

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION -
Newsletter of Mid-June, 1976

BIG NEWS! Bob Ingraham's coming to town! "Bob Who?", you ask? Just the President of the American Kitefliers Association, that's who. Editor/Publisher of Kite Tales Magazine. Great kiteflier and one of America's Good Guys.

Special Fly-in For Ingraham: July 17th. Immediately following the dedication ceremonies for the new Elliott Bay Park from 10 am to noon, we'll fly all afternoon there. North of Pier 70 and south of the grain terminal. Parking (W.K.A. members only -- don't tell the general public) at the New England Fish Co. parking lot just north of the grain terminal.

There's a decent chance that Nishi and Kenji will be back then also. Those of us who were at the special fly-in for them at Golden Gardens, Saturday, June 19th, were at probably the best fly-in we have ever had in the town of Seattle! The sky was filled with eye-bulging kites -- Oriental and American. Kenji, the 18-year-old small-kite specialist, proved that those dinky things will do what Bill Spezia has been telling me for years that they will do: FLY! Well, in that wind, even Bill got some of his mini-kites up and going. It was a perfect day. Lots of people. Lots of fun.

To cap the climax, Dave Checkley got a phone call the next evening that Nishi and Kenji had won prizes in three different events at the San Francisco Kite Festival, June 20th. Nishi won "Highest Flier" and the "Kite Fight" events. Guess who he defeated: Denish Bahadur! Kenji won the "Smallest Flier" event, naturally.

July 4th: Fort Worden - Port Townsend: They're having a special arts and crafts festival over there and would like us to come over for an informal fly-in. But no prizes. You Olympic Penninsula people be sure to partake.

July 3rd, 4th and 5th: Marymoor Park, in Redmond. Remember this one. We will be phoning around for some help in demonstrating and building kites. The County is buying a bunch of Checkley's plastic sled kite kits. We also will have an area reserved near the kite-making table for flying. Come on out at least one of the days and join the fun!

- Calendar of Events:
 Sunday 1:30 fly-ins:
June 27th: Golden Gardens Park. North end, off the newly-sown grass.
July 3rd, 4th & 5th - Marymoor Park -
 Look for our distinctive signs -
July 11th: Gasworks Park
July 18th: Green Lake Park
July 25th: Univ. of Wash. parking lot.
July 31st: Volunteer Park -- SEAFAIR!
 The BIG ONE. Lots of prizes in cash. Lots of events. We'll mail out the details as soon as they're printed.
Aug. 8th: Stan Savers Park -
Aug. 15th: Golden Gardens (hope the grass is up and walkable by this time)
Aug. 22nd: Gasworks Park -
Aug. 29th: Elliott Bay Park -

Note the absence of Discovery Park: the parking situation is still atrocious. Guys like Writer, VanGilder and Peck have to fly right off their tailgates, you know.

In case you missed the Kite Club Meeting on the 17th of June, you missed a dandy! Ford Smith's slides of the big fly-in that the Japanese Kite Association held in the outskirts of Tokyo for our touring U.S. kiterers were absolutely mind-boggling! He had one shot there in which three Chinese centipede kites and four or more kite trains were all extending heavenward. It seems, in answer to a question put to Mr. Nishibayashi, that the Japanese kiterers have really taken to kite trains during the past three or four years. They have sort of taken over from the centipedes. Those pictured were all of the 90 to 100-kite trains and the centipedes were mostly 80 to 90-discs.

We also saw the cutting-floor scraps from Japanese TV news films or the Hamamatsu kite festival. If those were scraps that we saw, I would certainly like to have seen the edited film.

Well, whatever you do, circle July 17! It's a Saturday. Even John Dusenberry is going to arrange for a substitute worker for that afternoon so he can make it! Oh - Welcome home, Dave Whitman! J. Van G.