Message from Our President

The Park is in full operation and it’s great to see all the participation by members and guests not only in the activities but as volunteers as well. We have had a lot of great meals and activities with Cracker Capers just ending. A fun time was had by all.

The Landscaping Committee has beautified our park planting street palm trees, putting new pavers under our benches throughout the park, and planting shrubs around the storage shed. Sue Mannery keeps our flowers looking great in front of our clubhouse. Great job, guys and gals.

Thanks to Fun ‘n Sun and the crew that installed the cupboards and counters in the Clubhouse. They are a great addition.

We want to thank the park attendants, Tom and Denny, for replacing the stainless steel sink in the kitchen.

A reminder that all committee chairs must give a report and turn it into secretary, Anne Warren, before our annual meeting.

Bob Lewis

Board Members

President ................. Bob Lewis, A-13
Vice President ....... Frank King, A-15
Secretary ............ Anne Warren, G-27
Treasurer ............ Bill Oates, H-34
Ass’t Treasurer ... Cheryl Lamoreaux, S-7
At Large ............. Earl Cooper, A-4
At Large ............ Norm Milliard, F-4

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Town Hall Meeting

On Thursday, February 15, members will have the opportunity to ask questions about the 10 proposals included in the annual meeting packets that will be voted on at the annual meeting.

The four candidates running for the four Board vacancies will also be introduced. They include Bob Lewis and Anne Warren running for second terms as well as Ed Landry and Margaret McIntyre running for the first time.

We extend our gratitude to Earl Cooper and Bill Oates who will be rotating off the Board of Directors. Elected in 2016, Earl served as Assistant Treasurer during his tenure. Bill Oates has served four years on the Board and as Treasurer all four years.
**Special Events**

**Valentine Dinner Dance**

**Tuesday, February 13**

**Dinner 5:00 pm**  
**Dancing 6:30 pm**  
**Music by Bobby Remp**

Prime Rib Dinner  
prepared by  
Chef Extraordinaire John Bisson  
and his esteemed staff.  
The meal includes baked potato, salad,  
hot dinner rolls, and dessert.  
Dinner is prepared and served by the men.

*Tickets are $20 pp available from*

- John Bisson A-39  
- Art Dubuc A-34  
- Joe Belanger H-34  
- Bob Lewis A-13  
*(Limit 100)*

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**Florida SKP Birthday Party!**

Join us for cake as we celebrate 29 years!  
**Saturday, February 3**  
**2 pm**

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**Super Bowl Viewing Party**

**Sunday, February 4**  
**6:30 pm**

BYOB & Snack to Share  
and cheer on your favorite team.

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**Luau**

**Wednesday, February 28**

**Dinner at 5 pm**  
**Bring Place Setting**  
**Dancing at 6:30 pm**

*Tickets: $8 pp  
Ticket Sales Begin February 12***
Craft Fair & Art Show
February 17
9 am - 2 pm
Concessions
11 am - 1 pm

Art Show
Judging ........ 9 am – 10 am
Winners for each category will be chosen by a select panel.
Attendees will vote for
Best of Show
and the winner announced during Monday morning announcements.

Craft Fair
A variety of craft items will be for sale. This event is open to the public and is being advertised outside the park.

Crafts (Beading, Ornamental, Craft Painting, etc.)
Woodworking
Sewing (Small Quilts only, clothing, etc.)
Needlework
Painting on Canvas (Acrylic, Oil, Watercolor, etc. Must be framed and on an easel for displaying.)
Other (Misc.)
Photography (Traditional/Digital)

Let’s Eat Out!
(LEDs)
Wednesday, February 7
Hibachi Buffet
2870 US Hwy 27N
Sebring
Sign Up in Clubhouse

Afternoon Coffee
Tuesday, February 6
Tuesday, February 20
3 p.m.
Site: F-04
(Bring lawn chair)
Hosted by
Norm & Ginny Milliard

SKP Area Get-togethers
SKP Lunch—Chapter 57 sponsors a monthly gathering of Escapees in Clermont, FL the first Thursday of the month from November to April at 11 am at the Golden Corral, 1555 Grand Hwy. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Rose Irons, 339-896-3799.

