

WAKAWAKA

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6 • FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1991

Our friends to the south did an outstanding job to make the

Oregon 90 AKA Convention a BIG success. About 430 attendees were listed in the official directory making it the best attended convention in AKA history. Many more part time attendees were not listed. Included among the registered attendees were at least 65 WKA members.

AKA Convention Highlights

BY DARRYL STEPHISON

It is amazing how many people will spend money to be part of a kite festival. Considering the registration, lodging, and a pile of cash that the attendees got rid of at the auction, I'd say kiting is much more well liked than I had realized. I am sure all who attended Oregon 90 thought it was well worth it.

I arrived on Tuesday afternoon. The weather had been great all the way down. Not long after I got there, it turned to the more familiar misty rain. The spirits of the Northwest must have wanted to show the visitors what they had expected. That way not too many of them will want to

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It was for more than a few good reasons that Leland Toy

was presented the Steve Edeiken Memorial Award at the 1990 American Kitefliers Association convention in Seaside, Oregon.

Leland is a consummate kiter: he enjoys, absorbs, pioneers, masters or researches one after another aspect of kiting. Lee designs and manufactures custom-made kites in an eclectic range of configurations. A number of these have been exhibited in museum, gallery, and public displays.

Leland Toy is Kiteflier of the Year

BY SUZANNE SADOW

He has published a colorful newsletter, *Kiteflyer*, written a basic kite-making book, *Flight Patterns*, did a T.V. series in Virginia, and regularly contributes a kitemaking column to "American Kite Magazine". He lectures and teaches kitemaking and design on all levels, in settings that range from shopping mall to college campus. Lee just returned from Guam early this winter, where he taught kites to over 1,000 kids! He regularly gets commissioned to design kite displays — mainly in public interior spaces. He is often called upon or commissioned to organize, judge, officiate, "manage the field", and/or fly his own creations at kiting events nationwide.

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Leland Toy with friend.

LELAND TOY

continued

Recently, during the Washington State International Kite Festival at Long Beach, Lee directed the flight of the "shadow" kite, his large, Tyvek Edo kite, which flies at the hands of twenty-one people at once, each separately holding a spool attached to one of the kite's twenty-one bridle lines.

Lee has been exchanging ideas, designing, flying, corresponding with and visiting kiting friends (the list is ever-growing) all over the country, at least since the late seventies. In particular, he ends up in the Pacific Northwest about once a year to catch up with WKA friends all over the region.

It's little wonder that Lee has received this award and recognition — it's truly well-deserved. Congratulations to Leland Toy from the W.K.A.! *



Leland Toy, winner of the Steve Edelken Memorial Award as "Kiteflier of the Year", shown here with new WKA President Steve Millsbaugh at Long Beach last year.

The weather was more cooperative than we expected it to

be, which was a big help. Winds were usually low to slow in the mornings, but then picked up in the afternoons, just in time for the competitions. First impressions — well organized, different, fun, frantic, friendly, and thought provoking. This was our (Morrie and my) first AKA National Convention and we had a great time.

AKA Oregon 1990 - The Big One

BY KELCI WILLIAMS

The workshops were informative. We especially enjoyed Rick Kinnaird's class on the finer points of Rokkaku Team Kite Fighting. Unfortunately we didn't get enough practice in before entering the big ring. What the heck, it was fun anyway.

Kudos go to Genny Forsberg for all of her efforts, but in particular her handling of the field events. They were well coordinated and efficiently run and the results were easily accessible.

Darryl and Tom did a good job on the Fly Mart, even when it seemed like things were getting a little crazy and the crowd was overflowing.

The banquet, auction, receptions and food all exceeded our expectations. We were pleasantly surprised to say the least and that's coming from a very picky eater.

The flying was more than impressive, it was awesome. It was great to see the "best there are" out there displaying their stuff. Even more fun was being able to talk to the experts and pick their brains. We found them all very friendly, helpful and informative.

Kathy Goodwind did a nice job on the single line competition, however, it seemed like a lot of it was overshadowed by the stunt kite goings on. That is where I would like to make one suggestion for the next year.

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WKA Newsletter Volume 6

February-March 1991

The WKA Newsletter is published six times a year by the Washington Kitefliers Association. The WKA is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people discover all the joys of kiteflying. 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 (US) for additional postage) to Washington Kitefliers Association, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109. Membership will include an official WKA membership card entitling the bearer to discounts at certain kite shops and a one year subscription to the WKA Newsletter. Annual subscriptions are free with WKA membership (please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date).

Acting Editors: Steve and Judy Millsbaugh (206-885-0203).

Desktop Publishing by Bill Bohnenberger of I/O Concepts, Inc.

The WKA Newsletter welcomes contributions pertaining to kiteflying. Submissions that help people know how much fun it is to fly a kite will be given priority for publication. Mail submissions and glossy black and white or color print photographs (include the name, address and telephone number of the source) along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope of sufficient size and postage for return to T. J. Murphy, 11826 S.E. 165th, Renton, Washington 98058. The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to issue - March 15th for the next issue. All submissions will be considered for publication.

