



GATOR TALES

Volume 14, Issue 2

*

Fall 2025

**A Publication of ESCAPEES CHAPTER 57
FLORIDA SUN GATORS**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello to all our Chapter 57 Members,

It's been a while since our last newsletter, so let's catch-up with some of the fun we've had. First though, I hope all are in good health and have had a great summer, safe travels and fun adventures.

The Spring Rally at Frog Creek Campground in Palmetto in late April, was a well-attended fun event, with 14 rigs and 23 members. On Saturday morning, Maria with help from Carl and some hungry volunteers cooked breakfast for all. On Sunday morning, the featured event was a water taxi ride from Bradenton to Anna Maria Island, lunch at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar, and about an hour to explore Bradenton Beach.

In late May: Carolyn, Gloria, Maria and I went to Helen, Georgia. On the way up, we visited the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, in Warner Robins, Georgia. Anyone interested in the history of military planes, it's a very large place and well worth the stop. Upon arriving in Helen, we stayed at Unicoi State Park, a well maintained park, reasonably priced with full hookups. The Bavarian style town of Helen was interesting and fun, great German food and plenty of shopping. Although most places are closed after dark, the whole town is decorated with lights. We visited Ruby Falls, a long walk, but worth every step, as the falls are very impressive. On the way back, we stayed at the Wane Lake Golf Course and RV Park, in Ashburn, Georgia. A nice and quiet Passport America park about 4 miles off I-75. Additionally, while we were there, we went to the Giant Peanut monument and then dinner in town.

Lets' not forget our upcoming Fall Rally at Clerbrook Golf and RV Resort in Clermont, Florida running October 23-28. Please contact our VP Carl at: gator57vicepresident@gmail.com

for details. It is important to let Carl know that you registered so he can properly plan the rally events. Our meeting there will include nominations and elections for president and secretary. I'm willing to run for president for one more term and Gloria will continue as chapter secretary. If anyone has any business they would like me to bring up at the meeting, please let me know.

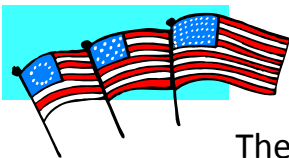
Looking forward to seeing you at our first luncheon: 11:00 AM, October 2nd at the Golden Corral in Zephyrhills. Don't forget to check our website at: <https://sungators57.wixsite.com> for upcoming events. Carl has taken over the site and has added a new feature, a members-only campout calendar that we're very excited about. Carl will be giving a how-to presentation at the rally.

See you all soon,
Russell Sens
President Chapter 57

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Minutes of the Escapees Chapter 57 Business Meeting

April 25, 2025 at Frog Creek Campground in Palmetto, FL



The meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM.

President Russell Sens led the 19 attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

Introduction of Officers present: President Russell Sens, Vice President Carl Pichotta, Secretary Diane Wright, Treasurer Carolyn Orr

The minutes from November 17, 2024 were read and accepted.

Sunshine: Larry Forbes had carotid artery surgery.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted

Old business: No old business

New Business: We need to think about our rallies and the costs the campgrounds are charging. The prices are rising with the \$70 range becoming the norm. We need a minimum of 10 rigs for most campgrounds to consider us a rally. Harvest Hosts does not benefit us for rallies.

Secretary Diane Wright is resigning due to health reasons.

Nominations were opened for secretary. Gloria Jameson was nominated. She was enthusiastically voted to be the new secretary. Her interim term will start immediately.

Announcements: Carl Pichotta is wagon master for the fall rally which will be at Sweet Citrus Acres RV Resort in Crystal River. He described the park and sites in the area. He also said the cost is in the \$70 range which was discussed earlier. Dates and reservation details are posted on our website.

Sky Med will be with us on Monday with breakfast preceding the presentation.

There will be a carpool for the dinner at the Chinese Buffet.

Crafts will be at 8PM

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary

Diane Wright.

