

## **2009 Seasonal Meeting**

### **Robin**

Welcome to our annual seasonal meeting

Introductions around the room.

### **Robin**

THANK YOU'S

On behalf of myself Robin Carpenter

My father, Harold Carpenter

My Mother Lillian Carpenter

And my sisters Carol Carpenter and Lisa Adams

And from all of their families we thank our wonderful group.

To the Staff At Big E's Grill, thank you for a delicious season!

Our Outdoor Crew

Don, John, and Steve

Mike, Barbara, Marilyn, and Joyce for keeping our restrooms sparkling clean.

We have received more compliments on the cleanliness of our bathrooms this year!

To Jim Gustafson for resurrecting Frankenvan and the rest of our rag tag fleet.

Lynn Cross, Rich Daigneault, and Matt Daigneault for always helping out when we need them.

Our Lovely ladies in the office.

Marilyn, Nicky, and Diane.

And the biggest thank you for all goes to you, our campers. We hope you had a really fun summer!!

Thank you to Donna and Steve Bourguignon, our fearless and fun activity directors. Whether you are helping with security in the park or running activities. Your creative ideas, gusto and endless enthusiasm are greatly treasured.

They have some special words for you.

## Donna and Steve

We would like to recognize those individuals who help us all summer with our programs.

- Nicky and Kimmie Bourguignon for pitching in whenever needed
- Reeny, Dory, and Tammy for their wonderful arts and crafts program
- Ron and Reen Plante for children's fun hour, bingo, pokeno, and all of their Ronald McDonald fundraising efforts.
- Also many thanks to Ron and Rene's hardworking crews
- Matt Herman and crew-Horseshoes
- Kim and Norm Fortini for Adult Darts and Children's Soft Tip darts
- Marcus Flannaghan and Jim Perry for Teen darts
- To Rich Daignault, Matt Daignault, and Lynn Cross for their assistance in kickball and various other games, AT THIS TIME.
- To any of you who have judged, decorated, kept score, or participated in other helpful endeavors. WE thank you.

A special thank you to Ron and Reen

The work that you and your group did for the Ronald Mc Donald House Charity was outstanding. Join us on Saturday October 10th, 4:00 pm right here. We will have a special presentation, and will reveal all of the totals for the various events this season. Ronald McDonald himself will be here to share in this day. We could not be prouder of all of you who were involved! Please join us on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>

Our annual spook ride was a big hit this year, in spite of the lovely weather. Our charity again was the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This cause is dear to our hearts. Our friend Bonnie, you all know her as ½ of our DJ team, is afflicted with this debilitating disease. We have had to cancel our participation in the fall event due to a health problem that recently came up. Instead we will use the money raised for an event next year benefiting MS . We raised \$1,070.00 to sponsor Bonnie's Team in this upcoming event. We want to thank all of our volunteers who helped; it was a challenging weather day. Much appreciation to all of the last minute helpers we rounded up, due to the weather we did have quite a few bow out. Once again, you campers are the best, helping out like that!! It was a really great group this year!! We had more campers help build and run this ride than ever before. Thanks to all of you that helped and purchased tickets! We hope we can count on you next year!

We are thinking of running spook rides in October. It is so much work to set it up and tear it down, we are thinking of trying to extend our charity work a little further, and perhaps run some public rides in October. Please see Robin if you have any interest in helping with this next year.

Thank you Lillian for all of the wonderful moments captured on film this summer. We have all enjoyed Mom's photos on the website. We look forward with anticipation every week. We are taking orders for copies of past and present follies, and photos. Join us for Part 2 tonight!! Find out if Robin's car ever made it to the road?

Thank you Harold for your exciting tractor rides each and every week! It's always an adventure, where are we going, the road, the swamp, the farm, or over the river and through the woods.

Thank you to our teens for a great year. A crew of our teens helped me construct our beach swings. How does everyone like them?

We are thinking about retiring some themes and reworking others. We are always in need of some fresh and creative ideas.

