

Volume 29 | Issue 162

The Newsletter of South Jersey Kite Fliers

**JULY 2023** 



## KRABLIN'S TRAVEL TO FANO

I have the sense that going to Fanø is sort of an "out there dream" for many kiters! While scheduling classes for UMAKE, we made the impulsive decision to use accumulated (but value decreasing) Frequent Flyer miles to participate in this "meeting" on a wee island in the North Sea, off the southwest edge of Denmark. There is a small group of our UMAKE friends who are regulars or have attended this large kite event.



Now we understand the allure AND how very different the Fanø gathering is from any kite event we have enjoyed in the USA! Though in Denmark, the kiters are largely German. However, we met folks from Denmark, Belgium, Poland, and Netherlands when they stopped by the "camp" of Cat Gabrel, Jim Day, Rich Durant, Robert Brasington that Larry and I had been invited to join.

Conversations were all in impressive English! The social aspect of this event is HUGE, folks enjoying wine and snacks at other camps as they reconnect with people they have not seen since their last Fanø or before.

**VENUE**: Likely all SJKF folk have been to Wildwood. Envision a beach with more than twice the depth of sand from the dunes to the water that extends as far north and south as you can see. Said immense expanse of sand is firm enough that all the kiters simply drive cars, vans, trailers, and campers onto the beach and set up "camps".

Other tourists and probably locals ride bicycles among the anchors... as do vehicles. Creative line markers abound and yes, there is the occasional

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waving of arms as four wheels cross a line on the sand! Most camps have some identifier... a banner, well-known kite, a distinctive trailer or a traditional pattern of parking vehicles.

The Hamburg Kite club, many of whom are not from Hamburg we were told, "circle up" in a line with wind

breaks inside the vehicles. That configuration, I assume, results from the experience of 39 years this gathering has been taking place on Fanø... excepting 2020 and 2021... we all know the regrets of COVID cancellations!

HOUSING: Fanø is home to about 3400 residents. Given the amazing beach, it is also a tourist destination. Especially near the beaches off the towns of Nordby and Rindby, the dunes are dotted with houses of wildly varied size and character. There are some built well into the last century with thatched roofs and walls that may be constructed from salvaged wood crates carried across on the ferry – a tale told by cashier in the grocery store closest to the Rindby beach about her father's cabin that the family recently sold.

There are MANY very modern houses with hot tubs and pools, stainless appliance and lots of windows. This is a vacation destination, so like our shore towns rentals are Sun-Sat. There are lots of houses on tiny, unpaved roads within 500 meters of the beaches! Most are handled by a company called Danibo...

that will do your laundry and deliver it should your washing machine break down! Separate charges are for water and electricity via meters.

PANIC: our need was for Wed-Wed... challenge! A kitemaker we met at UMAKE provided the link to AirB&B. We found a "Bed and Kitchen" apartment in a home in the "suburbs" of Nordby about 5 Km from the primary flying area on Rindby beach. Reviews described the apartment as "delightfully retro" and "seriously in need of updating". Opting for the former, we found a very adequate apartment for 3 with a quiet garden patio, charcoal provided for a grill and more amenities in the kitchen cabinet than I expected. We added some Penzey spices, oil and vinegar! As the Danish family friend who shared Wed to Sunday with us said when I panicked about finding housing near the beach, "Fanø is 10 miles long and 2 ½ miles wide... NOTHING is very



far from anywhere!" Fact...

OUR ADVENTURE: Our original arrival in Hamburg was to have been 10:30 a.m. From other Americans we learned too late... NEVER allow less than 3 hours to connect in London Heathrow! We had under an hour... were not even allowed to get to the

# Presidential Ponderings Duck Droppings

By Mike Dallmer

Hello Fellow Kite Fliers, Summer is halfway over and things are always happening at SJKF!!! On August 23 I will have my rotator cuff rePAired. I tore one tendon off, a second is partially torn, there is a hole in that tendon and rotator cuff needs repair on top of all this!! How did this happen? Well, lifting What the Duck (45#) into the trailer after an event in April!



That is Mike Jr., below with What the Duck packed away! This will lay me up for at least six weeks as that arm will be strapped to my side, then rehab with full recovery taking about nine months, according to the doc who is doing it.



