

"The Roadrunner Express"



Volume 1 Issue 16

December 2018



OFFICERS

Presidents

Rich & Sharon Beck

1st Vice Presidents

Charlie & Karen Autry

2nd Vice Presidents

Jorge & Orte Gil

Secretary

Jan & Mike Dippel

Treasurer

Carolyn Thomas

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Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!

The slogan at the top "Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures" definitely proved true for the Caloosa Winnies Christmas celebration December 6—9, 2018! 9 coach members arrived a day early to help with our set up and dinner at nearby Peter's Family Restaurant. Thursday the rest of the members arrived and our Parkers, Jorge Gil, Charlie Autry & Dave Wilkie made sure everyone parked in their spot with no problems! This was our 12th year celebrating Christmas at Oak Haven RV Park near Port Charlotte, the ladies who are residents always decorate the clubhouse and it looked very festive for us! Our gals who came on Wednesday did our decorations and food preparations in record time on Thursday!

At 4:00pm our first gathering was in the clubhouse for Happy Hour and it was a joyous reunion once again! We welcomed several new members joining us officially for their first meeting: Steve & Sharon King, Mark & Patti Burnett, Phil & Roseann Lomedico, Sean & Sara Viara, Sean's father Ralph Viara. Dinner was served at 5:30pm, Turkey was the main course and all the side dishes were DELICIOUS that the members contributed! It was a FEAST we all enjoyed!



Our traditional Ice Cream Social began at 6:45pm—in the above photo you can see our crew scooping for the crowd! In the right photo you can see President Sharon Beck cleaning out a container for her serving! The residents of the park are always invited to share in the evening for ice cream and Bingo



games. 23 residents did join us and we were happy to entertain them! THANKS to Dave Wilkie our bingo caller, Jerry Miller handled the money, Bruce Kanoza and Steve King were checking those winning cards! The winners: 4 games for residents and 3 for Caloosas! It was a fun evening for everyone!!

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Friday morning our cooks were in the kitchen early fixing sausage and pancakes for breakfast to begin at 8:30am. You could tell they had their coffee as they are all smiling at 8:00am!! The line formed before 8:30am and pancakes cooked to order were ready! Everyone was served in 30 minutes and the crew did a fast cleanup!

At 10:00am it was craft time—Carolyn Thomas was presiding over one of the first tasks. We were making snow globes for the kids who are in Golisano Children’s Hospital in Ft. Myers,



FL. It was a 2 step process over 2 days but our creations were so awesome!



Another project the on Friday was making painted ornaments! Carolyn supplied the materials and the instructions on how we were making the prize ornaments! We poured and swirled paint and all over the ornament and watched the beauty come to life! It was magic—but pretty when the paint settled. Of course we had to make a MESS—paint ended up on shirts, hands, tables, but was promptly cleaned up when we finished!



Dave & Barb Wilkie had an project for us—we made ornaments with stick on decals that also were donated to Golisano Children’s Hospital! What a GREAT feeling making things for sick kids!



We welcomed more new members that arrived on Friday—John & Lucy Murse! They arrived in time to ride with us to our dinner destination! Happy Hour was suspended as we headed to Laishley Crab House in Punta Gorda for a special Christmas dinner located in a beautiful setting on Charlotte Harbor. The right photo is only part of the group! Joining us for dinner were new members Jim Pursley & Paula Allton. We had a GREAT conversation with them and hope they will come to a meeting soon! We took all the tables in the room! Everyone was served in time to depart for our next special event! At Fisherman’s Village nearby we walked through the mall with the most beautiful decorations ever!



At 7:00pm we lined up for the boat Canal Cruise through the nearby neighborhoods! The weather was perfect, and some of the sights we saw are below in the photos! On the return trip to Oak Haven we looked a a few fabulous Christmas light displays.



LtoR: Sue Riling, Sharon Beck & Ellyn Bewes in the mall!



Saturday morning at 8:30am it was time for our potluck breakfast! The counter was filled with delicious dishes made by the BEST cooks!! Soon all the food was gone—and the hosts—the officers—did a fast clean up to get ready for our 10:00am meeting.



Rich Beck called the meeting to order at 10:00am and the usual procedures for meeting agenda were all addressed up to the officer elections. Ed Thomas, Caloosa Director, announced the Slate of Officers for 2019 and there were no further nominations from the floor. The slate was then voted by the members. All were elected by unanimous vote.



Our 2019 Officers L to R: Presidents Sharon Beck & Rich Beck, 1st Vice Presidents Karen & Charlie Autry, 2nd Vice Presidents Orte & Jorge Gil, Treasurer Carolyn Thomas, Secretary Jan & Mike Dippel. We are honored to have you serving us and will give you our full support!

In addition to handling the secretary duties, Mike Dippel is also our webmaster for the www.caloosawinnies.org website. THANK YOU MIKE!

