



The Pelican Brief

The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Pelicans,
a Florida Chapter of FMCA

February 2016

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Please call, text, or e-mail any news to
me to add to our Brief.

Shake

Sunshine Report ☼

A note from Jane Lee Cobb:

We would like to thank our Pelican friends for the get well wishes and cards that were sent during Gary's recent lengthy hospital stay. Gary got home this week we have made reservations for Perry FMCA, so hope to catch up with all of you then.

Jane Lee and Gary Cobb, St. Petersburg

Jane Lee regrets that they won't be going to the Lippizzanner Lipisanner Lizzipanner Horse Rally; that's always been a favorite of theirs. See how the power of hopes, wishes, and prayers works? Glad you're doing better, Gary.

On another note, I spoke with Pat Sandquist, who were longtime members of the Pelicans. She and husband John sure miss the fun they had motorhoming, the sights, the activities, and most of all the people they met everywhere, who quickly became their friends. John is holding his illness at bay, and is doing well; in fact I even saw them cutting the rug at a recent Dinner and Dance held at our Bayside Estates community!

Celebrations ♥

Wow! **Sue Hawkins** has a birthday on Valentine's Day! That means she gets twice as big a present as anyone else! Doesn't she, Paul? Happy Birthday on the 14th, Sue. I have no one else on my February list, but **Edd Vowels** wanted to remind us, yet again, that his birthday is on January 30th. And he sent me a note saying that he accepts all gifts! I know what I'll get you, an extra "D," Eddd.

EXTRA! EXTRA! This just in... Richard Johnson needs birthday wishes on February 20th, and Alice and Richard are celebrating 10 years of marriage on February 18th. When interviewed about the milestone, Richard said, "Yup, I've stuck it out for ten years!" Well, put it back, Richard, put it back.

President's Corner ▴

How could the January rally at Paradise Park have been any better. Diversity seemed to be the only thing that was constant. Sun, rain wind and tornado warnings. Well, we didn't have the snow that the northeast is getting.

We played many games such as Mexican Train, card games, and beanbag toss just to name a few. We can't forget the beautiful butterflies that Robyn taught us to make.

Then we had food, food, and more food.

Most of all we had each of the participants jumping in and helping when necessary. Getting to know others in the club and making everyone feel welcome.

THANK YOU! Each one of you made this my first rally as president a huge success. Please call with your suggestions or concerns.

Happy Trails,

Linda Michel, President
[941-264-7572](tel:941-264-7572)

January Rally – a Weekend in Paradise!

Thirteen units attended the January 14 to 17 rally at Paradise Park in Punta Gorda. Hosts were Linda Michel and Richard Ridgell and Robyn and Russ Geren. Thursday started with the usual happy hour followed by a potluck supper. The assortment of food was fantastic. At 7 PM Paradise Park had BINGO - 3 cards for \$2.00 - Marcy Ryan and Helen Miller both won.

Friday started off with omelets boiled in bags, sausage, biscuits, oj, and coffee. In the afternoon, some members played an assortment of games in the Rec Hall. Again, a happy hour, followed by make your own pizza and fruit packets made over a charcoal fire. Thank you Joan Miller for making the salad. Evening was a show by a group of young people, Re-Creation, doing rock-n-roll and patriotic songs. This group travels the country putting on shows for Veteran hospitals.

Saturday started with breakfast of a ham and cheese sandwich, oj and coffee. The business meeting was conducted. In the afternoon members again played games, learned to make butterflies and visited the dog park. (Unfortunately, the golf course was closed due to the wet weather.) Happy hour was followed by a chilli dump -YUM YUM!!! - salad and corn chips. Liar Liar was a success - many prizes were given out.

The weather Sunday morning was horrible! Some members spent time in the men's room after receiving a tornado warning [Editor's note: unsure if time spent in the men's room was due to a nervous condition caused by the frightening weather or for shelter.] Breakfast was french toast, syrup and oj (no coffee as electric was non-existent). The wind was ferocious so all but the Johnsons left by noon. (They left their unit to attend the Tampa RV show.)

A great big thank you to Linda and Richard for getting Paradise Park and everything they did to

make the weekend a success. Everyone agreed we should come back to Paradise again next January!

I know I'm missing numerous things that were done, and thanks goes out to all those who pitched in.

Robyn Geren, Host

Business Meeting Minutes

Gulf Coast Pelicans FMCA Chapter Business Meeting January 16, 2016 Paradise Park Punta Gorda

Meeting called to order at 10 AM, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Alice Johnson, Second Vice-President Chris Christensen, Treasurer Bill Ryan, Secretary Susan Hull, Director Richard Johnson, and Alternate Linda Michel.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the November 21, 2015, minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer Ryan reported the December 31, 2015, ending balance was \$3978.71. The report was accepted.

President Alice read a letter of appreciation from Helen Miller's church for donating to the food pantry. Canned goods were donated at the December rally in Sarasota at Der Dutchman.

Second Vice-President Chris Christensen reported the membership list on the website has been updated. If dues have been paid, the status is active. If not, status is inactive. Contact Chris Christensen or Carol Barton if there are any errors. Alice thanked Chris and Carol for maintaining the website. Has been very user-friendly. If you are having problems, contact Chris or Carol.

Alice gave a big thank you to our January hosts, Linda Michel and Richard Ridgell and Robyn and Russ Geren.

On a personal note, Alice thanked everyone for their support during her term as President.

New Business

CHANGES IN STANDING RULES

*The dates for dues to be paid has been changed to November 1 each year. If not paid by November 15, dues will be delinquent and a \$5 reinstatement fee will be charged. After December 1, your name will be changed from active to inactive on the website. This will help with a more accurate reporting of our chapter roster to FMCA.

*After chapter elections, the new officers will be sworn in during the annual meeting. This should help with a smoother transition.

The treasurer's preference is for members to pay their dues by check.

Future Rallies were discussed. [Detailed information about the Rallies follows.]

February 4-7 Myakka City, Lippizan Rally. Dry camping. Hosts Gale Knull and Linda Gleason.

March 17-20 FMCA Int'l Rally at Perry, GA. Let Alice Johnson know if you plan to attend.

April 14-17 Harbor Lakes RV Resort, Port Charlotte. Hosts Singletons, Hawkinses, and Browns.

May 5-8 Kentucky Derby Rally at Sun n Fun in Sarasota. Millers and Johnsons will be hosting.

August 3-7 FMCA Int'l Rally in Springfield, Massachusetts. Let Alice know if you are attending.

September No plans at this time

October 26-30 Fantasy Fest Rally, Sunshine Key Resort MM31. Need co-hosts!

Alice will have the nightly cost next month. Transportation to Key West daily. Resort is offering the

same rate for two days before and/or two days after. More information will be sent.

November 17-20 Near Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel Island. Hosts are Bartons, Kirkbrides and Schmits.

December 8 (tentative date) Christmas Buffet at Der Dutchman in Sarasota. Hosted by the Millers.

December 11 Social Event - Boat Parade in Charlotte Harbor at Bill and Marcy Ryan's.

Sheriff Bob reminded members that there will be a \$1 fine per event for not wearing your badge.

Installation of Officers

Officers for the 2016-2017 terms were installed by President Alice Johnson.

President	Linda Michel
First Vice-President	Paul Hawkins
Second Vice-President	Chris Christensen
Treasurer	Patty Passolt
Secretary	Larry Singleton
Director	Richard Johnson

Meeting adjourned 11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hull, Secretary

Rattle

February Rally – Horsing Around!

February 4 to 7, 2016
Herrmann's Royal Lipizzaner Stallions Winter Training Ranch
32755 Singletary Road, Myakka City

Gale Knull and Linda Gleason, Hosts

We will be dry camping at their facility and enjoying the horse that seem to fly thru the air. We will have our own camping area where we will circle our wagons (coaches) around the campfire. The cost is \$20 a night for camping [CASH PLEASE]. You must sign up on the Web or call or email Gale Knull at [845-453-2946](tel:845-453-2946) galeknull@gmail.com or Linda Gleason, his wife, at [845-399-1940](tel:845-399-1940). It is dry camping, so come with your fresh water tank full and your black and grays empty (there is a porta-potty near the arena).

February Rally Agenda

Greeting fellow Pelicans: Myself (Gale Knull) and my lovely wife Laura will be serving as organizers for the Royal Lipizzaner Stallion Rally Thursday February 4th thru Sunday February 7th.

Presently we have 8 coaches who will be attending and will have a great time horsing around with the World Renown Lipizzaner Stallions.

Gale & Laura Knull
Ken Bliss & Lillian Schmidt
Allen & Eve Heath
Steve & Marlene Huff

Richard & Alice Johnson
Linda Michel & Richard Ridgill
Margaret Schmidt & Art Holzer
Keith & Gaila Van Dee

There is still room for additional folks to attend as it's shaping up to be an event-packed weekend. Half of us will be pulling in on Thursday and have a cozy evening together, and the other half will be pulling in on Friday.

Thursday

5:00 pm - The evening must start with a " happy happy happy " hour.

6:00 pm - Intimate dining by candlelight (or is that campfire light?)
Chili, hot dogs, chips and dessert

Friday

9:00 am - Breakfast - coffee, juice, **Eggs in a Basket with each coach** to supply their own eggs. Supplied will be sausage, ham, cheese, onions, peppers, mushrooms for your dining pleasure.
We will need a toaster or two to move the toast line faster.

10:30 am - Shopping trip to Sarasota thrift stores, Woman's Exchange, Fabulous Finds.
Lunch in Sarasota.

