

# Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER -- December, 1977 --

So -- you would think maybe kiteflying is over for the season? Think again! Our club has been having their regular weekly fly-in's, Sundays. Plus a couple of extra little projects.

## University of Washington Football Games:

Like we reported last newsletter, we tried out the idea of putting up the train of deltas right outside the football stadium on Sept. 10th. This display got us invited inside for three more games. Free passes, yet! On close examination, the passes said, "Good anywhere in the stadium except the press box". They also said, "CLOWNS". !

Bill Spezia and Jack Van Gilder put the train of 100 kites up for the Stanford game in beautiful weather. Pulled them down just before game time so as not to interfere with the game. This was so much fun, watching the game from the sidelines stripe, that we got Dave Checkley and Koger Bolstad to come along for the Oregon State game. This time we only got 45 or so out and barely got them back again, they were pulling so hard. We attached a cobra kite to the top to stabilize them, and darned if the wind didn't absolutely STOP! So we quit for the day. An attached banner says, "GO, HUSKIES!"

*Please note*  
Disaster struck at the U.S.C. game. John Dusenberry, David Lee (Bill's son), Jeff Plantz (Franklin High students, both), along with Bill and Jack, put up 118 kites on one line, a new Seattle record. John's little tissuepaper deltas would fly, it being a very light breeze, so we put his 38 strings out. Then Jack's 80 heavier 1.01 and 1.5 mil plastic deltas were tied on below. All was going well until all of a sudden, the top 50 kites went sailing off toward the Udub campus! We'll never know what actually happened -- probably a tiller hitch let go -- but one of the parking lot attendants swears that a low-flying float plane flew through the line!

We got a nice letter from the Director of Athletics, thanking us for our enthusiastic joy in helping with the Huskie Fun Zone and the outstanding job. But -- it wasn't enough to get us any free passes to the Rose Bowl -- ! Imagine flying kites in front of 100,000 people, not merely 50,000 - - .

You're Invited To A Party! Remember the nice House-warming our club threw for the newowners of the kite shop just one year ago? Well, Ken and Bill and Tom and Ray want to do it again. So we'll have refreshments, open house style, Wednesday evening, closing time, 6:00 pm. Don't pass up the Winter Equinox First Anniversary Get-Together. December 21st.

Announcing a Contest! Your Board of Directors would like to engage Louise Crowley to sew us a W.K.A. banner -- so we can tell which way the wind is blowing at our weekly kiteflies and at contests -- also for advertizing purposes. But, what would you like it to look like? Bring your ideas to the Winter Equinox, eh?

Tom Sisson -- speaking of seamstresses -- oops, "seamsters", sewed up a good one in November -- for his brother. His brother was visiting St. Louis and planned to take a river tour on the stern-wheeler, "Mississippi Queen". The travel brochure urged participants to bring kites. Tom's nylon and dacron delta, multi-colored, was built for low winds. The bridle point was so far back that Tom had to add a fringed skirt to the trailing edge. But it really paid off when contest time came on the tour boat -- it was sailing WITH the wind. He won a 1977 nice certificate.

Annual New Years Day Fly - Once again we'll defy the elements at Golden Gardens Park. This will be our fourth year -- and we haven't been skunked yet. We were going to forgoe it this year in deference to the Huskies-in-the-Rose-Bowl. But the Huskies deferred to us and postponed the Rose Bowl until Monday, the 2nd of Jan. ! So -- any time after 1:30 pm, c'mon out!

If you haven't visited Great Winds Kite Shop lately, you have really missed it. Those artists down there have arranged their kites in such a manner that they make an artistic arrangement, in addition to being artistic individually. Among the new items there, you will see individually air-brushed parrot kites, made by Tom and Bill and Ken. Really nice -- and colorful. They would like to make up some other familiar Washington State birds, like the seagull -- and the legendary Ouwich Bird.

