

First, a fill-in on our meeting of January 14th: about 50 in attendance in the Science Theater. Dave Checkley, our Chairman of the Board, remembered to mention our meeting to the newspaper. That brought about six new members to us. We looked at slides and TWO films. Introduced genial Walt McCullough as the new owner of not one, but BOTH kite shops. Since that time he has closed the Albatross Book and Kite shop in Bellevue (too out-of-the-way location) and transferred the kite inventory to Pier 70. His shop there should have plenty of traffic. Walt deserves our trade support, people, because he has given us tremendous support -- and he gives WKA members a 10% discount.

Pat and Alice McCormick are to be honored in all kitefliers' memories also. It took more than just a little courage and guts of fortitude to open the shop last spring. Alice has had her little baby boy now -- that being the big reason for the sale.

Executive Board Meeting: mid-February, at the Victoria Station restaurant. VanGilder, Checkley, Spezia, Whitman, Freeman, Dusenberry, Conrad and McCullough had lunch and divided up the chores for our Big Fortnight.

In case you haven't been phoned to help with it, we are smack in the middle of our Big Fortnight. Last weekend we put on a real pool show at the Science Center. The weather was lousy and the publicity not such hotter, but our club came out \$144.50 richer. Just about doubled the treasury. The Science Center has an interesting arrangement for the clubs that they sponsor: they take a reading on the cash sale receipts for the same weekend the year before, and in a 12% growth factor and then split the receipts over that amount. If there were more kite enthusiasts in the Puget Sound area, we could have made up to \$1,000, but we are certainly not kicking about \$144. We were on all three TV channels - two news shows and a clown show. Our 14-year-old whiz kid, Carl Miller and Scott Grosse, proved irresistible to the cameramen as they soiled a tissue-paper felts around the ceiling of the Ames Theater. Bob Kerr took over when they had to go home and he taught several small ones that they weren't too small.

Special thanks to Checkley, and the other board members above, Carnwath, McDonald, Jan Nichols, Nancy McCoy, Rooney, Pfeiffer, Bill Lee, Haseleys, Ferina Leine, Gene

Thomson, Marrack, Writter, McCort, McLaughlin, Laird, the Wrights, Sisson, and any I've forgotten, for manning the demonstration tables!

Seattle Center Kite Contest: Dave Van Zandt walked off with his second First Prize in a row (Pt. Warden was last). "You have to see it to believe it" is a spite phrase -- but not nevertheless. He spent literally a month of nights on a kite double Wright-brothers model airplane which he rated "Aerodyne #5". Whizkid Carl Miller took Second Prize with his end-Scott-Grosse's 1025-toothpick tetrahedron. They took their last summer's work and blew everything on one run down the take-off strip. And it flew! Bill Lee took Third Place with one of his beautiful wale-and-tissue creations. I think his winner was a triple-fuselage French Military. He said that he was inspired by our suggestion of using a Northwest theme. But he liked Boeing better than Heide Indians for designs! The fourth kite to place (there was a four-way tie for First when they took the first reading on the point scores) was a beautifully decorated VanZandt Heavy Weather box by our other Whizkid Scott Grosse. What those young fellows can do with felt-tip pens is beyond belief.

Southcenter Exhibition/Demonstration: a few Hardy Souls have just this evening finished riding up and down on a portable elevator, hanging about 80 - 90 kites overhead at the Southcenter Shopping Mall. They were selected from the about-150 that were hung at the Science Center. We will be running the exhibition/demonstration tables with a couple of people every day at 1:00 and 7:30 pm, as shown in the enclosed folder. Bring your friends on down!

Southcenter Kite Contest: see enclosed folder. How would you like to win all-the-icecream-you-can-eat (from Farrell's), once-a-month, for a year? There are six of them.

Dues: sorry, Old-Timers, but it's time to come across again after a year-and-a-half. If a WKA/KAK collection slip is enclosed in this newsletter, be sure to get it back in with your \$2 (How 'bout \$3 increase!) A new roster will be made up April 30th

Schools: WKA is going to spread itself thin in April with TWO evening classes in kite-taking and flying. Dave Whitman is heading up the one at Lincoln High School. It will meet Monday evenings at 7:00 for six weeks. Sign up by registering at the high school on Interlake Ave. just off N.E. 45th. Jack Van Gilder is going to stay closer to home and have an evening class at James Madison Jr.

