

◆ The Eagles News ◆

Official Publication of The Gulf Coast Eagles, Southwest Florida Chapter of S*M*A*R*T*

Volume 13 Issue 1 **President's Message:**

Winter 2012

2012 Officers

President:

Gene Benuzzi
(941) 829-9171

Vice-President:

Bill Armstrong
(863) 984-8171

Secretary:

Joan McDonald
(941) 224-2551

Treasurer:

Ruth Schilk
(941) 661-8586

Muster Master:

Artie Spaw
(772) 532-6608

Appointed Positions:

Sunshine:

Gloria Hartley
(407) 293-7649

Chaplain:

Lois Spaw
(863) 984-5263

Store Keeper:

Ruth Schilk
(941) 661-8586

50/50:

Don Jackson
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Artie Spaw
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PJ Cooper
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Newsletter Editor:

Terry McDonald
(941) 722-9464
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President's Letter: Hello Eagles. Happy 2012!! Our Chapter appropriately welcomed in the New Year at our 12/30/11-1/2/12 Lazy Days Bash/Muster. We had a strong turn-out that was even more significant in that it included our newest members; **Andy and Kathy Anderson, Jim and "Dee" McDade, John and Maria Tesmer, and Will and Gale Witt.** Our muster hosts, **Terry and Joan McDonald** and **Jim and Ruth Schilk,** deserve a standing ovation for neatly weaving our Chapter activities into the overall fabric of the event. Also, we can now all look forward to a great 2012, after dining on the **McDonald's** traditional health-wealth-and-happiness New Year's Soup. This is likely to be a banner year in many respects. We have already nominated, elected, and installed our 2012 Chapter Board. Oh, you weren't aware of this? My Bad. I failed to start the election process last year. Thanks to the current Board and to **Jerry Cole's** support, the Board Members have offered to serve a second term, which then gained approved through **Jerry's** telephone survey of our membership. Never Again. Former President **Paul Cooper** and **Floyd Harden** volunteered to serve as a nominating committee to establish a 2013 slate of candidates to be voted on this summer and installed at the 2013 Winter Muster. A real high points to which to look forward is the April 23th thru 27th Southeast Regional Muster at Wekiva Falls Resort in Sorrento, FL (just off I-4 east of Orlando). **Melina LeDuc,** SE Region Director and a GCE Chapter Member, passed out parking forms, a copy of which is included in this Newsletter for your convenience. **John Tesmer,** the SE Regional Muster Master and our newest CGE Chapter member, solicited GCE support for the event. The Chapter is already serving in many functions, as follow: **Andy Anderson** - Registrations, **Judy Benuzzi** - First Timers Luncheon, **Jennie Garrick** - Tours, **Martha Cole** - Entertainment, **Terry McDonald** - Photography, **Joan McDonald** - First Aid, and **Maria Tesmer** - multiple lead and support area. Several other Eagles have offered to assist me on the Program Committee or other functions, as needed. If you'd like to participate, there are jobs open. Please contact **John Tesmer** at johnTesmer@aol.com for specifics. One lasting outcome of efforts to enlist community and business support for door prizes, silent auction materials, and raffle items for the Regional is the building of awareness of SMART's presence in the RVing world. You will soon see a banner on the **SMART** web site that links to Military Life Publications which will allow us to purchase materials like the new release (first since 2008) of the popular but often hard to find Military Campgrounds volume, among others. There will also be a SMART banner and blurb on the Military Life website. This all came about through marketing and advertising sales efforts by **Maria Tesmer.** The more exposure for SMART, the better; plus a potential new revenue stream for SMART. She has also sold an initial ad to appear in the Traveler, with more expected to follow. Great job, gal!! **WHATS NEXT??** Our Spring Chapter Muster, of course, from 2/20/12 to 2/24/12 at the "M" RV Resort outside Moore Haven, FL. We have received only a few reservations as of this writing, so there are plenty of slots remaining. We will be holding our (supposedly) annual AUCTION at this muster. Our auctioneer, **Don Jackson,** asks that we not bring those items that are headed for the trash as their next stop. RVing-related stuff would be highly appropriate, as would those family heirlooms for which you can never find storage space. We'll help you find them a new home. Finally, it has been suggested we include a visit to the Brighton Seminole Casino, for those who like some excitement in life. Works for me, so it's in the Final Schedule. We hope to see you there; until then stay well, stay warm, and stay safe.

