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Citizens Patrol Program



Do you feel safe and secure at Royal Coachmen Resort? If you answered yes, perhaps it is due in part to the Citizens Patrol. This is a program we all take for granted; oh, there go the patrol people, hope they are catching the bad guys tonight. However, the duty they perform should not be taken lightly. There are over a hundred volunteers who work shifts every evening, sometimes after you have gone to bed, patrolling the area to keep it safe. If you drive in the gate late in the evening, chances are you are going to see the patrol car parked nearby. If a person was up to mischief, this would act as a deterrent. Just as the patrol car on the highway causes you to slow down; this would give the would-be bike thief second thoughts and he might select an easier target.

Dick Brown started the RCR Citizens Patrol Program in 2002 with twenty-five volunteers. These people became the eyes and ears of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department with which the

program is affiliated. Ours is one of many such programs throughout the county. The volunteers do not carry weapons, are not expected to apprehend wrong doers and they do not leave the park. Two people work each shift. The first shift is 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., with the second shift starting at 9 p.m. and ending at 11 p.m. They are given ID cards, magnetic patrol signs for each side of the car for identification purposes, a log book to record their name, date and patrol time, a flashlight and a cell phone to summon help or report problems.

The Citizens Patrol Program is an effective, inexpensive way to prevent crime in local neighborhoods. The volunteers are trained to look for anything suspicious, such as a person peeking into windows of RVs, park models, the club house, rec hall or parked vehicles. They patrol each street at least once during their shift and spend the remainder of their time being visible at the front gate. If an incident occurs, the volunteers do not take any action other than reporting it to the authorities.

Dick has an extensive police background, having spent thirty-three plus years with the Maryland State Police, retiring as a Major. There are several other current residents of the park who are retired law enforcement personnel. Some of these residents are active volunteers within the program.

Some members of the patrol are no longer available and anyone who is interested in participating should contact Dick Brown. The current need is for people for the late shift (9 to 11 p.m.). Generally, no one has more than one shift per month.

The duties of maintaining a roster of volunteers, scheduling the time slots, making changes as necessary and communicating with the people involved take up a lot of Dick's time. Lyla Slayton takes care of all of the documentation. Many thanks go to Dick, Lyla and all the faithful volunteers who work together to maintain the safety of our park.

Gina Haisley

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News Around the Park

Fashion Show 2015

We learned a bit of trivia at the recent Royal Coachmen fashion show. Anthony's, possibly the only clothing store in Nokomis, was founded in 1894, surviving for 121 years. It was started as a jewelry store by Gus Anthony in Titusville and branched into clothing in 1895. They now have thirteen locations, all in Florida. Having had my own clothing store for twenty-four years, I can attest to this accomplishment.

Lori Lilly stated that 280 tickets had been sold for this event, so it was definitely a full house. Food, which included a tuna or chicken salad sub along with a macaroni salad, was catered by Annie's Yellow Sub. Apple Cobbler from Costco was served as dessert. Sailboats carrying cargos of goldfish crackers were the creative centerpieces and scenic murals of a tropical paradise combined to create the theme of "Ships Ahoy."

Modeling the clothing were Nancy Cain, Linda Rogers, Jennifer Shepherd, Diane Goodman, Darla Stone and Betsy Harding. Their makeup was highlighted by Gina Haisley using Mary Kay Cosmetics. Apparel from Jones New York, Rafaella, Joseph A and Isadella were shown along with several other lines. Popular items were printed palazzo pants, floppy hats for every occasion and unique pieces of jewelry.

After the fashion show, the ladies were introduced to tennis players from the Australian Open who just happened to be in town. Venus and Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova, and Maria Kirilenko were quite entertaining, much more so than when they are on the court. These lovely ladies were assisted in their appearance by Dick Latt, Dick Kerns, Bob Sebastian and Arvid Vaaten. Many thanks to these special guys.

Loads of door prizes and 50/50 drawings were won by many lucky guests. Safe to say, the show was a huge success.

Gina Haisley



Germanfest 2015

Whenever you have the Alpine Express perform at a dance you are sure to have an outstanding evening. This band, which comes from Orlando and performs at Disney World, provides a lot more than just excellent dance music. The lead singer, Martin, in addition to playing the guitar and trumpet, entertained everyone by playing an Alpen Horn, a table of cowbells, and then to top it all off, played a beautiful rendition of Edelweiss using a bow and a hand saw. The drummer, Frank, took a break from his drums and amazed everyone by playing an instrument that was the precursor to the xylophone. His hands were moving so fast that you could not possibly follow them. Two additional highlights were a yodeling competition, involving three unsuspecting guests who performed amazingly well, and then the Grand March which ended up with over 150 guests following Martin in a conga line around the Rec Hall.



