

Sept. 1983



AKA CONVENTION

Big plans are in store for the 6th Annual AKA Convention to be held this year in Columbus Ohio. If you find that you will be able to attend and have not yet registered, please send \$65 to Miller Makey at 2557 Clark Dr., Grove City, Ohio, 430123, or call him at 614-871-0727 (remembering that they are on Eastern time...3 hours later) Among the presentations will be an FAA representative to discuss FAA regulations and a Power Company representative to help determine the conductivity of various materials. This looks like an extremely exciting convention...try to make it!

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

Semiahmoo Park Kite Fly In

October 1st there will be a kite fly at the newest park in Whatcom County, Semiahmoo Park. It is right outside Blaine and the BCKA have also been invited to attend. From Seattle, one takes the 274 exit off I-5 in Blaine and follow the signs to Semiahmoo Park and Marina. The flying area itself is surrounded by water, has no kite eating trees, no power lines, and there is always a breeze. There are bar-b-que pits and picnic facilities right there so pack a lunch, bring the family and pray for a beautiful indian summer day! This will be a perfect time to try out that outrageous new kite developed for the National convention, renew friendships to the North, and generally enjoy the outdoor world of kiting before the winter rains.



WASHINGTON STATE
INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL
by Jack Van Gilder

Long Beach, WA: 8-24 to 8-28
WE HAD A BALL! — and WKA
came home \$250 richer!

This now annual event attracted some of the nation's best known kitefliers: Tal Streeter, Bob Ingraham, Bill Tyrell, Brooks Leffler, Dom Jalbert, Rick Kinnaird, Tony Syphert, Steve Edeiken, Margaret Greger, I could go on and on. It's hard to say what attracted them. Possibly the exuberance of the organizer, Harry Osborne, head of the Needle Trades Dept. of Edmonds Community College. Or it could have been the chance to view the world's largest kite being flown for a Guinness Book of Records attempt. Maybe it was the chance to display their own mind-boggling creations to such an august assemblage.

Never to be forgotten impressions:

Bill Tyrell, (owner of The Fabric Lady outlet, PA) man does he produce! Maybe you remember the article in the AKA News, August, 1982, by Bernice Turner, describing Bill's flying of a huge parafoil supporting an equally huge American flag; how some kids got the whole crowd of 5 or 10 thousand singing the Star Spangled Banner. Bill flew them again at Long Beach and now I know the feeling. When those two huge things went zooming up, I got a catch in my old, cynical throat.

Rick Kinnaird: (with the telephone company in New Jersey) sometimes known as "The Mouth": famous kite contest announcer. He knows his business. He helped the "roast" at the festival banquet with two really witty presentations on Dom Jalbert and Bob Ingraham (Corry Jensen did a good job there, too). He was the main announcer for the two days, with the help from his poor wife, Eileen. Every time I missed a target, every time I lost my footing, every time I mis-launched a kite, he let the whole world know what the president of the AKA was doing!



One sixth of Rick Kinnaird's aerial sculpture.

Steve Edeiken: (owner, Rainbow stunt kites, Venice, CA) had a dozen or so Red Braswell designed six point star kites in a unique train. They are a star within a star, within a star, within a star. After development, they will retail for about \$100 each. His train was so beautiful that he won a first prize in the "trains" category.



Bob Ingraham (left) and Dom Jalbert with their kite festival T shirts.

Dom Jalbert and Bob Ingraham: (Dom, from Florida, invented parafoils; Bob, from New Mexico, founded the AKA in 1964) did most of the judging. Let the chips fall where they may. Did a great job!

Now, how did the WKA come home \$250 richer? They won second place in the team events. Well, actually, they shared second place with AOK (Association of Oregon Kitefliers). Those upstarts. Those well organized upstarts.

In first place, worth \$400, and sharing it with nobody, came the BCKA (British Columbia Kite Association). How did BCKA do it? Good organization and incredible luck.

For instance, the "Touch Me" event: Our own Doug Hagaman (k)aked out two large parafoils, side by side, twenty feet apart. He tied a badminton net between the kitelines, about 100 feet up, with a two foot orange swatch of fabric in the center as a target.

BCKA kiter Les Varley took a Cody kite (of all things!) out there and on a signal hefted it aloft. And do you know what that clumsy, slow moving old thing did? It went straight up to the target like a magnet and in 8 point something seconds, smacked it dead center!

