

MARCH 1983

CALENDAR

- March 9...WKA Meeting
P.S.C. Board Room
7pm Please be prompt
- March 11..Kites to P.S.C.
Kites to be hung from
noon Thur. Please bring
your kites early!
- March 12,13..KITE FAIR
Pacific Science Center
10am to 6pm Sat.& Sun.
Please plan to help!
- March 20...Kitefever USA
Cottonwood Beach
12 noon to 4pm. Prizes!
- March 25...Asian Kite Show
Wing Luke Museum
5 to 7pm. (See article)
- April 2...Tacoma Kite Fly
"Dome" Parking Lot
12 noon. Prizes!
- April and May...continuing kite
events at the Wing Luke
Museum. See story.
- April 16...Cherry Blossom Festival
Kite contest. Gasworks Park
12 noon
- April 17...Pacific Rim Kite Fest.
Vancouver B.C. Vanier Park
12 noon. Always a good time!
- April 23, 24...Cherry Blossom
Kite Making demonstrations
Seattle Center Flag Pav.
- May 1...Victoria B.C. Kite Fly
Clover Point 12 noon
- May 29...A.F.S. Kite Fly
Marymoor Park Redmond
12 noon Prizes
- May 30...Kite Stores' Annual Fly
Gasworks Park, 12noon
- June 5...5th annual kite fly
Harrison Hot Springs
- July 1...White Rock B.C. Fly
- July 3...Victoria Kite Store
Clover Point
- Every Sun. at Gasworks Park
from 2pm WKA members fly



Michael & Susan Carroll
P.O. Box 215
10-15 Hunters Glen Drive
Painsboro, N.J. 08536

Wash. Kitefliers Assn.
c/o Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. North
Seattle, WA. 98109
Dues: \$5.00 a year
Co-editors: Louise Crowley
Milly Mullarky
March/April Issue



LAST ISSUE!

The yearly dues are due on January first of every year, so if you have not recently sent in your \$5 dollars to W.K.A., c/o Pacific Science Center, 200 2nd Ave. North, Seattle, WA, 98109., Please do so right away so as to avoid missing any issues of this newsletter. While you are sending money, consider picking up a couple of W.K.A. patches at \$2 each.



President's Message:

First I would like to thank all the people who elected me for this year's presidency.

Second I would like to hear from all the people interested in forming a committee to call on merchants or businesses for the sake of contests.

Third I would like to hear from all the people interested in forming caravans to the contests in Oregon, Canada, and other parts of Washington.

Kevin Sanders
8537 Stone Ave. N.
Seattle, Wa. 98103
206-524-1705

10th ANNUAL KITE FAIR

WKA's tenth annual kite fair will be March 12 and 13 at the Pacific Science Center from 10am to 6pm. The show will continue to "hang" until March 28th. On Wed. March 9 the last WKA meeting before the show will be held in the board room of the PSC starting at 7pm. Please be prompt, we have a lot to cover. Thursday March 11 we will begin to hang the kites. Please bring your kites to display on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning so that those doing the hanging can go home at a reasonable time Friday night. Plan to participate in some way with this show, it is one of the best ways we have of spreading kite enthusiasm!

If you have a person in your family of friends who is interested in kites, but not currently a member of W.K.A., why not make a membership/subscription your next gift?

REMEMBERING TONY TOLEDO

Jack Van Gilder

Ever wonder where the design of our WKA patch came from? Dave Checkley designed the WKA logo, but the kite in the background is in honor of one of the founders of the WKA, Tony Toledo. It is the outline of 'his' kite, the Filipino Fighter Kite, sometimes called the sarangolan ('Butterfly').

I met Tony over the phone. One Saturday morning in 1971 my newly-acquired stepsons and I visited a Boeing aeronautical engineer, Jim Carnwath, at his home in Kirkland. This was the first time I had ever been in a room with two hundred (200!) kites. In amazement, I went from one to next, asking, "What's this?". When I reached a Filipino Fighter Kite, Jim described it: "This is absolutely the finest tethered flying machine ever built -- and I can't make them.",

"Why not?", I asked.

