



PUBLISHED MONTHLY FROM NOVEMBER TO APRIL BY CAREFREE COUNTRY CLUB • WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The resignation of Andy Kiriluk as our Director/President and his and wife Judy's departure from Carefree has, of course, resulted in a number of changes to the Board.

Joining the Board as an interim member is Don Swedeen. Don will be a Director until the next election in March 2008; we welcome his expertise. Bob Strejc has taken over the duties as Corporate Secretary and Ray Slaunwhite is our new Vice President.

As your President I can assure you that the Board and Management will work as one in carrying out the task of running Carefree. We shall strive to preserve, maintain and enhance the quality of life we have all come to enjoy.

In all the years we have been coming to Carefree I don't think the community has ever looked so nice. Staff and residents have done a marvelous job in making the community what it is. As you move about Carefree take a minute to say thanks to the management and staff.

There is much to be done and I believe our directors, management and staff are up to the challenge. For the remainder of the 07-08 year we must:

- * Build upon our reserves
- * Continue with compliance preparations on the Waste Water Treatment plant
- * Review our lot maintenance program
- * Work with our Ad Hoc committees to enhance our lifestyle
- * Initiate a plan that would see the board and committees work together to raise the funds necessary to rebuild our boat dock.

continued



On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to extend to each of you a very Joyous Holiday season. I am sure preparations for the season are well underway. Should travel be part of those preparations; please travel safely. We want to see all of you here in the New Year.

Happy Holidays!

Les Hansen, # 871



**EMPLOYEES CHRISTMAS
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**

December 14th – 12 noon

Let's show our appreciation to all the workers who have been caring for our park by giving our donations to:

Sue Aber # 554; Anna Giese # 785;
Shirley Dussl # 475 or Ruth Lerom # 858.

Thank you for your generosity.



May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.

~Author Unknown

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Are You New to Carefree? Activities Needs YOU!

If you've bought into the "lifestyle" of Carefree and haven't volunteered you're missing out! We still have opportunities available, all we really need is YOU!

Please welcome Sandy Weber to the Activities Committee as our new Continuing Events Coordinator. After chairing and helping out with many activities we welcome her enthusiasm and dedication to Carefree.

Activities is sure that the community will enjoy the new Christmas decorations that have been added to enhance the true spirit of the season. Along with our treasured nativity set, new decorations have been added. We'd also like to thank Jim Witmer and Nancy Martin, recent new Carefree members, who have volunteered to chair this Committee to decorate our community.

As a reminder, if you have a Carefree sponsored function please remember to fill out the "Request for Kitchen Supplies". We have one locked cabinet which carries all of our inventory for these sponsored events. By carrying a large inventory our volunteers who travel to shop Sam's Club, at their own expense, need only to make trips to Lakeland as needed. In the past, supplies had a way of disappearing. We value the monies you've given and will continue to be good financial stewards. Please work with them to ensure that your event is a success.

What to look forward to in 2008? Along with all of our favorite regular activities keep your calendar open for the following special events:

January 18th—Fashion Show & Luncheon
January 13th — Carefree Singles Potluck Dinner
Carefree Cookbooks
Plus other surprises still to come

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!

Kay Dawson, # 448 — Activities Chair

COMPUTER CLUB

Our next meeting will be on
Monday, December 17th, at 7 p.m.
in the upper Clubhouse



Hope to see you there!

Bill Roach # 871 & Dave Clark, # 241

GIFTS & MEMORIALS



I am sure you have noticed the new podium in use in the upper clubhouse. This was made by Jim Koksall and is a memorial to Dena Beernink. Money is from the fund contributed by Harry, her family, and many Carefree friends.

A fitting memorial to her.

The Nativity scene will be going up soon and I hope all of you will enjoy it over the holiday season. If you have any questions about Memorials or Gifts just contact me.

Jo Anderson Chairperson, #616
324-9298

RECYCLING PROGRAM IS UP & RUNNING!



Containers are behind the maintenance building for PLASTIC, GLASS and TIN CANS.

ALUMINUM CANS & NEWSPAPERS continue to be recycled. We receive about \$80 for the newspaper dumpster, if it does not contain any cardboard, plastic or paper bags.

Please rinse and drain all containers. Remove all caps and lids. Crush all plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

We appreciate your support and cooperation to this important project.

Ed Richards, # 712

THANK YOU!

