

MEMORIES OF JACK VAN GILDER

SKY BROTHER
by Gerry Osborne

Time passes
And eyes that close
will open
And you will see your kites
Shining back the glory
of God
Your back yard
will be eternity
Stretching past the light
of stars
Cherubim will clap
Not their wings
but their hands
As angels marvel
at the sight
For you, Sir,
have been ordained
To fly before the very face
of God

from DARRYL STEPHISON

In the few years that I knew him, I came to think of Jack as one of my favorite kites. When I read the interview in "American Kite" in which he expressed disappointment that so few people showed up at the religious service at Fort Worden, I decided to attend. It gave me a new perspective on a man I had come to know and like through kiting.

All of us know how much Jack



Jack Van Gilder 1922-1989

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loved kiting. Most of us probably know a bit less about how much he loved God. Jack taught us a lot about the joy of kiting, but in a very subtle way he gave us another thing to learn. I think that Jack hoped that, when we put our kites into the sky, some of us would remember that God made the earth and the sky and He breathed the first wind that gave it life. And after all, don't you think He did a good job? Jack taught us to be thankful for what we were given, to make the best of everything we have, and above all to enjoy life. When I close my eyes and think of Jack, I see a man with a smile on his face. I can't remember Jack ever complaining very much even in a losing battle with a painful disease. I think Jack made the best of everything and every day that he was given. May God give us all the eyes to see life the way the way Jack saw it and to enjoy it the way he did. Thank You Lord for giving us Jack.

from Jody Hagaman

Jack Van Gilder was the heartbeat of the WKA Newsletter. He put in long hours on articles and



Viola Van Gilder at the Jack Van Gilder Memorial Kite Fly, Gasworks Park, May 7

walked a lot of miles to take photos at festivals and special events. We owe Jack a lot for keeping the newsletter one of the best in the world. The one thing I will miss hearing is Jack saying, "Van Gilder here" when he used to call me. Also I will miss the detailed Christmas Letter he sent every year. He will be missed but his memory will live on in the WKA Newsletter as long as other members are willing to work as hard as Jack did.

from Suzanne Sadow (Great Winds)

One Memorial Day maybe ten years ago, Jack Van Gilder brought out his kite train, even though it was overcast, muggy, and looked like rain. He flew it anyway, all day. In the course of the afternoon the wind changed more than 270° and the train often coiled and twisted as it flew. Suddenly the wind changed — and died — and the train began to snake down across the park. In seconds Jack had recruited every passerby and that train was safely untangled, hauled in, and stacked in very few minutes. Then, I'm almost sure, it started raining...

Jack flew his kite train off the warehouse rooftop when Ken and I were married up there in our "garden"...

Jack made great excuses to keep in touch. He used to call me, out of the blue, to ask for a word that meant such-and-such. Then we'd chat for a minute and sign off...

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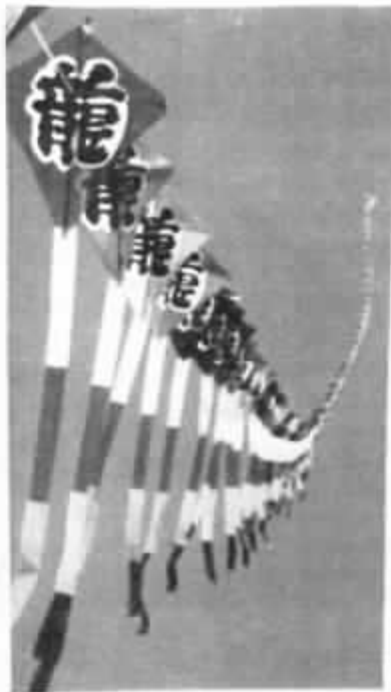
The WKA NEWSLETTER welcomes any and all contributions pertaining to kite flying. Submit typewritten manuscripts and standard black and white or color print photos (include the name, address, and daytime phone number of the source) along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope of sufficient size and postage 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.

1989 WKA OFFICERS

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Secretary: Kelci Williams (206) 788-6355



Clockwise: Ken Conrad of Great Winds; Ken's 300 Eddy train; WKAer launching an unusual shaped kite; Bob Hanna; getting up a large parafoil is not easy.

We will always remember Jack as a welcoming sort. He always went out of his way to make everyone feel at home whether he was at home, in our shop, or out flying. Just naturally solicitous! In addition to so many other things, Jack gave us all such a strong sense of belonging...

