

# "The Roadrunner Express"



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*Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!*

## NOVEMBER 3—6, 2016 CALOOSA WINNIES CAMPOUT REVIEW

### OFFICERS

#### Presidents

Ed & Carolyn Thomas

#### 1st Vice Presidents

John & Jean Weicherding

#### 2nd Vice Presidents

Bud & Sue Swift

#### Secretary

David & Barbara Wilkie

#### Treasurer

Jerry Miller

Gulf Waters RV Resort near Ft. Myers Beach was the destination for our first official meeting of the Caloosa Winnies for this season! Rated as a 10/10/10 park, our 26 coaches were greeted at the entrance by our team of Caloosa Parkers, Rich Beck, Bud Rucker, Ed Thomas, and the rest of the crew! Everyone commented on the beauty of the park and spacious sites. The theme for the weekend was Thanksgiving.

Happy Hour began at 4:00pm in the beautiful clubhouse!! Ed Thomas, our President, introduced new members to our group! He commented that we have had 19 new members join our chapter this year alone! WELCOME to Rick & Natalie Amos, Robert & Joann Dalton, Greg & Denise Joop, Bruce & Barbara Kanoza, Howard & Susan Melton for attending their first official meeting!



Soon the aroma of the cooking Turkeys filled the room and the co-hosts for the weekend were busy getting the final touches ready for dinner! THANKS to Ed & Carolyn Thomas, Rich & Sharon Beck, Jim & Sally Rayburn for co-hosting! Our Turkey carvers did a marvelous job in record time to be sure we were on time for dinner serving! John Weicherding, Don Levine, Jim Rayburn, THANKS to you for a good job! The members brought side dishes to complete the meal, and everything was LUSCIOUS as usual! The Ice Cream Social was next on the agenda, with a wide variety of choices for the group to make sundaes! THANKS to our "scoopers" who served everyone with a smile!

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Entertainment for the evening was provided by a group of charming ladies doing dance routines and also providing some comedy! The "Calendar Girls" do have a calendar they sell and all donations they get are applied to a charity "Paws for Patriots", who provide training for dogs for veterans who need help with various disabilities. Our Co-President, Carolyn Thomas asked them to entertain for us and in the photo below you will see she even got up and danced with them!

(Not voluntarily I will add!) This was a fun evening and our group passed the "bucket" and made many generous donations to the group! The Caloosa Treasurer, Jerry Miller, also gave them a donation from our treasury. Many members stayed around and just gabbed for a while talking about their summer and our new camping season!



Friday morning the pancake breakfast was on the agenda and as usual, our cooks were ready in the kitchen. Jim & Sally Rayburn were seen mixing pancake batter while the rest of the cooks were frying sausage and setting tables.



The chefs were making custom pancakes including blueberry ones, (with berries donated by Jean Weicherding). In this picture The cooks L to R: Dave Nobert, Bud Swift, Dave Wilkie and John Weicherding. Nice job well done, guys! After everyone was served many members helped with cleanup. THANKS to you all!

The business meeting was next on the agenda at 10:00am. President Ed Thomas opened the meeting at 10:00am and Barb Wilkie took roll call of the members present. The Treasurer, Jerry Miller, gave a financial report and stated the chapter finances are in good shape. There were many topics to discuss since this is our first meeting for the season including future campouts, the state rally in February, co-hosts assignments, arranging carpools for off site adventures, and of course, re-introducing our recent new members. Our meetings are actually FUN with laughter and comments along the way—which makes for a great atmosphere!

David Nobert, our Director, announced the Slate of Officers for 2017 to be voted on at our December meeting. Ed & Carolyn Thomas, Presidents; John & Jean Weicherding, 1st VP; Bud & Sue Swift, 2nd VP; David & Barbara Wilkie, Secretary; Fay Hubbard, Treasurer. Jerry Miller has decided to retire from Treasurer duties he has done for many years. THANKS to Fay for stepping up for the position! Special THANKS to Jerry for many years of dedication to the position.

The meeting was adjourned about 11:30am, just in time for our book club members to meet! It was decided the name of our book club will be “Roadrunner Readers”, taking into consideration the 4 legged Roadrunner was adopted in 1970 as our mascot/symbol. Corinne Wightman was “voluntold” to be our book club chairman, and during the meeting of the members they assembled a list of books to be read each month for the remainder of our season. That list will be listed in this newsletter in a special section. This month the book review was on “Following Atticus”, and was led by Pat & Bud Rucker who chose the book.



