

## WKA MEMBERS FLY IN FOUR KITE FESTIVALS IN JAPAN

### SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CHECKLEY JAPAN KITE FESTIVAL TOUR — April 1988

Story and photos  
by JACK VAN  
GILDER

The WKA flag flew bravely amidst the Japanese club banners at four kite festivals in April. The festivals ranged from Hirosaki's first year effort (with no wind but lots of participation) to the 400th year at Hamamatsu, and included the 10th Annual Japan Kite Association festival.

The 17-member tour included WKA members Dave & Dorothea Checkley, Jack Van Gilder, and Garth Westoff, as well as two AKA Past Presidents. All were



The WKA flag flying in the midst of various Japan Kite Association banners at the JKA 10th Annual International Kite Festival in Miho Japan

treated royally as honored guests at lunches, ceremonies, banquets, speeches, and even audiences with the Mayor.

Despite the decline of the value of the dollar, the trip was definitely worth every



Opening Ceremonies — festivals in Japan are very big on opening and closing ceremonies; Masaaki Modegi, President of the Japan Kite Association and most generous host. Thanks to his efforts the trip was both comfortable and affordable.

cent. One significant observation: although we saw a lot of the traditional Japanese kites, there were significant numbers of stunt kites. We saw lots of Hawaiians, Spin-Offs, Skynasaurs, Trlbys, and other examples of how Western high-tech companies have taken the lead in this area of kiting in Japan.

A group from Japan headed by JKA

President Masaaki Modegi, including world renowned Shuhei Goto, will be stopping in Seattle on their way to the Washington State International Kite Festival at Long Beach in August. We're looking forward to renewing our acquaintanceships and returning some of that very special hospitality.

### **WKA NEWSLETTER      June 1988      Vol. 1988 No. 3**

The WKA NEWSLETTER is published bimonthly by the Washington Kitefliers Association, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109. Mail subscriptions are free to WKA members.

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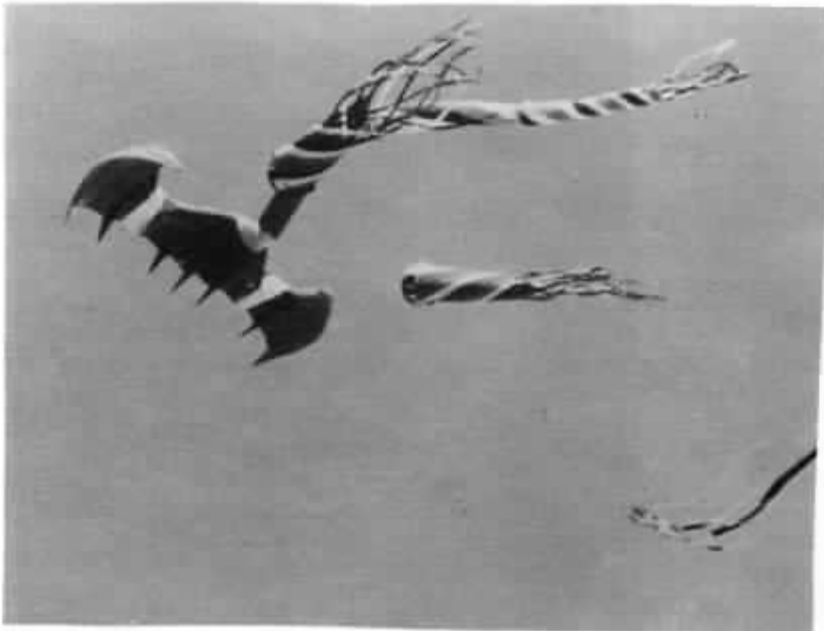
Contributing Editors: LLYLE MORGAN 441-4012 AND JACK VAN GILDER 938-0550

The WKA NEWSLETTER welcomes any and all contributions pertaining to kite flying. Submit typewritten manuscripts and standard 3 1/2 x 5" color print photos (include the name, address, and daytime phone number of the source) along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope of sufficient size and postage for return to David Julian, WKA NEWSLETTER Editor, 10254 NE 21st Place, Bellevue, WA 98004. The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to issue. **All submissions will be considered for publication.**

Washington Kitefliers Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people discover all the joys of kite flying. To become a WKA member, send your name, address, and telephone number, along with a check for \$8.50 to Washington Kitefliers Association, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109. Membership will include an official WKA membership card and a subscription to the WKA NEWSLETTER.

