

Reflections on Fort Worden 1990

by Kelci Williams

photos by Suzanne Sadow

Morrie, my husband, and I arrived at Fort Worden around midday on Friday with much anticipation about what we would learn, the new people we would meet and the old acquaintances we would renew.

We weren't disappointed. Though things were hectic (and I had a lousy head cold), we came away from the conference with a hand-made delta a-la-Morrie, some interesting insights into kite photography and information about designing kites on a computer, among other things. But, the best part of the weekend was sharing stories and thoughts and ideas with our friends, both old and new.

This was our first Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. Even so, it was obvious how much work, time and effort goes into putting together such a gathering. It wasn't easy, especially considering how little cooperation Mike Button got when he tried to enlist helpers before the conference. Add to that the criticism he and Stan Swanson had to endure about circumstances beyond their control (rooms, food) at Fort Worden. And, it certainly doesn't make for a fun time for the organizers—or their families and friends that got enlisted to pick up the slack.

I think all of us that attended the conference should give a big thanks to Mike Button, Stan Swanson, Fay Richey and Garth Westhoff for taking on this tremendous job and for doing it so well. In addition, we should extend our appreciation to Mike's family, the other volunteers, and to all of the teachers. Too often, we're quick to complain about things we don't like, but we rarely give praise when it's due. Without all of these people, there wouldn't have been a Fort Worden 1990.

Not really wanting to, but because he cared and couldn't let the conference die, Mike Button agreed to take charge and be President next year. Garth Westhoff will be Treasurer again and Ronda Brewer agreed to be Secretary. I volunteered to be Vice President and take on the registration job.

In order to make this a good and meaningful confer-



Scott Skinner on the field at Fort Worden.

ence for everyone, we will need **your** help! There is just too much work for any small group to have to take on. If we can put together a staff of responsible volunteers who are willing to help out for a couple of hours a day at the conference and possibly put in some time prior to the big weekend, it can be an enjoyable experience for all of us.

I'd like to start preparing for the 1991 conference now and would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have about making it the best one ever. Mike and I both have some ideas that we're going to bounce off of each other and I hope to use that input plus what I hear from you to compile a questionnaire that I will put in the next newsletter. Of course, that will only be effective if

In This Issue:

Fort Worden	1-3
Official Business	
Officer's Reports	4-6
Last Minutes	5-6
Letters	7
Classified Ads	8
Regional Reports	8
In the Wind	9
Advertiser Sponsors	10
Kite Calendar	11
Chinese Whistle Kites	10,12



Hardworking Fay Richey at the registration table at Fort Worden—where she was for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. What a great job she did! At right, Dan Kurahashi flies a kite train.

I get some responses. Otherwise, the conference could be fashioned after the desires of a select few, rather than the majority for which it is intended.



PLEASE!!!, let me know your feelings about this year's conference—why you came or why you decided not to come along with some constructive ideas for 1991. I've already gotten my first helper (my husband), but we'll need many more. Back-up your suggestions by volunteering to help put them into action. You can write to me at the WKA address in the newsletter. Thank you.

WKA Newsletter April/May 1990

Vol. 1990 No. 2

The WKA NEWSLETTER is published six times a year (on even numbered months) by the Washington Kitefliers Association, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109. First-class mail subscriptions are free to WKA members. (Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.)

Editor: Andris Wollam (206)869-1387.

The WKA NEWSLETTER welcomes contributions pertaining to kiteflying. Those submissions in keeping with a resurrected mission of this newsletter—helping people know how much it is to fly a kite—will be given priority although any contribution by any WKA member will be considered. Mail typewritten manuscripts and standard black and white or color print photos (include the name, address, and daytime phone number of the source) first class (so they can be forwarded) along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope of sufficient size and postage for return to Andris Wollam, WKA Newsletter Editor, 5051-148th Ave. NE #J202, Bellevue, WA 98007-3033. The deadline for all submission is the 15th of the month prior to issue. (May 15th for the next 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 the 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.

1990 WKA Officers

President: Darryl Stephison (206) 657-5797
V. P: George Van Staveren (206) 282-6854

Treasurer: Kelci Williams (206)788-6355
Membership: Russel Ford (206) 869-1903



Clockwise: Ron Giblan's gumball kite flying on Sunday at Fort Worden. Scott Skinner in his quilt kites class at Fort Worden. Lee Toy shows off a samuri kite and holds a piece of tyvek that participants painted in his workshop. Lee demonstrating painting techniques in his workshop.

Kites Are a Bond

by Valerie Govig

Many people have commented about kites and friendship. (You will find echoes of this theme in this [Winter 1989-90, vol. 7 no. 4 - ed.] issue's articles about China and its kites.)

What is usually said is that kites bring us together. But that truth is so important that I want to say it more emphatically:

KITES ARE A BOND.

It's almost as if kites have some intrinsic power to unite us. From a lonely state one can immediately be joined with others—those others who are flying kites too. And across

different cultures and languages one can feel an embracing bond of mutual appreciation—because of kites.

How this happens may be fodder for scholars to study someday. For now we need only to know it is there. Kites are a force. Or perhaps one should say the *interest* in kites is a force. It makes all sorts of very different people equals. It is that equality, that leveling, that makes it so easy for a kiteflier to shake the hand of anyone else who has held the line of a kite.

We all know that the human race is some kind of totality that has grown over thousands of years on

this tiny planet and is still growing toward some unknowable end. But in our daily lives (repairing our cars, eating our apples, walking our dogs), we forget our insignificance in the cosmos and we become the centers of our own little universes.

