



# Newsletter

## May/June 2008

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

WKA — a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people know how much fun it is to fly kites!

### Important Notice For All WKA Members Membership Annual Meeting Your Attendance is Requested

A **very** short meeting will be held at the Wednesday night WKA dinner on August 20, 2008 during the Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF). The purpose is to have you vote on amending our club by-laws (see page 3), as well as approving the 2008 budget and to announce the results of the election of new officers of our club.

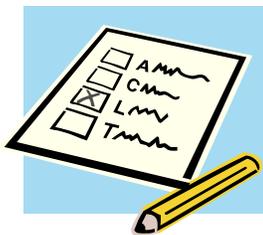
**Location:**

Grange Hall  
5715 Sandridge Road  
Long Beach WA 98631

Starting Time: 5 pm

See inside this newsletter for the proposed bylaw changes.

A ballot for voting on the board members is also enclosed on page 13 in this newsletter.



Please take time to vote. Be counted!!



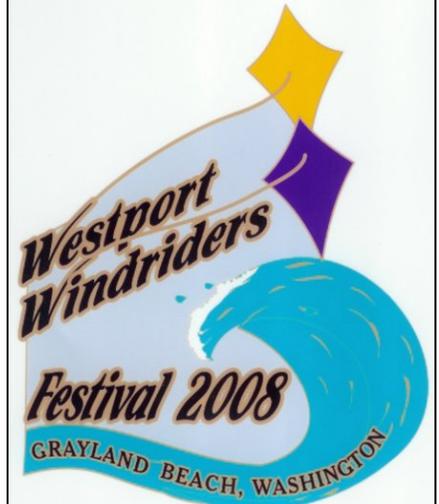
### Fathers' Day Fun Fly

The WKA will have a Fun Fly on Father's Day  
Where? Kite Hill,

Magnuson Park,  
Seattle

When? June 15, 2008  
from 10:00 to 4:00

Feel free to bring your fathers, your children and your grandchildren, even your aunts and uncles along for this event. It promises to be a great day and a lot of fun. And don't forget Mother!!



Westport Windriders presents  
our 2008 Kite Festival  
July 11, 12 & 13

It will be on the beach in  
Grayland, Washington  
and

we will be celebrating 20 + years  
of kite flying fun and excitement.

There will be kite making and a  
Teddy Bear drop for the kids  
Saturday & Sunday

Handcrafted kite competition  
Mass Ascension all 3 days  
Sport kite flying competition

Our guest flyer this year will be  
**Mike Button**  
from Bellingham, WA

For more information and  
directions please contact  
Marla Miller 253-752-7051  
or email at: [kytpepl2@aol.com](mailto:kytpepl2@aol.com)

## Fort Worden Kitemaker's Conference 2008 Family Time

Something really new and exciting happened at Fort Worden this year. How great it was to see, not one, but **two** teenage boys learning to sew and making their own kites! **Chris Marchard** was excited about the project he finished while learning to sew in **Gerry's Pennell's** class and the Little Genki he made with **Dave Ellis**.



In case you've forgotten, Chris is the young man who received the "Chris's Kite" made by **Ron Button**, given away for Kids' Day at WSIKF last August. Chris's whole family came to Port Townsend for the weekend so he could join in the Fort Worden classes and meals. He kept in touch with them via cell phone. He was so enthusiastic about his classes he stated his intention of sewing through the whole night, if needed, to finish his kite projects. He had come prepared with a notebook full of designs he wanted to put on his new kites.

The other young man was a part of the **Arquitt** family. I think he was attending for the second year. His entire family was present at each meal and were very successful in scoring raffle items. They showed such enthusiasm. It is good to see families who are supporting their teenagers in their desire to become kite makers, as well as become members of the kite community. It is especially great to watch these young men as they enthusiastically charge ahead in becoming involved in the sport of kiting.

The other family group that was notable at the conference was the **Wendt** family. **Donna's** mother, **Jean Reed**, was the recipient of this year's WKA scholarship to Fort Worden. Bob and Donna joined her at the Fort for the weekend and they all created their own kite projects. It is so great to be involved in a sport that provides such quality experiences for such a wide variety of ages!

**Glenda Kleppin**

## WKA Board Members

### President

**Rick White**

Ssragtop@aol.com

### Vice President

**Ken Conrad**

ken@greatwinds.com

### Treasurer

**Carol Lord**

carollord@comcast.net

### Secretary

**Susan Tislow**

bstislow@yahoo.com

### Membership

**Sylvia Bernauer**

dbrn1@earthlink.net

### Education

**Ken Conrad**

ken@greatwinds.com

### Merchant Liaison

**Ray Bojarski**

rbojarski@comcast.net

### Products

**Position Available**

### Special Events Coordinators

**Glenda Kleppin**

gmakleppin@usa.net

**Jerry Graham**

jlgraham@usa.net

### Newsletter Editor

**Marzlie Freeman**

marzlie@shaw.ca

### Webmaster

**Rick White**

ssragtop@aol.com

### Safety

**Position Available**

Contact a member of the Board to let them know you would be happy to help out with the positions that are available, Your club needs **YOU**

## Proposed Amendments to the Washington Kitefliers Association By-Laws

### Changes

#### First Proposed Amendment

Article VI of the by-laws sets forth means of election of Officers. Section A. presently states that: Elected officers shall serve a term of one calendar year.

**Proposed Amendment:** "Resolved, that Article VI be amended by changing the term of office from one to two years." The amended article would then read as follows: **"Elected officers shall serve a term of two years. The President and Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years and the Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years."**

*Reason for the change: The effect of this Amendment would be to allow more continuity in the leadership of the organization. In order to facilitate this change, the people elected in 2008 for the President and Treasurer would serve two year terms while the people elected as Vice President and Secretary would serve one year terms. In 2009, the people elected as Vice President and Secretary would then serve their first two year terms.*

#### Second Proposed Amendment

Article VIII of the by-laws sets forth the Duties of Officers of the club. Section A.5. lists the standing committees of the organization to include the following: Newsletter, Membership, Products, Special Events, Education, Safety, Merchant Liaison, and Webmaster/Coordinator.

