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SCHOLARSHIPS HONOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

The Memorial Scholarships are named for those who were dear to members of the Swansboro Rotary Club.

- **ADAM BAREFIELD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors son of longtime club member and past president, David Barefield. Adam is the inspiration for "Adam's Closet," a project the Rotary Club launched in 2016 that provides clothing to area schools for children in need.
- **AL BARNES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors a long-time Swansboro Rotary Club member and local businessman.
- **FRANK CHASE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors son of longtime member and past president, Frank Chase and brother of current member, Mark Chase.
- **JAMES COWART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors 1981 Swansboro High School graduate and local pharmacist. In addition to working at many pharmacies in North Carolina and Florida, he launched his own home infusion pharmacy.
- **MICHAEL DAVIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors the son of Swansboro Rotary Club charter member, Bud Davis.
- **NELL HANCOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors the wife of Rotarian Nat Hancock, a charter member of the club and a member until his death.
- **KEN CHASE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors long-time member and past president of the Swansboro Rotary Club. An active leader among Rotarians, Ken was especially proud of achieving 22 years of perfect attendance within the Rotary. His passion and dedication to the club and his community were unmatched.
- **LEROY "DOC" HENDERSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors a past president of the Swansboro Rotary Club and founding president of Coastal Carolina Community College.
- **MICHAEL DAVIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors the son of Swansboro Rotary Club charter member, Bud Davis.
- **SARA BETH LICKO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors the granddaughter of Ben Licko, Sr, charter member and first president of the Swansboro Rotary Club (now deceased).
- **TIM STANLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** honors a longtime, dedicated friend of the Swansboro Rotary Club.



■ STORY BY HELEN GROSS

Rotary Awards Scholarships

In their 46th year of giving, the Swansboro Rotary Club awarded a total of \$40,000 in scholarships to ten graduating seniors from Croatan and Swansboro high schools during their Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet on May 15, 2025. Each recipient received a scholarship valued at \$4,000.

The scholarship program began in 1979 with a single scholarship of \$1,000. By 2019, the total amount awarded through the Swansboro Rotary Scholarship Program had exceeded \$1 million. As of now, this amount has increased to nearly \$1.3 million, totaling \$1,292,000.

To be eligible for the Swansboro Rotary scholarship, applicants must meet certain criteria, including strong academic performance, participation in athletics, and demonstrated financial need. Recipients typically rank highly in their classes, engage in extracurricular activities, and actively participate in volunteer work within the community.

Each scholarship is named in honor of a Rotarian, family member, or friend of the Rotary Club, commemorating their memory and service to the community. The luncheon celebrates the students, their families, teachers, administrators, counselors, and the families and friends of the individuals for whom the scholarships are named.

Special thanks were given to Mrs. Nicole Rains, counselor at Swansboro High School, and Mr. Mark James, counselor at Croatan High School. They served as the Club's primary contacts for the high schools, assisting in the solicitation and screening of scholarship applicants by providing completed applications, letters of recommendation, and transcripts.

Helen Gross, chair of the Scholarship Committee, and Chuck Douglas, president of the Swansboro Rotary Club, announced the 2025 scholarship recipients from Croatan and Swansboro high schools to the audience.

— continued on page 6

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 SWANSBORO ROTARY CLUB
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

“All dreams are within reach. All you have to do is keep moving towards them.” – Viola Davis



Aiden Nolan (Swansboro) plans to attend Auburn University, majoring in neuroscience with a minor in leadership. Aiden is an active member of HOSA, Unified Champions, Student 2 Student (S2S), Rotary Interact Club, National

Honor Society, Rho Kappa, and the National Technical Honor Society. He is also the student body president. His future goals include a career as a neurodevelopmental pediatrician while participating in politics to advocate for the youth of America, especially those who struggle with education. Aiden is receiving the *Tim Stanley Memorial Scholarship*.

Peyton Kollar (Croatan) plans to attend NC State University to major in biology. Peyton intends to pursue a career in the medical field, with the goal of becoming a radiologist. Throughout high school, she was an active member of several organizations, including Hospice Helpers, FCCLA, Tri-M, and the Croatan Performing Ensembles. Additionally, she studied at Jessica's Dance Academy. Peyton's future aspirations focus on providing individuals with the treatments they need to improve their health. Peyton



is receiving the *Al Barnes Memorial Scholarship*.

Ta'Myiah Spain (Swansboro) plans to attend Fayetteville State University to major in education. Ta'Myiah was actively involved in



HOSA, Unified Sports, and the National Technical Honor Society. She also volunteered at the concession stand and assisted the basketball team throughout high school. Her future goal is to become an elementary teacher and educate children in a fun and healthy way. Ta'Myiah is receiving the *Adam Barefield Memorial Scholarship*.

Melody Watson (Croatan) plans to attend Barton College or Campbell University in the fall as a political science major. Melody plans to pursue a law degree and specialize in family law. Throughout high school, she was actively involved in the National Art Honor Society, Women's Lacrosse, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Body Association (SBA), and the Art Angels. Her future aspirations include helping people in her community and church by making a positive impact and providing support. Melody is receiving the *Sara Beth Licko Memorial Scholarship*.



Megan Bronson (Swansboro) plans to attend NC State University in the fall to major in social work. During high school, Megan was actively involved in various extracurricular activities, including Marching Band, Debate Club, SAVE Promise Club, Advanced Choir, Student Council, HOSA, theatre, and the Foreign Language Club. She aspires to use her degree in social work to support adolescents facing mental health challenges. Megan aims to create a



positive impact by ensuring that future generations are happy, healthy, and emotionally intelligent. Megan is receiving the *Nell Hancock Memorial Scholarship*.



Dylan Tradewell (Croatan) plans to attend the Massachusetts Maritime Academy to major in Marine Transportation. During high school, Dylan was actively involved in tennis, Boy Scouts, the Croatan Key Club, Trailblazers, and the band.

Notably, this year, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Dylan aspires to become a captain on a cargo ship and hopes to return to Carteret County to work in the maritime industry. Dylan is receiving the *Maxine Henderson Memorial Scholarship*.

Kaylee Richmond (Swansboro) plans to attend Appalachian State University to major in

communication studies and disorders and minor in Spanish.

While in high school, Kaylee was actively involved in the National Honor Society, the orchestra, and volunteered regularly in our community at her church, the library, The Cottages of Swansboro, and as a Night to Shine volunteer. Her future aspirations include a career in speech pathology. Kaylee would like to work with children and hopes to foster or adopt children someday. Kaylee is receiving the *Frank Chase Memorial Scholarship*.



Emily Garman (Croatan) plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill to pursue a degree in biology on the pre-med track. She hopes to attend medical school in the future. During high school, Emily was an active member of the Wind Ensemble, Key Club,

Student Government, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Beta

Club, JV Girls Basketball, and the Carteret Collective Sound. Her career aspiration is to become a general practitioner. She also intends to continue volunteering in her community while working to improve the quality of life for those around her. Emily is receiving the *Michael Davis Memorial Scholarship*.



Teegan Surunis (Swansboro) plans to attend Campbell University to major in nursing. While in high school, she was actively involved in volleyball, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Yearbook, HOSA, Eco Club, and Rho

Kappa. Her future aspirations include a career in travel nursing with a specialty in anesthesiology. She looks forward to traveling, working hard, and making her family proud. Teegan is receiving the *James Cowart Memorial Scholarship*.

Falon McCabe (Croatan) plans to attend UNC-Wilmington to study biology on a pre-med track. While in high school, Falon participated in Student Government, Key Club, lacrosse, swimming, S2S, Beta Club, and The Croatan Crazies. Her future goal is to become a dermatologist and contribute to her community through healthcare outreach. Falone is receiving the *Leroy "Doc" Henderson Memorial Scholarship*.



After the scholarship banquet, the Rotary Club hosted its *Excellence in Teaching Awards*, recognizing four local teachers for their outstanding ability to educate and positively influence their students' lives. The purpose of these awards is to identify, honor, and promote excellence in classroom teaching within the Swansboro area schools. This year marks the third anniversary of the awards. ■

See related article on page 26

OFFICIAL



Swansboro Rotary Club Fishing Tournament Series Tournament Book

Volume 45-2

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chairmen's welcome



Brandon Sewell, Jamie Wallace, and Justin Cleve, tournament chairmen

Welcome to the **45th Annual Swansboro Rotary Five-O King Mackerel Tournament!** We are proud to present one of the most prestigious King Mackerel Tournaments in the country, offering world-class fishing on the Crystal Coast of North Carolina!

We aim to make this event a favorite among competitors and the community, all while having fun and raising money for our charities! A tremendous thank you to the sponsors of this tournament, as their support enables us to put on a first-class event that is truly exceptional. Their generosity helps make this tournament stand out.

Most importantly, with the backing of our sponsors and our fishermen, we can have a significant impact on our community. We are nearing \$1.3 million in scholarships for local students and, in just five years, have donated \$337,500 to NCLEAP! Adam's Closet is able to donate \$25,000 to 25 local schools (\$1000 each) providing immediate access to funds for purchasing needed clothing for underprivileged students. We also support Caring for Kids at Christmas, Backpack Friends, and the Swansboro High School Interact Club, contributing thousands of dollars annually to various community initiatives.

Over the years, Rotarians in our club have consistently raised the bar for business standards, friendships, and community service. Thank you to all the Rotarians who dedicate their time, resources, and energy to making our events a tremendous success.

We look forward to seeing everyone in beautiful Downtown Swansboro on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for the weigh-ins. We hope to have a huge crowd on Saturday night for the free concert by **Spare Change**, and we are excited to award substantial prizes to the winners! Good luck to all the teams competing! Tight lines, calm seas, and big wins for all! ■

Brandon Sewell, Tournament Chairman
Jamie Wallace, Tournament Chairman
Justin Cleve, Tournament Chairman

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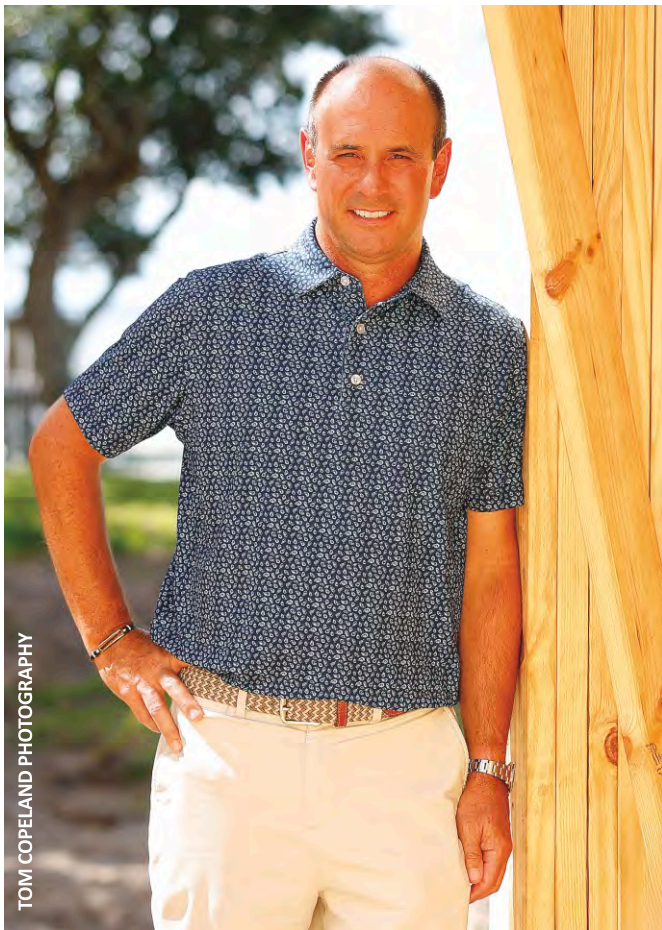


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president's welcome



Bruce Rogers

Friends, neighbors, and guests – welcome to the ***Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel Tournament!*** For 45 years, our coastal community comes together for more than just a fishing tournament. We gather to celebrate service, fellowship, and the generosity that allows Rotary to make a difference year-round.

This weekend is about much more than the excitement of the weigh-ins or the thrill of landing a big catch. It's about what happens afterward – scholarships awarded to local students, food and clothing provided to families in need, and encouragement for youth stepping into leadership roles. Programs such as Adam's Closet, Caring for Kids, Backpack Friends, Rotary Youth Leadership, and NCLEAP are strengthened because of your support.

NCLEAP, in particular, has become a cause close to our hearts. By helping law enforcement officers, first responders, and their families, we honor those who protect and serve us every day. Your participation in the TWT directly fuels that mission.

As President of the Swansboro Rotary Club for 2025-2026, I can't think of a better reminder of what Rotary stands for – *Service Above Self*. As we prepare for the tournament, I am reminded that it's not just a tournament, but a living example of community at its best.

So, let's enjoy it all: the friendly competition on the water, the camaraderie on the docks, and the fellowship as we celebrate at Saltwater Grill for Saturday night's awards party. May the weather be fair, the seas kind, and the fish plentiful.

Thank you for being part of something that matters – not just this weekend, but in the lives it will touch for months and years ahead.

Warm regards,

Bruce Rogers
2025-2026 President
Swansboro Rotary Club

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Swansboro Rotary Club

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2025-2026 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Bruce Rogers
President Elect	Mike Denmead
Secretary	Don Hardy
Treasurer	Branden Burt
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bud Davis
Club Foundation Chair	David Pearson
Public Image Chair	Tom Copeland
Past President, Director	John Moore
Club Director	Mike Keadle
Club Director	Tony Stephenson
Past President, Club Director	Robin Comer

ROTARY OBJECTIVE

The Objective of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;

Fourth. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

MEETINGS

Thursday at 1 pm
Rotary Civic Center in Swansboro

PAST ROTARY PRESIDENTS

Benjamin M. Licko	1978-79
James W. Bean	1979-80
Phillip B. Matthews	1980-81
Charles H. Silver	1981-82
Joseph S. Sanders	1982-83
John H. Wood Jr.	1983-84
Hugh D. Helms	1984-85
John L. Eller	1985-86
James S. Williams	1986-87
Robert L. Hancock	1987-88
James M. Davis	1988-89
Keith Walsh	1989-90
Garland Sewell	1990-91
Rudolph Henderson	1991-92
Ken Chase	1992-93
A.J. Jansen	1993-94
Year of the Past Presidents	1994-95
Al Barnes	1995-96
Bob Nichols	1996-97
Joann Taylor	1997-98
David Pearson	1998-99
Budda Howard	1999-00
Bill Blackmon	2000-01
Gene Heath	2001-02
Paul Turner	2002-03
Pat Patteson	2003-04
Felton Murray	2004-05
Barbara Darden	2005-06
Stukie Payne	2006-07
Pete Timmons	2007-08
Billy Farrington	2008-09
Dave Barefield	2009-10
Robin Comer	2010-11
Greg Maready	2011-12
Wes Mobley	2012-13
Jeff Hunt	2013-14
David Nance	2014-15
Jimmy Farrington	2015-16
Year of Past Presidents	2016-17
Jamie Wallace	2017-18
Brandon Sewell	2018-19
Justin Cleve	2019-20
John Moore	2020-21
Ralph Morgan	2021-22
Chris Ulmer	2022-23
Chip Sanders	2023-24
Chuck Douglas	2024-25



2025-2026

Swansboro Rotary Club

Membership Roster

Jay Ahlquist
Ronnie Albritton
Terri Ashby
Ken Banks
Andrew Barber
David Barefield
Brandon Bass
Tony Bello
Branden Burt
Mike Bryant
Kylie Butler
April Clark
Jeff Clark
Justin Cleve
Governor Comer
Robin Comer
Tom Copeland
Bud Davis
Jim Davis
Mike Denmead
Chuck Douglas

John Eller
Jimmy Farrington
Billy Farrington
Linda Folger
Gina Francis
Junior Freeman
Eddie Fulcher
Helen Gross
Buddy Guthrie
Don Hardy
Cliff Harris
John Hislop
Dan Houskamp
Gene Howell
Jeff Hunt
Basil Jackie Hurst
Mike Keadle
Eric Lemmond
Vickie Lemmond
Bill Little
Jacob Mabry

Greg Maready
Barry Matthews
John Moore
Ralph Morgan
Athan Parker
David Pearson
Collin Peel
Ed Radley
Rickey Rhodes
Bruce Rogers
Chip Sanders
Christina Saracina
Brandon Sewell
Garland Sewell
David Smith
Tony Stephenson
John Tantum
Chris Ulmer
Jamie Wallace
Woody Warren

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TOM COPELAND PHOTOGRAPHY



ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR

Ken Banks

■ STORY BY LINDA FOLGER

The Swansboro Rotary Club is proud to recognize Ken Banks as the *Swansboro Rotarian of the Year*, honoring more than a decade of service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the ideals of Rotary.

Ken joined the Swansboro Rotary Club in 2013 and quickly became a cornerstone of the organization.

Professionally, he is the founder of Banks, Gray, Crumpler, PLLC, CPAs, a firm he built from a solo practice into a thriving partnership that now includes his daughter, Natalie Crumpler, as one of two partners. Today, his firm maintains offices in both Goldsboro and Emerald Isle, reflecting Ken's deep roots in North Carolina and his commitment to serving clients across the region.

