

San Diego Kite Club Newsletter

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second issue of our new San Diego Kite Club newsletter. Since the last issue, there has been no shortage of activity. We have been out in the community, welcoming new members, working on new tools for the website, preparing new club merchandise, and continuing to find ways to make it easier for people to get involved. The goal of this newsletter remains simple: keep everyone informed, connected, and aware of what your club is doing between field meetings. A lot happens behind the scenes, and not everything makes it into a meeting announcement or social media post. We hope you take your time to look through this issue, check out the stories on the website, and see what your fellow members have been doing. There is plenty more ahead.



36 Year Anniversary Group Photo

PAST NEWS

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

- Expect every newsletter to feature [New kite stories](#) which are added to our website under the “New Stories” tab.
- San Diego Kite Clubs [Volume 1 Newsletter](#)
- We are growing in size with 21 new members plus additional kite club kids.
- [79th Ocean Beach Children’s Kite Festival](#) - 2026
- [3rd Annual Civita Kite Festival by Sudberry Properties](#) – 2026
- [The Huntington, “This Land Is”](#) fund raiser event.
- We volunteered at 3 separate [Therapeutic Recreational Services Events](#)
- [36 Year Club Anniversary](#) Recap
- San Diego Kite Club was in attendance at the 45th Washington State International Kite Festival.
- This years club T-shirt. Inventory still available in most sizes.
- [Kite Country](#) may be changing their hours of operation.



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Follow Us



SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB VOLUME 1 NEWSLETTER

If you missed the newsletter from May, you can read the [Volume 1 Newsletter](#) anytime. While we want you to continue reading Volume 2, we won't stop you from checking our past news. We host all newsletter on our club site and will continue to provide previous issues in the following newsletters to come. Read on...

CLUB MEMBERSHIPS ON THE RISE

Many efforts are being made to increase our club size. For example, we now regularly post on social media across multiple platforms. We have a [club Facebook page](#), we have a [club group Facebook page](#), we have an [Instagram account](#), and we keep our list of subscribed email users in touch. The newsletters cover just about everything anyone would need to know about the current state of affairs. Our leadership team is representing us well, and club members are going above and beyond to connect with each other and the community events we participate in. All of this helps strengthen our connections with people who discover us or want to join. We are also continuing to look for new ways to get the club in front of people who may not know we exist. Lookout for these individuals who recently joined the club.

•Christopher Garcia •Bridget Garcia •Nicholas Siden •Tyler Rowden
•Jay Dougherty •Josh Petrick •Mary Garcia •Josh Garcia
•Cesar Garcia •Seth Goldman •Everett Greene and his family
•April Guerrero •Abby Guerrero •Jeff Halley and his family
•Daniel O Kilborn •Linda Kilborn •Elias Rodriguez •Rosalie Rodriguez
•Fransisco Soto •Nikolas Soto •Leonardo Sotoz

79TH OCEAN BEACH CHILDREN'S KITE FESTIVAL

The 79th Ocean Beach Children's Kite Festival is officially complete, and what a weekend it turned out to be. The San Diego Kite Club once again played a major role in helping support one of San Diego's longest-running family events, and this year felt especially meaningful. This is one of the oldest kite festivals in the US that is focused on children.

This year, the San Diego Kite Club proudly donated \$500.00 to the festival in honor of Jim Nickel and purchased roughly \$300.00 worth of candy for the annual candy drop event. Throughout the day, San Diego Kite Club members stayed busy helping run activities, demonstrations, crowd engagement, and field operations. Flying demonstrations showcased several different styles of kite flying, and the candy drop and Tail Chase once again became some of the biggest attractions of the day.

One of the most rewarding parts of the festival was watching how many people stopped to engage with the FREE kite making area. Children would get a free kite, color it and potentially be a contest winner for their art. Families walked through the kite hospital asking questions, children received help launching kites, and spectators stood watching demonstrations for long stretches of time.

The San Diego Kite Club is not just about flying kites. It is about community, friendships, volunteering, mentorship, creativity, public engagement, and creating positive memories for families all across San Diego County. This year's kite festival is dedicated to longtime chairman Jim Nickel. Until next year when we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Ocean Beach Children's Kite Festival!



3RD ANNUAL CIVITA KITE FESTIVAL



The annual Civita Kite Festival has quickly become a special tradition for the San Diego community. This year marked the third consecutive festival, bringing hundreds of residents and visitors together for a day of outdoor fun, live music, creativity, and kite flying.

The event provides families with an opportunity to enjoy live entertainment and receive free kites to decorate and fly. San Diego Kite Club volunteers helped wherever needed throughout the day, from preparing hundreds of kites to teaching kite kids, answering questions, and helping get kites out of trees.

One of the most rewarding parts of the festival was hearing parents tell us that it was the first time their child had ever flown a kite. Those moments are a true gift to everyone involved. There is something special about watching a first-time flyer experience the excitement of seeing a kite rise into the sky.

