



Cracker Crumbs

FL-SKP-RESORT.ORG



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The season is winding down, and we had many activities thanks to the Fun 'n Sun.

The Board workshop will be on April 3rd at 9 a.m., and the last Board meeting for the season will be on April 10th at 9 a.m.

We have had 14 transfers since the beginning of the year with 13 phased assessments.

We tragically lost a park member, Nancy Yvon. Tomasa Selph was injured in the accident and will be off work for some time. The Board held an auction, and Fun & Sun held a successful ice cream social to help out with Tomasa's expenses. Thank You to everyone in the park, members and guests alike, for the outstanding support for the benefit for Tomasa. It was more than what we could have ever expected.

We have accomplished a lot in the park this year: bathroom upgrades, kitchen upgrades, and Fun 'n Sun has the pickleball court well on its way to being finished.

I hope everyone has a healthy, safe summer.

See you all in the fall!

Jane Lewis
President



BOARD of DIRECTORS

Jane Lewis - A-13.....President
Steve Little - G-27.....Vice President
Laurie Milliard - F-01.....Secretary
Dave Mayo - A-18.....Treasurer
Lisa Geary - H-28.....Asst. Treasurer
Don Wold - H-05.....At Large
Denny Luppens - A-34.....At Large

**SKP Resort
Board Meeting
April 10th at 9 AM**

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



Board of Directors Meetings for the 2023-2024 season

APRIL 10 at 9 AM



Celebration of Life
for
Nancy Yvon

Thursday, April 4th
6:00 PM
Founders Hall

Come celebrate with us!

Bring drinks
and snacks



Escapade 2024 - Rock Springs, Wyoming



Now's the time to
make plans to attend
the largest gathering of
the Escapees
community and enjoy
the scenic landscapes
and rugged beauty.



Departure Checklist

The Safety/Emergency Committee provides this checklist to help keep our RVs and homes safe during summer storms. Storms can be fierce here, and we must prepare beforehand.

- Put away flags and flag poles
- Put away patio furniture and chairs
- Put away garden tools and equipment
- Put away trash cans and grills
- Put away plant pots. *Remember: anything you can hold with your hands could become a torpedo in a heavy wind or storm. Please don't leave plants outdoors if you are not here to take care of them; move them indoors in case of a storm.*
- Remove detached steps and store them 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 material if desired Check sheds and homes for leaks and loose shingles. *Repair them before leaving.*
- Clean out behind your sheds. *No loose items can remain during the summer.*

Summer Residents: Everyone needs to band together to keep the Resort safe. Make sure the Office knows you are staying this summer so you receive important texts and Constant Contact emails.

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

- Put away pool equipment and toys
- Put away pool furniture
- Put away any loose items around the outside of the clubhouse

Thank you! Have a safe and happy summer!
Your Emergency and Safety Committee



ARTS & CRAFTS

10 AM in the Clubhouse
Don't forget to sign-up!

By request, we will be revisiting some of the popular craft classes from the past few years.

April 5 **No Paintbrush Art Class** **Revisited subject: Cherry** **Tree In Bloom**



April 19 **Silverware Carriers** **Revisited**



April 26 **Cards Made from** **Paper Napkins** **Revisited**



April 12 **Solar Butterflies** **Revisited**

Crafter's Wish List

The Crafters have compiled a wishlist of items they will need for next season's craft classes. Please collect the items and bring them back for the crafters to use.

- Pull-tab lids from cans washed and cleaned
- Colored buttons, all sizes
- Costume jewelry beads with holes for stringing
- Empty individual serving-size yogurt, pudding, or fruit containers
- Old cookie sheets, minimal rust, please
- Empty oatmeal containers, 18oz size
- Empty or near empty duct tape roll
- Vinyl records, 78, no cracks/breaks



Thank you!



Coffee Hour at Ron and Susan Wszalek's during season always draws a nice crowd.



Tomasa and her son Tim stopped by Coffee Hour on March 12. Tomasa received lots of wishes for a speedy recovery.

MEET OUR SUMMER PARK ATTENDENTS

Neal R. Nelson and Angela Faith Hunter

Neal Nelson and Angela Hunter will be working as the summer park attendants at the Florida SKP Resort. Currently parked on Site A-10, they will be moving to Site G-20 when the winter season ends on April 15.



