



South Florida Gold Coasters

Special Newsletter June 2025



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Vice President
Vacant

Treasurer
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Secretary/Newsletter
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Interim Muster Master
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UPCOMING MUSTERS

**2025 Buccaneer/Gold
Coasters Mini Muster**
29 June – 3 Jul 2025
WP Franklin Camp
Alva, FL 33920

2025 National Muster
15-20 September 2025
Mineola, TX 75773

2025 Joint Muster -
Veterans Day &
Habitat for Humanity
10-14 Nov 2025
Encore Sunshine Travel
RV Resort
Vero Beach, FL 32967

From your President, Steve Bourque

I know it's been a while since you've seen our quarterly newsletter, and I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirit.

I want to address two pressing issues in this newsletter: Attendance at musters and Chapter Officer vacancies.

Attendance

Attendance at musters is dropping off and it's getting harder to locate four campgrounds per year to meet SMART's requirement for four musters per year. And we're not the only ones. The Buccaneers face the same issues which results in us competing for the same campgrounds. The solution to both problems is called Joint Musters. It's also a great alternative to merging Chapters.

Joint Musters will reduce the load on each Chapter to meet the requirements, each Chapter maintains its unique identity, and more participation creates more enthusiasm which fosters a healthier club.

At the Spring Muster in May 2025 the Gold Coasters and the Buccaneers made the decision to conduct all of our musters going forward as "Buccaneers/Gold Coasters Joint Musters".

Here's how it will work:

- One Chapter will host two of the four required musters, and the other Chapter will host the other two.
- Muster fees go to the host Chapter.
- All proceeds from the 50/50 Raffle go to the host Chapter.
- All procedures, costs, and host functions would be the responsibility of the host Chapter.
- At each Joint Muster both Chapters will conduct their own business meeting.
- There is no impact to the members of either Chapter as each Chapter retains its own identity, annual dues, and policies.

Our first official Joint Muster is coming up at the end of June 2025.

Chapter Officer Vacancies

For the Gold Coasters to survive, we need our members to assume leadership and administrative positions within the Chapter.

Currently, I'm serving as president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and will likely step in as muster master to give Kathy a break. None of this is really hard or very time consuming; it's just not sustainable or healthy for the Chapter. But I'm not going to target anyone and pressure you to volunteer. We're a social organization, which means we get together to have a good time with no pressure to participate in every activity scheduled or pressured to volunteer for something we have no interest in doing. That's how you drive folks off. If you ask me what I disliked most about the musters when I first joined, I'd have to say it's the ever present pressure to get you to do something, instead of just being allowed to enjoy the muster. We provide a list of activities and events but you're free to do as you please. I understand that and will never pressure anyone to participate or volunteer for something... that's your decision to make, not mine. Those tactics were acceptable, and expected, when we were on active duty, but they don't work here. Instead, I will make you aware of our situation in the form of newsletters or emails or flyers lying around the business meeting or stapled to telephone poles in your neighborhood. The vacancy announcements below let you know exactly what the position entails, and more importantly, how much of your time that position requires. You can let your conscience decide if you want to participate or not. Of course this may also mean no volunteers, in which case I will continue to be a one-man show. This is a damned if you do and damned if you don't situation. Start forcing folks to fill vacancies and lose them, no renewals. Don't pressure folks and end up doing it all yourself. I'd rather do it all myself than lose anyone. Teamwork... one of the things I missed the most after retiring from the Army... makes the dream work and I really need some teammates here.

Okay, you can put the tiny violins down now, I'm changing subjects. We also need to continue to grow. If each of us took a spin around the campground at the beginning of a muster I'm sure we could identify a few other veterans camping out. Invite them to our happy hour just because they're a veteran... no other reason. No brochures, no canned speeches, no mention of SMART. I would be receptive to a fellow veteran inviting me to a free happy hour only because we share the same brothers in arms background... and for no other reason. The object would be to get a fellow RV'ing veteran to the happy hour and let HIM (or her) ask what type of organization we belong to. Fill them in on all the comradery they'll get by joining SMART... and particularly the Gold Coasters. At that point it's a real soft sell and just casually tell them what we're about with no pressure to join. If they're receptive THEN hand them a SMART brochure and application form. It's called the Tom Sawyer tactic (but we're not painting any fences). Make them think they're missing out on something and wait for THEM to ask about membership. Leave the high pressure car salesman crap at home. One more thing before we get back to the vacancies: I'm looking for new ideas to try out to shake things up and increase attendance. I've already introduced Karaoke, music trivia, open mike, and Rita and I will continue to host an open bar Happy Hour each muster. If you have found something you enjoy and want to try it out at a muster, let me know. There are no rules for having fun.

Now for our current vacancies...

Vacancy Announcements!!

I'm sure we have several members of our Chapter that aren't content to just kick back yet and watch the show... so here's an opportunity to get involved and make a difference! Training will be provided, and a resource person will be assigned to you for as long as you need them. These positions are open to **ALL** members of the Chapter; veteran/spouse/significant other.

Are you ready to step up and serve your fellow Gold Coasters today?

Vice President

Time required: Approximately 4 hours per muster (if that) spread out over 90 days.

