



# Newsletter

## November/December 2008

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

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

### A Calendar Reminder for Those who live in the area:

*This important reminder comes in case you have misplaced the September/October issue of the newsletter and you need to know where the holiday party is:*

**When:** Saturday December 6, 2008  
**Where:** Mountain View Lutheran Church,  
3505 122nd Ave E  
Edgewood, WA 98372

**Indoor fun fly:** From about noon - 5:00 PM  
**Break** to set up for dinner and bag raffle 5:00 PM  
**Dinner** at 6:00 PM - Turkey, Ham, beverages and utensils provided. Bring a potluck side dish, salad or dessert. There will be a **bag raffle** after dinner (bring your donations for the bag raffle!). After expenses, the net proceeds will go to the Church Food Bank. **Note:** If you have any special items you wish to auction, the income from these items can be earmarked either for the World Kite Museum or the food bank.

### Breaking news of interest to all indoor kite fliers:

The money made from the raffle at the WKA/PCKA holiday party has been so appreciated by the church food bank they are more than willing to have the indoor fliers come and use the gym to practice. Hope to see a good turnout this year and bring stuff for the raffle and money. Indoor flying starts around noon. Come early and have fun before the great potluck holiday style. There will be plenty of turkey and ham provided by the 2 clubs. Just bring the rest of the goodies.

Georgan Curran



### A Very Large Thank You to Sylvia

In the last newsletter **Sylvia Bernauer** wrote that she had taught a friend how to fly a fighter kite. That "friend" was my grandson **J.T. Babst**.

Sylvia has such great enthusiasm for teaching someone who is interested in learning. J.T. had watched her fly and asked if he could try. He had a great time and now wants to make a fighter kite with his **Grandpa Babst** this winter so he will be ready to fly for next season.

Maybe next year J.T. and Sylvia can have a "fight" once he gets in more practice. This picture was taken the Monday after WSIKF 2008. We were all going to head home but the weather was so beautiful, after such a miserable Sunday, we all spent the day flying.

Thanks again to Sylvia.

**Tommye Ann Babst**



## WSIKF Kids' Day Pin Auction and Dawg Dude

In order to be able to afford to buy enough pins so that we can give pins to kids involved in the Kids' Day events, we auctioned off two complete sets of the six pins and have a Dutch auction for 3 of the limited edition pins (only 20 made). This year, **Debbie Fitzgerald** and **Carl Williamson** placed the winning bids for the pin sets. Special pins went to **Debbie Fitzgerald**, **Glenn Austin**, and **Joanne Lord**. The total raised by this auction was \$175, which is just exactly the amount needed to buy the same number of pins that we bought this year.

Since we will need more pins for next year, we luckily had two other auctions to raise pin money. You may have noticed that this year the Kids' Day pins featured our signature kite—our Raspberry Mockform, often referred to as “the face.” That gave me the idea of auctioning off the right to choose the kite to be featured on next year's pin. With her bid, **Theresa Norelius** from **The Kite Shoppe** in Vancouver, WA earned the right to choose the kite for next year. Much to her surprise, she discovered the next morning that she was one of the most popular girls on the beach. Numerous people approached her suggesting that she choose their kite to be featured. This auction will be an annual event, so the rest of you may be thinking about which of your kites you'd like to see on a pin. This is so much more fun than just having a generic kite and makes our pins just that much more unique.

Last, but certainly not least, a new kite celebrity made his first (but not last) appearance. **Dawg Dude** is a large white stuffed animal wearing a vest. He was donated with the specific instructions that the pins and patches on his vest had to stay there when he was auctioned off. When we first picked him up from **Marla Miller's** house, I looked at all of the empty space on his vest and decided that he obviously needed more pins. So, we took him along to the Orting kite festival where he was immediately adopted by **Larry** and **Pat Christensen** and **Debbie** and **Carl Fitzgerald**, who took him around the festival gathering more pins. Even more pins were added to the vest at WSIKF, in spite of the fact that he had to stay under cover most of the time due to the wet weather. By the time he was auctioned off at the WKA dinner, his vest sported 77 pins plus several patches.

The winning bid came from **Larry Christensen**. He decided to remove most of the pins and then donate the dog and the vest back to WKA with a starter pin collection so that the process could be repeated for next year. We hope that Dawg Dude will become one of the most popular kite celebrities invited to WSIKF next year and that he will continue to do his part in helping to raise money for pins to give to kids and their families on Kids' Day at WSIKF. So, as you are going to festivals during the next year and/or going through the pins you've collected over the years, please think about digging out a few pins to add to his vest and asking the festival organizers to donate leftover pins to WKA to add to Dawg's vest.

### Glenda Kleppin

*Additional Note from Glenda:*

We have already been collecting pins for him. That's the thing about kite folk. Somebody comes up with a good idea, somebody else adds to it, and then it seems to take off and fly of its own accord. It is so good to be around folk who really know how to have fun.

## WKA Board Members

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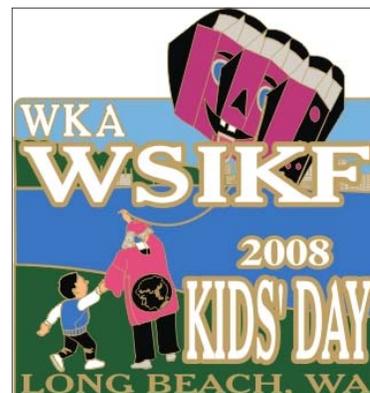
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The 2008 Kids' Day Pin

## One Sky One World with The World Kite Museum in Long Beach, WA

The weather forecast was good, really good for October! I decided I would take time away from other projects and go to fly kites down at Long Beach on October 11 & 12. I had not been there for OSOW for several years. This year there was going to be a guest doing something with noisemakers on kites, but also something about our Founding Father **Jack VanGilder's** noisemakers on the line.

When I arrived early Saturday morning the weather was truly beautiful - sunny, light breezes - perfect for fighter kites. A lot of other folks had the same idea to attend this event too, because there were really a lot of kite flyers and public on the Bolstad beach that day. **Kay Buesing** of The Kite Museum had an official list for all the flyers to sign so they would know how many flyers attended that weekend. She explained to many about the One Sky One World event. There were big kites, a crown, a soccer ball, and several sport kite flyers too. The day could have been thought of as a replacement for one of those other WSIKF days this August.

Our friends **James & Tommye Babst** put up a really nice colorful display of banners and windsocks and flew kites



all day. And the museum tent had kite making activity too. **Mary Yoshimi** brought a cute bird kite to make that was fun for young and old alike.