The festival is made possible through a wonderful partnership between Civita, Sudberry Properties, and the San Diego Kite Club. We have been fortunate to be involved since its very first year and look forward to many more successful Civita Kite Festivals in the years ahead.

THE HUNTINGTON, "THIS LAND IS" FUND RAISER EVENT



The San Diego Kite Club was honored to participate in "This Land Is..." at The Huntington in Los Angeles. We were invited by Pamela Garrison, Membership Events Manager at The Huntington, to present Art in Motion with the San Diego Kite Club on the East Lawn.

Our team provided aerial displays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., including gliders, quad-line flying, and Ray Miller's Ultra Light Hyperkite 12-stack. When the wind was limited, Rick and Diane Spurgeon brought kites closer to the guests and spent time educating visitors about kite flying. Our team worked hard to give the event our all and improvise as needed.

The event also provided \$3,000 in compensation for the club, admission tickets for our pilots and families, and 25 additional tickets for club members to return and enjoy The Huntington.

We are extremely grateful to Pamela Garrison and The Huntington for welcoming kite flying on the East Lawn and to all of our San Diego Kite Club members whose time, talent, and volunteer spirit helped make this fundraiser a success.

THREE THERAPEUTIC RECREATIONAL SERVICES EVENTS

In July, the San Diego Kite Club volunteered three times with the City of San Diego Therapeutic Recreation Services Department, helping attendees enjoy new experiences through kite flying at Mission Point Park.

On July 7th, July 9th, and July 31st, club volunteers shared their kites, kite flying, and enthusiasm with people with various abilities. During each Day Camp, volunteers patiently taught participants the anatomy of a kite, how all the parts come together, and how to make bridle and tail adjustments to help their kites fly better.

There was pure joy and satisfaction on the faces of participants as they flew kites that moments earlier were merely assorted parts in a bag. Club members also shared their own kites and displayed kites to provide extra color in the sky.

The San Diego Kite Club is honored to be a part of this event and grateful for the positive energy, leadership, and enthusiasm of the San Diego Therapeutic Recreation Services team. When people come together to share something special like this, it leaves us with fond memories and a true sense of warmth and satisfaction.

KITE COUNTRY MAY CHANGE THEIR HOURS OF OPERATION

We have word that Kite Country may change their hours of operations. We recommend that you call their store phone number before you head that way. More news on this matter will come soon.

Address: 3350 Sports Arena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92110

Phone: (619) 226-4421



SAN DIEGO KITE CLUB WAS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE 45TH WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

This year at the Washington State International Kite Festival, we had a solid number of San Diego Kite Club members in attendance: Tom King, Vernon White, Eric Olaes, Mike Sterling, Ziggy Santa Maria, Ray Miller, Robert Freed, Carol Freed, and unofficial member Robert Loera.

The San Diego Kite Club facilitated a candy and toy drop with help from Robert Loera, who represents the Hawaii region. Eric Olaes and Ray Miller helped put up the kite and drop the goodies. Ziggy served as announcer, helping the current announcer wrangle the children while informing parents. We also participated in the Parade of Colors while flying our club advertising banner. On Children's Day, Ziggy announced for about an hour, helping Robert with fighter kite education, demonstrations, tail grabbing, and lessons.

San Diego Kite Club members were involved throughout the week, participating in main-field demonstrations, kite-making competitions, quad-line team flying, Hyperkite and Cyborg stack flying, dual-line flying, fighter kite flying, and single-line field displays, including arches, lifters, line laundry, and ground displays. We should all be proud of how our members represented our club, kite flying, and community.



36 YEAR CLUB ANNIVERSARY RECAP

On July 11th, 2026, the San Diego Kite Club celebrated 36 years as an organized club at Coronado Cays Park. The weather was excellent, the wind was non-stop and right at the sweet spot for flying whatever your heart desired. We had approximately 80 people on the field during peak attendance, with kites constantly in motion throughout the day.

The day included flying, registration, merchandise, a silent auction, a delicious potluck, and our annual meeting. We recognized the achievements our club has accomplished, both individually and together, with gifts and awards going out to those who stepped out and stepped up for our club. We raised close to \$1,400.00 when all was said and done. We will continue to fund raise down the road.

Gail Lindsay was recognized as our Guest of Honor for her ongoing generosity and support of the San Diego Kite Club. We also presented American Kitefliers Association one-year awards to the top 12 volunteers from the past 12 months and recognized volunteers from our February work party by handing out Joel Scholz Sky Delight parrot kites.

With great excitement for the entire club, we welcomed new board members Erin Quinn as Equipment Manager, Glenn Meader as Webmaster, Fernando Vazquez as Assistant Webmaster, and Ziggy as returning Club President. Don Fox remains Treasurer and Dave "Niterider" Soutar remains Vice President. We are still on the hunt for a club secretary if anyone feels up to helping in a big way.