We have also tried some teen events this year that worked great. We would love to hear your teen's ideas for next season. Next Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am right here, we will have a teen meeting to share ideas and talk about issues that concern our teens. Parents are welcome.

Thank you all, it's been a pleasure working with you, and we're looking forward to next year. We are always available if any one has suggestions or concerns regarding activities for 2010. We will be writing the schedule in the next few weeks. Next year is our 40<sup>th</sup> year. We want to plan some special things around this theme. We welcome your ideas! Please share them with us!

### **ROBIN**

We would like to start by going over some issues that were brought up at the last meeting.

You should all have our card with our numbers. Calling us with a specific complaint when it is happening is the most effective way to deal with problems. We need more of you to call us with specifics regarding speeding cars, carts, dog issues, loud people, and the like. We never reveal your name so please feel comfortable when you call us. General complaining about this and that problem that happened 3 weeks ago is just not effective. Receiving these types of complaints is really frustrating for us; the moment to stop the situation is passed. Call us at the moment of the problem. And please only use the numbers for problems or emergencies. All other calls should go to the office.

Doggie Pails were suggested. The problem is that no one wants them near their site. We have asked other campgrounds if they work, and they really don't make much of a difference. So for now, we don't have plans to put them up. Thank you to all of you who pick up after your dogs and to those who report or tell others to pick it up.

It was suggested that we start a community garden, and it has been a great success. Food was grown, friends were made, and I hope that you all enjoyed it. We do plan to expand the garden by cutting down some trees. In your first of the year letter, you will find a form to mail back if you want a garden plot next year, simply fill it out and mail it back to us before we open.

It was suggested that we change the Labor Day Chinese Raffle to Sunday night instead of Monday morning. This was a terrific idea! It virtually eliminated traffic problems, people could be there to collect prizes, and it was our most successful one to date raising \$4,203.00!

Bill Rochford brought up a Campers Triathlon, and we think this would be fun to try next year. Examples would be Horseshoes, Darts, Point scoring Pool, Frisbee Golf, etc. If you have some ideas for this let us know now, we are planning 2010 at this time.

A return to the Pot Luck Supper was suggested, we took that a step farther and created A Taste Of Sunsetview. We had a nice turn out and had many people asked if we are doing it next year because they want to take part. We will be hosting it again next year, so plan your taste!

Joan Flannaghan had suggested showing a Red Sox/Yankee game on the big screen. We checked the schedule to see if it would work and it seems like it will work for this year. There is an upcoming Friday night game September 25 at 7:05 pm and we are planning to show it. So join us for a Red Sox Yankee Big Screen Extravaganza, wear your colors, bring your chairs, blankets, and snacks. If there is an interest we could possibly show some playoff games in October.

Marcus Babilonia suggested that Carol clean up after her horse, and she has been making more of an effort this year.

## **Current Issues**

### **Sewer Line Extension Project**

We are in discussions as to our next move on the sewer lines. We have changed our next area, and plan to do the South Field behind the office, we need full hookup monthly's, and we have a big drainage issue. Bear in mind you will have a years notice if it is your section that will be disturbed.

### **Golf Carts**

We had a good response to our golf cart meeting this spring. We thank you for adhering to the rules and to respecting the new rule about open containers. Thank you also for respecting the trails. Remember if you want to use the trails, we do have a trail agreement available in the office. We are planning more trail cleaning and marking. We had to put it on hold due to the wet conditions.

Next season we will require a copy of your handicap placard in order to operate your cart after 11:00 pm and before 8:00 am. You will also have to add HCP letters to your cart to make it easy for staff to identify you. Also the person for whom the placard is for, must be on the cart if you are out after 11:00 pm or before 8:00 am. The whole reason for this is we want to eliminate as much traffic as we can during quiet hours.

### **Insurance**

Due to the fact that everyone's insurance policies have different anniversary dates, we have been calling you the month prior to your renewal date and asking for a new policy. This new system works well.

