



CAROTEL CLUB/TAR HEEL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

DID YOU MISS CAROTEL'S 2025 FALL CONVENTION?

Carotel Pioneers convened at the Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel in Pine Knoll Shores, NC for the annual Carotel Convention on October 10th and 11th. Despite the intense nor'easter storm that brought heavy winds, rain, and flooding to the area over the weekend, our Pioneer Attendees embraced the opportunity to have a "Boot Scootin' good time!"



You can't have a Boot Scootin' Boogie gathering without a few country line dances, and DJ Ronnie Cashwell played the right tunes to get 'em on the dance floor! More fun photos inside this issue!



SAVE THE DATES

Last Tuesday of each Month
Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC

November 21-23, 2025
National ITPA Assembly
Oaks on the River
Darien, Georgia

November 27, 2025
Happy Thanksgiving Pioneers!

February 6-8, 2026
Tar Heel Chapter Mid Winter Gathering and
Super Bowl LX Party
Myrtle Beach, SC

Spring 2026 (Date TBD)
CT&T Fayetteville Area Retiree Luncheon
Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Area

August 14-15, 2026
Tar Heel Chapter Annual Assembly
Aberdeen, NC

September 12, 2026
CT&T Fayetteville Area Retiree Luncheon
Paradise Acres of Grays Creek
Hope Mills, NC

October 9-10, 2026
Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

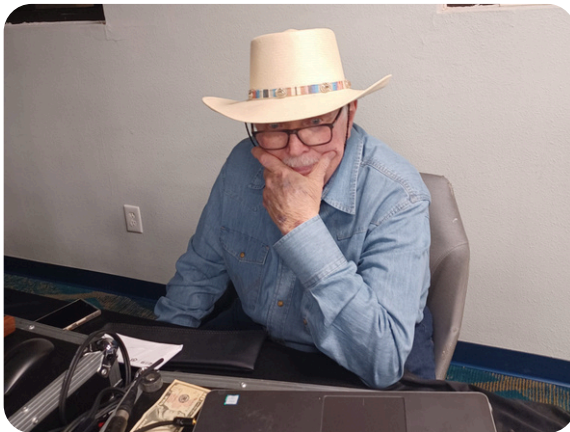
October 16 - 18, 2026
Buckeye State Chapter Get-Together
Dutch Host Inn, Sugarcreek, OH



BOOT SCOOTIN BOOGIE

CAROTEL'S ANNUAL FALL CONVENTION

A number of people worked hard to be sure this year's convention attendees had a great time. We'd be remiss if we didn't recognize those individuals with a great big ole thank you. **Ronnie Cashwell** perhaps worked harder, and longer, than anyone else. Even before the convention ended, Ronnie had already begun negotiations to ensure next year's event is as good or even better. Ronnie is our logistics coordinator, our entertainment committee chairman, our equipment guru, our DJ, and more. Like Ronnie, **Janet Holliday-Cashwell** spends a significant amount of time throughout the year doing background work that may not be readily visible to the casual observer. She's always on the lookout for the perfect decoration, prize, or auction item. She also prepares the programs and name badges each year, and handles a number of logistics that are easily taken for granted. The couple spends countless hours supporting Carotel Pioneer Club members, the Tar Heel Chapter, the national ITPA, and the ITPA Telephone Museum, as well as other clubs and chapters across the nation. Shown below, Ronnie is deep in thought as a country tune plays, and Janet oversees a memorial service for deceased Carotel Pioneer Kaye Norville.



Thanks to **Andy Davis, Wendy Davis, and Doug Sibbett** for ensuring our cowboys and cowgirls didn't go thirsty. For years, they've hauled and stored beverages from our "saloon" and year after year they ensure we have everything we need for the next round.

Thanks to our decorating committee members for a lovely setting. **Larry Newsome, Carolyn Newsome, Janet Cashwell, Darlene Mills, Barbara Smithson** and **Darlene Terry** provided the lovely decorations that adorned our area and along with **Brenda Smith, Jean Outlaw, Linda Hill,** and **Linda Honeycutt** our set-up and tear-down throughout the weekend was quick and efficient. If you helped make our space beautiful this weekend and your name isn't listed here, please know that you are appreciated!

Thanks to our photography team **Darlene Terry, Darlene House, Edie Willis, Barbara Smithson,** and **Brenda Smith** for capturing the moments that were published on our club's Facebook page. If you haven't seen them, please find and follow "Carotel Pioneer Club" on Facebook.

CAROTEL'S ANNUAL FALL CONVENTION (CONT'D)

Judy and Brad Satterwhite have VIP reserved seating at the convention hall entrance each year. They sell 50/50 raffle tickets continuously during the Friday and Saturday evening activities, and as is evidenced in this photo they often work while they eat.



We welcomed **Bill Joiner** back as auctioneer this year. As usual, he took every opportunity to provide comedic relief during the live auction.



Linda Honeycutt worked hard behind the scenes this year. From cleaning up after the party to helping with luggage, she helped many of our departing guests fight the wind and rain by helping with luggage carts. She also single-handedly packed the many boxed of food donations for transport to Martha's Mission Cupboard.



Linda and Kenneth Honeycutt

Our resident artist **Larry Newsome** created the realistic cacti that adorned the room and he provided and built the stand for the hilarious photo booth that was enjoyed by many. Larry added many other artistic touches in keeping with our themed event, making it look fun and festive. In addition to several beautifully hand-crafted items he made for our live and silent auctions, Larry even baked cookies for our Saturday afternoon bingo session! His delicious brown sugar cookie recipe is included in this newsletter! Larry served as Carotel President during the past year. His leadership and enthusiasm for our club is much appreciated.



CAROTEL'S ANNUAL FALL CONVENTION (CONT'D)

National ITPA President **Leon Yard** does not sit around when there's work to be done, even when he's a guest of honor! He delivered unopened food from our buffet dinner to the Pine Knoll Shores Fire and Police Departments during high winds and blowing rain, and after the party was over he worked until after midnight to help pack and load sound equipment and supplies. Pictured below with **Jean Outlaw**, both Leon and Jean have servant hearts. Thanks to Jean for bagging and storing Friday night's dinner, and serving it up to a hungry few for lunch on Saturday!



A live auction has been a long-time Saturday afternoon tradition, and in recent years proceeds from the auction have been used to help fund our scholarship fund. In recent years, a silent auction has been added to the weekend's events. Several Pioneers spent long hours creating one-of-a-kind items for the auction and many others donated items. Then our Pioneers tried to outbid one another to help us raise more than \$1,700! Our 50/50 raffle sales netted more than \$450, with special thanks to **Bernie Carpenter**, who donated his raffle winnings back to our club. Total auction/raffle proceeds netted more than \$2,000, which will allow us to help fund our annual scholarship and donate to Samaritan's Purse for the ongoing work restoration in Western North Carolina.

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Bernie Carpenter and wife Terri

Thanks to each of the Carotel Pioneer Club officers, directors, and committee chairs for working hard to make this year's convention a success. Our annual meetings are indeed the result of a group effort, and everyone who pitched in to help, either during the planning of the event or during the event itself, is appreciated.

Before the weekend was over, our planning committee was already busy planning next year's gathering. We invite you to step back in time and join us for a fabulous 1950s sock hop party! Dust off your poodle skirts and leather jackets because we're ready to rock around the clock with classic tunes, delicious diner-style treats, and a dance floor that's eager for some jive and swing. Whether you're a greaser or a bobby soxer, come prepared to twist and shout the night away. It'll be a blast from the past you won't want to miss, full of fun, friends, and fond memories. We can't wait to see you there! We anticipate meeting during the same weekend in 2026 on October 9th and 10th. As other logistics are finalized, we'll be sure to let you know! In the meantime, mark those dates! **Keep reading...you can find more photos from our Boot Scootin' Boogie weekend on Page 10!**

SPONSOR APPRECIATION



Telco Credit Union again sponsored a Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast that was held during our annual Carotel Convention. This sponsorship allowed us to honor and recognize Carotel's veterans in a meaningful way. Our club is appreciative of the support provided to us by Telco Credit Union, not only for our annual convention, but by serving us daily through the services provided.

Telco Credit Union was established in 1941 by Carolina Telephone employees who made personal investments in the financial institution to provide their colleagues with sound financial services. Today, Telco, which is a full service not-for-profit financial institution, serves more than 8,000 members, and its profit are returned to members through higher dividends on savings, lower interest rates on loans and by providing expanded financial products and services at low costs.

To become a Telco Credit Union member, applicants need only submit their application with a deposit of \$5 into a savings account. Membership is available to active or retired Selected Employee Group (SEG) employees and their immediate family. "Immediate Family" consists of one's wife, husband, daughter, son, mother, father, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather and grandchildren. All SEG employees and family members are required to provide proof of eligibility.

Telco offers outstanding interest rates on short-term certificates of deposit and offers many more services. Visit Telco's website at <https://www.telcu.com> to learn more.

LARRY'S DELICIOUS BROWN SUGAR COOKIES

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon (use 1 teaspoon if you love cinnamon)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup (12 Tbsp) unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled*
- 1 and 1/4 cups packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup brown OR granulated sugar, for rolling

Directions:

Toss together the flour, baking soda, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt in a large bowl. Set aside.

In a medium size bowl, whisk the melted butter and brown sugar together until no brown sugar lumps remain. Whisk in the egg. Finally, whisk in the vanilla. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix together with a large spoon or rubber spatula. The dough will be very soft, yet thick. Cover the dough and chill for 2 hours, or up to 3 days. Chilling is mandatory.



Take the dough out of the refrigerator and allow to slightly soften at room temperature for 10 minutes if you had it chilling for more than 2 hours.

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside.

Pour the granulated sugar into a bowl. Take 2 scant Tablespoons of dough and roll into a ball, then roll into the sugar. Place 3 inches apart on the baking sheets.

Bake for 8-9 minutes. Remove from the oven and gently press the top of the cookie down with the back of a utensil or even use your fingers. You're trying to obtain a crinkly top. Place back into the oven for 2-4 more minutes. The total time these cookies are in the oven is 10-13 minutes. The cookies will be puffy and still appear very soft in the middle. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on the baking sheet for ten minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. They will continue to cook in the center on the baking sheet after being removed from the oven.

Cookies will stay fresh covered at room temperature for 1 week.

AUGUST IS PAR-TEE TIME IN ABERDEEN



You are invited to attend the Tar Heel Chapter's 2026 Tee-rific Golf-Themed annual assembly on August 14-15, 2026.!

All Carotel Pioneer Club members, spouses and guests are welcome. The Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers meet every August in North Carolina's historic Sandhills region at the Hampton Inn & Suites located at 200 Columbus Drive, Aberdeen, NC 28315.

With nearly 40 golf courses within a 15-mile radius, including the host sites of the 2024 U.S. Open and 2022 U.S. Women's Open, the Aberdeen/Pinehurst/Southern Pines area is celebrated as the Home of American Golf. Adding to that legacy, the USGA chose Pinehurst for its second headquarters, complete with an equipment-testing facility, innovation hub, museum and visitor center, and new offices.

Pinehurst No. 2 will proudly host five U.S. Open Championships by 2047, further cementing the region's place in golf history.

It's only fitting that the theme for our 2026 assembly will celebrate the rich golfing history of the area. Join us for an unforgettable weekend of fun, laughter, and all things golf—without ever swinging a club! Whether you're a golf enthusiast or just in it for the good times, this event is the perfect way to celebrate the game in a unique and exciting way.

We're planning a weekend filled with whimsical golf-inspired decor, delicious food and drinks, and plenty of entertainment—all without the need for clubs or tees. This event promises to be a hole-in-one. Dress in your best golf attire and prepare for a weekend of laughs and memories. We can't wait to see you there!



I think your "towards" is off! (Phrase frequently used by Mike Outlaw to encourage fellow golfers)



You've got to hit the ball Alice!! (Another Mike Outlaw phrase often heard on the golf course.)

ANNOUNCING 2026 CAROTEL CONVENTION - IT'S A SOCK HOP!



Step back in time and experience the charm of a 1950's style sock hop! Dust off your poodle skirts and leather jackets, and get ready to twist and shout the night away. This nostalgic event promises a delightful blend of classic rock 'n' roll tunes, lively dance contests, and vintage soda shop treats that will transport you to an era of fun and innocence. Whether you're a seasoned jiver or a curious newcomer, there's something for everyone. It's a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old friends, relive the golden days, or simply enjoy a unique outing with fellow Pioneers. So put on your best dance shoes and , bring your energy, and let's rock around the clock in true 50's fashion!



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Our 2026 entertainment chairman Ronnie Cashwell is already busy negotiating great deals and delicious meals for the weekend.

Our 2026 photography committee (Darlene Mills, Edie Willis, Brenda Smith and Barbara Smithson) have already committed to capturing those kodak moments.

We've been tipped off that there may even be a special performance by Darlene and the Doo-Wop Dames!

Mark your calendars now for October 9-10, 2026. Final details will be provided closer to the date of the event, but we wanted to invite you early so that you have time to find the perfect poodle skirt!

Or...just come as you are and enjoy the fun!



Did you know....

The term "sock hop" came about because in the 1950's when social dances were held in the school gymnasiums. The dancers danced in their socks because street shoes were forbidden on the gymnasium floors. Even tennis shoes were not allowed at the dances because someone invariably would sneak in wearing conventional shoes and scratch the hardwood floor. Chaperones were often the worst culprits of all, so even they were required to wear socks unless they observed from the bleachers.

CAROTEL/TAR HEEL CHAPTER PIONEERS ARE INVITED TO THE NATIONAL ITPA ASSEMBLY



You're Invited!
ITPA Assembly
Oaks on the River in Darien, GA



<https://oaksontheriverresort.com/>

November 21st-23rd, 2025

Friday Evening - Meet and Greet

Saturday Morning - Assembly

Saturday Afternoon - On your own

Sunday Morning - Devotional & Awards

Afternoon - Hall of Fame Luncheon

Rooms available Thursday-Monday at reserved prices

Oaks/City View \$159 & River View \$189

Registration \$50 per person



GOOD TIMES AT THE BOOT SCOOTIN' BOOGIE



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To see more fun photos on Facebook, find and follow "Carotel Pioneer Club."

GOOD TIMES AT THE BOOT SCOOTIN' BOOGIE



Telco Credit Union sponsored a special breakfast in honor of Carotel veterans. Pictured above are veterans who attended the 2026 convention.

*Front row left to right: Ronnie Cashwell, Richard Swann, George Mills and Hal Mills
Back row left to right: Doug Sibbett, Kenneth Conley, Bernie Carpenter, Bob Byrd, Andy Davis, Mike Rosenkoetter, Larry Hill and R. L. Rice.*

Deceased veterans who, until their deaths were faithful Carotel Convention attendees, were remembered during the Veteran's breakfast. Memorial photos: Left to right: Mike Outlaw, Eddie Smithson, Emmett Tatum and Jim Fountain.



CAROTEL ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT

Carotel Pioneer Club Pioneers brought non-perishable food items to the 2026 Carotel Convention, to support Martha's Mission Cupboard, a local emergency food bank.

The organization's mission is to provide immediate, nutritious food assistance to individuals and families in crisis, fostering a sense of hope and community support while promoting dignity, resilience, and self-sufficiency

Martha's Mission Cupboard provides emergency food assistance to individuals and families in crisis, serving more than 300 families every month who are referred by state or federal agencies and churches. Martha's Mission Cupboard is dedicated to serving families in need with respect and compassion.

This year, convention attendees donated the non-perishable foods shown below, most of which were from the organization's "top 5" needs list. In addition, an anonymous monetary donation of \$100 was contributed.



1223477

DATE 10/11/2025

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Martha's Mission Cupboard \$ 100.00

One hundred and 00/100 DOLLARS

MEMO Donation Carotel Pioneer Club

⑆ 143256869⑆ 1003001299⑆ 0890

RETIREE GATHERINGS

CT&T Dunn District Retiree Breakfast - September 2026



RETIREE GATHERINGS (CONT'D)

The annual CT&T Fayetteville Area Retiree Luncheon was held on September 13, 2025 at Paradise Acres of Grays Creek in Hope Mills, NC, with 131 people in attendance! Another reunion is being tentatively planned for Spring 2026. We'll keep you updated as plans progress. All CT&T retirees are invited to attend.



HELP FUND OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

*Ties collected from Pioneers friends of Pioneers friends were used to create this beautiful quilt that is being raffled by Carotel Pioneer Club. 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales will fund the **Elizabeth Bland Scholarship Fund,**" which is awarded annually.*

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and are available through October 10, 2026. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the 2026 Carotel Convention.

You do not have to be present to win. To purchase a raffle ticket or to obtain raffle tickets to sell in support of this fund-raiser, please contact Janet Cashwell by email at jrhc1313@gmail.com.



About Us



Carotel Pioneer Club is affiliated with the ITPA Tar Heel Chapter in Region 2. The National ITPA was founded in 1920 by members of the independent telecommunications industry as a way to serve the communities they lived and worked in. The Carotel Pioneer Club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the previously existing Tar Heel Chapter.

The Carotel Pioneer Club initially consisted of members who were employed by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company and required 15 years of service as a condition of membership. Over the years, the club's by-laws were revised, as companies were merged and acquired, to welcome Sprint and Embarq telecommunications associates, and the required length of service was reduced. In recent years, a new membership category was adopted by the ITPA to allow "Friends of Pioneers" to become Pioneers. And we need new members! Invite someone today. Membership application can be found at:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?>

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About Us



2025-2026 Carotel Officers/Directors

President: Darlene Terry

Vice President: Brenda Smith

Immediate Past President:

Larry Newsome

Treasurer: Carol Harrell

Asst. Treasurer: Ronnie Cashwell

Secretary: Mary McLamb

Directors: Ray Brock, Andy Davis,
Wendy Davis, Chester Harrell,
Darlene House, Judy Satterwhite,
Doug Sibbett, Barbara Smithson,
Edie Willis

Directors Emeritus: Ronnie Cashwell,
Carol Harrell

Committees:

Scholarships:

Carol Harrell, Chair

Janet Holliday-Cashwell,

Brenda Smith

By-Laws:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Ray Brock, Carol Harrell,

Mike Outlaw, Doug Sibbett

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Public Relations:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Nominating:

Larry Newsome, Chair

About Us

Tar Heel Chapter

2025-2026

Officers/Directors

President: Brenda Smith

Vice President: Curty Lancaster

Immediate Past President:

Darlene Terry

Co-Secretaries/Treasurers:

Carol Harrell

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Auditor: Bill Twyman

Directors:

Janet Holliday-Cashwell,

Danny Dennis,

Jim Jolly, Vicky Jolly,

Hannah Lancaster,

Alissa Moss, Jean Outlaw

Director Emeritus: Vacant

Committees:

Scholarships:

Carol Harrell, Chair

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Nominating:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Historical:

Carolyn Thompson

Publicity:

Darlene Terry