

Washington Kitefliers Association

August/September 1984

Editor: Milly Mullarky

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Doug Hagaman

Hello, it's been a busy two months since the last newsletter. I was very happy to see many of you fellow members out on the flying fields at the numerous festivals around the Northwest. I feel the WKA was well represented at most of these kite flys.

I've done a lot of travelling the past few months, flying with many friends around the country, and I was even invited by Tal Streeter to Salina, Kansas to fly kites for a music and arts fair that the city puts on. The wind was not ideal but I think Tal and I inspired a few people from Kansas.

The WKA was treated to an unforgettable experience when six kitefliers from Weifang China came to Seattle on an invitation from Dave Checkley and the WKA from July 15 to August 2. What a busy three weeks! Almost as busy as when we were in China. Way to go, Dave, for getting the score even!

A special thanks goes to Dave and Dorothea Checkley for housing and entertaining our friends from Weifang. Also, I would like to thank Duane Davis, Susan Albertson, Joe Voellmeck, Ken Conrad, Suzanne Sadow, Mike and Diane Aurigemma, Kathy Goodwind, Lee Toy, Tom Kowalchuk, and all you other members who most generously gave of yourselves to insure that our Chinese guests went home with many memorable experiences.

There are some big kite events coming up, with a big festival planned for the long awaited reopening of Gas Works park, August 18, and the Granddaddy of them all, the Third Annual Washington State International Kite Festival at Long Beach Wa. August 20 - 26....let's have a really good WKA turnout at this great event!

Grant Raddon called to tell us of a big festival at Portland on the afternoon of August 21 (Tuesday) at 4:00pm at Waterfront Park on the Willamette River. Members going to Long Beach on Tuesday can stop in at Portland and catch a little flying on the way down. I will be in training for the month of August in Lincoln City Oregon, but I will be at Long Beach waiting to lead the WKA to victory in the team competition.

See you in the winner's circle,  
Doug Hagaman

The McCort Family is moving to California! They will be greatly missed, but we wish them the best of luck and hope they visit often!

GASWORKS REOPENING CELEBRATIONS - Aug. 18  
by Kathy Goodwind

Let's celebrate the reopening of Gasworks Park with a great flurry of kites! Come with your favorite kites and a glo-lite to fly into the night. Let's start around 2 or 3pm. We'll climb to the top of kite hill, cast out shadows on the sundial and let loose when the winds are just right. As evening closes in, break out your glow stick and put on a show. Pick up a complimentary ticket at your favorite kite shop and vie for one of the many prizes that will be given away when we draw for the winners. Come and show your appreciation for the return of this excellent site to fly your kite. For further information, call Kathy Goodwind 633-4780. Suspended Elevations. Bring a picnic supper, there may be a live band provided by the mayor's office for the reopening ceremony. It sounds like it may be best to check with Kathy on the 17th.

Kathy Goodwind served as the kitefliers' representative on the Mayor's special panel looking into the closing of Gasworks Park. She has volumes of data that she is glad to share with you if you are interested. "The panel's conclusion, based not only upon E.P.A. data but additional testing done by the University of Washington laboratories, was that any health risk associated with park use was very small and the "worst case" was very unlikely, i.e. ingestion of the most highly contaminated material over a long period of time. The health committee made several recommendations to reduce risks still further by sealing off the 2 most contaminated areas from public access. The Mayor requested \$132,000 from the Seattle City Council to completely clean the playbarn, construct a concrete covering for the pier and to carry out additional studies to resolve any further problems. The National Center for Disease Control reviewed and approved these measures and concluded that Gasworks Park could once again be opened for public access. I personally would like to thank Mayor Royer for returning our Park to us, for taking as much time as necessary to confirm its safe usage and for preserving for us one of Seattle's most exquisite views for kite flying."

