

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION --  
Newsletter of May, 1976

Calendar of Events:

- Weekly fly-ins: Each Sunday afternoon  
at 1:30 --
- May 9th: Univ. Wash. parking lot off N.E.  
45th St. across from University Village  
(Bring your mother!)
- May 16th: Stan Savers Park
- May 23rd: Luther Burbank Park, Mercer  
Island (northeast tip of island)
- May 30th: Pier 59 - next to Alaska Fer-  
ry dock.
- June 5th: (Saturday): Swan Creek Park,  
Tacoma - guests of WKAer Thelma Gilmur  
and her Audubon Society -- off Portland  
Ave. at E. 44th St. to Grandview.
- June 6th: Univ. Wash parking lot --
- June 13th: Stan Savers Park
- June 20th: Pier 70 parking lot/Bayview  
Park, north of there. (Bring your Father!)
- June 27th: Golden Gardens Park
- July 4th: Fort Warden, Port Townsend --  
artistic-type contest

Things You Might Have Missed:

Pier 70 Fly-in on the 25th: nice light  
breeze, beautiful sunshine. Bruce Kimball  
brought a couple of beauties down: one was  
a Bermuda headstick kite; absolutely flat,  
that, according to aerodynamics, shouldn't  
have flown, but did fly, and almost straight  
up. He also had a real cute girlfriend al-  
ong to hold it. Some knots in his kiteline  
are suspected as the cause of the Bermuda  
floating off, rising instead of descending  
when last in view. Harold Writer's "Li'l  
Nothing" two-sticker Eddie kite kept go-  
ing higher and higher, caught in a therm-  
al on-shore, and took at least 1800 ft. of  
4-lb. monofilament line straight overhead.  
VanGilder had to test three different line-  
limbers. He found that Astro-zoomers don't  
work too well in a light wind.

Stan Savers Park fly-in on the 18th: a  
good, stiff breeze allowed Harold Writer  
to display his heavy duty mail pickup kite.  
He found that it was tree-proof -- to the  
extent that he got it back out of the top  
of one, breaking branches but not the kite.

Kite Club Meeting on April 27th: an im-  
portant meeting in that we did a lot of  
business. 1.- backed up the Executive  
Boards recommendation that we see how  
much movie we can accumulate for \$100.  
A committee appointed to find a movie class

or club to put something together. Tom  
Sisson's son had the outline of a script  
that was really SOMETHING.

2.- Voted to purchase two sound slide  
shows of the Maryland Kite Assn. from  
Dave Checkley for our club library.  
Shows will be at the Science Center of-  
fice. Contact Dusenberry, Whitman, Van  
Gilder or Checkley for secret password  
which will spring them.

3.- Voted to authorize officers to put  
together Articles of Incorporation by  
copying boilerplate from another club.

4.- Voted to go ahead with the Tony  
Toledo Award. You oldtimers will re-  
member Tony as one of the most fanatic-  
al kitefliers in the history of the  
Northwest. Anyone who would travel to  
Hawaii just to enter a kite contest or  
travel to Silver City, New Mexico, just  
to visit with Bob Ingraham, President  
of the American Kitefliers, has to be  
classified as an enthusiast, at least.  
He was one of our Founding Fathers.  
For the award, we will probably have  
a nice plaque for the "Kiteflier Of The  
Year", properly inscribed.

5.- Voted to establish a Club Library.  
Did you realize that there are \$25 and  
\$36 kite books? Recommended that they  
be placed in the Reserve Section of  
the Seattle Public Library, suitably  
inscribed. President Dusenberry will  
ramrod this one.

6.- Discussed our contact with the Domed  
Stadium people. They asked if we could  
come up with a 6-minute skit. A kite  
"skit"? Brainstorming that one, we came  
up with (a) formation flying, like the  
Air Force Thunderbirds, (b) floating  
kites out over the audience, (c) send up  
a Red Baron to attack, having other  
kites go in to a defensive circle -- one  
of the kites and then Red Baron collapse  
and crash (d) attempt a Guinness World  
Record for indoor endurance flying. We  
understand that this is now held by Den-  
ish Bahadur, owner of "Come Fly A Kite"  
shop in San Francisco, at 45 minutes.

Ideas: anyone with more, phone 938 0550.

Dave Checkley is now in Japan leading a  
tour to kite festivals there. He is at-  
tempting to photograph the famous Hama-  
matsu kite fighting festival FROM THE  
TOP -- via one of his giant parafoils.  
He tried this rig out at our fly-in at  
the the Univ. Of Wash. parking lot on  
April 4th. You should have seen the in-  
genious rig!

Things that came up at the recently-com-  
pleted Kite Class at the Science Center:

Ever placed your approximate too far to the rear of a delta? The wing will dip and the kite will go in to fluttering spin.

Have you seen Harold Writer's small-loop adjustable bridling system? It's one of those "why didn't I think of that" ideas. Come out to a fly-in to see it.

Did you see the plans for the winged box kite in the March issue of Popular Mechanics? We used it at the kite class. We'll try to have some along at the Sunday fly-ins for members.

Ever used too-flexible spars on sleds or box kites? "Weight is everything". But a stiff breeze will send a sled with too flexible spars in to a tizzie. The same with boxes.

Have you tried a train of kites yet? After the first experience, you'll be hooked. Really simple, but what a display!

Ever had your bridle lines twist on a sled so badly that it balls up and comes down? Tom Sisson now lets out the secret of waxing the string with parafin -- or a candle -- or anything. Wonderful!

#### The 1976 WESTPORT SALTWATER FESTIVAL at Grayland State Park

A few of our members went down and came home with some Prizes. Bill and Linda Lee took 1st and 2nd in the Smallest Kite contest. They also took 2nd and 3rd in the best looking kite in flight.

Our President took 1st place in the best looking in flight.

Members of the club also took 1st and 2nd for the best looking home built kite on the ground.

Bruce Kimble took 1st place for the largest kite with Jack Van Gilders big delta. Bruce also took first place with the highest flyer. The report is that there was no wind for the contest, so the contestants had to run down the beach while the judges followed in a car to judge the highest flyer.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners and those that went down to make it a Successful Fly-In.

ALSO, NO SKIPPERS CONTEST THIS YEAR.