Why am I telling you this? Emails, texts and messages during the first 6 weeks will be few and far between, after that I may be scarce at events, definitely not flying kites till the spring. I will still be on top of things though and if needed, you can always call me at 215-805-7499. This also means we will need help at a few events: Elliot's Legacy (Kite Flyers), Radnor Library

(Children's Kite Making), SJKF's 28th Annual Anniversary Bash (Setup, Clean Up, Auction and anything else I normally do) and LBI (Children's Kite Making).

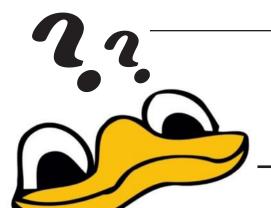
On Saturday, September 16th, the Radnor Library Kite Build is scheduled at the Radnor Memorial; Library,

114 W. Wayne Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087. This is from 10AM – 12PM. (tentative). Normally Cel and I do the Radnor Library Kite Build with a few other members, however, this year I will not be able to participate in this event. So, with that said, we need help at the event. At most, their will be 50 kites to finish assembling once the participants finish their artwork. Let me know ASAP so I can confirm that SJKF can do this event. I would really like to remove that tentative.



SJKF EZUP: the design has been finalized and after one final

check at the SJKF BBQ it will then be sent to EZUP to build. I am really excited about these. I know I asked for individual kite photos but in the end, the committee decided to go a different way, sorry about that. I think you will be very pleased with the final designs of 2 EZUPs.



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LBI 2023, from what I understand the flying locations for this year's events are going to change so pay close attention to official information, either by email or on the LBI Facebook PAge.



This year's LBI Workshop (coordinated by Debra Bowlby) is presented by Ron Gibian. This is Ron's first banner-making workshop. His artistic design is second to none. This year's workshop (flyer to the right) is sold out (within two days of it's publication) and there is now a waiting list. If you are still interested, please contact Debra at djbowlby@me.com and get your name on the list. This went fast WOW!!!

8/20/2023 Sixteenth Annual Elliot's Legacy Kite Fly for the Lung Cancer Research Foundation, is a new format with kite flying being a different time this year. Arrive: 9:00AM, Set up large kites in air, Registration opens at 9:30 AM, event begins at 10:00AM, depart 1:00PM, Event ends at 1:00PM. For more information and to let me know if you are attending, contact



mikedallmer@verizon.net or 215-722-4092

September 17, 2023 is the 28th Annual SJKF Anniversary Bash and Auction. We are always looking for items to auction especially something unique or homemade!! You can bring them to the event or get them to me somehow, please though, if possible, let me know in advance what to expect, mdallmer@verizon.net or 215-805-7499. Cel is working on our food, (doesn't she do a fabulous job), but she couldn't do it without your help! She is looking for food or dessert item to be donated; this is the perfect opportunity to showcase your specialty!! If donating food, please let Cel know at 215-722-4092 or cdallmer@verizon.net



The 38th Annual Oland and Bernice Turner International Invitational Open Peanut Butter Cookie and Kite Fly is already in the preparation stage and is going to take place in Seaside Park, NJ again this year at the Southern Gazebo in the Parking Lot adjacent to the Sawmill. The date is November 5 and it starts at high noon. Remember this is a fun event and bribes are greatly appreciated though they don't always work.

\*\*Jealous of the winning\*\*

peanut butter cookie kite



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By Mike Dallmer

New orders of PLK kits have arrived and have been delivered and paid for! SJKF itself owns 3 Freddy's Dolphin Kits, 1 Whale Kit, and 6 Whale Sharks Kits. We can always use help assembling these especially since I'm going to be out of commission at sewing in the near future is out of the question!

We are going back to a historic place on 10/14/2023 for Growden Day Kite Fly at the Growden Historic Manson. Why historic, this where Ben Franklin supposedly flew the kite experiment. Location: 932 Durham PI, Bensalem, PA 19020 time is 10AM – 3PM. We will most likely be building kites with the children.

WindWriters: after a long conversation with our Editor, Debra Bowlby (who does an outstanding job), we are going to propose at the Anniversary Bash that we change the number of issues from 6 a year to 4 issues a year (quarterly). Why? It is getting harder to get contributors to write articles. Look at this issue, if it wasn't for Nancy (and Larry) writing their article, what would you have? My writings, you have got to be tired of reading what I have to say!!