Although he spent his early years in MD, Neal moved to Florida at the age of 16. Angela grew up in Worcester, MA, and later moved to Jacksonville, FL. Amazingly, the two met on a bus that was taking them on the same 2-week cruise to Athens, Greece. Neal and Angela have now been married for 18 years, and they continue to travel a lot.

They live in their third RV and have traveled extensively in the United States. They have also visited Egypt, Israel, Monaco, Spain, Honduras, Belize, the Bahamas, and the Cayman Islands.

Neal began his working years as an ASE-certified auto technician and then began to acquire rental properties. Neal and Angela have been rehabbing houses and recently sold their sixteenth house near Ocala, FL. The couple says they like to volunteer, especially for their church, and their main hobbies are traveling and SCUBA diving.

Phones: Neal 904-333-0221; Angela 904-483-7770

Email: nealnelson@yahoo.com

Birthdays: Neal June 4; Angela March 26

Anniversary: March 3



Steve Little entertained the crowd with his auctioning skills. The Board arranged the fundraiser and helped keep all the bids and winners straight. A big THANK YOU to all of the auction item donors, the bidders, and everyone who helped with this fundraiser.



The Resort showed up for the St. Patrick's Day Double Dip Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser for Tomasa.



Easter Dinner on March 31st





Pickleball Court

by Norman Milliard

Everything starts from something. Our journey to an official Pickleball Court has taken five years.

When Dave Mayo became a member, he called and asked about having Pickleball. As a result, we built a court downtown at the water tower on a concrete pad provided by the town. Bob Lewis then asked us to do a Pickleball demonstration on Palm Way for Cracker Capers. Interestingly, the width of our roads is the same as that of a Pickleball Court. With patience filling the road's cracks each year, Pickleball has never left Palm Way. Finally, Cathy Landry proposed an official Pickleball Court. The concrete base of a regulation Pickleball Court is now in place. By early April, the concrete will be cured adequately to be painted.

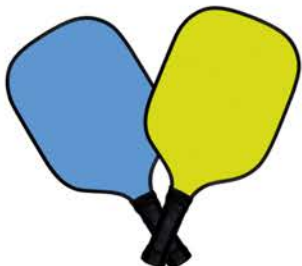
The application of paint has seven steps, and we expect the painting will be a 2-week process, weather permitting. The final two coats of paint are tough layers of green vinyl paint. It may be painted before the end of the season. More likely, we will line the concrete with special Pickleball tape, allowing anxious people to play on the concrete surface until the fall. After painting, we will install a permanent net. This will allow people to practice and play at any time. Equipment, paddles, and balls will always be available at the court for everyone, although a good paddle is relatively inexpensive. Many RVers carry paddles, allowing them to play wherever they travel.

Footwear is essential—no sticky soles or sandals. Sticky soles make going backward difficult and dangerous. Most sneakers are fine.

Many thanks to the people mentioned and those who participated in the construction. Listing those involved in the construction would amount to about 20% of the park. Special thanks to visitors and Wait List members Steve and Diane Smith, who previously built a court and served as consultants to the project.

Our park advertises the availability of Pickleball, and many visitors have come to our park because we have Pickleball.

Everyone is invited to play.



APRIL ACTIVITIES

As the season winds down, so do many of the regular scheduled activities. However there are many activities and special events still going on. Please check the calendar posted on the Clubhouse Bulletin Board next to the office. And don't forget to add your activities to the calendar!

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Coffee & Table of Knowledge



7:00 AM



Shuffleboard 1:00 PM



Water Aerobics 2:00 PM
Self-directed



Cards & Games
7:00 PM

ONLY TWO DATES LEFT!



Monday Morning Breakfast
7:45 - 8:45 AM
April 8th and 15th

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

Pickleball



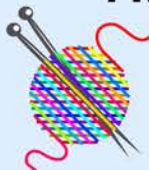
Tuesdays
&
Thursdays
9:00 AM

Music Jam Session



Fridays
2:30 - 4 PM

Fiber & Friends



Thursdays
2:00 PM



Tai Chi

Thursday, April 4th
7:30 AM



Whine B4 Dine

Thursdays at 4:00 PM
Pool Patio



Billiards

Thursdays
5 PM

NEW MEMBERS

Mark Finehout

Mark Finehout gained his membership in the Florida SKP Resort in March and has joined Jill Parnell on Site F-06.

