



WWW.FLSKPRESORT.ORG

The Florida SKP Co-Op, 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873-4870

January 2018

# Welcome! Snowbirds & Vagabonds

January is an exciting time as members return for the winter 'high season,' and we welcome returning and new visitors to the Resort. The highlight of our January activities includes our annual Cracker Capers. This year's Capers will be from January 24-28.

In 1986, a chapter-formation meeting was held to plan for a SKP co-op in southern Florida. This chapter would become Florida Sunseekers Chapter 15, and the co-op would become the Florida SKP CO-OP.

Cracker Capers originated when the early members of the CO-OP (all members of the Sunseekers Chapter) wanted to bring the fun of the Chapter 15 rallies to the CO-OP.

Cracker Capers continues to be a focal point of our January activities. This year's schedule can be found on page 3.

#### HERMAN



"I don't want to worry you, but the guy who delivered the pizza was your financial planner."

#### The Center for Great Apes Field Trip

A little known fact is that Wauchula is home to the Center for Great Apes, a permanent sanctuary for orangutans and chimpanzees who have been retired from the entertainment industry, from research,



Pebbles

or who are no longer wanted as pets.

Founded in 1993, the Center provides care with dignity in a safe, healthy, and enriching environment for great apes in need of lifetime care.

While the Center for Great Apes is not open to the public, they do offer tours for educational purposes. On



Tango

Monday, January 22, we will have the opportunity to tour this unique facility and learn about these beautiful and intelligent residents each with their own personality.

The tour will be a walking tour of about ¼ mile on shell-rock paths with limited sitting spaces. Be prepared to be in the Florida elements including sun, rain, bugs and other critters. Please wear comfortable clothes, hats, and walking shoes and bring your own bottled water.

Cost is \$25/person. Space is limited. Look for the sign up in the Clubhouse.

http://ww.centerforgreatapes.org.

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## Wauchula Home to #1 Rural Hospital

The Florida Hospital Wauchula opened the doors to their new location on December 21, 2017, at 735 South 5th Avenue, Wauchula, just off of Rt. 17.

The move was made with the experienced medical and administrative staff whose expertise was recently recognized when Florida Hospital Wauchula was named in October 2017 the #1 Florida rural hospital by Leapfrog, a nonprofit watchdog organization. This rating is based on medication safety and low infection rate among other criteria.

(cont'd on page 2)

#### Message From Our President

I hope everyone had a great Christmas.

I want to thank the Finance Committee for an outstanding job they have done in helping the Board to make changes to provide more transparency and keep our co-op in sound financial stability.

The past two months all our committees have been meeting under the leadership of their chairmen to provide sound recommendations for park improvements. A lot of work has been put into these endeavors, and I want to thank everyone for a job well done.

A special thank you to all who helped trim the 140+ trees in our park and the Landscaping Committee for all the beautification. One of the most frequent comments we hear from visitors is how beautiful the park is and it's because of efforts like yours that make our park look fantastic.

We wish all of our members and readers a healthy and happy new year.

Respectfully,



#### **Board Members**



New Florida Hospital Wauchula

(Wauchula Hospital cont'd from page 1)
There are 23 Florida Hospital locations, with the next closest in Sebring. These hospitals are faithbased but treat all patients regardless of their religious affiliation. The Wauchula hospital is designated a Critical Access Facility by the federal government requiring 24/7 Emergency Room coverage and related equipment.

The building has 15 emergency and 25 inpatient rooms, all private. Because many inpatients are there for rehabilitation and may stay for a week or two, in-patient room comforts include a TV, microwave, refrigerator, a safe, and a pullout couch for a family member to stay overnight.

Orthopedic, respiratory, speech, and occupational therapy are on site. The lab is full service including the ability to diagnose strep, mononucleosis, and bladder infections within minutes. Radiology offers standard x-ray, and CAT scans 24/7 with scheduled mammography and MRI.

This facility is best used for emergencies where patients are stabilized and then transferred to a larger hospital like Sebring if a specialist is needed.

Critical patients are air lifted from the Wauchula Hospital helipad to Tampa General for trauma (19 minute air time) or Florida Hospital Tampa for critical medical issues.

Because there is no walk-in clinic in Hardee County, if insurance allows, many people use the emergency (cont'd in next column)

(cont'd from previous column)
room for bronchitis and other less
acute illnesses. The charge is less if
no emergency care is needed.

A third reason patients use this hospital is for rehabilitation. They may have had a broken leg set in Sebring and then transfer to Wauchula for "rehab."

Hardee county has three ambulances whose EMT's may decide which hospital is appropriate based on a patient's condition. It is not necessary to have a local doctor to use the Wauchula or Sebring hospital. Most major insurances are accepted at either location.

