



# Brit Club News

March, 2017

Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Vol. 17, Issue 3

## Coming Events

**T**he SBC Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday 9th March** at the Village des Pins clubhouse, 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:30pm. Members welcome.

### **M**arch Friday Lunch

By special request, we have made arrangements for our monthly lunch to be held at Miguel's restaurant on Siesta Key. The manager is opening the restaurant especially for us, and will offer a prix-fixe 3 course lunch for us. Menu details to follow!

When: Friday March 24. Noon – 2 pm

Where: Miguel's Restaurant, 6631 Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key

[www.miguelsrestaurant.net](http://www.miguelsrestaurant.net)

RSVP to Diana Wilkinson  
[dwilkinson18@comcast.net](mailto:dwilkinson18@comcast.net)

### **K**ayak Adventure see Page 6

Seats are limited to 17 folks in 11 single kayaks and three tandems/doubles so consider booking early. Contact the Event Coordinator, Mark Malkasian by email [marqmalk@gmail.com](mailto:marqmalk@gmail.com) or (941) 445-2890.

### **T**ampa Bay Downs Horse Racing in April

**Sunday April 2, 2017**

\$50.00 per person for Champagne Brunch and transportation .

Steve Adams has once again volunteered to arrange the trip. Please contact Steve for questions or reservations [sha@adamsiac.com](mailto:sha@adamsiac.com) or 941-524-9410

**SEND ALL CHECKS TO:**

**SARASOTA BRITISH CLUB, TO P.O. BOX  
21063, SARASOTA, FL 34276**

### **L**e Barge sunset cruise –Wednesday March 22nd.

Please join us for a Brit Club Sunset Cruise. Boarding will be at 6pm for a fun filled cruise around the bay and out to Big Pass for the sunset.

Look for dolphins. Cash bar for drinks and snack food available if required. Music on upper deck with some oldies mixed in.

Leaves from Island Park Sarasota (near O'Leary's.)

Suggest you arrive early so we can get seats close together on the top deck .

\$25 each. Please send checks to:

Sarasota British Club

P.O. Box 21063

Sarasota FL 34276

Please sign up soon as places are limited.

RSVP to Julian Bigden [julianbigden@comcast.net](mailto:julianbigden@comcast.net)



### **Elsewhere**

**T**o keep up to date on other activities and events throughout the local British community please visit the Links Page of our own website <http://www.sarasotabritishclub.com/links>

### Coming Events

- Friday Lunch at Miguels on Siesta Key.
- LeBarge trip on March 22nd
- Kayaking on March 27th see Page 6
- Tampa Bay Downs on April 22nd

## President's Letter

**C**an you guess where I am? These are visitors who regularly feast on the grass in my sister's back yard.



trip – I will be the one with matchsticks holding her eyes open as I return from the Land Down Under a couple of days before.

*Jane Jacobs*



## Fun Florida Facts.

Florida is the flattest state in the USA. Britton Hill has the highest elevation at 345 feet and is the lowest state high point in the US.

In 2014 Florida surpassed New York to become the 3rd most populous state in the US. California and Texas are #1 and #2 respectively. In 2015 the population was listed at 20,271,272.

At 1,350 miles, Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States. It is also the only state in the US that borders both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

St. Augustine, founded in 1565 by the Spanish, is the oldest European settlement in North America.

I arrived here last Friday in time for several family birthday celebrations; although after a horrendously long journey I was not exactly a party animal. It is wonderful to be here with my family even just for a few weeks.

I want to thank everyone who came out to the President's Cocktail Party on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The food was great. We had the lamb chops which were delicious and could have improved with a bit of mint sauce! The prime rib looked amazing. The staff at The Village Pub did a great job for us; service was very good and the location was just right. I must add that as a person who never eats 'regular' birthday cake even I enjoyed a bit of the Costco chocolate cake.

Many members danced to the musical entertainment provided by Tony and Tasha and I am very pleased to confirm we have booked them to play at our 2017 Christmas Party. If you were not there you missed a rare treat of Sharon and Ivan singing along to Tainted Love. Let's just say they will be keeping their day jobs!

The Saturday before I left, we went to a Queen Nation concert at the Venice Community Center. The music was really great - who does not love to sing along to Queen classics? And you cannot beat second row seats for \$35.00. What a lovely place the Venice Community Center is. I had no idea it was there and neither did my Venice snowbird friends. We have tickets to see another show in early April, Jerry Lee Lewis which promises to be a rocking evening. I am certainly going to keep my eye on the program for next season. Once again, great local entertainment at a bargain price.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the Le Barge

## Club Photos

I'm gradually adding more links to this list. Note that apart from downloading individual photos at (hopefully) a good resolution, you can download the whole album. Click on the 3 vertical dots in the top right corner and select 'Download all'. To select one or more photos, click on the top left corner of each photo so you see a check mark, then when you click on the 3 vertical dots, the option to 'Download' will be just for those choices.

