

SJKE **Wind Writers** **NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 31 | ISSUE 170 | JULY 2025

SOARING INTO SUMMER . . . THE WILDWOOD INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL 2025 & BEYOND

The 39th annual Wildwood International Kite Festival happened May 23-26, 2025, to the beach at Rio Grande Avenue and the Wildwoods Convention Center.

This beloved Memorial Day weekend tradition kicks off with an Unlocking of the Beach ceremony on Friday morning, followed by a Friday Night Social hosted by SJKE. As dusk

falls, the sky will sparkle once more with the Illuminated Night Kite Fly a magical display that has become the weekend's spellbinding moment.

- DONNA MCGEE

IN THIS ISSUE

- 39TH ANNUAL WILDWOOD INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL
- Kite Arch?
- Presidential Ponderings and Duck Dropings. The report from SJKE's Club President.
- SJKE Holiday Party
- Calendar of Events
- Your Article? Oh right, there isn't one from you.
- SJKE Membership
- Aka Membership

A Sky Full of Wonder

- Large inflatable kites dancing above the shoreline
- Team flying demonstrations highlighting precision and artistry
- Family-friendly learn to fly field
- Silent and loud auctions featuring custom kites and festival memorabilia
- The World Indoor Kite Exhibition at the Convention Center

Whether you're a veteran flyer or seeking a joyful escape, the festival offers free admission to all spectators and promises memories that last long after the kites come down.

That is the WIKF that we all wish and hope for every year. Sadly, on Saturday this year the wind was too strong to put up much more than Arches (thanks Ben Huggett for your wonderful display) that could tolerate that kind of abuse. So, with the high winds in our hair Melanie



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SOARING INTO SUMMER: THE WILDWOOD INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL 2025 & BEYOND



Morgan and I set out to explore the Wildwood Historical Society on Pacific Ave. Having grown up going to Wildwood my whole life, it was really a fun trip down memory lane seeing the displays, artifacts, photos, and movie clips. Of course I got talking with a docent about the “Good Old Days” and things that aren’t there anymore and, I got around to the WIKF that was happening that weekend. Her response surprised me, “Oh do they still do that?” I affirmed that yes indeed that every year on Memorial Day weekend there is an International Kite Festival and that this year was number 39. She said I think we have an old program and she pulled out a binder with 1 edition from 1998. I was fascinated with the articles and photos.

A Legacy in Flight

Since its first launch in 1986, the Wildwood Kite Festival has grown from a modest gathering of sport kite enthusiasts into North America’s largest kite celebration. Founders from Sky Festival Productions—including early

pioneers Roger Chewning, Fran Gramkowski, Olan Turner and Beatrix Pelton—built the festival around the East Coast Stunt Kite Championships, drawing competitive flyers and curiosity seekers alike. Through the 2000s, organizers expanded programming to include indoor kite exhibitions, massive inflatables, and the now-famous illuminated night flights. Over nearly four decades, pirate-themed banquets, impromptu hotel-parking-lot fly-ins, and beachside TV demos have woven a rich tapestry of kite lore.

Looking Ahead: 40th Anniversary in 2026

As the festival soars toward its 40th anniversary, the kite community is dreaming bigger than ever. Possible plans in the works include:

- Commemorative kites celebrating four decades of creativity
- A retrospective gallery of iconic kites and milestone moments
- Expanded international participation with new flyers from Europe, Asia, and South America
- Special tributes to longtime volunteers and contributors who’ve shaped the festival’s spirit

The 2026 celebration will honor the past while charting new skies, turning The Wildwoods into a global kite village where the sky becomes a canvas, every kite becomes a story and reaffirming the event’s role as a multi-generational tradition.



KITE ARCH?

As most of you know, a few years ago SJKF bought the AKA arch at the Great Auction. We were flying it earlier this year at Wildwood.

If any of you would like to make a kite for this year's arch - and have your creation flown alongside kitemakers from across the country, let me know. The kites is a simple and relatively small diamond. Very easy to construct and decorate however you see fit.



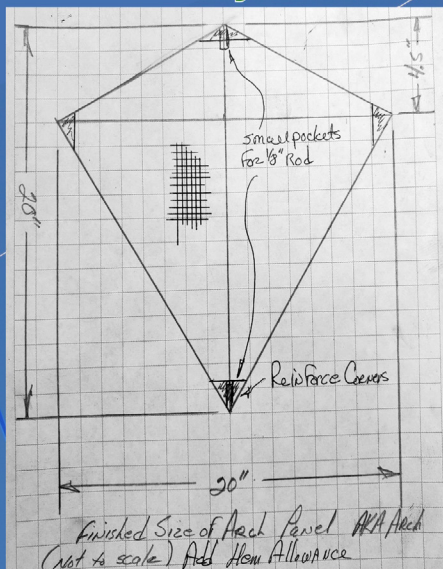
Sept. 29 to Oct. 4, 2025

Countdown to the Convention
52 Days!



