

WSIKF

NEWS & INFORMATION

Welcome to this issue of the World Kite Museum Quarterly Newsletter, where we share updates on the Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF) and other exciting museum activities.

Planning for WSIKF 2026 is moving forward with great momentum, and we are delighted to report strong progress in our sponsorship efforts. Businesses and community partners are stepping forward to support this beloved festival, helping ensure that the skies

above Long Beach will once again be filled with color, creativity, and connection. We continue to warmly welcome new sponsors who wish to be part of this extraordinary event.

As you travel around the Long Beach, Washington area, keep an eye out for the exclusive 2026 WSIKF Sponsor Poster and, when you see one, please take a moment to thank those sponsors, your appreciation helps recognize their commitment to our festival and community.

A Big Thank You to Our Local Sponsors.

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Drop Anchor Seafood & Grill

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Oceanview Inn at the Arch

Seaview Biscuit Company

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Skybound Circus

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Wind World Kites

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The WSIKF Open Sport Kite Competition

One of the exciting additions to WSIKF 2026 will be a two-day sport kite competition featuring teams, pairs, and individual flyers from several countries.

The first round is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 16, one day prior to the official start of the Washington State International Kite Festival. Holding the opening round a day early gives visitors and spectators a special preview of the skill, creativity, and excitement that world-class sport kite flying brings to the skies over Long Beach.

This international competition will showcase some of the most talented pilots in the sport today. John Barresi will serve as co-announcer, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with the

audience, while Jon Trennepohl will lead the judging panel as head judge.

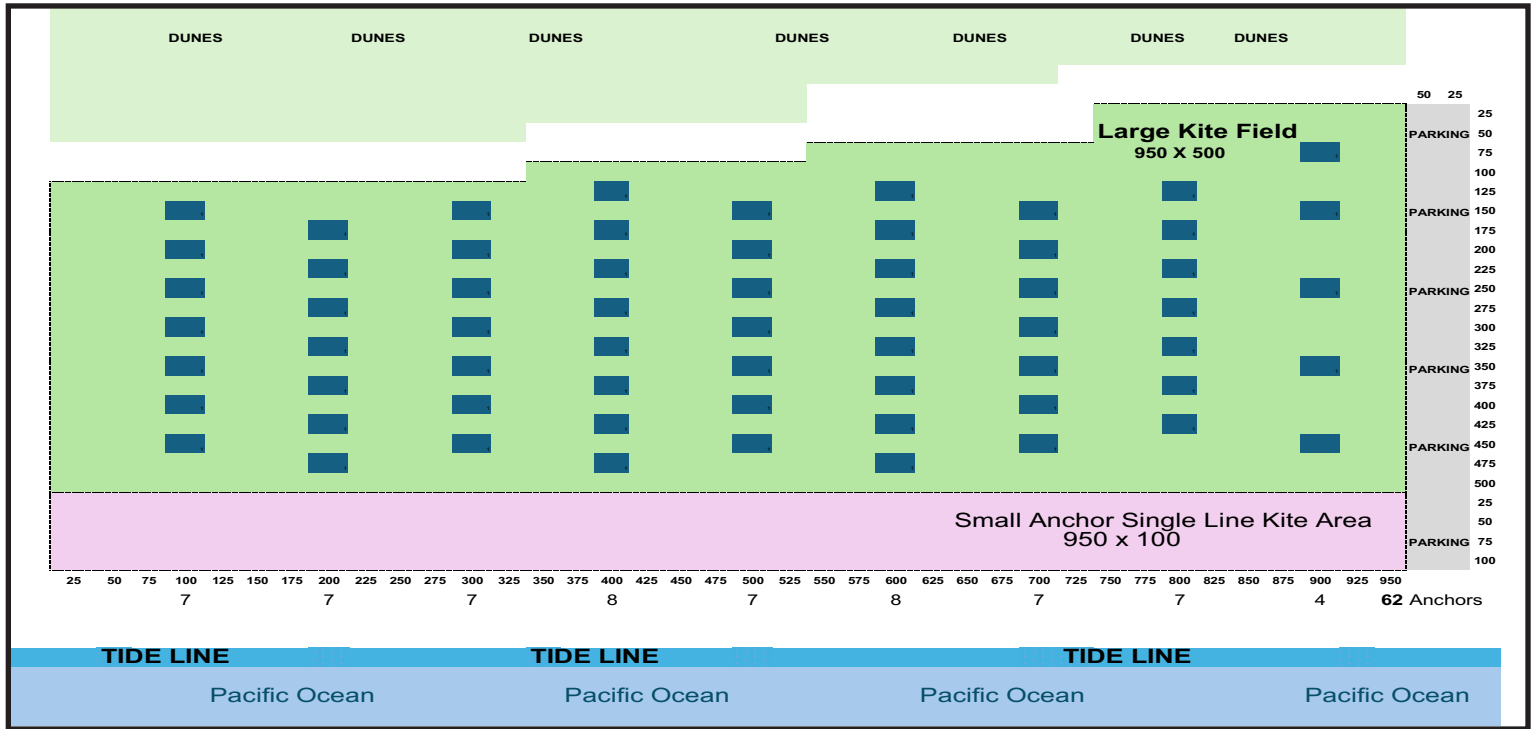
Competitors will perform two rounds, with scoring divided evenly between two categories. Technical (50%) evaluates the pilot's level of skill, precision, timing, and control throughout the routine. Choreography (50%) reflects the artistic design and presentation of the performance, how effectively the flyer or team creates a visual story and engaging experience in the sky.