Thank you to everyone who has donated their time, talent, and support. You know who you are, and we will continue to recognize and celebrate your efforts for helping keep our club active and flying.

CLUB DEVELOPMENTS

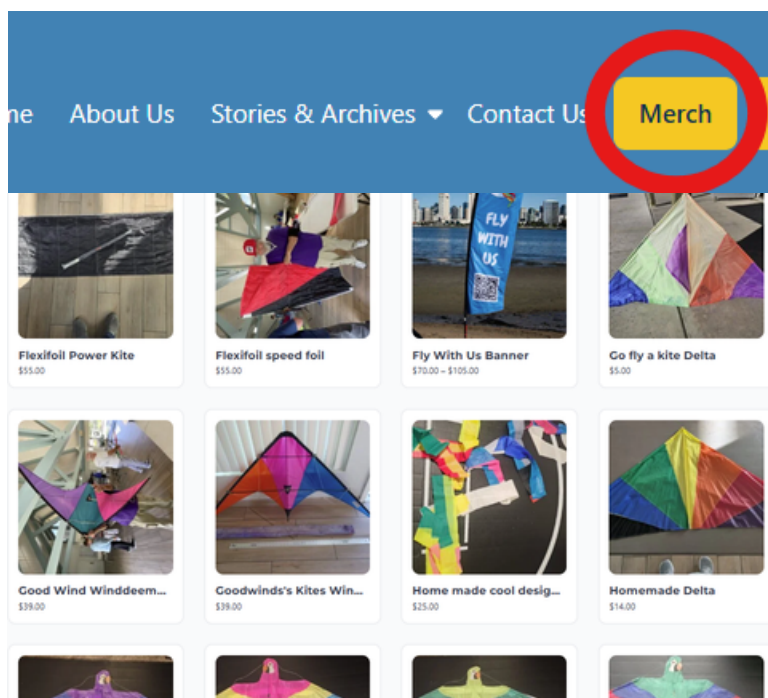
CLUB T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

We have a small amount of inventory left in limited sizes for last years shirt. However, we still have many sizes in long and short sleeve for this years T-shirt. Club Vice President Niterider Dave Soutar will typically bring them at monthly meetups along with water for club members to drink. Last years shirt is only \$20 and this years is \$30.



MERCH STORE NOW OPEN WITH MANY KITES FOR SALE

Our merchandise store is now live for all members to place orders. We currently have nearly 100 kites for sale, including those Joel Scholz parrots handed out at the anniversary fly. Support the club anytime by making a purchase through our new online store. We have kites ranging in price from \$10.00 - \$120.00 with many types of flying styles. Simply go to www.sandiegokiteclub.org, click on the Merch tab and start shopping. It looks like this...



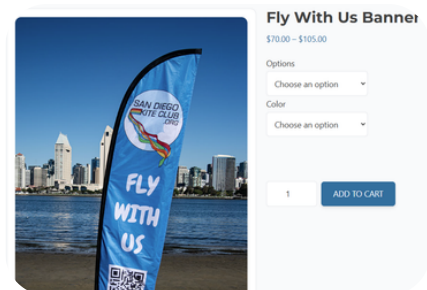
KITES FOR KIDS

You may recall seeing this kite previously shown in our last newsletter. The club voted on buying kites for kids and the board has decided to hold off on purchasing them. We were donated roughly 1,000 diamond kites from a past equipment manager of the club, Mitchell D Andersen connected with Ziggy and Rick Spurgeon to drop off kites, kite building materials and more. Rather than spend precious club dollars, we are reallocating those funds elsewhere. If you would like to read more about Mitchell, we have a new article available on the club site.



CLUB BANNER FOR SALE

We have taken several pre-orders for the San Diego Kite Club Banners. They help use advertise and help you proudly show off who you fly with. This kind of attention can only help us grow. You can find the SDKC banner in the MERCH tab at the top of our website and it comes in several different colors.



NEW CLUB STICKERS AND PATCHES JUST CAME IN

New club stickers and patches just came in and they are up for grabs. All club members may have a sticker or two and be sure to grab one for each of your family memebrrs. The patches sell for \$5 and will be available at most meetups. They both measure 2.5 inches around.



LOOKING FOR A NEW CLUB SECRETARY

Here ye, here ye, calling all club members. We are on the hunt for a new club secretary. Past president David Corning isn't up for the job and we would love to see who is interested in this job. This position consists of facilitating communication within the body of board members and members of the club. Helping to coordinate with members about events or venues we participate in. Additionally, helping to schedule board member meetings, keep records of tasks to do or completed. A form of memory for the club. You will be obligated to attend a handful of online meetings throughout the year. This is a 1 to 2 year commitment. Is there anyone interested in becoming the secretary for the San Diego Kite Club?

