



**RESPECT
THE
CRAFT**

WEIDER

BY SCOTT WEIDER



**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING THIS
WORKSHOP PUT ON BY
SCOTT WEIDER
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY
WHAT YOU HAVE
LEARNED AND
DISCUSSED. IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
DON'T HESITATE TO
EMAIL US AT**

INFO@SPORTKITE.ORG

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INTRODUCTION

WHO IS SCOTT??

In the early 90's I learned about Kites and Cameras, It was a time in my life when I needed a change in my profession and hobby due to genetic flaw in my spine, I made my living doing all phases of home construction and I was an avid surfer. With my spinal issue, I realized I needed to have a change of lifestyle to better suit my painful condition. I traded my carpentry skills for lessons in the mechanical use of 35 mm film cameras at the same time I learned about controllable multiple line kites. Since then, with my camera, I have had the pleasure of winning many photojournalistic press awards, and with kites, I have won multiple national championships flying my kites to music. My career as a photojournalist has opened the world for me to report and learn things I would otherwise have not been subject to. And as a kite flyer I have had the opportunity to meet others with a common passion and to travel around the country and parts of the world that simply just would not have happened otherwise.

My mission with this web site is to open up my world as an artist and a human being.

Your comments are welcomed. Enjoy the ride!

<http://scottweider.com/>

HOW HARD YOU WORK

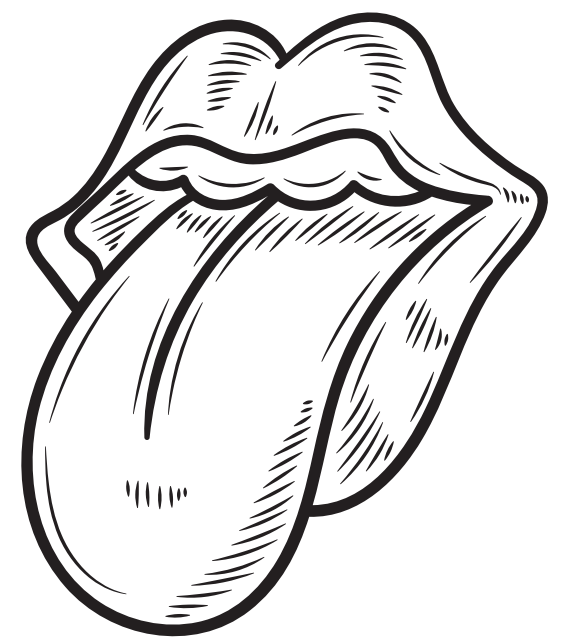
**“Flying Kites is like
having a bird listen to
your mind through your
practiced hands”**



You are the only one that can decide how hard you work at something, how much you allow outside interference, what distractions you permit, and where you focus your attention. You are also the only one that can determine the quality of the time that you do spend. Spending hours at something but only half heartedly giving it your attention will never get you as far as dedicating a few quality hours honoring the craft and refining your skill.

The Limiting Factor

Yah, you have a lot of things going on in life, a lot of demands, a lot of people gobbling up your attention. Work, school, friends, stress, health, etc... etc... It's all stuff that sucks up your time and energy. We all feel that pain. Throw in an interest in a hobby or sport, and man it feels like you are having to sacrifice one of those other things just so you can enjoy a little bit of time doing the thing that makes you happy. What if the thing that makes you happy, you aren't good at but you want to be, or what if all of a sudden you do have some skills and people are asking you to preform in front of a crowd.... EEP!



Now.... what if you have all the time in the world, what about your body and your health. Can your body handle standing on soft sand pounding back and forth for hours in the sun day after day? For myself, my body dictates a lot of what I do. It is the limiting factor when it comes to my priorities and where I spend my time.

What is your Limiting Factor?

Make the Most of Whatch'ya Got

So, we get it, life and even our own self gets in the way. We may not be able to give all of the time that we want to the thing we love, but we sure can get the most out of what time we do have.