### **Washing Of Trailers**

Thank you to all of you who have been making appointments to wash your trailer. One issue has come up is with power washers during busy times. We did have problems and complaints from campers in July and August about having to listen to the power washers all day long. We really don't want to add more rules, so for now we are asking if common courtesy can prevail, and try not to use your power washer longer than 2 hours and not during July and August when we are so busy. Picture if you will renting a site for a week, and for 4 days straight having to listen to a power washer.

### **Trimming**

We have taken over the trimming this year due to the many complaints we had in 2008. So we hope that everyone is pleased with the result. We have a request for you, please move your ornaments, toys, chairs, etc for us for Thursday mowing and trimming. It is too much for us to move things out of the way. Your site will end up getting skipped, and no one wants that. If you have a flexible sewer hose please consider switching to hard pipe, it holds up to trimming, wear and tear, and sun damage much better. In doing the trimming we have really noticed the deterioration of the flexible hoses. If you do want to change, be sure to pick up a hand out of the proper construction of a hard pipe system.

### **Leaf Clean up**

I know we had complaints about the spring leaf clean up this year. We are taking that over next year, so this will better next season.

### **Excessive Debris**

Those of you with excessive debris on your sites need to remove it. Things like building materials, old golf cart batteries, tires, fencing, old grills, old awnings, car parts.... you get the idea. Next season we will be giving a deadline to clean up items or we will take matters into our own hands at a cost to you, so be prepared. This will enhance the appearance of the camp for all.

### **Notification**

If you are installing Direct TV or Phone, or anything, the office must be notified. We had several near misses on electric wires and water lines this year when dishes were installed. Also we had dishes installed on other people's sites, or mounted in places we would rather not have them. In many cases dishes can be shared instead of having dishes everywhere. So in moving forward we need to be consulted before your appointment.

### **New Business**

#### **Building upgrades**

We are continuing work on our existing buildings, inside and out. Our plans include upgrading the pavilion bathroom, Laundromat, rec. hall and various roofs.

#### **Power Outages**

We had quite a few power outages this season, so after we close we are installing an emergency generator system to give the park and bathrooms a water supply in the event of a power outage.

### **Fireplace Cleaning**

We cannot stress enough, please do not clean out your fireplace on your own. Ask us to clean it. We have had problems with people dumping their fireplace contents in the woods. This is not good for the environment and it is also a fire hazard. We also have had people dumping fireplace contents in to the bonfire. Please do not do this.

### **Deck Requirements**

Keep in mind if you are moving sites, or changing your deck in any way, your deck will have to be re-inspected, so check with Steve before you begin a project or a move. All decks must be in state code, changing anything will require an inspection.

### **Website**

We plan to add a clickable map with photos of the sites as well as videos!

### **Electric Upgrades**

Sites 102-114 will be rewired this fall in to the service at site G, and will be ready to have new electric soon. This includes the future light near 101.

### **Farm**

We are all very excited about our farming endeavors. We have been working hard to reclaim our agricultural land. Lisa's husband Chuck is managing this area. At this time, we are raising daylilies and hosta and hope to add more perennials down the road. We are also actively raising grass fed beef, lamb, and pork. We also have all natural free range chicken and eggs. Our animals are humanely raised, free range and hormone and antibiotic free. Meat raised in this manner is very healthy and good for your heart, cholesterol, and general health. We have product available in the camp store. But most of the supply will come in when we are closed so we will have delivery or pick up arrangements. If you would like price lists, we have a sign up sheet and we would be happy to mail you information when it becomes available. We will also have information on a new website soon. Check [www.sunsetview.com](http://www.sunsetview.com) for a link in the coming months. We feel very strongly about preserving open space, and preserving wildlife. This style of farming will enable us to do that. Remember no farms no food. Support local agriculture in your area before its all gone.

### **Ron and Rene Retiring**

As you may or may not know, Ron and Rene are retiring from the fundraiser chair. They will be running their bingo and children's fun hour events. We are so privileged to have been part of this with them. They are simply the best, and they bring out the best in all of us! Please make it a point to be with us on October 10<sup>th</sup> for the check presentation. It will be a very special day!!!

