



South Seminole Optimist News

June, 2011

Promise Yourself...Promise Yourself...Promise Yourself...Promise Yourself...Promise Yourself...

In This Issue

- Jazz Jams
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Upcoming

6/16- Thursday Night meeting at China First Buffet 7 pm

6/18-Jazz Jams at Uptown Altamonte. Help setup at 6. Concert starts at 8 pm.

6/20-Board Mtg. at Handsome Dave's at 7:00 pm

7/3-Red Hot & Boom. Setup by 2pm

7/3-7/5-OI Convention in Baltimore

7/5-7/7-JOOI Convention in Baltimore

Web Links

www.optimist.org
international web page

www.southseminoleoptimistclub.com
see what's going on at our local website

2010-2011 Officers:

**Adam Helwig-
President**

Mike Spalding-Vice

Jazz Jams Uptown

Winestyles, WLOQ 103.1 and the City of Altamonte Springs bring you the area's best outdoor concert series. Join us in the Eddie Rose Amphitheater for great music, food by Bubbalou's and Jersey Mike's, wine from Winestyles and Budweiser beer. Opening the 2011 concert series May 21 was Jeff Kashiwa.

Well if you were there I think you would agree that our opening Jazz Jams was a huge success. Great musicians and the Optimist Club outside on a Saturday evening making Mojitos and serving up beer and fine wine made for a great evening.

For starters, the event start time was moved back to 8pm instead of the 7pm start time we had in years past. This got the show out of the brutal afternoon sun. Not that those of us that showed up to serve the refreshments noticed the difference since I forgot about the change in time. Apparently a lot of the Jazz aficionados also did not get the time change notification because they were showing up around the 6pm time as usual and boy were they thirsty.

The rule; no bottles, food, alcohol or coolers may be brought into the park was enforced this year.

We were serving even before we were set up. The main sponsor for the event, Winestyles, had a booth setup on the east side of our booth to give out wine and cheese samples. They also had a great idea and figured out how to sell full bottles without letting the glass leave our booths. They brought plastic carafes and bags they sold for us to pour the wine in. Add some ice and a couple of glasses and we had a happy fan.

The wine styles owners and crew were all so helpful and even put in a bunch of plugs for the Optimist along with going back to their store to get more wine when we ran out, yes you read correctly, we ran out of a few of the 7 types of wine we served.

Our Rum distributor, Brugal Rum, had a booth to give out samples and promote the rum and a huge blow up bottle display of their Rum set up next to our tent.



presented by:



Prez

Marty Ritter-Vice Prez

**Handsome Dave-
Secretary/Treasurer**

Board of Directors:

Vinnie Coon '11

Mike Duffy '11

Karen Duffy '11

Marty Ritter '11

Ken Ritter '11

Kurt Dowd '11

President's Message

Hello Optimists. May is all wrapped up, and what an exciting month it was. The JOOI kids have finished their year. Officers were elected at Lake Brantley and Lyman. I am proud to congratulate Jordan, and Alyssa as being elected presidents of the two clubs. I want to truly thank the Advisors and Teachers of these amazing clubs. Without them there would be no JOOI clubs. Along those lines, we took Lyman, Lake Brantley, and the Milwee optimists clubs to Tampa for their district convention. I want to thank all of the fellow optimists who came out to support these great kids as they finished out their year. Marty as always pulled her magic together to show off our JOOI clubs, and I couldn't be prouder of them. May also brought around a little bounty. Jazz Jams was a big

Danielle got a quick lesson from the Brugal sales staff in how to make killer Mojitos and did a great job all night running that end of our booth. You could not tell the difference in the samples the pros were giving out and the drinks we were making. President Adam in his new Captain Adam shirt, Rachel, Carolyn, Shari, David, Marty, Susan from Oviedo and her daughter all made the rest of the booth run ever so smoothly. Sean Gorgone stopped in to say hi and we put him to work. He stayed until the very end and had a great time serving up the drinks.



Our second booth had a great night since they moved back up on the road where they were much busier than last year. Spaldo, Marcia and Vinnie all had to do double time when Marty decided she was going to stay and help at the main booth. She came for change and never made it back because we were so busy and needed the help. The restaurant did not have a beer table in their driveway this year and that definitely helped our sales.

