Wounded Warriors to return to the Upstate

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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SALEM — For the second year in a row, numerous Marines will get the royal treatment with rest, relaxation, fun and camaraderie at Keowee Key.

After an overwhelmingly successful pilot run last year, Marines from Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton will head into the Upstate on Monday.

They will spend three days participating in water recreation activities, luncheons, parades, dinners honoring their service to our nation and community events, including live entertainment and fireworks.

The community is encouraged to come out on Monday and line the streets as nearly 200 motorcycles will lead a caravan of Marines down U.S. 123 before they turn at Miracle Circle to pass through downtown Seneca onto Hwy. 130 toward Keowee Key.

They are slated to arrive between 3:15 and 4 p.m. (People wishing to receive e-alerts regarding the status of the motorcade may sign up at www.upstatetoday.com)

New this year, on Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m., a Veteran's Appreciation Event will be held at Gignilliat Center.

The event is open to the public and families are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and pull up for a night of music by The City Street Band and a free kids area that will include inflatables. BBQ dinner plates with soda that cost $3 and $2 beers will be available.

Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the Shaver Recreation Center.

ON THE WEB

For more information about the route of the parade and schedule, visit **http://c4warriors.org/Seneca.html**

The Keowee Key community has partnered with the Marines and the Roger C. Peace Hospital Rehabilitation division to host this event again this year.

"Roger C. Peace Hospital Rehabilitation is privileged to partner with Keowee Key for a second year to sponsor the 'Honoring Their Service' event. This event gives us the opportunity to use our therapeutic expertise to adapt activities to the needs of the Marines in order to ensure that they have a fun and relaxing experience. It is a very special way for us to give back and to say 'thank you' to the Marines for all that they do for our country every day," said Tracie Hawkins, occupational therapist at RCP.

Larry Druffel, local event organizer, is thrilled about the this year's event.

"These Marines have served their country in Iraq and Afghanistan and will spend three days of rest and relaxation enjoying the hospitality and amenities of the Keowee Key community," Druffel said. "It's a very exciting time."

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JESSICA NELMS | FILE PHOTO

Just as these Marines joined local residents for fun on Lake Keowee last year, community residents will be making boats, jet skis, pontoons and other gear available for several dozen Marines arriving in the community on Monday.

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JESSICA NELMS | FILE PHOTO

Rest, relaxation and fun will be the order of the day for Marines arriving in Oconee County on Monday. The Marines will spend two days living in the homes of Keowee Key residents and enjoying local hospitality. A special community event is also scheduled for Tuesday night at Gignilliat Field in Seneca.