Ken also adds: *Jack was my first customer!*

from the staff of Kite Lines

We at Kite Lines somehow can't believe that our longtime friend, Jack Van Gilder, is gone. We feel a sort of sad anticipation, awaiting that stream of friendly, newsy letters that used to come from him. In fact, our next issue will contain material submitted by Jack. The impact of his works will be felt long after all of the tears have dried. Jack will be missed by all of us

from Ted Fleming, Great Ouse Kite Fliers, Huntingdon, England

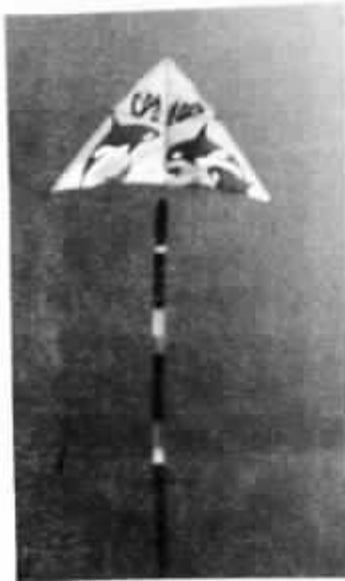
The sad news of the passing of Jack Van Gilder came as a great shock and on behalf of the Great Ouse Kite Fliers I send their deepest sympathy and condolences to his widow Vi, his family, and also to the Washington Kitefliers Association in their grievous loss of a truly great leader of kitefliers everywhere.

Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Jack personally, I had followed his writings with interest, and a few years ago when I became Editor of High Lines and President of GOKF, I





Clockwise: City Kites kite; David Julian's Lion kite (made by Jack Van Gilder); the same kite folded into its pocket container; Lyle Morgan and the WKA Windstreamer team



was most gratified to receive a letter from Jack which expressed some very generous compliments on my efforts. He also sent me a few dollars for a GOKF badge...

It was Jack's idea for a snub-nosed delta which led me to the design for my Ram Delta kite and the many hours of

pleasure in flying it in light thermals as well as in gales. A great name in kiting, JACK VAN GILDER will endure in memory for ages to come.

from Don Lary, Portland OR

At the 6th Annual Washington State International Kite Fly (1987) I entered the Individual contest where I hoped to win in the "Best All-around Kiteflyer" category. In the final tally of points I found that I had only tied for first place. My disappointment was short-lived when I found that I had tied with JACK VAN GILDER — the person I most admired for his kiteflying ability. My finest recollection is that I tied the master in open competition, not that I surpassed other competitors.

Jack spent years teaching people about this sport. His dedication and hard work in that area will be unequalled for many years to come. I am honored to have known him.

from Mike Wright, Temple TX

I thought that you might like to know that on

Sunday, May 7, we held our Third Annual Temole Kite Festival and that it was dedicated as a memorial fly for Jack Van Gilder.

from Roy Willson, Yakima Valley Kite Flyers

Three years ago March, Rod Yarger and Roy Willson made their first trip to the Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference. It was at this time that we really got to know Jack Van Gilder. Jack spent a lot of time showing us the heat bonding technique and how to build delta kites out of the colored trash bags that he had brought along. We left Fort Worden with the plans for Jack's kite and a large supply of trash bags. From that time on we spent many hours showing others how to build what we have always called the "Jack Van Gilder Special". On the evening of April 16, 1989, we received the sad news that Jack Van Gilder had passed away the day before. Due to commitments at work [Yarger and Willson are policemen — Ed.], it was obvious that neither of us would be able to make the trip to attend services in Seattle. Having this in mind, Rod got up early Monday morning and built a "Jack Van Gilder Special". He brought it to work thinking that we might have time to release the kite in Jack's memory. On this particular day we were assigned to work a training detail in the open grounds of the Yakima Firing Center. At about 11:00 a.m. a light breeze came up and we felt it was the right time to release the kite. Present during the moment of silence was Rod Yarger, Cliff Bond, and Roy Willson. The kite was let out to the end of its 600' spool of light line and then released. As we sat and watched, we expected the kite to simply drift out of sight

toward the ground. This didn't happen. For some reason the kite started to climb and continued to do so in very large circles. Moments later two of the area's resident Bald Eagles came to investigate. They started to circle and soar with the kite and did so for about ten minutes until the kite had climbed so high that it went out of sight.

from DAVID JULIAN, WKA Newsletter Editor

Jack Van Gilder called me because I lived not far from him in West Seattle, and he said he needed help with the folding and mailing of the WKA Newsletter. While stapling and stuffing, I noticed that the newsletter often had typed lines with obvious corrections, and the columns weren't straight or justified (as is the fashion in the "slick" magazines). So I offered to word process the text on my computer. Jack still did the writing and the photography.

