

E169

WAWANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98108

NEWSLETTER OF AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1981 - -

HISTORIC MEETING: Our own David Checkley just happened to be there when the Japan Kite Association met with the Peoples Republic of China Kite Institute for the first time! He writes:

"This year my planned two-week Kite Festival Tour of Japan turned into a seven-week trip. Soon after we arrived in Tokyo, Hiroi invited me to join the JKA tour to China at the end of May.



David Checkley, with souvenir hat from China

May 20, 1981, was the historic occasion when 16 kitefliers from the Japan Kite Assn. and (David) were received by a like number of Chinese at the Peking Kite Institute. It is headquartered at the National Art Gallery and staffed with several men and women. An exchange of kites occurred; JKA presented their patches and hats; a Hiroi-designed medal was given. Tables were covered with cookies, cakes, candied fruits and orange pop (the usual non-alcoholic beverage of China). Members of both groups were introduced; the

Chinese association, like ours, runs the full gamut of ages and occupations, from young men and girls to senior citizens.

The next day we met the Chinese kitefliers at the Temple of Heaven in Ten Dan Park for a big kitefly. Both groups demonstrated their most exotic creations: 100-disc centipede with a papier mache' dragon head, long trains of hand-pointed silk bird kites, crabs, schrimp, traditional kites and a unique kite made of the crossed Chinese and Japanese flags. This last was presented to the JKA group as a symbol of friendship.



Ever see a crab flying?

Look again.

The highest flying event came on the following day at the Great Wall of China where we also met the Peking Kite Institute fliers. After an exhausting climb to the top of the wall (it seemed like a mile horizontal and a half-mile vertical) we launched a huge variety of Chinese, Japanese and American kites.

One of the most popular kites was a Snow Goose kite made by our own Joseph and Alice Lee. It was brought to China by Masaki Modegi. Pat Gilgallon presented it to him at a banquet climaxing our Kite Festival Tour of Japan the week before.

We then took a mini-bus to Tientsin to visit the Tientsin Kite Art Co., where most of the export kites are produced. The factory is located in what looks like an old three-story building. Some sixty

A Lee Snow Goose kite flying from the Great Wall of China.



employees, about half of whom were young women, were making split bamboo frames, papier mache' heads, were hand-painting silk coverings and assembling the kites, each a real work of art. This factory trains apprentices for the silk-screening plant nearby under the guidance of master kitemakers. At the factory store these hand-made kites were sold for \$11 to \$91.00, U.S., real bargains.

Because of high population density, trees etc., kiteflying is forbidden in Shanghai so we bussed out to the countryside. The site was a paved area the site of an airport runway, used for threshing by hand. Farmers and children from the surrounding communes came to watch and help.

I had brought a supply of McDonald's plastic baggie kites, scissors and scotch tape. The kids quickly figured out how to assemble and fly them. The star performer of the day was Hiroi with his Flexifoil, one of the few times we had wind enough to fly it.

On returning to Japan with the Japanese tour group, I visited the Shirone' kite festival. Many fellows there send greetings to their friends in Seattle, having been here for the Orient Expressed festival, October 1979." David Checkley

Well! Remember the "Ping pong diplomacy" of about 1964 or so that opened up China? I think that this would have done it too.

ADVANCED MASTER KITE CLASSES will be conducted by W.K.A. this fall after a five-year absence. We call it "Advanced" because we aren't going to come out and make only a bunch of trashbag deltas. We're going to have one or two "experts" each night for five nights. They will cover their specialties in a manner that will enable us to cover most aspects of kitemaking in some detail.

Millie Mullarkey has consented to be the coordinator this time around. We'll have such teachers as Checkley, J.C. Young, Larry Chinn, Bill Lee, Ken Conrad, Jack Van Gilder, Tom Sisson, Carl Brewer, Doug Hagamon and Sue Sadow.

TIMES: Evenings: 7 to 10 pm
Saturday: 1 to 3 pm
PLACE: Pacific Science Center

DATES: Tues., Sept. 22nd
Thurs. 24th
Tues., 29th
Thurs., Oct. 1st
Saturday, 3rd

COST: \$135 - for the whole group! If we have 10 people (minimum number for which we'll go to the trouble) it will be \$13.50. This includes material for the first kite. If we have thirty (maximum), it will be \$4.50

HOW to sign up: fill in coupon on last page of this newsletter. Mail with \$5.00 to our Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Sisson, 4653 So. Chicago St., Seattle, WA 98118

After thirty sign-ups, we go onto a waiting list system, so get your applications in soon!

