



Newsletter

January - March 2009

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

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

What You Need for a Successful Kite Festival?

Flyers

Kites

Space

Wind

and there is one more thing. What would that be?

Scott, what do you think we need?

Marla, you know what that is!

I do?

Yes! It would be those other people that do things. Like set up fields.

We need someone to be an announcer. Maybe Bob or Robin would do that?

Then we need someone to fill out nametags and register people. Maybe I could do that and I will bring the wristbands.

We need some safety people. Scott, would you call Dick and see if he would do that job. He would make a good field marshal.

Marla, should we have a potluck and maybe a raffle?

Where would we have that?

We could rent the Grange and the money from the raffle will pay for the Grange and what is left over can be used for kids' kite making.

Scott, are you going to be in charge of that?

I don't know if I will have enough time, let me think about that.

But, if it is a potluck people would bring the food, but we still need helpers in the kitchen and people to put the tables and chairs up. Maybe we could all help at the end to clean up?

I don't know, let me think about that?

What about the raffle? Do you think people will donate items?

I don't know let me think about that?

We will need someone to do the organization of this?

Who's going to do that? Maybe we could all take turns.

The people who set up the fields could make kids kites and then go help at the potluck and then help with the raffle and the cleaning up?

Do you think that will work?

Well that is what usually happens.

That way everyone else can just have fun and fly their kites.

Marla, I know what we are missing. You know, what are they called? You always see them at every event doing all the work.

I got it! They are called **VOLUNTEERS!**

Great Scott, but where do we find them?

You ask and they will come.

Now you are in a field of dreams.

I know Marla, but we can always hope.

Put it on the calendar and we will make it work. Again....

Volunteer: a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service. For the betterment of the festival or event.

HELLO, are you starting to get the big picture?

There is no line that you have to step over, you just need to step up.

Join Scott and Marla (or any other volunteer) at one of these events and become a volunteer yourself.

Volunteers are always needed to keep these events going.

Call us and sign up to help. Or just help in some way.

Don't be afraid, just join in the volunteers, make new friends and have fun.

Well, are you thinking about it?

A Conversation Submitted by **Two Volunteers**

Favorite Places to Fly – Normandy Park Cove

Favorite places to fly around home base.

Facing southwest across Puget Sound



Where do you go when you've got that new project or store-bought kite itching to get out of the bag, a couple of free hours, and one of those rare Puget Sound days with nice wind and weather? When I thought about the flying spots I've used in southwest King County, I realized it was hard to

say I had a location I'd recommend without reservation. All of these sites involve some compromises in the quality of the field, wind conditions, and availability. One of my neighborhood parks, **Normandy Park Cove**, fits this description.

Normandy Park is a community of about 7,000 located southwest of Seattle between Burien and Des Moines. The Cove is a private recreation area managed by the city. It faces west onto Puget Sound with a little over two hundred yards of beach frontage. Looking out from the beach, you face lower Vashon Island across a narrow stretch of the Sound. The Cove sits in a shallow basin formed by the Walker Creek watershed. It is bordered on the north by homes on a steeply rising bluff and on the south by a green belt that rises gently to the southeast.

Unlike many waterfront parks in the Seattle-Tacoma corridor, the Cove has a good amount of flat ground at the beach level. This area is in the form of a roughly V-shaped playing field which extends about 150 yards back from the beach to a community club house. Two branches of Walker creek run along the north and south boundaries of the park. The south branch cuts across the rear of the beachfront to join the north branch as it empties into the Sound. This water course effectively separates the two parts of the park — access between the two sections is provided by a small bridge and raised walkways. The creek has been restored to a natural marsh as a salmon migration and wild fowl preserve.

The Cove's winds are definitely a mixed bag. If the wind comes across the Sound from the west or southwest, the north and south hillsides channel it into an even westerly flow with nice lift. However, when the wind comes out of the north, the steep curved hillside causes turbulence that makes speed and direction unpredictable. I've watched a large delta fly in five different directions over a 270 degree arc in the space of a half hour. Meanwhile, a flag flying at the top of the hill an eighth mile away pointed due south the whole time.

Ground conditions in this area are also a bit of a challenge. Because the Cove lies at the lowest point in a large watershed, the sports field is usually too wet to fly on until well into spring. This limits you to flying in the beachfront picnic area, part of which (the part your kites fly over) is the marshy creek bed. With a westerly wind, there's room to fly three of four moderately sized single line kites from the picnic area. For safety considerations, flying multi-line sport kites can only be done on the sport field.

The surroundings and atmosphere at the Cove are nice. The facilities are basic, but sufficient, and it's a short walk with your gear from the parking lot to anyplace in the picnic area or sports field. Because it's a private park, crowds are usually light except on the nicest of summer evenings. People tend to be interested in what you are doing, but also give space to work while you are flying. I often run into acquaintances or neighbors, so there's the opportunity to catch up on local

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happenings when I want to take a break. Another nice feature is that, because the Cove is a popular leash-free dog walking area, there is often a furry someone for my dog Nubie to play with while I've got the kites up.

Normandy Park Cove is a far cry in quality from even a lesser beach on the Coast, but if you know how to work around its challenges, it is an acceptable location for an afternoon of flying close to home.

Casey Shearer

A Report on The Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec. 6, was the PCKA/WKA annual Holiday Party at Mountainview Lutheran Church in Edgewood. The doors opened at noon for the indoor fun fly. Over the next several hours a dozen indoor "old pros" and a number of interested newbies had a good time playing with a variety of indoor gliders and dual line sport kites. Of course **Penny Lingenfelter** had her quad line REV there for everyone to play with. **Rick White** got some pointers from Penny and may actually learn how to handle a kite indoors!!

Gemma & Genevieve



As we got close to the transition time between flying and setting up for dinner, a number of families with younger kids arrived. **Gemma** and **Genevieve** (**Wayne** and **Sonia Turner's** granddaughters) had fun with a Borelli glider that Wayne made at Windless (Long Beach indoor festival) several years ago. **Toby Arndt's** family arrived with two of his younger brothers and a younger sister. The littlest one had a great time running around with the glider while Toby was busy teaching sis how to fly his sport kite.

At 5:00 PM we stopped flying and set up for dinner and the bag raffle. Tables went

together quickly with lots of helpers. Dinner items were prepared in the kitchen while everyone marked bags and set out their raffle donations. Five long tables of good stuff kept people busy deciding what bags to put their tickets in until dinner was served at 6:00 PM.

Dinner was outstanding, as usual. The variety of side dishes, salads and desserts made for a lot of tough decisions on what to take (or a lot of return trips to try to sample it all). Special thanks go to **Marianne Austin** and **Harriet Stockbridge** for cooking the turkeys and to **Glenda Kleppin** for bringing the two hams. PCKA and WKA are each responsible for one turkey and one ham. Believe me everyone appreciated the work of these cooks in providing the main course for the night!

