

President's Message

Tisa Head

#### A Community of Volunteers

I can't say enough how important volunteers are to our community and to the Southern Shores Civic Association. This past quarter is a perfect example of how much our volunteers step up to help. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The SSCA put out a call for volunteers for several initiatives these last few months: Audit Committee, Annual Clean-up Event, Marina Volunteer Team and Nominating Committee. The response was overwhelming! We got volunteers for each initiative, and already these groups have provided results!

Audit Committee – A request for four to five members to serve on the Audit Committee resulted in getting the number we needed. Thank you to *Katie Frampton, Pam Lamb, Noel Langlois, Katie and Teddy White* for agreeing to serve as the SSCA Audit Committee to review the 2023 SSCA financial records. The Committee completed their audit in about eight weeks and presented its findings to the Board of Directors at the June Board meeting. The audit was very comprehensive and provided recommendations to the Board to improve our processes going forward. Thank you, too, to *Susan Ippolito* for being the Audit Committee SSCA POC during their audit review.

Nominating Committee – The SSCA Bylaws require five members for the nominating committee. Our "desperately searching" email resulted in us receiving those volunteers. Thank you to *Ernie Dash, Karen Kranda, Maslin Seal, Nancy Sheehan and Debbie Swick* for stepping up and helping us recruit members to serve on the 2025 SSCA Board. And thank you *Jeff Johnson* for shepherding this recruitment effort.

Communications Schedul

Monday—Weekly Event Email
Wednesday—Social Media

Send news and information to: <a href="mailto:communications@sscaobx.org">communications@sscaobx.org</a>

# SSCA Office Hours:

Monday: 10 AM-1 PM Thursday: 10 AM-1 PM

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# **President's Message (continued)**

Marina Volunteer Team – In early May we solicited help for a new Marina Volunteer Team, which could help us with the ongoing maintenance needs at our marinas. This team will be used to help with small projects (too small to hire contractors) but are important to our marinas' upkeep. Thank you to *Tony and Sue Bigbee, Wes Brubaker, Luke Falconer, Mike Greene, Joe Harverson, George Haber, Eric Howard, Matt Howdershell, Rick Koch, Bill Lanier, Laura Lilieberg, John Muuse, Ted Persons, Len Schmitz, Robert Trumbull, Cory Waters, and Harold Weissler.* And a special thank you to their fearless leader, *George Kirby*!

This new Marina Volunteer Team immediately stepped in and took care of many small projects (new fire-hose bumpers, replacing boards and bulkhead caps), but also took on a bigger project with reconstructing a shed that was scheduled to be demolished (because the contractor cost to rebuild was just not worth it). Members of this new Marina Team showed up Memorial Day weekend and replaced the rafters, roof and flooring. We now have another beautiful shed to store supplies and oyster tables for the Boat Club.







**SSCA Annual Clean-up Event** – During April, the SSCA coordinated efforts with CPOA and TOSS to clean up our parks, marinas and crossovers. This annual event brings out many members each year to help with the clean-up efforts. To help with this effort, Site Coordinators were assigned locations to sign-in volunteers and handout supplies. Thank you to **Charlie Andrews, Jay Dunlap, Carolyn Hoover, Tanya Manzhukh, Maslin Seal, and Chris Toolan** for your help with coordinating. And thank you to the over 80 volunteers who came out for the three day event and helped to collect over 150 bags (almost 4,000 lbs of debris and organic materials)! See more about this event (and pictures) in **Aida Alvarez's** article on page 4.

At this time, it looks like there will be three SSCA Director positions to fill beginning in 2025. The following will not be running again: **Don Pratt** (currently long-range planning and bylaws), **George Kirby** (currently west-side parks and marinas) and **Tisa Head** (currently President). Following the January members' meeting where the results of the e-vote for new Directors will be announced, the Board, including the new Directors, will have a special meeting at which respective roles and offices are determined among the Directors themselves. While the role of President is typically filled internally by an existing Director, there is flexibility as to the other roles based on Director skill sets and interests.

