



SEA TRAIL
EAST ENTRANCE

Volume XVIII, Number 12
December, 2009

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It was good seeing so many of you at the annual Master Association Meeting held on November 14! For those of you who could not attend, I thought I would touch upon some of the highlights of the meeting.

John Williams will be stepping down as a board member. We are sad to see him move on, but thank him for his devotion to the board, his wisdom and input. Gary Pope has been appointed by Sea Trail Corporation to replace John.

Statements for the annual dues will be mailed in December. It has become necessary for the association to adopt a delinquent assessment collection policy. This policy, noted previously in the Sea Trailer, will be mailed to you with your dues statement. While the assessment is due January 1, it does not become delinquent till January 31, at which time late fees and penalties will begin.

You may not be aware that some of our roads are dedicated to the town for maintenance and repair, while other roads are owned by Sea Trail Corporation but maintained by the Master Association. Sea Trail Corporation has agreed to transfer ownership of the roads to the Master Association. Once the Master Association, in conjunction with the town, has completed bore testing, and, if necessary, brings any deficient road up to town standards, we will be able to dedicate our roads to the town for maintenance and repair. This means the association will no longer have to expend funds to maintain the roads and will no longer have to set aside reserve funds for road replacement.

The board continues to investigate the possibility of a building expansion at the Pink Palace to address three areas of concern expressed by property owners. Additional meeting space, increased parking and a larger, more modern exercise facility were major concerns expressed in a property owner survey. An architect has been engaged, and bids are being obtained for board consideration. An exercise room twice the size of our current facility is being considered. In addition, an all purpose room for aerobics, dance and other floor exercises will complement the addition. This room could also be used for meeting space and social functions. The present sauna would be relocated to the new building and an outdoor spa will be installed replacing the non-functioning indoor spa. The building would contain a porch on two sides facing the pool area providing additional shaded seating. The number of parking spaces would increase by about 90% of what is currently available. The current exercise room and the current spa/sauna room would be converted to meeting room space.

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MASTER ASSOCIATION NEWS

continued from page 1

If the board approves the concept of this proposed addition, meetings will be held for property owner input. While costs for this project are still being investigated, it is hoped that this proposed project can be paid through contingency funds and a one time \$100 assessment per property owner.

Funding has been allocated in the 2010 budget to install gates at the Sea Trail parking area at the beach. Your new access card will admit you. Installation should be complete by the spring of 2010.

A social committee is being formed in January in hopes of organizing additional events beyond the annual Christmas and New Year's parties. If interested in joining this committee, send me an email. Enjoy the holidays!

Bill Metkiff, President Master Association Board of Directors

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

As of the annual meeting, we now have our 2010 budget approved. Our plans include the following improvements: Paint both the Chapel and the restrooms at the Pink Palace and new faucets installed in the restrooms at the Palace. Lastly, new carpet will be installed in the MAC upstairs and on the second floor porch. In addition, Priscilla Donaldson has purchased new holiday decorations for the MAC. Have a great holiday.

Day Kreuzberg, Facilities Chair

DECORATING COMMITTEE

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We had a large and wonderful group of volunteers join us at the Pink Palace and the MAC to turn our buildings into a Christmas wonderland. I thank everyone that answered my plea for help. Without, you it couldn't happen. You did a great job! Thanks so much to Decorating Committee Chair Priscilla Donaldson and all who helped.

Donna Piatek, Communications Committee Chair



Property Owners Changes and Additions

Changes

Richard Brawley
rickston@aol.com

JoAnn Brawley
Joanna1b@aol.com

James Sinnott
Jimsinnott1953@comcast.net

Samuel & Marion Hastings
c/o Eric J Barley
ebarley@abelconst.com

Jeanie & John Bowles
jbowles@atmc.net

James and Christine Ross
Jimross7897@hotmail.com

Gregory & Rachel Taylor
1sunsetbeach@gmail.com

Frank and Else McLearen
New Sea Trail Address:
259 Creek View Drive
Old Sea Trail Address:
138-4 Rice Mill Circle
Phone & email remain the same

Steve & Grace Haic
Change of primary listed address
to:
215 Clubhouse Rd Unit 202

Robert Von Schmid
140 Avian Dr Unit 3711
New mailing address:
74 Mulberry Av
Garden City, NY 11530

Bobbie Peterson
137 Avian Dr (Champions) unit
3518
New mailing address:
PO Box 3631
Arlington, Va 22203

Barb Wojtysiak
591 Summer Green Ct
New phone number:
910-575-3690

Jim & Paula Halla
413 Planter's Ridge Dr
New Mailing address:
59 Maybrook Av
Manchester, NH 03102
New phone number:
603-232-3904

Jerry & Elizabeth Gradel
169 Edgewater Circle
New mailing address:
525 Montaigne Court
Calabash, NC 28467
New phone number:
910-575-4708

New Owners:

John & Diane Misiasek
611 Oyster Bay Dr
910-579-7542
dianamisiasek@yahoo.com

Paul & Leslee Bollea
109 Crooked Gulley Circle #2
Mailing Address:
7401 South Reach Drive
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
703-455-4539 (Home)
Paul's cell: 571-239-6297

John & Sandy Payne
365 Sea Trail Dr. W
910-575-8144
jspayne@atmc.net

Sea Trailer Staff

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Membership & Address Changes (due 15th of the month):
Debra Bordeaux — 287-1192 dbordeaux@seatrail.com.

