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R.H. McCLURE INC.
CONSTRUCTION • REAL ESTATE • RENTALS

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Meet Our Staff

In the next few newsletters we will highlight a member of our reservation staff, and post a photo, so you can “put a face with the name” as they say, and learn a little more about us.

Our newbie is Linda Creech. She started working at R.H. McClure Realty, on a part-time basis in May of 2008, coming on board full time in November of that year. She came with eight years experience in customer service and reservations from The Winds Inn and Suites in Ocean Isle Beach. Originally a California girl, Linda graduated from West Brunswick High School, and she has a degree in Hospitality and Tourism from Southeastern Academy in Kissimmee, FL. She’s the mother of two children. She also plans and coordinates weddings in the South Brunswick Islands and Myrtle Beach area through her company, Beach Bliss Weddings. Linda designs all the graphics in our seasonal newsletters like the one you’re reading now.



Dolphin Watch

In past issues we told you about our “rear window” and the wonderful view from our office. Something we didn’t mention seeing out the window was dolphins. It doesn’t happen very often, but we have, indeed, seen dolphins from our office window. When that happens, all work stops while we all run for our cameras. If a customer walks in, he’s called over to the window to join in the excitement. Work can wait – we’re dolphin watching. Just recently, a guest was standing at the counter when all of a sudden she asked, pointing to the window, “Is that a shark?” It was a dolphin, right below our window. Dolphin watch was on.

If you have been fortunate enough to have seen dolphins from your oceanfront deck, frolicking and playing in the surf, not too far from shore, you know that’s almost a magical moment. It’s a memory that will always stay with you. If you have never seen dolphins in the wild, we recommend you take a dolphin watching excursion on the Hurricane Fleet out of Calabash. The well-equipped, handicapped accessible boat, sails down the Calabash River to the Intracoastal Waterway, and out Little River Inlet to the ocean, where it follows the Hurricane Fleet’s shrimp boats. Be sure to bring your cameras, because you’ll be in for a delightful dolphin watching treat. You might also want to shoot videos of the dolphins jumping and doing somersaults in the area, as if they knew they were being watched and were showing off. Seeing captive dolphins in a marine park show doesn’t begin to compare with the thrill of watching them in their own environment, doing their own thing. For more information, please call Hurricane Fleet at 843-249-3571 or visit www.hurricanefleet.com.





Dolphins

Dolphins are mammals; they're warm blooded creatures of the order Cetacea, which includes whales. Don't be afraid to order dolphin fish at a restaurant. Dolphin fish, also called by its Hawaiian name, mahi-mahi, is not related to Flipper. There are forty one species of dolphins – 36 are oceanic, belonging to the family Delphinidae. Five species are river, or fresh water dolphins, belonging to the family Plalanistoidea. The largest

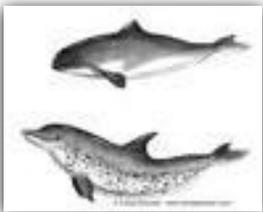
of the Delphinidae is the Orca, commonly known as the killer whale, though it's actually a dolphin. The most commonly known is the bottlenose dolphin of Flipper fame. Dolphins have over a hundred teeth which they usually use for grasping, since they swallow their food whole. Their diet consists mainly of mackerel, herring, squid and shrimp, but it really depends on what's available in the area. The pod – a group of dolphins – usually surrounds a school of fish and herds them tightly, then take turns feeding on the captive fish. Like cows, dolphins have two stomachs – one for storing food, one for digesting it.

Like sharks, dolphins cannot breathe while asleep, so only half of their brains sleeps at a time, usually eight hours a day. They can stay under water up to fifteen minutes at a time, depending on the species, so they usually stay in shallow waters, no more than seven to ten feet deep. They can jump as high as twenty feet out of the water.

While their intelligence has never been measured, they're known to be fast learners and they can generalize, qualities which they share with pigs. They can also understand complicated verbal commands, which only humans and higher apes can do. Another unique characteristic of the dolphin is its dorsal fin, in that it's as distinctive as a person's face.

