



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

A group of Keowee Key residents have held weekly “howling at the moon” meetings to chat and connect since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pictured, back row from left, are Curt Schneider, Betsey Chalmers, Wanda Lang, Gary Lang, John Gerhart, Linda Packer, Mike Packer, Chris Anderson, Joyce Edwards, Bob Edwards, Tim Driscoll and Jim Kenney. In front row are Suzette Cross, Susan Schneider, Lorraine Gerhart, Martha Driscoll, Hayes Cross and MaryLou Vandervoort.

## COVID-19 has Keowee Key residents ‘howling at the moon’

BY LAUREN PIERCE  
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SALEM — Amid closures and social distancing last year due to COVID-19, a group of Keowee Key residents have found comfort and made relationships through “howling at the moon.”

For more than a year, about 10 to 20 residents on Dinghy Court in Salem have gathered at the cul-de-sac on the end of the street.

“We initially all met at the end of our driveways at a certain time at night, and we would literally howl at the moon,” Susan Schneider said. “Not everybody still howls, but I still howl. We meet closer together at the end of the street now.”

“We don’t really howl at the moon anymore, but that’s what we call it,” said Suzette Cross, who started the meetings. “We just go out and chat. We would talk about what’s going on in our

lives, how was this and how was that, how our children and grandchildren were doing and other stuff.”

Cross got the idea from her son, Adam, who lives in Mill Valley, Calif.

“Their houses are closer together, so they’d go out on a deck and howl across neighbors and howl at the moon,” Cross said. “It was a way for them to see each other from afar outside and something fun they did. It was a neat idea, so I got in touch with people on our court when a full moon was coming up.

“There’s about 12 houses, and we started meeting every night for a couple weeks,” she added. “We’d just go outside and, at first, we would howl and be silly, but we would socially distance and we would just talk. We’ve been doing this ever since.”

Cross said she started the weekly

**‘My neighbors are no longer my neighbors. They’re my friends. We’re here for each other, no matter what life throws our way.’**

**Susan Schneider**  
Keowee Key resident