

WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

NEWSLETTER
August 1987
Vol. 1987, No. 4

Dedicated to helping people know how much fun it is to fly a kite



Two crazy men trying to catch a falling car? No. The difficult launching of a single cell box kite (air comes in through the grille and exits through the trunk) in the shape of a Volvo. This was just one of several such box kites, others replicating a Kodak film box, Shell Oil container, and a pack of cigarettes with an anti-smoking message, at the Pattaya International Kite Festival.

PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL, Thailand, April 11 - 13

The First Annual Pattaya International Kite Festival was a smashing success, due mainly to the efforts of Ron Spaulding, an American expatriate artist and one of Thailand's leading advertising men. Spaulding is also the founder of the Thai Kite Heritage Group, a new organization dedicated to preserving the traditions of kitemaking and kiteflying in Thailand, especially kite fighting with Chula and Pakpao kites.

The festival was organized with the support of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) along with the city and state governments of Pattaya, a large beach resort just two hours south of Bangkok. Hotels offered low rates for participants, and Thai International Airways provided discount

fares and free carriage of large kites for the invited teams. The kite events were added to the annual Pattaya Festival, and were credited by the Governor for attracting the record crowds of more than 300,000 during the three-day event.

International participation was remarkably strong for a first-time event. Holland, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, China, and the U.S.A. were represented by 63 participants. The Hollanders alone had some 550 kilos of excess baggage in 30 sacks that included their World's Record largest kite (550 square meters), 30 meters of spare ripstop nylon for repairs, plus three rolls of tape and two packages of glue that became a problem for Thai customs agents. As a result, it took more than 12 hours and an assessment of 7000 Baht (\$280) in import duties to clear them through customs.

The first major event of the Festival was a welcoming dinner around the pool of the SiamBayshore Hotel on the evening of Friday April 10. There was an open bar, a magnificent buffet of both Thai and Western foods, and professional entertainment. A welcoming speech by Dharmnoon Prachuabmoh, Governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand was followed by singing, dancing and skits by the host and guest delegations.

For the opening of the kiteflying on Saturday April 11, all eight teams were lined up in back of signs bearing the names of their respective countries that were held by Thai girls in traditional costume. Another group of girls performed a traditional dance, and the T.A.T. Governor made another welcoming speech. Then a six meter yellow nylon delta kite with the Festival Insignia was finally hoisted with a red smoke bomb for a tail -- releasing hundreds of smaller kites with hordes of children chasing them as they fluttered to the ground.

The flying field was a huge open space, 200 acres or more, about 20 minutes south of Pattaya. Along one side there were two tents, twenty feet wide and several hundred feet long. One was marked off as the headquarters for the foreign teams, and the other housed Thai teams from several parts of the country and many of the local spectators, who instinctively seek out every square inch of available shade from the hot sun.

At the end of the foreigners' tent (about the middle of the field) was a refreshment stand that dispensed thousands of gallons of ice water and soft drinks over the three days. In front of the refreshment stand was a twenty foot announcer's tower, presided over by the indefatigable Shakib Gunn of Singapore, premiere international kite commentator. During the Thai events, such as the Chula and Pakpao events, Shakib was supported by Prinya Sukchid, better known as "Superman".

In the space between the two long tents were three elegant pavilions, the two on either side with chairs for officials and honored guests, and a very elaborate one in the center designed in the traditional Thai architecture of a steeply sloping roof, golden draperies, and gilded chairs. This pavilion was provided for Her Royal Highness, Princess Chulabhorn, and her entourage.

The Princess presided over the opening of the second day by receiving gifts from and presenting gifts to the heads of each of the foreign



Opening ceremony kite, an 8-meter delta with smoke bomb and delayed release packet of hundreds of smaller kites that dropped into the crowd as the kite went aloft

delegations, all with appropriate pomp and ceremony. (Delegates were briefed the day before. Men were required to wear long pants and dress shirts with sleeves rolled down, and to bow from the waist and then kneel before the Princess when offering and receiving gifts.)