1991 WKA Officers

President: Steve Millsbaugh (206) 885-0203 (evenings)

Vice President: Morrie Williams (206) 788-6455 (evenings)

Secretary: Bob Alford (206) 888-2812 (evenings)

Treasurer: Kelci Williams (206) 788-6455 (days and evenings)

Membership: Jon Nilan (206) 789-6338 (days)

AKA OREGON

continued

I think it would be beneficial if the convention was extended to a full week rather than five days, and if there were two full days devoted to single line competition. By extending the time and separating it into two parts, people interested in both aspects would not have to divide their time or sacrifice one area for another. Also, those people who are only interested in one aspect or the other could come and enjoy just that portion if they wished. Food for thought.

The main difference that we noticed (between the Long Beach Festival, for example, and AKA) was the lack of a lot of single line kites and non-experienced multi-line fliers. With so much to watch and do, there was just no time to fly.

When all was said and done, we had a great time and would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all of the organizers, coordinators and volunteers who helped make it a memorable event. Everyone did a fantastic job, and without you there wouldn't have been a festival. THANKS AGAIN! *

Many of us probably wondered, days before, if we'd even be able to drive to Golden Gardens over all the snow and

ice. But the snow melted and the sun came out just in time. Lots of people came out to fly kites, mingle,

and enjoy the setting — mountains, water, the freight trains passing by — despite the fact that the U.W. Huskies were playing in the Rose Bowl!

Here's what a handful of W.K.A.ers recalled when recently asked what they remembered most about New Year's

17th Annual Protest the Bowls Seattle, 1991

BY SUZANNE SADOW

Day, 1991 (in addition to unanimous acknowledgment of puny winds):
Dave Weigand, "Seeing friends that I haven't seen in a while"... "Jean's spaghetti."

Lyle Morgan, "I think I talked with about six people who are now on the verge of becoming TAKO KICHI (kite crazy)!" "... well attended by all but the wind!"

(Gene) Smiley, "...Ken's long train...Up...and down." "...I got my little Lee Toy delta out about a mile and a half!"

Jim and L.B. Day, "We didn't have to watch football." "...It was just a perfect day."

Steve and Judy Millspaugh, "We had a great time even though we didn't fly!"

Ken Conrad, "The snow melted!"... "Flying kites is my favorite way to start the new year."

Nina Conrad, "The time I was going to see Papa flying his train kite and Lightening (Jon Nilan's dog) was with me."

Suzanne Sadow, "On just such a brilliant New Year's Day, about 10 years ago, my friend Arlene from college was visiting and flew kites with us. Coincidentally, she was here this year, too (from the other Washington)"..."I finally got to fly the kite I started at Fort Worden in 1990."

Harold Writer, "I tried a kite I had never flown before. It flew. I rolled it up and went home! ...There's nothing like flying a kite for the first time."

Jean Sisson, "The muddy field!"... "Lots of people — lots of new people — we were encouraged by such a big turnout."..."Cookies from Suzanne's bakery were a big hit."

Fort Worden Auction

BY JOHN ZILAR

The recent notification of the Fort Worden Conference stated that notable speakers and demonstrators such as Charlie Sotich, with his miniature kites, and George Peters, are some of the conference highlights. The presence of these personalities is made possible through your support of the conference auction.

We are again asking you to contribute your support by donating some of your private treasures...yes, we will consider kites, kiting materials patches, pins, or any other treasure! For those of you who wish to donate to the auction, drop me a line or call me. This will give me a head-up on expectations...I would love to hear from you.

Let's make the 1991 conference auction the biggest and best. Thanks in advance for your participation!

John Zilar

6727 West Ninth Place

Kennewick, Washington 99336

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Tom Sisson, "Once my no-wind kite got up high, there was too much wind for it!"..."I saw a guy at the other end of the field, flying a stunter most of the day."

Duane Davis, "Pretty nice day."..."I was surprised to see two fellows taking pictures and notes for the P.I. (newspaper)."..."Later, some of my family saw me on T.V."

Kathy Goodwind, "Jim Day and I went down to the beach with Jim's fighters, and two grown men passed up our offer to fly these active kites...until they saw a seven-year-old girl come up, ask for a try, and fly the kite like an expert...One of the guys ended up flying for about an hour and a half! It was a great way to see the year begin."

Well, for such a light-wind day, there were quite a few kites in the sky. If you were there, tell us what you most remember. If you missed it, be sure to welcome the new year with the W.K.A. in 1992, same time — same place. *

Reflections

BY DARRYL STEPHISON

A little more than two years ago, I decided that I needed to do a little more for the WKA. I was having a lot of fun as a result of other peoples' work and I felt that I should put a little back in. The club was going through the normal year end exercise of looking for new officers. All I had to do was open my mouth. The next thing I knew, I was nominated for President. I wasn't sure if I knew what that entailed, but Tom Sisson assured me that it was no big deal.

I soon learned what kind of a deal it really was. The WKA was growing at a rate it had never seen before. I found two major areas of the WKA I hoped I could improve. First, because much of the growth was from outside of the Seattle area, I wanted to make the WKA more sensitive to the special interests of local and regional groups. I am pleased with the progress in this aspect, although it was not all my doing. Second, because of the growth in membership and revenue generating activities, I wanted to assure the members that all of that money was being handled responsibly. Here again, I am mostly pleased. My only reservation is that perhaps we have been too conservative in spending and that more could be done to benefit the general members. It is a difficult balancing act.

