



# *The Quill & Bugle*

## Saramana Chapter Newsletter

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

September 19, 2013

Webpage: [SaramanaSar.org](http://SaramanaSar.org)

### **Extra, Extra, Extra – We're on the Move!**

*The Purpose of this Q&B is to announce that we've been apprised that the Lido Beach Holiday Inn has been targeted for renovation. The entire 7<sup>th</sup> floor may become suites. We need a new venue.*



*Charles T. Sweeney*  
President, Saramana Chapter SAR



**Lido Beach Holiday Inn is behind us. We're moving to the Sara Bay Country Club!**

*Where We Stand: The Search to Sit*

Upon receiving the email from Ms. Sonja Newton on 13 Sept 2013, about the renovation plans of the Lido Beach Holiday Inn, I informed the Board of Governors. Good feedback was received from several members to include Carl Hoffman with the recommendation of The Field Club on Field Road, Roberts a Bay. Tom Thompson and John Williams gave high marks for the Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch. Several other recommendations were offered, but their locations were not centrally located. They favored one end of a country or another end of a country. Case in point is the Bradenton Yacht Club. One of the best pieces of information was offered by Harold Crapo. He pointed out that the Saramana Chapter demographics shows our members reside closer to the Manatee-Sarasota county lines.

*Please turn to page 2.*

For the past three days Vic McMurry and I have been on the hunt. We took under advisement the recommendations given us but found them wanting, especially when we compared the ambiance we had at the Lido Beach Holiday Inn and the availability of the facility so as to not conflict with other SAR Meeting dates such as the Saramana Board of Governors' Meeting Schedule, the FLSSAR BOM's Schedule, and the NSSAR Leadership Conference/Trustee Meetings. Other major considerations included how open-ended was their availability for the next two to three years, and was the meeting room more than just a box that had lighting only from ceiling fixtures .

Unfortunately, the Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch's meeting room fell into that category. It is a "rectangular box," entirely void of natural light. Its width is approximately one half the size of its length, which caused me as I stood in the middle of the room to feel physically confined, i.e. claustrophobic.

The Field Club is private and requires member sponsorship. It's located in South Sarasota, on Roberts Bay, approximately 23 minutes south of the Manatee-Sarasota County lines. Its price point for luncheons and the menu selections are not as competitive as the other places we visited.

In the pages which follow we'll first present our recommendation. Then we'll display our planning considerations and field notes about the places visited and why they are discounted.

**Recommendation.** Move our Saramana Chapter Luncheons to the Sara Bay Country Club. If practicable, hold our first luncheon on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2013. Thereafter plan on

holding our meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month during the months of November 2013 through May 2014.



## **Significant Considerations Regarding Dates**

1. Dates for the Board of Governors Meetings Scheduled at the Church of the Redeemer are:  
[2013] October 9<sup>th</sup> ; November 6<sup>th</sup> ; December 11<sup>th</sup> ; [2014] January 8<sup>th</sup> ; February 12<sup>th</sup> ; March 12<sup>th</sup> ; April 9<sup>th</sup> ; and May 7<sup>th</sup> .
2. Dates for FLSSAR Meetings are: January 24 to 25, 2014; May 2 to 4, 2014; October 3 to 5, 2014; January 30 to 31, 2015; May 1 to 5, 2015.
3. Dates for NSSAR Meeting Dates are: February 28 to March 1, 2014; July 18 to 24, 2014; September 26 to 27, 2014; and June 26 to July 1, 2015.

## **Field Notes on Places of Consideration**

### **1. Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch, 6231 Lake Osprey Drive, Sarasota, FL 34240**

#### Advantages:

Easy to find because it is right off I-75 at University Parkway which is the county line road. Take exit 213 on University Parkway.

From the south take exit 213 to University Parkway and keep right on the exit ramp onto University. Go 0.4 miles and turn right onto Lake Osprey Drive. Go 0.3 miles on Lake Osprey Drive, the destination is on the left.

From the north take exit 213 to University Parkway and turn left onto University. Go 0.5 miles and turn right onto Lake Osprey Drive. Go 0.3 miles on Lake Osprey Drive, the destination is on the left.

There is room for all luncheons except February if we book far enough in advance. Currently, thru May 2014 we might have to move our luncheon dates forward or backward for December 13, 2013 and March 14, 2014.

They would charge us the same pricing as we are currently paying.

#### Disadvantage:

Room has NO windows and can possibly seat 80. It just seemed very claustrophobic and not very inviting.

