



SAGUARO SIGNS

April 2014

A Note From Your President

Volume 26, Issue 2

By Don Del Rosario



Let me start off by saying how very grateful and pleased I am with the results of the business meeting we had at the Tucson Lazydays/KOA rally. The turnout of members (over 50) was especially gratifying. Chapter 21 is alive and getting well! We not only filled the slate of officers, but were also able to fill all but the Historian position of committee assignments. Of even more significance, we have volunteers for the next three rallies. More information will be forthcoming as the dates of the rallies come near, but basically we will have a fall rally in Columbus, New Mexico, a winter rally in Quartzsite, and a spring rally in the Tucson area.

During the meeting I shared with the members, Sharon's and my experience as Volunteer Club Representatives (VCR's) regarding similar situations with other Chapters in the Escapees organization. Volunteers for officers, rally hosts, and committee chairs are getting harder and harder to find. It seems our generation has "been there, done that" and are looking to the next generation to step up. The reality is that this generation is typically not joiners, so the problem is more systemic than just a local issue, which makes Chapter 21's current situation even more gratifying.

So, now that we are back on a even keel, I want to wish you all safe and enjoyable travels this summer. Sharon and I are setting out on a great adventure to Eastern Canada and then south for Florida and returning to Benson next February in time for Escapade in Tucson in March.

Don Del Rosario
President

From the Orrs

A quick reminder to all who have used an escapees.com email address. Time is up! Hope you have changed to a new email account and other items you may have listed your escapees.com email address.

Sadly, times seem to be changing all too quickly for some chapters. Where is that can do attitude? What happened to "how can I help?" When something needed doing we remember the philosophy of many hands make light work. It is fun to work together with the camaraderie that comes from helping each other. Today, instead of volunteering and joining in, folks are asking what will you do for me.

To continue to be a great chapter, we ask all members to ask yourselves, how can I be a contributing member to the chapter? What can I do to lighten the load? What can I do to keep this chapter a really entertaining, enjoyable, and exciting place to visit? We ask all members to please be active, dynamic members offering to help where and when you can according to your abilities. Remember the SKP philosophy of CARING AND SHARING the good times.

SKP Hugs Susie & Denny Orr

Chapter 21 Needs YOU!

Our chapter members really came forth when the chips were down. At the chapter meeting on April 4th, coverage was found for our next three rallies and all positions for officers and committees were filled except for **Chapter Historian**.

This position needs a volunteer with a keen interest in maintaining the history of our chapter.

For more information

Call Don Del Rosario

TODAY

Chapter Information Sources

VOICE MAIL

Dial 1 (888) 757-7701

Follow instructions

Ch. 21 extension 8021

Followed by # sign



WEB PAGE

Type in:

saguaroskp21.weebly.com

You'll be linked to our Chapter Information website. Here you will find past & current newsletters, information regarding upcoming rallies & other chapter events, a listing of all chapter officers and their contact information, our club rally rules, and a photo gallery.



OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

President:

Don Del Rosario (Sharon)
(817) 266-8806 Don80444@gmail.com
1601 Mt. Rushmore Rd - #3-105
Rapid City SD 57701
(Also has RV Lot at Cochise Terrace, Benson)

Vice-President:

Stu Dutcher (Sandy)
(520) 366-5456 dutch1062@msn.com
10552 E. Waters Road
Hereford AZ 85615-9399

Secretary:

Betty Dawson (Don DeMent)
(520) 404-7057 dementdj@yahoo.com
253 Rainbow Drive - #15395
Livingston TX 77399-2053
(Lot #156 SKP Park Benson)

Treasurer:

Ann Meilicke (Mick)
(956) 358-8831 ann@meilicke.org
111 Rainbow Drive - #1166
Livingston TX 77399
(Lot #89 SKP Park Benson)

Newsletter:

Marti Moehlau (Drew)
(301) 785-2841 saguaro.signs@yahoo.com
600 E Saguaro Drive - #203
Benson AZ 85602

Web Master:

