

Washington Kitefliers Association

June/July 1984
Editor: Milly Mullarky

EX-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Kevin Sanders

I would like to thank all the members for their help making this year's Kite Fair the best ever. Special thanks go to the following people; Susan Albertson (P.S.C.), Laurie Butler (P.S.C.), Tom Sisson, Walt Sharp, Randy Rouse, Steve Tarilton, Margaret Holzbauer, Bob Hanna, Katy Mullarky and Milly Mullarky. We had over 9,290 people come through the China Exhibit and Kite Fair which was a record for our group. 1170 were general admission tickets. I sure hope we can get the same building next year. (ed. Kevin can be commended for doing a good job getting this event organized!)

On April 15th a small group from Seattle went up to the Pacific Rim Kite Festival. The weather and wind were great until we hit the border, then the rain came. Walt Sharp, Randy Rouse, Larry and Marlene Zilar (Kennewick) and family and I were treated to the usual warm hospitality. Art Ross with his beautiful 1008 square foot Red Baron Parafoil put on a great show for all of us who waited out the rain. Tom Kowolchuck and his friend from the island showed us a few things with their stunt kites. I understand it was the first time in nine years it was rained out (even the rain date). Word is they are going to try it again July 26th.

WKA members who had their kites hanging at the Science Center can claim them by calling Kevin Sanders at 243 - 2264.



ENTERTAIN OUR CHINESE ARTISTS!!

Larry and Francis Chinn helped Vi and Jack Van Gilder host five artisans from the "China; 5,000 Years of Discovery" exhibit. If you would like to entertain from three artisans in your home, contact Connie Chang (625-9021) at the Science Center at least 4 days in advance. Be sure to mention that you need one guest to have some English, or better yet invite one of our WKA members who speak Chinese to join you. The rumor is that Ha YaQi would really enjoy more contact with the local WKA members.

All Dorothea Checkley could say was, "We never expected anything like this"...that was when we arrived at the Weifang Stadium for the First Annual Weifang International Kite Festival. We had been transported from our hotel in Yido (an hour away) with police escorts and truckloads of spectators. The stadium was bedecked with colorful silk flags and large hand-colored balloons. The stadium parking lot was a patchwork of marching bands in uniforms, young people in marching formations - each group holding bouquets or bright rings or uniformly designed kites, and rows of kitemakers holding outstretched centipedes over their heads. Young women held signs behind which representatives of different kite groups would line up - the Netherlands, Great Britian, Japan, Singapore, U.S.A., New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong , roughly 60 people - half of them from Japan. We could see silhouettes of people all around the top edge of the stadium, and peeking into the entrance, we could see that the seats were packed with thirty to fifty thousand people (we never were sure of numbers) all waiting for us to fly kites.

The parade began, and after the band and drill teams, we kitefliers marched in and around the arena to the cheers of the crowds who had the day off just to be there! Speeches were made and then the first kite - one of Doug Hagaman's great yellow parafoils - raised the Chinese and American Flags as Doug ran from one end of the stadium to the other. The crowds roared with that, and every additional running attempt to get any kite to what little gusts blew above the stadium walls.

While the spectators seemed thrilled with each new kite, extra loud cheers went to Gerard Van der Loo, of the Netherlands, for his train of two hundred and fifty perfect little diamond kites. Also, for Tan Kim Hui and Shirley with their gigantic centipede kite from Singapore. And, for Leon Pericles of West Australia, who, with assistants all around, charged across the stadium to raise a train of six huge octagonal kites with banner-like streamers all decorated and pieced and monumentally whimsical. For Peter and Elwyn Lynn and Tom Corbett of New Zealand, who assembled and attempted to keep up great geometric structures of rip-stop and fiberglass. And for so many others. On it went, until we were neatly rounded up and handed certificates of participation and awards, and sent away for lunch...to be followed by a "kitefly with the locals at the reservoir in the afternoon"... None of us will ever forget that last quote, because as our bus rolled up over the crest of the great reservoir, there spread before us, were acres of spectators - sixty to ninety thousand people - quietly assembled, ready to watch us along with some of their friends and neighbors who make kites. Hundreds of kites flew that afternoon, in whatever faint winds would blow through the Weifang dust and sun. Elaborate centipede potted flowering trees, deities, lanterns, stars, Chinese characters, a larger-than-life-sized Charlie Chaplin, bugs, butterflies, and birds, all made by Weifang kite makers, flew along side the more simple bold designs from the western countries. Occasionally, a small team would go racing a mile across the field (right through the crowd) to launch one of the tremendous kites that the "foreigners" had brought along. While we English speaking people soon learned the term "meio feng" (no wind), the helpful

Chinese kitefliers were mastering the meaning of the words "RUN!" and "GO!"