Since dolphins are mammals, they bear live young. Gestation time is eleven or twelve months, depending on the species. During birth, the mother is assisted by another female dolphin – the midwife. The pod surrounds the mother to protect her against predators, especially sharks that would be attracted by the smell of blood. As soon as the baby is born, the mother pushes it up to the surface to catch its first breath. They don't suck like human babies. The mother uses special muscles to squirt the milk into the calf's mouth. Unlike other mammals, dolphins are born tail first. They nurse for about eighteen months, but the young stay with their mothers for up to six years.

Like some children – or wives – dolphins never shut up. They're constantly clicking, whistling or squealing. Clicks are used for navigational purposes. These echolocation sounds come from their nasal passages, just below the blowhole. Whistles and squeals come from the larynx. Whistling is used to communicate with each other, and they have a unique whistle for each, as if they each had its own name. Squeals, much like humans', are used to express alarm or excitement. They take turns "talking" back and forth, as if they were having a conversation. Their retinas are very light sensitive, so they can see just as well under the water as above it. You might have seen videos of a pink dolphin in a Louisiana estuary. He's simply an albino dolphin of which there are many, especially among river dolphins.



The terms dolphin and porpoise are usually used interchangeably, but, although similar, they're not the same. Porpoises belong to the family Phocoenidae, while dolphins belong to the family Delphinidae. Porpoises are smaller and "chubbier". The main differences lie in the shape of their heads. Dolphins have a "beak", while porpoises don't. The dorsal fins are larger in a dolphin, and if you could get close enough to check out its teeth, you would really know, since dolphins' teeth are pointy, while porpoises' teeth are not.

Dolphins appear to play and the bottlenose dolphin looks like he has a wide grin. They show as much interest in humans as we show in dolphins. They usually swim alongside boats, popping out to check out the people on board. There are many stories of dolphins saving drowning victims, but one should be aware that, although dolphins are considered sociable and gentle creatures, they are wild animals. They should be respected. If you decide to jump out of your boat to swim with the dolphins you see swimming alongside, remember that you are now the uninvited guest in their home. They might bump you and even bite you if they feel threatened. And remember, they have over a hundred pointy teeth!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Want to have fun and do a good deed at the same time? Silver Coast Winery is holding an event to benefit Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity. **Shagging for Shelter** will be held on Saturday, **September 11**, from 12:00 to 4:00 at the winery.

Admission is \$15.00 but free for 8 years old and under. The Craig Woolard Band, Sea Cruz and Continental Divide will perform, and there will be a Lucille Ball Look-Alike contest, as well as grape stomping. Silver Coast Winery is at 6680 Barbeque Road NE, north of Highway 17, off Hwy 904. For more information call them at 910-538-9446, or visit them at www.silvercoastwinery.com, and click on the yellow smiley face.



On **September 25th** Ocean Isle Beach will hold its annual **Trash Bash**. Registration, at the Museum of Coastal Carolina, starts at 9:00 a.m. Pick up is from 10:00 to 11:30. Bring your full bag of trash, and get a free lunch at the museum.



The 30th annual **Oyster Festival** will take place **October 16th and 17th**. The plan was to start holding the event at Ocean Isle Beach Park on Old Georgetown Road, but this year it will again be held at the "old" spot in Ocean Isle Beach, by the Museum of Coastal Carolina. The 5K/10K Road Race (Run or Walk) will be held on Saturday, October 16th at 8:00 a.m. and will start in front of the Community Center on Monroe and First Street. Registration is \$25.00 if you register before Oct. 8, or \$35.00 after that date. Prizes are awarded in several categories.



Santa Claus is coming to town

If you're in town around Thanksgiving, don't miss **Super Saturday**, the weekend after Thanksgiving, **November 27**. The OIB parade starts at 2:00 along Second Street, starting from the Museum of Coastal Carolina. The large Christmas tree in front of the OIB Fire Department will be lit at 5:00 p.m., and then Santa Claus will arrive at the fire station at 5:30. Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided, courtesy of the OIB Property Owners' Association. Bring your camera, kids, grandkids, and the kids at heart.