### **1988 WKA OFFICERS**

President: Dan Nordgaard	633-4780	Treasurer: Bob Hanna	767-6381
Vice Pres: Stan Swanson	782-1472	Secretary: Jody Hagaman	789-9215



**American Kites (clockwise):**

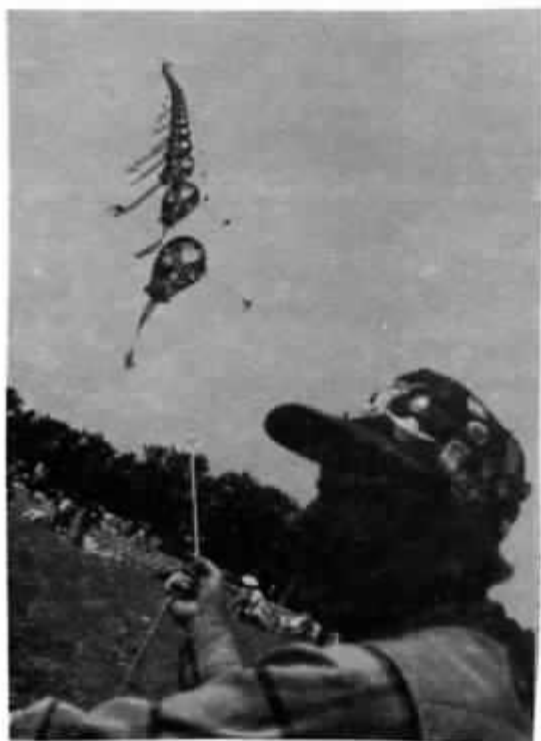
Flow Form by Tom Casselman, its 25' wingspan has so much lift that it requires three spinsox tails for drag; [lower right of same photo] Seven Sisters kite won its designer the trip to Japan; O-dako by Bill Connors of upstate New York won him the trip to Japan at the Black Ships Kite Festival in Rhode Island. It is a state of the art fiberglass frame with applique ripstop nylon Native American dancer that took more than 1200 hours to construct; Marianne Connors holds Bill's applique Rokkaku of another Native American dancer. We don't know how long this one took to build but it had to be close to the previous kite [It is times like this I wish the WKA NEWSLETTER was in color. Black and white photos don't begin to do these kites justice. There are almost as many colors on these kites as there are applique pieces — Ed.]; One of the JKA members flying a traditional American Eddy Kite train; In honor of the Year of the Dragon, an applique delta owned by Pat Gilgallon that was designed and built by Go-Fly-A-Kite in New York. It flew in a very light breeze when nothing else would





**Traditional Japanese Kites (counterclockwise):**

**Bamboo and Washi Rokkaku kite (note 30', 4-legged bridle, six times length of kite) — it flew like a bird; Flat kite constructed by the shy lady in the background. Japanese women are becoming more involved in kite making and flying; not so traditional Lantern Kite Train. The traditional version would have three bridle lines (like a Chinese dragon kite) and no tails; the Japanese have started making their own parafoils. This one is of soft tyvek with a painted nude bird lady design**



## WKA OFFICERS' REPORTS

### SHOOTING THE BREEZE

a message from **Dan Nordgaard**,  
WKA President

With the arrival of Spring comes the gusty winds brought on by the changes in global temperatures. I am sure that all of you kitefliers have noticed and have been taking advantage of them. Remember to inspect your gear for damage before you go out flying. **SAFETY FIRST!**

Some of you have already taken time out to enjoy some of the creations from this year's Fort Worden retreat. Program Chairperson Llyle Morgan with the aid of Jack Van Gilder put together a fine example of what can happen when all of us "kite nuts" get together and whoop it up. Next year's Fort Worden committee is being formed now, so when the call goes out for help, try to donate a little of your time.