Prizes and trophies will be awarded to the top performers in each category.

If you are interested in participating in the WSIKF Open, please email us at Info@WSIKF.org for additional information and registration details.



Field Map Planning Update



We have met with multiple stakeholders to finalize the fly field layout, as reflected in the maps below. In the Large Kite Field map (above) the blue boxes the approximate anchor locations. Anchors will be spaced 50 feet apart east to west and 100 feet apart north to south, with increased north-to-south spacing in the front row. All rows will be staggered to ensure optimal layout, safety, and visual presentation.

Single-Line Small Anchor Field: Located below the Large Kite Field, is an area reserved for smaller anchored display kites, expanding opportunities for participation and adding visual interest across the festival grounds.

The
Boardwalk
is now
Open!

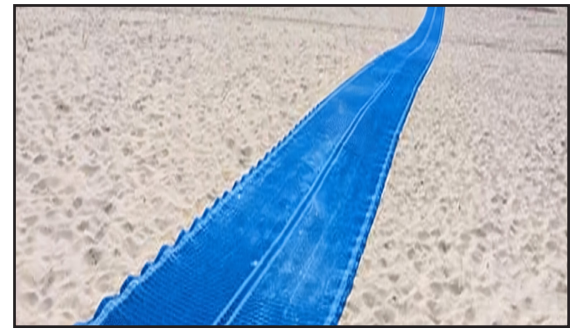


Field Map Planning Update (continued)

Parking & Camp Area: The area between the camps and Field A will be a designated flying area for registered flyers only and will remain a no-fly zone for the general public.