The Vice President shall:

- Assist the President in all Chapter activities
- In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall assume all duties of the president
- Ascend to President upon completion of the current President's term of office or if a vacancy occurs

Must be voted on by the membership and will become the next President!

Secretary (may be combined with Treasurer)

Time required: Approximately 6 hours per muster spread out over 90 days.

The Secretary shall:

- Record the minutes of all meetings
- Handle all Chapter correspondence
- Send notices of all muster dates and special events via the newsletter
- Maintain all Chapter records other than financial records
- Perform as the editor of the quarterly newsletter

Compensation: We waive your annual dues for as long as you serve in this position... plus that warm and fuzzy feeling you get serving.

Treasurer (may be combined with Secretary)

Time required: Approximately 6 hours per muster spread out over 90 days.

The Treasurer shall:

- Maintain bank accounts and a petty cash fund, as necessary, for the Chapter
- Collect dues and fees
- Pay authorized bills
- Prepare and post financial statements at each meeting
- Maintain all Chapter financial records
- Prepare and submit required external financial reports

Compensation: We waive your annual dues for as long as you serve in this position... plus that warm and fuzzy feeling you get serving.

Muster Master (time to give Kathy a break, she's been doing this for 13 years!)

Time required: Approximately 8 hours per muster spread out over 90 days.

The Muster Master shall:

- Coordinate with membership to identify volunteers to serve as muster hosts
- Identify and plan locations/campgrounds one year in advance, when possible, in coordination with chapter members/hosts
- Serve as the sole point of contact with campgrounds to determine availability and costs for campground sites, aiming to obtain the lowest group rates
- Attempt to identify new muster campgrounds and locations to increase attendance and variety of sightseeing opportunities
- Provide training and assistance to new muster hosts

Compensation: We waive your muster fees for as long as you serve in this position... plus that warm and fuzzy feeling you get serving.

Muster Host (not an officer position but works with the Muster Master on occasion)

Time required: Approximately 12 hours per muster spread out over 90 days.

The Muster Host shall:

- Plan meals and activities for the muster, including local area sightseeing
- Prepare an activity schedule by utilizing previous schedules and making necessary updates
- Plan activities in the local area—boat tour, museum tour, other local sights, sporting events, golf outing, etc.
- Plan meals as preferred: cooked breakfast, continental breakfast, or breakfast potluck. Potluck dinner with the chapter providing the main course
- Include one dinner at a local restaurant and lunch at a special venue or cook-out. Use creativity. Plan for daily happy hours if feasible. Inform attendees via the schedule
- Include the chapter business meeting and evening games
- Coordinate the plan with the Muster Master and then provide the information to the chapter website delegate for posting on the chapter website/SMART National muster events
- Send information to Muster Master/Secretary/Newsletter Editor for inclusion in future newsletters/emails. Consider including website links to local attractions and events

This is usually a one-time job to host one of the four Musters we hold each year.

Compensation: We waive your muster fee for the muster you host... plus that warm and fuzzy feeling you get serving.

Parting Shots

The National Muster is coming up 15-20 Sept 2025 in Mineola, TX. I only see two Gold Coasters and two Buccaneers have signed up so far. Click the link for more info and to sign up [2025 National Muster](#).

Our next opportunity to get together after the National is the Veterans Day Muster hosted by the Buccaneers from 10-14 November 2025. We will also be working with the Habitat for Humanity crew at this muster, just like in 2021. You don't want to miss it! Click the link for more info and sign up on either the Gold Coasters or Buccaneers page [Microsoft Word - Greetings SMART members](#).

Until we meet again!

Steve Bourque
President
South Florida Gold Coasters

Membership Announcement

- Help us wish our members celebrating upcoming birthdays and anniversaries!
- Send a card or an email or phone them!
- Enjoy a refreshing summer drink in their honor, see recipe below!

Birthdays	
Diane Adamson	09 Aug
Allen Carter	12 Sep
Carol MacDonald	03 Sep
Miriam Metz	20 Sep
Tony Debello	01 Jul
Joe Faubion	01 Aug
Pam Faubion	24 Aug
Jack Fritz	18 Aug
Bill Lemon	30 Jul
Tom Louis	06 Sep
Ginny Louis	04 Sep
Ginger Mason	04 Jul
Tony Mason	04 Jul
Joan McDonald	29 Aug
Lana Obourn	07 Sep
Pete Peterson	10 Aug
Jim Springer	02 Aug

Anniversaries	
Carl & Patti Bergener	28 Jul
B2 & Ruth Bolger	20 Jul
Tom & Ginny Louis	18 Jul
John & Kathy Steinbauer	12 Sep

Da Bomb Cocktail/Mocktail

- Juice from half of a medium orange
- Juice from two large strawberries
- 1 oz Coconut Tequila (exclude for mocktail and substitute 1 tbsp Cream of Coconut)
- 1 oz Rum (exclude for mocktail)

Pour over ice in a shaker and shake until cold!

Our Officers



Steve Bourque
President



VACANT
Vice President



VACANT
Treasurer



VACANT
Secretary



Kathy Steinbauer
*Interim Muster
Master*



Tony Mason
Past President



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Chapter



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National