



Newsletter

October — November 2009

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

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

WKA/PCKA Christmas Party & Indoor Fun Fly

Saturday, December 5, is the date for our annual WKA/PCKA Christmas Party and Indoor Fun Fly. Once again it will be at the Mountain View Lutheran Church (3505 - 122nd Ave E) in Edgewood, WA.

The day's schedule is:

Noon - 5 PM Indoor fun fly.

Lessons have always been available for new flyers.

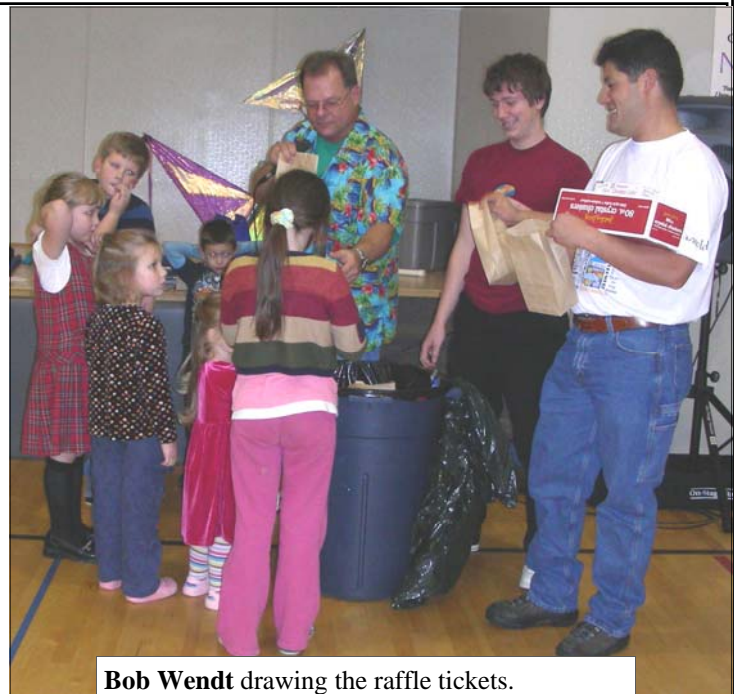


Look! My kite is flying!! Never too young to start

5 PM - 6 PM Set up tables for dinner and bag raffle.

6 PM Dinner, followed by bag raffle drawings

Dinner is a pot luck style meal where WKA and PCKA provide the ham and turkey. Everyone else brings whatever side dishes, salads or desserts they like.



Bob Wendt drawing the raffle tickets.

The bag raffle covers a few expenses and helps fund the Food Bank during the holiday crunch. Last year we gave about \$600 to the food bank. Bring your donation items for the bag raffle. Additionally, if you have any significant or special items you want to have auctioned please bring them. The proceeds from the auction can be directed to the food bank or the World Kite Museum.

We have always had a wonderful holiday celebration. Come and join us!

Bob Wendt
PCKA President

Rick White
WKA President

253-848-6325

Photos from 2008 Party provided by **Bob Wendt**

WSIKF 2009 Kids' Camps

This event was more popular than ever. It is always so much fun to work with my judges. Make no mistake, for years the kids on the judging team have made the final decisions as to who gets which ribbons. In fact, this year I was the only "adult" on the judging team, assisted by 3 wonderful young people. The youngest judge either loved or hated displays, based on whether or not they had something for her to do and/or offered her "bribes." There was absolutely NO CONTEST in choosing the top camp. **Karen Highfield**, setting up camp all alone, was the unanimous choice for first place. This just goes to show that a camp does not have to be big and complicated to appeal to kids.

For many years, **Ryan King** has had the only campsite set up totally by kids under 14--an amazing display of tents, animals, and other delights—which grows and changes each year. Ryan has always taken part in deciding what needed to go into the

camp. However, at first, her mother did all of the sewing. Now Ryan has gotten interested in sewing and so she is now helping with that as well. Ryan has put up her camp every year since we started Kids' Day, and usually puts up the camp on at least 2 or 3 other days during WSIKF. This year she turned 15. No problem. The judges concurred, and we decided to raise the age limit for camps by kids to 18 and judged the camp accordingly. She was awarded First place, of course.

For the first time, there was a second campsite set up by an "under 14" group. The fact that this camp also included 2 girls over 14 supported our decision to extend the age limit upward. My two youngest judges (sisters) were so inspired by these kids' camps they decided that next year they were going to set up a camp themselves. Their comment was "we can do better than that." Sigh, Guess I'll need new kid judges next year.

Glenda Kleppin

Hear Ye Hear Ye: *important member notice*—



WKA NEWSLETTER SURVEY

At the WKA Lasagna Dinner on August 19, 2009 the topic of the club newsletter was discussed. At that time we asked those attending if they would put their name and email address on a list that would give us an idea of how many would like to read an electronic copy of the newsletter. 19 individual or family memberships responded they would.

The club is looking for more economical ways to produce the newsletter, such as having it available to read on the club web site and/or printing fewer copies to be mailed out. You can read the new issue by accessing our website before the printed newsletter even arrives at your mailbox.

Please indicate your preferences and return your answers via email or US mail as soon as possible.

Current members can read issues of the WKA newsletter in FULL COLOR on the site now. If you have not viewed them, go to our site www.wka-kiteflyers.org and click on the "Members Only" button. If you do not know your Member Number and Password click on the "Lost Username/Password" line.

1. Would you read the newsletter on the web site? yes or no
2. Select what type of connection you have: Broadband dial-up none
3. Is reading only an electronic copy acceptable? yes or no
4. Would you still want a copy mailed to you? yes or no
5. If you do not have e-mail, would you go to the library or other location to log-in and read the newsletter on the web site? yes or no
6. Would you approve a membership dues increase from \$15 to \$20 to cover the cost of printing/mailing? yes or no

Please return this survey and any comments as soon as possible. Reply back to dbrn1@earthlink.net or ssragtop@aol.com

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

Your WKA board says "THANK YOU" for your help in this pressing matter! We will keep you informed as things progress.

