

Summer's almost over and two kite contest/festivals have come and gone since our last newsletter. First a report on the 4th of July contest at Fort Worden. The weather was absolutely perfect -- possibly a bit on the strong-wind side. Van Gilder put up a nine-kite train, using all 2,300 feet of line, and pulled back five of them that were still in one piece. Prizes were awarded on "beauty" alone -- after qualifying that the kite would fly at least over-the-head height for two minutes. Three Lees and a Van Gilder won prizes. But this time, Joe Lee and his wife, Alice, walked off with two of them. Bill Lee was the other winner. Many of you saw Joe Lee in the last issue of Kite Tales. He's the Methodist minister from Clarkston, Washington.

Dave Checkley had made some adjustments in his 60-disk Chinese centipede and you should have seen that thing fly! Honest, it was over 45° angle. Drew oooo's and aaaaah's from the crowd.

The Seafair contest at Volunteer Park, sponsored by the Capital Hill Chamber of Commerce was a roaring success: many fliers -- 129 by actual count -- and a goodly crowd on another perfect-weather day. This is the first time that there was enough wind to keep 'em up without having to run. We tried a new gimmick this time: no registration; no numbers-on-the-back. The judges, Jim Carnwath, Bill Spezia and Marshall McDonald, just handed a slip of paper to the winners, who took them to the table for their prizes -- gift certificates -- on the spot. Winners:

"Highest Flier:"

Age 10 & under: Laura Emmons
2nd: Greg Gopal
Age 11 - 15: Roger Bolstad
2nd: Mark Hammrich
All ages: David Lee (Bill's son)
2nd: Roger Bolstad
3rd: John Cesard
4th: Deryl Emmons

"Most Beautiful":

Age 10: Michael Gopal
2nd: Richard Hammrich
11 - 15: David Lee
2nd: Adi Gopal

All age: Tom Sisson
2nd: Ken Conrad
"Best Small Flier":
11 - 15 - no contest
All ages: Tom Sisson
2nd: Mark Hammrich
"Longest Tail":
All ages: Bill Lee
2nd: Linda Lee
"Largest Kite":
1st: Jack Van Gilder
2nd: Len Delacruz
"Controlled Flight":
Adi Gopal
2nd: Mark Hammrich
"Novices: Highest Flier":
1st: Sue Lee
2nd: Dan Delacruz

There are several recurring names in the list, notice. The Hammrich family must have six kids and they always get their share of prizes. The Gopals are usually out in force. They are the ones who came from Tahiti but are originally from India, so they REALLY know how to fly Indian fighter kites. The Lees finally got Momma to get in on the act. She was the only one who had never won a prize. Roger Bolstad is the step-son of Jack Van Gilder's who got him interested in kiteflying in the first place, about three or four years ago. It was good to see Tom Sisson get his due this time. He has really come on strong and enthusiastically for the past year-and-a-half. His Most Beautiful was really just that: "beautiful". A sort of winged Northwest Indian design. He claims that he noticed it on a hitch hiker's pack. He had the gall to stop and copy the design -- and the hiker was complimented by this, of course.

Ken Conrad had the audacity to make a Filipino Fighterkite design. They are probably the touchiest of all kites to construct. Used mylar, polyethylene and Saran Wrap along with the bamboo. Ken was the one who discovered the little kid who fell off the tower at the Gasworks Park last month. Maybe you read about it in the newspaper. He says that there is no mistaking the sound of a body hitting the ground. Luckily, there was an Aid Car right next door at the Police Helicopter Pad. Ken is going to run a kitemaking booth at the Seattle

Center "Bumbershoot Arts Festival". Be sure to come around to the Crafts Pavilion to see what's new.

This is a perfect lead-in for a plug for Bumbershoot. If you haven't read about it, you haven't been reading your newspaper too well. It runs from this weekend -- Aug. 23rd -- through the Labor Day weekend -- Sept. 1st --. We more-or-less promised the Bumbershoot organizers that we would try to surround the Space Needle with kites on the weekends.

So note well this plea, please: "Come on out, equipped with kites and join the fun", at the Seattle Center both weekends. Most people will be there both Sunday afternoons, so we need some people to show up on the Saturday afternoons and on Labor Day. They would like us to be there during the week but I told them that that was too much to expect.

