

CALOOSA WINNIES

Local Chapter

The annual Kentucky Derby weekend began April 30, 2015 for the Caloosa Winnies group! Alligator Park in Punta Gorda, FL was the setting as we returned to this park once again and really enjoyed their hospitality! Co-hosts arrived on Wednesday to help get the clubhouse ready for the rest of the group. Walter & Belinda Feldgoise, Bud & Sue Swift, David Nobert & Janice Cummings all pitched in and in no time all the chores were completed.

Thursday morning the rest of the Caloosas arrived and thanks to David & Bud, the parking was done in record time. That afternoon at 4:00pm was Happy Hour with dinner following at 5:30pm. The menu was Souper Meatballs provided by the hosts and side dishes prepared by the members. Ice Cream Social followed with everyone making their favorite sundae. The evening activity was “We’re Off To The Races”. 4 races were run and as you can see by the picture, the stick horses provided

lots of fun and laughs!



Friday morning

bright and early the pancake cooks were at work. Walter Feldgoise and Don Levine started off the cooking and before long, the lines formed and they did a great job! After breakfast some of the guys went to a local golf course to play golf, thanks to David Nobert organizing the game!



The rest of the members went to visit Babcock Ranch nearby which is a working ranch with lots of wildlife on the grounds. We boarded a bus and had a tour for about 2 hours. Here is the

group on the bus having a great time!!



One of the “residents” of the ranch came to the bus for a food handout from the driver! That was

as close as we really wanted to be to the cattle! This

Was a great experience as we saw lots of wildlife and heard the stories and history of the property.



The rest of the afternoon everyone was on their own for lunch, until Happy Hour again at 4:00pm. Dinner that evening was at Phil’s 41 Italian Restaurant where we had a great meal and service. Back at the clubhouse many “nickels” players were having a great time—and some even winning nickels!!



Saturday morning breakfast was another fun event, “Omelets In A Bag”! All the omelet ingredients were out on the table and each person assembled in a heavy Ziplock bag their eggs and other choices to be cooked by the hosts! Added to the menu were biscuits and fruit. Soon it was time for the business meeting at 10:30am presided over by David Nobert & Janice Cummings. Some discussion was held about the April Caravan and it was a successful event by all who went on the trip. This will be an activity the chapter will do again in another year. David again thanked everyone for their volunteer duties at the recent March rally. The rally was a HUGE success which would not have happened without the Caloosas pitching in to help!

Saturday lunch proved to be an interesting experiment! Carolyn Thomas, Caloosa Vice President, provided “Lunch In A Mason Jar” for the ladies! She made in advance of the day layered salad in the jar! Starting on the bottom with salad dressing, then adding layers of lettuce, vegetables, and many other ingredients and instructing us to invert the jar to allow the dressing to filter through the salad. Next we emptied the jar into a bowl and—voila—lunch was served! This proved to be a great idea—especially for RVers. This can be assembled in advance and enjoy at the roadside stop for instant lunch! GREAT idea Carolyn, thanks for taking the time to prepare this for the ladies!!



As you can tell, the Caloosas really enjoy food, and Saturday at 4:30pm was the Happy Hour/Kentucky Derby Party complete with heavy Hors d’Oeuvres, adult beverages—and of course—betting on the Derby! Jerry Miller & Chris Ross handled the “betting window” and all the bets were placed before post time! In the picture on the left are some of the members and their “designer original hats” for the competition!

Our traditional Hat Parade was held during the festivities, with lady judges (residents of the park) handling the awarding of prizes! The winners are on the right, (L to R) Marg Carney, Orte Gil, Belinda Feldgoise and Carolyn Thomas! Congratulations to the ladies—nice decorations!!



The Derby was over and several people bet on the winner—American Pharoah—Jerry & Chris passed out the winnings—and another Derby was over! It was a fun event and one we enjoy every year!



A special celebration was held after the Derby festivities—a Happy Birthday Party for Corinne Wightman, also joined by honorary member Lois Hogan who share the same birthday! In the picture they are doing a “selfie” to enjoy the moment! The party was complete with cake, party hats and decorations! We were happy to have 2 couples who are honorary members join us for the day! We welcomed Bill & Sue Fuss, Gene & Lois Hogan for the day and it was great to see them again!

After the party, some of the members got their “nickels” game out and the group played several games until the clubhouse closed up at 10:00pm.

Sunday morning breakfast of coffee, juice, donuts & bagels was ready at 8:30am. Soon it was time to pack up and head for home. This was our last event for the season and it’s always sad to know we won’t meet again until the fall. We wished everyone safe travels as many of the members will be taking journeys across this beautiful country. THANKS to the co-hosts for doing a great job and making this weekend something to remember!

The Caloosas welcome any Winnebago coach owner to visit with us! Our schedule is posted on the website www.winniegators.org under Chapters—Caloosa Winnies. Also look for our schedule on the Wit Club website. Our next official meeting will be November 5—8, 2015 at Riverside RV Park, Arcadia, FL.

Submitted by
Nancy Miller