

# WAKANA

Washington Kitefliers Association

WKA NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 1989

## OLD KITEFLIERS NEVER DIE THEY JUST FLY AWAY

by JULIAN WOLF

The three of us, WKA's oldest, always wanted a picture of ourselves because it is not too often three kite fliers of 80+ years will be seen together in a standing position. This picture was taken with Les Varley's camera. He came down to Seattle from Victoria, B.C. representing the British Columbia Kitefliers Association at the Jack Van Gilder Memorial Kite Fly on May 7.

Les Varley is the dapper-looking youngster (he's only 80) who for years had been winning prizes as the "Oldest Kiteflier" in British Columbia. That racket came to an abrupt halt when Julian Wolf discovered that the Canadians put on some pretty good kite festivals too.

At 81, the oldest is Bob Hanna, who is two months older than Julian (and he looks it). He is trying to stay young by going in for stunt kite flying, and according to WKA Past President Tom Sisson he's getting pretty good at it.

Julian Wolf (also 81) believes in buying rather than making kites. It takes much less time and, besides, he doesn't know how. Actually he did



WKA Old Goats : Les Varley, Bob Hanna, and Julian Wolf - 242 years of kite experience

### IN THIS ISSUE

ADVERTISER SPONSORS	11
CLASSIFIED ADS	8
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	8
KITE CALENDAR	12
MORE HOT AIR (LETTERS)	9
OFFICIAL BUSINESS	
— Officer's Reports	6
— Last Minutes	7
— Regional Reports	7
IN THE WIND	10
KITEFLIER OF THE YEAR	
— Tom Sisson	6

make a little Bill Lee kite seven years ago, but Doug Hagaman flew it into the lake. Doug just doesn't have any patience with anything less than thirty square feet.

Incidentally, the affable kiter walking away from the group on the right is master kitemaker Harold Writer. He preferred being with younger people.

## AKA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

by DARRYL STEPHISON

The Aloha '89 AKA Convention in Honolulu was attended by 28 people from Washington State. For some of us the experience started got off to a rough start. Your president misplaced his tickets and was observed running O. J. Simpson style through the airport. The tickets were recovered and a return was made to the gate. Just in time to hear the announcement that there would be a "slight" delay. We were loaded on to the airplane where we sat. The cargo door would not latch. After several more delays, an airline breakfast, a movie, another airplane, and about two and a half hours, we were on our way. The flight was enjoyable with much visiting between Jean and Tom Sisson, Creda and Al Axton, Susan and Dave Gomberg (AOK president), Cheryl Sweet, Larry Sweet, Jeane and Ray Merry (Flexifoil International), and Joe Vaughan (Grand Master Kites).

We arrived in Honolulu in a thunder storm



Toshio Kubo, Al Axton & Bob Milet with a 40-Triby stack waiting for enough wind

### WKA NEWSLETTER

December 1989

Vol. 1989 No. 6

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

Editor: DAVID JULIAN (206)637-0130

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

President: Darryl Stephison (206)657-5797  
Vice Pres: Stan Swanson (206)782-1472

Treasurer: Kathy Goodwind (206)633-4780  
Secretary: Kelci Williams (206)788-6355



with lightning right off the wing tip (I got out of flight test to get away from that kind of "excitement"). The recent Hawaii drought had ended with a bang and over four inches of rain in one hour. We plowed through water over the hubcaps to get to the convention hotel at which time the rain very hospitably quit (temporarily).

It rained off and on throughout the week and the temperature got to about 85 every day whether it rained or not. We got to know what high humidity is like. The winds were light at best and non-existent much of the time. Dave Gomberg figures that if any place in the world has had a drought with high winds for too long, they should schedule a kite festival and invite him. The weather is sure to change. Would you mind staying down there in Lincoln City for a while, Dave? We need some improvement in Festival reports up here.