My personal thanks to all of you great men and women who answered the calling at the Museum of Flight. Even though we were all very busy making kites, hanging kites, or answering questions, all was such a huge success that I'm sure we will be back next year — you're the best! And speaking of the best, my thanks to Llyle Morgan, Kathy Goodwind, Stan Swanson, Tom Sisson, and Gene Smiley for their help at the Pacific Science Center show.

I want to thank all the WKA members at the Bayside fly for giving up your Mothers' Day to come and help out. Shirley Monteith says that next year they will try for another day. My special thanks to Kurt McVay from Mukilteo for his help organizing the event and handling a lot of the details, including contacting Michelle McBride of Snohomish PUD for the safety information handed out with the kites.

At the last WKA Business Meeting I mentioned that I wanted to put together a

club picnic and some other fun events. Some of these things have been put on hold until the budget can support them. In order to raise the needed money, we have regular fund-raising activities we perform. We don't normally have any shortage of fun, but we have a real shortage of volunteer help. Try to remember that this club survives only from the volunteer efforts of many. Try to be a helper and a doer, rather than a critic.

The last issue of the newsletter included a membership survey. So far we have received less than a dozen responses. What gives? Any help, suggestions, problems, or advice will be openly appreciated and acknowledged. Remember, the WKA will only work for you if you will work for it. **HAPPY FLYING!**

from **Jody Hagaman**, WKA Secretary

WKA pins and patches are selling fast. Don't miss out, order yours today! Information about the Washington State International Kite Festival at Long Beach August 15-21 is now available. Send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) to P.O. Box 387, Long Beach, WA 98631. This is a kite festival you do not want to miss. This is the largest Kite Festival in the state of Washington (there are 28 miles of beach so there is room for everyone to have fun), and this year it will include the Northwest Regional Stunt Kite Competitions. Have a great summer of flying and I'll see you there!

from **Bob Hanna**, WKA Treasurer

We have had a busy Spring season. Our thanks to the dedicated members who worked so hard make successes of Kid's Day at Gasworks Park, the Kite Fair at the Pacific Science Center, the Very Special Arts Fair in Puyallup, the Bayside Festival in Mukilteo, and the other kite events where volunteers have played such an important part. As income we receive from

dues barely pays some of WKA's most basic expenses, this hard work pays off in donations that keep our club treasury

healthy so we can continue our annual fund raising activities.

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## WKA NEWS NOTES

Be sure to attend the *WKA Membership Meeting* on Saturday, June 11. Hot topic for the day will be a motion to raise the WKA annual dues ... WKA President Dan Nordgaard is looking for some experienced dual control volunteer fliers to study new flight techniques and help instruct at the dual control classes. Contact him at 632-6151 if you have some free time ... *Steve Tarylton*, one of WKA's experts on Delta Conynes, recently com-

pleted a business trip to Europe, where he flew kites in Belgium, West Germany, and The Netherlands. Rumor has it he gave away a Delta Conyne to a youngster while flying in a park similar to our own Gasworks near Heurden in the Netherlands, and a Jalbert parafoil (signed by the designer himself) to the 13-year-old son of a German co-worker in Bavaria. Sounds like Steve is becoming one of America's kite goodwill ambassadors ...

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joe Chalverus, Seattle WA  
James M. Davis, Tacoma WA  
Robert F. Gladney, Bellevue WA  
Sally Gulacsik, Bellevue WA  
Rick Hall, Fircrest WA  
Mel Hickman, Gladstone OR  
Steve Jacobsen, Yakima WA  
Dennis L. Kucmerowski, Boca Raton FL  
Jerry Lafady, Longview WA  
Steve & Judy Millspaugh, Redmond WA

Linda Johnston Murosako, Seattle WA  
Hiroshi Nakagawa, Abiko Japan  
Barbara O'Neil, Des Moines WA  
Perry Skipton, Selah WA  
Gordon Smith, Seattle WA  
Shasta & August Swanson, Bainbridge Is. WA  
Taipei Kite Fliers Assoc., Taipei China  
Joe West, Des Moines WA  
David White, Vashon Is. WA