His entrepreneurial spirit and financial expertise have also been instrumental to the Club's success. Behind the scenes, Ken provides all of the Club's accounting support –

managing invoicing, tax returns, and financial statements – ensuring fiscal responsibility and transparency year after year.

A sustaining member of Rotary, Ken is also a tireless participant in the life of the Club. He rarely misses a weekly meeting, supports community service projects, and contributes his talents wherever needed. His steady presence and servant leadership embody the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

Originally from Goldsboro, NC, Ken now lives on the water in Newport with his wife, Sharon, to whom he has been married since 1995. Together, they are active members of Emerald Isle Baptist Church, where Ken has served as Chair of the Ministry Council and is currently serving on the search committee for a new minister.

His faith also guides his professional and personal life through his 13-year membership in C12, the nation's leading Peer

Advisory Forum for Christian CEOs and business owners. Remarkably, Ken has never missed a single C12 meeting – a testament to his discipline and devotion.

Outside of work and service, Ken embraces life with the same passion and joy. A dedicated golfer, he plays two to three times a week, earning the nickname "Silk" from his golf buddies for his smooth-as-silk swing.

He and Sharon also share a love of dancing – whether line dancing or shagging to beach music, they're known to light up the dance floor.

Ken's recognition as *Swansboro Rotarian of the Year* reflects not only his professional and personal achievements but also his heart for service, fellowship, and community. His contributions have strengthened the Swansboro Rotary Club and left a lasting impact on our community. ■

ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR



service above self

Club Focus Is Service

Rotary International is the world's first service club. It was founded in February 1905 when lawyer Paul Harris and three friends met in a small office in downtown Chicago.

These men wanted to rekindle the spirit of friendliness that they enjoyed in their hometowns. They began a routine of meeting for lunch once a week. As word of the meetings spread, their number grew and they began to rotate the meeting from place to place, thus the name, "Rotary." By the end of 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago had 30 members.

Though founded based on a desire for fellowship, the club found ways to use the talent and resources of its members to serve the community. Within five years, the National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed with 16 member clubs. Two years later, in 1912, the association became international with the formation of a club in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Today, Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. One of the organization's major service projects is an effort to eradicate polio worldwide. Members also support exchange programs for students and business people that promote understanding among all the world's people.

Swansboro Rotary Club was founded in 1978 with 23 members, several of whom are still active in the club. Over the years, Swansboro Rotary has grown substantially.



THE FOUR WAY TEST

OF THE THINGS
WE THINK, SAY
AND DO

1

Is it the **TRUTH**?

2

Is it **FAIR** to
all concerned?

3

Will it build
GOODWILL
and **BETTER**
FRIENDSHIPS?

4

Will it be
BENEFICIAL to all
concerned?

Currently, there are 62 members in the club, which boasts numerous District- and National-level Rotary awards as well as a past district governors John Eller and April Clark, and past assistant district governor, David Pearson.

The annual Fishing Tournament Series – consisting of the Memorial Day Bluewater Tournament held in May and the Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel Tournament held in October – is the largest fundraiser the club sponsors.

In addition to the fishing tournament, the club sponsors:

- Oyster Roast & Pig-Out
- Last-Out Drawing
- Rotary Casino Night

Funds raised through these events support a number of projects, including:

- NCLEAP
- Caring for Kids
- Adam's Closet
- Backpack Friends
- Job Shadow Program
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- Rotary Scholarships
- Excellence in Teaching Awards

Of all the events, perhaps the club's most visible project is the club's scholarship program. This year, Swansboro Rotary awarded ten \$4,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from Croatan and Swansboro high schools. We have also added four \$500 Excellence in Teaching Awards to area teachers. Since the program's inception in 1979, the club has provided nearly \$1.3 million in college scholarships to 441 students from Swansboro and Coatan high schools. ■



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SWANSBORO ROTARY CLUB
FISHING TOURNAMENT SERIES



April Clark, left, is presented the Service Above Self award and is pictured with Rotary District 7730 Governor CJ Crooks, right.



SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD

Rotarian Receives Service Above Self Award

■ STORY BY DAILY NEWS STAFF

Daily News • April 2, 2025 • Reprinted with permission
www.JDNEWS.com

April Clark, past governor for Rotary District 7730, has been awarded Rotary International's highest honor, the *Service Above Self Award*.

The award is granted annually to no more than 150 Rotarians worldwide, and no more than one from each district, according to Dawn Rochelle, chief executive officer of One Place and past Rotary district governor.

The award recognizes Rotarians who demonstrate "Service Above Self" by volunteering their time and talents to help others.

Clark joined the Jacksonville Rotary Club in 1999, serving as its president for the 2012-13 year. She's continued her membership in Rotary since as an active member of the Swansboro Rotary Club.

Clark was selected as district governor in 2018-19, during which

she was faced with the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Leveraging business and civic leadership, she created opportunities for local grants and investments following the storm.

"April is someone who adds value to any room that she is in," said CJ Crooks, current governor of Rotary District 7730.

Crooks recommended Clark for the award.

"Having led our Rotary district through Hurricane Florence, April is a respected leader," Crooks said. "April ensures that everyone feels welcome and included. April is a trusted adviser who allows all of us in volunteer leadership to thrive."

Clark's passion for the protection of coastal resources has led to the district's prioritizing of the environment and clean water. In 2020-21, she served as the adviser to establish the district's

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

Clark currently serves as a Leadership Dialogue facilitator, working to create a dialogue of peace and conflict resolution around the country.

She most recently presented at the 2025 Rotary International Peace Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, and is a scheduled presenter for the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Clark is a Rotary Leadership Institute graduate and has taken part in three National Immunization Days in India to help eradicate polio. For the past six years, she has served as a trainer for the Carolinas Presidents-Elect Training.

At the Rotary zone level, Clark has served as Zone 33 assistant

SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD

— continued on page 86



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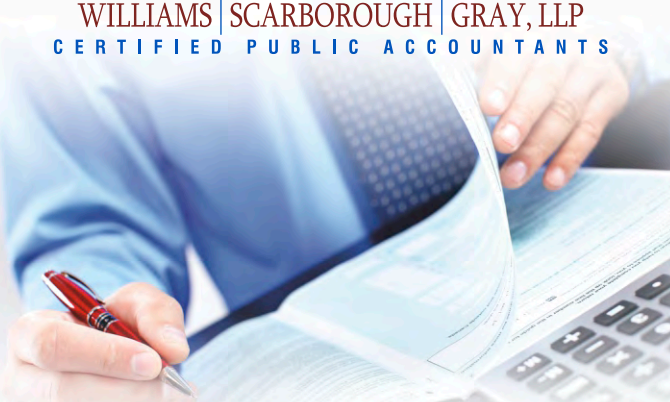
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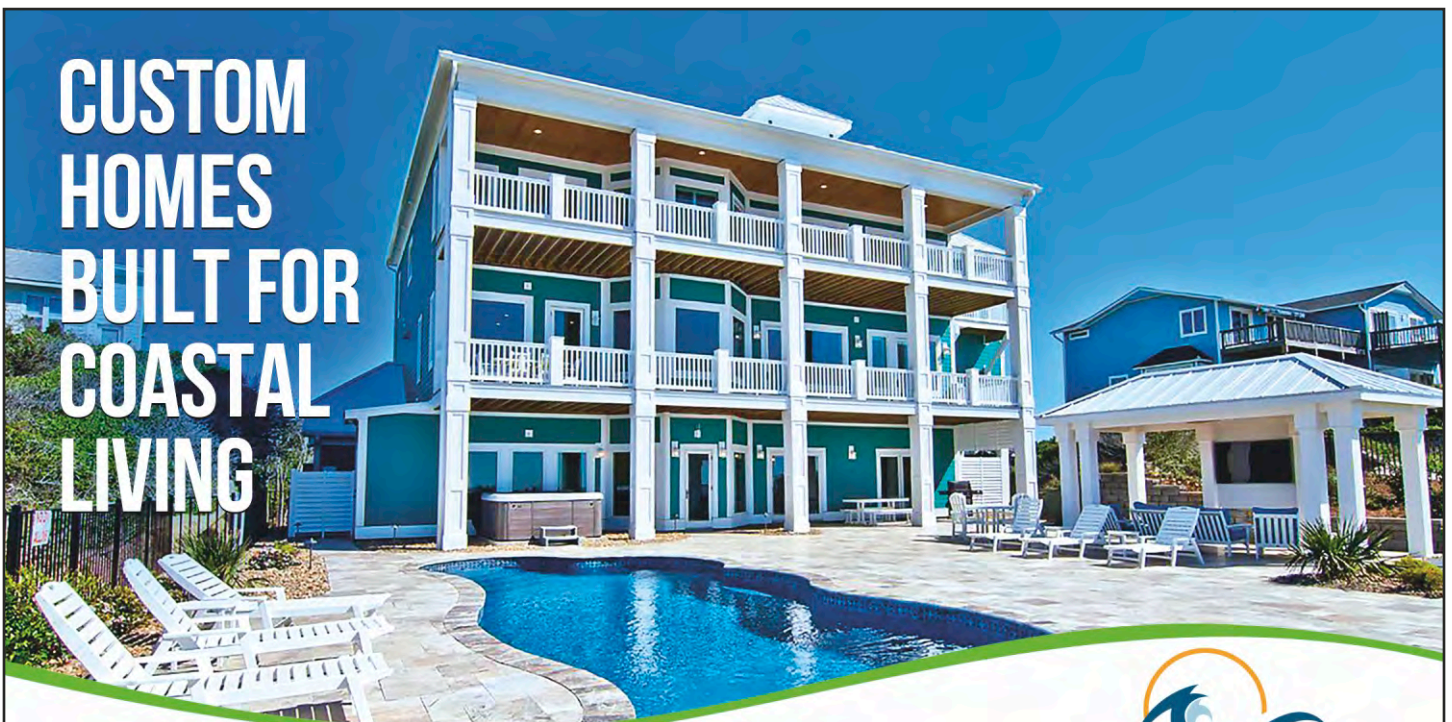
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HONORARY ROTARIAN

Aaron Back

■ STORY BY **BARRY MATTHEWS**

Aaron Back is Swansboro Rotary Club's newest **Honorary Rotarian** and recipient of the prestigious **Paul Harris Fellow Award**.

Aaron is a key figure in the North Carolina Law Enforcement Program, commonly known as NCLEAP. In 2011, he and Danny Leonard, a chaplain with the North Carolina Highway Patrol, established NCLEAP in Raleigh, NC. At that time, Aaron served as a lieutenant in the NC Highway Patrol.

NCLEAP came about to provide help, hope, and support to law enforcement individuals who, for a wide variety of reasons, were struggling with anxiety, sadness, withdrawal, and other psychological and physiological problems. Just imagine the multitude of complex and perhaps horrible occurrences that these professionals might encounter each day, and you will realize and appreciate the importance of NCLEAP.

Aaron grew up primarily in Swansboro with his wonderful mother, his twin sister, and his older brother. As a young man, he stayed active and impressed many with his good behavior,

respectfulness, and consistently positive attitude. He graduated from Swansboro High School, where he was an outstanding student, a talented athlete, and a well-mannered young gentleman. Aaron's greatest attribute is his caring attitude toward others, a quality he has always possessed.

Now a retired Captain with the NC Highway Patrol, Aaron is busier than ever with his three teenage children, NCLEAP, and his wonderful wife.

Our Swansboro Rotary Club partnered with Aaron Back and NCLEAP in 2020. The chairs of our fishing tournament – Justin Cleve, Brandon Sewell, and Jamie Wallace – developed a practical approach to assist Aaron and NCLEAP in expanding their statewide initiatives and in establishing similar organizations in other states across the United States.

NCLEAP serves the needs of various first responders, including the highway patrol, sheriffs and their deputies, city police, firefighters, EMS personnel, marine fisheries officers, dispatch workers, and their spouses. Additionally, it supports any worker in public safety, including trained civilians and their families.

Aaron and NCLEAP have also provided guidance in establishing 14 clubs across different states, with Wyoming being the latest to start during the week of September 15, 2025.

These accomplishments have only been possible as a result of the creative thinking of Jamie Wallace, Justin Cleave, and Brandon Sewell, and the entire efforts of the Swansboro Rotary Club, along with the cooperation and work of Aaron, his 90 volunteers, and the generous fishermen in our Bluewater Tournament and the Five-O King Mackerel Tournament.

It is truly amazing how successfully connections and relationships can grow as well-meaning volunteers work together to benefit a wide range of humanity. Achieving a combination of accomplishments brings a wonderful sense of fulfillment to everyone it touches.

Through his outstanding leadership, dedication, and guidance, Aaron Back has made a significant impact on our first responder community – both locally and nationally. He truly embodies our Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." ■

HONORARY ROTARIAN

For the fourth year, the Swansboro Rotary Club awarded four local teachers with Excellence in Teaching awards at their annual scholarship luncheon held at the Swansboro Rotary Civic Center on May 15, 2025. Given to teachers who demonstrate an unparalleled ability to educate and make a difference in the lives of their students, the awards identify, recognize, and promote excellence in classroom teaching in the Swansboro area schools. Rotary believes that the educational experience at the elementary, middle, and high school levels should develop basic learning skills and form lifelong positive habits toward learning and discipline. This educational experience strengthens their foundation for future success in life. It also enhances their contribution to their community and country. The Swansboro Rotary is committed to improving public education by focusing on the educator to benefit a broad segment of our community. In addition to their certificate of achievement and recognition, they received a check for \$500 to support their professional development and enrichment activities.

■ STORY BY HELEN GROSS

2025 Excellence in Teaching Awards

*Local Teachers Earn Excellence in Teaching Awards
from Swansboro Rotary Club*



Rebecca Self has been teaching at White Oak Elementary for the past eight years and has a total of ten years of teaching experience. She was nominated by her principal, Dr. Crystal Howard, who emphasized that Ms. Self meets students where they are, fostering independence and accountability by recognizing their individual strengths and weaknesses. Year after year, she delivers exceptional results, consistently placing her students in the top 25% of both the district and the state. Ms. Self is positive, fully committed to her work, and always ready

to lend a helping hand. She holds herself to the same high standards she sets for her students and her team. Her dedication extends beyond White Oak Elementary; she is devoted to the teaching profession and to the well-being of every student and colleague around her.

Sean Trees has been teaching at Swansboro Middle School for 18 years and was nominated by his principal, Ms. Page Highsmith. She describes him as a “human encyclopedia” when it comes to history. His extensive knowledge enables him to effectively connect historical events from around the world with his students. In addition to being a history teacher, Mr. Trees serves as the athletic director. He attends all sporting events, even





when not required, showing his dedication to supporting students both inside and outside the classroom. Mr. Trees is a favorite among parents, who often request him for their children. He also mentors beginning teachers, and his sense of humor and school spirit bring joy to everyone around him.



Michelle Sweeting has been the media specialist at Swansboro High School for the past three years and previously served at Swansboro Middle School for 28 years. She was nominated for this recognition by her principal, Dr. Helen Gross. In her nomination, Dr. Gross emphasized that Mrs. Sweeting works diligently

every day to ensure that both students and teachers have access to the best resources to support their instructional needs. Mrs. Sweeting is also the coach for the Battle of the Books, the sponsor of the Reading Club, and the coordinator for beginning teachers. Additionally, she serves as the resident IT expert. Having spent 30 years in our community, Mrs. Sweeting has built strong relationships with students

and their families. She has created a warm and inviting library atmosphere that encourages students to spend time there, and all love her school spirit and enthusiasm.

Ashton Humphrey has been teaching at Croaton High School for the past 10 years and was nominated by his principal, Mr. Chris Davis. Mr. Davis highlighted how Mr. Humphrey has fostered a strong desire for students to learn and succeed by creating a welcoming and inspiring classroom environment. He



brings fun and energy into his lessons and rehearsals, making them engaging and exciting. By taking the time to build personal connections with his students, Mr. Humphrey ensures they feel valued. He has cultivated a performance-oriented climate that distinguishes him from his peers. The care he invests in maintaining his classroom reflects the concern he shows for his students, helping to create a space where learning, creativity, and personal growth are nurtured every day. ■





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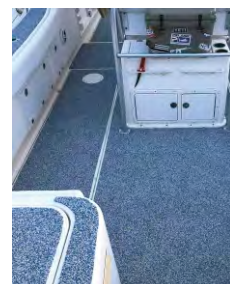
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Without the hard work and dedication of its members, the Swansboro Rotary Club wouldn't be able to successfully pull off all the great fundraising events it holds that benefit local, state, and worldwide communities. Here, Rotarians are getting ready to assist during the 2024 Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel Tournament. (PointClickFish photo)

Swansboro Rotary Club Sponsors A Variety of Events

Tideland News Report

Tideland News • Reprinted with permission
www.carolinacoastonline.com

Swansboro Rotary Club sponsors a variety of fundraisers each year. In addition, the club works on projects when called upon in order to benefit the community and beyond.

■ **Fishing Tournament Series**

Serious prize money helps make the annual Memorial Day Bluewater and Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel tournaments a huge success. This is the largest and most profitable of the club's fundraisers. The Bluewater Tournament kicks off the series over Memorial Day weekend and the King Mackerel Tournament is held in October.

