



A Variety of Talent

Whether you call it a Variety Show or a Talent Show, March 8th and 9th showed the wonderful talent and the super variety that exists here at RCR. From the Colorectal Chorus full of laughs to the awesome *Sixteen Tons* sung by Bob Walter and Patsy Cline's *Crazy* sung by Jean Spondike, talent exploded in every corner of the stage. Cleve, Wayne and Don gave us their memory of the Soggy Bottom Boys by kicking up their hillbilly heels from years gone by. Stars such as Chubby Checkers, the Maguire Sisters, Jerry Lee Lewis (our own Bill Primeau), the Oak Ridge Boys and many others graced the stage in a walk down memory lane with American Bandstand. Such acts as Short People and the Optical Illusion Dance gave us a new angle on the great talent in our park. Doris Fisher led us through a bundle of laughs with her attempt at buying a bathing suit.



group of people we have at RCR and the great support for our events. Many thanks to the director Peter Crich and all the wonderful people it took to put the show together. It takes a whole community to put on such a great production; thanks for all your support and we cannot wait till next year!

Sarah Boehmer

PS from Peter Crich:

Thanks to the audience we have been able to donate 550 food items and a cheque for \$1,000 to the South County Food Pantry. Next year's show is March 7th and 8th and titled RCR's Got Talent. This title will allow for all sorts of weird and wonderful acts and we hope newcomers will join our happy band of entertainers. Circle that date on your calendar right now!!



A special touch and a little tear came when Ralph and Marion Barnes sang *Do You Love Me?* and Jane and Al Bills said their "goodbyes" with *May You Always*. They will surely be missed but their memories are ours forever! Stepping it up was a skit on the *Copacabana* which involved the beautiful Linda Leslie and Linda Gaudet involved in murder, intrigue and love, with the support of a great cast.

Many honors were given the different areas of the service and followed up with a wonderful tribute read by Peter Crich to the American philosophy of being there when needed. This year emphasized what a wonderful, talented



Activities Report



Lori Lilly
Activities Director

Another season ending ...but rest up for 2014-2015!

It seems like just yesterday I was gearing up for Halloween and booking DJs to get ready for the 2013-2014 season. Now here I am trying to put it all together with everything in place for the 2014-2015 season. One thing I have learned in life that is a sure

thing everyday...time does not slow down for anyone. How lucky we all are to be able to spend this time together in such a fun place though. I am not sure that we could fit much more in this season but I am looking into it for the next one. I have already announced the entertainment for the concert series. These performances are fantastic and you will not want to miss them. The reserved seating has gone over very well and it seems everyone has enjoyed the pre-concert parties. That will continue. While you can no longer purchase reserved seating this year it will be available again next fall until December 31st. The cost is only \$36 per person for the three shows. Also returning next

year, back by popular demand, is Johnny Rogers! He is such a performer and entertainer that I have asked him back again with a different show. He is now performing full time in Branson but has agreed to return. If you did not see his show this season you will not want to miss this one for sure. On December 5th Gregg Clemons, a CBS recording artist, will feature a myriad of holiday favorites mixed with some great American classics. Gregg, along with his wife and daughter, will get us all into the holiday feeling.

Everything, and more, will be offered again next season. Whether you want to dance, play cards, learn a skill, make a craft and more, or just go to the beach to see the sunset, this is the place you want to spend time in the life you have been given.

Thank you to all the volunteers and the special people that make this park what it is. Without all of you I would not be able or would not want to do this job as activity director. Your time and efforts no matter how big or small are appreciated beyond. Everyone here has a part in making RCR paradise and a great place to spend time. Hoping everyone has a safe and healthy summer.

Thank You for a wonderful season!

Lori

Volunteer Roundup



Pat Lang
Coordinator of Volunteers

As I sit at the computer to write this last column of the 2014 season, I reflect on all of the activities and events that have taken place and are still taking place.

We have 90 on-going activities – which allow us to exercise in the water and out, enjoy a game of cards, express our creativity in a variety of craft mediums, enjoy a sport, attend a church service, learn about and how to use our computers and

other electronic devices, dance, borrow a bike or other items from Grandma's Attic, share our culinary talent at pot lucks, enjoy a variety of music, . . .

There are 45 senior games activities providing competitive and non-competitive activities for all.

Finally, 70 one-time events: dinners, shows, movies, beach parties, state and country parties, the Variety Show, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials, pool parties, anniversary and birthday celebrations, picnics, auctions, holiday events and celebrations . . .

