

# WAKAWA

## Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER -- April, 1978 --

Well, we're in the middle of our Busy Season! With a vengeance. Two events down and about nine to go.

There are several tired bodies strewed about this morning after helping construct 1,260 kites at our annual Science Center Exhibition. But it was worth it -- you should see the eyes of the kids when they took off around the perimeter of the Eames Theater, towing their kites overhead! Each of our busy kite-maker-helpers were overseeing three and four kites at a time. At the height of the rush on Sunday afternoon, there must have been 12 WKAers on duty, helping 30 people at a time.

Several people commented on how nice the display of kites looked this year. Tom Dean took time from the kite shop to arrange and hang them. Instead of attaching one kite to each string-from-the-ceiling, he put up three and four; the air appeared filled with kites. We were afraid that there would not be enough kites to make a good display, but somehow, they came in. It didn't hurt at all that we had 28 kites from Larry Chinn and 30 or so from kids -- Cub Scouts and school children's art classes.

If the bottom line results get here by the time this newsletter is finished, we'll report them in a later paragraph.

Another project that was a lot of fun -- and a lot of work for some of us -- was the half-time program we put on for the Seattle Sonics professional basketball game on March 19th. We had scheduled this for the 26th, but one of the local radio stations had more crunch so they sponsored an activity. This caused Bill Hull of the kite shop to come back from his vacation early. Sorry 'bout that, Bill! He was up in mid-British Columbia, helping Chief Dan George's village make kites.

Several folks remarked that David Checkley did a very good job of filling in for Bill as announcer. The Coliseum was sold out, so we flew kites in front of 13,500 more people.

Last call for dues renewal. If this newsletter contains another WKA membership application, yours are due.

One reason we're rushing this newsletter out is that several of us would like to caravan to Vancouver, B.C. this coming Sunday. Remember that last year, this was a very big event -- they had over 1,000 people there. They gave away prizes last year but we're just not sure about this year. Following is each and every work of their brochure:

### " THE THIRD ANNUAL GREAT PACIFIC RIM KITE FESTIVAL

April 9th - Sunday - starting at noon -

Bring all our kites, kids and cameras! A once a year opportunity to see the growing sport of kite-flying at its best in Vancouver. A chance for kite-flyers to air their opinions and creations. A chance for newcomers to feel the magnetism of this scientific hobby. Special guests will include prominent Vancouver kite-flyers and members of the Washington Kiteflyers Association. Also watch for the A & W Root Bear!

Co-sponsored by: Vancouver Museums and Planetarium, Woodward's Gastown, M&W Food Services, Onliwon Button, High As A Kite (the kite shop), and Laser Seaworthy Development. Further information at High As A Kite 687 8041.

At Vanier Park, behind the Museum-Planetarium Building."

They don't say anything about contests or prizes this year. So just take your best kites and be prepared for anything. Those interested in driving up, so far, are: Bill Spezia, John Dusenberry, Jack Van Gilder, J. C. Young, Carl Brewer, the Great Winds fellows and Tom Spurlock. Give one of them a call for car-pooling.

Dale Flesner, of North Hollywood, CA, writes that it is very possible a couple of fellows, at least, will be up to ride along with us to Vancouver, Frank Alonzo (Mylar Star) being the most likely.

Cherry Blossom Festival: 3rd Annual - to be held again this year at Seward Park. Frank Hitori just phoned to tell us that there will be prizes given on the "Point System". Points awarded for "Beauty", "Craftmanship" and "Performance". So put together good,

all-around kites, People! Saturday, April 22nd

And the Tacoma Audubon Society is sponsoring a kite contest on May 7th -- a Sunday -- with some real good -- lots of real good -- prizes! At Swan Creek Park Uplands -- at 1:00 pm -- From Seattle, take I-5 south and exit at "Bay St." (Exit #135) -- proceed to Portland St. and look for kites -- or at least at your map. This should be fun and we hope lots of you will make this little excursion.

Westport-Gravland "Blessing of the Fleet" -- April 29th - Saturday -- at the beach at Westport. Just head for the ocean and look for kites. Or ask at headquarters, in town, where our section of beach is assigned.

More on the Science Center Exhibit; the "bottom line" -- our profit -- won't be out until after this newsletter is in the mail. But we do have the figures on attendance: 1,988 on Saturday and 1,885 on Sunday -- almost 4,000 people! Best guess: \$640 profit

This is how our "profit" works: The "Average revenue for a two-day weekend in the winter" for the Science Center is \$2,880. It looks as though the revenue for the weekend of our kite show was about \$4,660. We split the difference, \$1,780, with the Science Center. After about \$250 expenses to us, we should clear about \$640.

Now, where does that money go? Well, Tom Dean, the artist partner at the Kite Shop, has designed a book plate for us which says, in effect, "This book donated to this library by W.K.A. in memory of Tony Toledo". We plan on spending some six or seven hundred on good kite books and contributing them to libraries -- to promote kiting.

We want to thank everybody who helped! The Ol' Guard know who they are -- it wouldn't have been done without you. But there were an encouraging number of new people: Penny and Keith Wilson, Tom Spurlock and Jennifer Neff, Jim Greeno, Larry Chinn, Dennis Broderick, Joseph and Alice Lee, Larry O'Leary, Duane Hudson; you guys and gals helped our image as a cheerful, friendly group. We even dragged one willing helper right off the floor: Brad Smith, from Tacoma, a junior high student with understanding parents.

New material: have you tried the "high-density polyethylene" they have at the kite shop yet? Wonderful stuff. And it rustles in the wind. Light and strong.

One of the most amazing kites was an eight-foot bat kite which had flown in Bali the week before. That's right -- Indonesia. Harry Lowery brought it over. He and Mrs. Lowery saw our pictures in the Sunday Magazine section of the Times and called up to volunteer it. Don't know where we would be without volunteers! Thanks again!

Schedule:

----- Clip and save -----

April 9th: Trip to Vancouver B.C.; Pacific Rim Kite Festival; noon.  
 -- for those still in Seattle:  
 Gasworks Park. - regular fly.

April 16th: Stan Sayers Park  
 22rd: (Saturday)- Cherry Blossom Festival - 11:30 to 3 (contest 1:00 to 3:00) - Seward Park  
 23rd: Sand Point Park - regular fly  
 29th: Westport Contest - "  
 30th: Golden Gardens Park - "

May 7th: Tacoma Audubon Contest - 1 pm.  
 Gasworks Park - regular fly

May 14th: Stan Sayers Park - "  
 21st: Sand Point Park - "  
 28th: Golden Gardens Park- "

----- Pin up for reference -----

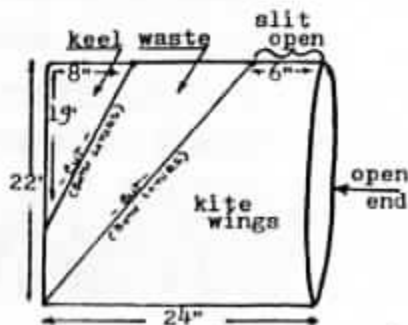
Last chance to tour Japan's kite festivals!  
 Phone Dave Checkley: At 4 5350

This is the design of the kites we made with the kids and people at our exhibit this year.

TRASH BAG "DELTA" KITE - -

- plan by Bill Lee,  
 Washington Kitefliers As

STEP #1: Cut out -



Write us and we'll send you the plans free!

Washington Kitefliers Association  
 Pacific Science Center  
 200 2nd Ave. N.  
 Seattle, WA 98109