#### Call for Volunteers to Serve on SSCA Board

Understanding and having a voice in the various issues involved in operating the SSCA and in maintaining its many properties is interesting and rewarding work--and it's important. While a director's term under the bylaws is three years, if/as life might get in the way of this volunteer work, there is a simple mechanism for replacing Directors who need to step down.

As *Tisa* said in her President's Message, above, we have a Nominating Committee established that will review "applications" from interested members and recommend names to run for the open Board positions. *Jeff Johnson*, as SSCA Secretary, will help facilitate the Committee's review.

Please consider this opportunity to help your community. If you are interested, please submit an email to the SSCA office (<a href="mailto:ssca@obxbeach.net">ssca@obxbeach.net</a>) with a short bio including why you want to serve on the Board—how you think your skills and interests could best be used. Please also cc that email to secretary@sscaobx.org.

Thank you for considering to join the SSCA Board in 2025!

## Southern Shores: A Community of Volunteers

Many hands make light work.

Since joining the SSCA board seven months ago as its **Volunteer and Social Coordinator**, I have learned the true meaning of this timeless adage. Its origin can be traced back to one of John Heywood's proverbs, dating to the 16th century, "A burden that is shared becomes lighter." The idiom continued to be em-



braced in various nations' literature and wise sayings. Its meaning is very simple. Tasks can become easier and quicker when shared among many individuals. It underscores the value of teamwork, collaboration, and shared effort in achieving common objectives. The more people contribute their time and energy, the less demanding the task becomes for each individual. In other words, with collaboration, the workload will be much lighter overall. When people work together to reach a goal, getting there will be much easier than going it alone. No where does this ring more true than in our own backyard. As a non-profit organization, SSCA relies on volunteers to help maintain its marinas, monitor beach accesses/dune crossovers and parking lots, plant sea grass, and other activities. Please consider joining one or more of our volunteer teams. For a small investment of your time, as little as 15 minutes a week, together we can help keep the Southern Shores community beautiful and well-maintained for all to enjoy. To lend a helping hand, please sign up here: https://forms.gle/naHMSvQDjRuLbHt19 or email coordinator@sscaobx.org.

Volunteer Team	Number of Volunteers	Goal	Estimated Time Investment
Beach Access / Crossover Team	35	Help monitor our beach accesses/dune crossovers, report safety issues and maintenance needs, and pick up minor debris	15-30 minutes a week
Doggy Bag Station Team	1-2	Help monitor our doggy bag stations and ensure that the bags are filled	30-60 minutes a week
Annual Clean-Up (Earth Day) Team	80	Help with the annual clean-up (Earth Day) event	4 hours in April
Hillcrest Volleyball Court Team	2-4	Help setup and take down the volleyball net and line	2 hours twice a year
Little Free Library Team	4	Help monitor our Little Free Libraries and replenish books	15-30 minutes per week
Marina Team	10	Help with minor repairs such as reattaching or replacing dock boards, attaching new lines or bumpers, installing and cleaning dock lights and cleaning up the pavilion	2-5 hours a month
Parking Lot Team	14	Help monitor parking lots during an assigned week between Memorial Day and Labor Day and ensure that only members and guests are parking in SSCA parking lots	1 hour a day for 7 days
Property Maintenance Team	2-3	Help assess maintenance needs and ensure that SSCA properties are safe and maintained	2-3 hours a month
Santa Ride Team	10	Help with the annual Santa ride event	2 hours in Dec
Seagrass Planting Team	15-20	Help plant seagrass on the dunes to deter/delay beach erosion	1 hour a week from Nov-Mar
Triangle Park Team	5-8	Help keep Triangle Park well-maintained and decorated for holidays	1 hour a week
Welcome Team	3-5	Help prepare welcome baskets for new residents	1 hour a month

#### **Annual Southern Shores Clean-up Event**

Each year, we look forward to gathering to honor Earth Day and support environmental protection. We are a community that is united by a love of the ocean and volunteerism, and the unique opportunities that life offers on a barrier island.

