

local sports

FISHING CLUB OFFERS WAY TO SHARE PASSION OF ANGLING

Have a passion for fishing, but don't want to travel far from home? You're in luck as The Villages has over 25 fishable bodies of water. The Fresh Water Fishing Club offers a way to share the passion of fishing while spending some time with fellow anglers. For more information visit tvfishing.wordpress.com.

NEED A GUEST ID?
All guests need an ID to use amenities in The Villages.

1 Who can Apply: Residents with a valid resident ID can apply for a guest ID card. Guests must be from outside the tri-county area.

2 How to Apply: Apply for a guest ID at the District Customer Service Center (984 Old Mill Run), at any of the 11 regional recreation centers or at DistrictGov.org.

3 Validity Dates: Guest ID cards are valid 30 days from issue. In-area Guest ID cards are valid for a year.

VOLLEYBALL



Rachel Stuart | Daily Sun

Marla Boyer, of the Village of Charlotte, played and coached club volleyball, bringing all that expertise to The Villages in 2013 when she arrived from Marion, Illinois.

Volleyball Remains a Passion for Villager

Boyer, who got a late start in the sport, helped found The Villages' indoor women's league.

By JEAN RACINE
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Though Marla Boyer played four sports in college, volleyball wasn't one of them.

Introduced to the sport through a clinic while attending Southern Illinois University, Boyer wound up coaching high school and club volleyball for two decades. And that passion continues to burn strongly after 10 years in The Villages.

"It's a small court with six people on it, so it gets a little crowded out there, but it's just a lot of fun banging the ball around," said Boyer, of the Village of Charlotte. "It's just a fun, fun sport to play."

At SIU, Boyer competed in collegiate softball, tennis, field hockey and track & field. Volleyball came along as part of her studies as a health and physical education major.

"I fell in love with it as soon as I started playing it, but nothing really ever came of it," she said.

At least not until after graduation. Boyer landed her first teaching job at a high school in Illinois, where they needed a track coach who could double as a volleyball assistant. Boyer signed up for the task — and after six weeks, found herself running the team.

"The head coach was killed in a car accident and they bumped me up to head coach," Boyer explained. "That was terrifying to me. Luckily, I had a lot of good seniors on the team that pulled us through that year. "Honestly, I was learning

about the sport while I was coaching it. I had a lot of mentors that I went to, and went to as many camps and clinics (as I could)."

Boyer also played and coached club volleyball, bringing all that expertise to The Villages in 2013 when she arrived from Marion, Illinois. She's part of the committee that launched The Villages Women's Intermediate & Advanced Indoor Volleyball League last fall.

"It's just a huge hit," Boyer said. "It is the best thing that's happened since I've been here. When I got here, there was just hardly any volleyball players. Now that The Villages is growing and younger people are coming in — (ones who) played in college — we're getting high-level players."

"We get enough to make a league, which I think is pretty amazing. I just hope that it continues to grow like it has."

In the league's recent summer season, Boyer was co-captain of the Aces, sharing the job with Karen Adams.

"She understands the game very well," said Adams, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens. "She's good with people in terms of helping them understand and get better at what they do."

In addition to volleyball, Boyer also plays travel softball and pickleball in The Villages.

"She's just a pretty good all-around athlete," Adams said. "Just a great person that is very competitive but loves the sport (of volleyball). I'm glad I get the chance to play with her."

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FISHING

Deep Sea Fishing Club Embarks on Biggest Trip Ever

More than 20 members of the club fished on a charter off the coast of Key West for four days.

By RYAN WEISS
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Members of The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club boarded the American Patriot on July 31 for a fishing trip to Pulley Ridge, a reef about 100 miles off the coast of Key West.

This wasn't the first time members of the club boarded the vessel for a top-tier fishing experience, but it was the first time the club made it a trip this size.

The only people on board the 123-foot boat who weren't part of the crew were members of The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club and their guests. Twenty-four people fished for four days together for a truly memorable experience.

"We didn't know everybody's name when we went out, but by the end of the trip you pretty much did," said Dave Easton, of the Village of Chitty Chatty. "It was great for camaraderie and for team building in the club."

