

Old Patrician



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Volume 2, Number 9 – October 2009

October & November Plans Are Set, SocComm to Plan More

The months of October and November are already set. As you all know we hold barbeques every month, off season and on. We just had our October barbeque and the November one is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th. By that time many of the snowbirds will be back in residence so we can consider that event as a mini-welcome back party.

On the near horizon is the ever popular "value meal." We are going back to the shack. On Monday, October 19, 2009 we will all gather at the Rum Shack at 5:30 PM. The cost is \$13.00 each. Be sure to sign up early and slip your checks under the door of my apartment, #616.

OK, why do I call this a value meal? For your thirteen bucks you get beer, wine, or a well drink. Then comes soup or a salad. Next you get a choice of entre followed by desert. Now that is what I call value.

There are a few things that we are definitely going to do this season. In order to plan the date and times for these parties and plan additional events we are going to hold a meeting of the SocComm. The

date of this meeting is Wednesday evening, October 21st at 7:00 PM. Note that we vary the times of these meetings to accommodate the busy schedules of our friends and neighbors.

Some of the events you can count on are listed below. For sure we will be adding to the list.

Dinner Dance
Snowbird welcome
Wine tasting, more formal than last year
Upscale dinner
Palm Beach Princess
New Year's Eve & Day party
Spring training baseball

In order to get a handle on what our building wants I will be doing another questionnaire this year. Expect to find a form under your door on Friday, October 30, 2009. This time I am going to ask questions with a little more depth. Rather than ask the "do you want" question, I will be asking you the following about each activity: Rate how likely you would attend on a scale of 1/ Never, 2/ Unlikely, 3/ Neutral, 4/ Likely, or 5/ Definite. You will get an opportunity to tell us more about your ideas.

From time to time I hear people retelling the "urban legend" that the exposed rocks on our beach is the remains of the old A1A. When my late father heard this tale he wrote to an oceanographer at Florida State University and was told that it was part of a natural reef that really is the foundation of Palm Beach Island.

I followed this up in 2005 with a letter to the University of Miami. The answer was the same. Our own Wally McTammany explained why the rocks are flat and appear road-like. In the 1940s contractors cut slices off the reef to build pool decks and surrounds. This myth is, as they say, "busted."



This is not A1A

Wine 'n Cheese Was a Success, BBQs Continue

As the Harry Chapin song says: season's spinning round again; The years keep rollin' by." It is hard to know when the season really starts, but the first of October is as good a date as any. I have always considered the start of the year to be in the fall. It was always a time for new beginnings. It is the start of school, the Jewish New Year, and I founded my company in September of 1981.

Don't forget. You can view all of the newsletters and the calendar on our website:

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So, I unofficially declare the new season begun. With that said, we had a whale of a season kickoff with the second Wine 'n Cheese on the Beach party on the first of October. We almost doubled our attendance from the first one with 18 people joining us at the height of the festivities.

While all of the food, and it was much more than cheese, was great a tip of the old hat goes to Len D'Avolio for her meatballs. While these tasty morsels were probably evil, you must give the devil his due. They were outstanding. The wine flowed like a mighty stream such that no one was wanting of thirst. It is a good thing that few of us had far to drive!

All summer long we had the monthly barbeques. At times we had a mob scene and at other times we only had a dozen or so, but the good times never stopped. Since the summer weather this year was almost always great, we who live here the year round gloried in the tropical paradise that is Palm Beach.

Our band of barbeque devotees have moved way beyond franks and burgers. Fish, chicken, and lamb chops appear in all kinds of interesting preparations. We have grouped ourselves into tables informally and arranged for "sides" to share. Interesting things to eat and drink keep showing up. Let's keep the ball rolling this fall and winter at the barbeque.