There is something for everyone, and these events all happen because of *you*, the resident volunteers.

THANK YOU

I look forward to coordinating the volunteer needs with resident volunteers again next season. I wish you safe travels and good health in the summer months.

Pat Lang

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Message from the Manager



Jason Rosenberg
Park Manager

It has been a pleasure to serve as your General Manager over the last seven years. I feel that we have accomplished many great things for the resort. We still have very ambitious goals that we have outlined as a company and I fully expect that you will see more positive changes in the coming years.

As I said at my last State of the Park meeting, the Resident Board has been instrumental in securing many of the recent upgrades and renovation

projects and you should be very proud of their service. They act as a conduit between the residents and management and have been a real pleasure to work with. You are in good hands!

To the Royal Coachman Staff, I send a special thank you for all of your hard work and service. You truly are a special group and the residents are lucky to have you. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for the resort and its most precious assets- the residents.

Take care and best of luck to all of you.

Jason

Residents Association News

Well, how the time flies! Last Saturday I was involved with taking care of some projects around my place and heard the square-dance caller. This caused reflection; all the sounds of the people and activities will fall silent soon as the trek northward is getting near. Sunday, another beautiful day, I went to get our mail and noticed all the people at the pool, riding bikes and visiting with one another. What a great place we all have here at RCR and what a great group of people.

I believe we have had another stellar season, with all the great activities...thanks Lori and thanks to all the volunteers. Many thanks to Jason for all the things he has helped the park and the residents accomplish this year and over the years. I have still not heard who the new manager will be, but I have confidence Jason will head up a smooth transition. Jason mentioned to me that it is down to a couple of candidates and also commented that I will get along very well with either choice. I am looking forward to working with the new manager while representing the board and all park residents. I have been given a great op-

portunity as a full time resident to work year round for all of you.

Along those lines I will be sending out monthly park updates via email. As promised, this will improve communication with you year round. I plan to do this the first week of the month beginning in May and continuing till October. Please feel free to email me at geo-jen2@gmail.com if you do not hear from me, so I can add your email address, and please set your email to allow messages from my address.

Finally, speaking for all the board members, I would like to extend to everyone a wonderful, warm and prosperous summer season. I look forward to your return and all the great sounds and activities that make this our wonderful resort. Travel safely!!

George Shepard



George Shepard
Board President

RCR Craft Show

The annual craft show was held on March 23rd, and proved once again that the talent here in the park is phenomenal! We got a note from Chairman Ken Rabbers reminding us that this show is not to be confused with the craft *fair* that is held throughout the year by talented craftspeople who display the handmade items they have for sale.

The craft *show* is held only once a year to display the artistry that members of the group have been working on throughout the season. The event was held in the rec hall, where residents and friends were able to view the remarkable creations of these enormously talented craftspeople, all residents of the park. On display were quilts, paintings, beautiful marquetry, stained glass and needlework of eve-

ry kind. Music by the dulcimer group was icing on the cake.

The carvings included everything from a miniature circus by Roy Anderson that included every tiny detail, to Bill Clark's "pay" outhouse, that rewarded its user by falling to the floor with a crash when a coin was inserted, much to the delight of the onlookers.

A very interesting display pictured various projects that the shop club has taken on for our comfort and convenience. Benches, bridges, stairs, the rec hall kitchen and many other things that we all take for granted were completed by the group. In addition to being creative, the club prides itself in helping to make RCR the best park in the state....and we have no doubt that all our residents will heartily agree to that!



News Around the Park

RCR Car Show

This season's car show can only be described as a complete success. The outstanding weather contributed to the large crowds and the high number of cars entered. By noon there were display and visitor cars parked in every available spot. At the last count there were 71 cars registered ranging from a 1914 Model T Ford to a 1999 Chevrolet Corvette convertible. Included in the show were vehicle from all generations plus a scattering of British sports cars. There were some very pedestrian vehicles to those on the edge of design such as the 1954 Kaiser Darrin roadster. There was even your father's Oldsmobile. Ron Cournoyer can be justly proud of the excellent event he and his staff provided. As successful as the car show, the food sales were equally impressive. A combination of almost 800 hamburgers and hot dogs were sold.



