

## Wilmington detour a pleasant surprise for Olympic sailor

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When Charlie Ogletree retired from Olympic sailing following Beijing 2008, he'd planned to spend about two years cruising on his boat with his wife, Linda. Both love travel – it's a good thing, really, considering Ogletree competed in the past four Olympics.

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But neither of them imagined being in Wilmington for most of the summer when they planned the trip, yet they've been here since the end of June.

After sailing from Texas to Key West, Fla., then the Ogletrees spent from February to early June cruising throughout the Bahamas. Not long after leaving, they were hammered by a storm that caused some pretty severe damage to the boat.

Ogletree is from Columbia, N.C., and his wife's family is in Kentucky, so Ogletree did some googling for the best place on the Carolina coast. He discovered Bennett Brothers Yachts at Cape Fear Marina in Wilmington, made berth on June 25, and has been here since, renting an apartment downtown while waiting for the repairs to finish.

"We've really enjoyed Wilmington," said Charlie.

Linda sells insurance back home in Kemah, Texas, and returns occasionally for consulting work, and Ogletree still competes professionally. But between all the flying, with the help of friends

both old and new, they've soaked up Wilmington.

Charlie's Olympic team doctor lives here, Dr. Ann Allen, and has acted as tour guide and beach companion. He also met a radiologist, Dr. Doug Dougherty, while kitesurfing in the basin at the end of Kure Beach (a sport he picked up during their stay in the Bahamas). And another old friend, local artist Jane Fisher, has also shown them around.

"Between those three people, we've had some excellent tour guides," said Charlie.

They've attended two concerts at Greenfield Park and frequent the free Friday night concerts on the steps of the courthouse downtown.

"We really have enjoyed the local restaurants and music and bars," said Charlie. "And we've been spending a lot of time at the beach."

Come Sunday, though, the Ogletrees will likely sail out, their boat finally again fit for the open sea. They'll sail up to Columbia, on the Albermarle Sound, and stay with Charlie's family until hurricane season passes. Then in November they'll head back out to sea, bound again for the Bahamas, another year left of nothing to do but sail.

Unless they hit another storm, in which case Wilmington may see them again.

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