

CALOOSA WINNIES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

“The Roadrunner Express”



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Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!



THE CALOOSA WINNIES GROUP AT THE FEBRUARY 2019 RALLY
THANKS to David Rosenblatt and Coby Gaulien for the photos!

February 18—22, 2019 the Caloosa Winnies hosted the 2nd annual Florida Chapters Reunion event! The theme was “Mardi Gras”, and what a GREAT party once again going into the record books!! 184 coaches from 22 states came for the FUN and FRIENDSHIP!

Sunday February 17th the Caloosa decorating team got into action decorating the Rally Center—lots of laughter and busy hands! THANKS to all the guys who got on ladders to help, and the ladies who decorated 50 tables, and did other jobs that helped get us ready for the days ahead. Sunday evening with 34 Caloosa coaches there we had a buffet dinner thanks to the Exit 10 Restaurant, and meeting to review the volunteer duties. The other 28 Caloosa coaches were due to arrive on Monday.

Monday morning was our first schedule seminar with Wayne Michalski demonstrating his technique to remove the clear coat off coaches that discolors after a few years. He actually did a live demonstration by removing the clear coat off this editor’s coach! A large group watched and learned how to do the process with a kit that Wayne sells.



3:00pm the Rally Center doors opened to the registrants and they were greeted by the Caloosas and got some beads—a tradition for Mardi Gras! Our Happy Hour committee headed by Charlie & Karen Autry, and their helpers, had all the snacks placed on tables for people to enjoy! There was quite a buzz of excitement in the room as friends met each other and with many new faces this year, we all made new friends!

Dinner was served at 5:30pm, Pulled Pork Barbecue and the trimmings. The sale of bingo cards began at 6:30pm with Jerry Miller & Jan Dippel handling the sales. Bingo was WELL attended with most of the tables filled. Bruce Kanoza called the numbers with Dave Wilkie assisting along with the other committee volunteers. THANKS to you all for making this such an enjoyable evening—AND making many people happy with the winnings!!!



Tuesday morning Wayne Michalski did another seminar about his Ugly Shield Removal process and had another large group gathered to watch how to take off the clear coat from a coach. Sharon King, Caloosa member, held a craft class for the ladies to make a Mardi Gras accessory. THANKS to Sharon for hosting the ladies! Several attendees set up their tables for the Flea Market to sell some wares.



Tom Pilgrim, Winnebago Service Trainer from Forest City, Iowa was our guest and did a fantastic job informing his huge audience all about their RV's. The room was full and everyone was very attentive and also asking questions. Tom also did a 2nd seminar later in the day that was also attended as a big group listened intently.

On the agenda at 1:30pm was a line dancing class! Caloosa members Denise Joop, Rick & Natalie Amos were the instructors, while Jerry Miller played the music. As you can see from this photo on



the right—the floor was filled with dancers! THANKS to the instructors and dancers for a fun afternoon!!

The Happy Hour committee was fast at work and ready for everyone to enjoy another fun social hour at 3:30pm. At 4:00pm the Caloosa group gathered on the stage to have a photo taken—the one that appears on page 1 of this newsletter. MANY THANKS to David and Coby once again for helping us stage everyone and for taking the pictures!

Dinner was served at 5:30pm by the caterers—something very familiar to Winnebago folks—Walking Tacos! Corn chips were put on the bottom of the basket and all the taco trimmings were added people progressed down the line.

Entertainment for the evening was a return engagement of “Anthony Mac” - the D.J. that has performed for us for several years. Anthony played all kinds of music for the crowd and one of the fun things was we formed a conga line! As you see on the photo on the right—we had a long line that went all around the room and picked up those who were sitting to join in the line!!! What a fun & laughing group!





Anthony on stage in this picture to the left decided to do a musical chairs game that involved 10 of our participants, duly chosen by the someone who shall remain nameless! He instructed the game by playing music and when the music stopped he instructed the players to grab an item from the audience and get back to a chair! Everyone had a GREAT time with this and the eventual winner was John Murse! THANKS to everyone who participated and were such good sports! The audience loved it! You were STARS!



There was music for the slow dancers as well and the dance floor was pretty full most of the evening. Our Caloosa chorus line in the photo on the left: (L to R: Jan Dippel, Barbara Kanoza, Ellyn Bewes & Sue Riling.) were having fun but we didn't notice any high kicks ladies! Maybe next year....



Wednesday morning began with a seminar hosted by SkyMed, a Swarovski Jewelry Class with Margaret Schwalen returning to our rally again to show the ladies how to make beautiful jewelry. Just outside the Rally Center some vendors set up displays with things for sale, and several participants attended a Drivers Confidence Course in the main building.

A Product Design Team from Winnebago in Forest City held a seminar at 9:30am with the purpose of researching how we all use RV's, our likes & dislikes. Jack Decker, Mark Lafferty & Rick Devries were interested in gathering information from individuals in their coach to learn how better designs can be beneficial for the consumer. Their sessions were WELL attended and since this was a return visit from this team to our rally this year, we know they are taking back a wealth of information to share about future products. (Plus they all got out of the SNOW in Forest City!)

Jan & Mike Dippel presented a session in how to play Pickleball at 10:00am on the courts just outside of the Rally Center. Since they are avid players and have won tournaments, it was a GREAT display of their talents, and for taking the time to make that contribution to the rally, we REALLY appreciate that activity!

Stacey Janoske, our Pampered Chef expert did a demonstration for a big crowd and also sold a lot of her great products! Several vendors set up tables outside the Rally Center and lots of items were displayed and sold.

