

# Though sometimes gone with the wind, kites can be relaxing



Marv Peterson walks down theline to launch the Strato Scoop 3. Peter Longway-Vince (insert) ready to release 12' Rainbow Spin Sock.



Marv Peterson checks the wind velocity before launching his kites.



Longway-Vince unwinds kite line while Peterson carries gear along the line in preparation for attaching kite, parachute, and wind sock to line before launching.

When someone tells Marv Peterson and Peter Longway-Vince to "go fly a kite," they'd better be prepared for the pair to take the advice to heart.

They have been flying kites as a hobby for more than two years and seem to be just getting started with their colorful hobby.

Their kites are not the average variety kids urge their folks to buy in the first windy days of spring.

Peterson's Strato Scoop 3 was made in England by the Greenlee family. It's approximately 30 sq. ft. made of nylon, and sewn with a pocket which inflates like an envelope and lifts off the ground on the same principal as an airplane wing. Scoops under the wing catch the wind and keep the it aloft. Peterson claims the kite has the ability to lift 10 pounds and has plans to attach flashlights to the tails in order to fly

it at night—his first attempt ended with a flashlight exploding on impact with the ground, so he is designing a different method of attaching the lights.

The process of launching a kite requires specific steps in a given order—"or the whole mess gets tangled together," said Longway-Vince. The 12' Rainbow Spin Sock attached on the same line is from the "Catch the Wind" franchise kite

shop in Lincoln City where the pair purchase much of their paraphernalia.

They use 475 lb. test nylon braided line now to launch the larger kites because they were breaking 250 lb. test line. An exception is the 150 ft.-200 lb. test Kevlar line used for the dual control stunt kites because it is exceptionally strong for its small diameter. When winds are as strong as last Thursday night, they fly no more than nine stunt kites on a train, but have put as many as 16 kites on the train. The kites each have a 40 ft. tail and the train takes off in strong wind at speeds up to 40 mph.

Each has a train of stunt kites and when they put on "shows" (the pair seem to enjoy an audience gullible enough to "believe" in their stories and goals.) They make up routines (and sometimes terminology) as they go along, inside loops and dives, a hammerhead, sometimes standing next to each other and mimicking the other's routine.

"Once when were flying at the Heppner dam site before it was finished, I flew my kites right into Marv's. I thought he never was going to forgive me for that one," said Longway-Vince. "We've had our share of 'freak accidents,' and many times spend as much time chasing kites as we do flying them."

"A favorite thing to do is stand at the edge of the butte and actually fly the kites below my feet," Longway-Vince continued. "You don't lose the power of the wind that way, but it does strange things and sometimes you ditch."

The larger kites are anchored to their pickups and to the kite line by swivels which look suspiciously like fishing gear. Sailing gloves protect their hands from the pull on the kite line and to be able to hear each other above the howling wind, they wear voice activated FM transceivers.

A Delta kite 16 feet across is held with a frame of fiberglass poles. It flew at the end of 400 feet of line with a wind spinner and a spinner looking like a miniature parachute.

Kite flying can be as expensive a hobby as you want it to be, Peterson said. His Strato Scoop 3 cost close to \$100.

It's just a fun thing to do, Longway-Vince concluded. No matter what you're worried about or doing before you come up here, once on the buttes, the view, the wind, the kites, the exercise command all your attention, and put the day in perspective.

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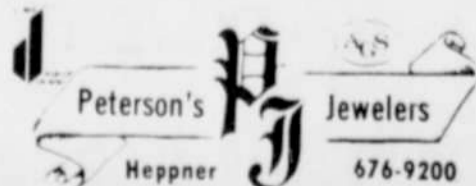
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