

# Peace demonstrators convene at Jockey's Ridge State Park

BY SIBLEY FLEMING  
SENTINEL STAFF

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 55 Outer Banks residents gathered at Jockey's Ridge State Park to demonstrate against a potential U.S. war with Iraq.

They were encouraged by the beeping horns of cars and trucks as they stood by the

road brandishing placards of peace.

Halfway through the protest, the crowd gathered around the sand castle to listen to two speakers, Richard Batzler of the Peace and Justice Coalition of the Outer Banks and the Rev. George Smith of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the

Outer Banks in Kitty Hawk.

"As a citizen of the United States," said Batzler, "I have served my country in the Navy during World War II, worked as an intelligence officer for the federal government and have been a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives during the Vietnam War. I have taught history and theology in six colleges, and, as a Christian clergyman, have been a pastor to churches in four states.

"Based on these experiences, I believe that war is a symbol of human failure and that there are no winners in war."

Smith then read quotations from Einstein, Eisenhower and Gandhi reaffirming the message of nonviolence.

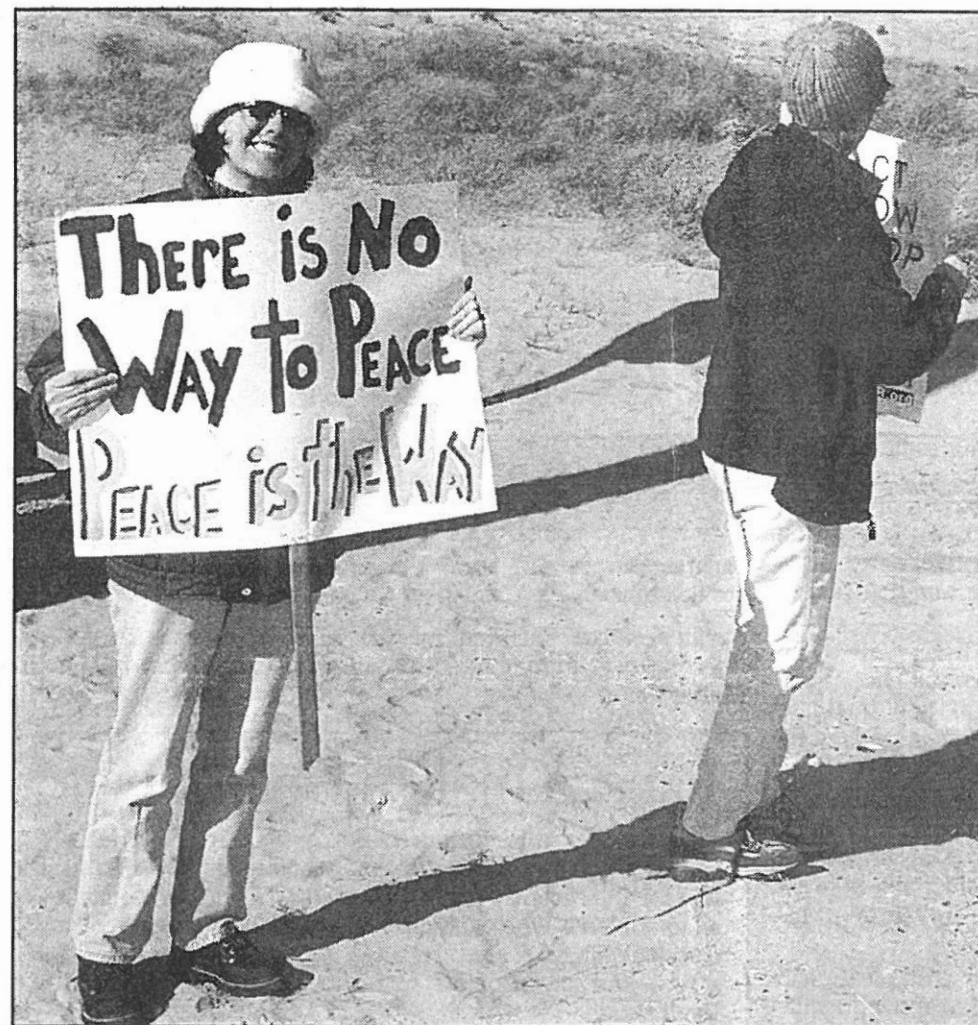
Christina Martin, a member of the Peace and Justice Coalition cautioned the crowd not to feel satisfied with their efforts and to keep speaking out.

The public is invited to attend the next meeting of the coalition, 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the Unitarian Meeting House in Kitty Hawk, at which plans for further protests will be discussed. For information, call the Rev. George Smith at 255-5564.

Sibley Fleming can be reached at 480-2234 or [sibley@obsentinel.com](mailto:sibley@obsentinel.com).



Demonstrators handed out pins, posters and bumper stickers.



PHOTOS BY SIBLEY FLEMING/

Peace demonstrators braved cold temperatures Monday as they demonstrated near the sandcastle at Jockey's Ridge.

THE  
COASTLAND TIMES

*Freedom of speech*

JAN. 21, 2003



A LARGE CROWD organizes at Jockey's Ridge State Park on Monday during a peaceful war protest at the Nags Head attraction. About 60 people attended the rally to speak out against the possible war on Iraq. (N. Garrett photo)