



Newsletter

January through April 2016

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

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

Cliff Pennell sends this announcement: The **Westport Windriders** have selected a guest flyer for our 2016 Festival to be held in Grayland, WA on July 8-10, 2016. We are proud to honor **Big John Vriend** of Abbotsford, BC Canada. Big John has been a supporter of the Festival for 15 years and continually helps out as a volunteer where ever needed. He has inherited many of Art Ross's giant kites and has built many of his own.

His Biography follows.

I was born **John F Vriend** on Nov 1949 as the 2nd of 4 children to Dutch immigrant parents. I was raised on a hobby farm 3 miles from the little town of Houston in central British Columbia, Canada. Growing up I built crude Eddy kites using willow sticks, plastic, newspaper and binder twine. Not knowing anything about wind conditions, these crude kites didn't fly very well, if at all.

In the mid 1980's, I again started building kites; this time, from patterns out of magazines and kite building books, using materials available from the sewing store and the lumber yard. Late 1980's to early 1990's, I was introduced to high tech materials and kite festivals. I had been bit by the bug. Building a red, white, and blue snowflake, a rainbow snowflake, a couple of double conynes, Canada flag parafoil, other cellular kites, and a BC flag parafoil (a large six sided box kite with wings, which my wife called "Sputnik"). I built stunt kites — 4 Hawaiian Spin offs, a couple of mini Hawaiian's, a pair of Benson stunters along with a pair of ultra light Bensons. Also built 2 power kites and took up kite buggying. With practice and from watching **Ray Bethel**, I learned to fly 2 stunters at the same time, one in the hand and the other from the hips. During this time I was already starting to build some "smaller" soft kites. Having started to go to WSIKF in 1991, I met people like **Ray Bethel, Alex Marshall, Art Ross, Al Axton, Ben Franklin**, and a whole host of other people all interested in kite making

and flying. I entered kites in the handcrafted competitions and started winning 1st and 2nd place prizes, encouraging me to build better and bigger kites. Early on, I started to help Art Ross launch and tend his big "monster" kites, learning valuable information along the way which would help me delve into the world of big kites. After losing my friend, mentor and fellow kite flyer, Art Ross, in Aug 2012, I built my biggest kite to date. It is a 500 sq ft monster with dual tails, called "GONE HOME", built as a tribute to him.

In the early 2000's, I found the **Westport Windriders Kite Festival**, and have been going almost every year since. Helping to fill the sky with all kinds of kites, competing in handcrafted competitions, and most of all helping with the famous Teddy Bear drops. Some highlights were winning the "People's Choice" award and the "Judges Choice" award. What draws me to this festival is: the camaraderie, friendliness, the openness and willingness of people to help each other, sharing and brainstorming of ideas about all aspects of kite building, and kite flying.

Big John!!



Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

I received an email from our membership chairperson Sylvia. It was all about the following:

It was my honor to be invited to this year's Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival by the festival coordinator **Tazue Kiyono Sasaki**. She asked if I could fly my kites on the grassy field and also if I could display some of my Japanese kites in the exhibit hall at the festival. I told her I would be happy to. I could only attend on Friday due to the previous engagement with **McLendon's Hardware**, but I left my Japanese kites there for the whole weekend.

Friday was a little slow being the first day and most people had work that day. But I flew kites and put banners on the hill between the exhibit hall and the fountain. I had a lot of



fun giving out flyers and helping the kids with their paper kites they got inside the exhibit hall. They did pretty well for not having any spars. You could say they were kind of spineless

Anyway Mrs Sasaki also asked me to attend the opening ceremonies at the food court main stage. There they invited all the dignitaries and 5 visitors from Japan. One of them performed a traditional Kabuki Theatre skit. It was funny and very well done. In the introductions, they introduced me as the Washington Kitefliers Association invited guest. There was much applause! Just kidding, hahaha.

