Keowee Key resident keeping the sounds of Sinatra alive

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SALEM — The serenading sounds of Frank Sinatra will be flowing through the club house at Keowee Key Friday night as resident Norman Crouse brings his "Me and Mr. Sinatra" tribute show to the stage.



Crouse

Though the show is already sold out Crouse is excited to have a second opportunity later this month.

The evening will start at 5:30 p.m. with drinks, followed by dinner and Crouse's performance of more than a dozen songs.

"I started out, like so many singers, in my church choir," Crouse said. "I sang barbershop for a while and did some community musical theater."

But even in adulthood, and especially in retirement, his love of singing hasn't waned.

"As my wife likes to point out, I sing everywhere — in the house, in the grocery store, much to her embarrassment sometimes," he said.

His love of Sinatra began in 1960, when he heard Sinatra's "Nice 'n' Easy" album and grew from there. He said his MP3 player has every one of Sinatra's songs on it, and keeping the music alive is one of his greatest accomplishments with the show.

"I started doing show at residential senior homes, and when I saw the front row of senior ladies mouthing the words of the song, I knew I'd hit a nerve," Crouse said. "But now, when I rehearse the show at home, my 11-year-old granddaughter sings the songs.

"I've introduced it to another generation, which as my whole goal — to make sure the music lives."

Crouse will be back at the club house on July 24 at the same time slot of 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $18.95 and can be reserved by calling (864) 944-2151.