We appreciated the many kindnesses shown to us during Ivan's illness and death.



Thank you for your friendships.

Barb Lundstrom & family, # 449

Thank you so much to all who sent cards, prayers, memorials, attended the MN service, sent food, called or stopped by after Mark passed away. Once again you have shown you are some of the most caring, wonderful friends anyone could have and I thank you all ...again!

Mary Stewart and family, # 901

NEW CAREFREE PICTURE DIRECTORY

Pictures will be made Jan 2-5 and Jan 15-19 in the lower club house. Each owner will receive a new directory if you have your picture made. You will also receive a free 8x10 photo..

You can have extra pictures made with pets or family if you want more pictures.

Renters are welcome to have pictures made. You will receive a free 8x10 but you will not be in the directory. Street Captains will contact you to make your appointments for your photo.

Any questions call or email Barb Cowel at 325-8419
Lot 885 - delcowel@aol.com



LINE DANCE

BEGINNER-ADVANCED BEGINNER REVIEW
Mondays from 9:30 am until 10:30 am

ADVANCED BEGINNER-INTERMEDIATE REVIEW
Wednesdays from 9:30 am until 10:30 am

REVIEW WORKSHOP
Fridays from 9:30 am until 10:30 am

These classes will review the dances learned during the 2007 session. The last class will be held Wednesday, December 19. The line dance program for 2008, will begin Wednesday, January 2.

NEW CLASS FOR 2008 TRAIL DANCING

Trail dancing is a form of couples dance that uses all of the steps of ballroom in a defined pattern. The first class will begin with the waltz, followed in successive weeks with the polka, cha cha, east coast swing, rumba, and western four count. Prior knowledge of dancing is helpful but not required. All dances will be taught at the beginner level. The class will be limited to 15 couples. A couple does not have to be male-female. Most of the dances are done in the promenade position (side-by-side). The classes will be held on Fridays from 10:30 am until 11:30 am. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the lower club-house.

Alice Gilbertson, #257



Why are people wearing red shirts & leaving on a bus?

Carefree residents who would like more information about the Universal Studios of Orlando Red-Shirt Bussing Program should reserve Monday, Jan. 28, noon to about 5 p.m. to hear all about it.

Universal has agreed to hold an informational recruiting event at Carefree. So, anyone who would like to join our ranks or who simply would like to learn more about it should attend. More details will be available soon on the bulletin board in the pool hallway and in the January Carefree Times.

Twyla Ring, Bus Captain, #536
318-9228

SALES & MARKETING



We have sold 6 units and 1 lot since October.. There are now 7 units for sale.

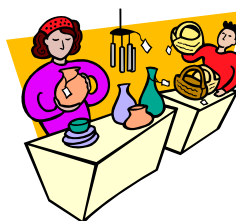
The first open house will be held on **Friday, January 25th.**

Betty Hall, # 622

UPCOMING EVENT BEER & BRATS DINNER DANCE

You'll want to mark you 2008 Calendar for the annual Beer and Brats Dinner Dance held on Saturday, January 12, 2008.

Tickets will go on sale on Friday, January 4th from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Golf Center.. Details will be In the January Carefree Times.



THANK YOU, CAREFREE!

A big "Thank You" to the Carefree Community for your donations, purchases, and support of the Holiday Bake Sale and Art and Craft Bazaar. You made this function a huge success. Thanks to the crafters and artists who participated and a special THANKS to the many workers, you are greatly appreciated.

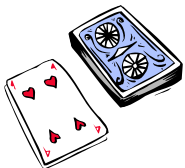
Joy Gordon and Carolyn Hapke

LADIES MARATHON BRIDGE

It's time to get your card tables dusted off! If you and a partner have not already signed up for Marathon Bridge, now's the time to do so. The sheet is on the bulletin board in the lower Clubhouse.

We will begin play at a group gathering on Monday, January 7th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. Please be sure to bring your \$5 prize money fee on that day, if you can. Also the usual 50¢ game money for the winners of each match. All games following will be played according to your own scheduling....any day of the week you and your opponents decide upon, and not necessarily in order of the printed schedule.

If anyone would like to play and does not have a partner, please call me. Rules and schedules will be delivered to each couple around the middle of December . . . as soon as all players have had a chance to sign up. Should you have any questions, just call me!



