

JANUARY AND DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

All you Capricorns, some Sagittariuses, and some Aquariuses: The January and December birthday party is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 1992, at 6 p.m. at Bogue Banks Country Club. Make your plans to attend this gala event to celebrate your birthday in style. We will follow the successful format of last year. Each of you will be asked to bring either a main dish casserole or a salad. The nominal fee will cover the use of the Club [essentially for cleaning] and the decorations, ice cream and cake. The fee will be \$2.50 per person.

To make your reservations, please call Diane Donovan, 247-6409, before January 9. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Terrie Sweeny, Dec-Jan Party birthday chair - 726-2832.

ANCIENT MARINERS

After one month into the season, the race for first place among the teams is close. These are the top teams: First, Bob Whitmore, captain, with Connie Browne, Ted Goetzinger and Peg Stone; Second, Duke Foulk, captain, Betty Haughey, Wally Williams and Marge Johnson; and third, Millie Herbst, captain, Bruce Belding, Jean Hileman and Art Browne. [Note: There is a three-way tie for third, but the Herbst team has the most pins].

As for the individual honors, look how these folks have done! Outstanding ladies' high scores: Marty Hare, 193; Millie Herbst, 185 and 183; Edna Kent, 184; Jan Maxwell, 181; and Lib Fleming, 191. For the men: Les Scarpone, 205 and 203; Bob Herbst, 218 and 222; Bob Gallo, 201; and Bob Kent, 218! It just goes to show that we old folks still have some stuff left!.

FRED KORFF

OWLS UPDATE

Several months ago, we told you about the "mystery disease" that we have seen in loons, gannets, and shearwaters. Since then, we have admitted ducks, herons, rails, and cormorants with the same symptoms, but because of budget cuts, neither the Federal nor State Wildlife people have been able to do any testing for us, and in fact, did not seem to consider the situation serious. We have had to live with the frustration of seeing EVERY BIRD DIE, and not knowing what was causing it.

All that has changed now! The recent storms blew flocks of migrating Northern Gannets off course; within two days we had admitted over 20 of the birds, and were receiving reports of hundreds more on the beaches. All were dead or dying; all exhibited the same symptoms [massive internal hemorrhaging, liver damage, emaciation]. This had become more than "a few birds"! Hours of phone calls produced results. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the N. C. Endangered Species Director have become involved. They picked up over 50 bodies from us; the birds have been sent to the National Wildlife Labs in Wisconsin and Georgia for extensive pathology... at the government's expense! At long last, we may be able to tell you what is killing our waterbirds. Knowing what the disease is will enable us to treat it effectively. And there's another important reason to diagnose this - the same fish that the birds are eating are being eaten by people, too!

Thanks to all who attended our open house...we hope you had as good a time meeting us as we had meeting you!

DON'T FORGET -- OWLS HAS A GOOD SELECTION OF CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS. STOP BY OR CALL 240-1200.

STEPHANIE GOETZINGER