

Volume 30 | Issue 166 The Newsletter of South Jersey Kite Fliers

**JULY 2024** 

Windwriters is published quarterly.

## 38th Annual Wildwoods International Kite Festival



Did you ever attend a major kite festival where you were not able to pick something up? I did and it was at the WIKF and it stunk. I just had my left shoulder repaired, of course from a kite injury, March 13, so there was no way I could fly! However, SJKF members picked up my slack and made sure I didn't lift anything. It was like a bunch of Mom's who were enjoying themselves telling me "DON'T!!" In the end though, I was just happy to be there with people I consider my friends.

The SJKF Friday Night Social was again a hit, serving 62 kite flyers in what was billed as the best \$15 meal on the island!! Where else could you get an all you could eat buffet and be with friends for that price?

Kite Flying this year was a not as good as hoped as the winds Gods did not look down on us with favor, instead the winds were up and down each of





the three days we were available to fly kites. One thing I really loved was the very very large Fugo that was on the back of the main flying field. It was so large the Mike Jr., had to turn our electric wagon into a bubby so he could take his Mom (Cel) all the way to the back of the field.

SJKF EZ ups were a hit and did exactly what we wanted, served as a gathering place for SJKF members. They were never empty the entire weekend, I was always in the Southwest corner enjoying the show!







## 38th Annual Wildwoods International Kite Festival

The Heros of the South Jersey Kite Flyers, those people who don't get the recognition they deserve and are always busy bees!!









And finally these two, especially Cel who was caught in a very odd position, sitting down and relaxing!!!



How did I mess up both shoulders was the #1 question, picking up "What the Duck", which weighs 45 pounds without sand, and try to put it on top of stuff in the trailer. The worse thing I heard was from my doc, I asked why this is happening, he said you are getting old!!!



What the Duck is in the bag that Mike is posing with.

Remember, you are only as old as you feel!!

-Mike Dallmer, President.





# Presidential Ponderings Duck Droppings

By Mike Dallmer





WOW, is it hot outside? I guess these are the dog days of summer that we are experiencing right now!! Be careful of the heat outside and also be prepared for Covid's ugly head again as Cel, Mike Jr., and I are just getting over it, again. I have

had all 4 vaccines and still have gotten Covid 4 times!! And yes, I take Vitamin C religiously.

SJKF SUMMER BBQ: at the Dallmers Household, 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 and 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.

#### Seventh Annual Elliots Legacy Kites for Cure

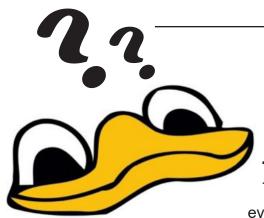


Sunday, August 11, 2024 beginning at 4PM - 7PM. DSN Beach Club, 123 Ocean Ave N, Deal NJ 07723 Please arrive at 2:30 PM. Elliots Legacy's donations go to help support Lung Cancer Research. 30th SJKF Anniversary Bash and Auction to be held on September 15, 2024 (3rd Sunday). At the Dallmer Household, 306 Friendship St, Philadelphia, 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 item for our auction, some ae event 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.

SJKF Holiday Party. December 8, 2024. 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. Mark your calendars, this is a must do event of the year!!

Speaking of our calendar, I am looking for a volunteer to enter our events on the AKA Website at Add a Calendar Event | AKA American Kitefliers Association 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.

Emails: if you aren't receiving emails from me, please let me know, drop me an email to let me know and I will fix that issue!!!



# Presidential Ponderings Duck Droppings

By Mike Dallmer

Thank you all who have helped at Wildwoods and every other event that I was limited in what I could do!!

And, finally, thank you, thank you, and thank you!! For being a member and making my job fulfilling by leading a great bunch of people!

PS: wondering who and what the picture is where the author's picture should be? That is Mike Jr., in his younger days, holding what he called a Candy Cody, he made two of them out of his favorite candy wrapper, Reese's Peanut Butter Cup. He even used the brown/black paper that hold the cups, they were pockets for the sticks.

