



# DIFF CLUB NEWS



## AT THE TOP



### Northern Gannet (*morus bassanus*)

The Northern Gannet is a large, pelagic sea bird only coming ashore to breed. It is the largest white booby on the Atlantic Coast with a length of 31" and wingspan of 70". It sports a white head with yellowish wash, black outer wing, large gray pointed bill, gray legs and feet. While most dives from the air to feed are shallow, this bird can dive as deep as 72 feet using its wings to propel itself downward.



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## DIFF Annual Membership Meeting

The DIFF Annual Membership Meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Weir at 11:20 AM at the Hut in Pineville, NC. Following the invocation by Connie Grant, DIFF members dined on BBQ, baked beans and coleslaw which had been arranged by Board member Rich Frank.

**National Park Service:** Mike McGee reported that cabin and ferry reservations could be made starting March 10, 2008. He said that the cabin reservations would be taken by the Park Service (252 241 6783) and the ferry by Annette Mitchum of the Davis Shore Ferry Service (252 729 FISH) after March 10<sup>th</sup>. Any reservations made up until now are void and



**Richard Frank**  
New Door Prizes

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## Grants & Scholarships

### DIFF Grants

DIFF will offer \$500 mini-grants to non-profit organizations or individuals who plan to conduct projects that can have a positive impact on the environment, community, marine or wildlife species.

A \$500 mini-grant will be offered in the spring of 2008 and another \$500 mini-grant will be offered in the fall. The deadline to apply for the spring mini-grant has been extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

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will not be honored...everything starts over. Reservations will be facilitated by conference calls



**Mike McGee**

Mike Best. These permits are to be approved March 4<sup>th</sup>. There have been no protests to date and none are expected. McGee also said the NPS would provide a caretaker on the island 24/7 who could be contacted by cell phone. The NPS will sell gasoline on the island, but no ice or bait will be sold on the island. Mike also reported there would be many more rangers patrolling than ever before. McGee reminded us of the upcoming scoping hearings for the ORV Management Plan.



**Lanier & Annette Mitchum**

sponded with a robust standing ovation! Lanier Mitchum thanked Don Eury, Mike McGee, Mark Weir and the Dunaways for standing by them to help make their return possible.

**Treasurer's Report:** B.K. Barringer reported total DIFF assets of \$34,720.02 and that most assets were earning interest in the money market. He also said the Fall Tourney essentially broke even, as planned.

**Grants and Scholarships:** Niles Chumley reported the deadline for the three \$500 scholarships is extended to May 1, 2008. He said there are three \$500 grants still available to individuals,

between Annette and NPS and the customer. He said ferry service would probably resume on or about Easter weekend. He said that a feasibility study showed the cabin and ferry rates would have to increase by at least 10%. Two ferry permits will be issued...one to the Mitchums and one to

**Davis Shore Ferry Service:** Annette Mitchum addressed the Membership saying how much she was looking forward to working with DIFF making reservations. The DIFF Membership responded

non-profits, etc for projects having to do with the conservation of Davis Island and its marine fisheries.

**Work Week Trips:** Robert (Gaterman) Wilson reported there were several projects pending for the Park Service, such as a new dump/wash station, a picnic area, etc.

**Spring Tournament:** Director Connie Grant reported this year's Spring Tourney scheduled for April 11 and 12 had to be postponed to November 1 and 2, 2008 because of the uncertainty of obtaining ferry and cabin reservations. This "winter tourney" will have the same format as the spring.

**Fall Tournament:** Director Mark Weir read a list of the thirteen "Top Ten Winners" of last fall's tourney. A few of the winners present said their secret to success was "dumb luck and patience". Mark "Fish Hog" Weir's tip for success: "Surround yourself with people who know how to fish".

This year's Fall Tourney will have the same format and prizes as last year.

**Sponsors:** Ed Caskey requested all DIFF members solicit donations for the Fall Tourney. He announced this year's Saturday lunch would be provided by former DIFF Board Member Bill Stiles.

**Drawing:** Richard Frank added spice to this year's meeting with a drawing for paid members for some mighty fine rods, reels and other fishing gear.

**Election of Board:** B.K. Barringer read the list of this year's twelve nominees. After hearing no further nominations, the DIFF Membership elected the following by acclamation: Roger Wise, Mark Weir, Mike Laughlin, B.K. Barringer, Rich Frank, Niles Chumley, Robert Wilson, Connie Grant, Scot King, Vickie King, Ed Caskey and Scott Mosely.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.