I also received an email invitation stating: "Consul General **Masahiro Omura** would like to cordially invite you to join him at a special reception commemorating the 41st Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival". This also was an exhibit showing the Japan Foundation's World Premiere of: "Yakishime and Japan". In their words: "This exhibition featured beautiful and intriguing hand-crafted ceramics, which push the boundaries of the Japanese tradition of 'yakishime'. Broadly described as 'high-fired unglazed stoneware', the pieces on display present both traditional and new interpretations of art utilizing this fascinating technique."

I was blown away by the first showing in the US, of the world tour of this exhibit. Very cool! And my Japanese kites

were the only other display in the room! Wow! I was honored! Really!



The last thing of this fun day was eating the hors d'oeuvre at the same exhibit. They were especially good because the 9th best Japanese cook in the world was receiving an award at the same reception, and guess what, he provided the food at the reception. It truly was incredible. It is the first time I ever ate sushi. But I felt safe enough eating it this time. It really was good. I ate quite a bit. There was even blow fish sushi there. I didn't feel that safe though.



All and all, it was a long day, but it was also very rewarding, and I hope I did a good job representing the WKA at this event. I hope to attend next year on a Saturday.

Rick White



**Schedule of Sport Kite competitions
to enter or watch at the following kite festivals --
The flyers welcome your support.**

From: **Lisa Root, NWSKL Secretary**

Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 10:39 PM

Subject: Sportkite League Precision figures posted. Wayne has the compulsory figures for this year posted on the NWSKL website, www.nwskl.org The figures will be flown in Program Precision format. The schedule for the summer is also posted. Get your registrations in early. Remember to check the renewal date on your AKA membership!!! The first competition is Ocean Shores Festival of Colors on June 4 and 5. Time to practice precision and ballet. There will be free kite lessons on Saturday with demos. Sunday will be a full competition.

Outdoor 2016 - 2017

Festival of Colors - June 4, 5 - Ocean Shores WA
Westport Windriders July 9, 10 - Grayland Beach WA
WSIKF Aug 18, 19, 20 - Long Beach WA
Whidbey Island KF Sept 17, 18 - Fort Casey field

Indoor 2016 - 2017

WSIKF August 18,19 - Long Beach
WIKF Sept 19 - Whidbey Island
RFR Nov 5, 6 - Ocean Shores
WKF Jan 13, 14, 15 or 20, 21, 22 - TBD - Long Beach

WKA/Sisson Scholarship to the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Conference

Another successful kite conference was held in March 2016. It is now time for entries for the scholarship drawing for the 2017 conference at Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center in Stanwood, Washington.

The subject of scholarship entry rules was discussed and voted on at our WKA Board Meeting in February. The following change was approved: *All WKA members are eligible to enter the annual drawing for a scholarship to the Fort Worden Kitemaker's Conference, except the member who won in the previous year.*

The club's scholarship program covers housing, meals, registration fees, conference pin and \$50 toward class fees at the conference. We particularly encourage those members who have not previously attended the conference to enter the members-only drawing.

To recap the entry rules:

Entries are accepted from current members of WKA at the time of the drawing and conference. Members mail a note or postcard to the club mailing address listing name, address, and phone number with request to enter the scholarship drawing. One entry per member per year. Entries must be received by Wednesday the week before the drawing at the WSIKF club dinner at Long Beach. The scholarship is non-transferable. If the winner is unable to attend, they are to inform the WKA board immediately and another drawing will be held. The winner will be responsible for transportation to and from the conference and other remaining class fees.

There was more participation in the drawing last August than previous years, and we encourage all interested members to enter the 2017 drawing.

