



Photo by Richard Seale



Still image captured from video of a night firing of a Fort Macon 32-pound cannon.

Photo by Dan Law



State Representative Pat McElraft was on hand at the Board of Commissioners' meeting on December 12 to swear in Mayor Ken Jones and Pine Knoll Shores Commissioners (from left) Larry Corsello, John Brodman and Fred Fulcher.

## Fort Macon Tribute

By Richard Seale

On November 9, Fort Macon State Park put on a very special show in honor and remembrance of American military veterans. We had my son and wife visiting over the weekend with their boys, Noah, 7 and Oscar, 4. The program was to start after dark, running from 7 to 8 p.m., a bit of a push for the young boys but they *are* boys so we decided to give it a try.

The ads for the program called for people dressed in appropriate uniforms and carrying weapons of the time to provide descriptions of the uses of Fort Macon for each period the fort was utilized for military purposes. The rifles and equipment of the time were to be described in detail, and at the completion of each presentation, the rifle of that period was to be fired. After the rifle presentations, there was to be a tribute to veterans, including the firing of the 32-pound Civil War period cannons.

We arrived as dusk was settling over the fort and the inlet and harbor it was to protect. The staff, helped by Boy Scouts, had done a good job of setting up directed pathways to the seating area. Quite a few chairs had been provided, but by the start of the program it was standing room only. (I would recommend you bring a chair of your own if this event is repeated.) The crowd included lots of veterans with caps from various wars and branches of the armed services, and the friendly chatter soon revealed that these vets came from home towns all across America.

My son set up a high-speed, remote-fired camera and I had a good video camera. We both set up on the rear, west side of the crowd within the taped-off seating area. Darkness came and the program started. We were seated on the outer cannon berm, on the outside of the moat. The performers had a lighted "stage" on top of

(Continued on page 3)

## Pine Knoll Shores Receives National Recognition

Pine Knoll Shores held its first-ever National Night Out in August, in conjunction with the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. The town has been recognized for this inaugural event as one of seven towns in the country by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) in the "Rookies of the Year" category.

NATW, a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of various crime prevention programs, instituted the first National Night Out in 1984 and will celebrate the 30th anniversary of that event in 2014.

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