



# GATOR TALES

Volume 14, Issue 3

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Winter 2025

A Publication of ESCAPEES CHAPTER 57  
FLORIDA SUN GATORS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello to all our Chapter 57 Members,

Maria and I hope your Thanksgiving was great and this letter finds you all in good health. What a beautiful Fall, no storms and pleasant traveling weather. As always, it's great seeing everyone at our luncheons, and at the fall rally.

In mid-September, we joined Chris and Jim, Diane and Morgan, Brenda and Lee, and Carolyn at Crystal Isles RV Resort in Crystal River. We all enjoyed a day at the flea market, ate Shrimp by the pound visited Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and at night, we sat



River, Florida. at the Freezer, around the

Please note that there is a new "Shared Campout Calendar" tab in the members section of our website <https://sungators57.wixsite.com/sungators>. Carl has provided instructions in this newsletter edition.

October found us at our fall rally held at Clerbrook Golf and RV Resort in Clermont. Our VP Carl hosted it and did a great job. He planned a trip through the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive; plenty of birds and gators plus information about the lakes restoration. Clermont offers so much to do: great dining, lots of local attractions and a fantastic Saturday farmers market. Elections were held at our business meeting. A special thanks to Rose Irons for filling in as Chapter Secretary. I was nominated and elected to a second term as Chapter 57 President, and

Gloria was nominated and elected to her first full term as our Secretary. During the meeting a proposal was brought to the floor and passed; any chapter member who recruits a new member will receive one-year free chapter dues.

It was really nice seeing Richard and Marie LaFrate at the rally. Thank you Richard for entertaining us all with your great music.

Don't forget to join us at the Golden Corral in Zephyrhills on January 1st for a New Years Day luncheon. Check our website for officers contact information, upcoming events and our spring rally at Frog Creek Campground in Palmetto, April 23rd to the 29th.

Hoping all have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Hugs and Happy Trails

Russell D. Sens

President, SKP Chapter 57

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<i>President</i>	Russell Sens	SKP #56793	rsens2672per@yahoo.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Carl Pichotta	SKP #183773	gator57vicepresident@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Gloria Jameson	SKP #172674	seclc157@yahoo.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Carolyn Orr	SKP #189415	gator57banker@gmail.com
<i>Webmaster</i>	Carl Pichotta	SKP #183773	<u>sungators57@gmail.com</u>
<i>Facebook Ch. 57</i>	Brian Downing	SKP #116012	scouser141@yahoo.com
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Becky Lunde	SKP #14580	lblunde@aol.com

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## Minutes of the Escapees Florida Sun Gators Chapter 57 Business Meeting

### October 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Russell Sens at 2:03 PM.



Introduction of officers present: Russell Sens, President. Carl Pichotta, Vice President. Carolyn Orr, Treasurer.

Russell Sens led 17 members of the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the Spring Rally 2025 were accepted as published. Motion to accept made by Larry Forbes and seconded by Rose Irons. Motion carried

Treasurer Report made by Carolyn Orr, Treasurer.

Treasurer Report as of October 23, 2025

Bank Beginning Balance 08/31/25 \$3481.45

Deposits and Credits \$5.00

## Less Expenses 0

Bank Balance as of 10/23/25 \$3,486.45

Prepaid Dues: \$369.00 Available Balance 10/23/25: \$3117.45

Motion to accept Treasurer Report made by Lynn Lunde and seconded by Marilyn Forbes.

Motion carried. Note: The Wheelers have donated \$20 to Chapter 57.

Sunshine Report by Marilyn Forbes. No cards sent since our last newsletter. Please let Marilyn know of members in need.

Old Business: None

New Business: Nominations for President.

Rose Irons nominated Russell Sens. Three calls for other nominations made. Motion to accept by Rose Irons and seconded by Becky Lunde. Motion carried. Russell Sens accepted office of President for another term.

Nominations for Secretary.

Russell Sens nominated Gloria Jameson with her permission. Three calls for other nominations made. Motion to accept by Marilyn Forbes and seconded by Rose Irons. Motion carried.

