



Newsletter

June/July 1994

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

Honoring Master Kitemaker HAROLD WRITER

By Francis Hall

HAROLD WRITER, A 79 YEAR OLD MASTER KITEMAKER residing in Seattle, was born November 9, 1914, in Middleburg, Florida. His father, an orchard worker and farmer, moved his family to Naches, Washington, in 1923, to work in the apple industry. It was there, at the age of 9, that Harold got his first look at kites. A blacksmith neighbor, who had a knack for using tools and for "making things," showed young Harold a box kite that had arrived in the mail. He raced home and begged his parents to order three kites from the Montgomery Ward catalog—two eddys and a box kite—for the whopping sum of 29 cents. The joy he received from these early flying experiences led Harold to proclaim that he was "forever ruined"—kites became an important part of his life from that day forward.

Simple experiments with kite construction were the next step. Using sticks split from abandoned cedar fence posts, he built several tetrahedral designs, each of which "flew briefly." In 1942, he and his wife of 53 years, Irene, moved to Seattle, where Harold worked in the shipyards until he was drafted. After a tour of duty in the South Pacific, he returned to Seattle to raise a family.

In 1956, he re-entered the world of kitemaking, partially because his son Jerry, then 9, was beginning to get into kites via the Cub Scouts. Gaining inspiration from a "High Flyer" box kite, he began making square boxes out of doweling and paper. As his talents improved, so did his working space become cluttered. "The attic got too full of rigid box kites," he tells me "so Jerry and I hauled them out to the picnic table in the back yard. We took a photograph for posterity, then distributed them to all the neighborhood kids, thinking that we were getting rid of them." Such was not the case. "But we weren't rid of them at all. As sticks broke, and paper got ripped, kids began showing up on my doorstep, saying 'Mr. Writer, can you fix this?' So then I began the business of being the kite repairman in the neighborhood. When one got hung in a tree or on a wire, I breathed a sigh of relief because I knew I wouldn't have to repair that one!"

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*Dedicated to helping
people know how much
fun it is to fly kites!*

Harold Writer Fun Fly July 9th!

By Steve Millsbaugh

On Saturday, July 9, the Washington Kitefliers Association will host a special Fun Fly at Kite Hill in Magnuson Park in Seattle to honor kitemaker Harold Writer. The event begins at 10 a.m. with a WKA General Membership Meeting, but our real purpose will be to loft our kites skyward to honor a great kitemaker and craftsman.

One of the greatest benefits of being an active member in WKA is the opportunity to be exposed to some fine craftspeople and many skilled practitioners of the art of kitemaking. Another benefit is meeting some especially warm and friendly folks. The WKA is also fortunate to

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*At home in his workshop, Harold
Writer engages in friendly conversa-
tion with the photographer.*

PHOTO © BY FRANCIS HALL/KITE POST

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A LINE FROM THE PRESIDENT



If you have been attending the WSIKF goings-on for the last couple of years, you know about the **Pizza Party** the WKA puts on every year. As you know I have been doing this with the help of a great bunch of volunteers. This year Carol Lord has volunteered to do the Pizza Party. I'm sure the membership and board will help her like they have helped me for the last couple of years.

If you've attended the last couple of Pizza Parties, you know how crowded it gets! This year we will be moving the party to a *new location*. We have rented a larger room at the **Long Beach Grange**. It is located about a mile or so from our old location at the Super 8. Be sure to check for the map in the August issue. So don't forget...new location! Come have fun with us.

Have you renewed your membership? A lot of memberships have expired lately. If you know of a kite flyer who is not a member, sign them up. Let them know that being a member can get them a discount at local area kite shops, and a great newsletter.

Our next General Membership meeting on July 9th is very special. For longer than I have been in kiting, Harold Writer has been making beautiful, handcrafted kites. Anyone who has had the honor of buying, trading or winning one of his great kites knows what great flyers and treasures they are. So everyone who has one of Harold Writers' kites come out and fly it with us at the next meeting and show Harold how proud you are of him. Even if you don't have one of his kites come fly with us.

As usual it's that time of year again. *Festival time that is!* Where will I see you next? Yakima? Westport? Seattle? Ocean Shores? Woodinville? Everett? Maybe Long Beach? Wherever we meet, say hi, and let's fly some kites together. The sky isn't mine or yours, it's everyone's. Lets share it and have fun together. —Best Winds—Dave

WKA Board Meeting Minutes

April 27, 1994. Present: Dave Christenson, Lisa Iversen, Bob Alford, Steve & Judy Millsbaugh, Morrie & Kelci Williams, Robin Haas, Mike Eason, Tom Sisson, Darryl Stephison, Carol Lord, and Dave Weigand.

1. Carol Lord presented our financial picture with \$3,043.56 in checking and \$3,141.76 in savings, giving us a total of \$6,185.32 in total assets.
2. Tom Sisson, Head of Education, brought up the 84 pieces of mail (how to build/fly an original kite) sent to Lufkin, TX, at a cost of over \$100.00.
3. Bob Alford pointed out that WKA has more expired memberships than current memberships. Dave Weigand made a motion to send renewal cards to those who have been expired 6 months or less. Carol Lord seconded the motion, and it was passed.
4. Morrie Williams talked about using the INTERNET to post and archive club newsletters. He will research this and report back next meeting.
5. Dave Christenson was contacted by a preschool teacher from Vashon Island requesting kite info for presentation at her school on June 3rd. Dave said he'd follow thru. A motion was made by Steve Millsbaugh for WKA to supply funds to cover material costs. Tom Sisson seconded the motion, and it was passed by the group.
6. Tom Sisson received a letter from a man in Bogota, Columbia, expressing interest in past copies of the WKA newsletter. Because of mailing costs involved, more information must be gathered before action is taken.
7. The topic of sending WKA newsletters to the Kite Museum was discussed and Kelci and Lisa volunteered to work with Ken Conrad to see what might be valuable the World Kite Museum.
8. Carol Lord discussed the proposed new location for the upcoming WKA Pizza Party at WSIKF. A motion was made to approve the Grange as the spot to use (more parking, more tables, and separate kitchen) and authorized the additional \$40.00 rent for the building. Carol seconded, the motion carried unanimously. Everyone needs to be securing great door

WKA Newsletter June/July 1994

The Washington Kitefliers Association Newsletter is published six times a year by the Washington Kitefliers Association.