Gene Benuzzi, President



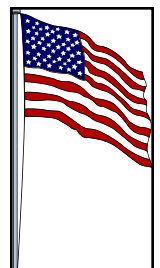
Dues are due!

Dues for **2012** membership renewal were due
Jan. 1st, 2012.

Please make your **\$10.00** check **PAYABLE TO**
THE GULF COAST EAGLES

Please send your check to:

Ruth Schilk, 1406 Carswell St., Port Charlotte, FL 33953





**Robert "Bob" Warbutton, USCG Ret.
Final Muster: Saturday, 31 December 2011**

Charity Begins at Home

The membership voted to make their annual charity donation this year to **Evan Crisler & his Service Dog "Que"**. It was also decided not donate to the *Toys For Tots* program. Instead, everyone was asked to donate the cash equivalent (approximately \$10 per toy, per person) to **Evan**. Who, what, when, where, etc. is **Evan**? He is the Autistic grandchild of one of our members. He must have a Service Dog to help keep safe as he is prone to suddenly running which has put him in great danger more than once. The cost of the dog, training and maintenance is in the thousands of dollars. **Evan's** grandparents greatly appreciate all the financial help given thus far by their fellow **Eagles**. If you have not had an opportunity to donate and would like to do so, make out a check to the **Gulf Coast Eagles** & send it to our Treasurer: **Ruth Schilk, 1406 Carswell St., Port Charlotte, FL 33953**. Mark your check as a **donation to Evan**.



NO MORE E-MAIL ADDRESSES to worry about. Sign up for the **Eagles' Forum**. JUST US. It will allow quick communication amongst ourselves.

Sign up now PLEASE at: <http://gulf-coast-eagles.proboards.com/index.cgi?>

Have you visited the **Gulf Coast Eagle's** web site recently? The web master, **Robert McAndrew**, keeps improving it.

Gulf Coast Eagles: -<http://www.military-rving.us/GCE/Eagles.html>

Gulf Coast Eagles & Friends

2012 Branson Veterans Week Celebration

IF there is enough interest, offered to organize another Branson. Call, write, send a muster to let the **Coles'** know. SMART function, so, invite



Martha & Jerry Cole have Veterans Week visit to carrier pigeon by the next Note: This is NOT a your friends.

Muster Schedule 2012>2013

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hosts</u>
February 2012 20 > 24	"M" RV Park Moore Haven, FL	Gene & Judy Benuzzi , 941-815-8283 Floyd & Judy Harden , 407-962-6852
April 2012 23 > 28	SMART Southeast Region Wekiva Falls RV Resort Sorrento, FL	Muster Master John Tesmer 813-990-7288 johntesmer@aol.com



Winter Birthdays



January
February

Melina LeDuc, 8; Gale Witt, 23.
Alice Jackson, 1; Judy Harden, 4; Ester Machowski, 5;
Bill Day, 11; Bob Warbutton (Deceased), 19;
Jasper Roper, 24; Vicki Wallen, 24; Tom Jones, 28.

March

Martha Cole, 5; Judy Dietz, 10;
Dolores Brown Hayter, 11; Artus Wallen, 11;
Curtis Hayter, 14; Ralph Scogin, 23.

Winter Anniversaries



February

Melina LeDuc & Michael Stefovich, 14;
Floyd & Judy Harden, 18.

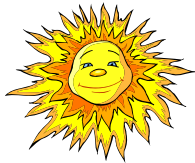
March

Curtis & Dolores Hayter, 8.

April

Will & Gale Witt, 11; Don & Alice Jackson, 26;
Terry & Joan McDonald, 27.