Jack was often criticized. He was accused of not printing articles sent to him, although I never once saw him refuse anything. He was accused of publishing the newsletter for his own self-aggrandizement, although I always watched him go out of his way to credit someone else with an idea, an article, or an effort that was more realistically his own. And he had one very tragic flaw for a journalist — he always wrote in first person singular. He took risks and he said what he thought, regardless of consequences. He didn't hesitate to put himself right in the thick of it. In the last few years,

he turned more and more of the editing chores over to me, and we often laughed when he let me soften some of those outspoken opinions of his. He had a deceptively gentle style. I never heard him say anything derogatory about anyone, never heard him raise his voice.

Men with Jack's kind of dedication to helping others are hard to deal with. They never seem to have time for you to reciprocate, but they always seem to have time for your problems. I was lucky. Tom Sisson asked me to put together the presentation to the AKA for Jack's nomination as "Kite Flyer Of The Year".

Jack was devastated by the news of the cancer, and he tried to lie to me about the seriousness of the prognosis. I think he was afraid that I would pity him if I knew he was dying. Once he knew that I would just let him live out his life the way he wanted, he was straight with me. And he allowed me to do something I will always love him for: when the doctors told him there was nothing more they could do for him except give him drugs for the pain, he let me come over to his house, and in a very emotional moment, he gave me the chance to say goodbye, and to tell him the kinds of things people always say they wish they had told their loved ones before it was too late.

I told Jack Van Gilder I wished he had smaller shoes...

PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER KITE SHOW & KITE MAKING

by TOM SISSON

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this such a successful kite show. On March 30 we hung about a hundred kites in Building 2 just outside Classroom 201. They added so much color to that area that everyone was overwhelmed with their beauty.

On April 29 and 30 we made Boka Boka kites, free for anyone who wanted to make a kite that flies. We work especially hard at making sure that the Boka Boka is always different. This one had the Pacific Science Center logo printed on it, and

over 400 of them were made for adults and children over the two-day period. On Sunday we managed to take down the exhibit, clean up the area, and leave the center between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m.

We offered adult classes that were attended by such enthusiastic people that they were definitely worthwhile. Thanks again to all who donated their valuable time and energy to make this event such a success!

KITEFLYING ON TAHITI AND RAPA NUI

by MORT SCHMORLETTZ

In late April and early May, my wife Kiku and I journeyed to the South Pacific to vacation. Wherever I go I carry one of Dave Checkley's little Sport Kites to test the winds of various exotic skies around the world. The little kite has flown in such diverse places as Japan, Hawaii, and Rome. On this trip it was to fly in the Southern

Hemisphere for the first time.

We left Seattle on April 25 and arrived at Papeete late at night on the same day after a layover in Honolulu. One of the side trips we took was a tour of the island of Moorea, an hour's ferry ride from Tahiti. During our lunch stop I had an opportunity to let the kite test the tropical

breezes for the first time. The kite was launched from a dock in very light winds, and after a very brief flight ended up in the drink.

The next attempt was made on Rapa Nui (better known as Easter Island). Here the winds were so strong that the kite collapsed almost immediately upon launching, and when the winds finally did moderate, the rain began to fall.

Success was at last achieved the day we took a trip around the island. We stopped to take lunch at Anakena Bay on the east side of the island where the Norwegian expedition headed by Thor Heyerdahl set up its base in 1955. Here the on-shore breezes were perfect for kiteflying, and the little Sport Kite took off in great form. I turned its handling over to our guides while I prepared to

launch my Skynasaur Skyfoil™ dual liner. Wind velocity was barely sufficient to get the kite up and after a few lazy loops it landed, not to be flown again.

Back on Tahiti one morning I looked out the window of our hotel room and saw a couple of Thai-like fighters darting in the sky beyond some neighboring buildings. A brief search brought us to a small open spot between buildings and trees where children about eight years old were playing and skillfully flying the kites. The kids took a great interest in the fold-up-and-put-in-a-pocket kite. With Kiku's help I got the kite up, but in order to get really good winds I would have to have flown it above the surrounding buildings, something I didn't want to risk doing.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

OFFICERS' REPORTS

from DARRYL STEPHISON, WKA President

Once again we mourn the passing of one of the "greats" in kiting. We all liked Jack Van Gilder, probably because he seemed to like every one of us. Without his many sacrifices on our behalf, this Association would surely not have come as far as it has. He will certainly be missed by all of us.

This has certainly been a busy two months. That's good perhaps at a time of sorrow. One of our members who has been around for a few years said, "I've never seen a calendar with so many events." Some weekends we have two or three different things to pick from. We begin to complain that we missed a kite fly because we were at another kite fly. Now there's an interesting problem.

