

San Diego Kite Club Newsletter



INTRODUCTION

With so much happening right now, from rising attendance and deeper community engagement to record-breaking fundraising efforts, the club is experiencing a period of remarkable growth. It has become difficult to capture everything during in-person field meetings alone. And if you miss an in person meeting or email, **how will you know what's going on?** This newsletter is our way of making sure no generous act goes unnoticed, no story goes untold, and no member feels out of the loop.

Our goal is simple: to keep everyone informed, connected, and proud of what we are accomplishing together every step of the way. We hope this effort keeps you up to date, but also strengthens your connection to the club and inspires you to stay involved.

When our club was founded in 1990, it was built on the energy and dedication of a passionate group of people committed to creating an official regional club. Members stepped into many roles, supporting the club's growth, organizing events, engaging the community, and sharing the joy of kite flying through competitions and craftsmanship. With that level of activity came growing pains. Today, nearly 36 years later, as we continue to expand. We find ourselves navigating a new set of challenges and opportunities in a very different world.

Recently, we have been the grateful recipients of extraordinary generosity, significant donations of kites, materials, and equipment, along with inspiring acts of volunteerism and enthusiastic participation in our events. These contributions are helping us grow and they deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

For over a decade, the San Diego Kite Club connected its members through the Skyline Newsletter, keeping everyone informed about past achievements, current activities, and future plans. Everyone can still see our old newsletter in the [club archive](#). Today, we are proud to revive that tradition with a new quarterly digital newsletter.

PAST NEWS

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

- [New kite stories](#) have been added to our website under the "New Stories" tab.
- [Gail Lindsay's gallery](#) of kites for sale can be found under the "New Stories" tab.
- Don Larkie donated his custom candy dropper kite for future club events.
- Rachel Spayd donated roughly 2,000 NEW Grand Master fighter kites to our club.
- [Kite Country](#) is the last remaining kite retail store in San Diego County.
- Kite Party was smashed by Santa Ana winds but still a good time.
- February's inventory work party event was super successful.
- Attendance at monthly fly meetups is higher compared to 2025.
- The Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt event couldn't have gone better.
- By popular vote, 100% of the voting items passed on how to spend club funds.
- Club donation to Ocean Beach Kiwanis & Womans club in honor of Jim Nickels.
- Both Jose Sainz and Scott Skinner have donated custom advertising banners.
- Club members can now access kite building materials for free.
- Skip paints the Kite Country store sign.

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CLUB WORK PARTY EVENT FEBRUARY 21ST, 2026

Our club received large donations from Gail Lindsay, Jolly Roger, Kenny Frederickson, and Ziggy Santa Maria. To manage the inventory, we held a work party with food and drinks provided. David and Iris Corning secured a rec center, and Glenn Meader created a digital form for the 20 volunteers to photograph and log each item.

We will centralize and track all inventory, then build a full gallery. An online store featuring select items is also in development. Soon, anyone can go to San Diego Kite Club's website and buy from our inventory. Surprise, all volunteers from the work party will be gifted a Joel Scholz Sky Delight Parrot kite as a thank you present.



DON LARKIE'S CANDY DROP KITE DONATION

Eric Olaes and Robert Loera acquired one of Don Larkie's custom candy drop kites last year. Since we often host candy drops at events like the Ocean Beach Kite Festival, Ziggy requested another from Don to expand our inventory. Don quickly made one and sent the generous donation to Dan Willian our club founder. Another tool in our bag from our long distant friend. Thank you Don!!



RACHEL SPAYD'S GRAND MASTER DONATION

Rachel Spayd was looking for a way to donate nearly 2,000 new Grand Master Fighter Kites. Ziggy coordinated the donation, with Rachel covering part of the shipping. Victor, Ryan, and Kevin Heredia of Kite Country split the lot and helped with costs. Victor emphasized the importance of preserving fighter kite traditions in our region and world.

The photo below was taken the afternoon shipment arrived. The boxes have since been sorted and distributed among 10 club members. All items are logged within our inventory and will soon be available for purchase on the club website. Many thanks to Rachel for trusting our club to care for and make good use of her father Joe Vaughn's kites. A full article about this story will be published on the club website in May of this year. Look out on the new stories tab...