■ **NCLEAP 50/50 TWT**

During the club's fishing tournaments, anglers can participate in a special TWT supporting the North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program. NCLEAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Their services are offered at no charge to the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers, firefighters,

and emergency service personnel. Funding comes through donations of individuals and generous community organizations like the Rotary. Since 2020, the club has helped NCLEAP put over 1,000 first responders through post-critical incident seminars with over \$337,500 in total support!

■ **Scholarship Program**

From its first \$1000 scholarship to

its current level of \$4000 scholarships, the club has awarded nearly \$1.3 million to over 441 graduating seniors from Croatan and Swansboro high schools. Beginning in 2000, the club approved an annual scholarship budget of \$24,000 and authorized eight four-year scholarships at \$3000 each. This budget increase paved the way for our current level of 10 four-year scholarship awards of \$4,000 each. Even in the face of a difficult economy, this club has steadfastly maintained this level of scholarship commitment.

■ **Excellence in Teaching Awards**

Since 2022, the Swansboro Rotary Club has awarded four local teachers with Excellence in Teaching awards at their annual scholarship luncheons. The \$500 awards are given to teachers who demonstrate an unparalleled ability to educate and make a difference in the lives of their students. The awards identify, recognize, and promote excellence in classroom teaching in Swansboro area schools.

■ **Oyster Roast & Pig Out**

This much anticipated March event feeds and entertains well over 1000 fun-seeking, hungry folks. In addition to oysters, this all-you-can-eat extravaganza offers roasted pig, fried fish, clam chowder, hot dogs, and all the trimmings, as well as live entertainment and six big screen TV's to watch the NCAA Basketball tournament. Monies raised from this event help fund the scholarship program.

■ **BackPack Friends**

One of our newest projects, we provide financial assistance and supplies to Backpack Friends to provide nutritional meals and snacks to children who may need a little extra nourishment over the weekend. This year we helped fund a successful Duck Race to raise funds for the program.

■ **Caring for Kids**

For this project, club members, family and friends take needy children Christmas shopping for a day. This year, the club budgeted \$6000, allowing it to host 30 children for shopping fun. Community friends and hosts also provided additional funding for this project.

■ **Adam's Closet**

This project was developed to address the need for clothing for children in 25 nearby schools. The Swansboro Rotary Club is committed to raising \$25,000 this year to provide outerwear and shoes for children in need. Additionally, the program has attracted private donations totaling \$15,000 so far this year.

— continued on page 32



2025 NCLEAP check presentation



2025 Excellence in Teaching Award



BackPack Friends Duck Race



Adam's Closet

Rotary Projects

— continued from page 31

■ **Interact Club (RYLA)**

Sponsored by Swansboro Rotary, the Rotary Interact Club of Swansboro High School has flourished. Along with their own projects, these students have been a mainstay at Swansboro Rotary's major events. In addition, the club sends four students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) function.

■ **Last-Out Drawing**

Clearly the social event of the year held in September, the Last-Out Drawing continues to sell out very early. Lured by fun, good food and the chance of winning big money, this project has a ready-made following.

■ **Rotary Casino Night**

Ticket-holders get to indulge in an exhilarating evening of fun and fortune. The event features a variety of casino games, live entertainment, dancing, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and an opportunity to bid on exclusive items in our silent auction. Proceeds from the event are dedicated to the Swansboro Rotary Foundation who is currently in the process of acquiring the land adjoining the Rotary Civic Center. Plans are to develop the land to directly benefit the community.

■ **International Efforts**

Rotary is dedicated to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever. Over the years, the club has supported Rotary International through various international efforts, including hosting and sponsoring Group Study Exchange teams.



Interact Club at Swansboro Five-O © PointClickFish



Rotary Casino Night



End Polio © Rotary International



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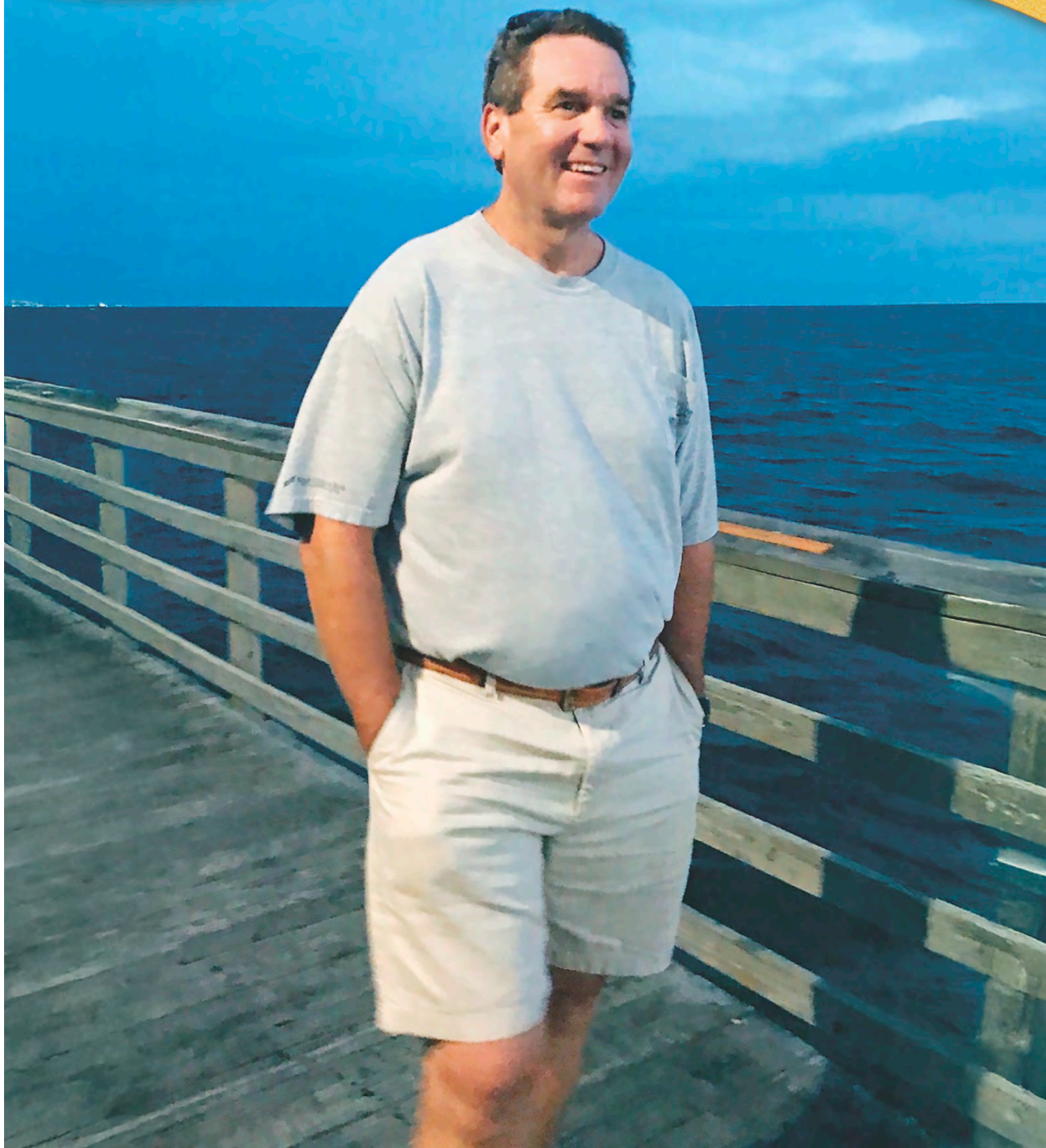
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ROTARY TRIBUTE

Budda Howard

A Rotary Tribute: A Life of Service, Leadership, and Community

James "Budda" Howard

March 29, 1964 – July 7, 2025

■ STORY BY **LINDA FOLGER**

Our community lost a beloved leader and friend, James "Budda" Howard at the age of 61. Born March 29, 1964, in Southport, he was the son of Robert Howard and the late Becky Howard. Budda's life embodied dedication – not only to his profession, but to his neighbors, his faith, and the broader civic landscape.

Budda Howard exemplified what Rotary stands for – dedicated service, unwavering leadership, and meaningful community impact. From his business roles to church commitments and Rotary leadership, Budda's life story is woven with compassion, loyalty, and the pursuit of the greater good.

Rotarians across clubs and communities will remember him not just for his titles, but for his sincerity, his encouragement, and his zest for life. In honoring Budda, we celebrate the spirit of service that he lived every day.

A proud alumnus of UNC-

Charlotte, Budda devoted 33 years to First Citizens Bank, rising to the rank of Senior Vice President before retirement. His drive and vision continued – he acquired Emerald Isle Self Storage in 2015 and later Bogue Storage Park, starting both businesses with the same integrity that informed his banking career.

Budda's spirit truly shone through his community and civic involvement – efforts that resonated deeply with Rotary's ideals of "Service Above Self." He served as President of the Swansboro Rotary Club and the Jacksonville Rotary Club, bringing energy, encouragement, and collaboration to every initiative.

His leadership extended beyond Rotary as President of the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, where he guided local businesses, fostered partnerships, and strengthened economic and civic ties across Onslow County.

Budda also served on the Military Affairs Committee for

Camp Lejeune, a role through which he lent his expertise and care to a cornerstone of our military community. His involvement reflected a heart ready to serve those who served us.

As an ordained deacon, he ministered with compassion and faith, supporting his congregation through both joyful celebrations and difficult times.

Known for his warm laughter and genuine charm, Budda loved attending Carolina Panthers football games. This simple joy grounded him among friends and family.

In addition to his father, he is survived by his two children, Riley Howard and Coley Howard; two grandchildren, Brody Howard and Paisley Howard; a brother, Robbie Howard; a sister, Catherine "Coo" Hocker and husband Shawn; several beloved nephews and a niece; the mother of his children, Phyllis Howard; and his loyal canine companion, Rusty. ■

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Adam Barefield and then-Governor Jim Hunt in February 1995 during a promotion for American Heart Month. Even at a young age, Adam was a caring young man doing what he could to help others.

■ STORY BY JIMMY WILLIAMS

ADAM'S CLOSET

Rotary Funds Student Needs

Tideland News • June 18, 2012 • Reprinted with permission • www.carolinacoastonline.com
Updated September 22, 2025

It's been nine years since the Swansboro Rotary Club launched Adam's Closet, a project that provides funding to area schools, ensuring students get the clothing they need.

Few, if any, club members realized that when Brandon Staton invited a couple of school counselors to speak at a Rotary meeting, they'd be opening the door to Adam's Closet. But that's what happened.

The project is close to the heart of its namesake, Adam Barefield. Born with congenital heart disease, the son of David Barefield of Emerald Isle, a longtime member of Swansboro Rotary Club, and Linda Styron of Morehead City, Adam under-

went open-heart surgery at 7-months old. By the time of his death, at age 18 in 2003, while awaiting a heart transplant, young Adam proved to not only be altruistic, but selfless in his actions.

"I can easily tell all of you that Adam would love the idea of this project and helping those less fortunate children," his father said. "He would be so happy to be part of such a good thing."

According to his mother, Adam was steadfast in his efforts to raise money for the American Heart Association and research heart disease.

In promoting American Heart Month in February 1995, the 9-year-old had the

privilege of having his photo taken with then Governor Jim Hunt. "It was quite an honor," Styron said. "But Adam would not leave before getting a \$5 donation from the governor."

"He loved fundraising," Barefield said. "He had a big heart. He was a kid who wanted to raise money to help others."

As a student, Adam regularly participated and excelled in raising AHA funds during the "Jump Rope for Heart" events.

"He took great pride in learning all about heart disease during his last few years," Barefield said. "However, it was obvious to us that he was also attracted to how caring these professionals were. He



developed a special bond with many of them as they did with him.”

Impressed with the profession, Adam told his family that he hoped to become a heart specialist someday.

For Barefield and Styron, even 20 years after his death, talking about Adam can still be emotional. Similarly, the club’s decision to name its most recent charitable effort after Adam has especially touched his parents.

For that, they have Rotarian Greg Maready to thank.

Staton said the seed for this project started when he invited Danielle Merrell and Laurie Jackson, counselors from White Oak Elementary School, to speak to the club in October 2016. The company he worked for had a special relationship with the school and he wanted the counselors to share their school experiences with the club.

“That’s how we discovered what the children needed,” Barefield said. Club members learned that students from kindergarten-through-fifth-grade needed clothing – everything from coats to socks.

“The teachers and counselors were spending their own money, doing what they had to do to ensure the children at their school did not go without,” Barefield added.

Staton said the presentation impressed the club membership, providing insight into how much need there is right here. “You’d be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn’t think that teachers are underpaid,” Staton continued. “Yet, they always go the extra mile for their students.”

When the counselors finished talking, it was Barefield who spoke next, according to Staton.

“David stood up and said, ‘Here’s \$20.’ By the time they left, we’d collected \$564,” he said.

The needs of the school children must have weighed heavily on the hearts of the club members because at the next Rotary board meeting Staton said a suggestion was made to create a project to assist students who needed articles of clothing.

Club member Garland Sewell recommended a 10-year commitment (at least

to begin with) providing between \$3,500 and \$6,000 per year, which was enough to pay for up to 100 coats and 100 pairs of shoes each year.

“They knew it would be a good project,” Barefield said.

It was at that point that Maready suggested they call the project “Adam’s Closet,” according to Staton.

Though there won’t be an actual closet, the club hopes to develop relationships with retailers so that when a school official identifies a child in need of a specific item of clothing, there will be funds available to purchase that item. The fund and the relationship with the retailer will be a “virtual” closet.

In 2016, the club began funding two schools – White Oak Elementary and Swansboro Elementary, according to Staton. He called the initial effort a “pilot program.”

“It allowed us to study the impact,” he said. “We wanted to start with the two schools to iron out any inefficiencies.”

Lisa Peele, principal of Swansboro Elementary at the time, said the program was a great thing at her school.

“It was an awesome partnership that we have with them,” she said of the Rotarians. “I was excited to be part of the program.”

Peele, who had been at the school for 10 years, said that annually, between 150 to 200 students – out of a student population of about 600 – needed clothing.

For Terri Brett, principal at White Oak Elementary School at the time, the assistance did more than fill a need; it also brought to light the role schools play in the lives of young people.

“They (Rotarians) know that the schools try to be problem solvers ... to do things that can have a positive impact,” she said. “They want to help ... and that is very gratifying.”

Since its inception in 2016, the program has gained serious momentum. “What began with 2 local schools has now expanded to 25 schools evenly spread between Onslow, Jones, and Carteret counties,” according to Barefield.

“The Rotary Club’s annual budget now allots \$25,000 for Adam’s Closet, distrib-

uted evenly between the 25 schools, and it can be modified as needed,” Barefield said.

Adam’s Closet is working wonders for those students in need of decent clothing. Before the program, teachers were trying to fund the clothing needs of their students out of their own pockets.

“They couldn’t just sit by and watch the children suffer and be humiliated because of their clothing,” Barefield added.

In February 2022, Cathy Tomon, principal at Bridges School in Morehead City, recounted the time she noticed that one student was wearing the same clothes for a week. He told her he had nothing else to wear.

“When I asked him to take off his shoe to see his size, he only had half a sock on. He didn’t even have underwear!” she said. “With the funds you provided, we were able to purchase 3 pairs of pants, 2 sweatshirts, 2 pairs of shoes, underwear, socks, and a belt for this child.”

Swansboro Elementary provided 81 items of clothing and 12 pairs of nice tennis shoes this winter for their students.

In 2020, Swansboro Middle School counselor Kevin Dick emailed the club, “For February, because of your generosity, we were able to obtain 4 boys jackets, 3 girls coats, 12 pairs of gloves, and 10 hats. The students were very appreciative of the warm wear.”