## **Moving Forward**

On that note, we would like to continue some of the work Ron and Rene have begun. We have some clear guidelines that we, the campground owners and staff, have in mind. We will need a new leader. This person must understand that everything needs to be approved by the office and planned in advance. They must understand that the campground has the final say if an event is to take place and when. There is a reason for every decision. Whether it be experience, asking others who have tried it, insurance concerns, being intrusive or exclusive to individuals. We will always listen, but the answer will some times be no, and this person must accept that without negativity. And the fundraising must be kept in perspective. We do not want to be always raising funds, people come here to relax and many be left alone. People are continually getting bombarded with donations, or volunteering, all the time in their daily lives, and we want to make their time here relaxing and fun. Ron, Rene, and Lisa have discussed this many times over the years. Some events need to be retired, some new events may emerge. We as a campground and both Ron and Rene feel, we need to scale back a bit on the fundraising, but also keep some of programs going if there is an interest among you. So we are asking, if this sounds like something you want to tackle, please submit your name and your thoughts, ideas and such written down and drop them off at the office. We will look over all who would be interested in leading us forward and make the best decisions we can. Keep in mind that it takes a whole crew to run events, but we do need one person to navigate. And that all of this should be fun, rewarding, and bring us together, not become us vs them mentality or become a negative thing. Please think long and hard before writing down your name for consideration. And please understand that there are many jobs to do, if you are not picked as the chairperson. All of the other candidates names will be given to the person that is chosen so that there will be work to do for everyone who wants to help. Be in this for right reasons, to raise funds for a charity that means a lot to you, not for power or status. On the other hand, if the programs all end, if there is no interest, that's fine with us too. If it ends up being just one event, one night, say the Chinese Raffle, that is really wonderful, and a wonderful donation. We had an excellent run and we could not be prouder of all of you! We will continue if there is an interest, but we absolutely need to scale things back. We have too much, too often. And we would like to do just one or two things each season.

## **Closing**

We want to thank you for being part of our seasonal family. It's been a pleasure to share this past camping season with all of you and your families.

We thank you all for a great year! We will now open up the floor to any questions and suggestions.

**Closing Day is Sunday October 18th at 3:00 pm.**

## **Question and Answer**

Many suggestions for entertainment on Saturday evenings were presented.

- More Beach Parties-We felt that maybe one more but then if you have them all the time they are not special, plus they are very weather dependant
- Hypnotist-Very expensive, but we will look into it
- Bands- When we hire a band, we normally do not get a big crowd. They too are expensive and hard to find one that is affordable, good, and that everyone likes. But we have found some bands this year that have worked and will continue to search and try and find more.

There was enthusiasm at the prospect of having additional spook rides in October, many seemed willing to volunteer. Also some new charities were mentioned that would benefit. We thought we could have a different charity each weekend, as long as the charity can provide us with volunteers to work the ride. Everyone is welcome to email us with ideas. Right now we are just thinking about this, nothing definite yet.

It was suggested on our camp Halloween in August, we flip flop some activities for the young ones. Meet at the pavilion, then have costume judging first, and then trick or treating, the little ones get so tired. This is an idea Donna though was great, and she will she what we can do to make that happen.

On carnival weekend a dunk tank was suggested, we all though that sounded fun, Lisa and Donna said they would not be put in the tank...ha ha.

People miss cribbage, but we need some one to run it. Carl Schmidt said he might want o do it next year.

Horseshoe pits need repair; Robin said he would go over that afternoon and make a list of the needed repairs.

Bike safety was discussed; Ron had a great idea of having a bike safety talk during one of the children's fun hours next year. We could try to arrange for a police officer from town to come, maybe pass out helmets.

We do plan to attempt to get the wi fi signal to the pavilion so that facility can be used for seating. A bench on the porch was suggested as well for wifi users.

A clothes hanger in the laundry was recommended.

Pick up tournaments were suggested for other activities like bocce. All you need to do is find someone to run it and check with the office and we would be happy to see what we could do.