This year, we surpassed the number of volunteers and volunteer hours from last year and also, succeeded in collecting over 150 bags of debris and organic material, or almost 4,000 lbs. We could not have done this without the help of volunteers. We are also very grateful to *Amy's Candles, Dare County Extension Master Gardeners, Home Depot, OBX Tree Doc, Steamers, The OBX Way, The Surfrider Foundation, and* 



*VusicOBX,* for their support. Four lucky volunteers won tickets to a VusicOBX show, dinner for two at Steamers, and candles from Amy's Candles.

Click <u>here</u> to see highlights of this year's event.

Our goal was not only to clean up the community but, more importantly, to raise awareness of the 2024 global Earth Day campaign, "Planet vs. Plastics." According to EARTHDAY.org, plastic production has now grown to more than 380 million tons per year. More than 500 billion plastic bags—one million bags per minute—were produced worldwide last year. Many plastic bags have a working life of a few minutes, followed by an afterlife of centuries. Even after plastics disintegrate, they remain as microplastics, minute particles permeating every niche of life on the planet. And 100 billion plastic beverage containers were sold last year in the United States. That's more than 300 bottles per inhabitant.

Click <u>here</u> to learn more about the global Earth Day initiative and what you can do to reduce use of plastic.

If you would like to help plan the 2025 event, please click here.

Treasurer Susan Ippolito

At the almost halfway point in the year, the SSCA is happy to report that we are \$26,000 over in our major income categories compared to where we were at the same time last year. This includes increases in membership, club memberships and slip rentals. Some of these categories such as membership, are under budgeted projections, while others such as club memberships and slip rentals are over budgeted projections. If you have not yet joined the SSCA, please do so as soon as possible so you can enjoy all our amenities and socials for the rest of the year.

We are on target to stay within our 2024 budget for spending. We are continuously addressing the needs of our community while staying within our often-tight budget. It is definitely a balancing act at times, especially since, as we all are very aware, prices have gone up exponentially on just about everything in recent years. This is especially apparent in our building supply costs for things like crossover replacements, one of our major expense categories. Kudos to *Joel Newton* and his team of volunteers who work hard to try to keep supply and labor costs down.

The one income category where we are lower than last year is in member contributions. Did you know that the SSCA will happily accept contributions from its members so we can do "extras" in our community that benefit all our members? Please consider making a contribution or leaving a legacy contribution to the SSCA so we can continue maintaining and improving our beautiful community for years to come. You can "round up" your membership check, make a one-time donation or dedicate a bench in a loved one's honor. There are many ways to give to our community, whether that be in monetary donations, volunteer time, picking up trash or reporting anything you see that might be in need of attention. We appreciate all that our members do to make our community a better place to live!

A big thank you to our volunteer Audit Committee members **Noel Langlois, Katie Frampton, Teddy White and Pam Lamb** who have recently completed our second annual internal audit for 2023. It is a big job and the SSCA Board appreciates all the hard work that goes into it. Our committee did an amazing job and even completed the audit ahead of schedule. Thank you!!!

Boat Club Rick Koch

As our community enters the summer months, boating activities will increase. Be mindful of "water rules of the road", know any hazards to navigation, wear safety equipment and avoid drinking and driving. Safety is paramount for yourself and those other boaters on the water with you.

The sheds at the North Marina (east side) have had the roofs repaired so that both are again usable. Thanks goes out to *Joel Newton* and his contractor who did one and the Marina Volunteer Team, under the leadership of *George Kirby*, who did the other. For Boat Club members, if you need any boat equipment storage, there is room in the sheds. Contact Rick Koch, <a href="recketh73@gmail.com">recketh73@gmail.com</a>, for further coordination.

The **GAMs** continue to provide information on a wide number of topics that are of interest to our community. Note that a summary of the Mid-Currituck Bridge GAM presentation, which will include questions asked and answered along with the slide show presented by the state engineering team, will be published by the SSCA in the near future, so everyone has the latest information.

The first **SSBC social event**, our Fourth of July picnic, will be held on July 6 at the North Marina Pavilion. This is the first chance for the SSBC membership to get together this year to meet each other, talk to board members and raise any issues.

The GAMs, the social events and work parties (like the Marina Volunteer Team) all need one thing - **VOLUNTEERS.** Consider becoming one!

