

Trails End Way Newsletter

Season 2014/15, Issue 3

February 2015



Trails End Bulldogs slow pitch softball team has started their 2015 spring season. For more info and team schedule, visit the Trails End Club website.



First deep sea fishing trip on January 18th was a big success with all catching their limit of mostly red snapper. Next trip is scheduled for February 15th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The February edition of the Trails End Newsletter always reminds us that for most of us we are past the half way mark of our winter stay in Texas.

Park activities are well underway and appear to be running smoothly. One would be hard pressed not to find something going on in one of our halls, pool room or library. Our outside activities have been curtailed somewhat by the weather but our exercise room has had more people attend and that is probably a good thing as there are not too many days in the week when food of some type is not being prepared in the kitchen. It takes a lot of work by many volunteers to keep these activities and meals going, so a big **THANK YOU** from the Board to all the volunteers for their hard work and commitment.

With the large number of volunteers that participate in events we must remain mindful of "volunteer burnout". Some of our events have become extremely popular and attendance is getting very large and I use the Sunday brunch as an example. Several people have spoken to me about the amount of work required to put on the brunch and question whether we really need to or should serve over 450 people at a brunch. Yes the brunch is one of our better money makers and the money does help us in providing many of the amenities and activities we have in the park but at the same time we give a lot of things away which of course costs money. Perhaps we need to start looking at our many free items and start asking...is it really necessary to give away free cookies, free popcorn, free sandwiches, free coffee at every event that takes place in the hall and especially at events that are attended by outside park people. These freebies use up a fair amount of money that is produced by the very hard work of our volunteers. These things and current prices have been discussed at recent board meetings and although we have not made any plans

for changes the time to do so may be approaching. I bring this up so people can start thinking about these issues.

Also, a thank you to my fellow board members for all the hard work they do in trying to keep our park running smoothly. I think we have been able to work out most problems and complaints and have resolved several issues that came up. A new constitution has been drafted and both the Constitutional Committee and the Board are happy with the final product which has now been put out to the members for review before we vote on it. We also get great support from the residents which makes our task easier.

We appreciate suggestions and comments and do act on all suggestions.

Until next month – take care, play safe and have fun....that is why we are here!

Frank Vande Graaf, President

Board members: Jackie Smith, Floyd Neal, Wil McCallum, Donna Stang, Chris Kurtz, Ginger Dougherty, Duold Textor, Bonnie Moore.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT

RV Reservations - Now is the time to make your reservations for the 2015/2016 season. We call this the "Closed Season." If you wish to make a reservation for a different site other than the one you are occupying this year, you will have to wait until March 1, 2015 (Open Season.) All reservations require a \$200.00 deposit. If you have questions regarding this policy, please see the office.

Park Model Reservations – If you are currently renting a park model and would like to reserve it again for next winter, now is the time to do it. Come March 1st, we will open the reservations to everyone. We believe there may be an increase in rent for those that have washers and dryers. In addition, we are requiring a \$500.00 deposit refundable only if you are cancelling for health issues. The deposit will be credited to your first month of occupancy.

February bills are printed and due no later than February 10, 2015.

Recycling –Recycling allows us to keep your monthly rates from increasing due to the savings at the landfill. Composting is also appreciated. We still have quite a few residents not separating their trash. We ask that everyone PLEASE join us in saving the environment.

As we enter into February, it is again time for the mobile home owners to begin making arrangements for summer lawn care. The park will maintain your lot for \$20.00 per month but due to liability issues, we do not water. We need a Lawn Care Contract completed from each one of you identifying who will be responsible during your absence.

Please notify the office at least two weeks in advance of your departure. This includes mobile homes and RVs. If there are renters in the park that have not checked in at the office, please do so immediately.

We want to thank all of you for allowing us to take vacation during our busiest time of year.
VISITING THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS AWESOME!!

Dan, Bonnie and Anni



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

At Trails End, January and February are typically the busiest months for our residents. Many of the functions that are taking place are annual affairs, some are new happenings and of course the “usual” day to day stuff. I hope you are finding our busy times enjoyable and worthwhile, so that when your winter stay at Trails End comes to an end you will leave with a warm, happy, satisfied feeling. That makes the efforts of your board, activity chairpersons and the countless volunteers worthwhile. All of these folks work towards a common purpose: to provide social and recreational activities in a safe environment for all park residents. This newsletter is a communication tool to help keep Trails End-ers informed of the changes as well as the day-to-day social and recreational life at Trails End. We hope it is succeeding in such a goal.

Many of you have commented favorably on our newsletter and to you I say Thank You! One of the items I get a lot of comments on is the “tear out” calendar in the back of the newsletter. The idea behind it was to be able to remove and put it up next to your household calendar so you can keep tabs on the many Trails End activities. I’m always open to new ideas so if you have one, forward them to me at jmooregt@gmail.com and I’ll try to work them in to the next edition. Being limited on sources and resources though means I can’t do everything so I hope you’ll understand if things don’t happen as you wish they could.

Need input? There are several methods used to disseminate information to park residents. The first and most important is the 8:30 a.m. Monday Morning Meeting in the Main Hall, and the second are the numerous bulletin and activity boards located throughout the Main and Card Halls. **As a matter of practice, check the activity boards in the Main Hall and Card Hall at least once a week for any new, updated, or changed information.** The newsletter isn’t necessarily perfect and things can and do change after the newsletter is published and distributed, and the hall’s bulletin boards are generally the first means of broadcasting that updated information.

Think safety. A lot of you are using flashlights but there are still a couple of stealthy dark unlit bicycles riding down the streets at night. If you see something you think is unsafe, report it to the park manager as soon as possible.

