

STUNT KITE COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS 7th ANNUAL WSIKF AT LONG BEACH

by RODNEY L. YARGER

The 2nd Annual Northwest Regional Stunt Kite Competition was held in conjunction with the 7th Annual Washington State International Kite Festival at Long Beach, August 15-21. In addition to the competitors, a lot of notable professional flyers and manufacturers gave demonstrations and flying tips throughout the week and then made themselves available as judges for the competitions, including: *Jerry Sinotte*, Olympic Peninsula (WA) resident and maker of Avenger and Revenger kites was observed at the various events; *Lee Sedgwick & Sue Taft* of Team High Fly from Erie PA arrived early in the week and flew their Spectrum Darts with dog stakes using dual and quad lines that brought audible approval from the crowds; *Bill Baker, Mike Moskowitz, & John Nessim*, the Peter Powell Team from Ft. Lauderdale FL, performed their stunt kite clown routines using the new 6'



The 7th Annual WSIKF at Long Beach as seen from the WKA knoll.

Peter Powell Kites which were a real handful when flown in a three stack; *Don Tabor* of Top Of The Line said that he and *Ron Reich* have been working on a new Team Ballet performance that will debut in San Francisco;



Left: Kay Buesing of Ocean Shores Kites, WSIKF coordinator and sponsor; Right: VI Van Gilder and Gene Smiley man the WKA information booth

Robert Loera from Hawaii gave spectators some thrills with 360's done with his 10' Death Head Flexifoil and custom flame Hyperkite stack; *John Perusse* of San Diego based Action Kites arrived early enough to watch his son *Shawn* win the junior division on Wednesday; *Mike Boyce* from San Francisco, a regular at the Long Beach festivals, who has become a very accomplished flyer in the past year.

The stunt kite competition began on Wednesday (Children's Day) with 24 flyers

under the age of 14 registered for the Junior Class Precision event. On Friday, precision events were delayed due to a lack of wind. About 2:00 p.m. the wind picked up to a level allowing the Individual and Team Precision events to be flown, but the Individual and Team Ballet events had to wait for Saturday. Winds on Saturday were marginal, just making the 7 m.p.h. requirement. The additional burden of a 45° wind shift made the flying area a narrow diagonal, and flyers could be disqualified if they flew out-

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The WKA NEWSLETTER welcomes any and all contributions pertaining to kite flying. Submit typewritten manuscripts and standard black and white or 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 \$10 (outside U.S. please add \$2 for additional postage) to Washington Kitefliers Association, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109. Membership will include an official WKA membership card entitling the bearer to discounts at certain kite shops and a one year free mail subscription to the WKA NEWSLETTER.

1988 WKA OFFICERS

President: Dan Nordgaard 784-3518
Vice Pres: Stan Swanson 782-1472

Treas. pro tem: Bob Hanna 767-6381
Sec. pro tem: Allan Stringer 353-8138

side the boundary tapes.

Eric Forsberg, coordinator of this year's Northwest Regional Stunt Kite Competi-

tion, did an outstanding job and deserves special recognition by the WKA and the coordinators of the event.



Clockwise:

Dave Bogle & Dean Bigles from Boise ID

Dean flying the Boise Kite Club Kite

AKA President Corey Jensen (Carmel CA) [He doesn't really have tacky taste - the highest bidder at the fund raising auction required Cory to wear the outrageous getup]

The easy way to travel down the beach: being pulled by a bicycle

Mel Hittman, co-chair of the 1989 FL Worden Kitemakers Conference

Debbie Cooley, winner of the Most Beautiful contest

Roses on Black, Debbie's Most Beautiful Kite





Clockwise:

Lyle Morgan on the WKA Knoll

Lyle Morgan leads the WKA Team presentation

Ray McConnell

Valerie & Mel Govig (Baltimore MD)
[Valerie is the Editor of *Kites* Magazine]

