

December 2007/January 2008



TAMPA BAY 56ers BEACON

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!**



**IMPORTANT
TOUR OF
HOMES DATE
CHANGED TO
SATURDAY,
JANUARY 5,
2008**

REFER TO PAGES 4-6 FOR DETAILS



President's Message

By *Vern Schwieterman*

The Holidays are upon us and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In my absent from the November meeting Cindy assumed the role as president and I appreciate her help with that.

Great big thumbs up to Marlyn for organizing our bus trip. We arrived at the Florida Mall safe and sound even though our bus driver was playing bingo with us. The Department 56 store provided all of us with a gift bag. Inside the bag was a 10% discount coupon for purchases over \$50.00. We were certainly glad the bus had a compartment for all the goodies purchased. After our shopping spree we headed to the Dixie Stampede. It was decked out for Christmas. The Christmas music set the stage for a great show. The horses and riders added to the theme of Christmas. Even the cute little goats were well trained. The pigs on my family farm need to take some lessons. A visit from Santa ended the program. What a feast we were served and filled our bellies abundantly. The ride home was enjoyed with a Christmas CD of Dolly Parton's, purchased by Ellen, and many jokes in the back of the bus were exchanged.

Sunday Judy and I set up the Ronald McDonald house West in St. Petersburg. Roger Grieves sets up the East House. Each house has their own collection of North Pole pieces. A few pictures of the display at the West House were taken.

Plans for the house tour are in motion. The map and homes will be announced soon.

Katie Zeller has completed our entry for the NCC cake decorating contest. We are grateful for your talent in this contest. Pictures were forwarded to our NCC representative Bill and to Ellen for the newsletter.

Once again Merry Christmas to all and at Happy New Year.



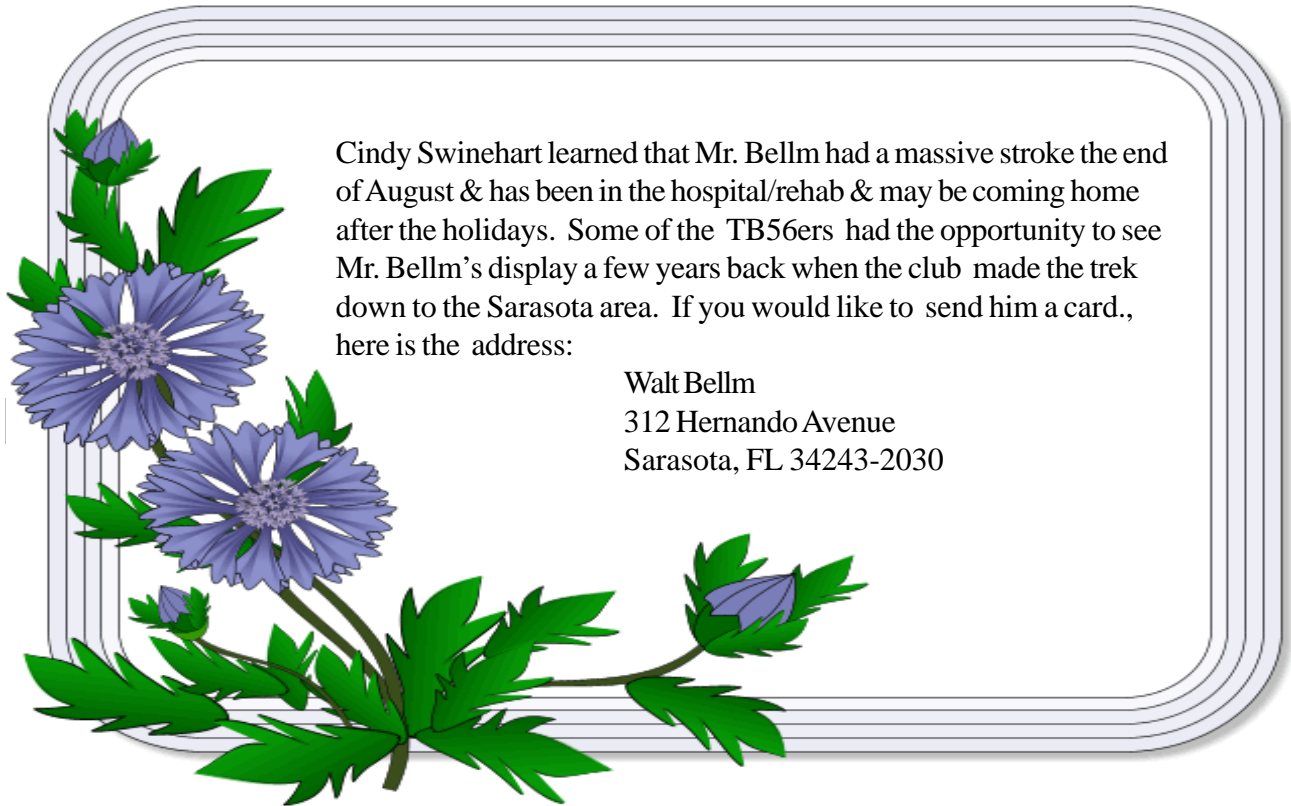
Happy Belated Birthday!