SPECIAL NEEDS EASTER EGG HUNT



This is the 2nd year in a row, San Diego Kite Club has provided kites to the [Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt](#) event. Check out the new article published on our website about this beautiful event. Club member Amanda and Guy Butrum volunteered their time to help children fly along with Ziggy and kite club kid volunteers.

SPENDING CLUB FUNDS VOTING RESULTS

From September–December 2025, members discussed how to use club funds during field meetings. In January–February 2026, we held an anonymous vote on 7 items using paper and digital forms. A total of 33 members participated, and a majority vote determined approval.

Items included: an advertising booth, custom kites and banners, AKA memberships for top volunteers, food and water at meetups, club-branded kites, kite repairs at Kite Country, and a donation in honor of Jim Nickels to the Ocean Beach Kite Festival. All voting items passed with a majority in favor of spending funds. Efforts are being made to follow through on every line item that passed. One example is our club's \$500.00 donation in honor of Jim Nickel to help support the Ocean Beach Kite Festival.

KITE BUILDING ENTHUSIASTS



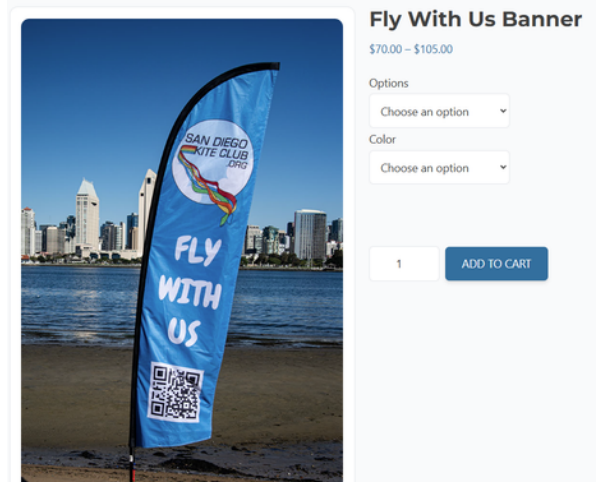
A new section of our website gives active members access to free kite-building resources and materials. Visit the site to explore what's available and use the [club form](#) to request access. Contact us by email with any questions.

CLUB DEVELOPMENTS

This update may surprise members. There's significant behind-the-scenes work shaping the club's evolution. Key efforts include: web development, fundraising, long-term membership management tools, website store tab, merchandise tab, inventory management and a quarterly newsletter.

Over the past two years, we've made the site more user-friendly and visually appealing while keeping core features like archives and kite stories.

Now, we're focused on long-term improvements through automation, WordPress plugins, and collaboration with (unofficial) webmasters Glenn Meader and Fernando Vazquez. We just finished adding a merch store on the homepage, with all of the club inventory being uploaded soon. By year's end, a new member login portal will launch, enabling accounts and improved membership management. These tools will enhance the experience for members, board members, and volunteers. Expect more updates throughout 2026. In the meantime, head over to the merch tab on our home page and check out how you can proudly sport your very own club banner. Many color options are available.



AROUND THE CORNER

OCEAN BEACH KITE FESTIVAL FREE EVENT MAY 16TH



Can you believe it? 79 years of tradition around flying kites locally. We should all be thanking [The Ocean Beach Womans Club](#) and [The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach](#). Both clubs are always looking for new members of the community to join them. They are essential groups in our community. Contact them, introduce yourself and get involved.

Join us for a fun-filled day of kite flying, building your own kite for **FREE**, games, live demos, delicious food, and creative crafts! This beloved family tradition is perfect for kids of all ages, bring the whole family and let the kites soar! The San Diego Kite Club is heavily involved in this event annually and especially this year. We have volunteers scheduled from 6am until 5pm to help setup the field, DJ, assist with fun activities throughout the day and break down the event. See you there!

MONTHLY CLUB MEETUP & MEETING

When: Saturday, May 9th, 2026
Address: Location is due to change, check the club website.
Time: 12pm – 4pm (feel free to show up early and stay late)
Meeting: 10 to 15 minute meetings take place at 1:00 PM.

The theme for our next meetup is cellular kites. A cellular kite is a three-dimensional kite designed with a rigid framework of cells that catch wind in multiple planes. No one is obligated to participate in the theme. Come and fly whatever you like.