From Your Treasurer ---

Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2025

Bank Beginning Balance as of 3/31/25	\$3,310.98
Deposits & Credits	420.00
	-
Less Expenses	249.53
Bank Balance as of 8/31/25	\$3,481.45
Prepaid Dues	369.00
Available Balance 8/31/25	\$3,112.45

Hugs, Carolyn Orr, Treasurer



SUNSHINE REPORT

Hi Ch. 57 - Luckily I have not had to send out too many cards. There were no sympathy cards which is a blessing. I only sent 3 get well-thinking of you cards. One went to Morgan Kirk and two to Carolyn Orr. Hope they are both on the mend. Please let me know if you know of anyone in need of a card. You can call, text or email me anytime. My contacts are: phone and text - 352-552-0132 and my email is mforbes37796@gmail.com I hope to see many of you at the fall rally.

SKP Hugs, Marilyn Forbes, Sunshine Lady



Fall 2025 Gators Rally – October 23–28

We're gearing up for an exciting gathering at Encore Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort in Clermont, FL from Thursday, October 23 – Tuesday, October 28. It's not too late to register and join the fun — and you won't want to miss it!

With plenty of activities and fellowship planned, this promises to be a fun-filled time for all in Central Florida. The full agenda is posted on the club website under the Events tab, so be sure to check it out and start planning your rally week!

Important Note:

At the Friday business meeting, members will be voting on two vital leadership positions: Club President and Secretary. These roles are essential to keeping our club moving forward in an exciting, adventurous, and connected way. Please make every effort to attend and have your voice heard.

We're also thrilled to be rolling out a brand-new online club calendar — an ongoing way to share adventures from our personal travels. Club members are invited to add their trips, rallies, or events and welcome others to join if they wish. A short training session will be offered during the rally for anyone interested in learning how to use it.

We can't wait to see all of you there for fellowship, fun, and Florida sunshine! 

Encore Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort
20005 US Hwy 27N, Clermont, FL 34715
(352) 394-5513 – Option 1

Ask for Pam or Kathy, and be sure to request Section 800 to be close to the other club members.

Explore. Roam. Discover

Carl Pichotta
Sun Gators Chapter 57 - Vice President
Phone: (929) 314-4619

Reflections From The Spring Rally:

We were all welcomed at Frog Creek Campground in Palmetto, FL when we arrived on April 24, 2025. The campground is very quaint with trees. Soon we gathered for registration and for a delicious dinner at the “Pig Out”



frog displays throughout and stately happy hour. Many of us went out Restaurant. The next morning, our

President and First Lady and helpers served a big breakfast of sausage gravy and biscuits and scrambled eggs. Some of the special events for this day, was to check out the flora and fauna of Palma Sola Botanical Garden in Bradenton. (See pictures later in this newsletter). It is still a lovely garden despite seeing some of the damage it incurred from the past hurricane. Some members went kayaking while others of us continued on to explore DeSoto Nat’l. Memorial Park. We walked a beautiful trail there along the water’s edge which brought us to a large cross. What a beautiful area and a great way to prepare us for the evening Chinese buffet. It was fabulous! When we returned to Frog Creek, several of the ladies gathered to do Maria Sens craft class on metal engraving art. The Dolphin pictures all turned out so nice.

Saturday morning several of us had leftover sausage and gravy biscuits. Then we carpooled the Red Barn Flea Market in Bradenton. This is a huge flea market and not many of us came back empty handed. Well, all that shopping does work up an appetite, so that evening the chapter had a pot luck dinner. We certainly have some good cooks! After dinner, the club had 50/50 and auction accumulating \$130.00 for CARE.

Sunday morning we gathered early to carpool at 9:15 am to Bradenton Riverwalk to catch the ferry to Anna Maria Island. It was a 1 hr. 10 min. ride and some were lucky to see some Dolphins. Along the way, we saw some very large homes, and we saw that same cross, from a distance, that we walked up to at the DeSoto Park. When we arrived at Bradenton Beach, it was time for lunch at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar Restaurant right there at the ferry stop. The food was great and there was a great view of the water. After lunch, we had some time to walk among the street-lined shops, sampling homemade fudge and having ice cream. In a short distance, we were at the beach lined with bikini sun bathers! However, it was soon time to head back to the ferry for the return trip to the Riverwalk. Back at camp we enjoyed leftovers from the potluck.

