Professor Kite's Helpful Hints

(and a few common-sense safety rules)

- Always fly kites away from airports, away from power lines, and never over roads.
- ➤ Always avoid flying in the rain or in storms. Electricity in clouds is attracted to damp kite lines and foolish kitefliers.
- ➤ Avoid kite-eating trees.
- Remember to be considerate of others.
- ➤ If you tangle lines with another kite, don't yank on the line or it might break. Fliers should walk together and the tangle will slide right down the line to where you can unwrap it.
- As a kiteflier, you are responsible to think about safety.



Professor Kite says:

"Never be a danger to yourself or others. Slow down, take it easy, and enjoy!"

- ➤ If you think you're getting good, offer to help a friend. Flying is fun ... pass it on!
- Many wonderful people just like you enjoy the pleasures and fellowship to be found at the end of a kite line. Sharing seems to make the fun even greater.

See you in the sky!

Professor Kite and the Secret of Kites
By Corey Jensen
Illustrated by Glen Ciccarelli
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* Dues are subject to change without notice.

Join the American Kitefliers Association

Benefits include:

- > 10% discount at finer kite stores everywhere.
- Subscription to *Kiting*, the AKA's quarterly magazine, with Event Schedules, kite plans, stories, pictures, club news, and much more.
- Many kite events
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Membership:

- ➤ Basic Membership is \$40* per year
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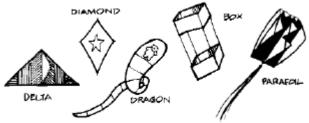
Professor Kite & the Secret of Kites courtesy of:



KITE FLYING IS FUN and it's easy if you know some of Professor Kite's secrets. So grab your kite and join in the fun. The sky is big enough for everyone!

PICK A KITE: There are many different kinds. Kitefliers carry different types of kites for different winds. Kitefliers enjoy the different experiences each type offers.

ASSEMBLE your kite correctly or it may not fly.



Delta, *Diamond* and *Dragon* kites fly well in light to medium winds (about 6–15 mph) while Box Kites and stickless Parafoil kites fly better when the wind gets a little stronger (approximately 8–25 mph).

Professor Kite's General Rules for Picking Kite Days:

Because we don't control the wind, we learn to watch for the right kite flying conditions.

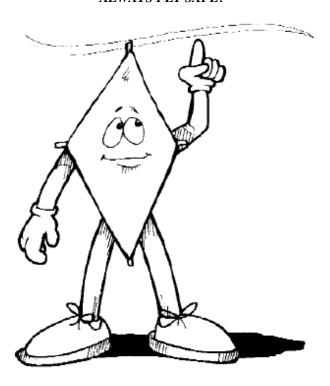
WIND that is too strong or too light is difficult to fly in. A flag or windsock is handy to help you see the wind. About 5-25 mph is best for most kites (when leaves and bushes start to move, but before it really starts to blow).

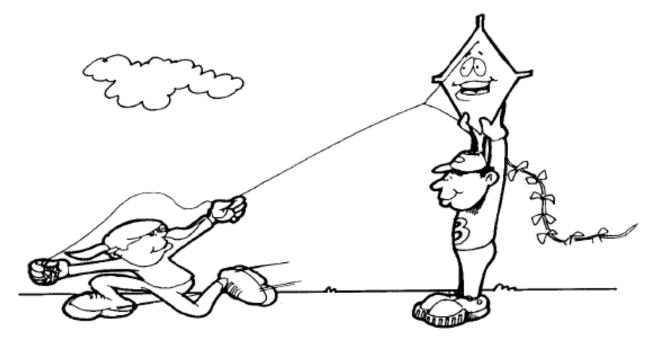
OBSTACLES: As the wind goes over and around trees and buildings, it gets bumpy and difficult to fly kites in.

FLYING is most fun when the wind is medium so you can do more than just hold on. You can make your kite dance across the sky by pulling in and letting out the line.

FLYING SPACE should be a clear, open area. Stay away from roads, power lines or airports. Open fields, parks and beaches are great for flying kites. The more room you have, the more line you can let out.

ALWAYS FLY SAFE!





ACROBATIC SPORT KITES

THE SAFEST START: Lay out your kite and lines completely before you launch. Check all connectors, unsnarl and straighten lines and tails.

CHECK THE BRIDLES: Be sure they are adjusted correctly for the present conditions.

ENOUGH LINE? Use at least 60' – 100' so you have enough time to react. Be sure your flying lines are even. If one line is shorter, your kite will think you're pulling that line and spin in that direction.

TO LAUNCH: Step backwards and pull both handles to your side. Be sure to check behind you for obstructions or hazards before backing up.

CONTROL: Pull the left line to make the kite turn left. Pull the right to turn right. Hold them even to fly straight. Try not to over-control. Learn to "fly loops" instead of just spinning circles.

LIFT AND SPEED: The more to the side of the wind the kite flies, the less lift and speed it has. While learning to fly, keep the kite downwind. As you get better, explore more subtle levels of performance.

SAFETY: Always stay away from spectators or passers-by. Sport kites should never be flown in crowded areas. You are responsible for the safe operation of your kite.

SINGLE-LINE KITES

STAND WITH YOUR BACK TO THE WIND.

Hold your kite up by the bridle point and let the line out. If there is sufficient wind, your kite will go right up. Let the kite fly away from you a little, then pull in on the line as the kite points up so it will climb. Repeat this until your kite gains the altitude necessary for steady wind.

LIGHT WIND? Have a helper take the kite 50 feet downwind and hold it up. On command, the helper releases the kite and the flier pulls the line hand-overhand while the kite gains altitude. Practice this long-launch technique.

NO HELPER? Prop the kite up against a bush, post, or wall. Reel out enough line for altitude and simply pull the kite aloft.

IF THE KITE SINKS TAIL FIRST, there might not be enough wind. If it comes down head first or spins, there might be too much wind. Different kites fly in different wind ranges.

BRIDLES: If your kite has an adjustable bridle, move it higher (nearer the top) in higher winds, and lower (toward the tail) in lower winds. (Adjust no more than 1/2" at a time.)

TAILS: Adding tails to your kite helps it remain stable in stronger wind. Use lightweight materials. Lots of tails look great!