Please send all submission to theseatrailer@atmc.net or
lehre@atmc.net.

Submission format: no bold, italicize, underline, centering,
exclamation points or all caps (even in titles). Arial font, 12
point, black; all text and titles flush left.

Deadline for all submissions: 22nd of the month

Sea Trail Corporation and The Resort at Sea Trail Phone Numbers

Dana Connelly, President	1112
Rebecca Edgar- Ex. Admin. Assistant	2114
Debra Bordeaux-Acct/Master Association	1192
Anita Langin - Staff Accountant/Mbr Golf	1188
Tom Plankers-President of Golf	1152
Matt Owens- Director of Golf. Maint.	2140
Jones/Byrd Golf Shop	1122
Maples Golf Shop	1125
Magnolias Lounge	1119
Brassies Pub - 210 Clubhouse Road	1385
Shawn George - Real Estate Manager	1510
Ravina Roberts – Dir. Of Resort Opr, TR@ST	1173
VAC Manager	1165
Norma Peters-Admin Assist - Resort Maint & IT	1508

Clubs and Activities

Bridge

Thursday Ladies Bridge

Winners for October 22nd: Betsy Slover, Bev Giles, Judie Daniels.

Winners for October 29th: Betsy Slover, Becky Brown, Donna Vincent. Becky Brown and Kay Roberts bid and made a small slam.

Winners for November 5th: Delores Winstруп, Judy D'Amico, Judy Pusey.

Winners for November 12th: Dian Robbins, Judie Daniels, Sue Copley.

Winners for November 19th: Diane Hahn, Trudy Schweinsberg, Anne Giordano and Alice Stovin.

December hostesses are Pat Diehl 575-0676 and Judie Perna 575-0409.

Couples Bridge

Results for November Couples Bridge were Sally Dambaugh, Marv Peters, Jack Dambaugh.

Couples Bridge will not meet in December. We will meet in January on the 8th and Rudy and Nerina Cilento will host. If you wish to play please contact them at 575-6347.

Cookie Exchange

All ladies at Sea Trail are invited. Please join us for a festive Holiday Luncheon and Cookie Exchange to be held at the Pink Palace on December 15th beginning at 11:00. The cookie exchange is optional but if you participate, you take home a nice variety of cookies. Punch and drinks will be provided.

Your STLGA hostesses are Sharon Markatos, Mary Lou Miller and Jennie Gregory. The sign-up sheet is in the Computer Room at the Jones/Byrd Clubhouse. Sign-up deadline is Thursday, December 10.

Tai Chi

Tai chi at the MAC 3 weeks this month on Thursday December 3rd, 10th and 17th from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m., and on Fridays, December 4th, 11th and 18th at from 10.00 am to 11.30 am. Tai Chi classes are at no cost.

Michele Bruno

February 2010 Dining Around

Mark your calendar for the first Dining Around of the season, Monday, February 1, 2010 at the Liberty Tap, Myrtle Beach. Details with the menu in the January Sea Trailer. *The Pilneys and The Christens*

Garden Club

Our next meeting will be The Make It Bake It held on December 8th at 10:00 at the Convention Center. Doors will open at 9:00. The cost is \$5 for members and \$25 for guests.

In the absence of Kat Goodrich, Joyce Hellmann called the 205th meeting of the Sea Trail Garden Club to order at 10:02. After the Pledge of Allegiance, members and guests were welcomed. Anita and Bob Clark, Pam Fisher, JoAnn Abrams and Janine Coakley were thanked for the amazing success of the Fashion Show and Charity Auction. Over \$4000 was raised.

The program was in two parts. The first was presented by Jennifer Vanasse on a program called "Girls on the Run." It encourages girls in our local elementary school to participate in a running program. The second program was presented by Sherry Roseman from Shady Oaks. She demonstrated the creation of different Christmas decorations.

The treasury has \$11,411.40 as of November 10, 2009.

A motion was made that the Garden Club's portion of the 50/50 be donated to the BFA for their Thanksgiving baskets. It was unanimously passed.

The annual New Year's Eve party will be held at the Pink Palace. The cost is \$30 per couple. Checks should be given to Ellen Belford.

Joyce M. Hellmann, Secretary

Pinochle

We meet at the Pink Palace every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We play double-deck and we are a friendly, patient group. If you would like to just come and "observe" for an evening, you are certainly welcome to do so. Couples and singles are invited. Questions, please call Loraine and Frank Kish at 575-2440.

