

NEWSLETTER -- August 1st, 1977 --

If you thought March was a busy kiteflying month, you should have seen July! Kiteflying has really caught on in Seattle this summer.

KINGDOME HALF-TIME DEMONSTRATION: It finally came to pass that one of our professional sports teams believed us when we told them that we could fly kites indoors at our domed stadium. On very short notice, like one week, we did put it together though. They approached Dave Checkley; VanGilder and Lee got into the act and some 26 WKA club members walked super-light tissue-paper kites around the perimeter of the Kingdome, during the half-time of the Seattle Sounders soccer game on June 29th.

It was well-received, to judge by comments heard ever since and applause that night. We had been warned that the Kingdome is so vast that even full-sized bands tend to become lost. So we put up five kites in each display from five different stations around the field. Bill Hull of the kite shop -- Great Winds -- announced first the Eddy kites, then five of Bill Lee's super-light winged boxes; third came Cobra kites; five sleds next; brightly-colored deltas scaled to 48" dowels next needed only to be walked slowly along and lastly, so that we wouldn't get lost in the vastness of the building, we put up five lines of 10 deltas each, plus a fighter-kite demonstration in the center of the floor. Bruce Kimball had to go and ham it up by making the crowd gasp by hanging up momentarily on a loudspeaker cable from the ceiling some 150 feet heavenward.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL - MARYMOORE PARK - July 4th holiday saw several WKAers, headed by Dave Checkley, help hundreds of kids assemble little sled kite kits.

FLAGS, BANNERS AND KITES EXPOSITION: Allied Arts, Inc., of Seattle headed this one up and had some 250 entrants from around the world submitted and hung at Seattle Center's Flag Plaza Pavilion. There were probably 15 or 20 kites that would actually fly on display. They were judged on artistic content only.

The WKA filled some 20-odd slots in the guide/guard details. But the real activity came in the peripheral affairs. There was a fly-in at the Center on the first

day of the exhibition. On Sunday, July 17th, a kite contest was held at the Myrtle Edward Park, on the Waterfront. Peter Travis, a professor of design at a university in Australia was one judge. Tsutomu Hiroi, also a design professor, but from Japan, was another judge, along with perapatetic Dave Checkley.

We really got a kick out of the fact that Bruce Kimball won the kite fight with one of his little home-made tissue-paper and eighth-inch dowel fighter kites. They made a mistake on the "Long Line" event. Letting out line for THREE minutes is a LOT of line -- clear down the Ferry Terminal, almost -- so the second heat and the final heat were cut back to two minutes. Stephan D'Oyley won that.

"Highest Angle" was a dead heat between Jack Van Gilder and Carl Brewer. Jack had probably the oldest kite flying -- a Tony Toledo Filipino Fighter. Carl had one of the most modern -- a balsand-tissue-paper air-plane type. Carl is an indoor model airplane flier of national repute, you know. Sure nice having him around Seattle.

"Most Beautiful" event went to a 60-disc Chinese centipede made by J. C. Young. When J.C. first moved to Seattle, I'm afraid he got somewhat frustrated by our light on-shore breezes. He was used to the trade-winds of Taiwan. But he has adapted. Boy, has he adapted! He put this 60-disc centipede together of light-weight bamboo and mylar -- and does it fly!

The "Kite/Speedboat Race" was won by Bob McCort. That's the one where fliers are timed over about a two-mile course towing a kite behind a speedboat. Pun!

Hiroi and Travis demonstrated their own kites after the contest and a couple of other times. They were both houseguests of the Checkleys. Peter flew some of his 150 to 200 footers, including streamers, at Sandpoint park the weekend of July 23. They were really something to behold. Funny how you can tell a professional artist by his arrangement of colors.

SEAFAIR KITE CONTEST -- Capital Hill Chamber of Commerce -- Volunteer Park, July 30

Absolutely a beautiful day! Lots of entrants and spectators despite a fall-down on the part of Ye Editor in the advertizing department. Bill Lee, with the club's new "bull-horn", has been doing an outstanding job of organizing, on the field, at the last two contests. Our president really took hold this year.