Editor	Mailing List
Lisa Iversen (206) 828-3559	Bob Alford (206) 888-2812

The Editor encourages you to send your letters, stories, photographs, and contributions pertaining to kiteflying, and kiteflying events for publication. Submissions that illustrate how much fun it is to fly a kite will be given priority for publication. to:

WKA Editor
725 - 9th Avenue S. #203,
Kirkland, WA 98033.

Membership

To become a member of the WKA, send your name, address and telephone number, along with a check for \$15 per family (outside the U.S., please add \$5 U.S. additional for postage) to the Washington Kitefliers Association, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109. Membership includes an official WKA membership card entitling the bearer to discounts at certain kite shops and a one year subscription to the WKA newsletter.

prizes. A deposit of \$75.00 will be sent to the Grange.

9. Susie Christianson gave an inventory of club products, noting that lots of banners and pins are still available.
10. Darryl Stephison mentioned the Harold Writer Kite Day coming July 9th at Magnuson Park, and a motion was made to have the General Meeting the same day.
11. It was moved and seconded to provide a plaque for the Westport fun fly, July 4th, RED WHITE & BLUE.
12. Robin Haas and Mike Eason presented the outline for the 1994 SCI-FI 2nd Annual Washington State Stunt Kite Championship this year to be held at Camano Island. SCI-FI requested WKA's financial guarantee to produce the event. A motion was made for WKA to support the competition and it was passed.
13. Next General Meeting is July 9th, 1994 at Magnuson Park at 10am. Meeting adjourned.

Tuesday Pun Fun

Here's an exciting event you'll want to fly/attend! During this event, different categories of kites will be flown together in one area. The idea is to present a pleasant visual display in the sky by putting as many kites of a designated type up at the same time. About one half-hour will be dedicated to flying each type of kite. Participants are asked to register so that they may be recognized over the sound system. After flying, participants will take their kite(s) up on the boardwalk so that spectators can get a close-up look at the kites and ask questions. The categories for the types of kites are:

It's Only Rok & Rollers Bring out your Rokkaku's and your Roller kites to help create this pun. There will be a Rokkaku battle between kite clubs during the afternoon, so come show them off before the flight!

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds Bring out all your diamond kites to fly along with Lucy.

Drat! Foiled Again This event will take place in the Doug Hagaman Memorial Field, located north of the Bolstad approach. Put up as many parafoils as possible, large and small, in this area.

Delta Upins Ki Come and join this new fraternity (or is it a sorority?) and put up your delta and delta derivative kites.

Bach's Last Symphony Help celebrate the 100th birthday of the box kite by flying yours.

Priced to Sell Bring out your cellular kites for this one.

TUESDAY is also *Famous Kite Flyer Costume Day*. How many Coreys or Tom Sisson look-alikes will there be!?

**NEW PIZZA PARTY LOCATION!
WKA'S PIZZA PARTY
WILL BE WEDNESDAY NIGHT
AT THE LONG BEACH GRANGE!
MORE TABLES/MORE ROOM!
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

HAROLD WRITER FROM PAGE 1
Harold's fine craftsmanship is the result of years of experimentation and self-taught learning. He honed his skills as a woodworker and floor finisher for several decades, and now employs these talents in the construction of his Cody war kites. The techniques that he uses were first introduced to him in a book, published in 1905, called *The Scientific American Boy*. He uses these same ideals today, creating a kite that is

ers are created by gluing small pieces of wood to the ends, which are sanded to fit precisely onto the corresponding "stop" on the longeron. The final result of this meticulous handiwork is a kite that is reminiscent of a bygone era; the days before technological advances in manufacturing; when the simplicity and aesthetic beauty of hand craftsmanship were the order of the day.
If you ask Harold why he builds and flies kites, he will tell you, "It's

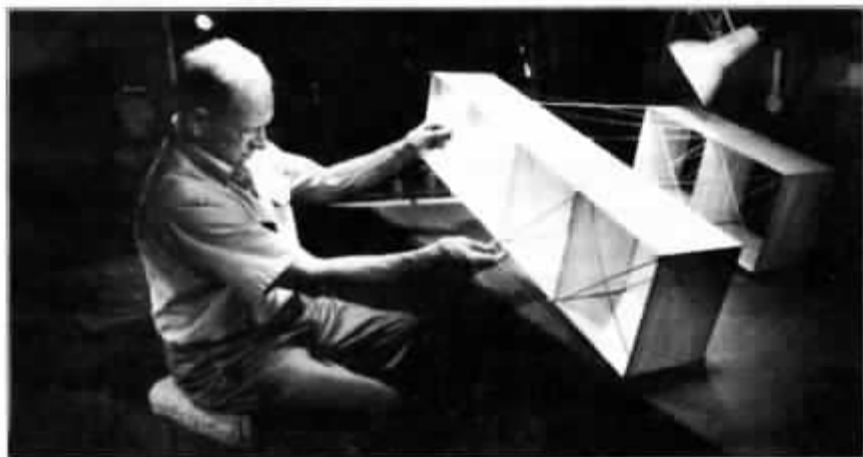


PHOTO © BY FRANCIS HALL/KITE POST

Meticulous craftsman Harold Writer at work.

highlighted by the woodworking that comprises the structural support—each piece tightly fit into place, assuring a kite that is very balanced and flies extremely well. After the skin is sewn, a plank of either sitka spruce or hemlock is cut down on the table saw to create the raw spreaders and longerons. These are measured with a micro-meter to tolerances of hundredths of an inch, which assures an accurate and positive fit on the finished kite. The longerons are drilled, and the skin hand tied to them with waxed thread. The spread-

as simple as that—I get a kick out of seeing my handiwork in the air. I make them to please my eye. When you make these things, you get to see something wonderful that you have done."
"I keep it an experiment to keep it interesting," he tells me. "If you can learn something all of the time, it keeps the interest up. It has to be a learning experience to make it worthwhile. I enjoy making things from scratch. Seeing my kites up in the sky—I get a kick out of it, whether I'm the one flying them or not!"