The afternoon breezes came up, it was just perfect wind for all kinds of kites. When I was thinking about what to take in the car for this quick down/back trip, I realized that what would be perfect were some of my old "noisy" sport kites! They would go with the "noise" theme. I had a great time flying my old Peregrine sport kites using my old 150 lb. colored pink/green line set. I wonder how many of you folks have ever seen that line? It used to be the thing once upon a time. That line had not been out on the beach in a very long time and it was great to use all afternoon. Like

old times.

I also flew the **Joel Scholz** "Neptune" fish sport kite that I purchased at the Museum's auction a few years ago. It is so colorful in the sky! I had a blast flying it. And the noise from the looser sails on these older kites added to my enjoyment of flying these vintage kites.

Since I was over on the south side of the beach, I missed seeing Seattle's **George Peter's** kites with hummers on them. (A hummer is a curved wood rod with tape [like music cassette tape] stretched across the bow. The tape vibrates in the wind and makes a sound.) I also missed the demo of the other noisemakers. **Suzanne Sadow** described it to me on Sunday as a foam cup with a slit cut in the bottom edge and then fitted on the line to magnify the noise of the line "singing" in the wind.

On Sunday, **Ken Conrad** was trying out a radio controlled airplane/kite/with camera, don't remember what he called it. But it looked great with the red/white/blue delta kite



flying all around wherever it was directed and Ken was taking pictures with his camera fastened to it. A lot of people were very curious about this "plane" and I know he enjoyed describing its workings to many. A really different way to do KAP (kite aerial photography).

On Sunday, cloud cover was back, and the wind was missing almost all day, but it was a very good time at Long Beach.

**Sylvia Bernauer**



Photos by **Sylvia**

## The Dieppe Experience

I'd heard other kite fliers talk about how European kite festivals were just 'different'. I'd asked many of the folks I knew who had been to European festivals to tell me about what was so different. The explanation I heard the most went along the lines that European kite makers have a different creative process. The Europeans create something artistic, and then make it fly; whereas Americans take a canvas and put something pretty on it. Okay, fair enough.

I'd seen several books which had photographs of kites that, I thought, seemed to pretty well exemplify this difference (I'm thinking here particularly of the work of **Claudio Capelli**), especially in comparison to what I'd seen at local festivals and in Kiting. So I thought, when the opportunity came up to attend the International Kite Festival in Dieppe, France, I had some idea what to expect. I'm not sure I've ever been more wrong.

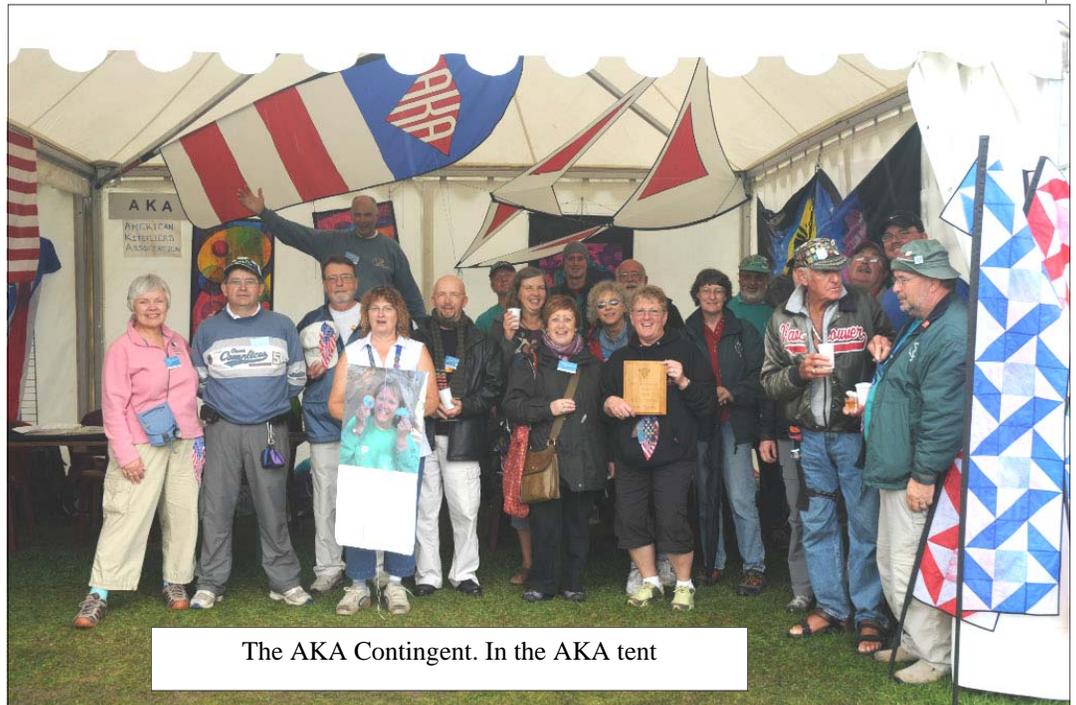
Let me begin by saying I'm going to do my best to cram 17 days of fabulous vacation into something which will take less than an hour to read. Suffice it to say, this is the condensed version. Feel free to pull Cari, mom (you may know her variously as Alexa) or me aside; as we'd all be happy to share stories, pictures, impressions, lessons learned etc.

Next, I have to thank all of the folks who have traveled internationally before for all of the insight you provided. Particularly useful to us was the heart-breaking lessons learned from **Cliff & Gerry Pennell's** recent trip to Fano. Fortunately, we managed to get half way across the globe (and back) with all of our kites. Not all who went were so lucky. But, on to the happier stories.

Arriving in Dieppe, we found four huge flying fields roped off. Between the fields and the boardwalk which framed the ever changing colors of the English Channel, were tents. Not one, or two, but the better part of a half mile of tents. We'd soon learn each of the 38 invited nations had their own space, as did several invited delegations, like the AKA delegation we were a part of. Between the middle two fields was a road, also lined with the large party tents we're all familiar with. Included here were the

meeting areas, staff areas, a food and beverage tent which easily seated 200, vendors, display space and kiosks for the sponsors of the festival. The infrastructure for this festival alone was awe inspiring. Then there is the organization to get everybody there and put on a 10 day event. Impressive. Most impressive.

