

WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

NEWSLETTER
October 1987
Vol. 1987, No. 5

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



left: Balloon Blastoff opening ceremonies of the Washington State International Kite Festival with the W.K.A. information/application booth flag on the right; below left: Five years ago there was one kite train present while this year there were thirteen in view during both the "Longest Train" event and the Sunday Mass Ascension; below right: The sky at Long Beach was filled with kites, including WKA member from Spokane Bill Lester's 400-kite train

WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL Long Beach WA, August 17-23

story and photos by
Jack Van Gilder

extravaganza. And we just had word from a friend who lives there that they are already making plans to make it even bigger and better next year!

You can get some idea of the expansion of this event by looking at the numbers. Five years ago there was only one kite train present. This year there were thirteen at one time with Bill Lester's over 400 kites long. The Mass Ascension on Sunday the 23rd nearly doubled last year's record by getting over 2000 kites in the air at one time.



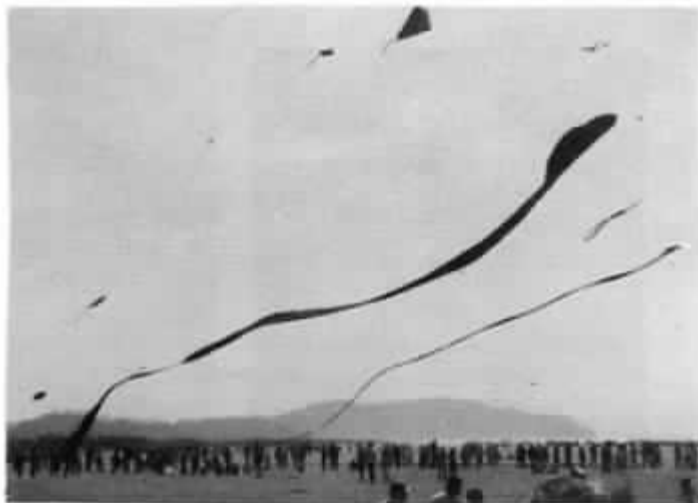


upper left: Displays of kites, spinsox, etc., by Doug Hagaman (past president of WKA) and Catch-the-Wind Kite Shop from Oregon; upper right: WKA Treasurer Bob Hanna (l) and Julian Wolf viewing the vast array of kites; center: Windborne Kites of Monterey CA displayed this comic pair, a 40' hot pink pig chasing a 40' carrot, both made by Skyscrapers of Denver; lower left: VIP's at WSIKF (l-r) Takeshi Nishibayashi (from Tokyo, Japan), Washington Governor Booth Gardner, Kay Buesing (Festival Coordinator), Steve Warning of Longview WA (Coordinator of Individual Competition Events); lower right: Dan Leigh (from Wales, U.K.), best known for his light-wind performance deltas, including the Wickham Fringe and Widespan. He is also a frequent contributor to Kitelines magazine.

The committee in charge of the weather still has an unblemished record. Light winds alternated with brisk winds day by day. Most days started with the usual fog and calm.

The event was much better organized this year. Head coordinator Kay Buesing was able to recruit many able and experienced coordinators, including Rick & Kate Talbot, Jon Kruger, Steve Warning, Lyle Morgan, Kathy Goodwind, Tom Sisson, Eric Forsberg, Robert Leora, Mike Carroll, Al Ford,





