

“The Roadrunner Express”



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Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!

The stage was set for the 3rd annual Caloosa Winnies Reunion Friendship Rally! February 17—21, 2020 at Lazy Days RV Resort in Seffner, Florida was the location. The theme was “The Roaring 20’s”, which was perfect for 2020! Over 160 coaches attended to enjoy the fun, friendships, entertainment, and dinners!



Several Caloosa members came for early pre-rally days to help with setup of the rally. Pictured on the right are Ted Fumia, Bruce Byerly & Mark Burnett assembling the photo booth! The decorating committee, led by our Presidents Charlie & Karen Autry, were all busy setting tables, hanging the stage curtains, banner, chandeliers, etc. The room looked just GREAT—nice job, TEAM!



The Finished Photo Booth

The table decorations our chapter members made in January were safely handled and placed on the tables - see picture on the right!



Sunday evening we all enjoyed an Italian buffet dinner prepared by the Lazy Days caterer, Channing Boyd and his staff. MANY THANKS to the decorating team that worked together to transform this room into our “Roaring 20’s” theater!



Monday the parade of coaches coming into Lazy Days was huge, as the rest of the rally attendees joined up with the early arrival folks. The Rally Center doors were opened at 3:00pm and the attendees were greeted by Caloosa members and decorated with Roaring 20's beads! Happy Hour snacks were set up around the room thanks to Karen & Charlie Autry and their efficient crew. The conversations were lively and it was quite a site to see—a room full of people having FUN! At 5:00pm it was time for opening remarks and introductions. The officers were all on stage—we are PROUD of our team of leaders! At 5:30pm dinner was served, BBQ sides dishes, dessert & drinks. Tables were called by color and everyone was served within 20 minutes.



Promptly at 6:30pm the Bingo committee was set up to begin selling cards. Thanks to Jerry Miller and Jan Dippel for handling the money and making the process easy and organized. Others on the committee were Dave Wilkie, John Murse, Mike Dippel, Ed Thomas & Mark Burnett. All monies were paid out to the winners and thanks to a HUGE crowd, the “pots” were high and winners HAPPY!

Tuesday morning started off with seminars by Fantasy Tours, Sharon King's craft session, the outdoor Flea Market, which was a time for people to display their “treasures” and sell them. At 10:00am it was time for our favorite “expert” on everything to do with Winnebago care and maintenance—TOM PILGRIM!



Tom, pictured on the left, has been a welcomed speaker at all our rallies and this year was no exception. Tom brings

VALUABLE information to all us owners and his expertise on just about every foot of a Winnebago product is always entertaining as well as informative. A HUGE audience filled all the tables in the room. After Tom's presentation he took questions from the audience and had answers for everyone.



At noon our friends from SkyMed put on a lunch for pre-registered guests as well as an informational talk about the latest updates for their services. They provide a good service and we know of folks that have benefited from the membership they offer.

At 1:30pm it was time for our first Line Dancing class. Denise Joop, (pictured on the left) was our instructor. There was a GREAT lineup of ladies to learn new dances and refresh our memories on old dances. Jerry Miller played the music and we had a GREAT session of physical exercise, (and memory exercise!) for that FUN hour!



The ladies even got Bob Schoening into the line to dance!



At 2:30pm Tom Pilgrim was back on stage with more great tips on motorhome care. He gave out lots of samples of products that are recommended to help with paint finishes, tires, slide maintenance, etc. Once again, the tables were filled with eager listeners. THANKS to Tom for his GREAT contributions to our rally!

Next up on the agenda was of course—Happy Hour with our committee spreading the fun snacks around the room. Then it was time for the Caloosa Winnies group photo! Getting everyone arranged was fun, and the picture came out GREAT!



Dinner was served at 5:30pm—a Winnebago favorite—Walking Tacos! This was a new one for the caterer as they had not heard of our favorite meal! Of course we all knew what this meal was and along with the side dishes and dessert it was a great meal!

Our entertainment for the evening was “Two Shay Duo”, and what a TERRIFIC concert they did! Annette & Richard LaFond—Annette does a Shania Twain tribute show, and later into the evening they both did cover songs of other artists.



Jerry Miller got “Shania” up close!





John Murse, Ted Fumia, “Shania” & Bob Kucera

Everyone in the audience was having so much fun watching these 2 performers that no one left early! During the concert, “Shania” pranced around the room singing several different songs, stopping to serenade some of the guys. Part of her show she invited John, Ted & Bob to the stage to do a song with her—”If You’re Not In It For Love, I’m Outta Here” The quartet got HUGE applause!! I’m sure your eyes have already been drawn to the picture below! “Shania” invited a big group to join her on stage. She provided “instruments” for “the band” and they played “Play That Funky Music”! It was HYSTERICAL and the “band” had so much fun—the audience even gave them a standing ovation! This was the most WONDERFUL show and if you ever get to see this couple when they play locally in your area, I highly recommend being there in person!



