

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

VOLUME 32 | ISSUE 173 | APRIL 2026



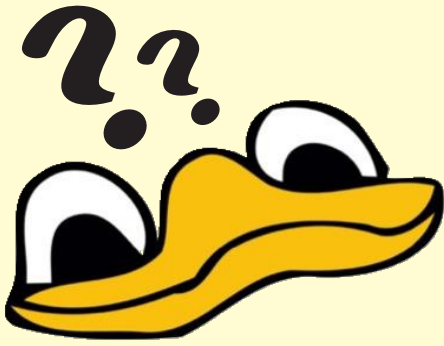
South Jersey Kite Flyers Take to the Skies on Channel 17's Positively Philly

Recently, Donna McGee, Cel Dallmer, and Ben Huggett, and I had the honor of filming a segment for Philadelphia's Channel 17 PHL show Positively Philly with host Amy Urban. We shot at the beautiful Belmont Plateau, with Philly's skyline stretching out behind us. The episode is scheduled to air on May 19 between 9 and 10 a.m.



The whole experience was fun and full of great energy — even Amy couldn't help letting out squeals of delight when she was handed a kite line. They even captured video of Cel flying a kite, which was such a joy to watch.





Presidential Ponderings & Duck Droppings

—By Mike Dallmer, President



STATE OF SJKF CLUB

As reported by our Treasurer, Cel, as of February 28, 2026, we had \$4,534.63 in the bank and \$677.00 in cash, for a total of \$5,211.63. Since that report, all amounts owed for the PLK DIY Heart Kite Kits have been paid, except for the kits the club purchased to hold for future use. Membership remains steady at 91 members. We've also been distributing SJKF tri-fold brochures recently—let's see where that leads.

PRESIDENT REPORT

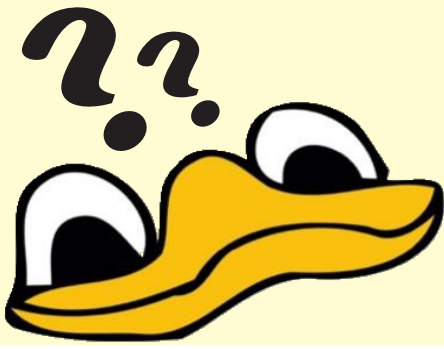
Hello Kite Fliers—last week's weather felt like a preview of summer, but this week has been a reminder of what spring is supposed to look like. So far, April showers haven't disrupted any weekend plans—let's hope it stays that way. And a quick health reminder: please stay mindful of COVID precautions; it moved through Gina and Ken's family about a month ago.

PLK HEARTS: All PLK DIY Heart Kite Kits have been distributed and paid for, with many completed either at workshops or at home. Watch for future “mass ascensions” at upcoming kite events as the finished kites take to the sky together.



APRIL IS PACKED—and the momentum carries right into May. **NEW 4/19/2026 (Sunday):** Maker Faire Philadelphia 2026. Also coming up: 5th Annual East Brunswick Kite Festival. **NEW 4/26/2026 (Sunday):** Beat Ben Franklin Fun Run. **4/24/26–4/26/26:** Maryland International Kite Exposition. **NEW 5-9-26 (Saturday):** Roxborough Development Corporation Kite Fly at Gorgas Park. That's a busy slate of local events—many of which include kite-building opportunities, too.

As I write this, the Wildwoods International Kite Festival is less than five weeks away—and this year marks its 40th Anniversary. If you haven't already, check out what's being posted on Facebook under “40 years of Wildwoods International Kite Festival”—there are some great throwback photos that really show how it all began. This year will include the Friday Night Social hosted by SJKF,



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plus the Scott E. Spencer Kite Maker Competition, where the Judges' Choice and Entries' Choice winners will each receive a crisp \$100.00 bill. The best novice kite builder who enters will receive memberships in both the AKA and SJKF. And don't forget the fabulous indoor event on Monday, run by our very own Doug Stout. Finally—there's the endless beach and all the flying you could want. WHAT A GREAT EVENT!!!!