At 1:30pm another big crowd gathered in the Rally Center for a Microwave/Convection Cooking Seminar by Lazy Days Chef, Max Perez. No matter how many times one attends one of these seminars there are always new things to learn. Many people find the ovens a bit confusing to use but after attending a few seminars—one can learn enjoy cooking in an RV! Later in the afternoon Don Levine presented a seminar on safety while traveling regarding trains and crossings in different areas.

Dinner for the evening was the Hors d'Oeuvres party—we asked all the participants to bring a dish to share and what a GREAT variety we had!! All the hot food warmers were filled, lots of salads and plates of crackers, cheese, shrimp, etc. and 3 tables filled with desserts! Our Happy Hour team did a great job directing folks where to place dishes and keeping the tables filled! THANKS to everyone for all your contributions for a GREAT meal that made this a success!



At 6:30pm it was time for our Masquerade Parade!! This editor has to be honest when I tell you—I had NO idea this parade would have so many EXCELLENT costumes and such a HUGE crowd participating! What a GREAT crowd!



The parade went around the room twice and the judges had a tough time trying to decide the winners!! THANKS to the judges who were asked and agreed to help us! One thing you can say about these RV people—they REALLY embrace the challenge to participate and have FUN!! THANKS to everyone for making this a fun parade!! Even “Gumby” got into the act!



THE WINNERS: (L to R: 1st couple I’m not sure who they are? Sorry. Next couple, Steve & Sharon King, Kitty VanHorn & Ed Gonzalez, Diane & Frank Cipolla.

Entertainment for the evening was a movie played on the big screens, “Mamma Mia” the original film. Popcorn was popped to enjoy and the movie kept us singing along! What a GREAT day overall!

Thursday morning began with a seminar “Basic RV Electricity” by Dale Sumner with a room full of listeners. The Caloosa Winnies held a business meeting with Rich Beck, President presiding. Future meetings were discussed with the some of the April/May caravan details announced.

At 1:30pm it was time for the “Ice Cream Social”! No Caloosa event would be complete without ice cream!! THANKS to our committee headed by Ted & Janis Fumia, —they were set up and ready to serve when people filed in to enjoy the treats! Pictured on the right: (L to R: Joe & Ellyn Bewes, Phil & Roseann Lomedico, Ben & Donna Collier, Janis & Ted Fumia) Later in the afternoon another seminar was well attended as Bert Henderson explained the benefits of “Solar Power for RV’s”.



At 3:30pm our Happy Hour committee had all the snacks in place for everyone. A 50/50 raffle was held with Ed Thomas leading the volunteers with selling tickets! Ed announced the chapter part of the proceeds would be designated for the 2020 rally we announced earlier in the week—for the entertainment budget. Ticket sales were brisk and 5 winners were announced! THANKS to Ed & the committee for doing a TERRIFIC job!!! Congratulations to all the winners!!





Dinner was served at 5:30pm, the menu included Fried Chicken and all the sides plus dessert. Many thanks to the Lazy Days catering staff for doing a great job for us and serving everyone in a timely fashion!

Entertainment for the evening was “The Marlins”, 4 brothers who did a variety of music and comedy. The Marlins have entertained us at previous rallies and we thoroughly watching them! Pictured on the left is Jace playing Willie Nelson and Robert with the Waylon Jennings hat! The Marlins really know how to get an audience on their feet with several standing ovations from the crowd!



Friday morning breakfast was served by the Lazy Days staff in the Rally Center as we wanted to say our goodbyes once again as a group. Everyone lingered a while to visit with friends from previous rallies and cement the new relationships made at this rally. Soon it was time for departures, we wished everyone safe travels.

A HUGE THANKS to the Caloosa members who volunteered in so many ways to make this rally as success! Everyone knows it takes a good team to create success and I so appreciate everything you all did!! I will be looking forward to our next adventures in February 2020!

Plans are already underway for the 2020 event which will also be a friendship event! We are excited to be hosting again! Make your plans, save the dates and get ready for another exciting FUN week!

FLORIDA CHAPTERS REUNION FRIENDSHIP PARTY **“THE ROARING 20’s”**



February 17—21, 2020
Lazy Days RV Resort
Seffner, Florida



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Yvette Horman**
- 3 Howard Melton**
- 8 Lew Fish**
- 13 Karen Autry**
- 13 Annie Spence**
- 20 Elsie Ford**
- 26 Frank Cipolla**



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Ross Ziegler & Jan Sidebottom**
- 18 Greg & Denise Joop**
- 19 Mal & Elsie Ford**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Raymond & Ferol Drust
Donald & Jean Fowler
Bob & Jean Graga



Rolando & April Milian
Thomas Neu & Nancy Bedinger
Ron & Sally Stewart

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

2019

- 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

2020

- January 6—9 Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL
- February 17—21 Lazy Days RV Resort, Seffner, FL 3rd Annual Reunion Rally
- March 8—15 Cruise on RCL Harmony of the Seas



The Caloosa Winnies April/May Caravan plans are underway! If you have not signed up to join us for any part of the adventure - you still have time! BUT—PLEASE let us know ASAP as the parks are requesting our lists this early! As we know, parks will be filled with so many RV's traveling. Details for each park will be sent out after the March meeting. The theme of this adventure will be "Keep it simple, casual, and fun!" Reservation form is available on our website at: www.caloosawinnies.org. Payments will be due by April 1st.

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!!**