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The deadline to apply for the fall mini-grant is September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Forms for applying for the grants may be found at the DIFF website: [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com) or by accessing the DIFF Club link at [www.drumwagon.com](http://www.drumwagon.com).

Many thanks to B.K. Barringer who came up with the idea to offer scholarships and grants and to the Board of Directors for approving these!

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## DIFF Scholarships

If you are an active DIFF Club member and have a child or relative who is a high school senior planning to attend a post secondary institution, you are encouraged to have him or her apply for one of our \$500 scholarships. The deadline to apply has been extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. We also offer a \$500 scholarship to college seniors planning to pursue a graduate degree in marine biology or a degree that stresses environmental conservation.

One \$500 scholarship will be offered in each of the following scholarship categories:



**Niles Chumley**

**Don Eury Scholarship** - \$500 to a high school senior planning to pursue a degree in marine biology or a degree stressing environmental conservation. Deadline May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

**Glenn Green Scholarship** - \$500 to a college senior planning to pursue a graduate degree in marine biology or a degree stressing environmental conservation. Deadline May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

**B.K. Barringer Scholarship** - \$500 to a high school senior planning to pursue a post secondary institution (either a 2- year college or institution or a technical school. Deadline May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Forms for applying for the scholarships may be found at the DIFF website: [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com) or by accessing the DIFF Club [www.drumwagon.com](http://www.drumwagon.com).

The DIFF Board of Directors will select and notify the scholarship recipients in writing by May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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## This Land Is Our Land

**By Scot King**

Each time I visit the Island I can't help but notice the myriad of flags that are displayed by a number of people. Flags are flown from the porches of the cabins, from trucks and campers and from the shoreline itself. Prominent are the American flag, state flags, flags that honor ones' heritage, flags of a preferred adult beverage or the flag of a favorite NASCAR driver or University.

From my camper I proudly fly two flags, the Stars and Stripes and the First Navy Jack.



Everyone has a reason why they choose a particular flag to display, let me share the motivation for my choice.

The modern First Navy Jack is a banner of 13 red and white stripes emblazoned with a rattlesnake and the motto “Don’t Tread On Me”.



Historically, Commodore Esek Hopkins ordered that vessels in the Continental Navy fly a striped jack, probably red and white stripes but without the rattlesnake and text. However, the rattlesnake had long been a symbol of resistance to the British in Colonial America. In a political cartoon in 1754, Benjamin Franklin first depicted the American colonies as a rattlesnake that was chopped into pieces with the caption “Join or Die”. As the Continental Navy was readied in 1775, Congress also authorized the mustering of five companies of Marines. In Philadelphia, one company of Marines was noted to have emblazoned upon their yellow painted drums, a rattlesnake and the words “Don’t Tread On Me”. An anonymous letter to the Pennsylvania Journal, later attributed to Benjamin Franklin, wondered why the rattlesnake was chosen as a symbol of America. He wrote: it occurred to him “the Rattlesnake is found in no other quarter of the world besides America” and “She never begins an attack, nor once engaged, ever surrenders: She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage...she never wounds ‘till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy and cautioned him against treading on her”.

In contemporary times, the Secretary of the Navy ordered the First Navy Jack to be flown in 1975 and 1976 by Naval vessels to celebrate the Bicentennial and then ordered that the First Navy Jack would fly on the ship with the longest total period of active service. That distinction is currently held by the USS Kitty Hawk. After the

cowardly terrorist attacks upon the United States of America on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the Secretary of the Navy authorized all Naval ships to display the First Navy Jack during the War on Terrorism.

That background information brings us to my motivation to fly the Stars and Stripes and the First Navy Jack. Most of you are probably not aware that my occupation is a Fireman and my part time occupation is a Paramedic. I hope that you all are aware that 343 Firemen and 42 EMS workers perished on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Standing upon the sandy shores of South Core Banks, at the very edge of this great nation, those two flags fly in tribute and in memorial to those lost. Those two flags fly also in defiance of any that want to bring harm to America. I proudly say, this land is MY land, this land is YOUR land, and this land is OUR land!