### President's Party 2017

<https://goo.gl/photos/Bndrmkj1krY7iBZp8>

### Christmas Party 2016

<http://tinyurl.com/zevh25g>

### Christmas 2016 Charity Donation

<http://tinyurl.com/jsjeepg>

### Walk to end Alzheimer's November 2016

<http://tinyurl.com/jt2b97e>

### Guy Fawkes 2016

<http://tinyurl.com/hefcj3n>

### Miguel's October 2016

<http://tinyurl.com/zhtt5oy>

### Visit to Van Wezel—May 2016

<http://tinyurl.com/hkxj4xb>

### Afternoon Tea on 23rd Sept 2016

<http://tinyurl.com/htw7k7b>

### Ladies' Evening March 2011

<https://goo.gl/photos/hc7gM8675VHYH9Uw8>

### Royal Wedding Party May 2011

<http://tinyurl.com/z7fl7or>

### February 2016 mini-golf

<http://tinyurl.com/jkzhxpz>

### Guy Fawkes 2012

<https://goo.gl/photos/C2NDPEZ9fUzeJSoq7>

### 2012 Xmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/jbep48m>

### 2013 Xmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/zky3ba8>

### 2014 Xmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/zqjgn3u>

### 2015 Xmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/j79pb2u>

### Historic Spanish Point 2013

<http://tinyurl.com/jd5q4x4>

Please let me know if any of the links fail and if you can add more albums to the list.

If you have taken Club event photos in the past, are they in an online account that you can share?

**Brian Thompson** [lakewood2@gmail.com](mailto:lakewood2@gmail.com)



## Reality TV

In February the Club received a message from Chris Mannion, an Assistant Producer at ITV.

“ITV Studios in the UK are looking for British expats in Florida for a brand new show! Do you have family in the UK that you haven't seen in a long time? We want to hear from you!

Email [takepart@itv.com](mailto:takepart@itv.com) for more info. Entry terms and conditions will apply.”

Let me know if you'd like any more info!

Many thanks,

**Chris Mannion** [chris.mannion@itv.com](mailto:chris.mannion@itv.com)



## February Board Meeting Précis

The bank balance as of January 31st, 2017 was \$3,709.67. The number of members has risen to 199 (172 family and 27 singles).

**Old Business - Christmas Party** - discussion was held about the entertainment to be used; a decision needs to be made soon. The **Le Barge cruise** is booked for March 22nd. Racing Day outing at **Tampa Bay Downs** is scheduled for 2nd April

**New Business** - a **Murder Mystery** is still in the works - more information to follow. The Board is in contact with Doug Schuler regarding a **talk on bees** on May 19th. Discussion is ongoing about a **New Members' Tea**. Suggestions have also been put forward for a **Scavenger Hunt** and an outing to the **Polo Club**. These will be discussed again at the March meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 9th March at Village des Pins Clubhouse.

Submitted by **Sally Scott**

**R**eminder The Club's website [www.sarasotabritishclub.com](http://www.sarasotabritishclub.com) is our primary means of attracting potential new members. We look to current members to be our ambassadors familiar with our message and sharing it with those who might be interested in joining. Thank you.

Under 'Events' on the menu you can find the current newsletter and the newsletter archive.

## Sarasota Ballet Backstage Tour

**T**en Club members and one guest participated in a backstage experience on St. Valentines Day, February 14 at the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts. We were welcomed by the Yorkshire born Ballet Director, Iain Webb, who shared insights into the unique world of ballet accompanied by his personal collection of mementos validating his British heritage. The tour highlight was a stop in Studio 1 where we were charmed by the warm words of greeting from the Ballet Master while the dance ensemble in colorful warm-ups stepped through their adagio movements. Added insights were formed in the maze of studios and hallways where racks and towers of colorful tutus and piles of toe shoes at \$100 a pair are stored (performers are known to go through three pairs per performance!). An encounter with the Head of Wardrobe at his work station provided a glimpse into his stunning array of garments, sewing machines, scissors, threads and boxes of costume trinkets and accessories. A visit to the Education Department revealed a series of 'all-ages' programs for three year olds to adults with a particular emphasis on the Dance Next Generation program, which offers a 10 year long study of dance for at-risk local students. Upon successful high school graduation full scholarships to near-by higher education institutions are offered.

The tour concluded with a brief visit to the adjoining Asolo Repertory Theatre followed by a delightful lunch at the Muse Restaurant.

Mark Malkasian 2/15/'17



## Photos from January's Friday Lunch at Flavors of India.

Thanks to Doug Schuler.



## Sad News

**B**orn in Brooklyn on March 3, 1932, Edwin Solomon was especially proud of his English roots. His Grandfather had owned a lemonade company in London and after serving in the Signal Corps, his father emigrated to New York. There, he met Ed's mother, whose family emigrated from Russia when she was just eight months old.



Ed, as he was known by all, had worked in several professions over the years and became a self-made millionaire. He was a buyer for his parents' drug store, owned 2 dress shops with his brother and was a chauffeur for Tina Louise (of Gilligan's Island) and her father. He visited the Apollo Theatre every Saturday, where he saw Pearl Bailey and Marilyn Munroe when she was married to Jo DiMaggio. Ed met other artists at a restaurant next to the Apollo, which was owned by his friend's parents.