12/18 Chuck McGeary
 12/28 Denis Gillen
 1/1 Frances Swinehart



Happy Birthday!

1/6 Stacey Schwieterman - Smith
 1/7 Judy Schwieterman
 1/14 Vi Hill



Cindy Swinehart learned that Mr. Bellm had a massive stroke the end of August & has been in the hospital/rehab & may be coming home after the holidays. Some of the TB56ers had the opportunity to see Mr. Bellm's display a few years back when the club made the trek down to the Sarasota area. If you would like to send him a card., here is the address:

Walt Bellm
 312 Hernando Avenue
 Sarasota, FL 34243-2030



Skip's Florist & Christmas H.O.U.S.E.
 SKIP MASLOWSKI
 5324 Mile Stretch Dr. (727) 938-2274
 Holiday, FL 34690 (800) 938-9048



Robert's Christmas Wonderland
 2951 Gulf to Bay Blvd. (Highway 60)
 Clearwater, Florida 33759
(727) 797-1660
 Out of Area Call: (800) 861-6389
 Fax (727) 799-2704



The Tour of Homes has changed to Saturday, January 8, 2008. However, the tour homes remain the same as do the times, the dinner location and menu, etc. The tour chairman, Roger Fournier, will have extra directions available at each house in case anyone needs them.

There will also be a "tour contest". The questions can be picked up at each house.

Approximately 50 people stated that they would be attending the tour, but only approximately 30 prepaid the \$5.00 cost per person. This is in lieu of asking everyone to bring a dish. Please contact Roger about pay arrangements for the dinner.

Here are the directions for the house tour. Mileage is approximate as odometers are not all the same, and the spot the measurement starts from can vary. They should be close enough to make it easy to follow. These aren't the only routes so if you have a better one, please use it. We tried to leave enough time at each house to account for different routes and driving speeds. **If you have any problems finding a house, contact Roger on his cell phone at 727-515-8008.**

First stop: arrive 9:45 to 10:00 AM
Roger and Carol Fournier
280 Gardenia Lane
Parrish, 34219
Phone 941-776-3316



From Pinellas or western Hillsborough - As a reference, we are about 45 minutes from Largo Mall, 50 minutes from Tampa International. Start I-275S over the Skyway to I-75S. Take first exit after getting on I-75S, exit #224, Ellenton (this is the Prime Outlet Mall exit). Make a left onto US-301, go 4.2 miles, left onto Tiger Lilly Dr (directly across from entrance to Publix Plaza). Go 0.9 miles on Tiger Lilly / Gardenia (Tiger Lilly becomes Gardenia at the curve). The house is on the left.

From eastern Hillsborough, take I-75S to exit 224 as above
From Points south, take exit 224 off I-75N. At the bottom of the ramp, make a left, go 4.1 miles to Tiger Lilly, etc.

10:30 AM leave for:
Bill and Mary Ann Foelker
305 Carriage Oak Place
Seffner, 33584
Phone 813-657-8949
Arrive 11:15 AM



Directions for House Tour - continued

From Roger and Carol's,

Right on 301 to I-75N approximately 34.6 miles to Exit 260A

Right on to MLK and go approximately 2.5 miles, turn left on Kingsway Rd and go to stop sign (about 0.8 miles), turn right on Old Hillsborough Ave. Go 0.5 miles to the Lake Weeks entrance on the right. Enter code 145 on the keypad for entrance. Continue on Apache Lane as it curves to the right. At the last street, turn left on to Carriage Oak Place, 3rd house on right.