Sharon Del Rosario (Don)
(503) 341-2053 sdr1105@gmail.com
1601 Mt. Rushmore Rd - #3-105
Rapid City SD 57701
(Also has RV Lot at Cochise Terrace, Benson)

Voice Mail:

Marilyn Wix (Dick)
(507) 254-9089 wixmj@yahoo.com
3700 S. Westport Ave - #1827
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-6360
(Lot #278 SKP Park, Benson)

Sunshine:

Bunny Ratcliff (Bruce)
(520) 508-6578 bbnomads@att.net
242 Rainbow Drive - #14235
Livingston TX 77399-2042
(Lot #170 SKP Park, Benson)

MINUTES
SKP Saguaro Chapter 21
April 4, 2014
Lazydays/KOA RV Park, Tucson AZ

CALL TO ORDER: 10:04 am

OFFICERS PRESENT: Vice President/Acting President: Don Del Rosario, Secretary: Betty Dawson, Appointed Treasurer: Ann Meilicke

INTRODUCTION OF VCRs PRESENT: Bill and Jan Mains

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Betty Dawson read the minutes of the SKP Chapter 21 Meeting held October 18, 2013 at the Dream Catcher RV Park in Deming NM. Pat Spaulding moved to accept the minutes as read; Stu Dutcher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ann Meilicke reported that as of April 1, 2014 Chapter 21 had 111 active members. In 2013 the number was 158, and in 2012 it was 146. As of February 28, 2014 the Chapter had a balance of \$2,930.93. Rally fees generated \$1,821.64 for a current checkbook balance of \$4,752.57. The cashbox balance is \$100.96. With the resignation of Chapter Treasurer Ron Schulz and the appointment of Ann, an audit of the Chapter books was done by Bud Antuna and Ann. All balances were confirmed.

VCR REPORT: Jan started her comments by defining what a VCR is and what they do. The Volunteer Club Representative is someone any SKP can talk to, ask questions of, and is a provider of a wealth of information. She pointed out that the Escapees Travel Guide is a resource for all to use, and to share with people who might not be Escapees.

Jan mentioned that it's the time of year when the CARE facility in Livingston, TX is in need of volunteers. She urged anyone who is willing to lend a hand to contact the CARE volunteer coordinator.

Another members' resource is the Escapees Club News on-line available through the Escapees web page or members can receive e-mails from Escapees. She mentioned that the Escapees have been made aware that BLM is looking into transferring land north of Parker, AZ on the California side of The Colorado River to a private concessionaire. She brought up the concern that if this takes place, other BLM properties might be in jeopardy. She stressed how important it is for everyone to respond on the Escapees page and to do their part in presenting their views.

Discussion followed on various ways to introduce people to the Escapees, to remind them of benefits and discounts available, and of how to use the *Escapees Magazine* to learn what's going on throughout the country.

Members present were informed that the 2015 Escapade would be held in Tucson March 8-13, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS: Don Del Rosario reported that at the meeting in Deming last October and also at the Winter Rally in Parker he had requested volunteers for an officers' nominating committee. He had no positive results from either request. He reiterated that getting volunteers to step forward is not a concern of Chapter 21 only. Many other chapters are having the same problems; some having to disband. He said that he will run for President of the Chapter but also mentioned that he will be traveling out of the area from April 2014 until February 2015. Ann Meilicke agreed to take on the duties of Treasurer if elected. No one was nominated for or stepped forward to accept the position of Vice President.

MINUTES Continued
SKP Saguaro Chapter 21
April 4, 2014
Lazydays/KOA RV Park, Tucson AZ

Don pointed out that the Chapter Secretary can act in the President's place if the President is absent. Question was raised as to what the duties of the Vice President are. Betty read them as shown in the Chapter handbook.

