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Winter 2009 Newsletter

They say time flies when you're having fun. We must've been having a great time, because we can't believe it has already been a year since our first newsletter, Winter of 2008. This is a good time to say thank you to our "fans". We have received great comments, photos, and feedback. Keep them coming, especially photos. We love them all, even if we can't use them all at once. If you have any ideas for future issues, send those too. We can't think of everything, you know...

Christmas in November

Santa was a busy fellow in Ocean Isle Beach the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Some of you may remember that last year, the OIB Christmas parade was cancelled due to rain. This year the parade took place at two o'clock, under a bright, warm sun; too warm for the way some of us were dressed, considering the day started out at 36 degrees. West Brunswick High School JROTC led the way, followed by the Shriners, and Debbie Smith, OIB's mayor. The Shriners' little go-carts, going up and down a ramp in the middle of the road were fun to watch, as well as the clowns, who were up to all kinds of mischief. Santa was there, of course, at the end, riding in the OIB rescue boat. At 5:30, it was time to go see Santa again. The OIB fire department, with the OIB Property Owners' Association, again hosted a Christmas evening, with Santa as the main guest, and cookies and hot chocolate provided by the Association. Gayle Hughes' parrot, Jimmy, was almost as popular as Santa, with kids crowded around his cage, entertained by Jimmy's high pitched squawk. The face painting table was also popular, and kids lined up, patiently waiting their turn to have a Christmas tree, Frosty, or a candy cane painted on their cheek. From there, we all headed over the bridge to Sharkey's Restaurant to wait for the Christmas Flotilla to arrive from Shallotte Point. The weather was perfect. There was a chill in the air to remind us that Christmas was close, but it was warm enough to remind us that we were in beautiful Ocean Isle Beach. The crowd cheered and clapped at every entry. There were the traditional Christmas trees, Frosty's boat, which came in backwards, reindeer, and sleds, but there was also a less traditional Santa riding on a blue chopper. My personal favorite was the Message in a Bottle: "Dear Santa, I wish for a bigger boat." After the boats docked behind Sharkey's, the crowd was entertained with live music from the Cousin Homer Band. What a day!



Far Left: Ethan Stutts, age 6, gets his face painted, while James Saunders, age 8, awaits his turn.

Left: Megan Creech, age 6, has a serious conversation with Santa, age unknown.

Right: OIB Christmas parade

Christmas Trivia (answers on a later page)

Take a stab without peeking.



1. St. Nicholas of Myra, known as the original Santa Clause, is the patron saint of what two groups?
2. Can you name the eight reindeer?
3. What's wrong with this phrase? "God rest ye, Merry Gentlemen"
4. What was the first state to officially recognize Christmas as a holiday?
5. Who invented electric Christmas lights?
6. What Christmas carol is really a Thanksgiving song?
7. Where and when was the first Christmas tree retail lot in the US?
8. What's the most popular Christmas carol of all time?
9. 1.76 billion of what are produced every year?
10. When was the first Christmas tree placed in the White House?



Bird's Eye View



One thinks of OIB as a haven for water sports, fishing, kayaking, boating, swimming, etc., but what about flying? Wouldn't you like to see Ocean Isle Beach from the air? The OIB airport, on Hwy 179, offers a flying tour of the island at a very reasonable cost. They also have flying lessons, if you're interested. The plane flies at an altitude of about 1,000 feet, so you get to see all the features of the island, but from a different perspective. The pilot will do twists and turns for you if you like some extra excitement. What a great photo op! For more information, please visit their website at www.flyoib.com.



The 6th annual Run for Food event will take place in Ocean Isle Beach on Saturday, January 9th, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the South Brunswick Interchurch Council Food Pantry. The Half-Marathon and 5K Run or Walk will take the participants over the Odell Williamson Bridge to the mainland, and then back to the island. The view alone should make this worthwhile. For more information, or to register, please visit their website at www.active.com and type in "Run for Food" on the right side of the screen, under "Find Things to Do".

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AROUND HERE?