Actually we start to slack off a bit in the summer months. That gives us a chance to get our newest kites ready for the big one in August. Before any of us forgets, I want to thank all of you who have put in so much time already this year. Many of these events could not happen without volunteer effort. It's also nice to notice that, in the midst of all our effort, we were actually having

fun. Keep it up!

from Jody Hagaman, WKA Past Secretary

WKA now has a hot new 89 Centennial pin. We have already sold over 200. Order yours today. The pins are rapidly becoming more popular than the patches. Ordering information is in the Classified Ad section. New members and renewals have been coming in pretty steady and I have been busy, busy.

Yes the rumors are true. Doug & I have moved to Grayland (just south of Westport). I have enjoyed being WKA Secretary and I apologize for any mistakes I made. I would like to thank the following people for all their help during the past six months: Darryl & Kathy Stephison, Margaret Holzbauer, Bob Hanna, Tom Sisson, Kathy Goodwind, Stan Swanson, and David Julian. I know I have missed a couple of names. I wish you all another wonderful year of kite flying in your favorite spots, and I hope to see you out in the flying fields, especially near Westport and Long Beach. Take care and fly safely!

LAST MINUTES

BOARD, March 22

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. at the Pacific Science Center by WKA President Darryl Stephison. Present: Don & Shirley Allen, Kathy & Darryl Stephison, Bob Hanna, Margaret Holzbauer, Stan Swanson, Doug & Jody Hagaman, Lyle Morgan. After committee reports, the following items were discussed: permits for organized flies, WKA sanctioned stunt kite classes, Pacific Science Center support for kite education, press releases. Coming events: Ft.

Worden 1990 planning meeting April 16 at Ken Conrad's house, Pacific Science Center logistics, financial and logistics provisions for the May 21 Mukilteo Fly, reports on Long Beach Festival meetings February 11 and March 18th. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP, April 1

Meeting called to order at the Burger King by WKA President Darryl Stephison. Tom Sisson and Shirley Allen elected to the Board. The following items were discussed: Ft.

Worden finances & policy, kite safety education, Kathy Goodwind's free stunt kite flying school, committee reports. Coming events: Pacific Science Center display, Kids' Day, Children's Orthopedic Hospital display, Oregon meeting for Long Beach festival, Preston Wine Cellars and the Eastern Washington meeting, Mukilteo, Pro Challenge (canceled), Wings over Washington (Warning: kites must be lower than 500'), Centennial event picnic, WSIKF. Meeting adjourned at noon.

BOARD, April 26

Meeting opened at 7:15 by WKA President Darryl Stephison. Present: Gene Smiley, Stan Swanson, David

Julian, Tom Sisson, Kathy Goodwind, Darryl & Kathy Stephison, Doug & Jody Hagaman, Margaret Holzbauer, Llyie Morgan, Diane (?). Discussion on the following topics: Board vacancy because of the passing of Jack Van Gilder, newsletter editorial and advertising policy (newsletter limited to 12 pages unless Board approves), Ft. Worden Conference (motion carried to make it a separate corporate entity), new WKA pins, and patches, Kids' Day success noted, postcard notice to all members for memorial fly for Jack Van Gilder May 7, Gerry Osborne poem. Coming events: Mukilteo, Long Beach, Long Beach Picnic. Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

REGIONAL REPORTS

BEN FRANKLIN KITE SOCIETY

"Wind? What wind?" Marleen asked me on that April 29th morning. The wind always blows in the Tri-Cities (that's what we call our little metropolis of Richland, Kennewick, & Pasco WA). That is what you would expect here in the desert where there are no trees to stop the wind. If a jackrabbit sneezes a half mile away we get out our kites. Well the jackrabbits haven't been sneezing for weeks. The Kiona Winery Annual Barrel Tasting and Kite Fly was a warm, gentle breeze time. Sun tan, fly a few kites, and sip a little wine. Among the notables joining Marleen and I were Sharon & Weil Muxlow from Walla Walla, Greg & Margaret Greger from Richland, John & Linda Zilar from Kennewick, Barb & Cliff Bond, Bob Park, and Rod Yarger from Yakima. We had a fine dinner with Ann & John Williams, owners of the winery, and even tasted their Ice Wine on Saturday night. On Sunday we released a white kite in honor of Jack Van Gilder. When it was cut loose, it sparkled in the distance, flashing its light back to us as a gentle wave of goodbye. It gained tremendous altitude and then — just prior to disappearing — an eagle appeared on the horizon. It was a moving experience to those who watched and understood.