“Adam’s Closet provides a much-needed source of funding for local students in our community, and there are no administrative fees,” according to Barefield. “One hundred percent of everything we collect goes to the schools,” he said. “There is no gray area.” The club also absorbs the cost of annual tax filing, according to Barefield. ■

Anyone who wishes to contribute to Adam’s Closet can do so by mailing a tax-deductible donation to:
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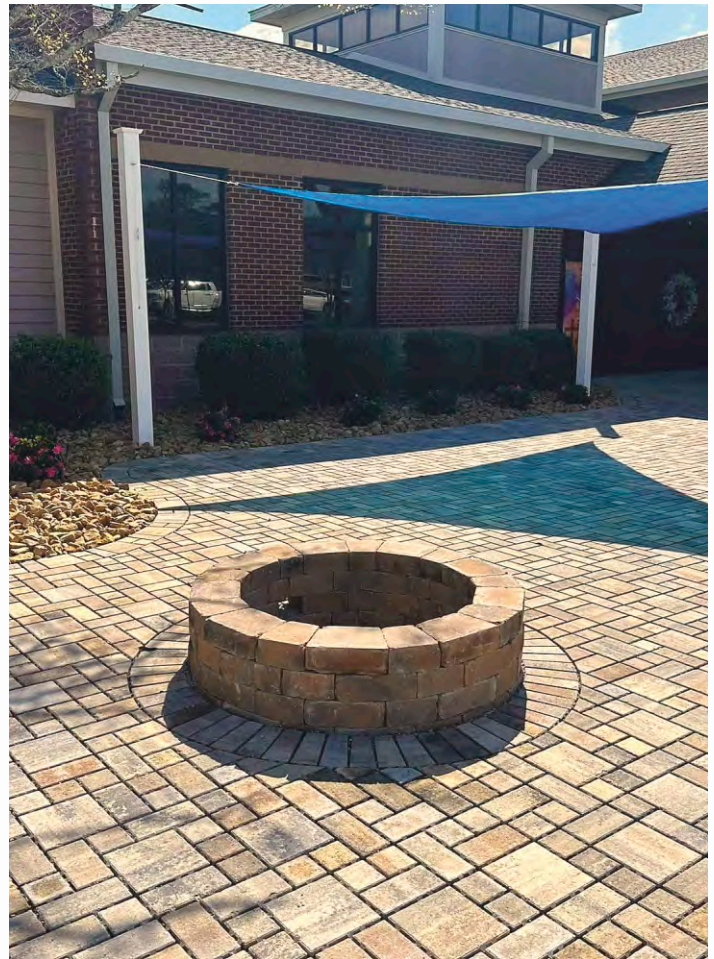
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Team "White Lightning" of Wake Forest won a tournament-record \$144,452 with a 45.06-pound king mackerel. Captain Tim Hudson entered almost every category, including the NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate TWT – a \$5,250 win – and the new Elite 10 Aggregate Winner Take All TWT garnering a \$42,500 win. (PointClickFish photo)

2024 TOURNAMENT REPORT

White Lightning Sets A Prize Money Record

■ STORY BY ZACK NALLY

Tideland News Report

Tideland News • October 23, 2024 • Reprinted with permission
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The 44th Annual Swansboro Rotary Five-O King Mackerel Tournament began on Tuesday, October 15, with a fantastic Captain's Party at the beautiful Farm 58 Wedding & Event Venue in Swansboro. This event marked the beginning of exciting fishing from Thursday, October 17, leading up to an incredible Awards Party on Saturday, followed by a free concert featuring the talented Spare Change Band hosted by Saltwater Grill..



Wake Forest-based boat **White Lightning** captured the 44th annual Swansboro Rotary Five-O King Mackerel Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024.

The Tim Hudson-captained boat weighed a 45.06-pounder on day one of the three-day competition to win \$144,452, the biggest payout in tournament history.

Less than a half-pound is all that separated **White Lightning** from the next boat, **Release**. The Clayton boat captained by Mike Williams just missed the mark with a 44.61-pound fish. The two-fish aggregate race was even closer, with **White Lightning's** catches weighing a combined 77.92 pounds to **Release's** 77.89 pounds.

Release went home with \$35,398 in prize money.

White Lightning was entered into just about every category, including the NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate division that raises money to provide services for law enforcement officers,

firefighters, and emergency service personnel. The boat was also entered in the brand-new Elite 10 Aggregate Winner Take All division, which saw six sign ups this year.

She Said Yes Again out of Elon rounded out the podium with a third-place fish weighing 39.31 pounds and winning the boat \$15,338 in prize money.

Double Down won \$6,000 for fourth place with a 34.63-pound fish, **Slick Finish** won \$5,000 for fifth place with a 33.5-pounder and **Windy Conditions** won \$3,500 for sixth place with a 29.3-pounder.

Wendy Tillett of **Windy Conditions** won the Lady Angler award with her 29.3-pound catch, Kaylee Mitchell of **Pipesplus** was the Junior Angler winner with a 12.62-pounder, and Hudson took home the Senior Angler honors.

Gone Again placed second in the two-fish aggregate division with 56.81 combined pounds, while **Windy Conditions** placed third with 56.05.

Windy Conditions was last year's overall winner and recipient of \$139,668 in prize money for a 59.85-pound king mackerel.

Five teams won \$1000 each in the \$5000 Out of the Money Prize category. Five teams from 11th to last place weighed get placed in a random drawing. Winners in this year's prize drawing were **Animal House**, **Full Coverage**, **Reel Moore**, **Money Grows On Trees**, and **Ali-Kat**.

The tournament, which is named the Five-O because it limits the field of boats to 50, only saw two king mackerel weighing 40 pounds or more come in to the weigh station. There were 25 fish brought to the downtown scales at the Church Street Dock. Salt Water Grill hosted the awards ceremony on Saturday.

The money raised by the Rotary Club from the tournament goes to a variety of community-enriching charities.

Between the Swansboro Rotary Bluewater Memorial Day Tournament and the Five-O, \$270,000 has been donated to NCLEAP and almost \$1.3 million in scholarships have been awarded to students from Croatan and Swansboro high schools. ■



"Release" went home with \$35,398 in prize money after placing second by less than half a pound. "Release" placed 1st in the Heaviest King on Day Two and in the two Day Aggregate TWT with 77.89 pounds. They also placed 2nd in the High Roller TWT as well as the NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate. (PointClickFish photo)



2024

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS AND PAYOUTS

2024 TOURNAMENT WINNERS

KING MACKEREL TOURNAMENT – TOTAL PAYOUT

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	45.06 lbs	\$144,452
2nd	Mike Williams	Release	44.61 lbs	\$35,398
3rd	James B Morris	She Said Yes Again	39.31 lbs	\$15,338
4th	Brandon Delong	Double Down	34.63 lbs	\$9,664
5th	Brandon Moore	Slick Finish	33.50 lbs	\$5,000
6th	Henry Tillett	Windy Conditions	29.30 lbs	\$7,240
7th	John P Munden, Jr	Gone Again	29.17 lbs	\$8,610
8th	Greg Dennis	The Reel Outdoors	28.58 lbs	\$4,846
9th	Kevin J Norris	Reel Blessed	28.25 lbs	\$2,000
10th	William Gainey	GainTime/Seaside Collision	27.71 lbs	\$3,064

LEVEL I KING MACKEREL

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	45.06 lbs	\$30,000
2nd	Mike Williams	Release	44.61 lbs	\$10,000
3rd	James B Morris	She Said Yes Again	39.31 lbs	\$7,000
4th	Brandon Delong	Double Down	34.63 lbs	\$6,000
5th	Brandon Moore	Slick Finish	33.50 lbs	\$5,000
6th	Henry Tillett	Windy Conditions	29.30 lbs	\$3,500
7th	John P Munden, Jr	Gone Again	29.17 lbs	\$3,000
8th	Greg Dennis	The Reel Outdoors	28.58 lbs	\$2,500
9th	Kevin J Norris	Reel Blessed	28.25 lbs	\$2,000
10th	William Gainey	GainTime/Seaside Collision	27.71 lbs	\$1,500

LEVEL II HEAVIEST KING MACKEREL DAY ONE

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	45.06 lbs	\$3,910
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LEVEL III HEAVIEST KING MACKEREL DAY TWO

1st	Mike Williams	Release	44.61 lbs	\$3,910
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LEVEL IV TWO DAY AGGREGATE KING MACKEREL WEIGHT

1st	Mike Williams	Release	77.89 lbs	\$9,350
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LEVEL V HEAVIEST KING

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	45.06 lbs	\$4,993
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LEVEL VI HIGH ROLLER KING MACKEREL

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	45.06 lbs	\$9,987
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LEVEL VII WINNER TAKE ALL MACK DADDY

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	45.06 lbs	\$47,812
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LEVEL VIII NCLEAP 50/50 AGGREGATE

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	77.92lbs	\$5,250
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LEVEL IX ELITE 10 AGGREGATE WTA

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	77.92 lbs	\$42,500
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JUNIOR ANGLER

1st	Kaylee Mitchell	Pipesplus	12.62 lb	\$500.00
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LADY ANGLER

1st	Wendy Tillett	Windy Conditions	29.30 lb	PRIZE
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SENIOR ANGLER

1st	Tim Hudson	White Lightning	45.06 lb	PRIZE
-----	------------	-----------------	----------	-------

CLOSEST TO 43 LBS

1st	Mike Williams	Release	44.61 lbs	PRIZE
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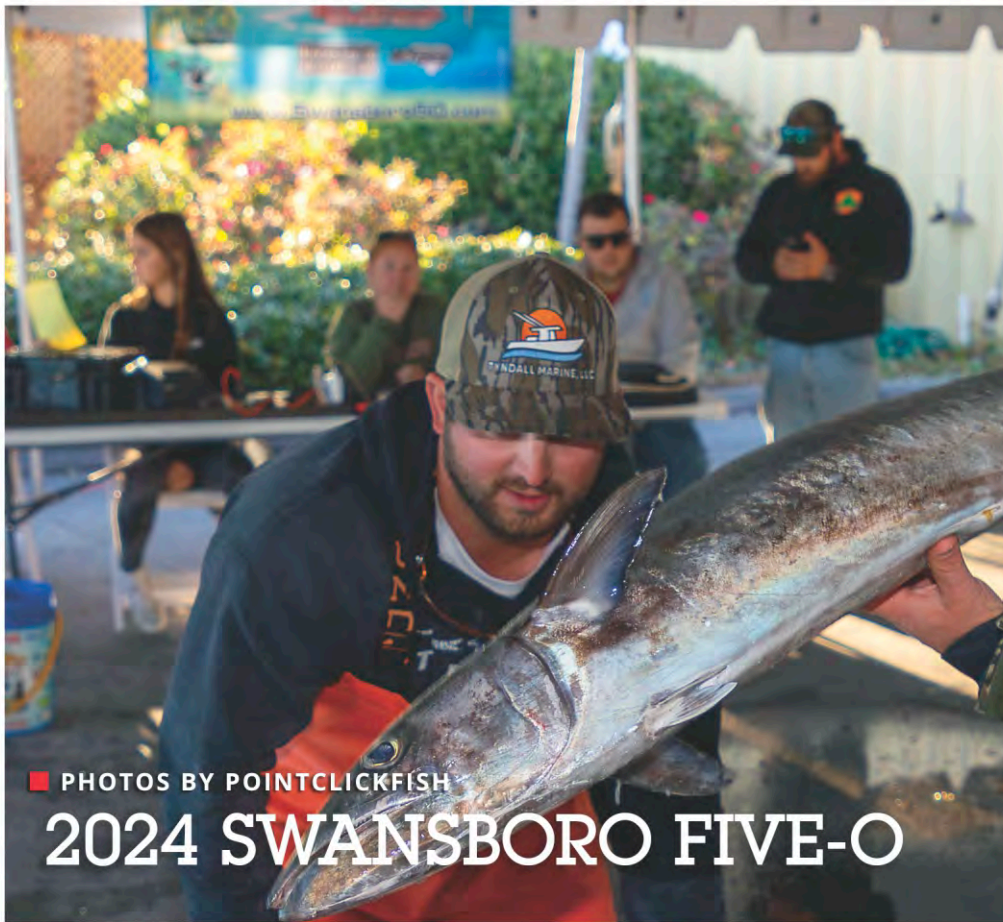
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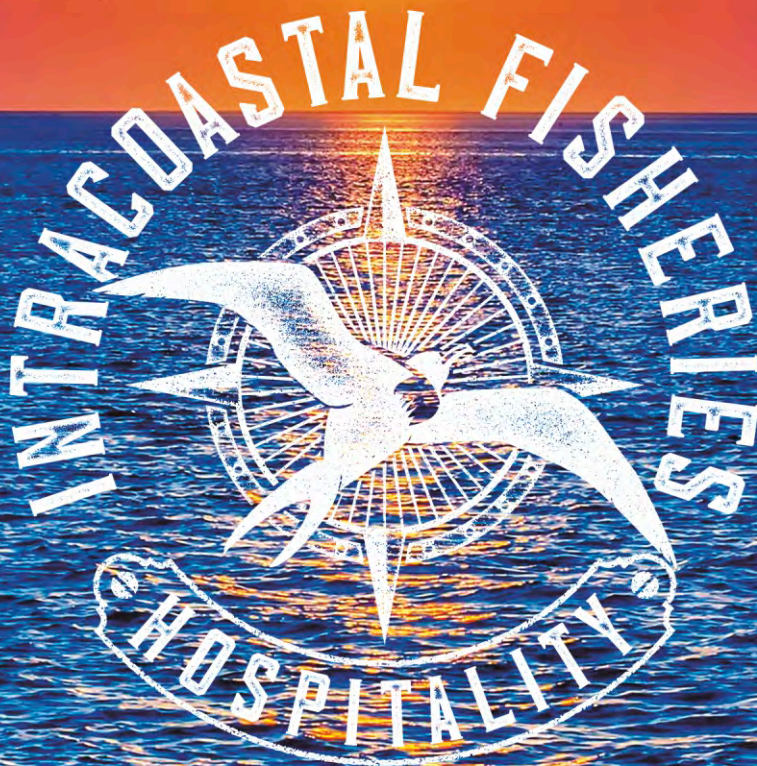
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45TH ANNUAL SWANSBORO ROTARY FISHING TOURNAMENT SERIES

SWANSBORO FIVE-O TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Fishing days will be Thursday, Friday, & Saturday – Fishing 2 out of 3 days!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

CAPTAIN'S PARTY 6 PM

The Captain's Party is ON with live music, open bar, raffles, good food, and good fellowship!
Birdie's at Star Hill • 202 Club House Dr • Cape Carteret, NC

**CAPTAINS MEETING 8 PM | TWT REGISTRATION OPEN IN PERSON 6 PM-9 PM
OPEN ONLINE UNTIL WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT MIDNIGHT**

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 16, 17, & 18, 2025**

Pick 2 out of 3 | FISHING DAYS BEGIN AT 8 AM

CHECK-IN BY 6 PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY | CHECK-IN BY 5PM ON SATURDAY

Lines in the water at 8 AM • Scales open at 4 PM
Saltwater Grill • Downtown Swansboro

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

AWARDS PARTY AT 7 PM

FREE CONCERT FEATURING SPARE CHANGE



AWARDS PRESENTATION AROUND 8:30 PM

Saltwater Grill • Downtown Swansboro

For More Information | 252.241.0669 | www.swansboro50.com

2025 KING MACKEREL TOURNAMENT



2025 swansboro five-O rules & regulations

The rules set forth by the Tournament Committee in no way modify or abridge State and Federal fishing Regulations. It is the responsibility of each Captain to know and adhere to these Regulations.

1. **Deadline for Entries.** There will be entries available for a maximum of 50 boats in this King Mackerel Tournament. Registration will open online for the 50 boats that participated in the **2024 Swansboro Five-O on Friday, April 11, 2025** at 11 AM to renew their spot. Registration will open to the public on **Friday, May 2, 2025** at 11 AM. Registration will close at such time 50 boats have properly registered. **Registrations must be completed in full. Blatant attempts entered with incorrect information to advance entry will not be accepted.** Tournament Committee reserves the right to review and deny entry to

anyone. Once 50 boats have registered, the Tournament will accept a paid entry waiting list. A boat will be added to the waiting list in the order the entry was received. If any of the 50 boats entered drop out before 9 PM on **Tuesday, October 14, 2025** the next boat who is properly registered on the waiting list will have the option to become one of the 50 boats. Tournament-Within-A-Tournament (TWT) categories can be entered by the 50 boats until midnight on Wednesday, **October 15, 2025** online.

2. **Each individual spot in the Five-O** is owned by the Captain that originally registered for it. Spots are non-transferrable.
3. **Entry Fees.** The entry fee for the King Mackerel Tournament shall be \$1,500 per boat for Level I entry **before September 1, 2025.** All entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. Any

registrant who has paid to be on the waiting list and who does not advance to be one of the 50 boats will receive a 100% refund within 30 days of **October 19, 2025.**

4. **Payment of Entries.** At the opening of registration on **April 11, 2025** all participants must pay a minimum of \$750 (50% of Level I entry fee) to secure their entry as one of the 50 boats. The \$750 balance of the entry fee must be paid and received by the Tournament Registration Committee **no later than September 1, 2025.** TWT entry fees may be paid at the time of online registration or **from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on October 14, 2025** at the Captain's Party or **online until Midnight, October 15, 2025.**
5. **The Tournament is a Captain's Choice.** In the event of "extreme" weather, the Tournament Committee has the right to adjust the schedule or postpone. In the event the

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2025 swansboro five-O rules & regulations



Tournament Committee cancels the Tournament, 85% of the Level I entry fee and 90% of any TWT fees will be refunded within sixty (60) days of the cancellation.

6. **You must declare your lay day** by 8 AM online at www.Swansboro50.com on the day you intend to lay. You will receive confirmation immediately. If you do not receive your notification, text your lay day to 910-290-0919. Be sure to include your boat name and tournament number. **Fishing days will be Thursday, October 16, Friday, October 17, and Saturday, October 18, 2025.** A team can only fish 2 out of 3 days.
7. **Fishing Boundaries.** No Checkout. No Boundaries. All boats must exit NC inlets and return to NC inlets.
8. **Official Tournament Channel** will be VHF 68 and monitored by

Tournament Officials for any questions and check-in.

9. **All King Mackerel Tournament Fish** must be weighed-in at Saltwater Grill in Downtown Swansboro, the official weigh-station for the Swansboro Five-O.
10. **Fishing Times.** No lines in the water prior to 8 AM.
11. **There will be no official ending time** for King Mackerel tournament fishing, but boats weighing a fish must be checked in with the Tournament check-in boat **no later than 6 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 5 PM on Saturday of the competition.** The check-in boat will be stationed at 4 PM at Swansboro check-points near Casper's Marina and Saltwater Grill on the ICW. Scales open at Saltwater Grill for King Mackerel weigh-in at 4 PM each day. Boats failing to meet these deadlines will be EXCLUDED

from the competition.

12. **Once a boat has checked-in** at the checkpoint, boats must proceed towards the Official Weigh Station at Saltwater Grill in safe, *common sense*, single-file fashion without land stops.
13. **All species must be weighed-in** from the boat from which they are caught. No trucking or overland transport-ation of fish. Fish must be off-loaded from the boat at designated area ONLY. Any fish not off-loaded from the boat at designated area will be disqualified. ONLY ONE FISH will be eligible for weigh-in and inspection UNLESS the boat is entered in the NCLEAP or Elite 10 Aggregate TWTs.
14. **Level VIII NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate and Level IX Elite 10 Aggregate Winner Take All:** These levels allow each boat entered to weigh 2 King

Rules & Regs continued on pg 54

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SWANSBORO FIVE-O CASH & PRIZES

1st PLACE \$160,688
2nd PLACE \$31,038 • 3rd PLACE \$21,025*

* Total top 3 payout if all 50 boats enter all levels and are won accordingly

LEVEL I KING MACKEREL

1st- 10th Places

(Based on 50 boat CAP)

1st Place	\$30,000
2nd Place	\$10,000
3rd Place	\$7,000
4th Place	\$6,000
5th Place	\$5,000
6th Place	\$3,500
7th Place	\$3,000
8th Place	\$2,500
9th Place	\$2,000
10th Place	\$1,500

TWT PAYOUT BASED ON 50 ENTRIES

TWT payout is based on 50 entries.
To be eligible for these prizes, anglers
must be entered in Level I. TWT payout
increases or decreases proportionally
based on the number of boats
entering each level.

KING MACKEREL TWTs

LEVEL II Heaviest King Mackerel Day 1

\$8,500

1st 50% • 2nd 30% • 3rd 20%

LEVEL III Heaviest King Mackerel Day 2

\$8,500

1st 50% • 2nd 30% • 3rd 20%

LEVEL IV Aggregate King Mackerel Weight (1 Fish per Day)

\$21,250

1st 50% • 2nd 30% • 3rd 20%

LEVEL V Heaviest King

\$10,625

1st 50% • 2nd 30% • 3rd 20%

LEVEL VI High Roller King Mackerel

\$21,250

1st 50% • 2nd 30% • 3rd 20%

LEVEL VII Winner Take All Mack Daddy

\$53,125

LEVEL VIII NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate

\$21,250

1st 50% • 2nd 30% • 3rd 20%

Weigh two fish both days, best two out of four fish count
towards your weight for NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate ONLY.

LEVEL IX Elite 10 Aggregate

Winner Take All

\$42,500

\$5000 Entry. This is a 2 Fish Aggregate
TWT only open to the FIRST 10 TEAMS
entered in the tournament.

OTHER PRIZE CATEGORIES

Trophies and Prizes awarded to:

Junior Angler

Under 16 by October 14, 2025

\$500 to 1st Place

Sponsored by The Reel Outdoors

Lady Angler

16 and older by October 14, 2025

Sponsored by Henry's Muffler Shop

Senior Angler

55 and older by October 14, 2025

Sponsored by The Reel Outdoors

Fish Closest to 45 lbs

Fish closest to 45 lbs wins a Spray-In
Bedliner from Crystal Coast Truckworks.

\$5000 Outta the Money Prize

5 random teams from 11th to last place
weighed will receive \$1,000 each!

Random drawing will be done
at the Awards Party.



2025 SWANSBORO FIVE-O PARTICIPANTS LIST

Listed by Boat Number



2025 KING MACKEREL TOURNAMENT

NO	BOAT NAME	CITY	CAPTAIN
1	The Reel Outdoors	Emerald Isle, NC	Greg Dennis
2	Flattop	Cape Carteret, NC	Tony Stephenson
3	Liquid Fire	Cape Carteret, NC	C Mark Henderson
4	Purdy Work	Swansboro, NC	Justin K Cleve
5	Ali-Kat	Stella, NC	John W Temple
6	Sea Dawgs	Swansboro, NC	Ted Connor
7	Reel Greedy Fishing Team	Hampstead, NC	W Randall Edens
8	Money Grows On Trees	Jacksonville, NC	William Croom
9	Reel Developers	Parkton, NC	Jeremy Calhoun
10	Hoo Hunter	Cape Carteret, NC	Chip Sanders
11	Gamechanger	St Augustine, FL	Nathan Stuart
12	Rug Man	Swansboro, NC	Jamie Wallace
13	Reinstated	Swansboro, NC	Brandon Sewell
14	Lil John/Reel Em Up	New Bern, NC	Hunter L Moore
15	OBX Girl	Tarboro, NC	James Dupree, Jr
16	Reel Blessed	Sneads Ferry, NC	Kevin Joel Norris
17	Service Call	Tarboro, NC	Patrick Overstreet, IV
18	Performance East	Goldsboro, NC	Travis N Weeks
19	Xcessive Risk	Emerald Isle, NC	Athan M Parker
20	Windy Conditions	Beaufort, NC	Henry Tillett
21	Lucky 3	Morehead City, NC	Franklin D Rouse
22	On Point	Cedar Point, NC	Jason Watson
23	Drug Money	Pink Hill, NC	Christopher Johnson
24	Wall Hanger	Raleigh, NC	Brian Allen
25	White Lightning	Atlantic Beach, NC	Tim Hudson
26	Team Onslow Bay	Hampstead, NC	John B Knight, Jr
27	Second Chanze	Morehead City, NC	John Earl Lewis
28	Beach Bums	Hubert, NC	Matt Henderson
29	Pain Killer	Wendell, NC	Evan Pollard
30	Hot Grits	Kinston, NC	Ned T Grady
31	Weekend Hooker	Atlantic Beach, NC	Patrick Davis
32	Gone Again	Morehead City, NC	John P Munden, Jr
33	Magic Marlin/Lee's Hardwood Flooring	Raleigh, NC	Daniel Lee
34	Double Down	Rolesville, NC	Brandon Delong
35	She Said Yes Again	Elon, NC	James B Morris
36	Release	Clayton, NC	Mike Williams
37	Slick Finish	Benson, NC	Brandon Moore
38	Triple Trouble	Hurdle Mills, NC	Phillip Mitchell
39	Conference Call	Supply, NC	Laurie C Blankenship
40	Clear Cut	Williamston, NC	Ryan Kennedy
41	Bug-N-A-Rug Fishing Team/Surf N Turf	Wilmington, NC	Stanley Hollingsworth
42	Full Coverage	Newport, NC	David Smith
43	Greasy Monkey	Snow Hill, NC	Jeff Tyson
44	Checkin-In	Peletier, NC	Robin V Comer
45	Payday	Swansboro, NC	James Dolph
46	Collision Course	Wilmington, NC	Michael Lucas
47	Unreel Fishing Team	La Grange, NC	John Moore
48	Reel Moore	Clayton, NC	David C Moore, Jr
49	Bluchips	Fayetteville, NC	Nicholas B Brown
50	Pipesplus	Kinston, NC	William H Dail

Rules & Regs

– continued from page 51

Mackerel per declared fishing day, and will be scored by the best 2 out of 4 fish. This is a 2-fish aggregate weight totaled from the best 2 out of 4 King Mackerel for each team entered. **A boat may still qualify with a single fish if they do not have 2 to weigh.**

15. **All fish must be caught by rod and reel.**
16. **Weighed and donated fish** become the property of the Swansboro Rotary Club Fishing Tournament.
17. **Each boat should be represented** at the Captain's Meeting. Each Captain is responsible for knowing any changes that may be announced at the Captain's Meeting.
18. **In the event two or more fish** are the exact same weight, the fish weighed first shall be declared the winner.
19. **For safety purposes**, all boats entered must adhere to USCG and NC Marine Fisheries regulations for their size.
20. **A boat MAY be replaced**, due to verified mechanical failure, after competition begins, with the Rules Committee's approval, for the next day of competition. Any changes made after registration must be approved by the Tournament Committee.
21. **Prizes to be awarded to the boats** with the heaviest fish. In Level I, only one prize per boat will be awarded.
22. **All checks will be mailed** to winners within 14 days following the awards presentation.
23. **All winners may be subjected to a polygraph examination.** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to inspect all boats entered in the competition at any time.
24. **This is a multiple-day competition**, therefore, no King Mackerel shall be on any boat before competition hours begin on any day of competition. Any violation in this rule will result in automatic disqualification for both days of competition.
25. **Any two or more boats coming together** for any reason after a boat begins competition and before weigh-in, may be disqualified. Competition officially begins for a boat once their fishing lines are put in the water. As safety is of primary importance permission may be granted for exceptions by the Committee Boats or Tournament Headquarters.
26. **Buying bait from a licensed bait boat** is permitted prior to beginning your day of competition. Competition officially begins for a boat once their fishing lines are put in the water.
27. **All fish must be brought to the weigh station** by the boat on which it was caught, under its own power.
28. **Boats are to proceed in an orderly fashion** to the weigh station. One member of the crew must remain with the fish to verify weigh-in and sign the weigh-slip. Boats will not be tied up in the designated off-loading area and crew must depart

immediately after off-loading fish.

29. **Junior Angler, Senior Angler and Lady Angler Rules and Definitions:** The boat and no more than one (1) Junior, Lady or Senior Angler get credit for the fish weighed. Any Junior, Lady, and Senior Anglers must accompany the fish to the scales, print their name and sign the weigh slip to get credit.
30. **A Junior Angler is determined** by not having reached the age of 16 by the date of the Captain's Meeting on **October 14, 2025**. A **Lady Angler** is any female who has attained her 16th birthday by the date of the Captain's Meeting on **October 14, 2025**. A **Senior Angler** is any angler who has attained their 55th birthday by the date of the Captain's Meeting on **October 14, 2025**. An angler may only qualify for one category.
31. **Minimum size limit of 30-inches** for all King Mackerel entered in the Tournament and only one (1) King Mackerel allowed to be weighed-in per boat per day unless entered in specified TWT's allowing otherwise. If weighing two fish for a related TWT, the heaviest qualifies for Level 1.
32. **Once officially registered**, all entry fees are non-refundable.
33. **Any Tournament Official or Tournament Sponsor** entering the Tournament in compliance with the Tournament rules is eligible for any and all prizes.
34. **All tournament participants** consent and authorize the Tournament Committee and their advertising/public relations agencies to use and reproduce names, voices, and/or photographs – whether taken or recorded – and circulate the same for any, and all purposes of publicity and advertising of all kinds and description in any, and all media formats.
35. **Any protests must be made in person** to a tournament committee official by 6 PM on the final fishing day accompanied by a \$1,000 cash non-refundable protest fee.
36. **All participants must follow** local, state, and federal recreational fishing rules and regulations.
37. **The Tournament Rules Committee** shall determine the solution to questions, situations or protests, and its judgment **SHALL BE FINAL**.
38. **The Tournament Rules Committee** reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone. ■



SWANSBORO ROTARY CLUB FISHING TOURNAMENT SERIES IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF NCLEAP

NCLEAP



North Carolina
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NCLEAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing peer-driven assistance to First Responders who have been involved in critical incidents. While everyday cumulative stress can take its toll, critical incident stress is different in that it directly relates to a dramatic event or events inherent in the life of first responder that can result in a number of debilitating symptoms.

The mission of the North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program (NCLEAP) is to respond to the actual needs of law enforcement officers, first responders, their families and civilian staff. The work of NCLEAP is focused on turning vulnerability into strength through education, training, peer support, and pastoral care.



North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program (NCLEAP)

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WWW.NC-LEAP.ORG

NCLEAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our services are offered at no charge to the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency service personnel. Our funding comes through donations of individuals like you.







NCLEAP:

Supporting North Carolina's First Responders

■ STORY BY **LINDA FOLGER**



First responders dedicate their lives to protecting our communities, often placing themselves in situations that most people can hardly imagine. From line-of-duty shootings to fatal accidents, natural disasters, and other critical incidents, the emotional weight of their service can be immense.

Recognizing this reality, the North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program (NCLEAP) was established to provide specialized care and recovery resources for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and their families.

Origins of NCLEAP

NCLEAP was co-founded by Aaron Back, a veteran law enforcement officer, and Chaplain Danny B. Leonard, who has decades of experience in pastoral support and critical incident response. Their vision was to create a unique program that combined peer support with chaplaincy care, ensuring that first responders would never have to navigate trauma alone.

Drawing on the highly regarded Post-Critical Incident Seminar (PCIS) model first introduced by the FBI in 1985, NCLEAP hosts multi-day seminars where participants learn about trauma, resilience, and practical strategies for recovery. These seminars are peer-driven, blending the experience of fellow responders with the guidance of trained facilitators, mental health professionals, and chaplains.

Mission and Services

The heart of NCLEAP's mission is to strengthen resilience in North Carolina's first responder community by offering: peer-to-peer support that connects



responders who have walked through similar experiences, post-critical incident seminars that feature multi-day programs to process trauma and learn recovery strategies, and chaplaincy services that provides spiritual care and support to individuals and agencies.

By offering these services at no cost to participants, NCLEAP fills a critical gap in first responder care. The program has become a trusted ally for law enforcement agencies across the state, helping officers and their families heal and return to service with renewed strength.

Swansboro Rotary Partnership

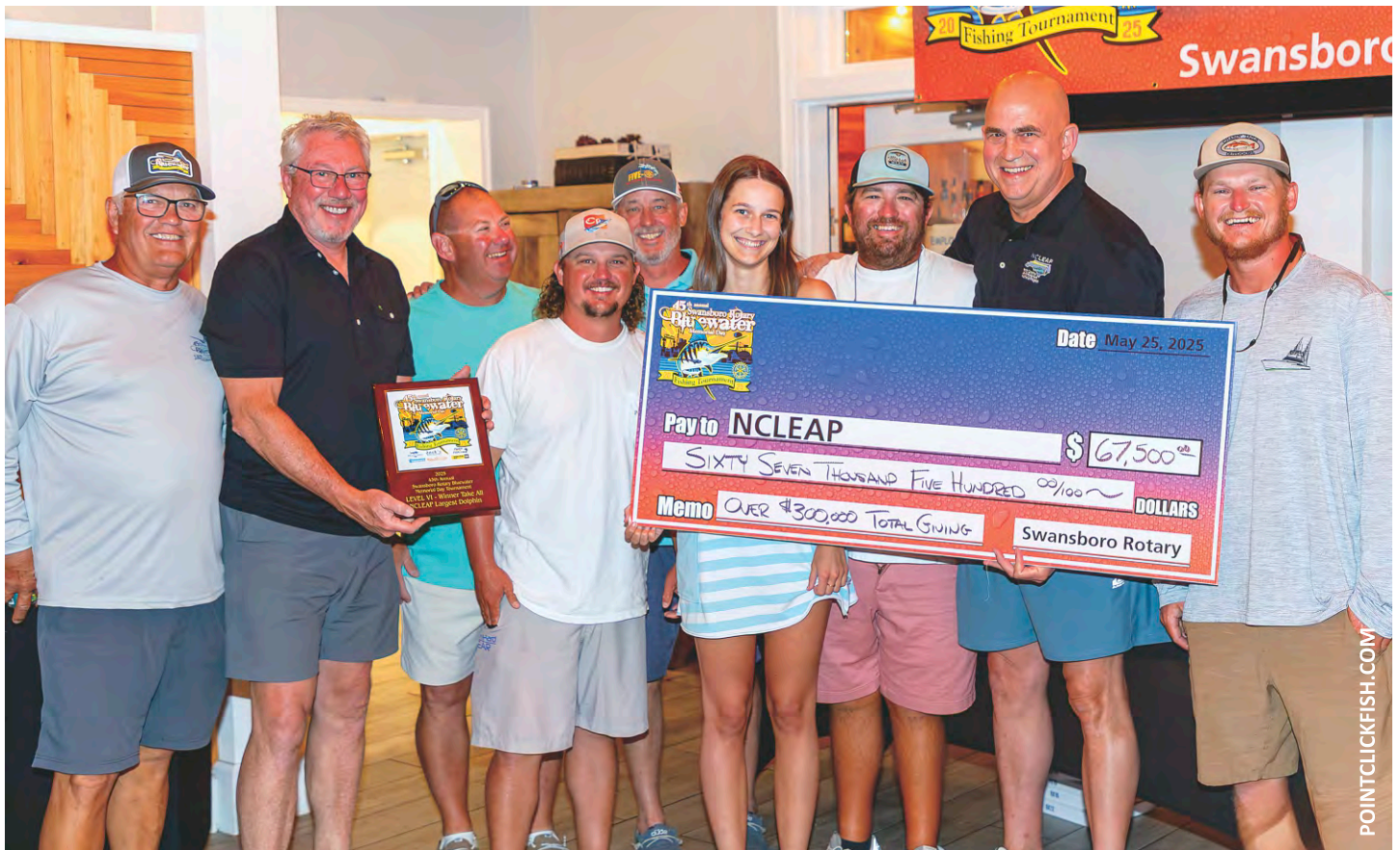
The Swansboro Rotary Club has been a proud supporter of NCLEAP, recognizing the tremendous value it brings to those who keep our communities safe. Through financial gifts and ongoing awareness efforts, Swansboro Rotary has helped ensure that NCLEAP can continue to deliver its services at no cost to participants. This partnership reflects Rotary's broader mission of *Service Above Self* – standing alongside the men and women who serve on the front lines every day.

Looking Ahead

As NCLEAP continues its mission, partnerships like the one with Swansboro Rotary demonstrate the power of community support. Together, they are investing in the well-being of first responders, building stronger individuals, families, and communities across North Carolina.

Since The Swansboro Rotary Club partnered with NCLEAP in 2020, over \$300,000 has been raised and donated to NCLEAP.

For more information about NCLEAP and its upcoming seminars, visit www.nc-leap.org ■



The Swansboro Rotary Club presented NCLEAP with a check for \$67,500 at the 2025 Swansboro Memorial Day Bluewater Tournament bringing the Rotary's total contribution to NCLEAP to \$337,500 since 2020. Pictured are Aaron Back, founder and director of NCLEAP (holding the check) with Tim Hudson and his crew from "White Lightning," the first place winners of the NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate TWT in this year's tournament.



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■ PHOTOS BY SANDERS HALL

Fun Funds on a Half-Shell

■ STORY BY PAM LAWS

Tideland News • March 18, 2009 • Reprinted with permission • www.carolinacoastonline.com
Reprinted from the 2009 Swansboro Rotary KMT Tournament Book and updated

*Proceeds fund
scholarships for
deserving graduates
from Swansboro
and Croatan
high schools, as
well as other
community
youth projects*

When the doors open at the Rotary Civic Center in Swansboro Saturday evening, it will mark the 44th year that the club has cooked up a batch of oysters for appreciative ticket holders. And, while the tradition continues, times have certainly changed from those early days.

The Swansboro Rotary Club's Oyster Roast and Pig Out Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 5-8 pm, will attract about 1,500 people. That first roast, just over 100 attended, according to Barry Matthews, a charter member and past president of the club.

Chartered on April 4, 1978, Matthews said the club members began seeking some purpose for existence other than meeting once a week for lunch.

"We knew we had to start small, we had no money," said Matthews.

"So many fraternal, civic and professional organizations for men had failed in the Swansboro area."

The only way the club was going to succeed was to do something that mattered, according to Matthews.

It was Ben Licko, the first president, who suggested the Rotary club follow the lead of the successful local

American Business Women's Association chapters and offer scholarships to deserving Swansboro High School graduates.

The club members agreed, but now that it had a purpose, it needed money.

"We came up with the idea of having an oyster roast, it seemed like the easiest thing in the world to do to make about a thousand bucks," said Matthews.

Bud Davis, another charter member, agreed to allow the Rotary Club to hold the first oyster roast at his car lot, Davis Auto Sales.

"We printed 100 tickets (to sell) at \$10 each," said Matthews. "That was for all the oysters you could eat and all the beer you could drink."

All the tickets were pre-sold for the first event and additional money was collected at the gate as people brought other people to the oyster roast.

The oyster roast was so successful the Rotarians decided to make it an annual event. The second roast also took place at Davis Auto Sales, but because it grew in popularity it was moved just down Norris Road to the Moose Lodge the third year, according to Matthews.

Eventually, the club had to move the event to the Cedar Point Flea Mall, which was at the corner of Old Highway 58 and NC 24.

"It was a gigantic property compared to what we were used to," said Matthews.

Then, the event moved again to the Western Carteret Fire Department before it was finally moved, in 1997, to the current location with the completion of the Rotary Civic Center.

Over the years, special tables, cookers and oyster cleaning machines were built to accommodate the event. Of particular concern, especially to the newest Rotarians, are the oyster cleaning machines.

Tradition has it that rookie Rotarians, called "Boots," are responsible for cleaning the oysters the club serves. Part of a member's initiation, Matthews explained, is being in charge of the club's "nastiest and dirtiest job."

It is by no means the only job.

"The whole club participates," said Billy Farrington, former club president.

In fact, in addition to the Rotarians, there are about 75 volunteers and 30 members of the Swansboro High School Interact Club that show up to help.

In order to pull off the event, planning starts in January, according to Farrington, who also served as co-chairman of the roast.

But, because there have been so many oyster roasts, he said, "Everyone knows exactly what to do."

For the event that started small, at \$10 a ticket, the cost has increased to \$75 a ticket, but the roast has increased too. Over the years, entertainment has been added and the menu has expanded.

Machine Gun, a variety band, will return this year. About 200 bushels of oysters will be served along with fried flounder, clam chowder, barbecue, hot dogs, coleslaw, hushpuppies, soft drinks, coffee and beer.

Proceeds fund scholarships for deserving graduates from Swansboro and Croatan high schools as well as other community youth projects.

And, while the club sponsors other fundraisers, there is a special place in the club's heart for the oyster roast – one of its longest lasting projects.

"It goes without saying that Swansboro Rotary Club is proud of this event," Matthews said. "It is an event that exemplifies what this town is all about.

"It's been an excellent vehicle to fund things that have been necessary for this community." ■

See more photos on page 64





PHOTOS BY SANDERS HALL

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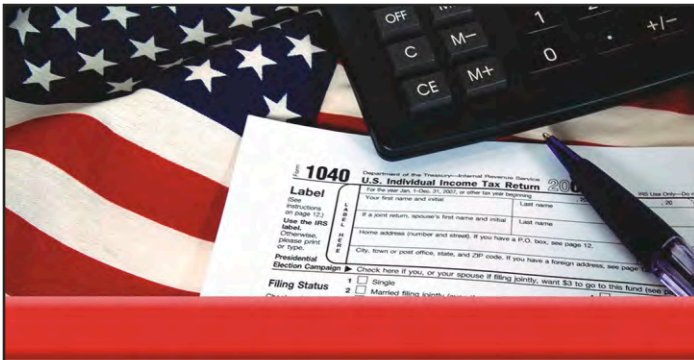
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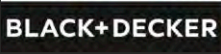
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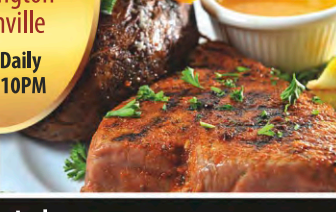

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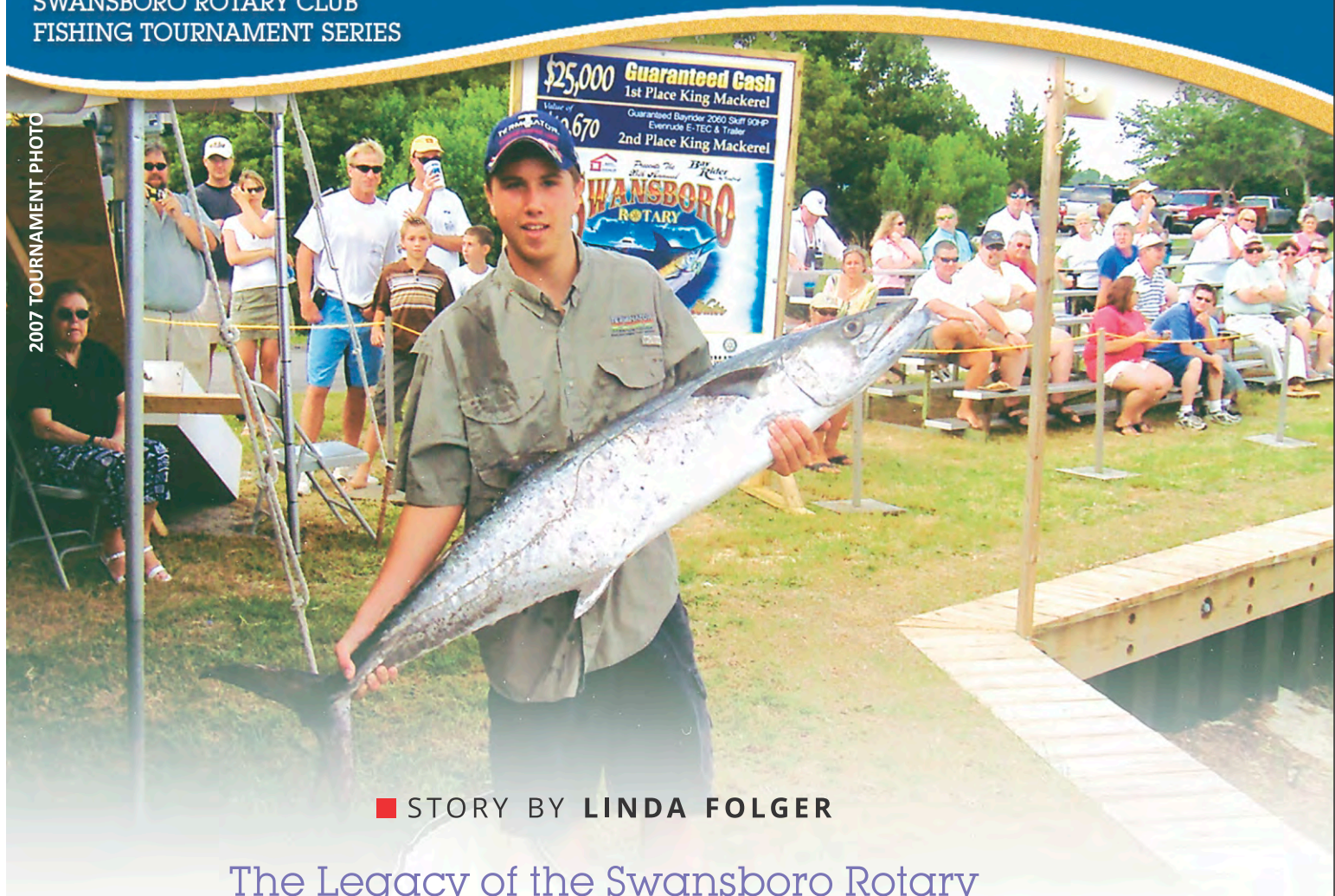
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■ STORY BY LINDA FOLGER

The Legacy of the Swansboro Rotary King Mackerel Tournament

REELING IN TRADITION

In the crisp fall air along North Carolina's Crystal Coast, there's a sound that signals tradition: the hum of engines at daybreak as sportfishing boats head for open water, chasing the silver flash of a king mackerel. For nearly half a century, that sound has meant one thing in Swansboro – it's tournament time.



TOURNAMENT HISTORY

From Humble Start to Premier Event

The Swansboro Rotary King Mackerel Tournament began 45 years ago as a small local fishing competition, organized by a handful of dedicated Rotarians eager to blend fellowship, friendly competition, and community service. Back then, the prizes were modest, the boats fewer, and the weigh-in a simple affair on the docks.

The idea was simple but powerful: create an event that celebrates the area's fishing heritage, draws anglers from near and far, and channels the proceeds into projects that serve the greater good.

Over the decades, that seed grew into one of the Southeast's most anticipated fall fishing events – now known as the **Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel Tournament** in a nod to its milestone anniversaries and prize structure.

The Heart of the Tournament

While the lures and lines are front and center, the heartbeat of the tournament has always been service. Every dollar raised supports the Swansboro Rotary Club's

local and international initiatives – from scholarships for local students and improvements to community facilities, to global projects providing clean water, medical care, and economic opportunities.

Year after year, the tournament has attracted not just competitive anglers chasing big payouts, but also families, young fishers, and seasoned captains looking for camaraderie and a chance to give back.

Growing Prestige and Prize Money

In its early years, the winning fish might have brought home a few hundred dollars. Today, the tournament's prize structure has grown to include tens of thousands in cash, Tournament -Within-A-Tournament (TWT) high-stakes levels, and specialty awards for junior, lady, and senior anglers.

Some boats travel hundreds of miles to compete for the top prize, and the event now boasts sponsorships from marine, outdoor, and local business partners.

A Community Festival on the Water

The tournament has evolved into more than just fishing – it's an autumn festival for Swansboro.

The Captains' Party kicks off the week with live music, food, and fellowship. During fishing days, spectators gather in downtown Swansboro to watch weigh-ins against the backdrop of the White Oak River. And the Awards Party is a celebration in itself, often featuring well-known regional bands and drawing crowds of locals and visitors alike.

Looking Ahead to 2025

The 2025 edition, set for October 14-18, will mark another chapter in this enduring story. Anglers will again test their skill in the Atlantic Ocean, competing for top honors and special category awards – all while knowing their entry fees support causes far beyond the marina.

From its humble beginnings to its current status as a premier king mackerel event on the East Coast, the Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel Tournament is proof that when community, competition, and service intersect, the result is something worth reeling in year after year. ■

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

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TIME PASSES ... BUT NOT THE MEMORIES

■ STORY BY KEN CHASE

*Reprinted from the 2008 Swansboro Rotary
KMT Tournament Book*

As we prepare for the 28th Annual Swansboro Rotary Fishing Tournament, we can't help but think of past tournaments and the many changes that have taken place over the years since that first tournament.

In the early tournaments, smaller Kings were accepted and every fish which met the size limit could be weighed in for which the boat received a fish bowl ticket to win one or more prizes. At one time, the tournament had three days of fishing for Kings. In time, that was reduced to two days and eventually to a one day tournament.

As the years rolled by, it became apparent that the seemingly unlimited number of fish in the oceans was rapidly becoming depleted due to overfishing. While tournaments were not the major cause, they did have an impact.

A key person that had a lot to do with conservation was **Dale Ward** who worked for many years with NC Marine Fisheries Division. Because of his efforts and dedication, changes in tournaments have had an evolutionary effect.

The Swansboro Rotary Tournament is now a one day event with only one fish per boat accepted at the weigh station. The picture in this article shows Dale thoroughly checking a King Mackerel to be sure it qualifies for a prize and also that it is a healthy fish, suitable for consumption.

We think of Dale primarily for his contributions to the fishing industry but we should not forget the impact he had on youthful fishermen, always willing to teach them about conservation so that they can carry on the work that he started.

Alongside Dale in the picture is **Joe Beasley**, for many years the Principal of the Swansboro High School. Joe accurately weighed in each fish brought to the weigh



station. Joe spent many days over the years working alongside Dale at the weigh station. In addition to the contributions to fishing tournaments, Joe will long be remembered for his diligence to teaching. The impact he had on his students as a teacher and as a principal will long be remembered by all of them.

As we remember those fun times with Dale and Joe, we also remember the sadness that came with the passing of these fine men. Their contributions will long be remembered by the myriads that came in contact with them. Each of these men received the highest honor given by the Swansboro Rotary Fishing Tournament by dedicating a tournament to them.

There appears to be an increase in the number of King Mackerel in the oceans. If true, we can attribute that, in part, to the conservation efforts of men like Dale Ward and Joe Beasley. We can all benefit by their tireless efforts on conservation. More information on these men can be found in the following past tournament magazines: Dale Ward, 2004; Joe Beasley, 2007.

Memories are something we cherish as we age. The greater the impact of memories on our lives, the longer they will last. Dale and Joe will surely be in our memories for a long, long time. Many future generations will benefit by what these men did in their lifetimes.

They epitomize what memories are all about. ■

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

THE FOUNDING EIGHT

THIRTY-FIVE AND COUNTING...

■ STORY BY **BARRY MATTHEWS**

Reprinted from the 2015 Swansboro KMT Tournament Book

On an ice-cold day in February 1980, Captains Bob Koraly and Bill “Coker” McCain each anteed-up \$750, raised their mugs in a collective toast to three fellow boat captains who had recently, yet finally “crossed the bar,” then pledged to memorialize them in some meaningful, celebratory way.



LEFT TO RIGHT: “The Webber,” as Joe Webb is often affectionately called, predicts the future of fishing tournaments. “They are Marina in Florida, “co-capitalized” the very first Swansboro Memorial Day Bluewater Fishing Tournament along with Coker hard, but also worked hard. ■ Rick Hambley, Captain aboard President George H.W. Bush’s Fountain center-console, operated



TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Local charterboat captains Bob Wright, Vincent Ward and Lesta Willis had all passed within weeks of each other and this frigid winter afternoon seemed the perfect time to hoist a few cold ones in their honor, exaggerate their exploits, plan a future celebration and engage a group of co-conspirators.

Wouldn't you know it – before the day was done, Capt. Joe Webb, Surfer Buzz Boe, Capt. Todd Christianson, Realtor Joe Kalkhurst, Capt. R.L. Williams, and Clam-man Richard Hambley were all firmly “on-board.” Libations flowed way more freely and surprisingly, a reasonable plan emerged from the depths of chaos.

Memorial Day weekend would be the date and a three-day fishing tournament would be the event. The Swansboro King Mackerel Blue Water Memorial Day Fishing Tournament suddenly had life and a heck of a long name!

Call them crazy or genius, one thing is certain regarding these eight creators of their newly-formed tournament – they were absolutely fearless in the face of long odds.

The United States, you see, was mired in the midst of a severe recession, interest rates were north of 18% and then-President Jimmy Carter – in a now-famous television address – proclaimed Americans were suffering from a “malaise.”

Gasoline was rationed, fuel prices soared and lines to pump a few gallons in your car grew long and contentious. Area businesses felt the sting of an especially harsh winter, store owners shortened hours of operation and inflation roared at double-digit levels.

