

CALOOSA WINNIES

Local Chapter

The Caloosas held a different type of camping adventure for the April 2015 meeting! A 9 day caravan - traveling around some places in the state of Florida! THANKS to Vice President Ed Thomas for coordinating all the travel stops—it turned out to be a fun adventure!!! April 9th the group met at Sun ‘n Fun Resort in Sarasota for the first stop. Over the course of the trip we had 18 coaches gather to join in the fun! Our first Happy Hour was held in the Cypress Room—heavy Hors D’oeuvres were brought by all the members. The business meeting was held, David Nobert, President thanked the members for joining in the caravan! There was some discussion related to the March Rally that just ended. David thanked the members for pitching in at the rally and making sure things ran smoothly! The rest of the evening some folks played card and other games.



Next day we gathered at the clubhouse to begin our travel for a tour of a working dairy farm in the area, Dakin Farms. This proved to be such a fun event to tour the grounds, see the cow milking process from beginning to end! The tour included a lunch for barbecue and salads, thanks to the guides! The picnic grounds served us well including SHADE from the big oak trees!

Next we had an actual hayride—on a real hay wagon!! This ride took us around the rest of the grounds—

and of course—we ended up getting STUCK in a ditch!! THANKS to one of the farm hands—he got a road grader and got us unstuck! We also got to feed a group of new calves—here Jeff Allerman is feeding this calf!



Our next stop the same day was a wonderful show at the Lipizzan Horse Farm! These horses tour all over the United States and have been featured in many movies. The stands were filled with spectators and what a show we saw! The trainers did an excellent narration of their work with the horses.

After returning to Sun ‘n Fun it was soon time to get up the car pools and head to Der Dutchman Restaurant for dinner. As usual, the food and service was great and we all had a great dinner to top off the day!

Saturday, April 11th dawned bright and sunny and our caravan lined up to head to the next stop, Quail Roost RV Park at Crystal River, FL. Everyone arrived safely and Happy Hour was held at the clubhouse at 4:00pm. The group had reservations to go to a local restaurant nearby. Sunday morning our members Doug & LuAnne Taylor provided breakfast for the group! THANKS to Doug & LuAnne for cooking and starting off our day!

Plans for the rest of the day were our choice—some of the group went to Homosassa State Park and enjoyed the boat ride from the visitor center to the park filled with animals, birds, trees and flowers! The walkways were



shaded all around the park which made for a very pleasant day! We got to see manatees, alligators, all kinds of birds, and of course “Lu” the hippo! He’s not exactly a Florida species, but got special permission to stay at the park—especially because no one wanted to transport him! He was awake and put on a show for us! Everyone was on their own for dinner—and some played games in the hall for the evening.

Monday April 13th we all traveled to Torrey Oaks RV Resort at Bowling Green, Florida. Again, all coaches were accounted for and parked for the 2 day stay. We all met in a nice clubhouse for Happy Hour and talked about the next day golf game that was organized. Some members went out to local restaurants for dinner, some had their cookouts, then met for games in the clubhouse.

Tuesday morning breakfast was at the clubhouse—coffee and donuts to start of the day. The golfers went out for their game and some of the ladies went shopping in the local stores—led by lead shopper Janice Cummings! Happy Hour was at our traditional time of 4:00pm with a potluck dinner following at 5:30pm. Of course no evening would be complete without ice cream—so sundaes were made and enjoyed!

Wednesday, April 15th was a travel day heading to Lion Country Safari near the east coast of the state. Some of us stopped at a historic hotel/restaurant on the way at Indiantown, FL called Seminole Inn. This place was a stop on the railroad system back in 1926. The building was built to withstand storms, and has walls over a foot thick! Upon arrival at the KOA at Lion Country we were directed to sites all in a group under the pine trees! Happy Hour of course at 4:00pm and we all went to Olive Garden for dinner.



Next day we were awakened by the ROAR of the lions in the adjacent park! That got everyone up and ready to go visit the park at 9:00am! The park is set up in various themes and traveling on our personal cars gave us freedom to stop as we saw different animals. Of course the lions are carefully distanced from the road but one could easily see them. This picture is a rhino with a new baby off in a maternity pen! As we rode through the park we saw zebras, ostriches, all kinds of deer, and many animals one would see in countries like Africa.

After riding through the park for several hours, there is another section of the park to walk through with lots of displays and concessions, birds, etc. Toward the end of the park is a place to get up close and personal with the giraffes! In the pictures below you’ll see Dave Wilkie in the left picture feeding the giraffe, and the middle picture is Belinda & Walter Feldgoise also sharing their lettuce leaves!



There was a lot to see all over the park and it was a full day and lots of fun for all!

Back at the KOA at 4:00pm Happy Hour was happening, and sharing the stories of the day!



The group formed a big circle to share food and drinks and the wonderful weather under the shade trees! We discussed the entire trip was blessed with good weather!

Soon it was time to break out the grills—everyone brought their own selection of meat to be cooked and we shared dishes of salads, fruit, etc. We had some visitors drop by—Walter Feldgoise’s brother and his wife joined us for the evening. Also some former members of the Caloosas, Ron & Carol Mazuk were camping with a military group and spotted us! It’s always great to meet new friends and see old friends!

The next day it was time to pack up the coaches and head for home. It was a great experience and truly a wonderful time! Again, thanks to Ed and Carolyn Thomas for doing all the phone calls and setting up the tours, campgrounds and itinerary!

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 30—May 3 for the annual Kentucky Derby Party at Alligator Park in Punta Gorda, Florida. We welcome visitors to any of our meetings. Refer to our schedule at www.winniegators.org or the www.witclub.com at Who’s Inviting Travelers.

Submitted by
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