



Newsletter

Annual Report 2020

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people know how much fun it is to fly kites!

A note from the WKA Board. As a 501c7, we feel it is our responsibility to you, the membership, to report how your membership money is being used. We have also heard the comment several times that you miss the *Newsletter*. To help fill the gap of a printed *Newsletter*, the *Annual Report* will morph into a digital *Newsletter*. Our goal is to have it available after the first quarter (earlier if Bonnie has all her chickens in a row). It will report the accomplishments of the previous year, the budget, and upcoming events that are known. Send articles and photos to Bonnie Ecker.

As a change to our normal all-day Board gatherings (plus a teleconference or two and emails), COVID pushed us into teleconferences only. Members are always welcome to “attend” and Minutes are available upon request. We encourage comments and suggestions to make the WKA one of the best organizations you choose to support.

THANK YOU for continuing your financial support in the Washington Kitefliers Association!

President’s Message

2020 was certainly a different animal—you had to look hard to find bright points. One event cancelation after another went out to the membership and posted on the WKA calendar and Facebook page as organizers came to grips with state regulations.

Then 2021 rolled in and I dealt with my own sudden health crisis—a heart attack with stroke symptoms that took me completely out of the game for two months. I am still gradually recovering. I THANK EVERYONE who sent me cards and emails during my time in the hospital. They

brightened my days during the arduous time at the rehab clinic!

Upon my return home, I was back to work updating the Event Calendar. That exercise showed me that we were experiencing a time of transition. Early year events were once again cancelled. Other activities took the virtual route, with some degree of success. Some festival level events were recast as Fun Flies to meet state permitting guidelines. What was obvious was how hard the clubs and organizing teams worked to provide meaningful flying opportunities within the changing COVID environment.

A question that hung in the air was whether the WSIKF would be held. It’s a go, but with restrictions (see below Events).

Lastly, I want to touch on the subject of my successor and the upcoming WKA elections. As Bonnie mentions below, I will step down at the end of 2021 and transition into the Past President role, and maybe another position. This leaves the president’s position open for 2022, but it’s just a one-year term as I’m stepping out before my term ends. I encourage any member who has a general interest in kiting to consider taking up this role. You will work with a *great* Board and you’ll find the results very gratifying.

Casey Shearer, President



Looking Back

COVID hit everyone hard through 2020. Kites managed to squeeze in a few early-year activities before businesses were shut down and events cancelled. Last March we thought it would clear within a couple months. When May rolled in, we were still hoping the *Suncadia Kite Fest* would be a go, and surely the *Washington State International Kite Festival* (WSIKF).

That was not to be the case and here we are, a year later in 2021. Businesses reopen with restrictions, depending on county Phases. We are optimistic that some events might occur in 2021.

What really became apparent last year was...kites are a resilient group of people, and very motivated. When we got use to social distancing and wearing masks, we exhaled a deep breath and decompressed. No one HAD to be anywhere for ANY event. We could just go outside and fly, or stay home and repair all those kites, or make some new ones. No more saying, "I'll do it when I get around to it." That Round To-It had arrived.

Facebook postings were proof that despite restrictions, kiteflying rose above. By July, Dan and I decided to still go to Long Beach during the WSIKF week to support what we thought would be a town feeling depressed from their cancelled events. After all, we had kept our hotel reservation.

We were shocked by the crowds on the beach off the Seaview Beach Approach. Townsfolk said they had been swamped since May! Very few people in masks and not a single kite in the sky...except ours.

Bolstad Approach was open for vehicles to drive out to the beach and park. As the week progressed, I was impressed that there was never a problem finding a place to park, and no issue between vehicles and pedestrians. People came and went all day. Kites and displays went up and down. Those that regularly attend the WSIKF tried

to mimic what would normally be flown on the same days through the week.

LARGE kites took charge of Field A, nudging the rev flyers to the north side of Bolstad. It was great because when parked, the kites were directly over you. No walking up the beach with your camera; a real win-win for the flyers and spectators. Ground displays appeared and lots of kitefliers having fun.

Restaurants were open. Where Dan and I ate, wearing a mask was required. Groups could only be family, so if you were with friends you felt safe with, you declared they were family. It was a very relaxing week to fly whenever and wherever we wanted. Hope to see everyone on the beach in 2021.

Bonnie Ecker, WKA Secretary

EVENTS

WKA regional online calendar gains more lines every year. It has become the one-stop look-see for events covering WA, OR, BC and any other PNW state wishing event advertising.

Events in 2021 are a hit and miss as COVID Phases shift up and down. WKA continues to post the latest info supplied by the organizers. Keep checking the WKA webpage at www.wka-kitefliers.org; be sure to refresh the page for the latest version.

Casey would like to hand over the Calendar to someone if you'd like to volunteer.

Soaring Over Suncadia kite event by Cle Elum has been cancelled again for 2021. WKA and the Suncadia organizers want to expand the 2022 festival to two days with more varied on-field activities.

Father's Day Fun Fly on June 20 is a go on Kite Hill at Magnuson Park in Seattle. Practice social distancing and bring your mask, a lunch, and your gear. Get there early to get a parking slot.



WSIKF IS A GO if Pacific County remains in Phase 3. Some activities, like the indoor fly, will not be held. Check with the World Kite Museum as the time gets closer.

WKA membership banquet, raffle and auction will not be held that week as we are unable to predict attendance this year.

WKA elections will be held via email (and mail for those without email). Refer to Upcoming Elections below.