SylviaBernauer

WKA Board Members

President: Butch Harviston

harviston.west@comcast.net

Vice President: Casey Shearer

shear090@comcast.net

Treasurer: Dan Ecker

cardoc58@comcast.net

Secretary: Bonnie Ecker

whirlwind@comcast.net

Membership: Sylvia Bernauer

dbrn1@earthlink.net

Education: Ken Conrad

ken@greatwinds.com

Donations Coordinator: Ric Merry

ricmerry@gmail.com

Special Events Coordinators:

Glenda Kleppin Jerry Graham

gmakleppin@usa.net /

jlgraham1@usa.net

Safety Chairman: Scott Slater

slkitters@wamail.net

Products Coordinator: Rick White

ssragtop@aol.com

Youth Coordinator: Travis Reedy

megsmission@gmail.com

Webmaster: JJ (Jim) Johnson

jj@andme.net

Newsletter Editor: Marzlie Freeman

marzlie@centurylink.net



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**Washington Kitefliers Association
Pacific Science Center
200 2nd Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109-4816**

Editor: Marzlie Freeman
marzlie@centurylink.net

Non-solicited articles are always encouraged. Notification is required if contribution is submitted to any other publication. Return of materials must be requested along with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Advertising rates and information sheets are available upon request.

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.

Entiat “Rights of String” Festival

We all love the large organized festivals, but sometimes, smaller community events create a kind of fun all their own. This was definitely the case with the March 19th Entiat “Rights of String Festival”.

Alan Moen and his **Entiat Chamber of Commerce** crew did a great job organizing this event. In addition to the CoC, there was very good support from the community. Sponsors ranged from a Wenatchee Credit Union to the local (and very good) pizza house. The event went off so smoothly that, on the field, you were not aware of all the work that went into making it happen. One thing that impressed me was the use of volunteers from the local high school to run the Kids’ Kite Making and the field operations. (This is an idea I think we should consider for other events.)

I drove over to Wenatchee on Friday and did the fifteen miles up to Entiat on Saturday morning, arriving with plenty of time to set up ground displays. The sports field where the festival was held was a nice kite venue, right off the main highway (97A) through town. The field was over a city block long and about one-half block wide. It offered an ample amount of unobstructed room for flying and for booths and entertainments.

With my high school helpers, I put up a **lot** of butterfly spinners and other ground displays. (Note to self: make sure the helper crew is around at the end of the day when it’s time



The Butterfly-Spinner Set-up crew

to take everything down.) The displays added color to the field which gave the event a kind of special look.

Winds during the day were consistent, but mild. We did get two one hour periods of slightly stronger wind that allowed larger kites to be flown. I pulled out the 81’ Premier Sled – which works well in light-moderate winds. It garnered a lot of “Oh Wow” comments.

The high school volunteers did a very good job with the ‘Kids Kite Making’ tables. They had prepped **Ken Konrad’s “Fly Me”** kites for assembly before the event. This advance work allowed them to produce a steady stream of kites throughout the day. A sizable number of families attended the festival and every child was able to decorate and fly one of these kites. The



“Fly Me” kites flew well in the day’s mild winds.

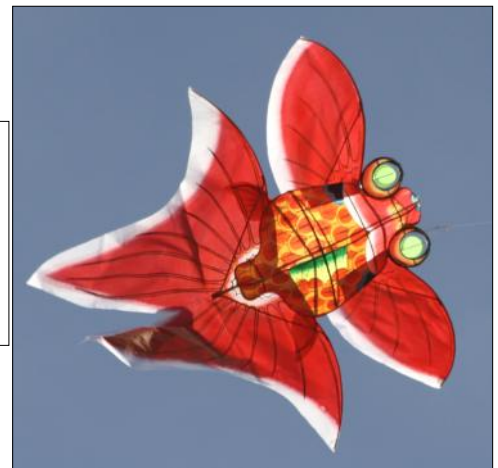
One of the many children who decorated their kites during the day.

In addition to the kite activities, the festival featured a magic performance and live music by a talented local country-rock-rockabilly duo.

The Entiat “Rights of String” festival wasn’t big and it wasn’t showy, but it was uniquely Entiat’s. To use the classic phrase: ‘A good time was had by all.’ I’d definitely encourage WKA club members to make plans to attend next year’s festival.

Casey Shearer

Families brought a number of their own kites to fly at the Festival



All photos courtesy of **Gary Begin, NCW Media, Cashmere WA.**

KITES OVER KINGSTON

Kites Over Kingston was a resounding success again for the 5th year! The kids came out in droves and the weather was great! The **Hartley** gang was there decorating with banners, and more WKA Crew on the other side. **Launny, Butch** and I were at the tent helping with the kid kites. We were blessed to have the **Bangor Naval Station** gang there to help the kids out. That gave the rest of us time to go fly kites with the rest of the kids!