FATHER'S DAY FLY by Doug Hagaman

One of the largest kite competitions in the past few years was held in Victoria on June 17th. Tom Kowalchuk of the Victoria Kite store put up an enormous number of kites for prizes and it drew six WKA members...Randy Rouse, Walt Sharp, Kristin O'Donnell, Paul Stappenbeck, Terry Barer and Doug Hagaman. A radio station supplied a sound system and some of the biggest ribbons I have ever seen. The wind was perfect for the festival with Art Ross dominating the sky with his Red Baron J-1000. I had a trian of 16 fish on my J-80. Randy had his crowd pleasing Dragon Fly with Walt's flex kite near-by. The competition was fierce in the stunt event with some of Canada's best stunters flying. Jeff Dick of Victoria won with Barry Heibert second. Paul won second for best all around kite and I got second for People's choice with my Weifang Chinese Dragon Kite. There were lots of people and a sky full of kites. My hat goes off to Tom for putting on such a great event.

Coming up is the Third Annual Washington State International Kite Festival at Long Beach Wash. from August 20th to the 26th. Each day the events start at 10am. MONDAY: children's day. Lots of prizes in two categories...under 10 and over 10 years old. TUESDAY: handcrafted day. Cash prizes for homemade kites. Dusk: workshop at Chataqua Hotel. WEDNESDAY: Stunt kite day...dual or single line. Late afternoon Tom Kowalchuk will hold workshop. THURSDAY: Canadian Day. Demonstrations etc., cash prize for largest Canadian flag flown from kiteline. FRIDAY: Individual competitions: Largest train, reel-out competition (target of helium balloons about 500 ft. distant and 300 ft. altitude), longest tail, oldest kiteflier, kiter farthest from home, "touch-me" (hit a target suspended from two parafoils), most beautiful and highest angle (200ft. min. alt.). There will be evening workshops at the Chataqua Hotel. SATURDAY: Team competitions: LARGE parafoil launch and retrieval, timed, 5 member teams; Fill the Bucket relay, 5 team members to hold kite in one hand, cup in other, run individually to ocean for water to fill bucket, one cup at a time; Touch me, same as above; Climbing speed and retrieval, let out kite to marker and retrieve, timed; Flying tarpaulin, 9X12 ft. plastic tarp will be supplied, teams to supply 2 poles, tape and flying lines, timed, to make kite and fly with one person on each of four flying lines, one on each corner of the kite; Teddy Bear drop, 150ft. of line out, teddy bear lofted, target adjusted on ground, bear dropped closest to target wins; 2 - Line stunt kites, one person from each team, prescribed patterns. Dusk; Lighted Kite Nite Flight...cash prize for most spectacularly lighted kite...no open flames from kites. SUNDAY: World Record attempts. Longest tail will be one.



Kitemaster Ha with fliers from Weifang



HELPFULL HINTS from Gerry Osborne

For a BIG delta, an indestructable dowel is easily had by buying the fiberglass bike flags one sees waving behind a wise cyclist. BI-MARK sells one for \$3.39 each and these "dowels" are quite long. (save the flags to add to your kite line)

For lighter weight dowels, use fishing pole blanks (no handle or line guides). Not only are they light weight, but tapered, making for a more flexible kite. Blanks can be purchased at sporting sections of department stores, or find two rods that are alike at Salvation Army stores etc.

Unusual colors in square or diamond kites can be purchased pre-made at Salvation type stores...SCARVES! They are easy to convert, simply sew in corners to insert dowels and tie on a long skinny scarf as a tail...fast and beautiful!

A short ice fishing pole with reel makes an outstanding kite reel. It is easy to hold and easy to control the kite.

