

2024 Classes



We are excited about the 2024 conference! The Curriculum Committee has the teacher list and their offered classes set. They include first time Ft. Worden teachers, many favorite old reliables, plus our locals and our "long distance" locals, all coming together to offer you several centuries of combined kite building experience! We are offering classes for beginning kite builders as well as those with experience. We have classes from 1/2 to 1-1/2 days and will offer kites you sew and kites you don't, large kites and miniatures. And a Bonus presentation of Color Theory by Steve Anderson on Friday night!

Our teachers and their projects are varied and exciting. It could be a difficult decision when picking your classes! It would be great to have you with us for classes, camaraderie, and the raffle.

Updated 11/24/23

Laylight Ohashi Kite

Steve Anderson (1)

Wheaton, Illinois

Steve will present an Ohashi kite with a design inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright art glass window designs. This kite will use cut fabric pieces and a Silhouette-cut black "window" with pieces glued in place before being sewn.

12 Hour

Level: Intermediate

Class Size: 10

Fee: \$70

Bring: Sewing machine and typical sewing kit



Classic Roller Kite (2)

Rod Beamguard

Vancouver, Washington

Rod will teach a classic Roller kite that flies very well in light to moderate winds and provides a great platform for individual applique. Students will learn small construction detail techniques in a fun class.

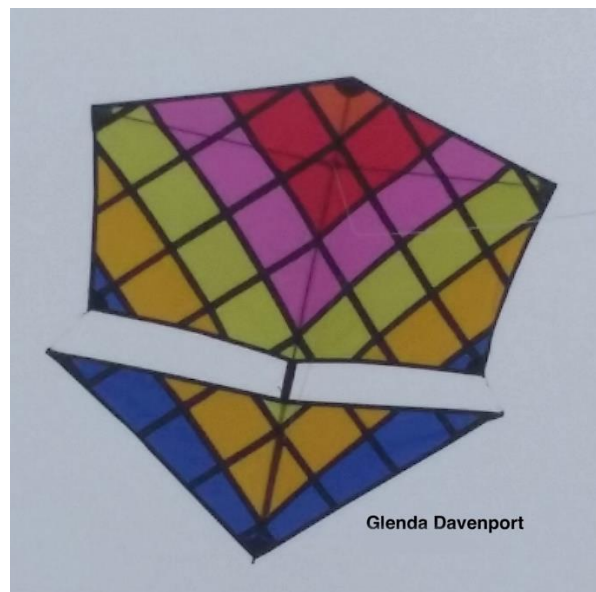
8 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 15

Fee: \$60/\$50

Bring: Sewing machine and standard sewing supplies, fabric if supplying your own



Glenda Davenport

Revolver Kite (3)

Bary Crites

Olympia, Washington

Bary returns to present his Revolver box kite, a winged box kite that revolves as it flies. Learn his techniques for accurately creating multiple parts that will in turn make final assembly simple.

8 Hour

Level: Intermediate

Class Size: 20

Fee: \$150

Bring: Sewing machine and notions, 18"+ ruler/straightedge, sharp pencil, small scissors.

Note: Extra kits will be available for purchase.



Guppy Fish Windsock (4,5)

Glenda Davenport

Gig Harbor, Washington

Imagine your own guppy fish windsocks flying on a pole or as line laundry. Students will pick colors for two guppies and learn assembly techniques, bridle line splicing and use straight and zz stitching techniques.

4 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 10

Fee: \$40

Bring: Sewing machine and notions, scissors and fabric pens/pencils.

Note: Extra kits will be available for purchase.



Roll-up Kite Bag (6)

Brian David

Poulsbo, Washington

Students will learn methods to sew various types of fabric to create a roll up kite bag with their choice of color. Finished bags will hold quite a few kites and allow easy carrying.

8 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 10

Fee: \$85/95

Bring: Sewing machine and notions, 3-6 ft rule, masking tape.

Note: Extra kits will be available for purchase.



Dondai Cellular Kite

Folke Gfrörer (7)

Gerlingen, Germany

A popular instructor, Folke is returning to the US to present a unique, very interesting kite - the Dondai. This cellular box kite is unusual in appearance and that it is suitable for light winds.