**Proposed Amendment:** Resolved, that Article VII, A, 5. be amended as follows:

**"The Officers of the Association shall appoint Committee Chairman as needed to meet current needs and goals of the Association. These committee chairmen shall serve as a part of the Board of Trustees. There shall be a minimum of 5 such committee chairmen at any given time, although this number may be increased at the discretion of the Board of Trustees."**

*Reason for the Change: Amending the by-laws in this manner would accomplish two things. First, the present by-laws are silent on how committee chairmen are selected and the amended by-law would clarify this. Second, the needs of the Association are ever changing and the board should be able to respond to these changes without having to amend the by-laws each time that they feel that a change is needed. Such an amendment would make it possible for the Board of Trustees to be more readily responsive to the concerns and wishes of WKA members and to create whatever committees are appropriate at any given time.*

#### Third Proposed Amendment

Article VIII, D of the by-laws sets forth the requirements for meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Association. This Article specifies, in part, that "Meetings of the Board shall be in even numbered months, or at the discretion of the president, the president shall act as chairperson. No business shall be conducted unless a quorum, consisting of five trustees, is present."

**Proposed Amendment:** Resolved, Article VII, D shall be amended to read as follows: **"Meetings of the Board shall be bi-monthly or at the discretion of the president, the president shall act as chairperson. Meetings may be conducted via e-mail, conference calls, or other modern electronic means as they become available. No motion shall be approved unless a quorum, consisting of five trustees, shall vote in favor of the motion."**

*Reason for the Change: The purpose of this amendment is to bring the by-laws into conformity with the practices which the board has already found to be an effective way to deal with the business of the Association. Board Members live in widely separated geographic areas and find it difficult to physically get together in a single place. Modern electronic methods of communication are rapidly expanding and the Board needs to have the authority to conduct business by utilizing new communication modes as they become available.*

## Pierce County Kitefliers Association (PCKA)

The Pierce County Kitefliers Association had several activities in conjunction with National Kite Month. They had a training session for young library volunteers in how to make kites and helped them put on a kite making workshop for kids at the library.

Members also put up various Kite Month displays in libraries and elsewhere. **Alexa King** gave the club members a



demonstration of how she uses paints and other materials to decorate her kites.

Finally, the new PCKA rokkaku made its first international appearance. **Jerry and Glenda** took the kite to fly at the White Rock, BC Festival of Wind, Waves and Water.

**Glenda kleppin**

## Kite Month Activities

So how do you keep your enthusiasm for kites alive between Fort Worden and the summer kite festivals at the beach? You should be able to find lots of answers for the question during April each year as that is National Kite Month. If you don't know about National Kite Month, or want to know more, be sure to check out their website at <http://www.nationalkitemonth.org/>. This year there were 438 events registered on the website, including 175 kite making workshops. There were 56 events registered in Washington, second only to Texas which registered 86 events. Of course, the person in charge of the event for AKA lives in Texas. Need I say more?

There were prize drawings for people who had registered events. In Washington, prizes were won by **Jerry Fincher**, **Kay Buesing**, and **Bob Wendt**—who won twice! Other people who registered events were **Ron** and **Marla Miller**, **Scott** and **Kristian Slater**, **Alexa King**, **Erv Crosby**, **Rick White**, **Barry** and **Susan Tislow**, **Ryss Little**, **Mel Hickman**, **Malena Kamel**, **Connie Lester**, **Maryann Horsley**, and—of course—**Jerry Graham**.

At our house, kites pretty much took over our lives for the whole month. Jerry put up exhibits at two of our local libraries; at the Bonney Lake Senior Center; at our local bank, credit union, and physical therapy offices; at Grocery Outlet, and Quality Sewing and Vac; at Fort Lewis and in the dahlia booth at the Puyallup Spring Fair. Just think about the number of posters and kites involved! I totally wore out my new color printing cartridges printing pictures and posters. We have a permanent kite display at the Bonney Lake Library, so we at least did not have to hang kites there.

And then there were the kite making workshops. We made kites at the library, at the senior center, and—joining a Westport Windrider's crew—in every classroom at a Montessori school. The biggest challenge was the 250 kites we made at the Fort Lewis Kids' Day event, where we were given hands-on support by **Carl Williamson**, **Scott** and **Kristian Slater**, and **Marla Miller**.

### Carl Williamson

As an aside: Many, many thanks to **Carl Williamson**—who brought the entire setup of precut plastic sled kites, along with all of the fixings (tails, tape, string, etc.)! If you don't know Carl, just look for him at the kite making booths at various festivals and you will usually find him there, or somewhere in a classroom, or a school sponsored event. Most other weekends he can be found making kites at the WA State campground at Pacific Beach. This year, he is making all of the kite kits for WSIKF. Carl has a wide variety of patterns for kids' kites and he willingly shares these with anybody who is interested. These kites are all simple and economical to make and fly well. Over the years, he has made well over 10,000 kites with kids! As amazing as that all is, the MOST amazing thing about Carl is he does all of this at his own expense! He never takes payment for either his time or his materials. He is a special person who apparently has 12 kite months in his year.