WKA/PARTY-MEETING at Van Gilder's, June 13th -- was a ball! We dropped off food at the house about 5 pm and went on down to Alki Beach, a few blocks away, and flew kites until both kite shop people could get here. Our house holds 45 people as comfortable as Checkley's does 145, so it was very cozy. But a grand time was had by all. The 15-minute business meeting decided that we would allocate \$600 toward helping three delegates get to the national convention of the American Kitefliers Assn. in Houston.

HALF-TIME AT THE KINGDOME was a ball, too!



Carl Brewer, just as his in-door, no-wind kite hits an electric cable three feet from the roof of the Kingdome, twenty-five stories high.

June 20th, at the Seattle Sounder's Soccer game, we put on the half-time show. This time, instead of trying to break the world's duration indoor record, we tried for the world's indoor ALTITUDE record. The roof of the Kingdome is 250 feet, top-dead-center. Carl Brewer flew his indoor kite over an electric cable hanging about five down from the center of the roof, so we'll have to hurl out the challenge to other fliers to top 245 feet.

Ever had the fun of flying kites for an audience of 15,000 people? Respond, next time we ask for volunteers.

CARTOON SECTION: We don't claim to be as good as any newspaper but any newspaper

CECIL AND DIPSTICK

"DIPSTICK'S TIPS"

THERE ARE SIX BASIC RULES FOR SUCCESSFUL SPRING KITE FLYING...



5-25

RULE ONE: DO NOT TRY TO FLY A KITE WHEN THE WIND VELOCITY DROPS TO ZERO MILES PER HOUR OR IN A 'DRIVIN' RAINSTORM.

THIS ISN'T MUCH FUN... GUESS I'LL GO WATCH THE TUBE...



worth anything seems to have a comic section. Recently, our Seattle Post-Intelligencer's Ray Colling included a series of kite safety rules. We wrote Ray and he said the price for reproduction would be one (1) kite. So we sent him a rip-stop Thai cobra-kite, all gussied up real fancy-like. Thanks, Ray! Five to go --

JULY FOURTH AT THE OCEAN: Ocean City, WA was beautiful -- weather perfect, wide expanse of sandy beach and fresh onshore breeze made this event a candidate for "s'more"! The people there aren't too knowledgeable about kiting. But they do hope to make this contest a continuing feature of their annual 4th-of-July weekend. They deserve it.

"Most Beautiful": J. C. Young's dragon-headed centipede.

"Largest": Larry Chinn's centipede.

"Most Unusual": a kit-built Ghost Clipper

"Longest Tail": a little girl who'd won the Children's Contest. Julian Wolf came so close to matching her that he suspects hanky-panky; Daddy must have added another 3 ft. of tail at measuring time!

Outstanding: the centipedes, of course; Dale Gunter (Beaverton, OR) with his big blue Cody; a beautiful five-pointed star with tails; Kevin Sander's red-and-black striped triangular-celled winged box kite.

Most Spectacular Crash: John Dusenberry's stacked deltas, when Σ crossed lines with his tied-down tetrahedral. The two kites tightly wedged together, slowly reeled to the beach like one multi-colored, multi-angled pinwheel.

Louise Crowley

HARRISON HOT SPRINGS contest on June 7th: Bill Lee reluctantly admitted that he won the Grand Prize with his canard-wing, triangular box kite. Now, I say "box kite" but it's like no box kite you ever saw. The fusilage just happens to be made up through its cross-section triangularly. Wish we had a picture. He also reported: "Best Homemade": Yel-ning Chin's delta "Largest"; a friend of Dan Kurihashi's. There were several other prizes won by hometown British Columbia people. The wind was brisk at the surface and good and steady aloft, Bill says.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS USES WKA as subject matter: Seattle Times photographers, Josef Scayles (below, with Louise Crowley) and



Greg Gilbert, phoned Dave Checkley. "Can you make sure that there are kites for our class field trip to the knoll of Gasworks Park next Saturday morning?" Of course, for a world-famous, published photographer like him! Wind and weather made the favor mutual -- a beautiful day of kites flying was had by a dozen "faithful active" members quickly gathered by The Hotline.