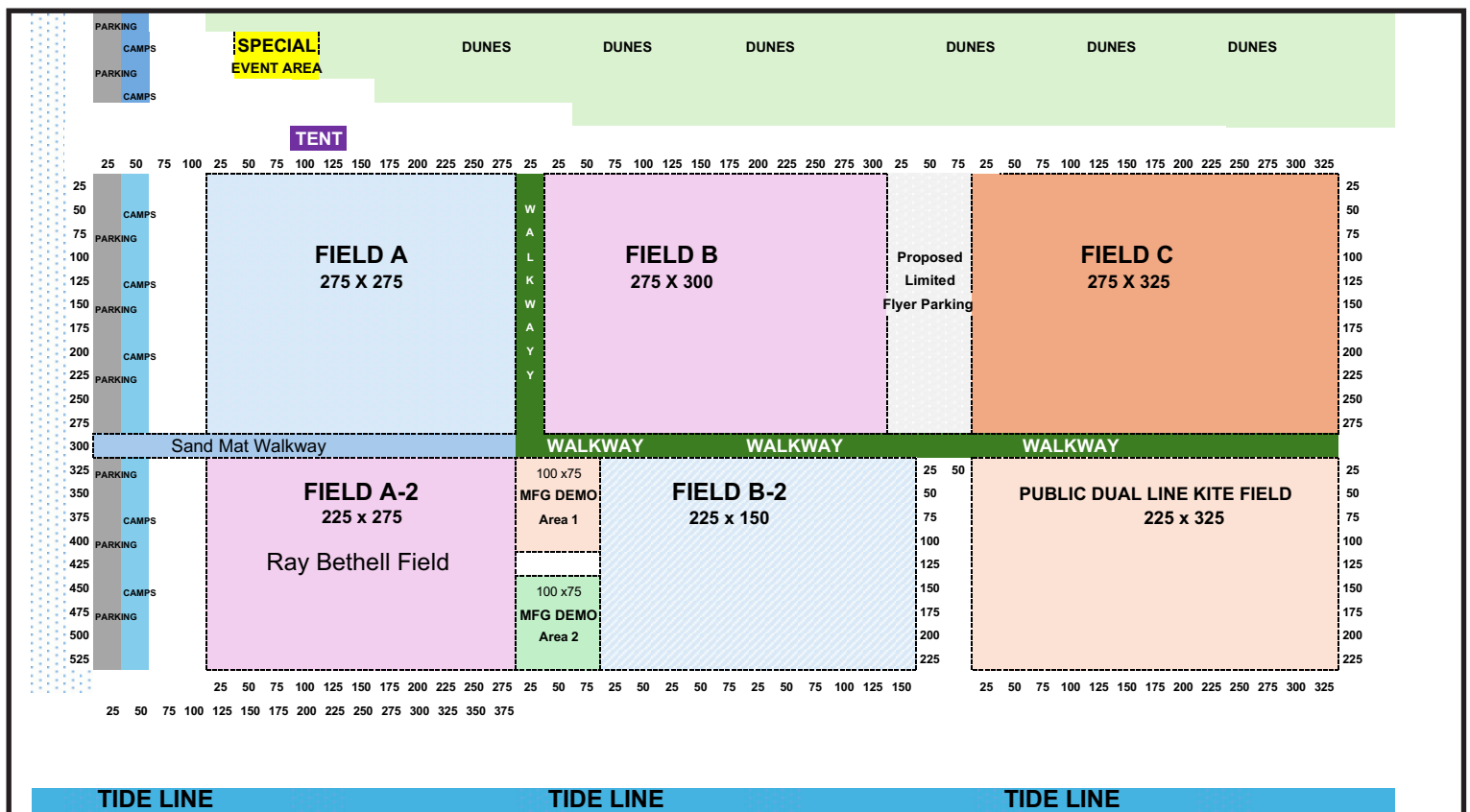
Field A: Repositioned closer to the road, returning to its location from previous years, and set at approximately 275 x 275 feet. This adjustment reduces the overall distance between Field A and the other flying fields, improving accessibility.

Beach Walkway: We are working to install a beach walkway mat between Field A and A-2, extending to Field B. This will provide easy, accessible passage for both flyers and spectators and improve movement between primary activity areas.



Special Event Area: Located east of Field A, this space will host static displays and featured programming, including the Historic Kites exhibit. This location allows spectators to easily engage with the history of kites, with select historic kites also flying in Field A between scheduled events.

Manufacturer Area (MFG): Located on the south end of Field A-2, this area will serve as the hub for kite instruction. Revolution will host lessons here, and additional space is available for other manufacturers to offer instruction. Positioned at the end of the beach walkway, it will be easily accessible for attendees.





