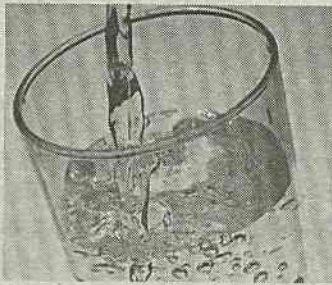


Yours for the Asking

Water Quality Testing Available

The town of Pine Knoll Shores is responsible for delivering quality water directly to your home, and offers water testing free of charge upon request. Water System Operator Sonny Cunningham carries two kits that will give instant results for the following:



- Hardness of water. From a practical standpoint, this means that Sonny is testing to see if your water softener is doing its job.
- Presence of chlorine and the absence of bacteria. While there has never been a problem in this area, this test is performed 365 days a year at outdoor taps at randomly selected homes and other locations in town—and we will be glad to run it for your home as well.

Keep in mind that Sonny is not authorized or licensed to do any work that a licensed plumber or water conditioner vendor does, but he can tell you what he believes is causing the problem. To arrange for a test, call Betty Carr at 247-4353, ext. 13.

Ancient Mariners Nearing Season's End

By Charlie McBriarty

The Ancient Mariners Bowling League will end its season on Thursday, March 27, with their annual banquet at the Clamdigger. This concluding event is eagerly anticipated, not only because it will mark the end of a “grueling” season of bowling, but also because the food and drinks are plentiful and prize money will be awarded. And if past banquets are an indication of what is in store, this will be an enjoyable night filled with conversation and good humor.

The season got underway this past September at Mac Daddy's in Cape Carteret. Ten three-person teams have bowled three games of friendly competition on Monday afternoons. As usual, the season is divided in half with a two-week respite during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. The team with the most points at the end of each half will face off on Tuesday, March 25. Of course, if one team dominates and finishes first at the end of both halves, there will be no need for a roll-off. At this juncture, it seems quite unlikely that there will be any bowling on the 25th.

The Ancient Mariners Bowling League was formed in the late summer of 1974, not many months after the town of Pine Knoll Shores came into existence. The story of how the league began is that a number of newly transplanted residents of this newly identified town were talking about what they would do when winter arrived. This group was looking for a way to extend the good times they had been experiencing during the summer at the beach. It was suggested that they might enjoy something indoors over the winter months and bowling seemed like a reasonable solution. The group decided on the name to call themselves and the rest is history.

Over the years the league has offered wintertime entertainment that has provided a good time for all with friendly conversation, a lot of humor and just a touch of competition to make it interesting. From the beginning, the league has included both women and men, the focus has been on fun and the atmosphere has been welcoming.

If this sounds interesting to you, the Ancient Mariners Bowling League is always looking for new people to become involved. As stated earlier, the season begins in late September and continues until late March—with a two-week break over the holidays.

The April issue of *The Shoreline* will have an article on the final results of the season, identification of the “new” officers and some of what transpired at the season-ending banquet. With any luck, the April article will also identify some of the reasons you should seriously consider joining us in September.

NC Author Lee Smith to Speak

By Monika Bottlinger

The Carteret Arts Forum will present North Carolina author Lee Smith on Wednesday, April 9, at 11 a.m. at the Coral Bay Club in Atlantic Beach. Currently a resident of Hillsborough, Ms. Smith is a fiction writer whose 16 books and short stories typically incorporate her roots in the South. Growing up in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia, nine-year-old Lee was already writing—and selling, for a nickel apiece—stories about her neighbors in the coal boomtown of Grundy.

Ms. Smith has received many writing awards, including the O. Henry Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Fiction, the North Carolina Award for Literature and, in April 2013, was the first recipient of Mercer University's Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Book Critics Award. Smith reached a wider audience with *The New York Times* bestseller *The Last Girls* (2002), which was also a “Good Morning America” Book Club pick.

A talk she often uses is entitled “A Life in Books,” in which she speaks about her childhood, how and when she started writing and how that writing has changed over the years. The program ends with a reading from her latest book. She loves to answer questions from the audience.

This program is included in the Carteret Arts Forum's subscription series, and single tickets are available for \$35 (\$30 for book clubs purchasing as a group). Buffet luncheon tickets are \$15 and reservations must be made by April 4. There will be a cash bar at this event.

For information, to purchase a ticket or make reservations for the luncheon, please contact Tim Bradford at 240-1699. Tickets may be purchased online at www.carteretartsforum.org.

Iron Steamer Sighting

By Bill Steenland

Better known locally as The Iron Steamer, the SS *Pevensey* was grounded on June 9, 1864, in an apparent attempt to escape Union warships, one of which was the *New Berne*, which had fired multiple cannon rounds causing some damage. When aground, 35 of the crew lowered smaller boats and made it safely to shore only to be captured and imprisoned at Fort Macon. Upon departure from the *Pevensey*, the crew caused a huge explosion which destroyed the steam engines, broke the bulkheads and many other vital parts.

The *Pevensey* was built in London and launched earlier in 1864. She was 224 feet long and 26 feet wide. The part of the ship visible in this picture, taken at low tide on January 29, is thought to be the port paddle wheel hub.

Photo by Bill Steenland