Right in the middle of this mess, our “band of eight originators” figured this was a fine time to start a tournament!

The rest, as you can probably guess, is history. This little part of the universe was good and ready to bust out of this so-called malaise as Springtime (1980) approached. Our eight cohorts – known widely for playing hard – also worked hard as they rounded up sponsors, fishermen and a cadre of helpers and advisors.

Captains Hambley and McCain jumped on Coker's plane, flew to Raleigh and met with Dick Jones of WITN-TV. There, they filmed a 30-minute promotional video with Jones in exchange for a shark charter on Rick Hambley's boat. While other facets of the local economy languished, the fishing tournament business shifted into high gear.

Thirty-five years have now passed and, sadly, four of the original cast (Boe, Christianson,

– continued on page 74



here to stay – big ones, small ones – as long as everybody can make money and have fun.” ■ Bob Koraly, drifting off Sailfish McCain. ■ R.L. Williams, posing in Scotland, was quick to point out the eight “gentlemen” who started our tournament played clam dredges and ran shark charters when our tournament began.

Thirty-Five

– continued from page 73

Kalkhurst and McCain) are no longer with us. Their departure does nothing to lessen the significance of their founding efforts of this tournament.

Amazingly, the passing of those 35 years has done little to diminish the memories (or the pride) shared by Captains Koraly, Webb, Williams and Hambley. Each of the four recently recounted those long-ago days as if they happened just last week.

JOE WEBB

Joe Webb's charterboat *Billy Anna II* has just turned 40, is on her third set of engines and rests comfortably in the same location where Otway Burns' *Prometheus* – one of the state's first steamboats – was built back in 1818.

Joe, 73, and I recently met at the helm of *Billy Anna II* where he immediately gave me a thorough history lesson on downtown Swansboro and its Front Street.

Convinced that I could pass any quiz on Harry Moore, sawmills, Buck Stone, Sam Jones' Barber Shop, etcetera, I pressed Joe about the tournament's successes and longevity.

Without hesitation, the legendary captain observed, "Usually when something is started by the right people for the right reasons, it lasts a long time."

You gotta love Joe Webb – simple and profound, all in one fell swoop. It's no secret that "The Webber" knows how to have fun and he quickly made this assessment, "I'm sure glad the tournament has returned to downtown. That's fun! Now everybody, including the spectators, can enjoy all of it."

BOB KORALY

Vacationing this winter in Stuart,

Florida, Bob Koraly shared texts and phone calls as he expressed his obvious excitement regarding the tournament's 35 year history.

"After three great years, we knew the tournament was outgrowing us. That's when we met with you guys at the Old Seafarer's Restaurant and asked the Rotary Club to take over. It worked out great."

Fun, competition, entertainment, and tribute were all necessary components for the event's initial success according to Captain Bob. "For entertainment, we had the One Man Band. We never knew his name, but everybody loved him and danced 'til they fell down."

R.L. WILLIAMS

Amazingly, Capt. R.L. Williams recalls detail after detail of those early years. R.L. (with wife Diane) having recently returned home from visits to Scotland and Chile, seemed most impressed with the overall positive impact the tournament has produced.

"Nobody will ever be able to trace just how much good this tournament has done for this community!" Williams, 72, points out that as long as he owned a charterboat, he served as a "committee boat" exchanging vital information between the fishermen and the officials.

"We fished this event every year I had a boat, and one year I caught a white marlin the day before it started. That was bad timing, but that's what makes up fishing stories. I'm proud that I was a part of it!"

RICK HAMBLEY

Rick Hambley, now 66 and retired on the eastern shore of Virginia, gets all the credit for including the shark category in the early years. Glad to

hear his old rival, Oscar Schneider is alive and well, Hambley reminisced, "Oscar and I loved to battle each other catching sharks. Those sharks created a lot of excitement in the tournament."

Hambley, a true international Sea Captain who ran boats for both the Prime Minister of Thailand and the President of Turkey, seemed amazed that the tournament was still going strong. "Thirty-five years – are you kidding me?"

THE FOUNDING EIGHT

No kidding Rick. Thanks to the "eight imagineers" and a Rotary Club that needed a major fundraiser to solidify its existence, the Swansboro Rotary Memorial Day Fishing Tournament is set to go again, despite years of countless changes and a whole lot of tweaking.

Interestingly, those necessary ingredients for early success (mentioned earlier by Captain Bob) remain vital to our success today. Any close examination of the evolution of this great event will clearly reveal, perhaps more importantly than all else, the extraordinary vision possessed by the "founding eight."

It is for this reason (and many others) that the Swansboro Rotary Club dedicated the 2015 Tournament to Buzz Boe (in memorium); Todd Christianson (in memorium); Rick Hambley; Joe Kalkhurst (in memorium); Bob Koraly; Bill McCain (in memorium); Joe Webb; and R.L. Williams.

As we show our appreciation and recognize these "founding eight" on this Memorial Day, let us also remember and respectfully pay tribute to Captains Ward, Willis, Wright and especially, all Americans killed in active service. ■



CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY A MACKEREL!

■ STORY BY **RANDY DAVEY**

*Reprinted with permission from The Daily News and the
2008 Swansboro Rotary KMT Tournament Book*

Well, I did get out on the water for the Swansboro Rotary Memorial Day fishing tournament after all.

We were not sure if the crew of the 'Misty Sea' would make it with a motor that had anti-freeze leaking into the motor oil. After Paul Ineman and I pumped out the old oil and replaced it with all new oil, we headed out for Mile Hammocks Bay on Camp Lejeune Saturday morning. We got a late start after checking the oil and loading up the boat, but we did get in the water by 6:30 am.

After looking for live bait – with no luck – we headed out the New River Inlet and set a heading for Divers Rock about four miles off the shoreline of Onslow Beach. With Deanna, my wife of almost 24 years at the helm, Paul and I started setting out the lines.

We put outriggers in the water first and just when we started getting the flat lines ready to go out we had a king hit the outrigger on the port side of the boat. This really caught us off guard. That fish came

out of the water like a missile with the ballyhoo in its mouth, but not the hook.

It ran with the bait and jumped out of the water for the second time but this time it spit the bait out of it's mouth without getting hooked. Paul and Deanna said it

was a big king at about 25-30 pounds but I was not so sure about the size. It was a nice fish but like Paul told me, I can't see anyway.

That would have been nice to have in the icebox so early in the day, but it was not meant to be. We

– continued on page 76



The King and I: Paul Ineman stands with his 10-pound king mackerel that he landed aboard his 22-foot SportCraft named 'Misty Sea' at 3:30 pm on Saturday during the Swansboro Memorial Day Fishing Tournament. © **RANDY DAYEY**

Mackerel

– continued from page 75

stayed in the area and tried for another strike.

The weather was great and the seas were not too bad, but I get seasick in my bathtub. After about 30 minutes Deanna told me that I was looking a bit pale and I was not feeling too good. So I took two Dramamine – the 24-hour type – that worked for me last year.

The funny thing was that I had called my doctor two days before the fishing tournament and he gave me a prescription for the Transderm Scop patches that I always used during fishing tournaments in years past. I had put one on the night before. So I could not understand why I was getting seasick. Even after taking the two Dramamine I was still not feeling too well so I drank an ice cold beer and after 20 minutes Deanna said that I was a different person and I was feeling much better.

So the fishing continued with me setting out lines with new baits and some of my secret chum that I make for my chum dispenser that I made for the downrigger. But boy did I make a mess with it. It got all over the stern of the boat and all over me. That stuff is hard to get off of your hands, and boy did it smell. But the fish love it and that's all that counts.

The next strike that we got was on Paul's side of the boat and Deanna and I got to watch him land a shark that was foul hooked and was hard to bring to the boat. I told him to stop playing around with that shark so we can catch some kings. Boy was he tuckered out after that fight. It was coming to the boat sideways which is why it took Paul so long to get it to the boat.

We baited up the lines again and set them out, this time we headed down the shoreline to try our luck near the inlet, I steered the boat along the beach while Paul took a nap and Deanna and I talked about the other fishing tournaments that we had fished, one of which was this tournament back in 1991 on our 21-foot Grady White boat.

Deanna is a lot tougher than I am. She has never gotten seasick and can handle any job on the boat, and she loves to fish. Well, she loves to catch fish; sharks are her favorite. I have seen her land one right after another when we lived in Southport.

After a few hours of trolling along the beach we headed back to Divers Rock and when we got there we could see some Spanish mackerel jumping out of the water so we knew

that the fish were still there. So at 3:15 pm Deanna steered us around the other 12 boats that were out there and after she ran the boat through a chum slick that was right over the reef we had a strike on one of the down riggers, and boy was that reel screaming. Paul grabbed the rod and I started pulling in the other lines to get them out of the way and did they get into a tangled mess. Paul was yelling for a glove and I was grabbing the gaff and by the time he got the fish to the boat he just pulled it over the side and into the boat.

Everything was happening so fast; it was like a fire drill and no one knowing what to do. After I got all the other lines that were in a mess into the boat I started cutting lines and wrapping them together. I asked Paul if we were done for the day and I then started putting the rods away so that we could get started making our way to the check-in to weigh the fish.

Before we did that I tried calling the phone numbers and the VHF channel that they gave us at the captains' meeting for information with no luck at all. I know that I called the phone numbers 12-15 times to see if a 10-pounder would place on the board. But I did not get any response from either phone number or the radio calls. The phone numbers just rang and rang with no answer.

Why did they give out a number to call if they were not going to monitor the phone and the same with the VHF channel? What if I would have had to call in an emergency to get permission to help another boat if they needed help? This needs to be fixed for next year. We did have some engine troubles out there. When we were going to head back in with our king, Paul pushed the throttle forward and we heard a metal-to-metal sound that was not good. We had been trolling at 1000 rpm all day with no trouble but now when we need to go fast all we could do was 1000 rpm. So we had to troll back in to the dock, and it took two hours and there was no way we could make it to the weigh-in.

I told Paul that any boat that gets you home after having engine trouble is worth its weight in gold. So it is not just a lucky boat but a tough old girl as well.

So another good story for my column; as I have said if everything would go as planned I would not have anything to write about. The crew of the 'Misty Sea' will be back on the water soon in search of those kings. ■



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TOURNAMENT HISTORY

REMEMBER WHEN

■ STORY BY STEFANI SNYDER

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*Reprinted from the 2007 Swansboro Rotary King Mackerel Blue Water Tournament Book
Information in this article gathered from the annual tournament publications, and the content within, from 1988 through 2006*

Looking back over the history of the Swansboro Rotary Club King Mackerel Blue Water Tournament, there are many memorable events. This article, written in 2007 touches on the origins of the tournament. In the beginning the two day tournament was held over the Memorial Day weekend – the KMT on Saturday and the Blue Water on Sunday. In 2010, the tournament split into two tournaments – The Swansboro Rotary Memorial Day Blue Water Tournament in May and the Swansboro Rotary King Mackerel Tournament in October – giving rise to the Swansboro Tournament Series. In 2013, the King Mackerel Tournament was renamed the Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel Tournament in an homage to the 1968 classic TV series – Hawaii Five-O – and to signify the tourney's field limit to only 50 boats. A lot of levels and changes have occurred over the years, but the purpose and the heart behind it never changed – raising money to serve the community and promote good fellowship among its participants.



JAMIE CAMERON 2005



JIM DAVIS 2008



TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Remember when, in 1984, the total purse was less than \$10,000 and there were less than 100 entries in the tournament?

Remember when, in 1988, the tournament prizes topped the \$100,000 mark? In that same year do you remember Lee Moore of WCTI-TV 12, one of the most experienced sportscasters in the broadcast business, as master of ceremonies? Remember in 1994, when the Rotarians changed the prize format to allow for an increased cash payout structure by nearly \$10,000? The list goes on and on, with all Rotarians, anglers, spectators and sponsors having special remembrances of their own.

The town of Swansboro itself has a long history, including its importance as a port city.

After the Civil War, commercial fishing became its sole industry. It is easy to understand why a town that has such deep historical roots

with both its local waters and the species of fish within them, later becomes the host of a fishing tournament that reflects not only its surroundings, but also the depth and dedication of the community itself.

It was in 1978 when the Swansboro Rotary Club came into form. It began with 23 members, with Ben Licko as appointed president. From there, the club grew by leaps and bounds, reaching out to the community of Swansboro.

Not only did the number of members grow from year to year, but the amount of goals and projects to help better the community grew as well.

The Rotary's motto of "service above self" has always been reflected by the Rotarians through the activities in which they dedicated their time and effort.

In 1980, one of those projects began. The first annual Swansboro Rotary fishing tournament came

into existence. Memorial Day weekend had already been a time set aside to spend with family and friends. In time, it would be the weekend that combined holiday, sport fishing, family, friends, neighbors, community, and traveling visitors all into one grand event. Each year, the tournament stayed true to its original intent to provide an enjoyable weekend for its anglers, spectators, and sponsors.

In 1991, the **Swansboro Rotary Club King Mackerel Blue Water Tournament** became the first tournament on the newly established Southern Kingfish Association circuit. SKA President at that time, John Jones, acknowledged the Swansboro tournament as highly ranked, in comparison with other tournaments held along the southern Atlantic.

As the club's single largest

— continued on page 80



JOHN LICKO 1985



DALE WARD

Remember When

– continued from page 79

fundraising activity, the proceeds from the **Swansboro Rotary Club King Mackerel Bluewater Tournament** are dispersed throughout the community by way of scholarship funds, community funds, and fishing interest funds. The community pitches in to help the now more than seventy members of the Rotary with many of the projects, including the fishing tournament. They enlist the help of local residents, students, boy and girl scouts, and many others to help with the various needs of the tournament from cleaning fish to cleaning up.

Remembering the beginnings and growth of this tournament would not be complete without remembering the tournament dedications of years past. The tournament has always acknowledged its founders, supporters and contributors, and loyal Rotarians.

From memorial dedications of charter members such as Jim Bean, Claybron Gurley, Austin Guthrie as well as dedications to past president John H. Wood and loyal supporter Captain Charles E. “Chuck” Kay, each year’s tournament focused on appreciation of someone or something important to the tournament. John Licko and Jim Morse Davis, Jr. have been honored for their special contributions.

Dale Ward and Al Barnes are certainly missed, but never forgotten for all of their time and commitment to the tournament through the years. Dedications and much deserved credit have been given to the faithful sponsors, conservationists, sport fishermen, military service men and women, Captain’s Circle members, flood relief volunteers, and Hammock’s Beach State Park.

As we begin another year of giving fishermen, spectators, and sponsors what they want, while also taking the tournament to the next level.

The focus remains on the memory of the founding members and their contributions along with the cooperation, participation, and support of the community and those within it who dedicate their time to this tournament’s success.

Without all of you, it would not be the event that it is today.

Reflecting on this tournament, it is obvious to say, “You’ve come a long way, baby.” Years down the road, many will look back to this year’s tournament with the same thoughts of “remember when ...” ■

Chronology of the Swansboro King Mackerel Tournament

- **1978:** The Swansboro Rotary Club is formed with 23 local businessmen. Ben Licko is the first president.
- **1980:** First **Swansboro King Mackerel Blue Water Tournament**. Captains Bob Koroly, Bill “Coker” McCain, Joe Webb, R.L. Williams, and Todd Christianson, along with Surfer Buzz Boe, Realtor Joe Kalkhurst, and “Clam-man” Richard Hambley – also known as the “founding eight” – proposed the tournament to the newly formed Rotary Club as a major fundraising event.
- **1984:** Total purse for both tournaments is less than \$10,000
- **1988:** Total purse increases to \$100,000 for both tournaments
- **1991:** Tournament becomes the first tournament on the newly established Southern Kingfish Association circuit
- **2010:** The **Swansboro Rotary Fishing Tournament Series** is born. The Bluewater Tournament continues to be fished over Memorial Day weekend and the Swansboro King Mackerel Tournament is moved to October. The purse (based on 200 boats) is set at \$25,000 for first place, and \$10,000 for second place.
- **2013:** The King Mackerel Tournament is renamed the **Swansboro Five-O King Mackerel Tournament** with a major change in format. The tourney’s field is limited to 50 boats, which are admitted on a first-come, first served basis. Those that get in are guaranteed a reserved spot for the following year’s tournament. First place is a guaranteed \$30,000 with 6 TWTs to increase the chance of winning upwards of \$100,000.
- **2014:** **Closest Fish Prize** added to tournament.
- **2016:** **Level VII Winner Take All Mack Daddy TWT** worth \$42,500 is added to the tournament increasing the total purse to over \$130,000.
- **2018:** **Level I through Level VII** payouts are significantly increased. Top 3 payouts if all 50 boats enter all levels increases to \$118,188 for 1st place, \$31,038 for 2nd place, and \$21,025 for 3rd place.
- **2019:** Rotary Scholarship awards exceed the \$1,000,000 mark due to income generated in part through the Swansboro Rotary Club Fishing Series.
- **2020:** The Swansboro Rotary partners with **NCLEAP** by adding a **Level VIII NCLEAP 50/50 Aggregate TWT** for \$21,250 to the tournament. Fifty percent of all entry fees in that category are donated to NCLEAP.
- **2020:** A **\$5000 Outta the Money Prize** is added to the tournament that awards 5 random weighing teams – from 11th to last place – \$1000 each through a random drawing.
- **2021:** **Tournament record** for the heaviest king is set by Chip Sanders and team **Hoo Hunter** of Cape Carteret bringing in a record breaking **63.32-pound King Mackerel**, taking home \$101,920.
- **2022:** **Level IX Elite 10 Aggregate Winner Take All** added. The Elite 10, a two-fish aggregate TWT is open to the first 10 teams to enter. Total purse is \$42,500, bringing the total possible payout to \$160,688 for 1st place, \$31,038 for 2nd place, and \$21,025 for 3rd place.
- **2024:** Tim Hudson and team **White Lightning** of Wake Forest won a tournament-record payout of \$144,452 with a 45.06-pound king mackerel.
- **2025:** Tournament contributions to NCLEAP reaches \$337,500 with the most recent contribution of \$67,500 from the 2025 Memorial Day Bluewater Tournament.



