

# "The Roadrunner Express"



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Life is meant for good friends, and great adventures!

## OFFICERS 2022

### Presidents

Mark & Patti Burnett

### 1st Vice Presidents

Joe & Ellyn Bewes

### 2nd Vice Presidents

John & Lu Ann Zink

### Secretary

Jan & Mike Dippel

### Treasurer

Tim & Karen Mayes

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May 5—8, 2022 the Caloosa Winnies traveled to one of our favorite parks, Alligator Park in Punta Gorda, FL for our last meeting of the season. The theme for this meeting was our Kentucky Derby Party! It's been 4 years since we celebrated this event and everyone was ready with their derby attire, including exciting HATS designed for this occasion!

Thursday arrivals were met by our GREAT 2nd Vice Presidents, John & LuAnn Zink who always greet everyone with SMILES and directions! 19 coaches in all were in attendance, plus some members who live in the park also joined us.

At Happy Hour beginning at 4:00pm we were delighted to welcome back some of our long time members who have been missing from the group for a while. Mary & Dennis Heitman, Joe & Mary Periard, Bob Dalton, Noreen and Keith Litchfield, John & Lucy Murse, with "Baby", —it was GREAT to welcome you back with us! We also welcomed as new members Don & Linda Levine. They were previous members years ago, and now have rejoined the group.



Dinner at 5:30pm was our usual pizza and salad! THANKS to the ladies who made the salads! Soon it was time for ice cream for dessert, as you can see in the right photo our volunteer scoopers were on hand to serve everyone! You'll notice "Baby" is in the ice cream line. She is a unique lady—104 years old and



"Baby" is in line first!  
L to R: Scooping: Don Levine, Joe Sala and Jan Dippel.

mother of our member Lucy Murse. You'll see more of "Baby" later in this newsletter! Cleanup was done quickly with everyone pitching in and it was time to move on to our evening fun game.

"Horse Relay Race" team challenge was ready to be played. Teams were formed, Captains assigned, and rules were explained. Teams were split—half on each side of the room. A team member had to move a plastic horse from one bowl to another, then put the stick horse between their knees and walk to the teammates on the other side of the room. The next teammate would take the horse and repeat the turn, back to the other side. In the right photo is our co-president Patti Burnett taking her turn.





Bob Dalton



Diane Cipolla



Tim Mayes



Janis Fumia cheering on her teammate!



Mark Barnett



Mike Dippel



John Zink



Don Levine



Frank Cipolla

As you can see from the photos, there was lots of laughter, cheering, (and maybe some jeering) but it was all in fun! What's so great about the Caloosas is everyone participates and are such good sports no matter what the challenge is!! It makes it fun for all to do these crazy games!! The winning team is on the photo at the right! Lucy Murse was the Captain and led her team to victory!!!



L to R: Mark, Lucy, Harold, John, Linda, Karen, Jorge!





Saturday morning breakfast was individual choices, and our adventure for the morning was a visit to a Peace River Wildlife Center. The location of the center is in a beautiful park located on the Peace River. The guides were very happy to host our group and explain all the birds and animals who are treated for various injuries. We spent several hours watching the birds and animals and we learned to appreciate the work these people do. Many are volunteers, and our hats are off them for their time hosting our group and their dedication.



For the afternoon several members spent some time enjoying lunch and relaxing in the Alligator Park pool. We gathered back at the clubhouse for Happy Hour at 4:00pm. A 50/50 raffle was held and 3 winners were lucky to have their tickets called. 1st place winner was Dennis Heitman, 2nd place was Cookie Bakunoff and 3rd place was "Baby"! THANKS to the ticket sellers for volunteering to make this a fun thing for all of us!

Soon it was time to leave for our dinner plans. Village Fish Market was the destination in Fisherman's Village in town. This restaurant has always served us without a hitch and this evening was no different. How they served 40 people in the space and time frame was remarkable! And as far as I know, all the dinners were served exactly as ordered! I made sure to thank the staff!!!! It really was a delightful meal to say the least!



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THANKS to Noreen Litchfield for some of these pictures!

