

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER of July, 1985

MEMORIAL DAY FLY: Sponsored again by our three kite shops, it was a great day. Our shops:

- City Kites - Mike Aurinema
- Great Winds Kite - Ken Conrad
- Suspended Elevations - Kathy Goodwind -

(listed in alphabetical order.) - provided prizes of a commercial kite from each store. These were awarded to kids in age brackets for the artistry of their decoration. The kiteshops also paid for the sled-type "baggie" kites which were provided free to all kids. These baggies are designed and wholesaled by our Dave Checkley. Our president, T. Sisson, and the shopkeepers manned a table at Gasworks Park to supervise assembling and decorating with color crayons and felt tip marking pens.

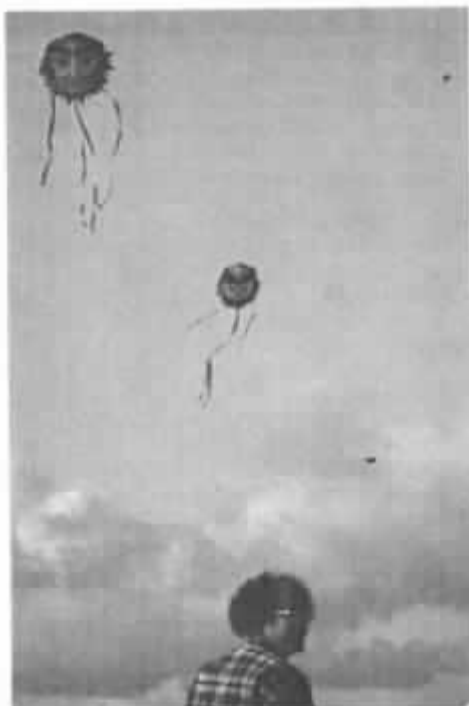
It was a beautiful day but the wind failed us, so there were lots of kites laying around on the ground. It seems to be instinctual with kids to RUN with kites. This was a good day for running. About 50 kites were made. Small spools of 200 ft. kite string were also donated by the shops.

This is one of the reasons for the success of the kite shops and for the staying power of the Wash. Kite. Assn. -- our cooperation. Thanks!

EDMONDS PARK DEPT. KITE CONTEST:

This event was noticed at the last minute in the schedule of events listed in the Northwest Museum of Flight (the Red Barn). We phoned around a little and the three kite shops made posters announcing it. But it was not too well attended. Edmonds' Shoreline Park is a nice little park on the beach. Randy Rouse took "Largest" ribbon with his huge Conn Dragonfly kite, Larry Chinn and Jack Van Gilder won ribbons and Harold Writer was flying but doesn't specially like to compete.

July 5th was the date and the weather and wind were absolutely perfect. We met some new potential WKA members and passed out quite a few info/applications.



RANDY ROUSE and two slightly-different sunshine flat kites, flying at the Memorial Day Festival, Gasworks.



JULIAN WOLF and TOM MALLARD, flying at the Memorial Day Festival, Gasworks Park.

WEIFANG DOES IT AGAIN! - David Checkley -

Following their very successful International Kite Festival in 1984, Shandong Tourism Corp. outdid themselves in staging an even more spectacular event at Weifang in 1985. The festival opened at 8:30 am, April 1st, the first day of the Qing Ming Festival, in a stadium packed with 12,000 spectators.

While kitefliers organized outside, the audience (including foreign guests) were entertained by a huge group of local performers. There were acrobats, dancers, stilt-walkers. There were musicians banging drums and gongs and playing flutes. There were fireworks; at least 1,000 firecrackers went off. Then came parachute drops by costumed paratroops from a nearby airbase, using Jalbert-style chutes and carrying firecrackers, rockets and smoke bombs. Next came many large drill teams in an elaborately choreographed performance with many flags and kites.

Finally, the kitefliers paraded into the stadium and around the track, Olympic-style, to be greeted by Provincial, Prefectural and City officials.



PALACE GATE KITE - 30 ft. square - made by Weifang Amateur Kite Assn, carried in festival's opening parade. Made entirely of bamboo and silk, it was engineered to fly in 25 mph wind --



-- and a 25 mph wind there was, next day on the salt flats outside Weifang!

The New Zealanders were the first to get a kite up (Doug Hagaman had that honor last year), followed closely by Tom Casselman of Newport, RI, with his big Flowform. At the same time the Weifang kites launched several long centipedes. Soon the sky was full of kites from all nine countries represented, plus many, many Chinese kites from all over Weifang Prefecture. Weifang is the only place in China where there are many amateur kite-makers and kitefliers.