Clubs and Activities (cont.)

Granny's Closet

Granny's Closet is a list of items that are held by individuals who are willing to lend them to us when we have a need for them, cribs, high chairs, and medical items, crutches or a walker. Please call the following if you need anything from Granny's Closet: Eileen Chamberlain, 579-3111, Priscilla Donaldson 575-2270, or Anita Clark 575-1049. Eileen Chamberlain is coordinator of these items and if you have something you would like to include or delete from Granny's Closet, please call her.

Game Night

Game Night on December 19 is cancelled.

Woman's Watch Found

Woman's watch on the Maples Golf course. To claim call Ron at 579-7889.

Sunset Cyclists Bike Club

The Sunset Cyclists continue to roll! Our first destination trip was a ride through the Waccamaw Neck bike path. Nineteen bicyclists proudly rode 18 miles along the scenic trails and refueled at a waterfront restaurant where we watched peacocks and wild goats while we ate and ate.

On December 5th we will have a destination trip to Winding River Plantation in Supply in addition to our twice weekly local rides. If you'd like to join us, please call Charlene Doolittle at 575-5977.

Our first annual Christmas Party will be held at the MAC on December 13th at 5:00. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and byob.

Charlene Doolittle

Sea Horse Book Club

On December 1st we will have our annual Holiday Luncheon at La Cucina starting at noon. The cost is \$15 for the lunch. Our discussion of *A Boy's Life* by Robert McCammon will be held at the January 5th meeting back at the Pink Palace starting at 3:30.

Our selection for February is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. If you enjoy reading and sharing your ideas, consider joining our lively group. You will not be disappointed. Contact Joyce Hellmann at jmhellmann@atmc.net or 579-0273. Happy Reading!

Food Committee

There will not be a Theme Dinner during the month of December because of the busy schedules we all have this time of year. Hopefully, they will resume in January. For those who participated in the Oktoberfest Theme Dinner, and then chose not to attend the Prime Rib dinner due to some problems encountered, you missed a fantastic dinner. The food was delicious, there was no waiting in line to be served, the wait staff took your check to pay your bill, and each couple in your party was given separate checks. At Oktoberfest, several people did not understand why plastic was used for the meal. Apparently, Sea Trail was trying to make the evening as authentic as possible, and in a tent in Munich, plastic is used for Oktoberfest celebrations. That is also why the waitresses were dressed in German outfits.

Sea Trail will again this year hold a New Year's Eve Gala at the Convention Center from 7:00 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. The menu and pricing have not been finalized as of press time but will be posted to the Sea Trail web site with a banner on the home page as soon as it is available. Tentatively, there will be a cocktail hour with champagne and a cash bar, prime rib and bourbon-glazed ham carving stations, as well as several other stations around the room, including dessert. Reservations may be made by calling 287-1163.

The Sunday Breakfast Buffet will continue and, because of demand, an omelet station has been added at an additional cost. On Super Bowl Sunday, Sea Trail will sponsor a Super Bowl Party. Here again, details for this function have not been finalized and once they have, they will be posted on the Sea Trail web site and should be available for my January article.

Have a wonderful holiday whether you will be celebrating here in Sea Trail or traveling to family in other areas. May everyone have a very safe trip should you be traveling and a very Happy New Year filled with good health and much happiness.

Diane Kreuzburg

Clubs and Activities *(cont.)*

TGIF

It's that magical, mystical, wonderful time of the year. A special time when family, friends and neighbors come together to celebrate each other and the season of Christmas and Chanukah. What better way to begin the celebrations than by attending our very special gathering of TGIF on Friday, December 11, at the Pink Palace.

Hosted for the 10th year by John and Linda Hogan and Bob and Mary Lou Miller, the December TGIF brings out all of Sea Trail to share the joy of the season and sing along with our own Sea Trail Songbirds. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm. Please bring a hearty appetizer to share and your own byob. Friends and family are always welcome to join us.

There will be NO TGIF on Friday, December 18, or Friday, January 1. Get ready, however, for the 4th Annual Worst Christmas Gift Exchange coming to TGIF on Friday, January 15. Again hosted by the Hills and Suttons, it is one of the most fun-filled events of the year. More information will be forthcoming in the January Sea Trailer. Who knows where the palm tree is, or the vibrating slippers or the handbag cookie jar?

However and wherever you celebrate this holiday season, we wish you much happiness and good health. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah.

From both of us to all of our Sea Trail family, thanks for two great years as the coordinators of TGIF!

Ron and Madeline Dubas

February 2010 Dining Around

Mark your calendar for the first Dining Around of the season, Monday, February 1, 2010 at the Liberty Tap, Myrtle Beach. Details with the menu in the January Sea Trailer. *The Pilneys and The Christens*

Literacy Council Books

Over the past 10 years, it has been the custom of our Gourmet Club Members to bring a child's book to our Holiday Gala for the Literacy Council. The Council adds the books to the Brunswick Family Assistance Christmas baskets. Previous donations from Gourmet have averaged anywhere from 100 to 125 books for the children.