Quality over Quantity

Yah, it's a cliché, but it's true. Lets get better use of the time and energy we do have.

- First, you need the right tools (Not just kites!!)
 - Spending hours with a tool that is holding you back, is time wasted. If you can get better gear... get it.
 - Your tools do not give you the excuse for your attitude or reaction
 - Take care of your tools. Don't forget to spend time doing maintenance, checking for broken rods, frayed bridles, stretched lines.
 - Try to pick the right tool for the environment. You may reach a skill level where you can use a tool outside of it's intended space, that comes with time and getting an intimate knowledge of the tool and your self.

Here is your reminder to be vulnerable. Go in to your flying session with an open mind and a light heart. If you were good yesterday, it doesn't mean you will be good today, the same goes with bad. Allow yourself to be open to what the time and environment is going to teach you. Don't wait for the perfect conditions, just get out there and do it.



Interference

Let's be real, we know what interference looks like, and how it creeps into our lives and drains our time and energy. Work is chugging along and you clock out and are spending time with the family and that nagging little voice pops in and worries about some deadline. Or you want to go to the beach and pop up a kite, but your friend calls and needs you to help them move. Ya, we see that, we know what that is. But what about the other kinds of interference, the ones we do to ourselves, the ones where we self-sabotage.

Do it.... Don't just talk about it. How many times have you sat around saying you were going to do this or that, but never did. Something else always got in the way. The wind wasn't right, the lines in your kite bag are too long, a spreader is broken. That's all little stuff, stop letting it get in the way, get it done.

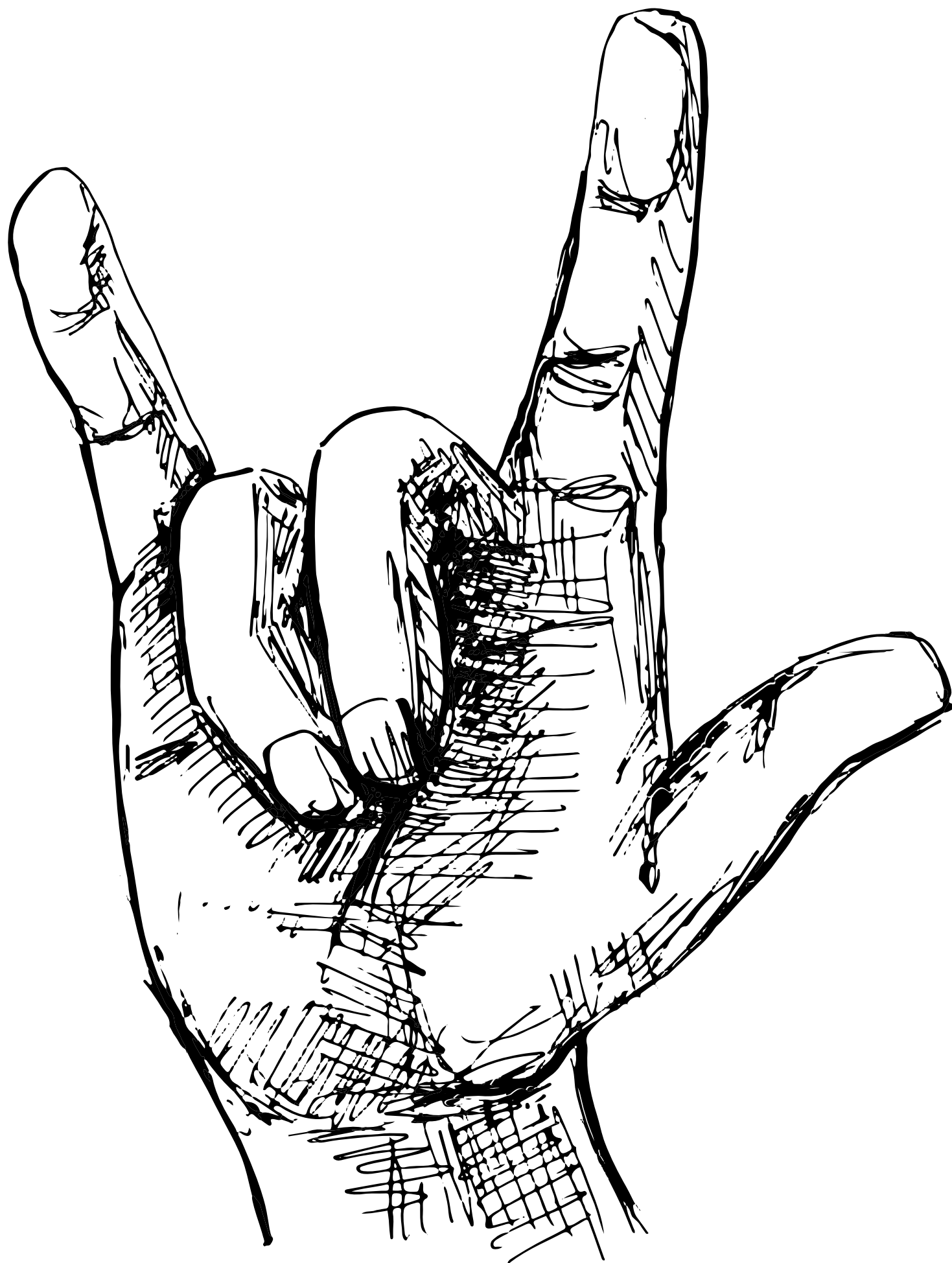
What is something you want to do with kites... RIGHT NOW