Discussion turned to future rallies. Chuck and Dee DuPuis have agreed to be Hosts for a Fall Rally. The rally is scheduled for October 14-18, 2014 at Pancho Villa State Park south of Deming, NM. Regarding the Winter Rally, many members have mentioned that they are tired of going to Parker. Don Del Rosario said that he has looked into the possibility of holding the rally at Utery State Park near Phoenix, but that no one has stepped forward to be Host. Bruce Ratcliff suggested that Chapter 21 not have a separate Winter Rally but have a joint rally with Chapter 6 in Quartzsite. He and Bunny are there for two weeks each year, and if the Chapter agrees they will Host a Winter Rally. He said that they would not provide entertainment. There are many RV parks in Quartzsite if people attending want to stay where there are hook-ups available they may do so. Sharon Del Rosario suggested that if the idea proved workable that five days be set during the two weeks that Ratcliffs are in Quartzsite to hold a Chapter rally and to identify those dates on the website. Don Del Rosario reminded all that there is a Manual on how to run a rally in case someone who has not hosted one before might be interested in doing so.

NEW BUSINESS: Don Del Rosario asked if there were any nominations for the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer. Jan Mains nominated Don Del Rosario for President; Gene Struble seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There were no nominations or volunteers for the office of Vice President. Sharon Del Rosario nominated Ann Meilicke as Treasurer, Don DeMent seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Del Rosario emphasized the importance of volunteers and how all jobs are handled more easily when there are more people to divide the load.

Stuart Dutcher volunteered to run for position of Vice President. Don DeMent made the motion to nominate Stu, Don Del Rosario seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS: VCR Bill Mains read the Oath of Office and installed Don Del Rosario as President, Stu Dutcher as Vice President, and Ann Meilicke as Treasurer.

At this time Don Del Rosario asked if there were any volunteers to fill other Chapter positions. Sharon Del Rosario will remain as Webmaster, Marti Moehlau agreed to continue with the Newsletter, Marilyn Wix volunteered to take on the Voice Mail duties, and Bunny Ratcliff said that will be the Sunshine contact. The Chapter is still in need of a volunteer to be Historian.

Discussion returned to the subject of future rallies. Bill Lawrence questioned whether the Fall Rally might not be held in November instead of October as many people do not return south until November. Don Del Rosario mentioned that years ago the Fall Rally was held at the conclusion of the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque as many people went from that to the Fall Rally. It was decided to table the discussion at this time. Stu and Sandy Dutcher volunteered to be Hosts at the Spring Rally 2015 in Tucson. Currently the dates are April 4-9, 2015. It was suggested to possibly move the date forward and have the rally take place at the conclusion of The Escapade in March. Stu said he would look into options. The subject was tabled.

MINUTES Continued
SKP Saguaro Chapter 21
April 4, 2014
Lazydays/KOA RV Park, Tucson AZ

The subject of dropping Chapter membership was brought up. Don DeMent suggested that perhaps the Chapter could be promoted throughout the SKP Saguaro Park on Channel 5 or at Chats WithThe Board. Sharon Del Rosario mentioned that many members do not live at the SKP Saguaro Park and would need to be reached in other ways. She asked Marti Moehlau how often the Newsletter is put out. Marti reported that it's currently done four times a year – after each rally and once in the summer to remind people of the Fall Rally and future events.

Chuck Dupuis reminded everyone that April 9th will be the last SKP luncheon for the season. They will resume in November.

Ann Meilicke reported that raffle ticket sales had brought in \$275 for CARE.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Made by Don DeMent, seconded by Pat Spaulding.
The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY COMMITTEE: With the next meeting of the Chapter undecided a special committee of Chapter 21 members assembled to approve these minutes. Those members included: President Don Del Rosario, Vice President Stuart Dutcher, and Sharon Del Rosario. The minutes were read and approved, April 5, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted

Betty Dawson
Secretary, Chapter 21

A Tucson KOA Rally-My View

by Jean Holloway-Burkhart

First and foremost: I had a great time! When Marti and I looked at the gloomy possibility of no rally and no Chapt.21 Club, we decided to do something about the situation. Combining time and talents, we put together a sort of “Hop” event. It turned out that KOA had just purchased the LazyDays c/g and their Rep., Lace, was eager to help with facilities and food. Thanks to her, we were comfortable in our own C/H room.