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ATTENTION ALL BUGGIERS!!!

If you are planning to be at the Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF) in August but didn't think it was worth bringing your buggy, think again! Plans are being made for a buggy demo and a non-restricted buggy area to be used during the festival. We need your participation to make this another shining moment in buggy history. Please let us know if you will be there, if you're bringing your buggy, or if you're interested in buggying and might like to learn or help:
Morrie and Kelci Williams
18030 N.E. 155th Pl.
Woodinville, WA 98072
(206) 788-6355 morrie@eskimo.com

*Born
to
Buggy!*

REGIONAL REPORTS

Capital City Flyers Contact Leroy Peoples, (206) 456-4156.

Westport Windriders Contact Chuck Reese, (206) 875-6385. P.O. Box 233 South Bend, WA 98586. Fun fly and a meeting/potluck dinner on the fourth Saturday each month. Call for details.

Ben Franklin Kite Society Contact Greg or Margaret Greger (509) 943-3951.

Squalicum Kite Flyers Contact Don or Shirley Allen (206) 733-3777 505 West Bakerview, #114, Bellingham, WA 98226.

S.F. Cody Kite Society Contact Rick Brown, (503) 689-8175. 1082 Bethesda Street, Eugene, OR 97402. *Membership includes quarterly newsletter.*

Associated Oregon Kitefliers P.O. Box 25616, Portland, OR 97225. *Membership includes bimonthly newsletter.*

British Columbia Kitefliers Association Box 755, 810 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5Z-4C9.

Yakima Valley Kite Flyers Contact Rod Yarger (509) 453-4679. 209 North 24th Ave., Yakima, WA 98902.

kgb Kite Group of Boise Contact Mick Dahms (208) 344-0613. 3317 Targee Street Boise, ID 83705. Mick & Lena Dahms attended the Kiona Festival, April 23 & 24. The hospitality of the Ben Franklin Kite Society is the best.

Four families from Boise attended the Beach Fest '94 at Salt Lake Beach on April 30. There wasn't much wind, but it's always fun to get together with other kite enthusiasts. The Utah fliers were great hosts.

The kgb has been asked to fly kites at the Caldwell Air Show on June 18th & 19th. This is the third time the group has been invited to show and fly kites there.

SCI-FI Snohomish County Incredible Flying Individuals Contact Mike Eason (206) 334-0362. or Four Winds Kite Shop (206) 339-9334.

PCKA Pierce County Kitefliers Association Contact David Lord (206) 848-0322, or Penny Anderson (206) 895-3672. *Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. Call for more information.*

WKA Officers

President Dave Christenson
(206) 471-9103

Vice President Stu Murphy
(206) 271-7941

Secretary Dave Weigand
(206) 948-4560

Treasurer Carol Lord
(206) 863-8415

Board Members

Newsletter Lisa Iversen
(206) 828-3559

Membership Bob Alford
(206) 888-2812

Products Susie Christenson
(206) 471-9103

Education Tom Sisson
(206) 725-3615

Merchant Liaison
Ken Conrad
(206) 624-6866

Past President
Steve Millsbaugh
(206) 885-0203

KITE CALENDAR

The WKA attempts to provide accurate and timely kite calendar information, however, all listings are subject to change. We recommend that you call the contact number listed to verify details.

JUNE

June 11 & 12 5th Annual Yakima Valley Kite Festival. Fulbright Park, Union Gap, WA. Sponsored by Yakima Valley Kitefliers. Contact Debbie Russell (509) 248-2668.

June 19 6th Annual Seattle Kite Festival. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Magnuson Park Soccer Fields. Sponsored by Gasworks Park Kiteshop, 3333 Wallingford N., Seattle (206) 633-4780.

June 22 WKA Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. at Softchec, 12515 Willows Rd., Suite 220, Kirkland, WA. Contact Dave Christenson, (206) 471-9103.

June 26, 26 NW Regionals. Hot stunt kite circuit action! Long Beach. Saturday and Sunday 10 am til about 4pm. Contact Ginny or Eric Forsberg (503) 357-7557.

June 30, July 1, 2, 3 & 4 SH'CH Festival of Wind 1994. Hundreds of kites, all day, each day! Twin Harbors Beach, Bongie Rd. Entrance. Westport, WA. Sponsored by Pic-A-Patch Kites and Westport Windriders. Contact Pic-A-Patch Kites, 2521 Westhaven Drive, Westport, WA 98595. (206) 268-0877 or (206) 268-1661.

JULY

July 2 Westport Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck. Twin Harbors State Park 7:00 p.m. Contact Pic-A-Patch Kites (206) 268-0877.

July 9 HAROLD WRITER FUN FLY Saturday, Magnuson Park in Seattle. Kite Hill. Contact Dave Christenson (206) 471-9103.

July 9 Saturday Fighter Fly Mag-nuson Park, Seattle, WA 12-4pm.

July 9 WKA General Membership Meeting. 10 a.m. Kite Hill, Magnu-

son Park in Seattle. Contact Dave Christenson (206) 471-9103.

July 9, 10 Pacific Rim Kitefest. Potluck. All day Saturday and Sunday at Vanier Park, Vancouver, B.C. No competition, although prizes will be awarded. Sponsored by B.C.K.A. Contact Art Ross, 5846 Ontario Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. (604) 321-6409.

