



GATOR TALES



Volume 12, Issue 1

*

Spring 2023

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings members of the Ch. 57 Florida Sun Gators. It's that time of year. Some of you will be taking the opportunity to travel and visiting family or just sitting around and enjoying the peace and quiet.

Please keep in mind this November 2023 the President and Secretary positions will be open! (A must have for the Chapter to remain active). Hostess/Host are needed for the next/upcoming rallies.

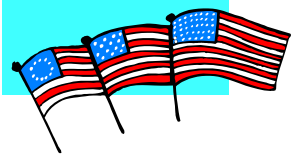
Thank you, safe travels and keep enjoying your life. Hope to see you down

the road.

Nate

<i>President</i>	Nathan Colter	SKP #105329	c.nathan21@yahoo.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Vacant		
<i>Secretary</i>	Rose Irons	SKP #24561	ggshirkey@yahoo.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Debby Thompson	SKP #89508	gator57banker@gmail.com
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<i>RVillage Administrator</i>			
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Becky Lunde	SKP #14580	lblunde@aol.com

Minutes of the Business Meeting for Escapees Chapter 57 Sun Gators



The current Minutes of the Meeting Report was listed in the Winter 2022 Gator Tales by Secretary Rose Irons.

From Your Treasurer ---

Escapees Chapter handbook states a treasurer's report should be given at each chapter and executive board meeting and produce a balance sheet at least once a year to be published in chapter newsletter. So, starting 2023, I will give a treasurer's report in the Gator Tales (basically just overview). I will prepare a balance sheet at the end of the year to be published with the annual roster in our Winter Gator Tales. If there are any questions about the reports, don't hesitate to contact me. Gator57banker@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance from prior report (11/30/2022): Bank balance: \$ [REDACTED]
Additions: \$40.00 Subtractions: \$17.73 Current Balance 2/28/2023: [REDACTED] Unearned
Dues: \$631.00 Available Balance: \$ [REDACTED]

We have 4 members who have not paid (or responded to my email) for 2023 dues. Chapter 57

By-laws state: "Membership in this Chapter is open to all current members of the Escapees Club" and "Any member whose dues are not paid by April 1 shall be suspended from the Chapter rolls. Any member whose dues are more than one year in arrears shall be dropped from the Chapter rolls." I will send one more reminder before April 1st. Feel free to contact me on your membership status at: gator57banker@gmail.com. Emails are checked at least once a day. Dues should be mailed to: Florida Sun Gators Chapter 57 c/o Debby Thompson, Treasurer 411 Walnut St #6878 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 *Address is a mail forwarding service, so your payment may not be processed immediately.

CARE donations: The Chapter received a letter and patch from CARE because of our donation from the November Rally. The lifetime total stated on the letter is \$21,920.10. **If you have our prior patches, will you let me know so I can add this to the collection.** We also received a separate letter acknowledging our \$569.00 in donations for 2022. FYI for new members, patches are issued to Chapters from CARE for each \$1000 in donations. Member's donations are also recognized by CARE. When members donations total \$100 or more, they will receive a letter and CARE pins to recognize their donations. Those whose donations total \$1,000.00 or more will receive a larger pin to thank them for their donations and a name plaque will be placed on the wall in the entrance to CARE showing they are \$1,000 donors. The member's donations only count if no goods or services were received for their donation. If you donate at a rally, I have a way to report it so the Chapter and you gets credit for the donation. Haven't heard of CARE? Check out their (improved) website: www.escapeescare.org. They are always looking for volunteers, be sure to check it out.

From the Website Manager:

Chapter officers received notification in January that there was a phone system update at headquarters. The new (updated) system does not support the Chapter/BoF voice mail. While it is still listed in the current March/April edition of the magazine, it does not function. Next edition of the magazine should be corrected. Chapter information can be found on Escapees.com website. REMEMBER you must be logged in to see details about chapters. Wendy is working with the chapters trying to make sure they keep their information current. I try to keep our website up to date. If you see anything that needs corrected, please contact me at sungators57@gmail.com (there is a link on the website). Happy for **any** input for the website: <https://sungators57.wixsite.com/sungators>.