Help us out. For those of you, who would like to become more involved in the park, check the list of activities and activity coordinators posted on the Board’s (Bulletin) Board (North Wall Main Hall). Also check the “Help Wanted” bulletin board in the Main Hall. Volunteer positions need to be filled and we urge everyone to consider getting involved. Volunteering is a great way to have fun and meet people.

*Joe Moore, Trails End Way Editor
903 Leisure lane, 937-416-5543*

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are going to be booking an activity or special event, please remember that **THE ONLY OFFICIAL CALENDAR FOR BOOKINGS OF CLUB FACILITIES IS MAINTAINED BY DUROLD TEXTOR**. Do not pencil in your own events on calendars in halls, etc. **Bookings must be cleared with Duroid Textor, 169 S. Bermuda.** For your information and reference, the *Use of Hall Policy* as passed by the Board on November 19, 2012 is posted on the Board's Board.

If you have **relatives or house guests visiting**, feel free to **include them in the park activities** such as meals, entertainment, shuffling, card games, etc. We look forward to meeting your visitors and are happy to consider them part of our Trails End family for the length of their stay here. (Sign up ahead, or purchase tickets or make whatever arrangements are usually necessary for the different events.) If they like it at Trails End they might even decide to move here at some future time!!!

ANY CHANGES TO YOUR INFORMATION?

You can update your information at any time of the year – even if you have a change in home (up north) information over the summer! So if you have a new Trails End phone number, new Trails End address, or a new e-mail address:

For the newsletter, contact Joe Moore by email at jmooregt@gmail.com
by telephone at 937-416-5543
or leave a note at 903 Leisure Lane

For the printed resident directory, by email at linda.stainer@gmail.com
contact Linda Stainer or Gordon Lee or leave a note at 765 N. Bermuda (Linda) or 805 Yucatan
(Gordon)

For the website resident directory, by e-mail at linda.stainer@gmail.com
contact Linda Stainer by telephone at 204-800-8901 or
you can click on "Contact Us" on the TrailsEndClub.com website
home page

NEW/CHANGED ADDRESSES and/or TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Following is a list of changes in individual street addresses, phone numbers or email addresses passed to us by park residents. This is the best information we have from these individuals so write it in your current Park Directory and/or update your personal address/contact list. Blank spots indicate that the information hasn't changed or the resident requested it not be published.

NAME(S)	TE ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBERS	EMAIL ADDRESS
Jim and Annette Cress	763 N. Bermuda	956-647-5706	
Harold and Margaret Goetz	104 S. Bermuda	956-261-7296	

Gerald and Gloria Mengel	641 Trinidad		gjmengel@gmail.com
Peter and Jeannine	558 Vera Cruz	956-647-5584	yakymyk@sasktel.net
Kurt Gagnon	729 N. Bermuda	507-279-3013	
Marv and Irma Boehme	740 N. Bermuda		boehme@wccta.net
Sherry Rogers	709 N. Bermuda	956-351-5295 or 956-373-7397 (cell)	svallent@ripnet.com
Pete and Sue St. Sauver	911 Leisure Lane	651-983-4559 (Sue) or 651-983-4558 (Pete)	stillh2osue1@gmail.com
Floyd and Ellen Neal	627 Trinidad	956-375-2376	
Rene and Dolores Philippot	135 S. Bermuda	218-255-1695	
Cindy Frost	758 N. Bermuda	708-724-7601	
Bill and Joann Stuck	829 Yucatan	956-246-2009	

Recycling

Just reminding everyone - please take the lids off plastic containers and **RINSE EVERYTHING OUT**. Note which “number” your plastic is and put it in the correct trash bin. Also please take newspapers out of plastic bags before they go into bins. There are several containers marked for Styrofoam in the Main Hall and the Card Hall. Please empty cups and wipe off trays or dishes (don’t need to wash them) before putting them in the containers.

A reminder about aluminum - Please recycle aluminum beer or soda **cans only**. Tin foil and aluminum pots/pans or cooking/baking containers are no longer accepted. There are four recycle bins for aluminum cans in the Main Hall, two on the east side and two on the west.

Special Notice regarding the Rio Grande Valley Music Festival

There will be no Rio Grande Musical Festival for 2015. Please go to <http://www.rgvmf.com/> to read the notice from the festival Board of Directors regarding closing down and ending the festival.

Minnesota Party

The 2014-2015 winter season Minnesota Party is scheduled for February 14th at Harold’s Country Kitchen, 2111 East Business Highway 83, Donna TX. Lunch buffet will be served at 11:30 am. If you would like to participate in the white elephant exchange, bring something from around the house wrapped to the party.

- Submitted by Ginger Dougherty, 218-966-9771

Iowa Potluck

If you call Iowa home or have an Iowa “connection”, join us for the ANNUAL IOWA POTLUCK at noon Sunday, February 8th at the Main Hall. Listen for details at an upcoming Monday Morning Meeting. See you there!

- Submitted by Karen Hanson, 264 Jamaica

Sunday Brunch Dates

Sunday brunch dates for the remainder of the 2015 winter season are February 1st and 15th, and March 1st.

-Submitted by Dave Pollock, 266 Jamaica

Job Opportunity

We are looking for a Coordinator for the Friday Jam Lunch for the next winter season. If anyone is interested, please contact Eugene Smith at 257 Jamaica or phone 956-375-2479.

- Submitted by Jackie Smith, 257 Jamaica

Ice Cream Socials

Dates to mark on your calendar. Ice cream socials for February and March 2015 are February 8th and March 8th. Come enjoy a cool bowl of ice cream with your friends and neighbors. Don't forget to bring your bowl and spoon!

- Submitted by Terry Neal, 925 Leisure Lane

Birthdays and Anniversaries Celebrations

More important calendar dates to remember. Every year during the months of January through March, Trails End celebrates the birthdays and wedding anniversaries of its residents. January's celebration, which was held on January 14th, celebrated January, April, July, and October.