### Fort Lewis

Back to the kite making at Fort Lewis. This was our second year at this event and we were one of the most popular booths. We were one of the first booths to get set up before 11:00 and were the very last booth to be taken down at 5:00—an hour after the event was

supposed to be over and all of us worked steadily the whole time we were there. But who is going to turn away a kid who desperately wants to make a kite? This event is amazing. There were several different programs on their stage, including some trained pigs. There were booths to make all sorts of different things and there were lots of freebies. The kids (and a few of us adults) collected bags full of stuff to take with them. We had lines of kids during the whole time—everything from the early busloads of kids during the opening hour, to battalions of moms pushing tank-sized baby strollers. Everybody was happy and excited, including the kite making crew. Jerry, Carl and I were the last ones of our group out of the building, except for the large clean-up crew. As we made our last trip out, we sighted something that gave a great finish to the day: at the edge of the parking lot was a young boy, happily flying his new kite, totally oblivious to the bustle around him.

### Earth/Arbor Day

What can I say about the fly on Earth/Arbor Day on April 12th? It was cold; it was wet; it was **great!** As we sat here in our warm house that morning, watching the snowflakes outside, we were not sure whether or not to head north. We'd told **Rick White** we would go up **unless** it was snowing at our house, so we definitely had a legitimate "out" and, besides, it was **cold** and I'd already put away my winter clothes!

However, we called Rick and he assured us the weather in Bellevue was fine. A short time later, he called back and asked us to please come up—he was lonely. So, we headed out. It was snowing again when we left, but only on our hill. However, the closer we got to the park where we were flying, the wetter it became. Jerry noticed a rig pulling a large boat going by us on the highway and remarked the boater was even crazier than we were if he intended to go out on the water—or maybe he knew something we didn't.

By the time we got to the park, there was a downpour. Rick, Launny, and Sylvia were there, under a shelter, along with Stan and Debbie (of Puff-Cow fame) along with their friend, Nick. We got out of the van, shaking our fists at Rick. At least he had hot water ready for hot chocolate. Besides all of the great kite people who eventually showed up, the event was made bearable by the setting. The visitor's center actually had heated floors (even in the bathrooms) and there were friendly, helpful park rangers handing out free fruit, cookies, t-shirts, and folding Frisbees. The flying field was flat and neatly groomed and the spectators were appreciative.

We are definitely going back for the event again next year (they start planning for it 6 months in advance!). Everybody agreed that the weather this year was worse (and colder) than any weather we've ever had for the January 1st fly! I'm thinking Mother Nature just played her April 1st joke a bit late this year. Even listening to the weather report and their awkward claim we were having record low high temperatures was enough for a good laugh. As Jerry pointed out, it takes a lot of energy to shiver and we were very glad to get back to our nice warm home and take a nap.

### Pacific Science Center

My report on Kite Month would be incomplete without a mention

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

of all the effort **Marla** and **Ron Miller** put into setting up a kite booth at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle for their annual Spring Fling event, April 9-13. Marla and Ron took several large kites to be hung and Marla bravely made the trek to Seattle to be in the booth every day except Sunday, which was her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The kite booth was right next to the presentation stage where several different groups put on exciting demonstrations for the families attending. It was interesting to talk to these folk and I was able to acquire some new porcupine quills. Be sure to ask Marla to tell you ALL about “Dr. Doo from Woodlands Park Zoo who is here to tell us all about poo.” I’m sure that she has his presentation memorized.

Jerry and I spent all day Sunday in the booth. We took along some of our new indoor kite toys and I was able to play with them—with the help of several kids. We flew our new UFO, and two kites I had made at Fort Worden this year—**Jeremy Colbert’s** indoor diamond and **Paul Horner’s** Tensegrity kite. Several kids got involved and one pre-teen girl spent about ½ hour flying the Tensegrity kite while the rest of her scout group were making woodland crowns at another display. Her scout leader had a hard time getting her to leave! Although we did not have a roped-off area in which to fly, I’m happy to report that no kids were hit by the kites and we hit only a few good-natured adults (mostly me because I stayed close by when kids were flying). This was the first real test of my newly repaired shoulder, and I’m happy to report that I **can** fly kites again!

#### **White Rock, B.C.**

As a finale to the month, **Ellen Pardee** joined us from Spokane for

a few days, staying in our spare house—the school bus. We did a couple of kite activities together and then we all headed to White Rock for their annual Festival of Wind, Water and Waves. Other WKA folk who were there were: **John** and **Marzlie Freeman**, **Dick** and **Georgean Curran**, and the entire **King** family—**Sam**, **Kari**, and **Alexa**. It was a fun event, as always, although it was cooler this year than usual and the winds did not cooperate very well the early part of Saturday. The banners and ground displays were great and attracted lots of attention, especially from kids who were delighted when we told them they were allowed to touch the fish in our swimming fish pond and to play with our bol. One little girl spent over an hour playing with the bol. Her mother was heard to remark it was better than a video game for keeping her attention. Duhhhh. They handed out some awesome trophies and ribbons. John and **Marzlie** were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place; we got 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and **Bob Serack** got 3<sup>rd</sup> for his banners. Needless to say, we were pleased!

Yes, kites took up a most of our time and energy for the whole month, but we had a lot of fun in return. We challenge each of you to put up at least one Kite Month Display next year. Nearly all libraries are happy to have such displays and they are not difficult to prepare. All you need is a poster along with a few kites, either hung from walls or ceilings. There are lots of Kite Month resources available at their website, including various posters. Don’t wait until the last minute. Start planning your displays now so you can take pictures this summer to put on your posters!

#### **Glenda Kleppin**

#### **Additional note on White Rock**

Dick and I got up to White Rock on Friday about noon. It was a beautiful day with light winds, so we went out and flew 5 kites for a while. Had our own festival. Figured this time of year you take advantage of flying weather when you can because you never know. Saturday started pretty light. Both on the wind end and the sun end, but both picked up and it was a great day. Wind was a

little changeable, but for the most part we could fly.