From Tampa or Pinellas, go to I-4E to Exit 10. Turn Right and immediately get into the left turn lane. Turn left on US-92 and go 1.5 miles. Turn right at Kingsway Rd, go to stop sign and turn left onto Old Hillsborough Ave, go 0.5 miles to Lake Weeks entrance and enter code 145 for entrance. Continue on Apache Lane as it curves to the right. At the last street, turn left on to Carriage Oak Place, 3rd house on right.

12:00 PM leave for:

Leslie and Sol Gully

1240 Ridgegrove Dr S.,

Palm Harbor, 34683

Phone 727-488-3743

Arrive 1:30 PM (We built in a 30 to 45 minute lunch break for you during this leg of the trip.)



From Bill and Mary Ann

Take a left on Old Hillsborough, approximately 3 miles, right on Mango approximately 0.7 miles, left on I-4W to I-275S to Exit 39. Follow SR-60 over the Courtney Campbell to McMullen Booth Road. Take McMullen Booth to the exit for Tampa Road, go west. Follow Tampa Rd west to US-19, turn right onto US-19N to Alderman Rd (about 1.8 miles), left on Alderman 1.6 miles, right on Ennisgrove, immediate left on Ridgegrove, house on left.

Anyone not making the trek to Parrish or Seffner because of the distance, you can take US-19N or Belcher Road north to Alderman to Ennisgrove and then Ridgegrove and start the tour at the Gully residence at 1:30. You'll miss 2 nice displays however.

2:15 PM leave for:

Vern and Judy Schwieterman

8310 121st Ave N

Largo, 33773

Phone 727-531-3112

Arrive 2:45 PM



From Leslie and Sol

Get back to Alderman, left on Alderman, take a right on Belcher Rd. Follow Belcher for 12.5 miles, make a right on East Bay, go 1 mile, left on Starkey for 2.3 miles. Left on Somerset (just before the railroad tracks) for 0.3 miles, right on 85th St, take 2nd left, 121st Ave to 8310 on right. (look for the helicopter)

Directions for House Tour - continued

3:30 PM leave for:

Wolfgang and Deborah Paltian
13690 Pebble Dr
Largo, 33774
Phone 727-517-9508
Arrive 3:45 PM

From Vern and Judy's

Get back to Somerset, follow to Starkey, right on Starkey about 0.8 miles, turn left on Ulmerton Road. Go 4.6 miles (Ulmerton becomes Walsingham Rd right after the Baptist Church - keep going straight) Make a Left onto 137th St at the Burger King, go 0.3 miles, left on Pebble Dr, house on right. House is on corner of Pebble and 137th. Looked like more parking was available on 137th.

4:30 PM leave for:

Jack and Marlyn King
645 78th Ave
St Pete Beach, 33706
Phone 727-367-4226
Arrive 5:00 PM

From Wolfgang and Deborah's

From Pebble, left on 137th to where it merges with Oakhurst Rd, left on Oakhurst to Park Blvd. Right on Park Blvd about 0.7 miles to Gulf Blvd, SR -699. Left on SR-699, go about 9 miles, (Gulf Blvd becomes Blind Pass Road), Then right on 78th Ave, past 2 stop signs, House on right.

5:45 PM leave for dinner

Return to SR-699 (Blind Pass Road) Make a left, then a quick right on 78th or 79th Ave. Go to Boca Ciega Dr. Turn right. St Petersburg Beach Community Center is on the left. We'll be on the 2nd floor. There is an elevator.





SSRG checks for \$7,500 presented to the two charities





**Tampa Bay 56ers' entry in the NCC Anniversary Cake Contest
Made by Katie Zeller**





**Tampa Bay 56ers attending the Christmas dinner show
at Dixie Stampede
and shopping at Hoopla Dept. 56 store in Orlando**



**TAMPA BAY 56ERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2007**



Meeting called to order 2:15 PM by Cindy Swinehart (Vern out of town)

New members introduced had been in the Sarasota club with Cindy Swinehart
Joy Lowe, Cindy Friend and Cheryl Everett

Minutes of last meeting approved as written in the newsletter

Treasures report approved as written in the newsletter

Denis announced that he presented the Selma Grotto with a total check of \$7,500.00 on Wednesday, November 14. He will present another check in the same amount to the Shriners Tuesday, November 20. Already received a Thank you letter from the Selma Grotto.