Survey returned
by _____

Email
address _____

2009 WSIKF WKA Lasagna Dinner Report

First of all, thank you so very much for all the donations of kites and things that came in the door of the Grange Hall in Long Beach. We are very grateful for your generosity and the generosity of several kite shops, businesses in Long Beach and vendors on Bolstad Street.

There were many helpers at the dinner including **Glenn & Marianne Austin, Scott and Kristian Slater, Launny Herriges, Joanne Lord, Rick & Freida White, Susan & Barry Tislow, Bary Crites, Marla Miller, Ken Conrad & Suzanne Sadow**, and others whose names I did not get when they answered the call for servers in the kitchen. WKA thanks all of you.

This year's supply of 2009 WKA kite pins was sold mostly at the dinner, and many memberships (new and renewals) were received that evening. Thank you so much for your support of WKA.

There were pins and kites auctioned off this year. Thanks to **Tom Tinney** for making the miniature kites. **Elmer's Flag & Banner, Kites Too!** store in Portland won the opportunity to design next year's Kids' Day kite pins. I am sure Glenda will tell you all about our very successful events of Wednesday.

Special drawings are held each year for the *Sisson Parafoil Kite* and the *WKA/Sisson Scholarship*. The drawing for the kite was won by **Barry Tislow**, whose brother had possession of it last year. The scholarship for room and board and conference fees to the 2010 Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference was won this year by **Richard Hurd**. Congratulations to these winners.

Sylvia Bernauer

WKA Board Members

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Ssragtop@aol.com

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ken@greatwinds.com

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carollord@comcast.net

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Dawgy Dude Report

Larry Christensen, (on the right) is pictured here with **Glenn Austin**, who won the auction to empty Dawgy Dude's vest of its pins.

Larry and his wife **Pat**, along with **Carl** and **Debbie Fitzgerald** have permanent custody of Dawgy Dude. They spent the whole year since WSIKF 2008 collecting pins for the vest. They already have a good start on filling the vest again for WSIKF 2010 auction. I am sure a good many of you will be approached about donating pins. Let's do what we can to keep this wonderful tradition going. Check your box or bag of pins to see what you can donate to the "cause". It helps pay for the pins that are given out to the kids on "Kids Day" at WSIKF.



Rick White photo

Kids' Day Report and Money for WSIKF 2010:

Foster Grandparent Fun Fly

This year Kids' Day started with a volunteer list of 18 (a new record), and accumulated a few more volunteers before the day was over, including two new kid-sized judges for Kids' Camps. Most of these volunteers came to the registration tent 2 hours before the event was due to begin to register participants and to put together the multitude of extra kites donated for the Foster Grandparent fly. They were all still hard at work until nearly three hours later—near the end of the flying time.

Leaning against the back wall of the registration tent were piles of assembled kites. I had purchased about 26 extra kites with the money from last year's auction of **Dawgy Dude's** vest full of pins. I found the kites on sale and they even gave an additional discount, so the \$125 went a long way! **Elmer's Flag & Banner, Kites Too!** donated about 20 more kites and **Carl Williamson** donated another 40 or so. **Karen Highfield** brought 30 nice ripstop nylon sled kites she'd made. And, as always,



many, many foster grandparents showed up, kites in hand, to work with the kids. We made use of nearly all of the extra kites, leaving only a few dollar store kites as seed for next year's event.

The really great news was--after 5 years of inclement weather on Kids' Day--we **finally** had beautiful weather! The wind was a bit light during the Foster Grandparent fly, but there was a record turnout. Toward the end, many kids ended up on the field without signing in as most of my crowd control helpers were already out on the field helping kids learn to fly. Some brave people ended up taking as many as 10 different children before the flying time ended! About 70 adults registered ahead of time, several of them bringing more than one kite, and others came to the field when we asked for more help. Based on the number of pins and kites given out, I estimate we had around 250 children taken out to the field, taught how to fly, and sent out to enjoy their new kites. What a joy it was to behold!

Photos by **Robin Haas**

Kids' Day Income for WSIKF 2010

But, Kids' Day was still not over. There was still money to be raised for pins and extra kites for next year. At the WKA dinner that evening, the following auction items earnings were earmarked for next year's Kids' Day:

Tom Tinney generously made 24 mini kites using the design and six different colors of the Kids' Day pins—3 of each. A full set of six of the kites was donated to the World Kite Museum to be auctioned, six were given to people who received special awards—including **Ryan King**—and the remaining 12 were made available for a Dutch auction, earning \$115. These kites were numbered and signed by Tom. Five of the limited edition Kids' Day pins (10 made) were also sold through a Dutch auction and that money was added to that received from the sale of 10 sets of three different colored pins already sold, for a total of \$320. **Dawgy Dude's** vest was again filled with pins. **Glenn Austin** made the top bid of \$140. There was a bidding war for the right to design next year's pins. **Elmer's Flag & Banner, Kites Too!** made the top bid of \$150. That gives us a total of \$725 to buy pins and kites for next year. For the first time ever, I'll be able to buy enough extra kites so that my hair does not get grayer wondering if we will have enough kites to give out to all of the kids who show up. Thanks to everybody who helped with this fundraising.

Glenda Kleppin



Every year the Kids' Day events bring different, pleasant, surprises. This year we had the youngest ever "foster grandparent"—**Konrad Peterson**, who is 12. His

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grandmother accompanied him when he came to sign up for the event—to assure me he really DID know what he was doing. This young man is an expert kite flier (mostly sport kites) and he wanted to teach other kids how to fly kites! He did an excellent job teaching and earned himself a 1st place ribbon in the process.

Another “moment” was the result of Jerry talking about kites to the parts lady at our local Shucks store last year. This mother brought her two boys to last year’s Kids’ Day events—which, as you may remember, actually took place over a two-day period due to heavy rainfall. They had so much fun she brought them back again this year. But, that was not all. She is so excited about the event that she was planning to go back home and buy a bunch of kites on sale to donate for next year’s fly.