In retrospect, I feel good about my last two years in the WKA. Perhaps I could have done better in some areas, but I have no regrets. What makes me feel the best is when I think about all the people I have worked with and played with. Kiteflying is infinitely more satisfying when you are among people you know and like. Even the work is less than half as hard when a friend lends a hand. At this time I feel like I have more friends than I have ever had in my life. Thank you all for being there.

I wish Steve Millsbaugh and the rest of the new board the best of luck in the coming year. If you need a hand, I hope I can help. *

President's Letter

BY STEVE MILLSBAUGH

For some of you, I may need to introduce myself. Although my wife, Judy, and I have been flying for a few years now, and WKA members for three, it took us a while to "loosen up" and get involved in the organization. Once we started to get to know the people in the WKA we found them to be an extremely friendly and sharing group. Those of you whom I haven't met yet, I hope that serving as President will enable me to change that. I can't think of anybody that I have met through kiting that I have not liked, and there are not many aspects of life that you can say something like that about.

I would like to encourage all of you to please introduce yourselves to me and let me know any thoughts you may have concerning the WKA, our club activities, the newsletter, whatever.

If there is one point that I would hope to emphasize in the coming year, it is that kiting is a FUN activity, and that by getting together to share in the FUN, we can have even more FUN. The process of organizing and putting on events does involve lots of work, and the WKA has a base group of dedicated, hardworking volunteers who have been doing this for years. Please, let's all join in this year and spread the work around so that we can all continue to have lots of FUN.

Due to a personal injury and an increased workload on her job, Andris Wollam has resigned as newsletter editor. Having been involved in the production of this issue, I have learned that this job is a massive undertaking for an individual. I intend to submit a plan to the Board at our next meeting to divide the work up among a group of people. I would like to thank Andris both personally and on behalf of the Association for

Stunters!!

BY JUDY MILLSBAUGH

At the general meeting in January, Jean Sisson pointed out that she has talked to a few people who are interested in getting together to learn stunt kite flying techniques and share experiences and ideas concerning stunt and team flying. It has also been noted that the WKA does not have a "Stunt Team". These are both areas that we (Steve and I) would be interested in pursuing. We are by no means experienced stunt fliers, and our few attempts at team flying have been exciting, if not successful.

If you are interested in helping organize, teach or participate in any way, please call Steve or me at (206) 885-0203 (evenings).

her efforts over the last year. Please note that in the future, newsletter submissions should be sent to T.J. Murphy, 11826 S.E. 165th, Renton, Washington 98058.

I hope to see many of you at Ft. Worden this year. Judy and I have been trying to attend for the last two years, one year she had to work that weekend, and one year I had to. This year we *will* be there. Many WKA members have been working for an entire year to make this event happen, and I look forward to finally being part of it. I also hope to be able to help with future kite-maker conferences, as I can see that it entails an incredible amount of work.

I wish to thank Darryl Stephison and Tom Sisson who have been very supportive and helpful to me as I assume the role of President of the WKA. I feel that we owe a special thanks to Darryl for his efforts as President these last couple of years.

To close out my first letter as President, let me once again ask all of you to please make your thoughts concerning the club and our activities known to me, and please join in and offer to help with the work so that we can spread it around and enable everyone to concentrate on having FUN this year. *

Many of the top name flyers in the stunt kite circuit have

acquired a god-like status among their fans. Most of these flyers really prefer to be part of the regular crowd and would like to share what they know on a down-to-earth basis. Such was the atmosphere at the Ron Reich Seminar sponsored by the Gasworks Park Kite Shop in Seattle.

Thirty two people attended the classroom session held in the old building that was once home to the Miss Budweiser hydro-sweets welcomed the attendees as they filed into the meeting room. Five sleepy-eyed Oregon flyers were in dire need of some pick-me-up doses. Ron, being the regular guy that he is, pitched in and helped set up the sound system. Most people didn't even realize that it was him until Kathy's introduction. A hush then fell over the room as instant admiration and recognition kicked in.

The lecture started with a short introduction of how Ron became interested in Stunt kite flying. Ron lives in San Diego, California and is employed as an engineer. While on a walk with his wife in 1985 he saw Don Tabor, owner of Top Of The Line Kites team flying and decided it was something he just had to try. He spent weeks trying to locate Don. Once he found him, Ron ordered a custom Team kite and had Don teach him how to fly. Don had a hard time believing that Ron had never flown kites before.

Ron began competing that year and even flew in the Grand Nationals in October. He has been selected as the best dual line kiteflyer in the United States for the last four years. He is responsible for generating many innovative ideas such as flying two or more kites on separate controls at once. Ron does all the choreography for himself and for Top Of The Line, relying on an extensive background in music and in doing skating routines for one of his daughters.

This article was submitted by Kathy in September. Unfortunately, we were not able to get it into the October Newsletter. The same article has since appeared in Stunt Kite Quarterly.



Ron Reich, Kathy Goodwind and seminar participants gather for a group photo.



Steve Millsbaugh receives some pointers from Ron Reich after presenting Ron with a 1990 WKA pin to commemorate his visit to Seattle. Although wind conditions on Magnuson Park's "Kite Hill" were variable throughout the day, Ron impressed the attendees with his award winning routines. His generosity in allowing us to fly (and crash) his dual kite rig was also a special treat.

At the seminar, Ron covered a wide variety of topics including selection of the right music for competition, types of moves to perform to the music, team flying and innovative flying. He played many of the pieces that have been part of his winning performances and showed how he choreographed maneuvers with his hands before he actually flew the routines on the field. Ron played a video of the team's performance at last year's Grand Nationals in Hawaii. The whole day was filled with information about techniques Ron has used to achieve winning performances. All the attendees marveled at how many tips they were able to learn from Ron.

