



Newcomers of New Bern Summer Newsletter

Website: www.newcomers.org

June-August 2014

Greetings and Welcome to New Bern!

The Newcomers Club of New Bern would like to welcome you to your new home and community. I think you will find that New Bern and the surrounding area have a lot of interesting activities and adventures to offer you. There is no end to the diversity of activities and adventures you will find and experience as you come to know and enjoy your new community.

Moving into a new community and making new friends can seem like a daunting challenge and we at Newcomers want to help you make that transition as smoothly and quickly as possible. Our club members come from all parts of the World and bring with them many interesting experiences and skills. One of the main reasons the community of New Bern is so rich in culture and has so much to offer is because of what new arrivals like you bring to our area.

We are glad you have chosen New Bern as your new home and we look forward to meeting you and helping you all learn about our wonderful city.

We Hope You Will Join Us!

The purpose of our summer newsletter is to introduce you to the Newcomers Club and what we have to offer. The Newcomers Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through May, at 7:00PM at the Christ Episcopal Church Ministry Center, located at 311 Middle St (building next to the Bank of the Arts) in downtown New Bern. To join Newcomers, simply complete the attached membership application and send it to our Membership Chair, Carole McHale, along with your membership dues. It's as easy as that.

2014-2015 Newcomers Club Meeting Dates

Summer Welcome Social for New Arrivals

Saturday, August 23rd 2014 @ 10:00 am at the New Bern Craven County Public Library
(Located at 400 Johnson St, New Bern)

General Meeting Schedule

September 10th, 2014

October 8th, 2014

November 12th, 2014

December 2014 (Christmas Party, Location, Date & Time to be Announced)

January 7th, 2015

February 11th, 2015

March 11th, 2015

April 8th, 2015

May 13th, 2015

Special Spring Celebration Party

Date, time & theme to be announced

Benefits of Membership

When you join, you will receive a monthly newsletter through your email listing club news and current schedule of activities.

Each month, we try and bring in a speaker or feature an entertainer to introduce a new or important aspect of New Bern you may have not yet experienced. Our Activity leaders also update our membership on new events and activities being planned each month. Our monthly meetings are also an excellent opportunity to socialize, meet new friends and people with similar interests as you, while enjoying refreshments provided by the members on a rotating basis.

You will also receive a club membership directory with all the contact information of our club members. You might even find someone in the directory that's from your hometown area.

Activity Groups Open to Members

The Newcomers Club offers a variety of activity groups designed not only to provide you with new friends and fun, but also opportunities to learn, lead and most importantly get to know the area while having fun. A list of our current activities groups are:

<i>Bicycling</i>	<i>Crafters</i>	<i>Golf</i>	<i>Tennis</i>
<i>Boaters</i>	<i>Day Trips</i>	<i>Outdoor Adventures</i>	<i>Wine Socials</i>
<i>Book Club</i>	<i>Dining In</i>	<i>Scrabble</i>	
<i>Bunco</i>	<i>Dining Out</i>	<i>Singles</i>	

If you want to participate or join any of the above activity groups, just come to the monthly Newcomers meeting and sign up with one of our group activity leaders; or call or email an activity leader directly. You may participate in as many activities as you want.

If you have a suggestion or an interest in starting a new activity not currently offered, call CJ Oborn, our Activities Coordinator, at 252 649 1349 or email her at cjoborn@earthlink.net. She will be more than happy to help you get a new activities group organized and started. Several of our current activities got their start like that.

Following is a brief description of activities currently being offered:

Bicycling Group (Both Newcomers & Alumni Participants Welcome)

The Bicycling Group's goal is to enjoy the benefits of riding while making new friends. Join us for exercise and fresh air. All levels are welcome! We pace to the slowest rider; nobody is left behind. The ride distance is normally 10 to 20 miles and a different route is selected each month.

The following gear is requested or suggested:

- 1. A working bicycle (brakes, gears) with adequate safety items – lights, reflectors, etc.*
- 2. A helmet is mandatory.*
- 3. Carry adequate supply of water (minimum – 1 pint)*
- 4. Carry a spare bicycle tube and possibly an air pump for flat repairs*
- 5. Casual clothing (shorts) and top with bright colors.*

A group email, including directions to a starting point, is sent out mid-week for the weekend rides. Some mid-week rides are also scheduled. We usually send a route itinerary with distances of each segment.

