

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER
February 1987
Vol. 1987, No. 1

FORT WORDEN KITE RETREAT WEEKEND, March 6-7-8, 1987, Friday afternoon to Sunday Afternoon. Check-in is officially 3:00 p.m., but we have the use of the USO Building ALL DAY Friday, Saturday, and Sunday so we can come early and set up. Our first meal is Friday at 6:00 p.m. and the last is noon Sunday. So far we have the following workshops confirmed:

David Checkley will be leading a class on the making of giant Chinese dragon kites, similar to the one seen at the right. The plan is that each person will make two to four disks out of styrofoam plates [Why hasn't this been thought of before?]. We will then attempt to string them together into the FORT WORDEN WKA K BFK BCKA COOPERATIVE DRAGON. Then we'll keep available for special occasions to these clubs.

"Good-Wind-Wings -- Idea To Reality". Stan Swenson and Kathy Goodwind will lead us through the steps.

Ray McConnell will share what he knows about "Multi-Cellular Box Kites" and he knows plenty!

"How To Make Wind Socks" by Lynn Lary.

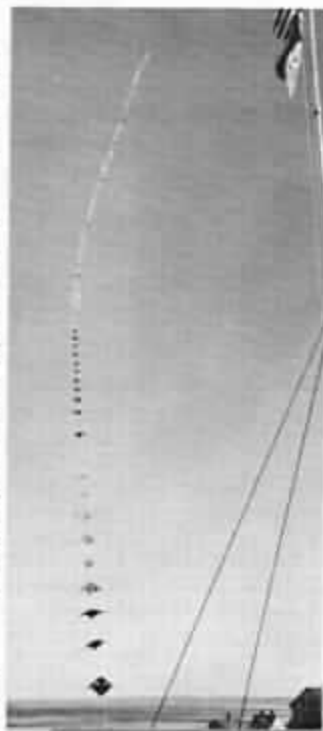
"Heat Sealing Plastic" with Jack Van Gilder. Jack recently invested in 5,000 high density poly bags, ideal for heat sealing. They will be available at his cost (5 cents each) in red, white, blue, orange, or yellow. Jack will also get into kite train making, time permitting.

Lynn and Don Lary of the Association of Oregon Kitefliers are working on recruiting more presenters. They are also planning other activities, such as making our own video show. This will include a segment on things we can do to help the American Kitefliers Association (our national umbrella organization). AKA puts on the national conventions, and they need all the help they can get. Additional activities already scheduled include the traditional group picture, a night fly, and a showing of films, slides, movies, and videos [Be sure to bring your own collection]. There's also a fun filled banquet. In previous years the Door Prize Chairman has been overworked and harried, so this year we are asking each person to bring a SurPrize gift. \$5.00 maximum cost and hand made, at least in part. We'd also like see the most creative and imaginative name tags.

Remember: February 15th is the regular price deadline. \$65 covers two nights, six meals, and rent for the hall. \$75 after the 15th. \$20 for workshops only. Send to Margaret Holzbauer, 703 S. Cloverdale St., Seattle, WA 98108. (206) 762-3053



David Checkley and his Chinese dragon kite



Van Gilder's delta train

WKA MEETING -- January 15, 1987 -- Pacific Science Center (our sponsor)
Election results: Jim Nettles, president; Tom Sisson, vice-president;
Margaret Holzbauer, secretary; Bob Hanna, treasurer.

Jim Nettles, 36, is fairly new to kite-flying. He couldn't believe it when his fiance, Lynn, invited him to Long Beach (WA) last year to spend a whole weekend flying kites. (Lynn's folks have a place on the beach there.) Lynn exposed him to the joy of flying a 3-pack of Trilby stunt kites, and now, as Jim says, "I've got a veritable kite shop in the house." [How many kites do they have?] "Oh, maybe one hundred or one-fifty." [Van Gilder says this is typical because most real kitefliers can't tell you how many kites they have.] Jim collects 50-50 stunters and regulars, owning stacks of Skynsaurs, Peter Powells, Trilby's, a 6'8" delta, and a 35' shark shaped dragon ("Thai Cobra") among others. Jim is the Parts Manager for a South Tacoma RV dealership and Lynn is in the Bon Marche Distribution Center near Southcenter. They live in Des Moines (WA), about halfway between. They spend much of their time off with Lynn's folks in Long Beach, so they are well known in Jim & Kay Buesing's kite shop there. Jim says he will try to promote WKA's participation in the many festivals and kite events around this region. He would like to check out they way they do it in California before long.