Ol' Van Gilder got out there with his Tony Toledo filipino fighter kite and it went up like a rocket. Six seconds later, there it was, ten feet beyond the target, the victim of the flyer's poor depth perception. One and a half minutes later, it finally brushed the target, the flyer having fallen all over himself in the sand. Too bad there wasn't a prize for flying a fighter kite, upside down, lying flat on your back!

The "Launch and Retrieval" event was true team sport. Each team of five was to leap over a starting gate, race twenty feet to a huge (10 X 15') parafoil, launch it, allow the flying line to become taut to the truck to which it was tethered and then run madly to the truck. End of first half timing.

The second half consisted of bringing the kite down and scampering over the starting gate. The total time was then calculated. AOK went first. Their downfall came early when they failed to notice that the kite was lying upside down and tried to fly it that way. They also lost time retrieving the kite by walking down the line, hand over hand. (cont. pg. 5)

Takeshi Nishibayashi's Tina Kite
by Bob McCort

The "Tina Kite" was designed by Nishi while spending some time at Dave Checkley's house after attending the 1982 AKA convention. Nishi tries to build a new kite everyday, many of them new designs.

Nishi also likes to work with common materials since he uses many of his kite designs in workshops with children. This design was originally made using a tall waste basket size plastic bag and some long (17 1/2") plastic drinking straws that Dave uses in some of his advertizing kites. It works equally well with 1/8" dowels. We used Tina Kites in my daughter's 3rd Grade class and they all flew great.

Wondering about the name, "Tina Kite"? Nishi named it after Dave's grand daughter, one of Nishi's favorites.

MEASUREMENTS

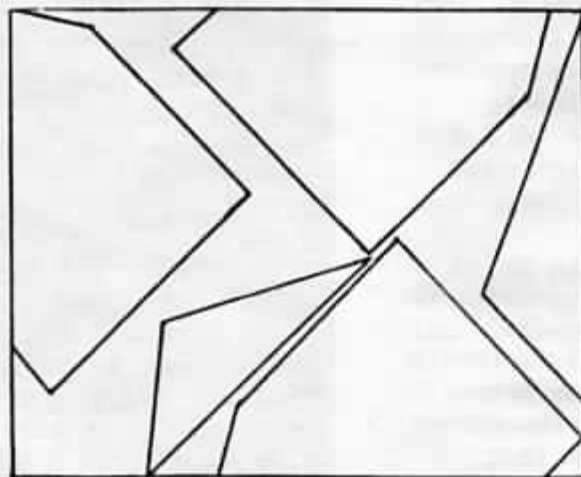
A = 19 1/2"
B = 17 1/2"
C = 4 1/4"
D = 2"
E = 1"
F = 9 1/2"
G = 12 1/2"
H = 17"
J = 5 1/8"
K = 5 1/2"
SB § 15" ^{12 9/16}

MATERIALS

1 plastic trashbag
1 1/8" dowel 17 1/2" long for spine
1 spreader bar 15"
2 1/8" dowels 11 3/4" long for spars.
cello tape

