

DL#142



# Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER OF APRIL, 1981 - -

Well, the day surely had to come when we would run out of pictures -- note the absence this issue. To try to make this up to you, we are including the plans to two kites. These are not for the beginner. The challenge: make both and send in for your button: "Sophisticate". If you can't quite make out the fine print of Carl Brewer's indoor recordholder, send us 25¢ and a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the double-page sized plans.

Stormy Weathers says it's OK for us to print the plans for his prizewinning Winged Victory kite but that it is patented: OK to make -- but not for sale.

Stormy's in Portland, Oregon, you know. Well, a suburb thereof, anyway. Portland had the biggest kite fly in North Pacific history in March: Jim Labrakis, of "Grand Master" kites, phoned to brag: the media estimated 5 to 7,000 people came out to fly kites at Portland's Waterfront Park. The Oregonian gave it a good buildup, with pictures of Stormy, some kids and a fellow in a wheelchair flying kites. Of course, their perfect weather didn't hurt any, we sniff. Grant Raddon even backed up a truck from his kite shop and LOANED a couple hundred kites out to kids!

We had one of the driest and best-flying Marches on record. One Sunday of perfect weather, Larry Chinn phoned and asked where we had been -- there were so many kites at Gasworks Park that he almost got crowded into the street. Well, I had to admit that a group of us W.K.A. fliers had gathered at Tom Simson's for a thank-you reception for all the volunteer witnesses to Tom's and Carl Brewer's indoor duration record fly.

Those present all signed and gave Louise Crowley a heartfelt condolence card on her loss of her beloved George.

Julian Wolf, our Mad Reel-Maker, told of an incident in Bellevue: he was testing one of his reels and had about 3,500 feet of 8-lb. monofilament line out to a Bill Lee Trashbag Delta. Nobody really knows how good that little kite is because Julian was testing his REEL! He noticed that private planes were coming uncomfortably close so started reeling in.

Well, maybe you have noticed the aerodynamic effect of reeling in a long line: it improves the angle of flight. He got his line clipped off at about the 800 ft. mark.

Suzanne Sadow tells an interesting one: a lady came into Great Winds Kite Shop with her young son and after carefully selecting a kite for him, kept on looking and questioning Suzanne, coming back again and again to a very nice (and expensive) long-tailed octagonal flat kite. She finally bought it.

And then she told why: a young man who was a new and dedicated kiteflier was a friend of her family. He had died suddenly a few days before and a group of friends went together to buy a good kite in memory of him. They planned to have a little ceremony at Gasworks Park that weekend -- put the kite up a couple thousand feet and -- and just let it go!

"It'll just come down within a mile or so", protested Sue.

"That's just what he would have wanted", was the reply. "Maybe someone will find it and keep flying it". Hmmm.

At Nordstroms Department Store in March, a kite table was maintained two different Saturdays. Bob McCort and son, Roger, retired-retailer Julian Wolf and Jack Van Gilder, non-retired salesman, manned the table for information and to sell kites. The kites for sale were left-overs from the AKA convention auction. Proceeds to AKA. AKA will be glad to get the money, we're sure. It was an interesting experience but we wouldn't have wanted to put in a full day retailing.

Know of Ted Norton? He's a prominent So-Cal. kiteflier who was very good to Ye Editor and wife. He will be coming through Seattle with his kite-eating dog, Starsky, but the time is unknown. Ted doesn't know for sure whether he is going to do the U.S. clockwise or counterclockwise in direction. (See Newman's "Kite Craft", page 33, and color plate) If kite event organizers would like to have Starsky perform, phone him at (213) 691 9504.

Mel Govig, of Maryland Kite Assn. and Kites Lines Magazine, phoned the other night to emphasize the idea of MKA's "Kite Retreat Weekend" July 10, 11 and 12th. All you ever wanted to know and learn and do about kites in a beautiful setting: Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. \$75 for room and board. Best part: MKA will transport you from airport (D.C. or Baltimore) to Hilltop House resort hotel -- free! Write M.K.S., 3701 Menlo Drive, Balt.MD 21215 by May 1st.

### COMING EVENTS:

April 11th (hopefully this will reach you in time): Cherry Blossom Festival Contest at Gasworks Park: Prizes for best Japanese kite made by YOU -- and prize for best contemporary design -- point system. 1 pm - 3 pm: Prizewinners to be exhibited at Cherry Blossom Festival Apr.18th.