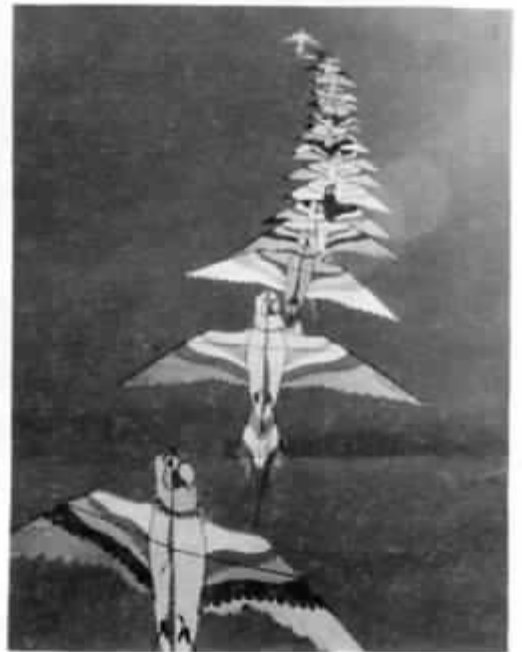
upper left: Maurizio Angelletti of Milan, Italy. Maurizio is the author of one of Italy's best known kite books and owns Controvento Kites, a small manufacturing facility recently featured in Kitelines. With him are Margaret Greger, world famous kite book author, and her husband Greg, from Richland, WA; upper right: 690 meter cobra kite brought by "Superman" Prinya Sukchid of Thailand that dropped about 1000 baby cobra kites for the kids; center: WKA's picnic dinner for visiting special guests, including Mike Carroll (New Jersey), Takeshi Nishibayashi (Japan), and Prinya Sukchid (Thailand); lower left: Lynn Lary from Portland OR launches his train of delta-coynes; lower right: Larry Zilar of Kennewick WA gets "Gumby" to hold his flag-decorated kite line.



Tom Kowalchuck, and announcer Cory Jensen. The long Beach merchants really pitched in this year.

KING-TV, Channel 5 from Seattle covered the event as a full-blown news feature, broadcasting live from the festival and augmented with some sensational pre-taped shots.





top left: Lynn Lasy's train of delta-coynes; top center: a beautiful kite train made by an employee of Jim Buesing's kite shop; train of parrots by Joel Scholz of Austin, Texas; left center: Kathy Goodwind from Seattle WA, Coordinator of the Dual Control Competitions; Art Ross of Vancouver, B.C. flies a large flow form kite. If you look closely, you will see a dark flap has been opened on the right wing that drops 80 ping pong balls for the kids (six of the balls were marked for prizes); There are no more excuses for not making your own kites. Here Roy Chapman from North Crolina flies a kite train made of grocery bags with 1/8th inch dowels taped inside.



Washington Governor Booth Gardner just happened to be visiting Long Beach at the time and it was interesting to observe him and his three-piece-suited retinue up close. After Nishi demonstrated one of his halibut-shaped fighter kites, zipping it effortlessly around the sky, he handed the lines over to the Governor, who promptly crashed it, not once, but five times. The governor did better on the two line stunter. It seemed somehow grossly unfair to push such high-skilled kites on such an obvious neophyte.





top left: One of the Catch-The-Wind Kite Shop crewmen riding the line of their huge parafoil; top center: Betty Street holds her "Smallest Kite" winner; top right: stack of F-16 Jet Fighters are two-line stunt kites from Joel Scholz; left center: a type of flexi-wing kite by Betsy Parnell of Vallejo, CA. The flower designs are not printed material, each was sewn on separately. Betsy fills the kite case with sand as an anchor; bottom left: Scott Skinner's beautiful Edo kite, winner of the "Best Hand-crafted" (you have to see this one in color to really appreciate its special beauty -- Ed); bottom center: Jack Van Gilder shows off his Tony Toledo Filipino Fighter Kite, winner of the "Highest Angle" award.

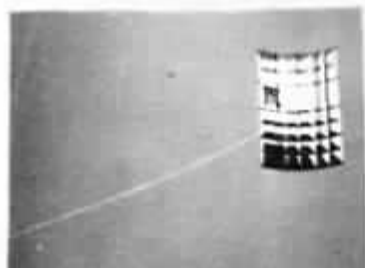


The official program booklet put together by Kathy Goodwind was a masterpiece (it's about time). For your own copy, check at your favorite kite shop.

The banquet was much better this year. It was taken away from a hotel that had done a miserable job for the last three years and turned over to the Elks Lodge. One of the entertainers got a little raunchy, but his act became hysterical when it was discovered that he was actually lip-synching. It is really going to be interesting to compare this festival to the AKA Convention in October.

Even the police were reasonable. They let me bluff my way past the barricade to the beach parking.