Since we had 350 pins last year and ran out, this year we bought 500 pins, and had just a few left over. A few of the pins were sold to raise money toward next year’s pins and, as always, a complete set was donated to the Kite Museum for their pin collection. Most of the remaining pins went as traders to get more pins for Dawgy Dude for next year or were designated for club raffles for next year. Part of the pin money came from an auction of some of last year’s Kids’ Day pins at last year’s WKA dinner, and the WSIKF committee picked up the rest of the cost.

The bottom line is--once again--we managed to provide kites and individualized flying lessons to every child on the beach who wanted to participate! Thank you to all of you who contributed toward creating this yearly miracle.

Due to the enormous challenge of keeping this many people somewhat organized, it was too difficult to award all the age-group ribbons that had been awarded in

previous years. Based on this, look for a few changes in next year’s rules and awards. However, each person who did something special during this event received an extra Kids’ Day pin—one of the special lavender ones (only 60 made).

Glenda Kleppin



Photo by **Robin Haas**

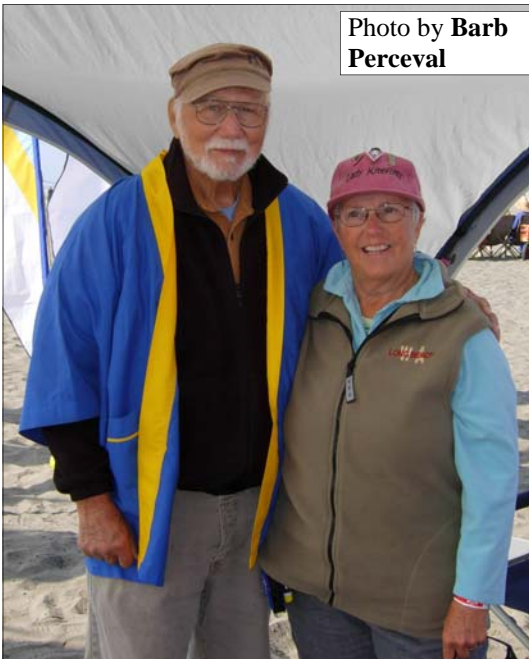


Photo by **Barb Perceval**

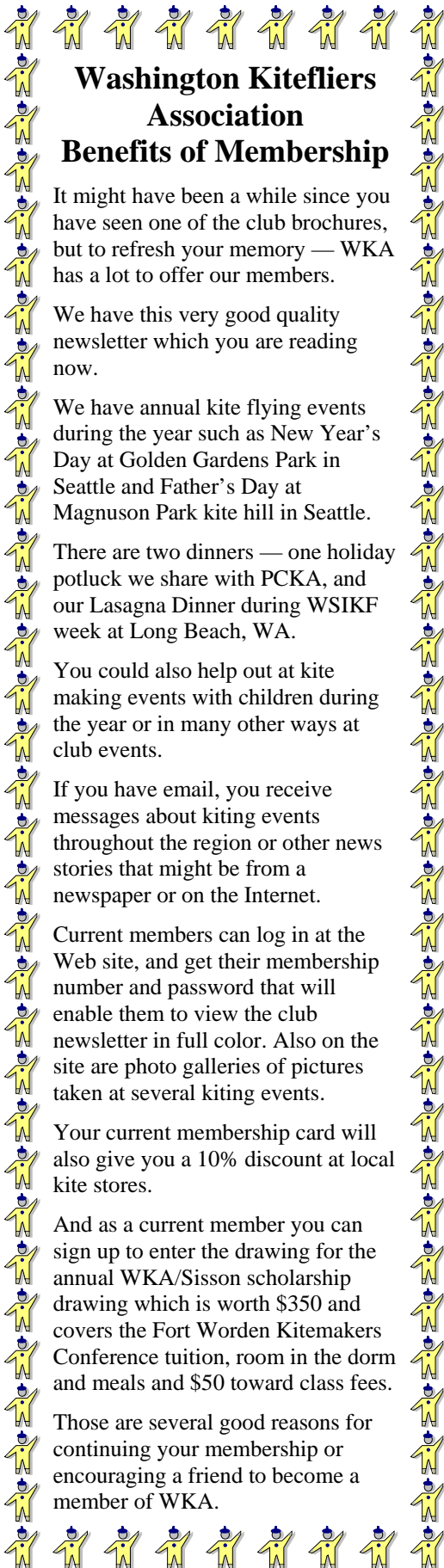
These 2 photos of **Don Lord** and **Mary Farrell** were taken on Sunday at WSKIF when Mary came over to the "Lord's camp" and presented Don Lord with the **Super Senior** jacket.

Don put it on and posed with Mary, he was so pleased to receive this recognition.

Barb Perceval



Photo by **Barb Perceval**



Washington Kitefliers Association Benefits of Membership

It might have been a while since you have seen one of the club brochures, but to refresh your memory — WKA has a lot to offer our members.

We have this very good quality newsletter which you are reading now.

We have annual kite flying events during the year such as New Year's Day at Golden Gardens Park in Seattle and Father's Day at Magnuson Park kite hill in Seattle.

There are two dinners — one holiday potluck we share with PCKA, and our Lasagna Dinner during WSIKF week at Long Beach, WA.

You could also help out at kite making events with children during the year or in many other ways at club events.

If you have email, you receive messages about kiting events throughout the region or other news stories that might be from a newspaper or on the Internet.

Current members can log in at the Web site, and get their membership number and password that will enable them to view the club newsletter in full color. Also on the site are photo galleries of pictures taken at several kiting events.

Your current membership card will also give you a 10% discount at local kite stores.

And as a current member you can sign up to enter the drawing for the annual WKA/Sisson scholarship drawing which is worth \$350 and covers the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference tuition, room in the dorm and meals and \$50 toward class fees.

Those are several good reasons for continuing your membership or encouraging a friend to become a member of WKA.