The first one he made was used at the OABTIIOPBCKFABO where Olan Turner chose that as that year's winning kite. The second was entered at the Gettysburg AKA and won for use of other media, it was then auctioned off and Barabara Brinman won it, it was then displayed in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum for a while.

### STATE OF SJKF

We are doing great!

The Treasure reported that the club's account balance is \$8188.03 at the end of June, and now a membership of 107!

Word is getting out about the best kept secret in kiting, be a SJKF Member!



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



Calendar of Events for SJKF, updated as of 7-11-2024. Please contact the people listed to make sure the event is still taking place and watch your emails for updates!

**8/10/2024 Vintage Kite Fly,** Bug Light South Portland ME Contact Ralph Reed rreed3@comcast.net for more information.

**8/11/2024 (Sunday) Elliots Legacy**, new location, DSN Beach Club, 123 Ocean Ave N, Deal NJ 07723 Arrival: 2:30 PM Event Hours: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**8/17/2024 Pigs Can Fly/Potluck,** Colt State Park Bristol RI Contact Ralph Reed rreed3@comcast.net for more information.

**8/18/2024 SJKF Summer BBQ** at the Dallmers Household, 306 Friendship St, Phila., Pa 19111 on 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 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

#### 9/7/2024 (Saturday) 23rd Annual Capriccio Festival,

Ogunquit ME Contact Ralph Reed rreed3@comcast.net for more information.

**9/8/2024 - 9/14/2024 AKA 45th Annual Convention**, Seaside, Oregon

**9/13/2024 – 9/14/2024 Outer Banks Kite Festival**, Nags Head, NC Contact Kitty Hawk Kites for More information 877-FLY-THIS or events@kittyhawk.com

**9/15/2024 (3rd Sunday) 30th SJKF Anniversary Bash and Auction**. At the Dallmer Household, 306 Friendship St, Phila, PA. Festivities start around noon, Kitefliers time. There will be plenty of food and our fabulous once a year SJKF auction.

**9/19/2024 – 9/22/2024 The Kite Loft's Sunfest Kite Festival** in Ocean City, MD On the beach between 4th and 6th Streets <a href="https://kiteloft.com/kite-festival/sunfest-kite-festival/">https://kiteloft.com/kite-festival/sunfest-kite-festival/</a> contact the Kite Loft at (410) 289-7855 or info@kiteloft.com

10/13/2024 One Sky One World - a sky near you

**10/11/2024 -10/12/2024 LBI FLY Invitational.** LBI Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Passing Wind Kite Club and South Jersey Kite Flyers.

#### **10/14/2024 Columbus Day**

**10/15/2024** Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of WindWriters. Send to Debra Bowlby Djbowlby@me.com or Mike Dallmer mikedallmer@verizon.net

11/3/2024 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.

**11/17/2024 (3rd Sunday) SJKF Zoom Meeting**, meeting starts at 7pm. Same link and password (kite) as before: <a href="https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09">https://drexel.zoom.us/j/88624784369?pwd=Yy80UUJmbXZlblZnSmhtbUNyUFBRQT09</a>

**11/30/2024 Kites with Lights,** Nags Head, NC Contact Kitty Hawk Kites for More information 877-FLY-THIS or events@ kittyhawk.com

**12/8/2024 SJKF Holiday Party.** Randi's Restaurant and Bar, from noon till 3pm. 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.

2/14/2025 - 2/17/2025 Maryland Kite Society's 45th Kite Retreat. It will once again be at our lovely Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland. There will be lots of special events and celebrating then and you don't want to miss it. One of our featured presenters will be one of Europe's most talented and

productive kitemakers - we'll have more details soon.

**5/3/2025 Kite at the Pier (**Rain Date 5/4/2025) Contact Sky Festival Productions 732-822-4884 or bpelton@skyfestivals.com

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

# MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

-By Debra Bowlby

It all began for me 24 years ago when I met my husband. He showed me a part of the world I had never seen. I was unaware of the beauty that I was about to see. He booked a trip to Ocean City, MD and we stayed at the Paradise Hotel on the board walk. Corner top room facing south so I had a view of the beach.