The Dutch Team, led by Gerard van der Loo, made an extremely successful launch of their World's Record kite before the Princess in attendance, using 60 Royal Thai Navy men recruited and specially trained for the occasion. The giant kite stayed aloft for 50 minutes, establishing still another record.

The American delegation consisted of two groups. "Invited Demonstrators" included Steve, Sandra, and Drew Lamb, with Debra Lumpkins and Troy Vickstrom from Lincoln City, Oregon, representing Catch The Wind Kites; Valerie and Mel Govig from Baltimore, Maryland, representing Kite Lines. "Official Guests" included David and Dorothea Checkley from Seattle, Washington; Tom Casselman, Mike and Liz Carroll, Fred and Eileen Capozzoli, Karen Kuzminsky, and Bettie Sarantos, all of Newport, Rhode Island; Patty Atkins from Colorado, and Joe and Rachel Vaughan from Pennsylvania, representing Grandmaster Kites. Both the Lincoln City and Newport groups brought large Parafoils with Spinsox, streamers and banners, as well as many unusual large kites by such masters as Adrian Conn, Bobby Stanfield, and Wayne Hoskins, plus a variety of high-performance stunt kites including Hawaiians and Joe Vaughan Grandmaster Fighter Kites.

As usual at such international events, the New Zealanders filled the sky with fantastic creations of Peter Lynn, assisted by



Princess Chulabhorn with her entourage presides over the Opening Ceremony from a golden throne in the Royal Pavilion



WKA's David Checkley receiving a trophy for the American contingent's participation. (The trophy was later turned over to Tom Casselman of the Newport Kite Group in recognition of their fine showing)

Clyde Cook, Peter Whitehead, and James and Judy White. These included a new version of Lynn's "Soft Centipede", a huge tailed flat kite with the new Kodak Color Film logo, and a big box kite in the form of a Kodak film box. (Kodak in New Zealand paid for the construction of the kites and for the team's custom T-shirts.)

Peter Travis headed the Australian team which included his nephew, Andrew Travis, of Sidney and Simon Freiden of Melbourne. Peter flew his big "Celebration" kite and assembled and displayed his new 3-D "Snowflake" kite (which didn't fly after the strong winds died down on the third day). Peter Travis kites are now hanging in a number of office buildings, hotels, cathedrals, and other public buildings throughout Australia, and were the featured exhibit at the Australian Pavilion at the 1985 World's Fair in Tsukuba, Japan. (Peter casually mentioned his current commission to design and build a big kite for another office building -- for \$150,000.)

The Chinese delegation, all from Weifang, was led by Gao Mingde of the Tourism Bureau of Weifang, assisted by Yang Rubo, Director of the "Kite Lovers Association of Weifang City". They brought a number of centipede and dragon kites, with plenty of firecrackers. On smaller dragons, firecrackers are tied on a string below the dragon's head, and a punk attached to the fuse is lit before the dragon is launched. On the larger centipedes flown in Weifang, fireworks are mounted in the front of the head and are fired by concealed radio controlled "black boxes".

The outstanding kite flown by the Singapore representatives was a 200 meter dragon built by Mr. Lau. One unique feature was that each of the discs was different, with a small patch of color on either side of the first one, slightly larger patches on the next, and so on, making the colors on successive discs more intense, progressing through the colors of the rainbow -- producing a shimmering as it rose in the air. The large head was also fabricated out of many colors of ripstop nylon stretched and sewn on a conventional bamboo frame, making it impervious to rain.

With his usual aplomb, Masaki Modegi put together a top notch group from Japan: Kazuo Tamura with a Shirone; Seiko Nakamura with Hata fighter kites from Nagasaki; Satoshi Hashimoto with his famous buzzing bees and a big assortment of other traditional Japanese kites.