This year, I branched out to include other "plantations." Their participation in Sea Trail's book drive dramatically increased the numbers: Sea Trail 389, Holden Beach, 373, Brierwood 200, Sandpiper Bay 32 and Brunswick Plantation 20 blew away previous numbers.

The response from so many Sea Trailers was overwhelming. The overflowing baskets on Rita Ashley's and my front steps often resembled the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes.

The handoff to the Literacy Council put the grand total at 1,014 books. The Council's goal for all of Brunswick County: 1,000.

Congratulations to all! On behalf of the children, thank you for opening the door to the wonderful world of books.

Pat Gambarelli

Sea Trail Grandmas

www.seatrailgrandmas.blogspot.com

Service project for making clothes for premature babies and new born. We meet on 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at the Pink Palace from 9.15 am to 11.30 am. Come to join us or call Michele 579-8470.

Donations for "Sea Trail Grandmas" are always welcome.



Clubs and Activities *(cont.)*

New Year's Eve Party

If being close to home sounds good to you, then come join your neighbors and friends (guests are welcome) for the annual New Year's Eve Party at the Pink Palace.

Festivities begin at 7:30 and include:

- * Shrimp Cocktail and Assorted Cheese Trays
- * Pork Tenderloin Dinner
- * Dessert
- * Bunco (a easy game that keeps everyone moving and will have cash prizes)
- * Music and Dancing
- * Champagne Toast at Midnight
- * BYOB please

The holiday-decorated Pink Palace will be transformed into a dining atmosphere with candlelight, real china and silverware. Hats, noisemakers, etc. will also help us usher in the New Year.

The cost of the celebration is \$30 per couple (\$15.00 for one) and the deadline is December 27th - your check is your reservation. Please make your check out to Ellen Belford and send to her (212 Crooked Gulley Circle) or you may also leave it in the basket on Ellen's front porch. We are limiting the number to sixty, so make your reservations soon to welcome in 2010.

Sea Trail Prayer Support Circle

The members of the Sea Trail Prayer Support Circle wishes to extend to all of our Sea Trail friends our Best Wishes and Prayers for a beautiful and Blessed Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year!

Marie Blanda	Myrt & Ron Klein
Becky Brown	Gloria Lee
Dorothy Cambria	Carol Marchell
Betty Dawley	Jan McComb
Marge Gallop	Mary Lou Miller
Sue Gray	Heni Moulton
Jennie Gregory	Rosemary Walker
Betty Hewle	Carol Welch
JoAnn Jenkins	

May God Bless us one and all with His Peace!

Non-Denominational Bible Studies (NBS)

As I think of Christmas and the account of the birth of Jesus Christ as told by Luke in Chapter 1, verses 1-20 in his Gospel, I am amazed to see how God worked to fulfill the prophecies in the Old Testament regarding the the birth of His Son.

In studying God's Word we have learned that God has a purpose for each of us. As we ponder that fact and as we look back over our lives, it is easy to see where His hand has been at work in bringing us to the place we are at right now. It is encouraging to see that even in the difficult times, with trusting in Him and His way, He has brought us to a better place.

My prayer for each of us this Christmas is that we will desire to see Jesus in a new way. A way that will make Him more real to us and deepen our desire to draw closer to Him.

Read the story of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem as told by Luke in Chapter 2, verses 1-20, and ponder the questions: What is God desiring to do in my life right now? What purpose has He for me?

How is Jesus my Savior? How much do I want to know Him more? To help answer these questions and to discover the encouragement, hope and joy that can be found only in God's Word to us, come and study the Bible in a comfortable and non-threatening way. Join one of the study groups here in Sea Trail meeting on different days and nights of the week and at different times.

For more information or to join a group call Ann Otten @ 579-5239.

"House Party" for Bettie Fennell

On January 30, Sea Trail residents will have a chance to meet and learn more about Bettie Fennell, Republican candidate for the North Carolina Senate seat currently held by R. C. Soles. This wine and cheese reception will be held at the Pink Palace from 4-6 p.m. All interested residents are invited to attend. If you have questions, please contact Judie Daniels at 575-6101.

Clubs and Activities *(cont.)*

Make-It Bake-It Auction

New! Early Auction Item Drop Off

The Make-It Bake-It Auction sponsored by the Sea Trail Garden Club will be held on December 8th at the Conference Center. All members are asked to donate an item to the auction. It may be something that you make, bake, grow, sew or buy. Donations this year may be dropped off at the Conference Center the day before the auction between the hours of 3 and 5 pm. This will make it possible to get a lot of the set up done prior to the auction and will allow more time for everyone to view all the items that will be auctioned. (If you cannot bring your item early, you may bring it on the 8th as you did in the past.) On the morning of the 8th doors open at 9:00 and the Auction will begin promptly at 10 a.m. The auction is open to the public. To reserve, send your name and a check to Pat Booth at 213 Baroney Place. Garden Club Members pay \$5.00 and guests pay \$25.00 each. Tables seat 8 people. If you have any questions, please call Kate Goodrich 575-5389.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the kind words, cards, help, and comfort following my recent illness. In the fifteen years that John and I have lived in Sea Trail, we've enjoyed the warmth of good friendships and the support of such a wonderful, caring community. Thank you for everything.