After dinner the bag raffle winners were drawn. From this event we raised about \$820. After deducting \$100 for the church to cover facility expenses and about \$120 to cover supplies and other expenses, we were able to

donate the remaining \$600 to the church food bank. Additionally, two special items were live auctioned to benefit the **World Kite Museum**. **Marla Miller** donated a **Charlie Sotich** miniature kite and **Jeff McFarland** donated a new copy of Microsoft Office – Ultimate Edition (a \$700 software package). Charlie is no longer able to make these miniatures any more so this kite is something special. The two winners got great bargains and \$220 was raised for the WKM.

Special thanks go to **Georgan** and **Dick Curran** for arranging for the facility and opening it up for us to enjoy!

On behalf of WKA and PCKA Rick and I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year.

Bob Wendt, PCKA

Georgan Curran and **Rick White** — how do you like Rick's reindeer antlers?



Sylvia Bernauer taking her turn at indoor flying.



Photos by **Donna Wendt**

This article from Darryl Stephison is the last in our series of articles about some of the earlier WKA members

Recollections of Kiting

Darryl Stephison, WKA President 1989 & 1990

I always had a casual interest in kites dating back to the mid 1950's when I made a box kite as a Boy Scout project (brown paper and wooden dowels). It flew well – perhaps too well. The string broke and it drifted about a quarter mile over a farm field until it hit the ground, tumbled a few times and finally tangled itself in a barb wire fence. I recovered the kite, made some repairs and flew it again using heavier line. Of course we always had the ten cent paper diamond kites from the corner market, but they didn't last too long.

I started to get serious about kiting in the spring of 1986. I had occasionally wandered through a kite shop and thought, "Gee, that looks like fun!" These were long lasting fabric kites with bright colors. But I was too cheap to spend money on something so "frivolous." That spring my wife **Kathy** and I were in San Diego. We stopped at Mission Bay to watch people fly kites. We saw cellular kites that looked like snowflakes and two line kites that went up and down and back and forth and made lots of noise. That did it! We soon had both of those kites. For the next few years everything kept growing – bigger, faster, longer, more advanced.

In August 1986, we attended the Washington State International Kite Festival in Long Beach. It was the fifth year of the festival and it was already a really big show. We walked around saying "Wow!" and taking pictures. We saw Japanese kites, Thai kites, Chinese dragons, a giant cobra kite, bird kites, trains, parafoils, spin socks, precision team stunt kite flying, and a crazy guy running around in a Superman suit giving kites to kids. Everyone was having a ball. I wanted to try all of those things.

We joined the WKA to get the newsletter so we would find out about other kite flies and to get a discount at local kite shops so we could buy more kites. At that time, there was a fun fly every Sunday afternoon somewhere in the Seattle area — Golden Gardens, Gasworks, Magnuson, Genesee, Myrtle Edwards, even a few high school athletic fields. These were friendly, relaxed, social events that introduced us to a number of people who loved kiting and kite flyers — **Jack Van Gilder, David Checkley, Tom Sisson, Kathy Goodwind, Ken Conrad, Doug Hagaman, Harold Writer, Larry Chinn**, and many others who shaped my ideas of what was best about kite flying. I made more friends in a shorter time than I ever had before and they were the best of friends.

In 1987, we attended the Westport Kite Festival (its second year) and WSIKF again. We started entering some of the contests (single line and dual line). We were still flying store bought kites and I didn't plan to make any kites. That changed when we attended the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Conference in March of 1988. It was the fifth year of that conference and it already had developed many of the characteristics that make it such a well liked event to this day. **Lee Toy** was the keynote speaker as well as a teacher. In his class, I made the Fort Worden Delta Variant. It was the first kite I ever made on a sewing machine. Lee's skill as a teacher and his enthusiasm for

kite making were irresistible. I also took **Mike Button's** class and made a miniature Cody kite. The conference was also another great social gathering. I was hooked again!

That year, we had a number of events that may have seemed odd to some kites. We made a kite display in the atrium of the Pacific Regent in Bellevue and we flew kites from the top of that 18 story building. We made an exhibition of kites at the Museum of Flight. We made kites with kids at the Pacific Science Center on Kids Day. During Maritime Week, we took special needs kids on a harbor tour boat in Elliot Bay and flew kites off the back of the boat. Of course we still had the fun flies, a new festival at Mukilteo, a kite flying picnic at Fort Casey, and the Westport and Long Beach festivals. It was all a lot of fun – even the work put into displaying kites. I was enjoying every bit of it.

Also that year, we started attending most of the WKA general membership and board meetings even though we weren't board members. I was elected president almost by accident. By the end of that year I had decided I was getting a lot out of WKA and wanted to do something in return. When they started asking for officer candidates, I thought that because I had a computer and had taken a few accounting classes, maybe I could help as a treasurer. When we went to the election meeting, things got turned around. **Jack Van Gilder** talked me into running for President. **Tom Sisson** had been president for several years. Then two different people were elected who for various reasons couldn't finish their respective terms. Each time Tom stepped back up to the plate to keep the game going. He needed relief and he was understandably worried about the possibility of getting another dropout. When Jack finally talked him into supporting me, the ball was rolling.

I was a little worried myself but I took on the challenge determined to do the best I could. I was still having a lot of fun but also doing quite a bit more work. Early in the year we put together another exhibition at the Children's Museum at Seattle Center. **David Checkley**, who had passed away a few months before, had left a box of beautiful Japanese kites he had collected in several trips to Japan. These kites later became the beginning of the new **World Kite Museum** in Long Beach.

Kite safety became a big topic of discussion in the WKA at that time. Some kites were being made which were very large and powerful. Some were even capable of lifting a fully grown man off the ground. Most of these were being flown by very conscientious flyers who were themselves concerned about safety. But there was also a concern about the example we set at WKA events. Might some spectator try the same thing without giving so much thought to the forces and the dangers involved? Also we were sometimes painted with the colors of non-members. The Ranger at Fort Casey was considering banning kite flyers from the park because of actions by some non-members. Through many discussions at Fort Worden and other venues that year, safety awareness was heightened in the WKA. After discussions among ourselves, we started talking to other kite flyers on the field.

The WKA kept growing and several new groups of kite flyers

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were formed in Washington. These included the Westport Windriders, the Squalicum Kite Flyers, the Ben Franklin Kite Society, the Yakima Valley Kiteflyers, the Lilac City Wind Chasers, the Kite Group of Boise, the Pierce County Kitefliers Association, and SCI-FI. Some people thought of these as “sub-groups” in WKA. Others thought of them as independent clubs affiliated with WKA. It probably didn’t matter. Most members of these groups were also members of WKA. I thought of them as our representatives in these local regions. They helped us grow into a truly statewide organization instead of a “Seattle kite club”. Likewise, we had several members in Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. I tried to get out and make contact with these people as much as possible and make them feel part of WKA. I even went to Oregon to take part in the AOK annual meeting. I feel like I was successful in keeping these organizations closely connected.