Teams of kitefliers from several different parts of Thailand



above: The Dutch team's World's Record Parafoil being inflated prior to launch; below: The 550 kg kite stayed up for almost an hour, setting another record





left: Yang Rubo, Director of Kite Lover's Assn of Weifang City (China) shows off one of their beautiful dragon kites, complete with remote control fireworks; below: close-up of the full-sized Volvo kite made by Superman and his crew. The frame is bamboo lattice covered with red paper, aluminum foil, and cellophane

participated including the best of the Chula and Pakpao, led by Pakpao Champion Suvit Chanwimol, who directed the demonstrations each afternoon between four and six o'clock, the traditional flying time. Other teams flew large butterfly kites, winged paper monsters and goddesses, designs that seemed derived from the Chinese centuries ago but are now decorated in distinctively Thai fashion.



Superman and his associates in Bangkok built a number of highly imaginative box kites for the occasion, including a the life-sized Volvo Sedan pictured above. But his piece de resistance was an enormous black cobra kite with a tail he stated was 599 feet long, and which stayed in the air for over an hour, supposedly making the Guinness Book of World's Records. The launch was made with the help of a speeding tractor, one of several pieces of heavy equipment donated by construction firms to grade the field and anchor the big kites.

The closing of the Festival was marked by another lavish banquet, this time at the Asia Hotel. It was also the Thai New Year, which the Thais celebrate by dousing each other with water and colored powder.

Most of this was written at Ron Spaulding's beach house at Ban-Sri-Gaen (Village on a Clear Glass Sand Beach). Unlike Pattaya, with its Boardwalk and 14,000 hotel rooms, this village has only a few cottages and fishermen's huts on miles and miles of pure white beach, with gentle surf that feels like a warm bath.

-- David Checkley

WKA OFFICERS' REPORTS

from Tom Sisson, acting President (206) 725-3615

Watch for a special announcement about kitemaking classes at the Pacific Science Center in September and October. The turnout at Long Beach was great, and we'll have more about that in the next newsletter.

from Bob Hanna, Treasurer (206) 767-6381

The WKA Treasury is in fine shape this year, thanks to some nice contributions and the volunteers in our activities. Remember, you can pay your dues in advance!

from Margaret Holzbauer, Secretary (206) 762-3053

Congratulations and welcome to all the new members this time. WKA is growing by leaps and bounds and I'm really happy to see that. We have new official WKA pins, just \$1.50 each. Call me and I'll see that you get yours right away.

from David Julian, Newsletter Editor (206) 467-9422

We (Nadeane, Dawn, Tom, Blackus the Cat, and I) have moved from our five bedroom house at Alki beach onto our 41' boat. Therefore, please send all correspondence etc. to my new address: P.O. Box 16020, Seattle, WA 98116-0020.

I am going to dedicate most of the next issue to the Long Beach Fly. Jack Van Gilder says he has a terrific array of photos.

Also, I am considering accepting some advertising to help defray some of the costs in producing the WKA Newsletter. I would greatly appreciate your input about this delicate subject. Just drop me a line at the new P.O. Box and let me know your thoughts.

My thanks to David Checkley, Jack Van Gilder, Don & Shirley Allen, Gerry Osborne, and Ruth Stephens for their special contributions to this issue.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Charles B. Anderson	Tacoma, WA	Ray & Kerri Shustak	Elma, WA
John Bahner	Redmond, WA	Jim Smith	Bellingham, WA
Roy & Pat Barnes	Bremerton, WA	Rich & Jeri Soulier	Westport, WA
Yelning Chin	Mercer Is, WA	Larry Sullivan	Lilliwaup, WA
Robert J. Cihak	Aberdeen, WA	Kate Vogt	Seattle, WA
Daniel S. Cote	Tacoma, WA	Jay G. Wailer	Edmonds, WA
C. & S. Disher	Seattle, WA	David L. Walker	Woodinville, WA
L. Frank & Becky Hagar	Everett, WA	Rick Weigand	Redmond, WA
LeRoy & Anita Hoover	Chicago, IL	Steve White	Seattle, WA
Terry L. Kelley	Tacoma, WA		
Kelly Kirschenman	Tacoma, WA		
Patricia Leza	Seattle, WA		
Carol Lord	Sumner, WA		
W.M. 'Luke' Lukoskie	Vashon, WA		
Earl T. D. Mouser	Sea Isle City, NJ		
Kristin O'Donnell	Seattle, WA		
Steven V. Ross	Woodinville, WA		

