

September 2007



# TAMPA BAY 56ers BEACON



**Membership Meeting  
Sunday, September 16, 2007  
1:30 PM**



**Clearwater Countryside Library**

Bring your pictures from the Suncoast Southern Regional Gathering to view and share. We will have a slide show of the 625 photos that photographer Dennis Hoffman took during the event. Dennis has burned a few DVD's of all the photos and can make more DVDs upon request.

Bring a dessert to share. Water will be available, but bring your own soda.

A business meeting is planned to set up future events. There might even be a trivia game. As always we will have a raffle, 50/50 and door prizes, so don't forget to wear your club shirt and pin.

Here's two trivia questions to get you started:

1. What is "wrong" with the accessory "Sewing the Stars & Stripes", an accessory for New England Village?
2. Name the current accessory in "Christmas in the City" that has been part of this Village since 1989.





## President's Message

By *Vern Schwieterman*

What an awe-inspiring Gathering we accomplished. Hats off to everyone. We will be a hard act to follow.

Some highlights from internet comments;

“What a fabulous time at our first gathering. There was so much to do we were on the go from 6 am to 10 pm and never stopped long enough to take a peaceful walk on the beach!

Fabulous idea to have someone else drive us around to houses- such great ideas for all to pilfer- the seminars were great-learned lots of cool stuff-lots of new ones-Friday night 50's party- everyone had a great time- Saturday night –Highlight-the Elvis Impersonator-Sunday morning – buffet- great idea- Vern's items went really fast& High-his stuff is great!

The SSRG did a great job and incredible amount of work that went into the gathering was much appreciated

We had a wonderful time. Took a bus tour and were treated to Judy and Vern's home on the tour 4 homes. What a wonderful place and displays-Wow is all that I can say.

I will say it was one of the best I have attended. Very well organized and everyone done their job.

Actually, if you attended you were a winner. It was one of the most fun and lighthearted gatherings we've been to. Our hats off to Denis and his crew. They put on a thumping gathering!

“Just wanted to let you know that the other 2 members and myself from MA had a great time and think it was one of the best gatherings we've been to in a long time”

## President's Message - continued

“I want to tell you it was one of the best I have ever attended. I hope you will have more in the future. Your chapter is one of the best. I know it is a lot of work, but well worth it. The Charities you picked were the 2 of the best. If you have any more gatherings, please keep me in mind. Thank you and your chapter for a great time.’

I wanted to thank all those involved for a memorable and fun SSRG”

Now back to business:

We are in need of a secretary for our club.

If you have any suggestions for upcoming events we are open to them.

A bus trip to Orlando in October is still in works. We need to show our appreciation to area stores with there sponsorship at the gathering.

Remember to sign up to help at BUC games.

Joke

Summer vacation was over and the teacher asked a little boy about his family trip. “We visited my grandmother in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,” he replied.

The teacher asked, “Good, can you tell the class how you spell that?”

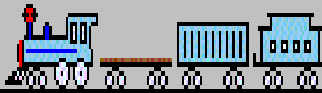
The student, obviously flustered, thought a moment and then said, “Actually, we went to Ohio.”





# NCC 15th Anniversary

To celebrate the NCC 15th anniversary, they are having a cake decorating contest. The NCC will provide \$25.00 towards the cost of the cake and will award \$100 for the best decorated cake. Any volunteers? We already have the money - now we need a cake!



## IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON!!!!

The remaining games are all on Sundays:

- September 23, 2007
- October 14, 2007
- October 28, 2007
- November 4, 2007
- November 25, 2007
- December 16, 2007
- December 30, 2007



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# TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Denis Gillen



Tampa Bay 56ers Treasurers Report  
Sept. 15, 2007

Balance July 1, 2007 \$1,049.96

## INCOME

Membership dues	\$70.00	
Meeting attendance July 15	\$54.00	
Raffle July 15	\$48.00	
50/50 July 15	\$38.00	
NCC Cake donation	\$25.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$235.00</b>	<b>\$235.00</b>
Total		\$1,284.96



## EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$17.98	
Newsletter	\$7.38	
Banner	\$165.85	
NCC special pieces	\$145.00	
double roll tickets	\$22.44	
printing newsletter	\$13.48	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$372.13</b>	<b>372.13</b>



Balance Sept.15, 2007 \$912.83

**FLORIDA'S LARGEST  
TRAIN STORE**



**H&R TRAINS**

**THE NEXT TRAIN SHOW  
IS SCHEDULED FOR  
OCTOBER 5 - 7, 2007.  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.**

## Suncoast Southern Regional Gathering

Just some comments I have received from attendees at our gathering. When you hear things like these it makes you feel good. Everyone should be proud of the gathering we put together.



Hello Denis,

I just wanted to congratulate you and your committee on the fabulous gathering you put on. You all did a really nice job! Well thought out. The layout with all activities on one floor made the flow work well and the location of the gathering was great. Also "Elvis" put on a good show. Everyone enjoyed it!

Are you planning another gathering in two years? Hope to see you in Minnesota next year!

Best regards,  
Ronda Jans, Advertising Manager of Village D-Lights



***Good evening Denis: We attended the Suncoast Southern Regional Gathering last weekend in Clearwater, which by the way, we feel was very well organized and very successful. Would appreciate it if you would give us the names of the two charities that were involved and their addresses. We were quite impressed, but in going through all the papers we brought home, cannot locate the ones on the two charities. Thanks so much!  
Ron & Eleanor White***

Denis

Just wanted to thank you for the hospitality, your group did a great job putting the gathering on. I look forward to attending future gatherings, but it will be hard to top SSRG 2007!

Thanks,  
Rob

***Attended the Southern Regional Gathering at Clearwater and just had to e-mail you and tell you how fantastic everything was. Everyone did a great job. It exceeded my expectations. The house tour was the best and so well organized as was everything else. Thank you for a fun time that will always be remembered***

***Marlene Kilner***



***Dianne and I just arrived home in Georgia and wanted to thank all those involved for a very memorable and fun SSRG.***

***Chet Rosenbaum***

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SSRG 2007 was such a success. And for being your first gathering you did, you and the committee did such a fantastic job. We had a wonderful time.

I know it is a lot of work since I was part of the committee when Atlanta hosted. But all in all, it is so much fun.

See you in Minneapolis.  
Gail Hozman



***I just wanted to let you know that the other 2 members and myself from MA had a great time and I think it was one of the best Gatherings we've been to in a long time :)***

***Susan Woo***

Hi Denny



I just got back from the SSRG gathering. I want to tell you I think it was the best one I have ever attended. I hope you will have more in the future. Your chapter is one of the best if not the best. I know it is a lot of work, but I think it is well worth it. Your chapter does a lot of good for the community and d56. The Charities you picked were 2 of the best. They do a lot to help others. If you have any more gatherings, please keep me in mind. I will plan to attend if I know about them. Thank you and your chapter for a great time.

Ed Hirt

Denis,

Penny & I have been to many D56 Gatherings, and I place this event in my top 5 favorite gatherings of all time. The GGG San Francisco, California Gold LA, The 1st National NCC event & the 25th Anniversary in Minnesota, Niagara Falls, all MAVG Williamsburg's, two MAVG Reston's, MAVG Portsmouth, All PA5600's Lancaster, SRG Deerfield, and more. This was as well organized as any that I have experienced over the past 15 years.

***So may Sponsors & prizes .....So little time !!!***

All of your committees did a ***MASTERFUL JOB!***

***I was NOT an Elvis fan in the 50's .....BUT I LOOOVED HIM Saturday Night !!!***

(and I didn't even get a scarf!) Great entertainment, good food, and wonderful camaraderie. There was only one "hanging chad"... "breakfast food"... No need to dwell on it.

Over all, The event was indeed a remarkable reminder of the 'FABULOUS FIFTIES!' Your hard work was evident at every turn and it paid off in a ***Seamless, Wonder Filled Event.*** Penny, Ann Marie & I loved every minute of it.

As they say at the end of every great performance," ONE MORE TIME" or " Play it again Sam!" We will be looking forward to it.

Thanks for a wonderful weekend,  
Bernie Dvorak, Annapolis Villagers in Maryland



**Roger Grieves won first place in the small display contest AND he won the People's Choice award. GREAT JOB ROGER!!!!**



**THINKING  
VILLAGES**

***From Department 56  
Consumer Services***

As you start setting up your Halloween or Christmas display, remember that using the wrong adapter can truly be a disaster! If the adapter came packed in the box with the building, it is never acceptable to use another adaptor with this piece. Newer pieces have the name and item number printed right on the adapter as well as the voltage output information. For older pieces, the voltage output is on each adapter. If you think that you may have mixed up some of your adapters, please check with Department 56 Consumer Services at 1-800-548-8696 before you plug the adaptor into the wrong building. Consumer Services do have some adaptors for sale for \$10.00 plus shipping and handling.



# Happy Birthday!



9/17	Marjorie	Baytos
9/28	Cindy	Swinehart
10/5	Lawrence	Almeda
10/7	Wally	Beckstrom
10/11	Linda	Grieves

Is Your Birthday Missing? Please let Ellen know when it is.

## Tampa Bay 56ers are thrilled to welcome new members:



Sol and Leslie Gully  
1240 Ridgegrove Dr S.  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
727-781-9179  
e-mail: [Heart0213@msn.com](mailto:Heart0213@msn.com)

Brenda Ann Brown Gikas  
1678 Woodridge Dr  
Clearwater, FL 33756-1861  
727-461-1303

## Tampa Bay 56ers are also thrilled to welcome back Wayne Ingalls



Skip and Cheryl have a very good customer that has a Dicken's Village Collection of all old retired buildings (53) and 48 accessories, 8 old retired Christmas in the City buildings and 3 old North Pole. Greenbook value on collection as of 2006 is \$5,400.00. If anyone in the club is interested, he is very willing to sell and will probably accept anything reasonable. Call Cheryl at the store if you are interested.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sept. 16 -       Membership Meeting  
Sunday           1:30 PM  
Clearwater/Countryside Library  
Clearwater, FL

October 21 -   Membership Meeting  
Sunday           1:30 PM  
Clearwater/Countryside Library  
Clearwater, FL

## 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:

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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Ellen Wilcox, News Editor  
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**This newsletter printed  
especially for**

