

## Conclusion

Susie and I have just returned from the beach. It was one of those glorious afternoons on the Oregon Coast - clear skies, light breezes, and waves crashing hard on the rocks. Just off shore, the first whales of the season were passing on their annual spring migration from California to Alaska.

Turbulence from the cliffs kept most kites on the ground, but my fighter flew like it was born in the sky. Sharp turns, fast ground passes, long straight dives to within inches of the ground. I was in heaven - or at least connected to it by my line.

Finally, a helpful spectator, one of those people whose kite couldn't seem to fly in the bumpy winds, came over to give me some advice. "Maybe if you put a tail on it," he said, "it would fly better".

I just smiled...

Back at the beginning of this book, I said that fighters can do things no other kite can. Perhaps I should have added that they can make you feel the way no other kite can. I hope that I have been able to communicate the sense of joy and wonder that these kites offer. Sometimes, it's hard to explain to people until until they see a grown man or woman out there on the flying field with that uniquely silly grin on their face.

If through this manual, you've learned to fly safer, or better, or skipped over a few of the problems that you might have otherwise encountered, then I've accomplished my goal.

All I ask in return is that you pass your experience along to the next flier you meet.

The sensation of flying kites is not the only reward that this pastime has brought Susie and I. We've also been privileged to meet new and warm friends all around the globe. Occasionally, we are flattered when the winner of an event turns to us and says, "I learned to fly by reading your book." Other times, the introduction is a bit more of a reality check - like when people come up to us and say, "You must be the Gombergs. We recognized the dog from the cover!"

Either way, please make a point of saying hello if our lines ever cross.

# References

## Fighter Kites:

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Dineesh Bahadur, Come Fight a Kite (New York: Harvey House, 1978) 56pp. Out of print but still available in many retail stores. Good overview of flying and fighting.

Dineesh Bahadur, "Legend and Fact of Kite Fighting" Kite Tales Magazine (Summer 1975, pages 30-32).

Philippe Gallot, Fighter Kites - 29 Original Designs to Make and Fly (New York, St Martin's Press, 1989) 96 pp. Good variety of kite designs and information on construction.

Mel Govig, "Fighter Kites - How to Pick and Wield Your Weapon", KiteLines Magazine (First Quarter, 1982, pages 38-41). Excellent overview of flying tips and techniques.

Into the Wind, Inc. "Flying Times" (Summer 1991). Information newsletter and Mail Order catalog with focus on fighters.

George Peters, "Kites over Ahmedabad" KiteLines Magazine (Summer, 1989, pages 42-45). Colorful description of large-scale Indian festival.

Will Yolen, Complete Book of Kites and Kite Flying 256pp.(1976). Out of print.

## Rokkaku Making and Fighting:

KiteLines Magazine, The Compleat Rokkaku Kite Chronicles and Training Manual, (Randallstown MD, Aeolus Press, 1991) 20 pp. A wonderful collection of articles previously published on Rokkakus in KiteLines.

Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig, Making and Flying Kites (English translation, Secaucus, NJ, Castle, 1989) pp 43-45. Well detailed drawings and instructions.

Tal Streeter, The Art of the Japanese Kite (New York, Weatherhill, 1974) 181 pp. Descriptions of Japanese kite festivals, kite makers, and kite traditions. No plans.

## Kitemaking and Construction:

Margaret Greger, Kites for Everyone (Richland, WA, M Greger, 1986) 136 pp. Excellent collection of kite plans and tips.

Carol Thomas, Kite Crazy (Toronto, Ontario Canada, SOMA Film and Video, 1991) 176 pp. Based on a Canadian video series. Includes plans and instructions for the Kiskadee Fighter and a medium sized Tyvek Rokkaku.

Leland Toy, Flight Patterns (Scottsdale, AZ, Sky High Press, 1984) 60 pp. From a television kitemaking series. Good basic plans for eight kites including a Mylar fighter.