Connie Rush

*Wishing you and your families
a Beautiful Holiday Season*

and a

*New Year of Peace,
Health and Happiness*



Golf

Bagdrop

Happy Holidays to all STLGA members, families and friends!

Don't forget the Christmas Cookie Exchange on December 15. This year the event is open to STLGA members and all of the Sea Trail ladies. It will begin at 11:00 am at the Pink Palace. You don't even have to be a cookie baker to attend! However, if you do bring cookies, be sure to bring an empty container to take home the cookies you have selected. Everyone is encouraged to bring a salad to share so you know we will have some good food on hand. There are a number of ways that you can sign up to attend. In the computer room at the Jones-Byrd clubhouse, there is a sign-up sheet on the STLGA bulletin board. Or you can sign up by calling Mary Lou Miller at 575-4919, Sharon Markatos at 575-0901, or Jennie Gregory at 579-0418.

In our November meeting we elected a new board for 2010. Our new officers are as follows: Pat Sutton-President, Sandy Reynolds - Vice-President, Donna Morris - Secretary, Gail Cafaro - Treasurer, and Madeline Dubas - Member-at-Large. Thank you to our outgoing officers for all of the work they did for us this year.

We also welcomed two new members in 2009. Both golfers split their time between Sea Trail and other residences in the north. Suzanne Nettleton has her home in Cromwell, Connecticut, and her Sea Trail home in Eastwood Landing. Peggy Soriano has a home in Lake Ronkonkoma, New York, and has a Sea Trail home in the Champions. Welcome to both of these golfers. We look forward to playing golf with you!

Pairing coordinators for December are Denise Reiner at 579-1641 and Pat Sutton at 575-6167.

May you enjoy a wonderful and blessed holiday season with those you love! See you next year!

— *Kathy Ivey, Publicity*

Lady Niners

Pairings for December: Katie Boder 575-4581 and Carol Gartner 579-7678 sign up at the J/B Clubhouse by Monday noon. Those without a computer, place phone number next to your name on the sign-up sheet. If for any reason you have to cancel call the Clubhouse and Katie or Carol.

Pairings for Couples: No Couples Golf in December

Slick Chicks: Coordinator JoAnn Abrams 575-4493. Play every Tuesday, sign up by noon Saturday at the J/B Clubhouse.

Winners of the November 15 Couples on the Maples Course were, front 1 Julie and John Sullivan and Karen and Frank Baker, 2 Betty Hewell and Vic Hahn, and Inger and Gary Dickson. On the back, 1 Babe and Ben Madura, and Darlene and Gregg DeCrane.

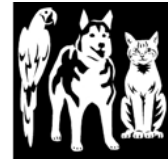
Dates to Remember: Friday Dec 11, 11:30am, the STLN Christmas Luncheon, at La Cuccina Italian Grill (behind the Food Lion). Deadline Dec 4th, \$13. Make checks payable to Diane Kreuzberg, 224 Sea Trail Dr W., place in basket by door. Notate on the check your entrée.

STLGA is having their cookie exchange Dec 15 at the Pink Palace 11 a.m. They have extended an invitation to STLN and some other women's groups. They are requesting a salad from everyone, cookies are optional if you don't want to bake. If you do bake bring 2 doz cookies and swap them for 2 doz cookies. Please call Sharon Markatos, Jenny Gregory or Mary Lou Miller by Dec 10, if you plan to attend. It should be lots of fun.

— *Diane Carcich/Publicity*

Santa Open

The Sunday Couples Golf "Santa Open" is December 13th. The sign-up sheet is in the Computer Room at the Jones/Byrd Clubhouse. It is a fun "naughty and nice" tournament with an 11:00 shotgun start. One of the "nice" things is that you can put together your own 4-some. Dinner will be held at the Pink Palace. Please bring a \$5.00 ornament or gift for Santa to hand out to each good little girl and perhaps to some of the naughty ones also. This is a fun packed event and our last Sunday Couples for the year 2009. Please join us. Your hosts are JoDonna and Skip O'Leary, Sharon and John Markatos and Bobbie and Denny deLagarde.



“The Day the Mules Came to Sunset Beach”

Thursday, November 5, 2009 was not your typical day here in our normally quiet, routine beach community. The day had barely begun when we received a phone call. “The mules are here, they’re on 904!” What? Huh? What mules?

Leon wasted no time. Quickly recognizing a “photo op,” he began gathering his camera equipment. I was slower in seeing the possibilities. “Maybe you won’t be writing about reindeer for the December *Sea Trailer* after all. Let’s go check this out,” he said. In a few minutes we were out the door.

