklin (Larry Zilar). Thursday; Touch Me event required your kite to hit a small target hung between two kite lines without tangling your kite. Albany, NY, Anchorage, AK, and San Diego, CA, won the Farthest-Away event (rumored to be judged without aid of atlas). Friday; -- Robert Loera, Hawaii, the National Stunt Kite Champion, put on a stunt kite show and the next day a great India fighter kite demonstration. Saturday; Team Events. Next year we'll need a team representing the Chicagoland Sky Liners.

(Notice the thing that looks like a used coffee cup on the kiteline? It's really an amplifier!)

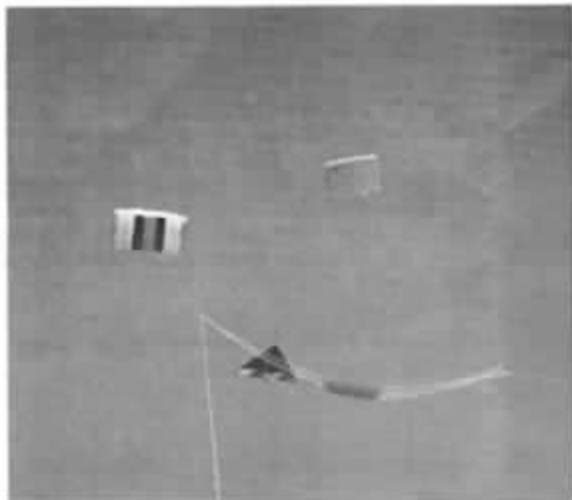
- 3 -

The festival definitely lived up to it's billing. In the sky at any time, you could see numerous parafoils, wind-sox, spin sox and tubes. One tube was 380 feet long. Art Ross, Canada, flew his 1,000 square-foot parafoil, the Red Baron. Kay Buesing, the festival coordinator is to be highly commended for such a great kite festival.

Next year, the Sky Liners should plan to party-on-out to Long Beach en masse."



Bill and Connie Lester, Spokane, WA, had two beautiful ripstop deltas straight up, shown here flying with WKA high-performance Eddy, by Louise Crowley.



Missing the target -- a chilling sight to participants in the "Touch Me" event. Two of Doug Hagaman's giant parafoils hoist a volleyball net between them, emblazoned with ripstop target. A real challenge but real fun!

Among WKA winners were Molly McConnell (dad Ray complains that he's known as "Molly's Dad" rather than vice versa!), age 15, who garnered three 3rd-places in adult and youth categories. Molly was the only winner from the Seattle area. WKA could claim "Best All-Around" winners, but most belong to other clutes and flew for them: Larry Zilar, Kennewick, WA, Bill Lester, Spokane, WA, Mike Button, Bellingham, WA, and Lynn Lary, Portland, OR, in that order. Naturally, WKA won "Oldest Kiter", with Bob Hannah and Julian Wolf both age 78.

WKA won the "Team Surprise" event. Each team was handed a kit by Tom Sisson, Team Event Chairman. It had kitemaking materials MINUS PLANS. WKA put together a flying thingamajig vaguely resembling a Greger/Nishi "One-Piece Delta". It flew lop-sided but it flew. Much credit goes to Doug Hagaman, Chief Tape Dispenser, whose steady, gentle hands separated tape strips from was paper sheet.

FOR WKA EYES ONLY: How does that braggadocio cockiness on Page 2 grab you? By AOK. Next year, the WKA has GOT to get organized. We can't go on leaving it up to the bunch of tired old men like Mick Dahms, Mike Button, Ray McConnell, Jack Van Gilder and Ira Hodges. You should have heard the wheezing and moaning as they neared the finish line! We need some strong young legs, eagle-eyed targeting and deft precision next year. Our weakness is in stunt flying, drawing a blank with a forfeit. We did win the "Reel Out and Retrieval" event, however, as well as the "Surprise" construction event. If Chicagoland comes next year, are in BIG trouble. Clip page 2 out and nail it to your locker room door!



WKA Treasurer, Virginia Knowles, puts one out of sight. Note train stunters and dragons behind her on the beach.