Russell discussed our decreasing membership and proposed an incentive for members who recruit new members. For each new member recruited, member would receive one year free membership. Motion to accept by Marilyn Forbes and seconded by Rose Irons. Motion carried.

General Announcements:

Russell's explained no Rally fees this time as Chapter 57 had no expenses. There will be a 50/50 after potluck on Saturday night for CARE. We put a \$100 deposit on clubhouse but this will be returned after we clean up and clubhouse inspected.

Our next Rally will be at Frog Creek in Bradenton April 23-29, 2026. Info will be on website. There will be a \$50 non-refundable deposit. A boat ride to Anna Maria Island will be approximately \$10. Please contact Russell if you would be interested in going to Ringling so he can negotiate a discount.

Carl Pichotta has set up camp-out group calendar link through GMAIL only. This will be a way for us to get together between rallies. Carl is the webmaster and the website is [sungators57@gmail.com](mailto:sungators57@gmail.com). Request to be added to the calendar and members camping events will appear on your Google calendar. Chapter 57 Business Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Rose Irons

**From Your Treasurer ---**

Treasurer's Report as of December 1, 2025

Bank Beginning Balance as of 10/23/25

Deposits & Credits	\$3,512.40
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Less Expenses	40.00
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Bank Balance as of 11/30/25	\$3,552.40
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Prepaid Dues	394.00
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Available Balance	\$3,158.40
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Just a reminder, It's that time of the year again. Dues are due for the 2026 year. As in the past annual dues from 1/1/26 – 12/31/26 are \$5.00. If you wish to renew for five years the fee is \$20.00, a one-year discount. Just a reminder that membership in this chapter is open to all current members of the Escapees Club. (This means if your Escapees Club membership has expired, you cannot be a member of Chapter 57). If you owe for 2026, I will be sending reminders at the end of the month. Feel free to contact me on your membership status at: gator57bunker@gmail.com. Dues should be mailed to the following address:

Florida Sun Gators Chapter 57  
c/o Carolyn Orr, Treasurer  
1675 Nassau Cir. Tavares, FL 32778.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, wonderful holiday, and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Hugs,  
Carolyn Orr, Treasurer



## Sunshine Report

I am glad to Report that I have only sent out 3 cards in the last 3 months. On 11/21 Ken Risburg got a get-well card as he had knee replacement surgery. Then on 12/5, I sent out 2 think of you cards to Carolyn Orr and Morgan Kirk as both have been having some health issues.

If you know of someone in need of a card (get-well, sympathy, or thinking of you) please let me know. My contacts are 352-552-0132 for phone or text and [mforbes37796@gmail.com](mailto:mforbes37796@gmail.com) for email.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.  
Hugs to all,  
Marilyn Forbes, Sunshine Lady

## **From Your Vice-President**

### **Introducing the Sun Gators Members-Only Campout Calendar**

Over the past couple of years, the Sun Gators RV Club has talked about creating a Members-Only Campout Calendar—something simple, shared, and easy to use—so we can keep each other informed about upcoming camping adventures and invite fellow members to join in the fun.

### **That idea is now a reality.**

We are pleased to announce that the new Members-Only Campout Calendar is officially available to all club members who would like to participate. This calendar is **not** an official club rally schedule, but rather a community-driven tool designed to help members share informal camping trips, weekend outings, or extended adventures with anyone who may want to tag along.

## **How to Access the Calendar**

Because the calendar is built within Google Calendar, **a Gmail account is required** for access currently. Members who would like to use the calendar should simply send a request to the Sun Gators webmaster at:

**sungators57@gmail.com**

Once your request is received, you will be granted access with full permission to **create and edit calendar entries**. This ensures that every participating member can add their own campouts and update details as plans evolve.

## **Instructions Available Online**

Step-by-step instructions for accessing, adding events, and editing entries are available in the **Members-Only** section/Members Campout Calendar Instructions on the Sun Gators website.

## **Non-Gmail Members**

We recognize that not all members use Gmail. At this time, only limited options are available for non-Gmail account holders to receive calendar updates. Additional solutions are currently being explored to expand access and make it easier for all members—regardless of email

provider—to stay informed.