April 12th (Sunday) - Pacific Rim Kite Festival, Vancouver, B.C. Several of us plan to car-pool it up there for a grand time that they always show us. Phone Bob McCort - 743 7081

April 24th (Friday) Dave Checkley leaves for Japan kite tour the day before - -

April 25th and 26th: Pacific Science Center Kite Show -- our yearly Biggie! We are cutting back a bit this year by not MAKING kites there -- that's what took all the manpower and plain, out-and-out sweat, in past years. We will be selling kite kits that kids can make at home, however, and having "docents" (tour leaders) to describe the kites. Help!

Same day: Nordstrom's Kids' Kite Contest 1:00 to 3 pm at Gasworks. (Sat.,Apr.25th)

Saturday, May 2nd: Edmonds Community Col. Children's kite festival -- their campus.

Sat.-Sun.- May 2nd & 3rd -- and again, " " May 9th and 10th: Imagination Celebration - Seattle Center - all day - the Art Mobile, filled with W.K.A. kites which have been displayed all over the western part of the state of Washington will be open by the Japanese Temple Bell -- they would like us to fly our kites around it -- anyone looking for an excuse to fly in front of a crowd in a VERY CHALLENGING location, this is it!

Sunday, May 17th: Kite Contest and Festival at Graylands, Washington, on the ocean beach; Tom Sisson, coordinator -- phone him at 725 3615 for details.

Memorial Day - May 25th - Monday - This is another Biggie! MS/WKA Kite Festival - (Multiple Sclerosis/Wash. Kite Assn.) We'll have a small contest at one corner of SAND POINT/MAGNUSON Park -- where us ol' guys and the wheelchair people can fly kites off their tailgates. We're getting the parking lot next to the playfield reserved. We need HUNDREDS of kites in the air and help, showing MS patients what to do after you put up a kite. Fun! Watch for details or phone 938 0550

June 7th - Sunday - the annual kite fly-in at Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.

June 20th - Saturday - Half-time display for the Sounders soccer game - evening - remember what fun it is to fly in the Kingdom? Here's your next chance -- phone 938 0550

Suggestion: If you are tired of the dangerous flying conditions at Gasworks Park, try Sand Point/Magnuson or Genesee. ("Genesee"? yes, we used to call it Stan Sayers Pitts park). Ye Editor' stopped by Genesee late on a Sunday afternoon and found about ten kites up and a BEAUTIFUL park. Now that the lawn has grown, it's great.

And, Magnuson - wow - all the room in the world and fly off your tailgate to boot!

But, I realize that Gasworks is Mecca - . It has "central location" and "togetherness" going for it.

Other Newsletters: Man, they're springing up everywhere. And do some of them make Ye Editor green with envy. For real professional jobs, try:

"The Windy Notice," Maryland Kite Society, Editor: George W. Fohs  
5211 Pembroke Ave., Baltimore, MD 21206  
- 6 times yearly - \$5.00 - or -  
"5/20 Kite Group" - 5/20 Kite Club  
Editor: Hank and Nancy Szerlag,  
1961 Hunt Club Drive  
Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich. 48236  
- quarterly (?) - \$5.00 - or -  
"Toronto Kitefliers" club newsletter - Garry Woodcock, editor  
1055 Shawmarr Rd., #68  
Mississauga, Ontario, L5H 3V2

For a scientific study, in a friendly fashion, with lots of meat, try "Piney Mountain Air Force Data-Letter" Guy Aydlette, editor  
P.O. Box 7304  
Charlottesville, VA 22906  
- Guy reported on Pat Hammond's exhibit last time -- lots of kite plans.  
- monthly - \$7.50

A new one that looks like lots of fun: "Tight Lines" - Greater Delaware Valley Kite Society - Len Conover, editor  
P.O. Box 426, Newfield, NJ 08344

And don't forget our near-neighbor: "Windsor" - British Columbia Kitefliers David Pinner, head writer -  
3991 Puget Drive  
Vancouver, B.C. V6L 2V3  
- quarterly (?) - \$5.00  
I visited with a group of the B.C.ers in March -- had a ball! They are very anxious to show us some hospitality when we come up to Vancouver for the Pacific Rim.

- hope I didn't hurt other clubs' feelings. Will try to list more next time.

- Jack Van Gilder - 938 0550  
(" - don't dignify me with "Editor"")

TO JOIN Washington Kitefliers and receive this deathless prose each two months all year long, send \$5.00 to the address on our heading and see what happens.

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