From left: Jim Nettles (President), Kevin Sanders (Past-Pres), Margaret Holzbauer (Secretary), Bob Hanna (Treasurer)



Tom Sisson,
Vice-Pres.

Tom Sisson, rumored to be nearly 65, is someone nearly everyone knows. He has been nominated twice for the national Kiteflier of the Year and the Steve Edeiken Award, the only person in the U.S. so honored. He is a very active kiteflier, kitemaker, kite inventor, teacher, organizer, and twice past-president of WKA.

Margaret Holzbauer, 39+, was WKA secretary last year and did such a fine job that she carried over this year. She is supposed to be retired, but is one of those people who never stop. Margaret does volunteer work for the Blood Bank and Mycological Society (mushroom diggers), and has been highly active in WKA affairs for several years (always turning up when there is work to be done, such as the Science Center show).

Bob Hanna, also retired, is a great and good friend of Margaret's. He too is always there when help is needed -- or when there is a kite to be flown. Bob makes Julian Wolf SO mad. Bob is about two months older than Julian, so he walks off with the "Oldest Kiteflier" award at contests with some regularity.

Other items under discussion at the meeting: **Fort Worden Retreat** (coming along nicely); **Mercer Island Art Exhibit** (called off -- the M.I. community club couldn't give up the use of their gym for a month); **Science Center Show** (will be different this year in that the show will be hung before

WKA MEETING (Cont'd)

"our" weekend -- this show always nets our club a nice honorarium, so please volunteer some time this year to help the kids make kites); **Memorial Day Weekend** (if the kite shops do their thing again, WKAers will be out in force again); the proposed **Mukilteo Festival** (first weekend in May would be a good date); **Roseanna Belotti** from the Seattle Mayor's office spoke to the meeting and asked for some help with **"Kid's Place" Day** (we decided this was right up our alley and decided that April 25th would be good); **Seattle Art Museum** would like to have something about kites on the Japanese "Boys' Day" (there was some question about "Boys' Day" being sexist, so the request was tabled pending further investigation); **Museum of Flight** (a letter was sent to the director expressing our wish to fly kites there before they hang a bunch of B-17's and other airplanes from the ceiling); **"Save Franklin High School"** (not much interest generated); **Fort Casey** (ex-president Kevin Sanders came up with a goodie this time: he invited the club to stay overnight at his Dad's place next door to Fort Casey on Whidbey Island, July 11th -- much enthusiasm!); **Kite Teachers' Packet** (available for \$1.00 -- a good deal -- and WKA gets a small commission on every one sold by the Science Center Gift Shop. One thing about the club meetings at the Science Center: they end promptly at 9:00 p.m. That's when the security guard goes off duty and locks up, so we have to be out by then. -- Jack Van Gilder

NEW NEWSLETTER NEWS

Jack Van Gilder will be turning over many of the WKA Newsletter editing chores to David Julian from now on. David will be calling on the WKA officers for regular features, business information, and other items of interest to WKA members. If you have any comments, letters, or any other items that might benefit our members, or if you have any suggestions as to how we might improve the newsletter, please send them to David Julian, 6017 SW Admiral Way, Seattle, WA 98116, or call (206) 938-4467 for information.

WE GET LETTERS (Once in a while)

Sometimes it seems that the only people who can read and write (read our newsletters and write comments) are from Chicago. Charlie Sotich, president of the Chicagoland Sky Liners Kite Club writes:

Sorry to say I can't make Fort Worden this year. [Then he lists a dozen other places he is going this spring.] 1989 might be the year ... 1988 will keep the Sky Liners busy for the A.K.A. convention.

Then he goes on to answer Van Gilder's question -- scientifically and mathematically -- on what forces are involved in "walking down" a kiteline to a heavy-pulling parafoil. It goes something like this:



The bottom line is that if you pull down at an angle that is about half way between the angle of the kite and the horizon (assuming that the other end of the line is tied down), you will have to exert just about half the force of trying to pull the kite down directly. And he can prove it. If you're interested in the formula, send a SASE.

LETTERS (Cont'd)

Charlie Sotich continues:

I found Keith Leasure's "The L-Delta Kite" to be interesting. The wing tip sticks "floating" behind the leading edge spar is something I want to try. I made a somewhat similar no-keel kite right after Christmas that I will modify by adding the wing tip sticks and see what happens in light winds.

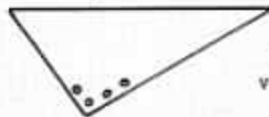
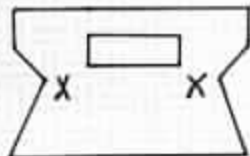
In regard to Keith's kite swinging from side to side, how about trying to move the bridle point back a bit. This should cure the problem without needing to add a tail (I think). Then it might be interesting to fly the keeled kite rebridled similarly.

