



Mid-Florida Winnies

Local Chapter – Central Florida Area - Our 43rd Year
www.winniegators.org/mid-florida



Chapter Leadership for 2016

Presidents: Jeff & Sara Roudebush – roudyjsr2@aol.com
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Vice-Presidents: Joel & Brenda Oleksa – oleksajt@gmail.com
Secretaries: Carolyn & Ken Ledford – rledfor1@peoplepc.com
Treasurer: Richard Menge – RichardFM@earthlink.net
Past Presidents: Tom & Sharon Zopff – tzopff@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events for 2016-17

Oct. 21-23: Winnie Gators @ Travelers Rest, Dade City
Nov. 7-10: MFW @ Joy (Sonrise Village) RV Resort, Cocoa
Dec. 5-8: MFW @ Grand Lake Golf & RV Resort, Citra
Jan. 5-8: Winnie Gators @ Lazydays RV Resort, Seffner
Feb. 23-26: FSWG State Rally @ Sarasota Co. Fairgrounds
Mar. 13-16: MFW @ Fountain Lake RV Resort, Jacksonville
Apr. 10-13: MFW @ International RV Park, Daytona Beach

September/October 2016 Mid-Florida Winnies Newsletter

A note from the road:

Greetings from Vidalia, LA where Winnebago's Great River Road Caravan has "dropped anchor" for three nights. Our caravan is winding down with our only remaining stops being Baton Rouge and then the "big finish" in New Orleans. The caravan wraps up on October 21. Several of us are then headed to the Louisiana State WIT Rally which kicks off on Monday, October 24 and runs through the end of that week. Then, we will head east, more or less along the I-10 corridor and make our way back to Central Florida in time for our Mid-Florida chapter campout at the Joy RV Park in Cocoa on November 7-10. See below for more information about our upcoming events!

There are several important updates in this newsletter, so please read carefully!

Florida State Winnie Gators Campout at Travelers Rest in Dade City, October 21-23

The Florida State Winnie Gator season is about to kick off with the upcoming gathering at Travelers Rest in Dade City. Registration should have been completed by now, but if you want to attend and have not yet registered, check with the Caffreys to see if space is still available. The complete schedule of events for October as well as contact information for the Caffreys can be found at winniegators.org.

Eastern Area WIT representatives Stewart and Tammy Smith will be attending this Winnie Gators gathering, so we will all get the latest from WIT headquarters! Most of you met Stewart and Tammy at our state rally back in February and of course, all of us who attended GNR saw them daily! If you haven't yet met Stewart and Tammy, you are in for a treat! Be sure to stop and introduce yourself during the campout.

Jack and Gloria advise us that Travelers Rest has just notified them of a policy change which affects our FSWG October meeting attendees. Any guest arriving with a pet or pets MUST show proof of each pet's vaccinations. Bring a copy of each pet's shot record with you to the office when checking in.

Presidents Jack and Gloria Caffrey will summarize our Florida row activities at the Grand National Rally. We can tell you that Jack and Glo did a GREAT job of heading up the Florida Row and coordinating our activities! There will also be an update of preparations for the 2017 State Rally, proposed revisions to the Winnie Gators bylaws, and a revision to the State Rally cancellation policy.

Interested in leadership at the state level? FSWG elections are right around the corner and we still need candidates for President, First Vice-President, and Secretary. Candidates have emerged for Treasurer and Second Vice-President. Contact Jack and Gloria if interested! Elections must be held in January and the new officers take over at the conclusion of the State Rally in February. Time is short!

November 7-10 Mid-Florida Campout at the Joy RV Resort in Cocoa

Our November chapter campout is right around the corner. As you know from previous newsletters and e-mails, reservations were due at Joy a few weeks ago. If you did not register yet with Joy RV Resort but still want to attend, give them a call and see if anything is available. It's a busy place!

Your hosts for the November gathering are the Kiefers, the Dalands, and the Smiths.

We'll be back to you via e-mail in the next couple of weeks with the specifics of the campout as well as the usual meeting agenda and draft minutes from the last chapter meeting.