Remember the schedule of fly-ins for every Sunday afternoon? We published it in April and asked you to clip it out and pin up. So far the only fly-ins that have been well-attended are the ones that we got the Phone Committee busy on. One of the best was the one to the King County Fair at Enumclaw. The enticement there was the free tickets. About a dozen or more members were there.

We put together a carousel-full of slides and made a tape, describing the kites. It was shown at the fair, in the booth of the Seattle Convention and Visitors Bureau. Used our local fellows and gals pictures, taking a cue from the Maryland Kite Society. Turned out pretty good, and we'll show it at the next meeting.

Dave Checkley has been busy as ever. He had been working with Leslie's Dept. Store on a kite contest, first for June and then for September. But it all fell apart now. If it is revived in the spring, we'll be sure that you are the first to hear about it. He is also involved with the "Allied Arts of Seattle". They are dreaming -- planning -- hoping to put on a biggie next Flag Day, June, 1976. To emphasize the Centennial aspect, they are planning to have a design con-

test for "flags", "banners" and also one for "kites", defined as three-dimensional works of fabric, paper, or other materials, to be judged on the basis of sculptural rather than aerodynamic qualities. But get this: there is a \$2,000 prize involved. So, you arty types make sure you have something going for next spring!

Dave's "The Kite Factory" supplied the umpteen thousand kites given away by Nordstroms this summer. He also took four people on a ferryboat ride and kited recently to help the Seattle Symphony. This was one of those things like PONCHO does -- people contribute to the fund for a service or activity like Dave's.

Oh, back to Ken Conrad: after the boy fell off the towers at Gasworks Park, the fence surrounding the towers has been refurbished and the holes repaired and new "Keep Off" signs erected. Just as, I'm sure, every one of you kitefliers thought to yourself, "Well, there goes another good thing". Those towers were just the neatest place in the whole, wide, ever-lovin' world to photograph your kites in the air, at eye-level. Bill Spezia helped me run up a whole string of kites, one at a time, to have their pictures taken at eye-level.

Bill Lee has been flying at every chance, during the summer. Maybe you noticed that he has swung from being a one-kite design man. He mixes a Thai cobrakite and a few dozen deltas in with his exquisitely-crafted French Militaries. He says that he has found a place to get 10¢ dowels -- 1/8" and 3/16"; at Copeland Lumber, at the corner of Empire Way and Rainier.

- NEW MEMBERS: add to your roster:
- David "Wizzer" White: 410 Occidental So. Seattle, 98104 622 3794
 - Centrum Foundation: Ft. Worden State Park, Port Townsend, WA 98368 385 3102
 - Joan Slattery, 19432 Snohomish Ave., Snohomish, WA 98290
 - The Kite Flier (shop), 1350 Dixie Highway, Pompano Beach, FLA 33060
 - Washington Aerospace Assn.: 2302 No. 145th, Seattle 98133 365 1493

- Charles S. Butterworth, 363 Garfield St. Seattle, 98109 324 0435
- Jeffrey K. Hart, 5872 N.E. Park Point Pl. Seattle, 98125 522 7731

Merritt Bloxom, Jr., 5013 Homesite Drive, Yakima, WA 98902 966 6938

Margaret York, 6232 27th N.E., Seattle 98115

Robert Leighton, E. Spokane St., Westport, WA 98595

FLY-IN SCHEDULE FOR BALANCE OF SUMMER:
August 22-23 and 30-31st and Sept. 1st:
Bumbershoot at Seattle Center
VERY IMPORTANT! --

- Sept.: 7th - Gasworks Park
- 14th - same
- 21st - Discovery Park (south gate)
- 28th - same

NEXT MEETING:
September -- slide show and movies of the summer's activities -- we'll let you know the date soon.

Last story: Van Gilder had one of his "darndest things" happen to him at Ivar's Fish and Chips on the waterfront. Seeing about 30 - 40 seagulls in the water, awaiting handouts of leftover fries, he wondered if they would react to eagles the way they did in his youth in Ketchikan. Just happening to have his eagle delta in the trunk of the car, he put it up next door at the ferry dock. Swooosh! 30 - 40 seagulls lit out for open water. And then the darndest thing happened: six or seven of the young bucks came back and attacked the kite! Divebombed it. I mean, literally dive bombed it. S--t all OVER it! Only one hit, though, and it will be preserved as evidence despite the possible odor.

C'mon out for the fun!
Jack Van Gilder
President

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