

WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER OF JUNE,

First, our show!



-- a good mix of the old and the new --
the traditional and the modern, as illus-
trated here with an O-Dako and parafoil.

We had two of the smaller O-Dako kites on display -- 9x12 ft. and 11x14. It was just too much trouble and time to get the 26-footer out of storage. Besides, we're saving that for the A.K.A. convention in October when some of our friends from the Orient will be over.

Here's the over-all view of the kite dis-



-play. Most noticeable would be the 250-some kites from school kids, around the walls, lower right. And J. C. Young's 80-disc dragon kite, overhead, voted the favorite by the Public.

We could go on all night about the Science Center Kite Exhibit, there were so many new and outstanding things about it: representative kites from other countries, a different, larger, more dramatic display room, a catalog of kites, etc. The bottom line is that our P.R. wasn't so good this year and not as many viewers showed. Quality up, attendance down. The old story, eh? For anyone who missed the show, it will be hung until the Gossamer Albatross leaves mid-July.

Many, many people are to be thanked for the success of the show: Bob McGort, our hard-working president, David Checkley, our chairman-of-the-board without whom we tend to flounder, Bob Randlet, artist in charge of hanging kites, the Chinns, and

all those out-of-Seattle people, Margaret Gregor, Richland, WA, and Dan Kurahashi, Vancouver, Canada, for instance. And then, the people from overseas like Peter Lynn of New Zealand, Helen Bushell of Australia, Clive Rawlinson and Martin Powell of England, M. Giraud of France, Mr. Chun and the Taiwan Kite Club, Kintaro Siguro and Nishibayashi of Japan, not forgetting Lee Toy of Berkeley and Creighton Wirick, Upton, NY. and Mel Goyig of Baltimore, MD.

Here's Nishi, showing a class of 2nd



graders at View Ridge school, Mrs. Novakof, teacher, how to make kites.

Fort Nisqually Park Contest: Didn't hear about it, March 29th? Mark Schlogger did, and attended with camera to see how others do it. Tom Andres, a fourth grade teacher



at Idlewood Elementary School, Tacoma, here hangs the kites his class made. Mark reports that he teaches math and other science with kites. Mark thought that the contest was something we should do more of -- involve community groups for prizes, etc. We'll watch for announcements next year, Mark, and report ahead of time.

Memorial Day Contest, May 26th; Gasworks Park: WOULD YOU BELIEVE -- some dozen-odd oddballs showed up in the rain, here



shown all over the face of Jan Kloock, to participate?! Your Editor was safe, dry and snug, building kites in his warm basement. Here's Jan's "Most Beautiful" winner -- "Sunface" -- a flat kite -- sewn as



only Jan and Louise Crowley can do. Nishi, John Rask, and Roger McCort were other winners. Bill Lee had to fly his "Smallest"

winner, a tissue paper French Military kite, inside the picnic shed - naturally! Roger wasn't too sure about his prize, a trip on a hot-air balloon. So it looks like his folks, Bob and Lynn, are going to have their first experience.

A. Convention, October 2nd - 5th, 1980.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a registration blank. We're asking everyone to register, with their deposits, quickly, so that we can complete our planning and tie down money-deposits we must make. This \$35.00 buys an awful lot -- two dinners and meeting rooms, to head the list.

To enlarge on the enclosed flyer: This is the first time the W.K.A. has been involved in something this big and it's a real challenge to pull it off as well as the people Back East have done for the last two years -- the people centered around the Maryland Kiteers.

One thing we have that they don't is the Pacific Science Center, whose facilities we will be using for our convention meetings. This is one beautiful place! We were just real lucky to get it for you.

The Edgewater Inn is built right OVER the water - wonderful! Bayside rooms (slightly extra) allow you to fish from your window. We have 50 rooms reserved for you.

We are asking Seattleites and others with cars to pool-it for transportation to Magnuson Park for the kite-fly/contest on Saturday. Transport from hotel to Science Center is no problem, being walking distance. Magnuson Park formerly was Sand Point Naval Air Station, so you can just imagine the vast expanse of kiteflying room available -- right at the lakeshore.

As for people - ! Well, this promises to be more INTER- than merely "national". We have quite a group of Japanese coming and also a contingent from the Taiwan. The problem is going to be in trying to decide which of six different exciting seminars/workshops to choose between. Seattle is "The Gateway to the Orient", so what do you expect?

Many optional day-trips will be available, from a mere round-trip two hour ferry ride with its challenge of keeping a kite up the entire trip, to excursions up Mt. Rainier

or to a Little Bit of Olde England (Victoria, Canada) and many more. We hope somehow to let many experience the thrill of flying indoors at the Kingdome.

The "International Kite Festival" fly-in and contest will de-emphasize (just slightly) the "contest" side -- for two reasons: 1.- former contests have shown that A.K.A.ers enjoyed showing off and comparing notes with other serious flyers more than competing against them, despite what makes the newspapers -- and, 2.- what about the poor judges? How are we going to compare a 2,000 kite train with a 26 by 16 ft. single kite * requiring 150 people to hold it down? Both are phenomenal -- but which is best? IS there a "BEST"?

As soon as the contest committee has whittled away at the 179 possible events for a contest, we will publish them -- at least by our next newsletter, Aug.'80.

*(A suburban community college kite team is planning to demonstrate a 50' by 50' parafoil -- not to let the cat out of the bag!)

Joe Voellmeck, our chairman, is a retired Air Force officer, used to organizing things so that the ordinary kiteflier, with his/her "ordinary" single-line, ordinary-sized kite will also have a place in the sun. Past experience tells us that Two-Line Control People tend to enjoy competition, so we will attempt to provide plenty.

Schedule of events-before-the-convention:

June 22nd - Sunday Afternoon fly at Gasworks Park - traditional get-together - come show-and-tell with the rest of the bunch

June 29th - same

July 4th - Friday - all WKAers should have received a brochure from Ocean City, WA, north of Ocean Shores, concerning what looks like a real nice contest on Saturday, July 5th. A bunch going!

July 6th - Sunday PM at Gasworks Park.

July 13th - same

July 19th - Saturday - noon - Vancouver Sea Festival, Vanier Park, Vancouver, B.C., Canada: I just wish we would remember to consult with our Canadian buddies before we schedule far in ad-

vance on events. A bunch of us have attended this fly-in get-together in the past and had an absolute BALL. The new British Columbia Kitefliers Assn. sponsoring. But the next day, Sunday, comes:

July 20th - Sunday - Port of Seattle's
Fourth Annual Elliott Bay Park
Kite Fly and Contest -- 1:30 pm

Kite fight - Longest line - Most Unusual - Highest Flier - Longest Tail - Novice - We'll try to get a separate, complete mailing out on this as soon as possible, along with park-and-ride instructions. Prizes. This replaces our Volunteer Park Seafair contest this year.

July 27th - Sunday at Gasworks fly-in

Aug. 3rd - same

Aug. 10th - same

September 14th -- Bon Marche department store, after the success of their "Sports Day" during their Orient Expressed Festival of 1979, want to do it again. Watch for next newsletter. Fun-run, sail race and kites!

October 3rd, 4th and 5th -- Annual (Third) American Kitefliers Assn. convention at Seattle's Pacific Science Center.

Remember, People, we want to HEAR from you! Write or phone interesting tid-bits --

Jack Van Gilder - 938 0550 -

in WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION - Pacific Science Center, 200 2nd Ave. No. Seattle, WA 98109 -- bi-monthly newsletter listing fun and games in the Puget Sound area.

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