As of **January 2011**, the Town of Ocean Isle Beach is raising the accommodations tax by two percent to be used exclusively for beach protection and renourishment within the town. The total tax on rentals, including state and county taxes will then be 13.75%.

Seven reasons why you should visit OIB this fall

1. During September and October, the temperatures are delightful. You won't be sweating torrents like you would in July and August, but you can still swim in the ocean.
2. The mean water temperature in October is 77 degrees. Aahh!
3. Rental prices drop to off-season rates, which can be as much as 50% off the summer rates. Who can pass up that kind of discount?
4. Shorter lines (or none) at restaurants.
5. No traffic.
6. Great fishing.
7. Even a bad day on vacation at the beach is still better than a good day at work.





Hurricane Earl

If you followed the weather on TV you would've thought that Hurricane Earl was heading straight for North Carolina. As it turned out, we had a bit of wind, but we didn't get a drop of rain. What we did get, during high tide on Thursday, September 2nd, was some awesome waves. The pier was crowded with people getting drenched and loving every minute of it, as the waves crashed over the pier. The surfing crowd had a great time too. What we ended up with was a gorgeous Labor Day weekend. We appreciate all of you who called worried about our safety.



Photos courtesy of OIB Fishing Center

Ocean Isle Beach Park

Phase I of the 58-acre Ocean Isle Beach Park finally opened on August 21. The park was scheduled to open in October of 2009, and then by July 2010, but the opening was delayed due to the original contractor having filed for bankruptcy. The tennis courts, amphitheatre, and kids' play areas are in place. Yet to come are festival grounds, a ball park and biking trails. The ground around the kids' play area is covered with recycled tires, which the kids seemed to like, because it was cushiony and springy. There's a covered area with six picnic tables, as well as four separate benches around. Since this is a kids' playground, I thought I'd ask a kid what he thought of it. In the words of my grandson, nine-year-old James Saunders, "The park is awesome. It's interactive; it has huge slides, and most of kids' favorite things like rock climbing and monkey bars. I especially like that it has a separate little kids' area that's safe for little kids." The park is located on the mainland, on Old Georgetown Road, just west of Ocean Isle Beach Road, 2.9 miles from the bridge.





Can you dig it?

Once again this year, on September 4, the OIB Property Owner's Association held the annual Sand Sculpture Contest, aptly named, Can you Dig It. As contestants worked hard under the hot sun, crocodiles, alligators biting snowmen, cars, and aliens started rising from the sand. There was even a sand arm chair complete with remote control and a drink, and a sand TV across. All the children received medals at the end of the competition. The first place winner was "Seahawk Stadium, UNCW" pictured on the top right.

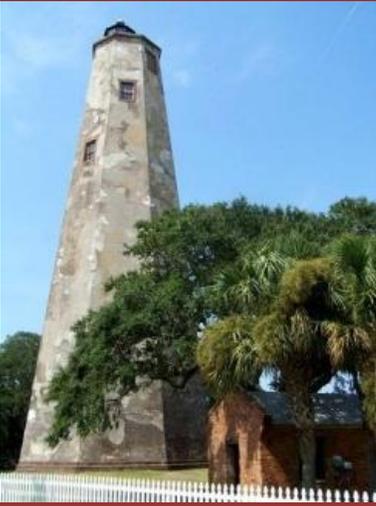


Restaurant Review

Guests usually ask us what our favorite restaurant is, so we thought it was fair game to ask the guests for their favorite. The Beardslee family had this to say: "We tried the Second Street Grill – very good food – a little noisy due to the bar at the one end and the jukebox, but overall, it was a great place to have our last dinner, as it was quick and close. Another place we love is Inlet View – great food and view. Sharkys, as always, is great, as is Cinelli's and the Boundary House in Calabash – awesome food. And we highly recommend Sunset Slush, on the beach or at the store – great refresher after dinner or on the beach. We can't seem to get enough."

