

# CALOOSA WINNIES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## “The Roadrunner Express”



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Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!

CALOOSA WINNIES—FEBRUARY 20—26, 2017  
FLORIDA STATE WINNIE GATORS RALLY—“PAJAMA PARTY THEME”  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

### OFFICERS

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Ed & Carolyn Thomas

#### 1st Vice Presidents

John & Jean Weicherding

#### 2nd Vice Presidents

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Fay Hubbard

The Caloosa Winnies meeting for February was attending the FSWG Rally in Sarasota, FL at the Sarasota Fairgrounds. 25 of our member coaches arrived on Monday to begin set up for the Greeters duty. In total, 34 Caloosa coaches attended the event. Greeters gathered in the Clark building at 3:00pm for our kick off meeting and get the equipment ready for the Tuesday opening for parking. President Ed Thomas opened the meeting and information was exchanged including the worker schedule and other events the Caloosas participated in for the entire week. Happy Hour was held at 4:00pm and at 5:00pm we went to Der Dutchman Restaurant for dinner.

Tuesday morning our work crews were at their stations and ready for the parade of coach arrivals! Each station had a leader for a 4 hour shift, and workers had 2 hour shifts. Our lead folks were Sharon Beck, David Nobert, Carolyn Thomas, Karen Autry, Ed Thomas, and Rich Beck. A HUGE thanks to you 6 for the GREAT dedication in that duty!



Station #1, L to R: Susan King, Barb Wilkie, Sharon Beck, Ellyn Bewes, Janis Fumia.



Station #2, L to R: Belinda Feldgoise, Carolyn Thomas, Joann Dalton



Station #3, L to R: Russ Bosch, Rick Beck, Charlie Autry, Joe Periard

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Here are some pictures of one of our crews on the first day! They REALLY did work, I just caught them at a time of quiet activity! GREAT job to you all!!

Tuesday evening at 6:00pm we all met in the Clark Building after the tents were taken down and the gates were closed for the day. It was time for Happy Hour and a Pizza Party! The ladies all brought homemade cookies, so there was plenty to eat!



That day happened to be Bob Dalton's birthday, and to celebrate the occasion, Joann & Bob brought CAKES for everyone AND ice cream!! What a great treat for us!!! We all sang "Happy Birthday" to Bob and enjoyed the food! THANKS to Joann & Bob!!! (We won't tell how old he is!)



Bob Dalton—Happy Birthday!

Attending this rally are some new members to the Caloosas, and they were introduced both evenings at our meetings. WELCOME to Bonnie Griffith, Joe & Ellyn Bewes, Bill & Katie Tolstyka, Bob & Kuci Manz, Carl & Karin Reilly.



The mascot for the Caloosa Winnies has been the "Gumby" character, because he's flexible and we often have to be "Semper Gumby" flexible because plans are sometimes altered at any event! A HUGE THANKS to Howard & Susan Melton for giving us this Gumby! He will reside in our coach and be at all the Caloosa events as a reminder—our plans are flexible!!

Speaking of being flexible, President Ed lead the discussion on the activities of a very successful Tuesday job well done!!

However, the weather forecast for

Wednesday was looking gloomy, so plans were adapted to be prepared for the rain and wind! All stations had to modify the plan, tents were not set up and all coaches were stopped in the paved parking lot at the front of the grounds. AND it did RAIN, wind



Meeting of the minds—and planning for Wednesday!

blew and was basically NOT a nice Florida day! THANKS to all the workers on Wednesday, no one asked to be excused, everyone was at their post at their time. We just sat in cars and did a terrific job!!! After the gates were closed we all gathered in the Clark building again for Happy Hour and sub sandwiches with trimmings! AND cookies! Announcements were made by President Ed about the rest of the rally events to be sure everyone knew the plan. GREAT JOB all you Greeters!!!



Sub sandwiches for Wednesday evening dinner!

Thursday was rally opening ceremonies at 11:00am with lunch being served at 1:00pm. Our Greeter teams were soon back to work to welcome the rest of the participants arriving that day. Gates closed at 3:15pm to allow preparations for the Row Party at 5:00pm. This event is just GREAT FUN as each chapter sets up tables with contributions of SO MANY DISHES—it's amazing! People roam the room and meet the chapters and enjoy their offerings of food & drinks. Of course the Caloosas had 4 long tables FILLED with so many wonderful dishes!



Caloosa tables setting up ready for customers!



Caloosa  
Row  
Party  
tables &  
lines!



As you can see from the pictures—we had a HUGE crowd and the lines were long for at least an hour! We really enjoyed watching people having FUN and meeting with our members! Of course we did get to circle the room to see what other chapters had on display and sampled their offerings! It was a fun evening with many door prizes being given away during the evening. THANKS once again to our cooks who really did a FANTASTIC job with their food! THANKS to everyone who also worked behind the tables keeping it organized!

The game of “Nickels” - that is quite a game with so many Caloosa players! On Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday they could be found in the Clark Building trying to beat each other out of the “pot”!



Some of the Pet Parade Committee members L to R:  
Joann Dalton, Mary Periard, Karen Autry.

Friday morning the Caloosas were in charge of the Pet Parade, which turned out to be a fun event!! There were 10 members who volunteered to help with the parade, and it took that many of us to keep law & order with the pets! It's always fun to see how creative the “mommies & daddies” are! At the right in front are Chuck & Becky Smalley with their pets Charlie & Babe all dressed in matching costumes!!! Since the theme was Pajama Party, they all had matching PJ's! The



judges were the vendors in the building. The prize winners were announced on Saturday and the proud owners took home their blue ribbons! THANKS to the Caloosas for working on this great fun activity!



