

The Sun Wheeler is strictly an informative publication intended for the sole use of the members of the Sun Wheelers Chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association: A non-for-profit recreational organization with emphasis on social interaction and having fun.

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF FAMILY CAMPING FUN!!!



SUN WHEELERS SEPTEMBER 2019 RALLY

WHERE: COMPASS RV RESORT
1505 St Rd. 207, St Augustine, FL 32086

PHONE: 904-824-3574

WHEN: September 12 – 15, 2019

WEBSITE: <https://www.sunrvresorts.com/resorts/south/florida/compass-rv-resort/>

RALLY PARK PRICE: \$36.00 - \$72.00/night

HOSTS: Howard & Barbara Drayson and Brianna & Kayla

CONTACT: Call or text at Howard at (904)673-2233 or email draysonh@bellsouth.net once you have made your reservation.

CONTACT THE CAMPGROUND WITH YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING

Just a reminder, if you need to cancel, don't forget to let the host know too.

RALLY DETAILS:

- MEALS - Saturday Breakfast:** TBA
- Saturday Dinner:** TBA (Plus your favorite side or dessert to share)
- Sunday Breakfast:** Continental (?? plus leftovers??)

“HAPPY HOUR” SNACKS – A - H please provide Happy Hour Snack

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS!

“Happy Birthday” to the following Sun Wheeler Members!

8/1 Eloise Rapsas
9/2 Billy Dowling
9/11 Jean DeJesus
9/30 John DeJesus

8/6 Vivian Ritsma
9/5 Ken Grace
9/11 Garry Hill

8/20 Keith Tindall
9/7 Bruce Longman
9/25 Tigg Wright

“Happy Anniversary” to the following Sun Wheelers!

8/3/74 Dan & Debbie Davis
9/1/2000 Ed & Roswitha Graves
9/24 John & Verna McGraw

8/3/1985 John & Kay Lovering
9/5/64 John & Jean DeJesus
9/30/72 Virgil & Kathy Knapke

8/29/2014 Billy & Cretia Dowling
9/13/86 Tigg & Chrisy Wright

In Attendance at Wild Frontier

The following fine folks wrapped up the Winter/Spring camping festivities in Ocala, with each heading out their separate ways for the summer off-season:

Jack and Nancy Buening
Billy and Cretia Dowling
Jim/Frank Hershger
John and Kay Lovering
Doug and Ann Pearson
Lonnie and Brenda Wilson

Bob and Barbara Colman of Savannah (Visiting Guests)
Howard and Barbara Drayson Ed and Roswitha Graves
Him and Carol Howley of Sun City Center, FL (Visiting Guests)
John and Verna McGraw, with Ms. Clair too
Richard and Brenda Staley Ernie and Ann Webster
Tigg and Chrisy Wright

We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Wild Frontier, a Nostalgic Return to Chaos

By
Grey Water Gus

The 2019 spring schedule came to a close in Ocala, as we shared facilities with a Good Sam Club. Yup, another double booking by this park challenged our folks again, but our hosts stepped up and met the challenge, as we shared the facilities and co-existed with the *Lake Monroe Sam's*, as both organizations finished up their schedule before their respective summer breaks.

We had 14 coaches (12 member and 2 guest RVs) join in for the fun and we all got wet and hot, as the summer of 2019 imposed itself on the area. Most all fought the rains to get there, on Wednesday and Thursday, but the weather cleared for the weekend, although it got *very* warm.

More new recreational vehicles appeared, as some happy new owners were very glad to provide tours of the state-of-the art rolling condominiums. Howard and Barbara Drayson were sporting a new Class “C” that was every bit as big as the Class A they traded, but with all the updated bells and whistles. In typical fashion, they were making notes of the warrantee issues that needed attention when they got back home. In addition, Ed and Roswitha Graves were sporting a new, more spacious set of rolling accommodations. This one actually permitted them to walk around each other inside, without

knocking the other person down. "Missy" (their four-legged child) was experiencing a lack of orientation the first night, but soon settled into the routine. Congratulations to both new owners.

The usual Friday golfing crowd elected to remain in camp, as the rains that previously impacted the area were limiting courses to either 90 degree rules or cart path only limits on the players. With those restrictions, and the June heat in the area, the majority elected to forgo the "fun" this time.

