

1st Day Hike False Cape State Park January 1st, 2014

False Cape had their second annual 1st Day Hike and the weather was perfect for the hike from the beach over to the monument located at the state line. The plan was to take everyone on the Terra Gator down to the State line and hike to the monument which was placed there in the 1800's. All total we had 30 visitors who meet at Little Island City Park, at 1:00 pm for the 12 mile trip down the beach to the southern border of the park.

As we drove over the Beach Ramp, we left all the paved road behind. The beach was beautiful, flat, and about 150 yards wide and as clean as I have ever seen it. It was a new beach for a New Year and we all enjoyed it tremendously. The sky was clear, there was not very much wind, and the temperature was around 45 degrees; a perfect day at False Cape. Reaching the north end of the park after about a six mile trip; the beach got even wider and smoother. Driving on the beach that day, you saw blue skies, blue water as far as the eye could see, and towards the west; the high dunes that help keep the park safe. We reached the old ship wreck; "The Bark Clythia", which ran aground in 1894. With the tide out so far, you could see about 40 feet of the 250 feet of the length of the wreck. I slowed down so everyone could get a good picture of it and then moved on for the last mile of our trip down the beach.

Now the hike began. Brian, the Park Ranger started out towards the monument trail and I brought up the rear to keep everyone together as we hiked the Sand Ridge Trail. We stopped at the Ocean Pearl Trail to let everyone catch up, and we had a short informal talk about the park. Only about 10 of the group had ever been to this area of the park; so we had plenty to talk about. We then turned and started down the Ocean Pearl Trail for about .5 of a mile. At the state line we picked up the Monument Trail and soon we were at the Monument. Brian had researched about the Border Disputes that occurred in the 1600's, 1700's & 1800's, about where the border should be between Virginia and North Carolina. He did a great job of talking to our group for about 25 minutes, about what had gone on concerning this dispute, over the 200 year period. All seemed to enjoy what he had to say, and this talk ended with a big round of applause.

It was time to leave, so I led the group on the way back and we hiked into North Carolina to the first road, and made our way back to the beach and the Terra Gator, hiking about 5 miles total. This went over big with the group, hiking in two states on New Years Day, WILD ! With everyone on, with their seatbelts fastened; we started the trip north on the beach. It was still a beautiful, wide beach and we all hated to leave it on such a beautiful First Day. We made it back to Little Island City Park at 4:00 pm and everyone told us how much they enjoyed this 1st Day Hike and said that they looked forward to doing it again in 2015.

Friend of False Cape State Park & Terra Gator Driver
Bruce Julian

Be sure to visit False Cape, Spring & Fall is the best time but anytime is a great time! We are always looking for new volunteers, so stop by the visitor's office on your trip in.