December 5-8 Mid-Florida Campout at Grand Lake RV Resort in Citra

Our December chapter campout will be here before we know it. Grand Lake is a Sun Communities property, so the registration procedures are a bit different. We will very shortly be sending all of you a registration form for the December campout. You will need to write a check payable to the Mid-Florida Winnies for \$75 (three nights at \$25 per night) and send it along with the completed registration form to Joel Oleksa by November 1. **Do not call Grand Lake directly.** Details will be included in the e-mail that accompanies the registration form.

September 12-15 Mid-Florida Campout at Paradise Oaks in Bushnell

Our sincere thanks to John and Jane Barron as well as Dave and Linda Drenning for this summary of the September campout and the pictures.



Our hosts for the September MFW chapter campout were Dave & Linda Drenning and John & Jane Barron. The theme was Harvest/Fall. Several of the rigs arrived on Sunday and enjoyed an informal happy hour together. Monday saw the arrival of the remainder of the rigs to make a total of eleven. During the afternoon, fun was had in the pool with a new version of volley ball being invented - no net, no rules and a soft ball! We welcomed three guest couples to this gathering – Alan & Susan Troop, Bill & Elaine Schilp, and Dennis & Chris Spinabella at the happy hour. An informal BBQ was held outside the Recreation Hall and everyone was invited to BYO and CYO and enjoy their meals in the clubhouse together.

Tuesday was an early start for the host as "Pitmaster John" cranked up his own smoker BBQ to start smoking the pork butts for the evening dinner. He baby sat the pork with love all day in between jumping in the pool. The airboat ride was cancelled due to lack of interest, but there was plenty of pool activity and the patio area outside the clubhouse was a popular place to catch up with friends and smell the aromas of BBQ pork. The weather treated us well with plenty of sun and no rain as tropical storm Julia missed us and passed along the east coast. Numerous appetizers were enjoyed at Happy Hour. In the evening, everyone enjoyed helping themselves to pulled pork and a variety of salads and sides. This was followed by a quiz created by the Drennings and Barrons and featured a number of sections for sports, music, pot luck, British stuff and US citizenship questions. Quiz winners were the Parks and the Cristofs. The finale was everyone getting up to do the twist with John providing the music over the speaker system from his iPhone. Linda Drenning was chief videographer!



Wednesday, the cooked breakfast included French toast (David's specialty), sausage, fried eggs and fruit salad. After breakfast there was an informal meeting led by Tom Zopff. During the day, a number of people went to the Russell Stover factory for a chocolate fix and several people had lunch at a local Mexican restaurant. By late afternoon, we were pounded by the remnants of tropical storm Julia. During the storm, a lightning bolt hit one of the campground's power poles and shut down the water supply to the Recreation Hall. Luckily, power was restored in time for dinner. Happy hour was enjoyed by all followed by a chicken dinner with pot luck sides.



Thursday morning, we had a continental breakfast and then said our farewells. A good time was had by all.

A few notes from your hosts:

The resort was in the midst of being upgraded so it was a little noisy from the construction crews. The new owners have added another 400 acres to the campground to accommodate a larger range of campsites. The resort is a perfect place for train enthusiasts with Sunday night having as many as four CSX rail caravans going through every hour. (Why is it that so many campgrounds have rail tracks

nearby?)The pool is excellent and the staff went overboard in helping us.



From your Presidents...

As a new season begins, our annual chapter officer elections draw near. According to our bylaws, we must appoint our nominating committee at the November chapter meeting. Elections occur at the December chapter meeting. The new officers are sworn in and take over at the January chapter meeting which is conducted at the Winnie Gators January gathering. Also, our annual financial audit must be conducted in January.

Sara and I have served as your chapter Presidents for three years. It is time for someone else to step into the leadership role for the chapter so that we can ease into the Past President slot. Joel and Brenda Oleksa will also be stepping aside as Vice-Presidents. We already have a nominee for the Vice-President slot. When we talked with Richard Menge and Carolyn Ledford back in the spring, both were willing to consider continuing in their roles as Treasurer (Richard) and Secretary (Carolyn) depending on the wishes of a new president and of course, yours as the chapter membership.

If you are interested in stepping into the leadership of our chapter and have questions, please contact us.