Amid the vineyards in the Columbia Basin lies the Preston Winery. Cathy Preston brought lots of fun activities to their park for the weekend, including model racing cars, model hydroplanes, kite flying, a hot dog stand and some of the finest wines in Washington to taste. 85° temperatures and occasional thermals brought out the plastic kites and kite trains.

Saturday night (May 6) a WKA General Meeting was held at the Zilar home along with a great taco feed (thank you Marleen & Linda Zilar). Sunday's wind was 2 to 4 mph for the Jack Van Gilder Memorial Kite Fly. A white Van Gilder delta signed by all finally broke its fine thread, severing itself from the human powers that might try to control it. Free at last to release its spirit and life and discard the physical back to Earth's elements. Your spirit, Jack, is warm within our hearts. The BFKS wishes to thank the Lesters, Muxdows, Gregers, Sissons, Parks, Chinns, Stephisons, Skiptons, Buttons, Willsons, and Zilars for a great time.

Balloons! Balloons! Balloons! 90 feet tall, thousands of yards of ripstop nylon and color that you wouldn't believe. You think you have an expensive hobby? Well at the 15th Annual Walla Walla Balloon Stampede, on the morning of Saturday May 13, 52 of those bags of hot air ornamented the sky. As Marleen and I looked back after our lift-off there were thousands of people waving and cheering and as each balloon behind us lifted into the air the cheers grew more intense. To describe the flight: the Earth fell away from us

because we had no sensation of rising. The air was clear and we were standing on our own platform, unobstructed by a wind screen. There were balloons above us, below us, in front, behind, beside, everywhere! Marleen and I have crewed balloons for four years and every time we go up with other balloons around us the thrill is always the same. (I might add, you have to crew a lot of times before you can get a ride.) Later that day, the BFKS demonstrated kites in a no-wind condition. We had a wonderful time talking to interested spectators and watching sky divers drop in on us. Every once in a while Bill Lester would fly his kite train (in one direction or the other — isn't thermal activity great?). Try as we did, very few kites would fly. The afternoon balloon flight was canceled. Too windy for balloons, not windy enough for kites! Isn't that something? The night glow was a roaring success. The balloons sat on the ground and lit their burners at the same time to give the illusion of giant Chinese lanterns. Sunday morning's dawn gave forth another balloon-filled sky. What color!

The success of the kiting event could not have been possible without the support of the Lesters and Utleys from Spokane, the Muxdows and Bains from Walla Walla, the Buttons and Allens from Bellingham, Deb Cooley and Ken Tumania from Lincoln City (OR), and the two Zilar families from Kennewick.

Remember "Wings Over Washington" July 29. [See the Kite Calendar — Ed.] Bring a picnic lunch and come celebrate Washington's centennial with a kite! KEEP UP THE SPIRIT!

For additional information about the BFKS contact Larry or Marleen Zilar (509) 586-2664, John or Linda Zilar (509), or Greg or Margaret Greger (509) 943-3951. To get your BFKS Patch (and free BFKA Membership), send a self-addressed stamped envelope and \$3.50 (US\$) to Larry Zilar, BFKS, 1030 W. 14th Ave, Kennewick, WA 99337. [Watch the Kite Calendar for BFKS sponsored events in the Eastern Region — Ed.]

SQUALICUM KITE FLYERS

The Squalicum Kite Flyers had a busy two months. Mike & Ron Button did a demonstration on two different days for the Alderwood School kindergarten class. The SKF core group (the Allens, Allens, Buttons, Buttons, Buttons, Carters, and Kerrs) flew kites and talked about kites, courtesy, and safety for the Whatcom County Cub Scout Kite Derby. Ron & Pat Button did a "no wind" display and talk

for the Harmony School Cub Scout Kite Derby. Don & Shirley Allen and Bill & Marion Carter traveled to Rainier OR to do a demonstration for 300 kids at the school where the Carters' daughter teaches. Don & Shirley went on to the Cannon Beach (OR) fly and joined Pat & Ron Button at the Walla Walla (WA) Balloon Stampede and Kite Fly on May 13. The weekend of May 7, all the Squalicum Kite Flyers flew in memory of Jack Van Gilder. The majority of the group flew at Squalicum Harbor, while Pat & Ron joined Darryl Stephison, the two Zilar families, Sissons, Willsons, Chinns, and Lesters, and others at the Preston Winery for a Saturday

fly and WKA Membership Meeting and Sunday memorial fly for Jack. All of the Squalicum Kite Flyers have been influenced by him, those who knew him personally, and those who knew of him through his writings. However we knew him, we'll all miss him.