The Crazy Ladies Back on the Beach at WSIKF 2009

Lady Kiteflyer Team Leader **Miriam Schafler** phoned me just before WSIKF to say because of health problems she was not able to join us this year. Oh dear, we were going to really miss her. But it also meant our LKF friend **Barb Hall** coming from Florida was going to need other transportation to get from the Portland airport to WSIKF and back again. Many thanks to **Dave "Geezer" Shattuck** and **Theresa Norelius** and then to **Karen Highfield** for transportation back to the airport. **Judy Brown** saw Miriam just before she left for WSIKF and brought the new LKF banner, arch, etc. for us to fly. Huge thanks to Judy for this help. When **Mary Farrell** heard the news she said we really needed to pull together to give our best efforts for Miriam, and that is just what we did.

Our team this year included **Barb Hall** who was crazy enough to come all the way from Florida to have fun with us. Barb had been part of our 2005 team. "Super Senior" Mary Farrell from Colorado, brought in a friend, **Jan Lee**, who had never flown a kite before that day! **Becky Tisch** of Graham, WA finally got to spend the whole day with us. Becky was part of our team which was blown off the beach last year. Returning members to our team this year were **Donna Wendt** and her mother, **Jean Reed**. Then our team was topped off with Oregon's AKA District Rep. **Amy Doran** who has added her talents to our team in past years. **Glenda Kleppin** brought in her banners and extra hapi coats for us too.

With the clock ticking away the minutes until the close of registration, we did not find other Lady Kitefliers who wanted to run around with us this time. So we banded together to figure out who was going to fly what in the morning's Tubes fly, and I got the paperwork completed on time. During the day we had several helpers including Becky's husband **Steven**. Mary Farrell found kites for Jan Lee to hold or fly.

Also on the beach was an unknown, unlikely group that called themselves the Tacoma Trash Bags! This team consisted of a group of young people who come to Long Beach every year and have fun flying kites. This year they decided to form a team on Tuesday. And they are all a lot younger than we are and must have had ten on their team too. Plus they did not stop with Pun Fun but also flew in the late afternoon team rok battles. Maybe it was there they accumulated the additional 70 points to beat the Crazy Ladies.

The day wound up with some ribbons awarded during the Tubes Fly with a 1st place to Becky Tisch, 3rd place to Donna Wendt in Spin Me Around, another 3rd place ribbon went to Mary Farrell in Trick Tubes. The overall point totals for the day were Tacoma Trash Bags with 228 points; Crazy Ladies with 158 points; Goat Hill Gang with 156 points (wow, that was close!!) — and a new red & black Sky Pirates team with 146 points.

All in all, we had a very good time and knew we had given our all on behalf of Miriam

Sylvia Bernauer



LKF Team from left: **Jean Reed, Donna Wendt, Sylvia Bernauer, Barbara Hall, Becky Tisch, Mary Farrell, Amy Doran**, and not in the photo was **Jan Lee**.

India, What an Experience!!!!

"Halo (hello), how are you, what's your name, where you from?" These were my first greetings with all I encountered on my first trip to India. Handshakes were a vital welcome as little children and even babies were pushed forward in a crowd to touch my hand. And there were crowds!!! As we exited from the airport, throngs of people lined the sidewalk, staring, smiling and calling the soon to become familiar chorus of "halo, how are you, what's your name, where you from?"

After arriving at our hotel room, making the acquaintances of many fellow kites, we still had time to get to the street markets. With some apprehension I climbed into my first rickshaw. As we moved into the line of traffic (let me rephrase that, as there was no **line** of traffic), we moved into the traffic. I immediately saw many reasons for my original fears. I have never seen such a hodgepodge of rickshaws, motorcycles,



scooters, camels, women and men pushing carts, cows, begging children, busses, women with baskets on their heads, etc. all jammed into 5 or 6 possible lanes going every which way to try to merge and move along!! Now if you can visualize this, add the blaring and blasting of horns of all octaves just to add to the excitement. It was a common sight to glance from the rickshaw and have a huge drooling camel a couple of inches from the windowless vehicle. I wish I had discovered sooner why our rickshaw seemed to be more reckless and faster than others. It took me awhile to realize the more you screamed the faster they went! A huge smile in the driver's mirror alerted me of his pleasures. But it was very hard not to join in with the musical street chorus!

Each market space contained thousands of handmade colorfully decorated kites, scarves, skirts, dresses, jewelry, etc. Each owner was longing and begging for your purchase. It was so-o-o- intimidating!!

Tours of the old country gave us an education in history,

culture and religious beliefs. It was certainly a contrast to how young the US is. Life in India takes place on the streets – washing and ironing clothes, men shaving and getting hair cuts, cooking, eating and sleeping. I even saw a circle of 3



young women sitting on the corner sidewalk picking lice out of each others hair.

The international kite festival was held in a very large police stadium. Booths with flags representing each of the 38 countries in attendance lined the arena. The US booth had two military guards with guns standing at attention at all times. Also, two cadets in uniform were in charge of our booth to take care of any needs and were present the whole two days. Hundreds of students dressed in India's flag colors filled the arena for an unbelievable precision, exercise drill to entertain us, with dancers and singers performing on the stage. Dignitaries were delivered to the stage in white limos, while speakers promoted the tourism of India.

All the countries represented paraded in front of the stage proudly carrying flags from their countries and holding them high. It was interesting to see a couple of countries who had added extensions to their poles for special attention, which did bring "special" negative attention from the people in charge! **Richard Hurd** was asked to be one of the four judges for the competition. He was introduced as "the honorable Richard Hurd from the United States of America" and sat next to the dignitaries. I told him not to expect that title to carry over back on US soil!!

Another day we were taken by bus to a couple of roof tops to experience the real Indian fighter kite competitions. Are you thinking elevators to the rooftops? Wrong!! Narrow, tall steps, taking many turns as they lead us past several floors of family rooms to the roof to where we could practice cutting kites from other rooftop flyers. It was hot and humid but quite

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an experience as you glance over the edge and hope it doesn't crumble and take a kiter with it!

