

WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER -- August, 1979 --

What's been going on? Plenty!

Your Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (didn't realize we were that well-organized, did you?) met at Van Gilder's on the evening of July 6th and voted unanimously to appoint our Chairman-of-the-Board, David Checkley, to be our official representative to the Second Annual National Convention of the American Kitefliers Association. This will be in Manassas, Virginia, on October 4th - 7th, 1979, and big things are planned, according to the latest newsletter from big Red Braswell, president of AKA.

It was after this vote that Red mentioned in his newsletter that Dave will be their key-note speaker this year. He also stated (hopefully, it sounded like, reading through the lines) that Carl Brewer might be there also. Dave didn't come out quite so well as Jack Van Gilder did last year; our treasurer, Bob McCort, reported that we probably had enough to pay for his ticket, as long as he had a United Air Lines half-fare coupon.

July 4th, there was a big bash in Portland, Oregon, but Ye Editor hasn't heard of anyone who went.

July 14th, we had our Port of Seattle Kite Contest. It was rather raggedly-organized, but the Port certainly did come through with some nice prizes: wall barometer/thermometer/humidity gauges for First Places; nice desk pen sets for Seconds and a six-pack of etched glass tumblers for Thirds. Winners:

Kite Fight: Navin Chand came all the way from India (via Bremerton, where he works) to win this one. Jack Van Gilder came in Second (this is the first time he has ever out anyone down!) and Carl Brewer was 3rd.

Most Beautiful: J.C. Young had his beautiful butterfly up and going for First, Louise Crowley came in a near-second with her gorgeous appliqued "Orion" Eddy-kite and Larry Chinn had one of his most imaginative kites up for Third.

Highest: Carl Brewer had one of his balsa airplane kites up there overhead at the precise moment of de-scision, barely beating out perennial winner, Bill Lee, who was flying a fighter kite, for a change from his usual winged box kites. Navin Chand also had a fighter, coming in Third.

Long Line: Ol' Van Gilder has a spool of 4 lb. monofilament line he lets out OVER THE END, getting away from the drag of a revolving spool. His little tissue paper delta went a long way out there in 30 seconds, just barely beating Bill Lee for First. In Third was newcomer Greg Debo.

Memorial Day, June 30th: shown below is the irrepressible Nishi (Takeshi Nishibayashi), Japan's Good Will Ambassador to the World, visiting Seattle for about the fifth time. His is flying at Gasworks Park with Yoo Nang Roe, President of Korean Kite Assn. and fighter kite champion of Korea. Something happened that day that I



have been predicting would happen: hundreds of spectators showed up

David Checkley hand-delivered press releases to the news-media a couple days prior to Memorial Day and it really caught on

Possibly it was the fighter-kite demonstration put on by two world experts (above) and Rev. Joseph Lee, a local expert.

July 21st: Seattle Sun Kite Contest: Ken Conrad headed this one up. "Most Newsworthy" prize went to Bill Lee for his newspaper-covered kite (I didn't think they still did that, Bill!). "Most Beautiful" prize went home to Billings, Montana, with Dave Dube. Dave and wife, Terri, had written beforehand, asking for information -- and they actually showed up! (Of course, Dave's dad lives in Bellevue) They had a beautiful rip-stop nylon delta of unusually artistic color and shape. "Funniest Kite" prize went as a tie to Bill Lee for his smiley-faced delta, with eyes, nose and mouth trailing behind the kite. Wish we had a photo of it; has to be seen to be believed.

Tom Slason's co-winner is seen top of next column: a flying shirt-and-shorts with panty-hose tail. Great!

Jan Klook won the "Best Sun" award with her smiley face radiant sun kite, beautifully appliqued.

om Sisson (see preceding column)

elow is Dan Kurihashi, now of Burnaby, B.C., formerly of Tokyo, member of Japan Kite Assn. and liaison man for the Shirone kitefliers, helping with arrangements for their September visit to Seattle. Kurihashi is seen below flying his train of small diamond kites, beautifully made of hand-blocked Tyvek. That's his young daughter running down the Gasworks park hill at the Seattle Sun contest.



At one point, later in the afternoon --



-- that day, there were FOUR kite-trains in the air and NONE of them were Van Gilder's or Dusenberry's, whose are becoming old-hat in the Seattle area.

Van Gilder has been invited to fly his 108-kite train at the University of Washington Huskies football games again this year -- and he needs HELH Phone 938 0550 for free passes to Husky games -- for the price of a good strong arm.