When **Jack Van Gilder** passed away, we lost another of the pillars of WKA. Jack was the guy who got things done. He would take anybody’s idea and run with it. He was also a good writer. He was always writing articles for the newsletter about every little activity. He always made them sound a little better than they were. That got more people interested. He told me when I was elected that I should write a lot. He said, “The power is in the pen.” I tried to keep up with his example. We got another great look through a window into the past when we cleaned out his basement. Jack had quite a collection and we had **Tom Sisson** there to tell us stories about some of the items.

We went to Fort Worden that year and I learned how to make spinsocks from **Doug Hagaman**. I had bought a 90 square foot parafoil from Doug in rainbow colors. I wanted stuff to fly off the line. Armed with that knowledge, I bought many yards of nylon and started to make a 65 foot long 8 foot diameter spinsock. We measured and cut the pieces in the school gymnasium where Kathy was teaching. The sewing was done in our living room with fabric spread out down the hall and into the bedroom. Now I could fly with the big guys. At Westport and WSIKF, I proudly flew my new kite and spinsock. Doug and I became good friends and his parafoils became my favorite kites.

In October, I attended my first AKA Convention in Honolulu. It was a great experience for me (only marred by the fact my wife, a public school teacher, could not attend with me). It was almost dead calm all week long but we still got out on the field every day to try to get some kites up. Kite judging was done with kites propped up against the walls in the hotel. The highlight of the convention was the presentation of the **Steve Edeiken** Memorial (Kiteflyer of the Year) Award to **Tom Sisson**. I couldn’t think of a more deserving person. He seemed to give almost 100% of his time and effort to some aspect of kiting. He was especially known for teaching kids to make kites. He taught hundreds of classes in schools and libraries around the area. At Fort Worden, he even taught classes to adults to teach them how to teach kids to make kites. Tom was certainly a great help to me during my term as president of WKA.

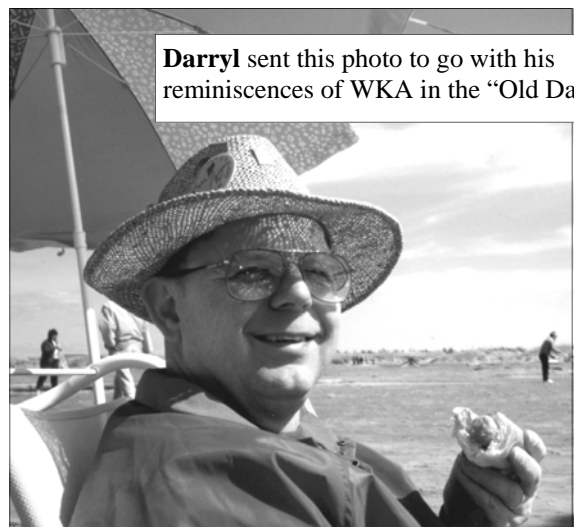
In 1990, we again attended Fort Worden and I made a parafoil in Doug’s three day class. I am very proud of that kite. I have flown it many times. It seems the older it gets, the better it flies. I took a

more active part in WSIKF that year by helping to organize and run the festival. I took the part of coordinating the Thursday activities. These included comprehensive kite competition, trains, best all-around kite flyer, and the rokkaku battle. I made a few extra trips to Long Beach that spring and summer to work out details. Working with **Kay Buesing** and the rest of the people involved in that festival was a great pleasure. I got a lot of help from friends and members of WKA. The friendships I had developed were starting to pay off.

In October, I again attended the AKA Convention, this time in Seaside Oregon. Again missing my wife but again enjoying the experience. That year I took on organizing and running the “Fly Market.” I didn’t have any experience in that area. They gave us much too small a room for that kind of activity and there were a lot of kite vendors who wanted space. Perhaps I should have said no to some of them but I tried to get as many into the room as I could. It was much too crowded. In the end everybody coped pretty well and most of the vendors actually seemed happy. Nobody seemed really angry. I got a few chances to fly the big parafoil on the beach. **Lee Toy** won the **Steve Edeiken** Memorial Award and I finished the week a happy guy.

One of the things I worked especially hard on in those days was the Kite Calendar. Using a database on my computer, I kept track of all events in the area for several years. I would call contact people well in advance to see if last year’s event would be repeated. I was constantly updating as new information came in. It was gratifying to have AKA officers comment that the WKA had perhaps the best Kite Calendar in the country. I tried to keep up the calendar work the next year when I was no longer president but found that much information was sent to the new president or the newsletter editor and it didn’t always get forwarded to me in time to use it.

At the end of my two years as president of WKA, I wrote that being president was a bigger job than **Jack Van Gilder** and **Tom Sisson** had led me to believe. I felt that I had accomplished most of what I wanted to do. While I often wished I could have done a better job, I had no regrets. What made me feel best was the people I had worked with and played with. I felt like I had more friends than I had ever had in my life. It was a good time.



Darryl sent this photo to go with his reminiscences of WKA in the “Old Days”

The George Peters “Square Flyer” Kite Train

The “ruggedized” version of the train flying at Pacific Beach



During this past season, time, workspace, and (to tell the truth) skill constraints limited my kite projects to modifying commercial products to get new combinations or effects. One of these projects began when I purchased several **George Peters’** Square Flyers. The Peters Flyer is a 30” by 30” diamond, built on a basic fighter design. They feature intricate geometric appliquéd designs in bright colors which make them look like stained glass panels when flown on a sunny day. Because these kites made an impressive show when

flown in groups, I decided to convert a set of them to fly in a train.

I wanted to keep the option to fly the kites individually, so I didn’t want to re-string the kites to the single line bridle traditionally used in trains. Instead, I placed a grommet in each kite’s sail at the intersection of the horizontal and vertical spars. I then ran a short line from the bridle, through the grommet, to the back of the kite — ending in a tie-off loop. I then connected an eight foot line with swivel to the loop and the bridle of the following kite. This arrangement allows you to string any number of the Flyers in the train. To improve the Flyers’ ability to handle strong Coast winds, I added a second .111” fiberglass rod to the bowed horizontal spar in each kite. The lead kite in the string also required a heavier vertical spar.

The Square Flyer is, at its heart, a fighter kite, with all the nimbleness and maneuverability typical of the type. As the vendor’s web site says, they “dance in the sky”. Early experiments proved that these kites needed to be far more docile when flying in a train. The Gomberg Kite fuzzy tails and the second horizontal spar provided the required stability while still allowing the train to have some nice, but controlled, ‘dance’ moves. The downside of this set up has been that, with the added loading on the sails, it takes a moderate (8 MPH or better) wind speed to get the train up and consistently flying.