Kites pull us out of ourselves. They take us into the sky. And they join us on earth.

May your new year—and all your years—be blessed with kites and friendship.

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Kite Lines is published quarterly. For a one year subscription, send US\$12 to P.O. Box 466, Randallstown, MD 21133-0466.

Official Business

President's Letter

Congratulations are in order to Mike Button, Stan Swanson, Fay Richey, Garth Westhoff, and a whole gang of teachers and volunteers for another successful Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. It takes hundreds of hours of unrewarded hard work by these people to make the conference possible. They deserve the sincerest thanks of everyone who took advantage of their efforts. On Sunday afternoon, we met to critique the conference and plan for the next one. The conference planning has to start a year in advance. Only about fifteen people showed up. They are the same people who do most of the work in this organization. We elected officers for the Fort Worden Conference Association. Mike Button will be President again, Kelci Williams will be Vice President, Ronda Brewer will be Secretary, and Garth Westhoff will be Treasurer again. They will serve until the last day of the next conference.

Now what are you going to do? These four people can't do it alone. They need your help. You will determine what next year's conference is like. The 1991 Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference is not a sure thing. If those officers don't get support, we may shut the door on next year's conference.

Congratulations and thanks are also in order to Andris Wollam for her first WKA newsletter. I thought it was great. Andris sure knows how to make a high quality publication. I am certainly looking forward to more of these fine productions. I would like at the same time to ask those who are submitting articles to be more considerate. The deadline for submittal is the 15th of odd numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, and November). Our goal is to mail out the newsletter by the first of the following month. In future issues, people who come with something around the 25th will be out of luck.

On Friday night at Fort Worden, we had a WKA general membership meeting. I had hoped that having a meeting in conjunction with such a popular event would attract more members to the meeting. The turnout was small but sufficient to conduct business. The main business was the changing of our by-laws (see separate article for a summary of these changes). We also presented a sum-

mary of last year's financial activity and a budget for the coming year (a copy of this data is also included elsewhere). As a result of the bylaws changes, the April 7 meeting will be the last meeting on the first Saturday of an even numbered month. In the future general membership meetings will be on the first Saturday of odd numbered months. Be sure to check the Kite Calendar in the newsletter.

We still do not have a Secretary for the WKA. Kelci is holding down this job in addition to Treasurer of WKA and, as noted above, Vice President of the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference Association. We have trimmed down the Secretary's job to taking minutes at meetings. We have cut the number of meetings in half. We are very informal about minutes. All we want is something that is easy to read put in the newsletter. Isn't there anyone who would be willing to help with this job?

Part of what was previously the Secretary's job is now the responsibility of a new position. Russell Ford is now Membership Chairman for WKA. Russell is another computer knowledgeable person who has taken over the database and will keep it maintained. You can still send renewals and applications to the Pacific Science Center address. By the way, if your membership has expired, your name will be purged from the database before the next newsletter. In other words, you will not get another newsletter.

I am still looking for people who want to stay with the WKA gang at the Huntley Inn at the AKA Convention in Seaside. We have about ten couples so far. We need a few more to get a discount. We will get Winter rates even if we don't get enough to get a group discount. I think we will have a lot of fun in any case. I am looking forward to being together with people I know. Give me a call or drop a card if you want to join us.

One more note that has not been mentioned for a while and some people may not know or have forgotten. The WKA board meetings are open to all members. Anyone present may speak on any issue. Voting may be limited to board members. If you think you might be interested, please feel free to come.

Coming Events

This is the busiest time of the year for WKA. Check the Kite Calendar. There are some particular events that deserve your support. Some of these activities that help us raise money for WKA. Our dues only cover the cost of the newsletter. All other expenses have to be covered by other sources of funds. We do exhibitions and demonstrations in exchange for donations. We rely on volunteers to help do these events.

We've already hung our kites at the Pacific Science Center. They will be on display for the month of April. Admission is the normal Science Center admission of \$4.00. If you have the time, stop by. Take a look at our display and enjoy the rest of the Science Center while you are there.

Tom Sisson will teach kids to make kites at the Museum of Flight (the "Red Barn") on April 2, 4, and 6. There will be two sessions each day at 11:00 and 12:00. Tom will show how to make his famous trash bag delta that always flies - even when there is no wind. There is a limit on attendance for each class so if you are interested, call the Museum of Flight (764-5712) and sign up.

On Kids Day (April 21) there are many activities for kids all over Seattle. As we have for several years, we will hand out free kites at Gasworks Park. Please come and help us show the kids how to fly them or else just fly your own kites and show off. Last year we gave out almost 2500 kites. It's a little too crowded for stunt kites, but if you enjoy seeing kids have fun, you will love this one.

Although our ocean beaches are unsurpassed for kite flying, you might want to try going east for a kite fly. Enjoy the "Art of the State" at the Kiona Winery Barrel Tasting and Kite Fly. We will have our May general membership meeting (a week early) at the home of Larry (Ben Franklin) and Marlene Zilar in Kennewick. Last year's east side affair sticks in my mind as one of my favorite events of the year.

The Fourth Annual Bayside Kite Fly will take place on Mother's Day at the Mukilteo State Park. We will give out kites to the kids and give demonstrations of many types of kites. We will need help putting the kites together and marking off the field as well as showing off in the demonstrations. Bring a picnic lunch (for Heaven's sake

don't make Mom do it) and join us for a fun afternoon.