THE
ORIENT EXPRESSED" 1

Remember that name because you are going to hear an awful lot about it in the next month or so. Shown here is part of the Shirona Kite Assn., with one of their kites, 5 meters by 7 meters (that's over 15 by 21 FEET, People!) Shown here in the Japanese gymnasium where it is stored. This was during a visit from Dave Checkley's annual kite tour.



This group of men will be in Seattle in September, building this kite at the BON MARCHE department store. They will attempt to fly it on Sept. 16th, "Sports Day" for Orient Expressed festivities. The Bon and the Seattle Post Intelligencer newspaper are sponsoring (paying most of the freight for) 230 people from Hong Kong and Japan. They are all artisans in various craft

Sports Day: September 16th, a Sunday, is the big day for us: HIROI will be here! Tsutomu Hiroi, internationally-famous author of kite books and professor of sculpture at Tokyo Gakuei University will accompany the Shironi team. We, the W.K.A., will help put on a kite contest and demonstration the likes of which are likely to attract participants nation-wide.

For the "Experts": free-form kite flying of Oriental kites, including the launch of the giant Shironi kite. W.K.A. will attempt to fly some biggies at the same time.

"Most Beautiful" and "Highest Angle" should separate the men and women from the boys and girls. \$100 cash first prizes, People. Get that? \$100 prizes!

For the "Novices": Anyone who has never won a prize: best all-around kite, judged mostly on performance. Some novice who also happens to have a vivid imagination will probably win the "Logo Contest": the P.I., the Bon or The Orient Expressed calligraphy character being the three subjects. Must be made of newsprint (P.I.?).

At the same time that all this is going on, there will be about 10,000 people running in a 10,000 meter run

up the Burke-Gillman Trail from Univ. of Wash. to the Warren G. Magnuson Park (Sand Point), the site of our festivities. At the same time, offshore, the Hong Kong boats -- paddle-powered teak 40-foot Dragon-Boats -- will be racing with local crews manning the paddles. Watch the P.I. for full details.

July 28th: Seafair/Capitol Hill C.of C. contest at Volunteer Park:

Here is the winner of the "Largest" event. Rev. Joseph Lee feels how light is as the owner's assistant, Joy Nagode,



comes around to help. The owner/builder was none other than our well-known neighbor to the south, Stormy Weathers of Portland. You just wait, Stormy, we're going to come down to one of your contests and take all the hardware home with like you did this time!

Joy won the "Novice" event, Curtis Chaple was 2nd, and another out-of-towner, Bob Read, from Moscow, Idaho, took 3rd. "High-Flier" went to Joseph Lee, 2nd was Bill Lee (no relation) and 3rd went to Joy Nagode (again!) "Best Small Flier": Carl Brewer, Bill Lee and Jim Greco (did you see the real nice photo of Jim in the P.I.?) "Longest Tail": Mark Hammerich, Peter Mastembroeck and 3rd was Tom Buchanan. "Largest": Stormy, then John Dusenberry, with his 25-footer which went down in the non-wind with about ten seconds to go, then Jack Van Gilder's Old Faithful 21-footer which crashed and burned with some 20 seconds to go in the two minute time span. For "Controlled Flight": Carl Brewer (with a 6-inch kite, of all things!), Joseph Lee and Bob McCort placed 3rd. It seemed like the crowd was up somewhat this year, 300?

Schedule: Every Sunday at Gasworks ^(EXTRA SUNDAY AUG. 26th 10:00 AM) Univ. of Wash. games (phone 938 0550) The Orient Expressed, Sept. 16th.

Newsletterwriterinchief: Jack Van Gilder
1925 Walnut S.W., Seattle 98116/938 0550

subscribe to
KITELINES MAGAZINE, 7106 Campfield
Road, Baltimore, MD, 21207
\$9.00 yearly (U.S.A.) -
- the quarterly national maga-
zine on kites and kilters.

join
AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOC.
10,000 Lomond Drive
Manassas, VA 22110, USA
\$5.00 yearly membership -
- our national organization!



return to:
Washington Kitefliers Association
Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. No.
Seattle, WA 98109

Thomas J. Sisson
725-3615
4653 So. Chicago St.
Seattle, Wa. 98118

Join WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION -
Pacific Science Center, 200 2nd Ave. No.
Seattle, WA 98109 -- bi-monthly newsletter
listing fun and games in the Puget Sound area.