Now Sunday was something else. Overcast and **no** wind until 11. Poor sail boat racers were pretty much stalled. But the winds picked up and so did the cold. And by noon it was beginning to spit rain. Things started getting packed up and the place was pretty much empty by 2. Drizzled off and on the rest of the day. So goes kite flying the first festival of the season.

#### **Georgean Curran**

White Rock Photo by  
**Georgean Curran**



## Notes from the Prez——



My whole article could be summed up in three words, "Read Sylvia's article". I just got a sneak peak at it, and it's great. Thanks Sylvia for another one. The snow day/fun fly was just that, a lot of FUN! Even considering the weather.

Which brings me to another point. It was said to me about a year ago, "Rick, what I would like to see the WKA do, is make a return to

the old days when we just went out and flew kites for fun!" And it made me think. Yeah! I didn't like to have those meetings anyway! OK, OK, we have to have those meetings, but I am making them as short as possible. More on that later.

Lately we have started to get out and look for places and reasons to have fun flies. We have already been invited to four of them. The first two we couldn't do for conflict reasons. One of them in April, we had snowball fights at, the other one is June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cross Roads Mall in Bellevue. We officially have been invited to fly our kites and banners at the Grand Opening of the new water park just north and east of the Cross Roads Mall in Bellevue. Yes, I know, they are just using us! But guess what? We are using them too! We are allowed to advertise with our banners and tents, pass out cards, and even have kids kite making too. What a great way to get out and just have fun. With strings attached. Pun intended. I hope we see a few more people getting involved in **your** club. If you want to have a fun fly near your part of the state, **please** let us know. Even if we can't make it there, at the very least, we will advertise the event for you for free on the WKA web site!

There are a couple of things we need help with. We need **cooks** and **helpers** for the annual WSIKF Feed and auction. The board is talking amongst ourselves, we have come up with an idea of maybe having lasagna and salad this year, instead of spaghetti. We will see what happens.

Another thing we need help with is, **getting people involved with the club**. Like attending the events and volunteers who are willing to let their names stand for board positions, etc. We have received no names as of yet. This is your club, folks. It is as good as the people in it. So try your best to come and fly with us. If you can't do that, at least write and tell us how you feel, and send us articles for our newsletter.

There are a lot of ways you can help the WKA. We need pictures of your personal kiting events for our website, and newsletters. We need volunteers for the events we get asked to attend. I am remembering the Pacific

Science Center kiting booth. They really could have used more help there. I remember feeling guilty because I had to work the whole time. A big thanks to **Glenda Kleppin, Marla Miller, Sylvia Bernauer** and **Ken Conrad**, (And whoever else helped) for putting in their time there. I heard they even had a few kids fly kites indoors! Wow, that must have impressed the people there!

We are seeing a small rise in membership this year. Mostly as a result of people seeing us at the local events, and liking what we are doing. Remember our motto? **To show people how much fun it is to make and fly kites!**

Finally, I would like to remind everyone again, our annual WSIKF "whatever" feed is coming up very soon! We are staying upstairs in the Grange hall, just like last year. It was SOOOO much more comfortable than downstairs. And the P.A. was a lot better as well. I hope you all can come and eat with us, and bring, or send, your donations for our **only** fund raiser of the year for **your** WKA. At that dinner, we will take a couple of minutes to ask the membership to vote on a couple of by-laws changes. You can read more on that, elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks to everyone for a great year, and I hope we will see you out there with us flying and showing others how much fun it is!

### Rick White

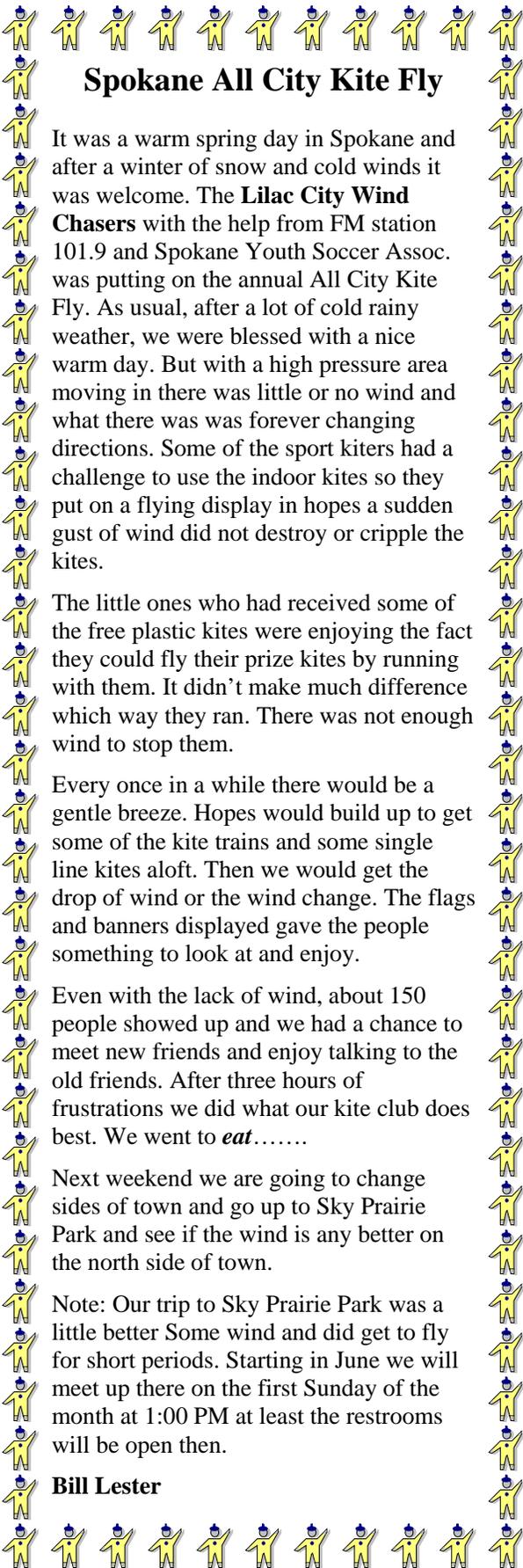
Two more pix from White Rock by **Georgan**

Here is **Dick Curran** in his new kite flyer outfit. Very colorful, as usual!