The wind was a little low as usual but it made the mass launch fun. We all lined up in front of the stage area, and at the count of 3 we all made our own wind by running all in the same direction. Well, most of us anyway!

A **BIG THANKS** to the Kingston Windermere Real estate for their sponsoring the WKA in the form of Cash to help us buy more kite material! We will have another kite kit making workshop in the late fall so be prepared to come and help us make more kits. Mostly we need kite winders to the tune of about 1000 of them for the next year or two. You will hear more from us before then.



Rick White

(photos by **Rick**)



Another Kite Flyer Gone from Our Sky

It is with heavy heart I pass on the news of a dear friend, **Charles Ackerman**, who passed away this last November. We didn't hear about it until this month. He attended WSIKF every year since 1990 with his wonderful wife Susan. They celebrated their 63rd wedding Anniversary this past year.

I can't remember what year it was we first met, but it was somewhere in the early 90's. I also remember they were having trouble with one of their store-bought kites. I wandered over to ask if I could help. We talked and hit it off pretty well. I found out right away that Charles and I had our service in the Air Force in common. I didn't find out until after he was gone that we both loved model trains. Especially the big Steam engines! What's not to love!

Every year after we met, we would always make it a point to find each other to say hi and enjoy each other's kites. Charles would always fly in the mass ascensions and in the Cody Fly. He is in most all of the Cody group pictures I have. Including the year we got



rained out. The photo shows it all. He is standing next to me. I will always remember Charles for his friendly smile and always having a positive fun loving attitude. Well, why not? He was at the beach flying kites after all!

His name will go on the WKA banner that we are in the planning stages of still, and he will also be remembered at the memorial fly on Sunday at this year's WSIKF. Oh, and by the way, that store-bought kite I spoke of, it's the one in the photo flying nicely! Charles will be missed by many. Rest in Peace my friend.

Rick White



Kites at Tulip Town

Our newer members might not be aware that kites have been flying at Tulip Town during the annual Tulip Festival in the Skagit Valley for at least 30 years. The late **Erv Crosby** who passed away in 2009 ran a kite store, a branch of his Four Winds Kite Shop from Everett, in the main building at Tulip Town. Erv's wife **Gail**, and others from the Four Winds Kite shop, were kept busy selling kites and encouraging new flyers to enjoy their kites on the grass fields near the building. During those past years the profits from the Tulip Town shop helped to support the main kite shop, so business was very good. Today there is more of a gift/souvenir shop, but there are some kites for sale there.

WKA member **Mark Williams** has been continuing to fly in the fields every day (weather permitting) at Tulip Town during the season for all these years. WKA owes him a big **thank you** for his efforts, encouragement and assistance to new flyers. If people take kites back to the store with a problem or have difficulty flying it, the store sends them over to Mark who does repairs, and gets a happy flyer in return. And because of his special arrangements with Tulip Town, WKA members can enter for free and fly on the grass field.

Mark's friend **Jim Dygert**, who also spent a lot of time in Four Winds Kite Shop with Erv, helps Mark with his pterodactyls on poles and other kites flying in the fields. Jim likes to fly sport kites and was flying one of Erv's sport kites with a long tail the day that I spent flying with them. The wind was light in the morning, but good for sport kites in the afternoon. I had a great time flying with Mark and Jim.

Like at Kite Hill, the kids love the little fish and other wind spinners in the field. The pterodactyl tails hang down when the wind is light and the



kids can't resist playing with them. But pulling on the tails could potentially damage poles, so additional flyers watching the kids are helpful.

I urge you to mark your calendars for the tulip season announcements next spring and visit Tulip Town. The really big beautifully mowed grass field can accommodate a lot of big kites in addition to Mark's parafoils. And the tulips fields are so colorful. It is worth the time to go there and Mark and Jim would love to share the field with you.

Sylvia Bernauer

more photos next page



Kite Making for Kids at McLendons Stores 2016
Puyallup Store Dick Curran & Brian & Debbie David



Photos by **Dick Curran**

White Center Store Ken Conrad and Suzanne Sadow



Here's our best photo from the **McLendon's White Center** Kite Clinic where we volunteered. Really nice to see all those happy kids.
Ken

More from McClendon's kite making clinics

Renton McLendons Store

Launny Herriges and Rick White



Despite the insurance folks wanting them to stop running, It was pretty hard to tell them that, when they were having so much fun!

Rick White The other stores were:

Tacoma **Al Fernandez**

Summer **Jerry Graham and Glenda Kleppin**

Kent and Woodinville were led by

Casey Shearer, Butch Harviston

So there you have it for another year to come.



A Note from **Penny Lingenfelter**
Morro Bay California is a wonderful Spring get away for every kite flier. There is room to fly, a demo field with some of the best kite fliers in the California area.
World Cup Teams were back from Berck with **Team For-Ce** and **Team Airzone**. There were pairs and solos and lots of big kites. The little Parisian Bakery right next to Farmers Kites and Surreys make it a wonderful vacation. Mark your Calendars for April next year.

Ice cream on the Beach

"Hugs and Kites 2nd Annual Kite Fun Fly" was held at Ocean Shores April 16 and 17. Flexifoils filled the sky lifting spinners and dragons and bears... oh my.. (I couldn't help it). In the light wind moments they hovered over the ground looking pretty amazing. A new Blue Teddy Bear and Green Dragon made appearances.

The Kite makers were pulling kites out of their bags to share. I saw friends gathered and heads bent down as they admired the newest kite art.

On the Revolution field Rev squads flew large formations as they used all of the wind window they could find and the winds were in their favor. Up and down the beach the kite fliers were spread out. **Mark Thorn** flew in the parking lot in front of Ocean Shores Kite Store. It was a wonderful mix of kite venues gathered for the fun fly.

The Rev squad had about 6-8 people flying while **Terry Wiggle** lead the calls. Rev's flew on the sides, solitary or in pairs. Everyone was happy. "Hugs and Kites" held true and about 30 kite fliers left the weekend ~ feeling the love.

Saturday and Sunday's weather was beautiful. On Sunday afternoon it did get hot on the beach with the sun beating down on us. Suddenly **Mari Daniels** appears with a bag full of ice cream. Wow! I'd never had ice cream on the beach before. It was an excellent treat at the end of an excellent "Hugs and Kisses" kite fest. Thank you to everyone for putting it together and showing up for the fun. I look forward to it's 3rd year in 2017.

Penny Lingenfelter



The crowd of fliers in the Ocean Shores kite shop. Nice get-together!

Tony Jetland's green dragon.



Washington Kitefliers Association

An Affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association

Join the WKA & share the fun! Benefits include our quarterly newsletter, a 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, & information about special events in the Northwest kiting community. Membership per household in U.S. is \$15.00/year, outside U.S. \$20.00/year. Fill out application, return it with a check or money order payable in US funds to WKA.

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 _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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

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

Arriving Thursday, bada bing, bada boom. We found our ride and then our friends. Piling into the 12 man van with 3 Golf hard cases and 5 large bags we were starting our **Mexican Adventure**.

Charles Stewart had traveled ahead to secure the field, sponsors and volunteers. This year Mexico sent assistance in the way of Cancun #1 Scouts. Yeah, Scouts! Teenagers who went above the call of duty and made our adventure even better. They wrapped and packed and joined in the merriment of the weekend.

Friday we found the footwork has been laid ahead. Even the kids kite making for Cancun Pro Kids had made their kites at school. So we were off to scout out the beach. Plenty of beach was found, which was not something to be taken for granted.

Showing the new fliers our stomping grounds; a nice round beach next to the ocean, and miles of beach on the lagoon side. It's a popular spot with the locals for weekend picnicking. Kites in the middle, on the left and on the right. Kite schools with Icarus Kite Boarders in the lagoon. We felt right at home.

