

# WAKANA

## Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION  
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98108

NEWSLETTER OF JUNE, 1981 -----

What's happening - ! Plenty; and this issue we've got the pictures to prove it. Below is the scene of the Science Center exhibition April 25th and 26th. This is



the view from the balcony, looking DOWN on most of the kites. There were about 100 kites on exhibition, including some 25 children's from schools. We didn't get our usual quota because of scheduling.

Our club received \$350 for our work in providing kites and running the exhibit. This, because our profit-sharing deal didn't work out well last year. We had a good crowd over the weekend; about the same as last year. We didn't actually make kites for people -- "help" them -- but sold the trashbag delta kits. What were left over were claimed by Carl Brewer, Jack Van Gilder, Tom Sisson and Larry Chinn for use with other groups. We also just about cleaned up the left-over kites from the national convention of the American Kitefliers Assn. sending their money on to them.

One feature which went well again this year was the "Master Kite-Builder" ta-

ble. We had J. C. Young, Larry Chinn, Bill Lee, Harold Writer and Ken Conrad showing the technicalities of kite-building. We tried a new wrinkle: kite tours -- Van Gilder shouted his way around the large room, arms waving, trailed by groups of wide-eyed people. Below is shown Bill



Lee, discussing a very unlikely-looking kite hanging overhead.

April 12th, four carloads of us had an absolute BALL! We drove up to Vancouver, BC, to their Pacific Rim Kite Festival. The day didn't start out very promising; when we came out of the Fraser River Tunnel, three inches of slushy SNOW greeted us.



Bottom of previous column shows Van Gilder proving that it snowed with his high-aspect ratio delta of banquet table covering material.

But the snow melted so we slogged around in the damp grass near the metal sculpture



shown here. The little girl shown here was watching Grant Madill of Victoria and Louise Crowley of Seattle.

The after-party, hosted by Hugh (seen here) and Marge Harrison, was just great!



Grant Madill, David Pinner and Les Varley are among those Canadians who are well-known for their story-telling abilities. Grant claims that he has lost three kites to the eagles! He cooks aboard tugs going all the way up the Inside Passage to Skagway, Alaska, and loves to invade the turf of the eagles along the way.

April 18th: The Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival. Another Canadian, a real Master Kitebuilder, was in attendance: Dan Kurahashi. He revealed, amongst other secrets of bamboo, how to straighten up a cut (or split) that is going off to one side. And it works! Below is David



Checkley, who headed up a crew who hung most of the exhibit booths, etc., for the Cherry Blossom Festival. This activity earned the club another \$300. Tom Sigson, our club Secretary/Treasurer was his foreman and Tom also oversaw the hanging of the Science Center show. Taking down kites after Tom puts them up is sheer pleasure -- his knots all come apart with one good yank.

April 11th: Cherry Blossom Festival Contest: tough winds at Gasworks Park cut the field to a dozen or so but WKA got more than its share, complained judge David Checkley:

Japanese Traditional: 1st Place:  
Carl Brewer's tosa bishi kite:

2nd: (tie) Bill Lee's sode kite and Jack Van Gilder's Nagasaki hata.

#### Contemporary Kites:

1st: Carl Brewer's airplane-type kite (26 out a possible 30 points)  
2nd: Bill Lee's parachute kite  
3rd: Bob McCort's rip-stop delta  
Honorable Mention: Pat Taylor and Kevin Sanders.

April 25, Nordstrom's Dept. Store Kids Contest at Gasworks; we provided the judges; selected winners on a point system from about 17 entrants.

Pacific Rim, Vancouver: forgot to mention that the only prize for the day was presented to Louisa Crowley for "Spectators' Choice"; a metal sculpture of kite and flier.

May 2nd: Edmonds Community College -- they crowded thousands of youngsters onto their campus. 140 kites were made under the helpful guidance of WKAers Carl Brewer, Bob McCort, Jim Greeno, Tom Sisson and a couple of teachers and parents and older students. They made trapezoidal deltas.

