

It's official!



The ribbon has been cut, opening “The Roost” for the Destin Snowbird 2022-2023 season. Destin’s dignitaries were on hand last Tuesday morning to greet the nearly 100 registrants. Club President Ruth Ann Beckett introduced herself and the Board of Directors to the flock. Along with updated activity sheets, greetings and embraces were plentiful as warm winter relationships were rekindled.

Snowbird golfers were especially eager to get the “ball rolling,” and wanted to know what was being planned. Most had already heard that the popular Golf Garden has closed, permanently. Shalimar Pointe, home to the annual Ladies Scrambles is also closed this season. Not permanently, but head pro Randy Bensley said that the extensive, ongoing renovations will keep the course closed until next spring or summer.

Ladies Scrambles chairperson Brenda Murphy has been busy looking for an alternative course. “Changes will need to be made,” she said. “That includes the format and, very possibly the cost,” she added. More information will be available at each weekly meeting as well as on the Website, www.thedestinsnowbirds.com. Ladies who would like to be in the scrambles are encouraged to contact Brenda early in the season. She can be reached at 989-860-8741 or brendamrph@gmail.com.

The Nine-and-Wine-and-Whine golf outings will also continue under the direction of chairperson Diane DeVincent, but she says that changes will occur there too. The original intention of the social outing was to introduce the snowbirds to the various courses in the Destin area. However, especially these last few years, course availability has become a problem. One solution might be to set a “home course,” and play on the same day of the week for the same consistent cost. Diane will keep us updated on her progress. If you want to be sure to be on her list, contact her at 248-982-6757 or dianedevincent@gmail.com.

Rick Mettle has agreed to chair the 18-hole golf outings again this season. “I’d like to form a 12-person league,” he said. “Perhaps we could start more than one league, but the maximum number of players should remain at twelve so that groups won’t have to wait around too long for everyone to finish,” he added. Rick is planning to have fun competitions such as longest putt, straightest drive, etc., and he already has a supply of fun little prizes to award. These “little leagues” would, of course, be opened to both men and women. To find out more about his plans for this season, contact him at 740-901-1928, or rlmettle@icloud.com.

Finally, the Can/Am Cup’s two Ricks (Mettle and Baker) are planning the third annual event for February 2023. “Things will be about the same as last year,” Rick Baker said. “Except for the fact that the Canadians will win it this year!” Rick added a teaser, “Wait until you see what the Canadians have planned for this next Tournament!” Then he added, “That’s all I’m going to say for now.”

As a member of the prize committee, former golf chair Joe Pierce has been collecting the gift certificates that the Destin area courses so generously donate for the Tuesday morning door prizes. Courses that

participate include Blackstone, Bluewater Bay, Emerald Bay, Fort Walton Beach, Indian Bayou, Kelly Plantation, Regatta Bay, Rocky Bayou, Sandestin, and Seascape.

Speaking of the Tuesday morning meetings, the last meeting in 2022 will be Tuesday, December 13, and the entertainment will be the highly esteemed Emerald Coast Choir. The meetings will start up again on Tuesday, January 10, and continue every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. at The Roost (Destin Community Center on Stahlman Ave.) through the end of February. Registrations will be held from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. before each meeting.

For those who are just arriving, the storage lockers are available for pick-up every Saturday morning in January from 8 – 9 a.m. On Tuesday, January 3, the day of the Big Registration, the lockers will be open from 2 – 3 p.m.

Of course, all this information, and more, can be found on our website, www.thedestinsnowbirds.com, and don't forget to join our group Facebook page.