For additional information about the SKF contact Don or Shirley Allen, Squalicum Kite Flyers, 505 Bakerview #114, Bellingham, WA 98226 [Watch the Kite Calendar for SKF sponsored events in the Northern Region — Ed.]

WESTPORT WINDRIDERS

The Westport Windriders meet monthly in the VFW Hall in Westport. There is no membership fee, but bring something tasty to the potluck before the meeting. They publish a small but professional-looking newsletter. The current one features articles about the upcoming Westport Kite Festival and Wings Over Washington Fly-in, WW members' participation at the Ft. Worden Conference, past potlucks and meetings, the best recipes from past potlucks, a gossip

column, review of the Revolution I, the nifty knot of the month, and a calendar of events.

For additional information about the WW contact Chuck Reese, Westport Windriders, P.O. Box 233, South Bend, WA 98586, 206/875-6385 (evenings). [Watch the Kite Calendar for WW sponsored events in the Western Region — Ed.]

YAKIMA VALLEY KITEFLYERS

[See the submission by Roy Willson in the tribute article, Memories of Jack Van Gilder, above — Ed.]

For additional information about the YVK contact Rod Yarger, Yakima Valley KiteFlyers, 209 N. 24th Ave., Yakima,

WA 98902, 509/453-4679. [Watch the Kite Calendar for YVK sponsored events in the Eastern Region — Ed.]

CLASSIFIED ADS

OFFICIAL WKA CENTENNIAL PIN — red, white, blue, and gold, \$3.00; **OFFICIAL WKA PATCH** — 3" square, green on gold, \$3.00 **BUILD SEVEN KITES** and teach others how — official WKA Teaching Pack includes plans for 2 sleds, 2 deltas, eddy, cobra, and delta conyne, \$2.00.

CLASSIFIED ADS — any items related to kites or kite flyers only 10¢ per word (\$3 minimum) per issue. David Julian, WKA NEWSLETTER Editor, 10254 NE 21st Place, Bellevue WA 98004. (206)453-8895

KEEP YOUR EARS WARM Headbands made of 100% wool with soft acrylic lining. Choose "GO FLY A KITE", "TAKO KICHI" (Kite Crazy) or "HAGAMAN PARAFOILS" in luscious and bright colors (special order logos also available). Just \$14.95 each. Now available at Gasworks Kite Shop, Kitesport, Long Beach Kites, Pick-A-Patch Kites (Westport) or order direct from Jody Hagaman, 1470 Hwy 105 S., Grayland, WA 98547, 206/267-7928. Wholesale inquiries invited. Watch for new fall items including hats and leg warmers.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My apologies to anyone who might have been insulted or offended by my editorial in the last issue. I didn't really mean to single out one person or one region, I only meant to indicate that I was tired of hearing complaints second hand. If you have a complaint, send me a Letter to the Editor and you'll see it in print. If you have an anonymous comment, just ask me to withhold your name and address.

I also need to apologize to Kite Post's Francis Hall. In my rush to get out the last issue, I

misspelled his name in the headline story every time it was used. At least I was consistent.

WKA Membership Applications are now available. Call me at 206/453-8895 and I'll be happy to send you some. WKA Membership Rosters are also available for the cost of materials and postage. The rosters are for information only and are strictly **not for commercial purposes**. The rosters are available in a variety of formats (print-outs, mailing labels, etc.) *Deadline for the August issue is July 15.*

MORE HOT AIR — OUR READERS TALK BACK

from David & Linda Dunham, Boca Raton FL

Three cheers for Fort Worden '89! The Sixth Annual Kite Makers Conference was a great learning experience. The instructors shared a wealth of valuable information, and demonstrated a quality of workmanship that is inspirational. Thanks to the many "walking encyclopedias" that were generous with their kite secrets. A special thank you to Lyle Morgan for all her help and generosity, in addition to her many responsibilities as event coordinator.

from Lynn Lary, Portland OR

In the past year there have been many changes in the kite community. We have lost two of our most admired members. In reflection, we can wish we could have expressed our feelings of gratitude and our love for both Jack Van Gilder and Dave Checkley more adequately. But that chance is lost forever to us. What we can do is remember these two men. They worked together for the good of this community for many years. They didn't always agree, but they respected the right of the other to differ in his opinion. This is a very important lesson that we can all learn. In this way we can show our respect for these two men and learn that respecting other people can make this community stronger and happier. This is a legacy I'm sure that Jack and Dave would be proud of.

from David Bogie, Kite Group of Boise ID

I recently returned home to the "Land of Minor Winds"

after attending my third Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference. Listen, I had a blast! I enjoyed a completely hassle-free weekend of exciting new kite stuff, fascinating new people, typical weather, outrageous food, and the chance to see friends. It was also my pleasure to teach a photography class with Kite Post, a/k/a Francis Hall. I want to express my appreciation to all the people who took on the chores to make this the biggest conference yet. Thanks.