Following are the dates of celebrations for the months of February and March:

February 18th - celebrating **February, May, August, and November**

March 11th - celebrating **March, June, September, and December**

Events start at 7:00 pm in the Main Hall. Volunteers are needed -- sign-up sheets will be posted by the water fountain in the hall. Volunteers are asked to arrive at the hall by 6:30 pm.

- Submitted by Karen Morley, 1081 Durango



THE SUNSHINE LADY

Lorraine Colford is our Sunshine Lady. Helping her is Kathy Fraser (154 S. Bermuda or 875 Yucatan), the backup Sunshine Lady. Lorraine will have cards available in the Main Hall (south wall) for us to sign which she will forward to our friends. Please help and let Lorraine know of someone who needs or would appreciate a card signed by the folks here at Trails End. You can't begin to imagine what a good feeling such a card brings to its recipient. If you know of someone who can benefit from this, please contact Lorraine Colford at 349 Acapulco.

Need a Name Tag?

Anyone needing a name tag please print your name, Lot # here at Trails End, where you're from, phone number, and if this is your first name tag, on the name tag sheet in the Main Hall, south wall. First name tags are free, subsequent ones cost \$2.00

- Submitted by Jo-Ann Higgs, 831 Yucatan

Thank you!

Thank you to all the Trails End Angels, who dropped off soup, cookies, candy, fruit cake, and a lovely anniversary card. God Bless you all.

- Submitted by Don & Ida Hostrup, 849 Yucatan

Cribbage

Cribbage is played every Thursday afternoon at 1:00p.m in the park library. Bring one penny, two nickels, and one dime. You do not need to bring a partner.

This coming February 20th, and March 13th and 27th at 6:30 p.m. are cribbage tournament nights in the Main Hall. Bring a partner.

- Submitted by Leo Schueller and Dick Morgan

Trails End Logo Clothing

Article of clothing with the Trails End campfire logo are displayed and on sale in the Main Hall before and after the Monday Morning Meetings. Numerous jackets, polo shirts, caps, etc., are available including ladies polo shirts with the logo embroidered or silkscreened on them. It takes about two weeks to get any item so if you know that you want something in particular, see or contact Betty Gross at 612-802-1627.

- Submitted by Betty Gross, 809 Yucatan

Cancer Support Group

For those women who would like to join a cancer support group, please contact Carol Staffregen at 1071 Durango or Kathy Anderson at 1076 Durango. We welcome your input for our group format and focus.

- Submitted by Carol Staffregen, 1071 Durango

Non-Denominational Church Services

Non-Denominational church services continue to be held every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Library. Deacon Bob Waters is leading worship each Sunday and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Cliff Lenz, 554 Vera Cruz, 956-351-5351.



VETERAN'S RECOGNITION PROGRAM



Veterans (US and Canadian) currently in the park who have not submitted a picture and information on themselves are asked to do so to be recognized. Please pick up a form on the south counter in the Main Hall, complete the form, include a 5x7 or smaller picture of yourself, and return the form and picture to the box provided on the south counter or to a committee member listed on the form. For more information, contact Madonna Johnson, 615 Trinidad, 224-420-2635.

Trail's End Cookbooks

The Trail's End Cookbook which was completed in 2009 by Diane Mehtala and Verna Boss is still available. The book contains 982 recipes from approximately 211 contributors, making this an extremely useful reference book for the most demanding culinary artist all the way down to the average family bacon burner! Only a few are left so for anyone interested, please stop by Diane's home (548 Vera Cruz) or Verna's home (827 Yucatan) to pick up one for only \$20.00 each.

- Submitted by Verna Boss, 827 Yucatan

Card Games

Other than Bridge, the following is a listing of all the card games played here in the park. Because these games are routinely played on the days of the week shown, they are listed here rather than in the calendar at the back of this newsletter. The information below is also listed on the "big board" in the Main Hall

Hand and Foot - Monday, Friday, and Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

Euchere - Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Bid Euchere - Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

"500" - Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Texas Hold-Em - Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Mixed Texas Hold-Em - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

Mens Texas Hold-Em - Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

"65" - Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Ten point pitch - Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday Evening Dinners

Thursday Evening Dinners are put on most every Thursday by a pre-designated Trails End Park street. The event is planned and staffed by volunteers from the host street.

For those planning the dinner, the Kitchen Coordinator (Kay DeJong) needs to be consulted early in the planning process so that existing and needed supplies and the whereabouts of existing information is exchanged and coordinated. There is written and electronically available information for groups planning a

meal including recipes and suggested quantities needed for group functions. Also there is a detailed checklist on how many volunteers are needed for setting up and running a Thursday Dinner event.

For those attending the dinner, please sign up for the dinner before noon on Tuesday so that enough but not too much food and supplies can be purchased on Tuesday afternoon and then prepared on Wednesday and Thursday. Sign-up early for the dinner on the clipboard by the kitchen and water fountain in the Main Hall. Visiting family members and guests are welcomed. Specify the number attending by your lot number on the sign-up sheet. If you have signed up and then are unable to attend, please advise someone hosting the dinner for that week. It is recognized that “No Shows” are unfortunate and in some few cases cannot be avoided but nevertheless, they can be problematic.

A Thursday dinner annual schedule exists and is posted on the Trails End Club website. For February, your host streets are:

February 5th - Jamaica/Acapulco
February 12th - North Bermuda
February 19th - Durango
February 26th - Trinidad/Acapulco

- Submitted by the Kitchen Committee

RGV Killer Bees Hockey 2015 Home Game Schedule

February 5th and 6th - Amarillo Bulls
February 12th, 13th, and 14th - Lone Star Brahmas
February 27th and 28th - Corpus Christi IceRays
March 13th and 14th - Lone Star Brahmas
March 19th and 20th - Wichita Falls Wildcats
March 27th and 28th - Odessa Jackalopes

All games are played at State Farm Arena near Hidalgo (for directions, see <http://statefarmarena.com/directions/>) and start at 7:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Main Hall near the entertainment board. For more information on the RGV Killer Bees, visit <http://killerbeeshockey.com/>.