From Your Facebook Administrator:

We regret to inform you that RVillage.com and the RVillage apps will be shut down on March 31, 2023. Every RVillager is invited to join the RVillage Community Facebook Group, where you can maintain your connections with other RVers and continue to share about your experiences

on the road – even after our closure on March 31st. Link to our Chapter 57 RVillage page will be removed from our website at that time. Our Facebook page still needs 2 questions answered to be accepted as a member. Please remember to do this if you wish to join.



Sunshine Report

Since the last newsletter I have sent out 3 get well cards. On December 14th, I sent one to Rose Irons; on January 8th, I showed Larry Forbes a get-well card; and on February 14th, I sent Bob Hoffman one. I know Rose and Larry are doing well and hope Bob is also.

Please let me know if a chapter member is in need of a get well or sympathy card. My contact information is text/phone 352-552-0132 and my email is mforbes37796@gmail.com.

Hope to see lots of you at the April lunch and at the rally.

SKP Hugs



Marilyn Forbes, Sunshine
Lady

POT LUCK PAGE



From: Rose Irons
INGREDIENTS:
3 Large Eggs
1 box cake mix any flavor
1 can pie filling any flavor



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Put the three ingredients into a bowl and mix them well.
2. Bake for 35 minutes at 350 degrees in a 9 x 13 pan.
3. It's got almost a pudding-cake kind of consistency lighter than pound cake
4. It's spotted on the inside with little pieces of whatever fruit filling you are using.
5. The edges are crispy, like you would get on brownies.

COMBINATION IDEAS:

Pineapple cake mix and blueberry filling
Chocolate cake mix and cherry filling
Yellow cake mix and cherry filling
Yellow cake mix and blueberry filling
Butter pecan cake mix and apple filling
Yellow cake mix and apple filling
Yellow cake mix and blackberry filling
Strawberry cake mix and blueberry filling



CAMPERS TIP FROM BECKY!!! Ever have trouble opening those flip-top food cans all the way? Flip the tab and do not pull it back to open. Merely place a table knife in the opening and gently slide it under the lid to lift it right up!

MEMBER NEWS AND TRAVELS

Alan & Jacque Essig:

We are new members Alan and Jacquelyn Essig. We live in St Mary's Georgia. We are new to RVing.. We look forward to meeting all of the other chapter members.

Peg Gifford:

Hi Chapter 57 Members:

As you know, Paul hung up his RV keys back in 2009. I hung it up in 2005.

Although we both missed the lifestyle, we didn't miss out on keeping up with many friends made through SKPs over the years. Paul's membership covered over 40 years. After moving back to NY and his death in 2019, I hung on for a bit longer still without an RV. I lived vicariously through all of you. I have now made the hard decision not to renew my membership. Marilyn and Larry Forbes remain dear friends and will keep me up to date on club activities. It's been a wonderful ride! Have fun!

SKP Member #17370, Peg Gifford, Signing off!

**Diane Wright & Morgan Kirk:**

We are Diane Wright and Morgan Kirk. We have been married for 28 years on March 6. We have been traveling in various campers. Our first was a 36-foot Alfa Gold with no slides which we lived in for our first 4 years in the 1990s. We have had various campers since then from a Rialta to our current 30-foot Itasca Sunstar. We have camped all over the country including Alaska 4 years ago towing our CanAm tryke for transportation.

I had joined Escapees in the 1980s but then went dormant for many years. We rejoined and ended up with my former Escapees # which is only 5 digits. Morgan & I went to our first Escapade in Wyoming 2 years ago. We decided to head west again for the Tucson Escapade because we could visit our daughter who lives in Texas and our son who lives in Phoenix in the same trip.

We joined Chapter 57 last month and look forward to meeting Debby at Escapade, and going to the Chapter 57 rally back in Florida and on to the SKP ACRE directly after in Brunswick Georgia. We gave our friends (2 couples) with whom we camp, Escapees memberships at Christmas. We all attended our first meeting of the chapter last month and we all joined. So that makes 3 new couples to enjoy camping with Chapter 57.

Scott & Deb Lesmeister:

We're Scott and Deb Lesmeister. We started our RV adventure in January, 2016. We have seen and done more than we ever imagined, and the bucket list just keeps growing!

Lynn & Becky Lunde:

We are looking forward to attending the upcoming Chapter rally in April. This summer we will be spending a relaxing time in Florida, unless a hurricane comes. We hope to see many of you at the rally, but if you cannot make the rally, have a wonderful summer wherever your travels take you.