The next 10 days were filled with more different kites from different places than I've ever seen in any single place – any festival, printed work or museum included. It was something like I imagine seeing the entire Kite Museum collection all at once would be like. Who knew, for instance, the tiny island nation of Curacao, famous for their oranges, has a huge, incredibly unique kite tradition with no two kites ever the same. How often do you get to see a huge inflatable Olympic mascot flying, and get to chat with the flier? How often do you get to put your kite up in the air, then take a moment to look around the flying field and see you're flying with family, with kite friends, and with the luminaries from far off nations you've only read about or seen pictures of on the Internet? And who would think while experiencing all of this, you'd meet nothing but fantastic fliers, and craftsmen (and craftsmen) all of whom could not have been happier to share their kites, stories, impressions, techniques, and life philosophies with you. It was something like going to your favorite local festival – you know, the one where you see all of your favorite kite friends – except at this one, there were probably a dozen languages spoken, and we only knew a handful of people. But the feeling of being surrounded by friends was the same. It didn't matter if you didn't know who was at the end of the kite string. We all spoke the common language of kites, and you'd find a way to ask



The AKA Contingent. In the AKA tent

Photo by Alexa King

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your question, or express your admiration for their kite. And by the end of the festival, you had more friends than you arrived with.

I had expected the kites would be the focus of the festival, and in a way, they are. Despite the sometimes less than predictable weather, kites flew every day of the festival, and at times there were so many kites in the air we elected to walk and watch instead of flying (the benefit of not being a sponsored flier). But one of the things which really struck both Cari and me was the festival really was so much more about sharing the experience with fliers you likely wouldn't ever get the opportunity to otherwise. It was more about the cultural exchange, and making new friends, and sharing this thing which was bigger than the sum of its parts.

Now let me tell you, there are certain things the French do very very well. Food and wine are among them. The 3 Euro grocery store Bordeaux was as good as or better than any I've ever had anywhere else and at the same price as soda pop you really couldn't go wrong. Rather than your standard US festival food – I'm thinking of the hot dogs that we're all very thankful for at our local festivals – there were crepes, and sandwiches with wonderful cheeses and ham. Ham is big in France. And the bread. Oh, my God, the bread.

Another thing the French excel at is parades. We were fortunate to take part in several. One such parade led to a reception at city hall. People were hanging over their balconies along the streets the parade wound through, with children waving, and adults often looking to see what all the commotion was. They were rewarded with a raucous group of kite fliers, giant marionettes, musical instruments from all over the world and more confetti than I've ever seen in one place. In another parade, postponed due to weather earlier in the week, it looked as though every person winding their way through the streets had a banner of some sort or another. It was like a three block long forest of brightly colored nylon. The parades were impressive.

The best part however, was the people. The organizers could not have been more helpful. We found if you made an effort to 'do as the Romans [or in this case French] do', that the people would bend over backwards to help you. I had never

spoken French before. Fortunately, I picked up enough 'café French' to keep from going hungry. But the best part was even though I'm certain I fouled up the language more often than not; the very fact I tried seemed to mean the world to everyone I came across – from the organizers, to the school children who visited the AKA tent, to shopkeepers, to a little old lady who was kind enough to let me pat her dog. It's not often in this world you get bonus points just for trying.

At the top of the lessons learned category, I learned it doesn't matter if it's raining as hard as you (as a Washingtonian) have ever seen it rain. This problem is easily solved with champagne punch, or single malt scotch. Thank you White Horse kite fliers. Second, grab a copy of Rosetta Stone before your trip. I'm asking for my copy for Christmas, as I hope to get back to Dieppe someday. What I mean by this is although everyone was more than willing to help me try to communicate, the nuances I'd be able to get across in English sometimes had to be reduced to the more general statements I was capable of. Thirdly – Be a sponge. You can sleep when you get home. Do your best to cram as much into however long you have as you can. Cari, mom and I did our best in this regard, and although tiring, I think it served us well. We could always have crammed more in (well, perhaps not while in Paris, but that's a whole different story), but I can honestly say I came home without regrets. And finally, and most importantly, add the Dieppe International Kite Festival to your 'to do' list. Save up. Find a way. Do what you must – you won't regret it.

**Sam King**



**Claudio Capelli** and his stunning Genki watching **Cliff Quinn** and **Sam** assembling Cliff's giant condor kite - the one Cliff made for the Discovery Channel program called *MonsterQuest* (or something similar). Cliff's segment was called *Birdzilla*. It's a great story - you should ask him about it. I found it on YouTube the other day... Photo and caption by **Alexa King**

## My Husband — Kiteflyer Jack!

This picture of Jack Van Gilder appeared in the June/July 1989 issue of the WKA Newsletter. It shows him with the Steve Edeiken Award which he won in October of 1988

Darryl Stephison scanned this for us.

“Can you make us a box kite?” was the springtime request of my sons, Carl 9, and Roger 8, of their new step-dad.

Always eager to please, not least at this second chance at fathering (his own son and daughter were in college) Jack got to work with some paper and dowels. When this model flew “like a rock,” that was not the end, but the beginning!

With the “Golden Book of Kites” as his primer and learning from his barber about one serious kiter, who introduced him to others, a new hobby took root. From his architect father and ceramicist mom, Jack had artistic vision and the ability and joy of working with his hands, especially when it would take him outdoors, in the company of friends—not least the young ones. To help a kid struggling to launch a kite, he would take the kite in hand, instructing the owner to stand still and feed out the line as he (Jack) took the kite downwind 20 yards or so; then at the signal the kid was to hold the line tightly and pull, as Jack tossed the kite for the take-off. The kite would soar into the sky, and Jack always thrilled at the look of amazement on the kid's face!

Besides his many American Indian designs on his kites, Jack soon was known for stringing some 80-100 or more kites on a line in tandem. One day as he came with his big box of them, his 4-year-old grandson, Jake, asked “What's that?” “It's a kite train.” “That's no **train**” said Jake. “It's a train of **kites**” explained the patient Grandpa. Still puzzled, Jake asked: “What does OF mean?”

Those kite trains soon became popular at the Husky Stadium for half-time entertainment. And Jack was even invited to fly them from his boss's yacht on an Opening Day



parade from Lake Union to Lake Washington. But a sheltered spot just before the Montlake drawbridge didn't allow enough wind to raise the long train of kites **above** the upraised bridge spans as planned. So it ended with Jack frantically trying to retrieve those he could from the jaws of the bridge!

At other times, different people came to his rescue: in Ames, Iowa, at a parade for the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a part of the train broke off and sailed across the freeway; upon returning them, the young rescuers were each rewarded with one of the kites. Then, on one of the New Year's Kite events at Golden Gardens, Seattle, it was some boaters who saved the top dozen or so of the runaway (plastic) kites from a watery grave.