The weather caused many changes in the schedule of field events which to the credit of the festival organizers were handled very well. The stunt kite events were even moved to another field ten miles away, forcing many people to make the dreaded decision of stunt kite or single line. In the end, however, all of the competitions were completed. Some of the stunts looked like they were in slow motion and there was a lot of walking backwards on both fields. Winners from our area included Doug Hagaman for best soft kite, of course, with the newest of his parafoils. Stan Swanson won best figure or novelty kite for his giant elephant with the 150 ft. tail. I don't think he even lost any points for losing half the tail in a monkey pod tree. Kathy Goodwind won best flat or bowed kite with her Rokakadoodle. Stan and Doug together won an award for cooperative kite building.

Al Axton had his day finally getting to meet



(Clockwise:)

Dave Gomberg, Skye Morrison, Marleen Zilar, Art Ross, Kyle Metcalf in the Pin Contest; Tom Casselman with his "History of Kiting" rokkaku; a Peter Lynn octopus kite flown by Mark Sommerville; Stan Swanson's giant pink elephant



Bob Mileti (Triby Products). The subject of their conversations seemed to be rather narrow in focus but they both seemed to be enjoying themselves. It's too bad Al never got a chance to fly the stack of 40 Tribys he brought. Larry Sweet also had a stack of 30 which he was prepared to add to Al's if the conditions were good. They were not.

Larry Zilar tried valiantly to get the 130 parafoil and the Betsy Ross flag up for a while. One of the local color characters with flags painted all over his van commented, "I gotta get me one of those." (Doug, did you get his number?). Marleen expressed disappointment that it couldn't be a better show for "Ben Franklin".

I tried to help New Zealander Clyde Cook to extract his large parafoil which was capsized in the center of a monkey pod tree. We rigged a ring suspended from a large delta and tried to lift it out with no success. Finally he gave up and just pulled like a horse (a Clydesdale?). The kite came down accompanied by many leaves and branches and was amazingly unharmed.

The indoor events were quite popular, probably due to the lack of wind. Charlie Sotich's workshop on small kites was particularly good. The evening activities were also popular although surprisingly sober (three dollars for a glass of beer?!). I took my camera to the swim wear contest expecting to see Polynesian girls in the latest fashion. What a letdown. Dave Meder of Auckland, New Zealand won the event with a purple and black delta kite with matching purple and black stretch swim trunks. The later he kept "hidden" under a pair of pink sweat pants but he "mooned" the trunks on call from almost anyone.

Dave Gomberg won the pin contest with a cap burdened with 83 pins. It must be uncomfortable. I've never seen him wear it any other time. Marleen Zilar placed a respectable second with over 40 pins - all "kite related". There was considerable discussion of what that means. What about the Idaho potato which was traded for a "Wings Over Washington" button - is that kite related?

Over \$20,000 was raised for the AKA in the auction which lasted until about 2 am. That convention must have been pretty expensive for some of the attendees. My big purchase was a \$3 pen knife in a package all printed in Japanese, but talk about razor sharp!

The banquet and Polynesian review ("they look like cheerleaders", commented one unimpressed viewer) were followed by an awards ceremony. After the nominations were read for the three nominees (Masaaki Modegi, Charlie Sotich, and Tom Sisson), Tom was awarded the Steve Edeiken Memorial Award for Kiteflyer of the Year. Tom certainly deserves this prestigious award but he deserved it just as much three times before. Persistence pays off, but I am sure that Tom's dedication to kites and kids will not diminish now that he finally has the trophy.

And speaking of trophies, some local trophy really liked the stunt events. The array of trophies on the stage was dazzling. The stained glass bird of paradise awards made by Jane Metcalf for the comprehensive events were very nice but the whole thing seemed a bit too heavily slanted toward stunt kiting. The lopsidedness was accentuated by the fact that so many awards were won by such a small group of stunt kites.

On Sunday we took the Island Tour (a bus ride). At the Pali Lookout (usually one of the windiest places on the Island), there was barely a breeze. At Sandy Beach Park, we stopped for about an hour to observe One Sky One World. The wind was very light but we had fun anyway. The stunt kites were struggling to complete the last of those events. After a few more stops and much entertaining commentary by the bus driver, it was time to pack and rest for the trip home.

After it's all said and done, I am glad I went. I wore myself out and I loved it. I am already looking forward to next year. The next AKA Convention is right in our own back yard at Seaside, Oregon. Our friends in Oregon may try to outdo the Islanders. Let's wish them luck and lend them a hand. Make your plans early to attend.