Our previous secretaries, David & Barbara Wilkie have “retired” from the duty after 4 years of a great job! They were presented with a gift from the grateful chapter!

Rich Beck announced the appointment of Diane Cipolla to be the Sunshine Chairman to handle communication with our folks who need extra cheer! During the “Wagon Queen Corner” announcements, Nancy Miller talked about the future meetings, and urged members to sign up for the February Rally if they have not done so since the event will soon be at capacity! Reservation forms for the spring caravan beginning in April will be due by January for planning purposes. The March 1, 2020 cruise has been finalized—our AAA travel agent will take reservations now until mid-January. Further info can be sent to those members interested. The meeting proved once again to be FUN—with laughs along the way! The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Later in the afternoon the snow globe project was completed and turned out to be just so cute! The painted ornaments were sprayed with a glowing finish. On the right is a photo of the ornaments we were admiring! THANKS to Carolyn for organizing the projects and the guys who helped—Ed & Charlie!



Throughout the weekend Mike Dippel was playing background music for us on the clubhouse organ! Natalie Amos was also spotted playing the organ with Denise Joop playing guitar!!! It’s nice we have such talented folks in the Caloosas! It was also noted that our mascot “GUMBY” was overseeing all the action!





Saturday Happy Hour at 4:00pm was the beginning of such a JOYOUS evening! The hosts served dinner at 5:30pm—Ham was the main course with so many wonderful dishes to make the meal contributed by the members!

The conversation during dinner was about the cooks we have in the group! The Wagon Queen proposed an idea that we get serious about putting together a cookbook to present at the rally in 2020! So the idea as born—you'll be hearing more about that later in this edition!



THANKS to the hosts for doing the clean up after dinner! Charlie Autry surely has dish pan hands as he washes everything! David Wilkie presented Charlie with a badge with the title of COFFEEMASTER since Charlie always make the coffee “after extensive training for 2 years” since Bud Swift retired! Now Charlie needs a DISH WASHER badge! HA! THANKS, Charlie for all you do for us!



You'll notice Sharon Beck with that boarding house reach!! Sorry Sharon, it was a great picture!!!



CHARITY AUCTION TIME!

At 7:00pm it was time for our annual auction! For the past 8 years Joshua House has been our charity, located in Lutz, Florida. Children who have been abused or abandoned are taken in, housed, clothed, schooled, and provided with a stable and safe environment from any age up to 18 years. The Caloosas are the most generous folks on the planet and every year we auction packages to raise money to support this amazing place! That is the serious explanation of what I am about to report! The laughter, jokes, generosity, and as close to hysterics as the Caloosas ever get—I will try to describe this evening on paper!



Bruce Kanoza & Dave Wilkie

First, to the left is a photo of our ELVES—all decked out in the Christmas finest to begin the FUN!! Bruce & Dave—you are the BEST! Someone wanted to know if you consulted the fashion police???? Actually, we don't care because your actions and humor make up for everything! The magic in the air was contagious and the antics kept us laughing for 2 hours!

The picture on the right is only a partial display of the gifts donated by our group! A few members came also for the auction—Joe & Mary Periard, Ross Ziegler & Jan Sidebottom and our former Pres. Jean Weicherding! THANKS for coming for the fun!



Everyone had their auction number paddles ready, Carolyn Thomas was keeping a list of the bids, and we were off with the bidding! Here are some of the pictures with the wonderful prizes!



Mark & Patti Burnett new members love their prize!



These pictures are quilts donated by Patti & Doug Doty. They actually donated about 4 quilts all totaled!



Sharon King got the prized BOX with the money star attached! This BOX has been handed down in the auction for YEARS with a money star attached! The BOX tradition will be carried on to next year when Sharon will fill it and attach a new money star! Noted: Sharon donated the money that made up the star—to the auction proceeds!



Barb Wilkie opens her prize while Jean Weicherding looks!



New members Lucy & John Murse—what's in Frank Cipolla's bottle??? Frank bids A LOT!!!



Diane Cipolla opens her package!



Sara & Sean Viara, John Murse (new members) bidding on a package and in the background is L to R: Ralph Viara (also a new member), Helen Jette & Lucy Murse.

POSTSCRIPTS FROM THE AUCTION

There were so many beautiful gifts donated for this years auction—and this bowl in the photo was made and donated by a former Caloosa member, David Nobert. Even though he and his wife Janice Cummings sold their coach and retired from RVing, David wanted to contribute to our auction. He made this bowl from a very rare Cuban Mahogany tree that fell in Hurricane Irma at Don & Linda Levine's home. David will be happy to know his bowl sold for \$550.00 in the auction! THANKS to David for making this, and Joe Periard for buying it!!