To everyone's surprise, the audience was made up of a high percentage of ladies. Ron singled them out for special attention in a very gentlemanly fashion in order to make them feel more comfortable in a male dominated sport.

Top Of The Line donated 19 kite skins which included the whole line of sizes and patterns. Nineteen names were drawn out of a TOL hat and 19 lucky winners walked away with a special memento of the occasion. Every winner rushed to have Ron autograph their prize.

Magnuson Park, one of our favorite flying areas, was reserved for the second day of the seminar. With

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high powered sound equipment available, Ron was able to perform to the music he had played the day before. The small intimate group was able to get front row seats to view a rerun of Ron's winning performances.

The wind cooperated most of the day but when it dropped off to less than 1 mph, Ron pulled out his secret wind weapon. It was an ultra-light kite with 1/2 oz nylon and spars that are still under research. At \$40 a piece, these rods have been developed to withstand extremely adverse wind conditions. Ron's spe-

cial kite weighed in at 6-8 oz.

Ron then invited the group to participate. What a kick to see Ron's rig! Just an ordinary belt with lines set up to control the kite with hips and hands. What a shock to see how much pressure two kites could put on one's body. Ron then encouraged everyone to try flying doubles. The participant held one control while Ron held the other one. He patiently instructed each one on what to expect and just how to handle it. One of the bystanders wanted to try flying even though she had never held a dual control

kite before. With a little coaxing and reassurance she timidly walked up and asked to be next. She returned thrilled with the experience of it all. Little did she know she had just had a lesson from the world's best.

This seminar was a first in a series of classes taught by top name flyers that Kathy Goodwind hopes to offer. Learning from the experienced competitor enables other hopefuls to expand their horizons and allay any fears of competition. Give Kathy a call at (206) 632-6151 if you would be interested in attending these seminars. *

1991 Pin Contest WINNERS

The contest for this year's WKA pin design illustrated the many and diverse creative talents of members throughout the region. The entries were well done, colorful and very difficult to narrow down to only one choice. In fact, we finally had to declare a "tie" for first place.

The pin chosen to be used as this year's "first" pin was designed by Kelci Williams, a very active member of the WKA. It is a rainbow of colors with a conyne delta in the center. We're eager to see the design transposed onto a pin — it should be a very pretty pin. The process of producing the pin will, unfortunately, take longer than usual. This type of pin is manufactured out of the US, and international mail is extremely slow now because of the war in the Gulf. If all goes well, we hope to have a pin available for sale by the end of May.

The "second" pin design was so well liked that we decided to keep it and try to use it later in the year for some other purpose. This pin was designed by Wilda Boyd of Seattle, and was presented camera-ready with two different sized copies in color. The design is very unique, and we are looking for another event or reason to issue a second pin this year. Your ideas would be welcome.

Both winners will receive a one year free membership in the WKA, a free pin (one of each design, when available), and unused copies of out of print kite books.

We want to thank everyone who submitted entries to this year's contest, and encourage them and others to continue to respond with your creativeness to future WKA events. *

Turkey Fly

BY DARRYL STEPHISON

This year's Turkey Fly was a warm-up (or chill-down) in preparation for New Years Day. The really good flyers practice a lot, you see. For those who wanted to be ready for a really cold day in the park, this was good practice. The ideal practice conditions were only slightly degraded by the generous supply of hot cider, doughnuts, cookies, and other goodies.

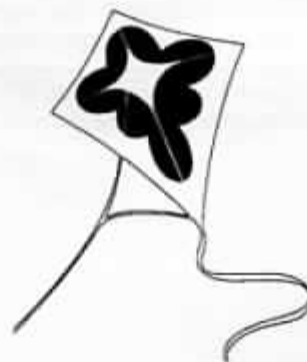
There was almost no wind. Tom Sisson didn't seem to mind. His "No Wind Kite" (a large plastic delta) stayed up some of the time, although it seemed to prefer the trees on the other side of the parking lot.

I tried to fly my big delta but when I was almost to the water, I quit running. That was the end of the flight.

We spent most of the time socializing. We reviewed material for the

Speedy Recovery

Longtime WKA member and volunteer Sari Moore was seriously injured recently when struck by a car. We would like to express our most sincere wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. Although Sari is still in Harborview Medical Center as this is being written, we hope that she will be home recuperating by the time this newsletter gets printed and mailed. Cards and letters may be sent to Sari Moore at 6820 - 31st Place South, #190, Seattle, Washington 98108.



newsletter and talked about the Fort Worden Conference. Everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie but I suspect that most were like me in being glad to get into the car and turn the heater on high.