Sept. 29 to Oct. 4, 2025

Countdown to the Convention
50 Days!



The Great Kite Auction

by Ben Huggett

Today - Day 6 of the Convention Arch: Plan and instructions!

SJKF Holiday Party, December 7, 2025



SJKF is going to a new place since Randi's closed suddenly, it is **Villa Catering Hall, 507 Williamstown RD., Suite 1, Sicklerville, NJ 08081, phone: (856) 728-1010** Website:

<https://villdeliandcatering.com> The party will start at noon on Sunday December 7th and will continue until 4pm. We will be dining on: Tossed Salad, Rolls, Butter, Italian Pastries, Cookies, Pepperoni & Cheese, Crackers, Homemade Assorted Stromboli, Filet Mignon, Fettuccine Alfredo, Chicken Cordon Blue,

Parsley Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, and their famous Shrimp & Crab Salad. I believe we will also have Coffee and Soda. I will try for Iced Tea. No outside food is permitted, and they do not have a Liquor License. This menu may change without notice since this is our first time here.

The cost this year will be the same as in the last few years, \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Children 12 – 3 years old \$5.00, under 3 free will be free.



Reservations are required and payment must be received by Monday, December 1, 2025. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Please send payments to Cecilia Dallmer, 306 Friendship St, Phila., Pa 19111. If you have questions, please email Cel Dallmer at cdallmer@verizon.net or call 215-722-4092.

Extra Activities: Theme baskets will again be made this year by Donna and Mel. This year's game will be KITE BINGO again.

There may also be a few surprises!?!?!?

Directions: use GPS or WAZE, that is how I am going to find it: **Villa Catering Hall, 507 Williamstown RD., Suite 1, Sicklerville, NJ 08081**

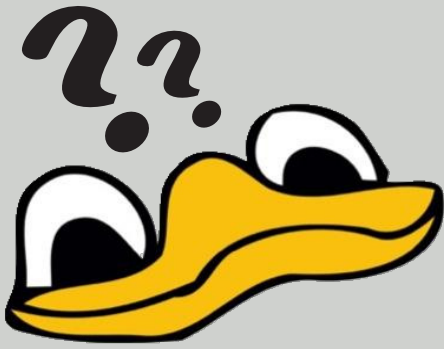
RSVP FORM:

Please return all RSVPs with a check made out to South Jersey Kite Flyers by December 1, 2025, to:
Cel Dallmer
306 Friendship St.
Phila., Pa 19111
Venmo to Cecilia Dallmer is ok.

Reservations are required along with payment to ensure your seat, **no exceptions.**



Name			Cost
Adult's Name	Members \$15.00	Non-Members \$20.00	
Child's Name		Children 12 - 3, \$5.00 Under 3, free	
		Total Cost	



Presidential Ponderings & Duck Droppings

BY MIKE DALLMER
SJKF PRESIDENT



STATE OF SJKF CLUB

As reported by our Treasurer, Cel Dallmer, our starting Balance as of May 1, 2025 there was \$5,410.37, as of June 30, 2025, there was \$3,677.60 in the bank and \$2034.00 in cash for a total of \$5,711.54. Our membership is holding steady right at 99. I'm hoping in the next few months our treasury improves with the money making events we have coming up: Elliot's Legacy 8/17/2025 (a Donation to SJKF), SJKF Anniversary Bash Auction 9/14/2025 with fabulous kites and the 11th Annual Long Beach Island Invitation Kite Festival on October 10-11, 2025 (Kids Kite making). And don't forget, we have the 3rd Annual Summer BBQ at the Dallmer's Household on 8/30/2025.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Hello Kite Flyers, please stay vigilant as Covid and measles cases are still present. Ready for another heat wave? I'm not but what can we do? I just got back from a 2-week vacation at Seaside Park, NJ and only flew a kite once with Mike Jr and Jackson's help, why, back is that bad. Cel also has problems as she fell about 6 weeks and fractured 3 ribs, thank God she didn't break them!! Next is a trip to Disney World from Mike, Jr., for our 50th Anniversary and his 50th Birthday... Picture, maybe one day will grow hair??? NOT!!