While observing the auction actions some of the comments made by the group are worth repeating!
...she'll bid against herself!...it's made in China...\$45 to Frank...no, Dippels don't talk...She'll make it worth your while...\$200 sold to Sean...oooo aahhaa...hey you can't buy us....wait there's more—a voltage meter...oh Joe, you're sitting pretty tonight...she just bid against herself AGAIN...they aren't using their paddles—they took Frank's paddle...here comes the trifecta...now we have husband bidding against wife... it's going to cost a lot more for the divorce...get your fingers out of it...everyone shake the snow globes...Frank—don't move—just sit...you've just waved the paddle 4 times so now it's \$100 you bid...Sharon King donated the star money to Joshua House...trying to save her 5 bucks...please outbid Frank...let me touch it...Reeses makes it worth \$26...I'm done

Needless to say it was a 2 hours evening of fun, laughter, and generous donations. The Caloosas are the BEST at giving at this event. The total raised for Joshua House—\$5,200.00! That is AMAZING to say the least!! Our members Diane & Frank Cipolla always MATCH our amount as their donation so the total for Joshua House is \$10,400! THANK YOU to Frank & Diane and everyone who contributed to make this auction a HUGE success!

In addition—this is worth noting that our new members Sean & Sara Viara joining us for their first time did some bidding that I was not aware of at the time. Sean bid on several packages including this editor's flamingo clock! I was also bidding on it and thought I got it! I found out later Sean PAID for it! He also bought several other packages and gave them to some of the other members! That was such a surprise, and THANK YOU Sean & Sara for such GREAT generosity! Sean & Sara bid on and won the prize donated by Oak Haven for a FREE camping weekend in December 2019!



CALOOSA COOKBOOK CHALLENGE

WE NEED YOUR RECIPES! Because we have so many GREAT cooks in the Caloosa Chapter we are creating a cookbook of all our favorite recipes! The recipes will be sent to Fundcraft company to be assembled. The plan is we will sell them to each other and at the rally in February 2020! The former state club did this project in 2012 and the book is a great product! Members with recipes in the 2012 book—with your permission—we will publish those recipes from the book—but you can donate MORE! Recipes can be typed, emailed, hand written, and given to this editor at any meeting. WE CAN DO THIS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

Presidents	Rich & Sharon Beck
1st Vice Presidents	Charlie & Karen Autry
2nd Vice Presidents	Jorge & Orte Gil
Secretary	Mike & Jan Dippel
Treasurer	Carolyn Thomas

REMINDER: FEBRUARY 18—22, 2019 RALLY— LAZY DAYS RV RESORT

DON'T FORGET—if you haven't signed up for the Caloosa sponsored Reunion Rally—the spaces are almost filled! The reservation form is on the www.caloosawinnies.org website. If you want to get on THE LIST to attend, PLEASE reply to this email or call me 239-565-3115. We want all Caloosas to be able to attend if possible! Our "MARDI GRAS" celebration will be a BLAST!! You don't want to miss this event!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Vaughn LaVigne**
- 9 Fay Hubbard**
- 15 Joyce Cook**
- 19 David Riling**
- 23 Mary Heitman**
- 23 Lucy Murse**
- 23 Kevin LaLonde**
- 24 Carol Mastro**
- 24 Sally Sims**
- 28 Donald Williams**
- 29 Gary Cook**



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Jim & Marge Carney**
- 22 Gerald & Karen Brashaw**
- 24 Jim Pursley & Paula Allton**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mark & Patti Burnett
 Gary & Joyce Cook
 David & Cathleen Kinney



Vaughn & Norma LaVigne
 Sean & Sara Viara
 Ralph Viara

The Caloosa Winnies WELCOME you to our chapter, we are DELIGHTED to have you as members!

FUTURE MEETINGS

2019

- January 7—10 Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL
- February 18—22 Reunion Rally at Lazy Days RV Resort , Seffner FL
- March 11—14 Lazy Days RV Resort, Seffner FL
- April 23—May 5 4 City Caravan, members can attend all 4 places, or any of the locations.
- April 23—25 Sanlan Ranch RV & Golf Resort, Lakeland, FL
- April 26—28 Roadrunner Travel Resort, Ft. Pierce, FL
- April 29—May 1 International RV Park, Daytona Beach, FL
- May 2—4 or 5 Compass RV Resort, St. Augustine, FL
- November 7—10 Alligator RV Park, Punta Gorda, FL
- November 10— Jolly Roger RV Resort, Marathon, FL
- December 5—8 Oak Haven RV Resort, Arcadia, FL



REMINDER: DUES NOTICE FOR 2019—IMPORTANT!!!

Caloosa Winnies dues for 2019 will be \$25 per coach. This is the first increase in at least 30 years! Dues are due to be paid by January 31, 2019 to keep memberships in good standing. Jerry Miller will be happy to accept your dues at any of our meetings, or with any registrations for upcoming events.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!!!