WKA-Tom Sisson Scholarship – the ticket drawing to attend the 2022 Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference will be held virtually by the Board watching Sylvia draw from her bucket. The scholarship is a benefit of membership in the WKA. All current members are welcome to apply except for the person who won the last scholarship. It covers registration, meals, housing, a conference pin, and \$50 toward class fees.

To be in the drawing, mail a postcard with your name and address to WKA (see the end of this Newsletter for the NEW address). **It must reach Sylvia no later than August 11.** Questions? Contact Sylvia at dbrn1@earthlink.net.

Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference was held virtually in two kitemaking sessions on March 27. A team of Sam King, Rob Pratt, Bob Matteo, and Travis Zubal (and maybe some others) coordinated instructors to present a Zoom Q&A session and access to materials and videos in two private Facebook groups for making their kites.

Scott Hampton presented his *Tumbling Box* kite and Jerimy Colbert presented his *Miniature Shield* kite. Each session was attended by 18± registrants. Finished kites were posted in the Facebook group.

For 2022, mark your calendar for the conference on March 17-20 at Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center in Stanwood.



Zoom attendees on the special virtual Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference.

Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference board of directors held their annual business meeting on April 17 followed by a fun fly. About 20 attendees gathered on Kite Hill in Seattle's Magnuson Park. A gorgeous day, but slight in wind. Some kites did get air.



Meeting held by Rob Pratt and Sam King.



A tribute to JP Patches and Gertrude by Carol Bechard.



Rod Beamguard's newest addition.



Crossroads Indoor Flying will start up in September at the Crossroads Community Center, barring no issues due to COVID. Open to anyone 18 years and older. Youth are welcome with an adult. Held monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 6-8pm. For more info, call 425-452-4874.

Ron Suyematsu



Sylvia Bernauer poses next to the poster advertising the Crossroads Community Center indoor kite flying.

Windless In Shoreline anticipates gathering this fall at Calvin Presbyterian Church. The church stays in contact with the flyers. Group use is dependent on county Phases.

The group is considering a move from Tuesday evening to a weekend day. Info can be found on the group's Facebook page, *Windless In Shoreline*. Contact is Bob Plant at WindlessInShoreline@gmail.com.



Last winter, Windless In Shoreline group members enjoyed random meetups outside in local parks. Indoor kites are great for no-wind days outside! Shown L-R are David Kelly, Bob Plant, Larry Hart.

Article & photo by Kathy Plant

WKA INFO

Festival Signs & Banners for Member Use

Signs and/or banners are a great way to advertise the WKA at your event. Some are generic to alert attendees.

❖ *Kites for Kids Kitemaking* vinyl banner. Size is 8.5'Lx1.5'H. You provide attachment line. Contact Casey Shearer to borrow, shear090@comcast.net.



❖ *Information* vinyl banner. Size is 8.5'Lx1.5'H. You provide attachment line. Contact Casey Shearer to borrow, shear090@comcast.net.



WKA fabric flag banner. Premade and kits. You provide pole. Size is 10.5'Hx2'W. Contact Rick White to purchase, ssragtop@aol.com. Kit is \$85, premade is \$150.



WKA advertising ground sign. Graphic available from Bonnie Ecker, whrlwind@comcast.net. You take to sign maker.



WKA members are taking advantage of renewing their membership by PayPal. WKA's goal is to increase online use to reduce paper. For 2021, dues will resume and WKA will again absorb the PayPal fees.

Upcoming Elections – VOLUNTEER! Even though WKA has cancelled this year's banquet/raffle/auction at the WSIKF, WKA will still hold elections via email (and mail for those without email).

WKA President, Casey Shearer, is stepping down at the end of 2021. Because

he is in year 1 of a 2-year term, the new prez will be in the position for only 1 year...hint hint if you'd like to "try it out." Casey will transition to "Trustee - Past President" on the Board and will be available for mentoring the new prez as desired. Please step up and say you'd like to try out the position! You have a *wonderful* Board to work with!!!

Vice President, Scott Slater's term is up the end of this year. He has accepted another 2-year term, but welcomes you to "toss your kite into the ring."

Secretary, Bonnie Ecker's term is also up the end of this year. Bonnie has accepted another 2-year term.

Security and the Special Events chair positions need volunteers. These are not elected positions so just step up to the plate and you're in.

Calendar - Casey would like to hand over the Calendar to someone if you would like to volunteer.

2020 Financial Report

Gross Income.....	\$3,736.23
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,388.64</u>
Net Income.....	\$2,347.59

Income Sources

Kestrel, Benson, Zeller collection sales	\$3,559.19*
Memberships, including via PayPal.....	\$174.69
Bank interest.....	\$2.35

Expenses

Membership Computer.....	\$443.40
Webmaster.....	\$360.00
Mailbox, postage, checks, supplies.....	\$217.79
AKA insurance	\$200.00
JaguarPC web host server.....	\$157.45
WA State filing fee	\$10.00

*Estate *donations* to the WKA; sales were organized & managed by Rick White



WKA Purpose

To foster and encourage enthusiasm for kite flying.

To promote the study of kite design aesthetics, aerodynamics, and the history of kites.

To promote kite flying safety, and perpetuate the art and science of kite flying through education.

Establishment

Washington Kitefliers Association was founded in 1973 and incorporated as a 501c7 non-profit organization in 1986.

WKA is the original and oldest kite club in the state of Washington.

2021 Board of Trustees

Officers (Elected 2-year Positions)

President	Casey Shearer
Vice President	Scott Slater
Treasurer	Dan Ecker
Secretary	Bonnie Ecker

Standing Committee Chairs

Education	Ken Conrad
Membership	Sylvia Bernauer
Products	Rick White

Mailing Address, Website and Email



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