Memorial Day, May 25th: despite threatening weather and light winds, there were hundreds of kites out. The breezes came and went and it was really funny; one moment, there would be no breath of air and the only kites up would be Bill Lee and Carl Brewer's windless, super-light kites, plus Julian Wolf's, up there about nine miles in the jet stream. The instant we would feel a bit of a breeze on the back of our necks, the hillside would erupt in a veritable landslide of kites fluttering aloft.

Our city's two kite shops really set an example for other areas in the country; they cooperated in putting on one of the best kite-flys we've seen -- instead of sniping and back-biting. Wonderful! Ken Grad and Mike Auragemma have my nomination for Seattle's "Big Men" award! Radio station KZAM co-sponsored also, taking care of the RR- and advertizing.

We had literally dozens of flags, lent by Seattle's foreign consulates, to be hoisted aloft on kite strings, but the wind didn't cooperate like the kite shops.

## FUN MEETING! POT-LUCK SUPPER.

Saturday, June 13th 5:00 pm, at the Van Gilders' -- 1925 Walnut S.W. -- bring a salad or hot dish -- utensils provided -- also coffee, tea and home-made root beer.

President Bob and Sect./Treas Tom have promised faithfully, right arms heavenward, that "business" will be limited to the time-span that it takes to eat. Then we will run a few blocks down to Alki Beach or Hamilton Viewpoint to fly kites. If weather doesn't cooperate -- or after dark anyway -- we'll have Show 'n Tell time -- bring your latest writings in kites or equipment -- pick up WKA plans free for latest kites -- something for the beginner or ol' pro. Also pictures! We'll have a slide and 8 mm movie projector and screen. Bring plenty.

Your Board of Directors needs guidance, feedback and opinions on how to spend our bank account, who to cut off the mailing list (freebies) and a couple other little matters that shouldn't take more than 15 - 20 minutes.

May 24th - Grayland-on-the-Coast Kite Contest. Tom Sisson helped their C.-of-C. and handled the microphone. He said that it rained all the way to the coast, stopped for the contest and started raining again upon completion -- and they had a real nice one!

About 24 kids entered the "High Fliher" event and they all flew at once. Our Washington beaches have miles and miles of room, you know. The wind was about 20 mph, so anything flew. Several retired people helped and they had beautiful prizes: leaded glass kites on mahogany bases, made by the people there.

Bob McCort, you may remember, was lent ("loan-ed") by Ma Bell to their Portland office for almost a month. He and Lynn stayed down there one weekend to take in a kite contest at their Riverfront Park. It advertized "expert judging". When Grant Raddon recognized Bob, he asked if he would help them judge. Isn't it nice to be a recognized expert, Bob?

New manufactured kite: at Gasworks Park this past weekend, a young fellow was flying a 15-kite train of 12' Eddy kites. It turned out his mother had purchased

it in Japan. To find out the unique method of attaching the the cross-spar so that each kite would have a bowed cross-spar and still stack neatly without a bow-string, come to the pot-luck meeting Saturday.

**SCHEDULE:**

**HARRISON FESTIVAL of the KITES:** Phone  
Harrison Hot Springs, Canada, 725 3615  
Sunday, June 7th -- noon - many prizes!

**June 13th:** Saturday, 5 pm - Pot Luck  
Party at Van Gilders - phone 938 0550

**June 20th:** Saturday evening; fly at Half  
Time of the Sounders soccer game in the  
Kingdome. FUN! A thrill! Phone 938 0550

**July 4th:** Olympic North Shore Beaches  
will again have a kite contest. Had a  
ball last year. There was room enough  
for J. C. Young to loft his 120-disc  
dragon kite. See the brochure on the  
bulletin board at Great Winds shop or  
phone Gay there: 624 6886.

**July 29 - Aug. 2nd:** Des Moines, (WA,) "  
Waterland Festival". We will have kites  
on display at their city hall and library  
- workshops - phone 725 3615 (Tom Sisson)

## Kitelines

Kite Lines is the comprehensive international journal of kiting and the only magazine of its kind in America. Subscriptions to Kite Lines: One year (4 issues), \$9.00; two years (8 issues), \$17.00. Write to: Kite Lines, 7106 Campfield Road, Baltimore, MD 21207.



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