The new hospital has a small cafeteria for family, visitors or locals to use. The chef is from Disney and apparently very good and meals are reasonably priced. There is also a small gift shop, always in need of volunteers to staff it. Other volunteer opportunities also exist at the hospital. Just call 863-773-3101 for more information.

A representative from the hospital will be speaking after the Monday, February 12, breakfast.

#### **Editor**

Margery Zeller, Site H-32 Cell: 412-480-4535 Email:

CrackerCrumbs@flskpresort.org

Deadline for submitting articles 20th of each month

All articles are subject to editing...and all mistakes are make with love!

## Cracker Capers

<u>Wednesday, January 24</u>	
What is a Cracker?10:00 am	١
Spaghetti Dinner5 pm Tickets ~ \$8 Bring table service	1
Dancing6:30 pm Live Music with Don & Allan	)

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		,		•	

Caper Games	9:00 am
Lunch	Noon
Caper Game Night	7:00 pm

<u>Friday, January 26</u>	
Game Day Awards	1 pm
Cracker Caper Auction	1:15 pm
Saturday, January 27 Annual Yard SaleConcessions	
Sunday, January 28 Bia Bingo	7 pm



**Spaghetti Dinner**Wednesday, January 24



Music & Dancing with Don & Allan begins at 6:30 pm

#### Tickets on Sale Until January 17 From Fun 'n Sun Board & John Bisson

Phoebe Bollin	G-14
Cathy Landry	A-35
Janet Gibson	G-12
June Post	H-06
Lanette Breault	A-31
Jane Lewis	A-13
Margaret McIntyre	A-14
Susan Wszalek	S-02
John Bisson	A-39



#### **Caper Games**

Games begin Thursday, January 28, at 9 am in front of the Clubhouse.

This year's games include corn hole, shuffleboard and pickleball. Come join the fun...no experience necessary. Game Day Awards will be given before Friday's auction at 1 pm.

#### **Annual Yard Sale**

Every year the yard sale provides a wide variety of merchandise that has been donated over the past year. This sale provides something for everyone at bargain prices. All proceeds benefit Fun 'n Sun activities. Concessions open at 11 am.

#### **Caper Game Night**

Games of chance and skill will be available to play Thursday night beginning at 7 p.m. Plan to join the fun.

This year's offerings include Tripoli, Left, Right, Center, Crazy Joker, and horseracing. Snack concessions will be available.

#### **Big Bingo**

Cracker Capers draws to a close with Big Bingo Sunday night at 7 pm. Additional money is added so all the games will pay larger than usual. The more that play, the better the pay.

#### **Caper Auction**

Historically, this event has been a food auction with delicious offerings such as homemade bread, cakes, cookies, jams & jellies, fudge or whatever is your specialty. Last year there was even smoked macaroni and cheese on the auction block.

This is a fun (and delicious) afternoon. Whether they are Susan Mannery's famous oatmeal raisin cookies or Miss Vera's brownies, there are a lot of good cooks in the park who donate.

Monica Behun, our auctioneer, makes this a fun event you won't want to miss.

#### Let's Get Together



#### Sunday January 21 ~ 2 pm

Hot Fudge Sundaes with Toasted Pecans for \$2.00

Sign up in the Clubhouse.

### Who Are the SKPettes and Romeos?

Once a month, the ladies in the park (SKPettes) get together for a lunch out together.

On the same day, the men (Raunchy Old Men Eating Out = Romeos) go to a different restaurant for lunch as well.

All members, guests and visitors are invited to join us!

#### Thursday, January 18 SK.Pettes

Island View Lakefront Restaurant and Pub in Sebring is the destination for the SKPette luncheon. Located at 5223 Sun 'N Lake Blvd, we'll meet there at 1:30 pm.

(If the group grows beyond 25, we'll be ordering in advance from the banquet menu. Otherwise, we'll be ordering from their regular menu.)

#### Romeos

The Main Street Grill in
Downtown Wauchula
Is the location of the men's lunch.
Meet at the Clubhouse at 11 am





#### Let's Get Together

#### Monday Breakfasts Every week ~ 7:50 am



Ala Carte Menu

Announcements for the week at 9 am.

#### Whine B4 Dine

Thursdays @ 4:00 pm

Poolside Patio

Bring your beverage of choice and a snack to share



#### 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.



4 pm Monday Wednesday Friday

Clubhouse

## You Won't Stop Laughing

If life's got you down and you need a good laugh, check out Jeanne Robertson on youtube.com or search for Jeanne Robertson on Google. To get you started, search in either location for: Jeanne Robertson: "Don't send a man to the grocery store!"

