

Around Town

By Bob Ruggiero



Perfect Ten – Fred “Couples” Whitney of PKS stands proudly on the tenth tee of the Country Club of the Crystal Coast from which he used a nine iron to launch a ball on February 11 that landed in the bottom of the cup for a hole in one. It was the first ace of the year at the club but not the first for Fred. He likes to make them about every eight years. His first came about 16 years ago at Solomons Island, Maryland, and his second in Myrtle Beach eight years ago. This one, his third, was a little expensive. He was playing for the first time this year with the 18 Holers of the Men’s Golf Assn. and by the time he finished paying for drinks all around his wallet was considerably lighter.



Not a blizzard! Even when it doesn’t amount to much, even a modest snowfall can bring out the child in all of us. Helvi Larson and her grandson Andrew took full advantage of what little there was to make a couple of miniature snowmen. Let’s hope Andrew and grandmother enjoyed some hot chocolate after this outdoor adventure.



Introducing the Boss. This is Serge, the newest addition to the Tempel household. Tom and Elaine Tempel of Salter Path Road saw an ad in the paper for a Malti-Poo, a Maltese and Poodle mix, and decided to see if they were ready for a new puppy. They immediately fell in love with this bundle of energy and brought him home. They decided to call him Serge since Sergeants run the Army and this little five pound dynamo is definitely running things now. If anyone is interested in acquiring one of Serge’s brothers or sisters, they can talk to Tom and Elaine and they will be glad to give you all the details.

Jumping Jehosophat – We’ve all heard of the old saw that wives are capable of making husbands jump through the hoop, but in the case of Bonnie and Michael Ferneau of Beacon’s Reach Mike is put through his paces by jumping rope. Bonnie, a physical education teacher, was among those who 30 years ago pioneered jumping rope as a heart healthy activity as part of the outreach of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). Bonnie, then Bonnie MacCallum, started jumping for health while teaching in the Fairfax County, Virginia, school system back in 1979. She took her show on the road in 1984, traveling to Australia to introduce those Down Under to the heart healthy benefits of doing the Double Dutch and other rope jumping intricacies. Two years later she married Mike, moved to PKS when he was transferred, and took up in North Carolina where she had left off in Virginia, promoting rope jumping statewide as well as nationally and teaching physical education in the Carteret County School System. She and Mike have since vacationed twice in Australia so she could introduce him to the friends she made on her original rope jumping teaching visit. Oh, by the way, in Australia it’s skipping rope, not jumping it. Now Bonnie serves on the board of directors of the Country Club of the Crystal Coast and later this month she and Mike will head for Tampa, Florida for the annual AAHPERD national convention, at which she will chair the observance of the 30th anniversary of JRFH (Jump Rope For Heart).

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Thank you! Recently Around Town experienced first hand the services provided by the Pine Knoll Shores Emergency Medical Services (EMS) squad. When a person is most vulnerable, frightened, fearing the worst due to pain associated with the ailment, it is very comforting to know that you are in the capable and professional assistance of our local EMS crew. Even though the first call for assistance was at 3 a.m. the squad responded promptly and soon reassured the caller that they would be treated with special care. My hats off to the EMS responders, Capt Paul Shelley, Samantha Jones, Matt Bachtler and Jim Machipnes for a job well done.