On the actual day of the country's festival, all business closed, all kites have been sold, special foods prepared and parties arranged. Kites and fireworks fill the sky. Eating, music and strategy take place on all rooftops as they watch the skies for someone to capture out in the distance.

All the invited guests stayed at the same hotel, sharing our meals and stories together. We all left with great memories and newfound friends that we hope to greet again someday with the same sing-song chorus of "halo, how are you, what's your name, where you from?"

Phyllis Gribbin



All photos with this article are provided by **Phyllis Gribbin** and **Richard Hurd**



Notes from the WSIKF Fairy Godmother

Glenda, the good witch, went to WSIKF again this year, wearing her new wings and hat. Last year was her first appearance, but she had so much fun she came back again this year to join the Parade of Colors on Saturday and then to walk around the Bolstad approach.

Last year she had Harry Potter wands to hand out, but this year she carried a grab bag filled mostly with assorted yellow rubber duckies, with a few other goodies thrown in for good measure.

These were a real hit with the kids and also with a few adults who could not pass them by. One little girl came by to say "Hi" because she remembered the fairy from last year.

Word spread quickly among the kids and another little girl came dragging her grandfather with her after telling him that she had to find "the fairy lady" and get her rubber ducky. He was totally bemused when he discovered she knew exactly what she was talking about.

There were a few fathers who were suspicious anybody would be giving away something for free, and one of them asked about the significance of the rubber duckies. "I just like giving things away to kids" was the reply he received.

This all goes to show how anybody can create their own brand of fun at WSIKF, with or without a kite in their hands.

Glenda Kleppin

Photo by **Rick White**

Notes from the Prez—



Hi all, This was a fast and furious year! Things are changing all over the place. Life is rushing by, and it is up to us to show the world how much fun it is to make and fly kites! This is at least part of why we have such a busy schedule all the time, isn't it? Again, for the umpteenth year in a row, this year was the busiest year I can remember. I swear, I went to more kite things this year than I ever have.

I actually made it to the Whidbey Island kite festival this year. My first year there. WOW! What a beautiful setting for a festival! It was great fun too. The wind was light, but the sport kite fliers don't seem to mind much. They were busy all day. I set up on the other end. My camp neighbors and I together made a great camp. Lots of folks walked down to our end of the

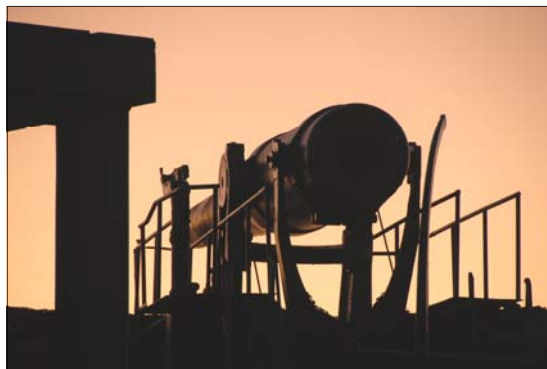


Launny surveying the area.

field and said hi. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay for Sunday, but Saturday, after everyone else was gone to the dinner, **Launny Herriges** and I went up to the big gun bunkers and waited for the sunset.

Between us, it seemed like we took 15, 453 pictures of it. It was great. Check it out on the web site in color. You will like it, I promise!

This year, I also took an extra trip to Long Beach, to partake in the Rod Run, 3 weeks after WSIKF. It was so relaxing to not have to do something on the beach every day. You all know what I am talking about, don't you? After the Saturday car show, I sat around the Worldmark pool and Jacuzzi for another 5 days! Wow, was I relaxed. I really needed that. I really needed something to get the prune wrinkles out too. But I survived. Barely. I even flew kites **by myself**, twice. I had my own little kite festival. The visitors had fun flying my kites as well. The competition wasn't very stiff. I won all the ribbons. I even had one guy who helped me put everything



away. Thanks for the help if you're reading this!

This WSIKF was very rewarding for your WKA this year. I want to thank **YOU** for supporting us. I also want to thank **Scott Slater** in the kitchen, and the helpers who helped him, those who helped bring all the tables, benches and spider webs out of the storage room. **Thank you.** All the friends and relatives who helped set up, take raffle items, and sell tickets. (**Don & Joanne Lord**, and my Mom **Frieda White**) **Launny Herriges**, and of course **Glenda Kleppin, Sylvia Bernauer.** Thanks to **Glenn & Marianne Austin** for the help setting up, and selling the pins. Hey, this year we actually did not lose money with the pins. Glenn spent Thursday thru Sunday, all day on the beach selling WKA pins. He sold us out this year! WOW! He sold so many pins he deserves a special pin! And he got one. Thanks again Glenn. And of course where would we be without **Mr. Dermer** and the **Ticket Chick** herself, **Marla Miller** keeping me away from the microphone! I really appreciate all the **help** from everyone! If I forgot your name, please forgive me. I forget a lot of things. It's not personal. It's just a brain deficiency. :)

Financially this year, In the midst of that terrible recession the whole world has gone thru, the club did pretty well. We tightened our belts a little this year, pulled thru great. Everyone at the dinner really supported the club and bought tickets galore. After losing money for 5 straight years, we were able to bring it back close to where it was back in 2004. I am not talking about that much, but I was still happy we are doing better now. Now all we have to do is invite our friends to join our WKA and come fly kites with us! It really is amazing how many of my friends at work love to fly kites. They just don't have the time to come out and fly with me. Maybe it was something I ate, We will keep trying though.

The WKA newsletter is looking better and better. We are looking for ways to improve the content, and make our newsletter even better. If you have any ideas, please let us know. We are also moving the newsletter closer and closer to full time on line.

