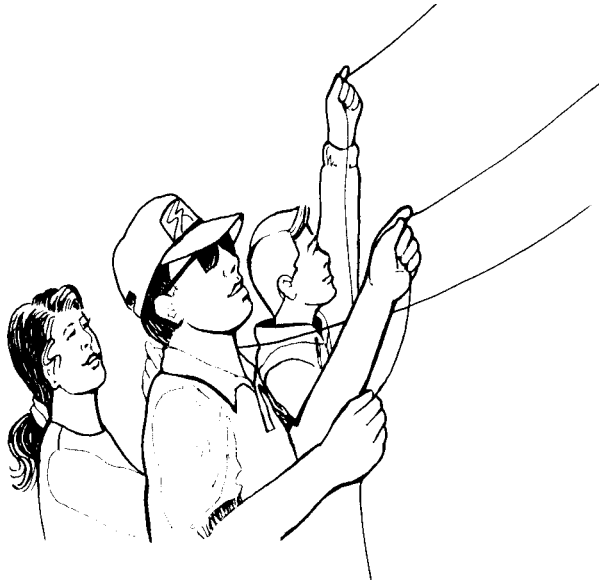


The Fighter Kite Book!



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Thanks again to those who have offered
comments and contributions to this effort:

Dinesh Bahadur - Come Fight a Kite
Alfred Chang - Hawaii Kite Fighters Association
Carl Crowell - Factor Kites
Pierre Fabre - Paris, France
Simon Freidin - Melbourne, Australia
Mel Govig - KiteLines Magazine
Philippe Gallot - Fighter Kites
Jim Glass - Into the Wind
Victor Heredia - Kite Country/Vic's Fighter Kites
Bruce Jarvie - AKA Fighter Kite Committee
Rick Kinnaird - Maryland Kite Society
Bud Koger - Bellevue, Washington
Martyn Lawrence - Merlin Kites
Brooks Leffler - American Kitefliers Association
Martin Lester - Martin Lester Kites
Robert Loera - Kite Fantasy
Ric Merry - Fighter Kite News
Seiko Nakamura - Nagasaki Kite Society
Takeshi Nishibayashi - Japan Kite Association
Makoto Ohashi - Japan Kite Association
David Pelham - Penguin Book of Kites
Joel Scholz - Sky Delight Kites
Kevin Shannon - Carlisle Kite Works
Ron Spaulding - Thai Kite Heritage Group
Stan Swanson - Condor Kites
Lee Toy - Scottsdale, Arizona
Joe Vaughan - Grandmaster Kites

and the hundreds of other flyers
that I have talked to,
flown with,
and learned from.

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Introduction

When I mentioned to a long-time fighter flier that I was working on a book about single-line maneuverables, he laughed out loud. "You've got some brass!" he said. And of course, he was right.

Anyone even contemplating a book on fighters is confronting an ominous task. For one thing, the subject is technically broad and complex. There are hundreds of types of kites, steeped in thousands of years of culture and history. As one of my flying friends has said, a small diamond fighter is deceptively simple in appearance - yet embodied in this modest form made from two sticks and a cover, is the whole essence and spirit of kites.

To make matters worse, fighter fliers are an ominous bunch as well. They are drawn together by a distinctly satisfying pastime which sets them apart even from other kites. Some would prefer that I not share their unique secrets. You can try and teach the fundamentals, they say, but people will only understand the "soul" of fighters by regularly flying one themselves.

Others were anxious to help and to see the sport grow. The strength of this new book is, I believe, the unselfish contributions of some of the best fliers from around the country and around the world. My goal was to produce the "complete flying manual for single-line maneuverable kites".

- In Chapter One, we introduce you to the contemporary fighter and cover briefly — too briefly — the colorful history of fighter flying.
- Chapter Two provides basic instructions for launching, flying, and line handling.
- Chapters Three and Four explain the principles of aerodynamics and weather which effect kite flight.
- Chapter Five is an overview of tuning - one of the most confusing and least understood aspects of kite performance.
- In Chapter Six, we present one basic construction plan to start you making your own fighter.
- In Chapter Seven, we attempt to unravel the mysteries of flying line.
- Finally, in Chapters Eight and Nine, we discuss fighter contests with a particular emphasis on Rokkaku flying. We also talk about tactics and strategy.

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

Obviously, this isn't a fancy coffee-table book filled with stunning photos of kites and kite fliers. We don't apologize for that. It's a book on how to fly kites. It's a book we hope you'll scribble notes in or put in your kite bag and take to the flying field.

Somewhere between its pages, maybe you too will discover the "soul" of fighter flying.

Good Winds!

David Gomberg
March, 1992