One of his favorite places for teaching kite making, where I had the privilege of working with him, was at Holden Village. This “retired” copper mine in the Cascade Mountains wilderness area, 11 miles up from Lake Chelan, had become a Retreat Center with a variety of classes, along with hiking, crafts, etc. So when Jack heard the call for projects where parents and kids would work together, this became our regular vacation spot. A few months before the end of Jack's battle with cancer, one of our successor teachers there, with his students, wrote this story, here summarized:

“God had given Jack a special task, to *teach children to FLY!* He and Vi would gather the kids around the big tables, show them a kite, give them instructions and patterns, colored sheets of tissue paper, thin sticks, glue, and string. They worked hard with these until they each had a KITE--their own creation, *which was the part of the child that could fly!* When they brought them out into the sunshine, God's smiling stirred up the breeze, lifting the kites into the sky.”

“All that flying sometimes ripped parts of the kites, or even crashed them so they couldn't fly anymore. But they're still beautiful....People are kind of like kites too--Jack is like a kite that's damaged right now. So let's do something for him—let's make our kites and have lots of fun flying them as we look up at the sky and remember Jack.”

Jack had found a relationship between his hobby and his deeply rooted Christian faith. Together we worked out a parable/object lesson illustrating how, as we fly in the glorious freedom of grace and love, we need God's controlling anchor of guidance and direction so we don't crash like a kite that has broken away from the line.

**Viola Van Gilder**

## Notes from the Prez——



The season is coming up fast. It is only four short weeks until the Christmas dinner, (only one week by the time you read this!) I am looking forward to seeing all of you who can make it. All of the information is on the WKA web site:

<http://wka-kiteflyers.com>

I have been doing a lot around the house for the past two months. As many of you know, I have worked for Boeing for the past 33 years, and our union has been on strike from Boeing. It is over now, and I wanted to tell everyone that we won! Yep, we got all \$10 back of our lost Co-pay to our health care provider. Yep, we did it. And it only cost us two months pay for it. LOL. At any rate, I said all that to say, I am back to work, back to working a lot of OT to fill all the orders for the 737 airplanes. It's leaner times. It's "More is less", or, I mean "Do more with less". That's it. Enough whining. If you want me, you know where I'll be.

I am continually amazed about how much kite flying effects our lives. While off, I had the time to build a large shelf hanging from the ceiling of the garage to store kites. . . . It wasn't big enough. There still are kites on the 66 SS ragtop. But for all my hard work, I can at least now see my ragtop. (before and after photos here)



What it should look like again someday.

I can now proceed to finish the body work, so I can paint it, and drive it again.

Continuing with the "Amazed" theme, I was also out today, looking for a vehicle to replace my van. I quickly found out that my first criteria was the cargo space to hold the kites. Go figure! Then I suddenly realized I would have to peel off ALL the stickers from the front windshield and put them on the replacement kite van. Life is just hard sometimes isn't it? I will have to decide if I am to drive this vehicle the rest of my life, or move the past 10 years of it to the new van . . . Hummmm. That's a hard one!

And finally, I have been thinking a lot lately about the future of our WKA. I am hoping we will get some of you newer, young blooded folk, involved in the planning and running things with us. We need all the help we can get. We will be so very happy to work with anyone who would like to work with us, to make people happy, by showing them how much fun it is to fly kites!

Go have fun out there!

Ah, just go fly a kite!

**Rick White**

Here is a Thank You note we received:

*On behalf of the City of Seattle Parks and Recreation Department and the Downtown Seattle Association, I would like to thank you for your participation in this summer's park activation program. Because of your involvement we were able to occupy public park space with great activity through the summer months. These spaces are crucial for each neighborhood and the residents and businesses are truly grateful for your presence. It was a true joy working with you and I hope to see you again!*  
*Thanks, Jennifer*

Here are some ideas from Casey Shearer that I am hoping will generate some input from you the readers. After you have finished reading Casey's ideas, please take a moment to write down your thoughts and send them to me, PLEASE??? Don't put it off until you have forgotten what you were thinking about sending. The theme is DO IT NOW!!

## Ideas for the Newsletter

I've had a couple of ideas about serial topics that might have legs to run over the winter issues. These would be the kind of subjects where people can write a quick paragraph and or send a picture with annotation - so it shouldn't be too hard to string two or three submittals together to get a 1/4 to 1/3 page piece of content. Here are my thoughts for couple of topics:

1) Where's your **favorite flying location** around home (for me, for example, the southwest Seattle Puget Sound area) and why? Everybody can point to their favorite Coastal locales with their broad beaches and (frequently) perfect wind and whether conditions, but where do you like to fly when you don't live in Long Beach and have a couple of free hours on a weekend. We could ask submitters to describe the field (or beach) layout, wind patterns, aesthetics of the area (scenery, surroundings, etc.), amenities, crowds etc. Throw in a couple of pictures and you have a nice little mini article.

2) Share your **Kite Handling & Housekeeping tips and techniques** - experienced folks share a lot of kite making knowledge at places like Fort Worden, but I can think of a long list of subjects relating to the care, feeding and transport of kites that would be of interest to members that are newer to the hobby. These are the kind of subjects that don't always get discussed in the magazines and seminars. They are also the kind of things that make kite ownership and flying more convenient and enjoyable. I'll throw some samples topic areas out here: cleaning stains from kites, tips/techniques for anchoring, tips/techniques for safety indicators on kite lines, how to travel by air with kites, shipping kites (best containers, good shipping outfits, etc.), kite and gear storage container advice, storing kites over the winter, what's the minimum set of kite "equipment" for ad hoc flying away from home,

## Kite Clubs

### Associated Oregon Kiters

Contact: Deb Cooley  
Email: 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

### Lavender Winds Kite Club

Brian Bradley  
email: 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  
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  
Calendar at [www.nwskl.org](http://www.nwskl.org)

### Peninsula Breeze Blenders

Contact Bill Rogers or Lisa Ryan  
email: lisaryan@mail.com or  
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  
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: sragtop@aol.com  
Address on back page of newsletter  
Membership includes bi-monthly  
newsletter

### Westport Windriders

Contact Marla Miller  
253-752-7051  
email: kytpepl2@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  
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)

pets and kites, how to get over the (Oh Canada!) border with kites, favorite knots for specific purposes, best suppliers for various kite materials and supplies, etc. . Other people may come up with suggestion in areas that I would never think of - that would be part of the fun of the thing. People should be encouraged to keep these short - they could be as simple as a couple of sentences. Submitters should also be not be concerned if their idea seems simple or obvious - they will also be new to someone in the membership.