February Winter Workshop will happen again this year and I didn't even have to twist anyone's arm for them to present the subject!! Kevin Shannon has stepped up to re-design and present to us a kite he bought at last year's SJKF Auction, a Bed Sheet Kite. Also

stepping up is Ben Huggett who is supplying the fabric (red and blue 1 ½ ounce ripstop nylon) at a very reasonable price. Ben spent a day running around New York then another hour and half traveling northeast to pick up the fabric!!

The Wildwoods International Kite Festival was a momentous event again this year and the Friday Night Social was better than ever as SJKF feed 64 hungry kite fliers then again on Sunday, the place to be was the SJKF EZUP's for a gourmet lunch of leftovers!! After that, Mike Jr., and Gina (Yes, our daughter attended as I was under Doctor's order not to be on the sand or lift anything! Doing one out of 2 I guess isn't too bad, no way I wasn't going on the beach though I did sit in my chair most of the event!



PRESIDENT REPORT

CONTINUED



Regional Director: Ben is doing a fabulous job and his first Regional Report in the AKA Kiting magazine was fantastic, he even covered events in Region 3 because there is no Regional

Director at the present time. Make sure to check out on Facebook at Stunt Kites Garage Sale he is running to benefit the AKA of sport kites, some are very valuable and some are one of a kind, there are even a few prototypes!!



SJKF SUMMER BBQ: at the Dallmers Home, at 306 Friendship St, Phila., PA, 19111 on Sunday, August 18, 2024. The purpose of this is to get together with friends, have fun, eat BBQ



stuff, put together, and photograph kites for the 30th SJKF Anniversary Bash! (Yes, the last part is the real purpose.) Putting kites together ahead of time will enable them to

be put online to help get action on the kites. Helping gives you an inside look of what will be available for bid at the Anniversary Bash.

9/14/2025 (2nd Sunday) **31st SJKF Anniversary Bash and Auction.** We can always use your donation of kites and kite related items. At the Dallmer Household, 306 Friendship St, Phila, PA 19111. Festivities start around noon, Kite fliers time. There will be plenty of food and our fabulous once-a-year SJKF auction. This is our main fundraiser of the year and always a fun



event. We again have many interesting items for our auction; some are even new!!! There will be plenty of fantastic food for you to consume and maybe a few surprises. We can always use your specialty for this event, just let Cel know cdallmer@verizon.net or 215-805-7498. Remember, bid high and please bid often.

11th Annual Long Beach Island Invitational Kite Festival Children's Kite Making, 10/10/2025 – 10/11/2025 if you don't know already, is one of the major fundraising efforts of SJKF. The kite building is a fun event, but Cel, Donna, Mel, Nancy, Dawn, and Chris are always willing to share joy with the help of SJKF volunteers, especially if a large crowd is expected to attend. Last year they were so busy, they didn't have time to eat or take a break.



11th Annual Long Beach Island Invitational Kite Festival, Kite Flying 10/10/2025 – 10/11/2025. Last year's event was outstanding, and this year is looking even better with 6

PRESIDENT REPORT

CONTINUED



designated flying fields and a special area where people can have a hands-on experience, like going through a train or imagining driving a sports car while being in a bubble tornado!!! There at the interactive kite flying field the spectators can meet and talk to "professional" kite fliers. SJKF will have their own flying field and any SJKF Member in good standing can come fly with us!! This year there is going to be at least one international guest along with others from all over the US! Another special event taking place is a night fly in a roped off field with special provisions for a lack of wind. Last year, because of the lack of wind, only a few kites made it into the air while others were displayed on the grounds with their lights on. Surprisingly, the many spectators still enjoyed the event rooting kites into the air.



Holiday Party: Right before the Dallmer Family Vacation we got some very bad news, Randi's Restaurant and Bar closed!!! What a bummer, we loved that place. Anyway, a committee was formed of Cel, Donna, and I to find a new place. Donna turned out to be a hero as she found Villa Catering Hall, 507 Williamstown RD., Suite 1, Sicklerville, NJ 08081, phone: (856) 728-1010. <http://villdeliandcatering.com> Donna's niece works there, and the place is highly recommended, Donna even went and tested their food which passed with flying colors. The menu is different than Randi's Brunch menu, but it still sounds good. I want you all to be aware that you cannot bring outside food in and the place does not have a liquor license.



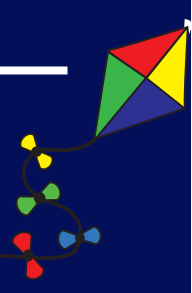
SJKF Calendar, I am looking for a volunteer to enter our events on the AKA Website. Please let me know if you are interested in keeping this calendar up to date. I will give the events so all you have to do is enter them on the website by filling out the form.

Check us out on Facebook, South Jersey Kite Flyers and on the web at sjkf.org

Finally, thank you, thank you, and thank you!! For being a Member and making my job fulfilling by leading a great bunch of people!

2025 Calendar of Events

south jersey kite flyers club



Calendar of Events for SJKF,
updated as of 8-4-2025

Please contact the people
listed to make sure the event
is still taking place and watch
your emails for updates!

8/30/2025 SJKF Summer BBQ
at the Dallmer's Household,
306 Friendship St, Phila., Pa.
19111 Time: 11am -5pm or until
all the kites are catalogued.

9/13/2025 – 9/14/2025 OBX
Kite Festival, Kitty Hawk
Kites www.kittyhawk.com,
Contact Caitlin Skapars
252-305-5561 or events@kittyhawk.com

9/14/2025 (2nd Sunday)
31st SJKF Anniversary Bash
and Auction. At the Dallmer
Household, 306 Friendship
St, Phila, PA 19111. Festivities
start around noon, Kitefliers
time. There will be plenty of
food and our fabulous once-
a-year SJKF auction.

9/17/2025 (Wednesday)
Radnor Library Kite Build,
time is 4:30-6pm Location:
Radnor Memorial Library, 114
W. Wayne Ave., Wayne, PA

9/18/2025- 9/21/2025 The Kite
Loft's Sunfest Kite Festival in
Ocean City, MD USA Hosted
by The Kite Loft September
19-22, 2024 On the beach
between 4th thru 6th Streets
<https://kite loft.com/kite-festival/sunfest-kite-festival/>
contact the Kite Loft at (410)
289-7855 or info@kite loft.com

9/29/2025 – 10/4/2025 46th
Annual AKA Convention in
Niagara Falls, NY

10/3/2025 to 10/5/2025 LBI
Kite Show in Surf City

10/10/2025 – 10/11/2025 11Th
Annual LBI Invitational Kite
Festival, stay tuned for more
information.

10/15/2025 Deadline for
submission of articles for the
next issue of WindWriters.
Send to Debra Bowlby
Djbowlby@me.com or Mike
Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

11/2/2025 The 39th Olan and
Bernice Turner International
Invitational Open Peanut
Butter Cookie Kite Fly and
Bake Off, will be held on the
Boardwalk in Seaside Park,
NJ. Contact Cel cdallmer@verizon.net
or Mike Dallmer
mikedallmer@verizon.net
215-722-4092 Remember,
bribes are accepted.

11/16/2025 (3rd Sunday)
SJKF Zoom Meeting, meeting
starts at 7pm. Same link and
password (kite) as before:
<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09>

12/7/2025 SJKF Holiday Party.
New location: Villa Deli, 507
Williamstown RD., Sicklerville
NJ 0808. Time is 12-4 with set
up beginning around 11am.

1/15/2026 Deadline for
submission of articles for the
next issue of WindWriters.
Send to Debra Bowlby
Djbowlby@me.com or Mike
Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

1/18/2026 (3rd Sunday) SJKF
Zoom Meeting, meeting
starts at 7pm. Same link and
password (kite) as before:
<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09>

2/1/2026 Deadline for Winter
Workshop Reservations

2/13/2026 - 2/16/2026
Maryland Kite Society's 46th
Kite Retreat. (tentative)

2/21/2026 SJKF Winter
Workshop, the Bed Sheet Kite
taught by Kevin Shannon.
Location: Mullica Hill
Library, 389 Wolfert Station
Rd, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062.
Time is 10:00am till 4:30pm
(tentative)

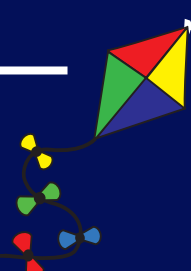
3/15/2026 (3rd Sunday) SJKF
Zoom Meeting, meeting
starts at 7pm. Same link and
password (kite) as before:
<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09>

3/28/2026 Blossom Kite
Festival, on the grounds of
the Washington Monument

April is National Kite Month

62026 Calendar of Events

south jersey kite flyers club



4/3/2026 59th Annual Great Delaware Kite Festival at Cape Henlopen State Park on Good Friday, in 2025 Registration starts at 10 am and entrance fees apply for cars to enter Cape Henlopen State Park which will be collected at the entrance to the park - \$5 per car for Delaware license tags and \$10 per car for out-of-state. For more information, call the park office at 302-645-8983. To participate in festival contests, contact the Lewes Chamber of Commerce at 302-645-8073 2022 Great Delaware Kite Festival | Lewes Chamber of Commerce (tentative)

