

WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

NEWSLETTER -- September, 1978 --

As predicted, last newsletter, July and August were super-busy. First came the Elliott Bay Park Seafair/Port of Seattle Contest; almost a rainout. "Almost" because some of the diehard members hung around and were able to get their creations up later in the afternoon. They should have been able to -- the breeze was perfect -- just kinda cool for July. So the sponsor divided up the prize money between the ten members present in the form of gift certificates at Great Winds shop. Twenty-five bucks buys quite a few dowels!

July 22nd, the Seattle Sun newspaper contest at Gasworks Park attracted mainly us ol' W.K.A.ers. J. C. Young hauled in 1st Place with his Phoenix kite (pictured in the June newsletter); Carl Brewer's yellow airplane kite flew off with Second Prize and Janet Kloock flew her Sun-designed, beautifully-stitched flat kite to Third Prize. There were some awfully nice kites that didn't place that day.

August 5th was a big day. Pictured below are the members being briefed by Ye Editor, Jack Van Gilder, on the Kingdome Indoor Kiteflying. That's Jeff Van Gilder and Jeff's wife, Stevie Webb, also facing the camera. Photos by Dave Checkley.



We had a nice letter of appreciation from Kevin Beder, Community Relations Director of the Seattle Sounders Soccer Club, saying also that they had had phone calls remarking on the precision of our airborne drill. (That's a real laugh!)("precision")

Nishibayashi flew about the slowest-moving delta ever seen in these parts in the center of the field, along with Carl Brewer's indoor airplane kite, Ken Conrad's display of fighter-kite skill with Jim Marosako. Bill Hull excelled as announcer.

Nishi had spent all day conducting a sort of "Master's Class" in kitemaking at the Science Center that same day. He can't complain that we didn't keep him busy this trip. He helped at many kite-making classes and workshops during his month-long stay with host David and Dorothea Checkley.

During the Kingdome-Fly evening, a meeting of the executive board of W.K.A. was held and it was voted to allocate funds to send Jack Van Gilder as delegate to the First Convention of the American Kitefliers Association in Ocean City, MD., Sept. 22nd. Dave Checkley, having been first president of our club, was the logical choice, but he will be on a Wine Club tour in Europe on that date. Jack was president our second year.

July 30th was the date of our 6th Annual Seafair Kiteflying Festival at Volunteer Park, sponsored by the Capital Hill Chamber of Commerce. We feel close to this group because they were partly responsible for our organizing as a club after their first contest in 1972.

Staging Area - WKA members sorting kites
David Lee and Jan Kloock in foreground.



Among the winners at Volunteer Park was Norm Strong; "Novice High-flier" and he hit the right combination for second place, after Carl Brewer, in the "Open High-flier". The wind was calm on the ground but up above the trees it took his tyvek, stub-winged box kite almost straight up. Nishi and Bill Lee got caught with too much string out in unexpectedly strong breezes, higher up.

Carl and Bill were toss-ups in the "Smallest" event, so the judges tossed in extra cash and paid them both Firsts.

Nishi did win "Most Beautiful", though, with an unbelievable, 3-dimensional Eagle. Larry Chinn was 2nd with one of his wildly imaginative kites, pictured in our last newsletter. Bill Lee came through with his patented shopping-bag-stored "Longest Tail". There were about the same number in attendance this year: 300.

And up they go! - at the Kingdome.
Frank Waynewood pulls a train up.



COMING EVENTS:

----- clip and save -----

Sept. 2nd, 3rd and 4th: Labor Day Weekend
Ken Conrad, WKA President, wants us all to help him fill the skies with kites each afternoon of EUMBERSHOOT, an annual festival -- at the Seattle Center -- Ken says he will have a booth inside the Colosseum -- look him up there -- but more likely he will be outside flying.

Sept. 9th - We're invited to fly the kite train again at each of the Husky football home games this year. And the first one will be on national TV! We need a team of about 5. Phone 938 0550 if interested in helping. U.C.L.A. playing.

Sept. 10th: Gasworks Park - regular fly
 " 16th: Husky-Kansas game -
 " 17th: Stan Sayers Park - "
 " 24th: Golden Gardens Park - "
 Oct. 1st: Sand Point Park - "
 " 7th: Husky-Alabama game
 " 8th: Gasworks Park "
 " 15th: Stan Sayers Park "
 " 21st: Husky-Oregon game
 " 22nd: Golden Gardens Park "
 " 28th: Husky-Arizona State game
 " 29th: Sand Point Park - reg. fly
 Nov. 4th: Husky-Arizona game
 " 5th: Gasworks Park "

-----save-----

Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st, Carl Brewer plans to be in San Francisco for the "Solutions" kite contest. Their famous Fathers Day contest got rained out so often in the spring that they moved it to the fall. Carl says that if you plan on picking up first prize for the "Largest" event, be sure to take your team of six guys along (make that "beefy guys") to hold down a sled-type kite the size of a football field. That's what it'll take this year.

We get letters:
 From Wyatt Brummit, author of "Kites":
 "Dear - Honorable Members of the Seattle Kite Flying Fraternity - . That story in June 12th issue of Time mag on kites and kiting was, I felt, a purty good job. My only contribution was a longish phone conversation on the phone. The gal reporter was wildly excited over the idea that otherwise sane adults would actually spend any time with kites but her home office assured her we were real live people and, somehow, she got me name and, dammit, my age. - reasonably-fit at the age of 81 --
 - Greetings and want to assure you that,

though ancient, I have not yet retired to my chimney corner. Kites up!"

From Shirley Toledo: " - wanted to write and thank you members of W.K.A. for the tribute you have given to Tony in placing book plates dedicated to his memory in all library books on kites, donated to public libraries. It is certainly a lasting and wide-reaching act of respect to him and I deeply appreciate it. Thanks to Tom Deen for the talented book plate design -- looks just like that high-flier that won the Hawaiian trophy!" (you're right!)

We get phone calls:
 From Eric Eisack, Boston, Mass.: " - how in the world do you stabilize a train of deltas? -"

From Norm Strong, WKA member: has a stock of thin-wall vinyl tubing, 3/16th in. ID - several styrene wire spools good for reels - would like to trade - 723 1324

Committee Reports:
 Book: Elliott Couden reports that Ken Conrad was able to get them a 42% discount on 400 of "Kites - Wyatt Brummit" and that things are coming along.

Kite receipt book: not much to report. Jan and Norm and Carl promised to help Bill Lee on this one.

Dave Van Zandt has moved back to Seattle! He won several prizes, some two-three years back while attending W.W.S.C. in Bellingham. And brought out a kit kite called "The Heavy-Weather Box". Worked, too

Wanted: Opinions -- "What kind of events do you like in an event-type kite contest?" - and - "Do you like the point-system-type kite contest?" Let Ken Conrad know at the kite shop or me know at 938 0550, eh? What turns you on?

- see you in December -

P.S.: - a fast recovery wished to Keith Fuller of Anchorage - a staunch member -- after a double-tube by-pass heart operation Mid-August while visiting Seattle.

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