Please let me know if I make an error in either your birthdate or your anniversary date. I *try* my best to be accurate. Thank you, **Terry McDonald**, Newsletter Editor



SUNSHINE REPORT

Sunshine Lady, **Gloria Hartley**

Please contact the Sunshine Lady if you know of any members who are ill, in the hospital, etc..

Phone 407-493-7649 e-mail: Jred1130@aol.com



Officers for 2012



**President
Gene Benuzzi**



**Vice President
Bill Armstrong**



**Secretary
Joan McDonald**



**Treasurer
Ruth Schilk**



**Wagon Master
Artie Spaw**

Attached separately is a **chapter roster**. Please open it and check for accuracy. Any changes— Please e-mail or call me as soon as you have checked it & before you forget to tell me.

Thanks,
Joan McDonald
Secretary



Gulf Coast Eagles February 20-24, 2012 Muster

“M” RV Resort, 17192 US Hwy 27, Moore Haven, FL 33471

Your Muster Hosts: Gene & Judy Benuzzi and Floyd & Judy Harden

GPS Coordinates: 26.86171N; 81.21299W (US Hwy 27 & “M” RV Entrance Road Intersection)

Directions: *From North* – I-75 S to US 301, left on Rte 98 toward Bartow, left on Rte 60 to Lake Wales, take Rte 27 S for approx. 82 miles to campground on right. *From Southwest* – I-75 N to Rte 80 E (Palm Beach Blvd) to Rte 78 E to Rte 27 N for approx. 6.5 miles to campground on left. *From West* – Rte 17 E from Punta Gorda, right on Rte 74 E, right on Rte 27 S for approx. 5 miles to campground on right.

Reservations: Individual camping reservations required. Please call **863.946.6616**

Deadline: **10 February 2012**—Later sign-ups may be possible, space permitting.

Camping Fee: \$20.00 per night. Please inform receptionist you are with the **Gulf Coast Eagles**

Muster Fee Payment: Please send check for \$7.50 per person, (\$15.00 per couple) to:

Judy Benuzzi, 17307 Lake Worth Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33948 (Phone 941.629.9171)

FINAL SCHEDULE

Monday-February 20

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Social Time—snacks

5:30 PM

Dinner: Turkey BBQ on a Roll, Chips, Slaw, Hot Beverages

7:00 pm

Card Bingo

Tuesday-February 21

8:30-9:30 AM

Breakfast: Pancakes, Sausage, Juice, Coffee

10:00 AM

Board Meeting

10:30 AM

General Membership Meeting

AYL*

Lunch on Your Own

2:00 PM

Social Time:

5:30 PM

Pot Luck Dinner: Club-provided Chicken, ****Pot Luck Fixins****, Beverages

7:00 PM

Auction: Fund Raiser—Please do not bring junk



Wednesday-February 22

8:30-9:30 AM

Breakfast: French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Cup, Juice, Coffee

10:00 AM

Meet at Club House to Car Pool to Brighton Seminole Casino

AYL*

Lunch on Your Own

5:30 PM

Dinner: Baked Lasagna, Bread, Salad, Beverages, Dessert

7:00 PM

Cards & Games

Thursday-February 23***

8:30-9:30 AM

Breakfast @ Benuzzi’s- Sausage Gravy & Biscuits, Fruit Cup, Juice, Coffee

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Meet at Clubhouse: Depart for Roland Martin Marina Big “O” Airboat Eco Tour, (Staged Hourly 8-Person Boardings.) **Fee:** \$27.00 per person. Others, When Not Touring, Can Do Lunch at The Marina Tiki Bar or The Galley Grill, Stroll, or Just Lounge About

5:30 PM

Meet at Clubhouse: Depart for Buffet Dinner at the Historic **Clewiston Inn**. Several Choices of Entrees, Salad, Vegetables, Corn Bread, and More..

Friday-February 24 ***

8:00-9:30 AM

Continental Breakfast @ Benuzzi’s: Coffee & Muffins

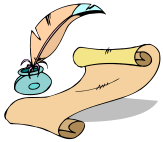
*****Bring Chairs, Plates, Utensils, Cups**

Goodbyes, Farewells and Wishes for Safe Journeys for All!