4/5/2026 Easter

4/11/2026 Kite at the Pier rain date 4/12/2026 Location: Pier Village, long Branch. Contact Sky Festival Productions 732-822-4884 or bpelton@skyfestivals.com

4/15/2026 Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby Djbowly@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net 306 Friendship St., Phila., PA 19111

4/18/2026 SJKF Give Back Workshop Location: Mullica Hill Library, 389 Wolfert Station Rd, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062. Time is 1pm till 3:00pm (tentative)

4/18/2026 SJKF Spring Workshop, subject to be determined. Location: Mullica Hill Library, 389 Wolfert Station Rd, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062. Time is 10:00am till 4:30pm (tentative)

5/17/2026 (3rd Sunday) SJKF Zoom Meeting, meeting starts at 7pm. Same link and password (kite) as before: <https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09>

5/22/2025-5/25/2025 Wildwood International Kite Festival Contact Sky Festival Productions 732-822-4884 or bpelton@skyfestivals.com The must do event with the fabulous wide-open beach to fly on. Also, the world famous SJKF Friday Night Social!!!!

7/12/2026 (2nd Sunday) SJKF Zoom Meeting, meeting starts at 7pm. Same link and password (kite) as before: <https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09>

7/15/2026 Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby Djbowly@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

7/19/2026 to 8/1/2026 Dallmer Family Vacation

9/2026 32nd SJKF Anniversary Bash and Auction. At the Dallmer Household, 306 Friendship St, Phila, Pa 19111. Festivities start around noon, Kitefliers time. There will be plenty of food and our fabulous once-a-year SJKF auction.

10/15/2026 Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby Djbowly@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net 306 Friendship St., Phila., Pa 19111

11/15/2026 (3rd Sunday) SJKF Zoom Meeting, meeting starts at 7pm. Same link and password (kite) as before: <https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09>

President's Note: Though these dates are accurate at time of printing it is best to check with the contact to make sure the proper dates are listed.

Got an event that you want listed, send it: Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net 306 Friendship St., Phila., PA

***YOUR ARTICLE
HERE!***



Membership Application

☐ New Member
 ☐ Renewal
 ☐ Reinstatement
 ☐ Do not publish my name in the Directory

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

URL _____

Other family members joining _____

Visa/MC/Discover/AMEX # _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Membership Dues	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	Amount
Individual (Kiting via 3 rd class mail)	\$48	\$94	\$140	_____
(Kiting via 1 st class mail)	\$60	\$118	\$176	_____
Canada, Mexico and Overseas	\$60	\$118	\$176	_____
Sponsor	\$150	\$300	\$450	_____
(Kiting via 1 st class mail, includes tax deductible contribution)				_____
Additional family members in same household (Per person add \$8/year)				_____
Additional donation dedicated to the Kites for Kids Programs				_____
Please remit in US \$ (Sorry we cannot accept Canadian cheques)				

For information call 609/755-KITE (5483)

Referred by _____

Local kite club **SJKF**

Join online at www.kite.org

Send this form with your payment to:

American Kitefliers Association

PO Box 699 • Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

CUT HERE

SJKF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Help us get to know you! Fill in the form below. Return this application along with your check payable to SJKF and you're in! Welcome to the club!

Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Membership ☐ New member ☐ Renewal

Membership Type ☐ Individual ☐ Family

(For family memberships, list additional names below. Circle name if under 10 years old)

Favorite Kite(s) _____

Signature: _____



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

10-1 through 12-31	\$15.00
1-1 through 3-31	\$11.25
4-1 through 6-30	\$ 7.50
7-1 through 9-30	\$ 3.75

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

10-1 through 12-31	\$20.00
1-1 through 3-31	\$15.00
4-1 through 6-30	\$10.00
7-1 through 9-30	\$5.00



WindWriter Newsletter:

☐ Electronic Newsletter (This saves SJKF a few dollars per year)
 ☐ Mailed Newsletter

WindWriters is the newsletter of the South Jersey Kite Flyers and is published quarterly by the SJKF

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C/O Mike Dallmer
306 Friendship Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sorrowing into Summer: Wildwood International Kite Festival.....	1-2
Kiite Arch - A Chance to Create	3
SJKF Holiday Party - Villa Catering.....	4
Presidents Ponderings & Duck Droppings	5-7
2025/2026 Calendar of Events.....	8-9
Your Article Here!!.....	10
AKA Membership Application	11
SJKF Membership Form	11
SJKF Officers and Operations.....	12