



Newcomers of New Bern New Directions Newsletter

www.newbernnewcomers.org

September 2011

Newcomers of New Bern—

The Newcomers Club of New Bern would like to welcome you to the great state of North Carolina and to the wonderful town of New Bern!

Most of you who have moved to New Bern have done so by choice and are anxious to find out everything you can about your new home. New Bern offers something that few cities offer and that is the "Newcomers Club." The club provides opportunities for you to meet and make new friends and acquaintances. Club members come from all parts of the world bringing with them interesting experiences and skills.

Monthly general meetings offer a variety of opportunities such as musical entertainment, special guest speakers with valuable information, a wide variety of Activity Groups, along with social time and refreshment. The Newcomers Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May at H.J. McDonald Middle School, located at 3127 Elizabeth Street, New Bern. Club dues are \$25 per household per year . . . singles \$20 per year.

The Newcomers Club has many Activity Groups. You may participate in as many activities as you desire. Some of the Activities Groups include: Boaters, Singles, Dining Out, Dining In, Golf, Day Trips, Dominoes and many others.

The new club year kicks off in August with a get-acquainted Social for people who have moved into New Bern during the summer months. Other special activities include a December holiday party and a year-end event in May.

Again, welcome to New Bern and Craven County, North Carolina. All of us look forward to meeting you and helping you learn more about this marvelous city and area.

Important Notice

With the October 2011 issue, the Newsletter will be available online at the Newcomers Club Website <http://www.newbernnewcomers.org>

We hope to institute an email system to let you know when the new issue is available, so be sure that the Membership Committee has your current email information.

Our Website is being updated with new content, photos and information. Check back frequently to see the changes on the website. We are not yet ready to move to activity sign-up on the site, but we are working toward that function. In the meantime, the sign-up sheets for the Activities Groups will continue to be available at the membership meeting.

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Activity Groups

Activity Co-Chairs - Steve and Phyllis Epperson & Gary and Mary Todd

As Activity Co-Chairs for the 2011-2012 Newcomers Club of New Bern, let us extend a warm welcome to all recent arrivals to the area. The Newcomers Club offers a menu of activities designed not only to provide you with new friends and fun, but also opportunities to learn, lead and laugh!

Activity Groups change from year to year depending on the interests of the new members. Please note the Groups we have for the coming year on the following pages. If you have a suggestion for another activity and you are willing to lead the group, please contact one of our activity chairpersons. You may contact Steve and Phyllis Epperson at (252) 876 2882 or rsepperson@hotmail.com or you may contact Gary and Mary Todd at (252) 288-5502 or thetoddfamily10@gmail.com. We have already had Newcomers volunteers to lead a biking group and a scrabble group for this coming year.

If you would like to join a group, just come to the monthly Newcomers meeting and sign up with one of the activity leaders or contact an activity leader or co-chair directly.

Boaters

The Boaters group is for those who own a boat (power, sail, canoe, or kayak) or will purchase one in the first year of membership. The Boaters hold monthly meetings where a speaker will present and discuss a marine related issue. In addition, there are outings, raft-ups and visits to boat builders in eastern North Carolina. The Activity Leader for this group is: Gary Todd (252) 288-5502 or thetoddfamily10@gmail.com

Day Trips

The Day Trip Activity group plans and schedules excursions in and around the New Bern area. These excursions are social, recreational and educational with the goal of introducing Newcomers to the area. These

trips are accomplished in a single day, giving participants opportunities to enjoy new friends. The Activity Leader for this group is: Darlene Pittman (252) 288-5579 or josephpittman@gmail.com

Dining In

Dining In for Eight is an opportunity for eight Newcomers (4 couples or singles) to share a meal with each other in a host's home. This is a chance to meet in a smaller and more relaxed setting. The host prepares the main course and the other couples bring the other courses. You can share your experiences in relocating, where to shop, locate doctors or interesting places to visit. This is a fun way to learn the area and get acquainted with other Newcomers. You host one dinner and attend three others over the course of the year. The Activity Leaders for this group are: Shirley Kimball or Jim Hannifan (252) 634-2201 or Hannifan@facil.umass.edu

Dining Out

Here's an opportunity to enjoy learning about the restaurants in the New Bern area. Dine out at a local restaurant with a group of newcomers. It's a chance to taste the chef's choice and enjoy the company of others. Each month, a new outing is planned for your enjoyment. Sign up at the meetings. The Activity Leader for this group is: Kate Blakefield (443) 534-5323 or wblakefield@gmail.com

Mexican Dominoes

This is a fun game for groups. It is a variation on the traditional dominoes game, allowing a lot of time for conversation. This game is easy to learn and is tailored for both the new and experienced. The Activity Leader for this group is: Debbie Miller (252) 288-4900 or miller.deb2003@yahoo.com