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## PAST EVENTS

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### PACIFIC REGENT — March 19-20

by DAN NORDGAARD

On the weekend of March 19 - 20, WKA was privileged to participate in the opening ceremonies for the Pacific Regent in Bellevue, WA. We had a kite display in the pool area that was set up by the combined efforts of Stan Swanson, Jack Van Gilder, Duane Davis, Daryl & Kathy Stephison, and me. On Sunday we had the chance to fly off the roof of this 17-story building. Tom Sisson, the Stephisons, Julian Wolfe, Walt Sharp and his son Keegan, and I tried to deal with some pretty strange winds. Duane Davis and his granddaughter

Stephanie stayed downstairs to answer questions.

Not only was the view spectacular, but the food was a gourmet treat — and on top of that, our combined efforts brought in a healthy honorarium for the WKA treasury. A time capsule including a kite postcard, volunteers' names, and other kite paperwork, was sealed for reopening in 65 years. If you thought the weather was too nasty that weekend, you missed out on lots of fun, great food, and the chance to go down in history.

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## VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL — Puyallup WA May 4-5-6

by DAVID JULIAN

WKA members were joined by servicemen from the US Air Force, students from Pacific Lutheran University, and other volunteers for one of the most successful and most moving experiences of a lifetime. The State of Washington hosts this annual event for the "special" kids of King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. There are dozens of hands on events for the kids, but definitely one of the most appreciated is the WKA kitemaking booth. I was fortunate enough to be able to work on the assembly line and later help the kids assemble some of the more than 3000 kites. There is nothing like the magic in the eyes of a child for whom tying a knot is a major

accomplishment when they get their kite up in the air. I went down on Friday for the day, along with WKA Members Margaret Holzbauer, Bob Hanna, Margi & Sari Moore, Gene Smiley, Luddy Bratholm and others. Tom Sisson deserves a great round of applause for another super job well done!



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## 2nd ANNUAL MUKILTEO BAYSIDE KITE FLY — May 8

by DAN NORDGAARD

Another history making event happened on Mothers' Day in Mukilteo, WA, thanks to sponsorship of this annual kite event by Bayside Realty and Shirley Monteith. Unfortunately, this year the weather was picture perfect for everything except kite flying. There was plenty of sun, but the lack of wind grounded nearly everything. The only exceptions were the 400 white plastic Margaret Greger One-piece Delta kites that were assembled by the hard working WKA crew including Tom Sisson, Bob Hanna, Margaret Holzbauer, and Margie & Sari Moore. In the meantime, I had to talk on the microphone for nearly four hours straight as I silently prayed for the wind to come up. I got some help from Tom Mallard who set up his 9' Starflake, Asteroid, and other kites for demonstration purposes. He also had some of his custom fighter kites, but the wind was not steady enough to fly them. But the effort was appreciated.

Top flyers of the day were Dan & Dixon Schwenk who brought out a stack of 10' flexifoils and their set up for man lifting. Between the unsteady winds, inadequate crowd safety, and lack of sufficient space, a man lifting was not actually attempted, but the crowd was able to see a new use for kites. This effort won the Schwenk Brothers the Grand Prize ribbon, two official WKA pins, and my most sincere thanks.

Other WKA members who won prizes included Daryl & Kathy Stephison, Most Unique Kite, for a big Orca Delta they had purchased from Catch The Wind; Stan Swanson (WKA V.P.), Highest Flyer, with one of the Flair kites he makes and sells [Rumor has it that some of Stan's kites will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Kitelines*, the official AKA publication]; Tom Mallard captured the Grand Prize in the Open category with his 9' Starflake; Dan Schwenk, Most Beautiful Hand Made

— Third Place, for a black and white cellular box kite; past WKA member Mark Snyder took the Hand Made Grand Prize with an Airplane kite that flew in almost no wind, and First Place in the same category for his two mylar Tetra kites.

Other award winners included Bobbie Myers, Most Beautiful Handmade — Second Place; Kanoe Kawana, Open — First Place; Kekai Kawana, Open — Second Place; Kelly Sutherland, Open — Third Place. Special additional awards went to Hazel Tull, Oldest Mom Kiteflier

(born May 8, 1900 — it was her 88th Birthday too), and Tara Sprecher, 17, Youngest Mom Kiteflier.

Other WKA members flying included Larry Chin, who brought many of his wonderful handmade creations; his wife Frances, who helped out at the WKA kite table; Don & Shirley Allen brought several kites including their Martin Lester Shark; Doug Hagaman, who brought several of his Parafoil kites but was grounded because of the calm winds.

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**CORRECTION:** Jack Van Gilder incorrectly identified the person in the photo on page 11 of the April issue. It was actually WKA President Dan Nordgaard flying Dixon Schwenk's man lifting rig. Dan said he understood the error, it wasn't exactly his best side showing in the photo.

Please notify the WKA Newsletter directly if you have or receive any information about kite events that needs to be published. No information was sent to me about the Lincoln City Spring Fly, Preston Wine Cellar Fly, Mukilteo Kite Festival, Bel-

lingham Sea to Ski Festival, Long Beach Spring Fly, or Agate Beach Red White and Blue Fly. The limited information I did have was given to me at the last minute by WKA officers over the phone and these important events were very nearly omitted from the Kite Calendar.

My thanks to Jody Hagaman, Dan Nordgaard, Jack Van Gilder, Margaret Holzbauer, Bob Hanna, Kathy Goodwind, Stan Swanson, Tom Sisson, and Kay Buesing for getting information to me so promptly for this issue.

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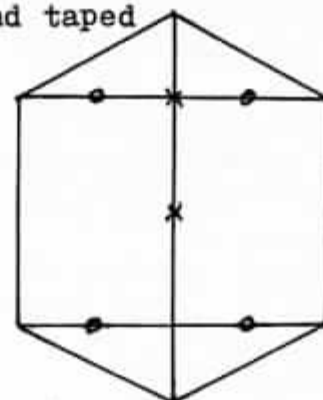
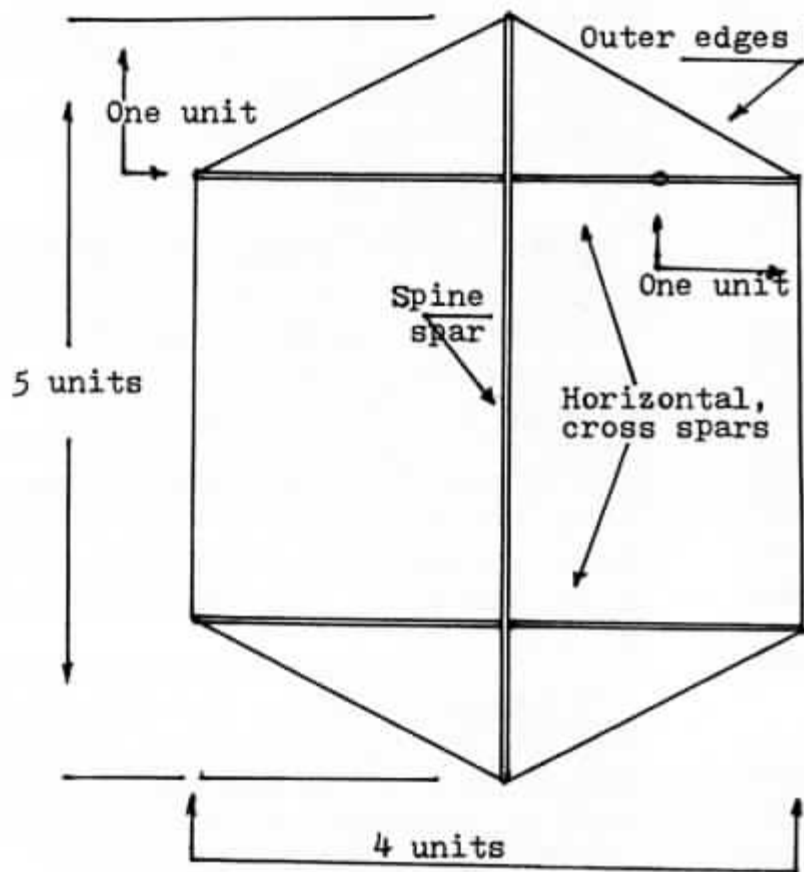
## THE SINGLES LINE — THE TRADITIONAL ROKKAKU