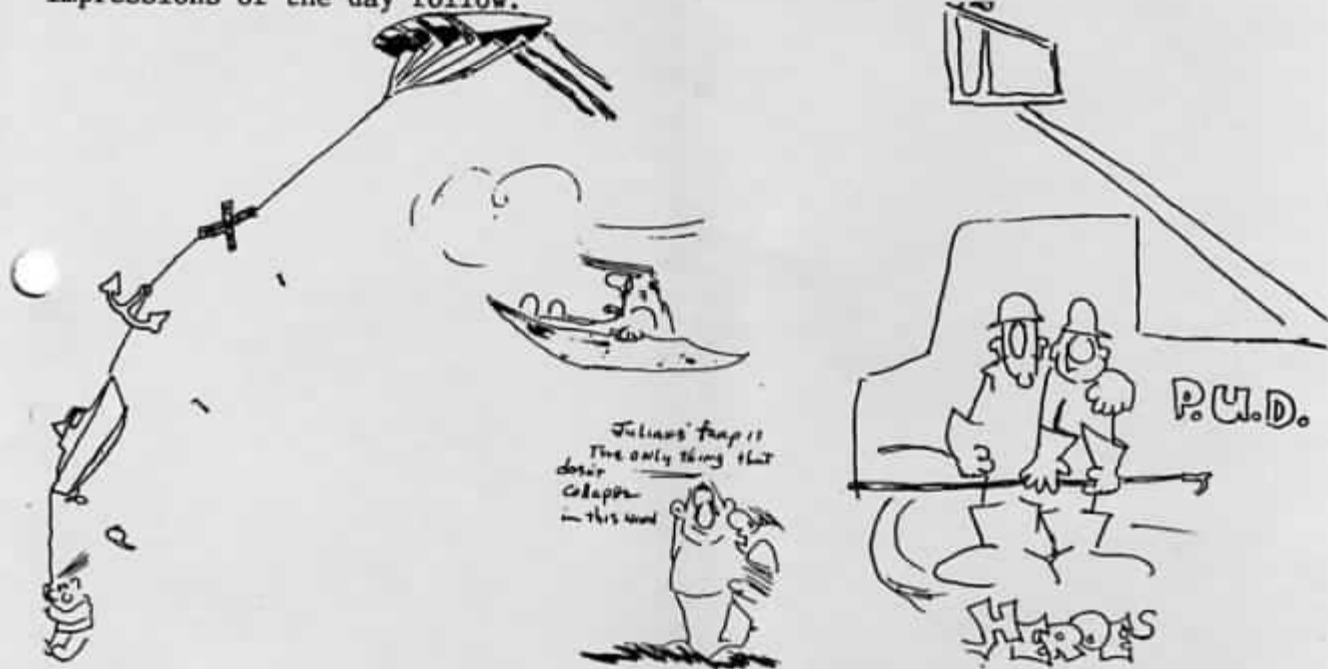
On Sept. 3rd there will be the Labor Day 6th Annual Harbor Tours kitefly for Children's Orthopedic Hospital. Help children fly kites while touring Elliott Bay in a tour boat. Lots to eat and drink (soft drinks naturally) Lots of fun...good feelings...phone Jack Van Gilder for participation: 938-0550.



The remains of Julian Wolf's anchor

ELLENSBURG KITE FLY by Milly Mullarky and Gerry Osborne

If you ever wonder where the wind is when it is not in your area...it is in Ellensburg! A small but persistent gathering of kitefliers braved enormous winds and were rewarded with many memorable experiences...like Julian Wolf breaking an anchor and Randy Rouse tangling a six pack of stunters in the power lines. Heroes abounded however and thanks to a flying tackle by Marleen Zilar and the P.U.D. crew, the lasting damage was minimal. It was delightful to finally meet Gerry Osborne whose cartoon impressions of the day follow.



Julian's fan is  
The only thing that  
doesn't  
clapper  
in this wind

P.U.D.

HEROES



4 SALE - Rainbow 6 pack  
CHEAP



Gerry Osborne at work

## WKA HAS BUSY SUMMER by Jack Van Gilder

July 7th Kevin Sanders, Walt Sharp and I put up a display of kites to entertain the shorebound crowd watching the Olympic trails for surf sailing at Alki beach. July 12th the WKA met at the Pacific Science Center. The closure of Gasworks Park was the main topic. Present were many of the officials, consultants and concerned citizens involved in the closure. The experts reported that the biggest problem with contamination seemed to be with the water draining off the park, leaching out chemicals, and depositing them into Lake Union. The discussion was lively (ed. see related article about park-opening kite festival). Tom Sisson reported on his and Jean's trip to Edmonton, Canada. They were flown from Seattle on May 24th by the Edmonton city parks dept. and stayed with a family for three nights. Their days were filled with TV, radio and newspaper interviews, teaching seminars and a giant kite festival. Tom had glowing reports of Canadian hospitality and kite interest. Tom seems to be acquiring an international reputation for his ability to teach and organize kite activities. Dave Checkley reported on the coming visit to Seattle and the WKA of six kite masters from Weifang. It was voted that the WKA officially sponsor the visit.

