

Member Interview



Our Parrot Head Profile this month features our new Webmaster, Alan Shimp. Alan and his wife of forty years, Marty, moved into their Courtyard Villa in the Village of St. James in May of 2020, during the COVID pandemic. They wanted a home without neighbors in back so they were happy to find this home that backs up to Sterling Heights Rec Center. He mentioned that it's kind of neat to wake up to the sound of pickleballs!

Alan was involved with the Moose, and the American Legion before moving to The Villages but now the Parrot Head Club activities fills most of his calendar. He also is involved with The Villages Genealogy Association, something that has been an interest of his for years.

Alan was born in Maine and raised in Delaware. He moved to Maryland and ended up in Colonial Beach, Virginia, right on the Potomac River. Before becoming a Villager, Alan worked for the Navy for 30 years and retired as a GS15. He was in charge of doing the warfare systems for aircraft carriers, etc. After that he worked on staff to the admiral and had ten warfare centers working under them.

Marty and Alan share their home with an affectionate cat named Kitty, of all things! She was a feral cat that they adopted in Virginia and made the move with them to Florida.

When they lived in Maryland, they had season tickets to the Merriweather Post Pavilion and their first choice for concerts was always Jimmy Buffet. Of course, the legendary tailgate parties might have had something to do with that. When they moved to Colonial Beach they joined a Parrot Head Club there and of course when they moved to The Villages that was the first club they looked for. And we're so glad they joined!

In August, Alan volunteered to be our new Webmaster. Be sure to take a look at our webpage so you can see what he's been up to!

What Alan likes most about our club is that we have so many great activities and of course the phun members. He commented that Mark the Shark exudes contagious enthusiasm and I think you'll agree.

His advice to new members first and foremost is to attend the phlockings. He has even added a footnote on the webpage flyers to explain just what a phlocking is. It says "Parrot Heads gather at phlockings to learn about upcoming activities while enjoying good food, drink, and live music. So bring your lanyards and enjoy the phun entertainment."

Interview by Alma Berryman Scheer