by Jack Van Gilder

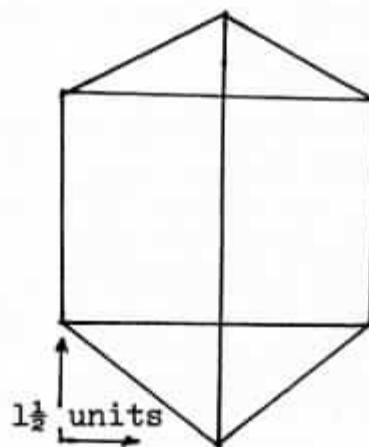
This issues column is based on a pattern submitted by Margaret Holzbauer of the Rokkaku (pronounced roke-cock-coo) six-sided kite. This pattern may be used to make kites from 24" up to about 16'. These kites are remarkable stable and fly at a good angle, two main reasons why Marooka used them in aerial kite photography. They are best built with fiberglass or carbon spars with insert joints for dismounting, but the crossbars must be bowed, usually about .5 units deep. A coated .75 to 1.5 oz ripstop nylon cover is best because the space between the two horizontal spars must pocket on each side of the center spar. Leading edges must be

taut, so fabric kites are hemmed and a non-stretch tape is sewed around all edges. When the kite is bowed it will pocket correctly between the horizontal spars.

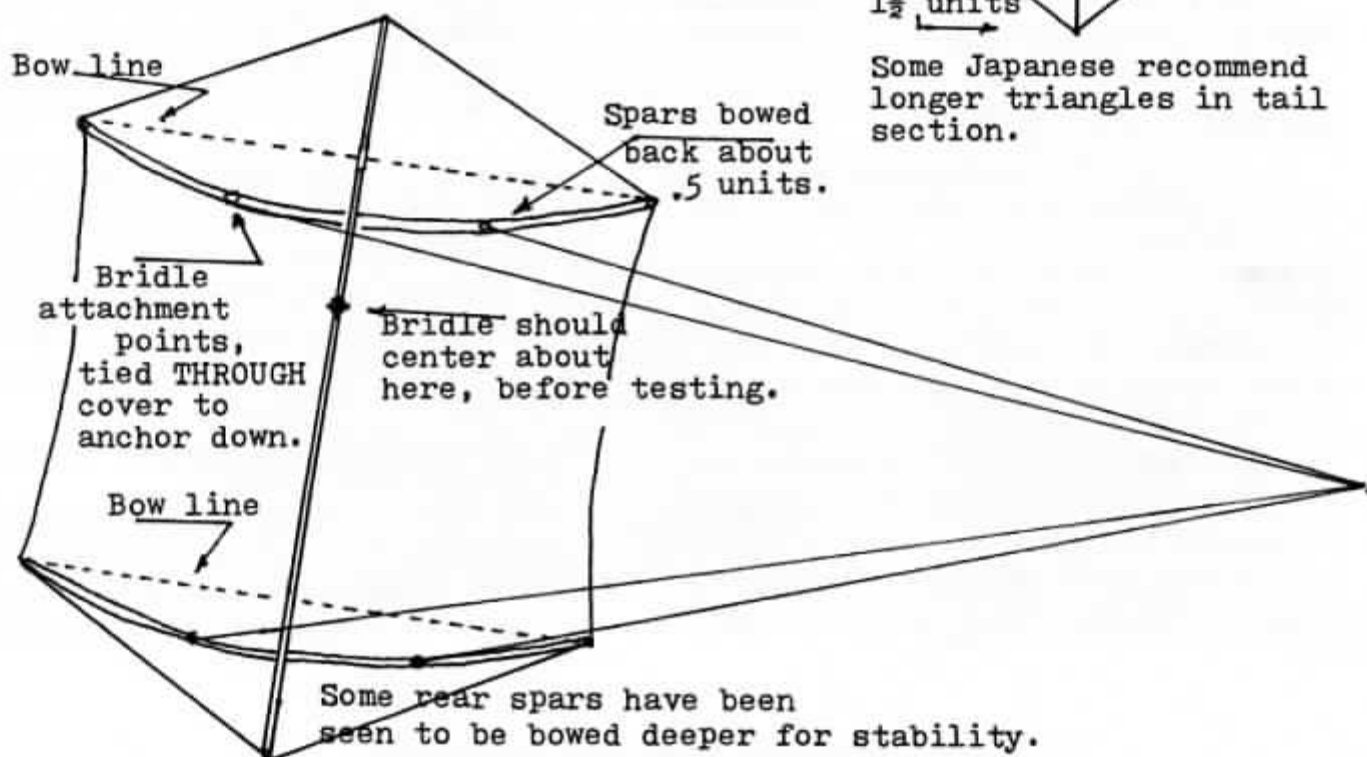
Bridle length may vary but six times the vertical spar length is recommended. The bridling can be tricky, so be sure to tie a temporary knot until you have tested for proper attitude and yaw. With a nice long bridle you can make this adjustment with the kite in the air. The Rokkaku is a natural display for artwork, yet it still meets the requirements of the "straight up" fliers (Dan Kurahashi from Vancouver makes them fly right side up or upside down with a sliding metal bridle rig). Try this one to round out your collection!