I debated with myself whether to include this last paragraph, because I don’t want to detract from the primary reason of why I fly my two particular flags. But a secondary issue has emerged, one of lesser magnitude than of what I wrote above, but important nonetheless. That issue is the one of Off Road Vehicles. The continued use of ORV’s as we know it, at Core Banks, is in jeopardy now. If you as a fisherman or woman want to continue to use your ORV to enjoy Core Banks to its fullest, become involved in the processes to ensure ORV access remains open. Don’t allow some anti-ORV groups to tread on us and restrict the responsible use of ORV’s on Core Banks. I repeat, this land is MY land, this land is YOUR land, and this land is OUR land!



**Scot King**

# DIFF Spring/Winter Tournament

This year's Diff Spring tournament was planned and on hold for most of the fall and winter, waiting until April and our favorite words, "Fishermen and women, start your fishing!" Sad to say, that will not happen this year.

During the February meeting of the Board of Directors, with much discussion and many suggestions, we decided we needed to make some decisions on when and where to hold the Spring event in the future. There were many good suggestions in our discussion but one that kept boiling to the top was - **We Still Want to Fish!** I also kept remembering what long time Diff member, Glenn Green said at our last tournament, "We need to have the Spring Tournament, and we need to support it".

After the Board discussion and vote, we decided to move the tournament to November 1-2, 2008, having the tournament the weekend before election day. Now, think back to the last question Glenn asked at the fall tournament, "How many would like to see a tournament later in the fall?" Well, here it is!

We will run the tournament in the same fashion as we have the previous two Spring Tournaments. We will start with an on-site registration at 10:00 am at Cabin 10, on November 1 and start fishing as soon as all are registered. There will be no pre-registration. We will end the tournament at 2:00 pm on Sunday. This will be a team format with family members and friends on teams of four. Individuals will be assigned to teams. A tournament entry fee of \$10.00 and a current DIFF club membership is required. All entry fees will be awarded as prize money to the top four teams. Awards are based on a total number of points per team. Points are tallied and turned in on Sunday, based entirely on the honor system. For those that enjoy catch and release fishing, this is your tournament. Right now we have 16 species of fish on the chart, eliminating the rays and sharks of previous years. We may add species depending on what is biting at this time of the year. We will also

provide a hot dog lunch to all participants.

We want all of you to exercise your voting right on the following Tuesday, but we would love to have 100-150 new DIFF Club members join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Spring, aka Winter 2008 Diff Club Fishing Tournament. Check the DIFF club website for more details later or give me a call at 803-329-1265.



Con Grant

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## DIFF Fall Tourney

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Fall Surf Fishing Tournament will run from Thursday September 25 through Saturday September 27. If you've never attended, you are missing a fun event for both the novice and the alleged expert. It's a great opportunity to exchange fishing tales and make new friends!

Tournament registration begins at 8:00 AM on Thursday September 25 at Cabin 10. The mandatory pre-tournament meeting begins there at 11:00 AM. We should wrap-up on Saturday September 27 by 2:00. Make your ferry boat reservations and accommodations before committing your tournament fee. If you need a bed or have beds available, please post on Fish Report at [www.drumwagon.com](http://www.drumwagon.com).

Ed Caskey is handling tournament sponsors this year. Contact Ed if you know of any sponsors interested in donating cash or merchandise. Check out our current and past sponsors at

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[www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com) and support them with your business.

Please complete the enclosed 2008 Tournament Rules and Entry Form. All entries must be post-marked no later than July 31. The normal \$60.00 entry fee is required and your \$20.00 annual membership dues must also be paid.



**Mark Weir**

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## **Calendar Events**

**NPS meetings** to present alternative elements for the ORV Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:

April 7, 2008: 135 Duke Marine Lab Rd. Beaufort, NC...7- 8:30 PM.

April 8, 2008: NCSU South Blvd McKinnon Center Raleigh, NC...7:30-9:00 PM.

April 9, 2008: Bass Pro Shop Outdoor World, 8181 Concord Mills Blvd, Concord, NC...7- 8:30 PM.

These meetings are open to the public and are designed to present a collection of ideas from the previous meetings on the ORV beach access issues. Opportunities for input will be provided through a “workbook” available at the meetings and online. Both individuals and stake holder organizations such as DIFF and CBSFC are encouraged to express their corporate suggestions. These will be “nuts and bolts” sessions regarding such management options as: a permit system to define the limits on the number of ORV permits, the duration of each permit, areas of use and many other topics.

Wouter Ketel says the Park Service News Release will be published at the NPS/CALO website in about one week.

