



Newsletter

DECEMBER/JANUARY 1998

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

BUGGY BOOGIE THANG III

Jan 9-16 1998

My first trip to El Mirage dry lake in the Mojave desert, was a blast. I just want to go back for more. I have been to Ivanpah dry lake near Primm Nevada for the annual "Spring Buggy Blast" organized by Fran Gramkowski, for the past three years, and decided to try El Mirage for a change of scenery.

Going to the desert in January is an iffy kind of experience. January is usually the time the high desert gets an annual watering, and winter storms coming in off the Pacific ocean can make the winds rather exciting at times. This year the annual BBT gathering at El Mirage, which has been dubbed by it's founder Corey Jensen, as the "Rolling Man Festival" (not to be confused with the "Burning Man Festival" held each Labor Day weekend in the Nevada desert ... even though the participants appear to be similar in appearance and actions.) was greeted by the occasional winter surprise known as "El Nino".

We got a big rain storm on Friday, the first night of the event, which covered most of the lake bed

with water. No mirage this time. We arrived at the lake bed to find a few buggy pilots looking out at their tents which were pitched out on the smooth lake bed, in an inch of water. The "tide" came in while they were sleeping. The RV folks were cozy, and circled the wagons for a fun campfire each night.

Many Northwest buggy pilots were there, including Morrie and Kelci Williams, Dave and Carol Lord, Kurt and Linda "Buggy Queen" Anderson, Harry "Max" Awadrom, Mike Eason, John Ellis, Richard...?..., and others I may have forgotten. Kite Manufacturers were there also, including Robert Graham of Advance, Brian Smith and the congenial folks from Active People, who make Quadrifoil kites, David ..?.. and team from Germany who make and distribute the Jojo line of power kites. Andrew Beattie from England with his Chevron line of foils, and the Peter Lynn Buggy/Kite distributor Fran Gramkowski.

The ranger had closed the lake bed to all vehicular traffic, which included us. We decided to do our thang on the sandy, rocky shore. A

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

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large area about the size of the beaches we are accustomed to buggying on, about a quarter of a mile long, was the venue for the next couple of days. Saturday brought many more buggiers from as far as England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Portugal, Canada and across the U.S.

About 60 buggies and pilots converged on a limited area to await the drying out of the lake bed which

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Buggy Boogie

(Continued from Page 1)

finally came, to a limited degree, on Wednesday. Fran Gramkowski and Dean Jordan organized a series of circuit races on Sunday which were great fun for all. To race with kite flyers from Europe who do this on a regular basis was a new experience for many. I didn't want to get in their way, so I waited until the last of the series of five races, then joined in behind the pack to race with them for a couple laps, just to see how I would do. I was pleased to catch and pass several racers, but not the leaders for sure.

The racing series was won by Jeff Howard from Oklahoma, a familiar competitor on the US racing scene. Jeff plans to visit Europe this summer where he will test his skills against those of the Europeans. Steve Bateman took second place, Mark Schradle from Germany took third, and Fritz Gramkowski was fourth.

Monday brought quite a number of kite flyers and buggiers from the KTA convention and trade show in San Diego. We tried to get an endurance race organized on a section of the lake bed that was drying out well, but the ballistic winds on Monday pushed the water into our course, forcing us back to the "beach" area, where we relaxed and flew small kites into the back roads and pucker bumps surrounding the area. Pretty fun, navigating among the sagebrush and trees.

Tuesday and Wednesday were sunny and mild, bringing light winds and a square mile or so of dry lake bed to play on next to our camp. No more racing, but many hours of nice light winds. Enough to really

practice your upwind skill, and enjoy the experience. A group of people had left for Ivanpah dry lake in search of larger dry surfaces and decent winds.

Morrie Williams reported that the winds there were light to nonexistent, Monday through Wednesday.