#### **SKP Diversions**



9 am—noon

The court is located below the water tower in downtown Wauchula.

Sign up each week in Clubhouse.

No experience necessary. Equipment provided.

Players & Spectators Welcomed!

(Bring lawn chairs and drink.)





#### Thursdays 10 am



Bowl of Fun Lanes 943 S 6th Ave Downtown Wauchula

All Welcome!

**FYI** In preparation for the Cracker Capers Pickleball Tournament and on the suggestion of Chris Blakely, a court is going to be set up on Palm Lane to test the feasibility of using it for the Capers event keeping us all on site for the games.

## January Crafts Friday ~ 10 am—noon

January 5 Wooden Message Boards

Cost: \$6 for all supplies
Instructor: Marsha Hodgkins H-10

January 12
Painted Rocks

Cost: \$3 per rock
(8 rock limit)
Instructor: Lanette Breault A-31

January 19
Valentine Card-Making

Cost: TBA
Instructor: Kitty Ewald

January 26
Cracker Capers Week
No Class

Watch for sign ups in the Clubhouse.

#### **SKP Diversions**



Mondays Beginning January 8

11 am ~ \$2/week

Instructor
Pam from Crystal Lake



#### **Calling All Golfers**



Join Us! NEW DAY/ TIME

#### Saturday, 9:30 am Tee Time

\$15 Green Fees for 9 Holes

Torrey Oaks Golf Course Rt. 17, Bowling Green

Ladies, Men, Members & Visitors All Welcome!

Sign up each week in Clubhouse.



## Hobo Gards

## Saturday, January 13 7 pm

Join in the fun of this very easy, very social card game. It's a great way to meet people and visit with those you don't get to see often.

# Chair Exercises Thursdays 10:00-10:30 am Clubhouse

Learn low-impact
Exercises, including stretching, cardio, balance, and strength training.



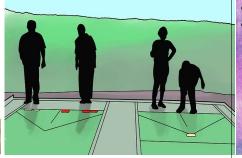
For All Ages ~ Men and Women

Questions? Lee Belanger H-28

#### **Shuffleboard**

Daily @ 1 pm

For more info Kenny Breault A-31





2nd Friday of Month Beginning January 12 1 pm

Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Ove is the neighborhood curmudgeon who manages to alienate everyone with his angry attacks and inflexible routines and rules. One morning a noisy family moves in to the house next door and accidentally knocks over Ove's mailbox. This sets in motion a story in turns hilarious, heartwarming, sad, and inspirational. The story explores the profound influence one life has on countless others.

Available Copies: Wauchula Public Library and Kindle.

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

#### Paint-a-Long Watercolors with Joan

Monday, January 28 1:00—2:00 pm

- Learn techniques while having fun
- No need to be able to draw.
- All supplies included.

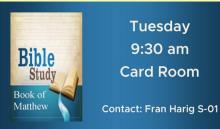
Cost: TBA
Look for Sign up in the Clubhouse.
Limit 10 students.

Questions? Joan Tarkin H-36

#### **SKP Diversions**

#### **EXERCISE** TUE, WED, FRI 9 AM **CLUBHOUSE**





#### Ways to Get Involved

#### **Legacy of Membership Volunteerism Sustains Our Park**

bv Bob Lewis

As we all know, our park was built and is maintained by members volunteering in some way or another. Not only do members keep the park in good working order, but they keep it looking spiffy, too.

There are a myriad of ways to volunteer from small to large, from visible to behind the scenes.

Here is a small list of volunteer opportunities...and you may think of other ways to help.

- ♦ Cash or ticket collectors special events
- ♦ Set up or clean up after special events
- ◆Committee members
- ♦ Cooks
- ◆Cracker Caper workers
- ◆Craft instructors
- ◆ Carpenters
- ♦ Help with special building projects
- ◆Entertainers
- ♦ Greeters for events
- ♦ Hosts for Happy Hour
- ♦ Watch for other opportunities at the sign-up table.

Because volunteerism is the heart of our park, your involvement and continuing support are very much appreciated. Many hands make light work.

As always there will be a complete list of committees sent out with the annual meeting information. Please make sound choices when filling out those forms and be a part of what makes our park so successful.

#### **Volunteers Needed** For Yard Sale

Many volunteers will be needed to help with the annual yard sale that is open to the public. Help is needed to clean and organize the donated items. See Ann Ed A-9 or Monica Behun A-19 if you're willing to help before the sale. The day of the sale, help will also be needed with parking, the concessions, and working the sales floor. Sign up in the Clubhouse if you're willing to help.