## **DIFF Annual Fall Tournament**

**September 25-28, 2008**

## **DIFF Annual Spring/Winter Tournament**

**November 1-2, 2008**

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# President's Letter

**L**et me introduce myself; my name is Con Grant and I am your new 2008 DIFF Club President. Some of you may know me from the past two Spring Tournaments; I served as Director. Some of you may know me from the DVD's I have shown on Drumwagon or at the annual meetings in Pineville. Some of you might know me as the guy that cleans and repairs reels. Some of you know me as Threegals on all the fishing websites because I live with three girls, one wife and two daughters. Still I have not met many of you and I wish to do so in the near future. I would be honored to meet and call all 428 of you by your first name and be able to call you friend.

I would like to tell you a quick story about my experience at Cape Lookout and why I knew from my very first visit that there is not another place in the world like this gift from God. I grew up fishing and hunting all my life. I guess you could say I was a river rat--paddling, wading, fishing, and camping all along the Catawba River from the dam at Lake Wylie to the head waters of Lake Marion. Then, two friends from my church and Diff Club members, Charlie and Lewis Long, took me to Cape Lookout where I fished my first tournament. My life changed after that, I gave up hunting, hiking, camping, freshwater striper fishing, my passion for work, all to get to the island. I looked at Cape Lookout like a kid in a candy store. My interest became a passion, my passion an obsession. You know the feeling . . . preparing to fish, thinking about fishing, reading about fishing at Lookout. With this obsession came an urge to protect this delicate island and preserve my right to fish, our right to fish.

This right to fish is one that has had us worried the last couple of years. We only have to look at the history of our club to see its reason-

ing for origination was in an effort to protect the right to enjoy the National Park in a legal fashion. I watched and listened to Robert "Gaterman" Wilson shed light on the Bluewater situation a couple of years ago. I also saw Mark Weir attack the research on this issue with a prizefighter's mentality. I heard Glen Green stand up at the Spring and Fall Tournaments and as any great orator, spoke from his heart. I've listen to stories from Jack Davis, BK Barringer, Roger Wise, JW Smith, Clyde Cheek, and Jack Dunaway, all sharing this same love. I have read the reports on Drumwagon from Javis, Bluefish, Mountain Man, Purtyskin, NChooks, Shoalman, Missy, Ironhead and many, many, more providing advice and expertise to any questions asked. This tells us one thing; we have a gem in Lookout. It has become part of our lives, a member of the family.

I am the son of a high-ranking Sierra Club member, Pat Grant. She has taught me one thing that we must all remember; both sides have the same passions and the same obsessions. These passions held by various groups are not wrong, just different. Many of these passions are based on fact, many not. As club president, I take this right to fish and use Cape Lookout seriously. I challenge each member to learn what we are doing in DIFF, what is legal to do on Lookout, educate others in what we are doing, learn what the opposition is doing, and what is their motive. My mission is to preserve just that, the right to fish and use Lookout as intended. And, by the way, enjoy the candy!

## Con Grant



# DIFF Club News

Davis Island Fishing Foundation  
P.O. Box 72395  
Durham, NC 27722

## Notice

**New DIFF Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 72395  
Durham, NC 27722**



**Davis Island Fishing  
Foundation**

P.O. Box 72395  
Durham, NC 27722

### **Officers**

Con Grant, President 803 329 1265  
Mark Weir, Vice President 336 751 5135  
Vickie King, Treasurer 919 632 3099  
Mike Laughlin, Secretary 803 328 8915

### **Board of Directors**

B. K. Barringer 704 663 4044  
Ed Caskey 803 285 9025  
Niles Chumley 803 366 5079  
Richard Frank 704 588 4549  
Scot King 919 632 3099  
Scott Mosely 803 431 6720  
Robert Wilson 252 235 514  
Roger Wise 336 766 9473

Email us at: [diff@diffclub.com](mailto:diff@diffclub.com)

**DIFF...Beyond fishing!**

*The Davis Island Fishing Foundation is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the cultural, historic and natural heritage of Davis Island in Carteret County, NC.*

*The DIFF CLUB helps maintain the cabins at the Great Island camp and is involved in projects designed to protect the fish and wildlife population in the portion of Cape Lookout Seashore known as Core Banks South.*

*Club members can fish in annual spring and fall fishing tournaments sponsored by the Club.*

*If you are interested in joining DIFF, visit our website, [diff@diffclub.com](mailto:diff@diffclub.com) for membership form.*

*This newsletter is published quarterly and edited by Mike Laughlin. 803 328 8915.*

