

Hello Wisconsinites,

I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer whether you spent it in The Villages, in Wisconsin, or in some other state or country.

It's that time of year again when we start looking forward to the coming year's Wisconsin Club meetings, activities and entertainment. The Board has been busy planning for the 2011-2012 membership year. Although we haven't finalized everything for the entire year, we are well on the way. To paraphrase Al Roker of the Today show, "Here's what's happening in our neck of the woods."

September 19th

September is our first meeting of the 2011-2012 season. In addition to membership renewals being taken (more information later), we will also be selling tickets for October Fest. I'll also have more on that in a bit. September, like May, is traditionally a less attended meeting as a lot of our members have not yet returned from their summer escapades. Therefore, we are going to forego the traditional singer, DJ, dancers, and band type of entertainment. What we plan is much **sweeter** than any of that.

Ollie's Frozen Custard will be bringing the makings of sundaes and cones to Colony Cottage for an ice cream social night. It will be a good chance for us to start building up our bodily insulation for the upcoming winter. "NOT ME", you say? Not to worry. He's bringing some diet ice cream, too. So, skip the dessert at supper. Better yet, skip the supper entirely. Tickets for the ice cream event will be sold at the door for \$2 each.

Also in September is the joint WI club golf outing. If you signed up for the May 2011 outing, you may have also signed up for the September 2011 outing at the same time. If you're not sure if you already signed up for it, contact Ray Hass at 753-4947, or Gene Grochowski at 753-4947. There are still openings for this event. Contact either Ray or Gene if you are interested. Everyone always has a good time at the outings.

October 17th

O.K. Jungen und Mädchen (O.K. Boys and Girls), it's time for October Fest. This year we are planning for a joint event with the On Wisconsin club (Sea Breeze) at the polo field. We will have games, music, dancing, prizes, 50/50, and food. The menu will be Johnsonville brats, hot dogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, baked beans, all the condiments, and soda and water. Let's see ... did I forget anything? OH YES – BEER, BEER, and BEER. The time will be 3:00pm – 7:00pm. Gates will not open prior to 2:30pm, and beer WILL NOT BE SERVED UNTIL 3:00pm. Tickets are \$12/member and \$15/guest.

November 21st

TBD

December 19th

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night. December 19th will be a good night. That night we will be celebrating the holiday season with a joint dinner dance party with the other two Wisconsin clubs. This year it is our turn to host the event, and our chairwoman handling the details is Sharon Kuhs. She has been in WI for most of the summer but still has managed to get way ahead in the planning phase. Thank you Sharon for your efforts. She is looking for a few volunteers to help with some of the details. You'll be able to sign up at the September meeting. More details will be given, as we get closer to December.

January 16th

TBD

February 20th

We will be taking over the Orange Blossom Hills restaurant for this meeting and a good ol' fish fry. The Sea Breeze club did this last year and they were very pleased with the results. We have the restaurant already reserved for this night. Additional information will be available at a later date.

March 19th

TBD

April 16th

April brings us our April picnic, another potential joint event. We will begin preliminary planning soon. Anyone wishing to get involved will have more than sufficient time to sign up as a volunteer.

May 21st

This is another low attendance meeting. If the northern weather is warm, we lose members to the "North Country". If it's cold, meeting attendance is somewhat higher. We'll wait to decide if there will be any type of entertainment.

October Fest tickets and Renewals

Because of capacity problems we have had at the polo field at past events, the Boards of both clubs (the Paradise club chose not to join us) have decided to limit the ticket sales to a total number of 275 between the two clubs. Both clubs are making their tickets available by mail, starting today, and available at their September meetings. There will be **NO** tickets for sale at the polo field. Ticket sales will be cut off on Monday, October 3rd in order to give the caterer enough time to order the food required. Tickets will only be sold to members who have already renewed for the 2011-2012 year **OR** who send in their renewal fees (\$5 per member) with their ticket order. If you are not sure whether you have already renewed, send an email to shipmstr@embarqmail.com and I'll respond within 24 hours.

To renew your membership **and/or** purchase tickets for October Fest, send a check for the appropriate amount **along with a self-addressed, stamped** envelope to Lois Meidenbauer, 2185 Ellison Place, The Villages, FL 32162-3352.

If you are buying tickets for some other member, include their name(s) on the memo line of the check. If for guests, annotate how many.

This last item is one of those good news/bad news things. The bad news is that we will need volunteers to help at October Fest for games, ticket takers, parking directors, etc. There will be "shifts" designated. No one will be tied up for the whole afternoon. Sign up sheets will be at the September meeting. The good news is that any volunteer we **use** will get priority positioning in the food line. That means if you work, you eat first.

That's all folks. I hope this gives you some things to think about, things to look forward to, and reasons to be glad you're a member of the Wisconsin Club Lake Sumter.

Gary Gerke,
Treasurer