Racquet Club Jay Dunlap







#### Spring Social

The Racquet Club Spring Social was held at Hillcrest Courts on May 4<sup>th</sup> under spectacular sunshine and with the warmth of friends and acquaintances. The Social had a different format this year – pickleball play at Sea Oats Courts and tennis at Hillcrest with a combined social at the Hillcrest Gazebo. Gazebo survived a tree falling on it and looks good. Pickleball and tennis must be a thing, we had almost fifty attendees, it is believed to be a new record!

**Ron Nelson** prepared another delicious meal of meatballs, chicken, salads, desserts and hearth baked rolls. Thanks again for the beautiful spread!

It was not all fun and games, as we approved the Racquet Club Guidelines (so we are official now). All meeting information, including minutes, current guidelines and rules are available in the YourCourts app on the Home page on the right under *Club Documents*.

The **Fall Social** is tentatively scheduled for September 28.

#### How to Access YourCourts

We continue to get questions on how to reserve time at SSCA Racquet Club facilities and how to access Your-Courts. For Tennis, all play is by reservation using the sign-up sheets located inside the courts at Hillcrest Courts. If you have forgotten the code, please contact the SSCA office.

For pickleball, you will need to use the YourCourts app to reserve time. All pickleball time is by reservation only. If you are a new user, follow the steps below:

- **1.** Enter this website address in your browser window OR click this link: <a href="https://www.yourcourts.com/yourcourts/security/showLogin/836280">https://www.yourcourts.com/yourcourts/security/showLogin/836280</a>
- 2. Enter your SSCA primary or secondary email address and the temporary password sscalogin
- 3. Click the blue "Log In" bar
- **4.** You will be prompted to create a new secure password for your YourCourts account. Password does not have to match SSCA password

Existing users just login.

If you are a SSCA guest, please contact your rental company or <a href="mailto:tennis@sscaobx.org">tennis@sscaobx.org</a> for more information.

#### Open Play Opportunities at Tennis and Pickleball Courts

A reminder to everyone about open play opportunities at our SSCA tennis courts at Hillcrest and pickleball courts at Sea Oats Park.

**Tennis:** Three open play times reserved each week (all times are Summer hours).

- **1. Wednesday Mixed Doubles** meets at 5 pm. Format is short 4-game sets with no ad. Play is casual, but all levels are welcome. Please email <a href="mailto:tennis@sscaobx.org">tennis@sscaobx.org</a> for more information.
- **2. Friday Women's Play** meets at 8 am. Please email <u>tennis@sscaobx.org</u> to get your name added to the mailing list.
- **3. Saturday Men's Play** meets at 8 am. Format is flexible depending on how many players. No reservations are needed. Just bring your game.

**Pickleball:** Open play Monday through Thursday from 8 am to noon. Login into YourCourts as described above. The Reservation Screen will appear with a Schedule for the current day. You may join a Pickleball Open Play session or reserve a court for Casual Play. You can scroll to other days and can reserve up to 4 sessions per week and up to two weeks in advance. The Reservation Instruction window to the right includes information you may need, such as rules of play and the gate code. Guest members are limited to 3 sessions per week.

Pickleball Open play may be reserved up to 4 times per week and is limited to the first 16 sign ups. If a session is full, add your name to the waiting list and you will be notified if there is a cancelation.

#### Newbie Pickleball Clinic

If you are new to pickleball or feel you need a refresher, we have a FREE Newbie Clinic every Friday at 1pm. Please use the YourCourts app to reserve a slot. It is suggested to reserve with a friend to ensure there will be enough participants. Please email <a href="mailto:tennis@sscaobx.org">tennis@sscaobx.org</a> for more information.

#### Other Reminders for Safe and Fun Play

- 1. Please be aware that Courts 1 and 2 at Sea Oats have been switched Court 1 is now on your left as you enter the gate. We switched the numbers so the courts align with how they appear on the YourCourts app. If you haven't done so yet, download the YourCourts app for FREE from the Apple Store and other vendors by using the search term *YourCourts.com*.
- 2. Please keep our beautiful courts and parks clean by taking your trash to the bins in the parking lot. The trash can inside the pickleball courts is now gone.