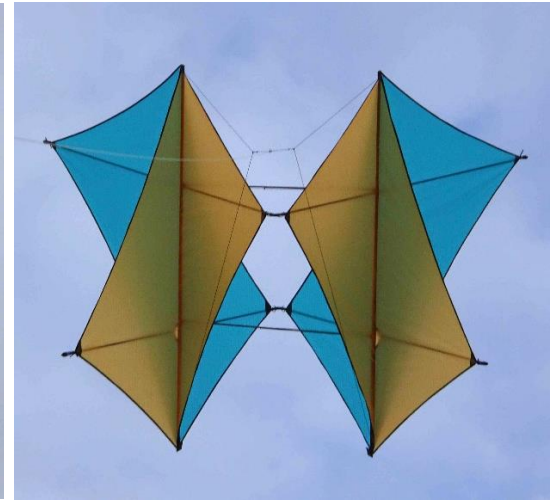
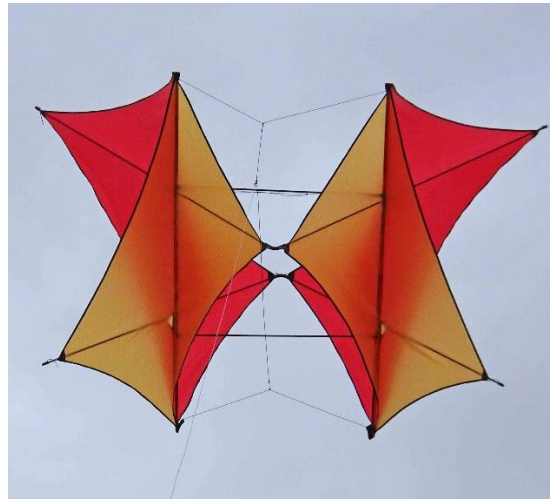
8 Hour

Level: Experienced

Class Size: 15

Fee: € 180

Bring: Sewing machine and notions, scissors, rulers, seam ripper.



Miniature Cody Kites

Dan Kurahashi (8)

Burnaby, BC, Canada

Dan is again presenting one of his popular miniature kites class. Students will learn how to split bamboo next to hair thickness then make 4 Cody kites in different sizes. Cut white sails will be provided for 105 and 90 mm kites in preparation for split bamboo framing. Printed 60 and 40 mm sails will be ready for participants to cut out, split bamboo and spar. The smaller they are the more challenging for the maker. Challenge yourself under the tutelage of an expert.

4 Hour

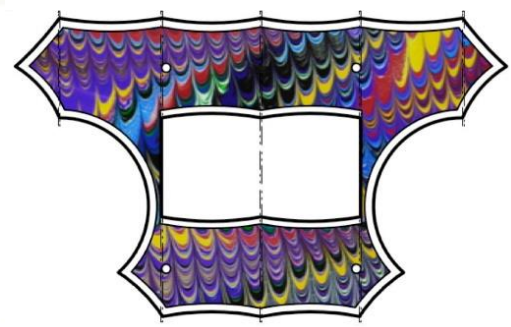
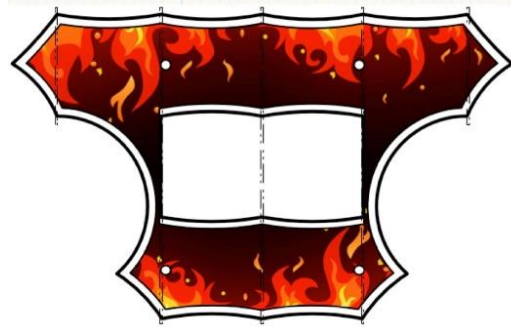
Level: All

Class Size: 20

Fee: \$20 up to 4 miniatures

Bring: Sharp knife, straight edge, cutting mat, white glue in pointed tip bottle, scissors, tweezers, more in later email.

Note: Extra kits will be available for purchase.



Advanced Sharpening

Dan Kurahashi (9)

Burnaby, BC, Canada

Dan will return to refresh students on blade sharpening basics then progress into advanced techniques with hands-on learning to rejuvenate kite-related and every day tools. With Dan's background in a stainless steel shop where all kinds of grinding, sharpening and polishing methods were used, students will be exposed to techniques not normally available to the rest of us.

4 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 20

Fee: \$20

Bring: Dull Olfa & Exacto knives, scissors, rotary blades, seam rippers, kitchen knives, etc, plastic bag or sheet, cutting board, test cardboard, whetstone & bowl from last year.



Ornament Spinner

Grant Lovett (10,11)

Brownsburg, Indiana

Grant will lead students in making a 6-sided version of the fast moving, easy to sew Ornament Spinner. It is a flexible design that is easy to scale and modify. Variations of the ornament can be made from partial/multiple kits.

