



2025 Classes

We are excited about the 2025 conference! The Curriculum Committee has the teacher list and their offered classes set. They include first time Ft. Worden teachers, many favorite instructors, 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 2(!) days and will offer kites you sew and kites you don't, large kites and small kites.

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 9/16/24

Dopero Kite (1)
Rod Beamguard
 Vancouver, Washington
 Rod is returning to teach a 4 foot Dopero kite, learning techniques necessary to build the standard 12 foot kite used for KAP. This kite flies at a high angle and is very stable in the sky.

8 Hour
Level: All
Class Size: 10
Fee: \$90
Bring: Sewing machine and standard sewing supplies, fabric if supplying your own



Postcard Genki Kite (2)
Bary Crites
 Olympia, Washington
 Bary returns to present his P0stcard Genki kite, The kite provides a great platform for all kinds of graphics and flies nicely in fairly light winds. It is fairly simple to build & allows a wide range of graphic options including paint, applique, etc.

8 Hour
Level: All
Class Size: 12
Fee: \$60
Bring: Sewing machine and notions, 3'-4' straightedge, pencil, basic notions.
Note: Extra kits will be available for purchase.



ExoHex Cellular (3)

Chris Hanson

Bellingham, Washington

Chris will present his ExoHex, a very different and stable type of cellular kite that is simple to put together and fly. Students must accurately measure, trim and sew together the completed sails, and build the exoskeleton of the kite using 3D printed connectors.

16 Hour

Level: Experienced

Class Size: 10

Fee: \$180

Bring: Sewing machine and notions.



Light Air Fighter Kite

Brian Johnson (4,5)

Bainbridge Island, Washington

Brian will present a single line controllable kite that can be flown in light winds or indoor. The sail is cut from plastic single use shopping bags as an alternative to tossing them away. No-sew construction uses glue and tape and a three point bridling system to control yaw, pitch and roll. Various fighter kite information will be discussed.

4 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 20

Fee: \$20

Bring: Sharp knife, scissors, lighter or candle, paper clip, straight edge.



Upside Down Rokkaku

Dan Kurahashi (6,7)

Burnaby, BC, Canada

Dan is returning to present an unusual kite, the Upside Down Rokkaku. This special kite can be flown right side up or upside down, and change from one to the other in mid-air. This unique kite will be constructed with Tyvek and bamboo.

4 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 20

Fee: \$20

Bring: Sharp knife, straight edge, white glue, scissors.



Pillow Talk Tube Tail

Barbara Meyer (8,9)

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Barbara returns to present a fun, quick tail or line laundry based on an original idea by Frank Schwiemann back in the 1990s. Class project is about 8 ft long and able to be expanded indefinitely. A very basic intro to inflatable shapes, easy and quick to make. Make you own spiral stripe tubes.

4 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 16

Fee: \$15

Bring: Sewing machine and supplies. 12 straight pins.



Eclipse! Kite (10)

Pierre Marzin

Rives du loir en Anjou, France

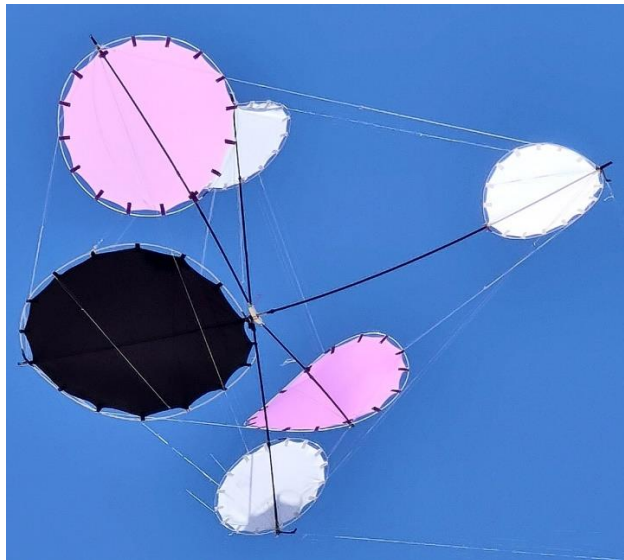
Pierre will join us with a kite that surely stands out on the field. It's hi-tech but poetic with a quite versatile wind range. Different from the usual, this kite is based on circles, frame and tension cables and won CVCF gold award at Dieppe artistic contest 2010 with the theme "structures". Using circles, the top one projects it's shadow on the others, thus the Eclipse name.