WKANEWS NOTES:

The A.K.A. will hold its 10th Annual Convention at Dulles Airport in Vienna, VA (near Washington, DC), October 7 - 10, 1987. Convention headquarters will be at the Dulles Marriott Hotel. The Marriott has a block of 175 rooms reserved for A.K.A. Convention participants, varying in cost from \$76 to \$92 per night plus tax. To stay at the Dulles Marriott, reservations must be made no later than September 15. The registration fee is \$110 per person and includes admission to all events of the convention, special souvenirs, dinner Friday night, Saturday night's banquet and entertainment, box lunches on Friday and Saturday at the flying field, transportation to the flying field and back, and all expenses associated with running the convention. Contact Jon Burkhardt, 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, MD 20854 for your Registration Forms.

The Kite Trade Association is sponsoring a "Fly-market" so A.K.A. members can purchase the latest in kites, equipment, and books. Contact Jon Burkhardt if you are interested in setting up a booth.

Jon has also indicated that he needs volunteer help. What would you like to do to help make this one of the most enjoyable conventions ever? Either write down your preference on your registration form or contact Jon Burkhardt directly.

There are several special events and post-convention activities you won't want to miss. Many have limited space, so get your registration in early! This year's special events include: Tour of the Paul E. Garber Restoration and Storage Facility of the Smithsonian Institution (where historic aircraft are restored and displayed to the public) by Garber himself; Smithsonian Air & Space Museum Tour, Baltimore Clipper Trip (brunch and four-hour harbor tour aboard the sailing ship Clipper City); Second International Kite Fly for peace at Northern Virginia Community College in Loudon, VA; Southern Hospitality Block Party at the home of Margo and Bevan Brown.

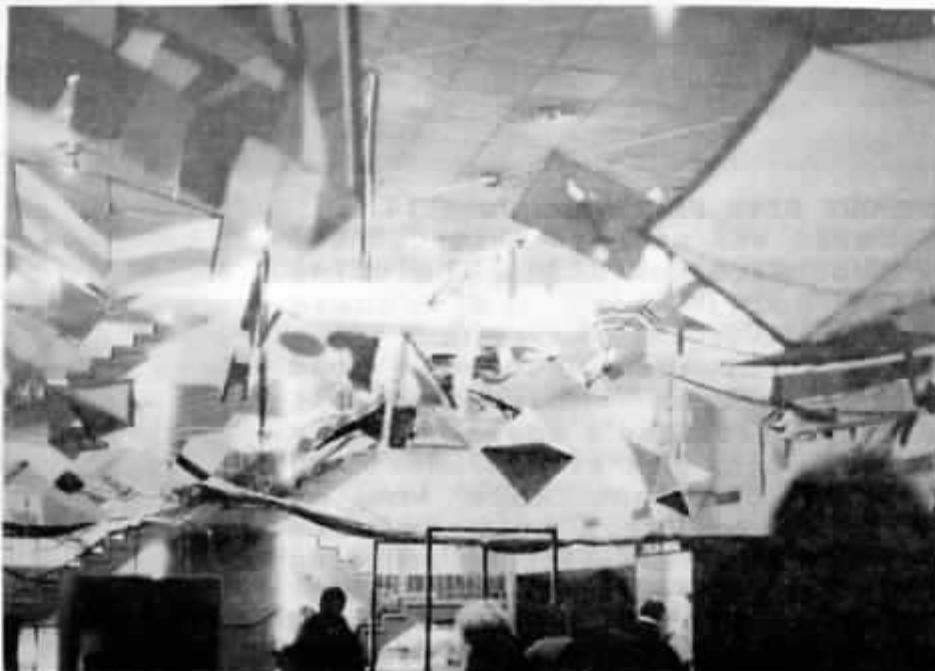
PAST EVENTS

PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER HANDS-ON SHOW, April 25-26