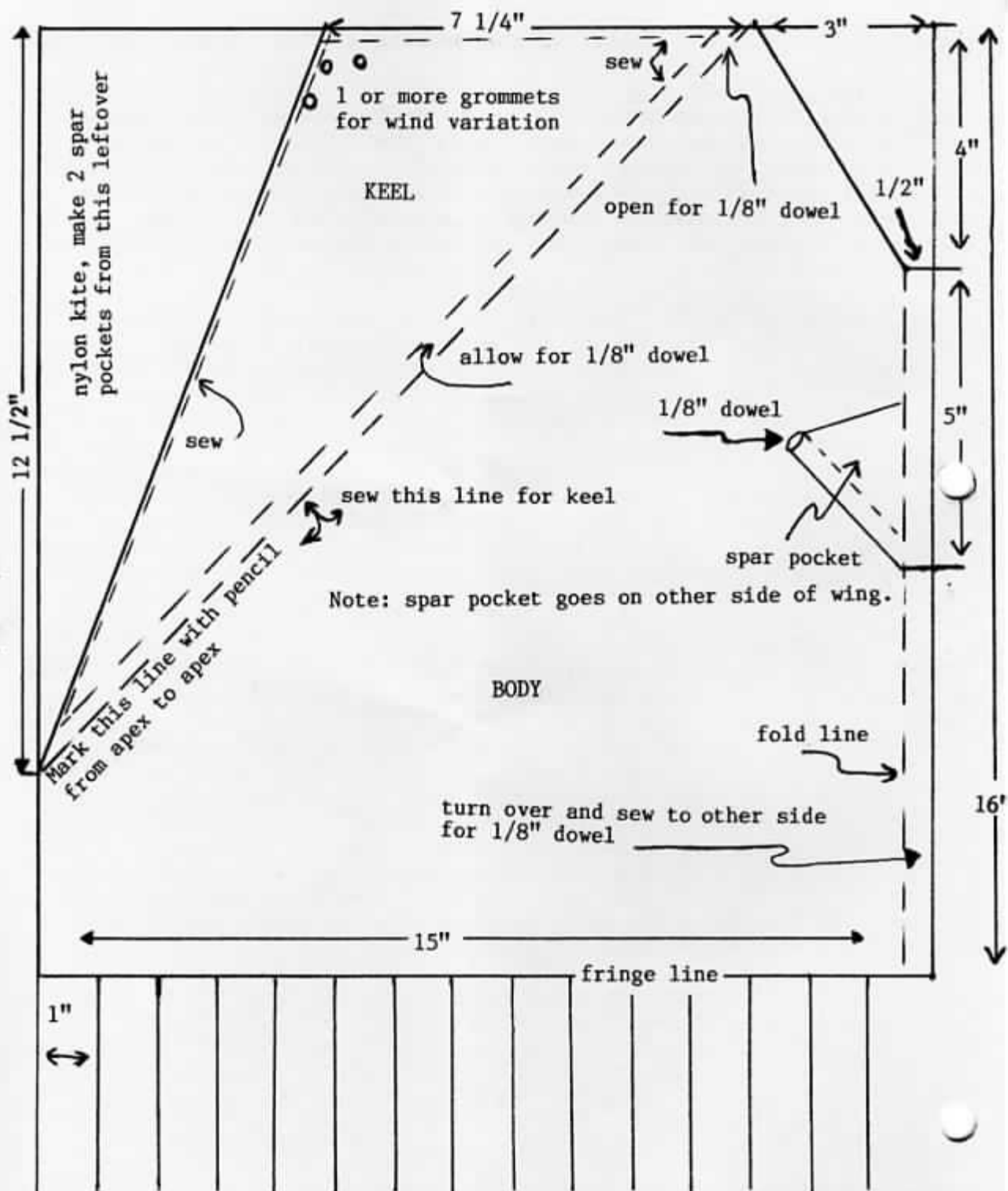
Kites were shared that day. The spectacle was shared with thousands of rural people. John Dusenberry said that a kite he loaned to one passerby had gone through four or five hands as it flew, and the same happened with me and with many others. Media people from China, Japan, and the U.S.A. were everywhere interviewing, photographing, etc., and by evening, news of this great festival was being broadcast through the streets of the province and viewed on T.V.

And that was only the first day. On the second day, it rained as we visited an exhibit of the Weifang amateur kitemakers' kites. All the visitors agreed - we could have spent the entire day there, examining and appreciating the mind-boggling, skill and technique which we saw in the hundreds of kites displayed. There were rows of highly crafted silk centipedes, airplanes, creatures of every description, babies and cartoon characters and globes and good wishes. We went on and visited the Weifang factory and then attended the First International Kite Conference, where delegates from all countries represented presented papers, gave speeches, showed films or slides, and made gifts of kites to the officials of Weifang. More activities that could have taken full days instead of few hours.