July 16, 17 Canadian West Coast Stunt Kite Championships. Potluck. All day Saturday and Sunday. Vanier Park, Vancouver, B.C. (By the Planetarium.) Contact Art Ross, 5846 Ontario St., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. (604) 321-6409.

July 23 Westport Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck. Twin Harbors State Park 7:00 p.m. Contact Pic-A-Patch Kites (206) 268-0877.

July 24 Sunday Fighter Fly Mary-moor Park, Redmond, WA

AUGUST

August 6 & 7 Washington State Stunt Kite Championship (WSSKC) See related article on page 8.

August 7 Sunday Fighter Fly Marymoor Park, Redmond, WA 12-4pm.

August 12, 13, 14 Ocean Shores Pacific Northwest Kite Festival. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. South Beach Ocean Shores. AKA Circuit Competition. Contact Robert Scribner 1-800-972-9885 or Eric Halverson (206) 289-0667.

August 15-21 Washington State International Kite Festival. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Bolstad Approach, Long Beach WA. Sponsored by Long Beach Merchant Association and the City of Long Beach. For info write P.O. Box 387, Long Beach, WA 98631 or call 1-800-451-2542.

Kite Calendar deadline for August/September is July 9, 1994

Texas Style: Junction International Kite Retreat

By Sam and Anne Huston

After attending and thoroughly enjoying Ft. Worden workshops for four years, we decide to broaden our horizons and go to Junction to attend the 6th Annual Junction International Kite Retreat to see how a workshop is done Texas style.

We left Kent a week in advance so that we could do some sightseeing between Washington and Texas. We hiked in the canyonlands, viewed countless Indian ruins, and tramped the dunes of White Sands, N.M. After driving 2800 miles we arrived at Junction barely thirty minutes before the announced registration time. With an efficiency that was in evidence all weekend, we were immediately registered and checked into our air conditioned rooms. Believe me, the air conditioning was much appreciated before the weekend was over.

Junction is a Texas kite experience. When not involved in classes we sat in the shade of the pecan trees beside the flying field. Besides watching kites represented by five countries and fifteen states, we were watched deer graze along the far side of the field in the late after-

noon. In the opposite direction, we could see humming birds at the feeders beside the classrooms. When you see us, ask to see our copy of the group panoramic photo.

Junction offers one group of classes each day. The rest of the time is spent flying, socializing or finishing the previous day's projects. Some presenters like George Peters, Elmer Wharton, and Charlie Sotich were available for drop-ins most anytime, day or night, and in George's case the night lasted into the morning!

Sam made a parafoil with Stretch Tucker after going to Ed Wright's class called "Two approaches to the Parafoil." The following day he made a Genki in Nop Veethuizen's class. A lot of the information we garnered was from informal conversations with other kites. Other classes were connected but not necessarily kites. I learned how to make a hummer and a rain stick with Stan Swanson, also a dart gun. Doug DuFresne helped with shaping boomerangs and then accompanied his class to the flying field for throwing.

Sunday afternoon the public was invited to watch so it was show-off

time for all kite flyers. Sunday evening was a Texas Bar-b-que complete with the mood setting music provided by a fiddler and guitar player. Their equipment was mounted on the back of a pickup truck. They were interrupted for an impromptu performance by the Snoot Flute Band.

There was just time enough for a stroll by the river before positioning began for the final minutes of the silent auction. There were 228 items in the combined silent and "loud" auctions; and what a vast selection: everything from T-shirts to a Gail Lindsay Kingfisher kite!

About this time we decided to extend our visit for an additional day to complete a half finished kite and hope for wind for a final kite fly. Some people stayed 2 or 3 additional days.

At Junction we enjoyed meeting friends, like Anne Rock and Dan Kurahashi, from past kite experiences; plus making friends with lots more kites.

Betty Street and Bill Lockhart invite you to come on down Memorial Day weekend 1995.

FRIENDS OF MAGNUSON PARK KITE HILL

by Suzanne Sadow

IN MID-OCTOBER 1993, after months of phoning, letter-writing and networking throughout the City of Seattle, Seattle Parks Dept. and among the volunteers, Ken Conrad was finally given permission to form an official "Adopt-a-Parks" group to adopt the Kite Hill at Magnuson Park.

Last Halloween, 24 volunteers gathered at the hill starting at 10:30 a.m. to begin the task of clearing the Scotch broom on top and part-way down the sides of the hill to make smoother kite flying areas. And yes, the dog droppings were addressed too! An official sign about the "scoop law" was posted, plastic bags graciously donated by the View Ridge P.C.C. were offered to dog walkers, who were urged to always carry and use them, and plenty of old poop was scooped!

Luckily, it was a gorgeous day with no wind, and the hard work was not unpleasant. Those who stuck around 'til the very end of the day were awed by a brief but dramatic squall, complete with thunder and lightning, followed by splendid rainbows. By the end of the first work party, over 85 volunteer hours were logged, two truckloads of Scotch broom had been dug out by the roots and hauled to the parking lot, the grass facing the parking lot was neatly mowed, and there were at least four new easy-to-fly-in fields.

The second work party was held on November 21, during a freezing rainstorm! Eight hardy volunteers showed up. Acting on Tom Sisson's suggestions and example, we used a truck and four-wheel drive car to make quick work of removing giant weeds. In three quick hours, we had torn out another 3 to 4 truck-loads of Scotch broom, thanks to better tools and methods.

Grass has been reseeded in areas, and the Seattle Parks Department has started to mow the area. Animal Control has been patrolling the park more frequently, leash law signs are posted and dog owners seem to be showing more respect for Kite Hill.

A lot of Scotch Broom (especially mature plants) remains at the top and north side of the Hill. Our next work party will be June 26, to attack those plants. Please call and add your name to the volunteer list if you're interested in joining us to make a difference... Ken Conrad, lead shovel: 624-6886 days or 527-5184 evenings.