Julian (Never-Say-Die) Wolf had a new vented Flare kite nine miles up on one of his unique heavy-duty reels. Later in the day, the wind freshened real good and it finally went slightly berserk. We followed the line several blocks to the top of a roof. Nobody home.

But they had obligingly left a nice handy-dandy ladder there. We were able to end the day celebrating the retrieval over pizza and beer.

Louise Crowley



Here's J. C. and Mrs. Young, during the photography school morning at Gasworks Park, June 27th. What does J.C. do to fly more than one of his gorgeous creations at one time? He borrows his wife and a camp stool. She hangs on for dear life and he puts up another kite. I sure hope my own wife is as cooperative when I have been flying as many years as J. C. has.



There are graceful kites and then there are graceful kitefliers. Here is one of the latter, a young mother with all the moves. Nishi is famous for the graceful moves he puts into his reel-handling but he can't compare to this beauty.
- Gasworks photo class

HELPPFUL HINTS DEPT.: Norm Smith reports that logos printed on high-density polyethylene bags can be removed with acetone. Personally, I like Ferney's humungous hi-density-poly bags from their bedding dept.

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE DATA LETTER is one neat publication. Some day I have GOT to meet Guy Aydlett. I stand in awe of some of the stuff he gets into his monthly (Honest! Every month) newsletter. He must be a retired Air Force General with an itch to write and nothing better to do with his time -- there is so much data in his data letters. Here's his latest brainwave:



A KITE and a KITEFLIER

THE AIRPLANE and PILOT picture, above, was reproduced from an archival photo almost a half-century old. One-year subscriptions to WKA NEWSLETTER and to the Piney Mountain Air Force DATA-LETTER will be given to the two WKA members who most thoroughly identify the airplane, the engine, and the pilot. Earlier submissions will be favored in settling ties. The deadline is September 1, 1981. (Anyone who has ever flown or worked on Old NC-8614 may not compete.) —Piney Mountain Air Force, Box 7304, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

While we're passing out bouquets, let's comment editorially on two other excellent publications which recently excelled their previous efforts, in my humble opinion: "AKA News" and "Kitelines".

Since Brooks Leffler took over AKA News, he has improved on an already good product. Anyone not subscribing is missing something good.

And Valerie Govig surpassed herself, I thought, with this latest issue. The article on delta kites was monumental, in my opinion. Anyone not subscribing to that magazine has got to have parts missing upstairs.

CHIT-CHAT:

Has anyone noticed how hard a worker Tom Sigson is? Before he retired, he told us a couple times that he would quit the club if we nominated him for an office. Now that he is retired from the City of Seattle, he is not only doing his job as Secretary/Treasurer of WKA but is taking on dozens of kite workshops for scouts, campfire girls, etc.

I did one at Seattle's Museum of History and Industry for about 60 kids. We made Checkley baggy-kites. My respect for women was sadly blasted at that one. There was one of them at each of the tables of six kids. Some of them did awful things with the bridle lines. One girl, contritely: "I was telling my kids to listen to you and then didn't do it myself."

I must mention the highlight of my kite-flying year: Seattle Youth Symphony's summer music camp at Marrowstone Music Camp. I drive a truck full of kettle drums and music stands to the camp and then train a couple of the counselors to take over the kite shop set up in one room. This room isn't just ANY room, understand.

This room has windows on three sides, admitting all the sunshine in the world. The double doors open out on to Puget Sound, where every ship, boat, submarine and barge must pass, right off the lighthouse. Gorgeous!

The camp used to be Fort Flagler. As such, it has a parade ground about nine square miles big. So big that my 100-kite train came crashing down in a heap one time and didn't even go over the edge. This week, I had a very precious, 35-foot Thai cobra-kite 300 ft. in the air when something slipped betwixt kiteline and bridle and it floated to earth -- on the beach, just barely in the water. Great!

WANT TO SEE A CHILD'S EYES LIGHT UP? Who doesn't? Keep a couple little kites in your kit to give away -- maybe a trashbag delta or something. Maybe one of Carl Brewer's little 3/8 kites (plans next time)

NEXT PARTY/PICNIC: Friday evening, August 21st at Gasworks Park. Bring supper and eat together about 6:30 when both kite-shop groups can arrive. Well, there are other people who work, too, come to think of it. Sue Sadow, hostess. 624 6886 or 623 7095 eve's

Diane Aurigemma tells about her Big Commission. Ever see a 20-foot BEEFEATER? She made two of them, cutting them in to sailboat spinnaker sails. Beefeater bramin will be using them in TV commercials and ads.

