



# Newsletter

December 2002 / January 2003

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

## LIVING TREASURES; MIKE BUTTON

By: Sue Clark

Mike started flying kites when he was 8 years old. The corner candy store had received some promo kites. They were 2-stick Hi-fliers with the "Snoboy Orange co." logo on them, with oranges on the crown. Mike was one of several neighborhood children given a kite, but the only one who was successful in making it fly. He lived close to the school and his favorite memory is lying on his back in the school yard, flying a kite watching the cumulus clouds float by, which is why his personal kite pin includes a cloud on it.

Around 1973 Bellingham had a combination kite/candy store. He inherited a French Military kite that had been purchased by a friend who had become bored with it. At that time his interest was "the need for speed". Mike was building reels using bicycle hubs, gears, pulleys and belts. He'd let out 2000 feet of line and see how fast he could bring in the line.

In the late 70's he was traveling the Oregon Coast and spotted a gentleman flying a kite and noticed a reel attached to his hip. It was a tennis racket with a wire spool and hand crank. Mike barely remembers the kite he was flying. It turned out to be Larry Chin at Lincoln City flying a centipede kite at the D-river wayside. He was introduced to Steve Lamb later the same day and Larry talked him into becoming a WKA member. Still with the interest in line winders, it wouldn't be until 5 years later he attended a festival at Gasworks Park in Seattle. The in the early 80's, Mike started making his first cloth kites.

In 1983 he attended his first W.S.I.K.F., and in 1986 tied with Bill Lester for Second place in the best all around kiteflier competition. In 1990 he co-chaired Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference with Stan Swanson, and has taught there several times. In fact you can catch him teaching there in 2003. And if things go as usual, you'll see his wife Diane, daughter Sarah and parents Ron and Pat.

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In observing Mike, it doesn't take long to realize how much he knows about making kites, and making kites that fly well. I asked Mike who he learned that from, and his reply was he'd always had an intrinsic ability to adjust a kite to fly well. Also he considers himself a kite technician, not a kite artist. Although this writer doesn't think he is void in that ability. While many kitefliers find a "niche" to specialize in, Mike never has, which goes back to the all around kiteflier.

His advice to other kitefliers is don't take kiteflying too seriously. Stay within your ability, and then add to your knowledge base.

I've always felt you could ask Mike any question about kiting, and Mike would have some great ideas. I remember Mike telling the story about being in a rokkaku battle once and after a heat one of the competitors said he was finished because one of his metal bowline stays had broken. Mike looked at the kite, threw a taughtline hitch in the bowline and the kite was ready to fly.

Mike also doesn't offer advice much, unless you ask and are interested in learning. And if you are interested in learning more about kites, he's a great guy to ask.

## WHIDBEY ISLAND KITE FESTIVAL - 2002

What a wonderful weekend!!! The Whidbey Island festival has been blessed for the last several years with lovely weather, but this year we had the added bonus of all-day winds!

The single-line community was well-represented with Featured Flyers Elaine Genser from Victoria BC and Kevin Sanders from Adelaide, South Australia. All weekend their kites filled the sky with a variety of imaginative creations. We had a number of visitors down from Canada - don't know if they tagged along with Elaine, or if they're just coming on their own, but the BC flyers seem to have made Whidbey a regular stop. A number of kitefliers took advantage of the free-fly area for single-line kites.

The sport-kite competition went well, with 33 registered competitors. The Masters class is getting rather large, now, with 17 flyers registered for the individual precision event. But the Experienced Class had 6 and Novice 7 flyers. We had a really good turnout of 9 flyers for the Beginners Competition, which is more of an instructional "here's what you need to know about what it's like to compete..." The idea is to instruct and introduce new flyers to the sport without the pressure of competing in front of a crowd the first time out.

We had two mass ascensions (with pins!) which garnered a lot of participation, not just from "regular" kite-flyers, but the public as well. Also, we had hugely popular teddy-bear drops each day (much thanks goes to Fred Marchand for developing the apparatus and parachutes!!!)

A popular addition this year was the latte stand. So now we have food AND drinks available at the field.