Monday morning was a breakfast provided by Sky Med along with a short presentation. Then we all headed for Manatee Historical Park. The first thing one notices is the 1913 “Old Cabbage Head” locomotive on display. The train acquired that name due to the shape of the smoke stack. There were several historical buildings, including a 1912 home that was open for full display of all the decorated rooms. The grounds also housed an 1887 church and an 1860 courthouse, where we witnessed a lady enter and a man running after her to ask if she was there to pay her bill! All in fun! That evening, some went to a German restaurant for dinner.

At 7 pm, the Dancing DJ's (Lynn & Becky Lunde) put on a dance. Everyone seemed to have a good time as they participated in various dances.

Tuesday the rally came to an end, but not before having coffee and donuts and getting hugs and goodbye's until the next rally. The hosts for this rally Russell and Maria Sens did a terrific job. I'm sure you all join me in thanking the Sens and helpers in hosting a fun rally.

Submitted by
Becky Lunde

POT LUCK PAGE

Corn Casserole (from the kitchen of Becky Lunde)

1 stick margarine
1 8-oz pkg. cream cheese
1 egg
1 can whole corn, drained
1 can cream style corn
1 Tablespoon sugar
1 Box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix



Regular Oven:

Melt margarine and cream cheese. Add egg and stir together. Add remaining ingredients. Spray with Pam a large 9x13 glass casserole dish and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour till done.

Convection Oven:

Press Bake/Roast button once. To set the temperature, press 7 for 350 degrees. Press OK. Set time for 45 min to cook. Turn Off Turntable. Press Start.



* Anytime you need the most up-to-date chapter information, just go to:
<https://sungators57.wixsite.com/sungators> *



RV TIP: Want your RV Air Conditioner to run smoother and last longer? It is recommended to clean your AC every six months. Turn off Air Conditioners. Carefully remove the cover. Now remove the coil cover. There may be some screws to remove that you will need a long handle Phillips screwdriver to reach. There will be some clips to undo. Slide the cover out. You will see the coils are covered with a dirty goo. Wipe this off with paper towels and a toothbrush. Make sure to get all the goo off the tray below. Now spray the coils with “Nu-Calgon Evaporator Foam No Rinse Evaporator Coil Cleaner” available on Amazon. Let it sit for one hour. Put everything back together.

MEMBER NEWS AND TRAVELS

Lynn & Becky Lunde:

Did you know that if you served in the Military (even if for only 2 years), that you can obtain a free lifetime entrance pass for Florida State Parks. This does not affect camping. It is only for the entrance. We love visiting and hiking in state parks. If anyone is aware of other states offering this same type of pass, please let us know. You are probably aware that as a Florida resident and of senior age, you can get half off of the camping fee.



Editor's Note: As your Newsletter Editor, I will do my best to make the newsletter an interesting read, and provide accurate information. To make the newsletter the best it can be, please email me articles on where you have been or where you are going. Send me articles on how to fix things on your RV. Send me funny articles or poems. In other words, I need your input, and would really appreciate it. Please submit any articles for the Gator Tales to me via email (lblunde@aol.com). Pictures are welcome and may be used in a collage, or cropped for space. JPG format is preferred. I will attempt to include all articles in the current issue. I look forward to receiving lots of articles from everyone. **The newsletter deadlines are March 15th, September 15th, and December 15.** Thank you for your participation. I hope you enjoy this issue.

Becky Lunde



Thank you to all who submitted articles for this issue!

Happy Halloween!



