

Are We a Club or a Community



by Jim Leenhouts

In trying to describe Ocean Reef Club to friends and neighbors from afar with the vast array of offerings and activities available, it often brings into question, is it a club or is it a community.

Members of Ocean Reef Club have historically had the advantage of being allowed to join with other members of The Club to negotiate conditions and purchase property from The Club to build and operate their own private equity clubs. Their effort has created the Racquet Club at Ocean Reef and the Card Sound Golf Club,

which are both pleasantly intermingled within the boundaries of the Ocean Reef Club property. These members still retain membership and joint use of social and athletic facilities of Ocean Reef's Club's tennis courts or golf courses. The latter tennis courts are so nearby that errant tennis balls can possibly travel between the two clubs' tennis courts.

There is a long list of other clubs incorporated into the fabric of Ocean Reef, such as the Ocean Reef Yacht Club, that do not require property but, if or when needed, can utilize space from The Club for their annual or monthly activities that will include bars, dining space, servers, food and party help. The Ocean Reef Yacht Club thus saves the cost of a clubhouse and can still offer its members a local venue for their famous annual Valentine's party with extravagant dining and dancing to a full orchestra.

Should an imaginary couple fail to complete a dance

step and seriously fall, an ambulance from the Ocean Reef Community Association, abbreviated ORCA, also supported by The Club's homeowners, would respond with a team of trained first responders to treat the injured and provide transportation to The Medical Center at Ocean Reef, or hospital.

Likewise, the weekly editions of the locally published and distributed *Ocean Reef Press*, sponsored and edited by The Club, are filled with articles and photos of social and newsworthy items at Ocean Reef Club that include both events from the various amenities across The Club as well as from Member-organized clubs. The authors of these articles, as herein, generally simply use "The Club" to indicate if there is an event connection with "The Ocean Reef Club". Topics cover golf, tennis, sailing, fishing, yachts, model yachts, cards, religion, cooking, art, sorority, flying, swimming, pets, politics, health, knitting, sobriety, wine and age, to promote the interests and members of their Club within The Club.

The Club also offers a wide variety of social events such as

a vintage car and boat weekend, sailfish tournaments and multiple visits from Santa Claus. Decorated golf cart parades are popular through defined street routes to celebrate Halloween or other holidays with judges and a prize to the winner for dining at one of a dozen or so of The Club's restaurants. Such an event might bring hundreds of Members to line the streets and cheer their families along.

There's also the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, which holds an annual gala to raise money for the non-profits at Ocean Reef as well as for the surrounding communities.

The purpose of this article is not to distinguish between "clubs" and "community", but to praise and commend the long-running, successful quest of the management of Ocean Reef Club to provide, perhaps, a nationally unique and successful social club expanded with private clubs within a social community that members are very fortunate to live, either, in or at.

ARE WE A CLUB OR COMMUNITY?

The Club has built a Unique Community

WE ARE BOTH