3. If you have not joined the Racquet Club or have forgotten the new gate code, please contact the SSCA office.

See you on the courts!

Properties Joel Newton







Volunteers installed the handrails at the 10th Ave crossover, which completed that contractor - volunteer replacement project.

The faded and missing "Keep Off the Dune" signs (30) were replaced, along with other small repairs at the crossovers. While doing this, we received a call from someone volunteering to trim the trees, Russian Olives and vines at 84A Ocean Blvd, which was a task that needed to be done! This volunteer (who prefers to remain anonymous) did a great job pruning and trimming the vegetation the next day.

With the help of *George Beach*, new and improved "No Parking" signs were installed at the entry and exist of the overflow parking area at Hillcrest. Hopefully, drivers will pay attention to these signs!!

# Scrounger's Corner

If anyone is interested in some short pieces of Pebble Gray Trex (2' long or less) – FREE – please contact *Joel Newton* at (804) 892-3348.

Membership Sue Bigbee

All SSCA properties are private property owned by SSCA members. These properties include the North, South and Loblolly marinas, the North Marina pavilion, the 34 beach crossovers, Hillcrest Tennis Courts, Seat Oats Pickle Ball Courts, Sea Oats and Soundview Parks, and the Sunset and Kingfisher Overlooks. Your membership in the SSCA is critical to the maintenance and repair of the parks, parking areas, marinas, beach accesses, and other common properties that serve your community. It also shows your support for those who volunteer with the SSCA to keep it running - from the board members to the beach clean-up organizers, parking monitors and to those crucial volunteers who pound the nails to keep our community properties repaired. We are truly a community of volunteers! Membership dues help to support the maintenance and improvements of all these amenities. Membership is totally voluntary, but it is so vital to our community! So, if you have neighbors and friends who are residents (fulltime or parttime) of our community, but don't belong to the SSCA, please encourage them to join, we need their support!

Through June 15th, about 91% of our SSCA memberships have renewed. The introduction of electronic payment of SSCA invoices was instrumental in achieving this high rate of renewal. If you have not renewed your membership yet and want to continue to support the SSCA, please renew as soon as you can (this can be done online at sscaobx.org). The dues for full-time residents, second homeowners, and non-seasonal long-term renters are only \$70. The dues for seasonal rentals (including those with rentals through Vacasa, VRBO, AirBnb, etc., as well as traditional local rental companies) are \$100. Racquet Club and Boat Club memberships are separate. A Boat Club membership is \$30 each and a Racquet Club membership is \$25 each.

## **Marina Slip Rentals**

The wait list for wet, dry and kayak slips continue to grow! In 2023 we added 6 new wet slips at the Loblolly Marina, 2 new wet slips and 1 transient wet slip at the North Marina. This past fall, we completed construction of a walkway and added water and electric to service the 6 new slips at Loblolly. In May, we completed construction of two additional kayak racks located at Loblolly Marina. This reduced our waitlist for kayak slips from 16 to a modest 4. A big "SHOUT OUT" to **Bob Baculik**, the SSCA volunteer who built both racks for us! The SSCA provided the materials and **Bob** generously supplied the labor and construction know how. While these slips didn't get rid of our wait list, it did give us a few more slips to offer our members. Unfortunately, there is no additional space at our current marinas for more slips.

A big "THANK YOU" to the fellow boat club members that called the SSCA when they noticed moored boats in the North marina that were in danger of sinking. We had two instances this spring, both after large storms, where a member's boat was taking on water. These concerned SSCA members called the SSCA and reported the situation. We were able to reach out to the boat owners who immediately went to the marina and repaired their boats! What great SSCA members and boat neighbors!

# **Marina Parking**

A reminder about parking challenges and etiquette at the North marinas,

To ensure only SSCA Boat Club members are using our facilities, we will be monitoring the marina lots. **Make sure an SSCA decal is visible on your vehicle and a trailer decal is attached to your boat trailer, so monitors know you're an SSCA Boat Club member authorized to use the marina.** The SSCA will be enforcing the towing policy, and those without decals will be towed at the owner's expense. Also, no trailers are allowed to be parked overnight – with or without decals!