- Contributor:Carolynn Mulock, 1055 Durango

A BIG Thank You

Thanks very much to Madeleine Breckon and Dianne Joudrey for making curtains for the Main Hall stage.

Advance Notice - Annual “Show and Tell”

Just a head-up reminder that on Sunday, March 15th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Main, Trails End will hold its annual Show and Tell where once again, we will display our handmade item we’ve made this year. Any Questions? See Tootie Varone at 1041 Durango.

- Submitted by Tootie Varone, 651-263-3725

Important Information for Canadians

There was a comment made in a recent Monday Morning meeting regarding legislation being implemented that allowed US and Canadian governments to track the number of days their citizens spend in neighboring countries. Research on this subject revealed that this implementation did NOT occur as it was thought to have happened on June 30, 2014. In a news release dated January 21, 2015 and posted on the Canadian Snowbird Association (CSA) website, the CSA clarified US travel rules by stating:

- In a recent article which appeared on CBC News' British Columbia website, it was suggested that Canadian citizens are only allowed to spend 120 days in the United States each year. For clarification purposes, the Canadian Snowbird Association would like to remind travelers to the U.S. that this information is incorrect.
- Under current policy, eligible Canadian citizens may spend up to **six months less a day**, in the United States, in any 12 month period. From a tax perspective, long-term visitors who typically spend four or more months in the U.S. each calendar year may be deemed resident aliens for tax purposes. In order to be treated as a non-resident alien, these individuals need to claim a "closer connection" to Canada by filing the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 8840 annually.
- Further, the CBC News article also discussed the Entry/Exit Initiative, a bi-national border program in which entry and exit data will be shared on individuals travelling between Canada and the United States. While this initiative was scheduled to be expanded on June 30, 2014, to include Canadian and American citizens, the necessary legislative and regulatory changes have not been implemented. At present, the Entry/Exit Initiative is not fully operational.

The IRS Form 8840 is available for download from www.irs.gov or www.snowbirds.org. If you have any questions related to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the CSA office toll-free at **1-800-265-3200** or by email at csastaff@snowbirds.org.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

February is the month for lovers...I hope you love yourself best of all!

Events of importance for this month are:

- Blood Pressures will be taken on February 9th from 8:00 - 8:30 am in the Card Hall.
- Med-Check Labs will be here on Tuesday February 17th at 8:00 am in the Card Hall. Med-Check has been coming here for over 25 years to hold Park clinics. In the past few years they have suffered a lose of staff but will still hold a park clinic here for this year.

A test list will be forwarded to Kay along with the Park's cost. The list will be posted on the HEALTH bulletin board.

Also here in February, the UBS bus will again attend to the Park. The sign up list will be posted on the HEALTH bulletin board. The bus will be here from 8:00-11:00 am. If you forget to sign up, just go to the bus AND GIVE!!! All blood stays here in the Weslaco area.

FINALLY AFTER YEARS!!!! There is a 24/7 health clinic for ALL ages open here in Weslaco. It is open 24/7 & consists of an emergency room staffed by Physicians/ nurses and is open on all holidays...FINALLY we have some place to go other than the Weslaco Knapp hospital!! The address is 330 West Expressway 83 here in Weslaco...just west of the Golden Corral.

Do not forget to get your shots for communicable diseases...what you got some years ago may need a booster. A Shingles shot is also needed if you can afford it. It usually runs around \$250-\$300 and is good for many years. Talk to anyone who has had shingles.

Take Care & be safe...Kay DeJong, RN (ret), 956-969-2564

PARK NEWS and ITEMS OF INTEREST



BIBLE STUDY

...is held every Monday morning at 10:00 am in the Card Hall. Open to all men and women; those who regularly read the Bible, those who have never read it, and everyone in between! Join us! If you have questions, please call Betty Thompson at 3763-291-1459 or see me at 546 Vera Cruz.

- Submitted by Betty Thompson, 546 Vera Cruz



SHUFFLEBOARD NEWS

Trails End Tournament was held January 20th - 22nd. We had 72 amateur entries and 78 expert entries. Bill and Jean Heinkel were Trails End Park trophy winners.

Trophy Winners:

-- **Harry Bradford and Sharon Wing** for placing 4th in amateur consolation @Casa de Sole mixed doubles tournament December 29th through the 31st.

--**Frank Apperley and Duold Textor** for placing 2nd in the amateur main event at Pine to Palm doubles tournament January 13th through the 17th.

--**Bill Heinkel and Bob Hercina** for placing 2nd in the amateur consolation event at Pine to Palm doubles tournament January 13th through the 17th.

--**Neil Ramsay and Ron Geiger** for placing 4th in the amateur consolation event at Pine to Palm doubles tournament January 13th through the 17th.

--**Bill and Jean Heinkel** for placing 2nd in the amateur consolation event at Trails End Park mixed doubles tournament January 20th through 22nd.

***** Congratulations All! *****

Congratulations to Judy Vance for being inducted into the 500 Points Club in the TSSA Hall of Fame.

Ivan Watts Tournament will be held on Saturday, February 28 and Sunday March 1st. Mark your calendar. This is a Trails End Park only tournament, all residents are welcome. Sign up sheets will be posted in the shuffle shack.

Referee School is being held on Saturday, February 14th at 9:30 am at Country Sunshine Park. Anyone wishing to sign up let me know by email or phone 956-375-2743 and I will enter you. It is free and very informative.

