

Events Calendar

For a list of ongoing activities and events offered at our major attractions, please contact them directly or go to crystalcoastnc.org/events.

- Beaufort Historic Site, 728-5225
- Cape Lookout National Seashore, 728-2250
- Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, 728-1500
- Fort Macon State Park, 726-3775
- History Museum of Carteret County, 247-7533
- North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, 247-4003
- North Carolina Maritime Museum, 728-7317

Atlantic Beach Fireworks. July 3, 9 p.m. at the Atlantic Beach Circle.

Beaufort Independence Day Activities. July 4. Parade begins at 11 a.m. at the corner of Gordon and Front streets. Call 728-3917 for more information. Grounds of Gallant's Channel open at 6 p.m. for live music, followed by fireworks at 9 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks for sale to benefit the Beaufort Fire Department. Bring blankets and chairs.

Bogue Inlet Pier Independence Day Fireworks. July 4, 9 p.m. at Bogue Inlet Pier in Emerald Isle.

Cannon Day at Fort Macon. July 4, August 6, September 3; 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. Come to Fort Macon to learn how Civil War cannons function. Cannon firing at times shown. Free.

Country Club of the Crystal Coast Independence Day Celebration. July 4, 5-10 p.m., 152 Oakleaf Drive, Pine Knoll Shores. Fun for the entire family, including burger buffet dinner, desserts, soda, beer and wine, soccer golf, putting tournament, face painting, swimming, bounce castles, games, music with dancing and fireworks. Members 21+, \$35; member guests 21+, \$40; general public 21+, \$50; children/youth 6-20, \$20; children 5 and under, free. Call 726-1034, ext. 17, for reservations.

Morehead City Parks & Recreation Department Summer Concert Series. July 4, 9, 16, 23, 30. All concerts are 7-8:30 p.m. at Jaycee Park, 807 Shepard Street in Morehead City. Future dates: August 6, 13, 20, 27; September 3. Free. Visit moreheadcitync.org/home-parks-recreation/concert-series to learn names of bands performing.

Bogotá Revisited

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American family living in the building beat us to the punch. We decided it was no problem and we would cook in the oven just as we often did prior to using the grill. We had a lot of fun that morning, but missed the normal Thanksgiving Day parades on television. Still, we were happy to be together as a family.

Christmas decorations seem to go up early in Bogotá as most stores were already decorated when we arrived in mid-November. We visited a local mall to shop with my granddaughter and her dad for shoes, and there were signs advertising Black Friday specials in many windows—so this term has grown internationally to be synonymous with holiday sales. The mall featured a very large Santa exhibit that was all in white with lots of safe and soft play areas for the children.

Because of problems in the past with crime associated with the drug trade, many people did not venture outside in the evening due to concerns about safety. Consequently, restaurants in Bogotá learned that if they are going to get business, they may also have to deliver to your home. The home service aspect of most businesses is booming there as you can get almost anything you want delivered, including food from Burger King or McDonald's. Hairdressers and manicurists also come to your home if you choose. It is important to note that the safety of this town is very high as there is always a policeman on each or every other corner. Drug traffic is not what it once was, which means Colombia is a much safer country to visit now. One should stay clear of the jungle border between Colombia and Venezuela, as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is still controlling that area. Center city Bogotá appeared on the surface to be as safe as anywhere in Manhattan.

We enjoyed a number of meals of Colombian food and a visit to La Fama to get their extraordinarily good ribs and chicharones. We were sorry to see our visit end after about 10 days. The good news about our stay was that our daughter would be finishing her tour of duty there and would be returning to stay with us in early March. In fact, she and her family were here with us for nearly two months and have now headed off to their next assignment in Monterrey, Mexico.

We are not sure if we will ever go back to Bogotá, but we do want to take a trip by boat through the Panama Canal and enjoy a stop in Cartagena. Adios for now, Colombia.

Pine Knoll Shores Fourth of July Parade. July 4, 10 a.m., beginning at Garner Park. All are invited to decorate bikes, strollers, etc. with red, white and blue and come out to participate. Watermelon will be served after the parade.

Summer Camps at NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. Through August 12. Camps combine fun and learning for children entering grades 2-7. Online advance registration is required. Visit ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores or call 247-4003 for more information.

Wednesday Movie Nights at the Circle. July 6, 13, 20, 27, 8:30 p.m. at the Atlantic Beach Circle. Bring a blanket or chair. Rain date: Thursday nights. Future dates: August 3, 10.

