

Cracker Crumbs

FL-SKP-RESORT.ORG



WE NEED YOU!

Four Board positions will be up for election at our annual meeting on Monday, February 19, 2024. Please consider running for the Board!



Our park is run by volunteers, and our 7 Board members are some of the most important volunteers we have. Just like every year, we need new ideas, new energy, and new dedication for four incoming Board members. Every member of the Florida SKP Resort has plenty to offer, and we need you!

Just a reminder: We elect our board members without designating which office they will hold. Once the election is finished, the Board meets separately and decides who will take the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and two at-large positions.

Why run for the Board? Among other reasons, you will learn a lot about how our Resort runs. You can use your skills and interests to help make our Resort better than ever. You can build on our past, which has created our beautiful, smoothly functioning, sharing, and caring community.

If you have any questions about the Board, ask any Board member or anyone on the Search and Elections Committee (Laurie Milliard, Jeane Hunt, Julie Wold, JoAnn Silva, Ginny Milliard). We can answer questions and get you an application. Applications are due by January 9th to go out in the annual packet.



BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Steve Little - G-27.....President
- Skip Pratt - G-07.....Vice President
- Marsha Hodgkins - H-10.....Secretary
- Dave Mayo - A-18.....Treasurer
- Jane Lewis - A-13.....Asst. Treasurer
- Skip LaPlante - S-06.....At Large
- Denny Lupens - H-28.....At Large

**SKP Resort
Board Meeting
December 20th at 9 AM**



The office will close early (noon) on Friday, 12/22/23, and reopen on Tuesday, 12/26/23.
*Mail will be distributed
Friday & Saturday.*

SKP RESORT OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Saturday
9:00 Am - 4:00 PM
(closed for lunch 12 PM-1PM)

Sunday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MEET JILL PARNELL

Thanks to our former member Joe and Lee Belanger, the Florida SKP Resort scored big time from the pool of volunteers and staff at Myakka River State Park. Jill has been a park member since 2020, formerly on Site H-13, now on Site F-06. We have finally seen more of her since



she retired in March 2023. From where? You guessed it (or almost). Jill was a ranger and assistant manager at Myakka River State Park from 1993 to 2017 and, more recently, at Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. She worked for 38 years under the Florida Retirement System.

Jill grew up in north Florida at Lake City and was a member of the Youth Conservation Corps in high school, where she learned she loved being in the woods. At the University of South Florida, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communications Broadcasting, but her love of the outdoors brought her to southwest Florida in 1990 to work in the district office of the Florida Park Service.

Jill has found a way to celebrate each decade of age. For her 40th birthday, she paddled the Grand Canyon for 14 days; at 50, she took trips to the Panama Canal and Yosemite National Park; and for her most recent birthday, at 60 this Spring, she traveled to Ireland, England, and France for three weeks. Two years ago, she visited Sedona, AZ, and the Grand Canyon again, as well as the BIG 5 in Utah and Yellowstone National Park. Now that she's retired, she looks forward to more traveling.

Jill loves to fish, hike, and visit parks. She used to ride a motorcycle until she broke her wrist. She has a boyfriend, Mark Finehout, who is on the prospective members' waitlist.

Birthday: June 15
Phone: 941-915-5118
myakkajill@gmail.com



MEET DAVE AND ELLEN STANISZEWSKI

Many of you already knew Dave and Ellen, who stayed on one of the park-owned lots near the pond until their membership became available last March. They moved onto Site F-09 and then disappeared to Buffalo, NY, where Dave had his left hip replaced in April and where Ellen was 'nursemaid' to both Dave



and her 88-year-old mother. In fact, Ellen and other family members spent several weeks caring for her mother this summer while Dave "bached it" at times. Dave, too, has an elderly mother, 95-year-old Wanda, who is in a nursing home in Englewood.

You might have also noticed that they have two new RVs – a "baby" Casita Redhead, nick-named Marshmallow, their summer home, and an Imagine Grand Design. Dave and Ellen have been full-time RVers for 20 years, have been to all 50 states, and have been around the USA 4 times. They have volunteered at several campgrounds, including Four Mile Creek in NY, the Florida Caverns, Bahia Honda in the Keys, and most recently at Myakka River State Park.

Before selling their home in Buffalo, Dave retired from General Motors after 32 years, and Ellen had been a pharmacy tech for 17 years. Dave had also served two years in the Army, one of those years in Vietnam. Dave grew up in Buffalo, but Ellen, whose father was career Air Force, had moved with her family 11 times.