She goes on to say that some of the people coming into City Kites, right below the Pike Street Market, cannot speak English. So it is quite adventuresome and interesting, conveying the idea of flight instructions through sign language!

Ken Conrad, of Great Winds kite shop, in Pioneer Square, had a bit of an adventure also this past week: a movie company used his shop for scene. For one evening his place was a flag shop, the hero needing to buy one. Can you imagine some 45 people crowded into the shop with props?

Back to Diane and Mike Aurigemma, they plan a trip to England, France and Italy in October. Would anyone who has address of kitefliers or kite shops there, phone them at 622 5349 days or 633 4671 evenings.

COMING UP: August 31st, a Monday. Anyone wanting a real thrill, how about helping fly kites off a Harbor Tours boat? This is an annual thing that the Campbells do for the Childrens' Orthopedic Hospital. Us WKAers assemble the kites the Campbells have purchased and help the kids fly them. The captain can make the wind any velocity we order by choosing his direction and speed. Phone Van Gilder: 938 0450.

The WINGED TENT takes off - !

Opposite page combines talents of two of my favorite people, Stormy and Guy Aydlott: Stormy's "Star Victory" and Guy's

"STORMY" WEATHERS seems to sneak into every issue of our WKA newsletter. Easterners tend to lump "Seattle/Portland" together so it seems natural that we claim Stormy as one of us. He visits us regularly and contributes mightily to our kiteflying enjoyment with his development of his Winged Victory and Star Victory kites. A heart operation slowed Stormy down this spring but not enough keep him from doing a little camping. He writes: "Went on a fishing trip but didn't have a tent (Come ON, now, Stormy) -- so -- a 36" forked stick outside each of the keels, four tie-downs and we had