Escapees in the area meet for a monthly lunch in Lake Placid, 35 miles from the resort, the fourth Thursday of the month at the Golden Corral, 322 US-27, at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Rose Irons, 339-896-3799.
**Monthly Activities**

**SKPettes**

*Thursday, February 22*

**FADED BISTRO**

420 N. Ridgewood Drive
Sebring
We’ll meet at the Clubhouse at 12:45 for a 1:30 arrival.

Depending on the weather, you might want to bring along a sweater because we’re going to be enjoying lunch in a fresh air garden setting. Choices for lunch include salads, sandwiches, small plates or dinner entrees. You can accompany that with a craft beer, glass of wine, cocktail, or other beverage.

Sign up in the Clubhouse.

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**Romeos**

*Thursday, February 22*

11 am
Meet at Clubhouse

**WILD TURKEY TAVERAN**

2751 US-27 N
Avon Park
Sign up in Clubhouse

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**2nd Friday of Month**

*February 9*

1 pm

**Station Eleven**

*by Emily St. John Mandel*

This 2014 novel is an unusual and surprising survival story after world-wide virus wipes out most of human population. However, it is quite unlike most apocalyptic novels!

Available on Kindle.

Questions?
Laurie Milliard H-37 or 425-770-1902.

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**Get Involved**

**Blood Drive**

*Monday, January 5*

9 am—1 pm
Sign up in the Clubhouse.

**Non-perishable food donations for the Hardee County Help Center can be placed in the basket inside the Clubhouse double doors. Donations should be unopened and within the ‘use by’ date.**

SKP Food Donation
December 14—January 23
104.5 lbs.

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**Monthly Activities**

**Meeting**

*Everyone’s a committee member!*

*Monday, February 5*

9 am

Election of Officers
### Weekly Recurring Events

**Socials**
- Breakfast ........................................... 7:50 am M
- Happy Hour ...................................... 4:00 pm M, W, F
- Table of Knowledge Coffee .......... 6:45 am M-F
- Weekly Activity Announcements .... 9:00 am M
- WhineB4Dine .................................. 4:00 pm Th

**Activities**
- Bible Study ..................................... 9:30 am T
- Bingo ............................................. 7:00 pm W
- Bowling .......................................... 10:00 pm Th
- Cards & Games ........... 7 pm M, Th, F, S, S
- Chair Exercise ............................... 10:00 am Th
- Crafts & Woodworking ........... 9:00 am M Th
- Exercise ........................................ 9:00 am T, W, F
- Golf .............................................. 9:30 am S
- Line Dancing .............................. 10:00 am M
- Mexican Train ....................... 1:00 pm T
- Movies & Popcorn ............. 7:00 pm T

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### February Crafts

**Friday ~ 10 am—noon**

Please sign up by the Thursday before.

**February 2** .................................. Valentine Design-a-Tee

Put a valentine on your t-shirt. Acrylic paints and fun technique.

Bring a t-shirt in your choice of solid color. Cost $1.00

Instructor: Marsha Hodgkins  H-10

**February 9** .................................. Freezer Paper Stenciling

Back by popular demand. Bring any fabric item (aprons, shirts, totes, shorts) and add a creative design using the freezer paper technique.

Cost $1.00

Instructor: Marsha Hodgkins  H-10

**February 16** .......................... Potluck Silverware Holder

Cost $2.00

Instructor: Marsha Hodgkins  H-10

**February 23** .......................... Balloon Bracelet

Cost TBA

Instructor: Lanette Breault  A-31

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### On the Home Front

**Birthday Wishes**
- 2/1 .......... Bob Clark
- 2/3 .......... Ann Ed
- 2/5 .......... Rick Dicerio
- 2/9 .......... Julie King
- 2/14 .......... Val Young
- 2/20 ........ Jewell Gosselin
- 2/22 ........ Elsie Pettinato
- 2/23 ........ Janet Gibson
- 2/26 ........ Beverly Miller
- 2/26 ........ Ed Landry
- 2/28 .......... Nancy Pearce

