

Safety Guidelines for Buggy Pilots

When practiced in a responsible manner, traction kiting is a safe and enjoyable sport. If practiced recklessly, like most things, traction kiting can be a dangerous activity to participants and bystanders. As of now, traction kiting is relatively unregulated and allowed in most public places with few restrictions. In order to keep it this way, we encourage the practice of safe, responsible traction kiting, placing participants and bystanders at minimal risk.

General Safety

These guidelines should be followed when participating in any form of traction kiting:

- **Keep clear of people or animals.** Do not fly your kite over people. Remember that taut lines can cut skin quite easily. Keep this in mind when flying around people or animals.
- **Do not fly beyond your ability.** Know your limits and do not attempt winds, speeds, or tricks that you are not prepared for. Ask an experienced pilot for assistance in these situations. Do not attempt to traction kite until you have mastered controlling your kite.
- **Do not traction kite alone.** It is best to have a partner when traction kiting, just in case you are hurt.
- **Stay clear of other vehicles.** Drivers don't always know what you are going to do next. Give them room to get around you.
- **Stay clear of overhead wires.** High voltage power lines can really ruin your day and your kite. Remember you may have to let go of the kite.
- **Do not attach yourself to the kite.** Use a harness system with an open hook or roller.
- **Be sure to have a safe downwind recovery area.** If you need to release your kite in an emergency so the kite won't get tangled.
- **Keep fit.** Fit people have fewer injuries.
- **Avoid other kite lines.** Running into other kite lines can damage not only your lines, but also other lines and kites.
- **Learn in light to medium steady winds.** Steady winds provide predictable conditions when learning.
- **Avoid gusty and variable winds.** These conditions are counter-productive when starting out and can be frustrating.
- **Avoid areas with obstacles.** It is helpful when the area you traction kite in is clear of ditches, logs, and other obstacles. Always check to make sure the area you plan to traction kite in is clear of hidden obstacles.
- **Avoid certain areas.** There should be no bugging in the stage-in or camp area, except to park your buggy and kite.
- **Use caution around spectators or innocent bystanders.** Approach them with caution and give them the right of way, since they are unaware of the actions of buggiers.
- **Use caution loaning your equipment.** Avoid letting others use your traction equipment unless you are absolutely sure of their ability to use it in a safe and respectful manner.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Always know your surroundings when bugging, in order to avoid damage to your equipment or injury to yourself or others.
- **Safety is important.** Teach other traction kites the importance of safety through your actions, as well as words.

Personal Safety

- **Wear safety equipment.** A minimum of helmet, boots, long trousers and jacket can prevent injuries. In some situations elbow and kneepads are a must; consider using them.
- **Long hair or loose clothing can be disastrous.** Tie hair in a ponytail and wear close fitting clothing.
- **On the beach, be prepared to get wet.** Wet suits keep you warm even when you are wet. Rain gear or dry suits can prevent you from getting wet.
- **Check your buggy.** Frequently check for structural integrity, loose bolts, wheels, etc.

Group Safety

- **When two buggies meet head-on** they should both bear to the right in order to leave sufficient space between them.
- **When two buggies are coming from different directions,** the one coming from the right has the right of way
- **When crossing, overtaking or passing,** the upwind buggy pilot should raise his/her kite, and the downwind buggy pilot should lower his/her kite. The overtaking buggy should show consideration to the overtaken.
- **The turning pilot** should look to the other buggy pilots and shout “Gybe” or “Tack” so that the other buggy pilots know he/she is about to turn.

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1. LET US KNOW WHO YOU ARE

Name _____

Spouse _____

Other Family Members _____

Address _____

—

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Web Page URL _____

New Membership

Renewal

Reinstatement

Address Change

Adding an Additional Member

2. CHOOSE THE RIGHT PACKAGE FOR YOU

<u>Membership Packages</u>	<u>1 yr</u>	<u>2yr</u>	<u>3yr</u>	<u>Amount</u>
U.S. BASIC via 3rd Class Mail	30	58	86	_____
U.S. EXTRA via 1st Class Mail	38	73	108	_____
CANADNMEXICO	38	73	108	_____
OVERSEAS via Surface Mail	40	77	114	_____
OVERSEAS via Air Mail	55	106	156	_____
SPONSOR via 1st Class or Air	100	200	300	_____
<small>(includes tax-deductible donation in the U.S.)</small>				
Each Added Family Member	4	8	12	_____

Total Remittance _____

U.S. DOLLARS . SORRY, NO CANADIAN CHEQUES

If paying by Credit Card:

Card # _____ Exp _____

Signature _____ Date _____

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- List me as a Member Merchant.
- DO NOT list me in the Directory.
- DO NOT distribute my name outside AKA.
- I would be interested in being an AKA volunteer.

My primary interest is:

- Building Kites indoor all kites
- Single Line Kites Fighter Kites Sport Kites
- Traction Kiting Kite Aerial Photos

Birthday (optional) _____ Occupation _____

Other hobbies/interests _____

My local club is _____

I was referred to the AKA by _____

Today's date _____