"Because the secret of the shaping of the bamboo is handed down, father to son, generation to generation, in the Philippines. Caucasians just don't know how to handle bamboo like Asians do", Jim told me.

I looked up Mr. Toledo in the phone book and was invited over. He and his wife, Shirley, lived in a modest house just off N.W. 85th & 3rd N.W. He took me out to his mail garage and reached up over the rafters and started taking down kites! all the same design, but with subtle differences built into each. "This one's good for 20 miles per hour wind", he'd say, weighing and shaking

one. Or, "Here's one good for 6 miles an hour wind". How he could tell the difference was beyond me. He must have had fifty kites up there.

We got together almost weekly then, and in 1972, he introduced me to a friend, Ken Conrad, a gangly college student then. I would have introduced him to Dave Checkly, but he already knew him.

The amazing thing about Tony's kites was that they would fly straight up. I'll never forget one blustery Saturday morning when he handed me his reel and it nearly pulled my arm off. Some eight years later, I was flying one of his kites at the beach when a man strolled up and remarked that he had never seen an "L/D ratio" as good as that one. "A what?" A lift/drag ratio, he explained; the fellow was another one of those aeronautical engineers.

Tony had met Shirley when they were both missionaries at the Yakima Indian Reservation. At the time I knew them, he was a dishwasher in a nice restaurant near Northlake and she was a secretary at Shorey's Bookstore. He had been back to the Phillipines a couple of times since his arrival here and had left behind a group of Christian churches that he had founded. They didn't have a lot of money.

Tony's proudest moment in kiting came when he traveled to Honolulu to enter a kite contest there, and beat the islanders at their own game. When he returned, he said that the airline wouldn't let him take his kites onto the plane because they were too big, so he had had to dismantle them, take spars and coverings on the plane, and stay up all night to put them back together in his hotel room. Tony had given me a couple of lessons in making his kites, in return for financial help for his trip. I'll never forget watching him thin and taper

bamboo, holding his dagger-like knife steady over a piece of leather on his leg and pulling the bamboo past the knifeblade. The trick came in testing the bend of two matching spars, test-bending them until his eye told him that the taper and shape were the same on both sides. He always used trash bags for covers, taping them onto the frame with masking tape. Not beautiful, but outstanding fliers.

Tony was one of the charter members of the Washington Kitefliers Association, formed in 1972. In 1974, he and Shirley were with a bunch of us at Fort Warden, outside Port Townsend, at the Centrum Foundation Kite Festival. Tony got very tired and his arm hurt from winding in his kites. It turned out later that that wasn't all that was happening; he'd had a heart attack and the pain in his arm was the dreaded radiation from the heart. He died about six months later.

Shirley didn't know what to do with all the kite paraphernalia he left. She didn't know one kite from another. So we in the WKA took them all — except some she picked out as momentos for the family — and sold them through our WKA News. You will still see Ken Conrad, Tom Sisson, and me flying Tony's Filipino fighters on occasion.

Shirley is back in the Phillipines. She is working with one of the Christian missions that Tony helped found, in the town of Aparri, where the Cagayan River meets the China Sea. Her newsletter tells us of the wonderful Christian work they are doing there. A contribution to it will get you on her mailing list. Address her in care of her "forwarding agent": Nannetta R. Downs, 6491 Kungie Rd., Clinton, OH 44216.

2nd Annual Singapore Kite Fest. by Dave Checkley

The second annual Kite Festival on Jan. 15 and 16, 1983 was undoubtedly the best financed, most carefully planned, and most organized event of its kind ever held. The budget, provided by the sponsoring Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, was 150,000 Singapore dollars (about \$75,000 U.S.). The newly formed Singapore Kite Association headed by president Shakib Gunn, co-sponsored the event and advised STPB on the kite competition and supervised the judging.

