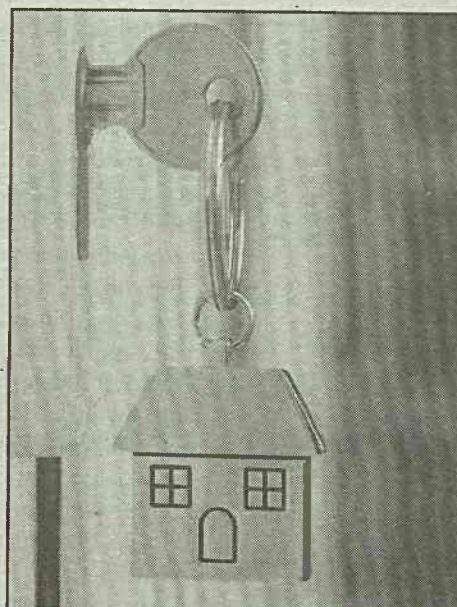


day after our busiest beach weekend. Volunteers all meet at the Iron Steamer to pick up trash bags and then spread out to stroll along their favorite section of beach to collect litter. When your trash bag is full, simply tie it up and leave it along the dune line for town employees to pick up later in the morning. Don't forget to bring gloves. You will be surprised at what people leave behind. The North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores is partnering with us in this effort.

Kayak for the Warriors Events. The fourth annual PKS Kayak for The Warriors art auction, raffle, kayak race and picnic took place on June 10 and 11 this year, and it turned out to be bigger and better than ever. This year we also added a first-ever bicycle road race to the agenda, and that was held on May 21st (see separate story on the bike race). Nearly 300 people attended the reception and silent auction at town hall on Friday for an evening of festivities that included some great food and wine, the introduction of six visiting wounded warriors and remarks by Jan Frye from the Veterans Administration. On the following day, we had nearly 100 people participate in the family fun bike ride through the back streets of Pine Knoll Shores on what turned out to be a beautiful day for outdoor activities. We had 106 people register for the kayak and paddleboard races (the main event), but since some of these people were in tandem kayaks, we were just a bit shy of having 100 boats in the water off Garner Park. This is a new record, and a far cry from the seven kayaks we had at the first event just four years ago. Residents and spectators were out in full force along the canal to cheer on the paddlers, and some were offering relief from the heat by spraying the competitors with their garden hoses. One highlight of the day was the homemade boat called the "Knot-So-Fast," piloted by Patricia Keefe and Suzanne Schramm. The "Knot-So-Fast," which was decked out in pink camouflage colors complete with a periscope, won the coveted Rubber Duck Award for the best homemade boat. A link to see the photos from this year's event has been posted on our Web site: www.kayak-forthewarriors.org. A complete list of the racers and their times has also been posted on the website.

Event Winners. In the individual kayak event, Jeff Lovett took the gold with a time of just over 37 minutes (a new course record), followed by Tom Daly and Gary Oles. In the senior men's category, Larry Land took the gold followed by Bill Steenland and Paul Dunn. In the women's division, Cindy Wooten took the gold followed by Sloan Freeman and Elizabeth Henderson. The senior women's event was won by Dorothy Steenland followed by Paulette Murphy. In paddle boards, Jay Jordan, Chuck Morrow and Joe Feurtner took one, two and three, respectively, and Julie Nichols, that crazy endurance lady, took first in the women's division. Eddy Winfrey and family took home the gold in the shorter family fun boat race, with three people on board one kayak. Tom and Karen Rice won in the tandem kayak group, followed by the Hoovers and the Hudsons.

Special Thanks. The final outcome of the Kayak For The Warriors events in terms of our fundraising effort was unavailable at the time we went to press, but it appears that we exceeded last year's total of \$30,000 by a substantial margin. Special thanks go out to all our sponsors and contributors, who are listed in the town manager's column in this edition, and to all the volunteers who put in a lot of hours to make this year's events a success. The town's Parks and Recreation Committee took charge of the organizing and fundraising activities with the help of a lot of volunteers, including a few who deserve special mention: JoAnn Shallcross, who kept track of our sponsors and contributions; Bruce Carbrey, for his excellent work on our Web site; Shari Malone, who organized the silent auction; Elaine Temple, who managed the raffle; Bonnie Peters, who organized the reception; Jill Cross, who put on the picnic; Mike Ferneau, our Race Marshall and his timing crew, who managed the water events; Cameron Anderson, for the water safety briefing; Mike Hargett, for the bicycle events; Dominic Baccollo and his crew, who set up the park; Piksco, who lent us the park; Julie Anderson, for managing the financial side of these activities; our crew of Marines and Best Buy employees, who carried kayaks; Tom Powers and Melissa Klor, who took photographs; Peggy Rochon and her crew from the Hope For The Warriors Foundation, who managed our online and on-site registration process; Martha and Clark Edwards; Betty and Jim Johnson; Bill and Tina Keefe; and many other town employees and volunteers, who willingly gave their time to make this event a success. I can't mention everyone by name, but I do want to thank everyone who helped out. It was a true community effort we can all be proud of.



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