---

## TOM SISSON WINS STEVE EDEIKEN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR KITEFLYER OF THE YEAR

by DARRYL STEPHISON

At the 1989 AKA Convention in Honolulu, Tom Sisson was awarded the Steve Edeiken

Memorial Award in recognition of his years



of service to the kiteflying community, especially his work in teaching kids to make kites. Other nominees included Charlie Sotich of the Chicagoland Sky Liners and Masaaki Modegi of the Japan Kite Association (the first International nomination). The following is reprinted from information presented to the AKA by the WKA on behalf of Tom:

To learn that Tom Sisson has directly supervised the building of more than a quarter of a million kites for kids over the past fifteen years would come as no surprise to many of his colleagues in the WKA. His tireless dedication to kids and kites is a living inspiration to kites everywhere.

Born in Seattle in 1924, Tom has always made Seattle his home except for an eighteen month temporary residency in Detroit. Formerly in the Merchant Marine, he retired from a position with the City of Seattle, and briefly operated his own contracting business.

Tom, his wife Jean, and his mother-in-law Hazel Young live on S. Chicago Street in Seattle. The Sissons have two adult children, Doug Sisson, who lives on Maui, and Diane Fredrickson, who lives in Maple Valley, and they have two grandchildren, Joe and Brad Fredrickson.

Tom's first interests in kitemaking and kiteflying came from his father, Jack, who regularly made his own large box kites, often as large as 3x3x9 feet. His family are all avid kitefliers, including Hazel who turned 86 this year.

- American Kitefliers Association - Northwest Region Representative 1981 - 1983; Instructor "How to Teach Kids to Make Kites"; AKA Convention, Chicago, 1988.
- Washington Kitefliers Association — President 1978, 1979, 1982, 1988; Executive Board Member since 1978; Administrator of the David Checkley Memorial Childrens Kite Fund, 1988-1989; Chairman for Kite Activities at the Very Special Arts Festival (for disabled and disadvantaged kids), 1988; Kite Show Coordinator, Museum of Flight Kite Exhibition, 1988-1989; Kite Show Coordinator, Pacific Science Center Annual Kite Show, 1974-1989; Board Member, Committee Member, and Active Participant, Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference, Washington State International Kite Festival, Wings Over Washington Centennial Celebration, 1981-1989.

Tom is one of kiting's truly unsung heroes. His reputation, for being dedicated to the craft of kitemaking and to the enjoyment of kiteflying by

hundreds of thousands of kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity, is known throughout the world. Tom is a quiet yet strong leader, not one to toot his own horn. He is a tireless worker, dedicating far more than his fair share of time and energy to the kiting community, and he is often the organizational and motivational force behind major kite shows and events. He never hesitates to step in whenever and wherever a need arises, and he knows how to get things done. Tom is always cheerful, soft-spoken, and down-to-earth and his patience especially with children is extraordinary.

Tom has written several articles for "Kiting", the "WKA Newsletter", the "Tacoma News Tribune", the "South District Journal", and "Signpost" and is often quoted and written about in the news media of the Pacific Northwest.

Along with all the educational activities already mentioned, Tom teaches kite making to church groups, schools, and community centers, including the following:

- Seattle Public Library System - Teaching kite making classes in eight of the system's branch libraries, with emphasis on underprivileged neighborhoods, every year since 1980.
- Pike Place Market Senior Center - Teaching inner-city senior adults how to make and fly kites, every year since 1981.
- Public and Private School Classrooms - Various locations throughout the Puget Sound region, including school districts in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties (he has done every grade school in the Clover Park School District in one year), every year since 1981.
- Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference - Instructor for course "How to Teach Kids to Make Kites", 1988.
- American Kitefliers Association Convention - Instructor for workshop "How to Teach Kids to Make Kites", 1988.
- Northwest Aeronautics Teachers Conference - Instructor for course "Aerodynamic Principles", including construction and detailed explanation of the principles of aerodynamics of four basic kite designs, 1988.

