



Ask Allen

A master rigger answers your questions about parachutes.

By Allen Silver, IAC 431160

Q: Do I have to be more careful with my chute now that we've gone to 180-day repacks?

A: Once a freshly packed parachute is picked up from your favorite rigger, the responsibility to maintain it in an airworthy condition until the next repack has always been the responsibility of the owner. Nothing has changed except you are now responsible for the care and feeding of your parachute for an additional 60 days. Hopefully, you've always been careful with your expensive cushion. Maybe now is the time to purchase a carry bag for those everyday trips to and from the airport, or a plastic bin with a snap-on lid to store it. How about both? You can't pamper your parachute too much.

Q: I use a static line to assist in my chute's deployment. How do I properly hook it up?

A: Static lines are not in common use in the United States, but I recently had a parachute come to me for routine servicing, and the static line was hooked up incorrectly. The static line was attached in a manner that would have prevented the rip cord from being pulled. If this individual had to use the parachute, it may have left him or her dangling alongside the airplane.

Static lines are very popular in Europe and some other countries, and they have their place. Personally, I do not care for them, but they're out there and must be properly

attached. Follow the manufacturer's instructions explicitly. If you come up with your own ideas about how it should be attached, please call the manufacturer or your rigger for advice. There are two attach points for the static line. One goes to an attach point in the aircraft, and the other end is attached to the rip cord. It is very important that both lanyards are attached in a manner that allows a straight and unimpeded pull (see photo 1). Photo 1 only shows the end attached to the rip cord. In this instance that's where the problem occurred. The lanyards should **never** be routed through or around anything that could prevent a smooth deployment (see photo 2). The red pocket holding the excess static line is, in this case, attached properly over the rip cord pocket. But the pilot took some of the excess lanyard and routed it under the straps holding the static line pocket in place, not realizing it would probably hang up if he had to use his parachute (see photo 3). His idea was to stow some of the excess lanyard out of the way. The excess lanyard should have gone directly to the rip cord. Before doing any home rigging, no matter how simple it may seem, please call your rigger for advice before changing anything.

If you're attending Sun n' Fun in April, I invite you to attend my **Emergency Bailout Seminar** for Pilots on Friday, April 24, at 11:00 a.m. in Forum Tent 4. I'll also be available at the Para-Pernalia booth in Building B on Friday and Saturday, if you have any questions.

Otherwise I'll see you in *Sport Aerobatics* in June. 🇺🇸



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3