The couple has been married for 36 years. Their first meeting in New Orleans makes a good story. Dave was feeling "blue" about his impending divorce, so he and a buddy made the trip south for Mardi Gras. The two fellows went to a pub called The Bakery, where they noticed a couple of gals looking lonely and bought them a glass of wine. Before they parted, Dave wrote his phone number on a scrap of paper, which Ellen managed to hold onto for a couple of months. Ellen called Dave after her own divorce; the rest is history. A year or so ago, Dave and Ellen renewed their vows in Hawaii, and their two children and five grandchildren were there for the event.

Birthdays: Dave August 18; Ellen May 28
Anniversary: August 2
Phones: Dave 941-214-0832; Ellen 716-870-9021
Email: Oldpinedog23@gmail.com

What's Happening This Month?

Signup sheets and more info about activities can be found in the Clubhouse



Celebrate SKP Spirit Day!

First Monday Each Month

December 4th

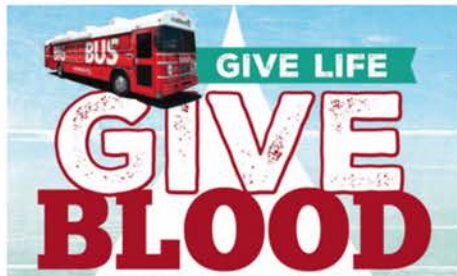
Fun 'n Sun Meeting at 9 AM

Wear your yellow SKP Resort t-shirts to the Fun 'n Sun meeting and throughout the rest of the day.

SKP Pettes
December 20th
1:00 PM
TBA

ROMEOS

December 20th
12:00 PM
Olympic Restaurant
504 US Hwy 27,
Avon Park, FL



Blood Drive

December 4th
9-3



Program following
breakfast December 11th
at 9:15 AM



December 6th
at 1 PM

Main Plaza Bistro Bar
127 W. Main St.
Wauchula FL. 33873



Yard Sale

Saturday,
December 2nd
from 8 AM - 2 PM

Coffee, baked goods and
lunch available for purchase



Ice Cream Social

Hot Fudge Sundaes
December 3rd at 2 PM

Ice Cream Social
Gingerbread Sundaes
Sunday,
Dec. 17th
2 PM



Christmas Eve Program

December 24th
7 PM



Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 25th
2 PM

Details and sign-up sheet
located in the Clubhouse

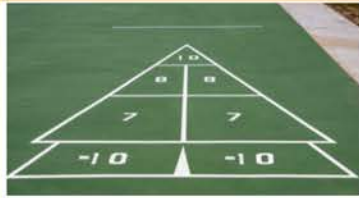
Yankee Swap

with
Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
December 29th
6 PM



DAILY ACTIVITIES

Coffee & Table of Knowledge
7:00 AM



Shuffleboard 1:00 PM



Water Aerobics 2:00 PM



Cards & Games
7:00 PM



Whine B4 Dine
Thursdays at 4:00 PM
Pool Patio



HAPPY HOUR
Every Monday & Wednesday
4:00 PM



MOVIE NIGHT
Schedule and Movies
To Be Announced

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Monday Morning
Breakfast
7:45 - 8:50 AM



Featuring McDolan Breakfast Sandwiches, Bran Muffins, Eggs made to order, Sausage, Bacon, Ham, Home Fries, Toast, Coffee & More!



Ukulele Classes

Mondays

1:00 PM for Beginners
2:30 PM for Improvers



Pickleball

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:00 AM

Gentle Exercises



Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:00 AM

Music Jam Session



Fridays
2:30 - 4 PM

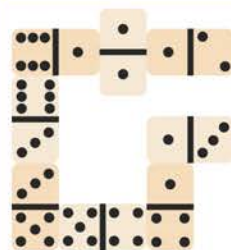
Wood Carving

Fridays
9 AM



Mexican Train

Tuesdays
1:00 PM



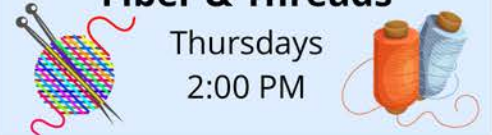
Bingo

Wednesdays
7 PM



Fiber & Threads

Thursdays
2:00 PM



Stitching Cards

Wednesdays 10 AM
Card Room



ARTS & CRAFTS

December Crafts will be held on the 1st and 15th at 10 AM in the Clubhouse. Most classes last between 1 and 2 hours. Sign-up in the Clubhouse.

December 1st - Map Garlands

Cost: \$3

December 15th - DIY

Marbling Christmas Ornament provided. Bring a plain mug, cup or bowl Cost: \$3

Tell Your Story

2:30 PM
December 13th
December 27th



Vision Accomplished



Linda Zink (pictured with her beloved Tootsie) had a vision to honor our founding members for all they did to fulfill "their vision" to create this lovely resort that we all enjoy. Our lovely green spaces make this park so beautiful that when Linda moved to her spot A-02, on the corner of Alligator Alley and Travel Trail, she sought to put her vision to fruition.