Tom has won many awards for "smallest Kite", "Most Beautiful Kite", and "Most Original Kite" at numerous kite shows, events, and contests. Along with Bob McCort and Carl Brewer, Tom holds the World's Record for Indoor Kite Flying, 39 hours and 57 minutes, set February 8, 1981.

---

## CRANBERRY FESTIVAL KITE FLY

by DARRYL STEPHISON

After a rainy night and a misty morning, the clouds went away rather abruptly with a fairly distinct line between the clouds and the blue. It was like someone had pulled the curtain to start the play. And so we played. There were lots of good friends from Eastern Washington and Oregon including the Stunts-R-Us Team.

The wind was strong although a bit gusty. It began to look like stunt kite heaven. Everyone was hurrying to nail down a spot. I would have been doing the same if it weren't for my car. The transmission which has been acting up finally gave up the ghost. After saying hi to friends, we limped in to Astoria where we left it at a dealer. We got back to the beach in time to do a little flying and some more gabbing with friends. The wind was still quite strong. I put up a Harold Writer box kite. The line broke and the kite floated quite a

way over the dunes before coming to rest in the long grass. No harm done.

Saturday night we all had fun swapping stories, looking at photo albums, and eating soups, salads, pickles, and desserts. We then watched Dave Bogie's WSIKF slide show, which had been recorded on video tape, and slide carousels put together by Sonny Hamner, Marleen Zilar, Creda Axton, and myself. Sunday it rained hard all day long. I don't think anyone flew kites. We visited with Jerry Sinotte and got tips on building deltas. Then we took advantage of Kay and Jim Buesing's hospitality at the kite shop. Although the Cranberry Fly is the last organized fly of the season in Long Beach, kite flying is still good on many days throughout the winter. You ought to try it some time.

---

## OFFICIAL BUSINESS

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

from DARRYL STEPHISON, WKA President

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The AKA Convention in Honolulu was a blast! Talk to anyone who was there and I'm sure you will get a similar response. The highlight of the convention has to be the presentation of the Steve Edeiken Memorial Award for Kiteflyer of the Year to our own Tom Sisson. It is certainly well deserved. An article elsewhere in this newsletter tells about Tom's accomplishments. What I would like to add here is my personal congratulations. I truly can't think of a more deserving man. Tom has helped me in so many ways this year that I feel very fortunate to be associated with him. He is one person I feel I can always count on when I need help.

I want to also thank Margaret Holzbauer who got the ball rolling on Tom's nomination. At the time I was afraid that the AKA would not give the award to someone from the WKA for a third consecutive year. I did not want Tom to lose again (he had been nominated three times before).

Thank goodness she and others did not pay any attention to me.

Special thanks are also in order to David Julian for putting together the information package for Tom's nomination. I am certain that the quality of that package had a great deal to do with Tom's selection. The selection is made before the convention by a committee chaired by the AKA Past President (Cory Jensen). The selection is based on such information packages combined perhaps with the personal knowledge of members of the committee. The package David put together looked very impressive.

We will also miss David's work on the newsletter. For almost two years he has worked to improve the quality of the newsletter. It looks like it will take several people to replace him.

Thanks also to Barbara Anne O'Neill for her efforts in organizing the One Sky One World kite fly at Gasworks Park. She even got a proclamation from the Mayor.

## LAST MINUTES

[Summaries and highlights of the meetings. Full minutes are available from WKA Secretary Kelci Williams.]

### BOARD, September 27

**PRESENT:** Darryl and Kathy Stephinson, Kelci Williams, Tom Sisson, Gene Smiley, Margaret Holzbauer, and Bob Hanna

At 7:15 PM, the meeting was called to order by Darryl Stephinson. A review of the previous meetings was given by Secretary Kelci Williams followed by a Treasurer's report from Bob Hanna. There was then a discussion about the transfer of Treasurer's duties. Tom S. questioned whether we would be participating in the market at the convention (selling WKA pins, patches and kits) and a talk about the current inventory ensued. Since our inventory was so low and we would not be able to pool enough items from personal inventories, it was decided that WKA wouldn't take part in the market. Gene proposed and Kelci seconded a motion that WKA pay for the pins/patches that Darryl distributed to the foreign visitors at Long Beach in August (rather than Darryl having to pay for them personally). The motion was passed unanimously. A revised copy of the Fort Worden Articles of Incorporation was distributed for approval and all were in favor of submitting this amended version to the lawyer for review and finalization.