Some of the display, this was on Saturday when it was not threatening to rain.





## Spokane All City Kite Fly

It was a warm spring day in Spokane and after a winter of snow and cold winds it was welcome. The **Lilac City Wind Chasers** with the help from FM station 101.9 and Spokane Youth Soccer Assoc. was putting on the annual All City Kite Fly. As usual, after a lot of cold rainy weather, we were blessed with a nice warm day. But with a high pressure area moving in there was little or no wind and what there was was forever changing directions. Some of the sport kites had a challenge to use the indoor kites so they put on a flying display in hopes a sudden gust of wind did not destroy or cripple the kites.

The little ones who had received some of the free plastic kites were enjoying the fact they could fly their prize kites by running with them. It didn't make much difference which way they ran. There was not enough wind to stop them.

Every once in a while there would be a gentle breeze. Hopes would build up to get some of the kite trains and some single line kites aloft. Then we would get the drop of wind or the wind change. The flags and banners displayed gave the people something to look at and enjoy.

Even with the lack of wind, about 150 people showed up and we had a chance to meet new friends and enjoy talking to the old friends. After three hours of frustrations we did what our kite club does best. We went to *eat*.....

Next weekend we are going to change sides of town and go up to Sky Prairie Park and see if the wind is any better on the north side of town.

Note: Our trip to Sky Prairie Park was a little better Some wind and did get to fly for short periods. Starting in June we will meet up there on the first Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM at least the restrooms will be open then.

**Bill Lester**

## Kite Clubs

### Associated Oregon Kiters

Contact: Deb Cooley  
Email: [tucoolkites@earthlink.net](mailto:tucoolkites@earthlink.net)  
PO Box 25616  
Portland OR 97298  
Membership includes 5 issues per year newsletter

### Ben Franklin Kite Society

Contact Larry Zilar  
509-627-6751 or email:  
[zilarlm@charter.net](mailto:zilarlm@charter.net)

### Lavender Winds Kite Club

Brian Bradley  
email: [KiteBear@aol.com](mailto:KiteBear@aol.com)  
meet 2nd Sunday, noon in  
Long Beach, WA

### Lilac City Wind Chasers

Contact Bill Cox  
509-327-7974 or  
email: [cxbil@aol.com](mailto:cxbil@aol.com)  
Starting in June meet first Sunday of  
the month in Sky Prairie Park, W.  
Strong Rd, just east of N Five Mile  
Rd, Spokane, WA

### NW Fighter Kite Association

meets 3rd weekend of every month,  
location varies.

More info: [www.fighterkites.org](http://www.fighterkites.org)

### Northwest Sport Kite League

Contact Bud Hayes  
email: [bud@thehayesplace.com](mailto:bud@thehayesplace.com)  
Calendar at [www.nwskl.org](http://www.nwskl.org)

### Peninsula Breeze Blenders

Contact Bill Rogers or Lisa Ryan  
email: [lisaryan@mail.com](mailto:lisaryan@mail.com) or  
[billrogers@earthlink.net](mailto:billrogers@earthlink.net) Meets 2nd  
Wednesday every month at the Fire  
Station on Loxie Egan Blvd.

### Pierce County Kiteflyers Assn

President: Bob Wendt  
Puyallup, WA 98374  
253-848-6325 (home)  
[prez@pcka.org](mailto:prez@pcka.org)  
Calendar at [www.pcka.org](http://www.pcka.org)

### Squalicum Kite Flyers

Contact Mike Button  
360-733-7380  
email: [kite102@aol.com](mailto:kite102@aol.com)  
Fun fly every Wednesday and Sunday  
afternoons during daylight savings  
time until sunset

Zuanich Point Park, Squalicum  
Harbor. Bellingham WA

### Washington Kiteflyers Assn.

Contact: Rick White  
email: [ssragtop@aol.com](mailto:ssragtop@aol.com)  
Address on back page of newsletter  
Membership includes bi-monthly  
newsletter

### Westport Windriders

Contact Marla Miller  
253-752-7051  
email: [kyppepl2@aol.com](mailto:kyppepl2@aol.com)  
meets 4th Saturday every month at  
Grayland Beach, followed by potluck  
at Willapa Grange Hall

### Whidbey Island Kite Flyers

Contact Allen or Marjorie Taylor  
360-678-9358  
meets 3rd Saturday every month  
call for location.

### American Kiteflyers Association

Contact Marla Miller - Regional  
Director 253-752-7051  
email: [region10@aka.kite.org](mailto:region10@aka.kite.org)  
Regional: [www.aka.kite.org/region10](http://www.aka.kite.org/region10)  
or [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org)

### British Columbia Kiteflyers Assn.

PO Box 755  
101-1001 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 4E4  
Membership: \$20 (CDN)  
Includes quarterly newsletter  
[www.bcka.bc.ca](http://www.bcka.bc.ca)

### Some Important Definitions for Kiters:

- AKA:** American Kiteflyers Association
- WKA:** Washington Kiteflyers Association
- WSIKF:** Washington State International Kite Festival
- WIKF:** Whidbey Island Kite Fliers
- AOK:** Associated Oregon Kiters
- PCKA:** Pierce County Kiteflyers Association
- BCKA:** British Columbia Kiteflyers Association

