

CALOOSA WINNIES

Local Chapter

May 1—4, 2014 the Caloosa Winnies gathered at Alligator Park in Punta Gorda, Florida for the annual Kentucky Derby Party weekend! Co-Hosts for the weekend were Bud & Sue Swift, Pete & Corinne Wightman. Thanks to our parking team all the coaches were parked and set up in time for Happy Hour on Thursday at 4:00pm in the clubhouse. We gave a big Caloosa welcome to our guests attending this weekend, Lewis Fish and Fay Hubbard. The hosts prepared Souper Meatballs for the dinner main dish and all the members brought side dishes to add to the tables. After dinner was our Ice Cream Social time with lots of choices to make sundaes. Later in the evening we were “Off to the Horse Races” with volunteers standing in a marked lane and holding a stick horse! David Nobert, President, rolled the dice and the “horses & jockeys” moved up the lane until someone won! There was lots of cheering and whooping - a fun game for the riders and spectators!

Friday morning the cooks were in the kitchen early getting pancakes and sausage ready for the group. The cooks had a great time making Blueberry pancakes to order and the members had no problem eating all that cooks prepared! After the cleanup crew finished on the kitchen it was time for everyone to leave for a seminar and lunch at LaMesa RV in Fort Myers. LaMesa gave us a refresher seminar on RV care and explained what services were available for RV service. Several members checked out their inventory of RV's and also their impressive service bays. LaMesa provided a great lunch for us which was very generous. THANKS to Bill Kelly at LaMesa for coordinating the event for us!

Later in the afternoon the ladies met at the clubhouse and did a craft bracelet project hosted by Carolyn Thomas. It was a nice time to also visit and catch up on conversations! Soon it was 4:00pm Happy Hour time, once again a fun time. About 5:00pm we caravanned to Phil's 41 Restaurant for a wonderful dinner and relaxing dinner. Some of the members played games in the clubhouse after returning from dinner.

Saturday morning breakfast was our usual Potluck meal! Amazing dishes prepared by our members and not much was left to clean up! GREAT JOB, you all! At 10:30am David Nobert called the business meeting to order with the usual opening ceremony. Since this is the end of our seasonal camping until fall, there were only a few topics to discuss. One item discussed was the possibility of our chapter planning a caravan for next April, with a short business meeting to gather the members and then begin a caravan. Ed Thomas volunteered to do some planning and see what the group decides. The rest of the day was casual time with some ladies going shopping, and just relaxing. A big rainstorm came along in the afternoon as we all ducked for cover!



At 4:30pm it was time for the Kentucky Derby Party! Pictured here are some members and their hats all decorated in various themes! We had a parade around the room and the judges were residents from the park! Winning blue ribbons for excellent designs were David Nobert, Carolyn Thomas, JoAnn Maceri, Bud Rucker, Pat Rucker and Jerry Miller. After the parade the food was ready—all types of Hors D'Oeuvres spread on 2 tables and once again, GREAT food! Mary & Dennis Heitman made several actual true Mint Juleps, and we also served the “Caloosa Mint Juleps”. Jerry Miller & Christine Ross opened the betting window and the bets were placed for the horses. We had several winners who quickly claimed their winnings!

At 7:00pm it was time for the “Not So Newlywed Game” which was hilarious! Questions were asked and the couples had to answer based on what they thought their spouse would say! It was really a fun game and the winners were Bud & Pat Rucker, Dennis & Mary Heitman, Gene & Lois Hogan, Bob & Christine Ross. The rest of the evening some of the members played the game of “Nickels”.

Sunday morning at 8:30am the coffee, donuts and bagels were ready. President David announced that Lewis and Fay, our guests, have turned in their membership form and are now the newest members of the Caloosa Winnies! We’re happy to welcome you 2 as members bringing our total membership to 45 coaches!

Soon it was time to say our final farewells for the season. The Caloosa Winnies will meet again at Riverside RV Park in Arcadia, Florida November 6—9, 2014. We invite any Winnebago/Itasca owner to visit with us at any meeting. Check our schedule at www.winniegators.org/Caloosa or Who’s Inviting Travelers at www.witclub.com. We wish everyone safe travels for the summer!

Submitted by Nancy Miller