I also liked your kite line winder. The simplicity of it is what I liked most.

Lee Hoover, founding father of Chicagoland Sky Liners, writes:

Enclosed find one kite winder made to your figures, EXCEPT the weak point at "X", where I've had wooden ones (not plywood) crack. I've put one wrap of DUCT TAPE there for more support.

p.s. I've also made the "L- Delta" kite, but with an "open keel. Tell Keith Leasure the Nose Line would not be needed if he had put 1 or 2 more points more on his keel.



[Keith's reply to this is that the second line is there for in-flight adjustments and for bringing down a large, very hard-pulling delta.]

Jack Van Gilder observed, wistfully, "Of all the ideas diagrammed, these, appearing in the December 86 issue of the WKA Newsletter, brought the most responses: Two!"

Suzanne Sadow and Ken Conrad write:

An absolutely charming lady visited our shop before inspired to send [us] this quote. A few weeks later, we same quote from Bill and Mary Tyrell! We've enjoyed it that we though W.K.A. Newsletter readers would get a

"I see children as kites. You spend a life-off the ground. You run with them until you're crash ... you add a longer tail ... they hit them out of the spout and assure them some-

"Finally they are airborne, but they need more string and you keep letting it out; and with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with the joy because the kite becomes more distant and somehow you know that it won't be long before this beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that bound you together and soar as it was meant to soar ... FREE AND ALONE.

"Only then do you know that you did your job."

Christmas and was received a copy of the and shared it so much kick out of it too.

time trying to get them both breathless ... they the rooftop ... you pluck day they'll fly.

— Erna Bombeck

Dr. Karl-Friedrich Klotz from Berlin (Germany) writes:

Thanks for the beautiful newsletters of the last year. I've got a new address now ... [he moved to Berlin from Nurnberg] ... please use the new address for the expected newsletters of '87. End of this year it may be possible for me to come over to the States and hopefully there are any acts of kiteflying I can enjoy. Included is my dues ... if you have any new patches or stickers of the WKA, please ... send it to me.

LETTERS OF A DIFFERENT KIND

W.K.A. (Washington Kitefliers Assn.) is frequently involved in joint efforts, such as the Fort Worden retreat, with the A.K.A. (American Kitefliers Assn.), A.O.K. (Association of Oregon Kitefliers), B.C.K.A. (British Columbia Kite Assn.), and B.F.K.A. (Ben Franklin Kitefliers Assn.).

Sometimes, particularly for our new members, it gets a little difficult trying to keep track of the various groups that are mentioned in the WKA newsletter. This makes for serious business, and W.K.A. looks down its long blue nose at the kind of base frivolity indicated by these letters from back east:

CHICAGOLAND SKY LINERS KITE CLUB

November 30, 1986

Mr. Olan E. Turner
Chief Judge and Trophy Maker
I.I.O.P.B.C.K.F. & B.O.

Dear Olan,

Dirty Gertie of the Chicagoland Sky Liners was invited by A.J. Wonton of the G*D*V*K*S to participate in the Third Annual International Invitational Open Peanut Butter Cookie Kite Fly and Bake Off. Participation by the Sky Liners, while not making the Third Annual I.I.O.P.B.C.K.F. & B.O. international in scope, would at least make it more of a national contest. Rumors here indicate that in past competitions there have been more judges than entrants.

In addition to many expert kite makers and fliers in the CSL kite club, we also have members with numerous additional talents. Included among these are making cookies and judging cookies. At our club auction back in February, we had 15 varieties of homemade cookies entered and all 15 rated above average or better. I know this for a fact, since I sampled them all at least twice while trying to determine for myself which was the best.

With some reluctance, I agreed to enter the enclosed can of cookies in your Third Annual I.I.O.P.B.C.K.F. & B.O. competition this year. (I would rather have eaten them all myself.) However, it was pointed out to me that it might be possible to arrange a mutually beneficial deal. In exchange for the can of cookies we are sending you, you would send back to me a sampling of each of the other cookies entered. This would enable the CSL to have more of a feeling of participation and know that the event was conducted with complete impartiality.

Furthermore, since this CSL entry is the likely winner, I assume it would not be eligible for future competition in this event. Consequently, I would be able to offer my services as judge in future events. I can assure you that I am highly qualified. While I have 13 years of experience flying kites, I have over five decades of experience sampling cookies and other confections.

