

I moved to Hatteras Island in 1978. In the 30 years I've lived here I raised a family and participated in a wide variety of community events and activities. I have served on the Board of Directors for Chicamacomico Historical Association and the Salvo VFD, where I was also a fireman for many years. I actively participate in the community recycling program.

Last year I retired from the Park Service. I worked in Shenandoah Nat'l Park for 6 months early in my career, but the rest of my career was with the Outer Banks Group.

A couple months ago my wife and I drove to Hatteras beach, and then went to the South beach and the Point. We were enjoying the ride, playing on the beach, did some shell collecting. We were having a good day even though the fish weren't biting.

When we got to the Point I stopped to see what activity was in the bird closures, the same thing I'd done in a professional capacity for many years. I spoke to one individual, a person I had several law enforcement contacts with over a 10 year period.

He began the conversation by accusing me of spying for the Park Service. I informed him I was retired and was simply enjoying a ride on the beach. He continued to be aggressive and obnoxious, so I drove away from him.

A couple days later I heard my name had been posted on the Red Drum web site as a result of my ride on the beach. When I went on line I was surprised to see all the false accusations against me, many of them by people who live out of state and don't even know me.

Just before Memorial Day I was again on the Red Drum site being falsely accused of harassing fishermen on the beach near ramp 38. One of the groups I volunteer with is the First Colony Foundation, a non profit dedicated solely to archaeological research of the Lost Colony. On the day I was falsely accused of being in Avon, I was participating in an archaeological dig at Fort Raleigh.

I called Bob Eakes to ask why he was falsely accusing me in this incident. I asked several questions and Bob successfully avoided any viable explanation about the postings. He did concede to remove my name from the web site, but didn't post anything to say the prior information was incorrect. So it didn't end there, I still have to contend with those false accusations whenever I go to the post office or any where else in the community. Even though I try to explain to individuals what I've told you today it doesn't seem to matter. They feel empowered to be rude and confrontational while ignoring the truth.

Unfortunately, rude and confrontational seems to be the way ORV groups want to conduct business, regardless of whether it's here at Cape Hatteras, or at Cape Cod, or in western sites where ORVs are used. Nationwide it appears the ORV groups have adopted aggressive confrontation and rudeness as their standard operating procedure. It appears as though they like being the school yard bully whose only cause is to create

friction in order to divide a community and to slander anyone who doesn't completely agree with them.

I think it's a poor reflection on the ORV groups when I can't even take a ride on the beach with my family without lies and false accusations being posted on the Red Drum website.

I urge all members of this committee to come to the table with professionalism and honesty in order to accomplish the important task before you. It's time to resolve the beach driving issue without fear of recrimination, without false accusations and misinformation who's only purpose is to alienate and divide the community. It's time to resolve this issue in an honest, civil manner while respecting the rights of all people.