Eventually it will be there. We need to know if you would rather look at it there, or prefer a hard copy, which is much more costly to the club. We can keep our dues where they have been for over 25 years, but if we have to keep printing the newsletters, we will have to raise the price for those members who want it sent to them. It was determined, that it cost almost \$25 per member per year, for everything that goes into producing and mailing the newsletter. The club has made up for the cost for printing for many years now. It's time we start being more responsible as board members, and do what's right with your money. We are making changes all the time, and would very much like your input. Please let us know if going online and

looking at the full color photos, is an option you can enjoy! Please fill out the survey you received in your email or the one that is in this newsletter. **Please let us know now!** You can get our email on the web site, (or, alas, mail us at our address as shown on the back page of this newsletter.)

Have a great fall, and I hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner!

Rick White

Photos by **Rick White**

Kite Clubs

Associated Oregon Kiders

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, Fire Station, Loxie Egan Blvd.

Pierce County Kiteflyers 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 & Sunday afternoons during daylight
savings time until sunset
Zuanich Point Park, Squalicum Harbor. Bellingham WA

Washington Kitefliers Assn.

Contact: Rick White
email: ssragtop@aol.com

Address on back page of newsletter
Membership includes 5 issues per year 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 Theresa Norelius - Regional Director
360-904-1424
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



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Accuracy of contents rests with the individual contributor, the WKA Newsletter being held harmless in the event of any error. The views presented in the WKA Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor, or the Washington Kitefliers Association.



The Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF) An absolutely GREAT one this year...

If you missed this year's WSIKF, you really missed something special. In 2008, we were all but rained out with only one decent day in the week, but this year was definitely pay-back! And it turns out the pay-back was absolutely **wonderful!!!** With the exception of Thursday, it was clear skies, mid-80s, and really great winds everyday. For Thursday, the only change was a high overcast, so we only got to mid-70s instead. And so, all the normal activities occurred right on schedule, with **no** weather related cancellations!

Yes, the normal events schedule all went off without a hitch.

Jane Holeman and **Evonne Miller** had the fields all set up and organized when we arrived. Monday saw the fields and skies filled with kite-trains and huge arches. Tuesday we all watched the camps competition, in between what became a rather constant affair through the rest of the week, the beach-skies were filled with Revs. Then on Wednesday, stuff **really** got rolling. Kids Day reigned supreme on the beach, and **two** dinners competed for folks to feed: the traditional Washington Kitefliers Association Lasagna Feed and Raffle and a new iQuad Meet, Greet, and Eat for all of the incoming Revolution fliers. Thursday ended up as our one cloudy day when the Handcrafted comps reigned supreme and some Mass Ascensions were flown including a somewhat impromptu new North American record of 36 Revolutions in the air. Followed by the AOK dinner and raffle down in Ilwaco. Friday kicked off the Sport Kite competitions and a whole host of other events. Evening activities included an indoor competition, plus a fun outdoor night fly, followed by a fine fireworks display, leading us into the weekend. Saturday saw a continuation of the Sport Kite events, another **huge** mass ascension of Revs (a documented 65 in the air), plus individual and team rokkaku battles, along with the popular teddy bear drop, and the Parade of Colors, all followed by the WSIKF Banquet, Raffle, and Auction Saturday night, plus another dandy fireworks show to end the day. Sunday ended the whole shebang with the Memorial Fly and a few more Mass Ascensions, along with the final Sport Kite competitions. Then it was Mass Get-Away time for another year. So long, WSIKF. See ya next year!

WHEW!!! Have we left anything out? Well, actually, **yes**, we have!!! By now, you should understand that going to WSIKF is something of a 'Marathon' event rather than a 'Sprint', meaning it's physically impossible for someone to be at all of the individual events, or even be everywhere on that huge field simultaneously. So while it's almost impossible to imagine all that stuff above occurring within a week, if that's your overall impression of WSIKF - you've covered the overview fairly well, but missed the whole essence of WSIKF entirely. So now it's time to cover a few of the events or items that are noteworthy, or at least of more than passing interest.

Iqbal Husain from Switzerland was one of this year's International Guests. Iqbal builds those Chinese Dragon Kites, long strings of kites, trained together. but they are **not** dragons, at least not in Iqbal's mind. Instead, he creates other creatures out of his mind using the Chinese dragon as a model. So we saw several other instances of really fascinating things flying in the sky, like a



Iqbal Husain
getting ready to
put up the Pied
Piper and 'umpty'
mice dragon kite.
Rick White photo

200' long Dachshund instead.

The World Kite Museum is in Long Beach, just a short stroll away from the beach, and is always worth your time. One of the WKM events at WSIKF is their annual induction of new members into their Hall Of Fame. This year, the Hall inducted **Brooks Leffler** from California for his long-time efforts in Kite Aerial Photography, and **Gerard Clement** of France for his continual work as organizer of the annual Berk Sur Mer Kite Festival and also for his leadership of the World Sport Kite Championships in Europe, and the late **Sam Huston** for his innovations as a "Kahuna" in Handcrafted Kite Making, as well as his befriending and mentoring many kite builders around the world.

I have **never** seen so many Past Presidents of the AKA together at a festival before (other than the AKA Convention, of course). On the field were **Richard Dermer**, **Susan Skinner**, **David Gomberg**, **Corey Jensen**, along with **Gary Engvall**, the current AKA President and **Barbara Meyer** who is running against Gary in this year's election, plus three AKA Regional Directors.

That "Grand Old Man" on the beach was here again this year, mesmerizing everyone with his very spectacular flying. **Ray Bethell** from Vancouver, BC is 83 years young now, and he still flies his three dual-line kites simultaneously. What a **marvel** he is! He still puts those **Joel Schulz 'Kestrels'** into the air with 100' tails, and Dads and Moms, and Children of all ages still flock to watch his flying mastery. What a **show!**

Ken Conrad treated those who chose to watch to a bird's-eye view of both the festival and also the city of Long Beach. Ken had his radio-controlled "airplane" kite aloft, and transmitting KAP video down to a computer monitor folks could watch. It was really delightful to see the entire festival environment from above, and in "real time." Thanks, Ken!