Early morning came and Trip made me some coffee so we could both watch the sunrise together, (little did he know how important that was to me then) and invited me to sit outside with him on the balcony. It was a beautiful sunrise with a warm gentle breeze, when out of the corner of my eye I spotted something on the beach that was black, long and big, it was there for quite some time. I wasn't sure what I was looking at. As I focused on the "blob", it started moving gracefully. Then up in the sky it went, I looked in amazement! I asked Trip what I was seeing, he marveled at my curiosity and said quite plainly, "it's an octopus kite". I said, "a kite", the only kite I knew was a diamond kite which I often flew with my brothers to see who could go the highest. He said, "yes, a kite, it's probably about 90 ft long or more. It was gigantic!!! From that day forward, I just wanted to be a part of it. How calming and graceful it was in the sky. ... And that's how it started for me.

After many years of kite flying and getting older, we decided to invest in an electric cart to make our trips easier on and off the beach. When you have large inflatable kites and you stuff several in a compression bag, it gets rather heavy as Mike Dallmer can attest too.

As we have learned over the years, pre-planning is essential to the success of a good time at the kite festival. Looking at the weather a couple of days before, reviewing anticipated wind speeds, how far a walk it is from your car to the flying field, is it going to be hot or cold? Do I have the kites packed for that weather and how many, and of course what is the inside cubic feet of your vehicle that you are packing? All the questions needed to be answered before a 4-hour journey to your kiting destination. This also helps your family when they too are coming, but they have a 6.5-hour drive.

With all that said, I always leave the kite selection to Trip when planning for a fly of any kind. He will always ask what I would like to fly, but as you may know the last few years I have not been as active as I used to be, so I give him a few suggestions and then I proceed with the ground

display since that is much easier for me. So, I leave it to my husband's trusted hands.

Once the selections are made, we start to fill the van. That's when I step in, I am an organize freak and tend to be claustrophobic. I wonder if any of you feel the same way when going to a festival? In my mind, the fewer the bags the better, so it looks neater, but I also understand we need kites for a full week. This is where the compression bags come in. We stuff them with about 20 smaller bags inside then squish them down as much as possible. I'm sure this has to be a little bit OCD but my husband is kind enough to stick with my plan. You know... happy wife... and all.

After we think we have everything we need, here is what the side door looks like and the back when we are complete and this includes my Nespresso machine for my room along with a few bags of clothing for a week for each of us, and of course, I never forget my fan since I



area. Our good friends who we love to fly with, Tim and Deb Allen, will be there! In addition to the family, I look forward to catching up with Jo-Ann Rasmussen and Rich Miller, Joyce and Jeff King, Jay Knerr, and Mike Van Meers, just to name a few.

We had great weather the whole time, one day it was a tad bit cold but sunny, however, it certainly never deterred the kite flying! It was so fun to experience this beach again and have fun with family and friends. Our grandchildren Landon and Holden love the big kites and their favorites were Sonic and Pikachu, Bulbasaur, Charmander and Squirtle.

I really like flying with these friends as we fly "cooperatively", there are never any territory wars. The best festivals (like this one) are when we are just flying, no mandatory commitments or extra responsibilities. We just want to put beautiful kites in the air and watch the beautiful colors come to life and dance. We are now looking forward to SunFest Kite Festival in September then off to LBI FLY a couple of weeks after where we will continue the tradition of just flying beautiful kites and enjoying friends and family.















#### SCOTT E. SPENCER KITE MAKING COMPETITION

By Ben Huggett and Mike Dallmer, Photos by Ben and Howard



Thanks to all who participated in the Scott E. Spencer Kite Making Competition at the 38th Annual Wildwoods International Kite Festival. Congratulations to Paul Dugard for winning Judges' choice. Howard Lamhut for Kite Makers Choice. Fred Taylor as the winner of the Novice Kite Makers award.



# How Many Years Does it Take?

By Maryann Way

How many years does it take to feel you know your job? How many years does it take to feel that your experiences will help guide others? How many years does it take to appreciate that not everyone is the same?