July 14th Doug Hagaman and I put up a couple kites to entertain people who gathered to attend dedication ceremonies for the West Seattle Bridge.

July 15th the Weifang kites were met by a group of WKA members and escorted to the Checkley's home. Every day for the next three weeks was filled with dinners, sightseeing, official presentations, workshops, receptions, tours etc. Some of the high points for WKA members were: meeting the Chinese at the airport, the kite fly for the local media at Myrtle Edwards Park, dinner at Ken and Suzanne's with kite flying off the roof, hanging kites at the Science Center and the huge reception at Checkley's that evening (about 75 people attended), the workshops at the Science Center and the huge kite fly on July 22nd.

The July 22nd Kite Festival put on by Great Winds and City Kites to welcome the Weifang kite fliers was a grand success. The weather was beautiful but the wind was a bit strong, 12-15mph. Randy Rouse had 6 flexifoils flying but the wind pulled him over the turf. He yelled for help, especially female help. Doug Hagaman had one of his giant parafoils up with 12 large (30') carp kites attached to the line. It was rock-steady all afternoon. The sound system was very nice and kept the crowd well informed. Larry Chinn had two centipedes up, bridled end-to-end...96 discs in all. There were 6 Cody kites on one string, Les Varley's "Flowi Dutchman" flow-form, Art Ross's Red Baron J-1000 (which pulled so hard it broke something in the tethering system and came down on top of a KOMO cameraman.), Jack Laird's beautiful roller kites, and an incredible array of fantastic kites from China. There was an excellent turn out of kitefliers from the WKA and the BCKA and the AOK (Oregon)

As President of the BCKA, I formally accept the WKA's complete and total withdrawal of the Long Beach International Kite Festival Team Competition. I realize that in the face of our superior craftsmanship, team spirit and outstanding flying abilities, this is the only course you could have taken. Better luck next year. Thomas G. Kowalchuk, President BCKA (defending champs)

It's obvious Tom has deeply underestimated the power and talent of the WKA. So let's have a big club turn out at Long Beach and promptly make the members of the BCKA team competition wish they were back in the sweet confines of Vanier Park. Doug Hagaman, President WKA



Weifang centipede kite

October 4th - 6th: 20th Anniversary meeting...6th annual A.K.A. Convention in Nashville, TN. If you want more information check the A.K.A. Newsletter at Great Winds or call Jack at 938-0550.

PERSONALS: Dragon type of guy searching the sky for stunter type of gal. Qualifications to be considered: tightlines, good color, robust construction. Gayla-haugh type need not apply. Please send specs and picture to Rip Stop Nylon, P.O. Box 35653, Station E, Vancouver B.C. V6M 469

CALENDAR



- Aug. 17.....Reopening of Gasworks  
call Kathy at 633-4780
- Aug. 20..... Opening of Long Beach Kite Fly
- Aug. 21..... Waterfront Park, Portland  
4pm .. lots of prizes  
call Grant Raddon 503-223-1760
- Aug.20-26... 3rd Annual Kite Festival  
Long Beach WA.  
(see story)
- Sept.3..... Children's Kite Tour for  
Orthopedic Hosp.  
call Jack 938-0550
- Sept. 9..... Cannon Beach Oregon  
Noon to 4pm  
Once Upon A Breeze Kite Shop
- Sept. 22.... Victoria B.C., Clover Point  
6pm Night Fly  
call Tom 604-381-5377
- Sept.30..... Vancouver (WA.) Lake Park  
Noon to 4pm  
A.O.K. and Parks Dept.
- Oct.4-6..... 6th Annual A.K.A. Convention  
Nashville Tenn.  
call Jack 938-0550
- Oct.7..... Seaside, Oregon  
noon to 4pm, prizes  
Skys the Limit Kite Shop
- Oct. Workshops in Victoria B.C.  
call Tom 604-381-5377
- Oct.2...Art Grossi - Stained Glass
- Oct.9...Les Varley - Cody Kite
- Oct.16..Barry Heibert - Red Braswell  
"star"
- Oct.23..Jeff Dick - Dropnixs

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



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Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION  
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