We didn't realize there was going to be a special rate-reduction activity on Saturday so we were deluged with kitemaking kids. We made more than 1100 kites as the kids were three deep all day long. [The Boka Boka kites made at the show are featured later in this issue -- Ed]

We were understaffed but had no time to call for reinforcements. Fortunately the WKA volunteers present were both swift and expert.

We made about 600 kites Sunday, no comparison from the day before, but enough to



Pacific Science Center Exhibition. The kites were hung from the ceiling for a whole month.

make it interesting. This is our 14th year of doing this at the Pacific Science Center. We particularly like this kind of event because the PSC sponsors and advertises the event, we get lots of exposure to the public, we recruit many new members, and we get a nice honorarium for our treasury.

-- Jack Van Gilder

BELLINGHAM SEA TO SKI FESTIVAL, May 24

We had a beautiful day but light winds -- a mostly "delta" day. At one count there were 64 solo kites plus several trains and some stunters. We had good participation from our

local residents and felt we accomplished our main goal of making people in our area aware of kiting.

We appreciated Dan Nordgaard, Joyce Hurlburt, and Joe Richey taking the time to come and fly with us.

The Squaticum Kite Flyers have made an effort to attend as many flies as possible and so far we've been to Omak, Ft. Casey, Ft. Worden, Mukilteo, Ocean Shores, Harrison, Westport, and Long Beach.

-- Don & Shirley Allen

WESTPORT KITE FESTIVAL, June 14

Several WKA members attended the Westport Kite Festival, including Julian Wolf, Larry and Francis Chinn, and Virginia Knowles.

Ray and Eleanor McConnell took several prizes including Most Beautiful (for Ray's appliqued 48 x 54" Peter Lynn box kite) Oldest and Farthest Distance were won by Eleanor). Ray says he gets more stability and less lift by reducing the wingspan by 4" on the 48" side.

Julian Wolf said the wild strawberries were an interesting diversion.

-- Jack Van Gilder



above: Gene Smiley does his thing helping 1100 kids make Boka Boka kites at the Pacific Science Center Hands-on Exhibit; below: understaffed volunteers Frank Posthuma, Sari Moore, and George Van Stavern doing theirs





AMAZING KITE -- the little BOKA BOKA

Frankly I didn't pay much attention to Gene Smiley's little kite the first time I saw it. I thought it was just another cheap, folded paper gadget that would never fly decently. But that was before Tom Sisson selected it to be made by masses of kids at the Pacific Science Center show in April, and several of us got to know the kite intimately.

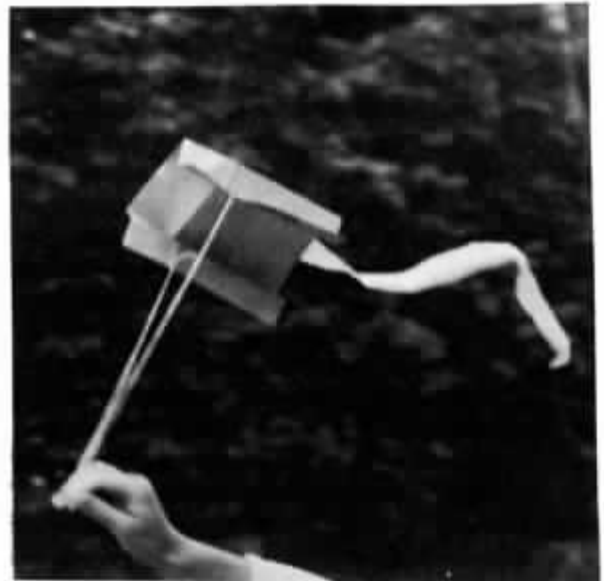
Right after I had lost a nice large sled, Gene Smiley tried flying a Boka Boka and it flew fine. Needless to say, I was a bit sensitive about this.

