

2025-6
Washington Kitefliers Association

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

NEWSLETTER -- MAY, 1977 --

We've been having a ball! If you have been missing the flying, you have really been missing some fun.

The Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival at Seward Park on Saturday, April 30th, was absolutely perfect -- the weather and wind were just made for kiteflying. Our club was asked to put an umbrella over the activities and they did just that.

One highlight was Mr. Young's Chinese kites; his 60-disc centipede, his tiger-kite, his dragon-fly and his octagon, long-tailed one really stole the show.

Bill and Linda Lee won first and second prizes and with wonderfully-weird ("different" would be a better word) winged box kites flew as well as they looked and earned 27 and 26 points each out of a possible 30. Karen Sykes, a new WKA member, took third with 25 points for a hand-painted Japanese-style kite, a modified Kurayoshi. (Look that one up in the book.) Friend Bob Wikstrom, our own Jim Peck and Harold Writer were the judges.

May 8th, Mothers' Day, at Gasworks Park, Van Gilder and Bill Spezia finally got Jack's 100-kite train all the way out. It had been built for three months before the correct wind was experienced. A perfect day for kiting -- and there must have been 50 kites over Gasworks, Mothers Day or not.

This past weekend, helping open and dedicate our waterfront's new Seattle Aquarium, again perfect winds and good sunshine were experienced. We arranged for the wind to be perfect on Sunday so that the 100-kite train could fly again. It's almost embarrassing, the crowd it draws. We make 'em pay, though. They take our Kite Club information/membership application sheets by the dozens.

Change in Schedule: The Mayor's Committee has asked us to put up another kite canopy over the ceremonies which will dedicate the new "Warren G. Magnusen Park". We used to know it as Sand Point Naval Air Station. We hope lots of you will show up there before the ceremonies at 2:00 pm. They are anxious enough for us to come that they are catering to the whims of the old men in our organization by granting us parking spaces so we can fly off our tail-gates! Just have

a modest-sized (4x6") "W.K.A." sign in your windshield and ask the guards where the kite area is. No regular fly-in at Golden Gardens.

Seems our kite canopy over these two activities mentioned already have attracted the attention of other well-organized activities:

The Pike Street Market Merchants Assn. wants us to jazz up the air over their annual street fair this coming weekend also. They have challenged us to show our expertise by flying our kites off the Joe Desimone Memorial Bridge at the Pike Street Farmers Market on Saturday, May 28th, and any other time during the weekend we can make it.

ALSO -- on the same weekend -- it's Memorial Day Weekend, you know -- the Seattle Center Folklife Festival wants us! So anyone else who has kites to fly should help them publicize their activities by covering the International Fountain with kites on Monday, May 30th, Memorial Day, from about noon, on. The way Your Editor looks at it, if we have some real reason (anyone can think up an excuse) for flying in front of a crowd, take it. Our reasons for flying these places on this weekend are that we were specifically invited to. Apparently we aren't the only ones who think that kites in the air are pretty nice. Just don't forget to take the opportunity to hand out our membership information/application sheets. Get a supply from one of your Board members.

Note the other change in schedule: July 16th and 17th will both be devoted to the Elliott Bay Park Seafair contest. We are trying to organize a speedboat-kite race! Should be fun. More information later.

John and Dave are back! Dusenberry and Checkley have returned from their tour with the group to Japanese Kite Festivals during the past three weeks. John reports mind-boggling kites in Tokyo -- 1600 kites flipping nonchalantly out of 250-kite containers into the 25-mph wind. Nothing he had with him would fly in that speed wind but the Japanese fliers seemed to be used to it. It rained two of the three days at Hammamatsu, but it was successful anyway. They will have plenty of film and slides at our next meeting.

Kite Club Meeting: Science Center, probably in the Employees Lounge (wonderful place) 7:30 pm, Wednesday, June 8th. Lots to talk about. Lots of pictures to view! Come!

Joseph Lee is moving to Seattle! Come July, our Kiteflying Pastor from Clarkston will be serving a new parish just a few blocks

down the street from Van Gilder, in West Seattle. Why don't some of you members in Texas, Tokyo, Baltimore and Toronto move to Seattle, too?

Peter Travis is coming to town! Peter is a world-famous designer, mostly in pottery, from Australia. He is conducting a workshop in Banff, Canada, in July and will stop off in Seattle that first week of July. He has some entrants in the Flags, Banners and Kites Exhibit at the Seattle Center, starting July 10th. He will be bringing with him one of the world's only (and best, we understand) kite movie. He will be putting on (we will be helping him put on-) three or four exotic-design kite workshops for us.

Some of us helped Allied Arts of Seattle assemble kites for their P, B and K Exhibit for the jurying which took place last week. Included were three HUGE kites by David Ferris which were flown at the Vancouver kite festival in April. So Dave climbed ladders and hung wires for the girls as well as assembling his Flying Barns. Did you know that this young man had a contract to furnish huge kites to fill the air over Montreal for the 1976 Olympics? He has the pictures to prove it. Too bad the TVers never got them on-camera to our knowledge. So, our revised schedule looks like this:

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FLYING SCHEDULE: (until changed again)
May 28th: Pike St. Market Street Fair - noon
" 29th: Sand Point Park - about noon, on
" 30th: Seattle Center - about noon, on
June 4th: Goldendale, WA - Air Show/Fly-in
" 5th: Sunday fly-in - 1:30 - Gasworks
" 12th: " " - Stan Sayers Park -
" 19th: " " - Golden Gardens Park -
" 26th: " " - Gasworks Park -
July 2, 3rd & 4th - Heritage Festival,
Marymoore Park, Redmond, WA, 1 to 7
" 10th: Intern'l Exhibit of Flags, Banners
and Kites -- Seattle Center -- 1:30 pm -
" 16th & 17th: Elliott Bay Park; Seafair/
WKA sponsored kite contest -
" 24th: Regular Sunday Fly-in; Gasworks -
" 30th: Volunteer Park Seafair Contest;
" 31st: Sunday fly; - Stan Sayers park
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Forgot to mention the Heritage Festival at Marymoore Park before. Can you guess how many "Fly Me" kites they gave away and that us WKAers helped kids assemble? Would you believe 1,600? That's right! July, 1976. They want us to help again this year. More later on that, too. Come help fly!

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