

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

SOUTHERN SHORES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

In our December 2024 Newsletter, Southern Shores Civic Association President Tisa Head outlined the many accomplishments of the SSCA in 2024 through the dedication and hard work of our members who volunteer. This spirit of volunteerism makes Southern Shores a special community. That December Newsletter is available on our website and worth a re-read to appreciate YOUR accomplishments!

In April, we will also be moving our office from the Pitts Center to the flat-top house at 13 Skyline Drive owned by the Town. See the picture below. We are excited about the move and new location!

As this year's SSCA President, I and the entire Board of Directors would like to, again, thank all of YOU who pound the nails, monitor parking lots, supply the doggy bag stations and Little Free Libraries, clean up the dune crossovers and beach accesses, plant the sea grass, and so much more.

Volunteers also help run the SSCA as an organization—the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, the Architectural Review Board, the Racquet Club, the Boat Club, and those who help on various other committees as well as with office operations. Thanks to all of YOU for your dedication and the hours you put in.

In April, we also plan to form this year's Nominating Committee identify candidates for the Board of Directors for terms beginning in 2026. Please keep your eyes open for an email from the SSCA seeking volunteers to help fill out the Nominating Committee for this year.

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, let's get out and enjoy this great place where we live!



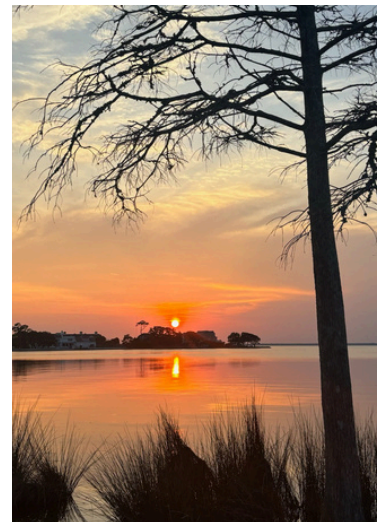
13 SKYLINE DRIVE

TREASURER'S UPDATE

The SSCA major income categories include owner and rental memberships, marina rentals, and boat and Racquet Club memberships. We have collected approximately 85% of our budgeted membership dues and Boat Club dues, 97% of budgeted Racquet Club dues and 95% of slip rentals as of the end of February. Please remember that early or on time payment of dues is very helpful to the SSCA and will assure you have continued access to all of the SSCA amenities.

THANK YOU to those who rounded up their membership fees. These contributions make a difference. We are happy to announce that we have collected almost \$6000 in member contributions already this year. Most of those are from our members who "rounded up" their dues payments. We really appreciate any and all donations; they allow us to continue to provide great amenities to our community.

Spending continues in accordance with our 2025 budget. We have set targets for our reserve account balances and work towards adding to the balances each year, to eventually meet the balance targets. Reserve account balances are a vital part of the health of our civic association. These accounts are used for major projects, such as building the pickleball courts, but most importantly are held in reserve in case of minor to catastrophic storm damage when we would need these funds to be able to repair and rebuild the SSCA's extensive amenities.



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We have formed our internal audit committee for the 2024 audit and the committee members are hard at work. A big thank you to our committee members, Noel Langlois, Pam Lamb, Jim Major, Charlie Andrews, Bill Lanier and Russ Paoletti.

MEMBERSHIP

All SSCA properties are private property owned by SSCA. These properties include the North, South and Loblolly marinas, the North Marina pavilion, the 34 beach crossovers, Hillcrest Tennis Courts, Sea Oats Pickle Ball Courts, Sea Oats, Triangle Park 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 - including the board members to the teachers of the exercise and star-gazing classes, the beach clean-up organizers, parking monitors and 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 voluntary, but it is so vital to our community!

Through March 17, about 85% of our member have renewed their SSCA membership. The introduction of electronic payment of SSCA invoices starting in 2024 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.



SLIP RENTALS

Boating season is right around the corner. The wait list for wet, dry and kayak slips show us that demand for slips remains high! But the good news is the waiting list for wet slips is down to 31 members from a high of 49. Unfortunately, there is no additional space at our current marinas for more wet or dry slips, we are at capacity. In the future, if demand continues to grow, we may look to add a more kayak racks at Loblolly.

We periodically receive complaints from members about vacant slips. This can happen for several different reasons.