FULFILLING OUR TAX OBLIGATIONS

Dan Willan, Don Fox, and Ziggy are working with a certified tax agent to resolve our tax matters. This has been an ongoing topic at club meetings, and the situation is now actively being addressed.

The good news is that we have the funds to work with a tax specialist, and the process is underway. We expect to enter 2027 as an informal, tax-exempt club. This means we won't be making money from jobs as we have in the past, but hey, we aren't a business after all! Lookout for an update very soon by way of email, on our site and during our on field meetings.

A NEW KITE COMPANY IN SAN DIEGO



PACIFIC
KITE
COMPANY

San Diego has a new kite company for the first time in a long time. Ziggy Santa Maria (Club President) has just launched Pacific Kite Company in September of this year. He is excited to share the news with everyone.

"I'm excited to officially introduce Pacific Kite Company! 🪁🌈"

Pacific Kite Company was created from my passion for kite flying and a vision to bring large-scale kite entertainment, aerial displays, and unique visual experiences to events, brands, festivals, Movies, TV and corporate gatherings.

We create eye-catching experiences that get people looking up, engaging, taking photos, and talking about event. From professional kite performances and large-scale kite displays to custom concepts designed around a brand, theme, or event, we're building something different.

This is a new chapter in my kite life, and I'm excited to share what we're creating. Let's put something incredible in the sky, on the ground and promote kiting together. More details about what Pacific Kite Company offers is written on page 13."

GET READY FOR THE NEW MEMBER LOGIN PORTAL

The San Diego Kite Club is developing a members-only login portal for active members, designed to make managing your membership and connecting with other members easier. This is similar to the American Kitefliers Association Membership Portal. Here is a simple overview of the member portal features being developed by Webmasters Glenn Meader and Fernando Vazquez, along with club members Kenneth Jones and Ziggy.

- **Member Login:** Members will be able to log in from the club website and access their personal account.
- **Personal Profile:** Create and update your contact information, bio, profile photo, interests, skills, equipment, and region.
- **Membership & Dues:** View your membership status, pay dues using our available payment options, and receive automatic payment confirmations.
- **Renewal Notices:** Receive an automatic reminder when your membership is approaching expiration.
- **Member Directory:** Active members can view other active members who choose to share their information. Members will control which personal information is visible to others.
- **Expired Memberships:** If a membership expires, the member can still access their account, but their profile will no longer appear in the active member directory or have access to members-only features until they renew.
- **Connect With Leadership:** Members will have a dedicated way to contact club leadership through the portal.

This new system is being developed to make membership management easier while giving members more ways to connect with the San Diego Kite Club community.

AROUND THE CORNER

OCTOBER 10TH HALLOWEEN MEETUP



Date: Saturday, October 10th, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Meeting Time: 1:00 PM – 1:15
Location: We will know more the week of the event. Keep in mind our primary location is Coronado Cays Park, secondary location is Robb Athletics Field in Ocean Beach but sports have regularly permitted these spaces. We will likely end up at our third choice which is Dusty Rhodes Park – (Dusty Rhodes Pk, 2469 Sunset Cliffs Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107).
Getting ready for October Halloween Fly. Are you going to dress up? This month's theme involves flying a black, orange, black and orange kite, Halloween line laundry, wearing a Halloween costume, and bringing any Halloween flair to the field. We sure hope to see some cool costumes.

FIGHTER KITE COMPETITION & NEW YEARS DAY FLY

Thursday, December 31st, is the annual Fighter Kite Competition, formally called the San Diego Kite Club Fighter Kite Challenge. This year, La Kite Club and the North American Fighter Kite Association will be co-hosting the event. Following the Fighter Kite Competition will be our annual New Year's Day Fly, which typically has a higher attendance and includes a potluck. Look out for more news about these events on our website, social media, and through email. More details are on page 8 of this newsletter.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS COMING SOON

We're looking for volunteers to help at both events. This will be our second year participating in these community events. Check your email for the volunteer request, or contact the club leadership team if you'd like to get involved.

Volunteer Event #1 – Kites and Marigolds (2nd Annual Event)
Date: Saturday, October 24th
Time: 12 PM – 3 PM
Location: Harborside Park, located at 670 Oxford St., Chula Vista, 91911
Duties: Fly kites with kids and adults in a park for fun. Help anyone who needs bridle adjustments, deal with twisted lines and flying. Simple, fun, fly...

Volunteer Event #2 – Thanksgiving for the Earth Kite Flying Event (3rd Annual Event)
Date: Sunday, November 22nd
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: Sky Beach Park at Mission Bay – 1600
We have been invited to participate in the 3rd Annual Thanksgiving for the Earth Kite Flying Event, and we are looking for club members who would like to come out, fly, and lend a helping hand.





