

Fanø 2026: Returning to Denmark's International Kite Meeting

-By Debra Bowlby



Colorful kites fill the skies above Fanø during the 2026 International Kite Meeting. The island of Fanø, Denmark, once again welcomed kite enthusiasts from around the world for the 2026 International Kite Meeting, and for Trip and me, it felt like coming home.

A Danish Adventure Begins

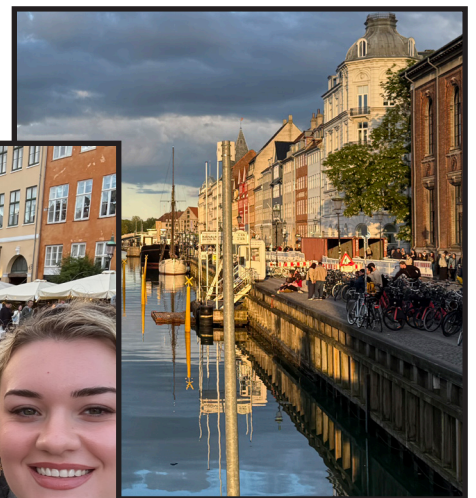
Our journey started in Copenhagen, where Trip and I met up with Lauren and Amy for a few days of sightseeing. As first-time visitors to Denmark, Lauren and Amy enjoyed exploring the historic streets, waterfront views, and vibrant atmosphere of the Danish capital before we all headed west toward Esbjerg to catch the ferry to the island of Fanø.



Along the way, we crossed the Great Belt Bridge, the longest bridge in Denmark.

Stretching 11.2 miles across the water and connecting parts of the country, the crossing provided spectacular views

and marked the beginning of our kite-flying adventure.



Lauren Bowlby and Amy Gould experienced Denmark for the first time as they joined us for our Fanø adventure.

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(continued)

Reuniting with Friends from Around the World

One of the highlights of Fanø is reconnecting with friends who share a passion for kites. We were delighted to spend time with Rolf Zimmermann and Ulrike Zara from Germany, whose friendship has become a cherished part of our Fanø experience.

We also enjoyed flying alongside Marcel and Petra Kramer and Markus and Katja Flender, creating beautiful displays in the Danish skies while sharing stories, laughter, and memories from kite festivals past.

The international spirit of Fanø was on full display, bringing together fliers from every corner of the globe.

"Fanø is more than a kite festival. It's a reunion of friends who happen to love flying kites."

Stars and Stripes in the Danish Sky

It was especially gratifying to see the United States well represented at the event. We enjoyed spending time with good friends Scott and Marilyn Hampton and Thad and Denise Walton, whose participation added a familiar touch to the international gathering.

Another highlight was seeing Robert Brasington from Tasmania, Australia and his wonderful kite creations. Robert's unique artistry and enthusiasm always draw attention on the flying field, and it was a pleasure catching up with him once again.



Amy Gould, Lauren Bowlby, Trip and Deb Bowlby, Ulrike Zara and Rolf Zimmermann.



Marcel & Petra Kramer of Germany with Trip & Deb Bowlby.



Markus Flender, Germany



Thomas Ester, Germany



Scott Hampton, Collaboration Kite



Robert Brasington, Australia



Perfect Wind, Perfect Weather

Fanø is famous for its expansive beaches and excellent kite-flying conditions, and this year did not disappoint. The weather was simply amazing, bringing sunshine, comfortable temperatures, and plenty of steady wind.

Every day offered opportunities to fill the sky with color and creativity, making this year's event one of our most enjoyable visits yet.



The beaches of Fanø provided ideal flying conditions throughout the week.

Exploring the Island

When we weren't flying kites, we took time to enjoy the beauty and culture of the island itself. A visit to the charming village of Sønderho was a particular highlight. With its historic buildings and welcoming atmosphere, it remains one of Denmark's most picturesque communities. While there, we enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Sønderho Kro, where excellent food and hospitality made for an unforgettable evening.