Lawn Chair Circles were limited to the cooler morning hours, as Happy Hours in the afternoons were held indoors for the relief of the A/C at the Club House. On one occasion, Nancy Buening recommended a trip to a Dairy Queen for a lunch of Banana Splits. Immediately, Bill Dowling jumped up and returned with two cartons of ice cream sandwiches. Handing them out he remarked; "This does not replace that lunch idea. It is merely an appetizer beforehand." One carton was emptied quickly; the other had only a few left for later use.

Friday evening some folks headed out to the Sam's St. John's Seafood restaurant for dinner as others journeyed to the Outback Steak house, or savored their own resources.

Our hosts, limited by kitchen restrictions imposed by the "sharing needs" as well as the limits of use of the stoves (by the Fire Marshal's order), supplied their own cooking devices and still exceeded the expectations of the crowd with a wonderful breakfast and dinner on Saturday. A hearty meal of bacon, scrambled eggs, pancakes and, if desired, eggs-to-order graced the serving table for breakfast. At dinner, hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwursts were surrounded by the members-supplied side dishes. The spread went a long way toward keeping our own hallmark alive, where no one goes home hungry.

The Sun Wheelers indeed shared the wealth on this rally, as our visiting guests from Sun City Center, FL, Jim and Carol Howley, won the 50/50 drawing Saturday night. WOW, to be a guest AND win the 50/50, it's good to be an FMCA member. The evening was continued with a brief business meeting, that included some member approved corrective votes to confirm previous actions taken by the executive board, along with some discussion on future site locations.

On Sunday morning, we had another great continental breakfast after which our members headed their separate ways until the falls schedule begins in September. It was another great rally, even with the challenges and limitations. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and look forward to joining again in September for another fall and winter schedule of fun rallies. - **GUS**

June Minutes

June 15, 2019

Ocala, Florida

Lonnie and Chrissy took care of 50/50 collection. It was \$35 for winner and \$35 for club. Guest Jim Howley, from Sun City Center, Florida, had the winning number.

John asked if quorum was present to start the meeting. We had a quorum, 12 coaches and one guest coach.

The September rally will be at Compass RV in St. Augustine with the Draysons, and their granddaughters, hosting. Please call the campground to register and let the hosts know you are coming.

Minutes of the April meeting were posted, as well as some amendments. The amendments were read to the club and were voted on and approved. The Honorary Membership for Lloyd and Phyllis Powell required an approval vote by the club. A Motion was made by Doug Pearson and passed by club membership vote.

John explained that the bank account was changed from the Jacksonville Credit Union to Wells Fargo in Callahan, due to changes in expenses, distance issues and the perceived lack of safety at the branch office we used. Since a move of this nature required the approval of the membership, National Director Doug Pearson made motion to approve the change. Motion was seconded and passed by members.

John explained that the club had made a donation to Haven Hospice in memory of Ford Dinkins.

The FMCA 100th International Convention will be August 14-17, 2019, in Minot, North Dakota. Fred Gneisig will be our representative/delegate to this year's convention. The assignment letter has already been sent to National Offices in Cincinnati.

From the floor, there was a request for discussion of the cost of Flamingo Lakes RV Park for our Christmas rally. Several complained \$62 was too much. John Lovering explained that they give a 10% discount for Good Sam members and 25% discount for former military. Rally committee has had problems finding campgrounds that will block off 20 sites, such as Stagecoach, which only guaranteed 14.

President McGraw moved on to reports:

Sheriff's Report: Chrissy collected \$2.00 this weekend, no badges for Sunday.

Sunshine Report given by Ann Pearson. She asked for 3 cards to be signed.

Golf Report: None

National Director's Report: Doug reminded everyone of Betty Duncan's report at 45th Anniversary Rally. FMCA is barely in the green right now and membership is slowly growing. The magazine is in the red and is in danger of soon be available only on the Website, or sent by email, due to diminishing advertising. The Southeast Area Association is still in the black and has been since departing the Brooksville venue. Keep up the good work.

Doug reminded every one of the block of sites at Maggie valley for the end of July. Availability is only open until June 28th and then will go off reserved status if not claimed.

John thanked the hosts Ernie and Ann Webster and their helpers, Doug and Ann Pearson. Please pay Verna.