- Members rent slips, but do not always keep a boat in their slip for the entire season. The SSCA does not require a member who has paid their slip rental fees to always keep a boat in the water.
- Members who rent slips that live out of the area and only use their slip when they are in town.
- Members that were renting slips but no longer owned a boat. Effective in 2025, we instituted a new rule requiring anyone renting a slip to own a boat. This resulted in multiple slips being released and subsequently rented to members on the waitlist.

We plan to distribute a set of Marina Rules and Regulations in April that address parking etiquette, safety, and general marina rules.

HAPPY BOATING!!



PROPERTIES

The winter of 2025 has been quite busy!

Luke Falconer and I worked with a licensed structural engineer to develop a concept plan and budget for a proposed addition to the North Marina Pavilion.



PORPOISE RUN ACCESS

I hired and worked with a contractor to remove a 200-foot-long, 15-foot-high, and 25-foot-wide Russian-Thorny Olive hedgerow at the Porpoise Run beach access. Russian-Thorny Olive (*Elaeagnus pungens*) is an invasive shrub that forms dense thickets making trail edges harder to maintain, creating hazards along walkways, and reducing native habitat limiting food and shelter for birds. This area has been reseeded with a mix of native dune grasses and other hardy shrubs.

Beach grass has since been planted on the dune section to the left of the crossover, a 25' wide x 50' area. The next step will be planting a row of 20 Hollywood Junipers and eight Yaupon Hollies, which we hope will be planted in April



PROPERTIES

➤➤➤ CONTINUED.

HICKORY TRAIL BEACH ACCESS (EAST)

Oversaw the construction of my design for the Hickory Trail XOVR's new viewing deck and low sloped east stairs, making this XOVR easier to ascend and descend.



HICKORY TRAIL BEACH ACCESS (WEST)

We replaced the Hickory Trail XOVR's west stairs by contract, with railings and pickets installed by volunteers. Handrail parts have been ordered and we anticipate installing them the latter part of April.



Sarah Spencer presents a donation from her "For the Love of OBX" fund to Tisa Head (left), former SSSA President, and Jeff Johnson, current SSSA President (right). Sarah created the fund to help give our community its best life. As Len Schmitz was soliciting contributions thru a GoFundMe campaign to improve accessibility of the Hickory Trail dune crossover, this seemed to fit the fund's mission and be a great neighbor.

PROPERTIES

»»» CONTINUED.



»»» 132A DUNE CROSSOVER

Volunteers and contractors demolished the old 132A dune crossover in just one hour on Wednesday, March 12th. The contractor then rapidly constructed the new crossover by that Friday night (14th), followed by volunteers installing temporary railings over the weekend to open the 132A Ocean Blvd beach access for use! Additional work, including the permanent installation of railings, Trex railing tops, selected pickets, handrails, and a bench, is on going as weather and volunteer time permits.



»»» 48A OCEAN BLVD

We built stairs for the Hickory Trail XOVR two to three years ago, and as they were in good condition, had them moved to the 48A Ocean Blvd XOVR to replace an aging set of XOVR stairs. Then five volunteers spent 2 1/2 hours demolishing the upper old stairs, reinstalling stair treads, constructing a new 7' deck extension, and adding temporary handrails.



»»» ANNUAL CONDITION SURVEY

I completed the annual condition survey of the SSCA's beach accesses and dune crossovers and am pleased to report that they are in the best condition I have seen in my 16 years of working on them. The only downside is that someone appears to be determined that we shouldn't have oceanside marker signs at 36A Ocean Blvd. Two sets have been stolen in the past year. Perhaps the members and residents in the Skyline Drive area can help put a stop to this vandalism.

VOLUNTEER/SOCIAL EVENTS



Annual Community Cleanup

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, volunteers are needed to help with the Annual Southern Shores Cleanup event in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day. Whether you love our beaches, parks, marinas, or tennis and pickleball courts, there is something for everyone!

The event kicks off at 10am with activities planned throughout the Southern Shores community until 4pm. Plant a tree. Learn about the environment from The OBX Way. Talk to a certified arborist from OBX Tree Doc and a Master Gardener. Pick up a free plant and enjoy a light brunch and refreshments. We invite you to bring your favorite yard tool and spend your morning or afternoon (or both) helping beautify our community. Volunteers will also be invited to our the first ever Volunteer Appreciation and Summer Kickoff event with free food, drink, and live music at Tap Shack in Duck on Sunday, May 18, 2025.