Conga All Night



Alpine Express Band

Believe it or not, there was some beer left over, which suggests that we are getting older and watching our alcohol consumption, or simply that we were too busy dancing and watching the Alpine Express perform. As promised, it was a memorable night.

Peter Crich



Coming Activities at RCR

Activities



Lori Lilly

Well, here we are heading into March already with still a lot more fun to go. The New England party will kick off the month on March 1. Do not forget to come join us at sunrise coffee on March 2 at the veranda. This happens the first Monday of every month from 8 to 9 a.m. You can meet our new residents and enjoy coffee and donuts poolside. One of our favorites, David Daviski will be performing at the Clubhouse Picnic this month. Then, we will be entertained by all the talent in our park at the Variety Show on March 7 and 8. There is also a beach party, birthday/anniversary, pool party, Canada Day and ice cream social yet to happen. The other great event is the annual car show on March 21. Ron Cournoyer has about 100 cars scheduled to attend in the front lot. That day will start off at the rec hall featuring the pancake breakfast, 7:30 to 9 a.m. There will be burgers sizzling for sale and Bentley's Ice Cream at the car show. Along with the car show will be the Craft & Cafe Market taking place on the veranda where you will find great gifts for you to take back home. Then you can relax and end your day at the RCR concert at the rec hall at 7 p.m. Ending the month will be the Spring Flings Last Dance. I am also starting to prepare for next season. Season tickets for rebuy will be on sale March 10, 12 and 17. Please mark your calendars! New reserved seating will then be available starting on March 19. The acts that will be performing will be announced soon. Another fun event taking place next season is a trip to New Orleans. The dates for this are January 28 through February 4. Again, the details will be available soon and posted. We are also planning a celebration for Veteran's Day on November 11. If you will be here and are a veteran please sign up on the sheet in the lounge. This is a celebration for **all** who have served, both the United States and Canada. Enjoy the rest of the season!

Who, or what, is a volunteer?

A person who does something, especially for other people or for an organization, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it.

Source: Cambridge Dictionary

A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service.

Source: merriam-webster.com/dictionary/volunteer



Pat Lang

A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.

Source: Oxford Dictionary

Without **volunteers** Royal Coachman Resort would be just another RV park or campground. Because of our **volunteers** we are an active, exciting, fun resort with something for everyone.

Too many times, we take the activities offered to us for granted. We expect them to happen, and we do not give much thought to what goes on behind the scenes for each activity, or event, to take place. Not much thought is given about the individuals (the **volunteers**) who put their time and effort into the activity **gladly, freely, willingly, without pay – or** about the time preparing for the activity or event (which often involves several hours of preparation and planning).

In March, the management of RCR invites residents who have volunteered in three or more RCR-sanctioned events to a luncheon to recognize and thank them for all they do. I am hoping that as individuals in the Resort, who take part in these activities and events, each of you will remember to show your appreciation and remember to thank the **volunteers** for making them possible.

If you have Volunteer Report Forms to turn in please put them in my mailbox (site 544).

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Not enough pictures of the Games? You know where to go.
www.royalcoachmanresort.net Photo Galleries





The RCR Wilderness

White Pelican



The white pelican and trumpeter swan share the title of having the longest length of any birds native to North America. Unlike brown pelicans, which are year-round residents of Florida, white pelicans spend only part of the year here. It is believed that over 1,500 white pelicans migrate here from October through March. They come from as far as Idaho, Minnesota and Canada. When spring approaches, the white pelicans begin their journey north. Because this cycle is repeated every year, they are often referred to as "snowbirds."

White pelicans search for food in large groups. They do not dive like brown pelicans but swim on the surface in a semicircle, working together to herd the fish to shallower water near the shore. They use their pouches as fishnets and submerge their heads and necks and scoop up the fish.

During the breeding season, the throat sac located below the bill is vivid orange in color as is the iris (the bare skin around the eye). There is also a laterally flattened "horn" on the upper bill. The horn is shed after the birds have mated and laid their eggs. After the breeding season, the bare parts become duller in color, with the naked facial skin yellow and the bill, pouch and feet an orangey-flesh color. They are colonial breeders with up to 5,000 pairs per site. Both parents incubate for about a month. The young leave the nest three to four weeks after hatching. At this point, usually only one young per nest has survived. In late summer or early fall, the birds gather in large groups on rich feeding grounds in preparation for their migration. They migrate south by September or October.

Red foxes and coyotes are the only known species to hunt adult pelicans. Several gulls are known to steal pelican eggs and young pelicans may be hunted by great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, golden eagles and Eurasian eagle-owls. The white pelicans may temporarily abandon their nests if a human or other large mammal closely approaches the colony. However, whenever nests are threatened by another bird, they do not abandon and will fight off the invader by jabbing at them with their large bills.