The WSIKF was discussed and a request for suggestions about how to improve next years festival were again solicited. **ANYONE WITH CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS FOR NEXT YEARS FESTIVAL SHOULD SEND THEM TO DARRYL ASAP.** A nominating committee for next year's WKA Board is being headed by Tom Sisson. Officer nominations will be discussed at the November 4th general meeting to be included in the December newsletter. Both officially and unofficially, the WKA would like to thank Jeannie Schwenk for all of her hard work in organizing the events at the festival - it was greatly appreciated. In addition, we'd like to thank Jean Sisson and her helpers for putting on a fine feast at the WKA picnic. Although it may seem like it at times, your efforts did not go unnoticed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP, October 14

**PRESENT:** Darryl Stephinson, Tom Sisson, Gene Smiley, Larry Chinn and Kelci Williams

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by Darryl and a Secretary's report was given by Kelci. There was a discussion about whether or not Kathy Goodwin would take over

the Treasurer's duties. Tom mentioned that the Ft Worden By-Laws would be given to the lawyer on 10/16. Representing the Education Committee, Tom talked about the progress on the new teacher's packets. David Julian joined the meeting and a conversation about finding an editor to take his place followed. Since he will be out of town a great deal, the editorial duties will have to fall on someone else's shoulders. Darryl has requested that the WKA Board help him judge the pin/patch design contest entries. The duties of the Treasurer and Secretary were discussed for clarification for the Nominating Committee which is comprised of Tom Sisson, Gene Smiley and Suzanne Sadow. Nominations will be presented and taken at the November 4th General Meeting and included in the December newsletter. Some events to be included on the 1990 WKA calendar were talked about and will be discussed further at the October Board meeting. Barbara O'Neill joined the group and recapped the One Sky, One World fly that was held at Gasworks Park. Upcoming activities were then discussed. **EVERYONE GAVE THEIR HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM SISSON WHO WAS NOMINATED "KITE FLYER OF THE YEAR" AT THE AKA CONVENTION! YOU CERTAINLY DESERVE IT!** The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

### BOARD, October 25

**PRESENT:** Darryl and Kathy Stephinson, Tom Sisson, Gene Smiley, Bob Hanna, Margaret Holzbauer, Lyle Morgan and Kelci Williams

Darryl called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and the Secretary's report was given by Kelci. Bob Hanna then gave the Treasurer's report and announced that he would continue to act as the Treasurer until the newly elected 1990 officers were installed. This was approved by the Board. Darryl recapped discussions that he had had with Mike Button and Stan Swanson regarding the progress on the Fort Worden Conference. Information should be distributed soon. Tom Sisson mentioned that he is working on the nominations for the upcoming election. He is also attempting to find a new editor of the newsletter. A new pin design has not been chosen yet - the submissions will be selected at the November Board Meeting. Darryl distributed copies of a proposed calendar of events for next year and the balance of the evening was spent reviewing and making changes to the items listed. This was a very preliminary schedule - subject to change. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### BEN FRANKLIN KITE SOCIETY

[As of press time no information about BFKS activities was submitted — Ed.]

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.]

---

## KITE GROUP BOISE

*[As of press time no information about KGB activities was submitted — Ed.]*

For additional information about the KGB contact David Bogie, Kite Group Boise, 1411 W 25th, Boise, ID 83702 [Watch the Kite Calendar for KGB sponsored events in Idaho — Ed.]

---

## SQUALICUM KITE FLYERS

*[As of press time no information about SKF activities was submitted — Ed.]*

For additional information about the SKF contact Don or Shirley Allen, Squalicum Kite Flyers, 505 Bakerview #114, Bellingham, WA 98226, 206/733-3777 [Watch the Kite Calendar for SKF sponsored events in the Northern Region — Ed.]

---

## YAKIMA VALLEY KITEFLYERS

*[As of press time no information about YVK activities was submitted — 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.]