EmeraldFest Concert Series. July 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Western Ocean Regional Access. Free outdoor concerts each Thursday evening throughout the summer. Bring blanket or chair. Visit emeraldisle-nc.org/emeraldfest-1 for information on bands performing. Future dates: August 4, 11, 18.

Carteret Caregivers Support Group. July 7 & 21, 2-3 p.m. at the SECU Hospice House, 100 Big Rock Weigh, Newport. Formed to help support caregivers, the group will meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. Meetings will consist of learning modules about some aspect of being a caregiver, discussion and resource sharing. All caregivers are welcome. Call James Webb at 571-8097 for more information.

Friday Free Flick. July 8 at 7 p.m. at the Emerald Isle Community Center. Movies are family oriented. Free and open to the public; children must be accompanied by an adult. Popcorn and drink for \$1. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No outside beverages or snacks. Call 354-6350 for movie title one week prior to showing. Future dates: August 12, September 9, October 14, and November 11.

Carteret Community Theatre Children's Drama Camps. July 8-22, 9 a.m.-noon (ages 5-10); July 25-29, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (ages 11 & up); August 1-5, 9 a.m.-noon (ages 5-10). Visit carteretcommunitytheatre.com for details and to register.

Beaufort Historical Association Summer Party. July 9, 7-11 p.m., at the Beaufort Historic Site, 100 Turner Street. Food, open bar, live music, live and silent auctions. Call 728-5225 for details.

Shark Week at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. July 10-16. Enjoy shark-themed programs, feeding, activities and crafts. Call 247-4003 or visit ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores for details.

Carteret County Parks & Recreation Beach Run Series. July 12 & 26, August 9. Event features one-mile, 5k and 10k races, and is open to all age and experience levels. Call 808-3301 for details.

The Croatan Group of the Sierra Club. July 12, 6:30-8 p.m., at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Morehead City. All are welcome. Please contact CroatanGroupSierraClub@gmail.com or visit croatangroup.wordpress.com prior to the meeting to be sure that there are no changes.

Alive at Five Outdoor Concert. July 15 (Spare Change), 5-8 p.m., at Jaycee Park on the Morehead City waterfront. Free. Call 808-0440 or visit downtownmoreheadcity.com for more information. Future dates: August 5 (Mikele Buck Band), August 19 (Liquid Pleasure), and September 2 (North Tower Band). Sponsored by the Downtown Morehead City Revitalization Association.

Fort Macon Summer Concerts. July 15 & 29, August 5; 7-8 p.m., at Fort Macon State Park. Wild Honey, playing country and contemporary folk on the 15th; the Morehead Brass Consortium, an all-brass orchestra on the 29th; and 4EverAll on August 5, playing a variety of favorites.

Living History Weekend at Fort Macon. July 16-17, September 17-18; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Reenactors with the 1st NC Volunteers will spend the weekend at Fort Macon presenting special events and programs, including flag talks, women's dress talks, musket drills and artillery demonstrations. A skirmish will take place at 1:30 p.m. Free.

Jr. Ranger Day at Fort Macon. July 19, August 2, 16, 30; 2-4:30 p.m. For children ages 6-12, who must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited; call 726-3775 for advance registration.

Coastal Conservation Summer Camp for 7th-10th Graders. July 25-27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the NC National Estuarine Research Reserve headquarters in Beaufort. Camp will include study in wildlife tracking and marine debris, and will focus on the rare crystal skipper butterfly, which recently received its species name and is found only near the Crystal Coast. Call 728-7317 for more information or to register. Sponsored jointly with the NC Maritime Museum.

Astronomy at Fort Macon. July 26, August 23; 9 p.m. Meet at the bathhouse to view the night sky through a telescope and learn more about our universe.

Crystal Coast Artisans Show. August 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at The Country Club of the Crystal Coast, 152 Oakleaf Drive, Pine Knoll Shores. Vendors include ocean-inspired and vintage jewelry, wood carvings, pottery, textiles and art, monogrammed items, copper works and silver creations. Call 726-1034, ext. 16, for more information. Free and open to the public.

International Owl Awareness Day at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. August 4. Wise up about owls with presentations, programs and activities that focus on various owl species and their special talents. Free with aquarium admission. Call 247-4003 or visit ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores for details.