If you would like to voice your opinion about our local restaurants, please send us an email (ncmclure@atmc.net) subject line, "Restaurant review", and we'll try and post as many as we can in future issues.

Bald Head Island A great one-day outing, a short distance from OIB.



Known as Old Baldy, the lighthouse on Bald Head Island is the oldest of North Carolina's lighthouse. It was first commissioned by Thomas Jefferson. The existing lighthouse, the second one on the site, was built in 1817. The first one was activated in 1794, and demolished in 1813 due to severe erosion. Old Baldy is octagonal in shape, and 91 feet high. The base is 36 feet wide, tapering to 14.5 feet at the top. It is unique in that the lantern room sits off center of the top. There are 108 steps to the top, and it is open to the public. As of this writing, admission was \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 3 to 12. Bald Head Island is accessible by a twenty-minute, two-mile ride on a passenger ferry from Deep Point Marina in Southport. (Stop by McClure Realty's office if you need directions.) As of this writing, the cost of the ferry was \$16.00 for adults, \$9.00 for children 3-12. Please note that after Labor Day, only the lower level of the ferry terminal is open. The lighthouse is a short walk from the ferry landing. No cars are allowed on Bald Head Island. Transportation is limited to golf cars, bikes, skates, and feet. For more information on the ferry please call 910-457-5003.

The ghost of Bald Head Island

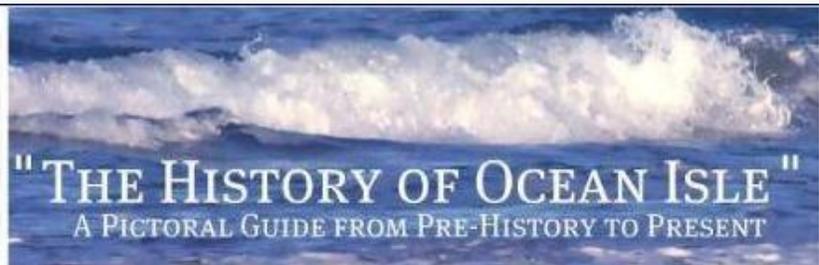
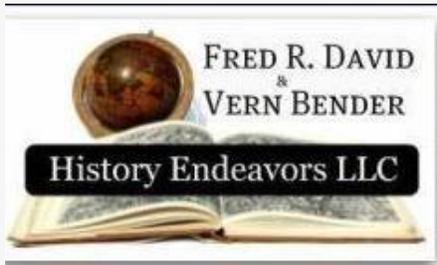
Nags Head, in the Outer Banks, and Bald Head Island both claim to be the final resting place of Theodosia Burr Alston, but according to author Daniel W. Barefoot, in his book *Touring the Backroads of North Carolina Lower Coast*, the latter is more probable. Theodosia was the daughter of Vice President Aaron Burr (of duel-with-Hamilton fame), and wife of Joseph Alston, governor of South Carolina. In 1812, Theodosia set sail on *The Patriot* out of Georgetown, South Carolina on her way to New York to visit her father. She was never seen again. The empty ship was found off the coast of Nags Head, but legend tells us that the ship ran into trouble on the shoals of the Cape Fear River, and was raided by pirates. Theodosia's ghost is supposed to still be seen along Bald Head Island's shore, trying to find a way to escape the pirates. She's said to be dressed in a flowing, emerald-green gown. The Bald Head Island Haunted Historic Tour includes the tale of Theodosia.



With building costs at an all-time low, now is the time to build or remodel your vacation home. In the 50 years R.H. McClure Builders has been in business, they have never seen building costs as low as they are now. Combine that with low lending rates, and you have the perfect formula for making your dream home a reality. McClure Builders offers in-house drafting and design services, which allows you to create your perfect home on paper before you spend a penny on construction. In addition to custom designed plans, which are usually available within a single day, they have hundreds of plans which can be modified to your specifications. What's the best part? The designs are free when you have R.H. McClure Builders build your home.

In addition to having constructed and remodeled more than five hundred homes in OIB, they also design and build commercial structures. Two of the most notable landmarks on the island, the Museum of Coastal Carolina, and OIB Town Hall were built by R.H. McClure Builders, as well as several area churches. Please visit their website at www.rhmccclurebuilders.com, call them at 910-579-2454, or stop by their office and see Lynette Russ and Robert Jordan.





Stories About OIB Shipwrecks

Local authors Fred David and Vern Bender have a new book *Shipwrecks of OIB* that features stories and pictures about trauma offshore OIB since the early 1800s. For example, a Civil War ship, *General Sherman*, a 196 foot Union gunboat, sunk six miles off OIB in 50 feet of water on January 10, 1874 after springing a leak in rough seas. During the Civil War, the *Sherman* was named *Princess Royal* and she captured quite a few Confederate blockade runners.

Located about 25 miles off OIB on Frying Pan Shoals is *Mount Dirfys*. This ship was a freighter that ran aground and sank on December 26, 1936 in 30 feet of water, after the captain mistakenly thought he was near Wilmington, Delaware. Her captain and crew had left Travancore, India two months earlier on her way to Wilmington, Delaware to deliver a full cargo of iron ore.

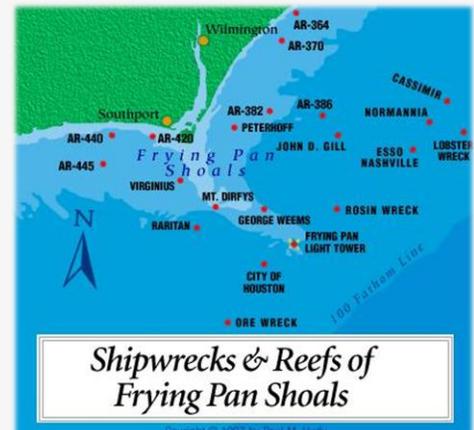
On October 23, 1878, the passenger liner, *City of Houston* was taking a cargo of Christmas goods from New York City to Galveston, Texas. If all went well, the ship could make the trip in one week. The *Houston* was fast for its day. Along with the 34 passengers, the ship was loaded with English china, porcelain dinnerware, sewing machines, medicines, foodstuffs, children's toys, vases, and dolls. Traveling by ship was generally much safer than making this trip by land in 1878. However, about 35 miles offshore of OIB towards Frying Pan Shoals, the *City of Houston* ran into a violent storm. The ship was battered for twelve hours that night until she finally sank in 90 feet of water.

The *George Weems* sunk off OIB towards Frying Pan Shoals on May 20, 1908. The vessel was 148 feet long and had a beam of 26 feet. She was a coal fired steam vessel originally built in 1874. The vessel carried freight between Baltimore and Charleston. On May 20, 1908 at 12:05 pm under full steam offshore of OIB having just left Charleston, a fire broke out in the engine room and the *Weems* sunk.

The *Hebe* was a 250-foot freighter loaded with canned goods, flour, beer bottles, and mail that departed from New York City on the morning of April 7, 1942. This was the peak of Germany using U-boats to sink every non-German (or Japanese) ship floating. The *Hebe* was offshore OIB bound for Curacao with a crew of 31 Dutch officers and West Indian men.

The 172 foot *St. Cathan* was one of 24 armed trawlers that Great Britain had loaned to the USA to aid in convoy escort duty aiding the British. The vessel carried depth charges and a 3-inch, 23 caliber gun mounted on the foredeck. Among the 39 crew on the *St. Cathan*, 30 British sailors died within minutes after the collision that sliced their ship in half. Only nine sailors survived when it rammed the *Hebe*.

Sunk off OIB in February 1942 is the *Raritan*, a 251-foot U.S Navy steel freighter that ran around on Frying Pan Shoals when a violent storm blew her off course. She was hugging the coast to avoid German U-boats. With a crew of 29, the *Raritan* was loaded with coffee from Colombia and was headed to New York City. If you wish to order the book, please visit their website at www.shipwreckcharts.com.



R.H. McClure Realty thanks Vern Bender and Fred David for making this article available to us.