Kite Day in Bellevue is sponsored by the Bellevue Parks and Recreation Department. It will be held at the Ashwood Center. We will show as many kinds of large and/or unusual kites as the winds will allow. Also we will help kids who want to fly kites in the area.

The Bainbridge Island Kite Fly will be much similar to Bellevue. It is sponsored by the Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation Department. We will show our kites in the air (if the wind cooperates) and help others who bring their kites to the park. If you are sure you can come, contact Richard Pearsall. We may be able to get some ferry passes.

Bylaws Changes

The following is a summary of changes to the WKA bylaws approved at the general membership meeting at Fort Worden. A complete copy of the revised bylaws will be included in a later newsletter.

Article V Membership Meetings

The old wording said, "Regular meetings of the membership shall be held on the first Saturday of all months"... The new wording says, "...on the first Saturday of odd numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, and November)"...

(Please note that board meetings will still be held ten days prior to each general membership meeting.)

Article VII Board of Trustees

Paragraph A

The old wording said, "The Board of Trustees shall consist of thirteen members: the elected officers, the immediate past president, four at-large trustees, and four regional representatives." The new wording says, "...shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president, standing committee chairmen, and representatives of affiliated kite clubs which apply for board representation."

Article VII Board of Trustees

Paragraph D

The old wording said, "At least one board meeting per year shall be held in each of the four regions." This wording has been deleted from the bylaws.

Article VIII Duties of Officers

Paragraph A4

The old wording said, "Secretary, who shall keep minutes of the meetings of Board

of Trustees and of the members and shall keep a register of members' names addresses and telephone numbers. A summary of the meeting activities shall be included in the newsletter. The secretary shall keep a record of any items collected, purchased, or distributed on behalf of the organization, an report on the status of the property at least once per year at the February membership meeting." The new wording says, "Secretary, who shall keep minutes of the meetings of Board of Trustees and of the members. A summary of the meeting activities shall be included in the newsletter."

Article VIII Duties of Officers

Paragraph A5

The old wording said, "Regional representatives shall be elected by the WKA members residing in their regions and shall represent their region's interests to the statewide organization. The geographic boundaries of each region shall be determined by the Board of Trustees." The new wording says, "Kite club representatives shall represent the interests of their respective organizations to the statewide organization."

Article VIII Duties of Officers

Paragraph A6

The old wording said, "At-large Board members shall be responsible for major functions of the organization as determined by the Board such as, but not limited to, events, education, publications, safety, etc. At-large Board members shall be elected by the general membership." The new wording says, "Standing committees shall be responsible for the following major functions and special interest areas:

- Newsletter
- Membership
- Products
- Special Events
- Education
- Safety
- Merchants

Member Notes

Joe Mazzuca of Edmonds, WA and his firearts were featured on the front page of a recent issue of the *Edmonds Enterprise*.

Betty & Miller Makey of Columbus, OH provided kitemaking instruction last fall as part of the Son of Heaven exhibit in their city and they received recognition.

Minutes

[Summaries and highlights of the meetings. Full meetings of these minutes are available upon request.]

General Meeting, January 6, 1990

Officers Present: Darryl Stephison, Tom Sisson, Kelci Williams, Gene Smiley and Bob Hanna.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Darryl Stephison.

Darryl mentioned that the first planning meeting for the Long Beach International Kite Festival would be held on Jan. 1 at either 12n or 1:00pm in Long Beach. Members are encouraged to attend and participate in these meetings.

WSIKF was the topic of discussion at the December Board meeting where a list of requests were drafted to be presented to the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce representatives.

Kelci gave a Secretary's report summing up the last General meeting (which was cancelled due to lack of quorum). Bob Hanna then gave the Treasurer's report. Darryl reported the status of the advance funds collected for Fort Worden.

The results of the election were then read by Darryl. Out of the 25 ballots that were sent in, four were not counted due to improprieties (if counted, they would not have changed the results).

A discussion followed regarding the nominating and voting processes—should nominations be taken by phone or at meetings; should voting be mail or by those members attending the first General meeting of the year. There was a suggestion that a profile of each of the candidates be published in the newsletter. (Note: Out of 475 members as of 12/31/90 only 25 votes were received.)

Kelci suggested that more people help with the newsletter. It's unfair to a new editor to expect her to do everything herself. Articles are needed and folding and stuffing help would be appreciated when the time comes. Tom mentioned that the Museum of Flight asked that we not do our usual display in January, but instead, give a class in kitemaking in April.

Darryl said that the new pin design was at the manufacturers and that he hoped that they would be ready in time for Fort Worden.

Dorthea Checkley announced that she was donating David's collection of Japanese kites along with some books and videos to the World Kite Museum in Long Beach. She is also looking for experts in Japanese and Chinese kites to assess the collection. Dorthea also has some other kites that she may contribute to the WKA's display collection. Thanks to Dorthea for all your generosity.

Darryl then recapped upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Board Meeting, January 24, 1990

Present: Darryl Stephison, Bob Hanna, Margaret Holzbauer, Steve Millspaugh, George Van Stavern, Stan Swanson, Gene Smiley, Kelci and Morrie Williams.

Darryl called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Kelci gave a Secretary's report and Bob gave a Treasurer's report. Darryl mentioned that we should have an annual report and budget by the next Board meeting.

Stan related what was happening with Fort Worden. Pins are ready to order but there will be no T-shirts—there was not enough interest. As of January 24th, there were 155 people registered (out of a possible 175 maximum).