Contact information for the Bicycling Group:

Dave Monk: Tel -- 252 514 4546 (davidhmonk@gmail.com)

Dave Gerde: Tel—252 288 4371 (dgerde@netzero.net) (Alumni Group/backup)

Boating Group (Both Newcomers & Alumni Participants Welcome)

The Boating Group is composed of like-minded people who enjoy being out on the water. The boat can be as small as a kayak, canoe, a small power boat, large cruiser, or a sail boat. To be eligible to join the Boating Group, one must own a boat of some type or plan on purchasing one within a year of entry into the group. We enjoy all activities centered on or around the water. The group participates in several events throughout the year, including, but not limited to weekends at the Outer Bank; tours of boat manufactures; local water tours, flash cruises, local boating trips; dining out (usually on or near the water); week end trips to coastal water towns; and various social events such as our annual picnic in July or our annual Holiday Party normally held in early January.

Contact information for the Boating Group:

Bill McHale: Tel – 252 288 6549 (bmchale@aol.com)

Gary Todd: Tel – 252 288 5502 (thetoddfamily10@gmail.com) (Alumni Group)

Book Group (Both Newcomers & Alumni Participants Welcome)

The Book Group meets monthly at a member's home for conversation about a book, usually fiction, selected by member's suggestions. The group leader leads a discussion with a few comments and suggestions and the host provides light refreshments.

Contact information for the Book Group:

Susan Frank: Tel – 252 288 4145 (sfrank599@aol.com)

Esther Wilson: Tel – 252 288 6715 (elske52@hotmail.com)

Bunco Group

Bunco is a social dice game requiring no prior knowledge or skills on how to play the game. It's simply a fun game where participants get together once a month, rotating between homes of Bunco Group Members. Everybody brings a snack to share and their beverage of choice with the host providing desert. Bunco is traditionally played with 12 to 16 players who are divided into three or four tables with 4 players at each table. At the end of each round, individuals change position and team up with a new playing partner. This is a good venue to meet people and have fun. Absolutely no skill is required. Sign up required at each meeting.

Contact Information for Bunco:

Dianne & Rick Koonce: Tel – 252 288 5390 (dhkoonce@suddenlink.net)

Crafters Group

This group has been organized for those who enjoy or would like to learn various crafts -- from all needle work, to pottery, to basket weaving, to paper crafts to... Each month in the newsletter, craft classes and get-togethers will be announced. There is not a designated class day/date; each month is decided by availability of the leader. Sign up required at each meeting.

Contact Information for Crafters Group:

Eileen Van Wart: Tel – 252 288 4650 (Evwrt1@gmail.com)

Day Trips

Do you enjoy visiting new, interesting places? If so, "Day Tripping" is just the thing for you! The Newcomers Club organizes monthly group trips to various events and tours of interesting locations within easy driving distance of New Bern. Some trips last most of the day and others only a few hours. Some have a fee; others are free! Go on all the trips or select just the ones suited especially for you! Day trips are a great way to meet and get to know fellow newcomers and learn about the area! Sign up required for each month's scheduled trip.

Contact Information for Day Trips:

Judy Willoughby: Tel – 252 514 0130 (jwilloughby1437@gmail.com)

Dining In

This group is an opportunity for groups of eight newcomers, couples or singles, to share a meal with each other in a host's home. This is a chance for small groups to meet in a more relaxed setting. The host prepares the main course and guests bring the other courses. It is a fun way to learn more about the area and get to know other newcomers. Sign up to join the Dining-In Group at a monthly meeting.