LOOKING FOR LUNCH COORDINATORS

The San Diego Kite Club remains committed to the 12-month food and water program approved by a popular vote of our membership. For now, we are delaying the program while the club takes care of its outstanding tax obligations and works to put the necessary volunteer coordination in place. This delay does not change the membership's decision or our intention to move forward with the program. Once we are ready to proceed, we would love to have club members step up as lunch coordinators to help make this voted-on program a success. We'll provide another update when we are ready to establish a new start date, sometime in the first quarter of 2027.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Preparing for our New Year's Eve Fighter Kite Competition on December 31st and our New Year's Day Fly on January 1st, 2027, will require some volunteers to help make both events run smoothly. The locations for these events and the timing of everything will be released on our website, on social media and by email. All volunteers will be provided with a volunteer instruction sheet before the event and a physical copy the day of. Each volunteer position will have different time commitments, depending on the position.

December 31st – Fighter Kite Competition Volunteer Positions:

- Competition Judges – Help judge and score the fighter kite competition.
- Field Setup – Help prepare the field and competition area before the event.
- Field Breakdown – Help clean up and break down the competition area after the event.

January 1st, 2027 – New Year's Day Fly Volunteer Positions:

- Membership Registration Booth – Help people join, renew, and donate.
- Merchandise Booth – Help with merchandise sales.
- Setup – Help prepare the field and club area before the event.
- Breakdown – Help clean up and pack up after the event.

If you are interested in helping with either event, please 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 us kick off 2027 and make these events a success!

There must always be light shined on the volunteers who help the San Diego Kite Club fulfill its mission. Community members, club members, family, and friends who participate in this way should never go unnoticed. We are here to celebrate and recognize those people. Some of the volunteering was charitable work, while other efforts were fundraisers. In any case, this was very rewarding volunteer work that has helped our club in more ways than one. Several of these members have volunteered five or more times within the past four months.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Nathan Yoder | • Kite Club Kids |
| • Ziggy Santa Maria | • Skip Walton |
| • Don Fox | • Ashley Hernandez |
| • Rick Spurgeon | • Yahaira Cazares |
| • Kevin Heredia | • Barbara Metz |
| • Ryan Heredia | • Tom Klu |
| • Shawn Farrow | • Rose Klu |
| • Scott Wieder | • James Flash Quinby |
| • Joe Hadzicki | • Jolly Roger |
| • Vernon White | • Bob Crawford |
| • Tom King | • Ron Lintz |
| • Mark Quirnbach | • Mark Smith |
| • Eric Olaes | • Maria Smith |
| • Ray Miller | • Erin Quinn |
| • Austin Chu | • Russ Dickison |
| • Carol Freed | • Laura Dickison |
| • Glenn Meader | • Dan Willan |
| • Cassidy Family | • Patti Cassidy |
| • Tina Santa Maria | • Thomas Cassidy |
| • Anne Law | • Stephen Cassidy |
| • Enola | • Niterider Dave Soutar |

THANK YOU ENDLESSLY

Ziggy here. I personally want to thank all of our volunteers for being such an amazing group of people. I can think of so many words that fill my heart when I think about the time, energy, and workload you all take on for our club: compassionate, caring, involved, helpful, educational, consistent, hardworking, and dependable.

What you do often happens outside of club meetups, but it never goes unnoticed. You give your time because you care about this club, the people in it, and the community we have created together. I am incredibly grateful for each and every one of you, and I hope you know just how much your efforts mean to me and to the San Diego Kite Club.

CLUB PARTNERS

MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS



ARCHIVE LEGACY

OUR ARCHIVE LEGACY

We Put a Lot Into These Stories — Please Take a Few Minutes to Read Them

Here are links to some of the most recent articles published in our club archive, available on the News Stories tab of our website. We want to take a moment to ask something of our members: Please take the time to read them. A tremendous amount of work goes into our club events, but there is also a surprising amount of work that happens after the event. Someone has to gather the details, collect the stories and photos, talk with the people involved, write the article, edit it, format it, publish it, and share it with the membership. These stories are more than just newsletter content. They document what our club is doing, recognize the people who are making things happen, and preserve the history of our kiting community. At a recent meeting, Ziggy asked how many people had actually read the May Newsletter. Very few hands went up. It can feel disheartening at times.

We know everyone is busy, and we don't expect every member to read every single thing we publish. But if you consider yourself an active member of this club, we hope you'll make an effort to stay connected with what your fellow members are doing. If people are willing to give their time to organize events, fly at demonstrations, volunteer, take photos, write stories, and contribute to the club, the least we can do is take time to see what they've helped create. So please, when the next newsletter or article comes out, don't just scroll past it.

Open it. Read it. Share it. And see what your club is actually doing.

We'll keep finding better ways to get these stories in front of you. We hope you'll meet us halfway. Since May we have produced all of these articles below which will live in our clubs archive forever. Know our legacy and be a part of it, it's important.