High School in West Seattle: 3429 45th S.W. Wednesdays at 7:00 - six weeks. We'll try to use the same instructors -- experts-in-their-field from the club. Here's a chance for that group of club members who have joined, especially recently, who were not especially expert kitefliers but who wanted to learn more about it. Last semester, the spring of '74, we had some of the most enjoyable gsb-sessions ever.

New members: We're up to 118 now. The big test will be to see how many there are April 30th, the cut-off date for old dues.

News: (gossip?) Walt McCullough swears it was true: on a recent Saturday TWO girls came in at different times, bought kites with the announced intention of using them as a lure to catch a man! He has a new polyethylene box kite by the German manufacturer of the "Der Adler" and "Mississippi Whine" that is really something to behold. Solves the serious problem with box kites of their terrible storage problem by having their internal bracing fold up like an umbrella. Clever. -- Dave Checkley checked out the sturdiness of his well-made deltas by dragging one of them through the International Fountain at the Seattle Center Kite Contest. VanGilder's son, Roger Bolstad, unhooked it from one of the nozzles. -- Ken Conrad and Dave Checkley have developed a public-school oriented training system. If any schools are interested in having such a session, phone either of them: 284 5350 or 633 1216. -- I didn't believe these stories about birds checking out kites in the air, really. Jim Carnwath was the first to bend my ear about this. Walt McC. was the last. But, honestly, it happened to me! Both a pair of sea gulls and a dozen crows came over and obviously investigated my felts-chassis black and white ripstop nylon belt eagle. It was one of Life's Big Thrills, I'll let you know! -- Ken Conrad just this week conducted a kite clinic for 600 school children in Marysville. He came up with a simple French Military kit. Showed a committee of teachers how it worked. They were so thrilled with the way they worked, they sold the project. Kept the kits, by the way. Too good for those kids! -- Enclosed also is the free handout we used at the Science Center Exhibition. We still have about 2,300 of them, so if anyone has any good ideas on what we can use them for, especially money-making ideas, we would appreciate said ideas. -- Now! The competition is really getting rugged. In the spring of 1973, I attended the kite contest in Honolulu (just happened to be in the neighborhood). Didn't win a thing. Came in

WASHINGTON KITE FLIERS
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER
200 2ND AVE. NO.
SEATTLE, WASH. 98109

9

about 25th place. Came home and a couple of weeks later won First Place with the same kite. This year, with an infinitely better kite than that one, I didn't even place. -- After viewing Dinash Bohadur's kite movie, there are at least a couple of us who think that we could improve on it. If anyone has access to a moviemaking class or someone with a 16 mm sound camera, we'd like to get together. Give us a call. --

Coming Events:
SeaFair Spring Kite Contest: Golden Gardens Park. Sunday, May 18th. About 1:00 pm. Events and categories the same as in the enclosed Southcenter brochure -- plus one more: "Controlled Flight". This is the one where a kiteflier guides his kite back down to his launcher/helper after his helper has moved back to another, farther, line. A good one for you fighter kite enthusiasts.

Flies: Every Sunday afternoon, I plan to have a field trip for my kite class in West Seattle -- at LaFayette School grounds, Alki Beach or Hamilton Viewpoint. Dave Whitren will very likely be having them at the same time at either Green Lake or Golden Gardens. About 1:30. Give us a call at the Kite Shop: 624 6886. Much of the fun of kiteflying comes from two sources: helping less-experienced kites -- and getting ideas from more-experienced kites. We really would appreciate your presence -- and your kites.

*
Correction: Dave Checkley has developed a kit for teachers to conduct kite building projects in their classes. It contains 40 small sleds, a five-page guide and sells for \$4.95 plus tax and shipping. He and Ken conducted a credit workshop for teachers at Tyee High School on March 21st. They are planning another one for the Seattle School District for sometime in May.

Next WKA Club Meeting: April 15th - Tuesday 7:30 pm - Science Center - Science Theater - Agenda: viewing of the Maryland Kite Society's slide/sound show -- an expert speaker on kites -- review, with slides, of our March exhibition/contests -- Y'all come!

Jack Van Gilder