Contact Information for Dining In:

Dennis & Kay Melvin: Tel – 252 288 6101 (kdmelvin@gmail.com)

Dining Out

Here's an opportunity to enjoy learning about the restaurants in New Bern and the surrounding areas. From New Bern to Beaufort, Swansboro, Kinston and places in between. It's a chance to taste the chef's choice and enjoy the company of other newcomers. Each month a new place is planned for your dining pleasure for either lunch or dinner. Sign up at a membership meeting

Contact Information for Dining Out:

Nevada & Hollis Brannon: Tel: 252 288 6521 (hollis.brannon66@gmail.com)

Golf Group (Both Newcomers & Alumni Participants Welcome)

Newcomers Golf is based on the premise that the game should be fun. Making friends is paramount; proficiency is immaterial. We welcome all skill levels. Rules are what each player wants them to be. Some players adhere to the stricter rules of the USGA, while others follow the lax GW rules -- count every stroke that you like. If you don't like it, don't count it; or finally, don't count anything and pick up your ball any time you wish!

We schedule an outing once a month, normally on a Wednesday or Thursday, and play 12 months of the year. We travel to courses in the New Bern area and try to keep within a one-hour drive. We also arrange carpooling for the out-of-New Bern trips.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, come join us. You will have a good time. Sign up required for each month's golfing event. Emails are sent out monthly with information on each

month's golfing venue. You can sign up for each month's golf outing at the general meeting or email Bob Freeland.

Contact Information for Golf Group:

Bob Freeland: Tel -- 252 288 6410 (vwubob201@hotmail.com)

Outdoor Adventure (Both Newcomers & Alumni Participants Welcome)

Throughout the year, we try to choose outdoor activities that are appealing to everyone. The adventures are not competitive in nature. The adventures have included: kayaking/canoeing, hiking, kite flying, bicycle riding, and boat rides. We either bring our lunch or stop by a nearby restaurant. We don't have participants sign up unless it is an activity that must be more stringent in head count. Our slogan is "No sign-up, just show up at the event," and rainout is constituted by already raining or bad outlook during the time of the Adventure.

Contact Information for Outdoor Adventures:

June Dowd: Tel -- 252 571 5210 (junedowd515@gmail.com) (Alumni Group)
Steve Spaziante: Tel – 252 571 3880 (sfspaz@hotmail.com) (Alumni Group)

Scrabble Group (Both Newcomers & Alumni Participants Welcome)

The Scrabble Group meets the 1st Monday and 3rd Monday of the month. On the 1st Monday, the Scrabble Group meets at Books A Million from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm in their Coffee Shop.

On the 3rd Monday of the Month, the Scrabble Group meets at Schlotzsky's Deli (near Food Lion) on M.L. King Jr. Blvd from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The Group eats from 6:00 to 6:30pm and plays from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm.

Two players per board unless we have an odd number of participants. Use of a cheat sheet allowed. Turns limited to 6 min each. Dictionary can be used a maximum of 2 times per move. Participants are asked to bring a scrabble board and an Official Scrabble Dictionary.

Contact Information for the Scrabble Group:

Cammie Armstrong: Cell – 757 650 5469 (cammiearmstrong@gmail.com)
Charlotte Gerde: Tel: 252 288 4371 (csalmin@optonline.net)

Singles Mingles

Singles Mingles meets twice a month at various locations to socialize. All single Newcomers Club members are welcome to join. This is a singles-only group and is not intended as a dating service. Sign up at the general membership meetings or by emailing Linda Guthrie.

Contact Information For Singles Mingles Group:

Linda Guthrie: Cell – 724 814 2239 (lindaguthrie50@gmail.com)

Tennis Group (Both Newcomers & Alumni Participants Welcome)

The Tennis Group meets weekly for people who enjoy playing tennis. You do not need to be an expert, but some knowledge of the game is helpful. We meet at the West New Bern Recreation Center located at 1225 Pine Tree Drive. Games are scheduled for 10:00am each Thursday throughout the year.

Contact Information For Singles Mingles Group:

Mary Pickhaver: Tel – 252 672 8550 (mlpick2@gmail.com) (Alumni Group)

Wine Socials

Wine Socials are for EVERYONE, not just wine drinkers! Each couple/single who signs up is asked to bring a bottle of wine or whatever they would like to drink, and an hors d'oeuvre to share with about 35 people. Wine Socials are held on the third Saturday of each month. Once you have signed up you will be notified by email of upcoming wine socials. New Arrivals to the area are encouraged to email Jan and ask her to put your name on the Wine Social List. Any month you can attend, please email an RSVP to Jane Olstad so the hosts can know how many people are coming.