If you have or hear of an event that is not listed on our calendar, please let me know so it may be added. Check us out on Facebook, South Jersey Kite Flyers and on the web at sjkf.org.

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



## STATE OF SJKF

State of SJKF, as of June 30, 2023, we have \$12,147.50 in our Treasury. We also had 91 members on that date. The Treasury is going to take a hit on the purchase of the EZUPs. However, with the Anniversary Bash Auction coming up, it should be OK when all is said and done.





#### Calendar of Events for SJKF, updated as of 8-7-2023

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

8/13/2023 SJKF Summer BBQ at the Dallmers Household, 306 Friendship St, Phila., PA 19111 on August 13, 2023. The purpose of this is to get together with friends, have fun, eat BBQ stuff and put together and photograph kites for the 28th 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 1:00 PM. Please RSVP so we know how much food to provide. mikedallmer@verizon.net

**8/20/2023** Sixteenth Annual Elliot's Legacy Kite Fly for the Lung Cancer Research Foundation, Location: 1 Jerome Avenue, Deal, NJ 07723, we will be helping the attendees fly their kites and us putting our kites in the sky on the beach. Arrive: 9:00 AM, Set up large kites in air, Registration opens at 9:30 AM, event begins at 10:00AM, depart 1:00 PM, Event ends at 1:00 PM. For more information and to let me know if you are attending, contact mikedallmer@verizon.net

**9/8/2023 – 9/10/2023** Outer Banks Kite Festival. Nags Head, NC Contact Kitty Hawk Kites for More information 877-FLY-THIS or marketing@kittyhawk.com

**9/9/2023** (Saturday) Brick Township Kite Festival rain date 9/10/2023 Contact Sky Festival Productions 732-822-4884 or bpelton@skyfestivals.com

**9/15/2023** Deadline for submission of article for next issue of WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby Djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net 306 Friendship St., Phila., PA 19111

**9/16/2023** (Saturday) Radnor Library Kite Build, Radnor Memorial; Library, 114 W. Wayne Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087. This is from 4:30-6pm Contact Mike Dallmer for more information mikedallmer@ verizon.net or 215-722-4092. (Tentative)

**9/17/2023** (3rd Sunday) 28th 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



9/21/2023 – 9/24/2023 The Kite Loft Sunfest 2023 Location: 3rd St – 7st, Ocean City, MD For information call 410-289-7855 or email info@kiteloft.com

10/7/2023 – 10/9/2023 9th Annual Long Beach Island International Kite Festival For more information go to https://lbifly.com/ or the Facebook page "LBI FLY International Kite Festival"

10/9/2023 – 10/14/2023 44th Annual AKA Convention, October 9-14, 2023. Where: Enid, Oklahoma. For more information go to American Kitefliers Association - 44th Annual AKA Convention, October 9-14, 2023

**10/14/2023** Growden Day Kite Fly at the Growden Historic Manson (where Ben Franklin supposedly fly the kite experiment). Location: 932 Durham Pl, Bensalem, PA 19020 time is 10am – 3pm. We will most likely be building kites with the children.

11/5/2023 The 38th 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.

**11/15/2023** Deadline for submission of article for next issue of WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby Djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net 306 Friendship St., Phila., PA 19111

**11/19/2023** (3rd Sunday) SJKF Zoom Meeting, meeting starts at 7pm. Same link and password (kite) as before:

https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80U UJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09

11/24/2023 – 11/25/2023 Hangin' with Santa and Kites With Lights Nags Head, NC Contact Kitty Hawk Kites for More information 877-FLY-THIS or marketing@kittyhawk.com

**12/3/2023** SJKF Holiday party. Randi's Restaurant and Bar, from noon till 3 pm. Location, Grant Plaza II, 1619 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115, phone: (215) 677-7723 Contact Cel Dallmer cdallmer@verizon.net or 215-722-4092 Same place as the last few years.

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



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security line for the flight to Hamburg and directed to Brit Air's rescheduling desk. There we accepted the advice to take a two hop connection- London to Frankfort and Frankfort to Hamburg, arriving at 2:30. Our car was booked for 11:00.

We landed at about the scheduled time... but none of our luggage was on the carousel. Three of our four bags were located by the desk addressing lost luggage. These arrived on the next flight at 4:30. Neither carousel nor oversized bags had the golf bag... most of our kites, the sand anchors and lines... so we proceeded to Budget Rental cars who gave us our keys, but did not change the return time to allow for the Brit Air delay. Three large bags were taken to the garage.

