

"The Roadrunner Express"



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Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!

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1st Vice Presidents

John & Jean Weicherding

2nd Vice Presidents

Bud & Sue Swift

Secretary

David & Barbara Wilkie

Treasurer

Fay Hubbard

CALOOSAS NEW YEAR'S EVE AT LAZY DAYS RV RESORT

December 30, 2016 many of the Caloosa Winnies arrived at Lazy Days to begin a FUN celebration! Lazy Days knows how to put on a great party and we were there to check it out!! Friday evening began with a Happy Hour and dinner consisting of Roast Pork, and lots of additional dishes. A band played great music for dancing and the dance floor was full of couples as well and many of us line dancing! Saturday morning breakfast and lunch were served at Lazy Days Front Porch Café, then it was time for the big party! As you can see in the pictures the Caloosas enjoyed the merry making at the New Year's Eve celebration!



Dinner was just delicious with Prime Rib and many other dishes!



Music was provided for dancing the rest of the evening! It was a GREAT



party and nice beginning for our Caloosa meeting starting Jan. 2nd! We plan to attend the 2018 party!



New members Ben & Donna Collier take a selfie! WELCOME to Caloosas!



Jerry & Nancy Miller celebrated their anniversary and New Year's!

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Monday morning the co-hosts gathered in the rec hall to set up tables and get ready for arrival of the members who were not at the New Years celebration. Soon it was 4:00pm and Happy Hour time! A buzz of conversation was going on, snacks and drinks were enjoyed by everyone! President Ed Thomas welcomed new members Doug & Patti Doty to our group! Dinner was served at 5:30pm consisting of homemade vegetable beef soup, salad and bread. One of our members, Rich Beck was spending time with us enjoying his first few days of retirement! We helped Rich and his wife Sharon celebrate this milestone with a party consisting of cake, cards and gifts as you can see in the photo to the right! Congratulations, Rich & Sharon!



L to R: Barbara Kanoza, Karen Autry, Bruce Kanoza, (nice pose Bruce!) Sue Riling, Nancy Miller, Janet Fowler & Patti Doty

Our Ugly Sweater Contest got underway shortly after dinner, As you can see some of the “creative designs” presented by a few members!! The laughter and finger pointing was of course happening—and it was just the Caloosas having fun!!

and cake! Denise Joop, 2nd from left in the photo on the right taught us some new dances which was really fun! We also did the Electric Slide which many of us learned a while ago. THANKS to Jerry Miller who worked as our disc jockey as we learned new dances!



L to R: Nancy Miller, Denise Joop, Belinda Feldgoise, Natalie Amos, Rick Amos & Sue Riling



The photo on the left shows Rick & Natalie Amos line dancing as a couple! They were so cool to watch that the rest of the dancers and the audience watched and applauded them!! Some of the members played “nickels” while line dancing was going on. All this FUN was a great conclusion to our first day of the Caloosa meeting!

Tuesday morning breakfast was available at Lazy Days Front Porch Café and many Caloosas were spotted there in the early morning hours! At 10:00am our meeting began at Rally Park rec hall to review our Greeters duty to be happening at the February state rally. Since we did this duty last year, it was simple to explain and present the work schedules. This year we do have many new members who did not participate last year so this was good information for them as they all agreed to help at the posts. Ed Thomas, our President, did a great job with maps and write-ups for our procedures.



The ladies are doing the WAVE!!

After lunch at the café everyone gathered at the rec hall for a ROUSING game of Beanbag Baseball! The ladies were challenging the gentleman, or vice versa, and the first round of teams determined the winners—on both games it was the MEN! Although they only beat us by a few runs, we relinquished our chairs so the men could have a playoff game!



And more waves!!!

The game between the 2 men's teams was great fun to watch and who ever said they aren't COMPETITIVE? The winning team is pictured at the left! Their prizes??? A box of Cracker Jacks, appropriate wouldn't you say?

THANKS to Sue Riling for being scorekeeper for the teams! And THANKS to the members for being such good sports!!



L to R: David Riling, Bud Swift, Charlie Autry, Ed Thomas, S.E. Weaver, & Nick Sanborn



Happy Hour began at 4:00pm right on time with lots of snacks!

Soon it was time to leave for dinner at O'Brien's Irish Pub in nearby Brandon. Carpools were formed and directions given—and off



Dinner at O'Briens Irish Pub

we went! We were delighted to see our 1st VP's John & Jean Weicherding who joined us for dinner! John had recent surgery and is well on his way to recovery and it was GREAT to see them! O'Briens did a GREAT job serving us in a private room with good food and service!! Soon we returned to Lazy Days with many games of "nickels" players having fun once again!!

Wednesday morning breakfast was again served at Lazy Days Front Porch followed by our usual business meeting. Ed Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:00am and as usual, a lively meeting ensued! The Caloosa Roadrunner Readers Book club met, with Jerry Miller leading the discussion for the book of the month, "The Everglades; River of Grass." Soon it was time to eat again, and lunch at the café was where we headed. In the room the Strawberry Shortcake table was spotted in the corner!!! This is strawberry season and Plant City was represented with this luscious dessert! SOME PEOPLE made it their LUNCH! YUM!!

At 1:30pm We had a Pampered Chef demonstration back at the rec hall. Our consultant, Stacey Janoske showed us many products and demonstrated some of the new items. Shopping was done at the end of the presentation!