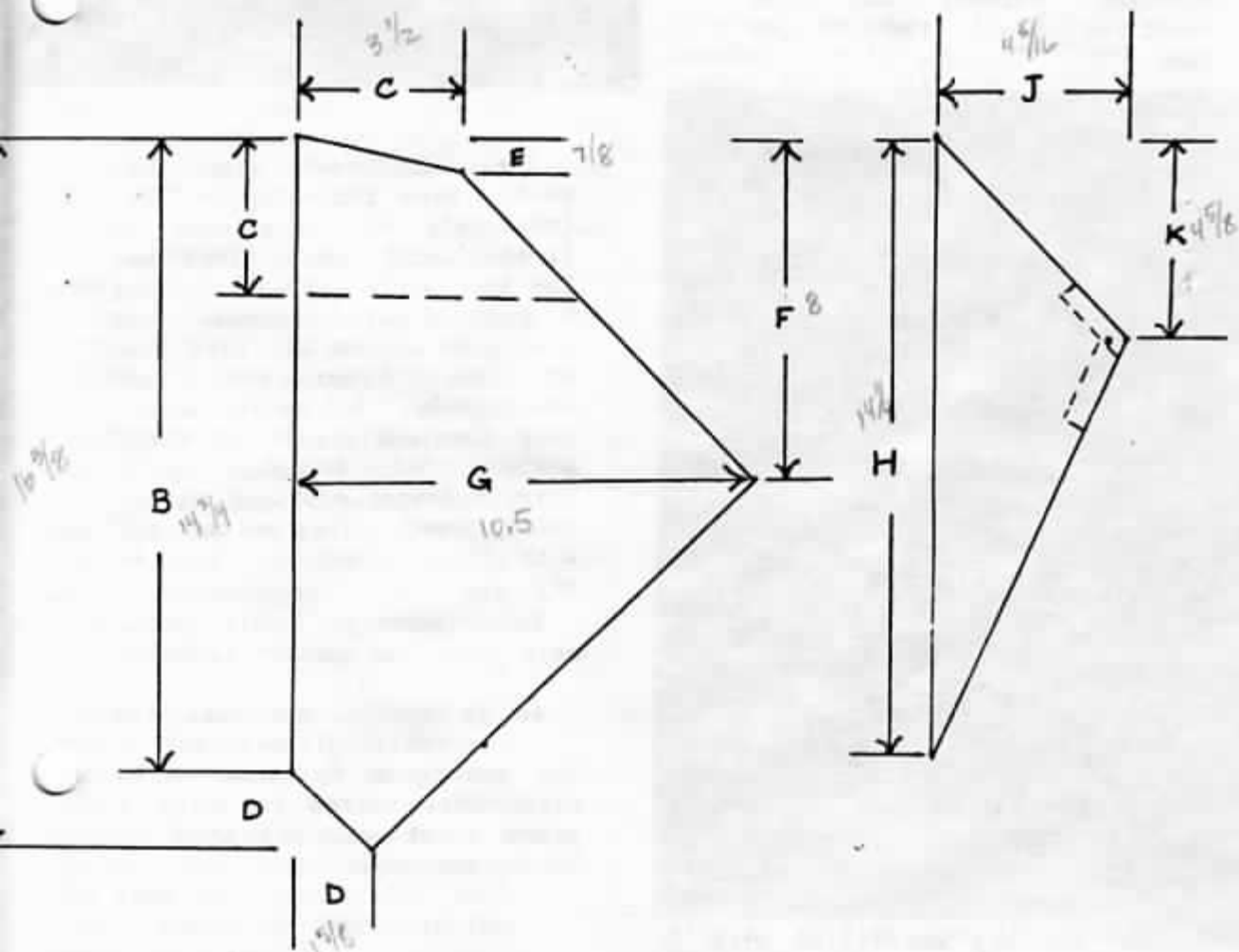
TOOLS

cardboard templates
permanent marker
scissors



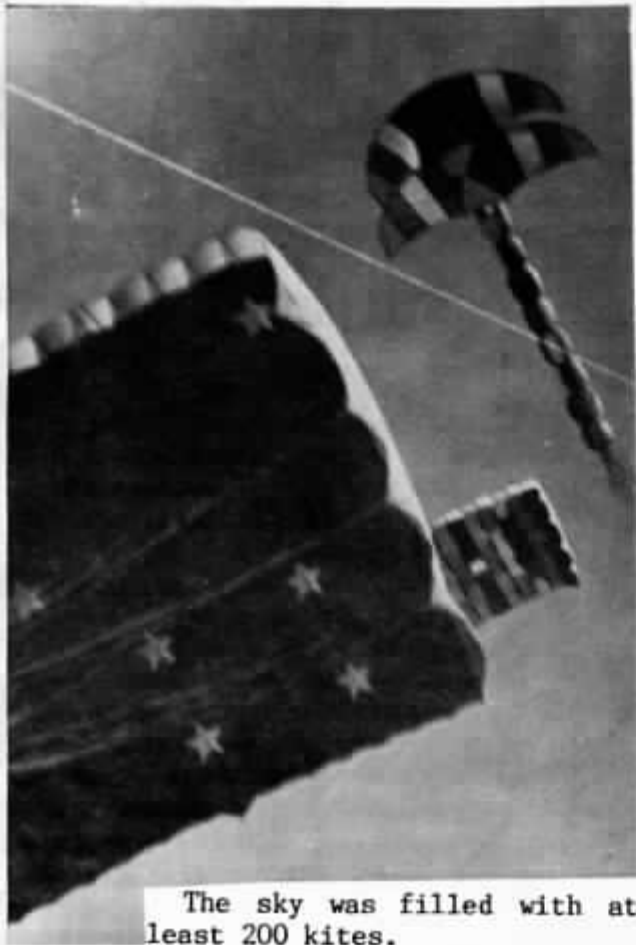
DIRECTIONS

1) make templates 2) place templates on bag (you can get three from a 24" X 30" bag) and trace around 3) cut out kite parts 4) tape keel to sail with thin point at the bottom. tape both sides and the bridle point. punch bridle hole 5) unfold sail and tape spine in the fold line 6) tape the spars to the sail being sure to tape the dowel so it doesn't slip 7) connect the spreader bar 5" down from the top of the spars. It can either be taped or connected with small rubber bands.



Those clever WKa boys leaped over the starting gate, three flipping the kite over while two tugged on the line. One little detail, though: it took a good two minutes before they could let out the line far enough so that it was taut to the truck. They also had the foresight to take an ingeniously designed bringer downer tool forged from a baseball bat by Julian Wolf to run the line down. One little detail, though: The kite fell on a couple of members like a fishnet and the last man had to disengage himself and dive headfirst over the finish line.

Members of the BCKA winning team.



The BCKA team went with youth, even including a GIRL! (obviously why they came in first, Jack! ed.) They had the incredible luck of finding a puff of wind without even having to tug on the kiteline, so the kine was taut immediately. And on retrieval, they cheated(?): one of their members had brought along a bringer downer equipped with a pulley wheel. They waltzed off with first place, needless to say.

But, just you wait until next year, you upstart clubs!