What is the last reason you used for not doing it RIGHT NOW?

Watch'ya Nervous bout?

Standing on the field, about to fly for a crowd of a few hundred random people, nerves kick up, heart starts racing, thoughts are a jumble, hand shake. Man, watch'ya nervous bout? Seriously, Why are you nervous? If you find you get nervous or have anxiety before flying, really dig deep and ask yourself why. Is it the conditions? Is it your gear? Is it a fear of failure?

Focus on what you can do, not what you might be able to do. Look around at your environment, accept where you are, and pick the best tools and moves for that job in that moment. Give your attention as deeply as you can to the things you have control over, you can't control the environment, the audience, etc... The only thing you can control is the process not the outcome.



BE A PRO

"Don't you know who I
think am?"

What is a Pro?

What do you have to do to be called a professional, let alone a professional kite flier? Is it when you get paid? Or is it when you perform in front of a big crowd? What about when you get invited by an event organizer, or when you step on the biggest stage in the world? You may have your own way of defining when a person steps over that threshold from amateur to professional, but here, in this space right now, being a professional is a mindset.

Amateur

- Let's life get in the way - excuses
- No schedules or deadlines
- Stop at the goal
- Believe they are good/great at what they do and don't need to learn
- Avoid struggle
- Focus on being right and doing it only their way

Professional

- Can identify reasons but not excuses
- sets personal schedules
- Sees the 'goal' as a step to the next one
- Open to learning, doesn't look down on others
- Embraces what is given to them and adapts

Judging Others

Alright lets talk about judging others. I am not talking about going out and passing judgment, I am talking about competition. Judges are those that help us see what we are doing through a different lens. **Respect 'em.** They are humans after all, and sometimes they may make a mistake, but you can learn more from them by coming with honey not vinegar. Let that anger go, and take their feedback. Cause guess what, you may be asked to be a judge.

So now the time comes, and you are asked to judge a competition. It used to be that we had training classes for this, but really it comes down to whether or not you feel a connection or a feeling from the flier. Not about

What about judging yourself? Get into that a bit later about how you can use it to an advantage, but for now... don't put yourself down when you judge yourself. Don't disrespect the player... or the judge.



It's Just a F'ing Tail!