I followed George Peter’s design to make two of these kites for the train. I plan to make a few more of these squares in different patterns and color schemes. I think this train arrangement will nicely handle between 8 and 12 kites.

People have told me this train makes a nice display which catches the eye – which is good to hear. Adapting the Flyers to this purpose has been a fun and interesting experiment!

Casey Shearer

Photo provided by **Casey Shearer**

So you are kept “in the loop” of what’s happening—

Kite Festival In a Bag II

Yes, we are getting the Kite Festival in a Bag started again.

So far we have a Kite bag from **Judy Brown**, line art from **Ken Tumminia**, a kite from **Jeremy Colbert**, a Rokkaku from **Ronda Brewer**, a line winder from **Lindsey Johnson**, a **Charlie Sotich** kite from **Anne Huston**, a weather box kite from **Miriam Schaffler** and a delta from **Deb Cooley**, and many more coming soon.

Tickets will be for sale at \$5.00 each. 500 tickets total will be printed.

So please if you have a kite, banner, line art, spools, shirt or anything you would like to give to a good home just let me know and we can add it to the list.

Tickets will be on sale for a year and we will have the drawing at the AOK annual meeting in February 2010.

Don’t be surprised when I hit you up for a raffle item to put into the bag.

You can send it to me.

Deb Cooley
PO Box 1235
Lincoln City OR. 97367

Or I will see you soon

Notes from the Prez—



As I write this, it is snowing *again* outside. No I don't live in Michigan. I am in Renton, Washington. This global warming is getting ridiculous! I am so looking forward to this coming month! It means, hopefully, the start of better weather, and finally a warm day with a kite in the air.

Maybe this year instead of snow at the Earth Day/ Arbor Day Kite Fly in Newcastle, we will actually be warm! I am looking forward to it either way. It has to be better than last year's snow storm.

(check this picture shot by **Rick** from 2008!)



The city has invited us again, and I hope to see you there!

For me this year, it has been a busy one. Not with kites, like I would have preferred, but with work. I can't seem to get a weekend off. If I take it off anyway, it costs me dearly. But with the economy the way it is, it is beginning to look like in a couple more months, I will be free to fly again! Hurray! This past frozen winter we have seen a few changes. We have lost a few more good friends, and my heart goes out to those families, but we have gained a few as well. Either way, I hope you are surrounded by those who love you! I can tell you this, *WE* love you, so come on out and let us surround you in the sky!

I am also looking forward to this year's Fort Worden. It is a chance to get away for 4 days, to be with all of you, and make new kites. Have you ever noticed you just can't make too many kites! I tell myself I have enough, that I can save the money this year, but as time gets closer to signing up, I just can't justify saying no. I start thinking of all of you, and I just have to be there! And I really want that new piece of art, and that cool kite at the beach this year too! I guess it will all wash out in the end, because by making new kites, it will make it possible to donate the old ones I don't fly anymore to the WKA auction at WSIKF! YES! (Now I just have to be sure I fly them all so I don't have to get rid of any! Hehehe!) Have a great spring, and be careful out there!

Rick White

Kite Month is Coming! Kite Month is Coming!

April is National Kite Month. You can help celebrate it. If you have access to the Internet, visit <http://www.nationalkitemonth.org> for ideas on how to approach it. (If you don't have access to the internet, go to your public library and ask them to help you out. They'll be glad to do it.)

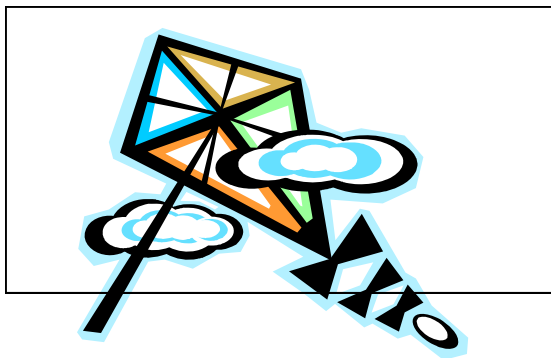
The website has many suggestions you can use to help make this Kite Month the best ever. The ones we follow most closely are to put up displays of kites, kite history, and local kiting contacts in libraries and stores. The displays don't have to be elaborate. A posterboard can hold pictures and event schedules. Kites can be hung from ceilings and on walls. Put out copies of magazines and newsletters. Let your imagination soar!



Jerry, Glenda, and Panda
Keep 'em Flying!

Randy Erickson sent this to us—

He says this is a poem he found about a kite in the *Book of 1,000 Poems*



The Kite

I wonder what my kite can see,
So High above the world and me;
And if the birds are friends to him,
As I am friends with Jack and Jim,
And are the clouds just really rain,
That melts and pours all down again?
O! he must know a thousand things,
As much as schoolmasters, and kings;
But will he breathe a word to me?
No, he's as quiet as quiet can be.

Pearl Forbes MacEwen

Where Does our Christmas Party Money Go?

Most of us know that, for the past few years, the majority of the money from the raffle at the PCKA/WKA Christmas Dinner has gone to the food bank at Mountain View Lutheran Church. They have been so grateful for our contributions, that whenever they do not have anything else scheduled, they allow our indoor kite fliers free use of their gym to practice their routines.

If you are like me, however, you'd like to know a bit more about their food bank. I've excerpted the following information from an article published on the front-page of the November 6, 2008 "The Herald"--a local newspaper.

When the church first opened the food bank in 2004, it was able to feed between 50 and 75 people each Saturday. By October, 2008, the count was up to 1,200! The church recently opened a vastly updated facility to make this possible. The money for this facility was raised from the church members and from various private groups like The Sequoia Foundation and the Boeing Employees Credit Union.

The updated food bank has a state-of-the-art, walk-in freezer and cooler. It also has a 25 kilowatt gas-powered generator to keep the cooler and freezer circuits going in case of a power failure. It is located on the bottom floor of a new 10,500 square foot facility that cost \$950,000 to build. The upper floor of the building is a community center that plans to be able to host everything from community meals to cooking and health clinics. Washington State University's Pierce County Extension hosted a four-week cooking class there in November, and an after school tutorial program was also started.

The community center will be open on a daily basis, and the food bank's hours will be expanded, perhaps adding an additional day. Right now, this is the only food bank in the area that is open on Saturdays.

I've read several articles in the paper recently about nearly empty shelves in local food banks due to the greatly increased number of people who need help due to loss of jobs or other financial crisis. I think the kite community should be proud we have contributed to this cause which serves the less fortunate members of our local communities.

Glenda Kleppin

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

Northwest Sport Kite League

Contact Bud Hayes
email: bud@thehayesplace.com
Calendar at 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 Kitefliers Assn

President: Bob Wendt
Puyallup, WA 98374
253-848-6325 (home)
prez@pcka.org

Calendar at 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 Kitefliers 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 Kitefliers Association

Contact Marla Miller - Regional
Director 253-752-7051
email: region10@aka.kite.org
Regional: www.aka.kite.org/region10
or www.aka.kite.org

British Columbia Kitefliers Assn.