Contest on 2007 retirement list was won by Bill Foelker with a -2 points. Not too many people participated. There was a tie for 2nd between Roger Grieves and Carol Williams. Bill will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to the sponsor of his choice.

Marlyn reported on the bus tour. There will be a total of 29 people for the bus and 4 people who will meet them at the Dept. 56 store and also at the Dixie Stampede. Bus to pick up at 2:00 in the old Clearwater Mall east of the Lowes Xmas tree tent.

Fish bowl - winner was a new member Cheryl Everett, and she doesn't even have a shirt & pin yet since she is a new member.

Sheet passed around for those who needed pins - plan on charging what ever they cost us.

Joyce reported on volunteers for working Bucs games all scheduled, only 3 more games
Outback bowl New years Day is college game and need volunteers.

Barb Wallis reported she has 2 single mothers with families for Thanksgiving meals.

Under new business club will decide what will be spent.

House tour no report as Roger Fournier was not at meeting. The board will have to have meeting in December and then will notify everyone of the schedule.

TAMPA BAY 56ERS MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2007 - continued

New Business

Denis Gillen suggested that we allot \$160.00 toward the two families for Thanksgiving food, there was a motion by Jim Wittliff and 2nd by Bob Mullen to accept, all was in favor. There was an ament to the motion to make it \$200.00. 1st by Cindy Friend, 2nd by Pat Kraft all was in favor.

There will be a family for Xmas and it will be Santa gifts. George Pagnotta reminded us that if we can spend \$600.00 for the club to go on a bus to Orlando, we should be able to afford \$600.00 on a family. Joyce volunteered to find the family.

There was a motion to accept by Pat Kraft and 2nd by Diana Cortright all was in favor.

Door prizes won by the following

NP Curved gumdrop Rd.——Martha Pagnotta
DV Polo players——Diana Cortright
NCC Snowman——Conrad Krause
NE Lumberjack——Carol Williams
NP Happy New years——Sharon Smith

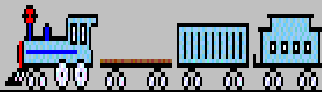
Raffle

DV Abbey Lane Chocolate——Wally Beckstrom

50/50

\$43.00 Carol Tipps

George Pagnotta gave the club another \$20.00 to be spent toward the Thanksgiving dinners.



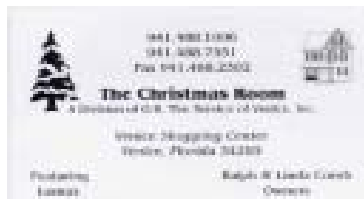
TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Denis Gillen



Balance as of Dec. 31 is \$8,627.71. We still are waiting payment of \$1200.00 from Levy for games we have already worked. In addition, we anticipate another \$1800.00 from future games. makes a total of \$11, 627.71

We spent \$209.66 to feed two needy families during Thanksgiving. We spent \$607.75 to provide toys and clothing for a family during Christmas. In addition we purchased, to date, \$585.10 worth of gifts for the House Tour party.



FLORIDA'S LARGEST
TRAIN STORE



H&R TRAINS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- January 6 - Holiday House Tour
Sunday Dinner & Late Christmas Gifts

- January 20 - Membership Meeting
Sunday Clearwater Countryside Library

- February 17 - Membership Meeting
Sunday Clearwater Countryside Library

- March 9 - Annual Picnic
Sunday Phillipe Park
 Safety Harbor
 Daylight Saving Time Begins

Tampa Bay 56ers 2006 Officers

President: Vern Schwieterman
727-531-3112

1st Vice-President: Cindy Swinehart
941-922-7419

2nd Vice President: Sally Colangelo
727-784-5324

Secretary: Maryln King
727-367-4226

Treasurer: Denis Gillen
727-796-7606

NCC Rep: Bill Foelker
813-657-8949

Director: Roger Fournier
727-515-8008

Director: Roger Grieves
727-581-8199

Past President: Joyce Gillen
727-796-7606

Tampa Bay 56ers
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Pinellas Park, FL 33782
Ellen Wilcox, News Editor
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**This newsletter printed
especially for**