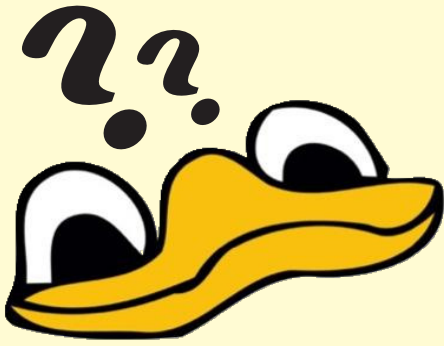
Sønderho's historic charm makes it one of Fanø's most memorable destinations.

We also spent time exploring Nordby, browsing local shops and enjoying the relaxed pace of island life.



Exploring Nordby's shops and cafés provided a perfect break from the flying field.

(continued pg 7)



Presidential Ponderings & Duck Droppings

—By Mike Dallmer, President



PRESIDENT REPORT

Hello Kite Flyers, I hope you are well and enjoying the Summer and whatever plans you have are working out the best they could. At the Dallmers. Things are looking up and we are working on getting back to 100%, I really appreciate all the help we are getting especially from our family, especially Mike Jr and Gina! (The picture is of my grandson Eric and I enjoying all you can eat crabs at 3-mile landing between Wildwoods and Cape May).

STATE OF SJKF CLUB

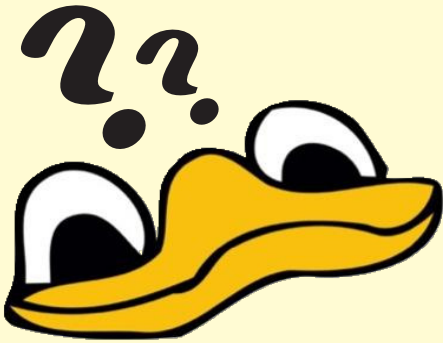
As reported by our Treasurer Cel, as of June 30, 2026, there was \$1,509.14 in the bank and \$1,986.01 in cash for a total of \$3,495.15. All bills are paid and we have a few major sources of income coming up: Mann Music Center event (\$3,000.00) Membership, 12th Annual LBI International Kite Fest, Kite-Making (Depends on the weather but this can be profitable) and our Anniversary Bash (\$\$\$\$????). These events should seriously help us in the finance department. As for membership, we are holding steady, 92 on July 10, 2026.

The 12th Annual LBI Fly Invitational Kite Festival, 10/9/2026 and 10/10/26 is shaping up to be another *must do* event this year with all kinds of activities planned. SJKF will again have our own flying field and any member who would like to fly with us is welcome to join us. We will again be building kites with kids and can always use help in this category. Our main players in this are Donna, Mel, Nancy, Dawn and of course, Cel. These members could always use help especially when they need to take a break, either for food or go to the potty. Think about helping them if you can. Don't forget, there will also be a raffle of some fantastic kites. If you are thinking about volunteering, please let me or Debra Bowlby, Organizer know so we can get your shirt size for your volunteer t-shirt.



8/15/2026 **SJKF 4th Annual SUMMER BBQ** at the Dallmers Household. The purpose of this is to get together with friends, have fun, eat BBQ stuff, put together, and photograph kites for the 31st 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 bash. A pool is available to keep you cool if it is too hot that day. Start time is 1pm. Please RSVP so we know how much food to provide. mikedallmer@verizon.net

8/22/2026 **Milestone Mashup—a 250th Celebration**. After many emails, we are confirmed to participate in this exciting event. SJKF will build at least 500 kites with the public. I say “public” rather than “children” because we are not yet sure who the participants will be. Location: Highmark Mann Center for the Performing Arts, 5201 Parkside Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131.