*AYL: At Your Leisure

**Pot Luck—when sending your Muster Fee, please indicate what dish you will be bringing.





Gulf Coast Eagles
Meeting 31 December 2011
Lazydays Campground, Seffner, FL



1. Meeting called to order at 3:45 by **President Gene Benuzzi**.
2. Officers not in attendance: **Artie Spaw, Wagon Master**.
3. Minutes of last meeting approved as published in newsletter.
4. Treasurer's report submitted by **Ruth Schilk**. Approved as posted.
5. Welcome extended to guests and new members: **John and Maria Tesmer; Andy and Kathy Anderson; Will & Gale Witt**.
6. **Old business: Floyd & Judy Hardin** gave a progress report on **Evan Crisler**. At the December 2010 meeting out club voted to donate money toward the purchase and training of a service dog for **Evan**. Also, in lieu of a gift exchange, members were encouraged to donate individually the equivalent sum of a toy. **Evan** and his new dog, **Que**, are now in training. Motion made by **Bill Armstrong** to donate \$100 to Evan's Fund. Motion passed. **Treasurer Ruth Schilk** will also accept individual donations by check or cash. She asked any donations be marked as such.
Our next muster will be February 20 > 24 at "M" Campground, Moore Haven, FL. Please make reservations directly with the campground. Deadline is February 10th. Deadline is February 10th. Later reservations will be accepted if sites are available.
Newsletter Editor, Terry McDonald, reported that the annual rental fee for the **GCE** web site is now due. Motion made and passed to continue supporting a web site. **Gene Benuzzi** voiced appreciation for all the work our volunteer **Web Master, Bob McAndrew**, does for the chapter. He also told everyone **Bob** and his wife, **Shaaron**, had joined us @ Dollywood and what super nice folks they were.
7. **New business: Melina LeDuc, SE Regional Director**, and her husband, **Mike Steflovich**, distributed application forms for the **SMART SE Regional Muster** which is scheduled for April 23 > 28 @ Wekiva Falls RV Resort in Sorrento, FL. **Melina** expressed her frustration at **SMART National HQS** who have denied her repeated requests to place information on the Regional Muster in the **SMART Traveler**. She encouraged everyone to contact HQS and lobby to get National backing for the Muster. **John Tesmer, Wagon Master** for the **SE Regional Muster**, gave a brief update.
Pres. Benuzzi reminded everyone we, as a chapter, had volunteered to support the Muster by doing activities for the First Timers. All members were encouraged to sign-up for the muster as maximum support would be needed. The **Newsletter Editor, Terry**, offered to try and add the applications to the chapter's Winter issue.
Slate of officers for 2012 was presented by **Pres. Benuzzi**. Since the slate presented was identical to the current "elected & installed" officers, a motion to accept the continuation of the currently installed officers, passed unanimously. **President: Gene Benuzzi; Vice-Pres.: Bill Armstrong; Secretary: Joan McDonald; Treasurer: Ruth Schilk; Wagon Master: Artie Spaw**.
8. **President Benuzzi** appointed a Nominations Committee for the next year's elections.
9. Meeting Adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan McDonald, Secretary

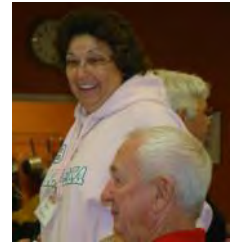


NEW YEAR'S MUSTER 2012

We Met At Lazydays RV Campground



The Fun Began With F O O D & plenty of it



Enjoying the beautiful day, we gathered to socialize



Part of the Fun of being an Eagle is the games we play



So popular have the card games become, we had Rachel pop in for the day.



Suddenly it was Saturday Night and Time to Party in **2012**



We Finally Faced Reality & Went to Work—Or in other Words had a Meeting



Oh hum!
Did I take this
long as President?