Kathy Stephison's Native American Design kite

Bill Stiles of San Diego, known for his 500+ kite train



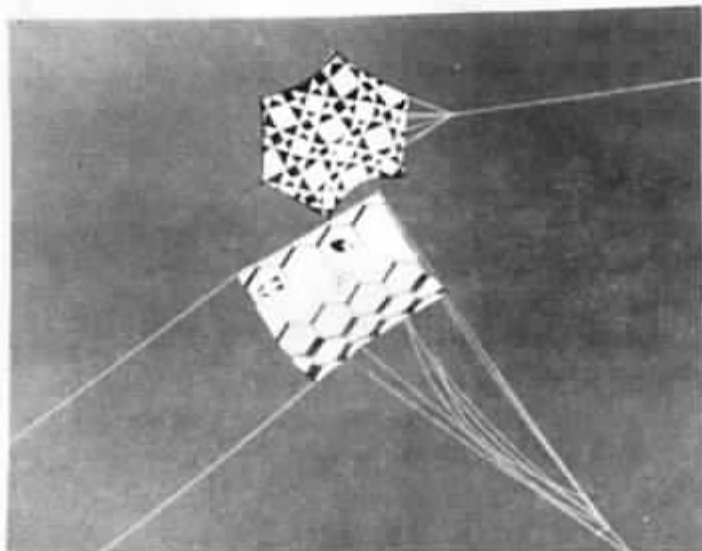


Clockwise: WKA Headquarters The Inn at Ilwaco; Asako Goto, wife of Shuhel Goto presenting I Like America kite to the Festival at the WKA Picnic; AOK's Bill Gobel (Portland OR); The WKA Picnic and reception for the international guests; Joel Scholz (Left) from Texas and Bill Lester of Spokane WA; Bill Lester and daughter Chris, winners of 1st & 3rd prizes for longest train





Front to Back: Larry Zilar of Kennewick WA in a rare pose without his Ben Franklin costume; Peter Waldron, England's Inimitable Professor Waldorf; Jennie Waldron



Which way is down? Radically different flight characteristics of two of Scott Skinner's (Monument CO) kites made this unusual view possible. Van Gilder took the picture straight up.

IN MEMORIAM — DAVID CHECKLEY (1917-1988)

by DAVID JULIAN

David Checkley, 1986 AKA "Kiteflier of the Year", founder and first President of WKA, died Thursday, September 15, 1988 after a brief bout with Cancer. Along with his successful manufacturing company, *The Kite Factory*, David was best known for his annual tours of kite events in the Far East. He often contributed information to the *WKA NEWSLETTER* about kite activities in Asia that he garnered from his constant correspondence with friends in the Orient.

David was born in Mattoon, Illinois, and in 1964 moved to Seattle when he became President of the architectural firm of John Graham & Co. He was also an entrepreneur and avid painter, and had served as Chairman of the King County Arts Commission.

David is survived by his wife Dorothea, son David Jr., daughters Elizabeth Checkley and Leslie Morse, sister Betty Moore, and four grandchildren. Private services were held Saturday September 17th at the Checkley residence including a brief eulogy, testimonials from many friends and



David Checkley with 1987 A.K.A. Steve Edelken "Kiteflier of the Year" Award

admirers, and a buffet dinner and cocktails, reminiscent of the many festive social gatherings he had hosted in the past. The family is requesting remembrances be directed to the Group Health Oncology

Foundation, or to the Dave Checkley Children's Kite Fund, administered by Tom Sisson at 4653 S. Chicago St., Seattle, WA 98119.

DAVE CHECKLEY AND ME

by JACK VAN GILDER

Dave Checkley predated me in what I call "serious kiteflying" by about 10 years. In 1960, while the family vacationed at Martha's Vineyard, Dave and David Jr. spent many of the rainy days building kites and the pleasant days flying them. By 1970 he had become aware that Bob Ingraham was trying to start up a national organization of kite enthusiasts (the American Kitefliers Association — WKA's parent organization) through the publication of a small magazine called *Kite Tales*.

It was through one of his many contributions to *Kite Tales* the following year that I first met Dave. I had already discovered two other serious kitefliers, Tony Toledo and Jim Carnwath. I called Dave and I was invited to one of the largest and most beautiful homes I had ever visited. Little did I suspect that in the coming years I would be included in social gatherings, sometimes as large as 75 people, honoring world-famous kitefliers.

It was in the basement of this home that he started *The Kite Factory*. The 1972 Summer edition of *Kite Tales* included an ad that listed: Alison Flexible Kite — \$7.50, Winged Box Kite — \$12.50, Maneuverable Tethered Airframe — 12.50, Jalbert Parafoil — \$20, or The Whole Works (all of the above) — \$50. Available at Abercrombie & Fitch, Frederick & Nelson, The Crescent, Marshall Field, Neiman-Marcus, Woodward and Lathrop, and other fine stores. Millions of his "Baggie Kites" have been distributed to children worldwide. In recent years, many of *The Kite Factory's* products have been manufactured in a sheltered workshop for the handicapped.