The idea of each kite club entertaining the special guests for a picnic dinner on a special evening was a good one. I ran into several people who said they were not



Competition Classes, Requirements, and Scoring

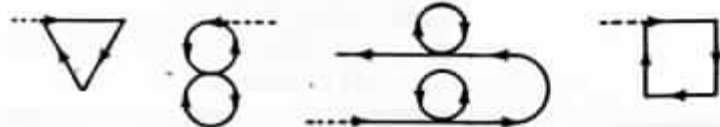
INDIVIDUAL PRECISION:

Judging Criteria: Compulsory figures—shape and direction of maneuvers, size as large as possible without touching ground, consistent speed, control and posture. Freestyle program— degree of difficulty; creativity and variety; precision of execution; smoothness of transition between maneuvers; maximum use of wind window.

NOVICE

Qualifications: Flyers have not won or placed in a stunt kite competition within 2 years.

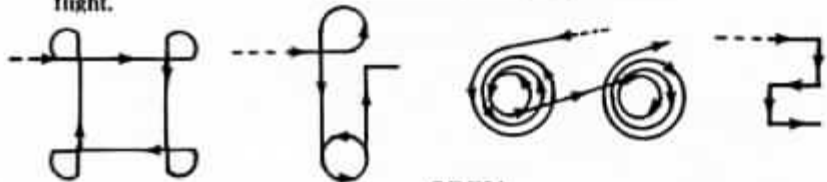
Requirements: 4 low-difficulty compulsory figures and a 1-2 minute freestyle flight.



INTERMEDIATE

Qualifications: Flyers who have won or placed in a dual control competition within 2 years but who have not won an intermediate competition. Kite industry staff, must enter intermediate or open.

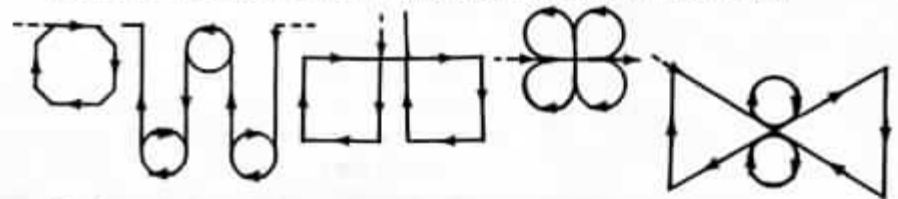
Requirements: 4 moderately difficult compulsory figures and a 2 minute freestyle flight.



OPEN

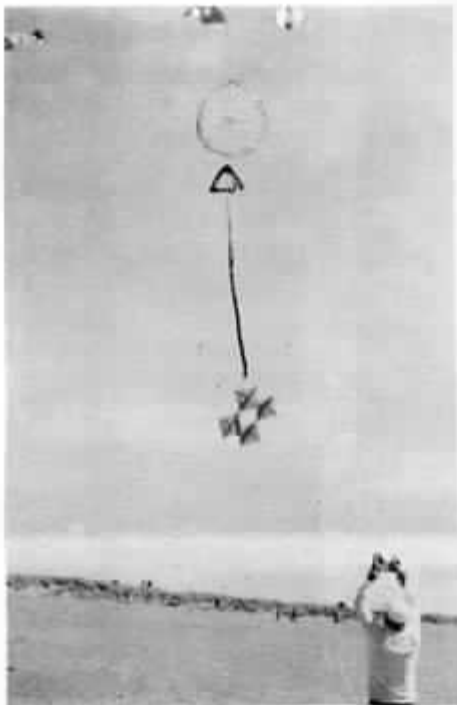
Qualifications: Flyers who have won an intermediate event, who's ability ranks them among the best, who are manufacturer's representatives, or whose expenses have been paid by any sponsor.

Requirements: 5 difficult compulsory figures and a 3 minute freestyle flight.



Scoring

Class	Compulsory Each figure	Free-style	Total Possible
Novice	0-20	0-20	100
Intermediate	0-20	0-20	0-100
Open	0-10	0-50	



Ray McConnell of Kent WA launches his box kite toward the target in the "Touch Me" event. His 8.5 second time won him First Place

normally impressed by events like this, were positively nuts about this one.