Casey Shearer

**2008 AKA Convention Gettysburg PA  
and the  
Niagara International Kite Festival**

I planned to attend the Niagara International Kite Festival so I thought I would hook it up with AKA this year. I flew into Buffalo and picked up **Jenny Cook** from **Peter Lynn Kites** as well as **Ben Dantonio** from **Revolution**. We all were attending the Niagara event so we thought it would be fun to drive to Gettysburg to attend the AKA. The trip sure looked closer on the map, but with a comfy rental car, the 6 hour drive was quite enjoyable. We all got to know each other a little better and also got to see some of the Pennsylvania countryside.

I always had visions of driving back East as being a rat race and had some anxiety about driving such a long distance but the drive was quite pleasant. We were traveling on a Wednesday so we meandered our way down the rolling hills of Highway 15. As we got closer to Gettysburg dusk was setting in and it was a bit surprising to find the hotel was in a secluded setting. Ben's Garmin GPS was a really handy navigation device and never let us down. The closer we came to the Eisenhower hotel, headquarters for the AKA, the more Ben's cell phone rang. IQuad was looking for their main man. We hardly saw Ben after that.

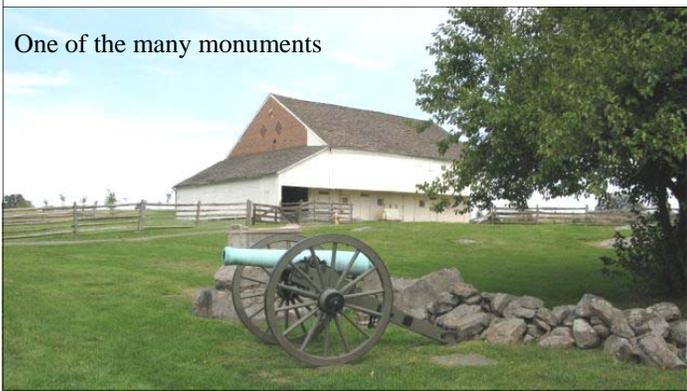
Jenny and I roomed together so the first thing we wanted to do the next morning was see where we were and to find the flying fields. As we cruised past Boyd's Bears we made a mental note we would have to stop there and check it out. As we headed toward Gettysburg we were struck by the

number of monuments out in the picturesque fields we were passing. We decided it might be worth our while to take a little side trip and see what they were all about. We ran into a quaint little stone house with a white picket fence and a cannon standing out in front. We followed the road further into the stand of monuments and started reading. Jenny and I were dumbfounded to learn we were driving on top of the Gettysburg Battlefields. All the monuments were magnificent but none of the names of the dedications were familiar at all. We realized that although the statues of bronze and marble were stunning, there was much more to the story than we anticipated. Jenny remembered one of the AKA members was going to give a seminar on Saturday morning so we agreed we had to attend that. We jumped back into the car and set out to find the flying fields.

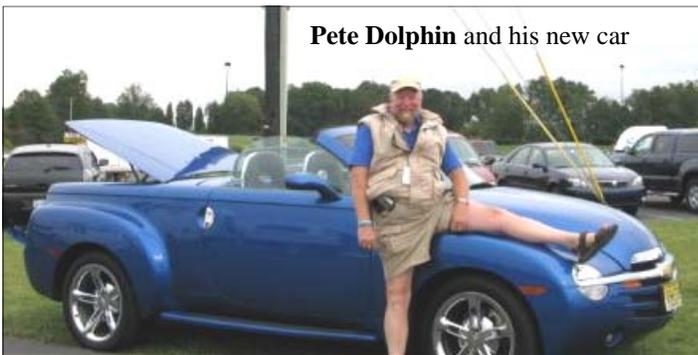
We drove all around and passed Boyd's Bears again but this time we decided we just had to go in and see the store before we headed for the field. As we drove down the winding driveway we realized this was the flying field. Somehow we had missed it in the program. It was the perfect setting for a show of kites. Unfortunately, the parking lot around Boyd's Bears was virtually empty so there was not a large audience outside of AKA members. Jenny was greeted by her fans and off she went to fly her big stuff. She has a great new inflatable baby crab that I found just darling. I would love to have the small one, he, or she, is soooooo cute!

I started to put my new Flamenco kite together but **Pete Dolphin** came by and wanted to show me his new car. It has a 400 hp Chevy something or other and he was afraid to drive it full out so we took a slow cruise around the parking

One of the many monuments



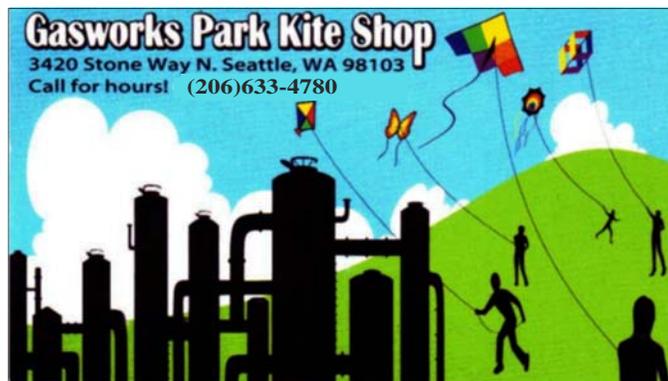
Pete Dolphin and his new car



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Kathy's flamenco kite

lot. What a cool little car and a beautiful blue! There wasn't too much wind but I could tell my new kite was going to fly just fine. I did need more wind than was available at that time. After chatting with several other people Jenny came running up to the car and was ready to pack everything in. She was pleased because she was able to fly her stuff since the pending weather was not looking too promising. Did I say the weather did not look too promising? Well the next couple of days it poured. And you thought that only happened in Seattle. The only true kite fliers who weathered the rain and flew was **IQuad**.