On several occasions this January, a colony of white pelicans visited RCR by fishing on Shakett Creek, giving us a lovely opportunity to observe their beauty up close and personal. Many residents thought they were swans but Cathy Reyka quickly identified them and captured the pictures in this article. All of you who were not fortunate enough to see them with your own eyes can now view them through the gift of Cathy's camera lens.

Betty Baird

From the Manager

This season is almost over and Spring is right around the corner! Time sure has flown by and there has been a lot of activity throughout. I would like to take this time to thank each one of you for your contribution in making my first year here so much fun. I have definitely had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful people.

There have been requests on some clarifications. Royal Coachman will mow areas that we can reach with our mowers. If you plant/landscape, then you become responsible for those areas. In addition, you also are responsible for weed eating around your unit, shed, and pressure washing, etc. (i.e., personal effects). This is applicable in your absence, as well (i.e., summers). Storage in Sterilite-style containers is not permitted outside. Please store all items, in your absence, inside, as we can get high winds/hurricanes/rains and must be prepared at all times. Not to mention, we want all of our sites to appear tidy. No wood, excess building supplies, etc. should be stored outside, on site. Please move all picnic tables off grass areas that interfere with mowing. Please remove water hoses from all connections and store them properly. Remember, the Florida sun is brutal. If you have any questions please ask. Our goal is to not only provide a safe environment for all of our guests at Royal Coachman, but to reflect that of a resort lifestyle and a nicely maintained park. To do so, I need your help. We are having another yard sale before the season is over and I typically plan an amnesty-day. Further plans will be provided to you for this, so that you may discard your unused goods.

I realize that it has been a trying time for some this year and I would like to share a quote that I ran across. "Being negative only makes a difficult journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you do not have to sit on it." Author Unknown. With that being said, my hope is that each one of you enjoyed what you have come here to do and that is hopefully, to enjoy the sunshine and relax!





Park Activities

2015 RCR Dog Show

Yip, Yip, Yippee! was the sound of the dogs at the 3rd RCR annual Dog Show. Over thirty dogs, with their proud owners, turned out on a beautiful day to enjoy fun and games. Starting with a Parade of Dogs, each owner introduced their dog by coming on stage and telling about their dog and its breed. A lot of dogs in our park are rescue dogs and have a very special story, including one found at a Burger King and one rescued as a tiny pup from the woods. Things kick into gear by starting with an adorable costume class won by Buddy the Beach Bum, followed by Red Hatter Chloe, The Umbrella Twins and Skipper the Love Bug. Phoebe took the Oldest Dog at 16 ½ , followed by Toby, Chloe and Annie. Skipper took The Youngest Dog at only 3 months, with Hailey at 6 months, Sherlock at 15 months and Dharma at 18 months. I was surprised and pleased at the young dogs beautiful manners and behavior. Go pups! Skipper took the Biggest Dog, followed very closely by Chief and Beau. In the Small Dog category was Riley at only 4 lbs., followed by Skipper, Bailey and Chloe. Waggiest tail brought a lot of laughs and owners had to encourage the wagging, won by Winnie, then Bill, Bailey and Ashley. Best Barker went to Tango, Buddy, Rosie and finally, Duffy. It is hard to get them to bark on cue, any other time no problem! Tango and his owners (the Bungays) came the farthest from New Brunswick, Canada, followed by Winnie from Ontario, then Duffy and Buffy.



Looking Good



The Falcons' Best Friend

Obedience classes followed with the Heel and Sit going to Chief, then Tango, a tie between Abby and Winnie and Dharma and Annie. Sit and Stay was won by Tango, followed by Winnie, Dharma and Chief. Next came Down and Stay with a great three-way tie between Tango, Chief and Buddy, with all the distractions!

Back to the fun classes of Fetch won by Chief, Annie, Dharma and Duffy. Trick Class brought lots of laughs because, just like kids, when you want them to do it, they do not want to. However, Tango won first, followed by adorable Rosie with all her great tricks, Chief with his dancing ability and Duffy and Dharma thrilled us all with their wonderful show. The last class was the High Jump going to Buddy, followed by Winnie and Chief.

A great time was had by all with ribbons and lots of prizes donated by Subway, Petco, Pet Smart, Walgreens and Wal-Mart. A big thank you to my helpers, Bev Pixley, Donna Field, Linda Rogers and Jean Grout and the dog owners for all the love and support we share here. Any ideas or suggestions for next year contact: Sarah Boehmer, site 401.