Please consider the following when bringing your boat to the marina for launching:

- Limited parking is available at the North Marina in the upper lot, and along the grassy area along the driveways. Be sure that your trailer does not impede access to the driveways or the boat ramp.
- Park your trailers and trucks responsibly and properly in available spaces. This will prevent a truck
  or trailer taking up more than one parking space.
- Limited parking is available at the South Marina located off South Dogwood Trail.

# **Parking FAQs**

1. Question: What is the purpose of the boat trailer decal?

**Answer:** To assist SSCA Parking Monitors to identify SSCA and Boat Club members' vehicles and trailers parking at the marinas. Vehicles/trailers without decals may be towed if found using SSCA parking facilities.

2. Question: How long can a detached trailer park at a Marina with or without a boat trailer decal?

**Answer:** Trailers with decals may park <u>during the day</u> in UNMARKED spaces only. Marked spaces are rented and paid for by SSCA boat club members, you may <u>not park</u> in these spaces. Trailers without decals are subject to towing. There is NO overnight parking at the marina except for members in legally rented dry slips.

**3. Question:** Is there a recommended location for placement of the decal?

**Answer:** The best location for the volunteers to check is on the winch post

**4. Question:** What is citable related to the boat trailer decal?

Answer: Left overnight, not in a dry slip

# **Parking FAQs**

**5. Question:** Can a vehicle, with a trailer attached, park in our Marina parking lots with a SSCA decal with a Boat Club symbol but not a boat trailer decal?

**Answer:** Yes, it's the orphan trailers we need to monitor. This is the 1st year for the trailer decals so we're trying to encourage our members to put the decal on.

**6. Question:** There are now posts with numbers on them in the North and Loblolly Marina parking lots. Who is allowed to park in those spaces and what decals/passes are valid there?

**Answer:** All numbered dry slips/parking spaces are rented and paid for by SSCA Boat Club Members. Since they "own" the parking space/dry slip they are allowed to use the slip 24 hours per day seven days per week. They are required to display the required SSCA member decal and trailer decal.

**7. Question:** Can a vehicle, without a trailer attached, park in the North Marina parking lot with a SSCA decal that does not have a Boat Club symbol?

**Answer:** Yes

**8. Question:** Can the North and Loblolly Marinas be used to launch kayaks or canoes by people without the Boat Club decal, even if they are dropped off and are not parking in the SSCA parking lot?

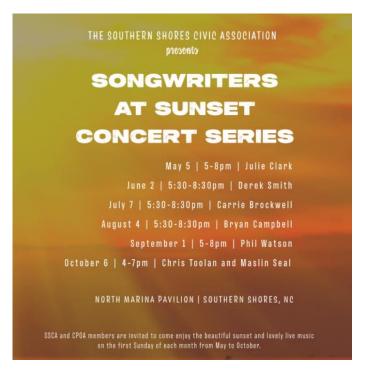
**Answer:** As clearly identified on the signs at each marina location, the marinas are private property to be used ONLY by SSCA and Boat Club Members and their guests. We will cite a parked vehicle with no, or an inappropriate pass even if they drop the kayaks off, as they are still using the ramp.

**9. Question:** What if I have not been able to check in to my rental and still want to use the North Marina?

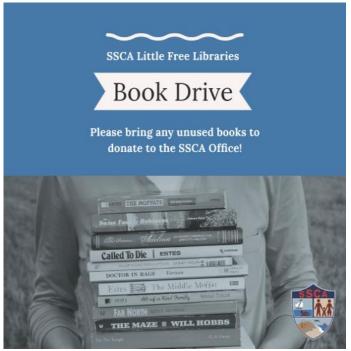
Answer: If you do not have the guest pass or decals indicating membership in the SSCA Boat Club, you will get a warning citation. People get 2 warning citations before they go on the towing list. Therefore, if you can't get into your rental right away and show up at the Marinas without the passes, you will get citation #1. Once you can check in that day and get your passes and property put them in the vehicles you will not get a 2nd citation.

# **Social Events and Volunteers**

### **Aida Alvarez**







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