Thursday. WIND! And the same square mile or so of lake bed. About 18 mph and gusting higher. We tried to explore to the northwest in hopes of finding a passage onto a larger expanse of dry lake. Didn't happen. What did happen though, was a back road buggy safari, led by Corey, Dan Rubesh, Dean Jordan Jeff and Andrew. They found a large hilly area the motocross bikers use on weekends, about two miles out from camp. Jeff and Dean used the high winds and C-2 kites to power them into the air for some spectacular jumps. A broken foot peg socket put Jeff out of commission until after lunch, when a borrowed fork got him going long enough to lead a crowd back to the jumps to get some video footage of Jeff jumping with the buggy. Tying himself in to the buggy and using rubber straps on the foot pegs to hold his feet in place, Jeff was able to get some spectacular jumps of 25 feet or more, with more than 3.5 feet or air under him. A ripped out seat harness and a bent axle were the next parts to fail before he quit. Way too much fun.

I was able to consistently hit 35-40 mph on Thursday, in the limited space we had to buggy on. Stopping before hitting the power

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WKA Newsletter

1997

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

Primary Contact/Editor

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(360) 697-2917

Mailing List

Sylvia Bernauer
(425) 822-4605

The Editor encourages your participation in your newsletter, and requests that you send your contributions pertaining to kiteflying. Submissions that illustrate how much fun it is to fly a kite will be given priority for publication. Mail submissions and 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 (if you want your photographs back) to:

Bill & Jeannette Rogers
PO Box 2393
Poulsbo WA 98370
email bill@silverlink.net

The deadline for all submissions is January 20th, March 20th, May 20th, July 20th, September 20th or November 20th. Materials received by these dates will be published in the following issue as space allows. All submissions will be considered for publication.

Membership

To become a member of the WKA, send your name(s), address and telephone number, along with a check for \$15 per family (outside the U.S., please add \$5(US) additional for postage) to Washington Kitefliers Association, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 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.

Buggy Boogie
(Continued from Page 2)

lines made it interesting. Someone left their line and handles hanging from the power lines. A good reminder that the wires are closer than you think.

Friday found most of us packing for the trip home. I must say, I am very anxious to return to El Mirage when it is warm and dry for some serious speed runs. I enjoyed meeting new friends including Joao Carlos Ribeiro from Portugal, and Mike Smathers from N.Y. State, and many others. A special thanks to Corey Jensen, publisher of "Colors on the Wind" magazine, for the sponsorship of this event, and Dan Rubesh for the promotion of it on the web.

Now I just have to unpack the buggy bag and repair the torn kites and mangled lines that are a reminder of the great time I had, at a great event. Watch my web page (<http://www.nwlink.com/~sirby>) for some pictures of the "Buggy Boogie Thang III" and plan to join in the fun next year, when hopefully El Nino will have abated, and we will be cruising' once again at El Mirage.

Steve Irby
sirby@nwlink.com
1/31/98

Note from your President

Another year, another election, times fly when you're having fun. Not the kind of fun shown by the current national administration, but who needs those headaches!

Anyway, keeping above that standard being set (as kitefliers, we have the advantage) we must elect new officers for the up-coming year. As not all categories have nominees, I hope someone will take the initiative to volunteer their time to a worthy cause by nominating someone for vacant offices, or even run for an office against a current nominee (keeps us honest). Please take the time to consider this, changes and growth only happen with positive input.

The past year went by much too quickly for me. I wasn't satisfied with my own personal goals for the W.K.A., but I was unable to put the time necessary into it with my own business growing 50% this year, it took most of my free time away. Anyone owning their own business will understand how time consuming it can be.

On the positive side (we lost an important member of the "team"; i.e. our newsletter editor, a big thank you to Rod Beamgaard for all your hard work.) we found a newsletter editor that is doing fantastic.

Jeannette and Bill Rogers, thanks again! This is a time consuming job, so I hope you all will submit material for posting. It will be a great help.