Let's not take away from what it takes to be a technically proficient flier. All the hard tricks, all of the speed, all of the subtlety can win over a judge or an educated audience, but after all these years it's amazing what I can do with a Rev kite and a ribbon tail. All of this is summed up in one great word...
SIMPLICITY.

Work on all of the hard stuff, keep working on it, and when it's show time, how simple can you make it and still get the emotion and the skill across. That's the sign of a true pro.

Always an Audience

Approach every time you head out with the idea that you have an audience. Sometimes that audience is a thousand people standing on the beach waiting to see why you are standing center stage. Or maybe it is just 5 judges waiting for you to show off why you might deserve the trophy over someone else. What about when you go out to your favorite spot, all by yourself, and just do your thing. Do you think there is an audience there? Do the marked off fields, a stage, a sound system, dudes with clipboards and pens, and all of that other crap need to be there to have an audience? Nah, someone is always watching.

What folks are gonna remember is your attitude and what you brought to the field. They will forget about the mistakes, the slip ups, the crashes. Keep that in mind, and make that the standard that you approach EVERYTHING like a professional. This is truly what it means to respect the craft.



LEARNING & INFLUENCE

A close-up, low-angle shot of a man wearing a black helmet with blue decorative patterns and blue-tinted goggles. He is smiling and has a microphone attached to his helmet. The background is a large, colorful hot air balloon with yellow, orange, and red sections, set against a clear sky.

**"Who do you think I am? I
am nobody.... it's them
that make me who I am"**

I have flown all over the world, and with a bunch of great people and organizations, many of them not kite fliers. Each one of them have helped me respect my craft even more.

Journalism

For years I was a photo journalist. The man behind the camera just stepping into the space and asking the questions with a 'click' of the camera shutter. Doing this showed me how to get close with people, how you are never just the guy behind the tool, you are a personality, a human being. Without making a connection with someone, I couldn't get the most authentic photo of them. It's the same with kites. I can't hide behind my kite and pretend like who I am is not a part of the package. I have to connect with them THROUGH the kite, sell the whole performance.

Gymnasts and Artists

A few things I picked up along the way working with these folks that have stuck with me are the following:

- Take the best of what you have to work with
- Practice your craft, then exhibit your craft
- Address and respect the audience
- When the worst happens, be gracious, be thankful, don't be upset or angry
- Take what the environment gives you

Whether it was Cirque du Soliel, Cavalier, or Disney, the gymnasts and other artists that were performing alongside me had something in common. They did the best they could at that time, and shrugged off the mishaps and mistakes. They didn't have time or the mental space to sit and replay all of the failures. The sheer repetition of having to perform multiple times a day, day after day, didn't allow for the time to dwell on the negative. The next time you go out to do your thing and show your craft, it is a different audience, a different time, a different situation.

Heather Morrow

Heather was a life long friend, an artist to the bone, and an exceptional person. Many years and many hours spent together creating, flying, and honing our craft. While she was a great kite flier, she was truly an artist first. A passion for movement, and connection showed in not only her flying, but also her dancing.

One summer she invited me to an event in the woods, it wasn't going to be an easy place to perform. We walked around trying to find the right spot where we could perform and I thought I had found it. A great spot with enough space to move around, to fly my kite without crashing into things.

"Where will the audience be?" she asked.

My perfect spot, was only perfect for me... it was useless for the audience. We kept searching, and it became about how I could perform in the space that was best for the audience, not about what I could do as a flyer.

Self Reflection

I talked about judging yourself... and to not do so harshly. Keep that up, but take some time for some self reflection.

Honor where you are, what you are doing, and where you are going. You will always need to be in a growth mindset. I can't be walking around thinking I am the best that has ever been created and not think there is something, somewhere that I can learn. You have to always look at who you are and what you are doing, and if you can't figure out where to go... look at who is looking up to you, who is watching you.

Lastly... stay f'ing humble.

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