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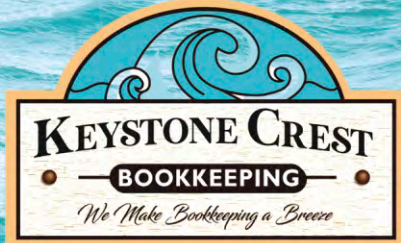
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1981-2024 TOURNAMENT WINNERS

YEAR	CAPTAIN/CREW	TOURNAMENT	WEIGHT/POINTS	PRIZE
1981	Leroy Dennis	Bluewater	241.00 lbs	\$1,000
	Clayton Kirby	King Mackerel	—	\$1,000
1982	J.E. Simmons	King Mackerel	42.50 lbs	\$1,500
1983	Charles Young	Bluewater	131.50 lbs	\$3,000
	Clyde Cheek	King Mackerel	26.75 lbs	\$2,000
1984	Larry Robin	Bluewater	298.20 lbs	\$3,000
	Byron Dickens	King Mackerel	40.24 lbs	\$2,100
1985	Dan Woody	Bluewater	58.25 lbs	\$2,550
	Eddie Fulcher	King Mackerel	32.20 lbs	\$2,550
1986	Tim Powell	Bluewater	417.00 lbs	\$3,000
	Vickie Tedder	King Mackerel	34.90 lbs	\$3,000
1987	Earl Batt	Bluewater	455.50 lbs	\$8,830
	Jay Cusic	King Mackerel	39.90 lbs	\$8,015
1988	Howard Basnight	Bluewater	200.40 lbs	\$5,500
	Ricky Baggs	King Mackerel	28.52 lbs	\$5,500
1989	Howard Basnight	Bluewater	404.40 lbs	\$8,329
	Larry Lanier	King Mackerel	25.00 lbs	\$6,329
1990	Chad Conklin	Bluewater	29.61 lbs	\$5,745
	Albert Vestal	King Mackerel	34.72 lbs	\$12,045
1991	Derek Dunn/Billy Clifton	Bluewater	309.00 lbs	\$11,564
	J.E. Cameron	King Mackerel	39.20 lbs	\$18,055
1992	Don Gergely	Bluewater	238.00 lbs	\$7,870
	Harry & Ted Ivey	King Mackerel	46.90 lbs	\$24,777
1993	Neil Weeks	King Mackerel	44.19 lbs	\$16,400
	George Parham	Bluewater	31.10 lbs	\$7,200
1994	Lyn Williams	King Mackerel	28.98 lbs	\$27,064
	Kevin Collins	Bluewater	48.95 lbs	\$10,260
1995	Clayton Kirby	King Mackerel	34.01 lbs	\$30,024
	Ken Miller	Bluewater	549.60 lbs	\$23,750
1996	David Franklin	King Mackerel	46.26 lbs	\$28,799
	Bob Warren	Bluewater	910.60 lbs	\$14,145

YEAR	CAPTAIN/CREW	TOURNAMENT	WEIGHT/POINTS	PRIZE
1997	Buddy Ester	King Mackerel	38.15 lbs	\$29,536
	Matt Henderson	Bluewater	638.00 pts	\$13,340
1998	Mark Emmart	King Mackerel	31.35 lbs	\$14,067
	Greg McDonald	Bluewater	375.00 pts	\$7,200
1999	Eddie Cameron	King Mackerel	42.53 lbs	\$32,870
	Ed Cross	Bluewater	600.00 pts	\$20,655
2000	Jonathan Popkin	King Mackerel	60.93 lbs	\$18,467
	Adrian Holler	Bluewater	—	\$17,297
2001	Robert Dobie	King Mackerel	47.84 lbs	\$18,833
	Bill Blount	Bluewater	—	\$26,705
2002	Jerry Gibson	King Mackerel	29.75 lbs	\$29,078
	Jeff Vreugenhil	Bluewater	509.00 lbs	\$24,532
2003	Jimmy Bean	King Mackerel	28.10 lbs	\$17,789
	Stephen Bolick	Bluewater	593.00 lbs	\$18,290
2004	Ashley Jones	King Mackerel	32.00 lbs	\$11,540
	Ken T. Miller	Bluewater	300.00 pts	\$8,160
2005	Joseph R. Winslow III	King Mackerel	26.32 lbs	\$8,940
	Larry H. Dempsey	Bluewater	600.00 lbs	\$9,280
2006	Brett A. Barnes	King Mackerel	43.65 lbs	\$25,000
	Randy Bryant	Bluewater	628.00 lbs	\$49,488
2007	Dale Walker	King Mackerel	25.88 lbs	\$25,000
	Impulse Charters	Bluewater	300.00 lbs	\$29,885
2008	Brent A. Barnes	King Mackerel	42.20 lbs	\$25,000
	Jeff Vreugdenhil	Bluewater	637.00 lbs	\$34,800
2009	Burt Ferebee	King Mackerel	33.10 lbs	\$28,404
	Adrian Holler	Bluewater	645.50 lbs	\$39,463
2010	Jerry Jackson	Bluewater	424.50 lbs	\$54,000
	Mike Williams	King Mackerel	46.74 lbs	\$17,682
2011	John Roberts	Bluewater	600.00 pts	\$21,188
	W. Randall Edens	King Mackerel	54.00 lbs	\$12,625
2012	Ben Seegars	Bluewater	600.00 pts	\$7,646
	Lawrence Allen	King Mackerel	47.12 lbs	\$23,895
2013	Steven Matthews	Bluewater	900.00 pts	\$11,901
	Steven Squires	King Mackerel	50.00 lbs	\$35,262
2014	Randy Bryant	Bluewater	849.00 pts	\$53,573
	Randall Edens	King Mackerel	51.50 lbs	\$43,295
2015	Lacey M. Henry	Bluewater	1200.00 pts	\$38,938
	C. Mark Henderson	King Mackerel	51.82 lbs	\$73,435
2016	Adrian Holler	Bluewater	564.70 lbs	\$90,000
	Brandon Moore	King Mackerel	36.00 lbs	\$76,122
2017	Casey Wagner	Bluewater	600.00 pts	\$30,388
	Brian Allen	King Mackerel	42.88 lbs	\$83,260
2018	Tommy Herring	Bluewater	600.00 pts	\$34,451
	Brandon Moore	King Mackerel	43.24 lbs	\$100,000
2019	Wade Fickling	Bluewater	1278.40 pts	\$125,000
	Mike Patchkofsky	King Mackerel	54.48 lbs	\$115,686
2020	Don Mills	Bluewater	900.00 pts	\$52,975
	Chip Sanders	King Mackerel	63.88 lbs	\$101,920
2021	Lee Smith	Bluewater	1678.60 pts	\$79,510
	Mike Williams	King Mackerel	63.32 lbs	\$102,143
2022	Hunter Blount	Bluewater	1800.00 pts	\$113,475
	Brandon Delong	King Mackerel	61.47 lbs	\$108,088
2023	Randy Bryant	Bluewater	1200.00 pts	\$72,300
	Henry Tillet	King Mackerel	59.85 lbs	\$139,668
2024	Shane Brafford	Bluewater	1200.00 pts	\$124,175
	Tim Hudson	King Mackerel	45.06 lbs	\$144,452



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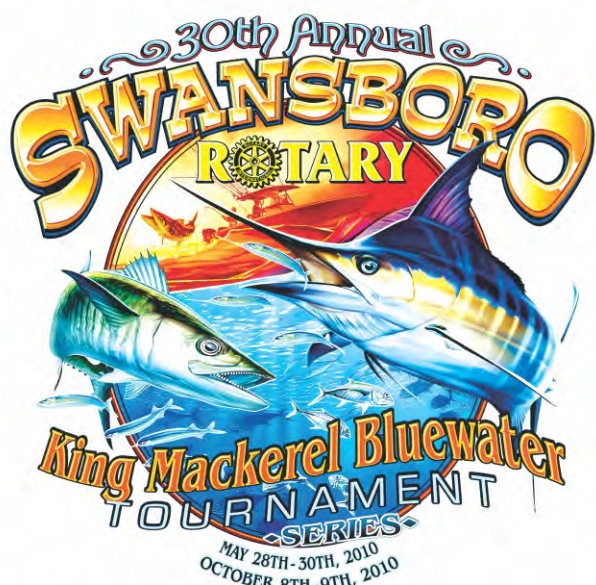
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King Mackerel Tournament moves to October

Fishing Tournament Series established

■ STORY BY RICH LEVEY

TIDELAND NEWS • February 3, 2010 • Reprinted with Permission
Reprinted from the 2010 Swansboro KMT book

The second weekend of October has long been known as the weekend of the mullet in Swansboro.

Well, beginning this year the mullet will have to share some of the headlines on that particular weekend with a few other species of fish – specifically the king mackerel, speckled trout and even the lizard fish.

That's because after 30 years of fishing in late May, the Swansboro Rotary King Mackerel Blue Water Fishing Tournament is making a major change.

In an effort to stage the event in the peak of the inshore fishing season, the King Mackerel Tournament will be fished on Mullet Festival Saturday and the Bluewater Tournament will continue to be fished on Memorial Day Weekend.

And the name of the tourney will change, now being referred to as the **Swansboro Rotary Fishing Tournament Series**.

There's also been an addition to the king mackerel tourney, with the addition of a speckled trout and lizardfish tournament.

"We wanted to reach out to more fishermen," said tournament director David Nance. "In recent years the king mackerel winners have been in larger boats and are often members of a team.

"By introducing the inshore tournament for the speckled trout and

lizardfish we're making an attempt to bring the community back into the event. With the implementation of the inshore tournament, we believe that anyone with a 16-foot boat can get out there and compete."

Swansboro Rotarian Barry Matthews is a former Southern Kingfish Association National Champion, and he's also a member of the tournament committee.

He explained that by moving the king tournament to the fall, the fishing should be better and easier.

"We've had some erosion on the king mackerel side of tournament for several years," he explained. "We were able to erase some of that erosion with our guaranteed purse for first and second place.

"But all of a sudden last year we only had about 130 king mackerel boats, and that was somewhat disappointing to the fishing tournament committee," he continued. "We looked at several things responsible for the decline in boats, and the unpredictable weather and king mackerel fishing that early in the season were two of the biggest reasons."

King mackerel fishing in our area is just beginning to take off in late May, and it peaks in the fall.

"King mackerel are not here in great numbers in late May like they were years ago," explained Matthews. "The kings are much more prevalent in the Onslow Bay

area in the fall, and the weather's generally nicer, as well. The tournament committee does everything it can for the enjoyment and safety of the king mackerel anglers who fish our tournament, and all of them we've spoken with like the idea of the fall tournament."

This year's tournament will not have a guaranteed purse, but based on a field of 200 boats, first place will be worth \$25,000, second \$10,000 and third \$6,000.

The number of boats fishing in the bluewater tournament might also climb, especially this year.

Since a yellowfin tuna hasn't been landed in the tournament in several years, the purse for the biggest yellowfin has risen to \$13,744. And that's before any boats have registered this year.

There's a chance that if enough boats sign up for the yellowfin tuna competition, the purse could be in the neighborhood of \$30,000.

"Because the purse for the yellowfin tuna could be around \$30,000, we expect to see some of the bigger king mackerel boats enter and try to win that category," said Nance. "They won't have to go so far offshore, so we think that opens it up for some of our local anglers." ■

Rotary Award

— continued from page 21

regional rotary coordinator, supporting membership growth in 17 districts in the mid-Atlantic states. She also served as Zone 33 international convention promotions chair.

Currently serving as co-chair for the district's Rotary Foundation, Clark holds the titles of Major Donor, Bequest Society Member, Paul Harris Society Member, and Sustaining Member.

Clark's career has primarily been in the sales arena, working for more than 16 years in the wireless industry for both GTE MobileNet and U.S. Cellular.

Pursuing her passion for the outdoors, travel and yoga, Clark also owned and operated an eco-tourism business with a full-service yoga and wellness center in Swansboro.

She's a registered yoga teacher and often offers her yoga instruction to help raise funds for causes near to her heart.

Clark has served on many nonprofit boards, including the Jacksonville Onslow Sports Commission, the Swansboro Historical Preservation Commission, and the Carolina Museum of the Marine.

Currently, Clark serves on the Onslow Memorial Hospital Foundation Board and is the president of the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Clark was selected as the 2020 Woman of the Year by the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce, and most recently, was recognized with the Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award at the Colorful Voices of Sisterhood Queen's Ball Gala.

Clark is a long-time Onslow County resident, graduating from Jacksonville High School before obtaining an undergraduate degree in business administration and a Master of Arts from UNC-Wilmington.

She is also a graduate of the Leadership and Volunteer Management Certificate Program from North Carolina State University.

Clark is a John Maxwell Certified Leader and a Brené Brown Daring Teams Trainer.

She and her husband, Jeff, also a Rotarian, enjoy traveling together and spending time on the water. ■



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Swansboro FIVE-



Rotary King Tourney Has New Format

Tideland News Report

Tideland News • February 26, 2013 • *Reprinted with permission*

Reprinted from the 2013 Swansboro Rotary KMT Book

Hopefully, anglers who planned to fish in the 33rd annual Swansboro Rotary Club's annual King Mackerel Tournament this year were able to register.

On April 5, 2013, registration opened for this unprecedented maximum 50 boat tournament and within four hours of registration opening, all 50 slots were filled.

The tournament – renamed the **Swansboro Five-0 King Mackerel Tournament** – features a major change in the format. The tourney's field will be limited to 50 boats, which will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis.

With a 50-boat entry, the payout for first place is \$30,000 – the largest cash payout for any king mackerel

tournament in the country, according to tourney director David Nance.

"What the new format does is reduce the number of boats competing and increase the payout to the fishermen – it's a win/win situation," he said.

"It surprised us by how well it was received. The tournament slots filled up within the first four hours," Nance added.

Those that got in this year will be guaranteed a reserved spot for entry in next year's tournament. With TWT's, Daily Prizes, and Mystery Weight Prizes, First Place can pay in excess of \$30,000. These captains have registered their boats into the largest prize King Mackerel Tournament in the United States.

Nance explained why the Rotary Club's tourney officials decided to make the change.

"The Southern Kingfish Association (SKA) decided not to sanction our tournament this year because of some rule changes we made last year. That gave us the opportunity to make some more changes and better the format of our tournament."

First place is guaranteed \$30,000, but there will also be nice paydays for other top anglers. Second place will be worth \$10,000, third \$6,000, fourth \$4,000, fifth \$2,000 and sixth through 10th \$1,000. There will also be a tournament-within-a-tournament and prizes for lady anglers, junior anglers and senior anglers. ■

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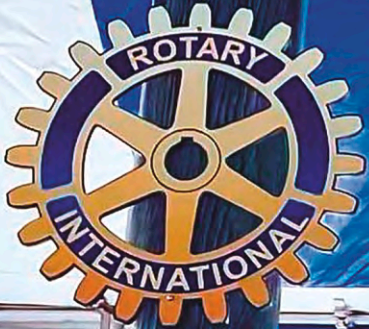
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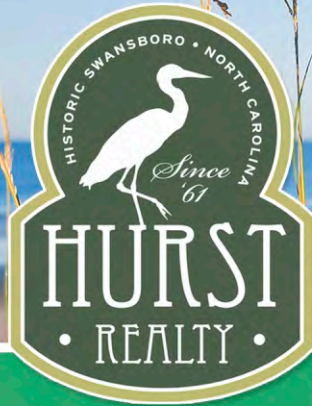
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Memorial to Members Passed

In 1978, a dedicated group of businessmen in the Swansboro area, under the sponsorship by the Jacksonville Rotary Club, met to discuss the formation of a new Rotary Club. After several organizational meetings, the new club was formed with 23 members. Ben Licko was appointed president of the provisional club and after the new club was chartered, he stayed on as President for the following year. After 38 years, seven of the charter members were still active members in the Swansboro Rotary Club.

Over the ensuing years since 1978, many members have come and gone, but the net effect was a growth to the current level of over 60 members. Thanks to those that persevered in spite of many obstacles that face any new club, and to those who helped the club grow, the Swansboro Rotary Club is held in the highest esteem by over 40 clubs in the district. This honor only comes about from the dedication and time put forth by the members and from the generous support of the citizens in the surrounding communities.

Since the formation of the club in 1978, several members have passed away, but their contributions have not been forgotten. The current club members wish to show their respect for those who helped make this club what it is today by placing their names on this memorial page. ■





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