Now that the New Year is started, you will probably have to put up with warmer weather for nearly another year - sorry about that! *

When I heard that Art and Inga Ross would be in Hawaii

at the same time as Kathy and I, I suggested that we get together in Kapiolani Park on New Years Day to have a Protest the Bowls Kitefly of our own. Kyle Metcalf must have put out the word because a good number of the Hawaii Kitefliers Association showed up to help us enjoy the day. The offshore breeze was a little erratic but strong enough for most kites. The sun was shining of course. Art flew his yellow Hawaii '89 flowform. Robert Loera had a large centipede windsock built by Peter Lynn that they attached to the line on Art's kite. With the help of the

Protest the Bowls, Hawaiian Style

by Darryl Stephison

variable wind and the large sky garbage, the flowform did a lot of wandering but that motion seemed to make the centipede come alive. Romeo Collado came with a new kite train made with a dozen genko kites similar to those made by Adrian Conn. Each sail had a random patchwork pattern made from scraps of material. The wind must not have been right because he could not get it to fly right even with help from nearly everyone on the field. I suspect that he will make a few changes and be back. He didn't seem ready to give up. Donald Collado and his girl friend flew colorful Rokkaku kites they had made. It was not supposed to be a Rokkaku battle, but they were flying too close together for the wind conditions. Their lines got tangled and both kites came down. Her kite suffered a broken spar. Edie Sabo brought a Hashimoto bee kite that we all envied as well as several Lee Toy flying fish which were a real hit. If you haven't tried this kite, go back and reopen the November issue of the AKA Kiting newsletter. It flies well in light wind and with a little creative Crayola work they are very festive. Roy Morisada flew a stack of twenty Hyper kites which performed very well. I tried a stack of six Rainbows with much less success. It's a new stack and I don't think I have the bridles just right yet. Kyle said I looked like Charlie Brown. I guess I don't know when to give up. Kathy's neon raspberry and orange Hagaman parafoil flew steadily over all of this

craziness for most of the day. Scott Aughenbach flew a stack of six Revolutions with impressive skill. At the end of the day as we were leaving, he was maneuvering one of the Revolutions slowly up and down amongst the palm trees. Many thanks to the HKA members who made us feel so good even though we missed seeing the Huskies demolish Iowa. *

General Membership Meeting Notes

There was a very good turnout at the meeting held at the Lake Union Burger King on January 5, 1991. No secretary was present at the General Membership Meeting, so we just have informal notes to present.

Darryl started the meeting, and asked Kelci to give the Treasurer's report. Kelci summarized the events statement, the advertising statement, the Fort Worden budget balances, and the general budget year-end balances. Financial details will be published in the next newsletter.

Darryl reported that he polled the board members by phone regarding a request for a donation for "Kites for the Troops". He received approval for a \$100 donation.

Steve Millspaugh reported that he is investigating a bulk mailing permit for the newsletter so we can reduce our postage expense.

Russell Ford reported that our current membership is 470 to 480, and that there is about a four to six month lag in renewals. He is sending out reminders. We are averaging about twelve new members a month.

Darryl announced that the pin contest deadline has passed, and that the judging will take place at the January 23rd board meeting. He estimates that it will take from eight to twelve weeks to have pins produced.

Darryl reported on plans for the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, scheduled for March 1-3, 1991. He reported that Mike Button was hit hard by the flooding in

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Darryl Stephison, Art Ross, Kyle Metcalf and Robert Loera at Kapiolani Park, Hawaii, on New Years Day.

MEETING NOTES

continued

recent months, and had to resign as President of the Fort Worden team. Lyle Morgan has agreed to step in and assume his workload. Kelci Williams and Garth Westhoff continue as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

A tentative agenda was posted, and we are expecting about 150 people to attend. Registration is better than half full at this point.

Appreciation was expressed to Darryl, Lyle, Kelci and Garth for stepping in and taking over the planning.

Elections were next. The meeting was opened for additional nominees from the floor. There were none, and a motion was made to accept the list of candidates on a single vote as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The new officers and board members are as follows:

President: Steve Millspaugh; Vice President: Morris Williams; Secretary: Bob Alford; Treasurer: Kelci Williams; Membership: Jon Nilan; Special Events: Barbara Anne O'Neill; Products: Judy Millspaugh; Education: Tom Sisson; Merchants Liaison: Ken Conrad and Dave Weigand.

Darryl thanked everyone for allowing him a couple of good years as President; said it was a pleasure to serve; had been hard work, but well worth it.

The meeting was then turned over to Steve Millspaugh, as new President. Steve began by expressing the clubs appreciation for the fine job Darryl has done as President the last two years.

Steve asked for any general items from the group.

Kathy Stephison reported that she had checked on their reservations for WSIKF in Long Beach, and suggested that reservations made last summer should be re-confirmed, due to possible overbooking.

Barbara Anne O'Neill reported on some special event activities she would like to organize in the coming year. She suggested that people who take photographs at kite events have duplicate copies made and send extras to the newsletter editor

or to Ken Conrad, who keeps an album at his store. She would like to plan potluck picnics at various kite flies and meetings. She is working on plans for the Seattle Times Fly, possibly in conjunction with a general membership meeting. She would like help and volunteers for the "One Sky, One World" fly, tentatively scheduled for October 13, 1991.

Jean Sisson reported on interest in starting a dual line group for beginners to get together with more experienced fliers.

AKA CONVENTION

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move up here. We spent the evening socializing with old friends and foreign visitors. It was a delightful evening. Jill Duncan from Portland did a great job of organizing it.