As an anti-climax, all the TV crews awaiting the flight of the humongous Guinness world class kite waited in vain: a storm front grounded them on Sunday morning.

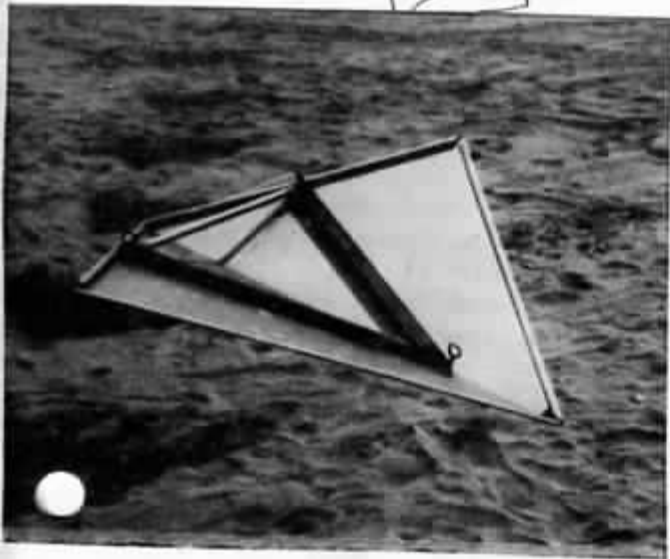
The sky was filled with at least 200 kites.

Letters:

Gerry Osborne writes with a new job and address, "landed a job with the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Dept. - cooking for prisoners. Yet even here I'm pushing kites! Got some "bites" on Weather's fishing kites by a pair of brothers (trustees) who like to fish. As a matter of fact, that's why they are in there - selling illegal salmon! So, while you all are fighting raindrops to get your kites up - remember me, grounded, kiteless." One can commiserate with Gerry c/o Morgan, 821 Bodine Rd., Kelso, WA. 98626.



Music and kites at music camp, Fort Casey, WA.



6 1/2 pound, stainless steel kite, flying with the aid of 106 supporting kites, made for BCKA by Dan Kurihashai.



Well, they finally did it - an award for the "hardest kite to get up"!

CALENDAR

Oct. 1...Semiahmoo Park
Kite Fly 10am to 5pm
Blaine,WA. (see article front
page)

All Fall...WKA kite fly at
all Husky home football games.
FREE PASSES, lots of fun, good
way to promote WKA and kiting.
For details please call Jack
Van Gilder at 938-0550.



I HATE THESE
"Biggest kite"
CONTESTS!



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

Great Winds Moved

If you went to Great Winds
and found it wasn't there, try
going around the corner. Ken
and Suzanne have moved the shop
to 402 Occidental Ave.
South...literally around the
corner. They have more room
and have decorated it
beautifully.

Washington Kitefliers Assn.
c/o Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. North
Seattle, WA. 98109
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