Although Rod struggled with this problem and did a great job working with this, one goal we did accomplish this year was getting help in this area by having folks write articles for the newsletter in the area of their kiting expertise. Jeannette, Steve, and Kathy and others, who should ease some of Bill's upcoming work. I hope you enjoyed their insights into the multi-faceted kiting realm. Thanks to them and any future donators for the help.

Membership is also up, a great stride in keeping our association strong. All this is due to Sylvia's hard work in this area. New members, re-renewing memberships, etc., is a labor intensive job, so a BIG THANKS to Sylvia for her efforts!

Another strong area has been in education. Tom Sisson works tirelessly with kids of all ages, spreading the enjoyment, camaraderie and self-satisfaction that can be found in kiting. Tom, you are forever young, we are forever grateful.

Lastly, the association is only as strong as it's members. Please volunteer if possible, at least cast your ballot to voice your opinion. (Only a handful of ballots were returned last year). Either individually, or through clubs (see Kathy's proposal), lets work together and make it a banner year!

Thanks,
Mike Benedict

Great Winds Kite Shop

Est. 1972

An outstanding collection of kites, kite building supplies, books, accessories and other flying things...

402 Occidental Ave S. Seattle, Wa 98104 (206)624-6886

SEATTLE KITE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES

IT'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By Dawn Benedict

The Seattle Kite Festival will be celebrating it's 10th Anniversary this year at Magnusen Park on June 14, 1998. We have moved the date from Fathers Day due to the Fremont Fair is that weekend and we believe moving the date would help in attendance.

We are expecting a large attendance, as every year it keeps growing, introducing kiting to many people who have never experienced what we love. We are going to have more games for the children and more kites in the air than years before.

We again are inviting kite shops and kite clubs to come and join the Gasworks Kite Shop in maintaining one of the most fun festivals going. This year we want to see a representative from each kite shop, manufacture and kite club to promote and introduce themselves to the thousands of people who attend. We want to see banners from all over the state of Washington proving to people that when we all work together the festival can do nothing but grow.

Please contact the Gasworks Kite Shop (206-633-4780) for more information or if you may have something you would like to see at the festival or something you want to share, all ideas are welcome!

Dawn Benedict

WESTERN LEAGUE UPDATE

The Western League is gearing up for the spring Season with our third event at Ocean Shores in June. Due to much to do, our indoor plans for Ocean Shores have not come about. We will try later in the year.

We are very pleased to announce a new competition being held in Seaside Oregon in September. This event is sponsored by Bill & Marie Storey, owners of Long Beach Kites, and Wind Dancers. This event will be on the 1998-1999 calendar. Monica Barber and I are going to continue working on a competition to be held in the fall at Ocean Shores, again, it would be on next years calendar.

I have heard from the Shelton Middle School who again is working with a dozen or so kids for the junior division. Get ready Ocean Shores Kite Festival! Could be more than last years 14 kids. If you are interested in helping working with these kids at the festival, please let me know. This year, I want to get some of the parents competing as well. Also, the date for Westport has been moved to July 10th-12th, mark your calendars!

Dawn Benedict

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New Years Day Kite Fly

A hardy group of kitefliers assembled at Magnuson Park on New Years Day in the down pour and stood under their golf umbrellas to talk about kites!

Suzanne Sado was trying to keep up our spirits by passing cookies and a big smile around! The rain stopped briefly and a few kites got into the air. The wind died down again and here came the rain. The following hardy souls need to be recognized:

Tom Sak, Brady Koj, Rick White, Loren Henry, Jeff McArthur, Bettie Smith, Rob Pratt, Stan Shrlhamer, Debbie Schwab, Dennis McAulffie, Butch Harviston, Stu & T.J Murphy, Suzanne Sadow, Ken Conrad, Jim Day, John Dusenberry, Bob Umbowers, Charmayne Cornell, Ron Lowry, Steven & Annabelle Rese, Ray Zittlau, Candyee Peterson, Ken Howard, Alan Chapman, Tamara Barnett & family, and Jean & Tom Sisson.