Each year I've made it to Fort Worden I've heard grumblings about how the conference is run and how many people should be allowed to attend. As a card-carrying WKA member I'd like to say that I believe Fort Worden should be permitted to grow until it stabilizes. Can you imagine a thousand people at the Fort? We could end up being the premiere Spring kiting event ... I hope no attempt is ever made to limit the number of attendees ...

from Sunde Adams and Jo Ann Meyers, American Cancer Society
(Recreation Opportunities for Cancer Kids)

On behalf of all the parents, we want to thank you very much for your booklet *How To Make Kites Out Of Trash Bags*. We received donations of ready-made kite kits for our event, but the children were far more interested in the Trash Bag kites that they could decorate and put together themselves (with a little help from their parents). It made the event, held April 15th, truly successful for both the parents and the children — we can't ask for more than that.

IN THE WIND

4th Annual Westport Kite Festival — June 23-25

by Jody Hagaman

This year's Westport Kite Festival, sponsored by Pick-A-Patch Kites and the Westport Windriders, will include an attempt at a new world's record. Tal Streeter, a sculptor from New York, will be at the festival to fly his 300 sq. ft. Hagaman Parafoil with a tail four miles long. This record was attempted in California in 1986, but failed due to insufficient wind.

Tal Streeter is also known for his book, *The Art of Japanese Kites*, which is still available at book stores and kite stores. He has just returned from an April kite tour of Weifang, China, and will be heading to Korea following the Westport festival. Contact Pick-A-Patch Kites, 206/268-0877 for more information and your advance registration form.

The Flying Red Line

AN ATTEMPT AT A NEW WORLD'S RECORD!

- Launching a four mile long tail from a 300 SQUARE FOOT PARAFOL KITE built by Hagaman Parafoils.
- Owned by sculptor Tal Streeter of New York.
- First seen in May issue of Smithsonian Magazine.
- LAUNCH SITE: Twin Harbors State Park Beach • Westport, Washington
- DATES of LAUNCH: June 23 through 26 at Westport's Annual FESTIVAL of KITES
- SPONSORED by Pick-A-Patch Kite Shop & Windriders Kite Club

INFORMATION Call 268-0877



OREGON STATE STUNT KITE CHAMPIONSHIPS



River "D" Wayside in Lincoln City, Oregon, will be the location of this year's OSSKC July 15-16. \$10 includes fees for all events, rules booklet, and tee-shirt. Registration is limited. Contact Eric or Genny Forsberg, Rt. 2, Box

2nd ANNUAL SEATTLE TIMES KITEFLY

by BARBARA ANNE O'NEILL

Saturday June 10th at Magnuson Park, the Seattle Times is sponsoring another all-day kitefly for its employees and their families. Recreation Director Barbara Anne O'Neill

invites all WKA members to bring a lunch and join in the fly. Help us color the sky with kites. We'll see you there!

PLANNING FOR FORT WORDEN 1990

by DARRYL STEPHISON

On Sunday April 16, a meeting was held at the home of Ken Conrad and Suzanne Sadow to discuss next year's Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. Lyle Morgan gave us a recap of this year's conference and some additional insights to what it takes to prepare for it. Garth Westhoff gave an overview of the Conference financial situation. Total revenue for this year was almost \$10,000. Total expenses were about \$8,000 but a few expenses have yet to be paid. The current account balance is about \$3,000 including the \$1,000 which was put in the account when it was opened.

asked a lawyer to help us with the formation of this organization. The group assembled on this day voted to recommend this action to the WKA board. (It was later approved by the board.)

There was a discussion of what might have happened if the snow storm had happened on the eve of the conference. A proposal was made to form a more independent organization to run the Fort Worden Conference. It is felt that this will protect other WKA assets from liabilities resulting from the conference. Also it is hoped that this will provide a better environment for those outside of WKA who may wish to be involved in the operation of the Conference. Tom Sisson has

People are needed now to make this organization work. For legal reasons, there will have to be officers. These should not be current WKA officers. It should not be necessary to even be a WKA member. If you have an interest in the planning and operation of this Conference, please make your interest known.