DID YOU KNOW?... National Weather Service's Up-to-the-Hour Reports of Wind Speed can be received by radio (special weather radios are available at places like Radio Shack). And guess where the local readings are taken...NOAA Western Administrative Support Center at the North End of Magnuson Park!!!

North Coast Challenge Canceled

By David Gomberg

SUSAN AND I HAVE decided to cancel the 1994 North Coast Challenge in Seaside. It was a difficult decision, for us because we know the impact it will have on many of our friends in the Northwest kite community, but basically, it came down to this:

Total expenses for the event were projected at over \$10,000; sponsorship commitments came to less than half that amount. Susan and I are simply not in a position to personally finance the balance.

It might have been possible to eventually balance accounts, but, lack of financial commitments and disruptive outside influences convinced us reaching our goal would be quite difficult. We decided to make the cancellation decision earlier instead of later in order to minimize the impact on staff and fliers.

The Gomberts have been involved in organizing competitions each year since we put together the

first Oregon State Championship in 1988. We never profited from these events, but were proud to be among the first to compensate volunteers and pay head judges. It was wonderful to see the region grow from a place with no "by the rules" events to one of the highest concentrations of competitions and fliers in the country.

We sympathize with competitive fliers who must be reeling from all the changes this year. In 1993, there were five ranked events between the California and Washington border. Not one of them is scheduled for 1994.

There are different reasons why each of these events was lost. But basically, it comes down to money and the difficulty of recruiting staff. We really appreciate all of you who have volunteered your time. It's important to remember that registration fees never cover the cost of running an event.



With the closing of the NCC, we feel we have let many of you down. We thank you for your support through the years, and particularly want to applaud the efforts of Ginny and Eric Forsberg, who worked with us at many of our events.

I know you share our disappointment. I hope you also understand the necessity of our decision.

Seattle Area Church Commissions Pentecost Kite

CROWN HILL METHODIST Church in Ballard, has commissioned an unusual art work for the Festival of Pentecost. They approved the construction of a giant kite to represent the Spirit of God in the air, for use as a parament on Pentecost Sunday, May 22, 1994.

According to Pastor Flora J. Bowers, "We used to celebrate Pentecost with a balloon release, but, of course, we are now aware of the potential damage to animals and environment that balloons can cause."

The idea of a kite seemed a natural substitution to Bowers, who knew that the church secretary, Dick Wightman, is a kite flyer. She asked if he would loan some of his kites to decorate the church for Pentecost. Wightman, who is also a kitebuilder, offered to build a special kite for the event.

Planning for the kite, based on the colors and symbolism of Pentecost, gradually evolved into a major



DICK WIGHTMAN PHOTO

Dick Wightman's "Pentecost."

undertaking, the construction of a 50-square-foot multicolored nylon applique kite in the Japanese Rokakku style. Finished, the kite stands 8-1/2 feet tall and is 7-1/2 feet

wide. A white dove, representing the Spirit, rises over orange and yellow flames on a red background. Wightman said it is the largest and most complex kite making effort he has completed. He describes the kite, named simply "Pentecost," as "awesome in the air; great color and tremendous power." Wightman completed the project in time for the Ocean Shores Festival of Color Kite Festival, April 30, 1994, where it was awarded first prize as "Best Handmade Kite."

On May 22nd, "Pentecost" was displayed behind the altar in Crown Hill's sanctuary during the 11:00 a.m. service, and others of Wightman's kites decorated the rest of the church. Later that bright, sunny afternoon, the kite was flown at a crowded Golden Gardens Park, much to the delight of the public.

"Pentecost is a festival of joy," said Bowers, "and we welcome the community to share it with us."

Ballroom Dancing or Kiteflying? Some Parallels!

By Ron Daves

IN FEBRUARY, WE MOTORHOMED to San Jose, California, for the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association (USABDA)-Northern California Chapter's Winter Frolic competition.

We arrived early and took a side trip to the Monterey peninsula on the Pacific Ocean. I flew my el cheapo kite on my el cheapo line (two lengths joined with a square knot), using my el cheapo reel. The string broke, the kite disappeared, and I never saw it again.

We later returned to San Francisco and placed well in the competition. We were dancing well and truly flying high! Then, something went wrong. The simplest of movements seemed out of reach. We practiced more and harder. Fought more and harder. Our dancing spiraled, like a kite parted from its flying line. Our next two competitions were disappointments ...uh oh!

We decided to visit Ocean Shores and fly kites. Sandra got books from the library, retrieved scraps from sewing projects, purchased dowels, and raided our fishing gear for snaps and swivels. Soon, we had five kites. We visited a kite shop for flying line and tips, and on March 25, headed for the beach. The Della Porta (scraps from a ballroom cape) flew just fine. The flat kite (rip stop nylon left over from a garment bag) with a streamer tail was fun, but kind of a no-brainer.

I gravitated to the challenge of the active fighter kites (garment bag scraps) and found a new way to frustrate myself. I realized that, as in ballroom dancing, you need help from someone who has done it, and lots of it, before.

On that day, we visited with a serious kiter, who had a most impressive array of kites, banners, wind socks, streamers, line art, bangles and beads in the air, together with several stunt kites poised for flight. At a local kite shop, we observed as an individual bought his first kite. I noted that, as in ballroom dancing, if you want to have-be-do kiting, you must spend money and time at it.

As in ballroom dancing, kiting has some basic rules. On the dance

floor, you never travel backwards against the line of dance. Nor do you step onto the floor without looking where you are going.

In the kiting environment, you give a stunt kiter plenty of room; these kites move very fast and can cause serious injuries. Never drive your car over a guy's flying line, they don't like it and yell a lot if you do. Never crowd one of the serious guys, but give him lots of room to enjoy his hobby. Learn to tie competent knots.

