

FLIGHT PERFECTED

Amazing week of kiting in Long Beach

Photos and story
By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group



LONG BEACH, Wash. — The Washington State International Kite Festival drew thousands of kite-lovers and spectators during a sunny week at the beach.

The annual weeklong event featured kites of all sizes and types, ranging from tiny indoor-models to dancing stunt-kites, to gigantic outdoor models that required multiple handlers.

Visitors had the opportunity to build their own kites, witness “rokkaku” — kite battles, and enjoy a Friday night display of lighted, dancing kites and fireworks.

Though the weather was fantastic for most of the week, Saturday’s heavy, erratic winds proved challenging at times, even for lovers of a hobby that depends on winds. During the annual “Parade of Colors,” participants had to work extra hard to wrangle their tall banners as they waved their kites in formation.

That didn’t stop thousands of spectators from lining the beach boardwalk to enjoy the show.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Participants in the annual Saturday kite parade battled strong winds. Two-year-old Hanyl X of Seattle tiptoed through a field of tethered beach ball-shaped kites that bounced and rolled in Saturday’s strong winds. Even after participants put their kites away, the beach was full of flying objects. A visiting family had fun feeding the seagulls on Friday evening.

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Missing: Oscar is an about 10lb, short haired orange tabby without collar or tag. Very sweet. Disappeared from east Astoria. You can contact me with any info at (503)468-9410.

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