In the afternoon we were taken to the opening of the Weifang Kite Amateur Assn's annual exhibition in the Workers Hall. Thousands of kites, ranging from 100-meter centipedes to exquisite miniatures were hung there, all for sale. The Japanese group and Gary Gabrel of Stillwater, OK, were the big buyers. Gary left Weifang with a plywood box the size of a refrigerator, plus all that he and Nora could carry.



OPENING CEREMONY - 12,000 spectators with thousands more outside waiting to get in.

from spectators and was about a half-mile wide, from the sea on the north. Each team's base camp was staked out with a number and with flags.

Tom Casselman, AKAer from RI, was the star of the U.S. team with his Flowform, Jalbert Parafoils, Adrian Conn creations and big shark kite with spinning sock. Gary Gabriel and Richard Demmer, both of Stillwater, OK, and Glen Magree, Denver, got lots of attention with their trains of Skynasaurs. We'll probably see these copied next year. There were several Chinese parafoils made of silk, duplicates of the ones we flew in 1984. Also copies of diamond kite trains flown by the Dutch last year and, of all things, locally-made caps like our John Deere hats.

Weifang people flew mostly traditional crabs, birds, insects and mythical figure kites. One huge dragon kite was loaded with a radio-controlled cargo of bombs, rocks and at least 1,000 firecrackers.

From Kyoto, Japan, the Yokaichi group brought one of their 20 by 30 ft. Japanese-character kites. The bamboo frame was lashed together, making a latticework of hemp rope. On this was attached the heavy Washi paper characters. Because of the many openings on the surface, it flew beautifully in the heavy wind.

The first evenings banquet featured exotic local foods from the prefecture: huge tiger prawns, many kinds of fish, pork and even deep-fried scorpions. Entertainers had been brought in from Beijing and included three soft-rock singers backed by a swinging group with electronic organ, drums and electric guitar, the first time we'd seen such a performance in China. All with lots of beer, mao-tai (local white-lightning), brandy, Coke and orange pop.

Early next morning (everything is early in China) we drove about 50 km out to the salt flats (actually a military firing range) for a full day of kiteflying. There were an estimated 100,000 local spectators brought by a fleet of 800 trucks. Many others walked or biked from their farms. The wind was strong and the air full of dust. The kiteflying area was roped off



550 square meter WORLD'S RECORD largest kite from Holland. Twelve-man Dutch team was assisted by 80 Chinese soldiers. There was a language problem between Gerard van der Loo and helpers.

A group from Hamamatsu, Japan, flew their large fighting kites and Mo-degi's Tokyo group lofted big Edo kites with hummers. Nishi flew his big Friendship delta with Japanese and Chinese flags and his American Indian motif Tina kite. Both were at Detroit and Columbus.

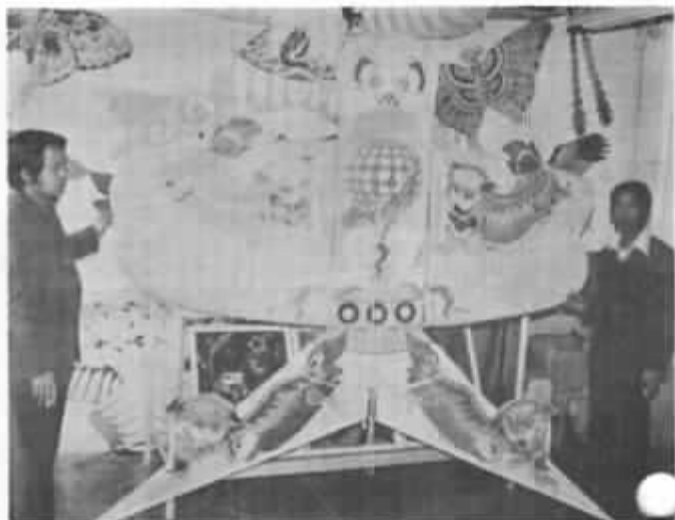
The real center of attention was the Holland team's largest parafoil, 550 sq.ft. The line was tied to an Army truck. Eighty soldiers held it down while a gas-powered fan blew air into the front. The captain used a bullhorn to give instructions to the 12-person Holland team in Dutch, then translated to English for the benefit of the Chinese, who bull-horned instructions to the soldiers in Chinese. By the time the command, "LET GO!" had gone these rounds, it was too late. They gave up after three attempts.

