

# Westport Windriders

affiliated with the Washington Kiteflyers Association and the American Kiteflyers Association

## Kiting's Fun Capitol - Westport, Washington

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### THANKSGIVING FLY STORMY

#### By Jeri

It was inevitable, living on the Washington Coast, a storm would try to spoil our party. A first time in our not so lengthy history nary a kite hit the sky or was even pulled from cover in the kites vehicles. This sky was too busy belching rain and chasing winds up to 60 MPH for this activity.

But a hearty group of Windriders still managed to fill the Lions Hall for our regular Saturday potluck.

Missing lots of regulars, even Chuck our spokes person and auctioneer who was stranded in South Bend surrounded by flood water. We found a capable replacement in **Sonny Kersh**. He was the first person to ask "Who's doing Chuck's job?" and was promptly told "You are". We couldn't have made a better choice. Well done Sonny and a world of thanks.

A door prize of a clever and appropriate table decoration, a reindeer, donated by **Andrea Masters** was won by **Al Axton**.

The Special drawing for a Christmas doll made by **Rose McSparren** was won by **Connie Wiltman**. A Christmas Swag created by **Ronaye Delano** was won by **Marla Conners**. A beach cabana donated by **Dennis & Ronaye Delano** was won by **Jim & Rose McSparren**.

The crowd of 55 persons was treated to a slide show by **Doug Hagaman** of his recent trip to Japan for a Cultural Exchange for a new kite museum in Japan. An

excellent way to spend a stormy Saturday night sort of traveling some where else.

Guests from **Cloud Nine Kites** in Ocean Shores were **Scott Chapin** and his finance **Joan**. Two new couples, **Bill and Gail Schroeder**, **Joe and Colluil Shevles** attended their first potluck. **Bob Chiak's** mother from South Dakota enjoyed the potluck with us also.

Thank you **Sonny, Doug, Rose McSparren** and the **Delanos** from Portland for making it an interesting and special meeting on a disagreeable stormy weekend.

On Sunday there were some brave souls out flying stunt kites. They took advantage of some strong winds and endured the showers.

### KITERS IN THE WINTER

What do kites do in the winter? Some are like bears. They hibernate and don't come out until it's Spring and everything is warm and cozy. Some are like penguins. They are out on the beach flying kites having a great time indifferent to the cold, rain, ice and snow. Some are like Beavers. They stay inside but are busy repairing or building kites. Some are like Chickens. They stay inside when it's nasty and talk over the good and bad times, what they are going to do when the weather clears, but always with an eye on the outside just incase the sun comes out and they can run out and fly their kites.

What kind of an animal are you? Most of us are a combination of all of the above. We would like it to be warm and sunny when we go kiting but once it gets in your blood you are always wanting to get out there.

You always seem to have to go try it out just for a little while even though we know the chances are slim on even getting out of the vehicle.

We spent hours thinking up different ways to make bigger and better displays of our kites. Many are deep in construction projects, making kites we hope will really "knock their socks off" at the next fly-in or the first festival of the year.

Speaking of festivals, which we all love, winter time is great for planning which one to go to next summer. In our area we are lucky to have some of the best festivals around within an easy driving distance. Our own Westport Kite Festival June 20th - 23rd is one of the best. The Long Beach International Kite Festival in August is one of the biggest. These should be two musts on our planning list.

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Special Invitation  
from  
Denise & Shannon

WESTPORT WINDRIDERS KITERS PROFILE

JIM McSPARREN

Jim lives in Snohomish and has been into kiting almost three years. Jim started at Westport and Westport continues to be his favorite place to fly.

He says he has over 52 kites, maybe he quit counting there. Jim's first kite was a Trlby, he now has a stack of at least 25 Trlbys as well as a Cloud Cutter, F-85, a stack of Hawaiian Team Kites, Deltas and many others. Jim is part of the Westport Trlby Team which flies stacks of up to 25 Trlbys in team patterns. A great sight to see, also they have some great mix-ups of kites on occasion.

Jim belongs to the Westport Windriders and WKA. Jim and his wife Rose are among the core supporters of the Windriders. Rose is the creator of some beautiful dolls that have been part of the special drawings at the Windriders potlucks. They are always there helping out and doing things for other people. This is a natural for Jim because he says what he likes about kiting is "meeting people".

Jim has attended festivals at Westport and Long Beach. At the Westport festival he is a tireless worker always there doing something to help out and make things work.

He likes to make his own kites and is willing to try making anything that will fly.

He lists no "pet peeves" about kiting or kites and that is easy to understand because he is so out going toward people. Jim is a great help on the beach and a good friend to all kites.

You usually will find Jim out on the beach where the action is. He is one to get involved and have a good time and helping others.

DONALD SOLOMON

Don lives in Federal Way and says that he started in kiting "45 years ago in Nebraska with a home made kite".

When asked how many kites he has Don answered "fifteen to twenty". His collection includes a Fire Dart, Crystal, 3 pack of Trlbys and lots of one line kites.

What Don likes best about kiting is "to see new and different kites". His most memorable kiting occasion was "the first time to fly a stunt kite".

The only kite club Don belongs to is the Westport Windriders. He joined the club last year and has been a staunch supporter of the club and the potlucks. He must like us or at least likes our food to keep coming back.

When asked where you have attended festivals he lists Westport, Long Beach and Ocean Shores.

Being a more laid back kiter Don says he has no "Pet peeves" about kiting or kites. He is a mellow guy and good to be around on the beach.

IF YOU HAVE FILLED OUT A WINDRIDERS PROFILE FORM OVER A YEAR AGO THE NEXT POTLUCK YOU COME TO PLEASE FILL OUT A NEW FORM AS THE INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE UP-DATED TO HAVE A GOOD PROFILE IN THE NEWSLETTER.

AL AXTON

Al lives in Olympia and says he "always" has been flying kites but started seriously in 1987 at Ocean Shores. A big surprise is that his favorite kite is a Trlby. Al is well known for his Trlby flying, especially in large stacks of 50 to 100. Pictures and articles have appeared in magazines about Al's Trlby Flying.

When asked what was your first kite Al says "any diamond kite until I turned 40 then my first was a snowflake". He numbers his collection at 120 plus including Trlbys, Hawaiian Team Kites, Spinoffs, Felixfoils, Cyborgs, Deltas, Snowflake, Griffith, Vertifoil, Cody, Icarus, Wah, Roller and Cloud Cutter.

Asking Al if he attends festivals is like asking do you walk? He and his wife Creda in their motorhome have been everywhere to festivals in Washington like Copalis, Ocean Shores, Seattle, Richland, Long Beach and Westport. In Oregon they have been to Rockaway, Cannon Beach, Agate Beach, Newport, Seaside and Lincoln City. He also attended the AKA conventions in Hawaii and Seaside.

Al belongs to the Westport Windriders, WKA, AKA, AOK and GDVKS kite clubs. He is very active in the Windriders being at all the potlucks and working on the Westport Kite Festival really hard. Al is one of the ones who gets up early and helps set things up so that the festival can run smoothly.

Al says that what he likes best about kiting is "the challenge of the pull". When he is flying those stacks of Trlbys he must be really getting challenged because sometimes it takes two to four guys to hold him down. On occasion they have lost their hold on him and he has gone down the beach being dragged by his Trlbys. If you ever have any idea that a little Trlby has no pull just ask Al and he will set you straight.

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