Our Wine Socials are one of our most popular activities and one of the few that continue through the summer months. This is a great opportunity to get a jump start on meeting new friends in a very relaxed friendly way.

Come join us for food, drink, and friendship--no knowledge of wine is required!

Contact Information For Wine Socials:

Jane Olstad: Tel – 252 514 0634 (jolstad27@gmail.com)

You Don't Have to Wait Until Sept to Start Meeting New Friends!

For those who arrived in the New Bern area after our May 2014 general meeting, please plan on joining us at the New Bern-Craven County Public Library (400 Johnson St in downtown New Bern) on Saturday, August 23rd from 10 am to 12 noon for a Special Welcome to New Bern Social!

All of our Group Activity Leaders and our Newcomers Board of Directors will be on hand to extend a warm welcome to the area. This will be a very informal get together over refreshments and snacks where our Group Activity Leaders will introduce themselves and provide a brief run down on all the exciting events and activities being planned for the 2014-2015 Calendar Year. This is a great way to get a jump start on learning all about what New Bern has to offer.

In addition, for those of you who have arrived over our summer recess, while we don't have formal monthly meetings scheduled until the fall, we do have several activities scheduled throughout the summer months because we can't bear to wait until the fall to renew the many friendships we made over the course of the year. And that's good news for you new arrivals to the area, as you do not have to wait until September to begin enjoying the many benefits of being a member of Newcomers. Here is a schedule of events that continue through the summer recess:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 3 rd @ 10 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreation Center
July 7 th @ 12:30 – 3PM	Scrabble	Books A Million
July 10 th @ 10 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreation Center
July 11 th @ 11 am	Boater Group Summer Picnic	New Bern Yacht Club

July 12 th @ 6 pm to ?	Wine Social	Watch Email for Host & Address
July 16 th @ 7 pm	Bunco	Watch Email for Host & Address
July 17 th @ 10 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreation Center
July 19 th @ 11:30 am	Outdoor Adventure	Catamaran Trip to Cape Lookout (Depart from Beaufort Docks near Front & Queen St)
July 21 st @ 6:30 pm	Scrabble	Schlitzky's near Food Lion on MLK Blvd
July 21 th @ 10 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreational Center
July 31 st @ 10 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreational Center
July 31 st @ 1 pm to 3 pm	Book Club	Watch Email for Host & Address
July – TBA	Golf	Watch Email for Date & Location
Aug 4 th @ 12:30	Scrabble	Books A Million
Aug 7 th @ 10 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreational Center
Aug 14 th @ 10 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreational Center
Aug 16 th @ 6 pm to ?	Wine Social	Watch Email for Host & Address
Aug 18 th @ 6:30 pm	Scrabble	Schlitzky's near Food Lion on MLK Blvd
Aug 21 st @ 10:00 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreational Center
Aug 28 th @ 10:00 am	Tennis	West New Bern Recreational Center
Aug – TBA	Golf	Watch Email for Date & Location

Please refer to our Website for any changes or updates: www.newbernnewcomers.org

Useful Links to Find Everything there is to Know About the New Bern Area!

There are several websites we would recommend visiting to keep up to date on everything that's happening in the New Bern Area:

- www.newbernnewcomers.org
- www.newbernow.com
- www.visitnewbern.com/fun_facts.php
- www.newbern-nc.org
- www.crystalcoastnc.org/visitors-guide

Questions About the Newcomers Club?

Please Contact:

Bill McHale at 252 288 6549 (bmchale@aol.com), President 2014-2015
 DuWayne Campeau at 612 222 5503 (heysailor43@gmail.com), Vice President
 Sandie Swigart at 252 633 4094 (sandielees@hotmail.com), Club Advisor

Website: www.newbernnewcomers.org

We hope to see you at an upcoming Newcomers Meeting

Welcome to New Bern!!