



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEATTLE CHERRY BLOSSOM AND JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL HOLDS "WORLD'S SMALLEST KITE CONTEST"!

(Seattle) – Kite-makers from across the country and around the globe will compete in the World's Smallest Kite Contest, to be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, in the Center Pavilion of the Seattle Center during the 23rd annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival.

Using a micrometer, judges will determine the smallest kite by measuring each kite by its longest diagonal. A tabletop wind tunnel will be used to test each kite's capacity for stable flight. The winning entry will be submitted to the Guinness World Book of Records by the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival and the winning kite-maker will receive the world's smallest trophy.

"The challenge in designing and constructing a small kite is that there is no margin for error," said Ali Fujino, administrator for The Drachen Foundation. "It's complicated because you have less surface area to work with, you have to work with very lightweight materials, and you have to have incredible eye-hand coordination to work on such a small scale."

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Skilled small kite-makers usually create kites measuring 2 to 6 inches at the diagonal. Although they are all capable of flight, they are also often crafted as one-of-a-kind works of art that are highly prized by serious collectors.

For the purposes of this competition, Fujino expects small kite-makers to go beyond the standard 2 to 6 inches. “We’ll probably see kites measuring 1 inch or less,” said Fujino. “There is an intense but friendly rivalry between kite-makers who specialize in these small-scale kites. To test this, there is a Dutch kite-maker who has made a sparless paper kite that is about a centimeter at the diagonal.”

The requirements for entry are simple: the kite must have an attached bridle and a supply of flying line, the flying line cannot exceed 25 times the length of the kite’s longest diagonal, the kite must be able to sustain stable flight with an angle of flight of at least 10 to 15 degrees, and if the kite has a tail, the tail cannot exceed 10 times the length of the kite’s longest diagonal.

Those interested in entering the contest must register with The Drachen Foundation (206-282-4349) by April 10th and kites must be received by The Drachen Foundation by April 13th.

The Drachen Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the knowledge about, and appreciation of, kite history, science and culture.

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**SEATTLE CHERRY BLOSSOM AND JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES WINNERS IN "WORLD'S SMALLEST KITE" CONTEST!**

Seattle – The Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival today announced the winners in the first annual "World's Smallest Kite" contest. First-, second-, and third-place winners were chosen and special awards recognized exceptional group entries, best-flying kite and best three-dimensional kite.

Sponsored by the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival and in cooperation with The Drachen Foundation, the contest drew entries from around the world. Kite-makers from Canada, the United States, the Netherlands and Japan competed for recognition as the maker of the smallest flyable kite.

Entries were judged by size (kites were measured by micrometer at the kite's longest diagonal) and by ability to fly (kites had to sustain at least an angle of 15% when flown). Entries were judged by Yutaka Sasaki, Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival; Scott Skinner, The Drachen Foundation; Jim Day, local kite-maker and kite photographer; Jim Murosako, kite-maker and mechanical engineer with Nova Tech, Inc.; and Wes Glanz, aerospace engineer with Nova Tech, Inc.

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Smallest Kite – add one

“It takes amazing technical and artistic skill to craft kites this small. There is no margin for error when working with such a small surface area and with such delicate materials,” said Scott Skinner, president of the board of directors for The Drachen Foundation. “When we were invited by the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival to coordinate the entries and judging, we knew it would be an incredible opportunity to showcase the marvelous craftsmanship of small kite-makers around the globe.”

The Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival will submit the winning entries to the Guinness World Book of Records to see if the publishers will create a new category for the world’s smallest kite. The winners are:

- 1st Place: Nobuhiko Yoshizumi of Japan
10 mm x 8 mm Sode Kite
- 2nd Place: Harm van Veen of the Netherlands
13 mm x 11 mm Eddy Kite
- 3rd Place: Dan Proebstel of the United States
10 mm x 10 mm Eddy Kite

Special recognition goes to:

- Best Flying Kite: Harm van Veen of the Netherlands
- Best Three-Dimensional Kite: Bas Vreeswijk of the Netherlands
- Best Group of Small Kites: Kyoto Kite Club

The Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival has been bringing the arts, crafts and history of Japan to residents of the greater Seattle area for 23 years.

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Smallest Kite – add two

The Drachen Foundation is a nonprofit kite archives, science and culture organization dedicated to preserving the history of and promoting interest in kites and kite-making.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Color photographs of the winning kites are available upon request by calling Claire Wilkinson at 206-282-4349 or by sending e-mail to claire@drachen.org.