Speaking of great events, planning is underway for the 12th Annual LBI Fly Invitational Kite Festival, 10/9/2026–10/10/26 (Friday and Saturday). Why Friday and Saturday? If you've ever been on the island on a Sunday, you know traffic can become gridlocked after 9:00 a.m. due to a run that spans the length of the island. One thing I do know: SJKF will have a flying field assigned to us, and any SJKF member who wishes to fly is welcome on our field.

We're already talking about ideas for our 2027 Winter Workshop. Back in 1999, I taught a class on building a 2-foot elephant windsock. If I can track down the patterns, my first thought is to build a 4-foot version. (The photo of the single elephant is a 10-foot version.) If you have other workshop ideas, please share them—we'd love to hear what you're interested in making.



Our Calendar: You'll notice I've added KONE events, Kitty Hawk Kites events, and Keystone Kites events—my goal is to help you plan your calendar, too. If you have (or hear of) other events you'd like included, please let me know and I'll add them.



Finally,
thank you—
THANK YOU—

and
thank you!!

Your membership and support make this role genuinely rewarding, and I'm grateful to be part of such a great group of people.



Peter Robert Lynn was a **New Zealand kite maker, engineer, and inventor** whose pioneering work transformed modern kiting. From founding Peter Lynn Kites in Ashburton in 1973, he created Guinness World Record-holding mega kites, iconic giant inflatable displays like the 27m octopus, and innovations such as the kite buggy, hybrid and Arc-style kites, influencing sports from kitesurfing to snow kiting. He passed away in 2026, leaving a global legacy in kite design and power kiting.

The good news, Peter Lynn Kites will continue under the co-ownership Simon Chisnall and Craig Hansen.



One of my early memories of Peter Lynn from New Zealand is when he brought the Megabyte to Wildwood, at the time, the largest kite in the world. Cel, Gina, Mike Jr. and I had the privilege of meeting Peter and walking inside the Megabyte. We were told it would fit 6 school buses inside at once.

40th Wildwood International Kite Festival

Indoor Kite Event— Monday, May 25, 2026

Wildwood Convention Center

501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, NJ

Invitation To Indoor Kite Flyers To Showcase Your Skills

***We are looking to make this a great indoor event to celebrate
the 40th anniversary of this historic kite festival.***

***If you are interested in participating in this indoor kite event,
please contact Doug Stout at
falcon.aero.designs@gmail.com
Advance notice is preferred but not required.***



Version March 25, 2026

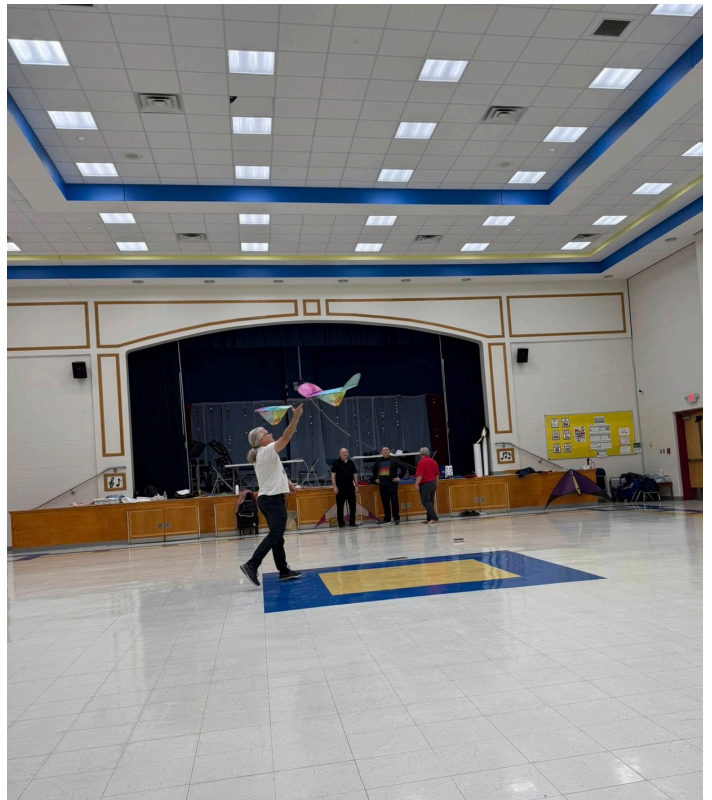
4th North Jersey Spring Warm-up Indoor Kite Event