Linda and her husband, David Arndorfer, started their full-time traveling adventure in 2005. They enjoyed many years of travel that took them through all the lower 48 states, Alaska, and many Canadian Provinces. Like many of us Escapees, they soon realized that the SKP parks were a great place to call home. Linda and David quickly got on three wait lists at KOFA Ko-op in Yuma, Timber Valley in Oregon, and Florida SKP Resort.

They got their first membership in Yuma and quickly got a spot in Oregon. They purchased a park model in Yuma and kept their fifth wheel on the Oregon spot, traveling up and down the West Coast. In 2017, they got their spot in our park, then on Leisure Lane site H-24. They initially chose to put their spot in the rental pool and stayed on the West Coast as David was experiencing some medical issues. Unfortunately, David passed before he could come to enjoy their new home together. Linda decided to turn in her two West Coast memberships and move to the SKP Resort full-time in January 2021, placing a destination trailer on her lot.

During this timeframe, founding member Lydia LeMaistre reluctantly decided it was time for her to turn in her spot in our resort after the earlier passing of her husband, Al LeMaistre. Her only concern was that someone might get their beloved site and remove the older park model they loved. So Linda promised to keep their park model intact and make some upgrades, including a completely new exterior paint job and fresh, beautiful landscaping.

Linda also wanted to do something to improve the adjacent green space and put in a nice bench spot for all to relax and enjoy. She wanted to dedicate it to Al and Lydia, as well as all the founding members, and you can see a plaque there at the site.

Next time you pass her way, sit a spell and think about our founders' vision and what it's turned out to be. As Kenny says, "Shangri-La!" Please take a second to knock on Linda's door at A-02, and thank her for her vision, and enjoy a chat.



Speaking of Founding Members...

Miss **Vera Greene** wanted everyone to know how much she misses all of her SKP friends and her home of 30-plus years on Lesisure Lane.



There were 90 guests and members at the Thanksgiving dinner



Thanks to those who served the delicious turkey dinner



We appreciate our kitchen administrator, Deb Mowers



Board of Directors Meetings for the 2023-2024 season

DECEMBER 20 at 9 AM

JANUARY 10 at 9 AM

FEBRUARY 14 at 9 AM

MARCH 13 at 9 AM

APRIL 10 at 9 AM

FEBRUARY 8

Town Hall & Meet the Candidates

ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024

9 AM



Diane Beatty, Rose Irons, Donna Hixson, and Ejay Bill

Several of us have found a treasure. **Jodi's Pea Patch (6196 Van Simmons Road, Wauchula)** is a great hometown business selling fresh-grown fruits and vegetables. Most of the produce comes from her farm or local markets. She is open on Fridays and Saturdays. Hours are usually 9-5 but may vary. Check out her Facebook group page.



MEET HALE AND RUTH LEMMER

Hale and Ruth Lemmer, along with their dog Wafflez, are new members on Site H-07. The Lemmers, who were already Escapees' members 6 years ago, found the Florida SKP Resort by accident. When they had arrived at a local campground for their planned reservation, the sites were so muddy that they searched for another RV park. Lucky us!

During their stay in our park, they joined the perspective members' list and have become members as of this past April. Ruth says she loves the area because it is so peaceful away from the traffic in other parts of Florida.

Hale, an only child, moved from Chicago to the Wisconsin Dells area with his parents when he was young. He played keyboard in restaurants and taverns and met Ruth, a local girl who was waitressing. The couple married on the opening day of deer season, November 13, 1976. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

While serving on the Quincy Volunteer Fire Department, Hale instructed CPR, AED, and cold water rescue. He was the Fire Chief. The Lemmers said their marriage has been a good one because they saw each other so seldom during their working years. Ruth worked nights in a supper club, and Hale worked days. Initially, in 1979, he was an insurance agent for Sentry Insurance in Green Bay, WI; later, he was an investment rep/insurance agent at a bank for 15 years, and then 14 years as a senior marketing manager with Humana Insurance. Hale retired on November 15, 2015, and the couple moved into their motorhome full-time three days later.

Ruth likes to read, cook, and ride her e-bike with her husband. Hale earned his pilot's license in 1980 but sold his Piper Cherokee. He still enjoys anything related to aviation and likes to hang out at airports. He has a drone and a YouTube channel, "Hale to the Adventure," primarily for entertaining his kids and grandchildren.

Here's a tasty hint: the Lemmers recommend that you treat yourself to delicious donuts from Bradenton Donuts near the Red Barn.

Birthdays: Hale October 4; Ruth January 7

Phone: 231-233-6630

Email: hlemmer2@gmail.com



Escapees Chapter 57 Monthly Luncheon

First Thursday

November - April at 11:00 AM

Golden Corral

6855 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills, FL