WSIKF Sunrise Sunset

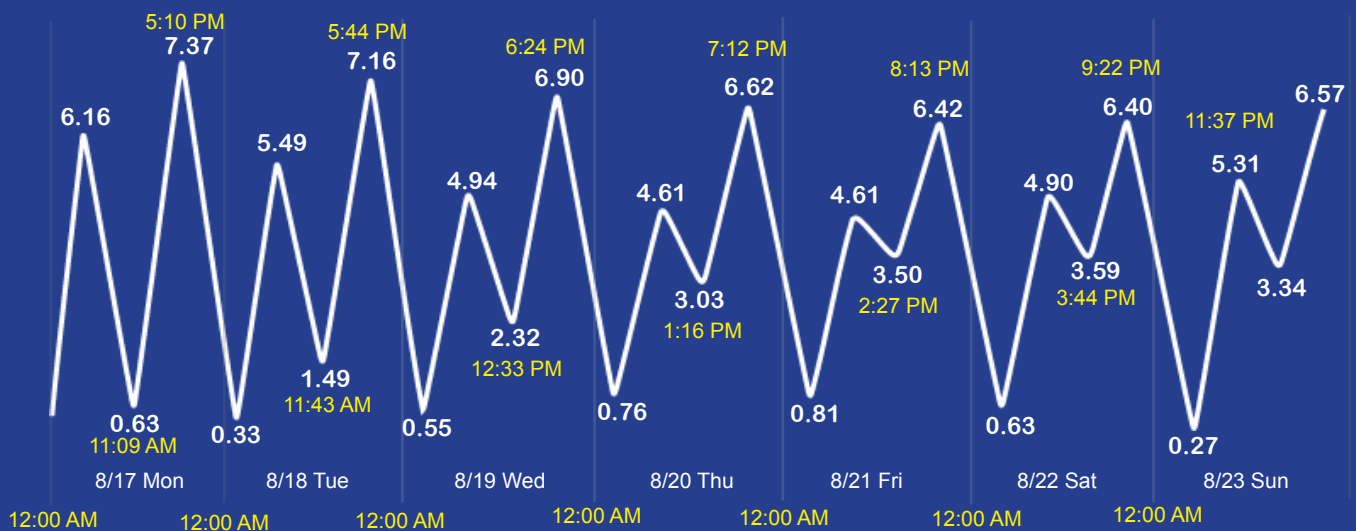
Aug 17	6:14 AM	8:33 PM
Aug 18	6:15 AM	8:31 PM
Aug 19	6:16 AM	8:30 PM
Aug 20	6:17 AM	8:28 PM
Aug 21	6:18 AM	8:27 PM
Aug 22	6:19 AM	8:25 PM
Aug 23	6:21 AM	8:24 PM

The Tides of WSIKF

During WSIKF week, tides create excellent conditions for flying kites along the Long Beach shoreline. Low tides occur from late morning through early afternoon, exposing wide areas of firm sand and providing plenty of space for flyers, large kite displays, demonstrations, and spectators.

As the day continues, the tide gradually rises, with the highest levels arriving later in the evening. This keeps the beach wide and open during the busiest festival hours when most flying and performances take place.

By evening, wet sand reflects the colors of the sky and kites overhead, creating one of the festival's most beautiful sights, colorful kites drifting across the sunset with reflections shimmering along the shore.



Kites, Kids, and Community

The WSIKF Foster Grandparents Fly

From a recent interview with Brian and Debbie David

For many children attending the Foster Grandparents Fly at the Washington State International Kite Festival, receiving a kite is more than just a gift, it's the beginning of a wonderful memory. Brian and Debbie David coordinate the event, which brings foster grandparents and children together to share the simple joy of flying a kite.

“About nineteen years ago, a woman in the program started making kites and giving them to kids at events,” Brian said. “The idea came from memories of flying kites with grandparents, and that’s where the Grandparents Fly really started.”

In the early years, organizers used commercially produced kites, but there was a problem. “Some of the production kites just didn’t fly,” Brian said.