“The Band”, L to R: Susan Keifer, Stewart Smith, Virgie Vandervlugt, Janis Fumia, Stu Greene, Shania, Ted Fumia, Richard, Bob Kucera! The STARS in concert!

Wednesday morning was time for the vendors to set up outside the building and the patio was filled with people selling all kinds of things, t-shirts, jewelry, Tupperware, olive oils, etc. Pampered Chef host Stacey Janoske set up her products and did a seminar showing some of her products. Margaret Schwalen did a Swarovski jewelry class, Sharon King did crafts with our ladies. At 9:00am it was time for our 2nd Line Dancing class with Denise Joop instructing. We reviewed dances we learned earlier and had some news ones that Denise taught us. Line Dancing is not only fun, it tests your memory so it’s an all around good exercise!



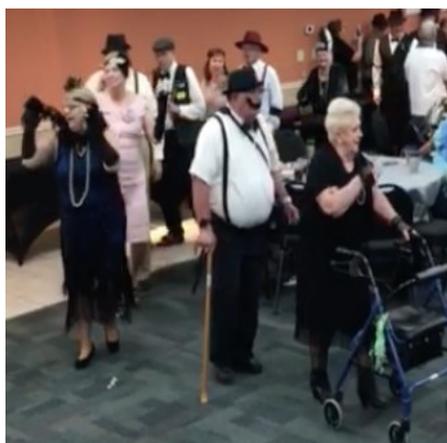
At 10:00am the Caloosas held a business meeting, presided over by our Presidents, Charlie & Karen Autry. All officers were present and gave their respective reports. Future meetings were discussed including plans for our 50th anniversary party in December. The schedule for 2021 is work in progress. THANKS to the members that attended, it was nice to see so many Caloosa faces at one time!

Other seminars were scheduled for the afternoon, Vioga Olive Oil product, Max Perez. Chef at Lazy Days, demonstrated the techniques of convection/microwave, induction cooking in RV's, and had a HUGE audience. He had handouts for the audience which provided great information. Don Levine talked about safety regarding railroad crossings.

At 5:00pm the Happy Hour Hors d'Oeuvres Party was underway. The attendees were asked to bring some kind of dish or snack to share with everyone as it was also dinner! The tables were filled with AWESOME foods, the hot warmers were filled and snack tables set up, desserts on display, thanks to the Caloosa Happy Hour Team. Charlie & Karen Autry were the Captains of the team, John & Lu Ann Zink, Jan & Mike Dippel, Dave & Barb Wilkie, as well as a few others who pitched in at the last minute! Tables were called in order and it really is amazing how many different dishes we had to enjoy!!!

“GLITZ & GLAMOUR PARADE”

At 6:30pm it was time for our BIG parade! It was amazing how many people actually dressed for the theme and what a GLAMOUROUS group they were! As you can see from the pictures—this was a REALLY fun parade!





The parade judges had a really difficult job picking the winners!! Above is a picture of all the winners! THANKS to everyone who participated in the parade!! You all were so clever picking costumes, - and willing to wear them! FUN!!



At 7:00pm our evening entertainer was ready on stage—Anthony Mac—our D.J. returning for the 3rd year! The music was varied—which allowed dancing, and just listening. A conga line was started and paraded around the room a few times picking up people as we went by them. We did several line dancing segments, and the floor was filled with



everyone who had dance lessons earlier!



One of the fun things Anthony does is play a game of “Musical Chairs”! Volunteers (!) are invited to come to the front of the room where 10 chairs are set up. When the music plays they walk around the chairs, when music stops they are instructed to go to the audience and grab an item—a glass, cell phone, belt—and return to the chairs. Since one chair is eliminated, the scramble is to



actually get to sit in a chair. (Picture on the left is Virgie, Karen & Susan all sitting in 2 chairs!) The game goes on until it’s down to 2 contestants. I think it was Mark Barnett and John Murse in the last round! The last item they had to get was a shirt off someone’s back! John was the winner as he grabbed Charlie Autry’s shirt right off his back! All contestants were REALLY good sports and it was fun to watch the game!



John Murse the winner!

Thursday morning the first seminar of the day was “CPR/AED Training”. Thanks to the team of EMT volunteers from “On Scene, Inc.” the professional demonstrations were excellent! Later in the day it was time for the Ice Cream Social, hosted by Janis & Ted Fumia and their team. Joe Bewes, Bruce Byerly, Barb Wilkie, Patti Burnett and probably a few others I’ve missed—they put on their aprons and in a short time were ready for the crowds! The caterer, Channing, gave the crowd some toppings to make sundaes which was REALLY GREAT!

