

Now that the summer is behind us we're finally getting out a newsletter and scheduling a meeting -- for Tuesday, October 15th at 7:30 pm at the Pacific Science Center. We'll be in the Eames Theater, to your right from the box office.

After only one year of operation, W.K.A. has about 95 paid-up members, the largest local group of kitefliers in the country, according to Bob Ingraham of the American Kitefliers Association. Seattle also has more A.K.A. members than any other city in the U.S.

The big events of the spring and summer were the Seafair/Skippers Kite Festival at Golden Gardens in May, the second annual Seafair/Capitol Hill C. of C. Kite Festival at Volunteer Park the end of July, and the second annual Kite Design Competition at Fort Worden in mid-August, sponsored by the Washington State Arts Commission and Spectrum Foundation.

Top winners at Golden Gardens were reported in the last newsletter. Volunteer Park winners were: "Largest": Ed Maurer's delta made of Sears colored plastic drop cloth; "Most Unusual": Ron Leonard, Bothel, with a sort-of-Coyne/French Military; "Most Beautiful": Dave VanZandt's gaily decorated delta; "Controlled Flight": Adi Copsal's Indian fighter; "Highest Flyer": Bill Lee's French Military of balsawood and tissue paper (the wind was VERY light); "Longest Tail": the same kite with about 300' of assorted glued-together-end-to-end tissue scraps, tapered from 4" to 0", as per the new rules. The whole family must have been in on that one. And would you believe that Bill came in Second in the "Controlled Flight" event with the same kite? He attached a second line to the stern of the kite and when directly over his catcherperson, dumped the air out of the kite and came down right on the target. Needless to say, the Lee family walked off with the jackpot, a clock radio, contributed by Murray Horton's section of Seafair.

Fort Worden was a beautiful bust. They gave a wonderful party, went to all kinds of trouble, time, effort and expense. But the weather didn't cooperate AT ALL and not many people showed up. Dave VanZandt won this design contest with a kite you would have to see to believe. It might be described best as a four-decker modified semi-tetrahedron.

The kite exhibition at the Bellevue Arts and Crafts Fair was a great success. Besides the "art object" kites (mostly Pat McCormick's) tacked to the walls, we put quite a display in to the air from the helicopter pad atop Thompson's drug store. Dave VanZandt, Bill Spezia, VanGilder and Bert Goe flew individual kites the first day and then Goe and VanGilder put out the cooperative string of club kites. Seventy one 14" sleds on one 1,200 foot line really went up in the air!

On the same weekend, another group of W.K.A. people flew kites at the Pilchuck Glass Center on the Hauberg Tree Farm -- a beautiful hilltop site overlooking the Skagit Valley and Puget Sound. Next year we'll try to schedule things so members can participate in both events.

At the October 15th meeting we'll elect a new slate of officers, to be announced at the meeting after the nominating committee has completed its deliberations. Also we'll be discussing several new projects for later this year and next spring, including a kite exhibition at the Pacific Science Center and another at Southcenter, currently scheduled for the week before Easter in 1975.

Other subjects for discussion will be new kite designs, methods of fabrication and sources of materials. Incidentally, Seattle Air Force kite shop, 166 So. Jackson St., has a good stock of tyvek and mylar. Bring any unusual new kites and plans if you have them -- so they can be reproduced for other members. This is "Show and Tell" ("Bring and Brag!") ("Listen and Learn"?) night.

Also bring any movies and slides of this year's activities or of kiteflying that may be of interest to others. Dave Checkley will bring a Carousel projector and his slides of the Japanese kite festivals, for those who haven't seen them already. VanGilder has slides of some of the summer's doings. But what he's really excited about is a discovery-- a veritable technological breakthrough. While visiting an old artist buddy, Bob Wikstrom, Jack's ears twitched at the mention that heatbonding of polyethylene sheets can be done by slipping a piece of paper between the soldering iron and the plastic. We'll demonstrate it at the meeting. Dave Freeman is going to show movies -- from a KITE'S-EYE view!

Another discovery is ^{attached} enclosed: it's a real good deal to belong to the Science Center "Membership". Season pass -- for guests also -- free movies and programs. Look it over closely, eh?

See you at the Center on the 15th!

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