I would like to point out that, with the assistance of Madame Booga Booga, each of the cookies entered have been implanted with a special chocolate chip containing a microelectronic control circuit. These special chips will affix themselves to the lining of the stomachs they enter and remain until December 17, 1986. If no reciprocal package of cookies is received by then, the micro chocolate chips will be activated and will expand to a volume of approximately 12 liters of indigestible ooze.

Enough Said. Remember the CSL kite anchors? We mean business! May the best kite and cookies win.

Yours Truly,
Charles A. Sotich, President
Chicagoland Sky Liners and
The Chicago Cookie Connoisseur

p.s. the special cookie tin with the kite flying scene is yours to keep and do with as you wish

December 14, 1986

Mr. Charles A. Sotich, President
Chicagoland Sky Liners and
The Chicago Cookie Connoisseur

Dear Charlie,

Last week the Third Annual I.I.O.P.B.C.K.F. and B.O. was successfully carried out on a beautiful, mild day on the beach at Seaside Park, New Jersey. While the entrants for the Peanut Butter Cookie KITE competition were slim (in number), the same cannot be said for the Peanut Butter Cookie COOKIE competition. As the Chief (and only) cookie judge, I was faced with the difficult job of deciding the winner.

Because of the enormous responsibility and complex calculations associated with the stringent standards established, I found it necessary to utilize the special uniaxial stridential eight phase peanut butter cookie analytical computer, which was recently developed by highly skilled technicians of the G*D*V*K*S. We were astounded by the computer printout which awarded each entrant first place. In a critical questioning attitude, we ran a number of cross checks, even using special alternative adaptive microanalysis pieces, but the results were the same each time. Therefore, as Chief Judge, I awarded each entrant a first place medal. I'm happy to tell you and the Chicagoland Sky Liners that you won first place, but I'm also happy to tell you that you did not defeat any local G*D*V*K*S peanut butter cookie bakers.

Your offer to serve as judge in future competitions is a very nice gesture and we would be happy to accept. However, the experience you list in cookie testing is of a very general nature. Because of the high professional standards established for the I.I.O.P.B.C.K.F. and B.O., we do require a Degree of Specializing in Peanut Butter Cookies. Since you have mastered certain basics in this general area of cookie tasting, we would be pleased to provide you with a "cram" course and then, in your initial try at this very difficult competition, you could assist the Chief Judge and, thus, get the hang of it from an experienced professional.

Perhaps you have heard from Dirty Gertie (who may have heard from A. J. Wonton) that we had in attendance a kiteflier from Australia, so we are truly International.

Enclosed with this letter is the following:

1. Can of cookies containing a sample from all those in our competition.
2. First place award medal.
3. Special Award Trophy for the cookie from the most distant location.

Thanks to the Chicagoland Sky Liners and yourself for the delightful exchange. I hope we can have more of this kind of activity.

Most sincerely,
Olan E. Turner
Chief Judge and Trophy Maker
I.I.O.P.B.C.K.F. & B.O.

p.s. We have awarded your very fine kite cookie tin to Sue Carroll, who has been a consistent entrant in the competition, but never a first place winner.

[Olan Turner is a winner of the "A.K.A. Kiteflier of the Year" award -- Ed]

NOTICES OF COMING EVENTS

from Gene Woodwick, Washington Coast Chamber of Commerce:

We would like to invite your Association to our two kite flying events [Kite Flying Festival April 11 and Kite Flying Contest July 5 — see schedule on Page 8the last page]. If any of your fine people would like to help with this event we would appreciate it very much as none of us are experienced kite fliers — we just love the beach and would like to see more colorful kites here.

July 4th at our "Fire Over The Water" we attract, by state parks count, 60,000 - 65,000 people annually yet we have need of a better organized kiting event...

from Margo Brown, Past-President of AKA:

This reached me too late for Kiting use. Hope you can put info in your newsletter...

The Hawaii Challenge Third Annual Stunt Kite Championships (formerly known as The Hawaiian Challenge), presented by The Hawaii Kitefliers' Assn. and the National Assn. of Stunt-kite Fliers (representing fliers of the Pacific and Western U.S.), March 13, 14, & 15, 1987 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday), Kapiolani Park, Honolulu, Hawaii, 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. each day, Fee: \$15.00 for Sunday.

Schedule: 3/13 Demonstrations, Free Flying, Fun Events
3/14 20th Annual Oahu Kite Festival
Single line events and demonstrations
3/15 3rd Annual Hawaii Stunt Kite Championship
Stunt kite events and demonstrations
Awards Banquet (p.m.)