Cat had advised "provisioning" in Germany at a shopping center just off the Autobahn near the Danish border... but the hour grew late! Fortunately there was a grocery store in the air terminal, where I purchased what I thought would supply three with the basics for several days. I waited with groceries while Larry returned for beverages.

We drove out toward Fanø around 5:30... at least three hours after we had expected to be on the island, awaiting our friend Finn.

There was a TWO HOUR stoppage on the Autobaun! When traffic finally began to crawl and then get up to speed, there was absolutely no evidence why we had SAT.. but- C'est la Vie! At around 10:40 p.m. we stopped and verified we were on the best route... it was perhaps dusk. Driving west toward the coast, skies were a beautiful pink at 11:15 p.m.. When we arrived in Esbjurg to look for the ferry, however, it was quite dark. A gentleman walking his dog tried to assist us.

Roundabouts were closed where several VERY large trailered objects (later determined to be wind turbine components) were being transported to the commercial port around midnight. Our hopes of getting to Fanø that day were gone! Some young men in a sort of industrial parking lot assured us there was a 24 hour parking lot by the car/passenger ferry. This would be our bedroom in our first night in Denmark.

Waking at 4 a.m., there was some activity at the ferry office.. a few passengers arriving to transit to the island. I asked their advice, we went through the self pay kiosk and were on the first ferry to Fanø Island ... at 4:30 a.m.

The crossing is less than 15 minutes and roads are pretty much empty at 5:00 a.m.- though it was "broad daylight"! With a few driving errors, we found our apartment.. dead end street off several more major roads... confirmed we were at the right place by peeking in the windows, the room matching the website photos. Finn heard us around 5:30 a.m.-warm greetings and leisurely breakfast in the garden behind "our" house!

We were on the beach and by 9:30 a.m., Cat waving her arms as we had our first experience driving on a beach! The "camp" to which we were welcomed was that of Cat (Catherine Gabrel), Jim Day, Rich Durant and Robert Brasington. It was one of those days when there was virtually ZERO wind on an island where there is ALWAYS wind. All kiters know that sinking feeling... but it's a great time to get to know people and absorb the aura of a totally different kiting experience.

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This kite gathering has very little formal organization. There was a Bol fly Tues and Wed evening. (Sensed Bol flyers are somewhat persona non grata, as in the high winds they require, a good bit of sand gets airborne.. and in eyes, etc.) We had planned to be there for the Wed display (the photos of past years are spectacular!) but travel "challenges" altered that plan! Thursday evening there was a flea market,



Friday morning a banner display was scheduled at ten (this was pretty amazing... many of us know the work of Linda Sanders, who participated) followed by the famous/infamous PINK display. Saturday there was an auction in the evening. There were no announcements and to our knowledge, no posted notices... only word of mouth and tradition. Beach purchases were in Danish Kroner, market and auction in Euros.

The wind had picked up. Scott Skinner put up a cotton kite (name meant nothing to me). Others assembled theirs of this type and walked to his anchor, kites aloft. Stacking these was decided to be the adventure of the early afternoon (total of five) and Achim Kinter produced an amazing device from his well packed van to measure the line pull. The gauge was designed to weigh pigs.



Throughout the gathering wind rose and fell, kites went up and came down depending on what was in the sky, what people had on their staked down blankets and individual choices. Robert Brasington maintained a continuous display of his many creations- singles, stacks, and in his several color families. There was a brisk business at "our" camp!

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Low winds again Sat. morning, so we drove to Sønderho at the south end of the island. This town was established in the 16th century... lots of history here. The homes here are quaint, low lying, mostly with thatched roofs... and all the way down at the tip of the island was a Citron rally amongst the narrow, winding streets! German bunkers from WWII are still very visible and mines remain a concern when the sands are disturbed

A drumbox gathering appeared around 3 Saturday that included 82 drum box kites, with two ARCHES. Quite spectacular, to say the least!

To us is seemed most kiters started leaving the beach between 3 and 3:30. Each day, we helped dump sand bags (a different technique when piles are not welcome to vehicular traffic..) and pack kites into bags and van.