We quickly found the mule train, taking a break in the parking lot of the Coastal Hardware store. There were three wagons, the two larger ones pulled by pairs of mules, and the smaller yellow wagon pulled by a single mule.

We spoke first to wagon driver Kenny Tyndall. Kenny explained that all of the people involved kept mules, and used them in varieties of activities. The men were retired, and enjoyed hitching their mule teams to wagons to ride in various events and parades, and also working with the mules to pull logs out of the DuPont State Forest. Kenny lives on the Last Hill Mule Farm, along with his eleven mules. It’s in Raeford, the “sandhills” of North Carolina.

Riding in the other larger wagon was Billy Stevenson, from High Falls, NC and Ronald Hudson, age 70, from Ashboro. Billy is legally blind, yet he is still able to participate in the various mule rides throughout the year.

The smaller yellow wagon was pulled by a single mule, Polly. Her owner and driver was Bernie Harberts. At 41, Bernie was the youngest (human) of the group. He had been bitten by wanderlust at an early age, and had left his “real” job to enjoy life as a traveler and adventurer, meeting interesting people along the way.

Kenny explained that it had taken them three days to drive their wagons from the sandhills of our state to Sunset Beach. This was actually the third year in a row that they had made this trip, although most people had not seen them in previous years. Their goal was to drive the mules and wagons across the historic and beloved Sunset Beach swing bridge one last time, and to spend the night on the beach of the island, or perhaps farther south, on Bird Island.

After some picture-taking and talking, we told the group that we’d meet them on the bridge later, to get photos of the mules crossing on to the beach. Throughout the morning, we kept checking, however the mule train seemed to take forever to reach the bridge. We had two other appointments, and by the time we returned, we discovered that the group had already crossed over to the island. We drove over to see if we could get some pictures of them on the beach. Walking through the gazebo, we could hear others talking about the mules. On the other side, we could barely see the wagons, heading toward Bird Island, along the shore. While the mules had moved very slowly along the road, and in traffic, once they reached the water’s edge, they trotted quite comfortably on the hard packed wet sand.

Just then, a Sunset Beach police car crossed over the dune, and the officer looked in the direction of Bird Island before quickly driving in pursuit of the mules. In short order, he had the mule train turned around and heading back in our direction. We were able to capture a few photos of the mules crossing back over the dune, and into the parking lot. We spoke with the



officer, who explained that the mules could not spend the night on the beach. Apparently, someone had called the police and complained. He asked us if we knew someplace safe and comfortable for the mules to stay for the night, outside the city limits.

We could not think of any such place, however, I immediately thought of our friend and Sea Trail neighbor, Pam Allen. Being a Realtor, Pam knows “everybody and every place” around here. I quickly called her on her cell phone. As soon as I described the mule team’s predicament, she said, “Oh! They can stay at Barry’s.” Pam’s husband Barry is the owner of Carolina Custom Upholstery on Highway 904. His property is rimmed with a tall fence with a gate. I asked Pam if she wanted to call Barry first. “Oh, no problem. I know he’ll be fine with it,” Pam happily replied. We caught up with the mule team and the police officer, and gave them the information. They remembered passing Barry’s on their way in to town. The officer offered to give them an escort to assure safe passage.

Later that evening, thanks to Barry’s hospitality, the mules were comfortably bedded down behind the upholstery shop, and the wagons were set up there too. The scene looked almost like a wagon train kind of setting as seen in a western movie. . . without the campfire, of course. We all met in Barry’s shop for an evening of food and conversation. Pam and Barry had brought their grandson, Landen, who at age 3 was fascinated with the mules. As with most travelers, the men from the mule team had many interesting stories to share about their travels and experiences.

Bernie described how he’d started his adult life in a way more typical of our times. After graduating from college, he’d begun working a “straight” job in advertising. As most of us, he dreamed of “one day” retiring with a nest egg adequate to support himself, when he’d be able to pursue things that he really wanted to do. Yet always chasing the vague “some day” was not satisfying to him. So, at the age of thirty, he quit his day job, and cashed in the \$1,500 from his Roth account. Next, he bought an old boat named the Sea Bird, and sailed it around the world. When that 5-year journey was completed, he sold his boat and bought his first mule, Woody, setting out to cross the country on mule-back. He rode Woody from Oriental, NC to San Diego, CA, most of the time camping at night in a small teepee. That trip had taken him about 18 months. From that experience, he’d written a book called *Too Proud to Ride a Cow* (ISBN 978-0-9787722-8-4). On another mule-riding adventure, he rode a mule from Toronto south into Mexico. Now he can truly say that he has traveled the United States from north to south and east to west! When not traveling, Bernie lives in Southern Pines, NC. As he describes it, when you are traveling slowly, camping, truly experiencing the country and meeting people along the way, it’s impossible to “insulate yourself from the true fabric of our country, and its people,” as you might otherwise do if you were traveling by car or plane.



