

@The Aquarium

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is launching a new way to explore the surrounding waters and wildlife—stand-up paddle boarding, also known as SUP. The aquarium combines the hottest trend in water sports with a guided tour of the Roosevelt Natural Area and adjoining Bogue Sound, led by aquarium naturalists.

“We have close to 300 acres of land and water that have been set aside as a nature reserve,” said Special Activities Coordinator Wayne Justice. “We are fortunate to have such an awesome natural classroom right in our backyard, and SUPs are a fun and exciting way to explore these estuarine environments.”

SUP participants have the advantage of height as they look into the water, the marshes and the maritime forests around them. “The unique perspective of an SUP allows paddlers to witness an assortment of wildlife that thrives here, thanks to the protection of the natural area,” Justice added. “Our new SUP program offers an opportunity to see our coast the way it might have looked hundreds of years ago.”

The aquarium provides the boards and other necessary equipment, expert instruction and a choice of five SUP sessions per week throughout the summer—Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4-6 p.m., or Tuesday and Thursday, 9-11 a.m. The cost per participant is \$50. No experience is necessary but participants must be age 8 or older, and advance registration is required.

Stand-up paddle boarding is among a dozen outdoor adventures and indoor tours and activities on the aquarium’s summer special activities lineup of programs available for additional fees. Visit the aquarium website at ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores or call the aquarium at 247-4003 for more information.

Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

Summer Safety

Welcome to the summer of 2014. Every year we are stunned by the tragedies that occur during the summer. I am going to take a few minutes to remind you of some safety issues and tips. If this is your first time at the Crystal Coast, these are “must” items to remember.

One of the great things that brought me to the Crystal Coast was that the sun is on the beach all day—because we are on North Carolina’s south coast. However, Highway 58 (Salter Path Road) runs parallel to the beach so the sun has a pretty good chance, twice a day, of being in your eyes while driving. With all the bikers, runners and walkers next to the highway, it’s extremely important for drivers to pay attention and not be distracted.

The crosswalks we have installed over the past year have helped walkers and drivers, and I hope there are a couple more crosswalks before the year is out, but caution again must prevail. I always say, “Walkers, beware,” primarily because the pedestrian will get hurt far worse than the vehicle. Drivers and walkers should not take anything for granted.

We have a flag coloring system at each of our beach accesses that indicates the swimming conditions. There are four different colored flags: A green flag means conditions are good for water activity. Yellow means you should exercise caution. Red is a warning that it may not be safe for anyone—even the best of swimmers—to go in the water. Black is a warning to stay out of the water. We try our best to keep the flags up-to-date with changing conditions.

If you are not familiar with rip currents, it doesn’t matter what color the flag is. You need to read the warning signs or Google “rip currents” so you know how to react to them and what *not* to do. Respect the power of the ocean.

We have at least five seasons here at the beach: winter, spring, summer, fall and hurricane season. Hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30. The peak is around September. Take all weather watches and warnings very seriously and be prepared. If you are a property owner or resident and do not have a re-entry pass, you may obtain one at the Pine Knoll Shores Public Safety Building located on Salter Path Road. We do use them, and we do turn people away if they don’t have one. Make this your first step in your storm preparedness plan.


During this month of July we will hold a “career fair” of sorts for the purpose of accepting applications for volunteer firefighters and VIPS (Volunteers in Public Safety). As of press time, we had not yet set the date for our recruiting effort. Protect your neighbor; protect yourself. The word “help” is motivating.

Next month we’ll talk some hurricane specifics. I also hope to talk about our two new stretches of sidewalk and tell you who was the 2014 second quarter Team Member of the Quarter. Until then, surf’s up.



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