



Member Interview

Our Parrot Head Profile this month features Skip Todd. Skip and his lovely wife JoAnn moved into the Village of Bonita in September of 2009. They liked the proximity to the shopping center and the gas station and it was still an easy ride to get to Sumter Landing. Skip reminisces about an evening back in 2010 when he and JoAnn were sitting in the Havana Country Club having a drink and listening to the band who happened to be playing Jimmy Buffet's song Margaritaville. When it came to the part where everyone yells, "salt, salt, salt," they joined right in. At that point Jan Brooks, who was the president of the Parrot Heads Club at that time, came over and tapped him on the shoulder and told him she thought they would make good Parrot Heads. They were familiar with Jimmy Buffet from attending his concerts at Jones Beach, NY, but didn't know about the Parrot Heads Club until that night! Well, needless to say, they went to a Phlocking, liked what they saw, and joined the club.

Not long after moving to the Villages, Skip started working with Habitat for Humanity, building homes for some very deserving people and making new friends at the same time.

Skip was born and raised in Patchogue, Long Island, NY, where he and JoAnn raised their two beautiful daughters, Jennifer, and Laura. Jennifer is currently living in Michigan, and Laura and their granddaughter Kaylee live nearby in Florida.

Before he moved to The Villages Skip served as a volunteer fireman with the North Patchogue Fire Department for 42 years. He retired from Verizon Communications after 31 years working in a variety of capacities including coin phone collector, cable splicer, and maintenance. He also worked with a contractor on Long Island doing home remodels right before relocating to The Villages.

Skip has been an active volunteer in the Parrot Heads Club. He is a member of the Travel Committee, he is on the club's Security Force, and he has been running the blood drive for a number of years. I was amazed to learn that our blood drives have raised 68 gallons of blood in 2017, 128 gallons in 2018 by adding a Veteran's Day "Battle of the Branches," and this year they have raised 60 gallons so far. If you haven't had the opportunity to participate in one of the blood drives yet, we hope you will consider it. Our club, being the largest Parrot Head Club IN THE WORLD could make a huge difference in this life saving capacity. And knowing how Parrot Heads love to support worthy causes, this seems like a perfect fit for the generous members of our club.

Two of Skip's favorite things about the club are the friendships he has made and what we do with our charity work. He suggests that new members make a few friends in the club and in time that network of friends will grow into a fun group you can enjoy doing club activities with.