The last day of the official festival began on a misty, still morning. We rode the bus out to the country to the base of Camel Mountain and picked up our kite bags and began to climb the great stone stairs along with the spectators this time. And in maybe an hour, kitefliers and rural folks began to straggle to the top of the ridge only to wait for the wind to arrive gradually and blow off the mist. And this time, people just stayed on the mountain and flew kites all day - interrupted only by a picnic lunch, and enhanced by the most spectacular view of stony terraced mountains and vast farmland below. As I left the mountain, I caught glimpses of a Peter Travis (Australia) star kite with tails flickering in the gusts, Malcolm Goodman (Great Britain) with his two line Superman-shaped kite, and a marvelous Weifang goldfish kite swimming over a ridge coated with an unforgettable wave of enthusiastic Chinese people.

As each event unfolded, one of us would say to the other "there is no way we'll ever be able to describe what we've just seen when we get home." There were more kitefliers and stadiums and children and spectators with whom we flew. It was all like nothing we had ever seen or done, with countless details. In a way, Mrs. Checkley should have expected something like this. She and Dave worked awfully hard for memorable results, but for all, the First Weifang International Kite Festival was truly OVERWHELMING!

WKA members Tom Sisson, Margaret Holzbauer and Bob Hanna helped special education youngsters to make kites at a Fair in Puyallup May 3 and 4. On Thursday they made 1200 kites and Friday 2,000!!! GOOD WORK!



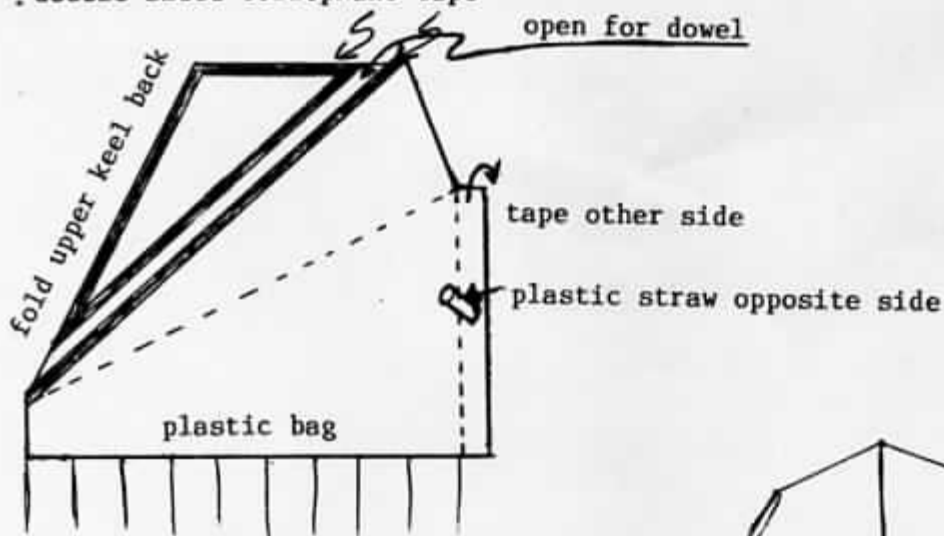
Vary fringe to length of material - on nylon make two kites and split the difference in the middle so no material is wasted. Kite will fly without any fringe but fringe adds a slight rustling sound and more stability. Kite has more action without fringe.

ROY KOKENGE'S YAKIMA KITE

For spinnaker nylon kite; fold over material 15+ inches to make both sides at once. On nylon cut 2 kites at the same time and split the difference between the bodies so as not to waste material. Hot cut ALL around the kite, including fold line of material. Cut Fringe as well. Sew around keel and keel dowel pocket before separating body and fringe, then sew body and spar pocket.

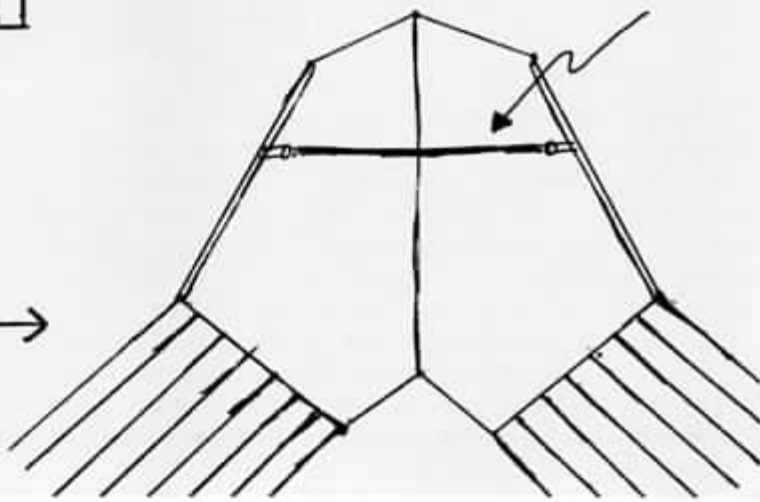
For Plastic kite; This kite can be made out of garbage bags by using double sided tape. After cutting out both sides, do not separate but fold back upper keel - apply double sided tape to keel as indicated then fold other side of keel onto tape carefully and press together. Allow for 1/8" keel dowel. Then open body and fold and tape pocket of body to other side for 1/8" dowel. For spreader spar use plastic straw 1 1/2 to 2" long. The easiest way to apply the plastic straw is to flatten it - attach double sided tape to one flat side - apply to location on body and then tape over it with regular tape. Spreader spar should not be tight. Kite flies best with some dihedral. Experiment and vary length of spar with wind velocity.