Thank you to all the Trails End Shuffleboard Tournament **volunteers:** Chairperson, Draw Masters, Carol Watson on piano and Peggy Hulteen for singing for the opening of the tournament, Kitchen Help, Pie Donations, Referees, Parking and Maintenance and the shufflers for hosting the Thursday Night Dinner.

If you wish to see the trophy winners log into TSSA Shuffleboard website for the results.

- Submitted by Evelyn Apperley, 663 Trinidad

TOURS! TOURS! TOURS!

Some good information on upcoming tours:

1. Coming up February 20th is the shrimp boat tour and shrimp boil at Zimco Marine in Brownsville. Check the Feature Tour board in the Main Hall for more information and to sign up. You will learn all about the shrimping industry and the difference between wild-caught and farm-raised shrimp.
2. The Brownsville Harbor Tour and Shrimp Boil out of South Padre Island with Breakaway Tours is scheduled for February 25th - 27th at 12:00 pm. The cost is \$35.00 per person. Everyone should arrive at the dock a minimum of 30 minutes before sailing. They were to get with me by January 20th but I still have not heard from them. Exact departure date will be announced later.

3. The Nashville/Memphis trip is leaving March 2nd and returning March 8th. There is still room on this jam-Packed trip. Tour cost is \$956.00 per person double occupancy, plus air. I will be willing to help with getting flights for those of you that have already booked and paid. Thanks for making this trip a reality. Flights leave Harlingen on March 2nd at 6:30 am, arriving Memphis at 10:00 am.

Just a reminder that I am working with different travel agencies to get a variety of tours and I will post a featured tour in the Main Hall every week. Many trips are posted in the Card Hall on the Tour board. Please check it regularly as it does change.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, questions, or comments.

- Submitted by Jo-Anne Higgs, Trails End Tour Director, 831 Yucatan, 956-647-5922



COUNTRY MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

Friday afternoon jams start at 12:30 p.m. in the Main Hall. Lunch is served before the jam from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm. If you have any questions, contact Eugene Smith at 257 Jamaica or call 956-375-2479.

- Submitted by Jackie Smith, 257 Jamaica

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CRAFTS

Winter is well under way and the Thursday afternoon crafts are going well.

We have some very interesting projects coming up this month that I hope you will enjoy, so come over to the Card Room on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and join in on the fun. Check the crafts bulletin board for sign-up sheets and lists of any materials required for each session. For any questions, see Tootie at 1041 Durango or call 651-263-3725.

- Submitted by Tootie Varone, 1041 Durango



RED TRAILETTES

(Red Hat Ladies)

The Trails End Red Hat Ladies meet each month on the first and third Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Card Hall. All park ladies are welcome to join.

This is a great way to meet other ladies in the park. The cost of membership is a \$3.00 per person per season. The meetings for this month are February 4th and 18th at 8:30 a.m.

There are several activities posted on the RED HAT bulletin board on the north wall of the Main Hall. Many more fun activities are planned for the next two months. Remember you need to be a Red Hat Member in good standing to attend the activities. Some of those activities include shows, lunches, shopping trips, fashion shows, and special talks, etc. Lots of fun is had by all so mark your calendars for Red Hat on February 4th and 18th. We look forward to seeing you.

Inquiries? See Queen Mother Jo-Anne Higgs (831 Yucatan, 956-647-5922) or Eleanor Seidlik (671 Trinidad, 956-351-5666).

- Submitted by Jo-Anne Higgs, 831 Yucatan



USA DAY IS FEBRUARY 21st

Red, White, and Blue! Planning is well underway to make U.S.A. Day a star spangled event starting with the parade at 2:00 pm. Our Grand Marshalls for this year are Bob and Cathy Whitney!

If you have decided on a state you want to represent, let us know. We hope to get as many states as possible. Wear red, white, and blue and carry a sign with the state on it. The longer the parade the better. Let's make it bigger and better than last year. Sign-up sheets are in the Card Hall for participants and helpers. We can use lots of helpers.

As noted, parade starts at 2:00 pm down by the dumpsters. Line up back by the dumpsters by 1:30.

The buffet will start at 4:00 pm in the Main Hall. Tickets for the buffet are \$5.00 and they will be sold at the Monday Morning meeting every week, or you can purchase them from Bev Buechele at 933 Leisure Lane.

The program for this year will be a Trivia contest played by 4-person teams consisting of one leader and three panelists. Ray Martin will be the emcee for that portion of the day's activities and he hopes to stump several of the panelists with questions regarding the several categories listed on the Card Hall sign-up sheets.

And finally, the street dance will be held again this year on the west end of Trinidad (near the

laundromat). It will start at 6:30 p.m. and feature Wil the DJ playing the tunes and taking requests. **ALL CANADIANS are definitely INVITED!**

SPECIAL NOTE: Ross Harman has once again accepted the offer to escort a "mystery rider" on his motorcycle in the USA Day parade (Thank You Ross!) The identity of the mystery rider will be announced at the afternoon buffet. A box will be placed in the Card hall the day before the buffet for you to enter your guess of who the mystery rider will be. Here are some hints:

1. 41 model
2. Homecoming "King or Queen"
3. Got tattoos
4. Sorry the Packers lost

More hints to come. There will be a cash prize for the winner.

- Submitted by the U.S.A. Day Committee

CANADA DAY IS FEBRUARY 14th



The annual Canada Day celebration will be held on Saturday, February 14th in the Main Hall. Sign up your table and have one person who will collect for the tickets (\$5.00 per person) and then pay the money to Terry Neal.

This year's theme is RED AND WHITE. Prizes will be awarded for table décor and costumes (optional). Happy hour begins at 4:30 pm. Judging of the table decorations, costumes, etc., will start at 5:00 pm with supper to be held after the judging at approximately 5:45. **OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO THE DANCE AT 7:00 pm.** The dance is open to all park residents. Our own Trails End "DJ" Wil McCallum has our favorite music all lined up. For more information, contact Terry Neal at 956-854-4391.