## Questions?

Please contact the webmaster anytime at [sungators57@gmail.com](mailto:sungators57@gmail.com) with questions or suggestions.

## Why Use the Calendar?

This shared calendar is an excellent way to enjoy more camping adventures throughout the year—beyond our two official club rallies (Spring and Fall). It's a simple tool to help members connect, coordinate, and build even more great memories together.

We look forward to seeing your adventures on the calendar—and at the campground!

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## Reflections From The Fall Rally:

It was nice getting to visit with many of our fellow members at Clerbrook RV Resort in the Groveland/Clermont area. Our first evening was a delicious dinner out at the Salt Shack on the Lake restaurant. On Friday, a presentation and nice lunch was provided by Mary with MASA (Medical Access & Service Advantage). The business meeting was held and after that, we (the Lunde's) were presented with a huge cake for our 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary. More about this under Member News. It was so thoughtful. Thank you. So, we all had dessert first! It was delicious. Not long after that, many of us went to dinner at my personal favorite, the Oakwood Smokehouse. Their BBQ ribs are the best!

It was a perfect sunny day on Saturday for many to go on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. It is about a 10-mile drive where you can experience viewing from your car a variety of birds, nature, and alligators. At German bakery has a sandwich. It was very and enjoying the live enjoyed a great pot luck Richard LaFrate.



Sunday, a few of us got up Palace Café in downtown Farmer's/Street Market. Several pretty murals grace the walls of some buildings. For the evening dinner, several of us went to New Century Chinese Buffet. Yum!

some point, we all visited Yalaha Bakery. This large variety of baked goodies and German style comfortable sitting outside in the Bier Garten entertainer singing. In the evening, our members meal together and great music by our own

early to have a delicious breakfast at Cheeser's Clermont. After breakfast, was a large where we viewed many craft and food booths.

For the evening dinner, several of us

Monday was another early start of the day to the Webster Flea Market. There is a lot of walking there. One doesn't want to miss finding a good deal! Ho ho! Others started their day going on the Tom & Jerry Airboat Ride. (see photo below) It looks like it was a fun time. At the 4 o'clock social, we said goodbyes in preparation for leaving in the morning. It was a nice rally. Thank you Carl Pichotta for hosting.

Submitted by  
Becky Lunde

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## POT LUCK PAGE

### **Pumpkin Dump Cake (from the kitchen of Marilyn Forbes)**

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 50 minutes

Total Time: 75 minutes



#### Ingredients:

1 – 15 ounce can pumpkin

1 – 12 ounce can evaporated milk

3 Eggs

1 teaspoon nutmeg\*

½ teaspoon ginger\* (\* I use Pumpkin Pie Spice for these 3 items)

½ teaspoon cloves\*

½ teaspoon salt

¾ cup sugar

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1 – 18.25 ounce yellow cake mix\*\*

1 cup walnuts (I used Pecans)

¾ cup or 1 ½ sticks butter, melted

#### Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease 9x13 pan. Completely combine 1<sup>st</sup> set of ingredients. Pour into prepared pan. Sprinkle with cake mix. Gently pat down with spoon. Sprinkle with nuts. Drizzle with butter. Bake for 50 minutes. Cool and cut in squares.

\* Or use 4 teaspoons Pumpkin Pie Spice or Mixed Spice.

\*\* Or use the dry ingredients only in this recipe for Basic Yellow Cake Mix

ENJOY!



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

## MEMBER NEWS AND TRAVELS

### Lynn & Becky Lunde:

We had a very nice surprise when we attended the Fall Rally at Clerbrook. The group presented us with this beautiful cake for our 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you so much. It tasted delicious and we (the chapter) all enjoyed it. It made our day special.