---

## WESTPORT WINDRIDERS

*[As of press time no information about WW activities was submitted — Ed.]*

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.]

---

## 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. Kelci Williams, WKA Secretary, Pacific Science Center, 200 - 2nd Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109

---

HERE'S A DEAL FOR YOU! World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame Calendars, 1 ea \$8.95, buy 10 @ \$4.00 each, 20 @ \$3.90 each, 30+ @ \$3.80 each. Great Christmas Presents. Order now from World Kite Museum, P.O. Box 964, Long Beach, WA 98631

---

CLASSIFIED ADS — any items related to kites or kite flyers only 10¢ per word (\$3 minimum) per issue. Andris Wollam, WKA NEWSLETTER Editor, 5051 148th Ave NE #J-202, Bellevue WA 98007-3033, (206)869-1387.

---

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

from WKA NEWSLETTER EDITOR DAVID JULIAN

As many of you know, I have been forced by economic circumstances to take on a second job in order to make ends meet. So I am now working five days and four nights a week. It doesn't take an Einstein to figure out that leaves Saturday day, Sunday day and night, and Monday and Tuesday nights for me to do everything else in my life. Unfortunately, recently, both of my jobs have expanded in time and responsibility

requirements, and that has caused me to get spread way too thin. So all phases of my life have begun to suffer. Therefore I am forced to resign my position as Editor of the WKA NEWSLETTER. This is not a decision I make lightly, for there was a special magic that was passed along to me by Jack Van Gilder — a special desire to put out a high-quality communication medium for the members of WKA, to share the

very special feelings of the many WKA members who routinely and freely give of themselves without consideration of their own convenience or self aggrandizement, while at the same time trying to help motivate the many other members into volunteering a little of their own time. My personal goals included trying to keep the newsletter as objective as possible, while trying to show non-kiters that our kite world included more than a bunch of people holding onto the end of kite strings. In the meantime, I also required myself to produce the best quality newsletter I could. I think the many calls and letters of appreciation I have received over the last two years are a testimonial to my accomplishing that goal. One of the saddest parts of my leaving now is that I was never able to see our newsletter in four-color so I could have done justice to some of the wonderful color photos that have been lost to black and white.

I need to thank all of the WKA members who have submitted all the material for the issues.

---

## MORE HOT AIR — OUR READERS TALK BACK

from JEAN SISSON

I don't know if anyone is writing an article about Tom and the Steve Edeiken Award. I am enclosing some pictures which I hope you can use ... I as his better half think the award is justly deserved and it is great that the A.K.A. thought so too! Tom wishes to thank all his friends for their support and friendship and the award will be on display at Suspended Elevations (Gasworks Kite Shop) as soon as it returns from the engravers.

David — the W.K.A. wishes to thank you for all your hard work and effort on our newsletters. We have been judged one of the best in the A.K.A. and we think you deserve all the well-done's we can give! We realize how much time and effort it takes to do a quality newsletter of this kind and hope you will accept our thanks and good luck for the coming year!

I am also enclosing a photo of Art & Inge Ross. Art received an award for his Hawaii Flow Form kite ... He is usually one of the first on the field to put up his kite and the last to take it down. "Hawaii 89" flew over the field, rain or shine.

The photo on the right came from the ABCD Kite Flying Club in Glen Ellen, CA. Unfortunately it came without a letter or caption. We think it was taken at Long Beach, but who knows?

Unlike some clubs, we have never been short of material, and we have never been short of volunteers to get the newsletter out. My special thanks to Darryl Stephison, Margaret Holzbauer, Jody Hagaman, Bob Hanna, Tom Sisson, Barbara Anne O'Neill, Kelci Williams, Gerry Osborne, and especially the late Jack Van Gilder. I could never have done it without you.

The new Editor is Ms. Andris Wollam, another Eastsider. From now on, all questions and communications pertaining to the newsletter should be directed to her at 5051 - 148th Ave NE #J-202, Bellevue, WA 98007-3033, 206/869-1387. Andris is a computer software specialist and has the time, confidence, and the most important qualification: the desire to do it.

Thanks again to all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve in a capacity that I really enjoyed, and for your support and love.



