

For Immediate Release

Contact: Michael Weisbart at (252) 675-5689

**RIVER RATS SEEK HOST FAMILIES,
ANNOUNCE APRIL 6 INFORMATION SESSION**

NEW BERN, NC—The New Bern River Rats are looking for families to host team players and coaches during the upcoming 2006 season and will hold an information session Tuesday, April 6 at 7 P.M. at Baker's Square restaurant in historic downtown New Bern. Host families from the 2005 season who are interested in returning should attend the meeting as well as any new families interested in housing River Rats this summer.

"We were overwhelmed at the number of families that stepped forward to host River Rats players last year," said team owner Sabrina Bengel. "We couldn't have achieved the success of our first season without them."

Where many teams have trouble finding enough families to host their team's players, the River Rats had an excellent response for the inaugural 2005 season, Bengel said. Many families have already expressed an interest in hosting players again this year, but more families are needed, she noted. With the addition of three additional players and one additional coach, there will be more opportunities for area families to get involved.

Host families are asked only to provide a place for the player or coach to stay, typically a spare bedroom. Players are responsible for their own transportation, meals, and laundry, although host families may include the individual in family meals and other activities if they desire. Host families will be offered season tickets for the River Rats games and included in other team events.

For more information about the Host Family program or for questions about the information session, contact River Rats General Manager Michael Weisbart at (252) 675-5689 or mweisbart@newbernriverrats.com.

Rats Notes: The River Rats have launched their Online Press Release Program, which allows fans to receive press releases on news, rain outs, and other subjects as they happen. Fans can subscribe through the newsletter link on the River Rats website at www.newbernriverrats.com.

About the River Rats:

The New Bern River Rats baseball club is a member of the Coastal Plain League, a high-profile wood-bat collegiate summer baseball league. This summer the River Rats will play 28 home games at Boykin Field, located at New Bern High School from May 31 through August 9. The team's official website is www.newbernriverrats.com.

About the Coastal Plain League:

The Coastal Plain League is the nation's hottest summer collegiate baseball league. Celebrating its 10th anniversary season, the CPL is the largest summer league in the country, featuring 15 teams playing in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The CPL is certified by Major League Baseball, and gives college players the chance to refine their skills with wooden bats during the summer months. Players are housed with local host families for the summer and past experiences have been very positive for both players and hosts. For more information on the Coastal Plain League, please visit the league website at www.coastalplain.com.