Golf

Newcomers golf is based on having a good time. The aim of the program is to meet potential new golf partners, play various local golf courses and foremost,

to enjoy yourself. The group normally plays on the 3rd Wednesday or Thursday of each month, based upon the availability of the particular course. Additionally, there are also reduced rates, dependant upon the number of participants. If you are questioning your golfing ability—don't. Scores are irrelevant and not required. Newcomers golf events are for fun, as opposed to serious golf play. Come give it a try! The Activity Leader for this group is: Jim Wittmeyer (716) 860-2360 or dmwittmeyer@hotmail.com

Knitting

Beginners and experienced knitters are welcome (any needlecraft is acceptable). Meet new knitters and enjoy some time with new friends. You may sign up for knitters at the monthly Newcomers meeting. The Activity Leader for this group is: Linda Bory (252) 571-5349 or Kathy Emerson 1(252) 776-4171.

Photography

This activity was formed recently. Participants have taken their cameras to interesting places throughout the New Bern area. You need not be an experienced photographer to participate but you must bring your own camera. The Activity Leader for this group is: Jeanne Julian (252) 288-6608 or jmcjulian@yahoo.com

Singles Mingle

The Singles / Mingles group is open to all single men and women who are interested in meeting others through our coffees and luncheons. Special activities are also planned throughout the year. The Activity Leaders are: Cinda Hill (252) 288-4731 or chillnewbern@gmail.com, Diane Smith (252) 633-0565 or iya0531@yahoo.com, Tina Beach (252) 633-0565 or tbeach238@gmail.com

Wine Socials

The goals of the Wine Socials are for Newcomers to meet in an informal setting, get to know each other better, and to share an appreciation of wines. There will be several Wine Socials during the year. Some will be in homes and others in restaurants or other public places. The Activity Leader for this group is: Cinda Hill (252) 288 4731 or chillnewbern@gmail.com

Activity Group Guest Policy

The Newcomers Club encourages potential members to "try out" the club before they become members. This tryout is limited to one guest appearance at either the monthly membership meeting or at an activity. The Club conducts some activities jointly with the Alumni Club, and guests are open to attend one of these joint groups. However, the Club asks that potential new members make a decision to join the Newcomers Club or Alumni after this one guest visit.

Multiple guest visits to activities or the membership meeting are not allowed. There may be personal liability implications for activity group leaders if they allow multiple visits by guests, or other non-members such as friends and neighbors. In addition, multiple visits without membership take advantage of all members of the Club who have paid their dues for these activities.

The Club encourages members to bring guests to events. We ask that the members limit guest visits for those who are eligible for membership in the club and encourage these guests to join. Members who have visitors who are not eligible for membership (i.e. someone from outside the area) may bring these guests to multiple activities and membership meetings.

We encourage members to pursue friendships both inside and outside of Club activities. This can be important in the final year of Club membership as we get ready to transition to the Alumni Group. It is important to note that there is no residency requirement for the Alumni Group. They are open to all in the New Bern area. As such, we encourage members to direct friends who are not in Newcomers to either join us, if they are in their first year in New Bern, or to the Alumni Club if they have been in New Bern for more than one year.

The Alumni Club has an open enrollment policy whereby people can join the club regardless of the length of time they have lived in the New Bern area. The Newcomers Club is specifically for individuals in their first year in New Bern.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARTWALK

SEPTEMBER 9, 2011, 5-8PM

Enjoy an evening of Art Openings and Meet the Artists Events. Contact 252-638-2577

NEW BERN 3RD ANNUAL WINE FESTIVAL

NEW BERN HILTON BALLROOM

SEPTEMBER 17, 2011, 2-6PM

Questions regarding ticket purchases please contact Darian Dennis at 252-497-2633.

NEW BERN ROTARY OKTOBERFEST

New Bern Farmers Market, 421 S. Front St.

September 30, 2011, 5:30 - 9:30pm

Oktoberfest Blaskapelle band, dancing and great family fun. Questions regarding ticket purchases please contact Darian Dennis at 252-497-2633.

MUMFEST

OCTOBER 8-9, 2011

An award-winning festival on the Streets and Waterfront of historic downtown New Bern, NC

Homes & Garden Tour

APRIL 8-9, 2012

homeowners will open their doors so the public can visit some of the most beautiful and interesting homes in New Bern's historic district. Information 252-638-8558

An Interesting Fact about New Bern

In 1933, the Federal Government built the Post Office and Courthouse in New Bern with WPA funds of \$325,000, making it one of the largest and most expensive buildings in North Carolina. This expenditure for a town the size of New Bern was controversial since the average post office at the time cost \$50,000. Will Rogers satirized the situation in his column, "Please Pass the Pork." In July 1992, the Post Office vacated the building which is now the United States District Court.



The United States District Court at 413 Middle Street.



You Can Find Anything in New Bern!



Newcomers Club of New Bern, NC

NEW

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RENEWAL

Renewal application and signed waiver are due by the October meeting.