Honored at the banquet Saturday night were three special guests of the festival: Katsutaka Murooka, Tokyo; Martin Lester, Bristol, GB, and Robert Leora, Honolulu. The three, well-known among kite enthusiasts world-wide, were presented keys to the city of Long Beach by festival organizers and Long Beach Mayor Fred Rutherford.



Another nice thing about the Long Beach Festival in the opinion of many is the number of commercial booths lining the approach to the beach from town. Food booths were especially appreciated.

Rutherford, who is gaining quite a following of friends in the kiting world, was presented with a headband by Margo Brown, then-president of the American Kitefliers Assn. It symbolized membership in the rokkaku kite fighting team of "Mama-sans". This group of gals, putting on a pre-etty good imitation of the fighting kites of Hamamatsu, have flown their designer-kite at three AKA conventions and in Europe.

Kay Buesing, festival coordinator, said that the number of entries this year was slightly larger than last year, except for the stunt kite category. It leaped from 25 to 35 contestants.

There are just a couple of little suggestions WKA would make: 1) Kay Buesing is going to suffer a bad case of burnout if she doesn't get more help; 2) Many were less than satisfied again with the restaurant facilities for the banquet; 3) It would profit Long Beach merchants to stay open during the evenings. Again these are but details.

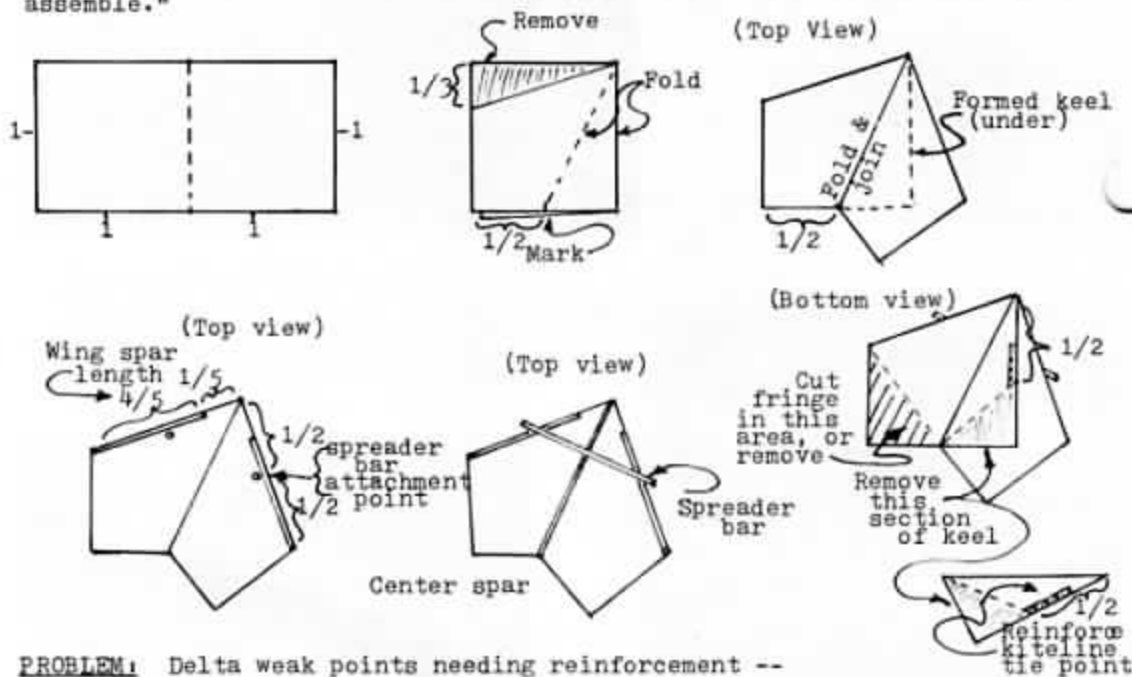
Recognition should be given to our Tom Sisson, Kathy Goodwind and Doug Hagaman for their work. Commuting 169 miles to committee meetings takes Dedication. The Long Beach civic committee are thanked with deep appreciation. They had money as well as time involved in it.