CLOCKSHOP'S KITE FESTIVAL (5TH ANNUAL 'COMMUNITY & UNITY' PEOPLE'S KITE FESTIVAL)

Festival Details: Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 2-6pm at Los Angeles State Historic Park, the same location as last year.

Website: [Clockshop's Kite Festival](#)

San Diego Kite Club Representation: Dave Soutar (Club Vice President and Don Fox (Club Treasurer & District 12 regional director of the American Kitefliers Association) will be volunteering at this event. If you're interested in going, be sure to visit the website above. This event is special and for Southern California, we should all welcome the work happening in this region. Our club will receive a \$900 honorarium for providing two kite masters to assist with the day's event activities. HOW COOL! A special thank you to, ISABEL YI JIMENEZ - Artist Projects Manager for including us once again. She already has plans for us in 2027.

FUND RAISING IN 2026

We are fortunate to have multiple fundraising opportunities supporting our club this year.

Recent highlights include:

First, an honorarium of \$1,000 from The Civita Kite Festival hosted by Sudberry Properties.



Second, an honorarium of \$900 from the Clockshop / Community Unity People's Kite Festival.

Finally, Destination Concepts Inc. at The Hotel Del Coronado — We secured the job, and it's a big win for the club. A small group of club members will deliver a professional performance over three nights, generating over \$6,650 for the club. Performers are generously volunteering their time, with compensation provided to support their participation and ensure a high-quality show.

Ziggy has coordinated the performance team through months of planning, ensuring a high level of professionalism for all event nights. He has also expanded the opportunity by facilitating partnerships that create added value for those involved.

Through these efforts, Revolution will produce 10 custom kites for the three-day event, while José Sainz has been contracted to design and build a custom Rökkaku advertising piece. Additionally, Scott Weider is flying in from Long Beach WA, to help facilitate each night of entertainment while leading the performances as team captain of our quad line team.

These collaborations strengthen the overall presentation while creating additional revenue opportunities and professional exposure for members of the San Diego Kite Club. Resulting in a mutually beneficial outcome for both the club and the broader kite community.

T-SHIRT SUBMISSIONS

Last year we celebrated our 35 year anniversary as an organized club. It was only fitting to make the annual club shirt feature our logo. A few shirt concepts were reviewed and this is what we settled on.



This year, we've put out the word for club members to submit T-shirt designs for a popular vote. Share your designs by emailing us and see if your work gets selected. We appreciate all submissions and the continued involvement from our club members.

LOOKING FOR LUNCH COORDINATORS

Over the past several months, we've discussed the importance of voting on how to allocate club funds. One of the ideas that has come up multiple times and was recently approved by the club, is to provide food and water at each club meetup for a 12-month trial period. To make this happen, we plan to designate three to four club members to coordinate food purchases on a rotating basis. Each meetup will have a set budget, funded by the club, and food options will be discussed in advance. A donation box will also be available for anyone who would like to contribute.

The club will ensure everyone stays hydrated and some food is available in case a hungry member needs a bite. This will be a temporary 12-month commitment for us to evaluate and enjoy. Once the lunch coordinators are confirmed, we will begin the cycle, with an anticipated start date of August 1st.

Estimated Cost:

\$150 per meetup × 12 meetups = \$1,800 total

SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB'S 36TH ANNIVERSARY

The San Diego Kite Club's 36th Anniversary Fly in 2026 is set to continue the long-standing tradition of celebrating community, kites, and time in the sky. Building on the success of last year's anniversary, this event will bring members, pilots, and guests together for a fun and relaxed day outdoors. The event date is set for July 11th, Saturday, 2026. The permit has been secured and we will be flying at Coronado Cays Park. Volunteers needed, check page 6 for more details on how you can help volunteer.

KITES FOR KIDS

Another exciting club vote recently passed allocating funds to purchase club-branded kites for kids, proudly featuring our logo. This gives us a great opportunity to promote who we are while putting kites directly into the hands of families at our meetups. More importantly, it creates a fun and meaningful way for us to connect with the community.

At past volunteer events, we've seen situations where 10 to 30 kites were needed, and now we'll be better prepared to step up and help. Not only can we offer our time and hands, but we can also provide resources that event organizers are often hoping our club can bring to the table. That's something worth being proud of.