Along with other performers, he managed Bill Monroe, who created the style of music known as bluegrass. He knew Lead Belly, Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie and many other artists personally; and was a country and bluegrass radio announcer for stations in the south-central region of the U.S.

He was there in Washington Square Park when Bob Dylan sold the song "Blowing In The Wind" to Peter, Paul and Mary. He was there when Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra surprised Sammy Davis Jr. on stage and he attended the funeral of Paul Robeson.

In addition to bluegrass and folk music, Ed also loved the classics. Mozart, Beethoven and Bach were his favourite classical composers and although he didn't like the music of Dmitri Shostakovich very much, he did get to meet the Russian pianist and composer at a party.

He was a very kind and interesting man and his passion for music led him to all seven continents more than once in search of it. In fact, music was what led him to me. He wanted to attend the Eisteddfod but his previous travel agent had no idea where it was and since he spoke with me often at Club events, he asked me to assist him. It took a plane, two trains, a bus ride and a lift from the bus stop by the hotel owner, but he attended and had a wonderful time. Since then, he had become a treasured client and friend.

Ed kept in constant contact with his British family and visited family members throughout England whenever there was a Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah or any special occasion. He would always say to people he met, "I don't play golf so I spend my money on travel" and so he spent his life doing what he loved best, traveling and listening to music.

He will be missed by many.

*Sioux Faragher-Hurley*

## Kayak Trip on Siesta Key

**O**ur next silent water adventure is scheduled for **Monday, March 27, 2017** from the launch point at Turtle Beach Park at 8919 Midnight Pass Rd. on South Siesta Key

**Arrival time** is not later than **8:30AM**; **Launch time** is **9AM**.

**Directions:** from Rt 41 in Sarasota take Stickney Point Rd heading west toward Siesta Key // cross over the waterway bridge // at the signal light turn left onto Midnight Pass Rd // travel 2.5 miles to Turtle Beach Road and turn right // proceed a short distance to Blind Pass Rd // turn left and see the launch point to your left on the water off the dirt lot // park on either side of Blind Pass Rd and walk to the launch point.

**The Tour** is a three-hour trip around the Neville Wildlife Preserve on Little Sarasota Bay. Unlike our prior kayak trips we will not have benefit of our usual guide with the American Littoral Society. This trip is booked with a well-established, local, commercial outfitter that supplies all the necessary equipment but no guide. Check out <http://www.siestakeybikeandkayak.com/kayak-rentals-siesta-key-fl.html>.

**NOTICE.** This will be a self-guided tour but I will be with you all the way — laminated map in hand. I will not have a waiver form for participants to sign, and I will not assume responsibility for skill levels or situations and conditions on the water.

**Restrooms** are not available during the trip although we will have one leg stretch stop.

**Seat Availability:** 14 boats are available in any combination of singles or doubles. Since our initial announcement of this event in January we have had nine kayaks booked leaving five kayaks in whatever combinations of sizes to fill out our fleet.

**Bring** your own personal protection gear e.g. water, sun screen, headgear, wet-water foot wear and snacks etc. and also bring **\$28** in **cash** for each single sit-on-top kayak or **\$40** for each double sit-on-top kayak. Checks or credit cards bump fees up to **\$29.96** and **\$42.80** respectively. No payments are to be sent to SBC or the Event Coordinator (EC), Mark Malkasian. **Lunch** is planned at Turtle's Restaurant (<http://www.turtlesrestaurant.com>) directly opposite your turn onto Turtle Beach Road. Reservations will be made if you indicate you wish to join us.

Please contact the EC via [marqmalk@gmail.com](mailto:marqmalk@gmail.com) or phone 445-2890 to book your kayak preference, your seat at lunch and/or if you have questions.

**Booking deadline is Monday, March 20.**

Mark Malkasian 2/8/17

## President's Welcome Party on February 12th.

Thanks to Sally Scott for the photos on Pages 6 and 7.

A link to more photos is on Page 3





**Exchange Rates from Moneycorp.com  
on 28th Feb.**

From	To	Rate
 GBP	 USD	1.2415
 EUR	 USD	1.0588

**D**on't forget that the Sarasota British Club is on Facebook. The Club's logo is the profile picture.

Check out the numerous photos from recent events. Why not 'friend' us for another way of keeping in touch with the Club and its members. Why not add your event photos to the 'wall'.



**Board of Directors (1/1/'17)**

President	Jane Jacobs	847-370-2811	jane60010@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Treasurer	Paul Wilkinson	410-990-4698	pwilkinson18@comcast.net
Secretary	Sally Scott	379-3757	sallyscott@verizon.net
Membership Chair	Ivan Gould	323 9655	ivangould@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Brian Thompson	388-8018	lakewood2@gmail.com
Website Liaison	Mark Malkasian	445-2890	mdmalk@icloud.com
Director at Large 1	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcupatea1@yahoo.com
Director at Large 2	Sharon Gould	323 9357	sharon.gould@floridamoves.com
Director at Large 3	Diana Wilkinson	410-990-4698	dwilkinson18@comcast.net

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