[Changing Currents of Sumpango – Erin Quinn](#)

[Therapeutic Recreational Services Event 2026](#)

[Joel Scholz – The Man Behind the Magic System](#)

[36 Year Club Anniversary](#)

[The Huntington, "This Land Is"](#)

[The Lasting Legacy of Jim and Jane Skryja](#)

[3rd Annual Civita Kite Festival by Sudberry Properties – 2026](#)

[79th Ocean Beach Children's Kite Festival](#)

[Mitchell D Andersen's Donation](#)

[40th Annual Santa Barbara Kite Festival with Skip Walton](#)

MESSAGES FROM FRIENDS

A SHORT POEM BY CLUB MEMBER MARK SMITH



SCOTT HORVATH'S KITE REPAIRS AT KITE COUNTRY



Club member Laura writes in as a friend to the north.

"The LA kite club will be hosting our October fly on Oct 18th at Belmont Shores in Long Beach, CA. Anyone is welcome to join regardless of experience; we will be out on the beach from 11:00am-3:00pm! The LA kite club aims to unite fliers all over Southern California. We fly monthly on the third Sunday of the month at rotating locations around SoCal. All types of kite fliers are welcome; the club features single line, dual, quad, fighter kites, and more! Members range from brand new to experienced, and experienced fliers love to help beginners out on the field. We look forward to another year working with San Diego Kite club and NAKFA for the annual fighter kite competition on December 31st. Follow us on Facebook for updates on events and check us out at LAKite.org."



Club member Scott Horvath writes in about his experience using the club sanctioned program to repair kites at kite country.

"A huge thank you to the club and Kite Country for getting my 30+ year old kite back in tip-top shape! A little history on the kite: it is a Peter Powell design made by Caribbean Kite Company that I purchased in the 90's. I flew it at the June 13th meetup this year and realized how rough of shape it was in; the edge spars kept popping out of the nose and there were several holes throughout. At the 36th anniversary meetup my wife heard Ziggy mention that the club would fund kite repairs through Kite Country and knew just the kite to send. Ziggy said to email the club photos of the damage for repair approval, go to Kite Country for an estimate, and then send that estimate to the club for final approval. August 4th we visited Kite Country and Victor couldn't have been nicer to us. Victor repaired the kite that week and his sons brought it to the August 8th meetup. Kite Country repaired all the holes, reinforced all the weak points, and even replaced the left edge end spar that was curiously 1 1/2" shorter than the right side. Thanks to the club and Kite Country for getting this kite back up in the sky where it belongs!"

STEVE ANDERSEN

Hello – I've been a kite flyer (as an adult) for about 16 or 17 years. About 10 years ago, I started making kites at workshops. About 5 years ago, I rejoined the AKA to go to my first convention in Ocean City, MD. I really enjoyed the convention, so after my next one in Enid, OK, I started to get more involved in the AKA and trying to solve some of the problems it faces as an organization. For the last couple of years, I've been involved in helping to find and select locations for future conventions. This year, I've been working with Ziggy and Don Fox to try to bring the next west coast convention to San Diego, partly because it's a great location for kite flying, and partly because it is the home of your very active kite club! I'd love to have the AKA come to your home base and provide you all the opportunity to attend. Ziggy and Don helped me with finding locations for flying fields (maybe Coronado Cay Park) and other venues for the meetings and workshops. I don't know whether or not San Diego will be selected for 2027 (that's up to the AKA Board of Directors), but it's certainly in the running! If we don't get it for 2027, I will try again for 2030!



SKY BIRD REED'S NEW KITES

Sky Bird Reed's new kite unlike any other for sale and words, website, etc- insert photo

Discover the Evolution of Flight with Sky Bird Kites There is a distinct kind of magic that happens when an experienced eye looks at the sky and asks, What if? For legendary designer Kelly "Sky" Reed—an award-winning innovator with over 30 years of professional design and rigging experience—that question has resulted in some of the most dynamic aerial art in the wind industry. Claims to fame: The Dancing Salamander the Harlequin Delta The original Crayon foil. The Endangered Kites Series. And now The Variation Kite. Sky is back with an entirely new generation of wind-dancing creations under his boutique brand, Sky Bird Kites. The crown jewel of this new lineup is the Variation 2.0 Standard, a refined masterpiece born from over 160 hours of intensive redesign following its soft launch debut at Long Beach. Merging diamond, delta, and fighter kite lineages into a load-responsive hybrid, the Variation 2.0 features breathtaking geometry that shifts gracefully in flight. Whether you choose the striped version (\$89) or the clean non-striped premier release (\$75), you are flying a piece of high-performance aerodynamic art. Complete the look by adding an authentic 12-foot Fringe Tail (\$15)—the original design that sparked a wave of international imitators. If you are looking for indoor flight or micro-space thrills, the newly dialed-in Variation Mini Z(ero) (\$60) is an absolute game-changer. Designed to be flown on ultra-light 4lb line using a simple wooden dowel or a custom "Z-stick," the Mini Z is incredibly responsiveness and agility. It's an intimate highly engaging indoor / outdoor flying experience that you must feel on the line to believe. While the official e-commerce setup is currently in development, getting your hands on one of these cutting-edge kites is easy. Sky is putting the final touches on production right now fresh off the Lincoln City Kite Festival. Head over to www.SkyBirdKites.com to explore the visuals, watch the videos in action, and reach out directly via message or DM to reserve yours today!