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

Some Important Definitions for Kiters:

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 Kiters
BCKA: British Columbia Kitefliers Association

Toy Fair New York 2009

The last time I went to Toy Fair New York was in 2005 and it was so overwhelming I had to wait 4 years to see it again. New York alone is overwhelming! This year was no exception. Air fares and hotel rooms were so drastically reduced there was just no way I could ignore the opportunity to see the best in toys again.

I went with a fellow kite shop owner from Vancouver BC, **Sally Fontana**, who owns Kites and Puppets in Vancouver BC and New Orleans. We have known each other for years as members of KTA. This year we opted to attend Toy Fair together. Most of the larger Kite Manufacturers also exhibit at Toy Fair so we were killing two birds with one stone, so to speak. The entrance fee is absolutely free and we did not have to be a member of anything to attend. We did have to prove we owned bona-fide businesses. The nice thing about selling toys in our stores is that we have a larger audience to offer the benefits of kiting. Many of our customers have never flown a kite before, but many are intrigued once they see them. In the case of The Gasworks Park Kite Shop, we are a city kite shop and don't have the advantage of the beach to display our kites. Also our rents and taxes are a great deal higher, so by offering a wide range of outdoor toys we can offset the expenses.

Toy Fair is held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center and is organized by the Toy Industry Association (TIA). Like most organizations that sponsor shows, a whole spate of seminars were presented and most were sponsored by other organizations working together with TIA. The ones we were most interested in were the ASTRA Party With The Stars at F.A.O. Schwartz and The Safety Update Seminar. The latter is regarding the lead content and phthalate content in toys. As it turned out the majority of Toy Manufacturers have already taken care of the matter and all of us retailers just download the certification forms from the Internet. How handy is that!

The Jacob Javits Center is arranged in 3 different levels for Toy Fair. The moment you walk in you are greeted by costumed manufacturer greeters. They give you tons of information about their company, so you immediately pick up a bag to start carrying literature around in. Lo and behold, in the bag is the first piece of "schwag" (free samples) you will start collecting at the show. The TIA provides attendees with so much information it is incredible! You just cannot get lost. Sally and I go our separate ways since it is much easier to cover the territory. Besides, our approach is different.

My first day, I like to run up and down all the aisles to scout out who and what is available. I also take note of where everyone is in my Toy fair Directory. This is a 300 page catalogue which not only lays out where all the companies are, it gives you a map of New York including restaurants and hotels. Most of the time a retailer can find all resources in one area of the show. Once you get a "lay of the land" you can proceed. At least that's my approach. By the time I scout out who is where I can also get an idea of who is offering the best bags to carry all my catalogues in, along with the free samples.

The greatest advantage of attending Toy Fair is you get to see the newest and greatest things on the market. This time I found some great robots called "Hex Bugs". They are cute little battery operated bugs that just make you laugh at their antics. One company had solar power ones, but they were not quite as accessible as the "Hex Bugs". We are already stocking them in our store. Other great finds were lite-ups you can attach to your kites by NiteIze. We have been carrying them for some time now. Another great find was the company that offers "El Wire". It is a thin line of continuous light. You can either plug it in or battery power it. The longer it is the more battery power you will need. It is pricey, but impressive.

All the major kite companies were present: New Tech Kites, Premier Kites, HQ Kites, Sky Dog Kites, Gayla and Brainstorm. What was great to see was they were getting customers who were outside the regular kite shops. Their booths were well-decorated and attracted quite a bit of attention. Premier is now doing our large Starflake, formerly known as the Super Nova, but now is called the Magnum Nova. HQ is offering a great packaged soft dual line kite called the "Symphony Beach". It comes in 3 different sizes and includes the most precise flying instructions I have ever seen. It comes in every color of the rainbow and then some. The packaging is fabulous! New Tech has a new dual line kite called the "Odyssey" with very unique packaging. It is compact and the kite will never get munched in transportation.

After visiting all the Kite Companies, I located the outdoor toys. Usually they are pretty much in the same area but sometimes you will have to look in other areas. It is that seeking that allows you to stumble upon other enterprises. Sometimes you want to find an excuse to carry the product in your store so you try to fit it in as a secondary item. Somehow I just could not justify carrying the "Orbitwheel", a circular pair of single wheeled roller skates. Nor could I find room for some really cool musical instruments by a

(Continued on page 10)



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



(Continued from page 9)

local guy called “Jamtown” in Lake City. It is a difficult task to make choices when you are a small specialty store. One of the best solutions for this is to join up with a like-minded group of retailers like you.

Several years ago **John Harris** of Kitty Hawk Kites gathered together all the Kite Retailers he ran into at the Toy Fair and called a “Summit”, a Retail Summit. One night at Toy Fair, all the retailers gather together for dinner and shout out the best toys they find at Toy Fair. This year Laney’s Way Toys organized the group at the Shangrila Restaurant. Not only was the food great but the most of the suggestions were either toys I was currently carrying or items I had picked out at the Toy fair. Nothing like affirmations to make me feel I have chosen great items.

After spending two days at Toy Fair, one has to start reassessing the amount of schwag collected versus the catalogues. The stuff is heavy! So, I spend an evening sorting out what I will take home, and what I will leave. As it turns out the stuff my roommate tosses, is just the stuff I want and vice versa. Now the airlines charges extra to check a bag, but the bag is so heavy with printed matter I can’t lift it into the overhead compartment. Fortunately my sister-in-law went along and I loaded up her bag with stuff.

The last day of Toy Fair I make a last run-through since my roommate has told me about all the booths I missed the previous 3 days. Along with the information I gathered at the “Retail Summit”, my last Toy Fair day makes for a really long day. By this time my back is really aching from carrying around all the material I just can’t live without. On top of all that, many of the manufacturers are ready to release their samples. These are the ones you buy because you just cannot wait to show everyone back home the newest greatest gizmo.

Back at the hotel room I finish packing so I can go to the Broadway Show, because after all, it is New York. We went to see “Wicked”. It was the best, as was the whole whirlwind trip to find the newest hottest toy on the market that passes all the government testing we are now required to have.

Come in and see them along with most of the newest kites on the market. Don’t forget to ask for your club discount!

Kathy Goodwind

Editor’s note: A few years ago John and I got to SewExpo in Puyallup. We were real greenhorns at this kind of retail fair. But, there were obviously people who had been before. Those were the ones pulling along the carry-on rolling suitcase to put all the “stuff” they got at the SewExpo. Smart Move. If we ever get to go again. I will certainly do that. So much easier than hanging on to a bag that gets heavier by the moment!! So much to collect!!

Notes from Georgan Curran

Looking out the window from home at all the rain, who would have thought that on arriving at Golden Gardens Park it would not be raining? And besides, there would be a nice wind to fly kites?