Jenny and I steered clear of the Annual General Meeting. Not to be too political, but the word was it was a "blood bath". As I passed by the room looking at the KAP photos I did hear some of the rhetoric and realized I was very happy not to be a Board of Directors member anymore. As a BOD member you tend to only

focus on the fomenting brew rather than seeing the whole world of difficulties on this big old globe. I feel I have a right to comment since I served on the AKA BOD for two or three terms. As I look back now, it was a great experience to think you were really making a difference. But as long as I have been a member of AKA there has been strife at the convention, there always seems to be something to polarize the group. My conclusion is to stay away from the politics and have fun so I stayed clear of that room. As an old BOD member looking back through the window, there is nothing more of a turn off to attending a function than having to put up with toxic twitter. No matter how much one tries to stay out of the battlefield, there are bullets still flying all around. Word to the wise, the other AKA (American Kennel Association) with whom the AKA shared the Eisenhower Hotel, looked like a lot more fun. They had 700 dogs at the show, all well behaved Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

The weather was bad but there were enough activities to keep everyone busy. Jenny and I took a day and set off to Lancaster where Jenny wanted to see Amish quilts. Again the drive was more than we expected. We were amazed at the number of Harley Davidson riders passing us in both directions. Turns out there is a large Harley Davidson plant on the way to Lancaster. We did not opt to take the

tour because we had quilts and antiques on our minds. Eastern antique shops are a whole different breed than the ones we have out here. They really have **old** stuff on the East Coast! We shopped the shops and decided to head back so we could hit the auction. Boy, did Ben's Garmin come in handy again! **Marla Miller** had brought her regulars **Ron Miller** and **Dave** and **Janet Robinson** to put on a fantastic bag raffle. I bid for a few things (like I need anymore) but did not win a single bid! Oh well, less stuff to take home for me. The Flea Market selling was brisk as ever. I found some great stuff at **Margo** and **Bevan Brown's** booth. They are downsizing after years of collecting kite ephemera. I really wanted some of the kimonos and Japanese kite banners but at museum prices it wasn't to be. I did get some great books though as well as a few great little other "antiquey" things. **Ronda** and **Lindsey** had a great booth with lots of great stuff for the tool buffs.

On the last day we attended some great seminars. If you ever have the opportunity to see **Rick Kinnard's** program, drop everything and attend it. The other wonderful piece of information was the seminar given by a local kiteflyer about the battle of Gettysburg. I learned more in this seminar than I did in all the history books I read. I had not realized that the Battle of Gettysburg lasted only 3 days, 51,000 lives were lost those three days in June 1863. Gettysburg was the farthest North the Confederates had come and if that battle **had** been lost, the North would have gone down. In November of that year Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg address at the dedication of the Soldier's National Cemetery.

One of the most impressive things I learned from Jenny was that Peter Lynn had a framed copy of the Gettysburg Address over his desk.

Later that evening we went to the banquet where our own **Marla Miller** received the **Robert M. Ingraham Award**. **John Barresi** won the **Steve Ediken Award** and **Jon Burkhardt** won the **Lee Toy Award**. **Glen Haynes** won the Member's Choice Award for his digitally dye sublimated KiteTrain of photos of the major players of the Confederate and Union Troops. It was quite an impressive effort and unique idea. The banquet was really a nice affair where we could visit with, as well as say good bye to, our old and new kiting friends.

The next day we had Ben drop us off at the Harrisburg train station. Jenny and I were heading off to Penn station in Manhattan. We did a whirlwind tour of lower Manhattan and off the following Wednesday for Buffalo where we were picked up by **Meg Albers**, the organizer of the Niagara International Kite Festival. Well at least we thought it was Wednesday. Turns out it was Thursday. We were having such a good time we invented another

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

day. It is a long story but if you ever see Jenny Cook ask her about "Whursday in Manhattan".

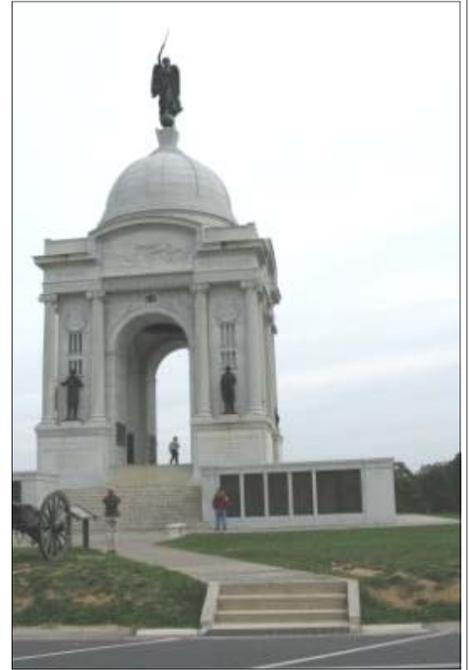
2008 makes my third Niagara International Kite Festival. Not only is Niagara Falls one of the 7 Wonders of the World, the kite festival is spectacular too. As **Robert Brasington** said, it showcases the most kite artists anywhere in the U.S.. We flew kites with **Robert Brasington** of Tasmania, **Kelvin Woods** of the United Kingdom, **Kisa** and **Karen Gurezka** from Germany, **Jenny Cook** from New Zealand, **Iqbal Husain** from Switzerland and many others. There is a great Canadian contingency that comes to this festival. It is so much fun to fly kites with the Canadians, they are always laughing. The whole crew is such a great support team. It is always so wonderful to see **Anne Sloboda** and **Eric Curtis**. Their hand-painted kites just keep getting better.

As always we were treated like royalty, even though we had a great time flying together. You can see all the representatives and their kites at [www.niagarakite.com](http://www.niagarakite.com). We had a superb time, all thanks to the incredible efforts of **Meg Albers** and her crack team. Monday was the day to say goodbye to everyone. Jenny was off to Europe, Ben was off to San Diego and I was feeling lonely as I headed out to Atlanta, my airline hub. Just when I was feeling lonely, guess who pops up at the airport but good old **Bazzar**. We ate our way all the way back to Seattle talking about another great time with our kite friends.

### Kathy Goodwind

A close-up of **Glenn Haynes AKA Members Choice** winning kite train. To give you an idea as to how the print process kite looks.

Another monument in Gettysburg



Glenn's complete train.

Spectacular!

Makes me wish I had one of those printers!!

All photos for **Kathy Goodwind's** article are by **Kathy**



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Lou Brancaccio, Editor

### **Kites. Indoors. Why not? Event, which relies on skill of flier rather than wind, returns to Camas**

Sunday, November 9, 2008

**BY DAVE KERN  
COLUMBIAN STAFF WRITER**

CAMAS — It's an odd sight at first, kites soaring in a gymnasium.

**Bud Hayes** of Camas understands those who are confused when hearing about indoor kite flying.

"You can't quite picture what we're talking about," the kite flier said Sunday at the end of the third annual indoor kite festival he organizes.



Indoor kite-flying national champion Paul De Bakker, 31, of Wilmington, N.C., demonstrates his skill. Photo from "The Columbian"

A kite whisking by a basketball hoop and beneath a center court electric scoreboard certainly is out of the ordinary.

But with each year, Hayes seems more charmed by his sport.

Some 300 people over the weekend attended the Camas Indoor Kite Festival in the Camas High School gymnasium.

And, no, electric fans did not provide the lift. The fliers did that with skill, grace and movement.