In 1971 Dave made a connection in Japan that was to change his life. After fellow Rotarian Henri Kato answered his inquiry letter about the 400-year-old Hamamatsu Kite Festival, Dave decided to organize a group to attend the festival the following year. *Kite Tales* reported the 16 day tour of Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Hawaii to be a rousing success. Every year since then, Dave took at least one tour group to the Orient. I finally was able to fulfill my lifelong dream by joining his tour of this year's kite festivals in Japan.

In 1973, Seattle's summer festival, *Seafair*, sponsored a kite contest at Volunteer Park. Dave's foresight got us to require each kiteflier to register his name, address, and telephone number. He then approached the Community Service Director at the Pacific Science Center with the idea of sponsoring a new state wide kite club. Notices were then sent to the Seafair kitefliers, with some 23 in attendance at the first meeting of the Washington Kitefliers Association, where Dave was elected President and I was elected Secretary-Treasurer. We worked well together, with Dave as the Idea Man and me as the Organizer. In this way we founded the *WKA NEWSLETTER*, and the annual "Protest The Bowls New Year's Day Kitefly" at Golden Gardens Park.

About a year and a half later Dave came up with an idea I didn't like too well — he wanted someone else to be President of WKA.

In 1986, in recognition of his many years of service to the worldwide kite community, the American Kitefliers Association selected Dave Checkley as the recipient of the prestigious Steve Edeiken "Kiteflier of the Year"

award. He has led workshops for educators in the Seattle area and helped plan the first WKA Teaching Packet. He helped plan and set up the annual Cherry Blossom Festival (including a kite contest) sponsored by the Japan-America Society of Seattle, the annual International Kite Festival at Weifang,

China, and flying exhibitions during half-time at the Kingdome soccer games and University of Washington football games.

My association with Dave Checkley over the past 18 years is a friendship I will treasure forever.

DAVID CHECKLEY — LASTING IMPRESSIONS

WHAT WILL YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER DAVE CHECKLEY FOR?

DOUG HAGAMAN — Everywhere he travelled he was considered the Ambassador of American Kite Flying ... At festivals the world over he was always treated with well-deserved respect for all he had done to popularize and add credibility to the sport ...

JODY HAGAMAN — His sense of humor, kindness, and quiet rapport ... his love of his Basset Hounds Baby & Dolly ...

SUZANNE SADOW — Who he was ... I'm sorry he's not here...

KEN CONRAD — Dave was the person who encouraged me to make kites my life's work...

HAROLD WRITER — I first met Dave at Lincoln High ... he was the Father of the New Year's Day Kite Fly ...

KATHY GOODWIND — His fascination with Centipede kites

GARTH WESTHOFF — He was thoughtful, caring, and compassionate ... I was glad to have known him ...

TOM MALLAED — He always looked for someone to actuate his ideas ...



Kite makers and kite flyers waiting for the wind at the "Tribute to Dave Checkley Kite Fly" August 28

WKA OFFICERS' REPORTS

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

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

On behalf of all the members of the WKA I would like to express the deep sorrow we all feel as we mourn the passing of "Mr. Kite", David Checkley. His contacts in the media and with other kite enthusiasts are directly responsible for the active interest in kiteflying in the Pacific Northwest. Dave was the founding father of the Washington Kitefliers Association, and for that, and his many kite activities, we all owe him a great

debt of gratitude. The kite world will never forget all that he has done. The only disappointing thing is that we do not have more people with Dave's dedication and enthusiasm.

I have recently become very aware of some serious problems. There are a lot of people who seem to want to complain about everything and anything, yet when they are asked to help, they are just too busy. I have also been hearing a lot of complaints about the different needs of the single string fliers versus the dual control

pilots. This club is for **all** kite flyers.

When I was asked to run for the office of WKA President it was by a group of people who wanted somebody to make a stand and voice some of their complaints. I did this and tried to change the club into what I thought everybody wanted. In doing so, I put some jobs in the hands of some of the major complainers. As a result, instead of cooperation, sometimes I made enemies. But I also made a lot of allies who realize that what I did was definitely needed and that it was not a bit too soon. So if you are one of the constant complainers, you had better plan on running for office next year — or stay clear of me. For the rest of my term I represent all the WKA members, and the vast majority want to get along without the infighting. From now on, if you want to complain, come to the meetings and bring your complaints *and your solutions* with you. Try volunteering your time instead of complaining or wishing somebody else might make it better. This is your club, and

if you're not helping, you have nothing to complain about — *nothing at all!*

To those great people who showed up and helped at Westport for the potluck, kite fly, and swap meet I want to thank you all. And to Richard & Jeri Soulier and the Pick-A-Patch crew — you really are the greatest! Although I saw a lot of familiar faces, I also got the opportunity to meet some WKA members from some out-of-the-way addresses. Glad to finally meet you.