After the rally we went to TT. There was a lot of extra water at Clerbrook due to some flooding. As we unpacked the car, a large frog jumped out at me when I opened the compartment door. When we took the bikes out of the car, we had some lizards. It's raining frogs and lizards! Ho ho

We are now on our site at the SKP park in Wauchula. There are so many fun activities. Plus, the activities. We attended the The park even had a "Christmas parade. It was beautifully went to a Christmas concert. It



town has had a lot of Wauchula Christmas Parade. Sweet Treat Float" in the decorated. Another night we was excellent.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

### Gloria Jameson:

I hear that everyone had a wonderful time at the fall rally held at Clerbrook RV Resort in Clermont, Florida, October 21 through the 27th.

I was unable to attend because my puppy, Elvis had some major surgery. He is currently doing well. He just had his two-month check-up and is still not allowed to run, jump, or play, but he is healing quite nicely.

It was great to see everyone at the Golden corral Thursday, December 4 at 11 AM. The food was delicious, as always, and the camaraderie was fantastic. We gained a few new members!!! Till next time.



**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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 call a bunch of chess masters bragging about their games in a hotel lobby over the holidays? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.
2. Why are Christmas ornaments addicted to Christmas? Because they get hooked on trees their whole life.
3. What did the Gingerbread man say when all the cookies were eaten? It's so hard to bake new friends.
4. Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? Because it soots 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 Spring Rally –April

When: Arrive: April 23 Leave: April 29, 2026

Where: Frog Creek RV Resort and Campground, 8515 Bayshore Rd Palmetto, FL 34221

Rally Coordinator: Russell Sens

Site Fees: \$50.00 per night (10 rigs minimum), \$50 non-refundable deposit (some additional charges: \$2 a night second pet, \$5 a day trailer storage)

You may register now by calling the campground directly. Phone 941-722-6154. It is **important** to let them know you are with the **SKP Chapter 57 Sun Gators**. This is in addition to notifying President Russell Sens.

**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

NOVEMBER LUNCH AT GOLDEN CORRAL – 17 in attendance – No Pictures

DECEMBER LUNCH AT GOLDEN CORRAL – almost 20 in attendance



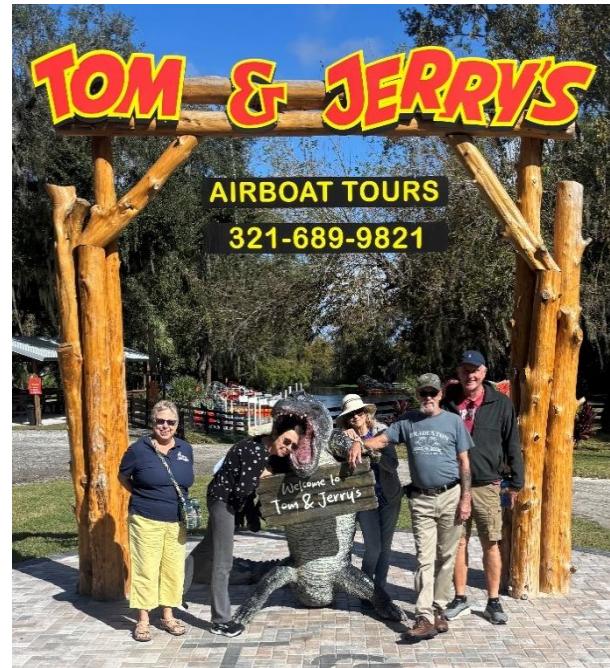
Former members Don & Ginger Carr

PICTURES FROM THE FALL RALLY AT CLERBROOK RV RESORT-OCTOBER 23-28, 2025:

Yalahaa Bakery



Maria looks Soooo Brave!



Richard LaFrate

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays And  
Cheers to a Happy & Healthy



Happy New Year To All!  
2026!

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## 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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Florida Sun Gators  
Escapees Chapter 57  
Gator Tales  
2404 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34205

Email: Russell Sens rsens2672per@yahoo.com  
Facebook: Escapees Ch. 57  
Escapees Web: [www.escapees.com](http://www.escapees.com)  
Chapter 57 Website:  
[www.sungators57.wixsite.com/sungators](http://www.sungators57.wixsite.com/sungators)

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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## Next Newsletter Deadline

**MARCH 15, 2025**

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