Jean Petrie, # 772, 326-1372

FITNESS EXERCISE CLASS



This class features stretching, toning and aerobics using various videos for a complete fitness workout. Hand weights are available or you may bring your own. Class meets

Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. in the upper Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome.

Pat Retherford, # 815, 325-9891

BLOODMOBILE

It will be here on Friday, December 14th. A sign-up sheet will be available in the hallway to the pool in December.

Mark your calendars!

Bev Lewis, # 456

POTLUCK FOR CAREFREE SINGLES



Sunday, January 13th
3 to 5 p.m.

Please wear your name tag and bring a dish to share. Also bring your own plate and utensils. . . and a drink!

Sign up on Bulletin Board in the lower clubhouse hallway.

Friday Bowling League **ATTENTION ALL INTERESTED BOWLERS!**



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO JOIN

The 2008 bowling season is upon us. The league will be starting at 3:00 p.m. on Jan. 4, the first Friday in January. Our organizational meeting for all current team members and any others who want to join the league will be held on Friday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the Upper Clubhouse.

We are looking forward to the return of last year's bowlers, as well as all interested newcomers. All those wishing to join in the fun are asked to sign up on the sheet in the pool hallway in the clubhouse. If you have any questions, feel free to call any of the committee members listed below.

Captains: PLEASE, PLEASE contact your teammates and notify a committee member of all returning bowlers and any vacancies.

Many thanks for your cooperation in helping us plan for the new season. Committee members are Bob Borgstrom, #808; Bev Lewis, #456; Bill Hammond, #733; Delmar Cowel, #885; and Dave Chance, #621.

Bob Borgstrom, #808 – 324-5672

CAREFREE BEARS



Thanks for your support for the Carefree Bears. The donations are greatly appreciated for the ongoing project.



We are now in full swing! Join us on Thursdays in the Lake Bess Room from 1:30 to 3 p.m. to make bears for the Winter Haven Hospital, Sheriff's Department and Senior's Homes.

Carefree Chapel Choir will rehearse every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. in the upper Clubhouse. We meet at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays to prepare for the worship service.

All who wish to join are welcome!



THURSDAY BOWLING LEAGUE



It's time to get ready to have some great fun again!

Officers' and Captains' meeting will be held at the Lake Bess Room on Tuesday, December 11th at 1 p.m. Any members wishing to attend are also welcome.

Our league is in need of new bowlers and subs.

If there are any questions, please contact George Aberts, Lot 618, at 324-1743 or Gene Johnson, Lot 776 at 324-5590.

BINGO BINGO BINGO

Tuesdays – 7:30 p.m.

Beginning December 4th – Upper Clubhouse

JOIN THE FUN!



Jack & Carol Pickering, # 874
Dean & Carol Traster, # 748
Richard & Phyllis Purdy, # 462

CAREFREE BIKE GROUP



The Carefree Bike group meets on Mondays at 9 a.m. down by the mail boxes. We usually ride between 10 and 20 miles, using sidewalks in high traffic areas. We almost always include a lunch break near the middle of the ride as well as taking water breaks. We are going to try to do a ride at least once a month going to bike trails in the area, hauling the bikes on the trailer. These rides will be posted in advance on the bulletin boards and also on Channel 95. At this time there's is a bike trip scheduled for December 10, on the Ft. Fraser Bike Trail in the Lakeland-Bartow area. We would enjoy having more people biking with us. It is a fun time. For more information call:

Dolores Borgstrom, # 447, 325-0998
Jean Flake, # 781, 324-5603
Pat Retherford, # 815, 325-9891



**I heard the bells on Christmas day,
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the word repeat,
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Christmas Bells)**

THE GREY EAGLES MEET AGAIN



On Monday, November 19th, The Grey Eagles, with wives and friends, started the season with another exciting trip to the Sun n' Fun Florida Air Museum. A new traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian, entitled "At the Controls" was featured. It consisted of large photographs of cockpits of many current aircraft. The museum has dozens of aircraft on display as well as breathtaking exhibits representing aviation from the early 1900's through modern rocketry.

The Gray Eagles are a group of aviation enthusiasts who have either made their living in the air, are ex-crew, sport flyers, military flyers, or are simply interested in aviation. We meet in the upper Clubhouse on the third Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Come and join us on Monday, December 17th!