WKA was well represented as were the Skypainters.

Thanks To All That Attended

By Dave Christenson

A Special Thank You to all of the kite makers and fliers and friends that attended the Annual WKA/PCKA Holiday Gathering. Although

the attendance was a little less than last year, I believe everyone had a marvelous time. Through the generosity of those that attended and those that donated we raised a total of \$772.00 for the local Food Bank in Fife. Several members that attended said that they would like to see the party a little earlier in the season, due to the conflict with other events during the holiday season. On that note the Annual WKA/PCKA Holiday Gathering is scheduled for Nov. 21, 1998. I hope this will make it more accessible to more participants. Thanks to all of you that helped setup and cleanup afterwards. If anyone has any suggestions to improve the gathering please let me know. Hope to see you all on the flying fields soon, and Thanks Again for your generosity and good will during the holiday season.



FAX (206) 633-0301
(206) 632-6151 (206) 633-4780

Editors Echo

It has been a busy couple months for us. Jeannette's appraisal business has been crazy lately with the drop in interest rates. She has not had the time to work on the newsletter so if you don't like the way it turned out this time blame me. Fortunately I have had the time.

I made a trip down to the KTAI a few weeks ago. I had a real great time down there and will try and put some pictures in the next newsletter if there is room. I wrote a quick report for this time, and added a picture of the Stranger Level 7.

I tried to update the club contacts, addresses, phone numbers, etc. If you have any corrections or additions please let me know.

I also put in the calendar of events for about half the year. If you have any additions, corrections, clarifications, please let me know. I only had information like "early June" for some things and need the actual dates. If you have any events beyond the time frame I've listed please let me know. I have a few things but it gets kind of fuzzy beyond WSIKF.

We also recieved a "Thank You" from the PC Food Bank, and a Christmas Card from the Essex Kite Group in England that I hope to have room for next time.

Bill and Jeannette Rogers



Stranger Level 7
By Andy Preston

Kite Calendar

Event organizers, please contact Bill and Jeannette Rogers at (360) 697-2917 or bill@silverlink.net by the first of odd numbered months with Kite Calendar information. Please include as a minimum the date, time, place, contact person, phone number, and email address (if applicable).

FEBRUARY

February 14-16, 1998

World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame, Long Beach, WA. "Everyone Wants a Cody". To accompany the opening of the Museum's new exhibit, The Golden Age of Kites, Jeff Howard, a Cody specialist, will teach participants how to make an impressive Cody kite. Contact the museum for more info: (360) 642-4020.

February 26, 1998

PCKA Meeting, Summit Branch Library, Tacoma, WA. Miniature kite Workshop. Turn a plain photograph into a miniature kite. Instructors: Sharon Torres and Penny Lingenfelter. For more info contact Dick Curran (253) 927-8779.

MARCH

March 6-8, 1998

15th Annual Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, Port Townsend, WA. For information contact Bob Alford at (425) 888-2812 or Email: balford@cnw.com.

March 11-16, 1998

Spring Break Buggy Blast, Ivanpah Dry Lake, Primm NV (near Las Vegas). For more info contact Morrie or Kelci Williams at (360) 268-0318 or Email: williams@techline.com.

March 22, 1998

Annual PCKA St. Paddy's Day Funfly, Fort Steilacoom Park, 10:00 AM 'till whenever. Bring yourself, your kites, the beverages of your choice and your contribution to a Finger Food Pot Luck.

March 26, 1998

PCKA Meeting, Summit Branch Library, Fort Worden Show and Tell. Bring your creations from Fort Worden and tell folks about them. For more info contact Dick Curran (253) 927-8779.

March 28-29, 1998

World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame, Long Beach, WA. "Flying Circles, Not Saucers-". Peg and Bill Burley have created an affordable package to make your very first Circleflex kite. After the directions came out in the French Cerf-Volant magazine, the Burleys were the first to fly circle kites at Long Beach. From their first kite, they have experimented with materials to create a flying circle anyone can make that doesn't break the bank. Contact the museum for more info: (360) 642-4020.

APRIL

April 25-26, 1998

World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame, Long Beach, WA. "Applique From the Champion". Gail Lindsey, winner of blue ribbons in regional and national comprehensive competitions, will teach applique techniques. You can make a black ripstop hata using one of several of Gail's applique designs or create designs of your own.

Ed Lindsey will demonstrate bridling and flying. Class begins at 10 am Saturday.

Sewing machines, cutting materials, and thread will be necessary. Contact the museum for more info: (360) 642-4020.

JUNE

Early June, 1998

Ocean Shores Stunt Kite Championships, Ocean Shores, WA.

June 14, 1998

Seattle Kite Festival. For more info contact Kathy Goodwind (206) 362-6151 or goodwinds@aol.com.

Late June, 1998

Northwest Stunt Kite Championships, Long Beach, WA

JULY

July 10-12, 1998 (tentative)

Westport Stunt Kite Championships, Westport, WA. For more info contact Creda Axton (360) 491-3229 Aderc@aol.com or Rob Pratt (360) 456-1513.

NORTH WEST KITE ACTIVITIES

Newsletter Proposal

submitted by Kathy Goodwind

In the past I have proposed the idea of producing a combined newsletter of all the clubs in the Northwest Area. When I receive all the newsletters from all the regional kite clubs, it occurs to me that quite a bit of paper is being wasted on the repetition of news on local activities, regional events and a constant cry of "will someone step forward and help with the newsletters".

As a regional kite business who would like to support all the efforts of these clubs, it occurs to me that I would much prefer to advertise in one group effort as opposed to having to send in artwork to all the different kite clubs in this area. In order to be able to provide support to each and everyone of the clubs by advertising in all and providing artwork for all, I think I have come up with a solution that would serve everyone's needs.

I made this proposal several years ago but at that time everyone seemed pretty secure in their newsletter editors but as things would have it - time marches on. Volunteer editors are the salt of the earth but the amount of work that goes into putting news together, results in an overwhelming expenditure of time and energy. Volunteer time becomes even more precious and enthusiasm can be replaced by gauging how heavy the load becomes and how much enthusiasm one volunteer can sustain over a period of time.

When I proposed the following plan, many members of Kite clubs responded with "but we have our own mast head" or "we have to publish our minutes" or "our charter requires publishing our financial status." These problems can all be overcome by considering the positive aspects of combining all this information under one newsletter. Now you may wonder how could this possibly serve everyone equally? Let me explain.

A newsletter editor can be "hired". This person could design a newsletter that contains all the news pertinent to the local kite club along with their mast head, along with their presidents message, along with minutes of meetings, and even a local kite clubs state of financial affairs.

Each club could be allotted a number of pages, say four, that sounds like a good number. These pages could feature the same news that is now being presented but maybe in a condensed form to make the newsletter mailable.

The most obvious savings would be in the areas of The Kite Events Calendar, news on events such as Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, or other kite festival news that is often rehashed in all the current newsletters (and is sometimes hard to find any one person to write an article on), repetitions of advertising, and most of all a huge savings would be made on mailing. By combining all the local newsletters into one mailing, a bulk mailout would be possible. You don't need to buy a bulk permit (savings of about \$75.00 per kite club), you can send these out through local mailing houses and still save on the postage.

By printing one regional newsletter you could save on the number of newsletter editors required, you could have one larger newsletter telling us about all the regional activities, you could have less paper to archives and you could possibly have a greater income by combining advertising revenues. The additional advertising revenues and savings on mailing costs along could probably pay for the services of one newsletter editor.

If this seems like an undaunting task to you all, but you find it an intriguing proposal, I would be happy to try helping put this proposal in motion after the KTAI. Let me know what you think.