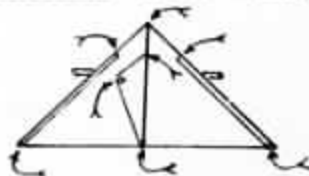
Margo Brown, then-president of the American Kitefliers Assn., is shown here in serious discussion with WKA members. Gene Smiley (in mirror), Margaret Holzbauer, WKA Secretary, and Bob Hanna gather around Van Gilder's table for potluck. Margo stopped off in Seattle on her way to Long Beach, dispensing information and gathering opinions.

USEFUL INFORMATION: Here's a Heavy-Breeze Delta, a variation on the "Poly-kite", designed by Mike Ware, Northern Kite Group, England. This variation was developed by Ed Myers, San Diego, CA, and tested by Jack Van Gilder in a heavy breeze. It worked like a charm.

"I made mine of heat-sealed ("heat-bonded") hi-density polyethylene", quoth Van Gilder. "The trashbag was 20 by 23 inches, so the "1" on the plan was 20 inches. For this small of a kite, 1/8th inch dowels were heavy enough. If you don't know how to heat-bond poly, send me an SSAE for instructions. This kite can be made most any size, of most any material: paper, plastic or fabric. Use glue, soldering iron or sewing machine to assemble."



PROBLEM: Delta weak points needing reinforcement --



In other words, each end of every spar and all three corners of the keel (to a lesser extent) need some form of reinforcement. Using ripstop nylon material, only the ends of spar pockets are vulnerable.

SOLUTION: "Tyvek"! Tyvek is a tough, light, stiff, material which works admirably, inserted into spar pockets on either plastic or ripstop. It can also be HEAT BONDED WITH PLASTIC, it has just been discovered. It's available from a huge roll at Ken Conrad's Great Winds Kite Shop, 402 Occidental Ave. So., Seattle 98104 (206) 624 6886. There are two types, a stiff, paper-type form or limp, like fabric. The stiff is best for this

In kite construction, tape should be avoided, especially if you plan to keep the kite for some time, like in a train. The ultra-violet rays of sunlight will inevitably dry up tape. If there is no way to get around the use of tape, at least cover it over with heat-bonded plastic, sewed fabric or glued paper.

WKA CLUB MEETING - Sept. 24, 1986:

Kathy Goodwind, Veep, called meeting to order at about 7:00 pm.

Sect. Margaret Holzbauer reported 233 names on roster, many new, 19 of which are "trades & freebies". Our usually-serene secretary became almost livid when asked of her further adventures seeking tax-exempt status from the I.R.S.

(Hot news! It came! Today! Now Tom Sisson won't have to pay income tax on WKA checking account interest. We have our number if anyone wants to make a ~~small~~ contribution)

Virginia Knowles, Treasurer, reported yearly income at \$5,275, with outgo of \$4,005, leaving \$1,778 on account. Of this, \$3,530 was Fort Worden Retreat income, \$3,320 outgo, after repaying expenses of our sister clubs. \$190 remains in that account for 1987 seed money.

Tom Sisson, Chairman of Long Beach Team Events, asked all kilters to get their ideas for activities in to him soon. It was suggested that WKA members be informed of an assembly point, so we can get organized next year.

Jim Koski and Keith Leasure volunteered to go with Tom next time he does a kids' kite workshop at a school -- a learning process.

Jack Van Gilder volunteered to get started on the Fort Worden Retreat Weekend by sounding out the other clubs about a good date.

Chicagoland Sky Liner Kite Club sent us a dozen "Magic Wind Bags" as a fund-raiser for AKA. Contained in these neat little bags were: 1) Sacrificial virgin crane ("bridle it, burn it as an offering to the volcano"), b) Sea shell (for listening for the wind"), c) Wind-wheel, -wave or -screw and d) a wind "spell" from the Windy City Wizard.

Five members sprang for \$2 bucks apiece. The AKA is now \$10 richer because of these Good Guys.