The thing about a Rally/Campout is that everyone is set to have fun and as a result, we share sides of ourselves that friends didn't know about. Who knew that I could tell jokes and get others to do it, too? Every am. we gathered for coffee/breakfast and chat. Every afternoon, more chat, sharing experiences, fun. (It was April Fools' Week.) We also managed to Raffle and make a sizable donation to CARE.

The Biosphere was astounding. Our guide, James, did a great job of showing what is going on now and enlightening us about the beginnings of their scientific studies. It is huge. Lots of ideas for conservation and climatology that will benefit us and our descendants. Sabino Canyon was beautiful and so was the weather. A bright red cardinal visited our picnic spot, looking for handouts. Most importantly, at the chapter meeting, volunteers came forward to assume offices in the club and to sponsor next season's rallies. The last event at the Gaslight Theater was a blast of fun and talent plus free popcorn. Can't wait until next season.

Many thanks to all who helped, especially Pat Spaulding, Ann Meilecke, and Dick and Marilyn Wix who kept us financially straight and donut ready.

As your newly appointed "Sunshine Person" I would like to hear from you if you know of someone who needs some cheering up. I know we always think someone else will do it, but I would rather have 100 people notify me than none.

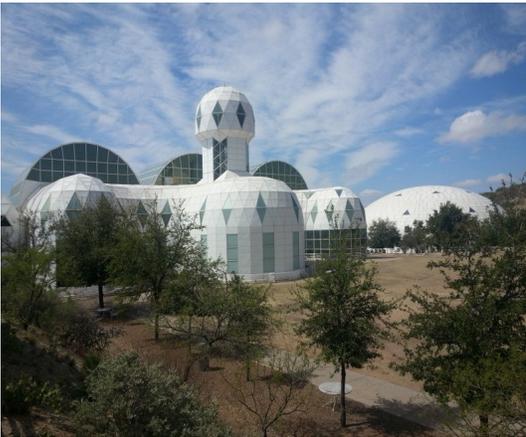
You can contact me by e-mail or phone...the choice is up to you...but please help me by making me aware of any situation that would call for a card from all of us.

E-MAIL me at bbnomads@att.net or PHONE me at [520-508-6578](tel:520-508-6578)

Thanks and hugs,
Bunny Ratcliff
SKP #48001



Spring Rally 2014 Memories



Wednesday was an educational & fun-filled day at Biosphere 2

We had perfect weather for our tram trip thru Sabino Canyon & cardinal supervised picnic by the creek on Thursday.

Elections were held Friday



Secretary Betty Dawson



VP Stu Dutcher



Treasurer Ann Meilicke



Pres Don Del Rosario



The dinner & show at the Gaslight Theatre Saturday would be hard to top.



Through the exuberance of our Activities Director, Jean Holloway-Burkhart



And the excitement of all our cheerleaders such Marilyn Wix and Jan Mains

And with the direction of our VCRs, Bill & Jan Mains and of our President and his First Lady, Don & Sharon Del Rosario

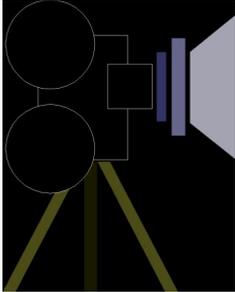


A wonderful time was had by all the cast and crew at Chapter 21's Spring Rally!



Hoping to see YOU in October!

Preview of Coming Chapter Events



ESCAPADE: May 12-17 in Goshen, IN. Call 888-757-2582 to register.

CHAPTER LUNCHEON: October 10 monthly lunches resume.

CH 21 FALL RALLY: October 14-18, 2014 at Pancho Villa State Park south of Deming, NM.
Chuck and Dee DuPuis will be Hosts.



**Saguaro Signs
SKP Chapter 21
P.O. Box 1817
Benson, AZ 85602S**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE