



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER RALLY

The December Christmas Rally took place December 1st through the 3rd at Camelot in Malabar. We had 15 Coaches in attendance to celebrate this Holiday Season and attend our annual meeting. Many members decorated their coaches and the outfits for the celebration dinner were something to behold. The gift exchange was a highlight as usual. Jim and Lynn Carlin outdid themselves with wonderful food for all the meals. I also have to thank all our members for their contributions to the meals and the lovely appetizers leading into these meals.

Our annual meeting took place Saturday morning and our Chapter remains solvent. There will be no increase in our dues or our monthly rally fees at this time. Our charitable contributions this year will be \$100 to the Disabled American Veterans, \$100 to the Hope Lake Wier Campus Food Pantry, and \$300 to the Nick Coffin Literacy Program. Our President for the past two years – Jerry Hilley – has had to step down. We all want thank Jerry for his service and we will certainly miss he and Pam at our rallies. Gordon Girvin has been elected our new President and we thank him for coming forward to fill this position. We look forward to his and Niki's input.

A discussion was held about Florida's new reservation system for the State Parks. Members were wondering if this would make it possible for us to hold a rally at the State Parks for January or February as these months are so hard to find rally locations. You have to register with the State Park and verify you are a resident of Florida. Below I'm copying some of the information that John Marquart received:

From: email@info.floridadep.gov

Subject: Florida State Parks: Pre-Registration for Florida Resident Preference Program

Date: December 10, 2023 at 10:05:06 AM EST

To: mquart@me.com

Hello,

We are excited to share a new benefit for **Florida residents** about making reservations for overnight accommodations at Florida State Parks.

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, at noon Eastern time, only Florida residents may make reservations for cabins and RV, tent, boat and equestrian campsites 11 months in advance. Non-Florida residents will be able to make reservations 10 months in advance.

To take advantage of this new benefit, **Florida residents** will need to provide a valid Florida driver's license or ID card number at the time of booking. **Starting today**, Florida residents may update their profile associated with the [Florida State Parks Reservation System](#) to add their valid Florida driver's license or ID card number. This information, which will be validated with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, will need to be verified annually.

Before making a reservation 11 months in advance, Florida residents be asked to attest to the following statement:

I understand and attest that this camping reservation is being made under the Florida Residents Preference provisions outlined in s. 258.014(2), Florida Statutes. I am a Florida resident, and I agree to provide my Florida driver's license number or Florida identification card number issued under s. 322.051, Florida Statutes, as proof of Florida residency while making this reservation and upon arrival in the state park during check-in. I also acknowledge that this reservation is not transferable. Any attempt to use this reservation by anyone other than this account holder will result in cancellation, forfeiture of all fees associated with this reservation, and assessment of the cancellation fee pursuant to the Florida State Parks Fee Schedule. Furthermore, any attempt to circumvent the spirit and intent of Florida Residents Preference by this account holder, including the sale or transfer of overnight park reservations, may result in suspension of the account holder's ability to make future reservations.

We are excited to welcome you to our beautiful state parks.

This would mean:

So, for instance, if we want to try to get reservations for January 3, 2025, on February 3, 2024 we can give it a try. Not clear if it's at noon or 8AM as before but that can be found out. I'm still not convinced getting club members to sign up as individuals will work but worth a try if members sound interested in State Park locations.

This is something for our members to think about and discuss with our Wagon Masters to see if we want to give it a try at say Jonathon Dickinson State Park or one of the others.

Also – **QUICK REMINDER** – DON'T FORGET TO CAST YOUR VOTE for the proposed changes to the FMCA's Constitution. There is a ballot in the November issue of the Family RVing magazine. Check out page 23 and follow the instructions.

2024 DUES - If you have not paid your dues for 2024, please mail a check for \$15 made out to the Sun Roamers and mail it to our Treasurer Denise Scudo, 1410 NW 18th Lane, Plantation, FL 33322.

SCHEDULED RALLIES

JANUARY RALLY –The Tampa RV Show was scheduled as our January Rally. I know only a couple of members were able to get reservations. We were lucky and got in. If any member wants to put together another get together somewhere – check with our Wagon Masters or Let me know details and I will be glad to put something out to the membership.

FEBRUARY RALLY – February 6 thru 10th SOUTHEAST AREA RALLY Check your FMCA Magazine (definitely in the November Magazine) for the Rally Registration form or contact www.seafmca.org for more information. Jack and I have mailed in our registration and plan to dry camp. If you register before 12/15/2023 you will pay less than after that date. Also keep in mind, they will be looking for volunteers to work in various areas to help make this event a success.

MARCH RALLY – Mark your calendrrers and come out to March 1, 2, and 3 at the Orlando Southwest KOA (888-562-4712) In Davenport just off RTE 27. Gordon & Niki Girvin along with John & Debbie Schuettler will be hosting this event. I'm sure they will plan a fun weekend.

APRIL RALLY - We are heading to southwest Florida for April 5, 6, and 7th to gather at Neapolitan Cove RV Park. Sue & Jerry Janaro will be co-hosting with Denise and Bob Scudo for fun in the Naples Area. It's been a few years since we have been there. Looking forward to enjoying this area again.

MAY RALLY – This rally will be held in Punta Gorda at Creekside Resort and will be hosted by Ana & Armando Novell and Nancy & John Marquart. They always put on a fun event and there is lots to do at this resort. Keep this in mind as a great place to go for May.

AS ALWAYS:

REMEMBER – After making any reservations for a rally, please contact our Wagon Masters (**by TEXT or EMAIL**) with the dates you will be arriving and the size of your RV. We need coach & people counts for our Hosts.

NOTE: It is necessary that you **only contact our Wagon Masters via TEXT (419-953-8723) or EMAIL (dnj2335@gmail.com)**. **NO PHONE CALLS** Thank you members for doing this.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/9 Nancy Marquart
12/12 Bruce Forsyth
12/16 Jerry Janaro
12/16 Dick Garbe
12/22 Denise Scudo

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12/24 Carol Campion
12/25 Sherry Halleran
12/27 Gary Turpin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/15 Gerry & Ben Hodgers

12/31 Niki & Gordon Girvin

SOME PICUTRES FROM OUR DECEMBER WEEKEND:



SUN ROAMER OFFICERS

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