

Warriors return to Upstate

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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SALEM— A few dozen Marines will get a chance to relax, rejuvenate and reflect with their military comrades at Keowee Key this week.

Continuing a local tradition, a three-day event involving Returning Warriors, many of whom have been injured in battle, will return to Keowee Key.

They will share the homes of local residents, the fun of life on the lake and the gratitude of a thankful community.

From water skiing, wave runners, fishing, ATV rides, swimming, eating and being honored, the warrior program continues to expand with more local support each year.

On Monday, a motorcade will bring the Warriors to Keowee Key from J.B. Red Owens Park in Easley, beginning at 2:45 p.m.

The parade route will go down U.S. 123, through Clemson on SC Highway 93, and return to U.S. 123 for the remainder of the parade as it circles through Seneca and makes its way to Keowee Key.

Then, on Tuesday, the community is invited to welcome the Marines at a Veteran's Appreciation Night at Gignilliat Community Center, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Free music, kids' inflatables, fireworks, good food for purchase and a chance to visit with the Warriors drew plenty of people last year and organizers expect the same



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A Returning Warrior enjoys some lake time in 2010. A new group will enjoy spending time at Keowee Key next week.

again this year.

This marks the third year the Keowee Key community has partnered to host this event with the Marines and the Roger C. Peace

Rehabilitation Hospital, part of the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center.

"These Marines have served their country, and we are excited to host them for some well-deserved rest and relaxation at Keowee Key," said event organizer Tim Callahan. "We are fortunate to have the assistance of the hospital staff and therapists."

Last year, more than 200 motorcyclists led the motorcade to recognize the sacrifices of the Marines. Thousands of people also lined the pa-

rade route to pay tribute.

"Each year the crowd gets bigger and bigger.

The Marines are overwhelmed with the show of support along the route," Callahan

said. "Anyone who has been along the parade route will tell you it is a very moving experience."

For more information on the parade route or to participate in the June 20 motorcycle escort, visit the event's website at <http://c4warriors.org> or send your questions to info@c4warriors.org.

To receive e-alerts as the motorcade progresses toward Keowee Key, go to upstatetoday.com and click on the Marine button.

Celebrate
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