

NEWS FROM THE SKY

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Stay in Touch with the SKY.



Happy New Year 2012

from the whole Sky team. Let your dreams come true!

Rapid Descent Techniques and Best practices for SKY gliders

ALAIN ZOLLER INTERVIEWED FOR THE BEST PRACTICE PROCEDURES

Big ears, spirals, "asymmetric" ears, B-Stall, drag chute. There are many popular ways and each of us like to descent fast differently. But which one is the most efficient one? What are the best practices? Is there any risk for your wing? How about G Force? We interviewed Alain Zoller to get his point of view.

Alain Zoller

Alain Zoller is an AIR TURQUOISE test pilot and manager since 1990 and he test-flights all the gliders according to EN and LTF certifications procedures. He is one of those who tested already according to AFNOR standards almost 10 years ago and there is probably no one on the planet with his experience and knowledge.

Alain Zoller's first advice is that we first have to consider and remember that we fly at a very low speed and due to that we should not fly in too strong conditions and we always have to consider the local weather and also the regional forecast and, last but not least, cloud evolution during your flight.

Alain says: "If you don't really understand why you are climbing, the first reaction should be to escape, full speed and back wind and find a place where it's not climbing any more, over the lake, middle of the valley..." Only then it is the time to consider other techniques.

Spiral

Let us listen to Alain again: "It's impossible to hold the spiral long due to centrifugal forces and the G effect. It could be dangerous for not-trained pilots who could experience a black out due to the G effect. Definitely, it's not the right way."

Big Ears

Alain' recipe is simple: "Grab two external A lines, on one side and after that on the opposite side. Hold them strong and start a spiral by weight-shifting in your harness.

On the plus side, you might find important that you descent efficiently, almost up to 15 m/s.

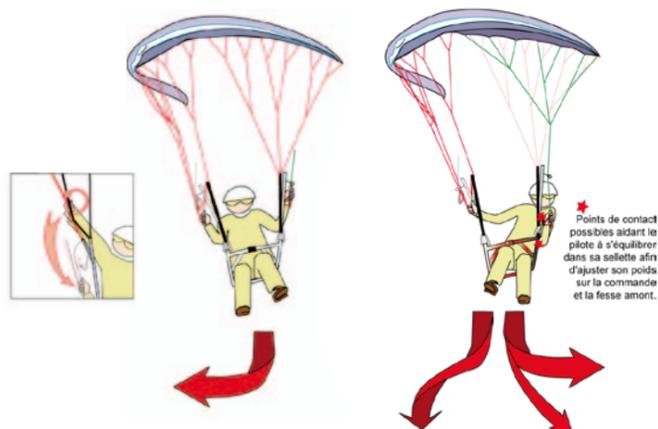
On the minus side, it is difficult to hold the big ears in rough air and during the rotation because the speed will progressively increase the air pressure. Also you should note that you lose the control of the glider with your brakes."

Asymmetric collapse

Alain's personal recommendation would be like this: "You can collapse 50 % of your glider by pulling A riser and start rotating the opposite side of the collapse.

- On the plus side:
 - + centrifugal force and G effect are not too strong
 - + it is efficient (15 m/s)
 - + you can easily control your glider

On the minus side, one should note that it could be difficult to make it with high aspect ratio gliders (the risk of a cravat)."



Asymmetrical big ears

Same than Asymmetrical collapse but less efficient.

B Stall

"Not the right method as it is difficult to hold, there is a high risk of a "shrimp or front horse shoe configuration" and it is not efficient with school gliders."

Intensive deep spiraling, SATs, aerobatics and other demanding maneuvers might shorten the life span of your glider, all the above mentioned maneuvers are not damaging or shortening the life span of the wing.

Fly safe.

New products to be released

Sky Paragliders work hard to be ready for the new season. Shortly, we will introduce **ANAKIS 2**, a new generation of ANAKIS. We are very proud of the glider as it was not easy to improve the present glider but Alexandre and his team of pilots manage the unbelievable - they improved what seemed to all of us almost impossible to do.

The glider will be officially introduced at the beginning of February but the pre-release test and demo flights are planned for last weekend of January in Barcelona, the area of our colleague and importer, Paco. We are very much looking forward to the hospitality of Paco and of course to test glider and experience new locations.

Wishing you cloudless skies and a lot of flying adventures.

Your SKY Team

Zuzana leaves the company for her maternity leave



Zuzana leaves the company for her maternity leave. We all keep our fingers crossed and hope Zuzana will be happy mother. We will introduce you our new member of the sales service shortly. And yes, this will be a beautiful young lady.

New web page



As some of you already noticed, we changed the graphic design of the Sky web page. The debate about plus and minuses in the Facebook pages was a little bit overheated but we hope that the new, simple looking site might simplify the visual communication. Should you like to bring any improvements, please do so by mailing directly to SKY headquarters.

Should you like to help to propagate the web and bring more traffic, please share the link in your social networks. That will be a great help. Just go to the SKY Paragliders Facebook

profile and "share" the content. That is simple and powerful.

Social Network cooperation



Working on something new? Traveling? Having a course abroad? Do not hesitate to inform us. We will publish all the info in the FACEBOOK web page as it seems that it works! Just be social .