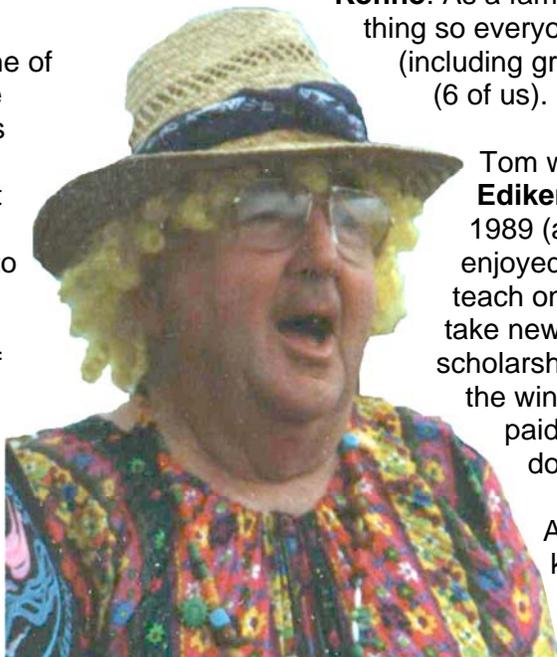
*This article about **Tom Sisson** is the second in our series of articles about some of the earlier WKA members*

**Thomas J. Sisson** was one of the first members to create Washington State Kitefliers Association. It was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in March 1986. The group was organized to foster and encourage enthusiasm for kite flying, interest in the aesthetics of kite design, the study of aerodynamics relating to the design of kites, the study of the history of kites, to promote safety in kite flying and to perpetuate the art and science of kite flying through education. The first registered agent of the corporation was Thomas J. Sisson. The original board of trustees were **Kathy Goodwind, Margaret Holzbauer, Virginia Knowls, Kevin A. Sanders and Thomas J. Sisson.**

Tom was an active member of WKA for over twenty years. He served as president four years and as education officer for ten years. He loved making kites with kids and went to most of the grade schools in Seattle.

He participated in WSIKF for many years doing

whatever they decided to ask of him. He was recognized on the field for the bright and colorful pants, etc. he wore made by his daughter **Diane Konno**. As a family, we all dressed in the same thing so everyone knew we were related (including grandsons **Joe and Brad.**) (6 of us).



Tom was honored with the **Steve Ediken** kite flyer of the year award in 1989 (at Hawaii convention). He also enjoyed going to Fort Worden and did teach one or two classes, but he liked to take new ones instead. He established a scholarship to be used at Fort Worden for the winner to have part of his tuition paid each year and that is still being done today.

Also, in Tom's name, there is a kite corner at the World Kite Museum in Long Beach and kids can make a kite free anytime they go in there.

Tom passed away December 2, 1999 at the age of 75 and was still building kites 3 days before he passed away. He and his old kite buddies are probably still doing it up there in the sky somewhere...

**Jean Sisson** (Tom's wife)

This photo of Tom in his very colorful dress and yellow wig was snapped by **Judy Brown** at **WSIKF**

**WORLD KITE MUSEUM**  
www.worldkitemuseum.com  
P.O. Box 964 Phone: 360-642-4020  
303 Sid Snyder Drive Fax: 360-642-4020  
Longbeach, WA 98631 info@worldkitemuseum.com

**Gasworks Park Kite Shop**  
3420 Stone Way N. Seattle, WA 98103  
Call for hours! (206)633-4780

**2009 WKA/SISSON KITEMAKERS CONFERENCE  
SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING  
For Kitemakers Conference March 26-29, 2009**

**Tom Sisson** was a Founding Father of WKA. He wanted everyone to have the opportunity of attending this kite making conference. He enjoyed all of it, from beginning to end. So this scholarship program was designed to include the dorm experience and meals in the dining room. Without them, a great many opportunities for connecting and sharing ideas with follow kite makers would be missed.

This program is one of the benefits of membership in WKA, and is restricted to current dues paying members at the time of the drawing and conference. Mail a note or postcard with your name, address, phone or email to our mailing address on this newsletter. The drawing will be held on Wednesday,



August 20, 2008 in Long Beach, WA. You do not have to be present to win. (Only 3 entries received at the time of writing this article.)

In Tom Sisson's honor, the WKA will send one (1) member to the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference annually. Scholarship is not transferable. The winner will receive a fully funded registration for the Kitemakers Conference to include: registration, room and board in the dormitory, pin, and \$50.00 toward class fees. If other housing or meals are requested, that cost is not covered by WKA. The winner will be responsible for transportation to and from the conference and any additional class fees or costs.

Dear Friends,

For over twenty years **Todd Hostetter** and I have been supplying the industry with parts on a daily basis. Over that time we have made many great and lasting friendships. But like everything there comes a time of change.

Though we will still maintain our great friendship with you, we are very pleased to announce that as of Monday, April 28, 2008 there are new owners of Goodwinds Kites.

The sale of the business is something we have worked for some time, seeking out just the right person to sell the business to. Todd and I are very pleased to introduce you to **Leland Holeman**.

Leland, a highly passionate young gentleman, has been in the industry for many years and is very excited to be the new owner and leader of Goodwinds Kites. Leland promises to maintain the same great service that Todd and I have been giving you for the past many years.

Leland is now operating from Mt Vernon, Washington in a warehouse quadruple in size. He can be reached at the same phone number and fax. You can also reach the website at the same url: [www.goodwindskites.com](http://www.goodwindskites.com)

To our loyal customers and vendors we would like to say a hardy "Thank You" for your many years of support. Todd and I want you to know how much we have appreciated being a part of your business and you being a part of ours.

