



Fall means Football!

Fall means football, and fishing if you are at the beach.

I celebrated my birthday at the beach recently (as I often do). Though it started as a bit of a dilemma when my brother invited me to join him for the ECU vs. UNC game in Chapel Hill. He is a huge Tarheel fan, with primo season tickets, and I am the lone Pirate in the family. It was tough at first, until I realized attending the game would preclude my Thursday departure and keep me from the beach for 3 days of my long Birthday weekend.

So I was pretty proud of myself on Saturday, sitting on the beach on a beautiful day celebrating myself. Then some clouds rolled in and I got the itch to see the game. I got this crazy idea that I should go to a local bar and catch the last half. I walked back to the house, contemplated over a cold beer, until the sun came back out. After a short brainstorming session, we realized we could watch the game from my neighbor's TV...she has cable!

Talk about the best of both worlds! Okay, it was the best until the fourth quarter, careless plays, bad call and bumner...the Tarheels won the game! Not exactly what I had in mind. I had flashbacks of going to the same game years ago, before I was even in college, or knew anything about the Pirates, when the two tied! What an exciting game that was, even as a Tarheel fan! Too bad we weren't so lucky this time.

So I spent the weekend hanging out on the beach with my dog and a few fishermen. Fall is fabulous on the island, almost like a ghost town during the week and very few folks on the beach on the weekend as well. Shopping is awesome; everything is on sale, and no lines, no crowds. Even the grocery store and the seafood store are ready and eager to serve with no waiting! Casual conversation is a staple on the island, and is abundant in the off-season.

Though the leaves are changing on the mainland, and many folks travel to the mountains to see them, I still prefer the island. The change of seasons is more subtle, and evident in the people and their activity than in the topography.

Football is fall fun, and fishing is too. I haven't seen a lot of people actually catching fish, but it doesn't really seem to matter. After all, if you are lucky enough to be at the beach, you are lucky enough!

Gail is a part time resident of Topsail Island and your good life guru. Contact her at GailO@gailo.com for more ideas on Living on Island Time!