Our raffle was a huge success (thank you Linda Barnes for all your efforts), with over 200 items. We are blessed to have the support of many individuals and businesses (in and out of the kiting industry) in support of this festival.

Each year this event grows in its features and popularity. Two years ago, we estimated our weekend attendance at about 2,000. This year, the estimate is 4,000. Even though we have a finite field area and have to arrange air space to accommodate both single-line and multi-line flyers, we seem to manage.

It is a hugely popular event with the local public, and introduces many people to the joys of making and flying kites. If you didn't make it this year, try to come next year: September 20-21, 2003.

## IN MEMORY OF PETER NORDBY

As many of you already know, we have lost another member of our kiting family due to a tragic kiting accident. WKA would like to honor the memory of Peter Nordby by relaying a little of his life and interests with you, our membership.



Peter Nordby, loving husband, father, and friend, passed away on Friday, November 1, 2002, All Saints Day. Peter was born on July 3, 1959, in Oslo, Norway, to Per and Inger Nordby. His love for the sea and water sports bloomed very early, and he became the youngest person ever to make the National Norwegian Sailing Team. Peter moved to the United States at the age of 19 to pursue his college studies. He received a degree in International Finance from the University of Miami at Coral Gables, and his MBA from Boston University. During this time, he continued his passion for sailboat racing, and qualified for the Olympic trials in sailing. He also met and married the love of his life, Susan, and they began their lives together. After graduation, Peter traveled the world working for Texaco, and later, American Express, living in Mexico and Florida, and he and Susan were blessed with two children, Elisabeth and Mark. A free spirit with boundless energy, Peter's love for sailing, windsurfing, and kite boarding took him around the world, to Hawaii, Greece, Norway, the Bahamas, Florida, the Columbia River Gorge, and his favorite, Corpus Christi. Peter and his family moved to Corpus Christi in 1995, where he continued to pursue his love of sailing, windsurfing, and kite boarding. In 1998, Peter founded the Zero Gravity Kite Board company, and he served as a sales representative for the Cabrina and Ultra Nectar companies. He served as Commodore of the Corpus Christi Windsurfing Association, and as Director of Corpus Christi's annual U.S. Open Windsurfing and Kite Surfing competition. Peter recently organized the "Board Over the Bay" kite boarding competition at Corpus Christi Bay. A phenomenal athlete, Peter was recently named a "Red Bull Athlete" by the Red Bull company. Peter also devoted his energy to numerous community activities, where he brought out the best in everybody. He served as President of the Incarnate Ward Academy P.T.O., coached various sports at St. Patrick's school, served on the board of the Corpus Christi Ballet, and was a member of the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. Peter's greatest joy was his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Susan, his daughter Elisabeth, and his son, Mark, all of Corpus Christi, his parents, Per and Inger Nordby, of Larvik, Norway, his sister, Vibeke Retterholt, of Kristiansand, Norway, his mother-in-law, Marie De Sisto, of Corpus Christi, several nieces and nephews, and countless friends around the world. A rosary service will be held at St. Pius X Catholic Church on Monday, November 4, 2002 at 7:00 pm, and a funeral mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Incarnate Ward Academy in his memory.

Courtesy of <http://www.kitesurf0g.com/obituary.html>

You can contact the family at:  
Zero Gravity Kiteboards  
8310 Seashore Drive  
Corpus Christi TX 78412

You can also find more information at <http://www.aka.kite.org/021118.html>

**Advertisement** for items relating to kites or kite fliers, charge is 10 cents a word (\$3 minimum) per issue. Lost, found, stolen, or free items will be listed free if under 30 words. Make checks payable to WKA.

## WHEN COWS FLY...

Life is generally good, but life as a kiteflyer is *much* better. Minor co-incidents take on a near mythic grandeur. We shop in the thrift store on McChord Air Force Base. Once in a while we find a great treasure that we can actually afford to buy.

Glenda was prowling around and spotted the word "kite" on a big plastic bag. Intrigued, she examined it and found, not a kite, but a windsock. Not just *any* windsock but a six-foot long black and white cow with pink hooves and udder!