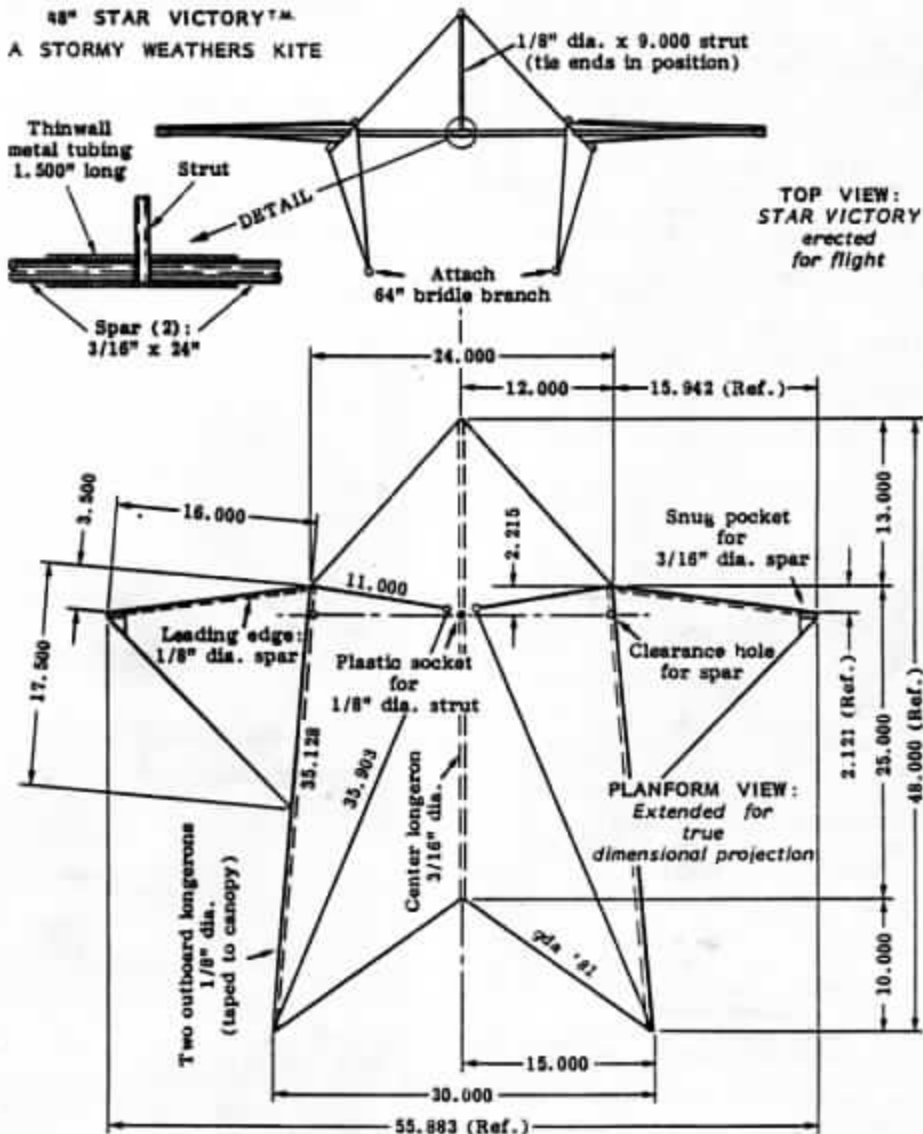


a three-room tent that sleeps 5. A ripstop nylon WINGED TENT - !"

And does it fly? Well, take a look:



rendering of the plans thereof in his
 "Piney Mountain Air Force Data Letter".



MATERIALS: 2-mil polyethylene, 1" masking tape, 1/2" glass-fiber tape, 1/8" & 3/16" birch dowels, 3/16" I.D. metal tubing, and 1/8" & 3/16" plastic soda straws

Weight = 3.79 ounces Effective Area (S) = 6.41 ft.² Area Load = 0.59 oz./ft.²

Aspect Ratio (R) = 2.50

OOPS! FORGOT - a couple of details:

The movie shot in Ken Conrady shop will be "Divorce Wars" starring Tom Selleck of the "Magnum" TV series and Jane Curtain of "Sat. Nite Live" show. It should show on TV in the fall, late.

Also -- Bill Lee reported a good turnout of the British Columbia contingent at the Harrison Hot Springs contest -- David Pinner, Hugh and Marge Harrison, Dan Kurishashi, Les Varley, Grant Madill, Marsha Madill, Glen Miller, etc. -- all good kiteflying buddies. When will they get their next WKA newsletter, with their postal -jerkers on strike? Heaven only knows. These Canadians can be stubborn.

LOUISE CROWLEY ASKS: would anyone having photos of kites and kite activities let her know if she can pay for copies of your negatives? She has quite a scrapbook project going, there. 322-6360

MISSING this year: no Seafair kite contest, no Port of Seattle contest, no Bon Marche "Orient Expressed" contest. But -

KITE CONTEST: August 22nd, Saturday, at Astoria, OR. Jim McKee, of "Wind Spirit" kite shop phoned to invite us down. He reports that anyone from WKA will be helped with travel expenses by a tank of gas and/or a free meal. 487 W. Marine Drive, Pier 3, Port of Astoria. Comprehensive judging, hand-made and manufactured kites

LABOR DAY: Let's all try Sand Point/Magnuson Park, next to the soccer field the afternoon of Monday, Sept. 7th, eh? We'll try to whomp up something special from the WKA board of directors interesting.

clip and mail

KITE CLASS ENROLLMENT APPLICATION:

Mail to: Tom Sisson, 4653 So. Chicago St., Seattle, WA 98116 (725 3615)

Name:

Address:

Phone no.:

\$5.00 check enclosed. (Fee may be adjusted according to class size)

clip and mail

(- or - just send \$5.00, name and info to Tom if you don't want to mangle the kite plans on backside of this page)

Washington Kitefliers Assn.
c/o Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. No.
Seattle, WA 98109

Bob McCort
6706 162nd Pl. S.W.
Lynnwood, Wa. 98036

Kitelines - quarterly journal
of kiting: \$9.00
for four issues.

Kite Lines: 7106 Campfield Road
Baltimore, MD 21207

American Kitefliers
Association:
"AKA NEWS" published
even-numbered months
\$10.00 yearly
1104 Fidelity Bldg.
210 No. Charles St., Baltimore, MD
21201



WANA

Washington
Kitefliers
Association

- newsletter even-numbered months
\$5.00 yearly
c/o Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave. No.
Seattle, WA 98109