



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

The state of Florida is a hot bed of senior softball and RCR is well represented in the sport. Currently, five residents are weekly players. Don Stoecker plays on Mondays, Euie Oates and Roy Anderson on Wednesdays and Dick Brown and Dave Skiver on Thursdays.

All games are double headers, begin at 9 a.m., and are played at Bypass Park in Venice. The park is located behind the Venice VFW, at the end of Country Club Way. Some rules have been modified to accommodate the ages of the players. For instance, each team is allowed one extra infielder and outfielder on defense allowing



l-r Dick Brown, Dave Skiver, Don Stoecker. Roy Anderson, not pictured: Euie Oates

for eleven players instead of the traditional nine. Other minor changes have been implemented to make the game as safe as possible. Collisions are frowned upon at this age. The games are fast paced with lots of action, the players still perform at a high skill level and the hitting is outstanding.

If you need a baseball fix before spring training starts, stop by and watch a game. Since spectators are in short supply, good seats are always available.

Roy Anderson

The Drone Squad

You cannot open a paper or magazine today without seeing something on “drones.” Did you know RCR has its own “Drone Squad?” Every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. a small, but devoted, group of residents meet in the Rec Hall to fly their remote-control helicopters.



Ed to chopper, “OK, where are you going now?”

There is no real organization, no officers, no dues and no real requirements. Just a common interest in learning to fly these machines and putting them through their paces. Founded about three years

ago by Larry Spoor and Ken Wilson, the group has grown slowly to just under ten members. Everyone is welcome to join in, or just observe. So stop by and enjoy.

Kerry Gonnam



l-r Ed Lundin, Ken Wilson, Chuck Genrich, Al Santini, Jim Remus



Activities Report



Lori Lilly
Activities Director

I hope everyone has been enjoying all the fun this season at RCR. It has been great to have the Clubhouse picnic back in full force again serving beer, hotdogs and super music. The season concerts seem to be well received. The *Sounds of Soul* brought us back to the fabulous sounds of Motown in January. February's concert on the 28th, featuring *New Odyssey*, will be an evening of entertain-

ment explosion! Three guys and thirty instruments will be the absolute ultimate. Jenni Grout will be gracing us with a concert on February 7 at 7 p.m. in the rec hall. She is relat-

ed to Jean and Freeman Grout and was a participant in Arabs Got Talent with a second place finish. You can go to youtube to see her. This concert will be free but donations will be accepted. You can also grab your sweetheart and attend the Valentine Dance on February 14. Daniel will be returning for the entertainment. If that is not your style, dust off those cowboy boots and attend the shop club dance on February 24. There will be great prizes and you will have a fun night western style. The ever popular senior games will also be taking place this month with the addition of golf and hula hoop. That is always a super time for everyone either to participate or compete. So, as you see, we are not ready to slow down yet! It has been a season with a lot happening and still more to come. There is something available for everyone.

Lori

Volunteers continue to make it happen



Pat Lang
Coordinator of Volunteers

A w e s o m e. December and January have been filled with fun events, good food and fantastic shows. Early in December, resident volunteers shared their Christmas spirit by purchasing gifts for Little Sisters and Little Brothers. The annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Party is such a wonderful event. The "Bigs" and "Littles" enjoy a variety of activities, lunch and a visit from Santa, Mrs. Claus and some of the elves. Resi-

dents also provided cookies and many hand-crafted items for the children.

The resort was so beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. Groups of volunteers decked our halls, the entrance, outside area, pool, veranda, boardwalk and other areas so festively. The Christmas Eve Parade was one of the best we have had. Caroling and cookies followed the parade. For those with a sweet tooth, a Sweet Treat Holiday Party, complete with fun and games, was held.

On Christmas Eve, the resort was glowing with the candlelight from so many luminaries. Many hands made light work of making them, selling them, putting them out, lighting them and then picking them up on Christmas Day.

Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were very well attended, and many volunteers set up, decorated, cooked, served and cleaned up afterward. Rumor has it that there are many good cooks in RCR (and many good "eaters" too).

Not as visual are activities including a variety of classes, discussion groups, card or other games, picnics/pot lucks, etc., that take place on a regular basis. We feel safer at night because of the Citizens Patrol; we get our mail and packages delivered to a private mail box; we can monitor our blood pressure and keep healthy through a variety of exercise options.

None of the above would have taken place without our **volunteers. Volunteers do make it happen.**

Residents have been so forthcoming to "work" on events. Ticket takers, food servers, decorators – the list goes on and, as the season goes on, we will need more volunteers to help with the events. Remember too, that once a month, a Volunteer/Information meeting is held in the Club House. We encourage all of you to attend to find out what is happening in the resort, which activities need volunteers (you can ask for volunteers for your event), go over the next month's calendar and get general information about items which may affect your activities.

Pat Lang

The Real Macaw Sponsored by Encore Royal Coachman Resort Manager: Carla Easton

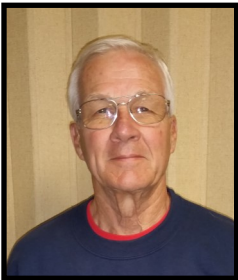
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Photos by: Chuck Genrich, Kerry Gonnam, Cathy Reyka, Dolores Samulski, Richard Waughtal



From the Editor



Chuck Genrich
Macaw Editor

I do not plan on having something in the Macaw every month but after we finished the January issue more thoughts came to mind.

First, we have a great staff that writes articles every month. We also have several monthly columns for the purpose of keeping everyone informed. However, I think that there is one untapped resource: the park residents. I know that there are undiscovered writers out there. If you would like to submit an article,

please feel free to do so. After 30 years of doing newsletters I have heard it all: "I cannot write very well, I do not have anything interesting to write about," yada, yada, yada. Well, do not sell yourself short. Just like the big city, I know that there are a million stories out there with interesting people doing interesting things. The articles in this

issue, by Roy Anderson (Take Me Out to the Ball Game) and Bill Rogowski (Once in a Life Time), are a perfect example of what I am referring to. While the staff is very observant and aware of things happening in the park we cannot know everything. If you want to submit something, send it to me at cgenrich9@mowisp.net. If you have any questions just email me or stop me at any time. Of course, we want you to do your best but do not be overly concerned about style, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and the like. We have many eyes looking at every word before printing and will not let you be embarrassed.

Also, pictures make an article pop. If you cannot take pictures, Richard Waughtal has a great group of photogs. Try it, you might be surprised at the result and you may wind up on the staff. I will consider almost anything that has to do with Royal Coachman. However, we do not do weddings, obituaries, birthdays or anniversaries.

RCR Board Happenings



Kerry Gonnam
Board Advisor

The RCR Board has had an interesting winter season. However, we have been able to complete a couple of projects for the betterment of the park. Our first major addition was two new golf practice nets that have been placed behind the horseshoe area, along the bay, for the use of our golfing residents. These nets were purchased with funds from our Residents' Activity Fund. Also purchased by the Activity Fund were ten folding tables that residents may borrow for events in the

park. Contact Lori Lilly for particulars on this. The board is also considering requests for some new speakers for the audio system in the Rec Hall and a new boom box for the ladies to use during their water aerobics.

Of course, much research and discussion over the proposed home owners association (HOA) and non-profit

incorporation has been done by the board. A small amount of money was spent to get an opinion from a Florida-licensed attorney regarding our eligibility for an HOA. This research resulted in the opinion that RCR is an RV park and not eligible for an HOA. Discussion of the alternative non-profit incorporation resulted in the decision to not have a special election at this time. It was not proved to the board that any advantages in dealing with ELS and/or park management would result from this approach. The board has decided to go forward with a regular annual meeting and election.