The business meeting was mercifully short, so we spent the rest

of our time until 9 pm closing, "Showing 'n Telling". Everyone came equipped. But Keith Leasure came equipped with handout plans (you'll get yours next issue of WKA Newsletter)

Speaking of which, if you'd like to receive a great 16-page newsletter, join Chicagoland Kilters, 6707 No. California Ave., Chicago 60645; \$8.00 Great as it is, their crummy photos can't match Walt Sharp's printing!

NEW CLUB: Through no effort of their own, the SQUALICUM KITE CLUB has come to our attention. Don't send money for a newsletter: They have no dues nor newsletter. Don't waste a stamp on them either: They have no address.

Kathy Goodwind couldn't help but notice the T-shirts (they DO have T-shirts) on a nice couple who entered her shop, Suspended Elevations. Bob and Connie Jones were wearing theirs, practically walking billboards. One side said, "RIGHT TO FLIGHT ORGANIZATION". The other had a sorta-poem:

"FLYING: I don't try to explain why
I love to fly;
For those who understand --
-- no explanation is needed.
For those who don't understand --
-- no explanation is possible".

Ye Editor was sent a newspaper clipping (Clipping, nothing! It was half a page from the Bellingham Harold) telling about this s'ra-a-a-nge group of devotees who meet every summer Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm on Squalicum Spit, out of Bellingham. They fly stunt kites, mostly. The article went on to mention Bob Geist, the Joneses, and Shirley and Don Allen, who also belong to WKA. But when queried by mail by Ye Editor, he found that they don't answer their mail, either.

Could it be that they don't believe "Bigger Is Better" and "Let's Get Organized"? Yea, verily: this smacks of heresy.

But -- they have great fun -- .

NOTE FROM CHECKLEY: IMAX film "On the Wing" at Science Center has 1 1/2 minute segment on Chinese kites.

SCHEDULE: - upcoming events -

Nov. 20th - Thursday - WKA Club Meeting - Pacific Science Center - 7 to 9 PM - bring "Show 'n Tell"

Nov. 23rd - Sunday - 8 pm - WTBS-TV; (Ted Turner Network) - Shirone Kite Festival (12 min.) - Dave Checkley & Dan Kurahashi, consultants

Jan. 1st - 14th Annual "Protest the Bowls" Kitefly, New Years day - Golden Gardens Park - 10:30 am

March 6, 7 & 8th, '87: Fort Worden Retreat Weekend - (tentative date)

Every Sunday afternoon: Gasworks Park; noon-on; Fly on WKA Shoulder of Kite Hill.

NEW MEMBERS: It's a pleasure to greet

Michael Boyce	Joe Richey
Donna Brooks & Ira Hodges	David Senzig
Fred Christian	Mike Thomas
Greg & Sue Clark	Margaret Tougher
Mary Ann Davis	Bob Visscher, Jr.
Margaret Dolan	Chuck Webb
Merle Gordon	David Weigand
Gayle Graves	Joan and Garth Westhoff
Masato Horikiri	Frank Weyland
James & Charlotte Koski	Garth E. Williams
Donald Lundahl	Bob Windom,
Vera McDaniel	NW Photostock
James & Lynn Nettles	Gary E. Wolkamp
Dan Nordgaard	Milton Won
Thomas D. Phelps	Rodney L. Yarger
	George Yurisch

NEW ROSTER: For addresses and phone numbers of all members, new and old, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to our Madam Secretary, Margaret Holzbauer, 703 So. Cloverdale, Seattle, WN, 98108. (206) 762 3053

Our roster is up-dated every time we publish a newsletter, thanks to member David Julian, who operates his own personal Personal Computer. Wonderful!

WKA OFFICIALDOM:

President: Kevin Sanders - 243 2264
Vice Pres: Kathy Goodwind- 633 4780
Secretary: Margaret (above)
Treasurer: Virginia Knowles-523 5878
Editor: Jack Van Gilder - 938 0550
Past-Pres: Tom Sisson - 725 3615

FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
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 kite-flying with other enthusiasts.



TO: -
01-01-87
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

WAWAWA