_____ Last name First name

_____ Last Name First Name

_____ Please call us:(eg: Jim and Liz)

_____ Relocated from (State): _____ When? _____

_____ Street Address Sub-Division
(Greenbrier, River Bend, Trent Woods, Fairfield Harbour, etc)

_____ City (New Bern) Zip Code Telephone No.

_____ Email address

(The Newsletter will be available online)

Newcomers Club meetings and activities are scheduled from September through May, although the Boating, Ladies' Bridge, and Singles Groups meet all year. For more information, read our monthly newsletter, *New Directions*, and call the Activity Leaders listed in the newsletter. For those that have not yet set up their local internet provider, a complimentary paper copy of the newsletter can be obtained by calling the Neighbors of New Bern Advisor, Sandie Swigart, at 633-4094

Dues are \$25.00 per year per household and **\$20.00** for singles. For **new** members who join in February and March, dues are a prorated **\$10.00**. However, those who pay the **full** dues in April or thereafter are considered members for the next membership year.

Send this form with your applicable dues check payable to **Newcomers Club** to:

Chuck Saraceno
Membership, Newcomers Club
6000 Brig Ct
New Bern, NC 28560

Completion of this Waiver including signatures is a membership requirement

WAIVER AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

Craven County, North Carolina

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the functions and activities of Newcomers Club of New Bern, I/We _____ do hereby agree to hold Newcomers Club of New Bern free from all liability and claims for damages and injuries of any kind whatsoever, from any cause or causes whatsoever, which I/We incur or sustain while participating in any of the function and activities sponsored by the Newcomers of New Bern, and I/We further agree to hold harmless Newcomers of New Bern from liability, loss, cost (including without limitation, attorney fees) and other obligations arising out of any such damages and injuries, however they are incurred or sustained.

(EACH MEMBER MUST SIGN)

Signed _____ Date _____ Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Signed _____ Date _____

Your Newsletter will be available at: <http://www.newbernewcomers.org/default.html>



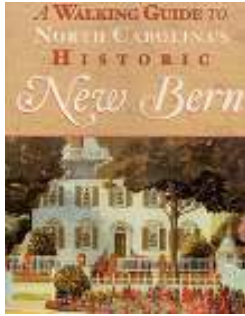
The Newcomers Annual Picnic

June 11, 2011

Photos by Jeanne Julian and Larry Spallanzani



A Great Way to See New Bern



A Walking Guide to North Carolina's Historic New Bern offers 3 walking tours that trace the town's development from colonial times to the twentieth century, and a fourth tour that highlights its houses of worship. The book permits you enjoy New Bern at your own leisurely pace and makes a perfect activity for a beautiful fall or spring day. This excellent book is available from Amazon and at several local gift shops for \$19.99.

Important Phone Numbers

City of New Bern Utilities	636-4070
Craven County Board of Elections	636-6610
Craven County public Library	638-7800
Craven/Pamlico Animal Center	637-4606
DMV - Driver's License Office	514-4734
East Carolina Hospital	633-8911
New Bern City Hall	636-4000
New Bern City Tax Collector	639-7532
New Bern Fire Dept.	639-2931
New Bern Police Department	672-4100
New Bern Parks & Recreation	639-2912
Trash/Recycling	639-7501
Water and Sewer	639-7541

Newcomers Club Officers

2011-2012

Executive Board

Michael & Jan Beech	Co-Presidents	828-316-2729
Jerry & Susan Barrett	Vice-Presidents	252-288-6717
Karen Bartsch	Secretary	252-633-2980
Trish Hardy	Treasurer	802-881-4563

Board of Directors

Steve Epperson	Activity Chair	252-876-2882
Gary & Betty Todd	Activity Chair	252-288-5502
Chuck & Diane Saraceno	Membership	252-288-4663
Bill Blakefield, Newsletter	Editor	443-534-5323
Jim & Mickie Wittmeyer	Social Chair	252-288-5652
Sandie Swigart	Advisor	252-633-4094
Liza Granlund	Advisor	252-638-5799

**Newcomers of New Bern
New Directions Newsletter**

Introducing New Bern to You!



Newsletter Editor:
Bill Blakefield
252-288-4133
wblakefield@gmail.com



**Next Meeting
September 14
7:30 pm**

H.J. MacDonald Middle School,
3127 Elizabeth Street



Newcomers Club Calendar

September 14, 2011*

October 12, 2011*

November 9, 2011*

December 5, 2011 (Holiday Party)

January 11, 2012*

February 8, 2012*

March 14, 2012*

April 11, 2012*

May 9, 2012*

End of year picnic – Date to be determined

*Regular Meeting

Questions about the Newcomers Club
of New Bern should be directed to

Sandie Swigart 252-633-4094

Or

Liza Granlund 252-638-5799

Newcomers with last names beginning
with

A, B, C, D and E

are invited to supply desserts for the
September 14 meeting.