Lest any of you are unaware, there are two distinctly separate events that occur at WSIKF every year.

One is the Indoor Competition at the Long Beach Elementary School with practices on weeknights in the school's gym with the actual competition held on Friday night.

The other occurs daily on field E at the southern end of the beach.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

The **North American Fighter Kite Association (NAFKA)** hosts a week-long competition, culminating in “The Fighter Kite Line Touch World Cup Competition as part of the NAFKA World Cup Competition on Friday during the day. Since the World Cup Competition is really a series of very different comps, only winners for each event are listed on the NAFKA website.

For the three **AKA Regional Directors** present at WSIKF this year: **Marla Miller** of **Region 10** was her usual hip-deep in event organization (and the occasional raffle-ticket sales, of course!) and conversing with folks, greasing the wheels of WSIKF, Region 10, Fort Worden Kitemaking, and the AKA! **Amy Doran** of **Region 9** was busy practicing or demo-ing, or competing in various Sport Kite competitions (both dual-line and quad-line) or flying her Revs with the assembled Revolution herd.

Ben Dantonio of **Region 12** spent most of his time at his ‘other’ job as General Manager for Revolution Kites. When Ben wasn’t hanging with the troops out there flying team and practicing, he was out giving Rev lessons to all comers. As was **Lolly Hadzicki**, President of Revolution kites.

Also attending this year was **Barry ‘Buzzer’ Poulter** - the man who created the lovely Comet kites a while back, followed by many other new and innovative designs. Most recently, Buzzer has devoted himself almost entirely to creating Revolution masterpieces and some of the newer production Revolution kites as well. During WSIKF, Buzzer spent 110% of his time on the field, however, as a member of **iQuad** - the world-famous Revolution Demo team.

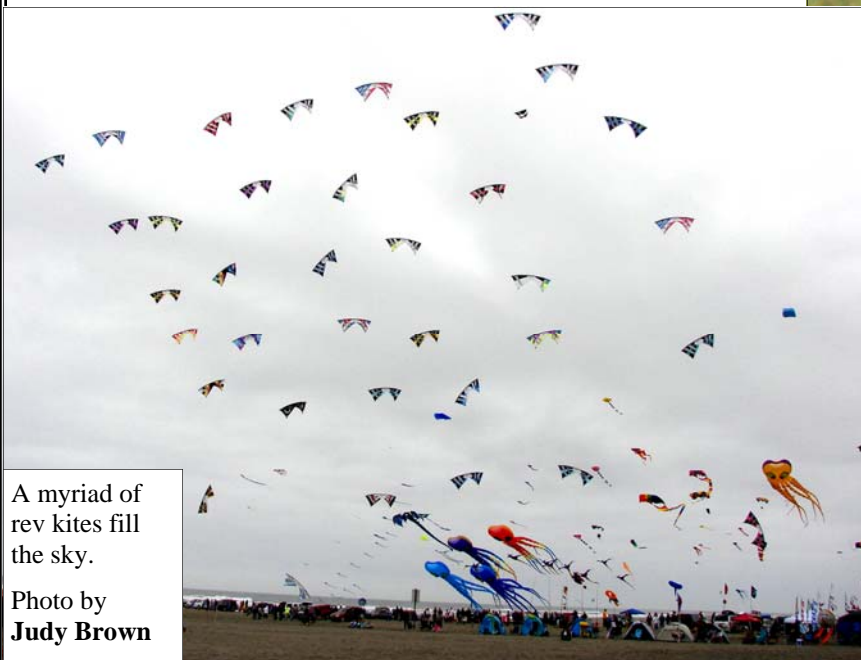
Finally, we would be remiss if we did not strongly emphasize the presence of the Revolution pilots on the beach at this year’s WSIKF! Five or six years ago, a quad-line kite on the beach was fairly unusual, if not a downright curiosity. Well... It’s been

a quiet, gentle “revolution” since that time, and most of it can be laid to the formation of iQuad, a group of Revolution pilots out of the Pacific Northwest, and to iQuad’s willingness to go anywhere, usually just for their expenses, and to fly anytime, and for anyone.

Well...The presence of quad-line flyers at WSIKF in 2009 was never in doubt. This year at WSIKF, iQuad took, and held, and ruled, their portion of the field. In the process of flying their kites and “growing the sport”, as they most assuredly have done, in many ways iQuad has made the sport of kiting “better” too. They have brought the sport of kite flying an audience interest a solid demonstration of flier competence and an overall enthusiasm for the sport of Kite Flying that simply hasn’t been around for a while.

No, that is not to downgrade any other portions of the sport of kite flying at all. Indeed, any interest or enthusiasm for any part of the sport is very worthwhile, and any growth in the sport only makes all of us, as kite fliers, stronger for it. Kudos to iQuad, and to all who fly with them. Your enthusiasm credits us all!

Dave “Geezer” Shattuck



A myriad of rev kites fill the sky.

Photo by **Judy Brown**



Did you see this “masked person” at WSIKF this year? Would you believe this is **Suzanne Sadow**?

Rick White photo

Super Senior/Top Kid on the Beach/Susie's Spirit Award

At the World Kite Museum raffle/auction (Saturday evening of WSIKF), I was honored to present the final awards. For the past several years, there have been two major awards given that are based on a combination of participation in the Kids' Day events and on votes received from the general public.

The Top Kid on the Beach award is for those under 60. This award has gone to the same person every year since we started giving it out: **Karen Highfield**. (OK, so one year it went to her other half—**Randy**—but that was because Karen hurt her foot and was laid up. But, she did all of the work to get the display ready.) Karen is in her 59th year of life, so this was her last year to receive this reward. She received a special Kids' Day pin, a **Tom Tinney** kite, a special plaque, and the right to fly the Kids' Day banner for another year.