Us and our Big Mouths - after hearing the worries of some of the other members concerning long kitelines flown from Gasworks Park. Ye Olde Editor made up a letter to

the Seattle Parks Dept., suggesting that they plant a sign on top of the cinder hill "DANGER - Low-flying aircraft. No more than 300 feet of kite line when kites are flying over the water". We wrote that we were worried about Proud Parents' buying dime-store two-stickers and seven balls of string and flying them nine miles over Lake Union at a low angle. If the line wound around an airplane propeller hub and it crashed, we surely would be banned from flying kites from Gasworks Park. And that is one of Seattle's favorite kiting spots.

Well, their Safety Supervisor and couple of his assistants met with Dave Checkley and Van Gilder at the park in November and then went to consult with the City Attorney. Now it appears that the only legal language they can come up with that would keep the Park Dept. from being responsible for an accident of this type is the complete banning of all kiting at Gasworks Park!

At the further urging of some of us on the telephone, they have it on the back burner -- possibly until they have some complaints from fliers-of-airplanes about near-misses. Our club \$100,000 liability insurance does not sound like too much when you replace an airplane and the lifetime income of the pilot, does it?

Bill Hull, at Great Winds, says that they are going to get up a kite contest of major proportions for this summer -- with sponsors and money and promotion and like that. So watch for further developments on this.

Joseph Lee, the kiteflying parson, is still doing his thing. He moved into our neighborhood in West Seattle and we haven't seen as much of him as when the Lee family lived in Clarkston, WA. He told about his tour of Europe last summer, to a Methodist Conference. He flew kites in Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy. He was in one of those huge squares in front of a cathedral in Italy where there were thousands of pigeons. So, like any self-respecting kiter, he naturally put up his eagle kite to see if pigeons could tell the difference. He asks, "Have you ever seen 1,000 pigeons catapult into the sky simultaneously?" "Quite a sight", he adds, innocently.

Our local kite shoppe has a couple of new reel ideas you should see -- "Halos" (or Cuban Yoyos) and the Fuercetti Reel. Reel ingenious. Ken Conrad says that they're going to put out another brochure: "Guide

after six-or-so years of experience, I still have my moments of frustration. Included also will be a Repair and Maintenance Manual and Kit, containing such things as tape, glue, splints, needles -- and "Niji Knives". (never heard of 'em before) They're sharp.

Oh, they want us to know that they will be closed from December 25th to January 6th.

**SCHEDULE!** -- Weekly fly-ins -- "Where you will most likely find other kite club members flying on a Sunday afternoon". This is the time and the place to try out our new ideas!

-----Clip and save -----  
Dec. 11th - Gasworks Park -  
18th - Stan Sayers Park -  
25th - Sand Point Park -  
Jan. 1st -- Annual Big Fly Of The Winter:  
New Years Day fly-in at Golden Gardens  
Park --  
Jan. 8th - Gasworks -  
15th - Stan Sayers -  
22nd - Sand Point -  
29th - Golden Gardens -  
----- Cut out and post -----

Louise Crowley did some kiteflying in San Francisco recently with the Come Fly A Kite shop people in their little park near their place in Gheradelli Square. She says that there is one kite-festooned tree right in the middle of it, evidencing its kite-eating talents. They fly mostly fighters and cobras down there. The winds are tricky in that park.

Valerie Govig tells about a fellow in Louisiana who hasn't bowed to the Japanese domination of the longest-kite-train records. When he wrote Guinness book of records about his 26 kites-on-one-line, they referred him to Val. She sent him a picture of 2,300 kites going out. Now, he is set to send up -- get this -- 10,000 - ! Has 1,300 made already. They're small Eddys.

Wasn't that a good issue of Kite Lines this time? You'll note that us people in Seattle manage to figure prominently.

Well, remember the Open House at Great Winds and the New Years Day fly-in!

Jack Van Gilder  
938 0550

P.S. ENCLOSED IS LAST PAGE  
OF ROSTER, WITH NEW  
MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVE  
MISPLACED YOUR ROSTER,  
PHONE CARL BRUCE.

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