Kenny was full of interesting information about mules: the differences between cotton patch mules, draft mules, and saddle mules. He explained that mules were smarter and more sure-footed than horses. Mules are bred from a donkey sire and a horse mare. As a result of this “cross breeding,” they have greater strength and endurance than either parent’s breeds. Mules tend to be more patient, can pull greater weight, have thicker skin and harder hooves, and show a greater natural resistance to diseases and insects than either donkeys or horses. During this country’s early development, mules proved to be superior for pulling plows, especially in clay soils.

Horses and donkeys are different species, with different numbers of chromosomes. Of the two hybrids between these two species, a mule is easier to obtain than a hinny (the offspring of a male horse and a female donkey). Because of the differences in chromosomes, all male mules and most female mules are infertile.

Kenny was also traveling with his small pup, Rimshot. Rimshot loved riding in the wagon, enjoying the sunshine and sites from the driver’s bench. That evening at Barry’s, he played happily with the Allen’s two small dogs, Chachi and Chaz.

Ronald and Billy enjoyed the evening, the food, and the conversation. They had ridden with the team to

many places throughout the south and west. Billy explained that in all the places they'd traveled, they had never before been "kicked out" of a community. Even in places that had ordinances against keeping "farm animals" inside city limits, exceptions were made for the mule team. In a couple of communities, they were allowed to camp for the night in the parking lot of the local police station! We expressed our welcome and said that most people that we talked with were delighted to have seen the mules in Sunset Beach, and hoped that next year they would make it the Fourth Annual Journey to Sunset Beach!

If you're interested in seeing more pictures and reading about these mules and their adventuresome owners, Google the website for the Last Hill Mule Farm (Kenny's site), or visit RiverEarth.com (Bernie's site).



Special Events

This column will feature articles on upcoming events sponsored by non-profit organizations that provide benefits and services to our community. All articles must be submitted by an STMA member who is involved with the event. The article must meet the following criteria:

1. The article must be short, one or two paragraphs.
2. Fees or donations may be mentioned.
3. No forms or tear-offs.
4. The name of the STMA member must be listed as a contact.
5. If more information is necessary, an ad may be purchased and referenced in the article.
6. An event may be included for no more than two months.

The editor and/or editorial committee reserve the right to refuse or edit articles. Please send items for Special Events and Swap

Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) has approximately 150 Christmas Basket/Tree of Hope individuals that have not been adopted by a family, business or Church. We are looking for individuals to adopt one or more of these to ensure that everyone receives their wishes on Christmas morning. We also have a need for food donations to complete the food baskets that come with each family wish.

Pick up dates for the gift baskets are December 16th and 17th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the old Post Office in Shallotte, 4619 Main Street. What can you do?

1. You can come to the BFA office or call BFA 910-754-4766 to pick up wish tags for the families and seniors.
2. You can purchase \$25 gift cards at Lowes Food or Food Lion or make donations to BFA for the Christmas food needed.
3. You can make a monetary donation to BFA and designate it for Christmas and we will use that to purchase needed items. We can provide tax receipts as all donations are tax deductible. If you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to call 910-754-4766 or email us at brunswickfamily@yahoo.com. Thank you again for all you do for BFA.

Donna Morris

CrossFit Christmas Challenge 5K and 1 Mile Dog Jog

The 1st Annual CrossFit Christmas Challenge on December 12. The event will be held on the beach at Sunset Beach, and will feature a 5K run and a 1 mile dog jog on the beach at low tide. Prizes for the best holiday costumes will be given to the top 3 dogs, individuals and team entries. Participants in the 5K race will receive official event sweatshirts and a race packet featuring discount coupons from area merchants and sponsors. Participants in the 1 mile dog jog will receive "doggy bags" with snacks and pet-related merchandise and coupons.

Register online for both events at <http://crossfitchallenge.xlrun.com>. Pre-registration fees are \$30 for the 5K until 12/8/09, \$35 event day registration. 1 Mile Dog Jog Registration Fee is \$15. Proceeds from the event will benefit Paws-Ability. Questions about the CrossFit Christmas Challenge can be directed to Sandy Morckel at (614) 306-8856 or sandy@premiereconsulting.net or Karen Candia, (910) 443-9190 or karen@crossfitoceanislebeach.com.

SWAP SHOP

For Sale: Bakers/Wine Rack: 77" high, black with green patina finish. Has four shelves and 11 bottle wine storage. Call 575-6952.