Janice Cummings organized a Thrift Store shopping trip for some of the ladies for the afternoon! Carolyn Thomas got the information together and the ladies were off for a fun afternoon! I heard there were many bargains found..... The rest of our folks took time to enjoy the beautiful resort pool area, go to Ft. Myers Beach, visit with other members and a few even took NAPS!! It was just nice weather to sit outside and enjoy the beautiful views around the park!

Happy Hour at 4:00pm brought us back together at the clubhouse for snacks and beverages. A 50/50 raffle was held with 3 different prizes being won by members! The chapter proceeds from the raffle were donated to Janice Cummings to help with the cost of providing door prize baskets for the February rally! Janice did this project for us last year and she assembled about 30 baskets! Other members gave her additional donations and she will be accepting MORE so we can have a nice variety—and our usual GREAT numbers!

Sunflower Café just down the road from the park was the destination for dinner that evening! This family owned restaurant did an OUTSTANDING job of serving us considering there were 56 people including guests, for them to serve! The huge menu gave everyone choices and we all enjoyed a great dinner!

Thanksgiving related games were on tap for the evening entertainment. The teams were formed in an unusual way—each person had a sticky note on their back with a number, 1,2,3,4. Each person had to go to another member and ask if they were a number 1,2,3,4. Once they found out what their team number was they had to assemble by their captain who was holding a sign with the team number on it! This took a few minutes and our captains announced when their teams were completed. The captains were pre-selected: Team 1, Carolyn Thomas; Team 2, John Weicherding; Team 3, Karen Autry; Team 4, Rich Beck. When the teams that were completed they received points for that task. The teams stayed together for the next 2 games to accumulate more points toward a grand total.



Teams lining up!



Game #2 was called the “Pumpkin Candy Toss”, and required the teams to form a square standing behind the tape on the floor. A pumpkin was placed in the middle of the square. The members were instructed to pass another pumpkin with the candy inside around the square to each other and after passing the pumpkin they were to toss a piece of candy into the pumpkin on the floor! Of course this led to lots of laughter and comments among the teammates! When the whistle was sounded—the game was ended. The captain had to count how many candies landed inside the pumpkin and add that number to their score sheet.



Game #3 was called “Pumpkin Gourd Roll”. The teams were lined up behind the square—half the team on each side of the square. Both sides of the teams were given a bag with gourds inside. A pumpkin was in the center of the square, with other markings on the floor with point numbers. Alternating from one side to the other they had to roll the gourds

toward the pumpkin. Of course this took some “skill” as some gourds didn't necessarily roll perfectly. After all the gourds were rolled, the team captain had to count

up how many points they had based on the place each gourd landed! Once again, this led to a lot of “coaching” by the teams to each other, lots of LAUGHS and trying to figure out the best way to win!! Did someone mention these folks are COMPETITIVE???? The winning team - Team #4 with Captain Rich Beck took the prizes!! You can see the “thrill of winning” on their faces in this picture to the left!!!



L to R: Helen, Fred, Sally, John, Jim, David, Russ, Paula, Rich and Fay.

Congratulations to all the teams for participating and being such good sports!!!



Saturday morning dawned bright and beautiful with more adventures for the day! Breakfast was on our own in order to leave the park for an exciting adventure to Sanibel Island to visit famous Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. This national treasure is part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the U.S. Carolyn Thomas arranged for us to have an educational tram tour of the entire park. Upon arrival at Ding Darling many of us explored the inside displays explaining the ecosystems. We divided up into 2 trams and boarded for the tours to began. The great tour guides explained many things as stops were made along the way where many water birds were spotted. THANKS to Carolyn for arranging the tours!



One of our tram groups!



Lunch was such a great experience! The Bubble room Restaurant , located on Captiva Island was our choice to enjoy! This restaurant is decorated with over 5,000 pieces of memorabilia from old movie star pictures, bubble lights all around the rooms as you can see on in right photo, juke boxes, trains, and so many more things too numerous to mention! The food, service, and especially the desserts made this such a wonderful time for the group! Soon we made our way back to Gulf Waters with free time for the afternoon.