Stan Swanson has volunteered to organize the teaching part of the 1990 Conference. He has some interesting new ideas. Several people have been heard to say they would be willing to teach a class. Please send Stan a note if you are willing. If you have any ideas in mind about the type of class, size, duration, etc., please include them. We want to have the classes firmed up by Thanksgiving this year. Help from prospective teachers is needed now.

WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

by DARRYL STEPHISON

On Tuesday May 9, a meeting was held at the Pacific Science Center to discuss the Washington State International Kite Festival in August. A tentative schedule of events was discussed and coordinators were identified for most of the events. Some new and very interesting events have been

suggested which could add a lot of fun and excitement to this very large and popular festival.

Volunteers are still needed. If you are interested, please contact Jean Schwenk or any of the WKA board members.

Kite Humor from Gerry Osborne



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KITE CALENDAR

- June 3 (Sat), **WKA General Membership Meeting**,
Burger King (S. end of Lake Union, Seattle), 10am,
Darryl Stephenson 206/657-7334
- June 4 (Sun) Harrison Hot Springs Kite Festival, Harrison
Hot Springs (BC), Dave Tuttle 604/872-7685

- June 10 (Sat), 2nd Annual Seattle Times Kite Festival,
Magnuson Park (West side of Lake Washington), all
day, Barbara Anne O'Neill 206/878-5772
- June 10-11 (Sat-Sun), Red White & Blue Kite Festival,
Agate Beach Wayside (Agate Beach, OR), Catch the
Wind 800/227-7878

June 11 (Sun), Parksville Kite Festival, Parksville (BC),
Dave Tuttle 604/872-7685
June 18 (Sun) 3rd Annual Courtney Kite Fly, Courtney
(BC), Whales Tale Toys 604/338-1233
June 21 (Wed), **WKA Board Meeting**, Pacific Science
Center, 7pm, Darryl Stephison 206/657-7334
June 23-25 (Fri-Sun), Westport Kite Festival, Twin
Harbors State Park, Pic-A-Patch Kites 206/268-0877
June 24 (Sat), Special Pick-A-Patch Barbecue and
Westport Windriders meeting, Kila-Hana Clubhouse,
6pm, Chuck Reese 206/875-6385, a WW event

July 1 (Sat), **WKA General Membership Meeting**,
Burger King (S. end of Lake Union, Seattle), 10am,
Darryl Stephison 206/657-7334
July 2 (Sun), Stunt Kite School, Magnuson Park, Kathy
Goodwind (Gasworks Kite Shop) 206/632-6151
July 2 (Sun), Fun Fly (Cle Elum Street Fair), Old
Burlington Northern Train Yard (Cle Elum), noon to
5pm, Bruce Coe 509/674-5990
July 2 (Sun) BCKA Monthly Fly-in, Vanier Park
(Vancouver BC), Dave Tuttle 604/872-7685
July 15-16 (Sat-Sun), Oregon State Stunt Kite
Championships, D River Wayside (Lincoln City OR),
Lincoln City Visitor Center 800/452-2151, \$10.00 entry
fee required

July 16 (Sun), Fun Fly, Fort Casey State Park (Whidbey
Island), 11 am, Mike Button 206/733-7380, an SKF
event
July 22 (Sat), Fly the Wild Wind, Stevenson WA,
Stevenson Chamber of Commerce 509/427-8911
July 22-23 (Sat-Sun), Winchester Bay Fleet Days
(Competition on Sat, Fun Fly on Sun), Reedsport OR,
Leonard Hogg (Lower Umpqua Chamber of
Commerce) 503/271-3931
July 26 (Wed), **WKA Board Meeting**, Pacific Science
Center, 7pm, Darryl Stephison 206/657-7334
July 29 (Sat), Wings Over Washington, Magnuson Park
(Barbara O'Neill, 206/878-5772), Ocean Shores
(Ocean Shores Kites, 206/289-4103), Twin Harbors
State Park in Westport (Chuck Reese, 206/725-3615),
Long Beach (Long Beach Kites, 206/642-2202), this is
an official Centennial '89 event [DANGER: Due to the
presence of low-flying aircraft ALL KITES MUST
REMAIN BELOW AN ALTITUDE CEILING OF 600']
July 29 (Sat), Westport Windriders potluck, VFW Hall (211
E. Pacific St), 6pm, Chuck Reese 206/875-6385

August 5 (Sat), **WKA General Membership Meeting**,
Burger King (S. end of Lake Union, Seattle), 10am,
Darryl Stephison 206/657-7334
August 21-27 (Mon-Sun), Washington State International
Kite Festival, Long Beach (WA), Kay Buesing
206/665-5744

Washington Kitefliers Association

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