The 4th North Jersey Spring Warm-up Indoor Kite Event was held on March 7, 2026, from 10 am to 3 pm, and sponsored by the South Jersey Kite Flyers and Falcon Aero Designs LLC. This event was held in the Byram Lakes School Café, which is a cafeteria and auditorium with a stage. The school is located in Byram Township, in the beautiful rolling hills of Sussex County, New Jersey, just north of Exit 25 on Interstate Route 80. Kite flyers came from around the tristate area, from New York, eastern Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. We were blessed to have nine kite family members and about twenty Byram Township family members attend this event.

Mike, Cel, and Donna from our club did a fantastic job managing the kite building and flying activities for the attending children. Meanwhile, Richard Cairncross, Michael Stuligross, and I helped the attendees fly ultra-light indoor kites. The children had a wonderful time building and flying their kites indoors, and the smiles on their faces were priceless.

I was truly fortunate to have my daughter, Christina Wyka; my son-in-law, Tom Wyka; and my two granddaughters, Izzabella (Izzy) and Evalyn (Evie), attend again this year to experience building and flying kites indoors.

In the afternoon, Michael Stuligross, Richard Cairncross, and I ran through our new indoor single-line kite routines in preparation for an upcoming virtual kite festival on April 6, 2026. We were also able to record Michael's and Richard's single-line indoor routines for that festival.



4th North Jersey Spring Warm-up Indoor Kite Event

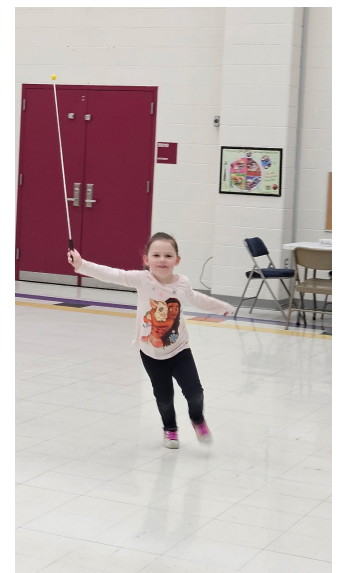


Family members of kite flyers who attended included Douglas Stout, Michael Stuligross, Richard Carincross, Mike Dallmer, Cel Dallmer, Donna McGee, Bob Drosdick, Ivo Petrov, and Jeff Wallace. I once again provided the sound system this year, keeping music playing throughout the day. Special thanks to South Jersey Kite Flyers for covering the cost of the event venue.

Appreciation also goes to Mike and Cel for the delicious hot pretzels, and to Donna McGee for the tasty donuts. Many thanks to Falcon Aero Designs LLC for sponsoring the pizza lunch and providing water.

Gratitude is extended to the Byram Township Board of Education for allowing us to use the room for the kite event and for permitting my indoor practice at the school since January 2017.

Finally, thank you to all the kite fliers and their families who attended—your presence made the event a huge success! I look forward to planning, hosting, and organizing this event again in the future.