Pat Mann:

In 1996 I got a wild hair and bought my first RV, an older 33 ft. Pace Arrow that turned out to be a real junker, and after 10 months traded for a newer Pace Arrow. Forward to now and I'm driving a 45-footer. My sister/my best friend and I traveled on the weekends, vacations, and short trips here and there until we both retired and could spend a bit more time in the RV. Unfortunately, I lost my sister this past October while on the Fantasy Mississippi Run Tour. I'm in new territory being a solo traveler and my first venture out of my comfort zone was to join your Chapter for lunch in Zephyrhills. Everyone made me feel welcome, so my scary experience wasn't too scary. My home is in Lakeland, and I have a few trips planned later this year. Also, I have several dogs so I have them to talk to, fuss at, and keep me company while on the road. I plan to join all of you at Cypress Campground in April and look forward to meeting everyone.

Chick & Debby Thompson:

After completing our holiday visit with the kids and annual doctor visits, we left the Jacksonville, FL area January 23rd headed west to Escapade. We finally got to stay at our ERPU lot in Summerdale and catch up with friends there and meet a Grandma & Grandpa for the first time. You know how tangled the branches on our SKP family tree can get. We made a couple of stops in TX to see friends we have not seen in years. So good to catch up! Stopped at SKP RV parks: Tra-Park, Pecos and are now at Dream Catcher, Deming. Boy has Tra-Park improved since we were there last. They have really improved the park since the oil workers moved out. Would recommend it to anyone. Both parks are close to I-10, so great stopping points. We report to Escapade Wednesday to be a Coffee King and Donut Diva! Sure doesn't feel like "work" other than having to set the alarm (early). Website updates may be a bit slow until Escapade is over. [We won't be at the next rally. BIG thanks to Larry, Marilyn and Rose for filling in for me.](#) Received a note from Cathy Cirocco, she and Tony have hung up the keys and sold the RV.

FL SKP Resort - Wauchula, FL. Looking for a Workamping couple starting April 15 - Oct 14, 2023. 5 hours per day maximum 100 hours per month. Maintenance - outside position. Grass mowing, trimming, and raking plus misc. groundskeeping duties. Swimming pool maintenance. Minor electrical, plumbing, and carpentry repairs. Maintain lawn equipment and exercise backup generators. Check chemicals and maintain records for water supply and sewage treatment plant. Office - inside position. No scheduled hours, however, may be needed occasionally to fill in for office employee. Pay for office work is \$11 for all hours worked. Outside position compensation \$300 monthly. Full hookup site. Electrical allowance up to \$200 monthly. Please send resume to: skpresortwauchula@gmail.com Jay and Diane Merritt

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!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

1. What do you get when you cross a Judge and poison ivy? A rash decision
2. What's the difference between a guitar and fish? You can't tuna fish.
3. What did the stamp say to the envelope? Stick with me and I'll take you places!
4. If you think of a better fish pun, let minnow.
5. Why is the number six afraid of seven? Because seven ate nine.
6. A friend went to a shell fish disco and pulled a mussel.
7. Which country's capital has the fastest growing population? Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Florida Escapees Gathering For Lunch

Luncheons are held the first Thursday of the month (**November thru April**) at 11am at Golden Corral, 6855 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills, FL.



Chapter 57 Spring Rally –April, 2023

When: April 10-14, 2023
Where: Cypress Campground, 7400 Cypress Gardens Blvd., Winter Haven, FL 33884
Rally Hosts: Rose Irons & Marilyn Forbes
Site Fees: Approx. \$40 per night including 2 days each side of rally. Be sure to say it is for SKP Ch. 57 Rally

Reservations: Call the resort at 863-324-7400

Chapter 57 Fall Rally – November, 2023

When: November 6-10, 2023

Where: Morningside RV Estates, 12645 Morning Dr., Dade City, FL

Rally Hosts: Need Hosts

Site Fees: ? per night Be sure to say it is for the SKP Ch. 57 Rally Reservations:
Call the resort at 325-523-1922

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

When: March 19-24, 2023

Where: Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, AZ

When: June 16-21, 2024

Where: Sweetwater Events Complex, Rock Springs, WY

When: March 16-21, 2025

Where: Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, AZ

SKP ACRE Registration Is Open!