**Anniversary Wishes**
- 2/6 .......... Donald & Jean Masella
- 2/7 .......... Richard & Helen Frenz
- 2/12 ..... James & Brenda Caldwell
- 2/23 ..... Gilbert & Barbara Hagen
- 2/27 ...... Bob & Judy Hoffman

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### Income Benefits Future

**Fun 'n Sun Activities**

Reported by Janet Gibson

Fun 'n Sun Treasurer

- Food Auction ......................... $1,218.00
- Yard Sale ................................. 1,967.81
- Casino Night ............................. 168.00
- Bag Raffle ................................. 215.00

**Concession stand at Caper Game Day and yard sale did very well.**

All meals, Soppy Joes & Spaghetti, were great successes with the Spaghetti Dinner having a full house. There was great attendance for dancing after the dinner with music by Don & Allan. Everyone got out on the floor, enjoyed themselves, and worked off their spaghetti dinner.

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### Tournament Winners

**Corn Hole**

1st Place
- Kenny Breault & Tom Cable
2nd Place
- Steve Little & Don Masella

**Pickleball**

Chris Beatty & Joan Tarkin

**Shuffleboard**

1st Place
- Kevin McIntyre & Katsue VonPloennies
2nd Place
- Kenny Breault & Bob Spangler

**Consolation Round**

1st Place
- Ed Landry & Sue DiCiero
2nd Place
- Art Dubuc & Doris LeBlanc

**Honorable Mention**

Leo Tolzdorf

**Big Bingo Winners**

Bev Miller, Sue DiCerio, Tom Cirou
**On the Home Front**

### Park Defibrillator
In the case of an emergency, there is a defibrillator accessible 24/7 in the mail room.

Don’t be intimidated about using it! The machine literally talks to you and gives step-by-step instructions on exactly what to do. Don’t panic...get it and use it!

### Experimental Fire Ant Treatment
In the coming days, you may see Paul Zeller walking around some of the green spaces and public areas of the Co-op cranking a small, hand-held broadcast spreader. He will be applying a new fire ant bait as an experiment to see if we can effectively rid larger areas of the Co-op of fire ants on a more permanent basis.

Unlike the insecticide that is applied by the professional pest control companies where people and pets should stay out of the treated area until the insecticide dries, the new bait is applied in dry form, and it is applied at an extremely low rate in terms of ounces per 1000 sq. ft. Therefore, the area treated with the new bait is safe immediately after application.

It will take a while for the new bait to work after it is applied, but it is supposed to kill the entire colony, including the queen. We hope to have a follow-up report in time for the next issue of Cracker Crumbs.

### Reservation Update
The reservation program, begun as an experiment in February 2017, is just completing its first year. It was begun to maximize the use of empty rentable lots. Almost immediately lots filled, and we began getting reservation requests for this year.

Because we are a member-owned co-op, a reservation program presents unique challenges to meet the needs of the members and our guests.

This year our process is to poll members for lot availability by April 30 for the coming year and begin taking reservations during the summer.

Last year all available reserveable lots were reserved before September. The early results show lot rentals up 18% in November and 50% in December as measured by income.

This program is still in the experimental stages but is expected to continue next year pending approval at the next Board meeting.

### Park-Wide Lighting Improvements
Thanks to the forward thinking of the Planning Committee currently led by Norm Milliard we have replaced almost 90% of the park’s lighting fixtures to LEDs. It is expected that this will save us thousands of dollars annually.

Currently, all the fluorescent lights in the clubhouse are being replaced with LEDs. This will reduce electrical usage of these lights by at least 50%. Equally important, it virtually insures that bulbs will not need to be replaced.

(continues from previous column)

### Member Picture Board
Kudos to Julie King who replaced all the plastic holders on the member picture board in the Clubhouse with non-glare plastic pockets.