Thank you all for the extra effort and hard work you put in to make this event such a success. The preliminary accounting looks like this will be one if not the best Jazz Jams we have had in the 3 yrs we have been working with WLOQ. If you notice the WLOQ folks please let them know how much we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the program. I know they are really impressed with our performance and how we handled the booths and crowds. Our continued hard work at these events will further our growth in the community and help to solidify our standing with the city and other sponsors. Believe it or not they do notice.

Keep up the great work and let's get ready for the next one on June 18th when jazz artist Steve Cole comes to town to fill the night with his melodious saxophone playing. See you there.

JOOI in Tampa



On the morning of Saturday, May 14, thirty one JOOI members marched into the First Session of the Optimist 3rd Quarter Conference in Tampa. Four JOOI members provided live Blues Brothers music via saxophones and keyboard. And as they say in show business...."the crowd went wild". As the kids sang the tunes of "Soul Man" with JOOI lyrics interspersed the enthusiasm became infectious and some of the older optimists actually stood up and danced—or at least moved rhythmically. Several of our JOOI kids gave brief testimonies about what being an optimist has

success. Thank you to all of the optimists who made this event such a success. I don't even think we missed a beat, except the beat of the music because we were so busy. This will definitely cheer up Handsome Dave as we look at sending our JOOI kids to the International Convention.

Meetings:

Denny's in Altamonte
Every Friday at 7:30 am
(except when Friday falls after the 3rd Th of the month)

China First Buffet in Altamonte

3rdTh.(7:00 pm)

More photos:



meant to them and then Governor-Elect Craig Blethen swore in the new JOOI District officers. John Williams from Lyman was elected as the incoming JOOI Governor. He and his new board of directors have vowed to improve the lines of communication between all of the JOOI clubs in the North Florida District. All of the kids did a great job in representing JOOI throughout the weekend and a great deal of thanks to all the chaperones that transported the kids and helped keep things moving.



The JOOI kids were once again given the task of judging the Poster Contest for the 4th and 5th graders. This required a great deal of patience because there were over 100 entries. Jean Rutan, district chairperson for the poster contest, was very much appreciative of the efforts of the JOOI kids especially since they gave up "mall time" in order to judge the posters. In addition to the JOOI aspect of the conference, there also was the final competition for the oratorical contest. Our Zone was very well represented but, alas, the two winners came from Zone 6. Simon Cedeno and Mylie Feaster each will receive \$2500 scholarships.



Ronald McDonald House Visit

No Big Mac and fries on this night! The visit to The Ronald McDonald House on Kuhl Avenue in Orlando was a long time coming. It's been on our calendar for about 5 months. Finally, it was time! Instead of spaghetti and meatballs, this year Susan Harvey and Marty thought tacos and quesadillas would be fun



and easy for the preparers and for the dinner guests. The menu was a huge success. Afterwards, watermelon and/or "strawberry short cake" topped off an evening of excellent optimist cuisine. Marty and Susan along with Mike and Karen Duffy, Mike Spalding, Gina Sandefur as well as 6 JOOI kids helped prepare the food and pamper the guests.



McDonald's houses these family members of children who currently are undergoing treatment at the nearby Children's hospital. They rely on groups like ours to not only provide the food but to prepare it as well.

Fortunately, they have waiting lists of volunteer organizations. The students and teachers at Milwee also collected over 60 pounds of "pop tops" to donate. The pop tops donated help pay the electric cost each month.

This was the third time we have done a meal for these very appreciative people. After the dinner, we were all treated to a tour of the house. What an amazing place. Some sad stories, but also some very remarkable uplifting stories. Hope you can help out next year.



Batter Up!

If you've never made it out to one of the Softball games featuring Channel 6 vs the Special Population then you truly don't know what you're missing. Nin, Vinnie and Marty were expert managers this year as the Channel 6 personalities once again were humbled at the timely hitting and expert fielding of the players that the Advisory Board put on the field.

This annual contest was held at the Buddy Ball Field at Eastmonte Sports Complex in Altamonte Springs. Lauren Rowe was on hand to autograph photos for the winning team and afterwards all contestants were served pizza over in the Eastmonte Civic Center. What a terrific event it was and multiple kudos go out to the Advisory Board for the Disabled for continuing this annual event.