Sincerely,
Kathy Goodwind

REGIONAL CLUBS

ADVERTISEMENTS

For items relating to kites or kitefliers. Charge is 10 cents a word (\$3 minimum) per issue. Lost, Found, Stolen, or Free items will be listed free if under 30 words. Make checks payable to WKA, mail to Bill & Jeannette Rogers Editors, P.O. Box 2393, Poulsbo, WA 98370.

WKA Patch

Patches featuring the WKA logo are available for \$4 each. Make check payable to the WKA. Contact Susie Christenson, 7605 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98445.

WKA 3-Pin Sets

The new WKA pins are a 3 pin set that, when put together, form a Rokkaku. The center pin lists all of the kite clubs in the WKA. The 3 pin set is priced at \$15 including postage (\$16 outside the US). Make check payable to the WKA. Contact Susie Christenson, 7605 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98445.

ASSOCIATED OREGON KITERS

P.O. Box 25616, Portland, OR 97225. Membership includes bi-monthly newsletter.

BEN FRANKLIN KITE SOCIETY

Contact Greg or Margaret Greger at (509)943-3951

BRITISH COLUMBIA KITE-FLYERS ASSOCIATION

Box 755, 810 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V5Z-4C9. Membership \$8.00 in a US money order only.

CAPITOL CITY FLYERS

Contact Leroy Peoples (360) 456-4156

kgb - KITE GROUP OF BOISE

Gary Self, 5403 Paulson Circle, Boise, ID 83704. Individual membership \$7.00 includes a quarterly (?) newsletter.

LILAC CITY WIND CHASERS

Meets every Tuesday (during daylight savings), 5:00 PM, Friendship Park, 7200 block of N Standard. Contact Bill or Connie Lester, 3524 W Kierman, Spokane, WA 99205 (509) 327-2829 blester@ix.netcom.com.

NORTH BEACH SKY PAINTERS KITE CLUB

Contact Eric Halverson (503) 537-0817. Fun fly and potluck dinner on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

NORTHWEST BUGGY PILOTS ASSN.

Contact Morrie and Kelci Williams, P.O. Box 1358, Westport, WA 98595-1358 (360) 268-0318 williams@techline.com. Meetings on the 4th Saturday of each month, usually at Washaway Beach, Grayland. Check with Morrie and Kelci for current location.

PCKA - PIERCE COUNTY KITEFLYERS ASSN.

Contact Dick Curran (253) 927-8779. Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. Call for details.

SCI-FI - SNOHOMISH COUNTY INCREDIBLE FLYING INDIVIDUALS

Contact Mike Eason (425) 334-0362 or Four Winds Kite Shop (425) 339-9334.

SQUALICUM KITE FLYERS

Contact Don or Shirley Allen (360) 733-3777. 505 West Bakerview #114, Bellingham, WA 98226.

YAKIMA VALLEY KITE FLYERS

Contact Rod Yarger (509) 453-4679. 209 N 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902

WESTPORT WINDRIDERS

Contact Creda Axton (360) 491-3229 Aderc@aol.com or Rob Pratt (360) 456-1513. Funfly and meeting/potluck dinner on the 4th Sunday of each month. Call for location and details.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

GRAYLAND, Northwest Buggy Pilots Assoc. Fun flies 4th Saturday of every month at Wash-Away Beach. Verify location with Morrie and Kelci Williams, P.O. Box 1358, Westport, WA 98595-1358 (360) 268-0318
williams@techline.com

OCEAN SHORES, North Coast Sky Painters. Meet and fly the 2nd weekend of every month (except December). Fly at Illahee Beach. Potluck following on Saturday night at the VFW Hall at Hogan's Corner. Ask for directions at local kite shoppes or contact Dee/Eric Halverson (503) 537-0817.

SPOKANE, Lilac City Wind Chasers. Fun flies every Tuesday, 4:00 PM until dark, at Friendship Park, 7400 block of North Standard.