The big event in October was the Oyster Festival, which took place October 17-18. Once again, it was a great success. The estimates on the number of attendees ranged from 15,000 to 30,000. Either way, that's an awful lot of people! As you can see from the bridge photos below, traffic was heavy. One photo, on the left, was taken at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th of July and one, on the right, was taken on Saturday, October 17. Except for the chilly weather, one could hardly tell the difference (except nobody was checking out, so there was no outgoing traffic). That's not even considering the buses that shuttled people from the free parking areas on the mainland, by Lowe's Foods. As usual, there were crafts, food, and a play area for the kids with a mechanical bull, a rock climb, and a bumpy slide; there was music, dancing, a shagging contest and more; there was the annual Oyster Stew Cook-off, a great display about the value of recycling oyster shells, and, of course, there were OYSTERS. Daniel Burroff again won the oyster shucking contest in the amateur division, and Lisa Bellamy won first place in the professional division. She shucked 24 oysters in 2 minutes, 37 seconds. The winners of the shagging contest were Danny and Carol Everhart. A new comer this year, The Boundary House, in Calabash, took first place in the Oyster Stew Cook-off. The first Oyster Festival took place in October 1981, on the airport grounds. Since then, it has been held at The Village at Sunset Beach (where Food Lion now stands), on the grounds of West Brunswick High School, and even on Main Street, in Shallotte. The last few years, the festival has been held on Second Street, next to the Museum of Coastal Carolina. If everything goes as planned, next year, the Oyster Festival will not be held on the island. The 30th annual Oyster Festival, in October 2010, is scheduled to take place at the Ocean Isle Beach Park, on Old Georgetown Road, between Ocean Isle Beach Drive and Hwy 904.



OCEAN ISLE FISHING CENTER
65 Causeway Drive
Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina
(910) 575-FISH



FALL BRAWL KING CLASSIC

The weekend after the Oyster Festival, October 24-25, the weatherman called for rain -

thunderstorms, actually – but the weatherman was wrong, yet again. There were 170 teams competing in the Fall Brawl this year, but only 17 teams chose to compete on Saturday, (they didn't believe the weatherman), while the rest went out on Sunday, to compete for the grand price of over \$15,000.00. Two brothers, Mark and Billy Emmart, on their boat *Moon Doggie*, snagged the winning King, weighing 41 pounds, six miles out of Bald Head Island.



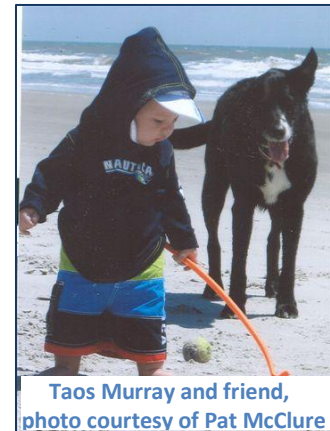
Fall Brawl winners-Photo courtesy of Captain Brant



Lowe's Food Stores on Beach Drive, OIB, held a Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 24, to benefit Providence Home Emergency Teen Shelter. They held raffles, and there was music, face painting, pumpkin painting, hot dogs, and Sunset Slush.



Will Neely, age six, participates in the pumpkin painting.



Taos Murray and friend,
photo courtesy of Pat McClure



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What was that?

As you read in the Fall 09 Newsletter, our office window faces the marsh, and we have one of the best views in town (we never get tired of saying that). While our guests are standing at the counter, discussing availability for next year, or checking in to their rental unit, they'll catch some movement in the water and they'll ask, "What was that?" Once we tell them "that" was a fish – a mullet to be exact - jumping out of the water, they want to know why the fish jump out of the water. We facetiously tell them the fish are playing. Or we tell them the fish are coming up for a breath of fresh air, and, of course, they don't take us seriously, but that's as close to the truth as any other answer we could give them. The truth is we didn't know why the fish jump, so we set out

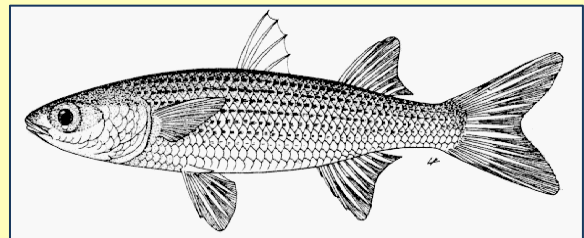
to investigate. After reading every reference we could find about fish jumping, we found nothing but guesses. We think that, at this point, the fish are keeping quiet as to the real reason why they jump, so we'll just tell you what people think.

One fisherman at one of the canals, said the fish jump so they can read the street signs and see what canal they're on. That's just as good a guess as any. Our favorite one is that they're coming up for a breath of fresh air. Mulletts have an area at the back of their throat called a pharyngobranchial organ, which is filled with air. Since mulletts are bottom feeders, they spend most of their time in water with low levels of oxygen, so they need to come up for some air once in a while. The less oxygen in the water, the more the fish jump. You don't like that answer either? OK, how about they jump to escape from predators, or they jump because it's easier than swimming against the tide, or they simply want to let other mulletts know they're in the neighborhood. Some people think the fish jump to rid themselves of parasites as their body hits the water surface, or that they do it to pass gas, as they reenter the water, since their diet of algae and zooplankton would make them build up gases in their digestive tract. We prefer to think they jump because it's fun.