#### Cracker Capers Auction

What is your specialty...cookies, rolls, bread, cake, jelly, candy? Maybe it's something other than a baked good. Perhaps you'd like to provide a service. Last year a member auctioned a homecooked dinner for 4.

Consider sharing your specialty at the Caper Auction. Donations should be brought to the Clubhouse just prior to the auction.

#### Yard Sale

Donations for the annual yard sale on Saturday, January 27, are being accepted until Thursday, January 25.

Donations should be in good, working condition and placed outside the large shed by the water tower at the front of the park on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please do not leave your donations in cardboard boxes.

For questions, see Monica Behun A-19.

#### **Trivia**

#### **How Florida Crackers Got Their Name**

"Crackers" derive their name from the rugged 19th century pioneers who developed the wild territory now known as Florida. Cattle roamed freely in the Florida woodlands and had to be rounded up before being sold and shipped up north or to Cuba.

Cow hunters used whips to round up the cattle. The whips were popped or 'cracked,' resulting in a sound similar to a rifle shot that would get the cattle moving.

Source: Reliving Rural Florida's Past



#### Florida Cracker Trail

The Florida Cracker Trail begins just east of Bradenton and runs approximately 120 miles east on parts of State Road 66, State Route 64 and US Highway 98.

Each year the Florida Cracker Trail Assn. sponsors the annual Cross-State Ride from Bradenton to Ft. Pierce, a 120 mile-ride that will pass near the entrance to the Co-op between February 17-24 this year. Up to 250 riders participate in at least a portion of the ride.



Non-perishable food donations for the



Hardee County Help Center can be placed in NON PANTRY the basket inside the Clubhouse double doors. Donations should

be unopened and within the 'use by' date.

#### **Trivia**

#### **Cracker Trail History**

Manatee Village is the western terminus of the Florida Cracker Trail, a route that has existed since approximately 1850. It is located at 1404 Manatee Avenue East (SR 64) in Bradenton.

This historical park has free admission and 14 points of interest. It is a great way to learn about the history of Manatee County and Old Florida long before paved roads and electricity.

The Cracker Trail Museum is located in Zolfo Springs on the corner of State Route 64 and US Route 17. It is home to a collection of over 4,000 items related to pioneer-era Florida history preserving the history of Hardee County. Admission is \$2 plus tax.

#### On the Homefront

## Planning Any Site Improvements / Repairs?

If considering any significant repair or improvement project at your site, remember that our zoning rules (available on the website: http://www.flskpresort.org/member.php) require CO-OP and, in many cases, county permit.



Monday, January 8 9:15 am

### Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 11 9 am

#### Wi-FI Update

The park's wi-fi system has been upgraded thanks to Norm<sup>2</sup> Milliard. Additional updates will be made in the weeks ahead. Thanks to both Norms.



Crime Awareness

Presented by the Crime Prevention Task Force on

Monday, January 29 at 9:15 in the Clubhouse.

#### **Fire Ant Facts**

We all know what a menace fire ants can be with their wide presence and their painful stings. Below are some interesting facts about fire ants.

- There are several varieties of fire ants, but the most common variety in the U.S. is the Red Imported Fire Ant that is native to South America. These ants were accidentally brought into the United States around 1940 on board a cargo ship through the port at Mobile, Alabama.
- ♦ A fire ant colony can have up to 250,000 ants.
- ♦ A colony consists of a queen, female worker ants, female soldier ants, and male drones.
- ◆ The only job of a drone is to mate with the queen, after which the drone dies.
- Fire ants can live for 6 or 7 years.
- A queen can lay an astonishing 1,600 eggs a day!
- Tunnels can radiate out up to 25 feet from a mound and can be up to 10 feet deep.
- Fire ants grasp onto each other to form large, floating mats to ride out high water. Ants within the mat slowly circulate from bottom to top to take turns at breathing.
- ♦ A fire ant bites its victim not to spray acid the way most ants do, but to get a good grip on their victim so they can turn their abdomen to inject venom from the stinger located at the tip of the abdomen.
- Unlike bees that die after stinging once, fire ants can sting repeatedly.



#### Christmas 'Toy' Drive

The members and guests of the park raised \$720 in individual donations plus a \$200 contribution from Fun 'n Sun for the Christmas

Toy Drive sponsored by the Hardee County Sheriff's Office and Wauchula Police Department.

Your support enabled Hardee County youngsters who are less fortunate to purchase gifts for their family and themselves.

To everyone
who helped get the
January *Cracker Crumbs*out on time by
meeting deadline...



#### On the Homefront

#### **Library Notes**

The library has a new look and even more reasons to use it.

