



Washington  
Kitefliers  
Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow kiteflyer: Glad to see the good turnout at the meeting of 1/9/84 which wound up with me being appointed President. Because of the large turnout, it appears that 1984 will be a great year for the WKA and all its members. I know I'm certainly looking forward to it.

There are many things that cross my mind in my newly appointed job. Foremost among these is a man to whom all of us in the WKA should be deeply indebted. This man has quietly, efficiently and conscientiously performed a most outstanding job for the WKA and all of its members. Who other than Bud Krafft can possibly fit this description? We all owe him a sincere debt of gratitude and I will be hard pressed to measure up to his standard of perfection. On behalf of the WKA, "Thanks Bud for a job well done. Hope in your 'retirement' you will not lose touch. All of us will look forward to seeing you out on the flying field".

It will be a real challenge to see Carl Brewer, our newly elected secretary-treasurer measure up to Bud's high standards. But we are very fortunate that Carl volunteered for the job because I and others know he belongs to the same breed of cats as his predecessor. So in Carl we

have not only a thoroughly <sup>February 1984</sup> business man and efficiency expert, but a master kite maker as well. How lucky can we be?

I may be wrong, but there seems to be some concern by a few members that the WKA has lost some of its energy and enthusiasm during the past few years. Now that the former board of AKA directors headed by Jack Van Gilder are no longer burdened by the details of AKA, we can hopefully look forward to the same input that they have diligently devoted to the WKA in previous years. In view of this, I feel that the WKA will again emerge as one of the top kite clubs in the country. As your new president, I will make every effort to help make this happen. Now to get down to business. It looks like we are off to a busy start this year...

1. THE RETREAT

As most of you know, a retreat is a fun filled weekend of learning how to build many different styles of kites and sharing ideas with some very knowledgeable kitemakers (parafoils excluded). There is a strong likelihood of having Margaret Greger of Richland, Wash. attending the retreat. Margaret has written two books on the art of fabric kite making. She also was the guest expert at the last East Coast retreat at Harpers Ferry, W. Virginia. We are very fortunate to have Margaret's talent available to us. We are planning to have it at either

Fort Casey on Whidbey Island or Fort Worden at Port Townsend. The decision as to which place is chosen will be based on availability and cost of overnight stay. Also we will consider which would be best for our Canadian and Oregon friends. As to the date, we are thinking of March 10. The reason for this early proposed date for a kite making seminar is that it will give us the opportunity to make new kites for the coming festivals. There will be an announcement in the mail covering all the details of this event.

In the meantime, we can use some help. Since the retreat now appears to be a seminar on fabric kites, we will need several sewing machines. If we can count on you for a working machine, please advise.

We will need your full-hearted support and we look forward to you joining us at this fun filled educational weekend. This will be the first Northwest retreat. Let's do all possible to make it a success.

## 2. THE KITE FAIR

With the China Exhibit, it looks like another great fair that I'm sure all of our members will want to attend. It will be nice to renew our friendship with Master Ha, who last spring enlightened us on the fine art of Chinese kite making.

Projecting ahead, it looks like another year of great kite festivals...Pacific Rim, Seafair, 3rd Annual Wash. State Festival...just to name a few. Also the kite shops in cooperation with the Seattle Times are planning a big festival in Seattle later this summer and I'm really looking forward to that one!! It appears that Seattle get a major kite festival after a few years absence which I think the kitefliers in Seattle richly deserve. Some other activities planned for this year will be a night flight sometime this summer. A kite fly in Eastern Washington is also being considered, so any of you folks East of the mountains who want to get a fly going...let's get together!

As President, I'm eager to talk with any member any time, so feel free to write or call me; Doug Hagaman 2208 108th Ave. N.E. Bellevue, WA. 98004 (206) 455 - 3149

So until I see you again, keep your feet on the ground and your kite soaring in the sky.

Peace, Doug

For information or further details on the retreat, call me or Jack Van Gilder (206) 938 - 0550.

We need people willing to show us their talents such as their special types of kites or reels.

## WKA ANNUAL MEETING

Some thirty members attended Kevin Sanders last meeting as president. Carl Krafft reported \$590 in the bank with our membership at 262. 60 complimentary trades with other clubs, 153 Washingtonians, 71 around the U.S., 19 from Canada, 7 from Europe, 6 from the Orient and 4 from Australia & New Zealand.