If you haven't gotten on our mailing list to receive a 2011 Rental Brochure, now's the time to do it! They will be mailed in December. Give us a call and we'll send you one...800-332-5476.



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"This is where I long to be, La Isla Bonita"

-Madonna, 1987

RH McClure Real Estate Sales

Below is a current list of properties that are available through R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. We would like very much to represent you in your quest for properties on or around Ocean Isle Beach. Our sales staff will assist you with any listed property in this area. Please check with us often, as prices and listings change frequently. Call

Bob Kennette
910-540-5940

B. Wayne Melton
910-233-6606

John Hightower
910-520-0533

Or visit our website at www.rhmclurealty.com to view all listings in Brunswick County

Beach Homes

Oceanfront-3 Coggleshall, 6 br,5 bath, under constr.	\$1,850,000
Oceanfront-123 West 1 st St 5 br, 4 bath, pool	\$1,195,000
Oceanfront-124 East 1 st St 4 br, 4 bath	\$1,435,000
Concrete canal -16 Raeford St. 4 br, 4bath	\$ 569,000
Mid-Island – 18 Isle Plaza 4 br, 2 bath	\$ 429,900
2 nd Row -147 E 1 st St – 4 br, 4 bath, renovated	\$ 476,000
2 nd Row-169 E 1 st St 3 br, 2 bath, half of duplex	\$ 399,000
3 rd Row-250 E 2 nd St 5 br, 2 bath	\$ 575,000
Summer Place-40 Private Dr. 5 br, 4 bath	\$ 489,000
Island Park Cottages-3 Myrtle Ct 4 br, 2 bath	\$ 369,900

Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 2-A -4 br, 4 bath, oceanfront	\$ 590,000
Windjammer Unit 1-I – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 329,000
Ocean Point Unit 604 high rise unit, 2 br, 2 bath	\$ 549,000
Ocean Point Unit 1002 high rise unit, 3 br, 3 bath	\$ 650,000
Ocean Point Penthouse high rise, 3 br, 4 bath	\$ 924,000
Ocean Cove Unit 122 1 br + bunk nook, 1 bath, oceanfront	\$ 215,000
Ocean Cove Unit 214 1 br + bunk nook, 1 bath, oceanfront	\$ 224,900
Channel Harbor Unit C1 -1 br + bunk nook, 1 bath	\$ 190,000
A Place at the Beach Unit 2-J -2 br, 2 bath, side unit	\$ 199,000
Ocean Isle Villas B-1 -3 br, 2 bath oceanfront	\$ 349,900
Oceanside West Unit G-1 2 br, 2 bath, side unit	\$ 334,500
Starboard by the Sea – 3 br, 2 bath mid-island	\$ 269,900

Beach Lots

Concrete Canal Lot-50 Union St	\$ 895,000
Oceanfront Lot West End, Gated Community	\$ 1,250,000
Kings Lynn-6949 Kings Lynn Dr, Oceanfront-Holden Beach	\$775,000
Kings Lynn-6940 Kings Lynn Dr, Soundfront-Holden Beach	\$375,000

Mainland Homes

Hewett Farms-1336 Hewett Farms Rd- 4 bedroom 3.5 baths	\$ 499,999
Crow Creek GC-9235 Oldfield Rd. Calabash- 4 bedroom 4 baths	\$ 459,000
Parker's Point – 6277 Basilwood Dr.- 3 br, 4 bath, waterway	\$ 424,900
Crown Stream – 1600 Crownstream Dr.- 3 bedroom 2 bath	\$ 249,500
Oak Island – 6951 Kings Lynn Dr.- Views, Views, Views	\$ 1,250,000

Mainland Lots

Oyster Harbour-1866 Russell-Hewett Rd	\$ 96,000
Bricklanding GC-1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Bricklanding GC-1625 Colonist Square	\$ 99,000
Crow Creek – 389 Autumn Loop, golf course lot	\$ 82,000
Brookhaven Subd...Lot 10 in Brookhaven, 5 minutes to Wilmington.	\$ 325,000



Photo courtesy of Martha Russ