



Newsletter

July/August 2005

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

Plan Now for the Kid's Day Events at WSIKF by Glenda Kleppin

This is it. The final reminder of the "Kid's Day" events planned for Wednesday at WSIKF. I know that I've reminded everybody several times about the "Foster Grandparent Fun Fly". But I also want to remind you that we need lots more entries this year in the "Kid's Camp" and the "Group of Kid's Kites/Displays" categories.

So often we plan our displays to impress other adults. As I've said before, I learned this lesson all too well when my daughter brought my grandchildren (ages 4-14) to the event a few years ago and pointed out that--with the exception of the morning Children's Events and the Kitemaking Tent--there really was not much on the beach to hold their attention. She pointed out that most of the displays were too adult-oriented and most of the kites were being flown by adults. There was not much that the kids could walk up to and touch and few people interested in taking the time to talk to them about kites, much less show them how to fly one. My grandchildren voted with their feet by opting to go downtown shopping after they made their kites.

Based on my experiences when instructing preschool teachers (in one of my many career incarnations), I began my quest to make my own kite displays more "kid friendly." Some thoughts I had were: make things smaller; use images from children's literature and movies; and try to imagine the display from the perspective of someone only 36" tall. I also tried to think of new ways to get kids flying kites properly instead of running around in circles with them (as they all too frequently do after kitemaking workshops). This became my basis for designing and judging the Kid's Day events.

Why a "Foster Grandparent's Fly"? When I first started attending WSIKF, the Wednesday events were targeted at kids and people over 50. For that reason, I decided that I wanted to combine the two age groups as I had done with preschool groups by using the "Foster Grandparent Program", which is now a part of Senior Corps. According to their website: "Foster Grandparents serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers for at-risk children and youth with special needs through a variety of community organizations, including schools, hospitals, drug treatment facilities, correctional institutions, and Head Start and day-care centers. In fiscal year 2001 more than 30,000 Foster Grandparents tended to the needs of 275,000 young children and teenagers."

The theory behind the program was that parents are often too busy with meeting the everyday needs of life for kids, while Grandparents more often have time to actually play with the kids (or join them in their own second childhood). That perfectly described what I envisioned for this event--adults and kids playing together as equals.

The members of the kite community have succeeded in recovering their wonder of the simple joy of making and flying kites. Now it is time to pass this wonder on to the youngsters who will eventually take our places. Please join me in attempting to draw kids into the excitement and creativity of the sport of flying kites.

Spaghetti Feed 2005 Volunteers Needed

It's that time of year again. Doors open at 5:00pm (kite time) and I will try to start feeding you all shortly after that. I and the Crew DESPERATLY need a few volunteers. The two (2) main ones we need is someone to take the money at the door as the people come in. The second one is someone to empty the trash cans as they get full. If someone can volunteer for these two little jobs you will take a big weight off my shoulders. Then I can stay in the kitchen cooking. (unless someone wants the cooking job and then I will empty the trash) Please contact me if you want to volunteer. 360-243-0508 or baysidetrader@comcast.net Dave C.

WKA/Sisson Scholarship For 2006

If you are one of our newer members, you might not be aware of the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. If you are interested in the opportunity to take classes in making kites, this conference is a great place to learn all about it. This scholarship was named for one of our Founding Fathers, Tom Sisson, who wanted everyone to have the Fort Worden Experience.

This Conference is held annually in March at the Fort Worden Conference Center in Port Townsend. For three days there are many classes to choose from for simple or more elaborate designs. The classes are taught by local, national and international experts that share their knowledge, and some great kite stories too in their classes.

As a member of this organization, you are entitled to enter a free drawing for a chance to win a scholarship to this conference. The scholarship covers tuition, a room in the dorm, meals and \$50 toward class fees. Entrants must be a current member at the time of the drawing and conference. Mail a post card or note with your name, address and phone number to our mailing address. Your entry **must be received by August 10, 2005**. The drawing will be held at the WKA Spaghetti Feed on Wednesday, August 17, 2005, in Long Beach, WA. You do not have to be present to win, but it would be a lot more exciting!

If you have questions about this scholarship program, contact the Membership Director, Sylvia Bernauer at (425) 822-4605 or dbrn1@earthlink.net. Visit www.kitemakers.org for more information about the conference.