Our club treasurer has been tasked with purchasing kites similar to the one modeled here, and once they arrive, they'll become another great tool for sharing the joy of kite flying. We plan to distribute many of them to members with high attendance and active involvement so they can hand them out during meetups, volunteer efforts, and special events. A small portion will remain in club inventory for future opportunities that present themselves.



Look out for the NEW San Diego Kite Club booth. Your club dollars are making sure we have better representation. We'll kick things off with a 10-minute speech at 1:00 PM, followed by a club meeting to connect and share updates. There is a small amount of business to take care of but nothing we can't handle. We have election votes for board member roles, including president, secretary, equipment manager, and webmaster. Merchandise will be available, along with a large silent auction and our traditional potluck. Come prepared, a wide variety of kites will be on sale from our inventory. Most importantly, it's all about flying. Come out, fly all day, and then fly some more. There will be cake provided by the club.



HELPING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thirty-three club members voted to move forward with using club funds for a member appreciation idea. The proposal passed with strong support to purchase AKA memberships for the top 10 volunteers this year.

As a sanctioned AKA club, we're provided limited liability insurance, but it only applies to individuals who hold an AKA membership. This idea came together as a way to thank our volunteers for the time and energy they give, while also supporting the AKA at the same time.

Volunteer contributions are tracked throughout the year, and those selected will receive an AKA membership in July at our 36-year anniversary fly. It's a small way to give back to the people who help keep things going.

There's more support behind the scenes than you might realize. Ziggy (club president) has made it a point to provide some level of compensation to volunteers when they help with fundraising opportunities. All the board members agree this isn't an issue and we can do it. When the funds are there, we make it happen. That support usually comes in a few simple ways.

- Help with gas (because fuel isn't cheap)
- Food (because we all have to eat)
- Extension of club membership dues by 1, 2 or 3 years

ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Preparing for the celebration of our club's anniversary and making sure the day goes smoothly does require some volunteers.

All volunteers will be provided with a volunteer instruction sheet before the event and a physical copy the day of. Each volunteer position has different time commitments. The estimated time commitment is from 11:30 AM until 2:30 PM.

Volunteer Positions Available:

- Membership Registration Booth (Help people Join, Renew, Donate)
- Assist with Board Member Voting (if applicable)
- Merchandise Sales (Help with sales of merchandice)
- Silent Auction (Actively monitoring the silent auction throughout the event during it's open hours)
- Field Monitor (Help all volunteer positions as needed)

If interested in holding down the fort on any position, contact Ziggy directly at president@sandiegokiteclub.org for more information. We want to keep things moving and avoid putting too many tasks on any one person. Thank you for helping make this year's anniversary run smoothly. Summer time fun is a certainty.

We've had a lot of members stepping up lately to help with volunteer efforts, and it's been really great to see. We'll be sharing stories at the 36-year anniversary in July. We truly believe no one should go unnoticed when they give their time to support the club and our community.

Looking ahead, June brings the Annual Civita Kite Festival, and in July we have plans to volunteer at two Therapeutic Recreation Services events with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. Some of our efforts are tied to causes we care deeply about, and others help support fundraising for the club, but all of them make a difference.

Over the years, so many incredible people have given their time, all while sharing the simple joy of flying kites together.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

A common message we've been hearing more often this year is: "I plan to be more active with kite flying and the club."

For all of us registered members, that's like wind at our backs. We love hearing that more people want to get involved with kite flying, and it shows. We're seeing volunteer participation stay strong, driven by that same energy and desire to be more active. It's a great reminder of what keeps this club moving forward. Dozens of people are showing up, pitching in, and sharing the experience together. You can join in anytime by subscribing to our email list through the website. We send out volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Lately, the trend has been about one opportunity per month, with the occasional month offering two, followed by a quieter stretch here and there. Thank you for taking interest in this news. Nearly every volunteer event we take part in ends up as an article on the website and in our archive.

CLUB PARTNERS

MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS



We have so many individuals and organizations to thank, and it's important to take a moment to recognize our partners and sponsors. Their support and interest in our organization mean a great deal to us, and we're proud to be connected with each of them. What you see here represents meaningful relationships that continue to grow year after year.