On Wednesday, I got a late start and after making some preliminary arrangements with the Shilo for the Fly Mart, I headed for the beach about noon. I found a dead end street a few blocks north where I could park next to the Prom. I also found Doug Hagaman, Art Ross, and Tom Sisson. I was in good company. I put up the "Anuinui" (rainbow parafoil) with the big spinsock. Art's big pink "Candy Man" flowform was also up and I was a bit too close. Doug suggested in his own inimitable fashion that I move - post haste. Then some fellows I think were from Catch The Wind put up a parachute with a spinsock that made mine look like something that you would hang from a car antenna. That night, kite pin fever hit in a big way. Dave Gomborg won the pin challenge with two hats loaded with 267 pins but I don't think he ever put either one of them on. Jon Reinschreiber had the most class with a tall black stovepipe hat with only 164 pins. I entered but with only 42 pins, I wasn't even in the top 15. The top 15 got a special pin of which only 15 were made.

On Thursday, I was up early. We spent the whole day setting up for the Fly Mart. Special thanks to Tom Sisson, Gene Smiley, Kelci Williams, John Nilan, Ron Button, and Win Smith for helping. The room was very small for almost 30 merchants to squeeze into with so much to show off. There was such an impressive display of mer-

Duane Davis announced an artistic kite show he has organized at North Seattle Community College, on display for the month of January.

Tom Sisson had three kites to give away as door prizes. Gene Smiley, Sari Moore and Duane Davis were the lucky winners. Thanks to Tom for his continuous generosity with door prizes at our general meetings. Come to the next general meeting and you may be a winner too! *

chandise in that room. I felt like a kid in a toy store. I wanted one of everything. The merchants who had every reason to be upset with the cramped space were so nice to me that it was a pleasure to work with them. The initial surge of customers that evening was very heavy. It was hard to move. After most of the pins were sold, things got a little more civilized. Most of the people realized that we had two more mornings of selling. Most people seemed to enjoy the Fly Mart. At the end of the evening it was hard to clear the place out so we could close up.

Friday morning was taken up with more Fly Mart. Business was slow until the rain started. Then the place got more popular. We extended the open time an hour and closed about noon. The rain stopped for a while and I headed for the north part of the beach again. I found Larry Zilar, Doug Hagaman, Art Ross, and Rick Kinaird (Maryland Kite Society). I flew my large delta and a smaller parafoil. They both did well in the light wind. About 4:00, we were driven off the beach by serious rain. The dinner and auction were held at the Convention Center which has a large (gymnasium sized) room. Even with 500 people we didn't feel crowded. Some very impressive merchandise including many one-of-a-kind items were auctioned off to raise money for the AKA. I ran out of steam about 10 pm but I was told it went on until about 1 am.

Saturday morning meant more Fly Mart, but I had mellowed out. It was easy by then. The Fly Mart didn't really close at noon that day. It just kind of faded away. Then it was Rokkaku Challenge time. I hadn't done much preparation but I did have rules printed

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Regional Reports

Pierce County Kitefliers Association

Contact: Matt or Jessica Palmer c/o Mainframe Kite Shop 3340 E. 11th Street, Tacoma, Washington 98421 (206) 627-1653

Membership is \$5(US) annually, single or family. Members receive the clubs quarterly newsletter and have free use of the club library featuring back issues of magazines and newsletters, kite plans, club directories, etc. Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Mainframe Kite Shop. Currently there are 200 members.

PCKA now has pins! They are five color pins featuring Mt. Rainier with three different kites flying overhead. Over half sold out before the pins were even made. They are available at Mainframe Kite Shop and Ocean Kites in Long Beach or at PCKA activities. The cost is \$5(US).

Port Gardner Kitefliers (formerly SCI-FI)

Contact: Robin Haas (206) 388-3395 (days) (206) 362-3519 (in Seattle)

(The following was extracted from a letter to Darryl Stephison)

Greetings from the Port Gardner Kitefliers. Yes, another kite club has started and we would like to be affiliated with the Washington Kitefliers Association. We had our first meeting on September 8, 1990, and decided to name our club the Port Gardner Kitefliers in order to describe the area the group is located in. We are located in Everett, Washington. There is a newsletter published every two months. So far, it has been a four page document, but will most likely increase to five or six with the upcoming issue. At our first meeting it was decided to keep our club loosely organized based on the example of the Westport Windriders. We have no dues and no officers. It was also decided to hold a monthly fun fly with a potluck. The fly will be held at the Marine Park and Public Boat Launch located at 10th Street and Marine View Drive in Everett, Washington. During the Summer months we may need to find an alternative flying site due to the large number of vehicles with boat trailers that find it convenient to park in our field. Alternative sites will be announced in our newsletter, and I will also provide the information to the WKA Newsletter. Everyone with an interest in kites is invited to attend. Most of our current members fly mainly stunt kites, but we want to encourage single line flyers to come out as well. We will have an area set up for single lines to prevent tangles with stunters. A lot of our stunt flyers are collecting quite a collection of single line kites as well, so we could have an interesting sight along the waterfront of Everett. So far we have 21 members signed up.

KGB Infiltrates Yakimaniacs!

Kite Group of Boise (KGB)

Contact: Dave Bogie, 1411 North 25th Street, Boise, Idaho 83702; (208) 336-2038

Don Mock and David Bogie, KGB mobile operatives, successfully infiltrated the Yakima Festival in June. Don took home some hardware with his giant Idaho Centennial Delta Conyne and Bogie just hung out. Our hosts, Greg and Sue Clark, sheltered us from the rain.