- Submitted by Terry Neal, 925 Leisure Lane

WATER AEROBICS

Water aerobics continues in full swing with 9:00 (9:30 am Mondays) and 10:30 am classes each Monday through Saturday. Classes will not be held if there is heavy rain or lightning and thunder in the area.

See you at the pool!

- Submitted by Linda Wuethrich (608-346-6912)

ANNUAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

The Trails End Annual Dessert Bridge Tournament will be held February 17th at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Hall. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. and cost is \$3.00 per person. You will need to have a partner. Register early as there will be a limited number of entries. Sign-up sheets are in the Card Hall and Library as well as a poster showing dates of the other five tournaments in the Valley. Contact Cliff Lenz at 956-351-5351 for any further information.

- Submitted by Cliff Lenz, 554 Vera Cruz

MONDAY AFTERNOON QUILTING

The quilting group meets every Monday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the Main Hall. In January we started making our "Turning Twenty" quilt. There are several varieties of this popular pattern available. All are "fat quarter" friendly. There is also open quilting for people who require help or inspiration to finish their UFOs. There are 2 sewing machines available to use on a first come first served basis during the quilting session.

- Submitted by Bonnie Moore, 903 Leisure Lane and Jeanette Andrews, 869 Yucatan

MEN'S TRAILBLAZERS

The Trail Blazer Men's choir started practice for the 2015 annual concert this past January. We will meet every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in the Main Hall for practice. All men interested in singing are welcome. The annual spring Trail Blazer men's choir concert is scheduled for Sunday March 8th at 7:00 pm. Please join us for an evening of song and fellowship. A lunch will follow the program.

- Submitted by Carol Watson, 540 Vera Cruz



PETER PIPER PIZZA BUFFET LUNCHEONS

Join Trails End friends for lunchtime pizza buffet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Peter Piper Pizza, 3101 E. Expressway 83, Weslaco TX 78596. For this month, the pizza dates are February 3rd and 17th. Sign up ahead on the kitchen sign-up board (next to the Thursday night dinner sign-up sheets) and arrive at Peter Piper

at/about 11:45 am. For information, contact Ray Maanika at 138 S. Bermuda, 906-399-1144.

TUESDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

I would like to thank everyone that turned out in January to enjoy our entertainment program. Your ongoing support ensures that we will continue to be able to attract good quality entertainment to our park in the future.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to Ellen and her Line-Dancers for setting up chairs every Tuesday following their program.

The shows scheduled for February are listed below along with links to the artist's websites where you can learn more about each of them by (Ctrl + click) on the links.

February 3 / Betty Rydell / 7:00 pm / \$5.00

<http://wintertexaninfo.com/Bands/BettyRydell.html>

February 10 / Gomer & Patsy Show / 7:00 pm / \$6.00

<http://wintertexaninfo.com/Bands/GomerandPatsy.html>

February 17 / Cross Strung / 7:00 PM / \$6.00

<http://crossstrung.com/index.html>

February 24 / Mario Rosales / 7:00 PM / \$6.00

<http://www.marioshowbiz.com/>

Information about other entertainment occurring in the valley can be found on the Winter Texan Times website at <http://www.wintertexantimes.com> or Winter Texan Info website at - <http://wintertexaninfo.com> .

- Submitted by Brad Magnusson 439 Tampico

PICKLEBALL

The pickleball courts require another week of warm, dry weather to complete the surfacing and then we can start to play. The Trails End community has put in many hours working on the courts and helping with the fundraisers. The spaghetti night was a total success. The food was great thanks to our master chefs, volunteers, and donations of dessert. Participation was fantastic with about 235 people attending, the 50/50 sales were over \$600 and the net proceeds going to the club was over \$2,000.00! Thank you for all your support.

For those who asked, here again is the link to the Pickleball Channel that can help you understand the game and get started:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6TT2cahqls&>

[index=1&list=PLJuf3asPVB_DR0R9yCrxBckc0KEMNu78I](#).

- Submitted by Judy Perras-Lenz, 532 Vera Cruz



LINE DANCING

Do you think you'd like to line dance but haven't the foggiest idea how to get started? Thought you were Good but wanted to be **REALLY GOOD?** If the answer to either question is yes and if you think you could use a little exercise (we all could!) AND love music (especially country music), come to the Main Hall and go from being a "toe tapper" to a "boot slapper". Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week with beginner classes from 8:00 to 9:00 am and advanced classes from 9:00 to 10:00 am. You'll have a great time. See you there! And don't to attend my Line Dance Extravaganza on the 16th, noon to 4:00 pm at the Riverside Club, 214 E. Chimney Road, Mission TX 78573. Maps/directions will be available in the Main Hall.

- Submitted by Ellen Neffgen, 766 N. Bermuda

BINGO

Bingo is played every Monday and Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Hall. Cards go on sale for 50 cents each beginning at 7:00 p.m. Typically, 18-20 games are played plus there is a winner-take-all special game at the end of each evening. There are also several 50/50 drawings just before the intermission. **Be sure to wear your name tag.**

Again this month, there will be special bingo games played on February 7th and for those who like to think ahead, another on March 7th. For those games, cards will be sold at a special price with potential for bigger winnings. If you have family or guests visiting, bring them along as they are welcome to play. Children get free ice cream at intermission.

- Submitted by Doris Karlstedt, 118 S. Bermuda



BUNCO

We have had a great time so far this year with Bunco. The next game is scheduled for February 11th. For those of you who like to thinkl

ahead, there will also be a Bunco game on March 4th. Thanks to all who have helped me make this a success. Everyone come out on the 11th and have fun with us!

