

# WAKANA

## Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

NEWSLETTER OF FEBRUARY, 1981 - -

Report -- on business meeting of W.K.A. on January 20th:

New President: Bob McCort will repeat his good job of last year.

New Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Sisson has retired from the City of Seattle so will take an official job.

Contest Committee: Jack Van Gilder will head it up. We had a proposed set of information/rules which we will provide anyone interested. Phone 938 0550.

Education Committee: Suzanne Sadow, chairperson, reports that they are putting together a kit of plans and suggestions for teachers, Scouts, libraries, etc. interested? Phone 623 7095 or 624 6886.

Incorporation: Mike Auregemma reports it isn't very advantageous for a smaller club like ours, despite tax-deductible gift possibilities and savings on bulk mailing rates. Disadvantages: Red tape

A.K.A. Convention: Dallas, Texas, got it for next fall. Whew!

Half-Time At The Kingdoms: Soccer games: Last newsletter we reported on it with the promise of pictures this time, now that Julian Wolf, club photographer, is over the flu:



DUES ARE DUE! As reported last newsletter, we had to raise the dues to \$5.00 this year. If there is an application blank enclosed with this newsletter, your dues -- they cover just about all the mailing costs -- are due for the year.

KITEMAKING WORKSHOP: Mickey Gustin, of the Factory School of the Visual Arts, invites us all to take a class in state-of-the-art kite sewing. Diane Aurigemma will instruct. Remember how Diane placed in the A.K.A. Convention Contest. They plan to instruct on the history of kites and demonstrate building the diamond kite (two-sticker or Eddy kite), dragon kite and others. You will come out of the class with a 5-ft. delta, ripstop nylon, with applique. \$30 tuition and supplies.

Sat. & Sun., March 28 and 29th, 10 am to 4 pm; Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. No. Phone 632 8177 for info.



(above) Five-kite trains are a favorite with onlookers. Tissue-paper deltas only need be walked (not run) around the perimeter.

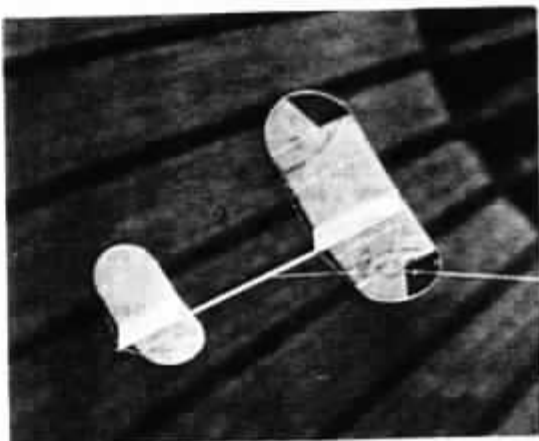
(opposite) WKAers plan strategy.

GUINNESS WORLD RECORD for Indoor Kitefly

ing - 1 Prior record: 9 hrs. 13 min. at the Seattle Kingdome, Feb. 1, 1979. New record: 39 hours, 53 min., Feb. 7, and Feb. 8th, 1980, by the same flying team: Carl Brewer, Tom Sisson and Bob McCort.

below the speakers and cables hung from the ceiling of the Kingdome.

Here's the kite that did it -- an airplane-type kite:



Note the rounded wingtips; where they are joined to the leading edge and trailing edge spars, the joint parted at about the 5th hour, 2 a.m. Carl repaired the spars and the kite was relaunched at 3:00 a.m. This was all noted in the Witness Logbook.

Below is Jim Greeno, W.K.A.'s teenage



Here's Carl Brewer, kitemaker and leader of team; note ever-present stogie. The 24 by 24 inch kite was made of balsa wood, down to 1/32nd diameter in the wings, covered with condenser paper, used in the laboratory in condensers.

The event began during the half-time of the Seattle Sonics basketball game on Friday, Feb. 6th, with two kites, Carl's and Jim Greeno's being launched. The basketball court takes up about one-third of the Kingdome football/baseball field, so the actual flying was done "back of the stands" on the unused portion of the field.

Flying was done with the kiteflier standing in one spot and pulling his kite up to an altitude of about 100 ft. just be-



whiz kid, being observed by Miriam Greeno

one of our corps of official observers. At 3:39 a.m., 6:39 hours after he launched his kite, identical in most respects to Carl's kite, Jim's line broke.

His kite was at an altitude and angle which made it impossible for him to catch the remaining kiteline in mid-air. So Jim holds some kind of a record for solo indoor flying, although he was relieved 5 minutes every hour.

Below is another member of the Brewer team, Bob McCort. Dave Checkley took



this excellent shot, showing the empty spaces behind the stands. Also showing how the flying was done. The flying team worked on a schedule of one hour on and two off and they were pretty-well exhausted.

Tom Sisson had arranged it so that any club member could come in to visit the proceedings and a few did. Some brought kites and Mitch Poling showed up with a radio-controlled, electric-powered, 36" wingspan biplane which whirred around the Kingdome like a bird. Tom also did

his best to interest The Media in publicizing the event, but with mixed results. About the only things that worked was a report he phoned in to the P.I. newspaper, which they published, and the announcement during half-times of the two basketball games played during the flight. The Sonics basketball office reported that over 300 phone calls were logged during the weekend, asking if the kite was still flying.

Shown below is team member Tom Sisson,



being observed by Patricia Leza and son, J.D., gazing angelically heavenward.

Carl and his team were shooting for at least 40 hours flying time but seven minutes short of that time, a panel of paper came unglued from the wing spars. The kite was pulled up and let to glide out in about 40-second cycle. This action of pulling in flexed the paper and spars some quarter-million times and the paper simply wore out. Tom reports that the balsawood spars were shredded also and would have collapsed soon if the paper had not parted first.

O.K. FIGHTER-KITERS - ! Wanta challenge this record? Dareyah!

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Sunday Afternoon Kitefly -- Gasworks Park -- every week -- c'mon out!

March 28 - 29th Sat. and Sun. The Factory School of Visual Arts Kite-making workshop: Diane Aurigemma

April 11th: Saturday: Cherry Blossom Kite Contest. Note that this has been moved up a week. Contest at Gasworks Park; Cherry Blossom Festival Apr. 18th.

April 12th: Sunday: Pacific Rim Kitefly in Vancouver. Let's all caravan up to Marsha Madill's big party at Vanier Park

April 24th: David Checkley leaves on kite tour of Japan. Did you see the nice writeup in the P.I. Travel Section? Phone 284 5350 long before April 24th!

April 25th: Nordstrom's Children's Day Kite Festival at Gasworks Park. A busy weekend because:

April 25th and 26th: Pacific Science Center Show -- our Yearly Biggie! Start making display kites, People!

May 2nd: Edmonds Community College kite festival on their campus. They plan to enlarge their world's largest kite a bit and fly it again. Other doings also, including events for us.

May 17th: Graylands-by-the-Sea is scheduling a kite contest/festival this year again on this Sunday. More information next newsletter.

We need pictures and news items!  
- phone Jack Van Gilder, 938 0550  
1925 Walnut S.W., Seattle, 98116

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