Darryl reviewed the outcome of the elections and asked for comments and suggestions on how to improve the nominating and election processes. Also, what can we do to get more people to take an active participation in the club?

Prizes were sent to Ron Krebs, winner of the pin design contest.

Andris Wollam is working on the first issue (for her) of the Newsletter.

Darryl then reported on the first WSIKF meeting in Long Beach. Everything is pretty much the same as it has been in the past. The next meeting is set for Feb. 10th in Centralia—more details to follow.

The AKA convention was the next topic of discussion. Darryl and Tom Sisson will be conducting the Fly Market—help and suggestions would be appreciated. The convention runs from Oct 10th through the 14th. The main "doings" will take place at the Shilo Inn. Room prices there are quite high. Tom and Darryl found a motel named the Huntley Inn which is fairly new and only three blocks away from the Shilo. They are considering reserving a block of rooms for WKA members and getting a small price break. The rooms would probably be about \$53 or less. Anyone interested should contact Darryl as soon as possible.

There was a discussion about whether the

WKA should reward Mike Button and Stan Swanson for the efforts in putting Fort Worden together. Darryl proposed and Gene seconded the idea of giving them each a Certificate of Appreciation.

It was mentioned that we need to get the kites from Dorthea Checkley that she is donating to the WKA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

General Meeting, February 2, 1990

Submitted by Margie E. Moore

About ten people showed up for the meeting. There was much talk about the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference this year. The club is holding its own monetarily. Accounts were discussed and are in good shape at this time.

We went next to business items. In March there will be a work party in connection with the Permanent Display Collection which will hopefully be used at the Pacific Science Center Kite Exhibition. They will be put up March 30th.

Then we went on to education. Tom Sisson told us some interesting things about the Museum of Flight, the Pacific Science Center and upcoming events, and also all the activities should keep us kite fliers busy this year. We wish to make the General Membership Meetings more interesting so that more of your members will show up. Pins and patches were also talked about.

Then we adjourned.

Board Meeting, February 21, 1990

Present: Darryl and Kathy Stephison, Steve Millspaugh, Russell Ford, George Van Stavern, Tom Sisson, Kelci and Morrie Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Kelci reviewed the minutes of the January Board meeting and Darryl recapped the minutes of the February General meeting.

A report of the current account balances was given by Kelci. Copies of proposed WKA Financial Statements and data regarding the club's financial status for 1989 were distributed by the Treasurer. These reports were reviewed and then Darryl motioned that they be accepted as the WKA Annual Report for 1989. Steve seconded and the reports were accepted by a unanimous vote.

The 1990 budget was then discussed and formulated. A summary of the board approved budget will be published in the April Newsletter.

In regard to product prices, Darryl suggested that we change the price of our new pins to \$5 each or \$3 for a bulk purchase

of 25 or more.

The following changes to the By-Laws were presented by Darryl:

- The frequency of General Membership meetings to be changed from monthly to every other month to be held 10 days prior to the General Membership meetings.

- The frequency of Board meetings to be changed from monthly to every other month to be held on the first Saturday of odd numbered months.

- Give At-Large Board Members specific duties such as: Newsletter, memberships, product sales, Fort Worden, education, safety, trade association representative.

- Change the Regional Board Members to Affiliated Kite Club Members.

Tom proposed and Kelci seconded that these suggestions be presented at the Fort Worden WKA General Meeting.

Darryl requested that Russell Ford be elected as Membership Officer for the WKA and he was voted in unanimously.

There was a discussion about the future of Fort Worden. Should we plan on having the conference next year or suspending it for a year if no one volunteers to run the event?

No news on the new pins and no definite decision about whether to get more or new patches.

There was a discussion about the new Newsletter format and what a good job Andris did on her first issue. A WSIKF update was given by Darryl. And a review of upcoming events was presented.

Tom spoke about Kids Day. The sponsors are trying to find inexpensive kites. Tom also mentioned that the Volunteer Thank-you party put on by the Seattle Parks Department would be catered this year on Sep. 29.

Darryl mentioned that Kite Day in Bellevue would be on May 19th at Ashwood Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.

1989 Financial Summary and 1990 Budget

	1987 Actual	1988 Actual	1989 Budget	1989 Actual	1990 Budget
BEGINNING BALANCE	1476.23	2514.34	4864.55	4864.55	6217.60
INCOME					
Dues	2038.00	2380.75	4000.00	3266.33	3500.00
Products	417.39	794.30	1970.00	1286.00	2000.00
Fort Worden	4974.00	8630.41	7780.00	10449.00	13500.00
Donations/					
Other Events	795.00	250.00	1575.00	1822.00	1600.00
Other Income	871.82	566.34	150.00	609.71	650.00
Total Income	9096.21	12622.00	15475.00	17433.04	21250.00
EXPENSES					
Newsletter	2094.85	2150.03	2100.00	3000.76	3120.00
Products	1047.71	45.00	1300.00	575.00	675.00
Fort Worden	4094.68	7212.30	7100.00	8812.06	11000.00
Other Events	78.90	176.70	1850.00	2155.53	1300.00
Administration	28.12	487.62	3425.00	1329.72	1870.00
Other Misc Expenses	773.84	872.00	200.00	206.22	200.00
Total Expenses	8058.10	10943.00	15275.00	16079.99	18615.00
ENDING BALANCE	2514.34	4864.55	5064.55	6217.60	8852.60

Letters

To: Ft. Worden 1990

From: Mike Button

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who taught a workshop or gave a lecture at the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. Joel Scholz, Leland Toy, Bobby Stanfield, Kathy Goodwind, Deb Cooley, Scott Skinner, Lynn Lary, Don Lary, Bill Gobel, Margaret Greger, Dan Kurahashi, Linda Murosako, Jeanie Erhardt, Larry Zilar, Nigel Spaxman, Joe Richey, David Bogie, Francis Hall, Doug Dufresne, Janine Boire, and Sarah Button.