Presidential Ponderings & Duck Droppings

—By Mike Dallmer, President

September 27th, 2026, **32nd SJKF Anniversary Bash and Auction**. We have Andy's kites, along with kites from Kevin and Cinda Shannon, for this year's event. Festivities begin around noon, Kite fliers time, with plenty of food and our fabulous once-a-year South Jersey Kite Flyers (SJKF) auction. This is our main fundraiser of the year and is always a fun event. We already have many interesting auction items, but we would welcome yours as well. If you can bring a favorite dish or specialty, please let Cel know at cdallmer@verizon.net or 215-805-7498. **Remember, bid high and please bid often!**

Due to all the kite building events coming up, we decided to order **500 kite kits** from our source who promised we would receive them in plenty of time to get them ready for LBIKF. Right now, we have 1,081 kite kits on hand and 489 kits unmade but that just might not be enough. Plans are already being talked about for our **2027 Winter Workshop**. Any suggestions for the subject are greatly appreciated.
Our Calendar: is as up to date as I can make and sorry for all

Finally, thank you! Thank you for being a member and for making it so rewarding to lead such a wonderful group of people.

Sick Bay Updates:

Joe (Grumpy) Kay Knee Replacement Surgery - Recovering well.

Debra Bowlby Ankle Surgery recovery – Recovering well.

Cel Dallmer – Fall downstairs on boardwalk. Cel fell downstairs after stepping on a “Ring Pop” candy. The fall was significant enough to require EMS response and an ER visit. Fortunately, there were no broken bones but a significant gash to Cel's forearm and multiple bumps and bruises that will surely take some time to heal.

Andy Selzer Open Heart Surgery recovery – Andy has been moved to Berlin Rehabilitation Center to continue his recovery. His brother says Andy's recovery is going well.

Ken Gorski Knee Replacement Repair – Ken had surgery on 6/29 to re-cement his previous knee replacement. Unfortunately, that was not possible, and another new knee was placed. Post operatively Ken developed an infection and his incision had to be reopened to combat the infection.

John Dallmer (Mike's Brother) – John developed sepsis related to his previous knee replacement years earlier. John went into septic shock and was hospitalized in the ICU. Fortunately, He recovered enough to come home and continue treatment. Sadly, this has all taken a huge emotional toll on John. He is struggling with all his setbacks. Addendum: On July 13th John was re-hospitalized due to two pulmonary embolisms. He was released on 7/18 and now relies on oxygen to help his breathing.



Finally,
thank you—
THANK YOU—
and
thank you!!

Thank you
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Meeting Dick Toonen and Flying at the Drumbox Kite Meeting: A Sky-High Highlight

There are moments in kite flying that stay with you forever — the kind that mark a turning point, deepen your passion, and connect you with the people who shaped the craft. For me, one of those moments began a few years ago on Long Beach Island, when Dutch kite designer Dick Toonen arrived to teach a workshop on building his iconic Drumbox kite.

I didn't know it then, but that class would spark a full-blown love affair with the Drumbox design. The clean geometry, the rhythmic structure, the way it is so steady in the wind — it all clicked. Since that day, I've made



about nine Drumbox kites, each one a little piece of that first inspiration. My pride and joy is the two that I appliqued and made for my grandson Landon and Holden.

Fast-Forward to Fanø: A Drumbox Reunion

This year at Fanø, that inspiration came full circle. Trip and I joined the official Drumbox Meeting with Dick Toonen and his wife Tonny Toonen, who now helps carry the legacy of the design forward. Standing on the field with them — surrounded by flyers who share the same enthusiasm — felt like returning to the source.

And what a gathering it was.

A New Record: 106 Drumbox Kites

The energy on the field was electric as kite makers and flyers from around the world assembled their creations. When the final count came in, we had set a new record: 106 Drumbox kites flying together. The sky transformed into a living mosaic of color, shape, and motion — a tribute to Dick's creativity and the global community it inspired.

Among those 106 kites was one that meant something special to me: a Drumbox I had made for Passing Wind Kite Club. Getting to fly it at Fano, in the presence of Dick and Tonny, felt like closing a beautiful loop — from learning the design on Long Beach Island to contributing to a world-record flight.

It wasn't just a meeting. It was a celebration of craftsmanship, friendship, and the joy of seeing something you built take its place in a sky full of kindred creations.