Well, apparently lots of people didn't and there were not very many of us there on New Years "Protest the Bowls" fun fly. Did get to talk to a number of people about what we were doing and who we were though. We kept 3 kites up the whole day and **Dick** flew another one for a while before we left. He almost had a kite in the tree, tails only and got it out before **Rick White** could get it on camera.

The hot dogs and trimmings were great, and the hot chocolate and Rick's chili were well received considering how cold it was. The Polar Bear people were there doing their thing. I keep thinking I should do that, but I think I need to practice before I do. Like maybe in July or August.



Here’s Dick “Puttin’ on the Ritz”

Since I wasn't at the **Long Beach Indoor Fly**, I can't give a complete story. But I will say that anyone who missed it missed a good one by Dick. You really wouldn't have recognized him in a three piece white suit, red vest and bow tie and top hat, and flying/dancing to waltz music. He came in second. Dick also put up 20+ kites to decorate the gym for the festival.

Georgan



Georgan provided these two pictures, which also show some of the kite decorations on the wall.

New Kites for 2009—A Special Report

Lots of new kites were introduced for 2009. They were preferred at the **KTAI Convention** at San Dustin, FL in Jan. First, let's look at a few single line kites. **New Tech Kites** brought only new products. Of those, three were new single line kites by *Xilhu* "**Tiger**" *Lee*, including a green and yellow **Pterodactyl**, a **3D Eagle**, and a **Toucan**. All are 92" wingspan. These winged wonders are beautiful and well made. Another flying machine is the new **3D Tactical Fighter**, which is a very well detailed and authentic looking military design.

Among the Cellular Kites, is a 48" **Shooting Star** and 36" **Snowflake**, both multi faceted on the order of *Kathy Goodwind's* Starflake. In the designer series by *Robert Brasington* is the **Angel kite**, at 45 inches wide by 102 inches long. It is a dodging kite with multiple flowing tails.

HQ Kites has introduced the **Paint by Number Kites**, new for 2009. They are creative and novel. They add extra fun and sense of pride and accomplishment. These 18 X 28 inch Traditional Diamonds come complete with paint, brushes, instructions, kite and kite line.

Another notable kite is the **Flipper Kite** with its gentle movements, long elegant taffeta tails, and the powerful pull make this a kite to own. It is 63 X 281 inch, 5 -24 mph. Still another is the **Octopus 3D Rainbow** inflatable, 35 X 79 inches. Small by *Gomberg* standards, line laundry like this is still quite fun.

Part of the **HQ** new kites includes a New **Flow Tail Delta 600**, 73 X 226 inches, with striking multi color design. It can be flown with 1 or 3 of its removable taffeta tails. There are three new **Rokkakus**, a couple of new **Power Sleds** 1 meter and 1.7 meter, and some new line laundry, including **Porky Pete**, 41 X 51 inches, and **Punky Blowfish** a 63 inch diameter yellow sphere with black spikes. A new sand Bouncing Buddy is the **Billy the Crab**. It joins the other sand bouncers and are quite fun to see on the beach or lawn.

But the best of all are the new *Rainier Hoffman* kites. The **Amulet I** and **Amulet II** are 24 X 240 inch colorful, easy to assemble, and a great presence in the sky. Hoffman also designed the **Flap Kite Wacky Worm**. It moves slowly or quickly depending on the wind. Its brother, the **Flap Kite Sunbeam**, gives a unique movement due to special cut sections and tails attached to a bowed suspended arm.

Out of the dust of the **Go Fly a Kite** Company, came an all new kite company, **Sky Dogs**. With visionary *Jim Christianson*, all the past GFK staff, plus kite designer *Dodd Gross*, lots of new and exciting things are happening. The single line kites are typical family kites. Of interest to kite enthusiasts is the **Tie-Dye Box** and **Tie -Dye X Box**. Both are smaller box kites at 30 X 20 inches, so they make a nice size to fly in multiples. Also the **Skysurfer 5** X 36 inches. These are nice kites, but their Stunt kites are all new and especially worth looking at. **Sky Dogs'** has killer designs, a great logo, and a synergy of people who have worked together, add *Dodd Gross*, who always knew he and *Jim Christianson* would one day join forces to create even greater kites.

Premier Kites teamed up with *Christophe Goy* to produce a new **Giant Bald Eagle**, one very impressive bird kite. This is an ingenious design with realistic ram-air filled body, and batten stiffened wingtip feathers. At 115 inch wingspan X 45 inch long, 8- 18 mph, this is a great kite.

Willie Koch has created some exciting line laundry for 2009. **Rainbow Myriapod**, 169 X 31 inches, and **Hydroid**, 63 X 31 inches, and **Rainbow Cephalopod**, 79 X 31 inches are inflatables that would be the hit of any kite festival. They are joined by three smaller inflatables: a **Rainbow Star Orb**, and **Tecmo Star Orb**, both 24 X 47 inches, and an **Isopod**, 47 X 51 inches. Also new is a **Rainbow Sea Pineapple Windsock**, 28 X 79 inches. All are very, very colorful and unique.

But the best offering of kites is the **Luna Moth**, 140 X 102 inches, carbon frame, by *Carsten Domann*. This is a beautiful green moth with flowing tails and flapping wings. No one else will have a kite like this one on the beach!

New too, is a *Kathy Goodwind's* exciting cellular **Super Nova** in red explosion, and blue Energy. German designer *Manfred Lindenlaub's* **Key Lime Dimension X**, another cellular which can be flown from two different tow points. Either way it makes a striking image in the sky. Biggest and best ever is **Premier's Promotional Kite**. A parafoil of over 75 feet long X 14.5 feet wide, this is an air show for any large event. A big crowd pleaser.

Sport Kites

Sky Dogs, the newest kite company on planet Earth, is named after *Jim Christianson's* Band. So *Dodd Gross* named the stunt kites after rock musical numbers. **Cross Fire** and **Sweet Emotion** are their high end dual line kite offerings. Both are 91 X 39 inches, 6 mm Carbon Frame, 3 to 20 mph and Intermediate to Expert. The designs are new and refreshing. *Dodd* got to start all over again, leaving all his past designs for New Tech Kites behind. But by far the best design in this new series is the **Dream On**, 87 X 25.5, 6 mm Carbon Frame, 3 to 20 mph, Intermediate to Advanced. With a kind of off centered star burst design, this is a beautiful kite. **Sky Dogs** also has 3 other kites in 2 designs each: the **Freebird**, 74 X 33 inches, **Thunderstruck**, 69.5 X 31 inches, and **Little Wing**, 59.5 X 27.5.