1954 Kaiser Darrin

Shop Party 2014

What do you get when you combine BBQ Chicken, a trivia-minded DJ, lots of hand-crafted wooden items and early era rock and roll? Answer: "Life in Paradise", otherwise known as the RCR Shop Party. Thursday, February 27th, 214 RCR residents came out and none left disappointed. (Well, maybe a few, but only because they did not win one of the fabulous items either given away through a raffle, silent auction, door prize or 50/50.) Several of the things shop members created included wooden bowls, step stools, touch pens for iPads, a vase, a hand-painted plate, and wine stoppers, just to mention



Bob Weed, DJ

a few. There is truly a lot of talent to be found in our shop members.

A somber moment, led by Don Koleson, Chairperson, was in remembrance of Gary Shepline, a great, generous guy and President of the Shop Club when he passed away last summer. He will surely be missed by the shop club.

The DJ, Bob Weed, certainly knows how to involve the crowd. He tries his best to stump the audience with his trivia questions, all related to the 50s and 60s and different each year. If you are fortunate and have a good memory (?) you might win a CD or a lottery ticket. For example,

did you know the '57 Chevy was the most popular car during the rock & roll era? You may have known that, but did you know why? The backseat, of course. And that Budweiser is "The King of Beers", or in addition to The McGuire Sisters recording "Sincerely", the Moonglows actually beat them to it. Oh, there was lots of good music and dancing too, including the line dancers who got to strut their stuff.

The food came from Gold Rush BBQ and was delicious: BBQ chicken, BBQ pork, slaw, baked beans and cornbread, plus ice cream sundaes from Bentley's for dessert.

This is one of the most popular parties of the season, always a sellout, so if you missed it, keep it in mind for next year.....

Gina Haisley



Wood Talent on Display



More...News Around the Park

Clubhouse Picnic

The Clubhouse Picnic is a new RCR event, replacing the Pub Night of old and is very well attended. Reminiscent of the prior pub night are the games being played; darts, pool and putting. There is a man and woman winner in each game and they are rewarded with a \$5 gift certificate to be used toward any RCR event. A 50/50 raffle is held, plus popcorn and snacks are available throughout the evening.

There the similarities end. Hot dogs are provided for all and everyone brings a dish to share. There is an overabundance of food. Music was pro-

vided by the *Wannabees*, a fabulous duo who plays rock and roll, Jimmy Buffet and ballads. They are scheduled to play for our next New Year's Eve party. Tables are set up both inside and out. This is great, no cooking (except your dish), no dishes to wash, just come and have a good time. Did I mention there was dancing?

Beginning at 4:30 PM, (a true early-bird experience), you need to get there or be left out. The food was almost gone by 5:00. A big thank you goes to Judy Spiller who coordinates this event and her able assistants: John and Lynn Shinner and Tina Schwartz. Mark this event on your calendar.

Gina Haisley



Happy Cookers

Sarasota Expo Shuffleboard

This year RCR hosted the Sarasota Expo Shuffleboard tournament. This was one of nine Expo 2014 events. Twenty six shuffleboard teams from six parks gathered at RCR to see who would be the best, that day. Three RCR teams were entered; Ray Tarnowski and Jeff Coles, Don Rush and Emmitt Dinn and John Mosier and Bill Spiller. Lori and Jeff Lilly did a great job setting up the event and making sure everything went smoothly with help from Roy Anderson. They had many compliments on how well it was organized. In the end, the top three places were won by teams from Harbor Lakes in Port Charlotte.



Don Rush on the attack

Sewing and Quilting

On March 6, twenty members of the Sewing and Quilting classes traveled to Sun-N-Fun in Sarasota for an annual luncheon and sharing of projects and ideas. Many wonderful creations were exhibited by ladies from both parks and directions were shared for many of the projects.

The Sun-N-Fun ladies also exhibited their great culinary arts skills by providing us with a wonderful soup and salad luncheon. Hand-sewn (of course) microwave bowl holders were given to each person who attended from RCR.

Hosting of this annual luncheon alternates between Royal Coachman Resort and Sun-N-Fun. It is one of the highlights of our season.



Sewing Quilting Projects



Backyard Totem Pole

Site 99 is just in front of the Club House and over the past ten years I have passed this site several times a day. When the totem pole was mounted I knew there had to be a back story. The residents, Bill and Helen Clark always seemed busy; especially Bill with his woodcarving. Therefore, I decided to stop and get the “real story.”



