

Westport Windriders

affiliated with the Washington Kitefliers Association and the American Kitefliers Association

Kitings Fun Capitol - Westport, Washington

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FESTIVAL DATES SET

The dates for the 8th Annual Westport Kite Festival have been set. The festival will run from Thursday June 24 through Sunday June 27, 1993. As always this Westport Kite Festival date was determined by the tides. Since Westport is one festival where spectators as well as participants are encouraged to drive and park on the beach it is very important that the dates be set when there will be a maximum amount of time with good beach access.

Richard Soulier of Pic-A-Patch Kites studies the tide books as soon as they come out calculating the best four days for the festival. To get a jump on setting the date he got a high/low tide printout from the Coast Guard and was able to do his voodoo dance and set the date much earlier this year.

The 8th annual festival will follow the same general plan as this year's festival. Thursday will be handcrafted kite competition. Friday will be stunt kite competition. Saturday will be camp display day and children's day. Sunday will be Fighter Kite and Rokakku Challenges and mass kite flying with record attempt for number of kites flying.

This should be a fantastic four days of fun and great kite flying. Remember it's not too early to get your reservations in for these June dates.

See you at Westport June 24 thru 27, 1993.

ROKAKKU MADDNESS

Don Mock did it again. He put on one fantastic class and instructed about 50 Windriders in the fine art of Rokakku Kite making.

After the October 24 Windrider potluck the tables were cleared and the class began. Don came prepared with 50 kits for making a "Tyvek" Rokakku. Tyvek is a non-woven, non-porous, usually white material that is used for kites. These kites are usually not sewn but are assembled with reinforced strapping tape.

Don began the class with a good general overview on making Rokakkus, including plans for conventional sewn ones. He had many tips for sewing and bridling kites, how to scale the pattern and other great kite making tips.

The actual making of the "Tyvek" kites was great fun and a real learning experience, especially for those of us who had never made a kite before. There were about 9 tables around which about 50 people crowded as Don walked everyone through the steps in assembling a "Tyvek" Rokakku kite. Some tables had two kites being assembled and others only had one. It was a group effort on each kite with from 2 to 6 people working on each kite. At the end of the class about 15 "Tyvek" Rokakkus were assembled and ready for the owners to complete by

adding their own designs with paints, magic markers, crayons or any combination thereof.

This was a great experience and everyone who was there had a great time building a kite. It was suggested that Don come up with another "Tyvek" kite for us non-sewers to assemble and decorate.

At the November fun fly and potluck everyone who made a kite is supposed to bring it back and show off the decorations and possibly have a Rokakku Challenge.

It should prove interesting to see how the different people go about decorating their "Tyvek" Rokakku kites. Several of the Windriders bought more than one kit so there should be a good showing at the November potluck. Don says there is a possibility of over 30 kites showing up next month.

Those who missed this class missed a lot of fun and a chance for a good kite.

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