Happy Thanksgiving!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

1. How many dance instructors does it take to change a lightbulb? Five ... six ... seven ... eight!
2. I used to be addicted to the Hokey Pokey, but then I turned myself around.
3. Did you hear about the guy who decided to hang mirrors for a living? It's something he could see himself doing.
4. Why did the potato leave the bar? All eyes were on him.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Florida Escapees Gathering For Lunch

Luncheons are held the first Thursday of the month (**October thru April**) at 11am at Golden Corral, 6855 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills, FL. Please wear name tags to all Escapee functions. It does not have to be an Escapees tag; just some sort of name tag to help us learn who you are. It helps everyone remember names when meeting for the first time.



Chapter 57 Fall Rally – October

When: October 23-28, 2025 (5 nights)
Where: Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort, 2000 US Hwy. 27 N, Clermont, FL 34715
Rally Coordinator: Carl Pichotta
Site Fees: \$250.00 for 5 nights with a \$47 deposit - Call Pam or Kathy 9am-4pm at 352-394-5513 Option 1. Make sure to tell them it is for SKP Ch. 57 Rally
Sites available are: 819-821, 826-830, & 833-835

Send Carl an email at gator57vicepresident@gmail.com once you have booked your site or with questions.

President and Secretary Elections at this rally-Contact Russell if interested

FUTURE ESCAPADES: <https://escapade.escapees.com>

ROW REPS ARE NEEDED FOR ESCAPADES. As a Row Rep you will receive 50% off of camping fees. You will also be reimbursed for expenses to decorate the Row table and information about Ch. 57. Please let Russell Sens know if you are interested. Please refer to the website for further information regarding Row Reps. Please also notify Russell Sens if you plan to be a Row Rep.

Escapade – Fryeburg, Maine

When: June 14-19, 2026

Where: Fryeburg, ME

Escapade – Tucson, AZ

When: March 21-26, 2027

Where: Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, AZ

ADOPTIONS AND OTHER PICTURES FROM THE SPRING RALLY AT FROG CREEK RV RESORT- APRIL 24-29, 2025:



Renee Hadala Adopted by Russell & Maria Sens



Gloria Jameson Adopted by Jim & Chris Martin



Steve Adopted by Bruce & Cory Wheeler



Jill Adopted by Bruce & Cory Wheeler



Carl Pichotta Adopted by Frank & Regina McBride



A Fun Time At The Pigout Restaurant in Bradenton!

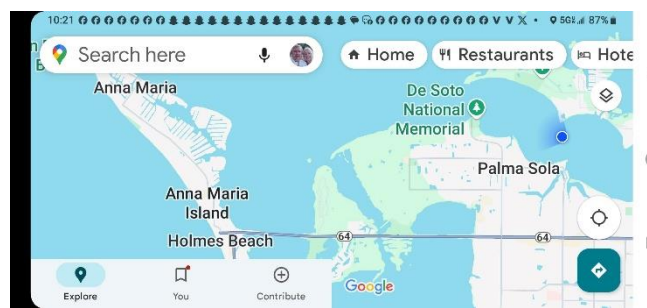


Becky & Lynn Lunde & Bruce & Cory Wheeler at the Palma Sola Botanical Garden 04-25-25

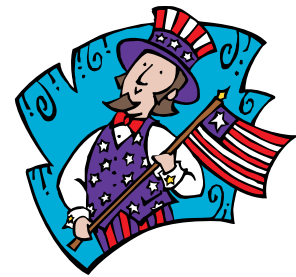




Our Group is ready to catch the Ferry to Anna Maria Island!



Give Thanks To Our Veteran's This Veteran's Day and Everyday.



Chapter 57 Membership Application

Please complete the information below. Then give or send to, along with cash or your check made out to: "Florida Sun Gators Chapter 57", to Treasurer: Carolyn Orr, 1675 Nassau Cir., Tavares, FL 32778.

Please Print Clearly: Checks payable to Sun Gators Ch. 57

Name(s): _____ SKP #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Addresses: _____

Telephone No(s): _____

Check all that apply: _____ RENEWAL, or _____ NEW _____ \$5 one-year membership _____ \$20 five year membership

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Gator Tales
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Chapter 57 Website: www.sungators57.wixsite.com/sungators

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Next Newsletter Deadline

DECEMBER 15, 2025