Bridle points:  
 o - Basic, conventional.  
 x - Added, large size kite.



Some Japanese recommend longer triangles in tail section.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES

**OFFICIAL WKA PATCH** — 3" square, green on gold. \$3.50 and SASE to Jody Hagaman, 6739-26th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117

**OFFICIAL WKA PIN** — green, white, and gold, 5/8" x 7/8". \$2.00 and SASE to Jody Hagaman, 6739 - 26th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117

**BUILD SEVEN KITES** and teach others how — official WKA Teaching Pack including plans for 2 sleds, 2 deltas, eddy, cobra, and delta conyne. \$2.00 to Jody Hagaman, 6739 - 26th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117

**OFFICIAL WKA MEMBERSHIP ROSTER** current as of this newsletter. \$2.00 to Jody Hagaman, 6739 - 26th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117

### BUY — SELL — TRADE

**FORT WORDEN 1988 GROUP PHOTOS FOR SALE.** \$5.25 for 8x11.5

## MORE HOT AIR

— **OUR READERS TALK BACK** from **Janine Boire**, Special Events Coordinator at the Seattle Center

Thanks to all of you who helped to make the 15th Annual Pacific Science Center Kite Show such a success. I heard all kinds of compliments on how beautiful the kite display was from visitors as well as staff members. As for the kite making activities, I saw kids flying the Boka Boka all around Seattle Center and for blocks around the center. A special thank you to those of you who were here both Satur-

full-color reproduction of the cover photo from the April WKA Newsletter. Jack Van Gilder, 1925 Walnut SW, Seattle, WA 98116 or (206) 938-0550

### PERSONALS

**WANTED AT LONG BEACH "GO"** players. Must be kites that also play this ancient game of strategy. Look for the Kite Group of Boise on the beach or call David Bogie at (208) 336-2038 eves.

**KITELINES IS MOVING.** Valerie Govig's new address is 8807 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD 21133. Send official mail to P.O. Box 466 or call her at (301) 922-1212

**CLASSIFIED ADS** — items related to kites, kite making, or kite flying, in any of the classifications above, only .10 per word (\$3 minimum) per issue. Contact Jack Van Gilder, 938-0550

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** experienced dual control fliers to study new flight techniques and help instruct at the dual control classes. Contact Dan Nordgaard at 632-6151.

day and Sunday teaching kids how to make kites. We had over 6000 people here on Saturday and almost 3000 more on Sunday. Anyone returning Sunday after the crowds on Saturday has to be truly dedicated. So again, thank you one and all.

from **Maurizio Angeletti**, Menaggio Italy to Jack & Viola Van Gilder

I enjoyed so much to meet you in Seattle, Long Beach, and D.C. I really hope to be able to attend the next WSIKF because it really was special and beautiful. The