Saturday morning breakfast was a potluck—2 tables filled with such amazing dishes!! THANKS to John Zink who is our chief coffee maker to have the coffee ready as we all arrived with food! Everyone had plenty of choices to fill their plates thanks to our great cooks! Our business meeting was called to order by President Mark Burnett, all officers were present and 19 coaches responded to roll call. As usual, our business meetings are fun and lively. Our Treasurer Tim Mayes reported our financial position is strong at this time and has done projections on our future costs. There was some discussion about raising dues to cover the fixed costs. The fact that we will be preparing a slate of officers for the 2023 season to be presented in November met with good conversation. The future camping events were briefly announced and the meeting was adjourned.

The afternoon was free time to rest and relax before the Kentucky Derby party started. Patti Burnett and a few helpers were busy in the kitchen preparing our “Caloosa Mint Juleps” to enjoy while watching the race on the big screen TV. As we were getting closer to the time for



Patti making drinks!

everyone to meet at the clubhouse with their beautiful hat creations and outfits—the skies opened up and we had a monsoon storm! Everyone managed to get into the building in time for our Potluck Hors d’Oeuvres spread of food!



As you can see in the photos on the left we had plenty of food and what a great variety!!

Earlier in this edition I mentioned “Baby” who is Lucy Murse’s mother. This photo is her as she came into the clubhouse! She is quite a lady and was ready to PARTY!!!



After dinner was ended and cleaned up it was time for our parade of hats! The judges were in place to view the parade and were given the categories to be voted on. We THANK all the residents of the park who volunteered to be our judges! The parade began:



WOW what a GREAT selection of creative hats!! The judges had their work cut out for them, but did finally pick the winners!



And these are the winners! L to R: Most colorful hat man—Mike Ketchmark, Best use of horses woman— Diane Cipolla; Best use of horses man—Mark Burnett; Best outfit overall—Cookie Bakunoff; Biggest hat woman—Ellyn Bewes; Best use of flowers woman—Barb Kanoza; Most colorful hat woman—Noreen Litchfield; Biggest hat man, Harold Sizemore. Congratulations and THANKS to you all for your original designs! They all got great prizes too!!!



**EVERYONE ON STAGE TO HAVE A GROUP PICTURE!! OUTSTANDING GROUP!**

Next on the agenda was the betting for the Kentucky Derby Race. Our Treasurer and this editor took the bets and Tim figured the odds and we were settled in to wait for the race to begin. The “Caloosa Mint Juleps” were served to the group!



The race was fun to watch, and the bets were paid off to the winners! Interesting to note that John Zink was the only one to bet on the horse with the biggest odds—and that horse WON!!!! John—can you buy us a lottery ticket?? Lucky!



The fun game for the rest of the evening was our stick horse races! Members lined up on 1 of 6 lanes and got their horses ready to race! The dice were rolled and based on what numbers came up, a horse and rider got to move up one square at a time!



It was a fun time and brought lots of laughs!! THANKS to Mark who rolled the dice for us!

The winners for the guessing game jars we had were announced. Cookie Bakunoff and John Murse guessed the numbers in each jar and were the winners of lots of candy!



The “nickels” players were seen a few times in the back of the room trying to beat each other! Always a lively table of friends having fun!!

Sunday morning we met at the clubhouse for our donut and bagel breakfast to bid farewell to each other until we meet again on the fall. I have to thank all the members who helped through out the weekend by setting up tables, working in the kitchen. cleaning up each day and being there to enjoy some Caloosa time! Happy trails to everyone for the summer fun trips.

**YOU ALL ARE SIMPLY THE BEST!**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JUNE TO:**



- 2 Noreen Litchfield
- 9 Tom Harmer
- 11 Rita Mast
- 15 Joe Bewes
- 23 Mike Dippel

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE TO:**



- 3 Don & Linda Levine
- 4 Tom & Diane Harmer
- 17 Mark & Patti Burnett
- 20 John & Lucy Murse
- 22 Frank & Diane Cipolla
- 25 Tim & Karen Mayes

**OUR NEW MEMBERS**



***RUSS BOSCH & CHRIS JUSSAUME***

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

**2022**

- November 3-6 Alligator RV Park, Punta Gorda, FL
- December 1 -4 Campers Holiday, Brooksville, FL

**2023**

- January 9—12 Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL
- February 9—12 Red Oaks RV Resort, Bushnell, FL
- March 2--5 Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL
- April 3—6 Riverside RV Resort, Arcadia, FL (closer to Port Charlotte)
- May 4--7 Alligator Park, Punta Gorda, (Tentative)