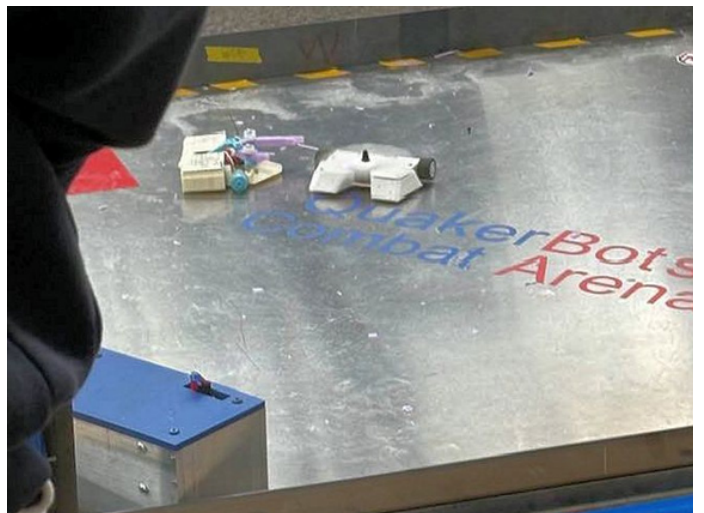
Philadelphia Makers Faire

What a difference a year makes! Last year, a boat that was attached to the Cherry Street Pier, where the Makers Faire is held, caught on fire. This year, the only thing blowing up were the robots in the robot fighting arena!

This year, the AKA had a booth manned by Ben Huggett and Larry Krablin, while SJKF had a booth staffed by Donna McGee, Nancy Krablin, Cel, and myself, Mike Dallmer. Ben arrived early and set up one of the SJKF gazebos, which drew a lot of attention. He also displayed some of his handcrafted kites, soon joined by a few of my own kites. If I do say so myself, our booths were among the best there!

I also set up my "Go Fly A Kite" Genki, which lights up to draw attention to our booths. Both the AKA and SJKF had handouts with information about each of the clubs, and they were well received.

Cel, Donna, and Nancy handled children's kite making and were quite busy creating



almost 60 kites during the event. The participants in this activity expressed nothing but positive feedback and seemed to really enjoy it. Meanwhile, I just hung around and filled in wherever necessary.



Overall, this was a fun activity, and I am ready to do it again next year. I also think the event organizers were incredibly happy with our contributions, as they kept stopping by to check on us. We definitely got a lot of people thinking about kites through this simple activity!

Oh, and one final note about a lighthearted prank: there was a booth featuring a Chomper demonstration (a cardboard cutting tool), and their main display included a tree they had made. Someone—whose name I'll withhold for liability reasons—thought it would be a good idea to hang one of the children's kites from their tree.

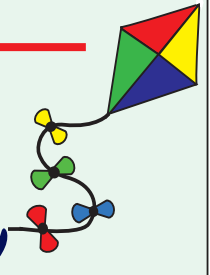


P.S. I wonder if they got permission to hang the kite from the display!

2026

Calendar of Events

south jersey kite flyers club



Calendar of Events for SJKF, updated as of 4/28/2026. Please contact the people listed to make sure the event is still taking place, watch your emails for updates!

5-9-26 (Saturday) Roxborough Development Corporation Kite Fly at Gorgas Park. Time is 11- 4 Location: 6300 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19128. There will most likely be more information coming soon but I know Children's Kite Making is a very good possibility. This goes along with a Car Show. KITE BUILD! Tentative!!!

5/10/26 (Sunday) Mother's Day

5/16/2026 (Saturday) Bug Light Non-Festival Fun Fly at Bug Light Park. We just show up and have a fun fly, and it seems to be much more relaxed. Bring your chairs and snacks and your kites. The BIG STUFF is welcome. We start around the 10-11am. Rain Date is Sunday the 17th.

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=Yy8oUUJmbXZlbnZnSmhthUNyUFBROToGwd=>

5/22/2026-5/25/2026 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 famous SJKF Friday Night Social!!!!

6/12/2026 -6/13/2026 the 44th Annual Rogallo Kite Festival / Outer Banks Rogallo Kite Festival – Jockey's Ridge State Park. 10:00

am – 4:00 pm. Francis Rogallo was a NASA scientist and inventor of the flexible wing. His inventions started the sport of hang gliding, and his designs have carried over into the development of stunt kites, power kites, and hang gliders that are flown today. We invite you to join us and fly to celebrate Francis Rogallo and his many accomplishments. Kitty Hawk Kites and friends will be displaying amazing 30 – 100 ft kites on top of Jockey's Ridge State Park. Join us and fly a kite of your own, take part in FREE walk-up stunt kite lessons, kite coloring for kids of all ages, or just sit back, relax and enjoy the spectacular kites as they fly in the sky.