Mulletts are of the family Mugilidae, and they live in temperate and tropical waters, and some even in fresh water. They usually hang around estuaries, since they're more vulnerable to predators in deep waters. The exception to this is when they spawn. A female mullet lays about a million eggs, each containing a drop of oil which allows it to stay afloat. When the mullet larvae hatch, they have no mouth or fins. Once they're able to eat and swim, within a few days, they migrate back to hide in sea grasses. Mulletts are distinguished by having two separate dorsal fins, and small triangular mouths. They usually travel in large groups. Another interesting thing about the mullet, less obvious than their jumping, is the way they feed. Since they're bottom feeders, they hold their bodies at a forty five degree angle to the bottom. They seem to be standing on their heads. Because they suck up the food, straining it through their gill rakers before passing it to the throat, they're known as suckers in some parts of the country. Before mating, which usually takes place in the latter part of spring, the male puts on a big show, sometimes even changing its coloring to impress the female. Mulletts' average length is about twenty inches, and they can weigh up to ten pounds. They can be deep fried, oven fried, baked, broiled, or smoked. The easiest way is to broil them – nothing to it.

Broiled Mullet

- 2 pounds of mullet fillets, fresh or frozen (thaw them first)
- 2 tablespoons of salad oil
- 2 tablespoons of soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons of Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon of paprika
- ½ teaspoon of chili powder
- ½ teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1 dash of hot pepper sauce (just to keep it interesting)
- lemon wedges



Place the fillets in a single layer, with the skin side down, on a greased oven-safe pan. Combine all ingredients except lemon wedges. Pour sauce over the fish, and broil, basting every few minutes, for about 10-15 minutes, until the fillets flake easily when tested with a fork. Serve with lemon wedges, and bring us some leftovers.

Intracoastal Waterway



Photo courtesy of Linda Creech

Normally referred to as the IWW (or ICW), the Intracoastal Waterway is a 3,000 mile waterway along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and what separates the island of OIB from the mainland. To our guests and vacationers, the IWW means pleasure boating, jet skiing, and fishing, but the Intracoastal Waterway is important in other ways too. The waterway is used to transport petroleum, petroleum products, building materials, and other goods. Plans for a navigable waterway had been conceived by US Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin back in 1808, but because of the nature of government during that time, with each state being responsible for its roads and canals, nothing much was done until after the Civil War. With larger ships, and more waterborne commerce, there was a greater need for the federal government to step in and play a stronger role. The Army Corps of Engineers continued to improve every river and harbor on the East Coast of the US until around 1914, when it was halted due to WWI. In 1919, the creation of the Intracoastal Waterway was authorized by the US Congress, but no actual work started until the 1930's, and it wasn't completed until 1949. It is still maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Federal law is supposed to provide funds to keep the waterway dredged to a depth of twelve feet, but inadequate funding sometimes prevents that from happening. As a result, shallow water does become a problem through certain sections. Although the waterway is toll-free, commercial users do pay a fuel tax which helps cover the cost of maintaining the waterway. The IWW is divided into two sections, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, from Norfolk, VA to Key West, FL, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, from Carrabelle, FL to Brownsville, TX. These two segments were supposed to have been joined, but they never were, due to environmental concerns in Florida. Additional canals extend the navigable waterway up to Boston, MA.

In North Carolina, the waterway was started around 1836 when the state got a small funding to dredge the New River, twenty one miles to the town of Jacksonville. In 1886, more dredging was done between Beaufort and Swansboro, and then, in 1890, between Swansboro and the New River. In 1917, Congress consolidated all three into a project called "Inland Waterway, Beaufort to Jacksonville, NC". The channel to the Cape Fear River was completed in 1932. The channel between the Cape Fear River near Southport, and Little River, SC proved to be an almost impossible undertaking. There were marshes and channels, but they weren't navigable even by small row boats. Eventually, the Elizabeth River, on the east side of Oak Island, was dredged, and cut through, thus making Oak Island an island. On the western end of Oak Island, it was cut 2.6 miles through high ground, and then it descended down through the creeks and marshlands to Little River, separating what are now the islands of Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach from the mainland. This segment was completed in 1936, but by 1934 Ocean Isle, then called Hale Beach, was separated from the mainland. This caused Gause's Hill dance hall, a local Honky Tonk, to close its doors, since one could no longer walk or drive to the newly made island.