---

## IN THE WIND

---

### WORLD KITE MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

by NEIL SIMMONS

The World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame will be moving into their permanent facility in Long Beach, Washington. It promises to be a great museum. However the facility needs to be redecorated inside and out, and some interior remodeling will most likely be necessary to improve the displays. The Museum is looking for volunteers to help with the redecorating and remodeling projects this winter and spring. If you would like to help by donating your time or materials, please

contact Jim or Kay Buesing in Long Beach 206/665-5744, Rod Yarger in Yakima, Larry or Marleen Zilar in Richland, or me, Neil Simmons, in Portland, OR. The dates have yet to be set, but we will contact you as soon as plans are made.

The museum is also looking for volunteers to help staff the facility while it is open on weekends during the winter months and weekdays during the summer. Remember, the opening will depend on when the redecoration is completed!

---

### KITE POST GALLERY SHOW

by Francis Hall

I am very pleased to announce the release of two new postage stamp issues:

- Issue #10, Color Issue #1, Conyne with 30' tail
- Issue #9, Color Issue #2, Four Deltas

These are made from late photos (shot by yours truly) and duplicated on a color laser copier, and are the first Kite Post stamps to be perforated on a *real* perforator. I was invited by Seattle artist and postage stamp maker C.T. Chew to use his 1859 perforator in his basement. The end result is a really nice bunch of kite images.

All of my kite stamps have been accepted for a gallery showing in December. James Felter, from Vancouver, B.C., is curating the show of Artist's Postage Stamps at the Davidson

Gallery in Pioneer Square (313 Occidental in the brick court). The show runs December 7 through 31. Thursday, December 7, is known as "Gallery Walk Night" because all the galleries in the area stay open from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with wine and such.

In the show I have at least five signed and numbered full sheets of the color stamps of each issue, which will be on sale (and will make perfect Christmas gifts for kite friends). I am really excited to be a part of a show that will travel worldwide after it leaves Seattle.



---

### 1990 FORT WORDEN KITEMAKERS CONFERENCE

This year's retreat, the "University of Kite", is shaping up as the most exciting ever. The schedule is nearing completion, and we have preregistered over 100 attendees. The greatest emphasis this year will be on techniques and information. There will be a number of classes dealing with design and methods for creating your designs. A new feature will be the opportunity to consult one-on-one with the many experts who will be attending.

We are very excited to have Bobby Stanfield as one of our featured kite makers. Bobby is renowned for his use of cellular design, innovative connectors and high-tech materials. His flawless workmanship brought him the People's Choice award at the '89 AKA convention.

Returning for some real fun this year is Lee Toy who will be leading a class on Samurai painting. Lee is also designing the T-shirt for the retreat.

Scott Skinner will be showing quilt techniques, and will conduct a kite workshop to build a square designed just for the retreat. This square will be made into a pin for you collectors.

This year we will feature two of the finest applique artists in kiting, Kathy Goodwind and Deb Cooley. If applique is your interest, be sure to attend both classes, as their techniques are very different.

If you have an idea you just can't seem to get started on, Joel Scholtz's class is what you're looking for. His class will

demonstrate the techniques he uses to design and create his fantastic kites. His workshop will challenge your own creativity as you go through the design process.

Bill Gobel and Margret Greger will combine their extensive talents to take you through the process for sewing a "Gobel box". Decipher the mysteries of Bill's elaborate cellular creations.

In the "something completely different" department, we have some fun stuff lined up. This includes classes on boomerang throwing, and bubble-making. In addition, Sarah Button, age 6, will show us how to paint on T-shirts.

As of this writing, there are two possible attendees who, although unable to confirm yet, should be mentioned. They are Joe Vaughn, fighter kite guru, and Maurizio Angeletti of Contrevento, maker of the reflex and superreflex box. Many of you will remember Maurizio from WSIKF '87.

In addition to the above sampler, there will be numerous offerings by many of the area's top builders. There will surely be something to challenge every kite maker. As always, it is a great opportunity to share and learn from each other. There will also be an auction/raffle, kite exhibit, video and slide shows, hospitality room, lounge parties, fun flies, and business meetings. Materials will be available for sale on site. Be sure to register early, as space will be limited, and we expect to fill up quickly. A full schedule and sign-up for classes will be included with your registration packet. Ferry

schedules, directions and "to bring" lists will be included in your registration packet.

