

17th Annual Festival of Trees "A Carolina Christmas"

The 17th Annual Festival of Trees, "A Carolina Christmas" will open to the public from Dec. 10-15 at a new location this year- The N.C. National Guard Armory at the corner of 35th and Bridges Street in Morehead City. The Festival of Trees is a yearly fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of Hospice of Carteret County. The Festival kicks off the Christmas season with over eighty beautifully decorated trees donated by businesses, civic groups and individuals and decorated by area clubs, school groups, and friends. Their creativity and generosity allows the Friends of Hospice help terminally ill patients and their families by financially supporting direct patient care, the Volunteer Program and the Bereavement Program of Hospice of Carteret County throughout the year.

This is the first year the Festival of Trees will be held at the N.C. National Guard Armory.

Located on Bridges Street, right across from Carteret General Hospital, the Armory offers convenient parking for visitors and the many school children who come to the Festival each year.

The Festival of Trees officially begins with a PREVIEW PARTY featuring dinner, dancing and a silent auction on Friday, December 9, from 7-11 p.m.. We are privileged again this year to have OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE donate their time, services and a special 'Down Under' steak dinner for everyone's enjoyment. DANCING and entertainment will be provided by "FLASHPOINT BAND", back by popular request. The SILENT AUCTION tables will be full of gift items perfect for everybody's Christmas list. Tickets are available for \$60 a person, \$40 for Senior Citizens (60+).

Each year the centerpiece of the Festival is the "TREE OF LIGHTS". This twelve foot

tree is decorated with personalized stars placed in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. Tree of Lights memorials may be made with a \$10 donation to Friends of Hospice. A card will be sent to acknowledge each gift. Forms are available from the Friends of Hospice, call Pat Acevedo, 247-9796.

The Festival of Trees will be open to the public starting Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, 11:00 a.m.-9 p.m., then Monday- Wednesday, Dec. 12-14 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Thursday, December 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

During the Festival, many local musicians and dance groups will perform, providing seasonal entertainment as you enjoy the trees. If you or a group you know would like to perform, call Rachel Mundine, 223-4538.

Of course Santa himself will be visiting the

Festival each day to hear from our local children. It's a great opportunity to stop by and take a picture of that special moment of your child with Santa. We will also have our "Santa's Workshop" where children can purchase a gift for mom, dad, grandparents or a friend.

A limited number of Tree Sponsorships and "Gold Sponsorships" are still available. Last year we had over four thousand visitors enjoy the holiday spirit of the Hospice Festival of Trees.

Friends of Hospice is very excited about the 2005 Festival of Trees. We want to thank the many volunteers who give so generously of their time to make this a wonderful event. The Festival of Trees is a community effort and a Christmas tradition in Carteret County. The funds raised through your support stay in Carteret County to assist the terminally ill patients of Hospice.

Power Squadrons Promote Boating Safety, Education

By Walter Schmid

I've been asked on number of occasions about an organization the United States Power Squadrons I belong to along with a number of other residents of Pine Knoll Shores. The following gives a brief overview of USPS and hopefully will generate some interest with the readers of The Shoreline.

What is USPS

Organized in 1914, USPS is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation and related subjects. Our members are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating through education. We enjoy participating

with our fellow members on the water and in the classroom. USPS has some 60,000 members in 450 squadrons across the country and some in the United States territories. The Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron meets monthly and services our local area. USPS is America's largest non-profit boating organization and has been honored by three United States presidents for its civic contributions.

What are the activities of USPS

Each squadron's activities involve the three primary objectives of USPS: community service, continuing education, and enjoying the friendship and camaraderie of our fellow members.

What community and civic services does the USPS perform.

Local squadrons offer boating safety courses on a regular basis to boaters in our communities. These courses are open to the public and there is no age limit for participants. USPS squadrons have offered these courses for more than a half a century and have educated more than three million boaters to date. Successfully completing a USPS boating safety course meets the educational requirements for boat operation in all states and is a requirement for squadron membership.

In a cooperative program with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, squadron

members conduct courtesy Vessel Safety Checks of boats at the request of their owners.

Our members also help the National Ocean Service keep our nautical charts accurate by reporting chart corrections, and our local squadrons participate in many other community improvement projects. One such local project by the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron being conducted in December is a sounding of water depths in our canals here in Pine Knoll Shores.

For more information regarding the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron contact me at 252-222-5741 or go to our web site, www.USPS.org

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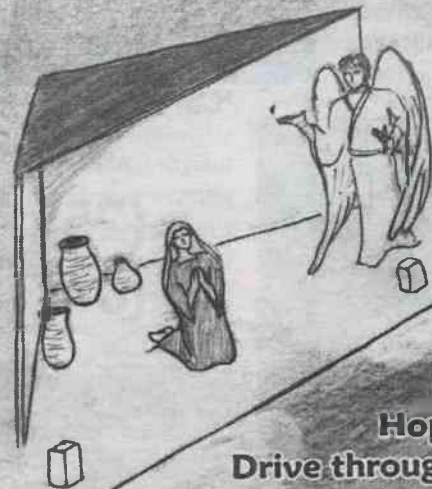
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