Just before the first launch of this big parafoil, the Weifang people's centipede with all the fireworks went off nearby and glowing pieces of firecrackers came down on one end of the Dutch parafoil, burning holes in it. But the Hollanders were prepared with emergency patches, applied amidst much Dutch cursing (in Dutch).

The other big disaster of the day was the Thai group's box kite. It was of colorfully appliqued ripstop nylon with aluminum tubing frame, 10 ft. high and 50 ft. long. It took them nearly a day to assemble and then it folded on the first launch. It just wasn't engineered for 25 mph wind.

The West German contingent had also brought a huge parafoil. It got lost in transit and didn't arrive until AFTER the festival. They had some other beauties, though; big nylon birds and Cody kites, so were able to participate.

Following the kite festival in Weifang, the foreign guests travelled to nearby Anjou County to stay in farmers' houses in a small town, where children were making and flying paper kites. Then on to the opening of a new fossil museum in Lin Qu and to Yidu to catch the train for Tianjin.



HA YIQI, Technical director of the Beijing Kite Factory with his new swallow kite. HA spent several months at the Pacific Science Center, Seattle, as kite craftsman. He flew this 8-footer at Tiananmen Square, one of the few places in the city free of trees, traffic and overhead wires.



KEN CONRAD, Seattle, WA, presents a nylon applique star kite to principal of school after flying with school children. Selecting appropriate gifts and deciding when to give them is an important facet of traveling in the orient.



ANTIQUITY KITE in the traditional form of a figure of an old man with a high forehead, made and flown by one of the Weifang kite amateurs. Like most local kites, it is made of baboo covered with silk and is hand painted.



WINGED DRAGON KITE, one of thousands displayed (and flown) at the Weifang Kite Amateur Assn's annual exhibition at Workers' Hall in Weifang during the festival. Like many of the others, it's a little large to transport, though some of the foreign guests took back kites of this size and larger.

In Tianjin, we flew kites with kids at a secondary school and visited the famous Tientsin Kite Factory, where our people bought kites. After overnighting in Tianjin, we took another train to Beijing to see the sights.

We visited the Beijing Kite Factory where our old friend Ha Yiqi is Technical Director. We flew kites on the Great Wall and in Tiananmen Square (the Beijing equivalent of Gasworks Park, Seattle) with many local kitefliers and school children flying kites they had made in school. Although the breeze was a little light for the stunt kites, Ha Yiqi was able to launch the 40 sq.ft. red parafoil that Doug Hagaman had sent to him. Tom Casselman was also able to get most of his big kites off the ground, complimenting the many Chinese kites in the air.

Except for Ken Conrad and the KOMO/TV crew, who left for home directly from Beijing, the group (15 at that point) travelled by train to Shanghai. We made overnight stops and full days at Tian, to climb China's most holy mountain; at Qufu, home of Confucious (where we stayed in an ancient Kong family residence), and Suzou, the famous garden city with many canals, the Venice of China.

In Shanghai we stayed at the new Seagull Hotel, right on the waterfront overlooking the harbor. There was enough wind for the Gabrels, Dermers and Magrees to fly their Skynasaurs from the esplanade in front of the hotel.

One final bit of luck: When the group left Shanghai, they were able to get their kites and other acquisitions onto the plane with no excess baggage charges. On the Gabrel's final leg from Los Angeles to Oklahoma City, they had scuttled the big box and tried to hand carry their big kites onto the plane. Gary's big centipede rode in the cockpit with the pilot!

SUNSHINE FAIR - The Very Special Arts Fair - May 8, 9 and 10th - in two of the Puyallup Fair buildings. And it took two of those great, big buildings to hold all the teachers and students who attended. Thousands. Tom Sisson organized an assembly line method of pouring out the sled kite kits behind the assembly tables. Volunteers, mainly from P.L.U. teacher training department and the R.O.T.C. units from two Tacoma high schools, worked very hard cutting out the sled kits and helping the handicapped kids stick them together.

Tom says that they assembled 2,200 kites in the three days. That's a LOT of kites, People. Tom also wants to thank Janet Lehman of the Sunshine Fair committee especially. Also Margaret Holzbauer and Bob Hanna and Jack Van Gilder of WKA for their help.



PUYALLUP FAIR BUILDING, housing the Sunshine Fair. Note the size of the floor space and number of participants.