With Finn's navigation, we visited all 3 markets on the island. Late afternoons in summer, Danes relax with Rose wine. On our charcoal grill, we cooked Finn's requested chicken with our family marinade and the most delicious salmon I can recall since being in Alaska!

Sunday, Finn had to return to Copenhagen. After leaving the beach, we explored some trails near our apartment and a local cemetery- interesting window into speculation on island culture.

Note... we could only fly a select few kites with borrowed anchor and lines! THE PIG WAS ALOFT Sunday. Monday dawned gray and calm... we met on the beach around noon, walked to the sea, peaked into the enclosed lifeguard stand, discovered phone over WiFi worked very well... fortunately- as Brit Air had cancelled our flights home in the snafu of

rescheduling! That was a bit of an ordeal.. but after multiple disconnects and several helpful agents, return flights were confirmed.

Our kites were finally delivered around 7:30p.m. MONDAY evening. Tuesday we were able to fly a number of our lighter favorites as well as a new fluttering bird presented to us by Kite Designer Rüdiger Gröning (groenin@uni-muenster.de) when he had kites flying and nothing else was aloft! Major wind shift around 12:20... and everything fell out of the sky! The German Ladies had an apparently traditional and raucous "color war" behind their camp and all headed to the sea to wash the remnants away!





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A surprising aspect was the number of bird styled kites...one appeared, others seemed to appear and soon there was a group...prompting the determination for the correct collective for Albatroses, magpies, blackbirds, etc!

Wednesday we visited the beach to bid fond farewells. It was COLD and winds strong... but the car had to be at the airport at 4:30. We departed around 11 and drove the scenic coastal route through towns and villages that would be interesting to explore. However, there was not really time to gamble. Car in return bay slightly after 4.

Now dealing with four large bags, we located the Brit Air desk, eventually confirmed that indeed our flights were as originally scheduled. BUT the hotel that advertised free shuttle did not provide this service. By the time THAT was sorted out, it was



too late to find a cab into the city, store or haul our luggage... another night "in the rough" seemed our fate! We slept well until about 4:30 a.m., than again until 6ish when the buzz of travelers brought us to life. WE

had hoped to see a bit of old Hamburg Wed afternoon and Thurs morning, as our flight to London was not until 2:30! Perhaps if there is a "next time"! Instead, there was ample time to seek out breakfast in the airport separately and be second in line to check in, clear security and fly to London.

On the return, plenty of time for our connecting flight, landing in Newark about as scheduled at 10:30 p.m. Overnight near the airport and return to Downingtown the next day via New Jersey Transit and SEPTA, neighbor collecting us in Exton.



Nancy's assessment of a fabulous adventure: make sure all reservations are double confirmed with specifics (like shuttles!! and reasonable transition between flights) from all points in the journey, travel CARRYON (having most of our kites lost introduced unnecessary stress.. we are not the first with kites in limbo!), enjoy the amazing kites flown and the incredible ambiance of Fanø, "OPK" when offered and fly your own kites at home! For me, this was much more about the people, the setting, the friendships and the very different sort of event- one of kiting culture, not of flying kites.

Readers of Windwriters... if you survived this article... thanks for the opportunity to relate our kiting adventure in Denmark!

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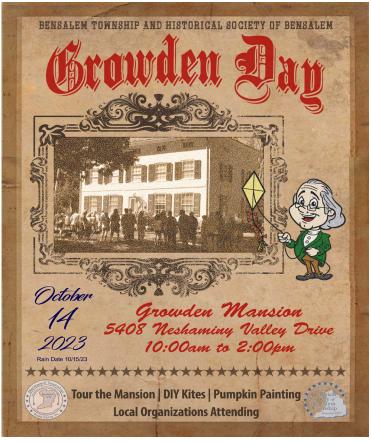
### KITES DONÍT FY THEMSELVES . . .



We need candidates for President, Vice President and Director at Large. Be a dear .... and Volunteer it is easy to do!

Send your name and position you would like to be nominated for to Donna McGee Email- DonnaMRN@Comcast.net. Or Phone 856-796-2140





Membership Application	Membership Dues	1yr 2yr 3yrs Amt		
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SJKF and you're in! Welcome to the club!  Name Address:  City Phone (H)	ST ZIP (C)	South Jersey Kite Flyers		
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#### WindWriters is the newsletter of the South Jersey Kite Flyers and is published bi-monthly by the SJKF

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