The Last Supper-New Year's Day 2012



← Our Muster Hosts
Joan & Terry McDonald
Jim & Ruth Schilk →



GOOD SOUP
JOAN





What is going on HERE?????



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



GULF COAST EAGLES



NATIONAL SMART NUMBER _____ NATIONAL DUES EXP. DATE _____

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE S*M*A*R*T TRAVEL CLUB TO BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN A CHAPTER

LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ MI _____ SPOUSE _____

STREET ADDRESS – P.O. BOX _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE (w/area code) _____ CELL PHONE (optional) _____ E-MAIL _____

MILITARY SERVICE, BRANCH _____ ACTIVE _____ RETIRED _____

BIRTHDAY (m/d) _____ SPOUSE BIRTHDAY (m/d) _____ ANNIVERSARY (m/d/y) _____

SIGNATURE

Please enclose \$ 10.00 Annual Dues (01 January through 31 December)

Make check payable to: **GULF COAST EAGLES CHAPTER**

Return to Chapter Treasurer:

Ruth Schilk
1406 Carswell St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
Tel. (941) 661-8586

-----Below Completed by Chapter-----

Received Date

Signature Chapter Treasurer

Signature Chapter Secretary

C# _____ DATE _____

2012 Southeast Region Muster Registration

Springtime Extravaganza April 23-28, 2012 (depart April 28)

Wekiva Falls Resort, 30700 Wekiva River Road, Sorrento, FL

352.383.8055 www.wekivafallsresort.com

POC: Muster Master John Tesmer 813.990.7288 johntesmer@aol.com

Registration Deadline April 8, 2012 – Do not combine Regs/Parking Fees

Make Check payable to "SMART"

Mail to: SMART 600 University Office Blvd 1A, Pensacola, FL 32504

SMART # _____ Chapters _____ 1st Timer (Y/N) _____

Name: Last _____ First _____ Spouse _____ Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Muster Fee: \$70.00 per person (\$140.00 two person rig) \$70.00 per additional person.

Parking Fee: \$23.00 per night per rig (early bird day Sun. 22 Apr.)

Upon receipt of registration, HQ will send a letter and a copy of the refund policy. Additional information by both email and regular mail will be sent by Region Muster committee. Updates will be periodically provided by email, in the Traveler, and on the SMART website.

Tour and activity information to be announced in future packages.

Participation interest: Golf: (Y/N)____, Crafts: (Y/N)____, Games: (Y/N)____,

Silent Auction: (Y/N)____, Book Donations (Book sales) (Y/N)____,

Volunteer to assist (Y/N)____

All attendees (members/guests) must sign below in order to participate:

Please read the following: for services rendered/received by those signed below, in their participation of the SMART activity named above, the undersigned hereby releases and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SMART Inc., all officers, directors, employees, agents and their successors and assigns from all liabilities, injuries, obligations, claims, demands, losses, damages, judgments, penalties, expenses and disbursements, including reasonable attorney's fees of any kind and nature arising out of or in any way related to the activity listed above. SMART is NOT responsible for the actions of any participating company or agent, with regards to their role in organizing, planning, or for any other service they may provide for the benefit of the person or activity. All persons must be 18 years or older, and must sign the required application.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

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2012 SE REGION MUSTER PARKING REGISTRATION 2012

DO NOT SEND TO HQ, DO NOT COMBINE WITH MUSTER FEE

For Parking Reservation please complete and send this form

and one check for \$46.00 (for 2 nights)

Make check out to: SE Region Muster 2012

Mail to: Charles Anderson, 5099 SE 55th Ave., Trenton, FL 32693

Remainder of parking fee due on arrival at RATE of \$23.000 Per Night

Please bring extra water hoses, sewer hoses, and electrical cords.

SMART # _____ Number in Party _____

Name: Last _____ First _____

Spouse _____

Address: _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Depart Date: _____

Handicap Parking (Y/N) _____ State License Decal Required

RV Type: Motor Home 5th Wheel Travel Trailer (circle one)

Length _____ # of slides _____

Vehicle in Tow: Y N (circle Y or N)

Pets: Y N # _____ (circle Y or N)