Bill and the Totem

Bill started wood carving in 1999 after attending a meeting of the Carving Group in the park. He admits that he knew nothing about wood carving prior to that meeting. As will happen to many of us, that exposure sparked Bill's interest in wood carving. Since that time he has spent many hours learning about a timeless craft.

During each winter, here in the park, he concentrates on carving cypress knees, most of which he obtains at a

cypress wood outlet in Waldo, Florida, near Gainesville. The result is what is termed a wood spirit. There seems to be a common theme of a face on each wood spirit. Some of them are made into bird houses which have an entrance no larger than a quarter to restrict the use to smaller birds.

At home in Duanesburg, New York, located just west of Albany, Bill spends most of his time doing chain saw carving and has a 17-ft totem pole at his residence that he completed eight years ago. He has also done a number of chain saw carvings for others living in his local area. The totem he recently installed at his site started with a log he found locally. Over the past six weeks he has carved away with the result being what you can see today.

In addition to the wood spirits and totem poles Bill carves many other items. He is currently working on a wooden chain. Each link takes about one hour to complete. He is also fond of carving small Santa Clauses.

Bill is almost entirely self-taught. He stated that he has just about every book or video about chain saw carving and many other books on wood carving. He will sell anything that he carves but does no advertising, relying on word of mouth to bring customers. Here in the park you can stop at any time and view what he has completed.



Wood Spirits

Before you leave . . . don't forget

Each year almost everyone in the park has to prepare their unit for several months of peace and quiet. If you do not do certain things, while you are gone something unwelcome may occur. In the past we have presented guidelines to use in closing up your unit for the summer months. These are simple guidelines. If you ask five neighbors what they do, you probably will get five different answers! You can find those guidelines in the 2013 April Macaw online at the RCR web site. Just click on this link: www.royalcoachmanresort.com/index.htm

This is advice from Tri County Air Conditioning:

Mildew, which can be a health hazard, thrives in **cool, dark** and **humid** conditions. The humidi-stat is set so that it reacts to high humidity by turning on the air conditioner....not to cool the house, but to decrease the moisture. Set air conditioner/humidistat according to instructions provided by installer. (Generally, humidistat at 55-60 and thermostat at 80). If you do not have air conditioning in your lanai, crack open the windows to allow for circulation.



Sometimes it takes a war to get two brothers together!

That was the “caption” on the picture our son, Jeff, sent to us in mid-January. He and his younger brother, Kevin, had just had a visit at Bagram Air Base in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Both our sons found themselves in Afghanistan through totally opposite circumstances. Jeff joined the Navy after high school and spent six years in nuclear power training with the last three years aboard the *USS Eisenhower*. He then went to college while remaining in the Navy Reserves. He graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree and then went to Officer Candidate School and became a naval officer. After 27 years active and reserve service he had just attained the rank of Lt. Cdr. when he found himself called up, this past July, to serve in Afghanistan at age 45.

Our younger son, Kevin, was downsized from his electrical engineering job in 2010. After



Kevin and Jeff Schaefer

spending a year looking for a job, doing some part time work and not seeing anything promising on the horizon, he took a job with a civilian contracting engineering company in Afghanistan. Since 2011 he has alternated spending three months in Kabul and then three weeks of R&R in the U.S.

The two of them had not seen each other since we all celebrated their dad’s retirement in December 2008. They have managed one other meeting since the one in January, but because they must travel with an armed group where ever they go, they never know when, or if, they will be in the same place at the same time.

Jeff is scheduled to come home in April or May. Kevin is due for his three week R&R in late February and is not sure how long he will remain in Afghanistan. It will depend on when our troops are pulled out of the country. We will both be glad when they are both back safe on U.S. soil.

Ron and Bev Schaefer

Great Horned Owls, also known as **Tiger Owls**, have nested or visited RCR for the ten years John and I have wintered here and probably longer. These beautiful, large predators bring a bit of the wild to our park. What a treat to hear them calling to their mates in late fall or early winter or catch a glimpse of one flying silently overhead or perching in a nearby tree, usually at dusk or in the middle of the night.



The Great Horned Owl is the second heaviest owl in North America. Females are somewhat larger than males. Its “horns” are neither ears nor horns, simply tufts of feathers. Their feet and talons are large and powerful. Its call is normally low-pitched and distinct ... ho-ho-hoo hoo hoo ... the female’s call being higher and rises in pitch at the end of the call.