Todd and I will be at the same brick and mortar store, The Gasworks Park Kite Shop at 3420 Stone Way North, Seattle WA 98103 (206)633-4780. Our website will still sell kites and wind toys at [www.windplaytoys.com](http://www.windplaytoys.com)

Thank you again,  
Sincerely,  
**Kathy Goodwind**  
**Todd Hostetter**

Please note the new address for **kite making supplies**:

**Goodwinds LLC**  
222 Anderson Road Unit B  
Mt Vernon WA 98273  
[www.goodwindskites.com](http://www.goodwindskites.com)

Give Leland a call, or look on the website for hours of operation. The phone numbers are the same (206)632-6151, fax is (206)633-0301.

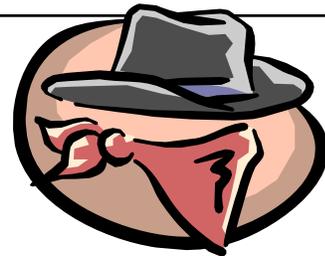
## Join the "Wild, Wild West" August 23

To add some more fun to this year's World Kite Museum WSIKF Award's Banquet and auction, there will be a theme. We'll all get to be even sillier!

It's going to start at the door where you'll be welcomed by the sheriff.



Unless you want a fine, you need to have some piece of Wild West gear on. Nothing fancy — could be a bandana around your neck, a cowboy hat or boots or big buckled belt, a sheriff's badge, handcuffs, fake snake, sunbonnet, Minnie Pearl hat etc., etc. There will be prizes, so get as elaborate as you want. A jail will be available in case you break the law (not on purpose of course!) So have a friend with funds to get you out of jail.



Watch the web page for pony express online updates. If you have ideas that inexpensively and easily can be incorporated, let us know. No shootouts, no, no, no!

<http://www.worldkitemuseum.com/index.html>

## WKA KITE PIN DESIGN CONTEST

All entries are to be submitted to Rick at;  
[ssragtop@aol.com](mailto:ssragtop@aol.com).

Or snail mailed to **Rick White** at;

**1124 Redmond Ave NE Renton, WA 98056.**

Yes, you can mail or email your entry to anyone on the Board.

The finalists will be chosen by the board.

The winner will be decided by the membership.

In addition, the winner will receive a full set of the winning pins.

### Requirements

The pin must contain the following:

1. The WKA logo must be incorporated in or on the pin.
2. A kite must be incorporated in or on the pin.
3. 1 pin design, 4 different color schemes for the set. One of them will be the rare pin. (3 will be for sale.) We can do the color changes for you, if you don't.
4. This contest will be a quick one

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** – Design deadline

You have until the 15<sup>th</sup> of June to email your designs. At that time we will be making our decisions for the finalists.

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Top finalist chosen

We will email everyone the top finalist designs by June 22<sup>nd</sup> (No more than 8, no less than 4, depending on how many come in). Everyone will vote on their favorite.

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** is the Deadline

We will give 2 weeks for the final voting to come in via email. The winner will be chosen no later than July 6<sup>th</sup>.

At that time we will notify everyone of who the winner is.

Thanks to everyone for your input!

Your WKA board

## Calling All Pinheads

I need help designing the pins for the Kids' Day events for WSIKF in August, 2008.

Please submit ideas to me as soon as possible and no later than **June 15**.

If your design is selected, you will receive a complete set of the 2008 Kids Day pins.

Please submit your ideas to: [gmakeppin@usa.net](mailto:gmakeppin@usa.net)

**Glenda Kleppin**

## Want some relief from the rat race?

Try making and flying your own kite!  
Fly kites with your kids!  
Kites kids can make!  
Anyone can do it!

Learn how at the Washington Kitefliers Association web site.

<http://wka-kiteflyers.com>

## This is April???????

### Bellevue Earth Day/Arbor Day

Yes, the calendar did say that it was April 19, well into spring. But Mother Nature sure has had some surprises for us this "spring."

The Washington Kitefliers Association was invited to come and fly kites, and in general put on a display at the City of Bellevue's annual Earth Day/Arbor Day. It was held at Lewis Creek Park up on the hill behind Somerset and north of Newcastle on Lakemont Blvd. But it was a day of really unseasonable weather!!

And yes, this is a lovely park - walking trails, a covered picnic area is planned, and an existing attractive **warm** building with inside restrooms with warm water!! And comfy leather and pillow back chairs that once you landed in one, it was really a struggle to get up again, it was just too comfortable!

As **Rick White**, **Launny Herriges** and I arrived early that morning; it was sunny - amazing, considering the snowy weather forecast - and with a nice wind blowing. It looked amazingly perfect for a day of kites in the air. We set up banners and other things on a grassy park area near the ball field and park entrance. Rick and Launny set up the WKA tent with backdrops to shield us from the wind. Rick had brought his gas grill so we all enjoyed hot chocolate, which was so great. But before we got everything up the snow started to come down. We had flurries for awhile and it turned a little white, and then the sun came out again. It did that several times.

We were glad several friends decided to brave the weather with us. **Stan Shelhamer** and **Debbie Schwab** (minus Puff Cow who must have been in a warm place at home) arrived. And then some other kite friends arrived, **Ken** and **Candy Howard**. **Jerry Graham** and **Glenda Kleppin** joined us, and then **Tony Sanfilippo** and **Linda** and **Sandra Howard** came. We all huddled inside the tent shelter as the snow showers happened - and then out of the snowy mist came two long-lost kite friends (and former co-presidents of WKA) **David Jam** and **Jeannette Mandanas**!! Wow! What a great and pleasant surprise!!

Inside the warm building there were a lot of people, having an official ceremony for the event, talking about planting trees, handing out healthy snack food, musical entertainment, etc. while we huddled in our outdoor tent, or ventured out between snow flurries to launch another kite. Volunteers were also going to be pulling up invasive plants in the park.