DRACHEN/WINDVOGEL - "Kite Windbirds" - July 5, 6 & 7th - . Remember the information printed in the last WKAnews? This was a traveling show of German kites in a hexagonal Rökkaku shape, where an arts department in Germany got about 40 artists to contribute designs. They were displayed at the Science Center and will be for a while, yet. Because Tom, Marge and Sari Moore and Jack Van Gilder manned the tables, helping kids and adults make trashbag deltas and decorating the heck out of them, our club earned \$200: half and haf from the Science Center and German Consulate. Some 300 kites were made and 50 or so WKA application/info cards handed out.

Because of the quantity of materials these projects have used, WKA now has 7/8 EIGHTH-INCH DOWELS for sale -- about 2,000 of them. First come, first served. Phone Tom, who is storing them, at 725 3615. Minimum order: 50 (\$3.50) U pikup.

Tom reports that he has grabbed the attention of True Value Hardware, also because of these programs and their providing us with hi-density poly bags. It's in the works that they will begin printing the Bill Lee Trashbag Delta on their bags at the rate

500,000 per WEEK. Bill's going to advance from being merely famous to being a household word.

NORTHWEST AVIATION AND SPACE EXPO:

Remember that this was mentioned at the WKA meeting held May 23rd at the Science Center. Jack Van Gilder stood in for Tom Sisson as lecturer/demonstrator. He demonstrated the different kind of kites from around the world. Seemed as though fighter kites are always the most interest-getting. Does this tell us anything about the natural combativeness of mankind? The Expo was held June 15th at the Administration Bldg. of Boeing Field and featured many technical exhibits indoors and WWII airplanes outdoors. Great show.

METROFIT:

May 16th at the Metro Transit main carbarns, Atlantic St., Seattle. Every other payday, Metro arranges for different athletic type hobbyists to put on demonstrations and hand out information on themselves. Tom again foisted one off on Jack to man a table there on kites. It was fun talking to people about kites. Handed out about 100 WKA info slips and the same number of brochures from the three Seattle kite shops.

WKA MEETING,

May 23rd: It was mainly a planning meeting but we also voted unanimously to invite Assn. of Oregon Kitefliers to head up the 1986 Retreat Weekend.



METROFIT: Kites on exhibit and information table at Metro Transit's main car-barn. Lots of interest from drivers.

COMING EVENTS: So far, we have been reporting the interesting projects that are always popping up for WKAers. Now, let's take a look at what's coming up for the fall season:

JULY 14th: "University Festival": WKA is invited to fly kites at Tacoma on the football field at Curtis High School, West 40th St. and Grandview Dr. West. We are welcome Fri. the 12th, the 13th but especially Sun. the 14th. Take the 56th So. exit from I5 and drive about 5 miles straight west to Grandview. Tacomans have always been great hosts!

JULY 22nd: POLITICS! I know, I know - you hate them -- but sometimes we gotta discuss things. Miller Makey has sent a poll of about six pages entitled: "Whither The A.K.A.?". So Tom has called a BOARD MEETING for July 22nd (Monday) at 7:30 pm at Jack Van Gilder's (938 0550). It's an open meeting. Come help the board, eh?
 Item #2: WKA has about \$1,400 in the bank and Tom is going to have to pay income tax on the interest thereon out of his own pocket if we don't do something. Well, Tom doesn't especially WANT to pay income tax any more than me or thee. Understandable. "Fourteen hundred dollars?" Now. This is but one of the reasons you are getting a double-dose newsletter this time: We can pay for it.
 Item #3: Tom is wearing out; burnout. He will NOT be a candidate in '86. Let's talk about it.

AUG. 2 Friday evening from 5:pm on: ANNUAL IMPROMPTU PICNIC. Bring friends, kites for friends, family, kites for family, lights, kites for lights, picnic supper(s) and good cheer. GASWORKS PARK.

AUGUST 19th - 25th: LONG BEACH (WA): Washington State International Kite Festival. A real Biggie. Kay Buesing writes: "Four prizes will be given in each adult event: 1st - \$30 - \$40 kite (don't quote me but it sounds like it'll be a genuine Ingraham Anniversary Delta!) 2nd - A kite book; 3rd - a T-shirt and 4th - a festival patch. Teams (that's us!) will be receiving \$150 participation awards and the team accumulating the most points will have their name engraved on a Steve Edeiken Memorial Trophy. In the last AOK Newsletter, they had scheduled a team practice time! (Cheaters: I didn't get MY AOKNews and I paid my dues). Bob Ingraham and HIS WIFE (good news!) will be special guests this year. Pending are appearances by Don Tabor's (San Diego) Stunt Kite TEAM and a team from Singapore (ain't THAT something!) (Sounds like they have a Budget with a capital 'B')."