NORTH AMERICAN FIGHTER KITE ASSOCIATION- SCOTT BOGUE

I arrived Tuesday night so missed any activities on Monday and Tuesday, but on Wednesday morning joined the group of fighter kite enthusiasts gathered just south of the half-width field labeled "North American Fighter Kite Association" on the festival map. This area (formerly known as Field E), a 10-15 minute walk south from the main festival area (Field A), has been the epicenter of fighter kite activity at WSIKF since the late 1990s. Mornings and afternoons, all week long, it was the place to be if you wanted to find people flying and talking fighter kites. There was, however, an hour or so at midday when fighter kites took center stage on Field A. We were lucky this year: the winds were relatively light, perfect for fighters, and coming from the the west so that the kites were being flown toward the spectators. A popular event for kids was the fighter kite tail chase, with prizes to the lucky winners who managed to grab one of the long crepe paper streamers dangling from the kites dancing over their heads. There were also fighter kite lessons, demonstrations of the line-touch game, and spectacular feats of line pulling by Ephraim Meyer, a champion maker and flyer of fighter kites who comes to WSIKF all the way from Isreal.

On Friday morning, nine flyers gathered at Field E for a old-school line touch contest. The format was a full round robin of 3-point matches which took about three hours to complete (half before and half after a midday break to entertain the spectators up at Field A). Ephraim took first (for the third year in a row!), with Steve Childers and this writer coming in second and third. A final highlight for me was a magical few hours on Sunday afternoon when a lovely 4-5 mph wind was coming in off the Pacific. Bob Hegman and I were joined by Paul Muncrief, the festival MC, who had wandered down to check out the fighter kite scene after wrapping up 6+ days on the microphone at Field A. Paul had flown fighters before, but I think he really *got it* with the perfect wind, enthusiastic coaching, and sweet-flying kites that Bob and I had pulled out for him to try. Three of us left the beach that afternoon with big grins on our faces - that's what fighter kites at WSIKF is all about! Our website is www.northamericanfighterkites.com.



SIMI VALLEY KITE CLUB - JEFFRY TELLIO

The Simi Valley Kite Fliers is a small group of fliers that meet up on the last Saturday of the month just to hang out and enjoy flying all types of kites. We fly at the two spots Oxnard Beach also known as 'olokoy Beach park and Port Hueneme Beach Park and we also like to fly at local kite festivals and with other flying groups. We're on Facebook so anyone can check us out and join us on our fun fly days.



MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

Don Fox – Club Treasurer

**American Kitefliers Association Region 12 Director:
Southwest (Southern CA-AZ-HI)**

TREASURER REPORT

San Diego Kite Club (SDKC) Highlights:

We currently have just over \$7,500.00 in our bank account. Any major spending will be shared with the club during general meetings. The past season has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding time for the SDKC community. The club recently hosted a 36-year anniversary celebration during our July fly, bringing together members to celebrate decades of shared history on the field. Beyond the regular flying schedule, some of the standout events and achievements include:

Community Outreach and Giving: The club continued its strong tradition of giving back to the local community, successfully organizing a \$500 donation to the Ocean Beach Kiwanis Club. Additionally, SDKC partnered with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department for the Therapeutic Recreation Services program in July. Club members volunteered their time and expertise to assist participants of varying ages and abilities, helping them experience the joy of flight firsthand.

79th Ocean Beach Children's Kite Festival: This historic event at Robb Field was a massive success and a major highlight for the community. A focal point of the festival was the high-volume candy drop, safely and successfully executed using a large Rokkaku kite, in addition to a 16-meter Trilobite kite, to lift multiple candy drop rigs at the same time.

3rd Annual Civita Kite Festival: Another fantastic local gathering organized by Sudberry Properties brought out fliers of all skill levels for a great day of flying and public engagement.

Honoring Kite History: The club also spent time this year reflecting on the profound impact of the Revolution family, who completely reshaped the quad-line kite world. Their influence continues to be a core part of the flying culture across our local beaches and the broader region.

Greater Los Angeles and Regional Flying has remained steady, with a strong focus on public events and cross-club coordination. Key regional highlights include:

LA Kite and Regional Solidarity: LA Kite, spearheaded by Max Plisskin out of Santa Monica, continues to be a fantastic driving force in the region. Max and the LA Kite members have been actively sharing the field with SDKC and other regional fliers at major public gatherings, including the Huntington Beach Kite Party and Ocean Beach Kite Festival.