As a young kite flyer by experience and certainly not by years, I ask myself these questions every time I attend a festival. The pilots that I have met seem to know their jobs! Some have many years' experience, some less and some who know the competing kite world. Yet each and everyone has shown me and my side kick kite partner, Kathy, so much. Their knowledge, patience, kindness and experiences no matter how different and diverse, teach us so much. It appears to me that they all seem to have that special teacher within.



We were lucky to have had the opportunity to fly with the Virginia group in the Spring. They were so welcoming, kind and willing to guide us as

we continued to learn more and more techniques to keep our kites looking great in the sky. It was one of the best weekends! We are so looking forward to next years' festival.

Then on to Wildwoods. Sadly, we only had the opportunity to spend Friday and Friday night flying and then COVID hit and my sails quickly lost the wind! However, in 24 hours, it was awesome to see some familiar faces of our club, SJKF, even though we don't know many of you on a more personal level it felt like coming home. Mike our President



was one of the first to welcome us. Mike is a fine leader. No matter how down he seems to be with a recovery he never forgets his members.

Thank you, Mike for all that you do for so many.

I have been wanting to learn how to fly a quad/ revolution kite. Focusing my time on the Sport Kite leaves me little time for the quad. Friday night Paul was flying with us and of course he was flying one of his personally made quads with the coolest lights. With direction and patience he allowed me to fly his kite... wait...hand-over-hand of course. He is no fool! Lol. We made arrangements for the next day when Paul wasn't flying with the team to show me the ropes. My excitement was beyond, to know that I would have a lesson from a pro with so much experience was a thrill. Sadly by the next day I tested positive for COVID and made the choice to go home with hopes not to infect anyone else. A special shout out to Paul for his generous offer. Thank you for your willingness to help a newbie.

Maryann Way and my side kick too, Kathy Gebhardt



## SJKF TSHIRTS AVAILABLE!

Show your SJKF pride and keep Joe Kay (aka Grumpy) busy during retirement! He is now offering to make SJKF tshirts. Crew neck short or long sleeves available in colors of grey, navy and black. The would look great at any SJKF Kite Festival and Events!



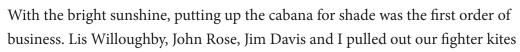
SHORT SLEEVES: \$20 for sizes Small – Xlarge, \$23 for sizes 2XL – 4XL. LONG SLEEVES \$25 for sizes Small – Xlarge, \$28 for sizes 2XL – 4XL.

Please send your order to <u>jkay676@gmail.com</u> and once the order is confirmed, payment and delivery arrangements will be made.

# FIGHTER KITES FLYING ON LBI

By Andy Selzer

Gettin' in your wayback machine. With summer temperatures much reminiscent to the ones we are currently experiencing four SJKF members decided to fly on LBI. The location was the elementary school, with the school yard at north 2nd street, Surf City, it is a perfect bayside location with wind blowing Southwest, 10-15 mph.





and started to fly with a few tangles, randomly pairing off and not keeping score. After each match, shade was dearly sought out for cooling. We keep this up for a couple hours. By then lunch was calling as well as a need large thirst quencher.

We rejoined at a local eatery on the boulevard and I can remember immediately downing a quart glass of iced tea. Lunch was served, we ate and chatted for some time. Packing up the equipment and kites, I headed back home, looking at the car thermometer on the 72 causeway, it read 100 degrees. That folks was fine memorial day of kite flying with friends.



# THESE ARE FREAKS!

When I first started in kite flying I didn't know much about line laundry until I met Cheryl Gleckner on the field at Sunfest many years ago.

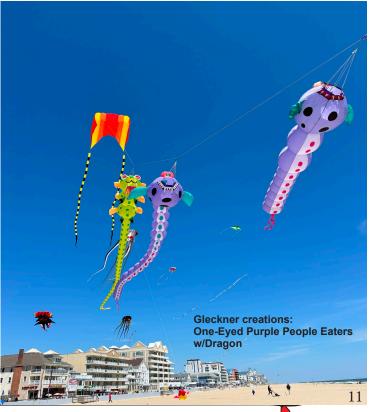
When I saw her windsocks, it was clear that I was going to be getting more than one. I vividly remember getting one of my first ones, a 12 foot purple people eater, on the beach in Ocean City MD. She was on the beach and we starting talking about what she might have for sale. Next thing I know, seemingly out of her pocket, she pulls out a windsock and says "how about a purple people eater". My eyes popped out and felt like I purchased a 90 foot octopus. The rest was history.