Just like the wind, each of these organizations has our back, including Kite Country, LA Kite Club, American Kitefliers Association, Ocean Beach Woman's Club, Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach, Kendle Creative Photography, Revolution, North American Fighter Kite Association, Kite Forge, Ray's Cars and Kites, Team Gibian, Drachenkite.com, The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, The City of Coronado, and the World Kite Museum. Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the entire bunch.

ARCHIVE LEGACY

OUR ARCHIVE LEGACY

How many of you read the "New Stories" articles that we post at www.sandiegokiteclub.org? Have you gone down memory lane by looking at past Skyline Newsletters? The hope is that the San Diego Kite Club archive remains constant and forever in your heart. This is our bloodline, our history, and it's worth celebrating every single day we're here.

All year long, new stories are added to the club website. As they age, they move into our archive, becoming part of something bigger. This newsletter continues that legacy recording what a dedicated group of people are doing for this historic club and the kite flying world around us. Club President Ziggy has a big ask of all members:

"Take a break, read a bit from the quarterly newsletter, and if you're willing, share your kite flying adventures with us. Since the 1980's, fliers of San Diego have played an evolutionary role in nearly every facet of the world of kiting. Southern California, San Diego in particular, has directly influenced kiting globally. From kite design, framing, engineering, manufacturing, piloting, performing, competing, organizing events and competitions, etc. Never forget our place on top of the mountain we fly from. It's real. It's our legacy. And it should never go unnoticed."

DAN WILLAN THE FOUNDER

Wow, what an exciting time to be a San Diego Kite Club member! The level of involvement from everyone is truly wonderful. If there is one word that defines the longevity of the SDKC, it is Volunteers. They are the lifeblood of any organization. Alongside them is our leadership, our Board of Directors, who are volunteers who share a common goal, to fly kites and have fun.

When I first had the idea to start a kite club, I spoke with flyers on the field to gauge their interest. I found folks excited to create an extended family centered around a shared passion for kiting. This "cast of characters" wanted to learn more about their sport, share their skills with "newbies," and embrace philanthropic aspects of our hobby.

We are currently on a growth path, and as a club, "The Sky's the Limit." The passion and time spent behind the scenes by our leadership is infectious; it's something everyone wants to be a part of. The optics of the SDKC are amazing and continue to evolve. There have been many "torch carriers" in our club over the years, and I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart. The herculean efforts to bring the SDKC into its 2026 version are incredibly exciting.

I encourage you to take a moment to look at the hard work put into our website, there is so much history encapsulated there. Through both good times and bad, kite flying remains a way to dispense with despair. After all, who can't help but smile and relax while flying a kite?

Treasurer's Report: A Message from Don Fox

Hello SDKC Members,

As we head into a busy season of flying, I'm pleased to report that the San Diego Kite Club is in excellent financial health. Our current available balance in our business checking account is \$4,393.26.

We have even more reason to be optimistic about the months ahead. The club has secured a major performance project for next month with a total contract value of \$6,650.00. This influx of funds provides us with incredible stability, ensuring we can continue to invest in high quality club equipment, like our recent canopy and table cover upgrades, and fully support our upcoming community festivals and our 36th-anniversary celebrations this summer.

Most importantly, I want to extend a sincere thank you to every member who has made a personal donation to the club recently. Whether these contributions were large or small, they are the true backbone of our community. Your generosity ensures that we can keep our membership dues accessible while continuing to provide the world class kite events San Diego has come to expect from us.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping the SDKC reach new heights!

Don Fox

Treasurer, San Diego Kite Club

ZIGGY HOLDING THE LINE

Helping to write this newsletter was the first time I've ever taken something like this on. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed putting it together. I always seem to have something to say, but this time I'd like your attention on one important topic. The next time you see Cristina (my wife), be sure to thank her, as so many of you have thanked me. She supports everything I do for our club.

She listens (a lot), and helps shape how I show up and operate behind the scenes. Sometimes, the time I give to the club is time away from her and our family. So when you see Cristina or the girls out on the field, please take a moment to thank them for me. They're a big part of this for me and that affects you. I look forward to celebrating with many of you in July at our 36 year anniversary. Coronado Cays Park is such an amazing place to fly. I think about all of you often and hope life is being kind to you and your families.

FEEDBACK WELCOMED

The leadership team is always open to hearing feedback from you. Email us through the club website at www.sandiegokiteclub.org.



This is so dang cute and funny not to share.