Friday at 4:00pm it was time for Happy Hour by the Millers' coach! As you can see in these photos we, more than filled the space! THANKS to Howard Melton for setting up the tent! Everyone enjoyed the snacks and time to be together!



Friday evening dinner was held at 5:30pm in the main hall. Seating for dinner was designated by a picture on name badges which mixes up the participants and allows us to meet new people! The entertainment for the evening was a group of young ladies who made a repeat performance for the FSWG! Entertainment Revue made up of very talented girls between the ages of 7 to 17! They change costumes at high speed rates and their singing and dancing is just spectacular! To the right is a picture of the girls in stage while FSWG President Jack Caffrey presents them with a huge tip jar that was circulated around the room and given to the girls for some kind of party just for them! Jack also congratulated them on a wonderful performance to which they got a standing ovation from the audience! Afterward the girls circulated among the RVers and it was just fun shaking hands with them! The door prizes were presented after entertainment and several Caloosas received baskets!! A HUGE THANK YOU goes to our member Janice Cummings for making about 15 BIG baskets on behalf of the Caloosas! The chapter members made donations to that fund to make Janice's job worth her time! We loved hearing our name called as the donors of all our baskets!



Saturday was the final day of activity with new coaches to view, vendors to browse their products, a Wine & Cheese Party handled by the Buccaneer Winnies, Seminars, and fun games by Suncoast Winnies! Happy Hour for the Caloosas was held in the Clark Building at 3:30pm. Our chapter was asked to have 4 volunteers for serving dinner, but after the dinner plan was set we volunteered for several extra duties and ended up with



Dessert servers: L to R: Jean Weicherding, Elyn Bewes, Susan King & Karen Autry



Beverage servers L to R: Charlie Autry, Walter Feldgoise, Bud Swift

22 of us helping in various stations! The flow worked well and it was our pleasure to assist in this task! After dinner the entertainment was Patty Waszak, a singer, musician, songwriter who did a great job of singing and playing so many instruments!

Awards were presented for the Pet Parade by President Ed Thomas. Best Costume ribbon was given to Chuck & Becky Smalley with "Charlie & Babe", Best Trick ribbon to Barb Hall and her dog, and Most Unusual ribbon to Rich & Sandy Hilton for "Jack". Also Arts & Crafts Best of Show ribbon was given to Caloosa member Marge Carney for a beautiful painting! See photo at the right! Congratulations to Marge - it is a beautiful painting!



Sunday morning the business meeting for FSWG was held, and departures began with a parade of coaches leaving after a fun week! The Caloosas all did a wonderful job and we are PROUD of all the work you did to make everything a success! We are a GREAT team !

Our next meeting will be March 13—16, 2018 at Lazy Days RV Resort in Seffner, FL. The theme is "Spring Fling" with a full agenda—something for everyone! Our website will have all the information about us, [www.caloosawinnies.org](http://www.caloosawinnies.org). Any WIT member is invited to attend our meetings—we publish the dates on our website, as well as WIT Club "Who's Inviting Travelers".

Submitted by: Nancy Miller, Caloosa Winnies Wagon Queen, 239-565-3115

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 7 Sue Leto**
- 7 Wes Sims**
- 8 Pete Maceri**
- 14 Allen VanPutten**
- 19 Sally Rayburn**
- 21 Robert Dalton**
- 26 Roger Gardner**
- 27 Don Levine**



## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10 Jim & Sally Rayburn (60 Years!)**
- 14 Dave & Barb Wilkie**
- 15 Mike & Jan Dippel**
- 16 David Nobert & Janice Cummings**



## **“Roadrunner Readers”**

Chairman, Corinne Wightman  
Future Schedule

March  
April

“Fearless” by Eric Blehm  
“The Whip” by Karen Kondazian

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**



### **2017**

- March 13—16 Lazy Days Rally Park, Seffner FL
- April 21—25 Grand Oaks RV Resort, Weirsdale, FL (Caravan 1st location)
- April 26—30 Seasons in the Sun Resort, Titusville, FL (Caravan 2nd stop)
- May 1—3 Okeechobee KOA, Okeechobee, FL (Caravan 3rd stop)  
(Caravan information will be discussed in future meetings. Participation in any or all segments of this event will be allowed.)
- October 12—15 Gulf Waters RV Resort, Ft. Myers Beach, FL
- November 13—20 Jolly Robert RV Resort, Marathon, FL (week long event)
- December 7—10 Oak Haven RV Park, Arcadia. FL

### **2018**

- December 30—Jan. 2 Lazy Days New Years Party, NOT Caloosa event.  
Contact Lazy Days
- January 2—5 Lazy Days Rally Park, Seffner FL (Caloosa event)
- Feb. 26—March 1 Florida Chapters Reunion Rally, Lazy Days Park  
sponsored by Caloosa Winnies
- March 11—18 Caloosa member cruise, Allure of the Seas,  
(contact us for info)
- April 12—15 Riverside RV Resort, Arcadia, FL
- May 3—6 Alligator Park, Punta Gorda FL



Coming in March!!!! How well do you REALLY know your partner???? We'll ask the questions and you give the answers!!! It'll all be in fun.... Prizes for the couple with the most matching answers!!

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

**John & Annie Spence**



**Bonnie Griffith**

### **SAVE THE DATES!!!**

February 26 to March 1, 2018

The Caloosa Winnies will sponsor an all Florida Chapters Rally at Lazy Days RV Park!

The dates are set and all chapters will be invited to participate in the fun! Plans are in the works for entertainment, food, games, so all chapters will have a place to meet in place of the state sponsored event. Details will be forthcoming—we know the Caloosas will be great hosts!

