

Oceano Campout Report

July 14-18-2022

The Happy Wanderers spent four great days at the Oceano Elks Rest Area. The cool and sometimes overcast weather was a welcome relief from the summer heat of Simi. Our contingent of twenty rigs filled most of the camp. We started with our usual group invasion of Old Juan's Cantina on Thursday evening. Delicious food and drinks for all. Good thing it's within walking distance.

Friday started out slow and laid back. Many took advantage of the beachcombing, just a few hundred feet from the Lodge. Others explored the state park lagoon across the street for its wildlife. Some visited the tourist sights in neighboring Pismo Beach. Afternoon was Happy Hour, both at our rigs and in the Lounge. The Lodge held their Friday "Cook to Order Dinner" with steak, chicken and fish entrees including all the sides. A great meal for all, while supporting our neighboring Elks. Later, live music from the Mooks, started many members dancing. The night closed with visiting at our several campfires.

Saturday action started early. Bartender Moe Nadeau served up Mimosas and his famous Bloody Marys, along with other specialty beverages. Fruit, pastries and such rounded out the morning feast. Multiple versions of Jenga were played throughout the day, with cornhole at the ready. "Popcorn Dave" Francis set up his tiki bar lounge and popcorn machine and music. Lunchtime snacks were hot dogs and chips. More afternoon games and just relaxing. We were joined by a group of riders from the Simi Elks touring club for dinner. A Pledge of Allegiance and prayer opened our hors d'oeuvres pot luck meal. A wonderful variety of all types of fun foods were provided by the campers. Afterwards, the Secret Sheriff, Carey Capaldi, demonstrated his "disappearing dollar bill" magic trick to the astonished crowd. Then came all kinds of fines for silliness, 50-50 and small prizes. A great time was had by all.

Sunday dawned. Everybody taking it easy—except for those that had early dog walking duty. Many met for breakfast in the Lodge enjoying food and friends, new and old. A few departed for home, but most remained for another day of leisure. This is what the camping club is all about.

At last, Monday. Time to pack up and return home, while wishing for just a couple more days here. Until next year!

Many thanks go to our camp hosts Ray and Nancy Brown and lodge Secretary Jaylene Calmenson for helping to take care of the many small details and making us always feel welcome!

Please visit our website: www.happwanderers.net for pictures and reports of our outings and club information.

Russ Moon Happy Wanderers wandering correspondent.