Made of ultra-light, high-tech materials, the kites soar indoors at the will of the kite runner, who does a sort of athletic dance to keep his colorful craft aloft.

"You're in your own little world," said **Paul De Bakker**, 31. He ought to know. He's the national indoor kite-flying Champion.

The Camas event was a regional contest, which leads to a national competition.

De Bakker came to the U.S. from the Netherlands in 2006. He lives in Wilmington, N.C.

He started flying kites after seeing folks having fun at the beach. That led to starting his own company, Focus Kite Designers. It's not kid stuff. His indoor kites sell for \$115 and more.

At competition, fliers are judged on choreography (60 percent), execution (25 percent), and entertainment (15 percent).

Choosing the right music to show off your skills can make the difference. Selections included songs by John Lennon and Sam Cooke.

**Spence Watson**, 16, of Spokane chose an instrumental version of The Rolling Stones' "Paint it Black" by the Finnish band Apocalyptica.

Watson was flying a quad, a kite with four lines, which are made of Spectra fiber. He matched the power of the song, with the kite's lift choreographed to high points in the music score. With tugs and pulls and twirls, he and the kite put on a show.

"It's tiring," Watson said afterwards. But he loves it. "I can't imagine doing anything else." He's been flying kites outdoors for three years and indoors for just a year.

Watson was one of several young competitors. **Tristan Underwood**, 12, from Langley, British Columbia, was back again.

"He used to be the only young person," his mother, **Shannon Underwood**, said.

"Kites are for all times, all ages," De Bakker said. After his flight, De Bakker said he was "constantly focusing it's mental." He said he thinks of his kite painting a huge canvas. The artist can fly kites with one, two or four lines controlling movement. Some models have handles. De Bakker's lines were 12 feet. Shorter lines allow better control.

De Bakker has a tip for those who want to try the sport.

"Avoid super cheap kites because they don't fly well," he said. "Invest \$25."

*(Continued on page 13)*

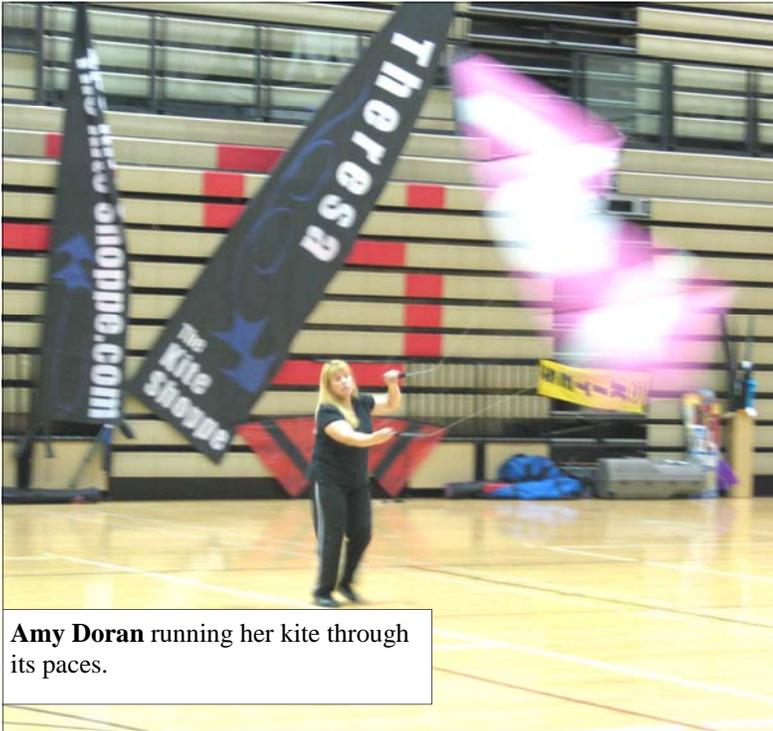
(Continued from page 12)

The event raised \$800 for the Camas High chapter of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America. Teacher Melanie Clark said the money will pay for 10 students to attend the state leadership conference in Wenatchee during spring break. The chapter, whose mission is to build leadership skills, hosted the event. "Our focus is on the family," Clark said.

Hayes said the kite fliers are like a family. And he said the "level of talent was remarkable" at the competition. Will the event be back in Camas next year?

"Absolutely," Hayes said, smiling and preparing to give one of his kites a whirl around the gym.

Oh, yes, when they awarded prizes, they did not give ribbons. They gave "feathers," tiny kite-like prizes made from kite material.

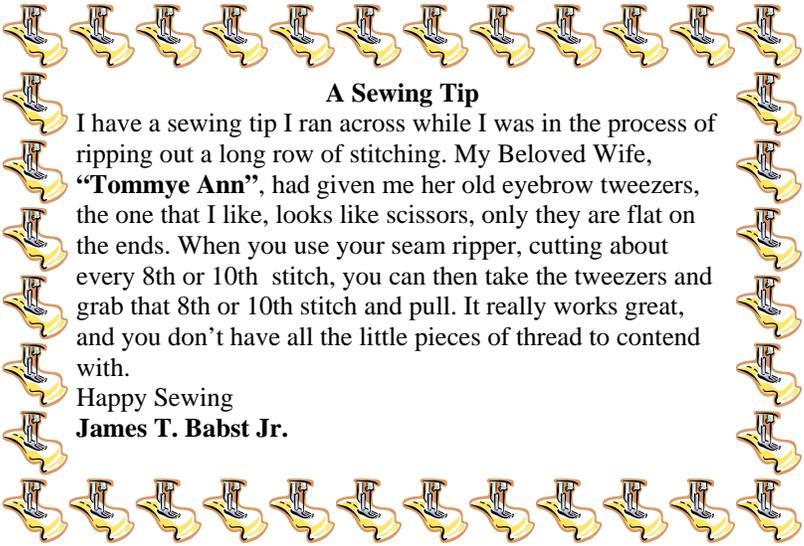


Amy Doran running her kite through its paces.



Guess who this is!!!!  
Yes, it is **Dick Curran**, all gussied up for the kite event.  
Getting ready to fly—

These two photos were provided by **Georgan Curran**



**A Sewing Tip**

I have a sewing tip I ran across while I was in the process of ripping out a long row of stitching. My Beloved Wife, "Tommye Ann", had given me her old eyebrow tweezers, the one that I like, looks like scissors, only they are flat on the ends. When you use your seam ripper, cutting about every 8th or 10th stitch, you can then take the tweezers and grab that 8th or 10th stitch and pull. It really works great, and you don't have all the little pieces of thread to contend with.