If you would like an updated picture put on the board, here are some guidelines to follow:
1. Ask a friend or Margery Zeller to take a picture.
2. Use a solid background, i.e. a wall in the Clubhouse.
3. Get a closeup of the faces.
4. Try to take the picture in portrait position.
5. Send a copy of the file or the picture to be scanned to Margery Zeller.
6. We are standardizing all the pictures to include names for easy transfer if a member exchanges sites.
7. If you are a new member and your picture is not on the board, please get in touch with Margery, H-32.

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### Guest Registration
Please remember to stop in the office and fill out a guest registration form when family and friends visit overnight.

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NEW MEMBER

Robert & Jo Mellis, A-20
by Susan Wzsalek

New SKP CO-OP members Robert and Margaret (Jo) Mellis are owners of lot A-20, but this year are temporarily on H-34.

Robert was born in Scotland, moving to the States at age 20. Jo was born in Maine. They have two daughters, Lynn in CT and Stephanie in VT, and four grandchildren.

They met through a mutual friend while working in Boston. Jo’s career in retail included Reeds, Jordan Marsh, and Macy’s. Robert’s career in the field of journalism has taken him to several newspapers in the States as copy editor.

Upon retiring in 2000, they traveled full-time in their sailboat for 7 years traveling 15,000 miles. They spent a year in Cambodia and Vietnam, traveled to Africa three times and to 35 countries where he taught journalism.

Bob made a slide show of his pictures of Africa that, hopefully, we can entice him to share with us along with a talk about their experiences there.

After sailing the oceans blue, they bought an RV and began ‘land cruising’ visiting all states except OK and KS.

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NEW MEMBER

Rick & Sue DiCerio, H-29
by Marsha Hodgkins

Susan and Rick DeCiero have been visiting the Resort since 2011 when they put their name on the Wait List. They became Escapees on their first trip out with their RV after researching full-time RVing for five years. They traveled out West and around the country the past two years and returned this year, hoping their name would soon be at the top of the list.

Fran and Dick Harig were the first Resort members they met here. They have often helped in the kitchen. I remember them working on the Annual Meeting Lunch several years ago, when our grandson, Jack, was here. They took him under their wing, and he enjoyed helping out with them.

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Robert’s interests are birds, photography, and lately he has joined our carvers. Jo enjoys knitting and, after a brief intro to pickleball during Cracker Capers, is thinking about joining Wednesday pickleball.

They both feel strongly about encouraging younger folks to experience the RV lifestyle and become Escapees.

Birthdays ............ Robert 6/14, Jo 11/4
Anniversary .......................... 8/22

(continues)

Arrivals/ Moves/ Departures

Departures
H-13 Robert & Elizabeth Crain
H-29 Alan & Mona Toof

Moved to a Different Site
H-31 Bob Crystal to S-05

New Members
H-13 Steven Gibson
H-29 Rick & Sue DiCerio

Birthdays............. Rich 2/5, Sue 7/16
Anniversary............................. 6/9
Looking Ahead

Upcoming Events

March 3
Bonworth Fashion Show

March 10
Danny’s Fish Fry
Dancing

March 18
Corned Beef & Cabbage
Frankie E Live

58th Escapade
Sedalia, MO
May 27—June 1

Upcoming Community Events

Ape-ology Workshop at Center for Great Apes................................. Wauchula
Get an inside account of the closing routines for the day and the nighttime rounds as the chimpanzees and orangutans settle in for the night. $30
Call Lauren at 863-767-8903 ext 224 to register.
Saturday, February 10 - 10 am -1 pm

77th Annual Hardee County Fair.................................................. Wauchula
Saturday-Saturday, February 17-24
Daily Schedule at https://www.facebook.com/HardeeCountyFair

Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show...................................................... Wauchula
Friday, February 23 - 9 pm
Hardee County Fairground

Florida Flywheelers Antique Engine Club
26th Annual Antique Engine & Tractor Show.............................. Ft. Mead
Wednesday—Saturday, February 21-24
http://www.floridaflywheelers.org

Pioneer Park Days................................................................. Zolfo Springs
Thursday-Saturday, March 1-3
Www.PioneerParkDays.com

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