Then here was Long Beach, WSIKF '90. The contingent from Idaho was a bit smaller this year than normal as many of us had to choose between WSIKF and AKA. We loved the new boardwalk and the added parking security guards, and for the most part had a wonderful time. The KGB would like to thank all of the WKAs and AOKs and Peninsula Citizens for putting on a fabulous festival!

Don Mock brought home some hardware from WSIKF, too, for his Centennial Delta Conyne. Don was looking forward to entering it in the competition at AKA but his garage was burglarized recently and he lost ALL OF HIS KITE STUFF. His collection of handmade kites is gone, along

with his pin hat and his trading stock of KGB pins. So, if someone offers you a terrific deal on a big Delta Conyne, a black and orange Marshall (12' span), a blue/yellow Peter Lynn, an orange flexi, or a couple of blue spinoffs, or a bunch of pins from Idaho... please let the man know. He's totally bummed. (These items have since been recovered. Ed.)

The Boise Kite Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 1991. Various KGB people are able to house about 6 flyers if you want to visit and participate. Give me a call.

Ben Franklin Kite Society

Contacts: Larry or Marlene Zilar (509) 586-2664; and Greg or Margaret Greger (509) 943-3951

To get a BFKS Patch (and free BFKS membership) send \$3.50(US) to Larry Zilar, 1030 West 14th Avenue, Kennewick, Washington 99337. Make checks payable to Larry Zilar.

Squalicum Kite Flyers

Contacts: Don or Shirley Allen (206) 733-3777; 505 Bakerview, #114, Bellingham, Washington

Yakima Valley Kite Flyers

Contact: Rod Yarger (509) 453-4679; 209 North 24th Avenue, Yakima, Washington 98902

Westport Windriders

Contact: Chuck Reese (206) 875-6385, evenings; P.O. Box 233, South Bend, Washington 98586

Associated Oregon Kitefliers

P.O. Box 25616, Portland, Oregon 97225. Membership, \$7(US), includes bi-monthly newsletter

British Columbia Kitefliers Association

P.O. Box 35653, Station E, Vancouver, British Columbia V6M 4G9, Canada. Membership \$8(US).

S.F. Cody Kite Society

Contact: Rick Brown (503) 689-8175, 1082 Bethesda Street, Eugene, Oregon 97402. Membership \$7(US) per year includes four newsletters. *

AKA CONVENTION

continued from page 8

up. Martin Lester and I conferred and changed them a bit. Twenty two teams entered. After a brief preflight meeting, the melee began. Corry Jensen helped launch one of the teams and then did his usual excellent job of announcing. Martin Lester, Tom Sisson, and Gene Smiley kept score and I tried to keep order on the field. The event was a tremendous crowd pleaser and I think most of the participants had fun but after three rounds, some were nearly exhausted. The winners were:

- First Simon's Samurai
- Second Blitz
- Third Minnesota Kite Society
- Fourth Team Alberta
- Fifth Team Loera

The judges award for best team spirit went to Udder Pain. The banquet was again in the Convention Center. Lee Toy was awarded the Steve Edeiken Award for Kiteflier of the Year. They could not have picked a better man. Lee helps everyone he meets to appreciate and enjoy kiteflying a bit more. The evening was capped off with another of Dave Bogie's fantastic slide shows which he compiled during the week.

On Sunday morning, I slept in and woke to find it raining hard. After I packed up, it was still coming down with no sign of letting up. I felt a little guilty for not observing One Sky One World but I said good bye to everyone I could find and headed home.

I enjoyed the Convention even with all the work but I was a little disappointed. In spite of having the best kite flyers and kite makers in America gathered together, it was not a good kite show. There should have been many more kites in the air. I think there was way too much emphasis on competition and not enough on having fun. The competition takes the efforts of so many good people and gets so few kites in the air. This is especially true of the stunt kites. I don't mean this to sound like the typical single line versus dual line argument. I would like to see more people having fun. Competition is fun for some but not for everyone. As I have said before, to make a good kite show, remember, if the stars are not having fun, there won't be much of a show. *



Letters

NEW KITE CLUB

I have been a member of WKA since August. In September, I and a group of friends formed a kite club based in the Portland/Vancouver area. We all joined AKA at the convention in Seaside, Oregon, last month.

"Lavender Winds" is a group of gay and lesbian kite flyers, and those with an interest in kiting. So far, we have eight members. We do not charge dues, nor do we have any club officials. We meet once a month to plan activities, and we fly together as often as we can.

I realize that homosexuality is a sensitive issue, but be assured that we are not a politically-motivated group. We love kiting! And we enjoy getting together with others who share that love, whether gay or straight. In this light, I would hope that you would include an announcement of "Lavender Winds" in your next issue of

the WKA Newsletter. Feel free to print my name and telephone number as a contact for further information.

Brian M. Bradley
Vancouver, Washington
(206) 896-6190

JOB WELL DONE

Congratulations to the A.O.K. and their organizing committee for a job well done at the National AKA Convention in Seaside. Everything from the large events to the tiniest detail was well planned and executed. We observed amazing kites and unbelievable kite flying. Wonderful memories were made with old and new friends from different countries and cultures. Many of us have come home with a stronger desire to take out flying to an even higher degree. The committee's dedication to kite flying and their willingness to share it with the world is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Debbie L. Rodgers
The Yakima Valley Kite Flyers

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633-4780

CLASSIFIED

PIERCE COUNTY KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

New 1990 P.C.K.A. pins for trade or sale. Wanted — pins and patches from other clubs and festivals. PCKA pins \$5 each. Contact Dave Christenson, Pierce County Kitefliers Association, 3594 East E, Tacoma, Washington 98404.