-Submitted by Bev Buechele, 933 Leisure Lane

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Contract Bridge is played on Wednesday in the Main Hall while Saturday Night Bridge will be held in the Library. Arrive by 6:45 to be ready to start play at 7:00 p.m. No partner is required. For more information, contact Cliff Lenz at 554 Vera Cruz.

- Submitted by Cliff Lenz, 956-351-5351

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Duplicate bridge is played on Mondays at 12:30 pm in the Library. A partner **IS** required. Duplicate is similar to Contract bridge except in Duplicate the hands are dealt and placed on boards which are then played and rotated from table to table. With everyone playing the same hands, this gives you a good comparison of skill levels between partners. For more information, contact Cliff Lenz at 956-351-5351 or Peggy Anderson at 218-343-4053.

- Submitted by Cliff Lenz, 554 Vera Cruz

COMPUTER CLUB



The Trails End Computer Club meets in the Library each Wednesday at 9:30 am with a presentation intended to be of interest to all computer users. Following the program, an allotment of time will be available for one-on-one help to those who want a better understanding of the presentation.

The Computer Clubs web site:

www.tecc.apcug.org is loaded with Bulletins, Lessons, Downloads, websites and links to educational classes and videos. A weekly e-mail may be requested at tecomputerclub@gmail.com.

- Submitted by Harold Buechly, 144 S. Bermuda

TRAILS END DEEP SEA FISHING



The January 18th fishing trip was a big success with everyone filling their limit. Next fishing trip is February 15th and as of January 20th, it was already filled. Anyone still wanting to go please put your name on the list even if it is full, just in case

someone has to cancel out. Please watch the board in the Main Hall and the newsletter for the next fishing trip to be held in March.

These fishing trips depart from Port Mansfield. Types of fish caught include red snapper (minimum 15" long, 4 per person), grouper, shark, trigger fish, red drum, etc. Fishing licenses are required and can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Weslaco Borderland Ace Hardware, or Academy. A minimum of 24 persons is required. The cost is \$100 per person and is payable in advance. A fish fry is planned for the Monday after the trip for those persons who want to donate a one of their fish to the fry, or you may opt to keep your entire catch and forgo the fish fry. This decision is made prior to leaving port.

For more information, contact Dennis Higgs (831 Yucatan) at 956-647-5922 or Richard Mehtala (548 Vera Cruz) at 956-969-2965.

LADIES POOL



The Trails End Ladies Pool plays on Mondays and Tuesdays at 3:00 to 5:00 pm and on Wednesdays at 6:30 to 8:00 pm. You can play or practice earlier if you want. This is very informal and all are welcome. We will help you get started, learn some rules and have fun. Those who want to participate in league play with other parks on Wednesday mornings can do so.

For those interested in Mixed Pool, it is played every 2nd or 3rd Friday. Sign-up sheet is in the pool hall with the date on it. Ten pairs is the maximum. Contact Muriel McCallum at 956-351-5741.

- Submitted by Muriel McCallum, 269 Jamaica

ICE CREAM SOCIAL/VETERANS PROGRAM

February 8th is the date for our second ice cream social and our yearly Veterans recognition program. Come out that night and meet our Veterans. There will be reserved seating for the Veterans and their guest at the east end (stage end) of the Main Hall. For that night, please be at the Main Hall by 4:45 pm as the veterans program will start shortly after that. Ice cream will be served at the end of the veterans program so don't forget to bring your bowl and spoon. For additional information contact Terry or Judy Neal at 956-854-4391.

- Submitted by Terry & Judy Neal, 925 Leisure Lane

MEN'S 8 BALL POOL

The 8 ball pool league continues this month on Mondays at 6:30 pm. Players need to arrive 15 minutes early to make up teams. Players will be categorized as either A or B, based on skill level, and then matched up with a draw that pairs an A or B player together. This method of making teams, along with the alternate shot rule, makes for a pretty even playing field.

A round robin format followed by playoffs determines the winner. This is a popular and fun night for the men. Come out and join us. For more information, contact the activity coordinator George Dame at 659 Trinidad.

- Submitted by Cliff Lenz, 554 Vera Cruz

Did you know...



(left to right) Master Chefs Jeff Walker, Dennis Slack, and Dennis Nelson prepare the fixins'.

..it took 50 lbs. of extra lean ground beef, 42 lbs. of spaghetti, five gallons of tomato sauce, five gallons of crushed tomatoes, ten lbs. of onions, six red, six yellow and six green peppers, ten lbs. of mushrooms, eight lbs. of celery, 12 lbs. of mozzarella cheese and six lbs. of cheddar cheese to feed almost 250 people for last month's "pickleball" spaghetti dinner?

It also took 50 heads of romine lettuce with lots of bacon bits and parmesan cheese to make the salads. And let's not forget all the Texas toast, who knows how many cups of coffee, and an unknown quantity of "secret stuff" that was added to enhance the flavor of the sauce. Lastly and most importantly, it took a team of volunteers that were willing to take directions and give 100% to make it all work!

Did you also know...

..that again this year the woodshop provided the time, space, and shop monitor experts to help some 15 Thursday afternoon craft class attendees design and build a variety of landscape light decorations? This was a follow-on from last year's very successful effort that generated an enormous amount of interest in doing the class again this year. Another similar effort is tentatively planned for February 26th. See Tootie Varone (1041 Durango) for details.

EVENTS and calendar highlights for February 2015 (tear off):

(*Remember to check the regularly scheduled activities on the big "Trails End Events" board in the Main Hall and to read all bulletin boards throughout the club facilities periodically during the month. Keep in mind that holidays and some other one-time events may alter the routine. This list may not be complete as things sometimes do change.)