Susan Albertson from the P.S.C. discussed our 11th Kite Show to be held April 7 and 8. Kevin Sanders will head up this project and will need help. A small, spar-less, tissue paper, 2-tube Allison kite has been proposed as the "hands on" kite for making by children. Steve Tarilton will again help adults make box deltas.

Tom Sisson was elected coordinator to work with the Museum of Flight's Director Georgia Franklin on closer relations with the WKA.

Doug Hagaman was elected president and Carl Brewer Sec/Tres. Carl's number is 525-1149 if you need a roster or have other membership related questions.

Milly Mullarky agreed to continue to publish the newsletter if Jack Van Gilder would do the bulk of the writing/reporting.

A kite retreat was discussed (see president's message) as well as a WKA Teacher's Packet to be modeled after "Kites For Krowds of Kids" which sells for \$1 Australian. Dave Checkley, Bob McCort and Van Gilder will continue to work on this, with advice from Margaret Greger.

There is interest in a Seafair kite fly and a large kite Festival to be co sponsored by all the kite shops and the Seattle Times for later this summer.

Steve tarrilton  
Paul Stapenbeck  
Ken Conrad  
New Years Day



## KITEMASTER

HA YIQI HERE!



by Dave Checkley

Kitemaker Ha Yiqi, who visited Seattle last June, will be here for 6 months demonstrating his art as part of the "CHINA: 7,000 Years of Discovery" exhibition starting March 1 and continuing through August 31, 1984. He will be one of 18 Chinese artists and artisans demonstrating a wide range of skills, from textiles to ceramics. The group will arrive on Feb. 13, and will be staying at the Madison Hotel in downtown Seattle. (see story on the Madison Hotel)

Tickets for the "CHINA: 7,000 Years of Discovery" exhibition can be obtained from Ticketmaster at 1-800-562-4988 within WA state or (206) 628-0888, or at the door. Reservations are highly recommended.

The annual WKA KITE FAIR at the PSC on April 7 & 8, will be concurrent with the China show, so those working on the WKA show will be able to see HA...for this reason there is apt to be a surplus of volunteers this year, so sign up early by calling Kevin Sanders at 243-2264.

Ha Yiqi is a fourth generation kitemaker from Beijing. His family operated a kite store in Peking for 50 to 60 years, until it was closed in 1950. They invented the Chinese version of the delta kite, the umbrella kite, more than 50 years ago. (see picture). Ha's father's collection of kites built by the family was destroyed during

DUES ARE DUE!! SEND \$5 TO  
WKA C/O PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER  
NOW TO AVOID MISSING A  
NEWSLETTER.



Peking Umbrella Kite,  
Chinese version of the delta.  
The broad tail is stiffened to  
form a separate kite, linked to  
the center spar of the delta.  
It folds up to the size of a  
portable umbrella, hence the  
name.

the Cultural Revolution, when  
his father went underground and  
spent several years making  
small models of old kite  
designs, and started what will  
probably be the definitive book  
on the history of Chinese  
kites, with information on how  
to build and fly Chinese  
kites. They are still working  
on the book and hope to publish  
it within the next two years or  
so.

#### MADISON HOTEL KITE DISPLAY

Laurie Anderson from the  
Madison Hotel in Seattle called  
to say that they are going to  
have a display of Chinese kites  
donated by Great Winds and Dave  
Checkley during the month of  
March. Laurie would like to  
organize a Sunday morning Kite  
making workshop at the hotel  
with a kite fly to follow at  
Gas Works. This would take  
place sometime in March. If  
you would be interested in  
either leading or attending  
such a workshop, please call  
Laurie at 583-0300 between  
8:030am and 5:00pm weekdays, or  
282-4064 at other times. The  
Madison Hotel is located at 515  
Madison in Seattle (98111).

For many years the young Ha  
(now just 30 years old) worked  
in a steel mill and learned the  
craft of kitemaking at night  
from his father. He is now  
Technical Director of the  
Beijing Kite Art Company. In  
addition to the umbrella kite,  
the Ha family is now famous for  
their brilliantly painted silk  
butterfly kites, and for their  
traditional swallow kites, plus  
several styles of lifelike bird  
kites. (see picture)



## OUR FRIENDS TO THE NORTH

Tom Kowolchuck has succeeded Hugh Harrison as president of the BCKA (British Columbia Kite Assn.) He writes that BCKA held their first winter fly on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th. Reports a roaring success. Lots of media coverage.

They plan six adult oriented kite workshops during the early spring, including one on the Goder kite. They plan to come down for our Cherry Blossom Festival. We always visit their Pacific Rim Festival in Vancouver, B.C. Some of our most enjoyable kite experiences have been shared with these "Crazy Canucks".