8 Hour

Level: Intermediate

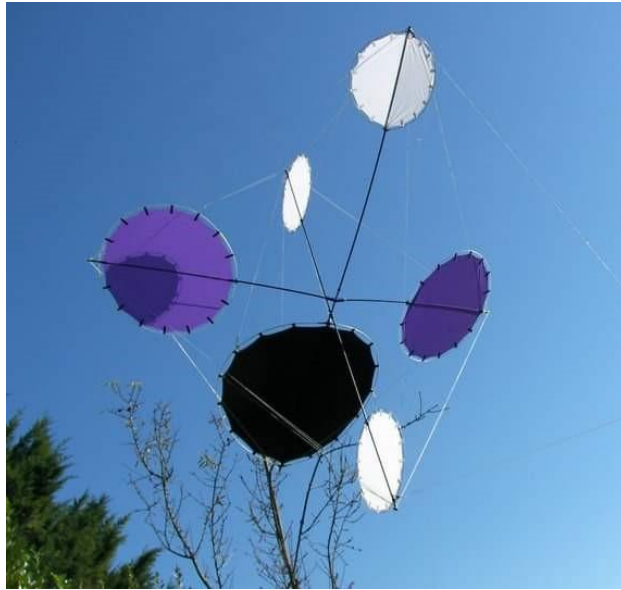
Class Size: 15

Fee: \$10



Bring: Sewing machine and notions, sharp knife, CA glue, hot knife and spar saw if available.

Note: Extra fittings will be available for purchase.



Beginning Kitemaking **Gerry Pennell (11)**

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.