6/13/2026 (Saturday) Honoring Hank's Kites at Bug Light Park. This is the day that we fill the sky with memories of Hank. Bring anything you have from Hanks' collection or fly your own stuff, it's all good. Start time is around the 10-11am time frame. The rain date will be Sunday the 14th.

6/20/2026 (Saturday) 5th Annual East Brunswick Kite Festival Time 11am -2pm. As always, help is appreciated both building and flying kites. Contact Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net or (215) 722-4092 Location is the East Brunswick Community Arts Center, 721 Cranbury Rd, East Brunswick, NJ Rain Date 6/21/2026 Kite Build

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=Yy8oUUJmbXZlbnZnSmhthUNyUFBROToGwd=>

7/15/2026 Deadline for Windwriter articles. Send to Debra Bowlby at djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

7/17/2026 – 7/18/2026 48th Annual Wright Kite Festival at Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kill Devil Hills, NC 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Price: \$10 Park Entrance Fee. Join Kitty Hawk Kites and the Wright Brothers National Memorial as we celebrate the legacy of aviation and the joy of kite flying at the 48th Annual Wright Kite Festival!

7/18/2026 Summer Kite Party at Sam Lewis State Park near York, PA. Kite Hill overlooking the Susquehanna is all ours for the day. The BBQ will be lit, bring your kites and your picnic, and come out for a fun day. Keystone Kiteers

8/15/2026 SJKF Summer BBQ at the Dallmer's Household, 306 Friendship St, Phila., Pa. 19111 Time: 11am -5pm or until all the kites are catalogued.

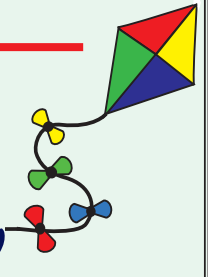
8/15/2026 (Saturday) Vintage Kite Fly at Bug Light Park, S. Portland, ME. This fly is intended for all your older structures that otherwise see little to no flight time. Closet-and-garage-bound kites can rejoice. Any historic stuff is especially welcome even if it doesn't fly, because we all love a good show. Start time is around the 10-11am time frame. Rain date is Sunday the 16th. KONE

9/6/2026 Labor Day

2026

Calendar of Events

south jersey kite flyers club



9/11/2026 – 9/13/2026 Another World Music Festival in Woodward, PA. Stay tuned for details about how we're adding kites to this outdoor music fest on a big farm not far from State College. Keystone Kitters

9/11/2026 -9/12 /2026 Outer Banks Kite Festival – Jockey's Ridge State Park, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Location: Jockey's Ridge State Park, NC

9/12/2026 (Saturday) Capriccio Festival of Kites 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Ogunquit Main Beach, 115 Beach St, Ogunquit, Maine. KONE

9/17/26 – 9/20/2026 "King of the Wind" Ocean City Kite Festival" (Sunfest) - In Ocean City, Maryland. On the beach between 4th thru 6th Streets "King of the Wind" Ocean City Kite Festival | The Kite Loft contact the Kite Loft at (410) 289-7855 or info@kiteloft.com

9/27/2026 32nd SJKF Anniversary Bash and Auction. At the Dallmer home, 306 Friendship St, Phila, PA. Starts around noon, Kitefliers time. There will be plenty of food and our fabulous once-a-year SJKF auction.

10/3/2026 (Saturday) Apple Fly at Romac Orchard in Acton, Maine. This traditional fly on the side of Goat Hill is an opportunity to get your apple fix, while at the same time being afforded the opportunity to fly a kite on the side of an 800-foot hill. Even if the wind doesn't cooperate, you have the opportunity of going home with the fixings for apple pie or apple crisp - yummy.

There will be hayrides, Storytime under the tent, a corn maze, and there is a hiking trail up the hill. Kites Over, New England - KONE

10/09/2026 – 10/10/2026 LBI FLY Invitational Kite Festival. Contact Debra Bowlby, Organizer @ djbowlby@me.com - Any member of SJKF is invited to fly on the SJKF field. Bring your chairs, kites and food. . . come and enjoy the fun!

