



The Florida SKP Resort, 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873-4870

April 2022

## Message from the President

Greetings to all! As we officially enter spring we can look back at a tough winter. We have had far too many COVID cases for anyone's liking and we have lost some friends and had others suffer misfortune. But what we have, and will always have, is caring and sharing among our friends and neighbors. Please keep those in need in your thoughts and deeds... do what you can to help those who need an extra hand and do what you can to keep everyone as healthy as can be. As we wrap up this season we need to thank those among us who do so much for our beautiful park and for their neighbors. The volunteers who work hard at a multitude of tasks, the committees who plug away at their jobs, those who plan and put on our dinners, dances, activities, and socials.....they are all due a round of applause and an el grande. THANK YOU for sharing, caring and helping. To those of you staying the summer... stay cool and safe. To those of you headed out-bound... see you in the fall!

Steve Little,  
President



Welcome Trinity Gardner to our SKP community. Trinity joined us in January as our new office manager. Trinity brings to us 26 years of experience in state and local government as well as working for the Department of Children and Families.

Trinity is a life-long resident of Hardee County. She has been married for 20 years to husband Russell and they have an 18-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son.

Being a Pisces, she loves all activities involving water. Hobbies include fishing, hunting, gardening, and reading. We love her warm smile and pleasing personality.

Again, welcome to the SKP Resort.

## Board of Directors Meeting & Workshop Deadlines

March 30th  
Proposals due to the Board

March 31st  
Publish Notice of Planning Workshop

April 5th  
Planning Workshop

April 7th  
Publish Agenda & Notice  
of BOD Meeting

April 13th  
Board of Directors Meeting



April 17th, 2022

After much discussion regarding the most recent Board election the Search and Election Committee has agreed to publish the results as follows:

Skip Pratt	94
Skip LaPlant	92
Frank King	63
Denny Lupens	54
Dick Pearce	53

In the weeks following the election, Frank King tendered his resignation. The Board will appoint the vacated position soon.



**SKP RESORT  
BOARD MEETING  
April 13th at 9 AM**



## HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND THE PARK



We said goodbye to Theresa as she prepares to move on to a new adventure with her husband. June Post welcomed everyone. Janet Gibson and Noreta Ray read a poem they wrote about Theresa. Dave Mayo thanked her for her work and dedication, presenting her with a certificate. Rose Irons presented her flowers from the SKP membership.



*Pictured left to right: Sharon Weiss, Mark Norton, George Weiss, Lou Pauly, and Dave Irons. Not pictured Rose Irons.*

Several members of the Pet Committee and volunteers helped expand our dog park recently. The park has now doubled in length and our "fur babies" are very happy. We have had a very positive response from members and guests. This expansion allows room for running and play for small and larger dogs. The Pet Committee will continue to maintain and improve our dog park. We are proud to make SKP Resort a "pet friendly" home for our pets.



This past month a group of volunteers, led by Bob Hunt repaired the wall in the storage area. It was quite a project to remove the shelving from the back and end walls, remove sheetrock and insulation, remove and replace rotted framing studs, install new electrical receptacles, install new insulation, install new sheetrock, tape and spackle the wallboards and joints, paint the walls, and reinstall all the shelving. Thank you for everyone who volunteered on this project!

## St. Patrick's Dinner

Even though the St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Dance was rescheduled for a later date, great food and a good time was had by all!



*Ron and Susan Wszalek led the kitchen brigade. Serving Corned Beef, Cabbage and Potatoes.*





# April Special Events & Activities



## Escapées Chapter 57 Spring Rally

**April 4-8, 2022**

**Morningside Estates**

12645 Morning Drive

Dade City, FL 33525

Reservations: 352-523-1922

(be sure to state it is for the  
SKP Chapter 57 Rally)



Hosts in Training:  
Larry & Gayla Carr

### DAILY PARK ACTIVITIES

7 AM Table of Knowledge Coffee

1 PM Shuffleboard

2 PM Water Aerobics (self-guided)

7 PM Cards & Games

### Whine B4 You Dine



**Thursdays  
4 pm  
Pool Patio**

Whether beverage of choice is  
pop, water, beer, or wine...  
all are welcome!

