

March 2008



TAMPA BAY 56ers BEACON

**Come join us for
the
Annual Spring
Fling
Picnic**



**March 9, 2008
Shelter 8 at
Phillipe Park in
Safety Harbor**

(more details in page 4)



**Do not forget that the time
changes that day!!!**



President's Message

By *Vern Schwieterman*

It's picnic time Sunday March 9 at Phillipe Park! We have Roast Pork and Chicken Breast on the menu. There should be plenty of food to go around. If you would like to bring a desert, call Kathy Dorsey as she is coordinating the food. Friends and people thinking of joining the club are most welcome to come. We are asking for a \$5.00 donation per person to offset the cost of the Pig Roast. Games will be set up to challenge your skills with prizes for the winners. Swap and sell items will be set up for you to look over; there may be some good bargains. If some one could bring good weather, it would be greatly appreciated. With good food and good friends, let's have a great time. Hope to see you there!

Thank You

Vernon Schwieterman




Membership dues are past due. If you have not paid by the February meeting, this will be your last newsletter. Remember a family membership is only \$30.00 and a single membership is \$20.00. Please send your dues to Denis Gillen, 101 Tanglewood Court, Safety Harbor, FL 34695



Happy Birthday!



- 3/5 Jim Wittliff
- 4/5 Ida Johnson
- 4/7 Bill Foelker
- 4/8 Mary Ann Foelker
- 4/11 Vern Schwieterman



Cindy Swinehart talked with Sam Olsen, a former Gulf Coast Villager. For the last 3 weeks, he has been boxing up all of Mr. Bellm's D-56 houses and accessories. There is going to be a worldwide auction via Internet on April 18 & 19 - you can also attend it "live" at the Sarasota Convention Center on Old Hwy. 301. The auction will consist of many collectibles (including D-56) & the house and property. Sam said that Mrs. Bellm does not want to bother with people coming to see the house through a Realtor - so that is why they are using an auction to get rid of everything.. More details will be made available as we get them.



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

ANNUAL SPRING FLING PICNIC



The days are getting warmer and that means its time once again for the Tampa Bay 56ers annual picnic. The picnic will be held March 9, 2008 at Philippe Park, **shelter #8** from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM (see the next page for maps). Set up will start at 11:00 AM and food will be served at 1:00 PM. The food this year will be catered by M-N-M BBQ and they will be cooking chicken and pig roast on site. The cost will be \$5.00/person. the meal will provide all side dishes and the club will provide beverages. If you would like to bring a dessert, please call Kathy Dorsey @727-869-7107 .

Once again this will be a regional picnic open to all club members from the central Florida area. If you know any members that would like to come, please invite them.

There will be tables set aside for a swap and sell. If you have any village items that you are no longer using, this is your chance to find a good home for them. Or maybe you have been searching for a special retired item and will find it for sale by a fellow collector. Setup will begin at 11:00 AM; Items will go on sale at 12:00 Noon.

There will be new and exciting carnival games to test your skills and/or luck. However, the cake walk has been cancelled for this year. We want to be able to enjoy the special desserts at the picnic.