SKP ACRE Rally – 2023

When: April 14-21, 2023 (Boot Camp April 21-23, 2023)

Where: Coastal Georgia RV Resort, 287 S. Port Pkwy., Brunswick, GA – 50 sites are set aside for the ACRE Rally & 30 sites for Boot Camp - Rally Fee \$75.00 per person. Make your own site reservation with the park at 912-264-3869.

(For further information on this rally, go to <https://skpacre.weebly.com>).

Escapees Boot Camp - <https://www.escapees.com/community-calendar/category/rvers-boot-camp/>

NEW CHAPTER DIRECTOR:

Wendy Stanwood will be taking over as the new Chapter/BOF Director on January 1st. She will be replacing Jimmy & Lockie Sailer.

**MONTHLY LUNCHEON
FIRST THURSDAY OF
EACH MONTH
NOVEMBER-APRIL 11AM
GOLDEN CORRAL
6855 GALL BLVD,
ZEPHYRHILLS, FL
NEXT LUNCHEON APRIL 6TH, 2023**



Chapter 57 Spring Rally
April 10-14, 2023
Cypress Campground
& RV Resort
7400 Cypress Gardens Blvd.,
Winter Haven, FL 33884
Hosts: Rose Irons & Marilyn Forbes
Call RV Park at
(863) 324-7400 for reservations.
Be sure to say it's for
Escapee 57 Rally!



SKP ACRE (All Chapter Rally East) – April 15-April 20

The 2023 SKP ACRE and Boot Camp will be held at Coastal Georgia RV Resort in Brunswick, GA beginning with registration on Friday morning April 14, 2023 and departing on Thursday April 20, 2023

FALL RALLY
NOVEMBER 6-10, 2023
Morningside RV Estates
12645 Morning Dr.
Dade City, FL
RALLY HOST NEEDED
Contact Nate or Rose
Details updated as received
2023 Officer Elections -Business meeting at Fall Rally Up for
Election: President and Secretary

**HAPPY ST.
DAY!**

PATRICK'S



PICTURES FROM FEBRUARY LUNCH AT GOLDEN CORRAL – 28 in attendance!





PICTURES FROM MARCH LUNCH AT GOLDEN CORRAL – 10 in attendance!



NEXT SKP LUNCHEON APRIL 6, 2023!

HAPPY EASTER!



HAPPY SPRING!



Tentative Chapter 57 Spring Rally Schedule April 10-14, 2023
Cypress Campground and RV Park (863-324-7400)
7400 Cypress Gardens Blvd Winter Haven, FL 33884

Monday	2-4 PM	Registration & Dinner/Volunteer Sign-up
April 10	4 PM	Happy Hour and Adoptions
	5:30 PM	Dinner sponsored by SkyMed
Tuesday	8 AM	Casserole Breakfast (Provided by your hosts)
April 11	9 AM	SkyMed presentation
	10:30 AM	Chapter 57 Business Meeting
	12 Noon	Lunch on your own
	2 PM	Round Table discussion on format of future rallies. It's important that all members attend.
	4 PM	Happy Hour (Location to be announced)
	6 PM	BIG BINGO Cypress Campground Clubhouse
Wednesday	8 AM	Continental Breakfast
April 12	9 AM	Free Time to explore the area on your own
	4 PM	Happy Hour and Sharing for Care
	5:30	Potluck Dinner
	7 PM	Dance Party with DJ's Lynn & Becky Lunde
Thursday	8 AM	Continental Breakfast
April 13	9 AM	Leave for Bok Tower (Group rate \$12)
	3 PM	Happy Hour
	5 PM	Leave for Dinner at Harborside Seafood Restaurant

Friday 8 AM Hitches and Hugs
April 14

ALL ACTIVITES ARE IN THE CLUBHOUSE EXCEPT FOR TUESDAY HAPPY HOUR. PLEASE BRING PLACE SETTINGS TO ALL MEALS. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE TO BREAKFAST.

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: Debby Thompson, 411 Walnut Street #6878, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-3443.

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

Name(s): _____ SKP #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Email Addresses: _____

Telephone No(s): _____

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

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Florida Sun Gators
Escapees Chapter 57
Gator Tales
244 Augusta Avenue
Davenport, FL 33837

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Email: c.nathan21@yahoo.com
Facebook: Escapees Ch. 57
Escapees Web: www.escapees.com
Chapter 57 Website:
www.sungators57.wixsite.com/sungators

Next Newsletter Deadline

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023