**New Large Subject Signs** now above each bookshelf are visible from the library doorway making it easier to locate books. Smaller signs are still on individual shelves.

Large Print: Any large print book, fiction or non-fiction is in this section. This includes romance; suspense, cookbooks, biographies, etc. so always check that section along with the standard print sections for your subject or author.

**General fiction** and **non-fiction** is a catch-all for books not suited to the more specific categories. However, it never hurts to check these sections for your particular subject or author preference.

Westerns have their own section.

**Military** includes military biographies and autobiographies.

**Biographies and autobiographies** other than military are in a separate section.

**Christian non-fiction** includes bibles, devotions, and Christian self-help.

Crafts and Hobbies is a new section. Cookbooks, Diets, Health, Dictionaries, RV/Travel, DVD's, and Audio Books have their own sections.

The Library Committee asks that you not shelve books. Please drop your returned and/or donated books and DVDs in the white basket inside the Library door because we have a check IN system to track circulation.

#### **Have Papers to Shred?**

Thursday morning, January 18, a professional shredder will be in the park to destroy old tax information. This shredding service will be available to the members.

#### **Celebrations**



#### Happy Birthday!

1/4	Dick Pearce
1/6	. Cheryl Lamoreaux
1/7	Lorraine Young
1/11	Joan Tarkin
1/12	Betty Miller
1/17	Becky Lunde
	Phoebe Bolin
1/26	Joan Cashman
	Donna Hixon
1/7	John Cashman
1/12	Art Dubuc
1/15	Stanley Bobek
1/22	George Metz
1/29	Ken Bollin
1/29	Tom Cirou

#### Happy Anniversary!

1/10	Ken & Phoebe Bollin
1/14	Jim & Elinor Gooding
1/14	. Dale & Jackie Schmidtendorff
1/17	Mel & Katsue Von Ploennies

## Here's Something to Celebrate!

The Walmart Savings Catcher is a simple tool that automatically compares prices to top stores all over the area. If a competitor advertises a special deal for a lower price, Walmart will give you the difference on a Rewards eGift card or your can accumulate your savings and redeem when you're ready.

Just download the Walmart app on your phone, tap the Savings Catcher button, and scan your receipt or go to Walmart.com/savingscatcher and enter your receipt number into your account.

In 72 hours, you will be notified that your receipt has been processed and told of any savings you receive.

For more information, go to: savingscatcher.walmart.com

#### **NEW MEMBER**



#### Ken & Joan Tarkin H-36

by Ginny Milliard

Ken and Joan Tarkin obtained their lot in April of 2017. They arrived to enjoy membership on H36 this December. Ken moved around some as a kid and Joan grew up in NJ. Luckily they both ended up in a math class at Kean University in NJ. They will be married 50 years on 8-31-18. They have 2 sons and 1 daughter as well as 3 grandchildren.

They enjoyed traveling and did so in tents and RV's. Ken always said he would someday retire and travel in his rig. When Ken took early retirement from Xerox where he wrote training manuals, he was ready to full -time. Joan had thought an apartment might be nice when the house was sold. However, since full-timers live in their rig and she had no place else to live, she went along. They have been full timers now for 19 vears. Their advice to new travelers would be to go slow, take your time and always look forward to new adventures.

Joan taught algebra and later worked for Sally Mae. Joan enjoys art work, and she has taught watercolor techniques for a cruise line. Ken was her water boy keeping everyone supplied. Ken likes to read and play his guitar. Since Joan is learning ukulele, perhaps we will hear some music.

Ken ..... <u>ktarkin@outlook.com</u> Joan ..... jtarkin@outlook.com

Phone ...... 703-627-0702

#### **Looking Ahead**



**Upcoming Events** 

Valentine's **Dinner Dance** Tuesday, February 13

Florida SKP CO-OP **Annual Meeting** 

Monday, February 19

**Luau Dinner Dance** Wednesday, February 28

> 58th Escapade Sedalia, MO May 27—June 1

## Locarium Community

Highland Little Theater at Lakeside Playhouse ......Sebring The Dixie Swim Club

The story of five unforgettable women—a hilarious and touching comedy about friendships that last forever.

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, January 13-28

Tickets: http://www.highlandslittletheatre.org/the-dixie-swim-club/

Saturday, January 13 5:00—8:00 pm

2018 Florida RV Supershow ......Tampa

January 17-21

Florida State Fairgrounds

Information: http://www.frvta.org/show/florida-rv-supershow/

The Glen Miller Orchestra ......Sebring

Wednesday, January 31 7:00 pm

Highlands News-Sun Center - Fair Grounds

Tickets: https://tickets.sunevents.com/e/glennmiller-013118

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