

# “The Roadrunner Express”



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Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!

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March 8—15, 2020 some of the Caloosa Winnies members went on a cruise vacation! The cruise was planned 18 months ago due to the lack of available campgrounds in March! Our cruise was on Harmony of the Seas, a Royal Caribbean ship. Everyone in the group traveled to Cocoa Beach, FL the day before departure on the ship and met at a Best Western Hotel. The members who joined in the cruise were Karen & Charlie Autry, Bruce & Linda Byerly, Frank & Diane Cipolla, Mike & Jan Dippel, John & Lucy Murse, Dave & Barb Wilkie, and friends of Mike & Jan, John Jacobsen & Pat Gordon. Saturday night before sailing we all went to dinner at a local barbecue restaurant and had a great dinner!



Sunday morning our pre-arranged shuttle met us at the hotel at noon and we were off for our adventure! Getting on board the ship was easy, with everyone having temperatures taken just to screen out anyone who might be ill. We were informed as we were boarding that the ship itinerary had been changed! Our destination was to be the Eastern Caribbean but due to bad weather the ship was going to Western Caribbean! That was disappointing as we picked the cruise for the itinerary, BUT—we had to trust the cruise line they did what was best for us. Later in the cruise we did hear about the really bad seas in the Eastern area—we were just happy to be on a SHIP for this week!

The cabins were open, we found our way to the 8th deck and our cabins, then we were off to have lunch and explore this massive ship! Some of us have been on the sister ships, Oasis of the Seas and Allure of the Seas and this ship was about the same size.

Each day everyone spent their time just enjoying the ship activities and shopping. We met at a different lounge each day about 4:00pm for Happy Hour and trading adventures of what we did for the day. Dinner every evening was in the main dining room and our tables were next to each other. The dining room was staffed with excellent waiters and assistants, it is always amazing how they prepare and serve over 5,000 meals at one time! YIKES!

One night we all decided to go to the specialty restaurant, Chops Steak House. This was a fun time as it always is when you mix food, drinks and the Caloosas!



### Inside this issue:

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Row 1, L to R: Lucy Murse, Karen Autry. Barb Wilkie, Jan Dippel, Linda & Bruce Byerly, Diane & Frank Cipolla. Row 2, L to R: John Murse, Dave Wilkie, Pat Gordon. Row 4, L to R: Charlie Autry, Nancy Miller. Row 5, L to R: Jerry Miller, Mike Dippel.

The first formal night we gathered on Deck 5 at the staircase to have a group photo taken! What a good lookin' group!



As on most cruise ships they keep you busy with more activities than one can do! Harmony had parades on 2 different days, with so many floats, costumes, music, it was just fun to watch!

The evening entertainment each night was really great! There were plays, musicals, ice skating performances, comedians, ventriloquists, and the Broadway show on the last evening was "Grease".

The ports of call were Cozumel, Mexico and Costa Maya, Mexico. Some of us explored these 2 ports and checked out the shops. CocoCay (photo on the right) was also one of the stops, a man made

attraction filled with beaches and all kinds of water activities. Photo on the left is "Daredevils Tower, a water slide. (No, we did not try it out!)

RCL built this island and it opened last December and it was very well done. A free trolley takes a trip around the island with stops at various venues. Lots of food and drink locations at each stop, all safe as all the product comes off the ship.

On March 10th during Happy Hour at 4:00pm we did hold our business meeting, there was no quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm, business completed!



DINNER IN THE DINING ROOM



L to R: Jerry, Karen, Charlie, John Murse



Diane & Frank



L to R: John Jacobsen, Pat, Jan & Mike



L to R: Bruce, Linda, Barb & Dave



One of the fun things on this ship was the Bionic Bar! Your editor had to try this out and found it fun to watch! A computer asks you for your drink order, tells you what to put in the mix, then proceeds to make your drink! Up on the glass wall you will watch as the bionic arms to go work adding your ingredients and tells you what steps it is taking on the screen. Then when your drink is ready, it pours the drink, and send it down a shoot for you to pick up! This was a very popular hangout on the ship and I had fun watching something different work! (Everyone has their fun things to do!)



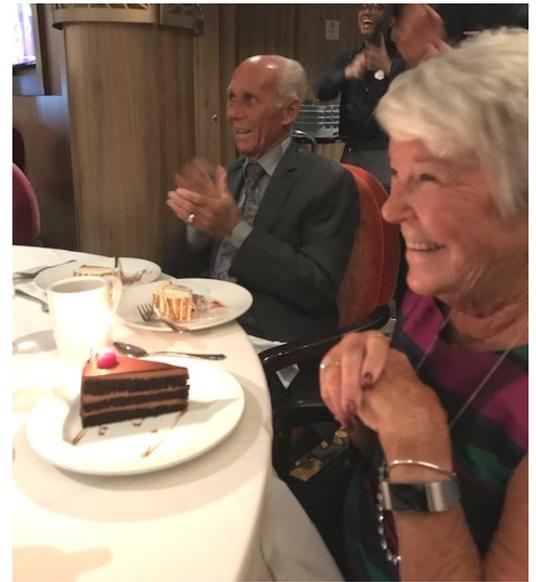
Speaking of fun things to do—check out this picture on the right—THANKS to Dave Wilkie for catching this shot! These 3 guys were taking a break out on the Boardwalk deck of the ship sitting on a bench! When prompted, they did the “Hear No Evil, See No Evil, Speak No Evil” picture!!! It was CLASSIC of the fun we had on this cruise! I’ll bet they didn’t think I’d publish this!



Jerry Miller, John Murse, Frank Cipolla



L to R: Diane, Charlie, Karen, Nancy



Charlie & Karen with her birthday cake!

One of the fun events we got to share in during the cruise was a special birthday for Karen. She got a special piece of cake and we all sang Happy Birthday to her including our waiters! THANKS to Dave Wilkie for the photos!



L to R: Mike, Jan, Pat, Dave, Barb, Bruce Linda

Here's another way some of the group spent their days! They found the hot tubs and enjoyed the afternoon! The pools and hot tubs, solarium, all great places to spend the day.

All too soon the cruise came to an end on March 15. our shuttle company met us and picked us on time. Back at the hotel where we left our cars it was time to say our goodbyes!

We are lucky to have escaped the corona virus situation as far as we know—no passengers on our ship were ill, and all of us were back home and doing well. We were told before we left the ship that RCL had grounded all ships and Harmony would be docked for the unknown future. Fortunately we were able to celebrate our time on the seas, and look forward to going again in the future!

## 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



This will be the last newsletter for our camping season. Any news about our schedule additions will be emailed out to everyone. By the time we are preparing for our November meetings you will be hearing from me later in the summer so we can make our plans for Big Cypress and the Keys. By fall we will be in our new house if everything stays on schedule. If you have any news about yourselves, let me know and we'll share with the members. Hopefully the country will open up soon so we can all get on with our lives - however carefully. STAY WELL, WASH YOUR HANDS and don't let your guard down with this virus. Happy travels as places allow us to enjoy our RV lifestyle!

