

Greetings fellow dancing campers!

Our December camp out was at the Springs RV Resort, a place I never had visited previously. The route coming in was just a little perilous- the man in the golf cart leading us to our spaces had to remove stop signs along the way to accommodate our wide turns- but the camp sites were wide. The dance hall was spacious and the camp ground owners were kind enough to accept our Passport America rates for over the weekend- not all camp grounds do. Anyhow this is my plug for returning there next year- even though I miss the Hog Valley Parade of yesteryear.

Because Ivan Hadsall had surgery on Friday, the day our weekend began, Susan Snider agreed to step in as our round dance cuer- cheers for Susan!! We had 26 couples attend for all or part of the weekend. We began the afternoon on Friday with a craft activity presented by Gail LaRue- it was amazingly cute- with ribbons, plastic plates, small buckets with lids and sprigs of Christmas flowers and mistletoe, we created cookie containers that we could give away with filled with our home made cookie gifts- that is if you are generous. I intend to keep mine because it adds to my holiday decor. Thank you Gail!!

Following our brown bag dinner our most excellent caller Bill Chesnut and cuer Susan led us through our steps with holiday music. Bill called one very funny (and appropriate) song "Stretchy Pants." Mark Fetzer and Bill Cassidy took turns in the calling. I may be exaggerating a bit but it seemed that a dozen couples took to the round dance floor at the height of the evening. Now here is the bad part about sending out a news letter two weeks after the event- I totally forget who won the half and half on Friday and Saturday- it wasn't Dennis or me, I can assure you.

Saturday morning began with a \$5 breakfast sponsored by the camp ground. It was varied, generous, and delicious. After that was free time. Tim and Angela, Dennis and I, and Bill and Debbie all went to the Appleton Museum which was just a mile away and was free that weekend. It had various displays including a Dickens Christmas village, artifacts from ancient Egypt and the far East, a Beauty and the Beast display, intricate origami- I was so glad that we went.

Saturday afternoon, Ron, Linda and Gene Imus cooked the main dish of our Christmas pot luck dinner- what can I say- most of us would have enjoyed stretchy pants after that. Thank you so much to the Imus family!!

The beginning of our Saturday dance began with an emergency- rescue was called when Gene Imus began to have difficulty with breathing. Linda shared with me the next day that he had been hospitalized a couple of days in the pervious week for the same reason. I have kept in touch with Ron who said brother Gene is back home doing better. Gene missed finding out that he had won the best gift in the holiday give away- a toy camper- I am sure that someone saved it for him- right?

Dancing Saturday night was beautiful as always. And then, the moment we all look forward to- the gift exchange! The gift exchange began a little slowly- no one took anyone else's gifts, but finally the action began! Someone brought a set of lights for the toilet which were a total hit! Tim got and lost maybe 4 different light and flashlight sets, Mark constantly had his gifts stolen, Sherry tried hard to keep a warm holiday wrap, wine stayed popular for gifting and stealing. You had to be there to experience it- I am grinning just writing about it.

On a serious note, many of our group are dealing with significant health issues- I won't name them because of their privacy and because I am afraid of leaving out anyone. Please keep in your prayers the sick as well as those who have passed away from our dancing community.

Our Florida State Convention takes place at the Volusia County Fairgrounds in Deland, on January 20-21, 2023. The trail in dance is Thursday the 19th. It is not too late to make your campground reservation which I know since I just signed up yesterday. Address us 3150 E New York Avenue. Pick up an application to attend at your home club. I think that Susan Snider sold her last tickets to me, but I will ask her to tell me anyone else who has the information.

Have a joyous holiday season. God bless.