I did a class of 25 kids at Holden Village with the Boka Boka and they all flew great. One nine-year-old girl said, "Look, I just made one out of this colorful tissue paper." I said, "It'll never fly. It's too light, not stiff enough." The accompanying photograph is the girl's kite flying just fine.

The Pacific Science Center version had the crease lines, WKA logo, and the following printed on it:

Story of the Boka Boka

WKA member Gene Smiley learned of this simple little kite years ago from a Philipino co-worker, who told him it was a favorite with the children in his native Philippine Islands. At the time, Gene wasn't particularly interested in kiting, so the idea lay buried in his subconscious until a much later day when, having just been handed an advertising handbill, he found himself folding the paper into the shape you see here. To his surprise, the mini kite flew beautifully. Now if you should go to a kite festival and just happen to see a grown man walking along flying a Boka Boka from his hip pocket, it is probably this same Gene Smiley.

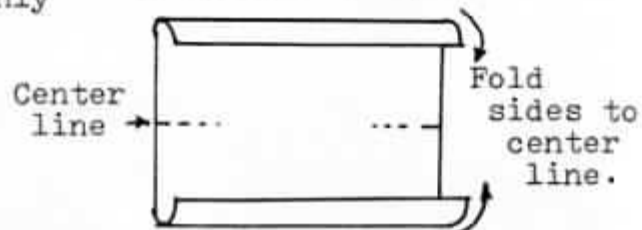


BOKA-BOKA Kite -

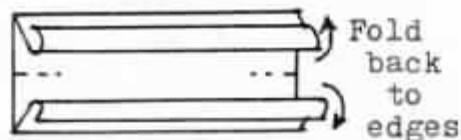
Materials: Paper, $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11" - Tape -
String or thread, 44"
Limppaper tail, 18"

Step 1: Fold paper lengthwise; crease only ends lightly, to find center:

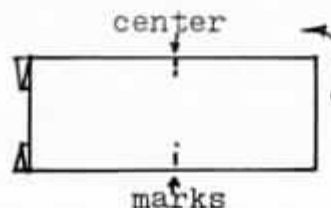
Step 2: Fold both sides in to center; crease down firmly:



Step 3: Fold sides back to outside edges; crease down firmly:

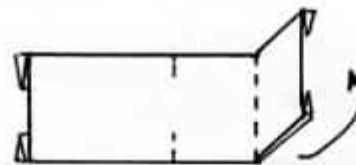


Step 4: Turn kite over. Fold back to find center. Crease only outside edges lightly, to serve as center markers:



Step 5: Fold half of half back to center marks -- crease down firmly:

(This forms raised nose section. Nose section can be folded of any length between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the paper length. Very forgiving.)

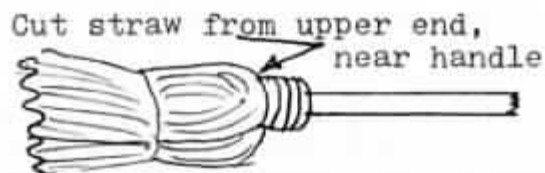


Step 6: Cut bridle (thread or string) about 4 times length of kite. Tape ends of bridle to the spots on exact edge of paper, at fold mark:

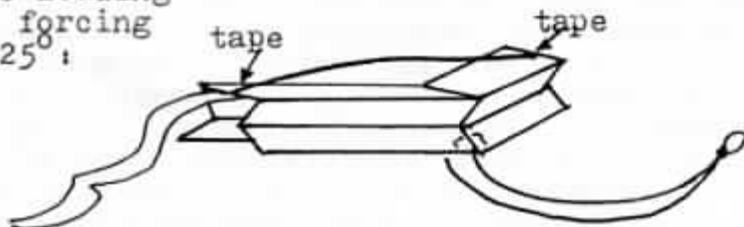


Step 7: Find middle of bridle and tie small loop. Flying line attaches to this small loop.