Competition will include single line Kite Fighting, Most Beautiful, Sprint Race, High Fly and dual line Individual Maneuverability, Individual Creativity (Razzle-Dazzle), Team Ballet (two person), and Team Precision (three or four person). Last year's competition was held under ideal conditions in 20-25 mph tradewinds, and statistics favor similar conditions by a margin of over 90%.

Demonstration Events will include Combat, Blindfolded, William Tell, and Mixed Couples (two fliers, one kite).

Special Guests will include members of the Japanese Kite Assn., A.K.A. members from all over the nation, plus many kite manufacturers showing beautiful appliqued art kites and the latest stunt kites.

Arrangements for lodging should be made through Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays, 1-800-2-HAWAII (please request the Princess Kaiulani Hotel), or contact Kite Fantasy, 2863 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815, (808) 732-KITE for more information.

WELCOME NEW W.K.A. MEMBERS

Gail Ferguson	Auburn, WA
William Pierce	Vancouver, WA
George Ridderbunch	Everett, WA
Dave Schneewind	Kirkland, WA
Paul Wagner	Tacoma, WA

WELCOME NEW W.K.A. OFFICERS

President: **Jim Nettles**, 824-1073
Vice-Pres: **Tom Sinson**, 725-3615
Past-Pres: **Kevin Sanders**, 243-2264
Secretary: **Margaret Holzbauer**, 762-3053
Treasurer: **Bob Hanna**, 767-6381
Editor: **David Julian**, 938-4467
Ed. Emeritus: **Jack Van Gilder**, 938-0550

*you make it all
worthwhile —*

*all my love - . 7 -
D.*

SCHEDULE: [Notice that we're trying something we haven't done in years - scheduling flys for Sunday afternoons at different parks. Let us know your feelings on this.]

February

- 14 (Sat 6 p.m.) Housewarming party at Walt Sharp's, 4056 SW College St., BYOB&F
- 15 (Sun) FT. WORDEN \$65 DEADLINE. After 2/15, \$75 — no exceptions!
- 16 (Mon 1 p.m.) President's Day Fly Waterfront Park, foot of Union
- 22 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, Myrtle Edwards Park, north of Pier 70

March

- 1 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, Gasworks Park, north end of Lake Union
- 6-7-8 (Fri-Sat-Sun) Ft. Worden Kite Retreat
- 13-14-15 (Fri-Sat-Sun) Hawaii Challenge 3rd Annual Stunt Kite Championships (see page 7)
- 15 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, Magnuson Park, Sand Point on Lake Washington
- 19 (Thu 7 p.m.) W.K.A. club meeting, Pacific Science Center
- 22 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, Genesee Playground, Lk. WA Blvd & 43rd S
- 26 (Thu) up to 9 p.m. Pacific Science Center open to bring kites for Science Center show
- 27 (Fri 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.) Hang Kites at Pacific Science Center **HELP!**
- 29 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, Alki Point Beach, foot of 62nd Ave SW

April

- 5 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, Volunteer Park, 15th Ave E, at Galer
- 11 (Sat) Kite Flying Festival, Friday State Park, Copalis Beach, WA
- 12 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, Golden Gardens Park, N. of Shilshole Marina
- 19 (Sun) Easter — Go to Church!
- 25 (Sat 11a.m. to 4 p.m.) Kid's Place Kite Fly, Gasworks Park
- 25 & 26 (Sat - Sun 10 a.m.) **PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER HANDS-ON SHOW**

May

- 1 (Fri noon) Louise Crowley May Day Memorial Fly
- 3 (Sun noon) Mukilteo Kite Festival, State Park at Ferry Terminal — **BIG DEAL, WITH HEADLINERS!**
- 10 (Sun 1 p.m.) Mother's Day Fly, Gasworks Park — take Mom out to brunch and then the park
- 17 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly, S. Seattle Community College campus, 5800-16th SW

May (Cont'd)

- 23-24-25 (Sat-Sun-Mon) Memorial Day Weekend: Bellingham Blossom Time Festival and Annual Seattle Kite Shops Peace Fly at Gasworks Park
- 31 (Sun 1 p.m.) Fun Fly Waterfront Park

July

11-12 (Sat-Sun) Kevin's Kite Community Conviviality Conclaves Campout at Fort Casey on Whidbey Island, Overnight at Nev's Dad's place, down the road a piece. Map and more info to follow

PATCHES: New supply in stock, \$3.00. Make your dues renewal (\$10) and receive one at half-price

NEW ROSTER: SASE to Margaret Holzbauer



WAWAWA
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TO: