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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

October 2006



**Speaker's Schedule:** click [HERE](#)

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 12 October at St. Andrew's On-The-Sound  
Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.



**October's speaker comes to us from Asheville, N.C. Fred L. Ray, author of *Shock Troops of the Confederacy: The Sharpshooter Battalions of the Army of Northern Virginia*, will speak to us about his research into a much-neglected subject. To quote from a press release, his work "breaks new ground in military history, and in the Civil War, while reinterpreting many of its major battles. Characterized...as 'the most significant small unit tactical analysis of the Army of Northern Virginia ever written,' the book tells the story of the elite group of men who, whether screening Stonewall Jackson's flank march at Chancellorsville or leading the last desperate assault at Fort Stedman, led the Army of Northern Virginia in the advance, protected it at rest, and covered its retreat." Describing himself as a "micro-publisher" Ray became intrigued with these units while researching one of his ancestors. Mr. Ray has also written several books on**

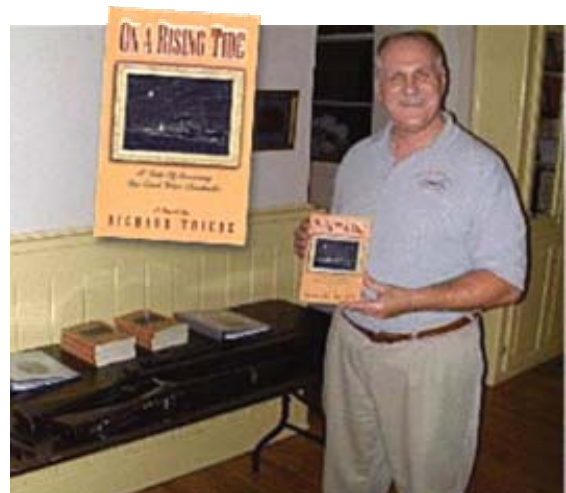
another of his favorite subjects, white water rafting. He began paddling in the late 1970s and soon became a raft guide.

Also at our October meeting, we will display the work of art created by New Bern artist Brian Kraus. The painting of General “Stonewall” Jackson astride his horse Little Sorrel, at the Battle of Second Manassas, has been donated by Mr. Kraus to benefit our Round Table. The incident depicted (where Jackson was seen by Union troops, but dismissed as an old farmer, because of his clothes and the horse he rode) was described by James I. Robertson in his work on Jackson (*Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend.*) Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 at this and our November meeting (see Ed Gibson) and there will be only 100 tickets made available. When all tickets are sold, the raffle will be held. Come early and buy one or two tickets for the chance of a lifetime!



Our annual dinner meeting at the historic Cape Fear Club (201 Chestnut St.) is scheduled for Thursday, November 9th. Please bear in mind that the attire for this meeting is “business casual.” Guests, as well new members are welcome. We are trying to keep the cost down, but it is dependent on how many members attend, so please mark your calendars and let us know you are coming!

The speaker for our “kick-off” meeting was member Richard Triebe. Mr. Triebe, author of the novel, *On a Rising Tide*, which was set in Civil War Wilmington, described what it was like back then. Using newspaper articles (having read several of the originals, thanks to Richard for transcribing them,



Ed.!) Richard showed us some of the little-known aspects of blockade running (no Seamen were allowed in town after sundown, e.g.) Soldiers, sailors, speculators, saloons and prostitutes soon flooded the little town, many of them winding up near the railroad depot, in a location which became known as “Paddy’s Hollow.” It was in this area, in September 1863 that Texan troops of General Hood’s Brigade, on their way to Chickamauga, visited the saloons and soon became drunk and disorderly. When the Town Guard attempted to arrest them, a serious altercation took place, with the Guard coming out on the losing end! Richard also delved into a bit of “what if” when, in his

novel, he placed the visit of the Ladies' Aid Society to Fort Fisher closer to the time of the January (1865) attack. The slides of news articles about Fort Fisher were very interesting and informative as were Richard's artifacts from his own collection. Thanks again to Richard for a great talk!.

While on the Internet, please visit the website of the North Carolina Maritime History Council, ([ncmaritimehistory.org](http://ncmaritimehistory.org)). Their annual symposium will be held in Southport on October 26th-28th (Thursday through Saturday). Scheduled are tours of [Brunswick town/Fort Anderson, Fort Fisher](#), the [Underwater Archaeology Lab](#), a Cape Fear River boat tour and even a wine reception! Speakers include Dr. Chris Fonvielle (we all remember him!), Burt Felton, Dr. Everard Smith, Gordon Watts, Richard Lawrence and the keynote speaker, Dr. Stanley South. There is a fee charged, for more information call the [N.C. Maritime Museum](#) at 910-457-0003. The Museum is located in Southport on North Howe Street.