Currently, Mark owns a 98-year-old house in Old Myakka that he has for sale. That is the home where he and his former wife raised their 3 children, one of whom, his daughter, passed away March 22, 2023.

Mark joined the Navy when he was 18 and spent 6 years with the Navy Construction Battalion, better known as the Seabees. He was a member of the demolition team in that division which is responsible for building much of the temporary and permanent infrastructure at U.S. military locations around the world.

Returning to Sarasota County, Mark opened his own business, Mark's Busted Knuckle Auto Repair, which he had maintained for 20 years. Afterward, he joined the Myakka River State Park in 2002 as a maintenance supervisor. Before retiring in 2019, Mark worked on equipment there and other state parks in southwest Florida. More recently, Mark has done irrigation work in the area's orange groves and blueberry fields.

Mark's hobbies include hunting, shooting pool, and traveling throughout the U.S. with Jill.

Birthday: February 3
Phone: 941-374-4364
Email: myakkamark@gmail.com



Debby Bradford

Look for the red Miata and the Winnebago Cambria class B motorhome on Site H-09, and you will be in the right place to meet another new member, Debby Bradford, and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Dazzle. You must be quick, though, because Debby and Dazzle will leave soon to board a transatlantic ship departing May 5th for Europe. They will be spending the next year in the college town of Coimbra in Portugal before returning to the park in the Spring of 2025.

Debby moved around a lot as a child because her dad was an aerospace engineer. She continued the nomadic lifestyle as an adult and has lived in many places, including the US Virgin Islands and Hawai'i. She has owned 3 different power boats in different states.

When she was 21 years old and standing on the sailboat deck, Debby decided to retire young and move to the Caribbean. One of several goals she achieved included owning a home in the Florida Keys and being a full-time SCUBA instructor for 7 years in Ft. Lauderdale. She retired as a researcher for the "Sun Sentinel" newspaper and from Information Technology and management for the Broward County government. She continues to work remotely in User Experience (UX), evaluating websites and applications.

Debby bought her first RV in 2015. She lived at the Escapees Co-op, Jojoba Hills Resort, for three years and was on its board of directors. In addition to traveling, her other hobbies include SCUBA diving, kayaking, playing the ukulele, and photography.

Birthday: October 14
Phone: 954-205-2537
Email: debby.bradford@gmail.com



NEW MEMBERS

George and Diane Gandero

The wait time on the prospective member's list is getting shorter. George and Diane Gandero reported that they waited only 5 years to acquire Site G-25 recently. Meanwhile, they bought a lot at Torrey Oaks, where several of their TN friends also spend the winters. Their plan for next season is to rent out or sell the lot at Torrey Oaks and stay with us at the Florida SKP Resort.



George was born in Cuba and came to southern Florida when he was 3 years old. A mutual friend introduced George and Diane, and they have been married for 41 years. George retired from firefighting in the Ft. Lauderdale area, and on his days off, he worked as a construction contractor for 30 years. From their home in Broward County, Diane commuted for 40 years to Miami Beach in Dade County, where she worked in accounts receivable for an ophthalmologist.

George and Diane have 2 adult sons, both of whom live in Florida. The couple has been camping all of their married life, starting with tents to pop-ups, to a trailer, fifth wheel, a motorhome, and back to a fifth wheel. Currently, they travel for about 6 months each year. They live in an RV community in Crossville, TN, named The Gardens, where homes each have an RV garage attached. There, they have many friends who occasionally socialize and caravan. In addition to RVing, they have been on several cruises.

At home, they volunteer at their church and help the needy. Their hobbies include motorcycling and hiking. George enjoys shuffleboard, and Diane likes to play pickleball.

Phones: George 954-336-5195; Diane 954-540-5253

Emails: George ggandero@aol.com; Diane dgandero@gmail.com

Birthdays: George March 7; Diane May 1
Anniversary: January 1



Skunky and Fester showed up in their finest for the Poker Run



The Resort celebrated the nonagenarians. Pictured left to right: Ray Heaton, Connie B., Jim Warren, Tony Pettinato, Bob Spangler, Elsie Pettinato, Kenny Breault, and John Ray.



Gary Wyatt won both a First Place and a Second Place ribbon for his art work at this year's Hardee County Fair. His first place rendering of a Florida "Cracker" cowboy will be on display at the Hardee County courthouse until next year's fair. Gary teaches a class on colored pencil drawing at the clubhouse at 8:30 on Wednesday mornings.