This election on February 28, at 10:30 a.m., in the Rec Hall will be an important one for this board. Six of the nine positions are up for election; three 3-year terms, one 2-year term, and one 1-year term. Now is the time for residents to step up and serve. Any resident who wishes to run for an elected position on the Board is asked to contact any current Board member to have their name put on the ballot.

RCR BOOK Club

The Book Club meets at the Rec Hall, 1-2 p.m., each month. The club is open to all. Reading the books is not necessary. Just come to hear the discussions. It might stir your interest in books. Questions? Contact Marge and Dave Jones, Lori Harris or Jean Sivert. The remaining books for this season are:

February 10: "Do They Hear You When You Cry" by Fauziya Kassindja
March 3: "The Girls From Ames" by Jeffrey Zaslow



RCR Shop Club

One of the mainstays of the activities at Royal Coachman is the Shop Club. This organization was formed in the early 80s and has been a strong contributor through the years. The club's main purpose is to provide an opportunity for residents to work on their own projects. The club

has also completed a number of improvements for the resort.

Among them are remodeling areas of the recreation hall, improvements to the pool fence and construction of the



Resort Map

resort map which stands at the entrance. They will also respond to any resident's reasonable request. If you need something built for your park model or at your RV site, contact Ron Schaefer at 314-308-6709. You have to supply the material and they will supply the manpower and build to your specifications. They may have some suggestions and it would probably be a good idea to listen. When they complete the project they expect a donation which, considering the savings and quality, is little to ask.

The 35-ft by 35-ft shop building is located adjacent to the resort maintenance building and is equipped with 16 pieces of woodworking power equipment including lathes, several types of saws, sanders, drill presses, a joiner, planer and several dozen hand tools, all of which are worth



Member Projects



Steve Strick's Home Project

thousands of dollars. They have also installed two dust collection systems to keep the shop clean and to eliminate airborne dust. The club is totally self sufficient and all of the tools have been either purchased by the club or donated. RCR only contributes the space and electricity. Shop safety is taken seriously. New members must

be certified to use the power tools and, when anyone uses the power equipment, two members must be present.

Each year the club sponsors a dance at which they have a raffle and silent auction. Winners of the raffle or auction will walk away with a well-made item donated by one of the club members.

Currently, the club has 40 plus members and, as the season continues, they expect more to join. If you would like to become a member you can stop by the shop or contact Ron Schaefer, the current club chairman.

There is a one-time fee of \$50 to join and then a yearly membership fee. That fee is \$35 for this season and those funds are used to purchase all of the consumables.



Jim Chiste at the Lathe



News Around the Park

Searching Our History

While researching our community's history and the stories behind other communities in the area, I ran across a very interesting webpage on the Colony Cove homeowners' website. It detailed the development of their park from its groundbreaking through its state today. Most of it was information from public documents, with some photos showing important milestones of the park. I would like to do the same thing for our park. I have some background from Mike Levine, but there are many personal stories here in our park I would like to know about. Were you a "first customer" here in the park? Are you part of a multi-generational family of the park? Were you here for im-

portant milestones of RCR? Do you have a "park love story" you would share? Do you have memories or stories about the park you would like to share? How about photos of the old days, the new days or any days in between? I would like to collect some of our history and put it all together on our webpage. Please send your stories, photos and memories to me at clgarrison@aol.com, or if you prefer, I will come and interview you for your story. You can call me at 937-477-5993. If you want an example of the project I propose, check out the Colony Cove webpage at <http://www.hoacc.org/history.html>. These stories do not last forever - help me memorialize yours.

Connie Garrison

2015 Senior Games

It is time to get ready for this year's Senior Games. Friday, February 13, is the day to pick up your t-shirt and name tag. Golf is February 7 and tennis and horseshoes start the week of February 9. The rest of the events start on Saturday, February 14, and finish on Saturday, February 21. There will be athletes competing all around the park in multiple events. Even if you are not participating, come out and cheer. In a competition everyone wants to do their best and your support always helps. Our Senior Games have events from badminton to washer toss, so there is something for everyone and this year we have added golf, just like the Olympics, mixed bocce and hula hoop. For all of you hungry athletes, do not forget the banquet on Sunday, February 22. Speaking of the banquet, if you sign up for the banquet and cannot attend for any reason, please be

courteous and notify Bill Maier, 773-213-9809 (site 360). If you do not attend we still have to pay for the meal.