Art Tomes, # 552 324-3322

Ladies and Gentlemen:



Just as in the past, right here in our community, you have the chance to study the Bible with friends and neighbors. We will have a Potluck in the Carefree Club House on Sunday, January 6, 2008 at 3 p.m. There will be a list of the Bible studies, times and places with the opportunity for you to sign up.

Join us for some good food, and fun to start the New Year right. For more information call Roy and Sue Young at 324-9652 or Ralph and Joyce McBride at 324-3661.



New Year's Eve Dance

**Monday, December 31st
from 8:15 to 12:15**

Music by The Heartland Band
Bring hors d'oeuvres to share

Tickets go on sale at the Lower Clubhouse
Monday, December 10th from 10:00 to 12:00 and
Tuesday, December 11th from 10:00 to 12:00

\$10.00 per person

Bring your photo ID and cash (no checks)



Fred & Katy Ducham, # 769- 324-4982
Howard & Carol Houghton, # 472-875-1201

BOOK CLUB



The Carefree book club meets again
on
Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m.
at the Golf Center.

"Ava's Man" by Rick Bragg will be discussed.

Everybody is welcome.

For more information call
Kay Hathaway, # 348, 324-7167

SHUFFLEBOARD



Mark your calendars for shuffleboard
Monday & Thursday at 1:30 p.m.
Every week! From now till the end of the
season!

Lana & Don Voce, # 624

DOCUMENTS REVIEW UPDATE

As reported in the November issue of the
TIMES, the election to amend the amend-
ments process in the Declaration of Cove-
nants (Article 7(3) passed. The Carefree
Board of Directors at the November 15 board
meeting certified the results of the election and the Cove-
nant amendment was recorded in the Public Record of
Polk County.



Rather than issue a copy of the amendment to insert in
each member's Blue Book at this time, considering the
committee anticipates a number of amendments to the
Carefree Documents before the review process is com-
pleted, the page will not be issued to all 500 members at
this time. The Amendment page will be posted on the Cor-
poration Bulletin Board for members to read and copies
will be available to the office for those who want a copy at
this time.

The committee continues to meet weekly and has
reviewed all documents once and is currently completing
the second review of the Covenants and Articles of
Incorporation.

Members of the committee are: Sal Aquilino, Jerry Lerom,
Charles Rogers, Diana Strejc, Frank Weis and Duane
Zaun.

CAROLS IN THE GAZEBO

Come join the Goldtones in the Gazebo on Wednesday,
December 12th at 4 p.m. to spend an hour singing your
favorite Christmas carols. Bring the "Carols in the Park"
song book printed in "The Ledger" if you have one.



Jean Westermann, #1005
Pat Richards, #712

MUSICIANS JAM SESSION

Come to the Upper Clubhouse at 2 p.m.
on Thursday, January 3rd
for an organizational meeting.
Musicians of all levels are welcome.
Bring ideas for the future of a band in the
park and bring any music you have.



Jean Westermann, #1005
Pat Richards, #712

IT'S COMING....GET READY

IT'S COMING....GET READY!

Once again we will have the opportunity to share with
others less fortunate than ourselves. As you watches
some of these disasters in the news this year did you
hear them mention what the Salvation Army was doing?
We heard that several times during the fires in
California.

Well, right here in Winter Haven we can support our
local chapter of the Salvation Army as we have done for
years in the past.

Please plan your grocery shopping now to include food
to donate December 13th – 15th.

Look for the handout with more details or call Sue or
Roy Young at 324-9652.

Respectfully,
Sue Young, # 680



REQUEST FOR KITCHEN SUPPLIES

At the November Meeting of the Activities Committee it was decided we will furnish paper products and coffee for committees under Activities and Board of Directors. Private parties, State parties and Independent Committees will be excluded.



A new form "Request for Kitchen Supplies" has been approved by the Committee. This form is to be used by everyone who has an event that uses paper products and coffee. The Kitchen Coordinators will make sure the supplies, as requested are available. The Request Form must be filled out and given to either Sandy Weber or Loree Rumble, 7 days prior to the event.

The forms are on a clipboard in the kitchen. Using this form means you will get what you need for your event and it helps us to keep an accurate inventory.

Loree Rumble, # 825
Sandy Weber, # 626

"FORE" YOUR INFORMATION

My apologies for this brief Golf Committee story. Due to my "health sabbatical", the Golf Committee will be having their meeting on December 3rd past the December deadline for articles.