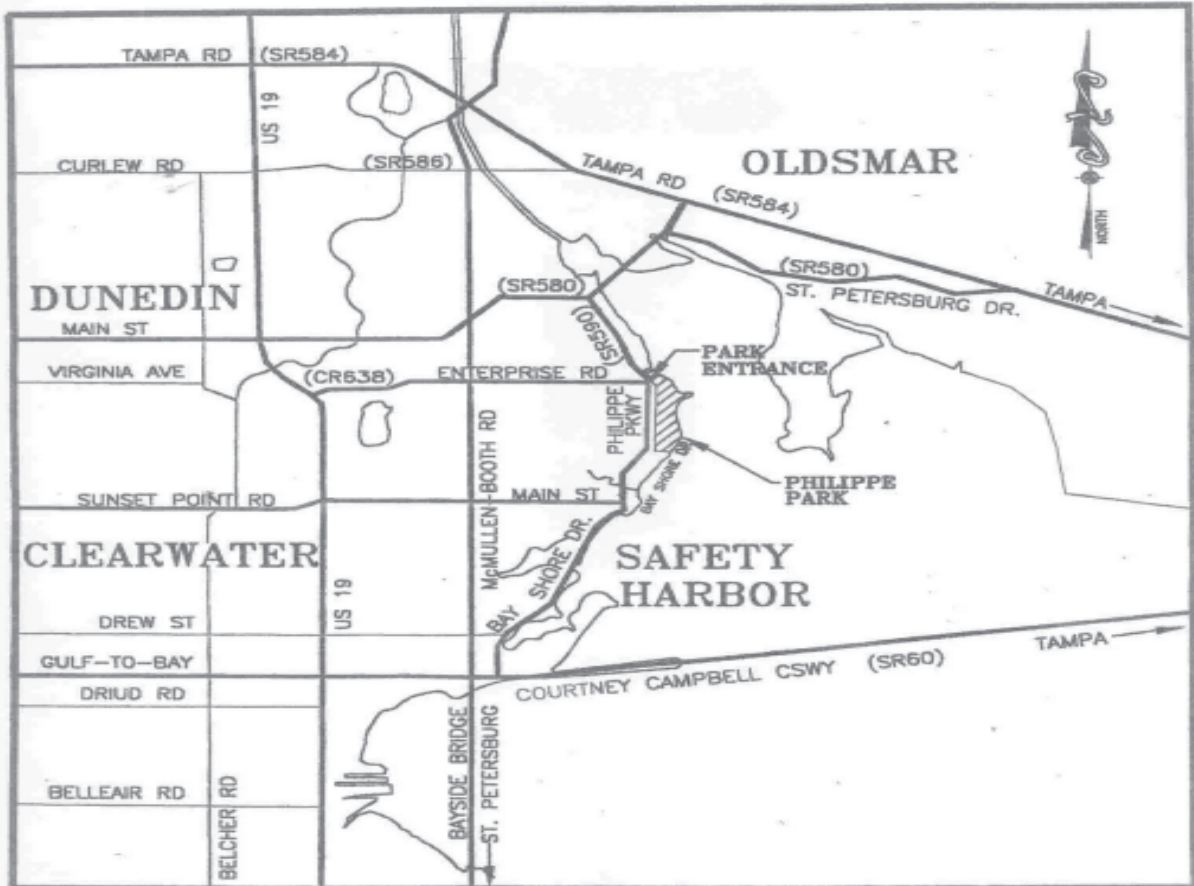
Hope to see all the members there. If you like good food, great fun, games, prizes, and the opportunity to enjoy fellowship of like minded addicts of Dept 56, the Tampa Bay 56ers Spring Fling regional picnic is the place to be!

Directions to Shelter 8 - turn into Philippe Park from S.R. 590. At the stop, turn right, then turn right into first street/parking area. Shelter 8 will be on the left.