Sarah Boehmer

New York and Friends Party - Puttin' on the Ritz

Puttin' on the Ritz was what they did at the New York and Friends Party January 20. Following a delicious dinner of Champagne chicken, roast pork, mashed potatoes and sweet baby carrots, salad, rolls and the biggest pieces of cheese cake ever, Affordable Caters invited all up for seconds and thirds. The evening kicked off with music by Spotlight Entertainment with YMCA and a conga line, to boot. The party goers were treated to a free picture spot by Dolores Samulski, with lots of costume stuff to dress up, and a beautiful ballroom backdrop including a chandelier done by our resident artist Dennis Valva. (Kathy Covell, Ellie Read, Barbara Smith, Sharon Tarnowski



Spotlight on New York



Party Favors

& Dolores Samulski are shown to the right) Sparkling Champagne, crystal center pieces, hidden lottery tickets, dinner cards, baskets of New York products and a \$110 50/50 winner helped make this an evening to remember. Cannot wait until next year when we will be Sporting Around with NY and Friends. Make sure to wear your favorite team stuff and get ready to PARTY!

Sarah Boehmer



People You Should Know

Our Local Shutterbug

The first person I met at Royal Coachman was Cathy Reyka. In January 2004 she was attending to the RCR office when I walked in to pay for my RV site.

In 1997 Cathy decided to sell her party balloon business in Cleveland, OH, and headed for Florida. She landed at Royal Coachman because one of her brothers lived in Venice. She parked her class C RV and has been here ever since.

For the first five years Cathy worked at a local golf course. At the same time she volunteered to help with the park activities. During 2003 she stopped working at the golf course and started working full time at RCR, mostly in the office, which is where we met. In January 2010 she stopped working full time for the park but remained an employee serving as the night-time customer service representative. As of May of last year she is no longer an RCR employee, but she is still busy.

Today, most residents see Cathy around the park with one or more cameras. Photography has become an all-encompassing passion. She and her four brothers have all been amateur photographers. She first started taking photos 40 years ago but stopped after the cost of film and processing became too expensive. Fast forward to January 2014 and a new digital Nikon was purchased. She then took a trip to California to visit relatives and to learn how to use this new piece of photo equipment. This trip relit the fuse and it is now burning more brightly than ever.

Currently, Cathy posts four photos each day on her Facebook page and has about 1,000 views per day. Send her a friends request and you can be one of the viewers. She spends five to six hours per day out and around taking hundreds of photos. The biggest advantage of digital photograph for the amateur is that you can take an unlimited number of photos for no cost. The next step in the camera learning process was getting photos printed for which she uses both local and commercial printing businesses. Anyone who has been to our local craft fair has seen Cathy's photos on display. If you look around the park office you will also see her work. She firmly states that this is not a business, just an all consuming hobby. The only place you can obtain her photos is at the craft fair or at her site. Her latest project is a calendar with 47 photos. She was helped greatly by one of her brothers who is a professional graphic arts designer.

Through her hobby Cathy has fostered a greater interest in what you can see in the park and the local area. She says that she does not have to leave a three mile radius of the park to find her subjects. Late last year she bought a second camera that you may have seen. It sports a loooong lens. With a 600mm lens you can get really close. I know that all of you with cameras really like all of those megapixels. How about a camera that produces raw video at 24 megabytes each. Now that is a camera!

Chuck Genrich

Senior Games 2015

A great Senior Games! This year we had an all time high of 405 athletes, an increase of 35 over last year. While we had some 50 athletes from 2014 not sign in, they were replaced by 85 new athletes. We also added three new events; mixed bocce, golf and pickleball, and now have 61 events. Last year pickleball was only in the exhibition stage. The weather was great, somewhat good and not so good, but everyone kept a great attitude which is easier to do at this latitude. We had to cancel the swimming due to cool temperatures but I am sure all of the swimmers will return next year with gusto. The busiest male athlete was Jack Cowan who entered 24 events while Carol Maier led the woman, entering 20 events. Our top ribbon winner was Jack Cowan, winning 10 ribbons. Closely behind, with 7, were Howard Kusler, Dick Brown and Toni Skiver. A total of 411 ribbons were presented. The bocce grand championship went to the women this year in a thrilling come-from-behind finish. I did hear some mumbling about "wait until next year." As always, give a big "thank you" to the event coaches and their assistants because without them there would be no Games. Generally, some new coaches are needed every year so, if you are willing to be in charge of one of the events or just help, contact Bill Maier or the event coach. Also a very big **Thank You to Bill and Carol Maier** without whom these games would not even occur. They have spent many hours, days, weeks and months making sure everything goes smoothly. Everything concerning the Games next year will be in February with registration February 1, 2 and 3, and the Games starting on February 13 with golf, continuing February 15 with tennis and horseshoes, accelerating on February 19 with mixed bocce and finishing on February 27 ,with the banquet on February 28.