We immediately thought of Stan and Debbie, fellow fliers who have a collection of cow related goodies. Maybe some of you recall "Puff Cow" winning an amazing amount of stuff at various raffles and drawings. Debbie is constantly accompanied by one or more cows and they have several cow-themed kites, most notably a medium sized De la Porta named the "Mad Cow," which tends to attack other kites when not watched carefully.

We gleefully grabbed the big windsock and initially began planning how to tease Debbie with the fact that we had a cow that she didn't have. After I flew the big honker (Mooo-er?) I revised the plan. It was too heavy for any of the lifters I fly to handle and it dragged on the ground a lot. Which is not a bad thing for a cow, but it's not-a-good thing for a windsock. I tried it on one of our tall windsock poles and promptly broke the pole, draping the cow over the hood of the motor home. Another not so good idea courtesy of the febrile mind of a lapsed Mensan. That was the last straw.

We determined that Debbie needs to be the proud possessor of the cow as soon as we could arrange it. As luck would have it, we soon met them at Golden Garden's Park during a WKA fun fly.

They said they had been searching for a cow windsock for sometime. Not just any windsock either, but this specific size and brand. They told tales of woe about the search and scarcity of the beasties, and how hard they'd sought one. So we told them that the big windsock was for sale if they were still interested. My, what a foolish

comment. Money changed hands, cow changed hands, and Debbie now has a new cow for her heard.

She was eager to see it in the air so we attached the cow to our heaviest lifter (the ice cream eating face). Like I told her, the cow was too heavy for this lifter in the winds that day.

I got the cow partially in the air (it had its feet planted firmly on the ground by means of the stones I had put in its hooves which worked quite well to anchor the cow). There was one bad aspect of the stone packing hooves though, and that was that when the wind picked up enough it also picked up the lifter kite and thereby picked up the cow (and its hooves) and the cow made a merry dance in the air, swinging th hooves wildly and creating a kicking hazard that you don't normally expect to see on a kite field.

Debbie was entranced by the sight of the cow and displayed her excitement by holding up Puff-Cow and asking why he couldn't fly like that. I pointed out that Puff-Cow was solid, not a windsock.

I am certain the we will see a lot of it during the upcoming flying season.

We have found other treats and toys in thrift stores, but none were as much fun to get rid of as the flying cow.

Jerry Graham, Glenda Kleppin, Susie



**World Kite Museum & Hall of Fame**  
[www.worldkitemuseum.com](http://www.worldkitemuseum.com)

P.O. Box 964  
112 3rd Street N.W.  
Longbeach, WA 98631

Phone: 360-642-4020  
Fax: 360-642-4020  
[jkite@wiliapabay.org](mailto:jkite@wiliapabay.org)



## WORLD KITE MUSEUM WORKSHOPS 2003

All classes require students bring sewing machines, thread, and cutting tools. Classes are held at Long Beach School from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information call World Kite Museum at 360-642-4020 or email [info@worldkitemuseum.com](mailto:info@worldkitemuseum.com).

### February 15 - 17

Barjello, Butterflies, & Beautiful. Known for their creative use of quilting techniques for kite designs, instructors John and Marzlie Freeman again guarantee that everyone will make a "knock your socks off" kite. The cost of \$80 will cover all materials and expenses. Participants need to bring sewing machines, thread and cutting tools.

### March 22 - 23

A Vernal Equinox Creation Leigh Blakey and Lee Taylor bring fabric painting instruction to this kite design and kite-making workshop. Each participant will learn resist and fabric painting techniques while decorating a 28" X 28" kite skin with 3 sets of dramatic ripstop tails. Lee says this can easily be done in the two days plus time to fly a bit. All materials will be provided. Besides the sewing machines, thread, etc. each person needs to prepare the kite tails before they come, if possible. Three colors of ripstop are recommended. Make one 15' and two 10' tails of each of the three colors, all 3" before hemming. Choose colors you'd like to use in your kite. Cost is \$30.00. Visit web site [geocities.com/two\\_lees](http://geocities.com/two_lees).