A list of the contest winners and some of the rules and figures for the stunt competitions follows.

"HANDCRAFTED DAY" WINNERS

MOST COLORFUL: Scott Skinner, Betty Street, Bill Goble

SMALLEST KITE: Michael Steel, Roy Chapman, Jay Chapman

HIGHEST ANGLE: Joe Stanley, Nishi, Bill Lester

REEL OUT: Roy Chapman, Don Lary, Ginnie Baumgard

MOST UNIQUE: Tom Caldwell, Mike Bryant, Roy Chapman.

Competitors lining up for simultaneous hand launch



"KID'S DAY" WINNERS

Ages 6 - 9

HIGHEST ANGLE: Harley Yarger, Ryan McDonnell, Riley Garvin

REEL OUT: Michael Lary, David Davis, Sarah Hamreus

Ages 10 - 14

MOST BEAUTIFUL: Justin Sclosser, Molly McConnell, Benji Wallace

HIGHEST ANGLE: Heather Yarger, Chris Hamreus, Molly McConnell

TOUCH ME: Jeff McGuire, Heather Yarger, Jimmy Swygard

SPRINT: Timary Estly, David Ullom, Kevin McDonnell

DUAL LINE STUNT KITE: Kirk Miller, Shawn Perusse, Cameron Wine

SINGLE LINE COMPETITION

LONGEST TAIL: Mike Shaver (1050'), Betsy Parnell Ron Yarger, Mike Button

LONGEST TRAIN: Bill Lester (400), Chris Lester, Jack Van Gilder, Ray Nelson

SMALLEST KITE: Betty Street, Neal Chapman, Jack Van Gilder, Leonard Hogg

REEL OUT: Nishi, Don Lary, Stan Swanson, Rod Yarger

BEST HANDCRAFTED: Scott Skinner, Stan Swanson, Leonard Hogg, Betsy Parnell

HIGHEST ANGLE: Jack Van Gilder, Nishi, Don Lary, Ray McConnell

TOUCH ME: Ray McConnell (8.5 seconds), Hans Raichart, Don Lary, Jack Van Gilder

MOST BEAUTIFUL: Bill Lochart, Joel Scholz, Scott Skinner, Ed Wright

BEST OVERALL KITE-

FLIER: Jack Van Gilder & Don Lary (Tie), Nishi

OLDEST KITEFLIER: Agda Johnson (born April 26, 1906)

FARTHEST FROM HOME: David and Linda Dunaphant

WKA Launches their club display of six 50-kite strings of small sleds while Coordinator Liyle Morgan (at left) supervises. The strings were held by a person at each end and were shifted into various formations

WSIKF, 1987

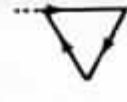
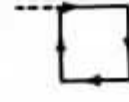
TEAM PRECISION

Judging Criteria: Coordination of kites in relation to each other, uniform shape and size of maneuvers, precision of execution, smoothness of transitions. Compulsory figures—shape and direction of maneuvers, size as large as possible without touching ground, consistent speed, control and posture. Freestyle program—creativity and variety, degree of difficulty, maximum use of wind window, smoothness of transitions, tightness of formations.

INTERMEDIATE

Qualifications: Team size 2-5 persons. An intermediate team may not have won a team event in 2 years nor may the team include any individuals who have registered in the Open class of the Individual Precision event or individuals who are sponsored by any manufacturer.

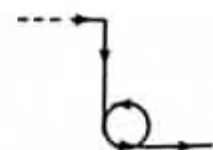
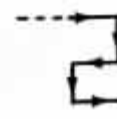
Requirements: Perform 3 moderately difficult compulsory maneuvers followed by 2 minutes freestyle flight.



OPEN

Qualifications: Kite manufacturers and highly skilled teams, or flyers whose expenses have paid by any sponsor.

Requirements: Perform 3 difficult compulsory maneuvers and a 3 minute freestyle flight.