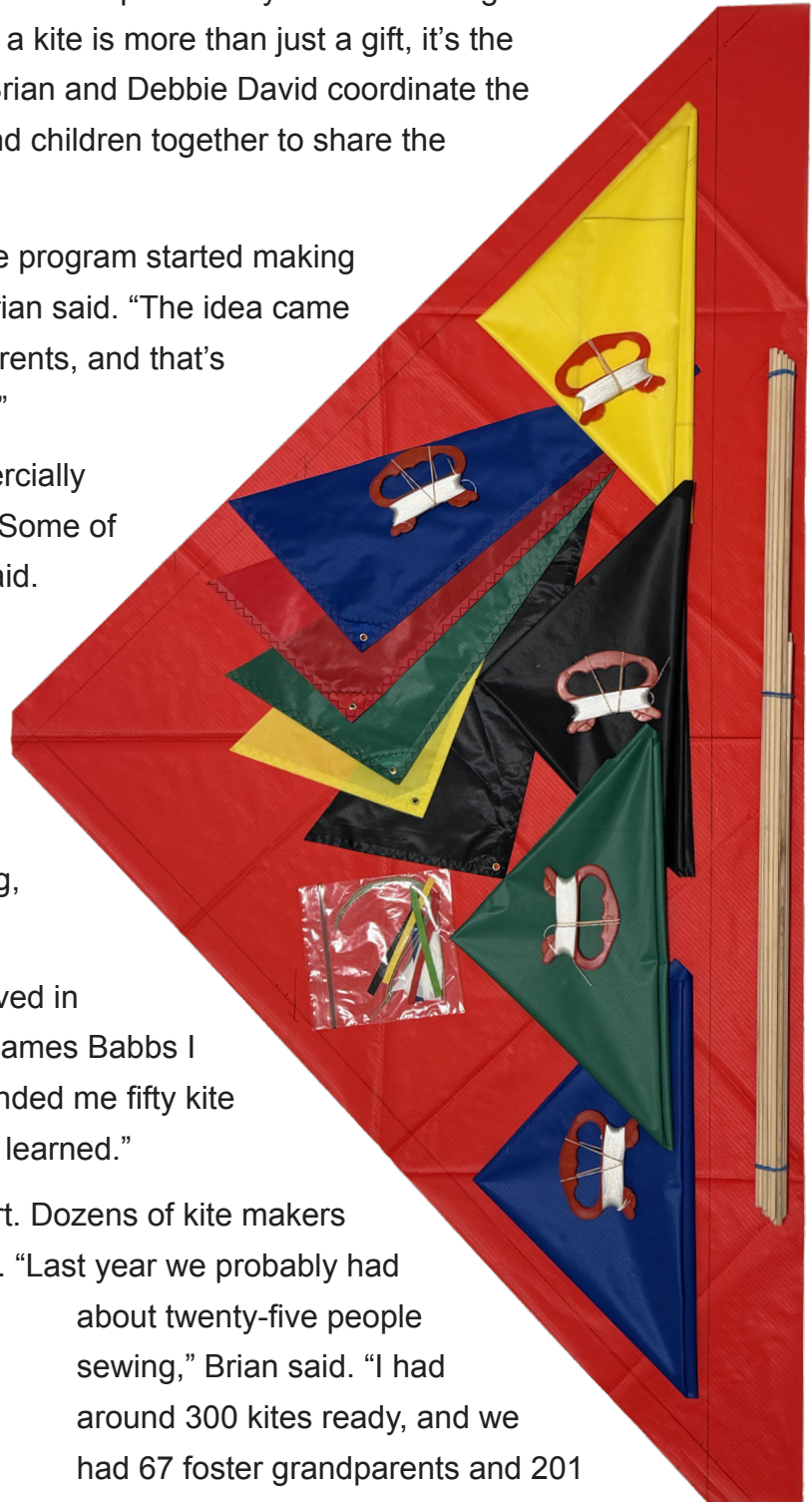
Members of the kite community stepped in and began building their own. That effort led to the Fringe Delta kite, a handmade design that flies reliably and gives kite makers the chance to add creative touches such as appliqué, painting, and colorful patterns.