### April 5 & 6

#### From Manlifter to Gorgeous in the Sky

In researching Baden-Powell's kite making ventures, Rob Pratt came across plans for one called the manlifter. It's silhouette looks like part rokakaku and part tuxedo tails. It provides a wonderful surface for kite art. There will be several options for taking this class. The cost is \$70.00. This will be a winner. Email Rob at [robcp@msn.com](mailto:robcp@msn.com).

### May 17 & 18

#### A Strictly English Kite Sculpture

Eddy and Anne Magarth of Scunthorpe in the North of England designed the Fledge kite. The original was so exciting many people tampered with it. This combination of FLare, EDdy and GENki grew a long flowing tale and that's what Barry Poulter will be teaching in this class. You will need your sewing machines and the accoutrements. Price and other details will follow.

#### **WKA 25th Anniversary Pins**

On sale now

\$3.00 a piece

To purchase, contact Susie Christenson  
[susiec@techline.com](mailto:susiec@techline.com)



#### **Didn't get your 2002 Spaghetti Feed Pin?**

We have a limited number left to sell. Only \$5.00 a piece.

To purchase, contact Susie Christenson  
[susiec@techline.com](mailto:susiec@techline.com)

## The Presidents Corner:

Seasons Greetings to one and all,

I know the weather has turned cold, and the holiday season is upon us now, but this isn't the end of our flying for the season. Just a quick reminder, about some upcoming events. There is the Christmas party with the PCKA, the 1<sup>st</sup> night fly in Tacoma New Years Eve, as well as our annual "Protest The Bowl Games On T.V." fly on New Years Day. Come on out, and join us if you can.

Charly

## WKA Club News

WKA received the following letter from the Washington State International Kite Festival.

Dated September 26, 2002. Enclosure \$800.00 check.

Dear Club Members,

Thank you for the vast number of hours your membership donates each year to the Washington State International Kite Festival in Long Beach. Without volunteers like you this event and many others would not be a possibility. Again, thank you for your efforts and energy.

Sincerely,

Jane Holeman

Chairman

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 7th The annual WKA/PCKA Christmas Party at the Fife Senior Community Center. Doors open at 5:30; dinner at 6:30. Bring a potluck item and a raffle item. It will be a great event!

Jan. 1st WKA's annual "Protest the Bowls" fun fly at

Seattle's Golden Garden Park. We will be flying many different types of kites but this year's theme is "amoeba" kites. So come and fly any one-celled kite you may have. Circo-flexes, Pop-cans, Triads, they are all welcome. If you think you have an amoeba, bring it by and have your question resolved by the well-known circo-flex flyer, Stan Shelhamer. If he can't decide, we'll let Susie and Puff-Cow help out. The fly goes from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm regardless of the weather. Last year it was so moist we only flew for a while and made piles of bubbles for the kids afterwards.

*Providing high flying fun since 1979!*



**Gasworks Park Kite Shop**  
3420 Stone Way N. Seattle

# First Night - New Year's Eve Celebration

Tuesday, December 31, 2002

Since 1991, First Night® Tacoma-Pierce County has grown to become an established year end celebration in the South Puget Sound region, generating excitement and participation in the arts for as many as 20,000 downtown visitors on New Year's Eve.

Performances and activities fill the streets in more than thirty indoor sites stretching from Antique Row to the Washington State History Museum and the University of Washington Tacoma. The creative expression of hundreds of artists transforms the streets, theaters, lobbies, churches and outdoor courtyards into a dramatic backdrop for the annual Mardi gras style celebration. It's an alcohol-free event for all ages to enjoy, celebrating the creative spirit of an entire county

Pierce County Kite Fliers will be hosting KITES FOR KIDS and INDOOR FLY at the Sheraton Hotel/Convention Center for the City of Tacoma New Year's Eve Party. We have been asked to prepare for 1100 kites for the kids.

I need some indoor flyers. When I was asked about kites for kids, I BRAGGED about you indoor kite flyers and that really cinched this project for us. I sent them video. The City Board was fascinated. So PLEASE let me know who can be there. We are tentatively scheduled from 5 pm to 9 pm. I will have a firm time set by December 1.

