

What's Up With PARC

By John Brodman

The Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC), formerly known as the Recreation Advisory Committee, has some exciting events coming up in the next few months, so mark your calendars. While we can't promise to have ferris wheels and funnel cakes at every event, the PARC has dedicated itself to making our own brand of small hometown activities into something Pine Knoll Shores citizens and visitors can truly enjoy and look forward to each and every year.

First up this year is the Carteret County Senior Games that will take place at several venues throughout the county from April 19 to May 6. Register now and join friends and neighbors as part of the Pine Knoll Shores Olympic Team. The games include everything from track and field to swimming, tennis, golf, cycling, badminton and other sports. There is also a Silver Arts program covering visual arts, heritage arts, literary arts and performing arts. This year, Pine Knoll Shores is hosting the one-mile, 5K, and 10K bicycle races, starting at McNeill Park at 9 a.m. on April 19. Come out and cheer on the team. You must be 55 or older to participate, and registration costs \$15. Additional information and registration forms are available in town hall, or visit www.ccparksrec.com, and click on the link to the senior games.

Next up this year is the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children 12 and under, which will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday April 23, at Garner Park on Oakleaf Drive. Last year, over 1,500 plastic Easter eggs filled with bite-size candy were ferreted out by a crowd of children.

This year there will be a bumper crop of eggs and a separate section of the Park reserved for toddlers only. Also this year, the Easter Bunny has promised to show up in person, and we expect a great community turnout. Cookies and lemonade will also be available.

Next up is the second annual Tree City Fair on Saturday April 30, from noon until 5 p.m., at town hall and ad-

jacent Veterans and Sound Side Parks on Municipal Drive. Free parking will be available on Municipal Drive and on Pine Knoll Boulevard. The fair is open with free admission for everyone, residents and visitors alike. It is an annual celebration of the town's recognition by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a designated "Tree City." It is also a celebration of the town's unique maritime forest and commitment to preservation and the highest quality of coastal living in harmony with nature. There will be music and dancing (after 3 p.m.), food, games for all ages and an arts and crafts exhibition and sale. So come one, come all. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever, like a good old fashioned country fair.

Tree City Fair is being hosted by the town's Parks and Recreation Committee and Community Appearance Committee, in conjunction with the Women's Club, Garden Club and the Public Safety Department. The mayor, town manager, and members of the town's board of commissioners are all expected to attend and participate in the games and festivities. Last year, the dunking booth, featuring a baseball toss chance to dunk the town's political leaders, was a great success. This year we will also have a "bounce house," and we expect to add several more games for children. The Community Appearance Commission will be handing out free trees once again, and the Garden Club will have a plant sale. The Public Safety will be selling hot dogs, bratwursts and drinks; the Women's Club will be selling its famous Eastern North Carolina barbecue sandwiches and desserts. This year, in addition to the arts and crafts display and sale, many of our local artists will be displaying their works and demonstrating their drawing and painting talents for visitors to watch, learn and talk with the artists. Persons or organizations wishing to have a booth to display information, arts and crafts or possibly something for sale are encouraged to participate. If you or your organization would like to help out in some way, have a booth or possibly run a fun game or food vendor operation, please contact Martha Edwards at edwardsmartha@hotmail.com, or telephone 726-7643.

The final event we will preview is the fourth annual Pine Knoll Shores Kayak for the Warriors (K4W) event,

which will take place this year on Saturday June 11, at 10 a.m., at Garner Park on Oakleaf Drive. The K4W event is a fundraiser for the Hope for the Warriors Foundation. All fees and contributions are tax deductible. Last year Pine Knoll Shores K4W events raised \$30,000 for the Hope for the Warriors Foundation. With your help, we hope to make 2011 even more successful. The weekend of events begins on Friday evening with a reception at town hall from 5 to 6:30 p.m. to honor Wounded Warriors. The reception is free for sponsors and participants, but is open to everyone for a donation of \$5 that will provide for some great wine, light food and fellowship. A silent auction featuring the works of several well-known local artists will also be held during the reception.

This year will again feature family fun bike rides of 5 or 10 kilometers through the back streets of Pine Knoll Shores. The bike ride begins at 8:30 a.m. from McNeill Park; a \$10 donation includes the registration fee and lunch. The kayak race, which features both single and double kayaks and paddle boards, will begin at 10 a.m. from Garner Park and follow a 3.2 mile course through the canal. A \$40 donation includes registration fee, race t-shirt and lunch. A Family Fun Boat Race, featuring funny boats and any paddle-worthy vessel will be held in the shallow waters of Bogue Sound in the immediate vicinity of Garner Park at 10:30 a.m. The \$20 donation covers registration and lunch. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Let's bring out those homemade boats, cardboard boats, Merrimac and Monitor replicas, and Huck Finn river rafts, and see who has what it takes to float. After the race there will be a picnic lunch, a raffle that will include many items donated by local merchants and restaurants, and an awards ceremony.

New this year to the K4W events is the annual PKS Hope for the Warriors Bicycle Race which will be held on May 21, at 9 a.m. with a start and finish line on Oakleaf Drive. This road race, nicknamed "Le Tour de Bogue Banks" is geared to the more serious rider/racer, and it will cover a 21-mile course on Highway 58 west through Indian Beach/Salter Path to the Eastern Regional Beach Access in Emerald Isle, where riders will turn around and head

back to Pine Knoll Shores and the finish line. The \$25 donation includes registration, a 2011 race tech t-shirt, bib numbers and pins. Water stations and refreshments will be available at the start/finish line and at the turnaround. If all goes well this year, future events will feature several longer race/ride formats covering much of Bogue Banks from Fort Macon to Emerald Isle.

The proceeds from all Hope for the Warriors events will go to the Hope for the Warriors Foundation, a civilian organization with 501(c) (3) status. Registration/sponsorship forms are available at town hall. Online registration is also available this year for the first time. For more information on any of these events go to: www.kayakforthewarriors.com.

Aids to Navigation Class

By Sam Sanford and JB Bagby

Imagine you are anchored in your boat while fishing on one of the many artificial reefs located just off the North Carolina coast. When you get ready to return to port before dusk, you discover your engine won't start. It takes an hour or so to get it going. As you head toward shore in the dark, you see hundreds of lights along the beach. How do you tell just where to enter the inlet without getting into dangerous surf? Once in the inlet, how do you follow the narrow channel bounded by shallow waters without going aground?

Few pleasure boaters choose to be on the water at night, but one must always be prepared for the unexpected when operating a boat. A clogged fuel filter, a change in the weather or any number of other things could easily cause you to have to operate your boat after dark. You are in for an unpleasant surprise if you haven't studied the buoys and beacons that mark inlets and channels. If you haven't learned how to identify and use them to pilot your boat safely at night, that surprise could be embarrassing, dangerous or even deadly.

Don't despair. There is a fun and easy way to learn about buoys and