WKA Board Members

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belassis@blarg.net

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carollord@comcast.net

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dbrn1@earthlink.net

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ken@greatwinds.com

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dshattuck@hotmail.com

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Glenda Kleppin
gmakleppin@usa.net
Jerry Graham
jlgraham@usa.net

Newsletter

Dave Christenson (temp)
baysidetrader@comcast.net

Webmaster & Safety

Positions Available

For the first time that I can remember, the weather on Kite Hill was nearly perfect. The wind, while a bit squirrely now and again, was from the west and was just right for everything from the kid's kites up through the five foot square twisted log cabin quilt pattern kites from John Freeman's class. I even saw some flexi-foils. One had a guy airborne for a huge jump. The picture of that is on the WKA website . On the Lake Washington waters were a couple of huge power kites pulling people on surfboards.

Glenda had sent notices to every news outlet we could think of, but only a cameraman from channel 5 arrived. He spent nearly an hour filming kids and dads flying, showing the family nature of the event.

The WKA set up a headquarters under the awning of the motorhome and Sylvia Bernauer did a brisk business signing up new members, greeting people, and talking about kiting. She wasn't alone under the awning: Glenda and Susie held court as well. It seems there was a major level dog show in another area of Magnusson Park but many people with dogs couldn't find it and came clear out to where we were. We met some very nice dogs and convinced more than one owner to stop and fly a kite.

One group that stopped at the HQ was from a Cancer Survivors organization. They talked about using fly fishing to help people regain use of their muscles and Glenda suggested kite flying: Have them start with single line and then move onto stunt kites after their strength was built up.

While we set up the HQ, David Ellis, from Kansas, showed up. He was in town for family business and since it couldn't wait until August so he could do WSIKF he looked at the events schedule and chose the one planned for Father's Day here. We had met him at Ft. Worden and we were delighted to see him again. He brought an entire suitcase full of kites, mostly soft, and had a great time.

We brought out the bubble makers, too. We've found many kinds of powered bubble makers and set several up for the crowd's amusement. While we were playing with the BIG bubble makers the cameraman from King 5 TV showed up and shot about five minutes of various bubbles flying around. He was having almost as much fun as we were.

Ken and Suzanne had their usual Make a Kite booth and kept very busy all day. There were many delightfully decorated kites produced and flown. Occasionally one would escape into the trees and one even made it all the way to the water and kept flying as it dragged its' line holder through the water. I think it may have gone clear across the lake if it avoided the boaters.

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Speaking of water, Alan Fossum told of going swimming to try to catch a kite that got away. He got too tired to keep chasing it, swam back to the swimming platform and successfully recruited some paddle boat people to recover it. They had a terrible time paddling against the wind on returning from the rescue. Alan said he had visions of the kite rescue turning into a people rescue...

There were a couple of train wrecks. Ken Conrad had his beautiful long train up along side Rick White's delightful but shorter one. The wind kept dipping them toward the trees and I was worried about tangles. That didn't happen, but one of the twisted log cabins and a kid's kite got tangled and took out Rick's train. During the recovery operation the line broke so Rick pulled it all down for repairs. Rick also spent much of the day running around and taking pictures. He took about fifty and put many on the website

The Westport Windriders showed up with a trailer full of kites and picnic supplies. Other than getting tired from going up and down the hill, they had a great time and added much to the airborne display.

It was a great Father's Day Fly. Thanks to all the people who made it happen, from the permit process to the final clean-up. We'll see you next year!

WELCOME TO NEW WKA MEMBERS!

Barb Hilliker & Sperry Rinehart
Jack & Joey Judd
Roger Ringness and Nathan
Tony Sanfilippo and Nick
Jo Scozzafava and Max and
Richard and Suzanne Hall
Sally Uhorchak
Bryce Williams

Bellevue
Allyn
Mukilteo
Issaquah

Seattle
University Place
Spanaway

SPECIAL EVENTS:

7/8-10/05 Westport Windriders
Kite Festival, Graylsnd, WA. 360-
268-0877

8/17/05 WKA Spaghetti Feed
info call 1-360-243-0508

8/15 thru 8/21/05 WSIKF,
Long Beach, WA



World Kite Museum & Hall of Fame
www.worldkitemuseum.com

P.O. Box 964
112 3rd Street N.W.
Longbeach, WA 98631

Phone: 360-642-4020
Fax: 360-642-4020
info@worldkitemuseum.com

Kite Clubs

Associated Oregon Kiters

Contact Judy Brown
Email: judyb7@mindspring.com
P.O. Box 25616
Portland, OR 97298
Membership includes bi-monthly newsletter

