

## Happy 4th of July!!!

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Well, this was a great way to start the new month! Once again, Bob & I stayed at Lakeside to celebrate The Fourth. Ray Maggio, one of our residents, is experienced in the art of Firework displays and did a wonderful job again this year! I even got a couple of half way decent photos of the display. His sons were visiting and worked right along with him. Prior to the display, before the Sun went to bed, there was a golf cart parade which I was able to catch on the way up to the clubhouse. This is a tradition too and lots of fun. We didn't have a cook out on this Holiday, but I have to tell you I don't think I have ever seen so many deserts in one place, anywhere. What ever you had a taste for, it was there. A local DJ was there with some musical entertainment and the weather held out for us as well! A great evening!

Bob & I did a few interesting things this month, which we will share with you. We had heard about the Waccatee Zoo, which is called Myrtle Beach's best kept secret, and is tucked away a short distance from here. What a pleasant surprise! We had a brief break in the hot humid weather one day and off we went. They had some animals there I didn't even know existed. It was built in among the trees which made it nice and cool and pleasant. I forget what the animal is in the first picture, but the second one is a Patagonian Maras, the 4th largest rodent in the world, related to the guinea pig. It looks like a rabbit but not related. Then there is the Peacock, showing off as only a Peacock can do. Although I didn't show it here, he even turned around to show off his back side! The final picture was taken while walking over a small wooden bridge, over a creek that opened up into a pond. We heard loud bird chatter and upon looking across the pond, there were hundreds of Snowy Egrets sitting in the trees and flying around. What a sight!!! It was interesting that they favored the Zoo property to hang out. I took a film clip of them as well. Another building on the grounds had some old antiques, like farm and household equipment which was quite a surprise and very interesting. This was a very worthwhile experience.



Well, the remainder of the Newsletter will include a fun trip up the Waccamaw River on Captain Jim's Tour Boat, and other water pictures, a coffee and doughnut presentation, and a concert at Lakewood RV Park in Myrtle Beach, which included students from Carolina Forest HS.



Well, what about our monthly presentation with coffee and doughnuts you ask?? Prior to the scheduled speaker, our neighbor, Doris Daughaday got up and made a plea for empty shoe boxes to be used for charity. Her church fills them with essential items and sends them over seas to third world countries. Doris wants to thank everyone for the tremendous response she received from everyone here at Lakeside. Then Dennis Picard, owner of Advanced Medical Transport spoke on medical emergencies that can happen at home and how to get the needed help quickly. This is always a good time to make such announcements as this crowd always shows up for *free* coffee and doughnuts!! Then there is another relatively new weekly event and that is the Thursday Happy Hour BYOB w/weekly Specials. Nancy has been behind this and has adjusted her own schedule to be present herself. The specials referred to are certain groups, such as The Maryland Group, or the New York Group. When those people attend on their night, ladies are offered a free glass of wine. Since our Lakeside Community has grown quite a bit over the last couple of years, such weekly social events help residents meet their new neighbors and make new friends.

Bob & I have been doing some more research on things to do and places to visit in the area. This time we chose a tour on the Waccamaw River, on *Captain Jim's Tour Boat*. Great choice! Captain Jim, a native of the area had a wealth of information to share. It is a small boat that can carry a dozen people. He gave us the history of a handful of old homes positioned along the river's edge, as well as the bridges within view. As you can see I had my camera handy. There is a picture of one of the mansions and of a swamp area. Having worked up an appetite following the tour, we went out for some sea food and in the process watched an interesting activity of some people standing on a board, rowing themselves around. In addition, there were some people taking a ride out on a local tour boat, *A Pirate Ship*. See picture below.

As if that was not enough, a group of us from Lakeside attended a concert at The Lakewood Campground in Myrtle Beach one evening, where some of our favorite young performers from the Carolina Forest School District were performing on stage. This is located on the beach, and the window view behind the performers is not a picture, it is the ocean! Very enjoyable! So, do you think this is enough for one month? Talk to you again in August!