A substantial portion of the budget was used to bring teams of performing kitefliers from Holland, England, Australia, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, at reduced fares on Singapore Airlines, which also airfreighted the kites (including the two ton Guinness world's record largest kite from the Netherlands). The STPB invitees were housed and fed at STPB expense at the suburban Seaview hotel and bussed to the festival site on the other side of the city. Pavilions were erected on the field for the visiting teams' headquarters, for the band which played at the opening ceremony, and grandstands were put up for several thousand spectators. It was estimated that more than 20,000 attended on Sunday, Jan. 16. There was a large covered grandstand for V.I.P. guests which was needed both days, but was largely unoccupied on Saturday, as the torrential downpour frightened off all but the most avid kite enthusiasts.

The dates had been selected after a careful analysis of the weather records, to avoid the monsoon season, and a detailed schedule was prepared with timing of down to 5 minute intervals. Typical of kite festivals, the weather didn't fully cooperate so

the schedule had to be altered to fit between occasional rain squalls, gale force winds, intermittent sunny periods with light breezes and dead calm. The park where the festival was held is a recent landfill with poor drainage and sparse groundcover, so the kitefliers were ankle-deep in mud on both days...all of which added to the excitement.

The variety of kites was spectacular, ranging from the 553 square meter parafoil flown by the Dutch team (with the assistance of some 40 Singapore armed forces men) to the delicate centipedes made and flown by the Singapore Kitefliers (the population of Singapore is 80% Chinese, so they have a long heritage of kitemaking and kiteflying). The competition was limited to Singapore people, with prizes of up to \$2,500 for first place in the Oriental and Western Kite categories. Shakib Gunn and his colleagues in the Singapore Kite Assn. developed a thorough scoring system, emphasizing workmanship, aesthetic quality and performance. All contestants were qualified in a preliminary judging on the previous weekend, so only the best entrants were considered by the final judges, selected from among the foreign invitees.

Apparently because of some breakdown in communications, the five of us from the U.S. and Canada - the writer, Steve and Sandy Lamb from Oregon, and Hugh and Marge Harrison from Vancouver, B.C. - were not included as invitees of the STPB (we were asked to attend by Shakib Gunn), so we were not asked to participate in the opening ceremonies. Steve Lamb did fly a train of Rainbow Kites as a representative of the U.S., and Hugh Harrison and I flew some of our kites during the free flight periods. In spite of those minor problems of

weather and protocol, the Singapore Kite Festival was a memorable experience. For some of us it was "old home week" with such long-time friends as Peter Travis from Australia, Modegi and Ota from Japan, Mr. Roe from Korea, Chang Guinn from Taiwan, Gerard Van Der Loo from Holland and Mac Goodman from the U.K., we also made many new friends.

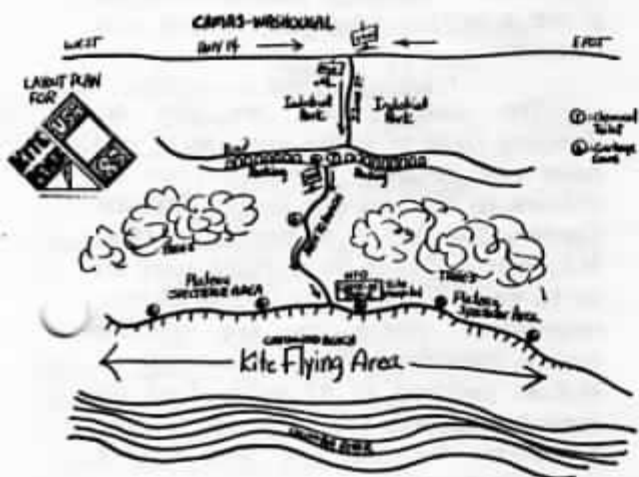
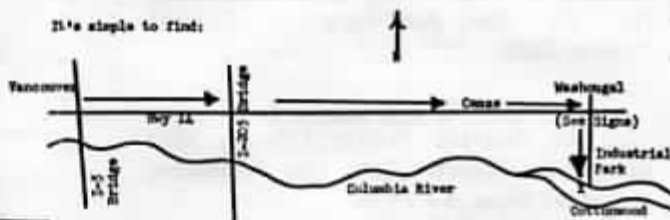
The Dutch team also brought their train of four man-lifter cody kites, each with a 10 foot wingspan, but the launch was frustrated by a failure of one of the locking mechanisms which caused damage to the No.2 kite. For the grand finale the Singapore Kite Assn. hoisted Shakib Gunn's daughter and Vic Tan's wife from the line of their big parafoil.