Pink Palace Calendar — December, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
		8:00am	7:30am - 9:00am	Reserved	10:00am - 11:00am	8:00am - 9:00am
		STMGA	Yoga	8:00am - 9:00am	Yoga	Strength Training/Pilates
			9:30am - 1:00pm	Aerobics	12:00pm - 3:00pm	2:00pm - 4:30pm
			Hand & Foot	9:15am - 12:00pm	Reserved	Baby Shower
			4:00pm - 6:00pm	Ladies Bridge		
			Songbirds	4:00pm		
			7:00pm	Santa Claus Open		
			Pinochle			
	6	7	8	9	10	11
4:00pm - 10:30pm	8:00am - 9:00am	8:00am - 9:00am	7:30am - 9:00am	Reserved	10:00am - 11:00am	8:00am - 9:00am
Eastwook Park Party	aerobics	Strength Training	Yoga	8:00am - 9:00am	Yoga	Strength Training/Pilates
	9:00am - 12:00pm	5:30pm - 6:30pm	9:30am - 1:00pm	Aerobics	12:00pm - 3:00pm	4:00pm
	Sea Trail Grandma's	Line Dancing	Hand and Foot	9:15am - 12:00pm	Reserved	Reserve - CANCEL
	12:30pm - 3:30pm		3:00pm - 5:00pm	Ladies Bridge	3:00pm	
	Bible Study		Sonbirds	4:00pm	T.G.I.F.	
	4:00pm - 6:00pm		7:00pm - 11:00pm	Carpet Cleaning		
	Songbirds		Pinochle			
	7:00pm - 10:00pm					
	Mah Jongg					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
4:00pm	8:00am - 9:00am	8:00am - 9:00am	7:30am - 9:00am	Reserved	10:00am - 11:00am	8:00am - 9:00am
Couples Golf	aerobics	Strength Training	Yoga	8:00am - 9:00am	Yoga	Strength Training/Pilates
	9:00am - 2:30pm	10:00am - 2:00pm	9:30am - 1:00pm	Aerobics	12:00pm - 3:00pm	7:00pm
	Bridge	Cookie Eschange	Hand & Foot	9:15am - 12:00pm	Reserved	Game Night CANCEL
	7:00pm - 10:00pm	5:00pm - 10:00pm	7:00pm	Ladies Bridge		
	Mah Jongg	Golf Group Christmas Party	Pinochle	4:00pm - 10:00pm		
				Reserve		
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	8:00am - 9:00am	8:00am - 9:00am	9:30am - 1:00pm			8:00am - 9:00am
	aerobics	Strength Training	Hand & Foot			Strength Training
	9:00am - 12:00pm		7:00pm - 11:00pm			
	Sea Trail Grandma's		Pinochle			
	7:00pm - 10:00pm					
	Mah Jongg					
	27	28	29	30	31	
	8:00am - 9:00am	8:00am - 9:00am	9:30am - 1:00pm	9:00am		
	aerobics	Strength Training	Hand & Foot	New Years Eve Party		
	9:00am - 2:30pm		7:00pm			
	Bridge		Pinochle			
	7:00pm - 10:00pm					
	Mah Jongg					

MAC Center Calendar—December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		9:00am - 2:30pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm	9:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 11:30am	
		Bridge	Golf Group	Mah Jongg	Tai Chi	
		7:00pm	7:00pm	3:00pm - 4:00pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm	
		Poker	Mah Jongg	Tai Chi	Reserved	
				4:30pm - 6:30pm	4:00pm - 9:00pm	
				Mah Jongg	Reserve	
				7:00pm		
				Cards		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5:00pm - 9:00pm	5:00pm - 6:00pm	1:00pm - 4:00pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm	9:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 11:30am	10:00am - 9:30pm
Men's 9 Hole	Men's Fitness	Mah Jongg	Golf Group	Mah Jongg	Tai Chi	Reserve
Christmas Party	7:00pm - 10:00pm	7:00pm	7:00pm	12:00pm - 3:00pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm	
	Bible Study - CANCEL	Poker	Mah Jongg	Reserve	Reserved	
				3:15pm		
				Carpet Cleaning		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
5:00pm - 9:00pm	12:00pm - 3:30pm	1:00pm - 4:00pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm	9:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 11:30am	
Bike Club	Bible Study	Mah Jongg	Golf Group	Mah Jongg	Tai Chi	
Christmas Party	5:00pm - 6:00pm	4:00pm	7:00pm	3:00pm - 4:30pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm	
	Men's Fitness	STMGA BD.	Mah Jongg	Tai Chi	Reserved	
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	7:00pm		4:30pm - 6:30pm	4:30pm - 9:30pm	
	Bible Study - CANCEL	Poker		Mah Jongg	Christmans Party	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	5:00pm - 6:00pm	1:00pm - 4:00pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm			
	Men's Fitness	Mah Jongg	Golf Group			
	6:30pm - 9:00pm	7:00pm	7:00pm			
	Bible Study - CANCEL	Poker	Mah Jongg			
27	28	29	30	31		
	5:00pm - 6:00pm	1:00pm - 4:00pm	12:00pm - 4:00pm	8:00pm		
	Men's Fitness	Mah Jongg	Golf Group	New Years Eve		
	6:00pm - 11:30pm	7:00pm - 9:30pm	7:00pm			
	Reserve	Poker	Mah Jongg			
	6:30pm - 9:00pm					
	Bible Study CANCEL					