Step 8: Cut broomstraw about $10\frac{1}{2}$ " long. May use bamboo windshade or even $\frac{1}{8}$ th" dowel.



Step 9: Tape ends of broom straw to leading edge and trailing edge of kite, forcing nose up to angle of about $20 - 25^\circ$:



Step 10: Attach decorative tail (crepe paper streamer?) about 18" long, tie on flying line - and -

- GO FLY!

KITE HUMOR

from Gerry Osborne

Pushing 60 is exercise enough



WE GET LETTERS

from Felix Cartegena to Jack Van Gilder

Thought you might like this picture of the "Seven Sisters" I designed for the Chesapeake City Cite Club ... no, I do not stay up all night thinking these things up. They come to me in visions...



from Panky Sharratt of the Washington Athletic Club to Tom Sisson

I want to thank you and your group for coming to the Gasworks Park picnic and kite night on July 22nd. I am sorry there was a misunderstanding about the potluck, especially after your members took the time and effort to come. We would like to make amends by sending you the enclosed check and hope your group can use it in some way (postage, expenses, etc.) It's not as edible as a potluck would have been but we hope it will express our apologies for your group's inconvenience.

In talking with the members who were there, they really enjoyed seeing all the kites you put up, the help you gave to them when they were having problems, and just meeting your friendly group. Your enthusiasm for the sport of kite flying really made the night special.

IN THE WIND

Labor Day Children's Hospital Goodtime Cruise, September 7

Annual cruise where WKA volunteers help special children fly kites from the Goodtime tour boat. Contact Tom Sisson, 725-3615 to volunteer for this very special event.

AKA Convention, October 7 - 10

Annual Convention of the American Kitefliers Association, parent organization of W.K.A. See details above, or contact Jon Burkhardt, 10113 Lloyd Road, Potomac, MD 20854, for registration information.

SCHEDULE:

September

- 6 (Sun) Fun Fly, Myrtle Edwards Park (N. End of Alaskan Way), 1pm
- 7 (Labor Day) Children's Hospital Good-time Cruise Fly (Call Tom Sisson, 725-3615 for details)
- 13 (Sun) Fun Fly, Gasworks Park (N. End of Lake Union), 1pm
- 20 (Sun) Fun Fly, Magnuson Park (S. of Sand Point Navy Base), 1pm
- 27 (Sun) Fun Fly, Waterfront Park (near the Seattle Aquarium), 1pm

October

- 4(Sun) Fun Fly, Genesee Park (46th S. at Genesee), 1pm
- 7-8-9-10 (Wed-Th-Fr-Sat), A.K.A. Convention, Dulles Airport (See above)
- 11 (Sun) Fun Fly, Myrtle Edwards Park (N. End of Alaskan Way)
- 12 (Columbus Day) Jane Ambrose "One World" Fun Fly, Gasworks Park (N. End of Lake Union), Noon until Dark. Potluck dinner to honor all new members.
- 18 (Sun) Fun Fly, Magnuson Park (S. of Sand Point Navy Base), 1pm
- 25 Fun Fly, Golden Gardens Park, (N. of Shilshole Marina), 1pm

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

Just send your name, address, and phone number to our address below along with your check for \$8.50 for membership in the W.K.A. including a subscription to the bimonthly newsletter letting you in on all the fun of kiteflying with other enthusiasts.

WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

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