New Tech kites introduced several new Sport Kites, notably the **Odyssey**, that is a whole new technology. It is 72" wingspan, but breaks down to fit in a 21 inch tube, much like a four piece fishing pole. The double chevron design is refreshingly simple and clean in three color schemes, carbon spars, and 80 pound dacron line. Although the literature says 5 to 20 mph wind range, it felt heavy with all those joints in the frame. I suspect it is closer to 7- 8 mph. But this one can go anywhere you go!

The **Kratos**, is a name from mythology, patterned on earlier styles of stunt kites, almost in the Hawaiian stunt tradition. It is a 100" wingspan, strong pulling, powerful and loud, making its presence known to all. 200 pound test ought to be a good indicator of the pull of this kite. Frame is fiberglass, and design choices are stylized flames, either red and yellow r blue and white. A very striking kite.

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(Continued from page 11)

New foils include the “**Mercury**” in 3 quad power kites up to 4 meters. German engineered bridle and cross over pulley system is as advanced as any on the market. There were other new kites, and licensed spinner products too many to mention.

New Sport Kites from **HQ Kites** include the **Calypso II Tribal**, which is a very unique design for a beginner kite. The **Quickstep II** has a dragon design beginner kite at 51 inches. It is a surprisingly nice handling stunt kite with precise turns and response. The **Limbo** is a 61 inch starter trick kite. Precise but easy to fly, needing as little as 4 mph. And the **Salsa II** evolved out of last year’s model as an easy handling intermediate trick kite.

The most exciting new HQ sport kite is the new **Infinity** and the **Vented Infinity** by **Andreas Koopman**. This is a competition - ready trick kite with very good precision and great looks, especially the Vented. If it is speed you crave, the **X-Celebrator** is extreme speed paired with fierce power and precision, if you can handle it. It is only a 61 inch wingspan, yet requires 220 pound test Dyneema line!!

Power Kites

In Power Kites, **HQ** is King! They have brought out the normally dual line **Symphony** as a quad in a **Speed 2.0** meter. The 2 line **Rush** on a bar has been completely redesigned. Now the **Rush III**, it has a better performing new bridling allowing for relaunch. The 3 line **Rush Pro** on a bar is the easiest to fly and relaunchable.

The **Beamer III** is all new now as the **Beamer IV** from 1.4 to 5.0 meter. It has more performance, and is best for buggy use by beginners to intermediate. The **Apex II** is ideal for beginner depower on a bar. Best suited to snow boarding or land boarding. The **Montana** got a makeover too. But at 7, 9.5, and 12.5 meters this is no toy and served for mid intermediate to expert ATB and snow use.

New to the line is the **Hydra** in 3, and 3.5 meters. It’s the first only water relaunchable trainerfoil, due to closed cell ram air foils — but no bladders to inflate. It floats on water, is extremely stable and easy to fly. Use it in the water for great body drags in strong wind.

But the **Neo** is HQ’s best new product and their entry into Kitesurfing. Like the Hydra, the Neo uses closed ram air cells. It is a true land and water kitesurfing, the first! This versatility and the available 4 to 6 meter sizes gives this kite not only the most versatility, but therefore the best value for your money, across any brand of land or water power kite. Because, unlike others, this is a truly cross-over kite, well suited to land ATB, snow kiteboarding, or water surfboarding, HQ also has brought out a whole new line of kitesurfing boards, called the **Mana** and the **Haura**.

A whole new line of Traction Kites joins the **Sky Dogs** lineup. **SDT 2.8**, **SDT 4.0**, and **SDT 5.5 meter Quad Kites** with satchel bags, along with a line of dual foils and trainer kites with awesome new graphics.

Mike Hale

Elmer’s Flag & Banner, Kites Too!

Hanging out on the forum

I’ve been hanging out on the forum at kitebuilder.com and have been very impressed with the number of kites that are built without going to workshops like Ft. Worden, OKR, MAKR, MKS, and the like. There are plans and tons of good advice for the novice (and expert) kitebuilders. If you have a question about kite building (or darn near anything else) they have answers. The membership lives all over the world. Everywhere from Russia to New Zealand is represented.

Kitebuilder.com is run by **Steve Ferrel**, who also is head handcrafted judge for the AKA national conventions. He started kitebuilder.com as an adjunct to his kite building supplies business, Kite Studio, and it has grown immensely.

Anyone can join, there are no membership fees, and like I said earlier, there is lots of information available. Want to know which edge binder to buy? There are several threads on the subject. Even better, they show you which ones NOT to buy, and why. Need to know what thread to use? Threads about thread abound.

Even if you never thought about building your own kites, this is a fun and educational site to visit. And you may wind up inspired to dust off the sewing machine and try your hand. It’s fun.

Currently there is a thread about the “Bull Dog” kite, a high wind, high lift kite. Its bridle is adjustable easily (relatively) for wind conditions. It was designed by **John Waters**, from Oregon, who, incidentally, also designed the first spinsock. **Peter Lynn** produced the Bull Dogs and sold them commercially.

There were fifty-one Bull Dog kits made by a man in Texas. They were provided, at cost, to anyone who wanted to build one. Each of these new kits has a certification tag stating the original designer and that permission is given to make this kite. At least ten of the kits have been assembled and are flying. The Bull Dogs that have been finished are beautiful to see and fly very well. **Rod Thrall** (from Oregon) built two, at least. One of his own and one he sewed for someone else. The pictures of the construction process have been quite entertaining and educational.

Jerry, Glenda, and Panda

For Sale: PFAFF 1222 sewing machine with case and manual on CD.

This is the last of the German built mechanical machines.

It has the famous “Walking Foot” much valued by kite makers and quilters.

Asking \$400 - I will e-mail picture of stitch-out sample

Also I am willing deliver to Ft. Worden for pick-up

Contact : Tom Thornton 250 -594-4326 or tomndi@shaw.ca



Editor's Note: This article should have been printed earlier, but we ran out of room—oh dear, what a calamity, right?!! Anyway, here it is—a bit of summer time happenings

Somewhen between Parksville, BC kite festival and WSIKF, WKA was asked to provide Kites with Kids at Olympia's Hands-on Children's Museum. That place is an eye opener. I've never seen so many objects of interest directed only at children. We were requested to work for about two hours, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Yeah, right. We got set up by 5:30 and went at a dead run until 9:30, when they threw us out because they had to close the museum. The kids made at least 137 kites, and each of the staff made one for themselves as well. While the kitemaking was under way, **Wayne** and **Sonja Turner** flew indoor kites. I'd have thought the room was not large enough for that, but they did a wonderful job.

Carl Williamson provided the simple sled kites we helped the kids assemble. It is a simple design, and even four-year olds can assemble it with a little instruction. He has provided thousands of kites over the years and is always looking for someplace to help kids make and fly kites.

There was a total of six of us there, **Wayne** and **Sonja Turner**, **Jerry Graham**, **Glenda Kleppin**, **Carl Williamson**, and **John Wright**. John is a long-time member of WKA, but we had never met prior to this event. We hope he will contact us so we can thank him appropriately. (We have something for him.)