Answers to the Christmas Trivia

1. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of thieves and pawnbrokers.
2. The popular reindeer of song fame are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner (not Donner) and Blitzen.
3. The correct phrase is, "God rest ye merry, gentlemen".
4. Alabama was the first state in the US to officially recognize Christmas as a holiday, in 1836.
5. It was Thomas Edison, of course, who invented the electric Christmas tree lights, in 1882. Before that, Christmas trees were lit with candles.
6. "Jingle Bells" was originally written for a Thanksgiving celebration in 1857.
7. The first Christmas tree retail lot in the US was opened in 1851, in New York, by Mark Carr.
8. Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" is the most popular Christmas carol of all time.
9. 1.76 billion candy canes are produced every year.
10. Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the US, was the first president to place a Christmas tree in the White House in 1856. In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons, since it was said that the annual harvest of Christmas trees was threatening to strip our forests of firs and spruces. President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923.

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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

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

Beach Homes

Oceanfront-50 East 1 st St 12 bdrm, 12 baths	\$2,795,000
Oceanfront-258 East 1 st St 5 bdrm, 7 baths	\$1,995,000
Oceanfront-123 West 1 st St 5 bdr., 4 baths, pool	\$1,295,000
Ocean Front-436 East 2 nd St 4 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 750,000
Ocean Front-392 East 1 st St 4 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 400,000
Oceanfront-110 East 1 st St 2 bdrm 2 bath 75' lot	\$1,150,000
Natural Canal- 46 Wilmington St 5 bdrm, 5 bath,	\$ 650,000
Concrete canal -16 Raeford St. 4 bdrm, 4bath	\$ 629,000
2 nd Row -55 E 1 st St – 5 bdrm, 5.5 bath	\$ 899,999
2 nd Row-169 E 1 st St 3 bdrm, 2 bath, half of duplex	\$ 429,000
3 rd Row-250 E 2 nd St 5 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 575,000
3 rd Row -286 E 2 nd St -4 bdrm, 3 bath	\$ 595,000
Island Park Cottages-3 Myrtle Ct 4 bdrm 2 bath	\$ 519,000
Mid Island-13 Driftwood St 5 bdrm 4 bath	\$ 795,000

Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 1-C 2 bdrm 2 baths oceanfront	\$ 359,000
Windjammer Unit 1-J 2 bdrm 2 baths oceanfront	\$349,000
Ocean Point Unit 604 high rise unit 2 bdrm 2 baths	\$ 599,000
Ocean Point Unit 1002 high rise unit,3 bdrm, 3 baths	\$ 685,000
Ocean Cove Unit 122 1 bdrm + bunk nook, 1 bath oceanfront	\$249,000
Ocean Cove Unit 214 1 bdrm + bunk nook, 1 bath oceanfront	\$239,000
Channel Harbor Unit C1 1 bdrm+bunk nook, 1 bath	\$209,900
A Place at the Beach Unit 2-J 2 bdrm, 2 baths side unit	\$ 298,000
Oceanside West Unit D-4 3 bdrm, 2 baths oceanfront	\$ 395,000

Beach Lots

Concrete Canal Lot-50 Union St	\$995,000
Islander Resort-149 Via Marsh Lagoon Dr. Soundfront	\$475,000
Kings Lynn-6949 Kings Lynn Dr, Oceanfront-Holden Beach	\$775,000
Kings Lynn-6940 Kings Lynn Dr, Soundfront-Holden Beach	\$375,000

Mainland Lots

Oyster Harbour-1866 Russell-Hewett Rd	\$ 96,000
Bricklanding GC-1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 120,000
Bricklanding GC-1625 Colonist Square.	\$ 120,000
Bricklanding GC-1803 Waterwing Dr.	\$ 99,000
Ocean Aire Estates – lots just off OIB, 4 lots each	\$ 28,000
Brookhaven Subd...Lot 10 in Brookhaven, 5 minutes to Wilmington.	\$ 325,000

Mainland Homes

Hewett Farms-1336 Hewett Farms Rd- 4 bedroom 3.5 baths	\$ 639,000
Crow Creek GC-9235 Oldfield Rd. Calabash- 4 bedroom 4 baths	\$ 649,000
Supply...2321 Stanley Rd 2 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 148,500
Brunswick Commons I Unit 3...2 bdrm, 2 bath	\$ 172,500



Christmas rainbow-Photo courtesy of CraigFulton



Photo courtesy of the Holtz