While enjoying their refreshing treat another seminar was on stage. “Proteng Fire Suppression Systems” speaker Eric Arens and his assistants explained how the systems work, did a demonstration how this system works in an RV. It was very impressive and interesting with such new technology.

At 3:30pm Happy Hour was underway once again, thanks to the Happy Hour Committee! A 50/50 raffle was ready to start with the ticket committee out selling tickets! So many people stepped in to help sell tickets, some were not even Caloosas! THANKS to Ed, Jorge, Ellyn, Charlie, Karen, Bob, Mark, John—and others—you all were terrific! We decided to hand out 6 prizes, dividing up the bounty to make more people winners!

Dinner was served at 5:30pm—Fried Chicken and all the trimmings! Soon the stage was set for our evening entertainers!

THE MARLINAIRES



Jack Marlin, his daughter Michelle, and son Chris, just dazzled us with their showmanship, talents displayed on guitar, fiddle & banjo, plus their great storytelling about music. Their impersonations, (Jack was hysterical changing hats between Willie & Waylon—song was Good Hearted Woman) playing Johnny Cash, Michelle singing Elvis with the signature sunglasses and swinging that microphone— their comedy was just delightful, you had to be there to see it! This versatile family band create terrific harmony blends that comes from family after years of singing together. They took some requests from the audience, interacted with the group, and played so many kinds of music, country, pop, mountain music, bluegrass, tropical, and even honky tonk! They played some line dancing music as you can see in the picture on the left of some of our dancers! The time just flew by and again—no one left early—it was such an enjoyable way to close out our day.



Friday morning at 8:30am a continental breakfast was ready in the Rally Center to be enjoyed on our last day. We thanked everyone for attending this rally and hopefully they had a GREAT experience. The Caloosas worked hard to make this event FUN first of all, a place to see friends from years past, meet new friends, enjoy some good food, learn something from a seminar, and buy or make a gift for yourself. I personally have to thank every single Caloosa who attended, volunteered and helped, some without being asked, you all are a TERRIFIC group of special people and THANKS doesn’t seem to be enough to say! This 3rd annual rally was our last big one. I’m so glad it was such a success—thanks my husband Jerry, and to Karen & Charlie Autry especially, for you all being my BEST friends, advisors, and devoted members!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth Lowden & Judy McClain
Joe & Cheri Sala



Nick & Ginny Sanborn
Michael & Janet Snavely

FUTURE EVENTS

2020

November 5—8 Big Cypress RV Resort, Clewiston FL
November 8—15 Jolly Roger RV Resort, Marathon, FL (not a regular meeting, just for fun!)
December 3—6 Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL 50th Anniversary Party

2021

January 7—10 Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL
February 4—7 Red Oaks RV Resort, Bushnell, FL
March 4—7 TBA—not finalized
April 8—11 Tampa East RV Resort, Dover, FL
May 6—9 KOA Clearwater/Tarpon Springs, Palm Harbor, FL



Message from the Wagon Queen

I must apologize for being late with the recent newsletters. Sometimes you just don't have to CHILL, but have to rearrange priorities. As you should know, the Caloosa Winnies activities have always been my priority by having and doing things on time! That was until Jerry and I sold our house recently, attended the January meeting, did the February rally, and participated in the March Caloosa cruise on RCL. In between those events we had to clean out 21 years of STUFF, toss some, garage sale some, give away some and pack up the rest! Now that we have completed all the above tasks we are enjoying the time living in our motorhome in local parks while we watch our new home being built! We are extremely SAD our April and May events had to be cancelled. Of course no one could question the reasons why this happened, turning on any news media is pretty explanatory. Hopefully none of the Caloosas have contacted this virus, and are staying safe with all the rules. As soon as we get the ALL CLEAR to venture out in public with restaurants being opened again, however cautious we have to be, we will get together somehow—as many of us who are able to do so. Even a lunch some place sounds DELIGHTFUL to us! Right? If that happens we will be in touch to see how we can do that. Feel free to contact me any time, let us know what you're doing. Summer plans are up in the air right now for most of us, we hope things do get better in time for some traveling. The Millers are staying in Florida for the summer, we'll be in Naples as we need to keep an eye on our home being built. Move in should be late August or early Sept. we think. Our address will change then, for now we are using my son's house for mail. STAY SAFE where you are and we are extremely lucky to be healthy—let's hope we stay that way! Don't forget to WASH YOUR HANDS!!!

Nancy Miller