The next day, we found a very strong wind and few kites, but proceeded to loft our cape and garment bags for one last shot at it. A fellow stopped to visit with us who had just bought his first stunt kite. I tied my fighter string to the motorhome and helped him get his kite up. He let me fly it, and it was not long before I had crossed both Sandra's line and my Fighter Kite line and crashed the new stunt kite, to the chagrin of the owner.

While at a Seattle kite shop, I found the WKA's newsletter and more parallels. The newsletter addresses the intricacies and technicalities of kite flying similar to the way the National USABDA Amateur

Dancer Magazine and the local Emerald City Dance News discuss ballroom dancing. To quote the WKA president: "The local kite shops, kite clubs and others put on festivals, competitions, demos and fun flies throughout the year. Without their help we would not have one of the greatest flying times and places around. So when someone asks for help, don't sit there and say "somebody else will," get involved. You will be surprised at how much fun you can have at these happenings." (sic). Any parallels?

We now have two self made, beginner, stunt kites. We have returned to the kite shops for more equipment and instruction, and have discussed kiting with some of our dancing associates. Some of them have kites and are interested in flying, too. They have talked to their friends and generated more interest. It looks as if we will be going back as a group! I could say "brace yourself, Ocean Shores," but this area has experience with focused individuals such as Kites, and will have no problem accommodating ballroom dancers flying capes and garment bags.

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Skagit Bay Location for Bigger and Better Washington State Stunt Kite Championship

By Robin Haas

SNOHOMISH COUNTY Incredible Flying Individuals, with assistance from the WKA, are pleased to announce the Washington State Stunt Kite Championship (WSSKC) will be held this year on Saturday August 6, and Sunday August 7, 1994. Last year we were unable to allow free flying due to space constraints. This year we have moved to a new 50-acre site on Camano Island that will allow a lot more kite flying! This year there are three fields for competition, and two practice fields. This leaves plenty of room for other kite activities. The flat grassy field gets regular winds coming in off the bay, and there's a great view of Mt. Baker. On the day the organizing committee went to view the site, they sighted three bald eagles flying over a nearby hill.

An application has been submitted to the American Kiteflier's Association for sanctioning of this event. If granted, this will be the first event of the season in the Northwest to award points leading to eligibility for competition at the Grand Nationals in 1995. If you haven't heard, there have been a number of sport kite competitions that dropped out this year, so this will be an important event in the Northwest. We encour-

age those not competing to attend to observe some skilled competitors, and for the fun that is always present wherever kitefliers congregate. This year's event will be bigger and better than the great time we had last year.

There isn't water or power on-site, so drinking water will be trucked to the site, and we'll rely on generators for announcing power. The landowner has agreed to allow self-contained recreational vehicles to camp at no cost at the site on this weekend, but entry of recreational vehicles will be allowed on Friday afternoon only. Please prepare your visit with that in mind, and be mindful of impact to the environment.

Stover's Kitchens will provide a concession truck each day. Millstone Coffee will provide coffee for us to make on Saturday, and will be sending their coffee wagon on Sunday to distribute free samples of their coffee. And of course, we'll have a raffle for kites, kite-related items, and other goods again this year, and there'll be a donations-only Bar-B-Q Saturday night. Bring a chair! On Sunday, time and weather permitting, we'll try to put together a kite buggy race. No entry fees or awards for this event, just bring your buggies and

let's see what happens!

Registration forms are available in local kite stores, and if you have difficulty locating one, call Robin Haas at (206) 359-2206 or 1-800-670-3963.

Early registration ends July 15, 1994, so get them in quick to save yourself some money!

The location is easy to access: Take Interstate 5 to the Stanwood/Camano Island exit.

Travel West toward Stanwood. Stay on the highway through Stanwood and cross the bridge onto Camano Island.

Go approximately one-half mile to Goode Road and turn right. There is a lumber store on the northeast corner.

Follow Goode Road another one-half mile to 1002 Good Road. Turn right into the driveway and follow it all the way down to the site.

We'll have banners and signs marking the route.

Make plans now to attend one of the summer's great kite events. Don't be the one that says, "Gee, I wish I had gone!" Be there! This event is bound to produce some of the summer's great kite tales.

OF INTEREST TO COMPETITORS

1. The second annual Washington State Stunt Kite Championship will follow the International Sport Kite Competition Rules in effect on the date of the event. Currently that is the Third Edition, and we are unaware of any plans to update them before this event is to take place.
2. There will be events for all levels of flyers - from Novice through Master Class.
3. We will be using the League-Style Format for the individual precision events. The figures contestants will be required to fly are:
 - Novice Individual Precision #'s 3, 5, 2, 8.
 - Intermediate Individual Precision #'s 10, 8, 17, 15.
 - Experienced Individual Precision #'s 11, 16, 21, 29.
 - Master Individual Precision #'s 23, 33, 35, 12.
4. Precision maneuvers for teams will be:
 - Experienced Team Precision #'s T3, T6, T10, T11
 - Master's Team Precision #'s T13, T14, T4, T9
5. Early registration will end July 15, 1994. Entries postmarked after that date will be subject to the late entry fee.
6. For more information contact Robin Haas at (206) 359-2206 or 1-800-670-3963. For record keeping purposes, please inform us if you are using the 1-800 number when you call.

Golden Opportunity for a Team Building Workshop

By Bob Kerschmer

TEAM BUILDING doesn't have to involve more than fun and games to be effective.

Many of us have received that memo from the boss or heard the dreadful words that it is "time to become more efficient, to add a greater measure of quality to our work, to become a highly effective team player." Yes, time for 8 hours of really annoying psycho-babble designed to be so brain-numbing that, zombielike, you become receptive to the notion that conformity is really quality and sameness is efficiency. What fun. And as your groaning is deemed to be the loudest, (obviously a sign that you require extra opportunities to appreciate the joys of "teamship") you are handed the responsibility and fault for organizing a team-building workshop.