**Everything is more fun with friends**



Saturday at 4:00pm we gathered again at the clubhouse for Happy Hour. At 5:30pm pizza and salad were on the menu for dinner! This was plenty for us after lunch at The Bubble Room!



Pizza time!

The evening entertainment was a Jeopardy Game. Teams were formed with captains assigned for each team. Sharon Beck, Chris Jussaume, Barb Wilkie, and



Barb Wilkie's winning team!

Jean Weicherding GRACIOUSLY accepted their fate to keep their teams in line to follow the rules! Nancy Miller moderated the game with Jerry Miller playing the Jeopardy music for timing of team answers.

Carolyn Thomas assisted by removing the covers over the answers on the board as teams made their choices. Needless to say there were a few rule violations along the way but "mulligans" were given to lessen the impact of penalties! It was a fun game and the winning team is pictures at the left—Barb Wilkie guided her team to victory! Their prizes for such a great victory??? Reece's Peanut Butter Pumpkin candy!!



Sunday morning was our last chance to visit with each other over coffee, donuts, and bagels. Many comments were made about this beautiful resort and we thanked Barb the manager of the clubhouse for her help and hospitality! It was decided the Caloosas would return to this park again next October and the dates were locked in for October 12—15.

Soon it was time to say our farewells and the hosts thanked everyone for coming and helping with several duties even though they were not actually hosting at this event! Some members left this campout to pursue new coaches! YAY for them!!

The Caloosas always welcome visitors to our meetings any time! In fact at this weekend event 2 couples from the park did join in with us for Happy Hour and we are proud to have them spend time with us! THANKS to Marc, park manager and Barb, clubhouse manager for making this such a successful event for the Caloosas at Gulf Waters RV Resort!



Our schedule is posted on our website: [www.winniegators.org](http://www.winniegators.org), select Chapters from the left bar, click on Caloosa Winnies. We also publish our schedule in the WIT magazine at "Who's Inviting Travelers". Our next adventure is December 1—4, 2016 at Oak Haven RV Park in Arcadia, FL. The theme will be Christmas with beautiful decorations in the clubhouse done by the residents. You are invited to refer to the website for our agenda or email us: [caloosawinnies@gmail.com](mailto:caloosawinnies@gmail.com). for information.

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**CO-HOSTS WANTED**

*We need your help!!! At each meeting co-hosts are invited to assist the Wagon Queen with the weekend duties. Those duties involve doing food preparation, serving food, decorating tables, refereeing games, and simple general cleaning up after meals. Contact Wagon Queen Nancy Miller to volunteer for your weekend! Email: [nmiller1213@gmail.com](mailto:nmiller1213@gmail.com) or call 239-565-3115.*



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**6 Doug Doty**  
**6 Chris Jussaume**  
**6 Robert Mast**  
**7 Sandra Minder**  
**12 Marge Carney**  
**16 Jean Weicherding**  
**21 Sue Riling**  
**25 Jim Rayburn**



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**2 Robert & Rita Mast**  
**27 Pete & Jo Ann Maceri**  
**29 Joe & Mary Periard**



## **“Roadrunner Readers”**

Chairman, Corinne Wightman  
Future Schedule

December No selection—busy schedule  
January “The Everglades: River of Grass” by Marjorie Douglas  
February No selection—State Rally  
March “Fearless” by Eric Blehm  
April “The Whip” by Karen Kondazian

## SLATE OF OFFICERS 2017

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

Voting will be at the December meeting.  
Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Be SURE you attend so you can vote!

Presented by the Nominating Committee:  
David Nobert, Chairman  
Lew Fish & Nancy Miller



## FUTURE MEETINGS

### 2016

December 1—4 Oak Haven RV Park, Arcadia, FL  
December 30—January 1 New Years Celebration, Seffner FL (Lazy Days Event)

### 2017

January 2—5 Lazy Days Rally Park (Official Caloosa Meeting)  
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)  
Agendas for all events will be available one month in advance via email, and at meetings.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rick & Natalie Amos  
Doug & Patti Doty  
Denny & Lisa Christman  
Terry & Diane Gilford  
Irwin & Debbie Gordon



Roger Gardner & Sylvia Lundin  
Greg & Denise Joop  
Bruce & Barbara Kanoza  
Robert & Rita Mast



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE AND ENJOY THE  
TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**