## ARTS & CRAFTS

**Friday, April 1st  
10 AM**

### Notecards with Napkins

Learn how to create lovely notecards  
by using paper napkins.

Craft cost is \$2 for materials.



## 61st ESCAPADE

**June 19-24, 2022**

**Wilson County Fairgrounds  
Lebanon, TN**

*Registration now open*

### Summer Movies

Feature movies will be shown throughout  
the summer.

Watch your email for  
the dates and movie  
selections.



## SKP ACRE

**April 18th - 24th, 2022**

River Vista Mountain Village

*Registration now open*

### Yard Sale Donations

**See Jan Pratt G-7  
or call 937-418-9835**

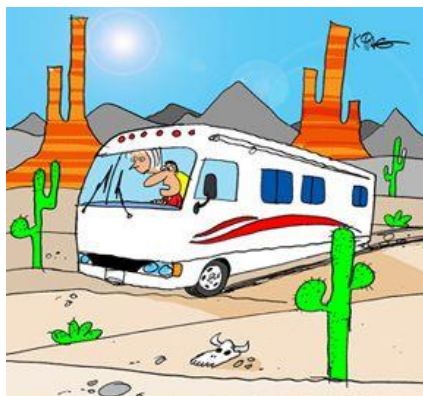
**to make arrangements to  
drop off donations at the shed.**



**SKP Resort reservations will be  
accepted for the 2022-2023**

**Season on April 18, 2022**

**at 9 AM.**



"You were right. Maybe I should've  
checked to see if the GPS was working  
before we left, because this doesn't  
look like the Florida Keys."

**Friday, April 8th  
10 AM**

### Silverware Carry Case

Make a Silverware  
Carry Case to tote  
your silverware to  
all the potluck  
dinners.

Craft cost is \$2 for  
materials.



**Friday, April 15th  
10 AM**

### Needle Felting: Eggs & Bunnies

Learn how to needle  
felt by creating  
eggs and bunnies -  
just in time for  
Easter!

Craft cost is \$3 for  
materials.



*Sign-up sheets are in the Clubhouse.*

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Mark and Darcy Norton**  
**A-3**

Welcome Mark and Darcy Norton to the SKP Resort! Mark and Darcy have already immersed themselves into "Resort" life with their volunteer and committee work. They currently spend time between Wauchula and Clemmons, North Carolina.

Darcy was born in Wisconsin and Mark in Illinois. They both later moved to Indiana where they met through friends. They lived, worked, and raised a family for 35 years. After retirement in 2015, they lived in the Durham, NC area for several years and then bought a home in Clemmons, NC three years ago. They have been RV'ing since their retirement and were very happy to get their lot this season.

Mark worked in maintenance for an Electric Utility and Darcy worked as a paralegal, victim advocate, and drug probation court.

They have two sons (Dustin and Chris) and three grandchildren (Laryssa 15, Allie 9, and Easton 6). Mark and Darcy also have two precious little dogs, Rhy-lie and Lexie.

Mark loves to golf and enjoys making craft beers. Darcy loves to read and makes beautiful alcohol ink art on glass and paper.

The SKP Resort welcomes you both and are so happy you have chosen to spend your winters with us.



## SKP RESORT Park Wi-Fi

*By Jay Merritt*

Recently, I had the privilege to talk with the Milliards about the Wi-Fi system in the park. First off, I would like to commend the Milliards for a job well done, engineering, creating, and maintaining the park's Wi-Fi system, since the hurricane of 2017 wiped out the previous system.

Based on some of our conversations, here are some tips to get park, cellular, or private internet at your site.

Many of our rigs have metal in the walls that inhibit radio waves from passing through to the living quarters. The idea of a Faraday Cage comes to mind. If you are having problems with the park Wi-Fi, or cell phone service inside your rig, see if your phone or laptop works better outside. If it does, a Wi-Fi or cell phone booster inside your rig may be helpful. Even then, the booster may need to be in a window, or have an antenna that sticks outside.

The clubhouse is also a great place to get good internet via the park Wi-Fi. There are nice comfy chairs in the library. The disk-shaped antennas on each end of the clubhouse are the strongest in the park.