Over the years I would contact her and she would make or sell me another one to add to the collection. Mostly small to medium ones but always unique.

We have since visited Cheryl and her husband Larry a couple of times. These are moments that Deb and I treasure. Often traveling down memory lane, reminising about how the earlier days were when flying.

They shared with us their kite history, articles and pictures of their creations over the 40+ years along with many awards they won for their unique windsocks and kites. We also learned that Cheryl was working on a scrapbook which was adorned with pictures and in some cases





# Dassing by Agusta Wind

real kites in her scrapbook. I have included the pictures here in this article. Maybe some of you will recognize them. They were big supporters of the Olan & Bernice Turner International Invitational Open Peanut Butter Cookie Kite Fly and Bake Off (Peanut Butter Fly). We enjoyed talking about the trophies and the peanut butter kites they made. We felt very honored that they would share their history and kite making stories with us.

So fast forward to April 24th of this year, my wife Deb and I had a chance to have a full display of her creations. Not often do you get a chance to fly in front of the Kite Loft in MD, on a perfect wind day by yourself.

We flew with Mike Van Meers who was setting up for the Kite Loft. Turned out to be an incredibly memorable day. Mike ended up getting a couple of small Gleckner red birds for his collection.

The best part is being on the boardwalk and listening to people try to figure out what they are. I usually go with my friend Tim's says when we set up the field: "Let's get the freaks out!"



















SJKF is going to the same location as last few years, Randi's Restaurant and Bar, Grant Plaza II, 1619 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115, phone: (215) 677-7723 <a href="http://www.randisrestaurantandbar.com/index.htm">http://www.randisrestaurantandbar.com/index.htm</a>. The party will start at noon on Sunday December 8th and will continue until 3pm. We will be dining from their Sunday Brunch Buffet which includes: Pick & Peel Shrimp, Smoked Salmon/Lox and Tuna Salads, Spring Mix Salad, Pasta Salad, Roasted Red Peppers, Artichoke Salad, Chicken Salad, Tomato Salad with Red Wine Vinegar, Pasta Salad and Mushroom Salad, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Bagels with Butter, Cream Cheese, Assorted Danish and Pastries, Hot Buffet Side, Omelets Served from their Kitchen, Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage & Bacon, Fish Dish, Chicken Dish, Meat Dish, Pasta Dish. Beverages included are Soda, Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea, Juices and Mimosas

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

**Reservations** are required and payment must be received by Monday, November 26, 2024. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Please send payments to Cecilia Dallmer, 306 Friendship St., Philadelphia., Pa 19111. If you have questions, please email Cel Dallmer at <a href="mailto:cdallmer@verizon.net">cdallmer@verizon.net</a> or call 215-722-4092

**Extra Activities**: Theme baskets will be made again this year.

This year's game will be KITE BINGO again.

**Directions:** From I95 North and South, take the Academy Road exit. Follow signs for Academy Road keep left at the fork and merge onto Academy Rd. (0.8 mile), turn left on Willits Rd. (1.4 mile), continue onto Welsh Rd. (1.3 mile), turn right onto Bustleton Ave (465 ft.), turn left onto Grant Ave (0.2 mile). Entrance to Randi's Restaurant and Bar in on right, head to rear of shopping center near movie theater, Randi's is in the left-hand corner.

If you are coming from New Jersey, go over the Betsy Ross Bridge or the Walt Whitman Bridge and take I-95 North. Follow the directions appearing in paragraph 1

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Attendee Name	\$15/Member	\$20/Non-Member	Cost
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Please return all RSVPs with a check made out to: South Jersey Kite Flyers by November 26, 2024 to: Cel Dallmer | 306 Friendship St. | Philadelphia., Pa 19111 Reservations are required along with payment to insure your seat, no exceptions.

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