

MARSHALLBERG COMMUNITY CLUB, INC. WANTS YOU TO KNOW

Throughout history people have been in conflict over the rights of a few usurping the rights of the masses. Unfortunately, our public trust waters have now become the latest battlefield and Marshallberg Harbor and adjacent waters are no exception. What people fail to realize is that eventually we can become landlocked from the very waters we know to belong to all peoples. It is Gods resource just like air.

For those of you who have lived in Marshallberg for 20 plus years, it is easy to reflect on how the lifestyle in the community has always revolved around the water. It is equally easy to see how much of the access to that water has become more and more restricted. It will be a sad day when we become like other waterfront communities with miles of beach and waterfront property, but every where you try to access it, SORRY PRIVATE PROPERTY! In our local paper there is always a battle raging over someone trying to privatize public waters for profit. If we do not fight to protect and keep our public resources public it will happen to us. Water front property is the GOLDRUSH of the 21st century and GREED has no conscience. If you don't believe this is true just watch the travel channel or pick up a real estate magazine and see how everything is geared toward the pleasures the water play land has to offer. More importantly look at the prices they are willing to pay to get near it or own it. Where does this leave everyone else?

The Marshallberg Community Club was originated in the 50's when the Army Corp. of Engineers was asked to build a day harbor for the people in the community to use. The Corp. said there would need to be an entity that would take the lead in getting the project completed as well as be responsible for the harbor. The first forty years or so we did not do a very good job of taking care of it. As a result we almost lost it. The mistake was that after the harbor was dug the Club dissolved thinking their job was done. Actually it was just beginning. The club reestablished itself several years back when Jarretts Bay began a hostile takeover. The plans were to turn Marshallberg Harbor into a private marina. We fought to prevent that using Document 68 from the 81st congress, which clearly states the purpose of the harbor as a day harbor not a harbor of refuge. This document made Marshallberg Harbor different from the other harbors in the county, which were established as harbors of refuge. We had hoped that would be the end

of it but unfortunately some who have adjoining lands would like for people to believe that the Federal Government built a harbor for just a few people and with no way for people to access it. The Club has taken a lot of criticism for clearing the easement from any obstructions. We have been called mobsters and vigilantes. Maybe that is so but one might ask if we were in the wrong or doing something illegal how come we have not been arrested or taken to court. Instead character attacks and intimidation has been used to try and discourage us. We ask again as we have asked many times of those who say that the harbor only belongs to the land owners surrounding it, please take it to court and let a judge decide the fate of the easement. If a judge says the easements recorded in the courthouse are no good and that the harbor only belongs to a few people, we will respect that decision and it will be over. Please understand that those of us who love and care about the wonderful resources we have here in our community will not stop until a higher authority tells us we must.

It has been very disheartening to see the way the community has been torn apart by this fight. When all is said and done, we will still be neighbors, family, and friends. But for some, bridges have been burned between longtime friends and families that can never be repaired. That is a high price to pay for greed. We beg STOP the hurting and the fighting. Put an end to this once and for all. Because again we state that those of us who love and care about Marshallberg and our quality of life here will not quit trying to preserve the wonderful resources we have here in our community. And we will continue to help make it a better place to live.

It has been said that this is a private club. That is not true! Anyone who wishes to join may do so, but like any organization we have a mission statement and by-laws that we follow. Obviously, it would be ridiculous to allow someone to join who is in direct conflict with our beliefs. That is almost as ridiculous as thinking the Federal Government built a harbor for the public without providing an easement to access it. Or even more ludicrous is the thought that they built it for only a few landowners. We know the government can do crazy things but I sure do not think they would admit to that.

For those of you who wish to help preserve the quality of life we have here and to protect the public's right to access public resources, please come and join us. We meet 7pm the first Saturday night of most months at the Gloucester Community Club. Check the Marshallberg News section for more information. Or you may write us at PO Box 55 Marshallberg, NC 28553. We really don't fight all the time like we have been accused, we also have a lot of fun times and socials as well.