Although I didn't get a chance to attend many of your classes I heard many good reports from people who did. A big **THANK YOU** to Stan Swanson who put a great deal of time and thought into the organization of the class schedule, the recruiting of teachers, the solicitation of donations for the raffle, and pins, and many little things that helped to bring the Conference off. Thank you to Fay Richey who spent many, many hours since last June organizing and recording all the registration information, and spent all of Friday and part of Saturday sitting at the registration table. If I'm not mistaken this was Fay's third and last year of doing registration,

Thanks to Creda Axton, Pat Button, Mel Hickman, and Garth Westoff who spent hours with Fay at the registration table. To Kelci and Morris Williams who sold raffle tickets the whole weekend. To Mike Carroll and Dave Bogie who helped with the raffle. To Dave Bogie, Francis Hall, and Joe Manfredini who shared their great slides.

Thanks also go out to all who

donated to the raffle: Great Winds Kite Shop, Shanti Kite Spools, American Kite Magazine, Scott Skinner, Lee Toy, Kathy Goodwind, Pick a Patch Kites, Long Beach Kites, Kite Smith, Paint the Sky, Sky Delight Kites, Dorthea Checkley, Kite Post, Catch the Wind, Lynn Lary, Jody Hagaman, The Artery, Anne Rock, Bill Gobel, Dave Gomberg, Skymaster Kites, and last but not least Two Dumb Guys. To Pat Button, Rod Yarger, and Dave Tuttle, and the B.C.K.A. for the Hospitality Room. To everyone who jumped in and did what they saw had to be done. To Suzanne Sadow who helped get all the Out-of-Towners there, back, and some place in between. To Diane Button who stuck by me the whole weekend and did whatever I asked and then lots more.

Thanks so much! Sorry if I forgot some.

To: Betty and Miller Makey
From: Son of Heaven Gala
Columbus, Ohio

"...Everyone who made kites had the biggest smiles on their faces. I've never seen so many grown men waving their paper and string so vigorously behind them and loving every minute of it! Pure delight!..."

To: Newsletter Editors
From: Gerard Scholtes,
Holland Kite Team

For the second time in succession I received an issue of the newsletter of the WKA. The first time there was no name on it so I couldn't thank any person for sending it to me. The last time there was included a letter of the WKA secretary Kelci Williams. That's why I try to write (in my very bad school-English from 40 years ago!) now for thanking. It was amusing and interesting to read

in the newsletter about alot of the people I met in Long Beach! Tom Sisson, the Zilars, (from Ben Franklin Kite Society and others with their marvelous clowns act!!) Doug Hageman (the foil specialist?!) Rod Yarger and the Beusings (Museum Hall of Fame) and many others.

It was a nice recollection on our stay in Long Beach where the hospitality, organization and festival were so good that all the members of our team [will] never forget it!!!

It was a big surprise that I am a member of the WKA now up to 1999!! I feel the obligation to visit you again before it expires Who knows

I wrote to the committee of the festival that the Holland Kite Team has alot of thankful feelings, a lot of recollections of their stay in Long Beach. We still receive letters with included photos and so on, written by Kitefliers we met in your festival (coming from Washington, Texas, California, as well!!) It's a big surprise for us and I should like you to publish our thanks for that in your newsletter. Thanks for the hospitality. Thanks for you enthusiasm. Thanks for the perfect organization of our stay!!

Hope to see you again. I'll try to write—another time—about kiting in Holland, about our "organization" if you like it. Greetings from the whole team but especially from me. Don't forget special greetings to Gene Smiley!!

(Be sure I'll read your newsletter totally every time!!)

A **Letter from the Editor** will appear in the next issue. Thanks to those who sent in material to this issue. **Please submit articles and photographs of your fun!**

Regional Reports

Regional Kite Organizations

Ben Franklin Kite Society

Contacts: Larry or Marlene Zilar (509) 586-2664

Greg or Margaret Greger (509) 943-3951

To get a BFKS Patch (and free BFKS Membership) send \$3.50 (US\$) to Larry Zilar, 1030 W. 14th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99337. Please make checks payable to Larry Zilar.

Pierce County Kitefliers Association

Contact: Chuck Anderson

P.O. Box 98243, Tacoma, WA 98498-0243

Membership, currently free, is open to all kiting enthusiasts. Members will receive the club's *Kite Flites* newsletter.

Squalicum Kite Flyers

Contacts: Don or Shirley Allen (206)733-3777.

505 Bakerview #114, Bellingham, WA.

Yakima Valley Kite Flyers

Contact: Rod Yarger (509) 453-4679

209 N. 24th Ave., Yakima, WA 98902.

Hosting festival June 9-10, 1990, see In The Wind section. Winter 1989 issue of *The Kite Kronicle* features the artwork of Ron Krebs, the WKA pin designer.

Westport Windriders

Contact: Chuck Reese ((206) 875-6385-evenings

P.O. Box 233, South Bend, WA 98586.