Schedule of Events:

Monday (Aug 19): Opening day.

Tuesday: "Handcrafter Day": Competing kites handmade only: Most colorful, smallest, highest angle, reel out ("farthest"), unique design events.

Wednesday: "Childrens' Day:" "everyone a guaranteed winner": age brackets for six events.

Thursday: "Individual Competitions": Reel-out, High-angle, Long-tail, Oldest flier, Touch me (touch a suspended target in shortest time), Most Beautiful, Longest Train and Farthest from home. (Boy, look what day they picked for this event!)

Friday: "Stunt Kite Day": Day: School figures (figure-8 left and right, 3 consecutive circles left and right, makesquare and horizontally) Free-style: 3-min.time limit.

Fri. Night: Nite fly - bring lights!

Saturday: Team Events: Team launch (Large parafoil provided by Festival) timed; Team Retrieval (same), both 5 team members; Synchronized Stunt Flying (4-person, 5-min., free style, beauty, style, grace, etc.); Launch-and-Land (2 members, 300 ft. line, timed out and back) Teddy Bear Drop (4 members, land the poor Poohbear on target via parachute); Touch Me event.

Sunday: "Festival of Kites": please launch kites to set record for largest number of kites in the air at one time. Prize to individual with the most.

Banquet, Sat. evening: \$15.00. Mail reservation to: W.S.I.K.F., PO Box 1124, Long Beach, WA 98631. (This has always been a fun affair, unless you get chosen to speak at last minute)

Information: Above address, or phone Peninsula Information Center, (206) 642-2400 or Kite Festival Coordinator (206) 665-5744.

AUGUST 11TH - Sunday - 1:30 pm - Gasworks Park - TEAM PRACTICE AND ORGANIZATION (for Long B.)

Are you tired of coming in last? BE THERE! Do you want to get in on the real fun?

BE THERE! These team events are unique in the entire kiting world. BE THERE! Tired of the raucous behavior and ribald remarks of those upstarts, AOK and BCKA? BE THERE!

AUGUST 30th (Friday): BUMBERSHOOT: Labor Day Weekend's annual Seattle Center Festival. Many, many years ago (1974, last time) we had kite events at the Center. It is a real challenge to fly there because of the turbulent air and restricted area. That's the bad news. The good news is that there is a real sense of accomplishment to put a kite up over the International Fountain and bring it back in one piece - AND - you have a huge audience to fly to because you have been invited, not because you are a show-off. Bumbershoot wants us to put an umbrella of kites over their bumbershoot. (Get it? That's a witticism.) Friday's a bad day, I know, but maybe you can take off a little early for the Labor Day Weekend: Noon to 4:pm.



SEPTEMBER 2nd (Labor DAY) HARBOR TOURS/CHILDRENS ORTHOPEDIC BOAT FLY: One of the most fun, most fulfilling events of the year. About 6-or-7 of us get a free ride around Elliott Bay on a Harbor Tour boat, making our own wind, helping about 100 kids from the hospital fly kites, eat cake and icecream, drink punch and be generally entertained by clowns, guitarists, etc. Noon to 4 pm. Phone Jack V.G.: 938 0550. Rain or shine.



WEEKLY FLY-INS: EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON: Come to "Kite Hill" (Gasworks Park, Seattle) (or the "WKA Shoulder" thereof) and fly with the Big Boys and Girls. Meet old friends. Be challenged. Show off.

OCTOBER 3rd - 6th: AMERICAN KITEFLIERS CONVENTION - Just run down the coast to San Diego and fly with the Big, Big Boys and Girls. I mean, when you match kites and reels with these people, you're talking SKILL. Meet names you've only read about in books and magazines. They're coming in from around the world again. Plan on it. Pick up an AKANews from one of the kiteshops if you don't belong to AKA. But to compete, I'm pretty sure that you have to be a member of AKA. (\$15 bucks) (- and worth it!) The AKA convention hasn't been on the Pacific Coast since it was here in Seattle in 1980 and probably won't again soon.

THE PRESENT: We have reported on the Past and Future/Coming-Events. Now how about what's going on At Present?

MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS: If you would like an up-to-date roster of our membership, just send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SSAE) to our WKA secretary-treasurer, Kathy Goodwind, 1915 No.34 th St., Seattle, WA 98103.