February 1st -- (Sunday)



SUPERBOWL SUNDAY



Seattle Seahawks vs. New England Patriots

February 2nd -- (Monday)



- Monday Morning Meeting, 8:30 am, Main Hall
 - Paper Toile, 1:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Quilting, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall
-

February 3rd - (Tuesday)

- Pizza Buffet Luncheon, 11:45 am, Peter Piper Pizza
 - Sing-along, 3:15 pm, Main Hall
 - **Tuesday night entertainment featuring *Betty Rydell*.**
- Show starts at 7:00 pm in the Main Hall, cost is \$5.00
-

February 4th -- (Wednesday)

- Red Hats meeting, 8:30 am, Card Hall
 - Computer class, 9:30 - 11:00 am, Library
 - Bunco, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Trailblazers Choir practice, 3:30 pm, Main Hall
-

February 5th -- (Thursday)

- Craft Class, 1:00 p.m., Card Hall
 - Beading, 1:00 - 3:00 pm in the Main Hall
 - **Thursday Night Dinner hosted by Jamaica/Acapulco,**
- 5:00 p.m., Main Hall
- Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall
-

February 6th -- (Friday)

- Friday Lunch, 11:30 am, Main Hall
 - Country Music Jam Session, 12:30-3:00 pm, Main Hall
-

February 7th -- (Saturday)

- Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 to 10:00 am, Main Hall
 - Special Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall
-

February 8th -- (Sunday)

- Veterans Recognition Program and Ice Cream Social, 5:00 pm (arrive by 4:30), Main Hall (bring your bowl and spoon)
-

February 9th -- (Monday)

- Blood pressure checks, 8:00 - 8:30 am, Card Hall
- Monday Morning Meeting, 8:30 am, Main Hall

- Paper Toile, 1:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Quilting, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall
-

February 10th - (Tuesday) - Sing-along, 3:15 pm, Main Hall
- **Tuesday night entertainment featuring *The Gomer and Patsy Show***. Show starts in the Main Hall at 7:00 pm, cost is \$6.00

February 11th -- (Wednesday) - Computer class, 9:30 - 11:00 am, Library
- Bunco, 1:00 pm, Main Hall
- Trailblazers Choir practice, 3:30 pm, Main Hall

February 12th -- (Thursday) **Lincoln's Birthday**
- Craft Class, 1:00 p.m., Card Hall
- Beading, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Main Hall
- **Thursday Night Dinner hosted by N. Bermuda**, 5:00 p.m., Main Hall
- Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall

February 13th -- (Friday) - Friday Lunch, 11:30 am, Main Hall
- Country Music Jam Session, 12:30-3:00 pm, Main Hall

February 14th -- (Saturday)  **St. Valentine's Day**
- Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 to 10:00 am, Main Hall (take your Valentine out for breakfast)
- **Canada Day Party**, starting at 4:30 pm, Main Hall

February 15th -- (Sunday) - Sunday Brunch, 9:00 - 12:00 pm, Main Hall

February 16th -- (Monday) **Presidents' Day (U.S. Federal Holiday)**
- Monday Morning meeting, 8:30 a.m., Main Hall
- **Ellen's Line Dance Extravaganza**, Noon - 4:00 pm, Riverside Club, 214 E. Chimney Road, Mission TX 78573
- Paper Toile, 1:00 pm, Main Hall
- Quilting, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Main Hall
- Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall

February 17th - (Tuesday) - Annual Dessert Bridge Tournament, 1:00 pm, Main Hall
- Sing-along, 3:15 pm, Main Hall
- **Tuesday night entertainment featuring *Cross Strung***. Show starts in the Main Hall at 7:00 pm, cost only \$6.00

- February 18th -- (Wednesday) **Ash Wednesday**
- Red Hats meeting, 8:30 am, Card Hall
 - Computer class, 9:30 - 11:00 am, Library
 - Trailblazers Choir practice, 3:30 pm, Main Hall
 - Birthdays/Anniversaries Celebration, 7:00 pm in the Main Hall
-
- February 19th -- (Thursday)
- Craft Class, 1:00 p.m., Card Hall
 - Beading, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Main Hall
 - **Thursday Night Dinner hosted by Durango**, 5:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall
-
- February 20th -- (Friday)
- Friday Lunch, 11:30 am, Main Hall
 - Country Music Jam Session, 12:30-3:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Cribbage Tournament, 6:00 - 11:00 pm, Main Hall
-
- February 21st -- (Saturday)
- Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 to 10:00 am, Main Hall
 - **USA Day** Celebrations starting with parade at 2:00 pm
-
- February 23rd - (Monday) **Deadline for inputs to the March newsletter**
- Monday Morning Meeting, 8:30 am, Main Hall
 - Paper Toile, 1:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Quilting, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall
-
- February 24th - (Tuesday)
- Sing-along, 3:15 pm, Main Hall
 - **Tuesday night entertainment featuring *Mario Rosales***. Show starts in the Main Hall at 7:00 pm, cost is \$6.00
-
- February 25th -- (Wednesday)
- Computer class, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., Library
 - Bunco, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Trailblazers Choir practice, 3:30 pm, Main Hall
-
- February 26th -- (Thursday)
- Special Craft Class, 1:00 p.m., Card Hall/Woodshop
 - Beading, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Main Hall
 - **Thursday Night Dinner hosted by Trinidad/Acapulco**, 5:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Bingo, 7:30 pm, Main Hall
-
- February 27th -- (Friday)
- Friday Lunch, 11:30 am, Main Hall
 - Country Music Jam Session, 12:30-3:00 pm, Main Hall
-
- February 28th -- (Saturday)
- Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., Main Hall
-

Upcoming Events in March

March 2nd -- (Monday) - Monday Morning meeting, 8:30 a.m., Main Hall
 - Paper Tole, 1:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Quilting, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Main Hall
 - Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Main Hall

March 4th -- (Wednesday) - Bunco, 1:00 pm, Main Hall

March 8th - (Sunday) **Daylight Saving Time begins**
 - TrailBlazers Men Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, Main Hall