The Super Senior award has moved around a lot, mostly to people living someplace other than the state of Washington. Last year it made its way to Colorado with **Mary Farrell**, who has a habit of being the first person to sign up for the Foster Grandparent fly each year. This year, the accompanying Happ'i coat will be worn in British Columbia by **Don Lord**, who also received a pin, a kite, and a special plaque. Don has participated in the Kids' Day activities every year since it began. Mary's remarks about her experiences as a volunteer at kite festivals will hopefully inspire others to also get involved.

Editor's note: see a picture of Don and Mary on page 5

The Susie's Spirit award, given in memory of our small poodle, Susie, went to **Carl Williamson**, along with a pin, kite, and plaque. This award is one that Jerry and I give to honor the quiet kite making people whose kite making is

frequently totally overlooked and who seldom (if ever) receive awards of any sort for their kites. These people spend their time, energy, and money making kites **with** kids instead of **for** adults.

Carl has been giving classes to teach kite making to kids

Carl, doing what he loves



for many years. He admits his first attempt was pretty much a disaster, but he has learned a lot over the years. He has directly helped in the creation of tens of thousands of kites by kids, largely at his own expense, including the current kite making supplies for kids available at the Kite Museum.

Carl has generously shared his kite patterns and his kite making techniques with many of us, and is the mainstay of our yearly kite making at Kids' Day at Fort Lewis. These activities have truly been a labor of love for him, one for which he is seldom acknowledged.

Glenda Kleppin

An empty kite flying space in the sky—

We received this notice on September 29, 2009 regarding the loss of one of our kite flying friends:

“It is sad news that I tell you of the passing of **Erv Crosby** today.”

He was the owner of Four Winds Kites in Everett, WA

He was very active in the kiting world. We will miss him and the activities he enjoyed planning for kites in his area.

A Thank-You Note—

Elmer's Flag & Banner, Kites Too! won the auction for the Children's Day pin for next year's WSIKF. We supplied many kites for the event this year, which we let the kids fly. At the end, the kids were very surprised and happy to be told the kites were theirs to take home. **Larry Christenson** did a lot of the footwork for us, taking the kites to Long Beach and helping to oversee the event. Larry bid for us at the WKA lasagna dinner since we were short staffed and could only get away later in the week. We thank Larry and Pat for that, and others who helped.

Mike Hale

Elmer's Flag & Banner, Kites Too!

John and Heather Thomas enjoying their new **Cliff Quinn** kite

Photos from the PCKA Fly-in by **Georgene Curran**



Steven Tisch looks like he is ankle deep in the lush grassy field. Still able to fly a light wind kite though.

August 1 PCKA Fly-In

This year the August Fly-in event moved to the Central Meadow at the Chambers Bay Golf Course. This location has proven to be a prettier and more reliable flying field than the Orting Lions Club location. The weather was perfect except for only having light breezes. About 60 fliers enjoyed the beautiful location and camaraderie. The sport kite fliers were able to keep their ultra lights going nearly all day and the Rev fliers were busy most of the time. Unfortunately, the single line kites needed about 2 mph more wind than we had. Nonetheless, everyone I talked with had a great time visiting and enjoying the view of the water and the green grass. The kids games and kite making activities were enjoyed by many of the members of the public who were out enjoying the fields, running and walking trails. Ocean Shores Kites donated a number of raffle prizes. Ft. Worden and Westport shirts and pins and a number of individual donations filled a table for a small field raffle that more than covered expenses and will help fund the Kitemaking for Kids activities the PCKA club participates in. Our thanks to the donors and ticket buyers for their support! We hope to see you all next year...Same Time, Same Place!!

Bob Wendt

Editor's Notes—

We are now in a beautiful Fall season. I love this time of year. I do love the autumn colors on the trees around our neighborhood. But I don't like the thought of trying to get the leaves all picked up. Oh well, that is part of life. John & I have been involved in the creation of the kite he will be teaching at the kite museum in February. I am sure a few of you out there have done quilting and know about stratas. A strata is when you put strips of color together and then cut it up into blocks. This kite takes 5-6 stratas, depending on the width of the fabric used. Why I am telling you this is I end up with a lot of "scrap" and so far out of 4 kite skins, I will have made 17 banners. What fun for a woman of Scottish extraction, eh? Anyway, my favorite part of kiting is the making, so I'm a happy soul right now! I will send a reminder out for newsletter input when needed. See you soon somewhere in the kiting world—
Marzlie



Georgene sent in this photo of the display of kites at the fair in Puyallup. Great display!!

Another empty space in the kite flying sky:

William (Bill) Leland Mazzoncini who was born 1/1/1922 passed away peacefully at home 9/3/2009. He was born, raised, and lived in Tacoma. His son told us his father loved flying kites and really enjoyed going to the kite flies. He used to come to WSIKF in a motor home and loved to make and fly kites. He was a WKA member from March 1990.

Washington Kitefliers Association
An affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to:

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

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Names of Other Household Members (Include different last names):

December 5 **Calendar of Events — For more calendar information: <http://wka-kiteflyers.org>**
Annual PCKA/WKA Christmas Party and Indoor Kite Fly, see page 1 for details

Coming World Kite Museum Events in 2010:

January 17 & 18 **Windless Kite Festival, Long Beach WA**
February 13, 14 & 15 **John Freeman's President's Day Weekend Workshop**
February 20 & 21 **Asian New Year Celebration**

January 7-10 OKR Oregon Kitemakers Retreat, Rockaway Beach, OR www.kitemakersretreat.com
March 19-21 Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, Port Townsend WA www.kitemakers.org



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



New Member Report

Carl & Debbie Fitzgerald	Puyallup, WA
Ken & Sheri Fannesbeck	Maple Valley, WA
Russ & Diana Little	Tualatin, OR
Konrad & his father Kurt Peterson	Sammamish, WA
Kara & Travis Zubal	Marysville, WA

Thank you for finding us on our website or for participating in
WKA events at Long Beach!

Welcome to our kiting family.
<http://wka-kiteflyers.com>

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
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Printed Material Newsletter

The last page photo——



Sylvia Bernauer at work in the WSIKF registration tent with Dawgy Dude's help!
Judy Brown photo