"Be creative. Design exercises that promote teamwork and fun, but in a serious way. Take all the time you need to arrange the session, but don't let this important task interfere with the 17 projects which are your current top priorities. I think this Friday will be a good day for the workshop. Let me know if I can help. I will be on vacation for the rest of the week. I know you won't let the "team" down. By the way, there's no budget for this activity, so improvise." Thanks loads, boss.

Four whole days. I had better start planning. OK brain, I need some activities normally not associated with work, quality and team building. You know, fun things.

The easy stuff first. Food. Everyone likes food. Have a potluck. Maybe have everyone bring a dessert. (Well, maybe we shouldn't have that much fun.) Send a list around; there are some good cooks in this outfit. With all of the heating dishes up or cooling them down, complimenting each other on our exquisite culinary tastes, and eating, we ought to easily use up 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Next, a speaker. There is always someone in the work group that really needs to get a life. Someone that believes the company is always right. Someone that would jump at the chance to talk about the joys of team building and how quality has had this profound affect on their life. Someone that will jump at the chance to suck up to the boss. With lots of caffeine for the audience, this should be good for at least two hours, maybe three...

...a kite building workshop ...form teams and have the team make kites? No, ...form teams and have the team work together to make one kite per team? ...good idea.

Finally, a group exercise, other than chowing down, that is fun and emphasizes team building without mentioning quality, efficiency or effectiveness. And makes everyone forget about the morning speaker.

My mind was abuzz with activity. Then the fly flew out of my ear, my mind cleared, and I realized I had not a clue as to an activity.

Two days later, staring out the window at work, concentrating on the sunshine and the breeze as it wound its way past the leaves on the newly budded trees, the light bulb went past glow and became ...brilliant... I am brilliant! Why don't I have a kite building workshop? No, why don't we form teams and have

the team make kites. No, why don't we form teams and have each team work together to make one kite per team. Good idea. Of course this means that we have to move the workshop outdoors. Can't fly kites indoors. Need to change the potluck food list to picnic type food. Now if I can come up with an idea for some type of kite to build, something easy. I still have two days, better think about it some more.

That night I sat in front of the TV, brooding. I still could not think of a kite to build and stay within the allotted budget. My wife, sensing my dilemma, asked what was wrong. I said that nothing was wrong. She asked, "If nothing is wrong, why are you sitting in front of the TV eating carrot sticks instead of bar-b-que potato chips?" I asked her if she thought I should call my friend Tim to see if he had any ideas. She handed me the copy of the *Washington Kitefliers Association Newsletter* that I had been reading earlier in the week.

Two hours later I was still brooding and browsing the newsletter. Then I came across the diagram and instructions for constructing a Chinese Golden Coin Kite. My wife came back into the room and asked me what was the matter now. I patiently explained that I still didn't have an idea for a kite to build. I might just as well give up and ... my wife picked up the newsletter and smacked me upside the head with it. She left the room muttering something about the density of... well, I didn't quite hear, but it didn't matter. There, lying in front of me on the coffee table was the answer. The workshop teams could build the Golden Coin kite. My wife had read this issue of the newsletter. I wondered why she hadn't remembered it.

I was back on track. Materials within budget were easy. Paper from the recycle bin, straws, paper plates

and wood skewers from the cafeteria and crepe paper decorations and string from the supply cupboard. Tape, scissors and rubber cement donated by the company. Now, to talk the boss into moving the workshop to Gasworks Park...

Each team was given one set of instructions, access to the building materials, a time limit to design and construct a kite, test fly and prepare for the finale. The only rule: have fun.

Each group accomplished the task differently. Some read the instructions first, others ran to gather materials first. Others went back and had more food. Soon the air was filled with laughter, good natured bantering and a dedication to a task not often found in the office.

Each team, using the same set of instructions and same materials, constructed kites, no two were alike. Conformity and sameness are the hallmarks of quality and teamwork? I wonder.

The next few hours were spent flying and constructing more kites. Teams formed, drifted apart and reformed with different members. Each group produced kites of a slightly different variety.

The workshop is over. The speaker was boring. The food was great. Everyone is still talking about how much fun it was to build and fly the kites. The workshop was a success and provided some team building tips:

1. Creativity and fun beats conformity every time.
2. A team that enjoys being together is more productive.
3. If Ford made kites instead of cars, quality might truly be job one.
4. The *Washington Kitefliers Association Newsletter* is worth its weight in Chinese Gold Coins.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Next issue we'd like print lots of photos of the past year's kite events. So, take a look through your photos, pick one or two, and write an interesting or humorous caption. We'll print as many of them as possible! Send them to: WKA Newsletter Editor, 725-9th Ave. S., #203 Kirkland, WA 98033.

Include your phone number, and let us know who took the photo. Also send SASE for photo return.

WRITER FUN FLY FROM PAGE 1 have a number of exceedingly generous members, people who always respond to the call for donations for raffles and potluck door prizes. There is one person in particular who combines all these attributes in maximum amounts. I speak of Harold Writer.

When Drachen Design produced their first run of kite pins honoring outstanding craftsmen in the field, Harold definitely had to be included. His meticulous attention to detail, and his hand crafting of spars and spreaders are highly respected.

If you find yourself on the field with a kite that's giving you difficulty, you can count on Harold for a friendly tip on what to try. Though his specialty is cellular kites, he has a helping hand for all.

I know very few people who have ever talked Harold into selling

them one of his kites, yet I know lots of people who have a Harold Writer kite to fly. How can these two conflicting statements be true? Because Harold is always the first to answer the call when the WKA needs kites for door prizes or raffle prizes, be it for Ft. Worden, or the Pizza Feed at at WSIKF, or for our holiday potlucks in Seattle. Sometimes he just decides to give a kite away spontaneously on the field. He is truly one of the most generous, giving WKA members.