double sided cellophane tape



spreader spar

kite looks like this



SUPPLIES

Academy Supplies at 821 S. 128th in Seattle (244-3412) has tissue paper! They carry packages of 24 20x30" sheets for \$1.35 in 21 colors. They have variegated colors at 10 sheets for .85 . They have elmers glue for \$2.59 a quart and \$6.99 a gallon. They have a catalogue that you can write for. The University Book Store has tissue paper in 32 colors for 8 cents a sheet. Seattle Lumber at 500 S.W. 16th St. in Renton (722-2332) sells 1/8" x 48" dowels in bundles of 200 for 12 cents each. For further information call Jack Van Gilder at 938-0550.



Jim Greeno, Kathy Goodwind
Kevin Sanders, Diane Aurigemma



Kathy Goodwind, Kevin Sanders,
Jack Lair, Art Grossi

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL by Jack VanGilder

There was an excellent turnout April 28th for a really nice day of kite flying and conversation. Those who wished, entered the contests sponsored by the Japan/America Society. Jim Mockford and his small son were present to represent the Society and to present the prizes. The winners in the Conventional contest were: Art Grossi (Sidney B.C.) 1st, Kevin Sanders 2nd, Kathy Goodwin and Jack Lair (he with two kites) tied for 3rd. The Oriental kite contest was won by Kevin Sanders with Jim Greeno 2nd and Tom Mallard 3rd. Diane Aurigemma was given an Honorable Mention. But mostly it was a beautiful day with good fellowship and at least 30 regular WKA fliers who seldom all make it at the same time. There was a very good representation from the North with particularly spectacular kites.

(for help or further
information call:
Gerry Osborne c/o
sister "Lonny":
(206) 964 - 2214

1st Annual EASTERN WA. KITEFLY



Folks, this is our 1st W.K.A. Kitefly for Eastern Wa., there has been alot of hard work in volved geting land to use, sponser etc.. Thanks to the Eastern Wa. State University 33 acr has been turned over to us. for the 26th and 27th of May (Memoriale Day Weekend)...the Fly begin at 11:00 A M on Saturday...wrapping up with a night fly (if anyone brings night flying "goodys"), then from 10:00 A M to 2:00 on Sunday.

This will be an "open to the public" event....a good chanch to spread goodwill and friends to those attending.

THERE IS MORE THEN KITEFLYING for those that are intrusted: The famous floating river YAKIMA is here, so for those intrusted, bring tubes or rubber rafts...allso the river team with good size TROUT, and for those in the know: GOLD! With - in a few miles is the famous (there's that word again) ELLENSBURG BLUE jemstone area...so for those rockhouners.... Then there is swimming (inclosed public pool or public pick-nick/swimming area) and SUN SUN

We can not garentee WIND...but this area usualy has more then its' share of it, pickin to heavy gusts towards evening....so bring light weight AND HEAVY WIND Kites! Let's dazzle public with a display of color and buity. PLAN ON IT!



3 (of many) Motels:

Branding Iron Motel, 506 W. Main, 925-
Ponderosa Motel, 700 Main, 925-9388
Thunderbird Motel, W. 8th, 962-9856

AREA CODE 206

KOA campground: W. Ellensburg Interchange
(925 - 9319)

Holiday I
CAMPING ON RIVER TOO! (925 - 9601) Canyon Rd.

WAWAWA

Washington Kitefliers Association

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



CALENDAR

- May 26, 27.....1st Annual Eastern
Wash. Kite Fly.
- May 28.....Kite Stores' Kite
Fly. Magnuson Park
12 noon
- June 3.....Harrison Hot Springs
Contact Larry Chin
723-3508
- July 5.....Pacific Beach WA.
Kite Fly. Call
Julian Wolf
747-1347
- Aug. 20-26.....3rd Annual Wa. State
International Kite
Festival. Longbeach
Wa.



Michael & Susan Carroll
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10-15 Hunters Glen Drive
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

TO --