10/11/26 - One Sky, One World

10/12/2026 to 10/17/2026 AKA Convention, Muncie, Indiana

10/15/2026 Deadline for Windwriter articles. Send to Debra Bowlby at djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

11/1/2026 The 41st 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 at cdallmer@verizon.net or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net 215-722-4092 Remember, bribes are accepted.

11/2026 (tbd Saturday) KONE Fly at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. The flying area is expansive, and the tidal flow doesn't get in the way of flying. There is a heated bathroom building on the edge of the sand. There are a few places for obtaining coffee or food if you don't mind walking a little way. If it's a chilly day the answer is to wear layers. If the wind is blowing from any of the westerly quadrants the launching process can be somewhat

challenging but once above any building turbulence things tend to smooth out. It's a beach, so there could be some blowing sand if the wind is vigorous. In November parking is free and there are usually plenty of open spaces along the roadway to slide into. KONE

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=Yy8oUUJmbXZlbnZnSmhtbUNyUFBROTo9>

11/28/2026 Kites with Lights – Jockey's Ridge State Park. 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Times 4:00 - 7:00 PM Jockey's Ridge State Park

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 19111



Scott Hampton Mini Workshop

At our In the third workshop of the year, Cel and Donna were not focused on sewing projects; instead, they planned to prepare more Children's Kite Making Kits. However, I had other ideas. I had been holding onto a kite design from Scott Hampton for a couple of years and figured now was as good a time as any to introduce it to them. Here they are working on the kites

by Mike Dallmer





FIRST SJKF WORKSHOP 1999

2 ft Elephant Windsock

By Mike Dallmer

Wow, what an experience! At this year's Kites at the Pier, I saw John Rose flying several poles topped with windsocks, and one of them featured an elephant windsock that looked familiar. After some reflection, I realized that I had seen it during a workshop for SJKF. Following some research, I found partial plans and photos from that workshop. I thought it would be fun to do a throwback, so here are the photos taken with an old digital camera. If I can locate the full plans, this could become SJKF's winter workshop project for 2027. Do you recognize any of these people?



No Idea Who They Are?



Ed Spencer



I know a Guy.



Rob Cembalist



Charlie Bojarsky



Not my Grandchild?



Mark Siemon



GOOD NEWS FROM THE AKA

From Mike Dertien, POTAKA

Good news for the AKA... Because of a generous donation from the Harry L. Willett Foundation, the AKA has become more financially stable and positioned to expand our outreach and member support, expand our operations, support national festivals, create documentation of kiting traditions, and strengthen the organizational infrastructure needed to serve communities across the country. A big thank you to Ryan Willett and Terry Z Lee for being instrumental in making this happen.

More good news... Last night the Board of Directors signed a contract with John Lutter to become the new editor of Kiting magazine. Outgoing editor, Daniel Prentice had this to say about the decision, "I think the AKA made a great choice. John combines all the attributes needed for the job—editor experience, graphic arts skills, and a long-term commitment to the AKA and the wider kite community. I'm looking forward to working with him to make it a smooth transition."

Good times ahead... many positive things are happening in the AKA. We are working hard to make this year's convention one of the best ever. Currently, there are 24 workshops covering kite technologies, sewing, sport kite flying, tie-dyeing, and so much more for the beginner to the advanced. The flying fields are 1000 acres of mowed grass-- plenty of room for fun and competitive flying. Look for more information in the summer issue of Kiting and on the AKA website: Kite.org.

At the convention we honor AKA members with an assortment of awards. If you know someone who is deserving of recognition, please email me their information. With all the activities at the convention, you still need a place to sleep and it's not too early to make your room reservations. Our host hotel is close to the convention center and if you follow the link below you can ask for the AKA discounted rates, starting at \$149. The hotel information: Courtyard Muncie Marriott, 601 S High St, Muncie, IN 47305. For phone reservations, 765-287-8550: ask for the front desk and give them the code "AKAN." (Telephone calls may get routed to automated reservation systems. The link below is more reliable for connecting to the AKA room block.)

[Book your group rate for American Kite Flyers](#)



**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 ☐ RenewalMembership 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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