

# Cape Hatteras EC salute Hatteras Island volunteer organizations

**Jim Kinghorn, Executive Vice President & General Manager**

One of the nice things you notice about Hatteras Island when you live here is how volunteers sustain the well being of the communities. There is a long list of both formal and informal volunteer organizations that provide a variety of services to the villages of Hatteras Island. Over the next few months, this column will highlight many of these organizations, explaining how they serve the villages and how you can give back to the Hatteras Island community through one of these organizations.

While there are many organizations that will be highlighted, the first to be mentioned are several with which CHEC has a direct connection or with which its employees and directors are actively involved. This month's column will focus on the Cape Hatteras Electric Foundation, Hatteras Island Meals and the revitalized Chamber of Commerce presence on Hatteras Island.

## **Cape Hatteras Electric Foundation**

The CHEF is a non-profit community organization sponsored by Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative that provides emergency funding to island families and individuals during times of temporary financial distress. It also provides some funding to other Island non-profit organizations that provide services to Hatteras Island residents. The source of the funds CHEF disburses comes primarily from Operation Roundup® volunteer participants of Cape Hatteras EC. Each voluntary participating member's monthly bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar and the round up amount is sent to the Foundation. The average amount contributed is \$6 annually and no more than \$11.88 per account annually. The organization also accepts direct donations and recently conducted a

fundraising raffle of a Marathon water heater donated by the Marathon Company. CHEF is administered by an independent board of directors made up of Hatteras Island residents who are appointed by the CHEC board. To contribute to the Foundation, call the cooperative office for information. CHEF is a registered non-profit charitable organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## **Hatteras Island Meals, Inc. (HIM)**

Established in October 2006, Hatteras Island Meals, Inc. (HIM), is governed by a board of directors who live on Hatteras Island. All participants with HIM are volunteers. HIM's mission is to nourish and enrich the lives of homebound and other people in need through services that promote dignity and independent living. One nutritious ready-to-eat meal is delivered during lunch to each recipient in all Hatteras Island villages, Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays. This service allows HIM the privilege of serving those in need who look forward to a hot meal, a smile and a daily reminder that this island community cares. Though HIM is Hatteras island's "meals on wheels," it does not receive funding through that national organization. HIM is funded through local and off-island donations and contributions from individuals and businesses, HIM fundraisers, and a partial grant from Dare County. Funds and volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

## **Kiwanis Club of Hatteras Island**

The Kiwanis Club of Hatteras Island serves island communities through school-based organizations that support and enhance education and communi-

cation with initiatives that are intended to improve the quality of life for children on Hatteras Island. The Cape Hatteras Elementary School (CHES) participates in the Terrific Kids monthly program, which recognizes outstanding students chosen by their teachers who exemplify courteous assistance and positive behavior to fellow students and school staff. The Cape Hatteras Secondary School (CHSS), grades 6, 7 and 8, are sponsored through the Builders Club and participate in community events such as the Beach Sweep, communicating with military troops serving our country and supporting teachers with specific events. The Key Club, comprised of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 at Cape Hatteras Secondary School, is governed by participating students who, through fundraisers, offer an annual scholarship to a graduating senior. These same Key Club members also activate fundraisers for specific causes and assist students with available enrichment programs. In addition to sponsoring these school programs, Kiwanis Club of Hatteras Island organizes fundraisers to facilitate several scholarships awarded annually to qualifying recipients in the Hatteras Island communities. At present Kiwanis is sponsoring a Priority One program that will assist in funding a child applying for pre-school. Kiwanis Club of Hatteras Island is financed through membership dues, fundraisers and donations.

**Hatteras/Ocracoke Council of Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce**  
Late in 2008, the Hatteras-Ocracoke Island Council of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce was formed to

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bring local business leadership to the Island members of the Chamber. Ocracoke was included in the Council, recognizing the importance of the neighboring island to the economy of Hatteras and giving Ocracoke businesses meaningful support in the Chamber. Hatteras Island businessmen Joe Thompson and Scott Leggat have worked diligently to get the Council in operation and fully functional.

"The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business organization dedicated to serving the needs of the business community through referrals, programs, services and education." (Mission Statement, Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce).

"The Island Council is dedicated to organizing island businesses in order to further develop and promote our economic, environmental and cultural treasures." (Mission Statement, Hatteras/Ocracoke Council).

In the current economic situation, having a group dedicated to helping all Hatteras Island businesses, including those that are not members, work toward the same goals can make a dif-

ference in the quality of life for all Island residents and property owners.

Even in its early operation the Council has begun several projects to benefit the Islands. The Council, as well as the Chamber, has voiced its support for open access to Island beaches and its support of the PreserveBeachAccess.org Web site that provides daily up-to-date beach access information.

Through its Legislative Affairs Committee, the Council and Chamber are launching a campaign during July and August to assist Dare County in acquiring the former U.S. Coast Guard base and housing complex at Buxton. These facilities became idle when the Coast Guard formally closed the Buxton Base in 2005. Since then Dare County has worked to acquire these facilities in order to provide better recreational and community support services to Hatteras Island. While negotiations for the acquisition of the old base facilities have proceeded acceptably, the federal government has placed a price on the housing complex that is neither reasonable nor affordable to Dare County. During July and August the Council will be conduct-

ing a letter writing and petition campaign designed to get support from Congress to make the complex affordably available to Dare County.

The Council has also become involved in assisting the Hatteras Island citizens in the creation of an indoor/outdoor Aquatic Complex. The facility will be designed to accommodate Red Cross instruction, aquatic fitness programming, therapeutic conditioning, varsity swim teams and community swimming lessons.

The Council is working on several other projects including youth kiteboarding and kayaking events, improved coordination of the island large item pickup days and other projects to increase the overall positive image Hatteras Island displays to the public.

### Future articles

Other organizations will be highlighted in future Currents columns. Civic and other community service organizations are encouraged to contact Jim Kinghorn at CHEC at [jimk@chec.coop](mailto:jimk@chec.coop) to provide information for possible inclusion in future articles.

## Cape Hatteras EC offers 2009-2010 Bright Ideas grants to educators



The Bright Ideas application process for the 2009-2010 school year is available for all certified teachers at Cape Hatteras Elementary School and Cape Hatteras Secondary School. A new Web site is available for your application convenience at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com) or access

[www.chec.coop](http://www.chec.coop), click on Links, then choose Bright Ideas.

Complete and submit your online application before August 17, 2009, and you'll be eligible to win a \$500 VISA gift card. The final date for all certified teachers' applications to be submitted (online is preferred) is September 18, 2009.

For the school year 2008-2009, North Carolina teachers submitted 1,828 applications, with 550 Bright Ideas grants awarded in the amount of \$580,000. These grants assisted at least 116,070 students in North Carolina. In 2008, Cape Hatteras EC awarded one grant each to Christin Brown, assisted by Karla Jarvis (CHSS); Merri Jamieson (CHSS); and Shauna Leggat (CHES).

For more information or to assist you in completing and submitting your Bright Ideas application, please call Anne Swain at (252) 995-7083 or e-mail [annes@chec.coop](mailto:annes@chec.coop).

## High efficiency water heaters the next efficiency project

CHEC is beginning the next of its projects targeted at compliance with 2007 Renewable and Energy Efficiency Legislation. Since 2003, CHEC has sold Marathon high efficiency water heaters to its members. Marathon water heaters installed after January 2007 provide the Cooperative energy efficiency credits toward compliance.

In early July, cooperative members will begin to notice an expansion of the water heater program as letters are sent to them showing the benefits in changing out their existing water heaters before they fail.



# Hurricane preparedness info



Hatteras Island residents should be prepared in advance with a detailed plan in place for extreme storms or hurricane weather on Hatteras Island. Have a detailed and practical evacuation plan ready should emergency evacuation be advised. Take into consideration that electric service may be interrupted at any time during storm conditions. Emergency services for restoration of the electricity, as well as rescue services, fire and medical services will not resume until it is safe to do so. Always stay away from downed or low hanging power lines. Report downed or low hanging power lines to CHEC. Do not approach restoration crews while they are at work. They are focused on restoring electricity and an interruption can interfere with their progress and their safety.

## Evacuation

- Turn heating/cooling systems off at thermostat
- Leave a street-side outside light on to alert restoration crews that the power is restored
- Turn off breakers to ground floor electrical receptacles
- Remove all loose items from outdoors, including window/door screens and outdoor furniture
- Unplug electronics, lamps and appliances, including refrigerators which will need to be emptied

## Following Evacuation and Return to Island

- Stay away from downed/ low hanging power lines. Report their location to CHEC immediately
- Do not restore power to receptacles or to appliances that have been wet or damaged until they are checked by a qualified electrician
- Wait to turn on heating/cooling systems until releases are issued from CHEC or Dare County that indicate adequate power is available on the island

## Portable Generators

- Do not connect generators directly to household wiring, backfeeding generator power along

power lines can electrocute anyone coming in contact with those power lines, including linemen crews making electrical repairs following the extreme weather

- Make sure the generator is properly grounded
- Keep the generator dry
- Plug appliances directly into the generator
- Extension cords used with the generator must be free of cuts, worn insulation and have three-pronged plugs
- Do not overload the generator or electrical cords being used
- Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators produce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide gas
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to connect to the generator
- Prior to shutting down the generator, remove electrical load and allow generator to run for five minutes to cool down generator windings
- Always shut down the generator and allow it to cool before refueling
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher of the appropriate type available near the generator

# CHEC awards scholarships to Cape Hatteras graduating seniors

Mariah James, daughter of Dee and Brian James of Buxton, will attend the University of North Carolina at



Mariah James

Wilmington with a four-year partial scholarship from Cape Hatteras EC. Mariah served as Key Club president, SGA president, treasurer of Cape Hatteras Secondary School's National Honor

Society and received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen award. She has excelled in scholastics and DECA programs, and participated in several community organizations. Mariah's goals include marketing, photography, teaching and goodwill ambassador stewardship.

Lauren Kostich, daughter of Michael Kostich of Frisco and Laurell James of Hatteras, has been accepted to Appalachian State University in Boone.



Lauren Kostich

CHEC awarded her a four-year partial scholarship to attain her goals in International Relations with a minor in foreign language, which will allow her to pursue a career in

the CIA as a language consultant. Lauren is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as the Cape Hatteras Secondary School vice president this past year. Throughout her high school career, she was an active member of several clubs and participated in various sports where she served as the cheerleader squad captain her senior year. Lauren has received recognition for Algebra II honors, Biology honors and AP U.S. History.

Ericka Martinez received a two-year partial scholarship from CHEC and has attended school in

Mexico and the United States. Applying her bilingual skills, Ericka will attend college in Yorkville, Ill., to obtain her degree in Computer Technology Essentials. She volunteers at the Ark International Church in Nags Head where she creates power point projects for church services and produces booklets, bulletins and calendars. Ericka volunteers each month with the Junior Girls Scout Troop in Buxton at the Buxton United Methodist Church.



Ericka Martinez

Joshua Klug, son of Glenn and

Jennifer Flynn-Klug, was awarded a CHEC two-year partial scholarship to attend College of the Albemarle. Joshua's artistic abilities have earned him placement in local and state level art shows as well as awards and certificates of success. He plans to transfer to East Carolina University to pursue a career in art and graphic design.



Joshua Klug



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