1990 WKA PINS!

Still available for \$5(US) each or in lots of 25 for \$75. Order pins from WKA Secretary, c/o Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109.

OFFICIAL WKA TEACHERS PACKETS

Build seven kites and teach others how. Packet includes plans for an eddy kite, a cobra, a delta conyne, two sleds and two deltas — all for \$2. Order packets from WKA Secretary, c/o Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

Send pertinent information (before March 15th for next issue) to T.J. Murphy, 11826 S.E. 165th, Renton, WA, 98058

CLASSIFIED ADS

Any items relating to kites or kitefliers only 10 cents a word (\$3US minimum) per issue. Lost, found, free and stolen items will be advertised free of charge if under 30 words. Display ads also available. Send to: T.J. Murphy, 11826 S.E. 165th, Renton, WA, 98058

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

Send your favorite photographs (black and white preferable, color OK) to the WKA Newsletter to share. Include self-addressed, appropriately stamped envelope if you wish photos returned. Send to T.J. Murphy, 11826 S.E. 165th, Renton, WA, 98058

WKA RENEWALS

Remember to renew your WKA membership, and don't miss the next issue of the newsletter. Many local kite retailers honor a discount to members. Check the expiration date on your address label. Renewal is \$10 for US members and \$12(US) for others. Send to WKA, c/o Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109.

Great Winds Kite Shop

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402 Occidental Ave. S. Seattle, Wa. 98104 624-6886

SPRING PIN SALE

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FINE PRINT: 50% Deposit required. Limit five (5) color pigments, not incl. base metal color. Choose one metal color: Gold, Silver, Black, or Copper. Delivery in 8 to 14 weeks depending on completeness and quality of artwork received. Camera-ready art will save 3 to 6 weeks. Offer good on our 1" pins, clutch back only, new designs only, through March 31, 1991. Call us for more information, please leave message, we'll get back to you fast.

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CORRECTION

In the October/November issue of the WKA Newsletter, the minutes of the August 22 board meeting reported that Cool Rain Kites appeared to have gone out of business. We have since learned that Cool Rain Kites is alive and well. They have moved to 222 Capitol Way N. in Olympia, Washington 98501. Their telephone number is (206) 943-5700. Their hours are: Monday-Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, and Sunday 12-4. Members are encouraged to visit Cool Rain Kites and take advantage of their selection of kites, wind toys, gifts, and accessories. We apologize for any problems this may have caused.

KITE CALENDAR

March

Mar 1-3 (Fri-Sun), Eighth Annual Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, contact Lyle Morgan (206) 2861027.

Mar 1 (Fri), WKA General Membership Meeting, Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, 7:00pm, contact Steve Millspaugh, (206) 885-0203.

Mar 9 (Sat), Sam's Birthday Party (Samuel F. Cody), Paint the Sky Kites, Portland, Oregon, 6:00 P.M., contact Paint the Sky Kites, (503) 222-5096

Mar 10 (Sun), Cody Kite Fly, Blue Lake Park, Portland, Oregon, contact Paint the Sky Kites, (503) 222-5096

Mar 15 (Fri), WKA Newsletter Deadline

Mar 23 (Sat), Westport Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck, Twin

Harbors State Park, Westport, contact Pic-A-Patch Kites, (206) 268-0877.

April

Mar 30 - Apr 28, Pacific Science Center Kite Exposition, Pacific Science Center, Seattle, join us on Friday evening March 29 to hang kites - the kites will remain on display for four weeks, contact Tom Sisson, (206) 725-3615.

Apr 6-7 (Sat-Sun), Kite Fair, Pacific Science Center, Seattle, contact Tom Sisson, (206) 725-3615.

Apr 6 (Sat), Boise Kite Festival, Ann Morrison Park, Boise, ID, contact Ginger Jewel, (208) 384-4486.

Apr 7 (Sun), Tri-Cities Spring Fly-In, Leslie Groves Park, Richland, contact Greg Greger, (509) 943-3951.

Apr 13 (Sat), All City Kite Show, Franklin Park, Spokane, contact Bill Lester, (509) 327-2829.

Apr 13 (Sat), Kite Day, Bellevue Downtown Park (across the street from Penneys at Bellevue Square), contact Darryl Stephison, (206) 657-5513.

Apr 17 (Wed), WKA Board Meeting, 12515 Willows Road, Suite 220, Redmond, 7:00 P.M. contact Steve Millspaugh, (206) 885-0203.

Apr 27 (Sat), Puffin Kite Festival, On the Beach, Cannon Beach, OR, contact Mark Goetz, (800) 547-6100.

Apr 27 (Sat), Westport Windriders Annual Trilby Party, Twin Harbors State Park, Westport, contact Pic-A-Patch Kites, (206) 268-0877.

Apr 27 (Sat), WKA General Membership Meeting, Zilar home, Kennewick, contact Steve Millspaugh, (206) 885-0203.

Apr 27-28 (Sat-Sun), Kiona Winery Kite Fly, Kiona Winery, Richland, contact Larry Zilar (509) 586-2664.

WAKAWA

Washington Kitefliers Association

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

RENEW NOW!

Membership Expires: 12/31/91

Morris & Kelci Williams
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