Brian remembers exactly how he got involved in making them. “About ten years ago I told James Babbs I wanted to learn appliqué,” he said. “He handed me fifty kite skins and said, ‘Here you go.’ That’s how I learned.”

Today the project is a major volunteer effort. Dozens of kite makers help sew and decorate the kites each year. “Last year we probably had

“Each kite is handmade and signed by the person who created it”

about twenty-five people sewing,” Brian said. “I had around 300 kites ready, and we had 67 foster grandparents and 201 kids signed up.”



Precut, premarked sail material and parts for five Fringe Delta kite kits ready for sewing

Kites, Kids, and Community (continued)

The Foster Grandparents Fly

Each kite is handmade and signed by the person who created it, which often leads to special moments on the flying field. “All the kite makers sign their kites,” Brian explained. “Sometimes the kids will see your badge and come looking for you. They want to take a picture with the person who made their kite.”

Creating the kites requires a huge investment of time. “If I sew sixty kites, that’s close to five hundred hours of work,” Brian said. “Debbie’s doing twenty-one this year, and I’ve already finished twenty.”

Debbie says the designs themselves are one of the most enjoyable parts of the project. “Kids like animals, flowers, and stars,” she said. “Simple things that give everyone lots of ideas.” When organizers once asked children what designs they wanted most, the answers were surprising “They wanted food, tacos, pizza, ice cream cones, spaghetti and meatballs,” Brian said with a laugh.

During the event, foster grandparents and children ages three to twelve are paired together. Inside a tent filled with colorful kites, each child chooses one before heading out to the beach to fly it.

Some of those kites return year after year. “You’ll look out on the field and see kites from a few years ago flying again,” Brian said. “That’s really special.”



A couple of Debbie David's Handcrafted Kites



Dylan Nguyen Delivering His Kite Creations



Debbie and Brian David

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Brian and Debbie David for sharing their time and stories about the Foster Grandparents Fly and for the many volunteer hours they and other kite makers dedicate each year to creating handmade kites for children at the Washington State International Kite Festival.



Kids Enjoying Their New Kites During WSIKF

Kids Kite Performance Theater... A New Event

During WSIKF, families are invited to share in one of the festival's most joyful traditions. The beloved Foster Grandparent Fly. Registration opens at 9AM and the event begins at 10AM.

New this year, we are introducing the Kids Kite Performance Theater, a playful event taking place from 9–10AM on Field A.

The event will begin with the singing of our National Anthem, performed live by local children, a meaningful way to start the day as we celebrate America's 250th birthday.

Following the anthem, kite flying teams and individual performers will fill the sky with choreographed routines set to fun kids' music.

Some performers will even appear in colorful costumes, adding a playful theatrical element that will

delight young spectators and keep the energy high across the field.

This special hour is designed to entertain children and their families while they gather to receive their kites and watch experienced flyers perform.

As the performances conclude, children will be invited onto the field to launch their brand-new kites and experience the thrill of flying for themselves.

Many families tell us this first flight becomes a lasting memory and often sparks a lifelong love of kite flying.

By bringing together music, performance, and hands-on participation, this new morning event celebrates the spirit of community that has made WSIKF so special for 45 years. It's a joyful way for the next generation to feel part of the festival and share the sky together.





We are pleased to share that Oceanview Inn at the Arch in Long Beach, Washington, now offers World Kite Museum members a 10% discount on hotel rates year-round. As a proud sponsor of WSIKF 2026, Oceanview Inn supports the spirit of kite flying and community celebration, welcoming guests with comfort, convenience, and a perfect location at the Arch, just steps from the beach and festival activities. Show your membership card at check-in to receive your discount. Visit: <https://www.innatarch.com>

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About The Newsletter

World Kite Museum Newsletter is a quarterly digital publication featuring updates from the Washington State International Kite Festival, the World Kite Museum, and our supportive community.

This digital newsletter is free to anyone who would like to receive it.

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For content suggestions, please email Barry Matties, Managing Editor, at Barry@WSIKF.org