The "Landry" Wi-Fi tower is the weakest in the system. It has been flagged to be first on the priority list for future improvements.

Each of the Wi-Fi access points in the park has a 2G, and 5G option. 5G will be faster if your device is newer, but the signal will get weaker as you get farther away. 2G is said to be better at penetrating walls, but may not be as fast.

If you see "disk" in the park Wi-Fi name, those are the access points closest to the modem. The "book" access points extend the signal from the "disk". The "rabbit" access points fill in the gaps.

If you move around the park, you will need to connect to a new access point each time you are out of range. If you select "auto connect," as you log into each new access point, as one access point disconnects, the next one should connect automatically. My phone does this well. This is great when moving from your site, to the clubhouse, to the laundry, out to the pool, etc.

My wife and I travel all over, and we have learned to have multiple options for internet. We have Verizon on our phones, AT&T in the truck and a T-mobile Hotspot in the rig. I am surprised at how well T-mobile works in many rural areas, including the SKP park. We have a cellphone service booster with an antenna outside to improve our chances of getting cell phone internet. We also have a Wi-Fi booster to use as needed if we need to boost the free park Wi-Fi.

The board approved a park wide Wi-Fi upgrade in March. These improvements



## Arrivals, Farewells & Moves

### **New to Park**

Brian & Robin Estee ..... A-15

### **Farewell**

James & Elinor Gooding ..... A-42

### **Moved to a Different Site**

Kevin & Margaret McIntyre .. A-14 to A-42

Frank & Julie King ..... A-15 to A-14

Don & Gloria Cote ..... A-06 to H-12



# From the Safety Committee

## It's That Time Again!

It's time to pump up the *Caring and Sharing action* as we prepare for the departure of many guests as well as members. April is here and we all know that means people will be closing up park models and securing RVs in preparation to head to cooler climes.

Most important, remember your RVs and Destination Trailers must be tied down before you leave them for the summer. Park models must have tags in the windows showing their registrations as we do get visits from the County to make sure we are all conforming to their requirements.

Snowbirds leaving signals that hurricane season is heading our way. The Emergency & Safety Committee is passing on the following reminders. Storms can be fierce here and winds can be outrageous. It's imperative that those leaving their sites take responsibility for ensuring that summer residents and the park are safe from flying objects during stormy weather.

Secure **YOUR** site so others won't be put in danger from flying pots and furniture.

- Put away flags and flagpoles
- Put away patio furniture and chairs
- Put away garden tools and equipment
- Put away trash cans and grills
- Put away plant pots

Anything you can hold with your hands could become a torpedo in a heavy wind or storm. **Do not leave plants outdoors if you are not here to care for them or able to move them indoors in case of storms.**

- Remove detached steps and store safely
- Turn off propane and water
- Turn off electricity if you are not keeping your a/c or humidistat running
- Close and lock hurricane shutters/awnings
- Close and lock windows; cover with reflective materials if desired
- Check sheds and homes for leaks and loose shingles. Repair before leaving.
- Clean out behind sheds. Loose items cannot remain outside during the summer.

Consider leaving an extra key with the office so they can check if any damage occurs.

### Summer Residents:

It is important for everyone to band together to keep yourselves and the Resort safe.

Marsha Hodgkins (H-10) at (502) 550-8223 is the Summer Safety/Emergency Committee contact.

It is important to help prepare the clubhouse and pool for storms as well.

Put away

- pool equipment
- pool furniture
- any loose items around the outside of the clubhouse

Thank you! Have a safe and happy summer!

Safety & Emergency Committee

## Hardee County Emergency Numbers

Life Threatening.....911

(Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS)

Hardee County Sheriff.....(863) 773-4144

Ambulance .....(863) 773-3313

**The RESORT is located on the north side of Hwy 64, just over 2 miles east of where Hwy 64 intersects with Hwy 17.**

Code for Gate Beside Site A-1.....13-35-13

Code for Drive-Through Gate Between Sites A-28 and A-30.....32-14-22



### SKP RESORT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....Steve Little G-27  
Vice President.....Skip Pratt G-07  
Secretary.....To Be Appointed  
Treasurer.....Dave Mayo A-18  
Asst. Treasurer.....Jane Lewis A-13  
At Large.....Skip LaPlante S-06  
At Large.....Denny Luppens H-28



Earlier this season, Ejay and Tom Bill hosted a Fajita dinner for the membership. Everyone raved about the Charro beans and many asked for the recipe. Ejay was kind enough to share her recipe as follows.