Shuffleboard is popular during the Senior Games

Variety Show 2015

RCR's Variety Show 2015 is entitled RCRs Got Talent. Unless you were visiting another continent the last few years, you would know that the title is very accurate. In the past, our shows have featured singing, dancing, comedy, medical reports and even a strip tease (yes, I said strip tease!!). This year's show promises to be as good or better than anything we have presented. I cannot promise you any stripping this year but we still have some tremendous talent under contract. Believe it or not, even with all this talent we have managed to keep the ticket prices at \$3 plus a can of food. The curtain (we do not really have a curtain) will go up at 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 7 and 8. As usual, games of chance, with valuable prizes, will begin when the doors open at 5:30 p.m. Do not

delay, mark these dates on your must see list. Our show's next stop is likely to be Broadway.

Peter Crich



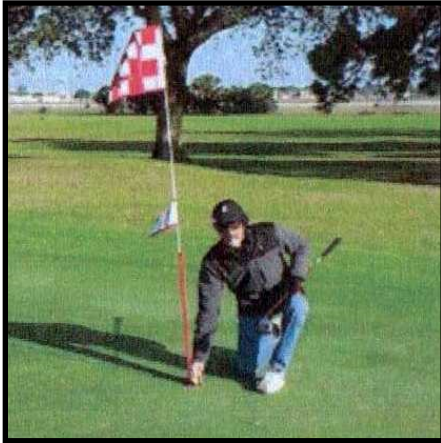
2014 Act "Optical Illusion"



More...News Around the Park

Once in a life time

On January 8, at the Venice Lakes Golf Club, Vic



Success at last!

Desimone hit the shot of the day on the fourth hole as he scored his first ever hole-in-one. Vic conquered the 148-yd, par 3 hole with a 5 wood while braving a windy and cold 45 degree day. Joining Vic in the foursome were Jack Holmes, Bill Rogowski and Tom Biersbach. These gentlemen are members of the

Dona Bay Duffers and Hackers League which is made up of 60 plus residents of Royal Coachman. If you want to join in contact Bill Rogowski.

Bill Rogowski



l-r Jack Holmes, Bill Rogowski, Vic Desimone and Tom Biersbach

Going Once.....Going Twice....Gone!!!

By 9 a.m. on January 10, the recreation hall was filled to overflowing...most of the donuts and coffee had been consumed (thank you, RCR)...and auctioneer Dave Jones opened the bidding for the first fun auction of 2015. Thirty-four residents had lined up by 8 a.m. to enter their items (limit 3 per unit) for a total of 68 items (75 items being the limit at each auction).

If residents came looking for bargains, they were not disappointed. The auctioneer closed the bidding on many items for \$1, including a set of dishes, car charger, TV, drop-leaf table, bike rack, large window blind and a tea cart. Thirty eight items went for under \$10, with 23 items bringing between \$10 and \$30, and 5 items receiving final bids over \$30. So, we had buyers going away happy, as did most sellers. At 10:20 the last item was auctioned and the 34 resident sellers lined up to collect their money. Four sellers each collected over \$40 for their items, seven sellers each collected over \$30, and three sellers went home with over \$20. All in all, a truly Fun Auction. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, same time, same place. See you there!



If You Raise Your Hand It's Yours!

Mary Jane Franklin



So you have a computer. Is it your friend, or not?

We seem to be awash in personal computers. Not just classic computers but even that new smartphone is a computer, and how about that tablet.