Scoring Class	Compulsory Each Figure	Free-style	Total Possible
Intermediate	0-20	0-40	0-100
Open	0-20	0-40	0-100



STUNT KITE EVENT WINNERS

Novice

INDIVIDUAL PRECISION: Don Giavanni, Kirk Miller, John Jones

Intermediate

INDIVIDUAL PRECISION: Darrin Skinner, Hal Markie, Pam Markie

INDIVIDUAL BALLET: Roy Willson, Mike Boyce, Pam Markie

TEAM BALLET: Hal Markie, Pam Markie, and Ron Romero; Roy Willson and Rod Yarger

Open

INDIVIDUAL PRECISION: Ron Reich, Don Tabor, Roberta Loera

INDIVIDUAL BALLET: Ron Reich, Robert Loera, Don Tabor

TEAM PRECISION: "Top of the Line", "Bay Area Sundowners", "The San Diego Team"

TEAM BALLET: "Top of the Line", "Bay Area Sundowners", Robert Loera and Mike Boyce



Prinya Sukchid, also known as "Superman", Thailand's foremost performing kiteflier

WSIKF, 1987

INDIVIDUAL BALLET

Audio tapes must be provided to the judges, labeled with name, side, and cued to proper point.

Judging Criteria: Selection of music, choreography, variety of maneuvers, innovation, execution, smoothness of transition. Team ballet will additionally be judged on ability of team members to coordinate and synchronize maneuvers.

INTERMEDIATE

Qualifications: Flyers who have won or placed in a dual control competition within the last two years but who have not won an intermediate competition. Kite industry staff must enter intermediate or open.

OPEN:

Qualifications: Flyers who have won an intermediate event, whose ability ranks them among the best, who are manufacturers, or whose expenses have been paid by any sponsor.

Requirements: Freestyle performances must be within 3-5 minutes and are choreographed to music.

TEAM BALLET

INTERMEDIATE

Qualifications: Team size 2-5 members. Teams who have not won a dual control event within 2 years. No individual on the team may be entered in an individual open class nor sponsored by a manufacturer.

Requirements: Free-style flight of 3-5 minutes choreographed to music.

OPEN

Qualifications: Team size 2-5 members. Manufacturer's representatives or teams who have demonstrated very high skill levels.

Requirements: Free-style flight of 3-5 minutes choreographed to music.

Scoring

Music	Choreography	Maneuvers	Smoothness	Execution
10	20	20	20	30

SUPERMAN WOVES LONG BEACH

Story and Photos by Dave Checkley

Prinya Sukchid, best known to kitefliers internationally as "Superman", and his colleague Charas Wongchuan, arrived in Seattle with more than 150 kg of baggage, courtesy of Thai Airways International and Boonrawd Brewery. Superman handles the brewery's public relations, which often includes cheering at football games and flying monster kites. Superman was one of the key organizers of the Annual Pattaya Kite Festival, featured in the August issue of the WKA Newsletter.

This was the second visit to the U.S. by Superman and Charas. Their first visit was to fly a giant Singha Beer (Boonrawd's main brand)

at the A.K.A. convention in San Diego. This time they spent the first few days in Seattle at the home of Ken and Suzanne Conrad (rapidly becoming known as the "Third World Hotel"), where they slept in the living room and cooked their own red-hot Thai food.

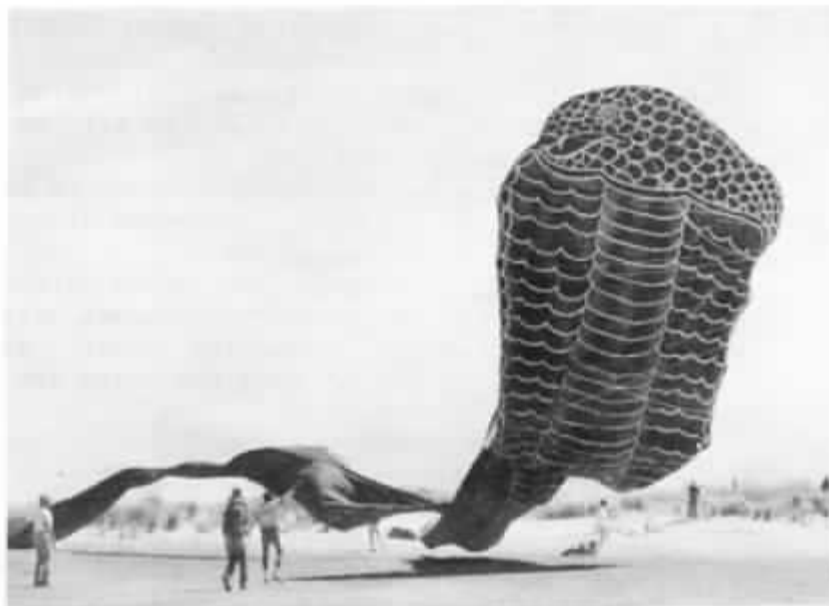
Pat Gilgallon of Detroit (another distinguished out-of-town guest at Long Beach) drove them down to the festival, and the committee sent a truck to Seattle for their big kites.