And now for my usual plea: Please help out with a Kites for Kids project sometime. We can use any and all volunteers. No experience necessary, we'll teach you what little you need to know. It is a small way to give back to the kiting community some of the pleasure you have gotten from it. And, if we help kids make kites, they'll fly them and the sport will grow. We need that.

Jerry Graham



These were taken during the Hands-On event. Wayne is flying a kite in the background while the kids are busy making kites. Pictures provided by **Glenda Kleppin**. They were taken by **Carl Williamson's** camera.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Upcoming Kid's Fest at Ft. Lewis April 4

The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) department at Ft. Lewis is staging their annual Kid's Fest on Thursday, 04 April, from 1200-1630 (12:00PM-4:30PM) at Summit Skating Rink. The purpose of the Kid's Fest is to support the families of soldiers, both those who have deployed and those who remain at Ft. Lewis.

Set-up time begins at 0900, but we will not get there until after 1000 since our booth will not take long to set up. Several people have volunteered their time and we thank you. The problem is that we misplaced the list and have no way to contact you. Could you all please e-mail us at jlgraham1@usa.net or call us at 253-863-7400? Anyone who hadn't already volunteered is most welcome, too. The entire experience is delightful. The kids are well-behaved and patiently wait in line for their turn.

We will teach a **Carl Williamson** design. It is simple to build, flies well, and the kids have little problem with learning how to make it. Come on out. I think you'll be glad you did.

Jerry Graham

FORTY TWO X's

Once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far, away—OK, not that far, just down in Long Beach, Washington—**Kay Buesing** convinced me I should try teaching a kite making workshop. I was hooked. Now, while a fish may get a sore mouth from being hooked, what I got was an addiction to having this much fun.

I just finished number twelve in a wonderful series of weekends. The World Kite Museum had sponsored a series of workshops for quite a while before I started, but I thought having a whole weekend to work opened up the possibility of much more difficult kites. Some years ago I got my reservation in for the February long weekend—Presidents' Day. This gives me three days to enjoy leading the way through all sorts of kites.

This year we built a new design that I call Tic Tac Toe—3 Xs in a row—you win! This cellular kite is seventeen feet long. It has three sets of cross spars that form X's—sort of like a Cody, but without the box cells. We built fourteen kites—look for them on the beach this summer!

While I love designing and building kites, what I really like is spending a weekend surrounded by friends who are happily madly sewing away on a new creation. These weekends are pretty laid back. Having three days to work takes away the time pressure, so lots of visiting gets done as well. With three days, we even have time for a bit of reverse sewing, if you are so inclined. I always tell folks the trip is worth it just for the pleasure of the potluck gathering at Kay's house on Saturday night.

You missed it? Well next year we'll be there again. We'd be happy to welcome you to the World Kite Museum kite making workshop. Can you really stand to miss this much fun?

John Freeman

Day 1—starting in on the project—
Cutting, cutting, cutting and more cutting

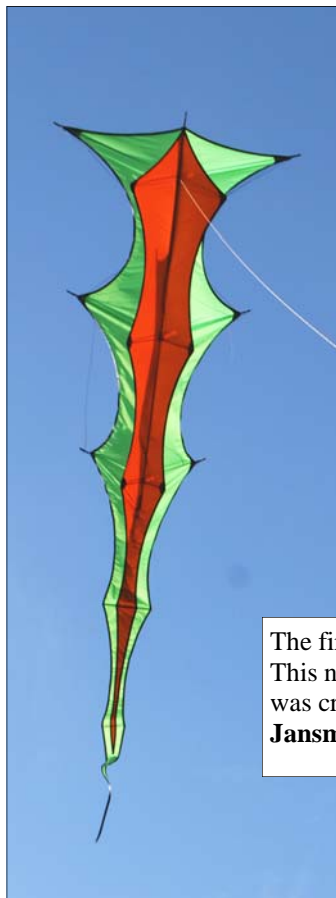


Jerry Graham is using his Singer Featherweight to create the kite. Pretty cool!

Chatting in the evening at the end of day 1.



Ray Bojarski with his completed blue and neon green Tic-Tac-Toe 3 X's kite



The first one to make it out into the sky! This neon green and orange 3 X's kite was created by **Lance Ford** and **Mary Jansma**

All photos by **Lance Ford**

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

- March 28** Kingston WA Kite Festival, Sponsored by the Downtown Kingston Association.
The kite parade starts at 1:00pm, Contact Susan Rodger 1-360-197-4414 for details
- March 28-29** Lincoln City OR Windless Kite Festival
- April 11** Lincoln City OR National Kite Month Fly at D-River State Wayside
- April 25-26** Wind, Waves, and Water Festival, East Beach, White Rock, BC
- June 6-7** Ocean Shores WA International Kite Festival
- June 13-14** Pacific Rim Kite Festival, Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC
- June 27-28** Lincoln City OR Summer Kite Festival Theme this year for the letter P is Pacific Wonderland
- July 10-12** Grayland Beach WA Annual Westport Windriders Kite Festival
- July 18-19** Lion's Club 4th Annual International Kite Festival, Parksville, BC
- August 17-23** Washington State International Kite Festival, Long Beach, WA
- September 11-13** Pacific Beach, WA "Up Your Wind" Kite Festival
- September 19-20** Whidbey Island WA Kite Festival
- October 5-11** AKA National Convention, Rochester, MN
- October 17-18** World Kite Museum One Sky, One World Celebration

Please drop us a line if you have events that need adding to the calendar. Then we all will be in the know!

Jerry Graham with his completed kite. This goes to show you don't need the biggest machine in the room to build a fine big purple and gold kite. Rock on Singer Featherweight!!



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

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| Jennifer Dahms | Vancouver, WA |
| Carol B. Ford | Seattle, WA |
| Richard Hurd & Phyllis Gribbin | Lacey, WA |
| Susan Rodgers | Kingston, WA |

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:

This winter has really given a new meaning to its name. More snow than we have seen in years. And it does not seem to be done yet. Yesterday and today we had a layer of hail. And then the sun came out. So maybe there is hope for a good spring season. Soon we will be getting out the kite bags and taking them to the flying field for a nice outing. Right now it is just a bit too chilly.

The next issue of the newsletter will need submissions to me by mid-April. But I will be sending our my usual hat-in-hand request for information from you, the WKA members and friends of WKA. We love to hear from you.

This issue contains quite a bit about the new kites of every description coming to the stores and websites. And a lot of information about new toys. I don't know about you, but I don't think I will ever outgrow toys. Georgan has started making turned wooden tops, that is so cool! Never grow too old to enjoy life!

*Till next time,
Marzlie*

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
Membership Director
Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave N
Seattle WA 98109-4816**

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name	Spouse

Address	

City/State/Zip	

Phone	E-Mail

Names of Other Household Members (Include different last names)	

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