4 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 16

Fee: \$25

Bring: Sewing machine and supplies. Some way to mark a 3" long, 1/4" hem line such as clear ruler and fabric pencil, etc.

Note: Extra kits will be available for purchase.



Critter Crossing

5-sided Kite (12)

Barbara Meyer

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Barbara returns to present a kite inspired by a Mary Gabby kite. Students will begin by using dyes to create a background, then complete the kite. After the kite is finished, you will have the option to add animal silhouettes to personalize their kite.

4-8 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 10

Fee: \$70

Bring: Sewing machine and notions.



Beginning Kitemaking

Gerry Pennell (13)

Olympia, WA

Another of our long time teachers (+25 times!) is Gerry, who will be teaching her always popular intro to kitemaking. Learn the basics of sewing kite material and hear invaluable tips and tricks, plus make a wonderful pocket sled kite or a classic windsock.

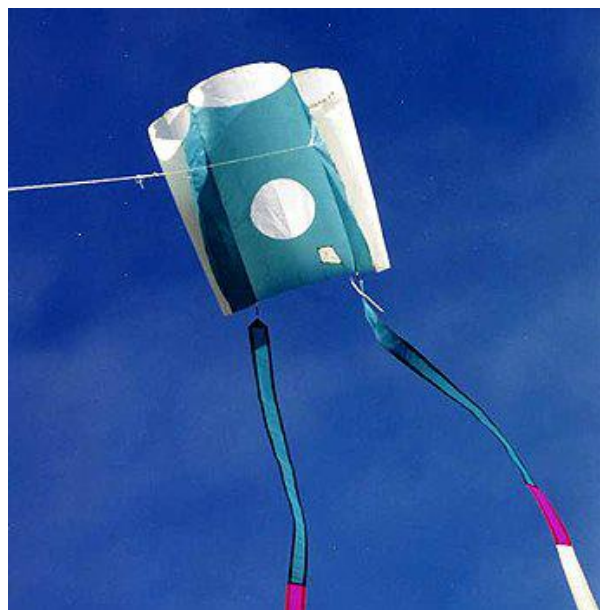
4 Hour

Level: Beginning

Class Size: 10

Fee: Windsock \$15; Kite \$20

Bring: Sewing machine and notions, pencil, ruler.

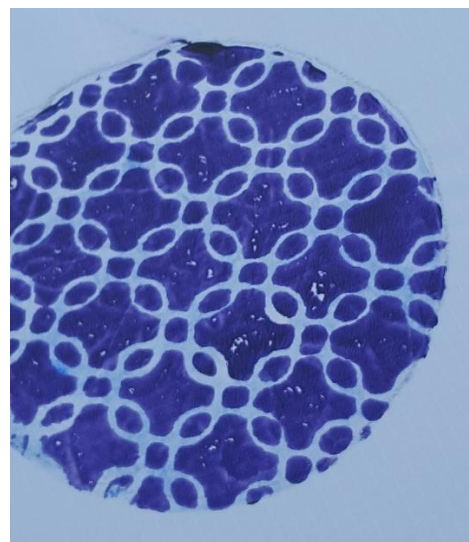


Gelli Painting (14)

Cindy Thrall

Newberg, Oregon

Cindy will teach her method of gelli plate painting on kite fabric. Experiment with colors and patterns you can later applique on a kite, or turn the whole fabric piece into a kite in Rod's class!. Each student will receive their own 3" round gelli plate and brayer. Gelli plates in different sizes and shapes, a wide variety of mark making tools, brushes, stencils and texture plates will also be available.



8 Hour
Level: All
Class Size: 10
Fee: \$60
Bring: Supplies will be provided, or bring a favorite stenci or acrylic paint color (light fastness rating of 1)



Rokkaku Kite (15)
Rod Thrall

Newberg, Oregon
Rod will take students through the construction of a classic Rokkaku kite - a great platform on which builders can express their creativity. Participants can turn the sail created in Cindy's gelli class into their Rok or decorate their sail at home prior to class.

8 Hour
Level: Intermediate
Class Size: 10
Fee: \$90
Bring: Sewing machine and notions
Note: Extra kits may be pre-ordered.



Kitemakers Roundtable
Rob Pratt (16)

Lacey, Washington
Attendees will have the opportunity ask and find answers to vexing questions, trade techniques with other kite makers, and explore mysteries of the universe (are you paying attention?).

