



## Mark Woodland Interview

This month our Parrot Head Profile features Mark “the Shark” Woodland.

Mark and his wife Dee Dee have lived in the village of Gilchrist for three years but have owned their home a little longer. This is their first home in the Villages and will be their last home! Mark’s parents live in Ocala, so they visited the area back when the only town square was at Spanish Springs. They also visited friends that owned here over the years so they knew just what they wanted.

Twenty years ago Mark and Dee Dee saw that there was a Jimmy Buffet night at a Hooter’s in New Jersey where they lived so they stopped in. They were starting a South Jersey Parrot Head Club that night so they joined up immediately and met a lot of great people. After a year or so he and his friend became President and Vice-president of the club and served for six years.

Mark has been a DJ for over thirty-five years and continues to do that here in the Villages. He has his own Home Watch business here and belongs to the Goofy Villagers, (a Disney club), and the Mustang club also.

Mark grew up in North East Philadelphia and moved to Maple Shade, New Jersey with his parents after he graduated from high school. That’s where he met his wife Dee Dee, who was a native of Maple Shade. They raised their two children there and now have six grandchildren and a seventh on the way!

Mark is a retired Police Officer. He served as an EMT, was a CPR and AED instructor and served six years as union president of PBA Local 267 for the police. He also served as a Volunteer Fireman for thirty-five years with seven years as assistant chief.

Mark and Dee Dee attended their first Phlocking at Palmer when they were only in the Villages for a week and joined right up. They met some great people and

continued to attend the Phlockings each time they came down, making new friends each time. When they moved down full time they were already well established in the club.

Mark is chair of the 50-50's at the Phlockings, chair of the parades, which he says is a lot of fun, and has just agreed to co-chair the Poker Run in March.

Mark says the social aspect of the Parrot Head club is outstanding. They've met so many good people through the club, many of whom are now their best friends. The fact that we "party with a purpose" also makes him feel good about being a member.

Mark advises new members to keep going to the Phlockings and introducing themselves to people. Let them know you're new and not sure what is going on in the club and people *will* invite you to come and sit down with them. He also suggests that new members volunteer. It's the best way to meet new people and make friends in the club.