We have much to discuss and will be sharing that information with you in the January edition. Until then, keep enjoying our treasure of a golf course and a blessed holiday season to all.

Paul Dawson, Golf Chair

THANK YOU!

There are no words to express our appreciation and thanks to our Carefree "family" for their outpouring of loving thoughts, prayers, cards and delicious treats during Paul's illness.



Having read similar words in past Times issues, one never realizes the caring community we live in until ill health knocks on your door.

We won't forget your thoughtfulness and appreciate your friendship.

Paul & Kay Dawson, # 448

ARTS & CRAFTS

I am please to add the following to the list of Art and Craft Classes planned for the 2007/2008 season.



Thank you, Barbara Rowe, for coordinating the Baby Hats For Regency Medical Center project. Regency

delivers an average of 180 babies a month or approximately 2,160 babies a year and they like to give each new born a hand knitted or crocheted hat. To date, Carefree has donated twenty-four of these adorable hats. If you knit or crochet, in your spare time, you can help! For details give Barbara a call at 324-1927.



Mary Ellen Roach will begin teaching classes on making Fimo Clay Beads on Wednesday, December 5th. Classes begin at 10 AM and run until 12 Noon, and will be ongoing until the end of March. Class size will be limited, but additional students will be added to the class as students become proficient. To sign up for learning the art of making these beautiful beads, call Mary Ellen Roach at 324-7787. Thank you Mary Ellen for sharing the art of making these beautiful beads with Carefree.

Look in the Lower Club House on the Bulletin Board leading to the pool in the Arts and Craft section for sign-up sheets for learning to Crochet and Knit. I am so pleased that Robbie Hanson will be teaching classes for our Carefree Community. Classes will begin after the first of the year. If you are interested please make sure you sign the registration forms. Class details will be available after the first part of January

I've received a number of requests for Scrap Booking classes. A series of monthly classes will be held, January 14th, February 11th, and March 17th. If you are interested, mark these dates on your calendar, all details will appear in the January Carefree Times.

Arts and Craft Coordinator
Carolyn Hapke



CAREFREE DOCK

Your Board of Directors is committed to replacing the boat dock. I believe this is the final item to be repaired as a result of hurricane damage.

What the replacement looks like should be decided by our residents and dock users. To this end we need your input; what do you see as the use of this facility. Please take a few moments and write down your ideas, give these to the front office staff. The Board will discuss and share with Buildings and Grounds. Once a plan is in place we can obtain costs.

Currently there are no funds set aside for this project. This being the case completion of the dock will happen as funds become available; it may take more than one season.



Les Hansen, # 871
President

CAREFREE NATURAL HISTORY



Hello for another year! First, I am going to do some crying. As some of you know I had a fairly decent butterfly garden. Well, apparently someone complained about the Balsam apple vines on the fence. The maintenance people were sent out to cut the vines off the fence. They did not check the office where it said I would take care of the vines and bushes when I am here. Needless to say, they cut down all the vines on my fence – two kinds of passion vines, honeysuckle, Carolina jasmine and climbing asters. They left half the Turk's cap lily – why I don't know, anyway the vines took years to establish so I do not know if they will come back.

I have been told, through the grapevine, that the owls are back, but have not seen them. I have a shortage of birds this year. All I have seen at my feeder is 3 kinds of doves, 2 blue jays and a cardinal. I am going to repeat something I have written about before. Please do not kill snakes just because they are snakes. If you see a snake, please call me before you kill it, not afterwards. With as much housing as we have around it is very unusual to see a poisonous snake. I believe when people think they see a water moccasin, it is actually one of three species of water snake found in the area. By the way, the people who are having mouse and rat problems should be thankful for the snakes as they keep the population in check.

Byron Bratlie, # 909



EARLY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY CAREFREE TIMES!



All articles for the January issue of the Carefree Times must be submitted to the editor no later than Wednesday, December 12th – no exceptions!

The editor will not be able to accept ANY late articles for this issue!

Send to times@carefreecountryclub.org

Thank you!

Ruth Armstrong

Attention 7th Street Volunteers!

Christmas decoration take down will be on Monday, January 7th, 2008.

Meet at the Clubhouse at 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & donuts after.

Thanks!

Jim Witmer, # 581 – 324-3716

Many thanks to all our friends at Carefree for your cards and well wishes after our car accident.



It was great to hear from all of you!

Evert & Ike Stegehuis, # 640