While I am on "thanks" I must also offer a warm pat on the back to all those who helped at Long Beach. Although I was pressured by a group of WKA members to refrain from helping this year like we have in the past, there were other members who did not hesitate to join me in lending a hand.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that we have almost 400 members. WKA Secretary Alan Stringer and I, along with our regular group of flyers at Golden Gardens, signed up nearly 100 dual controllers. Volunteer! Put your ideas on the WKA Calendar.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Crisis Aigner, Puyallup WA

Michael & Rhonda Allen,
Bellingham WA

Greg Andres, Seattle WA

Al Axton, Olympia WA

Ed Bainter, Naches WA

Balloon Factory & Kites,
Montebello, CA

Phillip Beachy, Auburn WA

Robert Blanchard, Port Orchard
WA

David Bogle, Boise ID

Christos Bojinoff, Yakima WA

Robert Bostic, Seattle WA

Barbara Bradshaw & Kevin Reid,
Kirkland WA

Otis Burris, Vancouver WA

William Cline & Family, Mukilteo
WA

Thomas M. Colwell, Seattle WA

John & Mary Colwill, Olympia WA

Frank Cowan, Tacoma WA

Nichol Fairman, Seattle WA

Gloria Farley, Seattle WA

Jim & Kristin Felix, Olympia WA

Dawn Frankwick, Seattle WA

Bill Funk, Olympia WA

Ron & Linda Gartman, Seattle WA

Richard Graham, Everett WA

Patricia Gray, Seattle WA

Craig Hammes, Puyallup WA

David Harper, Sumner WA

Thomas Holland, Puyallup WA

James Johnson, Seattle WA

Dennis King, Graham WA

Wilbur King, Lacey WA

Susan & Ivan Klecka, Bethesda MD

Ken Mark, Olympia WA

Ronald Marshall, Tacoma WA

Mike McCoy, Seattle WA

David McSwain, Everett WA

Jack Melchert, Pawtucket RI

Dan Morgan, Gig Harbor WA

Craig Moulds, Olympia WA

Michael Munsey, Puyallup WA

Richard & Betty Noahr, Lacey WA

Jon Nilan, Seattle WA

Karen Novak & Wayne Wargnier,
Lynnwood WA

Cheryl Olsen, Puyallup WA

Jenni Owen & Edmund Rimbaugh,
Everett WA

LeRoy Peoples, Lacey WA

Ronald & Marcia Peterson,
Lynnwood, WA

Chuck Ponder, Lynnwood WA

Charles Revel, Aberdeen WA

Wayne Ricarte, Seattle WA

Grant Richardson, Seattle WA

Mark Richardson, Seattle WA

Tony Riebs, Seattle WA

Dennis Samuelson, Clinton WA

Glenda Sanderson, Everett WA

Mary Schwelzer, Vashon WA

Ron Smeland, Bremerton WA

Joseph & Gail Solimine, Port
Orchard WA

Andy Staalak & Family, Lynnwood
WA

Gregory Stevens, Bellevue WA

Mark Stevens, Bellevue WA

Skip Streeter, Chehalis WA

Cheryl Sweet, Westport WA

Greg Taylor, Chehalis WA

Lyle Thompson, Everett WA

DyAnn Tryon, Seattle WA

Richard Turner, Yakima WA

Charles Whitaker, Seattle WA

CONGRATULATIONS
to Jack Van Gilder
winner of the Steve Edeiken
A.K.A. Kiteflier of the Year
Award



Vi and Jack Van Gilder hold up the hand-carved plaque he received at his tribute dinner at Andy's Diner August 10

ADOPT A PARK PICNIC
— Golden Gardens
Park September 17

by MARGARET HOLZBAUER

WKA was asked, on rather short notice, to participate in a picnic, sponsored by the Seattle Parks Department to honor volunteers in the "Adopt a Park" program. Tom Sisson was able to round up a few WKA members, including Doug & Jody Hagaman, Bob Hanna, Margaret Holzbauer, Marge & Sari Moore, and Allen & Martha Stringer. Tom had an ample

supply of the famous Sisson Sled and WKA Trash Bag Delta kites to put together for the kids. The winds were light, and these turned out to be the only kites to fly well!