Clockshop's 6th Annual Community and Unity Peoples Kite Festival: Held at the Los Angeles State Historic Park, this gathering has grown significantly over the years. What originally started as a joyful protest against a proposed Dodger Stadium gondola project, has evolved into a massive community event. It successfully deepens the connection between artists, communities, and public lands. It was a fantastic day of flying, even with an unexpected nearby fire that some of our regional pilots witnessed while on the field.

Commercial Flying: Beyond public beach festivals, pilots from across Region 12 have successfully coordinated logistics for private and institutional events. A major highlight was coordinating a team for a secured commercial demonstration at The Huntington Library in San Marino for their "THIS LAND IS Community Festival," proving that our regional network is highly collaborative and well-connected for professional exhibitions.

Overall, Region 12 continues to thrive through a mix of historic local festivals, strong community outreach, and the bonds between our regional clubs.

NEW CLUB WEBMASTERS REPORTING IN

Our new web masters have been added to the contact us page of our club website. Take a look and be sure to thank them for taking on this position. More than ever do we need this type of support and they are well equipped for the volunteer position.

Fernando Vazquez – Web Master

Fernando keeps the SDKC website running with the precision of a NASA launch team and the patience of a saint. We're pretty sure he can fix the internet with one hand while flying a kite with the other. If the website works, thank Fernando; if it doesn't, please give him a moment to recover from everyone asking him why.

Glenn Meader – Web Master

I've been a kite collector since age 12. People didn't know what to get me for Xmas and birthday presents so I asked for kites. So my collection includes all those kites for 6 decades. I don't have a favorite style – I like variety – and colors. I love kites more than computers, but I'm skilled with both.

NEW EQUIPEMENT MANAGER REPORTING IN - ERIN QUINN

I'm happy to be the new equipment manager for SDKC and would like to extend an invitation to all club members who are inclined to make kites for non-commercial use to take advantage of SDKC donated materials by visiting the Kite Builders Corner. Come visit the kite studio in Leucadia to see SDKC inventory, get inspired and start building today.

I come from a family of makers, my dad and brother built the little sailboats we grew up sailing, and my mom made the sails. Later my brother manufactured our windsurfing sails and when we travelled for windsurfing, we always also packed kites.

I knew I wanted to be a kite maker when on a surf trip to Bali in the 90's, every evening the sky was full of kites, and every morning people were quietly building them on their porches. One afternoon we were stuck in a terrible traffic jam, inching along the only highway, and when we reached the source of the obstruction it was revealed to be a group of men carrying a large and heavy bamboo kite frame that spanned the entire road. Instead of being irritated by the impediment, the people passing by were cheering and encouraging the kite makers. I joined SDKC in 2024 because I wanted to learn to make kites. I am very grateful for all their support, having access to the building materials as a club member has given me a lot of freedom to learn and to experiment. Please contact me if you would like to visit the studio & enjoy this membership benefit.

If you spot any of these new board members on the field at a club meetup or volunteer event, be sure to pull them aside and thank them for stepping up and taking on their new role. We truly have an amazing cast of board members who are well qualified to hold down the fort. We know they are going to bring a lot of great ideas, energy, and commitment to the club, and we should be excited to see what they can accomplish together.



Fernando Vazquez
Web Master



Glenn Meader
Web Master



Erin Quinn
Equipment Manager

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

It's an honor and a privilege to be the president of the San Diego Kite Club. And I usually reflect on David Corning's 20-year commitment to our club, which consisted of an incredible amount of activities, community involvement, and more. Being able to work closely with his wife Iris really captures my heart, and to know she equally put in as much effort and work. During July's 36-year anniversary meeting, the president role was up for grabs. I happily announced being willing to continue my role for another one to two years unless someone else would like the opportunity. To no surprise, I was the only one interested in continuing or taking on this role, and I plan to do an exceptional job for our club and kite flyers alike. By now, you all know I'm very easy to reach, and I genuinely care about your views, opinions, and ideas. So if anybody needs me, reach out to president@sandiegokiteclub.org email, and I'll be quick to respond.

I'd like to announce that I officially started a new kite business here in San Diego called Pacific Kite Company. You can view my website at www.pacifickitecompany.com. We specialize in providing the following services.

- Kite Shows & Performances
- Large-Scale Kite Displays
- Aerial Entertainment
- Ground Displays & Installations
- Corporate Event Entertainment
- Festival & Venue Attractions
- Branded Kites & Promotional Displays
- Windless Kite & Event Décor
- LED Night Shows & Attractions
- TV and Movie Kite Production Management

As always, be sure to thank my wife Cristina and our kids on the field if you see them. My family is well involved in the club and donate a lot of hours, but I'd like to highlight that my wife is an exceptional supporter of me in my role and helps shape who I am off and on the field. I love you, Cristina, and thank you so much for supporting me during my time as president.