

MEETING * MEETING * MEETING

Tuesday December 6, 1983
Pacific Science Center 7:00pm
Board Room Please plan to come
to this important W.K.A.
meeting!

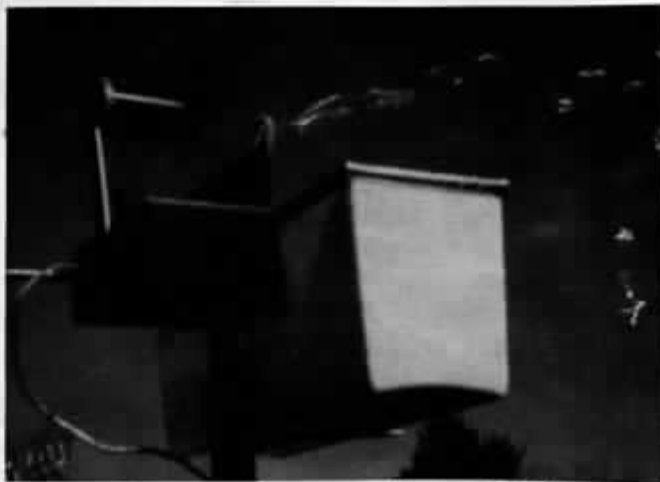
Newsletter Needs Help

The WKA newsletter is in dire need of a person to collect information. Milly Mullarky has agreed to continue setting up and getting the paper printed, but does not have the time to also collect information and write stories. Most members seem willing to write about a specific event, if asked and reminded. Your newsletter needs an asker and a reminder person. It really is a better newsletter when we have lots of different contributors each adding their own style and perspective. Please give this some thought and see how you can participate.

WKA sends thoughts and best wishes to Louise Crowley who is now recuperating at home.



Larry Moeller's winged box



Felix Cartagena's bubble machine.



Takeshi Nishibayashi and his eagle kite.

AKA Convention by Jack Van Gilder

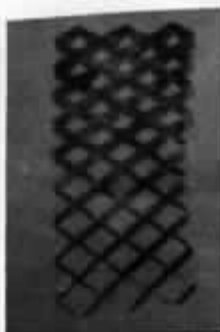
Betty and Miller Makey and their crew of COKA (Central Ohio Kite Assn.) workers did a magnificent job! The facilities were the greatest, the hotel being across the driveway (not the street, not the parking lot) from the flying field. We did not break any records on the shortness of the business meeting but people discussed more subjects this year. Three events stick out, for me: 1. The night kite flight: there were road flares, florescent tubes and other flashing lights filling the night sky - gorgeous! The only problem: it wouldn't photograph. 2. The high flier contest: we let our kites float out horizontally for 60 seconds and then clamped our reels for another 30 seconds. When they were judged as to best angle. Well, when I saw 30 or so kites, none more than 25 feet off the ground, zoom skyward, some 200 ft. away, I knew that I was flying with the Big Boys! That took skill! Credit Lee Toy, contest chairman, with this successful format. 3. The Rokkaku challenge: Credit Margo and Bevan Brown with thinking up this one. It was to be a mini Hamamatsu kite festival -- just run these big colorful kites around the field, blow bugles and whistles and chant "ha shoy, ha shoy, ha shoy" in time with our feet chugging around the field, getting everyone tangled up. Sixteen teams with kites showed up.



Our team consisted of Dave and Dorothea Checkley, Doug Hagaman, Toni Addicott, Ken Conrad, John Dusenberry, Bob McCort, Harry Osborne, Jack Van Gilder and Milly Mullarky. It was a ball! Credit our president, Keven Sanders with making the best kite there -- OURS! It flew like a bird: straight up. It was exquisitely crafted in ripstop nylon with hollow core fiberglass spars. The gold oriental style chrysanthemum showed off well on the green background -- our club colors. Of course, we got cut down, but we also got back up. Those same friends from BCKA who won the team events at the Long Beach, WA. festival gave us a bad time. Tom Kowalchuck and Grant Madill ran thier line around us, trying to trip us up. The rest of their team, Marg and Hugh Harrison and Les Varley were nice and sedate. But we won! How do we know we won? Because we made the most noise!(JVG had the only bugle on the field.) Next year -- in Nashville!

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Oscer Bailey's Japanese box kite (also called Jacob's ladder)



Adrian Conn's kite




The Honda Team's kites from Japan.

six celled sled

Jack captured the fun and skill of the convention, the pictures will hopefully also add to your sense of what happened in Columbus. I would like to add a very personal observation. The convention was dedicated to the memory of Steve Edeiken. Steve's wife Cindy attended and shared with us her strength and charm. Red Braswell led a solemn memorial time before dinner the first night. Listening to close friends share the joy Steve's life brought into their own, gave all of us a better sense of this remarkable person. We began a fund for an award to be given to the people who, like Steve, promote the best in kiting. A Rokkaku challenge between two teams became the avenue to donate to the fund. But mostly I was aware of people really working at co-operation, enjoyment and community. There seemed to me a heightened awareness of life, kindness, appreciation and the joy of being together. Because of all this, it was a very special convention.

Steve Ediken died when he was accidentally pulled aloft during the world record breaking flight of the world's largest kite. Steve's spirit and enthusiasm will remain a strong benefit in the lives of all who knew him. There was a memorial kite fly across the country the Wednesday following the accident. WKA met at Gasworks.

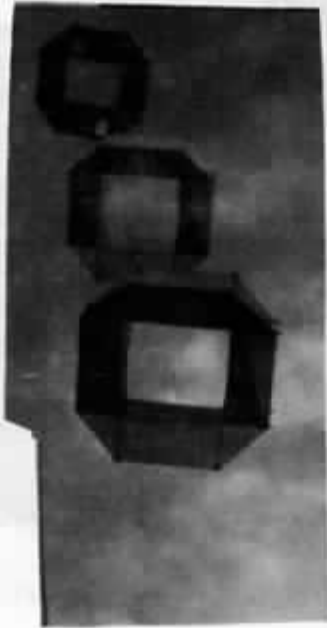


Gary Woodcock's
calligraphy
kite.



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snub nosed
box kites



Washington Kitefliers Assn.
c/o Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. North
Seattle, WA. 98109
Dues: \$5.00 yearly
Nov./Dec. 1983

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7 pm P.S.C. Board Room