Organized by The Southern Shores Civic Association, Chicahauk Property Owners Association, and the Town of Southern Shores, this event is also supported by Home Depot. **[Click here for more info and to sign up!](#)**



Songwriters at Sunset Concert Series

On the first Sunday of each month from June to September, timed with sunset, SSCA will once again host an amazing array of talented singer/songwriters including Ruth Wyand, Ben Long, Troy Breslow, and Kyle Davis.

The concert series will kick off on Sunday, June 1, 2025, with local music legend Ruth Wyand, "a walking encyclopedia of American music styles, playing a mix of Americana, jazz, blues, folk, country augmented by Piedmont and bluegrass clawhammer fingerpicking. Performing well-crafted instrumental arrangements of classics ranging from Doc Watson, Etta Baker, Jimi Hendrix, Leo Kottke to Thelonious Monk and Duke Ellington along with her own compositions always makes for a captivating show. Each song no matter how different, has a firm Ruth Wyand stamp of style on it."

Bring your guests and a picnic with your favorite beverages! There is plenty of covered seating and parking. You don't even need to leave the neighborhood or buy a ticket. Just join us for an amazing sunset as the backdrop to a special and intimate concert series in our own backyard, planned just for us. **[Click here to listen to a playlist!](#)**

Volunteer Appreciation and Summer Kickoff Event

Sunday, May 18, 2025
6 PM to 9:30 PM

Tap Shack, Duck NC

CLUBS

Racquet Club

Open Play Times at Hillcrest Tennis Courts

Mixed Doubles Tennis

- Every Wednesday
- 5 PM to 7 PM

Women's Tennis

- Every Friday
- 8:30 AM to 11 AM

Men's Tennis Open Play

- Every Saturday
- 8:30 AM to 11 AM

If you have questions or want to be added to the mailing list, please contact **Jay Dunlap** at tennis@sscaobx.org.

Spring Social

May 3, 2025 at 3 pm at the Hillcrest Tennis Courts.

Rain date May 4, 2025

All members of the Racquet Club are invited to attend the annual Spring Social starting at 3PM. Food and Beverages will be served.

The Pickleball Courts and Tennis courts will be available for open play from 12 to 3PM. No reservations necessary. Food and beverages will be available at the Tennis Courts at 3PM.

If you plan to attend, please **RSVP** to **Ron Nelson** at ronterrinelson@verizon.net



Boat Club

Boat Club Merchandise

You can now order SSCA Boat Club merchandise online. Local pickup only. Get your Boat Club swag today!

[BOAT CLUB WEBSITE](#)

Boating Safety Class

Saturday, April 12, 2025 (One day only.)

Oregon Inlet Fishing Center

8:30am – 4:30pm



\$30 includes all materials, exam, and refreshments. Additional family members, \$25 each.

[Sign up here!](#)

PORCH TALK

Local chatter, neighborly news, and all the stuff you'd hear from a rocking chair.

This year's dune planting efforts have been a tremendous success! We started in November at Pelican Watch and initially aimed to reach the cell tower split. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and increased funding from the Town of Southern Shores, we exceeded expectations—planting an additional $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of dune, extending a few blocks past East Dogwood. That's a total of 2.2 miles of dune planted this season!

With this progress, we are in a great position to complete the second row of sand fencing up to the town border with Duck next year.

A special thanks to Shore Coffee Roasters, Southern Shores Pizza, and Pizza Stop for their generous donations, and to Len and Barbara Schmitz's for coordinating the planting efforts. Most of all, thank you to our incredible volunteers who made this possible!



Thanks to a Go FundMe campaign by Len Schmitz, and a donation from Sarah Spencer's "For the Love of OBX" fund, we were able to replace the Hickory Trail dune crossover's west stairs with more accessible stairs.

The SSCA is saddened to share the passing of former SSCA BOD member/Treasurer, **Ernie Russell Dash**, Wednesday, March 19, 2025. Ernie dedicated time and effort to our community, helping support the SSCA and its mission. We are grateful for his service and contributions to Southern Shores. Our thoughts are with his family and friends during this time.



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