The Seattle Parks Department did a superb job. In addition to the kiteflying the picnic featured a face painter, magician, live music, and a really posh picnic lunch.

CLASSIFIED ADS

**ACCESSORIES AND
SUPPLIES**

OFFICIAL WKA PATCH — 3" square, green on gold. \$3.50 and SASE to WKA PATCH, 200 - 2nd Ave N, Seattle WA 98109

OFFICIAL WKA PIN — green, white, and gold, 5/8" x 7/8". \$2.00 and SASE to WKA PIN, 200 - 2nd Ave N, Seattle WA 98109

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 WKA TEACHING PACK, 200 - 2nd Ave N, Seattle WA 98109

BUY — SELL — TRADE

PERSONALS

HEY COACH! — Laughter and smiles are always found while I'm flying with you. Hugs. — Angel

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. David Julian, WKA NEWSLETTER Editor, 10254 NE 21st Place, Bellevue WA 98004. (206)453-8895

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Sorry that this issue of the *WKA NEWSLETTER* is late. I was performing in some benefit concerts in the midwest between deadline and press time. My apologies to Bill & Cory Roeseler for consistently misspelling their names in the last issue; and a special apology to Barbara Anne O'Neill — I not only spelled her name wrong in the last issue, but also in the Welcome New Members list in the previous issue. Apologies from Jack Van Gilder to Debra Cooley of DC Kites in Lincoln City OR (503) 996-4627. In his article about the Japan Kite Tour, the caption to the photo on the right as published in the June issue incorrectly indicated that Pat Gilgallon's dragon applied delta kite was designed and built by Go-Fly-A-Kite in New York. Pat Gilgallon special ordered the kite from the New York firm, who in turn ordered it from Catch The Wind, who ordered it designed and built by Debra Cooley.

My thanks to Rod Yarger, Kathy Goodwind, Jack Van Gilder, Margaret Holzbauer, Tom Sisson, Kay Buesing, Llyle Morgan, Stan Swanson, Bob Hanna, and Garth Westoff for their contributions to this issue, and



to Dan Nordgaard for his contributions to this and the August issues. (I inadvertently left his name off the list last time.)

Welcome to our newest kite store advertiser/sponsor *KiteSport*. The store is a kiosk, located directly under the skylight in the north end of Crossroads Mall, 156th at NE 8th, in Bellevue. (It's nice to see some action over here on the east side!) The new store is operated by Tom Mallard (formerly of Suspended Elevations) and Robin Kaufman.

NOTE: Deadline for the December issue is November 15!

MORE HOT AIR

— OUR READERS TALK BACK

from **Kathy Goodwind, Seattle**

I would like to thank you for all your support at the Tribute to David Checkley Kite Fly. I'm sure it made Dave's spirits soar as high as the kit. I definitely will make sure the food is in greater supply and closer to the flyers next year.

The efforts of Tom & Jean Sisson, Gene & Vera Smiley, Stan Swanson, and Virginia Lewis, Llyle Morgan contributed much to the great success of the WKA hosted picnic at Long Beach. It takes cooperation and experience to pull off something like that so smoothly. Long live the Flying Dinosaurs!

Gene Smiley and Tom Sisson also put their best efforts together to organize the fantastic dinner to honor Jack Van Gilder. It was long overdue, but it was a

huge success. You guys are a great team.

Eric & Ginny Forsberg contributed a supreme effort to make the West Coast Stunt Kite Nationals in San Francisco the exciting event that it was. Dave Gomberg pitched in to help too. Thanks to you all.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Jack Van Gilder for finding David Julian to edit and produce our great new newsletter. Through Jack's continued efforts (he still calls to remind us of deadlines) and Dave's patience with all the grammatical errors in the copy he receives, the WKA has one of the best newsletters in the country.

What a great bunch of people — the real glue of this club. Thanks to you all!

KITE CALENDAR

October 8-9 (Sat-Sun), 1st Annual One Sky, One World Kite Festival & Stunt Kite Competition, Ocean Shores, Contact Ocean Shores Kites (206) 289-4103
October 9 (Sun) "One Sky, One World" Kite Fly, noon at gasworks park and various other locations worldwide

October 15 (Sat) 3rd Annual Cranberry Festival Fly, Long Beach WA, Contact Kay Buesing (206)665-5744
November 19 (Sat) 2nd Annual Turkey Fly, Troutdale OR at Blue Lake Park, Contact Mike (503)223-0409



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