

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter of December, 1975 --

First a report on the recently-completed kite classes at the Science Center: they were a success, judging by the fact that the class size stayed quite close to the opening attendance: 32. Van Gilder coordinated things and had lots of help from Experts Harold Writer, (even Harold's wife, Irene, will be an Expert soon) Dave Whitman, John Dusenberry, Bill Lee, Dave Checkley and Tom Sisson. Tom took over one night to start things going when the West Seattle Bridge combined with the railroad tracks to delay Van Gilder. And Dave Whitman took the whole class for the evening once, also. Thanks to all of you!

The most important thing we want to get across in this newsletter is the up-coming annual New Years Day Kite Fly-In at Discovery Park. Remember that we are right inside the W. Emerson St. gate. We have had perfect weather the past two years so are looking for our luck to hold. The reason we are shifting it from Golder Gardens this year is that the turf is still torn up there. Come any time after 1 pm.

Your Board of Directors met this morning and discussed:

- A- The New Years Fly-in -- above.
- B- Scheduled Fly-in for every weekend for the next few months. Decided to go ahead and schedule them, winter weather or not. Note that they are rotated between four parks: Discovery Park (Fort Lawton), Gas Works Park (north end of Lake Union), Stan Sayres (hydroplane pits on Lake Washington near <sup>So</sup> Genesee St.) and a new park we think is named "Bay View". This is

north of Pier 70, on the bay shore, up to the new grain terminal, along the bay side of the B.N. railroad tracks. We don't know even where the entrance is. But we have seen nice green grass and park benches from Iv-ar's Captains Table restaurant.

----- Cut out and tack up -----

January, 1976:

- 1st: Discovery Park
- 4th: Bay View Park
- 11th: Gas Works Park
- 18th: Stan Sayres Park
- 25th: Discovery

February:

- 1st: Bay View
- 8th: Gas Works
- 15th: Stan Sayres
- 22nd: Discovery
- 29th: Bay View

----- trim and hang -----

Remember that we can expect that if any of the club members want to fly together these spots are where you will most likely find other members. Any time after 1:30 pm, Sunday afternoons. Weather is very much a factor. Our record-setting rainfall during the last two months has pretty-well, made it impossible to fly for the past two months.

C- Your executive board discussed the Busy Month of March: our annual exhibition at the Science Center on the 13th and 14th. We are planning some new activities for it and will be phoning each member for help in manning the demonstration tables. The next weekend, the 20th, the Seattle Center Kite Contest will be held again. Get started on this

one any time now; remember that a \$50 1st Prize will buy an awful lot of material. They generally have three cash prizes, judged equally on "Craftsmanship", "Artistic Content" and "Flying Characteristics". We're going to try to arrange it that the kites will be turned in one week early this year, to be judged for the first two items at the Science Center Exhibition and then the next week at the Seattle Center, for fly-ability.

And then, the next week after the Seattle Center contest, we plan on starting another six-week class at the Science Center.

D- The next item on the committee agenda was publicity. Walt McCullough, kite store owner, volunteered his daughter, Debbie to spread the word to the various media from her station at the Puget Sound Air Force Kite Shop at Pier 70. If you have anything to report or any bright ideas for publicity, give Debbie a call at 682 5415.

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E- Another item was a bulletin-board/news kiosk for our club news to be put up in the kite shops, where everyone can see it. Tom Sisson will construct one.

F- A kite movie. A movie? Yes, a kite movie! Good Question: "How do you convince someone in to making a movie of your particular interest?" We plan on taking it a step-at-a-time. Our first step is to publicize a contest, to be judged during our Pacific Science Center Exhibition, by Super-8 moviemakers, amateur, naturally, on the subject of "Kites". We will re-

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serve the right to make a print from any film turned in. We hope to accumulate some footage this way which will enable us to interest a cinematography class or TV producer, or someone, to make a professional job of it. We still have to come up with an exact definition of what we want the movie to show story-wise. And for what purpose it will be used.

Walt McCullough says that the Maryland Kite Society's kite calendar will be available soon at both his stores. It is a beauty -- twelve kite pictures -- kite events, scheduled and un-scheduled noted on their dates -- all the kite shops in the U.S. available at press time listed on the back -- and other interesting bits. This is almost a MUST for all club members. If you aren't near a shop which carries them, write for one from Maryland Kite Society, 7106 Campfield Road, Baltimore, Md, 21207.

John Dusenberry brought a parachute kite to the meeting that he had made from the specification/diagram in the last issue of Kite Tales. Said it works, too. Dave Checkley immediately glommed onto it as a good possibility.

Dave Whitman came with the announcement that he had 100 sled kites assembled to take with him and Jan on their post-Christmas trip to Honolulu. Seems like everyone in the world, including Japan has set their sights on bettering the world record for kites-on-one-string. (SERING? More like a hauser.) By the way, anyone going to Hawaii, be sure to contact VanGilder for the names of AKA members there. They assure me that they will take you out and

show you a mini kite-fly. Now the Big Boys do it.

Nancy McCoy, who used to work part time at the kite shop, has moved to Lopez Island. She phoned the other day to report her new address and to say that the people of LaConner, Wash., had shown great interest in a kite-fly there. They would like us to come up and let them see how it's done. Nancy was there selling some of her hand-made kites at a flea market sale for the benefit of restoring the Gaches Mansion. She says to be sure to get together with her if anyone is coming up to Lopez on vacation. Box 177A, Rt. 1, Lopez Island, 98261

Elliot Cauden was telling about visiting Dinesh Bahadur's "Come Fly A Kite" store in Gheradeli Square in San Francisco. He says that the Square is blessed with a little park out the front door which receives an on-shore breeze constantly, with no tall buildings for turbulence. He saw quite a bit of controlled-flight kites at the park -- including Cobra-kites. Unbelievable.

Remember the New Years Day fly-in! Ohio State is going to murder U.C.L.A. anyway in the Rose Bowl.

Jack Van Gilder

KITE CLUB MEETING -! January 21st -- Wednesday evening -- 7:30 pm -- signs will direct you to the correct room at the Science Center. Lots going on. Your admittance fee: a kite or gadget.