

PIKSCO Happenings

By Ches Garner

Combat veteran maintaining colors at Hammer Park

James D. Halterman, U.S. Army, Retired, approached PIKSCO in May with a proposal to install a new 20-foot aluminum flag pole and supply flags for Hammer Park at his own expense. As a combat veteran, Halterman felt "it would be an honor to maintain the colors." The Board of Directors approved and he moved quickly to implement his plan prior to Memorial Day weekend.

The standard 3' x 5' American storm flag he now routinely flies at Hammer Park has a history of being utilized while on combat patrols throughout the city of Mosul, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Halterman has chosen to fly a larger 4' x 7' American flag along with a 3' x 5' double-sided POW/MIA flag on holidays.

A native of Philadelphia, Halterman grew up in Southern California and joined the U.S. Army in 1987 as an infantryman. During his career of more than 20 years, he completed combat tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was a proud member of the U.S. Army Parachute Team (Golden Knights) and excelled as a United States Parachute Association (USPA) Coach, Static-Line Instructor, Accelerated Freefall Instructor and Evaluator. He received the Bronze Star in addition to many awards and decorations before completing his military career in 2010. He is employed as an Overseas Security Contractor and is currently on long term leave to receive boat mechanic training at Carteret Community College. His hobbies include surfing, boating and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

While serving at Fort Bragg, Mr. Halterman had an opportunity to visit Bogue Banks and this positive experience ultimately influenced his decision to move to Pine Knoll Shores.

Many PIKSCO members voiced positive comments on the proudly observed professional handling of flags at Hammer Park over the Memorial holiday weekend. It is customary in the military for someone from each unit headquarters to have responsibility for raising and lowering the American flag. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Halterman volunteer to manage this important responsibility.

We will invite him to attend the PIKSCO annual meeting on Tuesday, July 15, at 6 p.m. at Garner Park. All PIKSCO members are cordially invited to attend for an opportunity to hear an update from the board, catch up with neighbors and meet and thank Mr. Halterman personally for his service.



Photo by Ches Garner

PINE KNOLL SHORES

Women's Club

By Michelle Powers

"Every day is a holiday; every meal is a banquet." So began Ray Harris, guest speaker at the May meeting of the Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club. An inspirational speaker, Mr. Harris encouraged the group to "change our thoughts and thereby change our lives." We should never give anyone the power to "mess up our day," he said. Ninety-nine percent of dealing with life is attitude, according to Mr. Harris.

The highlight of his talk was a video featuring Dewitt Jones, a renowned photojournalist and regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine, who encourages us to look at the ordinary and see the extraordinary. Much as a photographer chooses the right lens to capture a moment in time, Jones demonstrated that by reframing problems into opportunities we can break the patterns of thinking that often become our prisons. We always need to tap into our creativity by looking for alternative answers to problems and life situations. He advises trying different perspectives to find another "right answer." Expanding on that theme, he suggests that we shouldn't stop at the initial right answer as there are many ways to address a problem, much as there are many angles from which to take a photograph. Often, the alternative angle is the one that makes all the difference.

Members of the Women's Club were on hand at the Mile of Hope event held in Pine Knoll Shores in May. This event allows children and their families facing the challenges of childhood cancer the opportunity to change their perspective from their disease to sandcastles, seawater, kites and hot dogs. At this 24th annual event, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Raleigh, Ed and Sally Moore, volunteers and local businesses on Bogue Banks, the children and their families were able to change their focus from hospitals and treatments by enjoying fun-filled activities and to tap into their creativity and embrace the weekend's theme of "Seahorse Rodeo."

Women's Club members joined in the fun by donning cowboy hats and creative costumes to serve a hot dog lunch on the beach to the participants. Club members were inspired by the children's delighted reaction to the weekend and their bravery in the face of their challenges.

In June, club officers for the 2014-2015 program year were installed at a festive luncheon at the Coral Bay Club. Bobbie Hill and Pegge Knecht will continue in their roles



Members of the Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club donned their cowboy hats and bandanas to serve lunch to the children and their families at the Mile of Hope Seahorse Rodeo.—Photo by Evelyn O'Neill

as president and vice president, respectively, as will Marion Kutzer as treasurer. Joining the Executive Board are Mary Nichols as recording secretary and Peggy Yaeck as corresponding secretary.

Following a brief summer hiatus, club activities and regular membership meetings will resume in September. Meetings are usually held the fourth Friday of the month at the Pine Knoll Shores town hall. Guests and prospective members are always welcome to attend. Meeting dates and times are posted in the local media.

Enjoy the summer and remember to change your perspective and tap into your creativity every now and again.