Basin Kitefliers Association

Contact Bill Walton
509-765-9111 at email:
BKA@mlfloral.com
Moses Lake Floral
115 W 3rd Ave.
Moses Lake, WA 98837-1930

Ben Franklin Kite Society

Contact Larry Zilar
509-545-6727 or email:
zilarm@charter.net

Lilac City Wind Chasers

Contact Bill Cox
509-327-7974 or email:
cxbil@aol.com
meets every Tuesday at 4pm in
Friendship Park, Greta & North
Standard(7200 block) Spokane, WA

Northwest Fighter Kite Association

meets 3rd weekend of every month,
location varies. For more info:
www.fighterkites.org

Northwest Sport Kite League

Contact Bud Hayes email:
bud@thehayesplace.com Calendar
at www.nwskl.org

Peninsula Breeze Blenders

Contact Bill Rogers or Lisa Ryan
email: lisaryan@mail.com or
billrogers@earthlink.net meets the
2nd Wednesday every month at the
Fire Station on Loxie Egan Blvd.

Pierce County Kiteflyers Assn.

Contact Scott Davis email:
prez@pcka.org meets at Summit
Library in Tacoma, 7pm last
Thursday every month.
Calendar at www.pcka.org

Seattle Kitesurfing Association

Contact John Penxa
johnpenxa@seattlekitesurfing.org
www.seattlekitesurfing.org

Squalicum Kite Flyers

Contact Don or Shirley Allen
360-733-3777

Whidbey Island Kite Flyers

Contact Allen or Marjorie Taylor
360-678-9358 meets the 3rd
Saturday every month call for
location.

Westport Windriders

Contact Bary Crites
360-491-8605 or email:
bearkites@aol.com meets 4th
Saturday every month at Grayland
Beach, followed by potluck at
Willapa Grange Hall

American Kitefliers Association

Contact Marla Miller - Regional
Director 253-752-7051 or email:
region10@aka.kite.org Regional
www.aka.kite.org/region10 or
www.aka.kite.org

British Columbia Kite-Flyer Assn.

P.O. Box 755
101-1001 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 4E4
Membership: \$20 (CDN)
www.bcka.bc.ca

POEM

by Glenda Kleppin

For Beautiful and Spacious Skys

You ask me why I fly my
kites
I only have to say
It keeps me young and
makes me smile,
And gives perspective to my
day.

The world is filled with scary
things
The news is filled with woe,
My mind gets cluttered, bog-
gled, fried,
And that is why I go --

To the beach to fly my kites
Where the air is clean
Sounds of children's laugh-
ter
To ponder in my dreams.

In beauty I surround myself,
It seeps into my soul.
Creating beauty in the sky
Becomes my newfound goal.

Time and wind and surf and
sun
A healing, natural blend,
They cleanse my heart, my
mind, my soul
My life is on the mend.



All pictures are from the
Fathers Day Fly at Magnu-
son Park (aka Kite Hill)
Seattle, WA.

Pictures are courtesy of
Rick White





Washington Kitefliers Association
An affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association
Membership Application

By becoming a member of WKA, you receive the WKA Newsletter every other month for a year, a membership card which entitles you to discounts at some area kite stores, and a wealth of information about special events and goings-on in the Northwest kiting community.

Join the WKA and share the fun! Find out more about the fastest growing popular pastime in the United States today. WKA meetings offer individuals and families the opportunity to participate in the administrative support and planning of local kite events and workshops. Membership cost per household in the US or Canada is \$15.00. Fill out this application and return it with a check or money order payable in US funds.

Membership

Washington Kitefliers Association
Name _____

C/O Pacific Science Center
200 Second Ave. North
Seattle, WA 98109
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Visit us on the web at
www.wka-kitefliers.org

Phone/E-Mail _____

Names of additional family members _____

Washington Kitefliers Association
An affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association
C/O Pacific Science Center
200 Second Ave. North
Seattle, Washington 98109