Lonnie moved for adjourn. Passed.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ann Pearson for Carole Hilliard, Chapter Secretary

S.W.G.A. - Play was Suspended

Golf was but a memory in Ocala, as the desire was there, but the flesh was unwilling.



Thoughts were turning to a *“Dream Outing in Golf Heaven”*.

June Sunshine Report

As we start our summer break please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers:

Pat Dinkins. Pat came by for Happy Hour on Friday in Ocala. We shared sorrowful hugs and tears as we welcomed her. She is doing okay, after Ford’s passing, and is hoping to keep traveling with the Sun Wheelers after she works on some driving classes and practice.

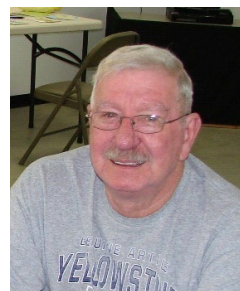
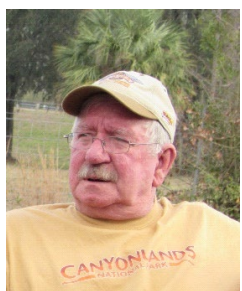
Trudy Martin. Even though Trudy is no longer a Sun Wheeler we sent a “Thinking of You” card. She has moved to Tampa to be with her brothers and families. It is reported she has found a nice, small home and is selling the house here at the beaches. We will miss her and wish her all the best.

Tigg Wright has been going through tests and medication in an effort to determine the cause of unexplained weight loss. He is to see an additional doctor, when he finishes the current medication. Pray they find a cause and can correct the problem.

The Hershberger Family: Jim had to have a heart ablation recently and is weak at times. Carol needs to have surgery for a stomach issues but is postponing it due to another family issue. Their mentally handicapped son is in failing health and they do not expect him to have much longer to live. So, she is concentrating on being near him as much as possible.

As always stay safe, keep the Sun Wheelers In your hearts and minds and have a great summer. Keep me posted if any needs arise! - [Sunshine Ann](#)

Our Lawn Chair Circles will never be the same!



Ford Dillard Dinkins

December 21, 1945 - May 18, 2019

In May, the Sun Wheelers lost a dear friend, and a devoted member of the chapter. His active participation and offering of opinions not only went a long way toward helping us to continue to shape our ever evolving family, but his sense of humor and practical approach toward friendship and loyalty were hallmarks that were the very description of ***Sun Wheelers***.

While he never held elected office in the chapter, his volunteerism was more than one could ask to help keep the organization running smoothly. In addition, he and Pat were ever present fixtures as volunteers with F.M.C.A. at national conventions, and S.E.A. area rallies too.

If a Lawn Chair Circle was developing, Ford was there with his Yuengling (or two) and his dry sense of humor to help put things into perspective. While he could always see the good in people, he was always spot on with his assessment of their qualities. But even when it became obvious that his illness was limiting his abilities by nature, he was always a presence to be reckoned with as he openly supported the ***Sun Wheelers*** and its method of operations as an organization for Family Motor Coach owners and enthusiasts.

If active in a conversation, and we took a moment or two to glance over at Ford, you could tell whether you were on the right track or had taken a side-road to make your point. Subtle as they might have been, almost to a point where you had to be around Ford to notice, his expressions would communicate his agreement or not. He had that ability without having to say a single word.

Thank You Ford, for giving us the opportunity to know you and enjoy your brotherhood as we shared travels and stories around the Lawn Chair Circles. Your chair will not easily be filled. May God Bless!

Creekwood Farm – Last Chance!

Attention Sun Wheelers! Time is rapidly coming to a close to get in on that block of sites that have been arranged at Creekwood Farm RV Park in Maggie Valley, NC, for **July 28th thru August 3rd**, 2019. After June 28, those empty sites in the block will revert to the general public for availability.

So far Jack & Nancy Buening, John & Verna McGraw and Doug & Ann Pearson have made arrangements to enjoy the cooler temperatures and relaxing sounds of Jonathan Creek, as it rolls over the rocks.



If you'd like to join them for this **"No Rally"** gathering, with no meetings or agenda, simply call Creekwood Farm at **828-926-7977**, let them know you're with the Sun Wheelers and make your reservations. Then drop a quick note to Doug at dcpersonhlrd@aol.com and let him know.

The time in the shadow of The Blue Ridge and the immediate availability of the Smoky Mountains is refreshing and a location that has earned the reputation of one of the most visited areas in the country.