Also, I will need a few volunteers to help with kite making for kids. The city will be providing a number of volunteers, but I would like to have club members and kite flyers there also. Volunteers receive a button that gives them admission to all of the events. (A \$12.00 value.)

Are there any kite fliers out there with a little spare time on their hands? I need help with bowing spars for the 18" Eddy kite we are making and cutting sails.

I will keep everyone informed.

Please let me know who will be there. *Especially you indoor kite flyers.* What a great way to bring in the New Year.

Best Breezes  
Elizabeth King

kingitibit@aol.com

253-539-7021



**Little Timmy**



**Timmy's flying a kite**



**Timmy's kite flying him**

Cartoon by: Jules Ferlan-Wilson

## Kite Clubs

### REGIONAL

#### Associated Oregon Kiters

Contact Judy Brown  
Email: judyb7@mindspring.com  
P.O. Box 25616  
Portland, OR 97298  
Membership includes bi-monthly newsletter

#### Basin Kitefliers Association

Contact: Bill Walton  
509-765-9111 or email:  
BKA@mfloral.com  
Moses Lake Floral  
115 W 3rd Avenue  
Moses Lake, WA 98837-1930

#### Ben Franklin Kite Society

Contact Larry Zilar  
509-545-6727 or email:  
zilarlm@charter.net

#### Lilac City Wind Chasers

Contact Bill Cox  
509-327-7974 or email:  
cxbil@aol.com  
meets every Tuesday at 4pm in  
Friendship Park, Greta & North  
Standard (7200 block) Spokane

#### North Coast Sky Painters Kite Club

Contact Monica Barber  
360-289-5682 or email:  
flying@cuttingedgekites.com  
meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every  
month at Ocean Shores Lions  
Club.

#### Northwest Buggy Pilots Assn.

Contact Morrie and Kelci  
Williams  
360-268-0318 or email:

williams@techline.com  
meets 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every  
month, call for location

#### Northwest Fighter Kite Association

Contact Bruce Lambert  
360-289-2717 or email:  
kitefighter@yahoo.com  
meets 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of every  
month, location varies. More info  
on their website  
www.fighterkites.org

#### Northwest Sport Kite League

Contact Neal Parker  
Email: pres@nwskl.org  
Calendar of event on their  
website www.nwskl.org

#### Peninsula Breeze Blenders

Contact Bill Rogers or Lisa Ryan  
Email: lisaryan@mail.com or  
billrogers@earthlink.net  
meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of  
every month at the Fire Station  
on Loxie Egan Blvd.  
(behind the school on the corner  
of National & Loxie Egan Blvd)

#### Pierce County Kiteflyers Assn.

Contact Penny Lingenfelter  
Email: prez@pcka.org  
meets at Summit Library in  
Tacoma, 7 pm, the last Thursday  
of the month.  
Calendar of events on their web  
site www.pcka.org

#### Snohomish County Incredible Fly- ing Individuals

Contact Four Winds Kite Shop  
425-339-9334

#### Squalicum Kite Flyers

Contact Don or Shirley Allen  
360-733-3777

#### Whidbey Island Kite Flyers

Contact Allen or Marjorie Taylor  
360-678-9358  
meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every  
month, call for location.

#### Westport Windriders

Contact Barry Crites  
360-491-8605 or email:  
bearkites@aol.com  
meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every  
month @ Grayland Beach, followed  
by a potluck at Willapa Grange Hall

### INTERNATIONAL

#### American Kitefliers Association

Contact Mary Bos - Regional  
Director 360-289-4940 or  
Email: region10@aka.kite.org  
Regional website:  
www.aka.kite.org/region10  
National website: www.aka.kite.org

#### British Columbia Kite-Flyer Assoc.

P.O. Box 755,  
101-1001 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 4E4  
Membership: \$20 (CDN)  
www.bcka.bc.ca

*If you know of any other kite club and  
would like to see them listed here,  
send their info to:  
courtney\_a\_hanson@hotmail.com*