Why It Matters

Kite flying is always about more than the wind. It's about the people who teach us, the designs that inspire us, and the shared experiences that lift us higher. Meeting up with Dick again and flying in the Drumbox Meeting reminded me how lucky we are to be part of a community that keeps these traditions alive — one kite, one workshop, one record at a time.



Dick Toonen, Trip Bowlby, Tonny Toonen and me (Debra Bowlby).



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Until Next Year

Before leaving Denmark, we shared breakfast with Rolf and Ulrike, a fitting end to a vacation filled with friendship and memorable experiences. We then returned to Copenhagen and checked into The Square Hotel, where we spent our final evening reflecting on another extraordinary trip.

As our ferry pulled away from Fanø and our journey home began, we couldn't help but feel grateful for the friendships, the flying, and the special atmosphere that makes this event so unique.

For Trip and me, Fanø has become more than a destination. It has become a tradition. And because this year's experience was so exceptional, we've already reserved our holiday home and are looking forward to returning in 2027 for another week beneath the colorful skies of Denmark.



Our European Breakfast



Trip & Lauren Bowlby and Amy Gould



... Until next year, Fanø.

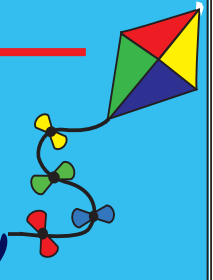
PROST!



2026

Calendar of Events

south jersey kite flyers club



Calendar of Events for SJKF, updated as of 8/01/2026. Please contact the people listed to make sure the event is still taking place, watch your emails for updates!

8/15/2026 **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. 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

8/22/2026 **Milestone Mashup-a 250th celebration**, Mann Music Center, Highmark Mann Center for the Performing Arts, 5201 Parkside Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131. The event is from 11am – 4pm. Contact Mike Dallmer for more information 215-805-7499 or mikedallmer@verizon.net

9/7/2026 **Labor Day**

9/11/2026 – 9/13/2026 **Kites at 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 Kites*

9/11/2026 - 9/12/2026 **Outer Banks Kite Festival** – Jockey's Ridge State Park, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Location(s) [Jockey's Ridge State Park](#)

9/12/2026 (Saturday) Capriccio Festival of Kites 9:00 am - 2:00 pm [Ogunquit Main Beach, 115 Beach St, Ogunquit](#) 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@kite loft.com

9/27/2026 **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.

10/3/2026 (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 taken care of for a while, while at the same time being afforded the opportunity to fly a kite on the side of an 800-foot hill. This is a unique flying venue that is worth the navigation to get there. 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. KONE

10/9/2026 – 10/10/2026 **The 12th Annual LBI FLY Invitational Kite Festival** Long Beach Island (LBI), NJ

One Sky One World, October 11

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

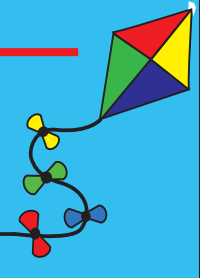
10/15/2026 Deadline for article submission for WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

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 cdallmer@verizon.net or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net 215-722-4092 Remember, bribes are accepted.

11/XX/2026 (Saturday) **KONE Fly at Hampton Beach**. 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

2026 Calendar of Events

south jersey kite flyers club



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=Yy80UUJmbXZlZnSmlhbnYUFRQT09>

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](#)

12/2026 **SJKF Holiday Party**. Same location as last year: Villa Deli, 507 Williamstown RD., Sicklerville NJ 0808. Time is 12-4 with set up beginning around 11am. (Date: TBD)

1/15/2027 Deadline for article submission for WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

1/17/2027 (3rd Sunday) **SJKF Zoom Meeting**, meeting starts at 7pm. Same link and password (kite) as before:

<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlZnSmlhbnYUFRQT09>

2/1/2027 **Deadline for Winter Workshop Reservations**, let us know what you are building, Heart kite, Sand Anchor or Personal Banner, Contact Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net or 215-805-7499.