It took three days of trials, but they were able to fly the World's Record longest cobra kite, 700 meters in all.

The first attempted launch on Thursday was unsuccessful due to 20 mph winds and an inadvertent cutdown by a stunt kite's Kevlar line. A group of WKA kitefliers and Nishi spent most of the day Friday bowing and re-bridling the big cobra, but failed to launch due to heavy winds and the lack of a suitable anchor vehicle. A huge backhoe was dispatched by the City of Long Beach Engineering Dept but it couldn't get in past the crowds of pedestrians on the way to the beach. As they did not want to move the fully rigged kite, the Long Beach Police Dept posted an all-night guard to protect it from cars driving on the beach.

It was scheduled to fly at 10am Saturday, with the kite and backhoe in place, but there was almost no breeze and only a few light wind deltas made it up. By mid afternoon the wind had increased to 8 mph. After some re-bridling (again with Nishi's direction) and after WKA President Tom Sisson assembled a 50-man launch crew, another attempt was made.

On the third try (it took a dozen people to reposition the kite and 20 lb. box of tail) the kite went up about 100 feet or so, leaving half the tail in the box but qualifying as a flight, and dropped hundreds of little paper cobras for the kids. The crowd cheered and Superman declared the flight a success!



Successful launch of the world's longest cobra kite



Takeshi Nishibayashi, known to all kitefliers as Nishi, the Number One Tokyo "Tako-Kichi" receives his award from Carol Kinodsky and Kay Buesing. Nishi visited Long Beach en route from England, where he had been teaching kitemaking to children since the end of May, to Australia, where he will be teaching until mid-November. His round-the-world mission is sponsored by the Japan Foundation.

WKA OFFICERS' REPORTS

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

It has been a busy spring and summer of making kites with kids from Mount Vernon to Tacoma. My thanks for the good help from all the WKA members and friends at the Very Special Arts Festival in Puyallup.

Long Beach was a great success and I want to personally thank all the people who helped with putting on the delicious salmon dinner for all the celebrities from around the world. It was a good time for all!

Onward into fall, I am hoping that those of you who have expressed an interest in making kites will sign up for the new classes offered [See below -- Ed].

WKA elections are just around the corner. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in WKA by being nominated for an office, please contact Jack Van Gilder, (206) 938-0550.

from Bob Hanna, Treasurer (206) 767-6381

The WKA treasury is in fine shape, thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers for projects this year, some healthy donations, and careful expenditures.

from Margaret Holzbauer, Secretary (206) 762-3053

We have a new WKA pin, designed by Llyle Morgan, 5/8" x 78", in green, white, and gold. Just send me \$1.50 and a self-addressed stamped envelope and I'll see that you get yours right away.

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



I have been experimenting with some new formats for the newsletter. My goal is to get the maximum amount of information in the lightest package (the escalating cost of overseas postage is a significant cost factor) that is easily readable, but without the expense of typesetting, and all as quickly as possible.

Don't be shy. Drop me a note and tell me which of the formats you like best and why. You're the readers, so this newsletter should be tailored to your needs.

I have received permission from the executive board to include some small display advertising. If you have a product that is related to kites or kiteflying, call me and I will be happy to send you a rate card. Also, beginning in the next issue, there will be a Classified section. Classifications will include: Buy/Sell/Trade, Accessories & Supplies, and Personals -- \$.50 per word. The deadline is November 15 for the December issue. A great way to say Merry Christmas to your kiteflying friends throughout the world.

My thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Jack Van Gilder and Dave Checkley in this issue, and to Kathy Goodwind for allowing us to reproduce parts of the official rules and regulations from the official program booklet of the Long Beach Festival.

WKA NEWS NOTES: WKA KITE CLASSES, Oct 8 - Nov 3, Tues & Thur 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Learn to make 7 kites and a bag, \$35 includes all materials. Contact Tom Sisson, 725-3615 for registration info ... Masaaki Modegi will be leading a group of 13 Japanese kitefliers to the WKA Convention in October. They will stop over in Seattle October 6 & 7 and will fly kites with WKA members at Gasworks Park on the afternoon of the 7th (watch for announcements at the kite shops) ... Dave Checkley is now planning kitefliers tours for 1988 to Australia (in Tasmania to celebrate Australia's Bicentennial) in March, China (Weifang International Kite Festival) in April, and Japan (JKA and Hamamatsu Kite Festivals) in early May. Write him a 678 W. Prospect, Seattle, WA 98119 for more information ... in memoriam: Dave De Bolt, famous for his kite trains at the many A.K.A. conventions and one of the founders of the Hoosier Kitefliers, died suddenly in Indianapolis, on September 11. We and the skies will miss him ...

WE GET LETTERS

from Mick, Lena, Jennifer, and Andrea Dahms, of Boise, ID

We want to thank you all very much for the invitation for the dinner at Long Beach. The food was just delicious and your hospitality and friendliness is the best.

IN THE WIND

10th ANNUAL A.K.A. CONVENTION, Vienna, Virginia, October 7 - 10

The AKA 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 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 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 events include: Tour of the Paul E. Garber 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 harbor tour aboard the sailing ship Clipper City); Southern Hospitality Block Party at the home of Margo and Bevan Brown.

2nd ANNUAL ONE SKY, ONE WORLD KITE FLY FOR PEACE, Gasworks Park, October 11

The purpose of this event is to promote the concept of global harmony and understanding between all the peoples of the world through an expression of the universality of kites and the wind. Through sharing the wind, our worldwide connection with other flyers and all of nature is actualized. The great air ocean has no respect for dividing boundaries, ideologies, and human conflict. It is much more the prerequisite for our existence, a catalyst in the chemistry of life, supplying our every breath. Through the wind, the great air ocean is kept in movement so all of us can share in this universal experience. The 2nd Annual One Sky, One World International Kite Fly For Peace is an attempt to let the wind lift our kites and our awareness so as to more fully understand the necessity for peace on our planet.

One Sky, One World does not charge a registration fee for organizers. Funds are raised entirely from donations, memberships, and sponsorships, and from the sale of commemorative items, including posters, t-shirts, heat transfers, and pins. Contact Tom Sisson, at (206) 725-3615 for more information about memberships, sponsorships, and commemoratives.

Bring your favorite dish to honor and get acquainted with our new members at 1:00 in the covered area.



SCHEDULE:

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) Jane Parker-Ambrose "One Sky, One World Kite Fly For Peace", Gasworks Park (N. End of Lake Union), Noon until Dark. Potluck dinner to honor all new WKA members, 1 pm
- 18 (Sun) Fun Fly, Magnuson Park (S. of Sand Point Navy Base), 1pm
- 25 (Sun) Fun Fly, Golden Gardens Park, (N. of Shilshole Marina), 1pm

November

- 1 (Sun) Fun Fly, Genesee Park (46th S. at Genesee), 1pm
- 8 (Sun) Fun Fly, Myrtle Edwards Park (N. End of Alaskan Way), 1pm
- 15 (Sun) Fun Fly, Gasworks Park (N. End of Lake Union), 1 pm
- 22 (Sun) Fun Fly, Magnuson Park (S. of Sand Point Navy Base), 1pm
- 29 (Sun) 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.

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

POSTAGE DUE 1.14



Harold Writer
2117 NE 81st Pl
Seattle, WA 98115