## CHARRO BEANS

### Ingredients:

1 Pound dry pinto beans  
Water as needed  
1/2 pound bacon  
4 Roma tomatoes, chopped  
2 onions, chopped  
1 green pepper, chopped  
2 jalapeno peppers, seeded & chopped  
1/2 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped  
1-12 oz. can chicken broth  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 teaspoons salt  
1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1 teaspoon Chilli powder  
1/2 teaspoon cumin

### Step 1:

Place pinto beans in slow cooker. Cover with water and let soak overnight. Next day drain, rinse, and drain the beans again.

### Step 2:

Cook bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat until almost browned and crispy (5-7 minutes). Add the cooked bacon, tomatoes, onions, pepper, cilantro, and garlic to the pot of beans. Add broth, salt, pepper, and spices. Cook on Low for 8 Hours or until beans are soft. Make sure the water line is above the beans and keep on a slow boil.

*Serve and enjoy alongside your favorite South-of-the-Border eats!*



Deb Mowers' Green Beans served at the Valentine's Day Dinner were also a fan favorite. Here's the recipe.



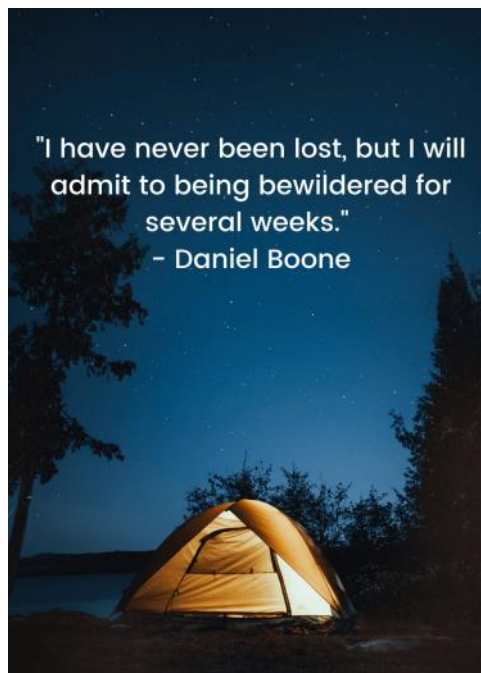
## GREEN BEANS

### Ingredients:

Fresh green beans, blanched and cooled  
Drizzle of olive oil  
1 Tablespoon of butter  
1 Tablespoon of minced onion  
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic  
1/2 Cup cherry tomatoes, cut in half

Heat olive oil and butter. Add green beans, onion, garlic, and tomatoes. Heat until hot and beans are tender crisp.

*Enjoy!*



"I have never been lost, but I will admit to being bewildered for several weeks."  
- Daniel Boone



The following article was written by a fellow SKP Resort Member. Can you guess who?

## Moving forward

May 6, 2007

As I sit here in front of the kitchen window, I think about my life with my husband in this house that, together we made a home. The house is sold. Cleaning out twenty-five years of his "stuff" and eight years of mine, I can't help remembering how much fun we had creating a new bathroom, redoing the kitchen and our bedroom, planting flowers in the yard. This is definitely a beautiful place, and we made it so.

But now it is almost time to start a new experience. We have been living in the RV for about a year and a half, coming home for Christmas to be with family and friends and this won't stop. We will be nomads – The RV is a wonderful "condo on wheels". It looks like for the next few years it will be Texas in the winter and who knows where in the summer. We still have "people to see, places to go, and things to do". Life is wonderful and we are going to live it to the fullest for as long as we can.

I know that this lifestyle is hard for some people to understand. Let me try to explain: It is the freedom to go where you want- see what you want. If the weather is lousy you move. If you don't like your neighbors – you move (although this has never happened). There is always another "mountain" to climb – another waterfall to see – another tree to stand in front of in awe – a different bird or plant to take a picture of.

Life is wonderful! Traveling is fun!