

CALOOSA WINNIES

Local Chapter

November 5—8, 2015 was the first weekend the Caloosa Winnies gathered to welcome the new season of camping! Many of our members traveled far and wide this past summer and it was GREAT to see everyone again! Co-hosts for the event were Frank & Diane Cipolla, Bob & Chris Ross, John & Jean Weicherding. 23 coaches answered roll call, and new members Joe & Mary Periard were introduced and welcomed to the group! Another new member, Allen VanPutten was also, welcomed as a new member at our October unofficial weekend! We also welcomed back members who have been away for a while, Dennis & Mary Heitman, Bud & Paula Geng, Bud & Pat Rucker, Richard & Alice Johnson!

Our first event on Thursday was Happy Hour at 4:00pm held under the pavilion, followed by a pizza party at dinner time! Our usual Ice Cream Social was held with the members making exotic sundaes! The evening activity was a pumpkin decorating contest. 6 teams were formed and the decorating began! It was a tough decision to pick a winner because each team did a super job! This picture was declared the top team winner led by “Pirate Captain” Paula Geng and her “swashbuckler” crew—all dressed in some type of pirate costume! It was great fun watching the creative ideas flowing—and the laughter in the room!



Friday morning at 8:30am our hosts were busy in the kitchen ready to cook pancakes for breakfast. Here L to R are Ed Thomas, John Weicherding, Bud Swift, Bob Ross, Frank Cipolla, with Diane Cipolla supervising from the kitchen! As usual, the cooks did a great job serving pancakes, sausage and fruit to the members!

At 10:00am Janice Cummings taught us how to make a bracelet from Swarovski Crystals. The kits were all assembled and it was a fun project with the ladies showing off their creations the rest of the weekend.



After lunch it was time for our annual Beanbag Baseball Tournament. The first game was guys against the gals, the playoff game was the between 2 guys teams. This game was really fun watching the antics going on!



It seems the ladies did not want to be left out, so they formed a cheerleading squad led by Corinne Wightman! There were plenty of CHEERS and WHOOOS for the teams! The winners Pictures here L to R: Ross Zeigler, John Peacock, John Weicherding, Dave Wilkie, Bud Rucker, Joe Periard, Jim Rayburn, Bud Swift, Ed Thomas and Bob Ross. They took home their prizes of traditional Cracker Jacks and bags of peanuts!! Thanks to everyone for their cooperation and having a fun afternoon! THANKS to Jerry Miller who had the job of scorekeeper and referee!



Soon it was 4:00pm and time for meeting at the clubhouse for Happy Hour. Carpools were formed for caravanning to dinner at a local restaurant, Burnt Store Grill. We were all seated promptly at 5:30pm—with the exception the Miller car—since they decided to take the scenic route and because of lively conversation—passed the restaurant by about 9 miles! However, a quick turnaround and they arrived safely in time to order! After dinner we all returned to Riverside, meeting in the clubhouse for a game of Chase The Ace! This was a new game for some of the group and was fun for all!



Saturday morning the co-hosts were again busy getting breakfast in order—a wonderful potluck breakfast! This chapter has the best cooks and as usual there was a wide variety of things to choose for breakfast! At 10:00am our business meeting was called to order by President David Nobert. New members and returning members were welcomed. The slate of Officers for election in December was presented by Nominating Committee Chairman, Nancy Miller. The candidates are as follows: Ed and Carolyn Thomas, President; John & Jean Weicherding, 1st VP; Bus & Sue Swift, 2nd VP; David and Barbara Wilkie, Secretary; and Jerry Miller, Treasurer. The balloting will take place in December at the business meeting. Several topics were discussed including our future camping weekends which have been booked and are in the planning stages. The State Rally in February was discussed with Ed Thomas leading the conversation. Not many details have been resolved for our Greeter duty, but Ed will be meeting with the state officers to understand how we will perform the duty. Details will be forthcoming.

The co-hosts were again busy in the kitchen preparing our annual Turkey dinner. Many hands make the work go fast, and soon we were off to enjoy the free time afternoon. Many members visited at each others coaches under the shade trees to stay cool! Happy Hour was again at 4:00pm with the delicious smell of Turkey cooking! A 50/50 was held and there were 3 lucky winners! THANKS to the members who sold tickets and to Jerry Miller for figuring out the prize winnings!



Soon it was time to carve the Turkey and get the rest of the dishes in place. Bud Geng supervised the carving—with the help of John Weicherding, David Nobert, and Bud Rucker. At 5:30 right on time all the dishes were assembled and WOW—what a GREAT feast we had! After dessert it was time to clean up—with an efficient crew—it goes fast and before we knew it—we were ready for the next activity!

One of the contest we had over the course of the weekend was for each member to place pictures on the table of someplace they traveled over the summer. Most every couple had at least one picture with a list of states they traveled in, and a hint of where this picture could have been taken. Each person filled out their score sheet and the correct answers were tallied. The winners with the most right answers were Dennis and Mary Heitman!! An award was presented to the member who traveled to the most states. Allen VanPutten went to 27 states and 2 Canadian Provinces! That was quite a journey—with nice gas prices for a change!



Soon it was time for the Turkey Leg Relay Race! Teams were formed and lined up awaiting instructions. Each team had member on 2 sides to relay back and forth. The person taking the first turn had to put on the turkey leg headband. Out the turkey leg between their knees and walk to the team members on the other side. Well, the entire pavilion noise level of laughter and cheers was beyond belief! You'll have to check out the other pictures on the website! Of course it was all in fun—and below is the picture of the winning team! Don't they look like they had FUN????



YES!!

THANKS for being such good sports!!



After the excitement of the relay race some of the group decided to play cards and games—Nickels being the popular game!

Sunday morning the co-hosts were again ready for breakfast. Our usual donuts, bagels and fruit were served with coffee and tea. A HUGE thanks to the co-hosts for stepping up and pitching in to do what ever needed to be done! Cleanup in the hall was fast and the supplies loaded up and we were off for home. It was such a wonderful weekend—spending time and laughing with friends!

Caloosa Winnies will meet for our Christmas Party and 45th Anniversary celebration on December 3—6, 2015 at Oak Haven RV Park, near Arcadia, FL. Our annual Charity Auction will also be a highlight of the weekend!

Anyone owning a Winnebago product is welcome to join us at any meeting! Our schedule is on the Winnie Gators website, www.winniegators.org/Caloosa—just look us up - give us a call and come join in with our weekends! Also on the Wit club website under Who's Inviting Travelers will list our schedule. We promise laughs, good food, and friendship.