The wind was up and down during the day, but several of us did launch kites. First up was **Stan Shelhamer** with his red/white/black Circoflex kite. There were three Mockflows in the air - **Launny Herriges'** yellow Happy Face, **Glenda Kleppin's** Raspberry Face kite, and **Rick White's** American Flag. The sky was blue at that time!! Stan flew

some other kites too, as his Circoflex was coiled in a wet puddle inside the tent. And I flew fighter kites.

Several people asked us if we were selling the banners, wind socks, etc. on display - sorry no, but Linda and Sandra Howard did some cleaning out of kite bags and brought some children's kites, which they passed out to several children. Many thanks to them for providing these kites for the kids. It just sort of underlined the need to always have some kind of kites to hand out, or a kite making activity at even a fun fly. Hopefully next time we can do that, but we need volunteers to help make that happen!

Thanks also to everyone who pitched in during the driving hail/snow storm as they snatched everyone's banners and poles down out of the weather. The ground turned very white again. At least 1/2 inch came down so fast you could not believe it! Those of us there will probably never forget the day and will talk about it in the future.

Despite the weather, it was a fun time! And we hope to have more kite events in that park again in the future, but in more spring-like weather!

**Sylvia Bernauer**



**Sylvia Bernauer** took this picture of the WKA tent shelter while the snow was really blowing. Even in grayscale you can tell it was snowing heavily!

More pix from Bellevue EarthDay fly



Another photo taken by **Sylvia**—I think you can tell it was **windy!**



**Launny Herriges** helping with putting up Rick White's Mockflow patriotic kite while hanging on to his own kite  
Photo by **Raymond Parsons**



Catching anything???

Photo by **Rick White**



The aquarium in the sky looks to be doing well.

Photo by **Rick White**

**Calendar of Events — For more calendar information: <http://wka-kiteflyers.org>**

**June**

- 15 Fathers' Day Fun Fly, Kite Hill, Magnuson Park, Seattle, from 10 am until 4 pm
- 14-15 Ocean Shores, WA Kite Challenge Festival Sponsored by "Team Cutting Edge Kites"  
Free Kite Flying Lessons, Sport Kite Competitions, Fun Flies, Displays and More
- 14-15 Annual Pacific Rim Kite Festival, Vanier Park, BC (where Ray Bethel's tribute bench is)
- 26 PCKA meeting, 7:00 PM Summit Library, Puyallup WA
- 28-29 Lincoln City OR Summer Kite Festival, the theme for 2008 festivals is **Octopi fly**

**July**

- 11-13 Westport Windriders Annual Kite Festival, Grayland Beach, WA
- 19-20 Third Annual Parksville Lions International Kite Festival, Parksville, BC
- 24 PCKA meeting, 7:00 PM Summit Library, Puyallup WA

**August**

- 2-3 (VERY TENTATIVE!) Orting WA Kite and Bluegrass Festival
- 16-17 NWSKL 2008 Cutting Edge Kites Summer Heat Chance Approach
- 18-24 26th Annual Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF), Long Beach WA
- 28 PCKA meeting, 7:00 PM Summit Library, Puyallup WA

**September**

- 5-7 Pacific Beach, WA "Up Your Wind" Kite Festival
- 6-7 NWSKL 2008 Lewis and Clark Exposition Seaside Oregon
- 20-21 Whidbey Island Kite Festival Fort Casey, WA
- 22-27 AKA National Convention, Gettysburg, PA

**October**

- 11-12 One Sky, One World—held around the world to promote protection of the planet, peace, friendship and understanding between all people.
- 11-12 30th Annual Lincoln City, OR Fall Kite Festival The theme for 2008 is **Octopi Fly**

**November**

- 1-2 NWSKL **Tentative** Camas WA Indoor Kite Festival Camas High School

*Editor's notes:*

*This has been a longer time to put together due to all the business items to include. But it is now all done and I will be sending it to the printer on Monday morning.*

*Ahhhhhhhh.*

*Our next issue of the newsletter will not be put together until after John and I get home from our travels to Holland and Denmark. We are also going to the kite festival on Fano, which is an island off Denmark. We are really looking forward to this trip. We get home on June the 23rd, late. I will be sending out requests for input for the July/August issue after then.*

*I will be expecting a lot of things to come as it will have been a couple of busy months, with more to come in July and August. We are expecting a lot of coverage of Ocean Shores June festival/July Westport Windriders festival in Grayland/August WSIKF at Long Beach/Pacific Beach at the first part of September. I do love this time of year. So much going on and so little time.*

*Please do take a moment to cut out the ballot, vote and mail it in. Your participation would be appreciated.*

*Write-in votes are also accepted.*

*See you on the flying fields,*

*Marzlie*

### 2008 Ballot for Election of Club Officers

**President**  
**Rick White**, Incumbent    \_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice-President**  
**Ken Conrad**, Incumbent    \_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary**  
**Susan Tislow**, Incumbent    \_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer**  
**Carol Lord**, Incumbent    \_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut this out and mail it in with your vote  
 All ballots must be RECEIVED via mail to:

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION  
 PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER  
 200 2ND AVE N  
 SEATTLE WA 98109-4816

NO LATER THAN JULY 18, 2008

Ballots received after that date will be discarded

Washington Kitefliers Association  
An affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join the WKA and share the fun! Benefits include our bi-monthly newsletter, membership card which entitles you to a 10% discount on kite related items at participating kite stores, entry to members-only drawing for a scholarship to the annual 3-day Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, and information about special events in the Northwest kiting community.

Membership cost per household in the US or Canada is \$15.00 per year. Fill out this application and return it with a check or money order payable in US funds to WKA.

Mail to:

Membership Director  
Washington Kitefliers Assn  
Pacific Science Center  
200 2nd Ave N  
Seattle WA 98109-4816

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.wka-kiteflyers.org](http://www.wka-kiteflyers.org)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Other Household Members (Include different last names) \_\_\_\_\_



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