Happy Sewing  
**James T. Babst Jr.**



**Holiday gift idea -**

Do you have a friend who would enjoy reading our great WKA newsletter? Purchase a gift membership in the Washington Kitefliers Association.

What a GREAT idea!!

## It's not in the Pfaff manual but it works!

I read with interest a recent submission from **Peggy Daschbach-Martin** concerning stitch patterns not in the Pfaff manuals for their older mechanical machine, which are still popular with so many frugal kitemakers. Until recently I was sewing with a 30 yr old Pfaff 1222.

Because I was starting out with no manual and being an inquisitive mechanical chap I tried every possible combination available of the knobs, levers and button positions. So as to be able to refer back to any combination that I found useful I

labeled the buttons as in the photo "A".



Photo A

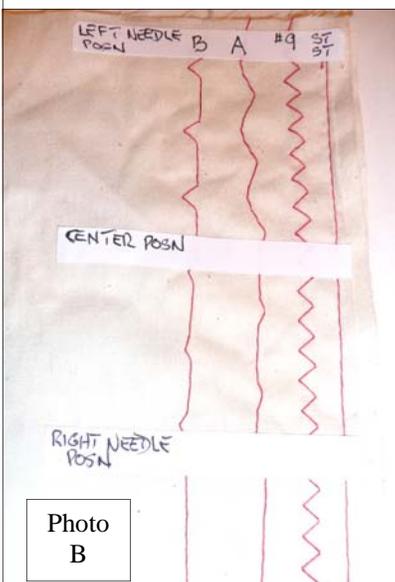


Photo B

I soon discovered that the VWXYZ buttons were of no interest to us kites. However buttons A & B produced very useful patterns when the indicated leftmost needle position was used and furthermore my fiddling revealed if you selected the center needle position, the pattern width was halved while using far right eliminated all needle side travel and only a straight stitch is sewn. I have stitched out a small sample see picture "B".

Picture "C" shows how I placed dots with colour markers around the selector knob to indicate favourite zig-zag stitch width and pitch combinations making it easy to switch back and forth and retain matched stitch patterns.

In closing, I now have in .pdf format the manual for the Pfaff 1222, if any one needs a copy, contact me **Tom Thornton** at - tomndi@shaw.ca



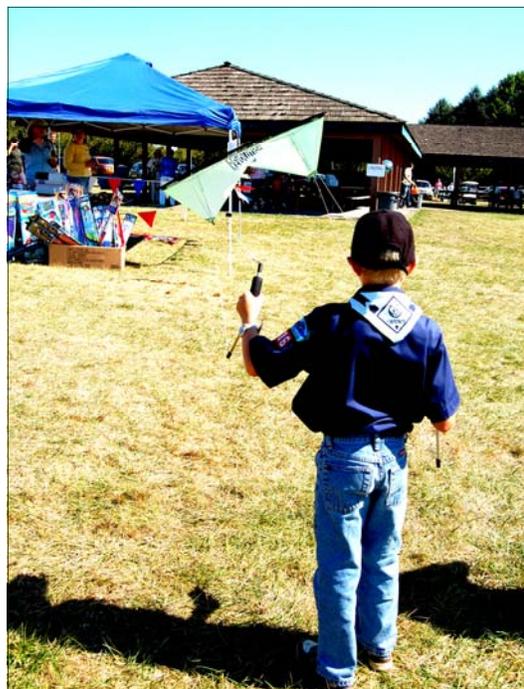
## Portland Kites 2008 at Blue Lake Park September 13

Kite friends gathered, feather flags flew, Scouts sold hotdogs and acted as Field Marshalls. While the light winds did not allow us to put up the giant inflatables, the Rev guys and the light wind dual line fliers put on quite a show. Elmer's Flag and Banner, Kites Too!, Festival Sponsor, provided 60's music and sponsored kite making and kite lessons. And most important of all, kite friends renewed friendships and everyone had a good time.

**Mike Hale**



Running the sound and providing the music.



One of the cub scouts flying a Rev kite.

Both photos provided by **Mike Hale**

**December**

6 **Annual PCKA/WKA Holiday Party**, Mountain View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, WA  
See WKA website for map for driving directions

2009

**January**

1 **Protest the Bowls Kite Fly**, Golden Gardens Park North, Seattle WA see WKA website for drive directions  
8-11 **Oregon Kitemakers Retreat**, Rockaway Beach, OR Info: [www.kitemakersretreat.com](http://www.kitemakersretreat.com)

**February**

14-16 **World Kite Museum** Kite making workshop. John Freeman “Tic-Tac-Toe” original kite design [www.worldkitemuseum.com](http://www.worldkitemuseum.com)

**March**

26-29 **Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference**, Port Townsend, WA Info [www.kitemakers.org](http://www.kitemakers.org)

**New Member Report  
WELCOME TO NEW WKA MEMBERS!**

**Randy Erickson** Bremerton  
**Norma Jean & Robert Hansen** Ellensburg Kite Co. Ellensburg

A huge welcome from all of us. Thanks for joining our kite club. If you have any questions, we are here to help.

*Editor’s notes:*

*Well, now, here we are at the end of the kiting year. Looking back, it has been a good year. Lots of good times, and sometimes too much rain and snow, But that is one of the things we sometimes have to tolerate. And, really, the good times do outweigh the bad.*

*Thanks to those who took time out from their busy lives to remember to send in submissions for the newsletter. You are very much appreciated.*

*Our next newsletter comes out at the beginning of 2009, let us hear if you have any plans for kiting events coming in the early spring. I know there is OKR in January, John’s kite making class at the museum in February and Fort Worden in March. Then what????*

*Don’t forget the January 1st 2009 Protest the Bowls Fly at the Golden Gardens Park North in Seattle. It should be a good day. Dress warmly and bring hot chocolate to warm up with. And put your order in for a nice pleasant wind day, ok?*

*Well, do remember to enjoy the holiday season, don’t get too stressed, OK?*

*See you on the flying field,  
Marzlie Freeman  
Editor*

More from Dieppe by Alexa King



Our street marionettes towering about the crowd. They were quite grotesque, but we became very fond of them - they accompanied us through the town during two parades and were quite a presence during the week.

Caption and Photo by **Alexa King**

**Some Important Definitions for Kites:**

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

Washington Kitefliers Association  
An affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association

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:

**Washington Kitefliers Assn  
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200 2nd Ave N  
Seattle WA 98109-4816**

Visit us on the Web at  
<http://wka-kiteflyers.com>



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_____	
<b>Names of Other Household Members (Include different last names)</b>	

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