### **2. Der Dutchman, 3713 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, FL 34232**

#### Advantages:

Saramana Chapter *Quill & Bugle Extra* – New Venue Move

This is a great restaurant with excellent food and there is room for all luncheons with seating over 150.

They have a long list of clubs and organizations that meet at this restaurant, so we have not gone so far as trying to have a listing of dates available.

Pricing for Lunch Buffet is \$13.03 including gratuity. Lunch Buffet with a slice of Pie is \$14.43 including gratuity. There are deserts on the Lunch Buffet, so I would stop there. Add \$4.00 and charge \$17.00 for all you can eat. We would make a little less, but might get greater attendance.

Room has windows on one side.

Disadvantage:

No special quality or atmosphere.

It may be a little harder to find than Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch, but not too bad.

From the south, take exit 207 Bee Ridge Road and turn left onto Bee Ridge. Go 0.3 miles on Bee Ridge and turn onto Cattlemen Road. Go 1.7 miles on Cattlemen Road and turn left onto Bahia Vista Street. Go 2.7 miles on Bahia Vista Street, the destination is on the right.

From the north, take exit 201 Fruitville Road and turn right onto Fruitville Road. Go 1.9 miles on Fruitville and turn left onto McIntosh Road. Go 1.1 miles on McIntosh and turn right onto Bahia Vista Street. Go 0.7 miles on Bahia Vista Street, the destination is on the right.

As an alternate, get on Beneva Road and go to Bahia Vista Street. Turn East on Bahia Vista Der Dutchman is located on the left, 800 feet from the intersection.

**3. Tara Golf and Country Club, 6602 Drewrys Bluff, Bradenton, FL 34203**

Advantages:

The dining facility is very attractive, with the tables and chairs looking very much like what we are used to at the Holiday Inn.

Tara can accommodate all of our Luncheon Dates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month with a maximum capacity of 150.

Disadvantage:

Starting after our May meeting in 2014, they will be having the clubhouse renovated and cannot accept any reservations for October 2014. The Clubhouse Manager did state that he could find us a place close by. My concern with this being construction, will they be ready for November 2014.

Further from the Sarasota / Manatee County Line.

From the south take exit 217B, which is approximately 3.8 miles north of University Parkway and keep right on the exit ramp onto FL-70W/Oneco-Myakka City Road. Go 1.0 miles on FL70W and turn left onto Drewrys Bluff. Go 0.4 miles on Drewrys Bluff, the destination is on the left.

From the north take exit 217 and keep right on the exit ramp onto FL-70W/Oneco-Myakka City Road. Go 1.0 miles on FL70W and turn left onto Drewrys Bluff. Go 0.4 miles on Drewrys Bluff, the destination is on the left.

4. **The Field Club, 1400 Field Rd Sarasota, FL 34231 · (941) 924-1201**. The Field Club is private and requires member sponsorship. It's located in South Sarasota, on Roberts Bay, approximately 23 minutes south of the Manatee-Sarasota County lines. Its price point for luncheons and the menu selections are not as competitive as the other places we visited.

5. **Sara Bay Country Club, 7011 Willow Street, Sarasota, FL 34243**

Advantages:

Has great ambiance. The atmosphere just exudes a restrained elegance.

Sara Bay can accept a maximum of 150 for lunch when using the combined Willow and Iris Rooms. The Palm room would be our normal luncheon location and can easily accommodate 70.

Sara Bay Country Club is just north of the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, which makes it very close to the Sarasota and Manatee County Line and is therefore equally convenient to all members.

From the south, go on US 41 N (North Tamiami Trail) and travel 2.1 miles past University Parkway to Whitfield Avenue. Turn right on Whitfield Avenue and go 0.4 miles to Willow Street. Turn left on Willow Street and go 0.2 miles, the destination is on the right.

From the north, go south on US 41 S (14<sup>th</sup> Street West) past Bayshore Gardens Parkway. Go 1.1 miles past Bayshore Gardens Parkway to Magellan Drive. Turn left on Magellan Drive and go 0.4 miles to and make a slight right onto Willow Street, the destination is on the left.

Special Notice: No conflict with other SAR Meeting Activities, i.e. BOM or NSSAR Leadership Conferences/Trustees Meetings. Start as soon as practicable, with the earliest beginning on 18 October 2013. Subsequent meetings would be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month from November through May 2014.

**Final Thoughts.** Our association with Ms. Sonja Newton over the years has been exceptional and the luncheon meetings held at the Lido Beach Holiday Inn have been most satisfying. For that we say many thanks. Unless any member of the Saramana Chapter has a better solution to what has been recommended here and wishes to continue the hunt, please step forward. Otherwise it's time move on. And we should do that as soon as practicable.