Ages 10 and under:

"High-flier": Chung Yee, Jacka Leza, and 3rd: Anthony Hammerich
"Most Beautiful": First: Eric Johnson, (he survived the two minutes), then Benjamin Atkin and Joseph Lanahur.
Juniors, age 11 through 15:
"High-flier": Johnny Kwan, Angie Leza and then Mark Hamrlich.
"Best Small Flier": First: Jeff Grant, Rich Hamrlich and then Mark Hamrlich.
"Most Beautiful": Kin Yee, Jeff Grant and then Laura Stewart --

Novice Class - all ages: High Flier: Michael O'Leary, Gen Kwan and Monty Pickett --

All-ages class:

"High-flier": Linda Lee, Larry O'Leary, and, 3rd, John Dusenberry -- this was hotly contested and had to be run in three heats --

"Best Small Flier": Carl Brewer, David Lee and Larry O'Leary.

"Most Beautiful": VanGilder's Chinese Butterfly of ripstop nylon was first, then Coe Axt, also of West Seattle, with her long-tailed appliqued hexigon flat-kite, and Pilar Robertson was third.

"Longest Tail": as usual, this event brought a sigh from the crowd when the tails started unfolding, accordion-fashion, out of shopping bags as the kites rose majestically. Only this year, they got TWO thrills: David Lee, 1st place and his sis, Linda, 2nd, crossed the line of one kite with the tail with the other, and after the event, here were two kites up there, one tailless and the other with TWO TAILS, caught about three feet below the kite! "Tail transference", sez Dad Lee -- all part of the act - hmmm.

"Largest Kite" - Old Faithful, VanGilder's 21-foot "A.K.A." delta, made of bamboo and painters-plastic-droptail took it again. And, men, it will keep right on flying until someone comes along with something better. (Now, how's that for a thrown-down gauntlet?) Second: Tom Cobbe and Charles Locklin, all the way from Austin, Texas, with his parafoil, third. V.G. got a rise out of the crowd when he got towed across the field by that unwieldy thing and came within 25 or 30 feet of crashing into the crowd. All V.G. could think of at the moment: "Boy, sure glad our club \$100,000 liability insurance policy is in force!" (Did YOU know that?)

"Controlled Flight": Bryan Street, Laura

Stewart and third-place list Callahan and Trever Gong.

All-in-all, a gorgeous afternoon, well-received. The Capital Hill Chamber of Commerce is to be thanked for the cash prizes (\$10 - \$5 - \$3 each) and for their yearly sponsorship. Bill Lee did an excellent job as field manager and the judges, Elliott Couden, Miriam Greene and Dave Checkley did a fine, hard-working job also.

TONY TOLEDO - founding father - so dear to the memory - did you see his picture, some four years old, in this years issue of the annual Seafair Magazine? Also - - - Shirley Toledo has decided that she really doesn't need FOUR of his kites that she has in her garage. She has decided to let our W.K.A. sell three of them for her. \$12.50 each. Four years ago, we offered his remaining kites and they were snapped up quickly. So if anyone is interested in a kite of which THERE WILL BE NO MORE, phone or write Jack Van Gilder, 1925 Walnut S.W., Seattle 98116 - 938 0550. Lessons and repairs included.

SCHEDULE -- weekly fly-ins -- "Where the fliers will most likely be -- if you feel like flying with the other W.K.A. members"

-----clip and save-----

Aug. 7th: Golden Gardens park -
" 14th: Sand Point park -
" 21st: Gasworks Park -
" 28th: Stan Sayers park -
Sept. 4th: Bumbershoot - Seattle Center -
" 11th: Golden Gardens park -
" 18th: Sand Point park -
" 25th: Stan Sayers park -
Oct. 2nd: Gasworks park -
-----Cut out and post-----

Each Sunday at 1:30 pm -- C'on out!

KITE SHOP NEWS -- Great Winds Flies High!

Ken and Bill and Tom and Ray have been turning that little place into a beehive. They have so many interesting projects going that it is impossible to keep up. It's reported that Bill Hull is working on a 16-ft. banner for Ivar's Tower (used to be Smith Tower). Tom Dean and Ken Conrad are rapidly developing kite kits. Tom does some of the neatest scroll-work printing. Ray Byrd has a deal going with Louise Crowley to put thunderbird designs on French Military kites. Business is keeping them busy. If you want to see some exciting items, stop in to view the stock. If you want to get excited over kiting-in-Seattle, stop in to talk to them. 166 So. Jackson St. Pioneer Square.

The young couple, picture enclosed, are Univ. of Wash. students. Good shirts - !

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