Happy Hour at 4:00pm brought everyone back together. Soon the tables were filled with MANY dishes for our potluck dinner!! The food was INCREDIBLE and delicious from our wonderful cooks!!! Our always popular Ice Cream Social was next, with our hosts doing a fine job of "scooping"!



At the front of the line you will see Doug & Patti Doty! New members get special privileges at first!





Wednesday evening it was time for **SPORTS NIGHT GAMES!!** 10 different games were spread around the room including badminton, baseball, bowling, basketball, darts, golf, hockey, washer toss, bocce ball, & football. 2 person teams were announced, (just to keep everyone honest!). Each game had specific rules and scores were to be posted on individuals score sheets.



.....AND WE HAVE THE WINNERS!!!

BEST SCORE MEN

GREG JOOP



BEST SCORE LADIES

DENISE JOOP



**Front Row: L to R: Janice Cummings, Belinda Feldgoise, Janet Fowler, Denise Joop, Diane Cipolla, Helen Jette
Back Row: L to R: Rick Amos, Greg Joop, David Riling, Wes Sims, Nick Sanborn, Bruce Kanoza**

MANY THANKS to the members for being good sports and playing the games!!! **THANKS** to the co-hosts for helping set and take down the games!!! We had lots of laughs, as you will see on more pictures to be posted to the W.G. website!

During the evening we invited some folks come visit with us who happened to own a Winnebago—we met them earlier in the day. They did come to Happy Hour and we convinced them to stay for dinner and the evening. Well, as it happened Joe & Ellyn Bewes did join us for the evening—and talk about a small world—Janice Cummings and David Nobert recognized Joe & Ellyn! Janice worked with Joe many years ago! We were happy to have them join in for the evening! We made them feel welcome and I'm happy to report—they did join our chapter at the end of that week!



Well, it was clear after the games ended that the party wasn't over! The “nickels” players had dice and money in hand and sat down at tables and began playing!!! I HEARD A RUMOR THAT OUR GUEST, Ellyn, actually won a game of “nickels”! Yay for Ellyn!

Thursday morning at 8:30am our continental breakfast was set up and members came to join in for the last event for the weekend. Donuts, bagels and coffee disappeared fast, and we had to say our goodbyes until the next meeting!

Speaking of that next meeting, we will attend the Florida State Winnie Gators State Rally in Sarasota, FL at the Fairgrounds February 23—26, 2017. Because the Caloosas have a duty which is Greeters for the rally, many of us will arrive that Monday February 20th to begin procedures to set up and be ready for the coaches arrival beginning Tuesday. Anyone reading this newsletter and planning to attend the rally need to register before the cutoff registration date. Information is located on the www.winniegators.org website. We have our schedules completed for the work stations. We'll need substitutes so if you're not assigned to a place it's okay—let us know when you will be arriving if you have not already done so. More information will be emailed to the members shortly with any updated information. We will have a GREAT time as Caloosas always do! This will be the last official rally for FSWG as they have decided after a member vote to disband the state club. HOWEVER, as you know—this will not cause any issues for the Caloosas.

I must thank the co-hosts for the January meeting! Charlie & Karen Autry, David Nobert & Janice Cummings, Bruce & Barbara Kanoza—you are the BEST!!! You did everything just perfect and made the 4 days so much fun with your willing hands and attitude!! THANKS to Jerry Miller for doing music, Denise Joop for dance lessons, (we must do that again!) Bud Swift for making coffee and everyone for helping clean up! You Caloosas are the BEST!

Our meetings are listed on the www.winniegators.org website at Chapters/CaloosaWinnies. At the Wit Club we list our events at “Who's Inviting Travelers”. Feel free to contact us and attend one of our meetings as our guest! The welcome mat is always out for Winnebago owners!

Caloosa News!!!!

A website is in the process of being developed for our chapter. The current website we link to for the Winnie Gators Club will be closing some time in the future. We are preparing for that, working with a chapter member who is a developer to display the information we want to communicate to our members and new prospects. STAY TUNED and we will keep you informed!



March 13—17, 2017 are the dates!! The Caloosa meeting to be held at Lazy Days RV Park will be a SPRJNG celebration! Even though we have warm weather most of the year, we still celebrate SPRJNG! Be watching for the agenda and plan to attend for all the fun, food, games, and FRJENDSHJPS!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

9 Fay Hubbard
13 Janice Cummings
16 Herb Varner
18 Nick Sanborn
19 David Riling
20 Walter Feldgoise
23 Mary Heitman
24 Carol Mastro
24 Sally Sims
31 Ron Kunze



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

12 Jim & Marge Carney (65 Years!)



“Roadrunner Readers”

Chairman, Corinne Wightman
Future Schedule

February No selection—State Rally
March “Fearless” by Eric Blehm
April “The Whip” by Karen Kondazian

NEW OFFICERS

2017

Presidents: Ed & Carolyn Thomas
1st VP: John & Jean Weicherding
2nd VP: Bud & Sue Swift
Secretary: David & Barbara Wilkie
Treasurer: Fay Hubbard



THANK YOU for volunteering!!



FUTURE MEETINGS

2017

February 23—26 Sarasota FL Fairgrounds—Florida State Winnie Gators Rally
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 L.D.
January 2—5 Lazy Days Rally Park, Seffner FL (Caloosa event)
Feb. 26—March 1 Florida Chapters Rally, sponsored by Caloosa Winnies
March 11—18 Caloosa member cruise, Allure of the Seas, (contact us for info)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ben & Donna Collier



Joe & Ellyn Bewes

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!