Go Trbly crazy with them on April 28th. Kite fly and potluck every fourth Saturday each month at the Lions Hall in the Westport City Park on W. Washington Avenue in Westport. Hosting kite festival June 28-July 1, 1990, see In the Wind section. Their newsletter features articles written by Sheba, a kite-loving dog. Contact Richard for current beach driving information.

Associated Oregon Kitefliers

P.O. Box 25616, Portland, OR 97225.

Hosts of of the American Kitefliers Association (AKA) Convention October 10-14, 1990. Join (US\$7, includes bi-monthly newsletter) if you want to become more involved in this national event in our region.

Classified Ads

NEW WKA PINS! -Available now for US\$5 each!

OFFICIAL WKA TEACHERS PACKETS -

Build seven kites and teach others how. Packet includes plans for an eddy kite, a cobra, a delta conyne, 2 sleds, and 2 deltas - \$2.00.

Order pins or packets from: WKA Secretary, Pacific Science Center, 200-2nd Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109.

CLASSIFIED ADS - any items relating to kites or kitefliers only 10¢ a word (\$3US minimum) per issue. Send to: Andris Wollam, WKA Newsletter Editor, 5051-148th Ave. NE #J202, Bellevue, WA 98007-3033 (206) 869-1387.

MAILING LABELS - WKA Membership mailing labels are available for 2¢ per label or \$10 for the entire membership mailing list on labels. Contact Russel Ford, WKA Membership Secretary, Pacific Science Center, 200-2nd Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109.

GASWORKS PARK KITE SHOP will be offering a workshop on dual-control formation flying during the month of July. The featured guest will be a well-known member of the TOP OF THE LINE TEAM. In order to reserve a space Contact: The GASWORKS PARK KITE SHOP (206) 633-4780.

CALENDAR LISTINGS - Calendar listings in the WKA newsletter of kiting flys, events, and get-togethers are quite a bargain— absolutely FREE. (Due to space considerations, placements cannot be guaranteed.) Get a group together, plan to have some fun, and send pertinent information of your event (before May 15th for inclusion in the next issue) to Darryl Stephison, Pacific Science Center, 200-2nd Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109.

RENEWALS - Renew your WKA membership and don't miss the next informative issue of this newsletter. Check the expiration date on your address label now and if due to renew it's \$10 for US members and US\$12 for others.

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED - Become a famous, published photographer by attending your favorite kiting events, snapping pictures of the people and kites, and sending them into the WKA Newsletter.

In the Wind

Come to the Anacortes Fun Fly!

by Kelci Williams

Sunday, April 22nd is the date,
To fly in Anacortes, it'll be great,
And if your tummy should rumble,
Or let out a small grumble,
A "Taste of Skagit" is there to abate.

Just follow I-5 to Mount Vernon,
On Highway 20 West be a-turnin',
To Anacortes drive your car,
Make a right on Avenue 'R',
And follow the signs to a fun day of flyin'.

Summer Kiting in Westport

by Jeri Soulier

Pic-A-Patch Kite Shop and the Westport Windriders Kite Club want to invite all the exciting kites and spectators who spent three beautiful days with us last June to Join us June 28, 29, 30 and July 1, 1990 for our Fifth Annual Festival.

We've come up with some wonderful new ideas in this year's program. All flyers registering for different events are entitled to be placed in a drawing for a set of Cyborg Stunt Kites (6) for dual line entries or a Hagaman "50" Parafoil for single line entries. Plus there will be trophies, awards, and gift certificates to individual winners each day.

This is a family fun event with no entry fees. A children's program on Saturday features free kites to contestants for decoration and to be flown for prizes during the day. A "Teddy Bear Sky Drop" is planned. Friday's program is for Junior and Adult Stunt Kite Competition and Games. An evening Bon-fire and picnic on the beach is planned. Bring those lighted kites to show.

Complete programs are available now. For information call Jeri at Pic-A-Patch Kites (206)268-0877 or Chuck Reese (206)875-6385 - evenings.

Don't forget our regular Kite Fly and Potluck on the fourth Saturday each month. You'll find a great crowd and good food every time. There's always something exciting happening at the Beach in Westport. Come join us!

Yakima Valley Kite Festival June 9-10

The Yakima Valley Kite Flyers will host their first annual Yakima Valley Kite Festival on June 9 and 10 at the West Valley Community Park in Yakima.

The event features 14 award and prize categories, a rokaku challenge, a 5000 kite give away, and a mass ascension attempt to break the Western Hemisphere record.

Events are scheduled from 10am to 3pm Saturday and 10am to 1pm Sunday, with a night fly on Saturday. Saturday, 10am: Most beautiful, most unique Hand-crafted Kites; 11am: Highest angle and reel out; Junior (under 16) precision; 12n: Demonstrations; 1pm: Novice precision; 2pm: Intermediate precision; 3pm: Open precision. Sunday, 10am: Quad line demonstration; 11am: Individual choreographed; 12n: Ballot of People's Choice Stunt Fliers, and 1pm Team choreographed.

The festival will also feature hot air balloons, arts and crafts, a frisbee competition, live radio broadcast, and concessions.

For more information call (509) 965-3966.

4th Annual N.W. Regional Stunt Kite Championships Update: Boardwalk

by Kathy Goodwind

Long Beach, Washington in anticipation of the NWRSKC, will complete construction of a new boardwalk along the south competition fields. Spectators will be able to view the activities from a new and unique vantage point. Audio portions will also be enhanced by a new P.A. system being installed at intervals along the boardwalk.

