



PHOTO BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Looking For Treasure?

A walk on the beach with a metal detector can turn up all sorts of "treasure," from bottle caps and coins to lost class rings. Above, Phillip Alexander of Shallotte tries his luck on Ocean Isle Beach.

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HOMES

- SEASHORE ESTATES-14x70 3-BR, 2-bath home, mostly furnished, fenced back yard, storage bldg., screened porch.....\$25,000
- OCEAN PINES-2-BR, 1½-bath frame house. Paved streets, close to water. Reduced to \$32,000.
- SHALLOTTE-Commercial or Residential. Behind ABC store on Wall St. Approx. 2,000 sq. ft. 4-BR, 2-bath, 2-story home.....\$75,000.
- BELLAMY DRIVE-1820 sq. ft., 3-BR, 2-bath home, waterway access. Large den, fireplace, loft, great storage. Appraised at \$92,500. Asking only.....\$84,500.
- SHALLOTTE RIVER-Deep water, new 3-BR, 2-bath vinyl siding home. Deck, screened porch, pier, great storage beneath house.....\$109,950.
- BRIERWOOD GOLF ESTATES-On 11th Fairway, 1½-story brick Cape Cod home. 4 BR, 2 baths, lots of storage, 2-car garage.....Reduced \$148,000
- BRIERWOOD GOLF ESTATES-Located behind 10th green, 3 BR, 2½ baths, large utility, formal dining, great room, game room downstairs, paved drive, manicured lawn, on large lot.....\$149,900.

HOMESITES

- ASH-64-acre tract farmland with frontage on Waccamaw River. \$59,000.
- SHALLOTTE RIVER-Lots starting at.....\$29,900.
- FISHERMAN'S PARADISE- Waterway access 100X200 wooded lot, restricted for site-built home.\$11,000.
- COPAS SHORES-.6 acre pond in restricted subdivision. Well below market value.....\$29,900.

Other lots available starting at \$5,000 w/owner financing available on some.

DON'T GET SOAKED!

Use Caution When Buying A Used Boat

For many coastal residents and visitors, the idea of owning their own powerboat is an alluring one.

The idea of skipping along the waterway in a ski boat, venturing offshore in a cabin cruiser or puttering through a back swamp in a johnboat often seems too good to pass up.

But with purchase and maintenance costs on the rise, a lot of people are looking at used boats that fit both their needs and pocketbook.

A used boat can turn out to be a fine purchase, but only if the buyer knows what to look for ahead of time.

Jim Bahen and Spencer Rogers with the UNC Sea Grant College Program say there are a lot of things to consider when evaluating a used boat.

The best place to start when examining a boat is the hull. With wooden boats, buyers should check for peeling paint, loose planks, open seams between planks, cracked frames and signs of rot.

Most of these conditions will need to be fixed in order for the boat to resist the elements, and the repair may not be worth the effort and expense.

With fiberglass boats, prospective buyers should look for cracks in the outer gel-coat layer of the hull and distortion caused by improper support.

Shake the hull vigorously. If it shudders and wobbles a lot, this could be a sign of poor construction or other problems.

After checking out the hull, determine the condition of the material used for flotation. Most boats use closed-cell plastic foam, which is not supposed to absorb water.

If you can get access to the flotation material, particularly in the bilge area, squeeze it to see if large amounts of water ooze out. Excess absorption of water increases weight and could affect performance.

Buyers also should check out the overall condition

of the cockpit. All hatches, wind screens and ports should open, close and lock properly.

Check the cabin, upholstery and any wood used in seats for a musty smell or other visible signs of mildew or rot.

The Sea Grant agents also suggest checking out the condition of vents, hinges, cleats and other fittings and fastenings as part of the evaluation.

When examining the electrical system, check the wiring and connectors. Any corrosion will only get worse and eventually need to be replaced.

Prospective buyers should make sure all lights, particularly running lights, function properly. Testing the battery is also a good idea.

The fuel system should not be overlooked when considering a used boat. The tank should be in good condition, and buyers should check all fittings and hoses for signs of corrosion, cracks, leaks and general deterioration.

When looking over the engine, check the propeller for bent or broken blades and nicked edges and the outside of the engine for signs of rust and leakage.

Prospective buyers shouldn't forget to examine the boat trailer. Check for tire wear and the condition of the wheels, trailer frame, rollers, lights and straps.

The trailer should also fit the boat and support the hull. Read the specification sticker, usually found on the trailer tongue, to see if the load rating is sufficient for the boat and motor.

Once you've decided that a particular boat and trailer seems to be worth your purchase, have a marine mechanic or boat dealer go over the rig and give you his opinion.

Before agreeing to any purchase, go home and give it a good, long, second thought. If the boat suits your taste, intended uses and pocketbook, call the owner and make an offer.

A used boat can turn out to be a fine purchase, but only if the buyer knows what to look for ahead of time.

You'll need these books this summer at the beach!



- Bill Faver's-BIRDS ON THE BEACH and SHELLS ON THE SEASHORE
- Peter Myers-NATURE GUIDE TO THE CAROLINA COAST
- Peterson's-FIELD GUIDE TO ATLANTIC COAST FISHES
- Audubon-FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICA BIRDS

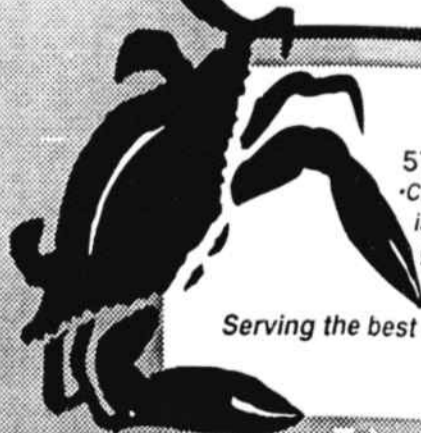
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