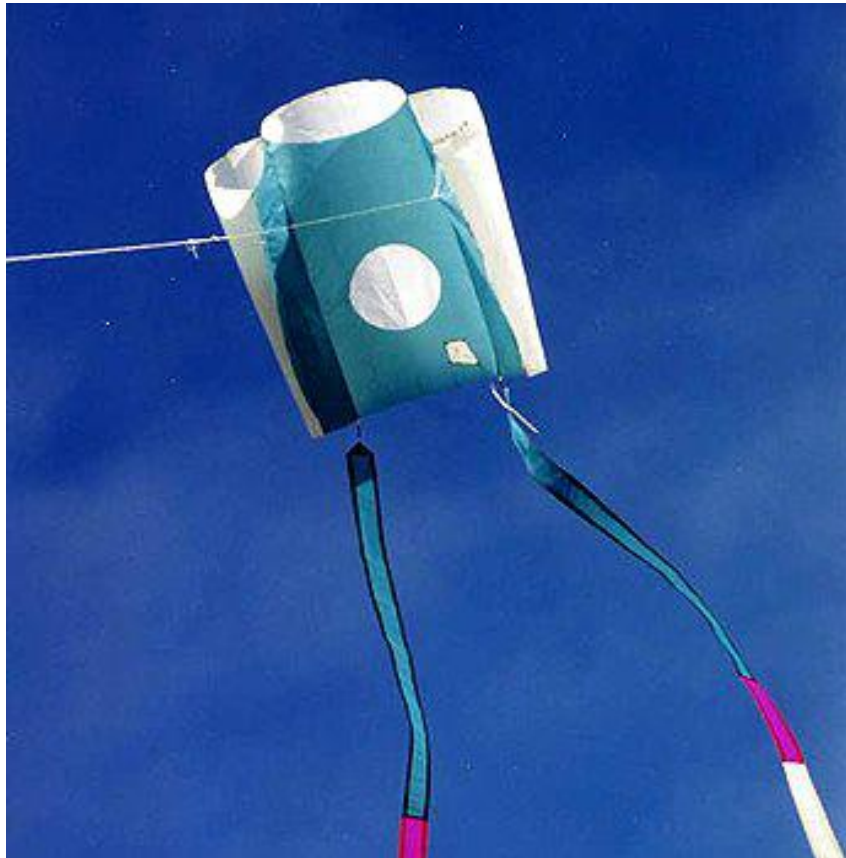
4 Hour

Level: Beginning

Class Size: 10

Fee: Windsock \$15; Kite \$20

Bring: Sewing machine and notions, pencil, ruler.



Ohashi Edo Kite (12)

Rob Pratt

Lacey, Washington

Rob will teach a variation to the Ohashi style of Edo to allow a wider range of winds and easier handling of the kite and bridles. The Edo will provide the student a kite that is scalable, easy to fly and a great platform for graphic design that will be completed prior to class.

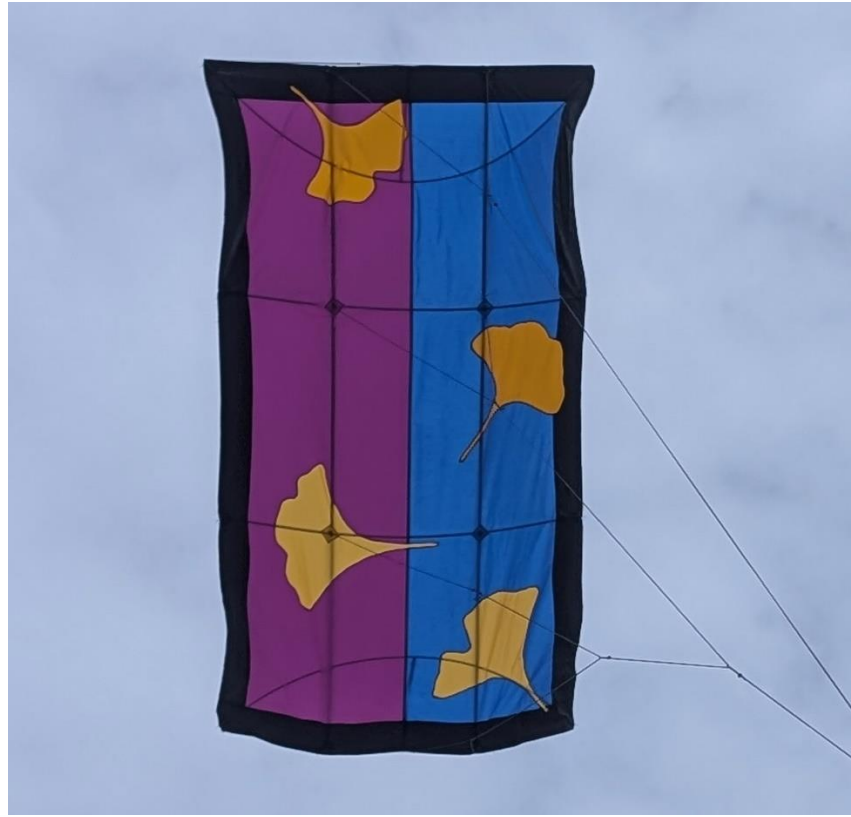
8 Hour

Level: All

Class Size: 12

Fee: \$90

Bring: Sewing machine and notions.



Suspended Wing Delta Kite

Jon Trennepohl (13)

Plymouth, Michigan

Jon is returning to present his Ultralight Suspended Wing Delta. Students will learn to tape and fit panels together, use different types of stitches and learn about framing. The kit will feature an all-wrapped carbon frame and Icarex cloth. The kite has been proven to be an great flyer.

12 Hour

Level: Intermediate

Class Size: 12

Fee: \$125

Bring: Sewing machine and notions

Note: Extra kits will be available for purchase.



Kitemakers Roundtable

Rob Pratt

(14)

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.