Great Horned Owls breed in late January or

early February and are often heard calling to each other regularly as early in the fall as October. Males select the nesting sites and bring females’ attention to them by flying to them and then stomping on them. There are usually two eggs per clutch. The female alone incubates the eggs while the male owl captures food and brings it to her. Young owls move onto nearby branches at six weeks, and are called “branchers.” They start to fly about a week later. Great Horned Owls are excellent parents. Adult birds may not breed for another year or two. Wild owls have a maximum recorded lifespan of 13 years.



Keep your eyes open wide and your ears alert You too may be fortunate enough to experience viewing these wonderful creatures up close and personal.

Info from Wikipedia Photography by Betty Baird



A Musical RCR History Lesson

It was January of 1986 when Katie Morse (an RCR resident and professional pianist) gathered together 33 interested singers to form the RCR Chorus. They practiced weekly and performed several times that first year, at a chapel service and once at the potluck dinner. In 1987 a few more singers joined and in March they performed the very first RCR Chorus Concert which included 11 choral selections. In 1988, in addition to a concert in March, they performed three songs in the RCR Talent Show, presented a Christmas Concert/Sing-along and began singing at nursing/retirement homes (which they still do). The Chorus continued to grow and by 2007 membership was at 56 and in 2012 reached an all time high of 63 singers. There are 45 singers this year and the concert includes 13 selections.

Katie Morse directed the RCR Chorus for 10 years. In 1996, Ed Rodgers, Marilyn Hunter and Arline Wilson (sisters) shared the directing and Katie accompanied on the piano. Pat Klein took over as pianist when Katie could no longer serve. The three directors, Ed, Marilyn and Arline continued to direct through 2000 and Marilyn and Arline directed from 2001 through 2004. Frank Amick directed the chorus in 2005 and Linda Rogers accompanied. From 2006 through 2010 a mixture of directors shared the responsibility, including Marilyn, Arline, Frank, Marilynn Lee, Mary Jane Franklin and Norma Weller. In 2011 through 2013 Norma Weller assumed the directing with Arline assisting and Anne Brown and Linda Rogers as accompanists.

2014 began with two serious problems for the chorus. First, Norma was uncertain as to whether she would be able to direct, and second no pianist had volunteered. There was relief when Norma was able to continue, with Arline Wilson assisting. Two pianists did come forward, Lynne Rose and Anne Brown, with Linda Rogers volunteering to accompany for the nursing home concerts. All was in order and practices going well when illness in Norma's family required her to return to Canada on March 2nd. (Our prayers go with her and we miss her.) That left the responsibility of directing the 29th Annual Concert on March 22nd to Arline. With her history of 19 years a choir member, and 17 of those as directing, who better to do it! We are proud of her.

The Royal Coachman Chorus is open to all residents who enjoy singing. The need for pianists and directors is an ongoing concern. Rehearsals begin in January and are on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 with sectional rehearsals on Wednesday from 2:45 to 3:45 (for note-learning and especially valuable to those who cannot read music). Dues are \$5 each year and help defray music expenses; the larger share of expenses are covered by the free-will offering donated at the annual concert each March. The Chorus Library Index lists a virtual treasury of music that has been purchased and sung in these past 29 years. Come join us and become part of our future history lesson.

Mary Jane Franklin — chorus member since 1995

The RCR Angler's Club

The RCR Angler's Club (Fish Club) began in 2006 with about 12 members and it has grown to 42 members this year. December through March the club meets the first Tuesday of the month to discuss upcoming fishing trips, past trips, fishing regulations and the annual fish fry among other things.

Every month 20-25 members of the club go out about 14-18 miles into the gulf waters on a 55-foot boat. Club members have a great time trying to catch the "Big One!" There are other organized trips on a smaller boat which takes six members out into the gulf 30-35 miles.

The members of the club built and maintain a fish cleaning station located in the back of the park near the

present dog walk.

The final event of the year is the fish fry where all members and a spouse or guest can enjoy the many kinds of fish which have been caught: grouper, mangrove snapper, lane snapper, perch, porgy and trigger fish. There are also delicious side dishes, hush puppies, salads, vegetables and desserts brought by the members to be enjoyed as well. This year the club was delighted to have as guests, Captain Jack, his wife Kelly, and first mate, Dick, from their boat the *Reef Raider*.



Anyone interested in becoming a member of the club and going on fishing trips can contact any of the officers. This year's officers are:

President, Norm Jung, Vice-President, Patty Hicks and Secretary/Treasurer, Carol Santini.

Carol Santini