We stopped by **Cabana de Blanca Playa**, a small restaurant and cabana camping resort. They had sponsored the festival Kite Sign and offered their beach for use. We could set up a few Revs on short lines and duals. A few single line and it was a fun fly. We flew while **Gray**, our 9 yr. old flier, played in the ocean waves beside us.

Later a visit to Dr. Kite's house for some bubble juice making class from **Bethanie Wilson** AKA "Rainbow". We stopped by **Palopates Park** to promote the next day's events. It's my favorite park with crowds of people and lots of entertainment. This year, when the stage was empty, I snuck up on it with my Rev kite on 10 ft. lines. I'd never flown up there before. The wind was gusty and coming from all directions. Not my favorite place to fly, but I can now say I've flown on the stage. Friday was a good full day.

Saturday wow, 40% chance of rain was forecast. That's less than a 50/50 chance. But oh yeah that's enough to scare some into

staying home when you can have sun almost every day. We found the weather slightly overcast, but that didn't stop us. Set up included **Jim Martin** putting up his large blue whale, Charles his Octopus and **Cera's** arch in the sky. More kites went up and kite games were played. We truly appreciated all the Cancun Scouts #1 did to help. The candy drop and the running of the bols kept them busy.

Sunday proved to be the better of the two days. It is a beautiful spot for a Caribbean kite festival. The Stills made a 33 second long video with a drone. It received over 100,000 views in just a few days in Mexico. All of the comments were, "wonderful, when is it? How come we didn't know about this?"

Kites opened lots of doors and **Isla Blanca Kite Festival 2016** was over before we knew it, but it sure had gone without a hitch. Bada bing, bada boom!

The rest of the vacation this year included the museum I had wanted to visit. Each room we picked our favorite items to share, watched iguanas fight on the grounds and visited xel-ha, a natural water park. We have to go back and finish the waterpark. It was the best! We also spent part of 2 days on the beach, just relaxing and flying kites. Whoa~ it was a piece of heaven.

We had kite fliers from Washington, Mexico, Utah, New York. Our sponsors are growing. The 8th International Kite Festival is looking forward to 2017.

Kite fliers representing Utah, were **Andy and Bethanie Wilson, John** and 9 yr. old **Gray B, Penny** and **Steve Lingenfelter** from Washington. **Jim Martin** from N. Carolina and **Cera** and **Roberto Reyes**. **Pericos Restaurant** sponsored the lunch for the volunteers and the Pro Kids. Selling kites and raffling kites raised money for the kids. We raised over \$1000 for the Pro Kids orphanage. Organizers are **Dorothy Ross** and **Charles Stewart**, with help from many wonderful volunteers. Thank you again, **Penny L.**

Editor's Note—

Since I have run out of space, I am letting you know when the next issue needs to be created. Expect to hear from me mid-June, need all the info about WSIKF and other venues you may know of.
Marzlie

Calendar of Events —

wka-kiteflyers.org

See the note from Lisa Root as to upcoming events and check our WKA website for all the information we have so far. Please drop us a line if you have events which need to be revised or added to the calendar.

Then we all will be in the 'know'!

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
Affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER
200 2ND AVE N
SEATTLE WA 98109-4816



Printed Material Newsletter

The last page photo



Big John's tribute kite made in memory of **Art Ross**.

Ocean Shores Kites

Now with two locations to serve you.
172 W. Chance A La Mer Blvd. ~ 759 Pt. Brown Ave.
Kites for all skill levels, Parts, Repair, Accessories, Beach & Wind related toys,
Windsocks, Windchimes, Yard spinners, Flags, banners, and more.
360-289-4103
www.oceanshoreskites.com

The advertisement features a cartoon illustration of a crab holding a kite string. The crab is smiling and looking towards the kite. The kite is a simple diamond shape with a smiley face on it. The text "Ocean Shores Kites" is written in a stylized, cursive font at the top. Below the illustration, there is contact information for two locations, a list of products offered, a phone number, and a website URL.