TACOMA, Pierce County Kitefliers Assoc. Meetings on the last Thursday of the month at Summit Branch of Pierce Co. Library, 7:00 PM. Contact Dick Curran (253) 927-8779.

EVERETT, SCI-FI. 2nd Saturday every month. Fun flies or other events. General meetings often at 1 PM. Contact Mike Eason (425) 334-0362 or Four Winds Kite Shop (425) 339-9334.

WESTPORT, Westport Windriders. 4th Saturday every month. Fun fly and potluck. Contact Creda Axton (360) 491-3229 Aderc@aol.com or Rob Pratt (360) 456-1513.

DO ANY OTHER CLUBS HAVE REGULARLY
SCHEDULED EVENTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO
LIST?

If so, send the information to the *WKA Newsletter*
(address on page 2)

KTAI Report

I went down to the KTAI in San Diego a few weeks ago. This was my first trip to the KTAI, so I didn't really know what to expect, except that I was going to get to see all the new kites and hopefully try some of them out.

First off I would like to give a special thanks to Herb Andrews at Mainframe kite shop for letting me go in his place. Thanks Herb!

The KTAI (Kite Trade Association International) is a yearly event that has manufacturers, designers, and retailers of kites or kite related stuff come together once a year and show their products. People come from literally around the world to attend this. It was held Wednesday through Saturday, Jan 7-10 1998.

I missed the first day of the show, but got to spend a lot of time on Thursday checking out the booths. All the kite companies I could think of, and some I'd never heard of were represented there. In a lot of cases the designers of the kites were there, and it was great to get to talk to them and get tips on their kites.

The demo fly scheduled for Friday got rained out. Warm and sunny San diego, wasn't. Well it was warm.

Saturday the weather decided to cooperate. There was a demo fly at 2 pm, but some people were heading out to the flying field early. Chris Matheson from the UK (he designs for HQ, and is one of my favorite kite people) offered me his kite bag to take out to the field (twist my arm!). He didn't

have to ask me twice. There was decent wind at the field, 5-15 mph over the course of the day. I had wind and a bag full of kites, it don't get much better than that.

Most of the kites I tried out were HQ, but I did get to try out a few others. The ones that stand out in my mind are the HQ/Matheson Midi 98, HQ Tramontana 2000, HQ Passion, Eolo Tango, and the Prism Alien. Forgive my dual line bias, but that is all I fly at the present.

The one that stands out most in my mind though is Andy Preston's new kite, the Stranger Level 7. It has a curved spine that makes the kite look pregnant, and a serious curve to the wingtips. It doesn't quite fly like a normal dual line kite either. Andy was doing some cool stuff with it, like putting it into the fade position, and spinning it around on its back, over and over. If you are looking for something different in dual line you should check this out.

Overall I really enjoyed the trip. Most anyone I've ever wanted to meet in kiting was there. I actually thought I was a pretty decent flyer until I saw some of these guys and gals flying. Now I know I have a lot to learn.

Awards: Best Booth - Mile High, Best Manufacturer - Prism, Best Catalog - Prism, Best Manufacturer in Europe - HQ, Best New Kite - New Tech Dancing Salamander, Best Media Presentation - Flight School IV, Best New Kite Product - Shanti Adjustable Flight Straps, Best Kite Store USA - The Kite Loft, Best Kite Store International - Vleiger Op.

Bill Rogers

1998 WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS BALLOT

Ballots must be received by March 1, 1998. Please fill out and mail to the WKA, Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Wa. 98109. Individual members are entitled to one vote, while family memberships are entitled to two votes. Write-ins are accepted and wanted, as you see, there are many vacancies.

Individual members check one box per position; family memberships check two boxes per position. Please use original ballot with mailing label intact. This is to ensure that only current members cast votes. Photocopies will not be counted. Mailing labels will be removed before ballots are counted. Election results will be reported at Ft. Worden.

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