NEW W.K.A. PATCH: We've had several designs submitted but a choice has not been made yet. This is a high-priority item and you shouldn't be surprised to get a special mailing on their availability in about a month.

STEVE EDEIKEN MEMORIAL AWARD: Our club, as a local branch affiliated with the American Kitefliers Assoc., can nominate one person for this award. Alfred Chang, president of the Hawai-

ian Kite Club, won the award the first year, 1984. He was a good choice and has showed what a gracious gentlemen he is by asking that the committee substitute a photograph for the actual trophy. It seems that several people Back East volunteered to make a traveling case for the trophy but, somehow, it just never did get made. Our own Tom Sisson came in a very close second last year. Part of his problem was that the presentation wasn't as good as it could have been. W.K.A. should have had an entire committee working on the presentation/nomination for Tom, with lots of illustrations.

The time for another round of nominations to be made is fast approaching: August 1st. They must be in the mail by Labor Day. Let's talk about it and think about it and DO SOMETHING about it this year, eh?

THE REEL THING: It's claimed that there is no perfect reel: it's either too bulky, too heavy, too weak, requires that the eyes be taken off the kite or requires some skill in learning how to use it. It might take too many winds to bring in line or it might let line out too easily. It might be too expensive or it might be of material that is unobtainable readily, in making it yourself or trying to buy it.

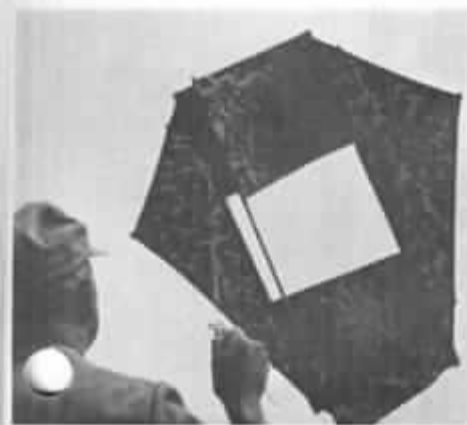
Jack Lair is one of your (our) better craftsmen with kites and accessories. He has come up with his version of a powered reel here which is simple. You should see his Kite Cart: A sort of two-wheeled box, handled like a hand-truck, he can pack a heavy load but still carry it in his car trunk.



JACK LAIR'S POWER REEL: A cordless 3/8th in. drill motor mounted to a reel made up of a commercial Cuban Yoyo. He has a bolt secured to the center of two pieces of plywood, one on each side of the yoyo. Between the plywood and the reel is a piece of foam rubber for a non-slip surface.

HAROLD WRITER is also one of our better craftsmen. He's well-known for his exactly-constructed box kites, including Barrage kites. He ran into some nice rip-stop nylon some time ago, marked down in price to an irresistible level. The only problem: It was imprinted with a camouflage design. Harold still couldn't resist the bargain.

Harold's wife, Irene, showed up in an arm cast at the Edmonds kite contest. Seems she fell off the porch of their son's Hood Canal home. We hope she has a quick and a good recovery from both the arm and the leg limp. She says that Harold is going in soon for a stainless steel ball-and-socket joint in his other hip. The first one is doing fine.



HAROLD WRITER'S Camouflage Kite: You aren't supposed to see it.

WKA NEWSLETTER: We thought that we were going to have our fourth editor in four issues this time. First there was Milly Mullarky, then Jack Van Gilder, then the Dynamic Duo of Tom Mallard/Kathy Goodwind. But Dorothea Checkley had a family tragedy: Dolly, their Basset hound, slip/ruptured a spinal disc and is paralyzed from the mid-point, backwards. She requires constant care, given unstintingly by Dorothea. Dave (another of our fine craftsmen) made Dolly a little cart for her hind end so she gets around.

So our newsletter is back in the hands of VanGilder. Any volunteers?

You'll notice in one spot that I said that you are getting a double newsletter this time. Another VanGilder error. I just didn't count the pages in past issues. You got more words this time because of smaller print and one extra half-sheet, anyway.

WKA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: Kathy G. has a whole box full of pads of them, thanks to our printer-member, Walt Sharp. *Order yours!*

FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSN., send name, address and phone number to our address below, with your check for \$5.00. This will get you six newsletters during the next year, letting you in on the fun of kite-flying with other enthusiasts.



Michael Carrol
P.O. Box 215
Plainsboro, N.J. 08536



L. Chin

To:

WAKANA
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