**Accommodations:** The dormitory facilities will be the same as in years past, with singles and a limited number of doubles. Camp site and officers row houses may be available, and can be reserved by calling the park office at

(206)385-4730. You can also contact the Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce, 2437 Sims Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368, about accommodations in town. Enroll early in the University of Kite, space is limited! [See the preregistration form insert — Ed.]

## TEXAS TECH KITE RETREAT — May 25-28, 1990

by BETTY STREET

Workshops and/or presentations will be conducted by Richard Dermer, Doug Hagaman, Bill Lockart, George Peters, Joel Scholz, Scott Skinner, Charlie Sotich, Lee Toy, and Joe Vaughn, and we plan to feature several international kite builders. There will be a flexible and open schedule so there is time to share and visit — and to fly.

The Registration Fee is \$95 before May 1 or \$110 after May 1. The fee includes housing, meals, and workshops with materials being extra. Contact

Betty Street, Box 4720, TTU, Lubbock, TX 79409, 806/742-3825 Days, 806/745-6803 Nights. After May 10 Box 186 TTU Center, Junction, TX 76849, 915/446-2301.


## OUR WKA SPONSORS — TAKE TIME TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

*Cool Rain Kites*  
WIND TOYS, GIFTS AND ACCESSORIES  
MARY MURPHY  
1107-F COLLEGE ST. S.E. • LACEY, WA 98503  
(CORNER OF COLLEGE AND PACIFIC)  
TELEPHONE (206) 459-5800 • EVE. 754-1851  
WE ACCEPT VISA/MC MEMBER WKA

*Great Winds Kite Shop* Est. 1972  
An outstanding collection of kites, kite building supplies, books, accessories, and other flying things . . .  
402 Occidental Ave. S. Seattle, Wa. 98104 624-6886

*City Kites*  
We Ship Anywhere — Phone Orders Accepted  
1501 Western Ave. Space 304 Seattle, WA 98101 (206) 622-5349  
On the Pike Hillclimb — Between the Public Market and the Aquarium

Come visit our new location 34th & Wallingford



GASWORKS KITE SHOPPE  
3333 Wallingford N. Seattle, Washington 633-4780

Fetch the Wind  
Flyer Kite Action Kites  
AERIAL DELIGHTS  
Kites • Windsocks • Toys  
7805 Leary Way N.E. 869-7255  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
Mon-Sat 10am-7pm  
Sun Noon-5pm  
Redmond, WA  
Slymesaur Colors Windsocks

## KITE CALENDAR

December 2 (Sat), WKA General Mambership Meeting, Burger King (South of Lake Union), 10am, Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797

December 9 (Sat), Fun Fly, Redmond (Marymoor Park), Noon, Aerial Delights/Charles Whitaker, 206/869-7255

December 23 (Sat), Fun Fly & Potluck, Westport (Twin Harbors State Park & Kila Hana Clubhouse), All day (Potluck at 7pm), Pic-A-Patch Kites, 206/268-0877, An official WW event

December 27 (Wed), WKA Board Meeting, Pacific Science Center, 7pm, Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797 Open to all WKA Members

January 1 (Mon), 16th Annual "Protest The Bowls" New Year's Day Kitefly, Golden Gardens Park, Noon, Great Winds/Ken Conrad, 206/624-6886. This year's event is dedicated to the memory of David Checkley and Jack Van Gilder.

January 6 (Sat), WKA General Mambership Meeting, Burger King (South of Lake Union), 10am, Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797

January 20-21 (Sat-Sun), Museum Of Flight Kite Fair, Museum Of Flight (Red Barn), Tom Sisson, 206/725-3615

January 24, (Wed), WKA Board Meeting, Pacific Science Center, 7pm, Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797 Open to all WKA Members

### Washington Kitefliers Association

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



**first class**

Morris & Kelci Williams  
18030 NE 155th Pl  
Woodinville, WA 98072

Membership Expires: 12-31-89