For all of these reasons, and because he's a nice guy to boot, we ask you to join us at Kite Hill in Magnuson Park on Saturday, July 9, to fly a kite with Harold. Obviously, we are especially interested in seeing a bunch of Harold-built kites up that day. Judy and I consider ourselves fortunate because we will each be able to contribute to a sky full of Writers.



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Dean Bigler

On May 6, 1994, Dean Bigler died of heart failure at the age of 69. Dean's passing from this world leaves a sorrow in the hearts of his family, friends and kitefliers in Boise and the Northwest. In spite of his physical weakness after his heart attacks and surgeries, Dean still had hopes of recovering and flying kites again.

Dean enjoyed sharing his love for kites with everyone he met. Whether he was in Ann Morrison Park in Boise, Idaho, on the beach at Seaside, Oregon or Long Beach, Washington, he invited whomever he would meet to try to fly a stunt kite. Dean was especially proud of his "Tetrad" quadline that he designed and built. Dean was a member of the Kite Group of Boise (kgb), American Kitefliers Association, and Washington Kiteflier's Association.

Dean attended many of the Long Beach Festivals, Fort Worden Kite-maker's Conferences, and AKA conventions at Seaside. Next time you launch a kite, fly it for Dean. He loved all his fellow kitefliers.

Veil-O'Neill

Barbara Anne Elizabeth O'Neill and Roger Wilhelm Veil were married March 12, 1994 in All Saints Lutheran Church, Auburn.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Margaret O'Neill of Elizabeth, New Jersey, and the late George Francis O'Neill. She is a graduate of Highline Community College and works in the Seattle Times circulation department.

The bridegroom is the son of the late Emma and Phillip Veil. He attended Jamestown High School, Jamestown, N.D., and is an operating engineer with Baugh Construction Co.

Lawrence Chinn

Painter, kitemaker and active member of the Westport Windriders and Washington Kitefliers Association died May 4, 1994, of cancer at the age of 79. Chinn shared a lifelong love of kites with family and friends, imparting the joy and love of kite building to many people along the way.

His skill, enthusiasm, and sense of beauty will be missed by his family, friends, and by the kiteflying community.

Chinn was an active man, involved in a number of organizations including The Elks, the I.O.E., and Local Union 751, as well as the Westport Windriders, The Washington Kiteflier's Association and the American Kitefliers Association. His work has been exhibited frequently in local kite stores and the Wing Luke Asian Museum.

Chinn was cremated according to his wishes. He is survived by his wife Frances, and his son Clayton, as well as sisters; Zier, Winnie Tual, and Rose Wong of Seattle, and Alice Lee in Portland; and brothers Lincoln in Aloha, Oregon, Wallace (Pudge) and Terrence (Jingle) in Seattle, and Bruce in Honolulu; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family requests remembrances be made to the Kin On Nursing Home Building Fund in Chinn's name. Kin On Nursing Home's address is: 1700—24th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Any items relating to kites or kitefliers, 10 cents a word (\$3 minimum) per issue. Lost, Found, Free or Stolen items listed free if under 30 words. Make checks payable to the WKA and send to: WKA Editor, 725-9th Ave. S. #203, Kirkland, WA 98033.

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WKA Pins

1993 WKA Pins, featuring WKA logo, \$5 each: \$40 for 10: or \$75 for 25. Make checks payable to the WKA. Contact Susie Christenson, 3594 East E Street, Tacoma, WA 98404: (206)471-9103.

WKA Banner Kits

Kits (by Carla Fox) containing precut material and instructions to sew a 12' WKA banner, \$42 each. Make checks payable to the WKA. Contact Susie Christenson, 3594 East E Street, Tacoma, WA 98404: (206)471-9103.

WKA Window Stickers

Five-color, 4"x4" removable window stickers featuring the WKA logo(see front of newsletter), \$3 each. Make checks payable to the WKA. Contact Susie Christenson, 3594 East E Street, Tacoma, WA 98404: (206) 471-9103.

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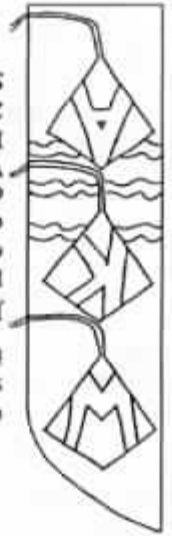
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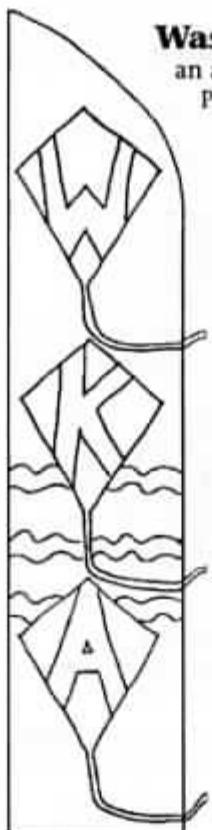
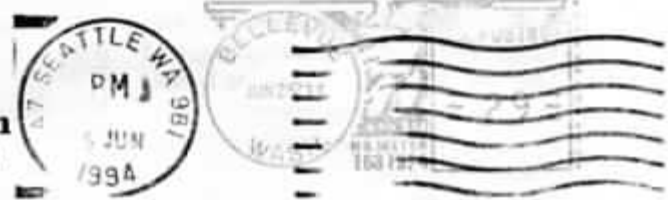
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Yes! By becoming a member of the WKA you receive the WKA Newsletter every other month for a year, a membership card which entitles you to discounts at some area kite stores, and a wealth of information about special events and goings-on in the northwest kite community.

Join WKA and share in the fun! Find out more about the fastest growing popular pastime in the United States today. WKA meetings offer individuals and families the opportunity to participate in the administrative support and planning of local kite events and workshops. Fill in the application and return it with a check or money order for \$15 to:



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