Do you feel comfortable using these devices? If not, there are discussion groups (not classes) that are addressing all kinds of computer questions and problems. There is a Computer Discussion Group every Friday morning, at 10 a.m., in the Club House. There is also an I Devices Discussion Group on alternating Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Club House. On the other alternating Thursdays an Android Discussion Group meets, also at 1 p.m., in the Club House. Both of the Thursday groups tend to concentrate on Smartphones and tablets while the Friday group leans toward desktop and laptop computers. No, you do not need an advanced degree to attend and remember these are discussion groups not a class or presentation. Participation is encouraged and questions are expected. Since, seemingly everyone now has a computer of some type, it would be a smart idea to increase your knowledge of these devices. The group moderators are park residents who have extensive experience in the relevant subject. Each moderator has the help of several others who have particular expertise in various parts of the digital world. The principle aim of the



discussion groups is to make everyone smarter, more confident and spend less time and money.

Remember, it is an unfriendly world out there. Do you know how to ensure you do not get viruses? What is the best way to avoid viruses? What about malware? What is malware? Do you know how to backup the material on your computer? Did you know that you should back up your work? Do you consider your computer an evil machine? Why not make it your friend? Join in and

learn. And, you will probably save money by finding out that you can do some of those things you may have paid to have done.

Lastly, on Tuesdays, at 1 p.m., a series of computer classes are scheduled covering a variety of subjects. Each class addresses one issue

such as maintenance, Windows or the Cloud. These classes do require a working knowledge of your computer and, in some cases, basic familiarity with specific programs such as Excel and Power Point. All of this will improve your knowledge on the subject covered.

Chuck Genrich

February and March 2015 Computer Classes

Date	Topic
February 3	Using Excel
February 10	Using Cut, Copy, Paste, Files, Shortcuts and Other Neat Stuff
February 24	Assorted Topics within Windows 8.1
March 3	Backing Up Your Computer
March 10	Power Point
March 17	Photo Manipulation
March 24	Using Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
March 31	Using the Cloud





Bald Eagle

Whether flying overhead, perching or nesting, the bald eagle provides beauty and demands respect. The bald eagle is both the national bird and national animal of the United States..

The adult (mature at 4 or 5 years of age) is mostly brown with a white head and tail. Immature bald eagles are brown. The sexes are identical in plumage but females are 25% larger than males. Favored nesting trees in Florida are slash pines, if available. Trees or forest, used for nesting, should have a canopy cover of no more than 60% and no less than 20% and be in close proximity to water.



The bald eagle is a powerful flier and soars on thermal convection currents. It reaches speeds of 35 to 43 mph when

gliding or flapping and about 30 mph while carrying fish. Its dive speed is between 75 and 99 mph though it seldom dives vertically. Florida eagles will disperse northwards in the summer. They select migration routes which take advantage of thermals, updrafts and food resources.

When maturity is reached, they often return to the area where they were born and mate for life. However, if one member of the pair dies or disappears, the other will choose a new mate. Repeated failure in breeding attempts also may cause them to seek another mate. Bald eagles are early breeders: nest building or reinforcing is often by mid-February, egg laying is often late February, incubation mid-March and eggs hatch from mid-April to early May. Both the male and female take turns incubating the eggs, but the female does most of the incubation, while the male hunts for food and nesting material. Feeding, protection and care of the eaglets are shared equally. Eaglets have the fastest growth rate of any North American bird. By eight weeks, the eaglets are strong enough to flap their wings, lift their feet off the nest platform and rise in the air.

The nest is the largest of any bird in North America and used repeatedly over many years with new material added each year. It may eventually be as large as 13 feet deep and 8.2 feet across and weigh 2,200 pounds. Usually nests are used for about five years or so and they either

collapse in storms or break the branches supporting them. The average lifespan of bald eagles in the wild is around 20 years.

We are fortunate to have a nesting pair of bald eagles in the slash pines on the northern edge of our park this winter. They are quite sensitive to human activity while nesting. We need to respect this sensitivity and act accordingly as we view these beautiful creatures living among us this winter here at RCR.



Betty Baird
Photography by Cathy Reyka