2/12/2027 - 2/15/2027 **Maryland Kite Society's 47th Kite Retreat** (Date tentative)

2/20/2026 **SJKF Winter Workshop**, Location: Mullica Hill Library, 389 Wolfert Station Rd, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062. Meeting room A (not the kitchen) Time is 10:00am till 4:30pm (Date tentative)

3/20/2027 **Blossom Kite Festival**, on the grounds of the Washington Monument (Date tentative)

3/21/2027 (3rd Sunday) **SJKF Zoom Meeting**, meeting starts at 7pm. Same link and password (kite) as before:

<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlZnSmlhbnYUFRQT09>

3/26/27 60th **Annual Great Delaware Kite Festival at Cape Henlopen State Park on Good Friday** (Date tentative)

3/28/2027 **Easter**

April is National Kite Month

4/11/2027 **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 (Date tentative)

4/15/2027 *Deadline for article submission for WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net*

April 17, 2027, **Maker Faire Philadelphia 2027**

4/2027 **SJKF Give Back Workshop** Location: Mullica Hill Library, 389 Wolfert Station Rd, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062. Time is 1pm till 3:00pm (Date TBD)

4/2027 **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 (Date TBD)



WILDWOODS INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL 2026 AT 40 YEARS OLD

by Mike Dallmer

Happy 40th Anniversary Wildwoods!! Apparently, Mother Nature did not get the message, and it was very, can we say very **WET!!!** Thank you, Mother Nature,....

The Dallmers arrived on Thursday late morning and drove the entire way through rain but luckily for us, when we arrived most of the rain had stopped long enough for us to unload.

Friday – Rain!

Saturday – Rain!!

Sunday – Rain!!!

Monday – Threatening rain!!! It didn't really affect the event as Monday was the indoor event, great work everyone, especially Doug.

Tuesday- Packed to go home when it was dry!

The weather was so bad the Sky Festivals unloaded their trailer for the sales tent on Thursday, and late Saturday decided to repack the trailer to go home as the weather forecast was terrible!! They thought it was better to pack when there was a period of dryness. Good move!

Quad line kite fliers endured the weather and tried to convert our very own Kevin Sewell to be one of them!!

Kevin had a good time learning from an expert, thanks to Paul Dugard!!

Ben, what can I say, weather didn't stop him any day, he gets the award for the



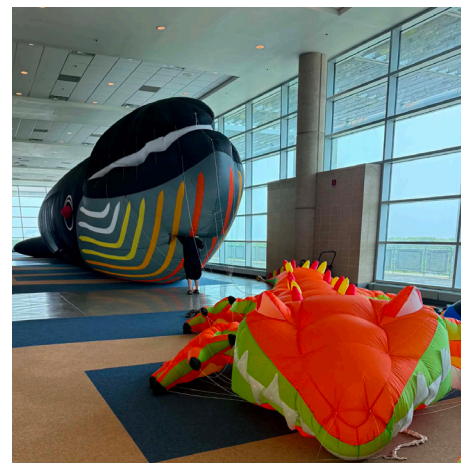
person giving it the most effort to fly. Mike Jr., and I flew a 10meter diameter Bol for a few hours during dryness on Sunday while Jake, (not from State Farm) put on a fabulous show with the center piece being a 110 ft shark. There were times, even that disappeared in the fog!!

Even with a drizzle the Friday Night Social went off with a bang, even with the weather, we fed 46 people, all who had a great time and didn't go home hungry. I think the hit of it was the Hot Dog Roller, thanks Mike Jr) where he had trouble keeping them cooked.



Overall, it was still a fun festival where we got to spend a lot of time with kite flyers, met a few new friends, friends I had on-line and never met and then a lot of old friends. I really missed those who moved south that didn't attend; Joyce and Jeff King and Cinda and Kevin Shannon!!

And you cannot forget how Jake, not from State Farm, decorated the hall outside the indoor!





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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