AKA is always somehow disappointing to me, for a number of reasons, but I've really missed all you kitefliers from Washington...

from **Dan Kurahashi**, Burnaby B.C. Canada to Jack Van Gilder

The Fort Worden always gives me a feeling for home and gives me inspirations. Next year I will come up with some ideas for new workshops...

from High Lines, monthly journal of the Great Ouse Kite Fliers, England

The Washington Kitefliers Association has issued their newsletter No. 6, the last for 1987 and this time have produced it on glossy paper and very professional it looks, with some very good photo reproductions, congratulations to DAVID JULIAN, the Ed. and his colleagues...

[This was included in a review of several international kite publications]

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## MISCELLANEA, SALMAGUNDI, POTPOURRI, ETC.

Sunday March 20 is a day of kiteflying that will never be forgotten by 8-year-old DeAndra Anrig of Mountain View CA. Taking turns flying a 12' delta, DeAndra's parents told her that there would be a lot of pull on the 200 lb. test line and to not let go, so the obedient girl did just that *even when the line became entangled in the prop of a passing airplane and lifted her into the air over her father head and almost into a tree.* In an AP news story, Fire Marshall Frank Moe said she was carried about 100 feet before she let go. DeAndra said she was doing just fine until she saw the tree and "wasn't thinking anything but how scared I was." Needless to say, Mountain View authorities said they would

put up signs at Shoreline Park to remind visitors that kite flying is banned there under the state regulation prohibiting kite flying within five miles of an airport. The pilot, Jake Uranga of Reno NV, was flying a patient destined for Stanford University Hospital and said he was "at 800 feet doing about 140 knots when this thing came at him." Fortunately he was able to land the twin engine plane safely.

The large kite and a life-size photograph of DeAndra will be the centerpiece of the main lobby of the Ripley's Believe It Or Not Museum when it opens in San Francisco next year, according to a UPI follow up story.

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## IN THE WIND —

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### WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL — Long Beach WA, August 15-21.

Jim & Kay Buesing have arranged a week long lineup of kite activities including Handcrafted kites, individual competition, children & senior citizens competition, the Northwest Regional Stunt Kite Competition, lighted kite fly, fireworks salute, awards banquet, open flying and many other events. Send a Self-

Addressed Stamped Envelope to WSIKF, P.O. Box 387, Long Beach, WA 98631 or call Jim or Kay Buesing at 665-5744 to receive the official brochure and reservation forms.



**7<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**  
WASHINGTON  
STATE  
INTERNATIONAL  
**KITE**  
**FESTIVAL**  
AUGUST 15 - 21, 1988  
LONG BEACH,  
WASHINGTON

## KITE CALENDAR

June 5 (Sun) Dual Control School, Magnuson Park (E. Side of Lake Washington), Noon (Contact Dan Nordgaard 632-6151); 10th Annual Harrison Hot Springs Kite Festival, All Day (Contact Sandy Lance-Wright 604-796-2824)

June 11 (Sat) WKA Membership Meeting, Burger King (S. End of Lake Union), 9am

June 12 (Sun) WKA Picnic, Magnuson Park, All Day (Contact Stan Swanson 782-1472); Parksville Festival, Parksville BC (on Vancouver Island), 11am-3pm (Contact Parksville District Arts Council 604-248-8185)

June 18 (Sat) Pick-A-Patch Festival, Westport (Contact Richard & Jeri Souller 268-0877) July 4 (Mon - Independence Day) Sandcastles Festival, Long Beach WA, All Day (Contact Jim & Kay Buesing 665-5744)

August 15-21 (Mon-Sun) Washington State International Kite Festival, Long Beach WA (Contact Jim & Kay Buesing 665-5744)

August 27 (Sat) Fun Fest 88, Bitter Lake Playfield (N. 130th at Lynden), 11am-4pm (Contact Bill Spezia 367-1918)



GASWORKS KITE SHOPPE

1915 N. 34th 633-4780

## Washington Kitefliers Association

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

**FIRST CLASS**