Along June 29 through July 1 will be dedicated to the dual line competition event, a large area of the beach will be set aside for any single line kite flyers who wish to come and join us in the festivities.

For further information contact: Kathy Goodwind c/o Gasworks Kite Shop, 3333 Wallingford N., Seattle, WA 98103, (206) 632-6151.

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Kite Symphony on the Chinese Winds

by Ken Conrad

I was sitting on Xi Hanlin's bench, looking at a 10 x 11 foot kite covering most of the facing wall in his living room. He stood smiling by his kite, answering my questions. His wife, sons and grandchildren were gathered all around us. He told me (by way of my interpreter) that this kite carries at least 375 harmonizing whistles, ranging in size from 1/2 inch to 18 inches wide. These whistles are in no way to be mistaken for the (buzzing) hummers frequently seen on other Asian kites. The range of these whistles goes Page 10

from bass to soprano. This giant "orchestra of whistles" makes enough sound to be heard up to three miles downwind.

Early last October I was traveling in China to visit workshop and handicraft businesses making the Chinese hand-painted silk kites. A Chinese friend suggested we visit Nantong, the hometown of the whistling kites. I jumped at the chance and we made the travel arrangements. We traveled overnight by train south from Weifang to Shanghai and then took a five hour ferry up the Yangtze River to Nantong. The

charming city, population 200,000, is surrounded by the Haohe River has many canals, waterways and bridges. Cotton is grown here in this textile center and woven into fabric in nearby mills. Nantong is also known worldwide for its detailed batiked cottons. In Nantong, spring arrives by the end of January and with spring comes strong constant winds of 15mph to 40 mph. Last March their national Kite Tournament and Festival drew 100,000 people to a two day event. This year they planned their first annual (Continued on last page)

Kite Calendar

Please confirm dates with contact people. Event schedules do change and WKA is not always notified.

April

3/31 - 4/29, Pacific Science Center Kite Exhibition, Pacific Science Center, Seattle, please come and help us hang kites on Friday night March 30 from 5 to 9 pm, the kites will be on display during the entire month of April, contact Tom Sisson, 206/725-3615, \$\$.

4/1 (Sun), Ninth Annual Tri-Cities Spring Fly-In, Leslie Groves Park, Richland, 12 noon, awards will be given for the best home made kites, contact Greg Greger, 509/943-3951.

4/2-8 (Mon-Sun), Kite School, Museum of Flight, Seattle, 11am and 12 n, contact Tom Sisson 206/725-3615, \$\$.

4/7 (Sat), WKA General Membership Meeting, South Lake Union Burger King, Seattle, 10 am, contact Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797.

4/7 (Sat), Sixth Annual Boise Kite Festival, Ann Morrison Park, Boise, contact Ginger Jewell, 208/384-4240.

4/13 (Fri) 22nd Annual Great Delaware Kite Festival. Lewes, Delaware at Cape Henlopen State Park 9am on. Contact Lewes Chamber of Commerce (302)645-8073

4/14 (Sat), WSIKF Planning Meeting, City Hall, Long Beach, 1:00 pm, contact Kay Buesing, 206/665-5744.

4/18 (Wed), WKA Board Meeting, Pacific Science Center, Seattle, 7 pm, contact Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797. Please note that this is a week earlier than normal.

4/21 (Sat), Kids Day Kite Fly, Gasworks Park, Seattle, 12 noon, free kites for kids, contact Barbara Anne O'Neill, 206/878-5772, \$\$.

4/21 (Sat), All City Kite Show, Franklin Park, Spokane, contact Bill Lester, 509/327-2829. This is a date correction from a previous calendar.

4/ 22 (Sun), Taste of Skagit Fun Fly, Waverling Spit, Anacortes, 12 noon, part of a three day annual spring festival, come have fun and add some color, contact Kelci Williams, 206/788-6355.

4/25 - 5/9, Japan Kite Festival Tour, contact Dorothea Checkley, 206/284-5350.

4/28 (Sat), Second Annual Westport Trilby Challenge, Twin Harbors State Park, Westport, Pot Luck at 6 pm at Lions Hall, contact Pic-A-Patch Kites, 206/268-0877.

4/28 (Sat), Kite Day, Ashwood Center,

Bellevue, 10 am, come fly kites with the Bellevue Parks & Recreation Dept., contact Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797, \$\$

4/28-29 (Sat-Sun), Puffin Kite Festival, Cannon Beach, contact Greg Keys, 800/547-6100.

4/28-29 (Sat-Sun), Kiona Vineyards Barrel Opening and Kite Fly, Kiona Vineyards, twelve miles west of Richland off Hwy 82, watch for signs, contact Larry Zilar, 509/586-2664.

4/28 (Sat), General Membership Meeting, Zilar residence, Kenewick, immediately following the Kiona Kite Fly, contact Larry Zilar, 509/586-2664, or Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797.

May

5/4-6 (Fri-Sun), Festival of Colors, on the beach, Ocean Shores, contact Ocean Shores Kites, 206/289-4103.

5/5-6 (Sat-Sun), Preston Wine Cellars Kite Festival, about 5 miles north of Pasco on Hwy 395, contact Larry Zilar, 509/586-2664.

5/11-13, (Fri-Sun), Walla Walla Balloon Stampede, WA-HI High School grounds, watch 50 hot air balloons being launched in the morning then launch your kites to fill the sky, also foods, crafts, bands, and more, contact Weil Muxlow, 509/525-2670, or Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce, 509/525-0850.