On the way back from Singapore, I stopped in Kota Bharu in Northeast Malaysia, home of the Wau Bulan Malaysian kite, to meet Ismail Bin Yusoff, the best known Wau Bulan maker. In Bangkok the Harrisons and I met again with "Superman" Prinya to plan another trip to Bangkok and Singapore for 1984!

First Annual "KITEFEVER USA"

Clark County Kitefliers are initiating a major new community kite flying event. "Kitefever USA" will be held at Cottonwood Beach, near Washougal, WA Sunday March 20 from 12 noon to 4pm. (In case of rain, the event will be held Sunday March 27th, same time). The purpose of this kite-flying event is to promote the genuine fun and excitement of flying kites. It will be open to all ages and is for the kite flying beginner as well as the experienced flier. It is free to the public, no entry fee, and will provide special awards and prizes. It is sponsored by LeKitebag and Fly By Nite Home Kite Party. For more information call Bob Hamilton (206) 574-0396 or Dale McLean (206) 694-5994, both from Vancouver WA. SEE MAP!

It's simple to find:



VICTORIA B.C. KITE FLY

Be sure to keep Sunday May 1st free because that's the date of Victoria's next annual kite festival. It will as usual be held at Clover Point, and promises to be a huge success. Just like last year! If everything goes according to plan, the Victoria Club will be able to offer a total of \$5,000 in prizes this year, and some truly breathtaking kite flying demonstrations. For more information contact Bernard Stewart, Victoria B.C., 595-1369. With that kind of prize money the competition should be outstanding.

WKA CLASSES

Tom Sisson recently completed teaching the WKA kite classes at the P.S.C. Tom did a great deal of preparation to insure a smooth running and extremely enjoyable class for all the participants. Special thanks Tom!

WKA & The Library

The Seattle Public Library was given, on March 28th, the following material from our club:

1. A complete file, on microfiche, of "Kite Tales" magazine as published from October 1964 through November 1976. "Kite Tales" was succeeded in 1976 by "Kite Lines", a quarterly periodical to which the Library has subscribed since it's initial issue.

2. A copy of Clive Hart's book, "Kites-An Historical Survey".

3. Two WKA Teachers packets. The material included in this packet has been prepared by the WKA for use by teachers and others in organizing and conducting kite building sessions for children of all ages.

4. We have also put the Seattle Public Library on the mailing list for our Newsletter.

KITES: THE WIND IN YOUR HANDS

The Wing Luke Memorial Museum at 414 8th Ave. S. in Seattle's International Dist. will open an Asian kite exhibit with an open house on Fri. March 25th from 5 to 7pm. On Thur. April 7th at 7:30 they will be showing the video tape of KITE WARS AT HAMAMATSU. April 9th and 16th from 10 to 12 there will be children's classes using the frustrationless flier kits from Great Winds. Sat. April 23rd WKA member LARRY CHINN will demonstrate how to make his famous owl kite. Thursday May 12th WKA member SUZANNE SADOW will give an hour's program on kites, and on Sat. May 14th from 10 to 12 noon will be KITES 101...no prerequisites. An adult class featuring frustrationless flyers and trash bag deltas. The museum hours are Tues. thru Fri. 11am to 4:30pm and Sat. 12 noon to 4pm.

Downtown Tacoma 2nd Annual Kite Fest.

Saturday April 2nd, the Downtown Tacoma Association and KTAC radio will sponsor the Second Annual Kite Festival. Participants should meet at the parking lot of Tacoma's new dome. The view should be lovely over Commencement Bay, but I-5 might prove a worthy adversary. There will be prizes.

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