## WKA Welcomes new members

Douglas Cann	Vancouver BC
Dixie & Michael Mahaffie	Poulsbo
Paul, Clarisa and Kirsten Nee	Tacoma
Lynnette Gallant-Nee	Tacoma
Dale Ray	Olympia

## Membership

To become a member of the WKA, send your name(s), address and telephone number, along with a check for \$15 per family in U.S. or Canada (all other countries please add \$5 (U.S.) additional for postage) to:

Washington Kitefliers Association  
C/O Pacific Science Center  
200 Second Ave. N.  
Seattle, Washington 98109

Membership includes an official WKA membership card entitling the bearer to discounts at certain kite shops and a one-year subscription to the WKA newsletter

## WKA Newsletter

The Washington Kitefliers Association Newsletter is published six times a year by the Washington Kitefliers Association.

### Primary Contact/Editor

Patrick Adriatico  
206-285-8480  
wkaeditor@hotmail.com

### Mailing List

Sylvia Bernauer  
425-822-4605

The editor encourages your participation in your newsletter, and requests that you send your contributions pertaining to kite flying. Submissions that illustrate how much fun it is to fly a kite will be given priority for publication.

Mail submissions and photographs (include the name, address and telephone number of the source) along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope of sufficient size and postage for return (if you want your photographs back) to:

200 Second Ave. N.  
Seattle, Washington 98109  
or  
wkaeditor@hotmail.com

The deadline for all submissions is the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Materials received by these dates will be published in the following issues as space allows. All submissions will be considered for publication.

## Washington Kitefliers Association

**Dedicated to helping people know how much fun it is to fly kites!**

### Board Members

#### President

Charly Whitaker  
belassis@blarg.net

#### Vice President

Courtney Hanson  
courtney\_a\_hanson@hotmail.com

#### Treasurer

Carol Lord  
carollord@techline.com

#### Secretary

Position Available

#### Membership

Sylvia Bernauer  
dbrn1@earthlink.net

#### Education

Ken Conrad  
ken@greatwinds.com

#### Merchant Liaisons

Glenda Kleppin  
gmakleppin@usa.net  
Jerry Graham  
jlgraham1@usa.net

#### Newsletter

Patrick Adriatico  
wkaeditor@hotmail.com

#### Products

Susie Christenson  
susiec@techline.com

#### Past Co-Presidents

Jeanette Mandanas  
David Jam  
jandjam@centurytel.net

#### Special Events Coordinator

Phil Hodgkiss  
philhodgkiss@hotmail.com

#### Web Master

Tom Mallard  
mallard@kitesport.com

#### Safety

Position Available

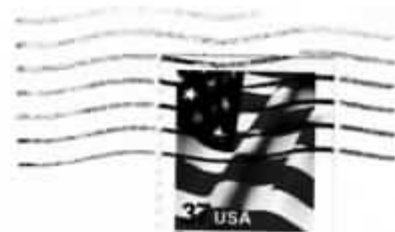
**Washington Kitefliers Association**  
**An affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association**  
**Membership Application**


By becoming a member of WKA, you receive the WKA Newsletter every other month for a year, a membership card which entitles you to discounts at some area kite stores, and a wealth of information about special events and goings-on in the Northwest kiting community.

Join the WKA and share the fun! Find out more about the fastest growing popular pastime in the United States today. WKA meetings offer individuals and families the opportunity to participate in the administrative support and planning of local kite events and workshops. Membership cost per household in the US or Canada is \$15.00. Fill out this application and return it with a check or money order payable in US funds to WKA. Mail to:

Membership	_____
Washington Kitefliers Association	Name _____
C/O Pacific Science Center	_____
200 Second Ave. North	Address _____
Seattle, WA 98109	_____
	City/State/Zip _____
Visit us on the web at	_____
<a href="http://www.wka-kiteflyers.org">www.wka-kiteflyers.org</a>	Phone/E-Mail _____
	_____
	Names of additional family members _____

**Washington Kitefliers Association**  
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C/O Pacific Science Center  
200 Second Ave. North  
Seattle, Washington 98109



 NW Buggy Pilots Assn  
C/O Morrie Williams  
PO Box 1358  
Westport WA 98595-1358