5/12-13, (Sat-Sun), Spring Kite Festival, D River Wayside, Lincoln City, contact Dave Gomberg (Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce), 800-452-2151.

5/13, (Sun), Bayside Kite Fly, Mukilteo State Park, contact Don Murphy, 206/745-9346, or Shirley Monteith (Bayside Realty), 206/3556-0200, \$\$.

5/15, (Tue), WKA Newsletter Deadline.

5/19 (Sat), Kite Day, Ashwood Center, Bellevue, 10 am, come fly kites with the Bellevue Parks & Recreation Dept., contact Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797, \$\$.

5/20, (Sun), Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference Annual Board Meeting, South Lake Union Burger King, Seattle, 10 am, contact Mike Button, 206/733-7380, or Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797.

5/26, (Sat), Westport Windriders Fun Fly and Pot Luck, fly all day at Twin Harbors State Park, pot luck at 7 pm at Lions Hall, Westport City Park, contact Pic-A-Patch Kites, 206/268-0877.

5/26-27, (Sat-Sun), Memorial Day Kite Fly, Bolstad Street Access, Long Beach,

contact Long Beach Kites, 206/642-2202.

5/27, (Sun), Pacific Rim Kite Festival, Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC, contact Art Ross, 604/321-6409.

5/27, (Sun), Squalicum Picnic, Fort Casey, Whidbey Island, contact Mike Button, 206/733-7380.

June

6/3, (Sun), Stunt Kite School, Magnuson Park, Seattle, contact Gasworks Kite Shoppe, 206/633-4780.

6/9, (Sat), Bainbridge Island Kite Fly, Battle Point Park, contact Richard Pearsall, 206/842-1472. (To get there, take SR 303 2.5 miles from the Winslow ferry dock to Koura Rd. Turn left 1 mile to Miller Rd. Turn left again about 200 yards to Arrow Point Rd. Turn right .5 mile to the park.) \$\$.

6/9-10, (Sat-Sun), Yakima Valley Kite Festival, West Valley Community Park, Yakima, competition and demonstrations, for information call 509/965-3966.

6/9-10, (Sat-Sun), Red, White, and Blue Kite Festival, Agate Beach Wayside, Agate Beach, contact Catch the Wind, 800/227-7878.

6/16-17, (Sat-Sun), School's Out Kite Festival, Cannon Beach, contact Chamber of Commerce, 800/444-6740.

6/16-17 (Sat-Sun) Oregon Stunt Kite Championships. D River Wayside, Lincoln City, Oregon. \$10 registration fee. 800/452-2151

6/20, (Wed), WKA Board Meeting, Pacific Science Center, Seattle, contact Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797.

6/23, (Sat), Seattle Times Kite Festival, Magnuson Park, Seattle, contact Barbara Anne O'Neill, 206/878-5772.

6/28 - 7/1, (Thu-Sun), Westport Kite Festival, Twin Harbors State Park, contact Pic-A-Patch Kites, 206/268-0877.

6/30, (Sat), WKA General Membership Meeting, Lions Hall, Westport City Park, 8 pm, contact Darryl Stephison, 206/657-5797.

6/29 - 7/1, (Fri-Sun), Northwest Regional Stunt Kite Championship, Bolstad Street Access, Long Beach, contact Kathy Goodwind, 206/632-6151.

\$\$ These activities help raise money for the WKA. Please help.

Please send calendar information to Darryl Stephison at the WKA mailing address.



Xi Hanlin of Nantong, China displays a 375 whistle kite, above, and another whistle kite below.

International Festival for March 24-29th.

Few Chinese kites make any sounds as they fly. The Nantong kite is the loud exception. Historians found records dating these kites to the Song Dynasty 1000-1200 AD. Ancient Chinese legends tell of warlords flying "moaning and wailing"

noise-making kites after dark over enemy troops to frighten the soldiers. The craft of building these kites is still limited to the county surrounding Nantong.

Hanlin learned the craft of the whistle kite from his father when he was eight or nine years old and his family has made these kites for many generations. His kite has a bamboo frame that is covered with cotton fabric. The face is decorated with a design which compliments or contrasts the color painted on the front of the whistles. Its many whistles were made from modified gourds and nut shells—modified with slotted bamboo pieces glued to the front of the kite. It takes many hours for him to make the whistles. He can spend up to 75-80% of his kitemaking time just making the whistles. It's bridled with 12 to 15 bridle legs and is flown on 1/4 inch diameter synthetic rope. Its tail is two pieces of 1/2 inch by

130 foot rope. It requires at least 30-35 mph winds to fly. Nantong has winds this strong on the springtime. To fly his large kite, friends and family join in to help launch and tether the kite. At their kite festival, teams compete based on how melodious their kite is, how far their kite will project its sounds, and by demonstrating their kite handling abilities.

After seeing and talking about these unusual kites I was quite eager to fly several. On the day I was visiting Nantong, the wind seemed brisk, by Seattle standards, around 15 mph. The locals told me this was just a breeze and not enough wind for their kites! "Not enough wind," or as the Chinese say, "Meiyou feng," that plight of kite fliers everywhere. So then I knew that someday I would return to Nantong in the springtime to witness the flight of these most unusual kites.

For further information about the Nantong whistles and Chinese kites, please contact Ken at Great Winds Kite Shop in Seattle.

Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association
Pacific Science Center
200 Second Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

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