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and learned from.

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The laws of physics apply to all kites; only the relative strength of forces, masses, and design -- both aerodynamic and structural -- vary from kite to kite. Because it is rare for any two kites or kiteflyers to behave alike, exceptions exist to all general observations, instructions and guidelines in this or any other book on kite flying.

Cascade Kites makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the information contained herein and assumes no liability for actions which may result from proper or improper use of maneuverable kites.

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# Introduction

This is a book about flying stunt kites.

We don't talk about kite history or how to make kites. What we've done is try to produce the "Complete Flying Manual".

There are now hundreds of different and distinct stunt kites being manufactured and distributed. Regional and national events attracting thousands of spectators are held around the country and around the world.

Whether you're a new pilot or an experienced competitor, we've tried to compile the basic or technical information you're looking for along with specialized tips to improve performance. We've also worked to update the text each year with new techniques or developments.

Within these pages, you'll find comments and contributions by some of the best flyers in the world.

- In Chapter One, we explain how the wind affects kite flying and how to pick a flying site.
- In Chapters Two thru Four, we provide basic instructions for the new flyer.
- Chapter Five is an overview of tuning - one of the most confusing and least understood aspects of kite performance.
- Chapter Seven explains all about the different types of flylines and how to take care of them.
- Chapter Eight covers exotic, new, or different techniques - everything from "power flying" to flying backwards through a dog stake.
- Finally, in Chapter Nine, we present information on stunt kite contests with specific tips on how to improve your scores.

The most important thing is that we want to promote safe and responsible flying.

Stunt kites and stunt kiting are evolving on a daily basis. That's one reason we have not addressed specific brands or models in our text. Instead we discuss three broad categories of stunters -- the Delta or Swept-Wing (known as California Style Stunters by almost everyone except Californians), Diamond Wings, and the inflatable stunters which we call Foils.

Before the ink is dry on this page, new kite designs, materials and applications will become available and then commonplace as our infant sport grows and hurries forward into maturity.

I hope and trust that the information contained here will be useful to you who represent Stunt Kiting's future.

But enough of the mushy stuff ... Put this manual in your kite bag and get out to the flying field!

Good Winds!

David Gomberg  
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