3:00 pm - Lipizzaner show on property for \$5.00 each

4:30 pm - Happy hour

5:30 pm - (approx) leave for Stottlemeyers BBQ, 12 miles toward Sarasota-- I will take a count closer to date

Saturday

8:30 am - Breakfast (details to follow)

10:00 am - Lipizzaner Dress Show \$ 5.00

1:00 pm - Solomans Castle, Ona, FL. - \$ 10.00 cash - no credit cards

4:00 pm - Happy Hour

5:30 pm - Dinner - Rotisserie Chicken, beans, potato salad, dessert

Sunday

8:00- 10:00 Farewell Breakfast (details to follow)

Roll

Future Rallies

***March 17 to 20, 2016 Find Your Pot of Gold in Perry, Georgia
FMCA's 93rd Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase***

We're still urging Pelicans to hit the road in March for a great time at the FMCA convention! If attending the March FMCA Rally contact Alice Johnson.

***April 14 to 17, 2016 Harbor Lakes RV Resort, 3737 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte, FL
33953, 941-624-4511
Larry & Mary Ann Singleton, Paul & Sue Hawkins, and Bob & Joanne Brown , Hosts***

The April hosts have a great rally all planned out. Read on.... It's not too soon to sign up!

April Rally

April 14 – 17, 2016
Harbor Lakes RV Resort
3737 El Jobean Road
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
941-624-4511

Rally Hosts: Larry & Mary Ann Singleton, Paul & Sue Hawkins, Bob & Joann Brown

Call campground directly to reserve your spot at a rate \$30.00 per night. First night is nonrefundable.

Schedule of events

- Thur April 14 Arrive and happy hour 3:30 – 4:30 (bring light snacks)
Out to supper 5:00 to Farlows Restaurant
- Fri April 15 Breakfast and lunch on your own
Golf at Palms in Rotunda (first tee off at 9:17 am)
(call Larry Singleton at 941-697-9222)
Happy hour 3:30 – 4:30 (bring appetizers)
Bring your own meat to grill
(baked potato, salad and ice cream will be provided)
- Sat April 16 Breakfast (scrambled eggs, sausage, toast and juice)
Happy hour 3:30 – 4:30 (bring hearty appetizers)
Baseball game 6:05 pm (food at ball park, see reg form)
Charlotte Stone Crabs (Tampa Rays farm team)
vs
Tampa Yankees (New York Yankees farm team)
- Sun April 17 Continental breakfast and good'byes
(muffins, donuts and orange juice)

Place settings and beverages should be brought to all meals.

Call campground directly to reserve your spot at a rate \$30.00 per night. First night is nonrefundable. Campground phone 941-624-4511.

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Registration Form

Rally fee	\$20.00 per rig	\$ 20.00
Ball game	\$7.00 per person	_____
Hot dog meal (comes with chips & soda)	\$5.00 per person	_____
Chicken finger meal (comes fries & soda)	\$6.00 per person	_____
	Total	_____

Send registration form and check payable to Sue Hawkins, 3524 Liberty St., Port Charlotte, FL 33948 by March 25, 2016

May 5 to 8, 2016 Sun 'n Fun Derby Rally

Helen and John Miller and Alice and Richard Johnson, Hosts

Derby Day celebration coming up in May! Mark your calendars! More info to follow.

Oct 27 to 30, 2016 Sunshine Key RV Resort

Being set up by Richard and Alice Johnson with a shout out for Hosts!

The 20 spots reserved for this Fantasy Fest rally are filling up, so if you've not reserved, NOW IS THE TIME! Alice will soon have the campground fee set, and at whatever price, this will be worth it. A host couple or two will be appreciated; call Alice if you'd like to help. Google "Sunshine Key RV Resort" and get your reservations now!

November 17 to 20, 2016 Rally in the planning stages!

The Schmits, Kirkbridess and Bartons are planning the November rally. We are down to two locations, both very near Ft. Myers Beach and Sanibel Island. The dates will be November 17 to 20th, so keep your calendar open! There will be Thanksgiving dinner and also the annual meeting at this rally. Both venues are really spectacular - each in its own way! You won't want to miss!

December 6, 2016 Christmas Luncheon at Der Dutchman in Sarasota

Helen and John Miller, Hosts

Just a shout out to go to the last page of your calendar and commit the 6th to the Luncheon!

Our Chapter May Make the Mag by Chris Christensen, 2nd VP

Our chapter will probably be pictured in an upcoming edition of Family Motor Coaching magazine. Those of you who attended our 20th anniversary celebration rally at Upriver RV Resort in November 2015 may see your smiling face in the picture. There will also be a little article about us and our rally. Assuming FMCA accepts our submission (which they almost certainly will) it will probably be published in the magazine in February, March or April 2016. Stay tuned.

Recommendations and Requests

No recommendations or requests submitted this month, so I'd like to recommend that you all have a great month, and I'll see some of you at the horse farm!

Rosie Deffinbaugh
Editor