The anglers unfortunately did have to wait for the fun to get started. The American Patriot was supposed to set sail at 6:30 p.m. but due to a low tide were unable to leave for four hours, but the delay didn't put a damper on the trip.

Pulley Ridge is the deepest, light-dependent coral reef in the U.S. and offers tremendous fishing opportunities.

The next morning, the anglers were buzzing with anticipation to see what they could reel in.

"One of my favorite moments was when the boat stopped in the morning, and everybody started jumping out of their bunks and heading for the deck," Easton said. "I think that was the most exciting part of everything. The anticipation came to a head and here we were."

Easton was one of the anglers who was on his first trip to Pulley Ridge and he definitely enjoyed his time.

The anglers fished mostly in the 150 to 200-foot depth range and gave people like Easton a chance to catch fish he never had before. Species such as blackfin tuna, bonita fish and dolphinfish were a first for Easton.

One angler who had been to Pulley Ridge before was Charlie Pryde. Pryde, of the Village of Marsh Bend, spent nearly the entire trip fishing. After sleeping on the way off the coast, Pryde didn't go back to sleep for two days.

One of the most memorable catches was a 45-pound gag grouper, but due to it being out of season it was thrown back.

Vice President of the club Gaylon Thompson, of the Village of St. Charles, had never caught a red snapper before the trip and with it being red snapper season, he checked that one off his list. Thompson was actually the only fisherman to be able to hold onto a grouper catch.

The members estimated over 20 varieties of fish were caught — everything from snapper to an estimated 12-foot tiger shark.



Submitted photo

Dave Easton, of the Village of Chitty Chatty, with his bonita catch at Pulley Ridge.

RECREATION ROUNDUP

BY GREG HUGHES

Water Aerobics Becomes Villagers Main Source Of Keeping in Shape

For over 30 years, Gloria Lawrence, of the Village of Liberty Park, has been attending water aerobics classes. The activity has become Lawrence's main source of exercise. She enjoys it so much, she's even told some friends about it — getting a few to try it out. One of her former neighbors, Jean Ann, of the Village of Duval, thanks Lawrence for getting her to try water aerobics. "It's the camaraderie. Everybody getting in (the pool) together and chit-chatting and exchanging ideas and problems," Lawrence said. "Then it's all alleviated because we're all doing water aerobics." During class, Lawrence said you can expect to hear lots of laughs and see plenty of smiles on faces.

LA HACIENDA PICKLEBALL

Doc Mariner, of Village De Allende, didn't expect pickleball to become his favorite sport in The Villages. When he first moved into Florida's Friendliest Hometown, Mariner's favorite sport was golf and he didn't have much interest in playing pickleball. Mariner said "It took me awhile (to try pickleball). I thought it was going to be too easy of a game and I was proven wrong once again." After he tried, pickleball he slowly started to notice his passion for the game was slowly increasing.

PARADISE OUTDOOR EXERCISE

Tina Goodrich, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens, loves the outdoor exercise machines at Paradise Recreation. Not only for the physical workout, but because it's outside. Goodrich likes the scenery of the park, the walking paths around the machines and getting vitamin D from the sun — all that she gets to do during her time exercising at Paradise. Goodrich said her workouts can last a couple hours because she's in no rush to go home. She finds the outdoor exercise machines to be convenient.

EZELL WATER AEROBICS

Terry Engleman, of the Village of Newell, went out to Ezell Recreation to attend water aerobics for the first time, but sadly the class had already reached max capacity. She may have been a too late that time, but that didn't stop her from making sure to go again. Engleman said she attends water aerobics at various recreation centers. Water aerobics has become one of her favorite exercises, attending classes most days of the week. "Water aerobics is fun because you don't feel like you're exercising," Engleman said.

AVIARY PICKLEBALL

Heather Egan, of the Village of Collier, attends pickleball training sessions called "Blessed and Grateful" weekly with a pickleball trainer at Aviary Recreation. Egan said she doesn't have any intention to push herself to becoming the "best pickleball player in the world", she goes to the training sessions simply to work on her game for personal improvement. "I'm trying to improve my placement and strategic playing" Egan said. "Versus the banger play of pickleball and control."