4 Hour
Level: All
Class Size: unlimited
Fee: \$0
Bring: Questions or comments about tools, and other comments, suggestions or techniques to share.





A few important notes:



Look at the photographs of the projects and updates on the web at www.kitemakers.org. Photographs in the document above are not to scale relative to each other.

We want everyone to have a great experience. If you have questions about your ability to handle a class, please read our skill level ratings on the Skill Level Information Sheet.

Once you secure a place on a class list, you've committed to taking that class. In fairness to the instructor, it is expected that you will reimburse him or her for materials purchased and prepared for you, even if you don't participate in the class.

Class materials fees may be paid with cash (exact amount appreciated) directly to the instructors. **Please, no checks.**

Are you wondering what "sewing machine and supplies" refers to? Here is some help...

"Sewing machine" means a working, well-tuned sewing machine complete with foot control, power cord, needles and bobbins and bobbin case. It is, of course, best to be familiar with your machine. If not, try Gerry's class on Friday to help solve that dilemma. Before her class, please know how to wind a bobbin and thread your machine. Whether you sign up for Gerry's class or not, tuck your instruction book in with the machine. Don't leave home without it is always a good rule!

"Supplies" refers to the sewing related supplies we normally use at home when making a kite. Sewing your kite skin? Then these supplies can include extra machine needles, extra bobbins, a seam ripper, Scotch tape, double sided tape, seam ripper, needle threader, seam gauge, scissors for trimming threads, scissors for appliqué, beeswax, assorted colors of good thread plus black & white, etc. When you are done sewing, you may be happy to have brought a straight edge, cutting tools for fabric and rods and appropriate cutting surfaces, hot knife or hot pen, Super Glue and accelerant. **Nearly every teacher has suggested we ask their students to bring high quality thread and a freestanding light.** A pencil and notebook plus a camera are always good to have with you, too. So are an extension cord & multiple outlet strip. Does the description indicate a possibility of making copies of the instructor's templates? If so, bring a roll of wide paper to trace those templates. It is a wonderful opportunity to build another kite at home and not have to draft your own pattern. Is this the whole list; is this everything? NO! Do you have to bring absolutely everything listed here? NO! Bring what you use at home, what you think you may use, maybe even what you think you should leave at home.

A special note for those participants who need to fly into Seattle... We know it is hard to bring all your supplies plus a sewing machine. Think about packing your supplies and *borrowing* a machine for the weekend. Many participants have spare machines. Ask us for help if this is the only reason you are not attending! Or come try us out and take the non-sewing classes we offer.

Skill Level Information

Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference

Using and Understanding our Class Skill Levels

The classes offered at Fort Worden fall into the following three skill level categories: Beginner, Intermediate, and Experienced. There is considerable overlap among all these categories. There is no clear line or simple test that can be used to determine your kitemaking experience level. Even if a class is shown as a “no-sew” class, don’t assume it is a simple beginner kite. Some are and some aren’t. If you have questions about whether or not you should take a particular class, please email the teacher and discuss it or send your question to the [conference registrar](#) and your question will be passed along to the teacher. The teacher who designed the class will know what skills are needed. Above all, be honest with yourself. We wouldn’t want you to go home disappointed, with a project you haven’t finished—and possibly won’t ever finish.

These classifications are for your benefit. To make the best use of them, think of them this way:

Beginner:

I am a beginner if I have never made a cloth kite before. I may have never used a sewing machine either—or at least not enough to be comfortable with it. The first thing I should sign up for is Gerry Pennell’s beginning sewing class. This will give me a big boost on the way to being an accomplished kite sewer. I should look through the list of classes offered for beginners—there will be plenty to choose from. Since Gerry’s class is normally held on Friday morning, I may be ready to take something a bit more advanced the next day or even that afternoon.

Please note: Nobody is going to say “no—you can’t take that class.” However, if you choose a class that is too far beyond your experience level, you probably won’t have a good time. We want you to have a good time!

Intermediate:

I am intermediate if I can sew reasonably well. Have I taken Gerry’s class? You bet! I haven’t made many kites yet, but I have developed some skills and am ready to move on. Most of us may fit into this category. Even if I have never made a kite before, but I am an accomplished sewer and I may be comfortable in one of these classes. I’ll ask the teacher via an email!

Experienced:

I am experienced if I have made lots of kites and my sewing skills are well developed. Now I am looking for a challenge, and to learn different and advanced skills and techniques.