## CHINA - JAPAN TRIP

Dave Checkley has rescheduled his 1984 Kitefliers Tour to the Orient, his 12th such trip, to go to China first, leaving April 16, and to return through Japan, so some of the participants can also attend the Weifang International Kite Conference, April 1 - 10 in Shandong Province.

The main tour will include 9 days in the Peoples Republic of China, visiting Shanghai and the principal kitemaking centers of Weifang, Tianjin and Beijing, climaxed by flying kites from the Great Wall near Beijing. After China the group will go to the big Japan Kite Assn. annual festival at Lake Kawaguchi at the base of Mt. Fuji near Tokyo, and then to

the Hamamatsu Kite Festival, meeting Japanese kitefliers and kitemakers all along the way. The tour will return to Seattle May 6. For more information contact Dave Checkley, 678 West Prospect, Seattle, WA 98119 or call (206) 284-5350. ( Many WKA members have gone with Dave in the past and it is my observation that they love to talk about it...Bob McCort, Louise Crowley, Ken Conrad and Doug Hagaman are just a few who could whet your appetite for this kind of adventure...ed.)

## SPECIAL THANKS!

Kevin Sanders: outgoing president. He automatically bucks on up to Board of Directors. Kevin labored under the burden of a job that took up lots of his time this year. He is a master craftsman and kitemaker, especially with the sewing machine. He made the 9x9 foot rokkaku kite that our WKA team took back to the AKA convention in Columbus. In our opinion it outflow all the others. Kevin had a particularly difficult job with so many of the traditionally super active members distracted by AKA duties. Thank you Kevin.

Carl Krafft: outgoing sec./treas. He put in two years on the job. A retired Boeing financial officer, he brought WKA's records right up to date, answered all the mail, mailed the newsletter, handled the printing of the teacher's packets and numerous other jobs.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY FLY

For the tenth consecutive year, WKA flew kites at Golden Gardens Park on New Years Day. With a simple announcement of the event, some 20 fliers showed up to show off their latest and greatest.

In the past years we contacted all "the media" and were usually over whelmed. Microphones tangled our kitelines, cameramen were snagged, reporters froze fingers on pencils. So this year we went "low key". It was nice. We had nice weather. We had a nice breeze. The ground was mud free and there was a nice crowd. It was a nice event.



## FROM THE HOSPITAL

Our telephone hot line proved its worth in November when the word went out that Louise Crowley was to have an operation. Cancer was involved. Louise has been back to the hospital for two short stays, taking chemo therapy. She says from home that she really appreciated the 100 or so cards, flowers, kites and visits from WKA members. Louise is one of our favorite people and one of the best kite builders. Please don't forget her in your thoughts and with your cards. Address; 1815 18th Ave., Seattle 98112. Phone; 322-6360, keep it short, but do keep in contact.

Stan Swanson at New Years Day Kite Fly.

Bill Spezia was on the same floor of Group Health Hosp. as Louise. Bill was practicing a new dance step on roller skates and the next thing he knew, he was looking at the ceiling and one leg was shorter than the other...broken hip. Send cards to 3716 Sunnyside N., Seattle 98103. Phone 632-2008.

Active member Tom Sisson was slowed up a bit with a dislocated shoulder last month. What happened? what else...he fell out of a tree.

CALENDAR

Feb. 7...WKA meeting. Good program, Show-and-Tell, pictures. Pacific Science Center Board Room 7pm.

March..Kite Retreat (see message from the president)

Kite workshop at Madison Hotel (see story)

~~March 17th~~ <sup>4/28</sup> Cherry Blossom Fest. Gas Works.

~~March 24th~~ <sup>4/15</sup> Pacific Rim Kite Fest. Vancouver B.C.

March 31 bring kites to hang in the Science Center for the month of April.

April 7 & 8, 11th Annual Kite Show at the Science Center.

May 28 annual Memorial Day Kite Fly at Gasworks.



Michael & Susan Carroll  
P.O. Box 215  
10-15 Hunters Glen Drive  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

LOST AND FOUND

Kathy Goodwind from Suspended Elevations found a grey homemade kite reel at the New Years fly-in. It has at least 2,000 ft of brand new line on it. If it is yours, call Kathy at 633 -4780.

Washington Kitefliers Assn.  
c/o Pacific Science Center 200  
2nd Ave. North Seattle, WA.  
98109 yearly dues: \$5.00  
Feb./March issue

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