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.

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 un-wrap it.

If you think you're getting good, offer to help a friend. Flying is fun ... pass it on!

As a kiteflier, you are responsible to think about safety and what you are doing.

Would you like to get more involved in kiting?

Join the American Kitefliers Association.

Benefits include:

- A 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.
- ➤ Invitation to the AKA National Convention.

Basic Membership is \$40* per year.

American Kitefliers Association P.O. Box 1614 Walla Walla, WA 99362

Send your check to the above address or charge your membership with VISA or MASTERCARD on-line at http://www.aka.kite.org/

> Call us at (509) 529-9171 E-mail us at aka@aka.kite.org

Professor Kite says:

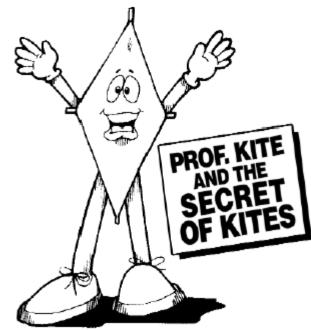
"Never be a danger to yourself or others. Slow down, take it easy, and enjoy!"

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.

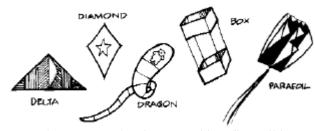
Professor Kite & The Secret of Kites courtesy of:



KITE FLYING is great 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!

THE FIRST THING you need to do is pick a kite. There are many different kinds. Fliers carry different types of kites for different winds. Kitefliers enjoy the different experiences each type offers.

BE SURE your kite is put together 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).

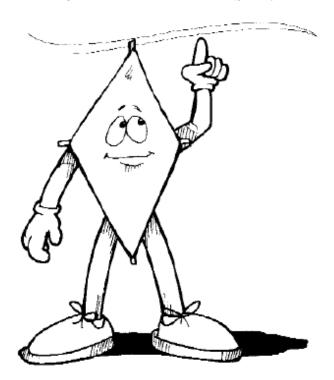
FLYING is most fun when the wind is medium so you can do more than just hold on. You can make your kite dance across the sky by pulling in and letting out the line.

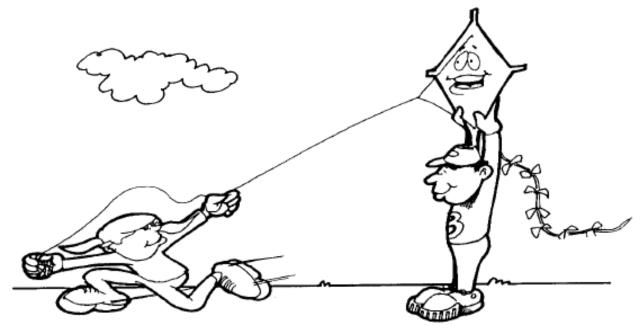
FLYING SPACE should be a clear, open area. Stay away from roads, power lines or airports. Open fields, parks and beaches are great for flying kites. The more room you have, the more line you can let out.

REMEMBER that as the wind goes over and around trees and buildings, it gets bumpy and difficult to fly kites in. Watch out for kite-eating trees!

NO STORMS: Never fly in rain or lightning. Electricity in clouds is attracted to damp kite lines and foolish kitefliers.

DON'T EXPERIMENT — 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 passersby. 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 to find a good steady wind.

LIGHT WIND? Have a helper take the kite 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 HIGH-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 winds.

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 light-weight materials so you can use lots! LOOKS GREAT!