Notes of Appreciation

The following notes of Thanks have been received and are for all Sun Wheelers:

Pat Dinkins writes:

"To All the Sun Wheelers,

Thank you so much for the many calls, cards, messages and especially for your attendance at Ford's Memorial Service. Friends like the Sun Wheelers bring a light to some dark and difficult days.

Pat Dinkins"

Ms. Betty Duncan, President of the Southeast Area Association, FMCA, writes:



Family Motor Coach Association, Inc.



"Dear John (McGraw) & Sun Wheelers,

Jim and I want to thank you all for your warm hospitality and fun time during the rally and 45th Anniversary Celebration last week (April 11 - 14).

We hope to see you all soon, in the meantime, Safe Travels.....

Betty Duncan"

SOUTHEAST AREA & FMCA NEWS

100th International Convention & RV Expo – August 14 -17, 2019, at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds, Minot, ND

FMCA SEA Rally – “Keep on Smilin”- February 5 - 8, 2020 at the Sun & Fun Facility, Lakeland FL

SOUTHEAST AREA (S.E.A.) WEBSITE: www.seafmca.org

FMCA WEBSITE – WWW.FMCA.COM

Please keep your membership records current with FMCA. Any changes in email address or phone numbers, should be documented. Contact the Membership Dept at 513-474-3622 or 800-543-3622. Email – addresschange@fmca.com or make changes online at www.fmca.com

SUN WHEELER LADIES VOLUNTEER PROJECTS FOR CHARITY:

- #1 – Preemie hats for Brenda Edgerton’s church; give them to Brenda throughout the year
- #2 – Comfort Bears for Vistas Hospice in Jacksonville. This is an easy hand or sewing machine project. Other sewing projects for Vistas if you are interested: lap afghans, walker bags, wheelchair bags and bibs. Accepted anytime during the year. Contact Barbara Drayson.
- #3 Pull tabs from drink cans – Ronald McDonald House. Contact Barbara Drayson.

CLASSIFIEDS

SUN WHEELER SHIRTS & HATS: Show your Chapter Pride! Shirts and now Hats too, with our LOGO are available! Contact Ann or Doug Pearson for details at 904-845-2830 or email dpearsonhlrd@aol.com

2019 SUN WHEELER CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President - John McGraw, Cell 904-607-3025 johnmcgraw7954@yahoo.com
Vice Pres - Larry Hilliard, Cell: 912-389-7779 lhilliard23@gmail.com
Secretary - Carole Hilliard, Cell: 912-228-9593 carolehilliard23@gmail.com
Treasurer - Verna McGraw, Cell 904 613 3547 vernamecgraw7954@yahoo.com
Nat Director - Doug Pearson, Cell – 904-708-4195 dcpearsonhlrd@aol.com
Alt Director - Jack Buening 904-268-1470; Cell 904-347-70 Janabu2@bellsouth.net

Newsletter – Karen Anderson 904-845-3921 jmanderson41@yahoo.com
Sunshine Coordinator - Ann Pearson 904-845-2830 dcpearsonhlrd@aol.com

Historian – Garry Hill

2019 Nomination Committee – John Lovering and Judy Gneisig

2019 Rally Site Committee (for 2020 rallies) – Pat Dinkins and Judy Gneisig

Sheriff: Chrisy Wright

Deputy Sheriff: Keith Tindall

2019 RALLY SITES

October 10 – 13, 2019	LAKE CITY RV RESORT 3864 North US Highway 441 Lake City, Florida 32055 \$34.00/night Website: http://lakecityrvresort.com/ Hosts: John & Kay Lovering and Garry & Sue Hill	386-752-0830	62.2 miles
November 7 – 10, 2019	CECIL BAY RV RESORT 1787 Old Coffee Road, Cecil, GA 31627 \$28.00/night Website: www.cecilbayrv.com Hosts: Bill & Brenda Edgerton and Steve & Gwen Couch	229-794-1484	139.38 miles
December 5 – 8, 2019	Flamingo Lakes RV Resort 3640 Newcomb Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32218 \$61.00/night (less 10% Good Sam or 15% police, fire or military) (20 sites only) Website: www.flamingolake.com Hosts: Your Chapter Officers	(904) 766-0672	

MEMBERS ONLY

Mileage is calculated from the Jacksonville Landing