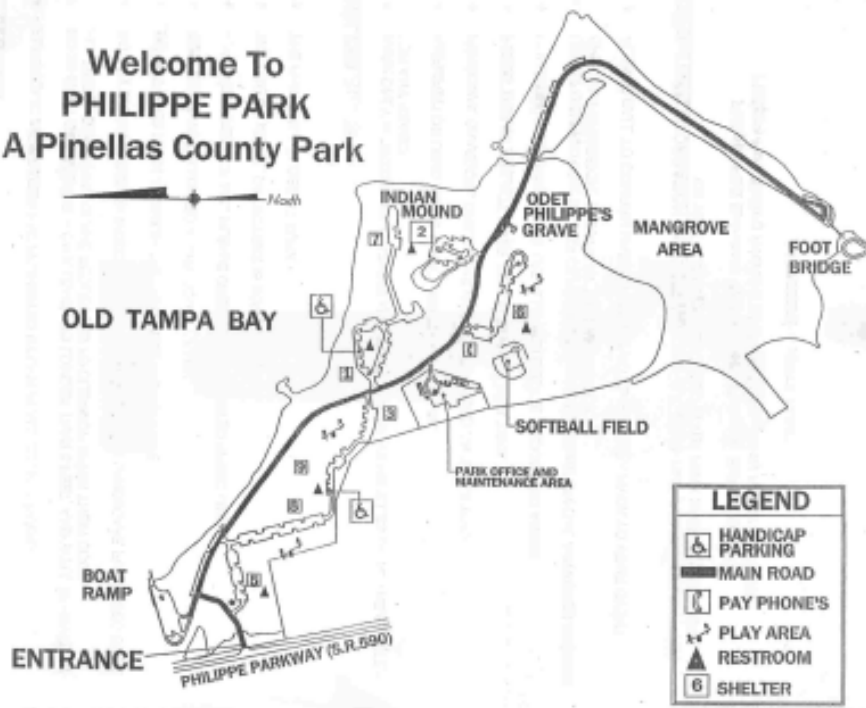
PHILIPPE PARK

2525 Philippe Pkwy. Safety Harbor

727-669-1947



Welcome To
PHILIPPE PARK
A Pinellas County Park





NCC NEWS



Visit the NCC Website to see simple instructions to make a wreath to display a Dept. 56 building. In the purple box near the bottom is **Make Your Own Wreath** by Vera Metzke of the Wacky Villagers. She using only the following items and makes wreath making seem simple:

- House you wish to place in wreath
- 2-3 “Charlie Brown” Garlands (cheap sparse garlands for \$2-3) in 9 ft lengths
- 2 thin grapevine wreaths
- Scrap pieces of foam
- Floral wire
- Wrapped floral wire
- Pliers
- Wire cutters
- Accents – decorations

Happy Easter

SORRY THE NEWSLETTER IS SO SHORT THIS MONTH. THE PICNIC CAME TOO EARLY IN THE MONTH AND EVERYONE HAS BEEN BUSY. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING WERE NOT YET DONE AND NO ONE REMEMBERED A CAMERA SO NO PICTURES WERE TAKEN. OUR TREASURER ALSO DID NOT HAVE A REPORT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION. OH WELL, WE’LL JUST MAKE UP FOR IT IN NEXT MONTH’S NEWSLETTER.



Just for the fun of it

Lawyers should never ask a Mississippi grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

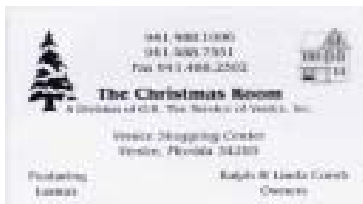
In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?'

She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.' The defense attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said 'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.'



**Come Join Us At The
54th Train Show
H & R Trains
March 28 - 30, 2008**

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**FLORIDA'S LARGEST
TRAIN STORE**



H&R TRAINS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- March 9 - Sunday
Annual Picnic
Phillipe Park
Safety Harbor
Daylight Saving Time Begins
12:00 Noon to ???
- April 20 - Sunday
Membership Meeting
Clearwater Countryside Library
Clearwater, FL
1:00 PM
- May 18 - Sunday
Membership Meeting
Clearwater Countryside Library
Clearwater, FL
1:00 PM

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: MaryIn 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



The idea of an egg-laying bunny came to the United States in the 18th century. German immigrants in the Pennsylvania Dutch area told their children about the "Osterhas", sometimes spelled out as "Oschter Haws". "Hase" means "hare", not rabbit, and in Northwest European folklore the "Easter Bunny" indeed is a hare, not a rabbit. According to the legend, only good children received gifts of colored eggs in the nests that they made in their caps and bonnets before Easter.

The Easter Lily has beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers which symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life - the spiritual essence of Easter. Did you know that over 95% of all bulbs grown for the potted Easter Lily market are produced by just ten farms in a narrow coastal region straddling the California-Oregon border, from Smith River, California up to Brookings, Oregon?

