



Kiwaniis[®]

CAREFREE

CLUB CONNECTION



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER

KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

MARCH 2025

A Message from our Executive Director Sandra Carrier

Did you know that you can find our monthly Club and Foundation financial reports in MemberDay? The monthly Club and Foundation reports are uploaded for you to review!

**LOG INTO MEMBERDAY AND DOUBLE CLICK
→ FILES → 2024.2025 → FINANCIAL REPORTS CLUB
AND FOUNDATION**

The Club and Foundation recently completed the Annual Club Financial Review and Foundation Audit! Each year we engage with a local Board-approved CPA firm to review the financial statements prepared by our bookkeeper as well as review our internal controls as it relates to operations, policies, and procedures. Several test samples were pulled to review our committee check requests, credit card and banking transactions for documentation and approval accuracy. No formal findings were found!

Congratulations to all who contributed to our annual audit of 2023/2024!

FOR ALL THE DETAILS LOG INTO MEMBERDAY AND DOUBLE CLICK:

→ FILES → 2024.2025 → CLUB REVIEW (AUDIT) 2023.2024

→ FILES → 2024.2025 → FOUNDATION AUDIT 2023.2024

March MEETINGS

Be There!

March 5 - David Schomaker,
Saguaro Camp Cedarbrook

March 12 - Rebecca Swille,
AZ Friends of Foster Children
Foundation

March 19 - Riley Jandrew,
Key Club Administration

March 26 - Club Business

*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*



MemberDay

CLICK HERE

Committee Highlights

PANCAKE BREAKFAST COMMITTEE

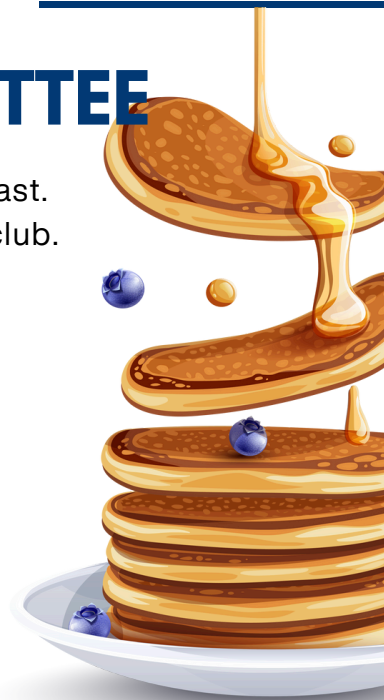
This is a subcommittee of Hospitality, focusing solely on the Pancake Breakfast. The Pancake Breakfast is a great community event and a fundraiser for our club.

Committee Chair: Barb Pearse

Committee Members: Cam Kuniej, Darrell Doepke, Ed Edling, Geno Orrico, John Dionne, Joyce Jordan, Linda Wright, Roy Colosmio, and Jeffrey Zorn

These are some of the elements of the pancake breakfast committee

- Arranging the date with the Town of Carefree
- Recruiting & scheduling volunteers to work at the breakfast
- Ensuring permits have been ordered and in place
- Ordering all supplies including food, beverages, paper goods
- Printing/mailling tickets to membership



Its a fun time to coordinate this once a year event that is so crucial to our community and our club.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

This is an ongoing committee with the purpose of engaging the community with our Club. The Committee will meet on a monthly basis to review and approve expenditures for the best and most effective possible way to engage the community.

Committee Chair: Sandra Carrier

Committee Members: Darlene Carter, Chris Contino, Ed Edling, Cam Kuniej, and Linda Wright

Upcoming Events:

- Cave Creek Rodeo Parade - Saturday, March 22nd
- Cave Creek Rodeo Mutton Bustin' - Sunday, March 23rd

Other events we typically participate in:

- YMCA Family Fun Day
- Senior Resource Fair at the Holland Center
- Veterans Day Coffee at Sanderson Pavilion
- Chamber Events
- Harold's OktoberFest
- Spirit in the Desert Awareness
- Scully Learning Center Events
- Taste of Cave Creek
- YMCA Trunk or Treat



**WANT TO JOIN? WANT TO LEARN MORE?
GO TO MEMBERDAY TO CONTACT THE COMMITTEE CHAIR.**

[CLICK HERE](#)

In case you missed



MIKE POPPENWIMER
CAVE CREEK RODEO DAYS
February 12



DR. OWEN CAMPBELL
SIMPLY MOTION PHYSICAL THERAPY
February 19



ALEX PEREZ
KIWANIS MARKETPLACE
February 26

Say Cheese!



Welcome New Members!

We are thrilled to welcome our newest members to our gang! We look forward to working together, building friendships, and making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Welcome to our Kiwanis family!



MARK WEIDHAAS



PENNY NICHOLS



DANIEL STONE



VISITING KIWANIANs

Sandra's friends and fellow Kiwanians visited us from West Palm Beach, Florida!

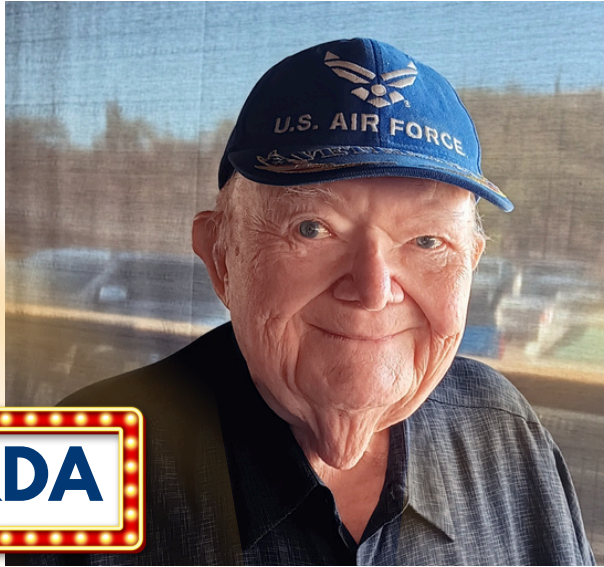
**50/50
WINNERS**

SANDRA CARRIER
Feb 5
\$118 Winner

JEFFREY ZORN
Feb 19
\$172 Winner

We draw a winner each week but you must be present to win!!

Member Spotlight



JOHN SKARDA

John Skarda was born and raised on the 20-acre “family compound” well outside of Omaha, Nebraska. A number of family members were involved in the local stockyards and he would join them on key cattle sorting missions as a teen. This association and experience with cattle and pigs stockyards would play a part in his career later in life.

John graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1957 with a degree in Industrial Engineering and a commission as a Lieutenant USAF. He had hoped to be a pilot, but the Air Force did not need any more pilots soon after the Korean military event, so he trained in “supply”. When he arrived in Japan at Ashiya Air Base, they did not need any more supply officers, so with his Industrial Engineering degree, he was offered a position of Assistant Base Engineering Officer, responsible for overseeing all new construction and maintenance projects.

After his military service, John embarked on a career in the Engineering Department of Northern Natural Gas’s Omaha headquarters, where he specialized in cost estimating for new construction projects. Later, he joined Tower Communications, where he played a pivotal role in selling and supervising the installation of microwave tower structures used in television and radio broadcasting across the Southeast and Western USA.

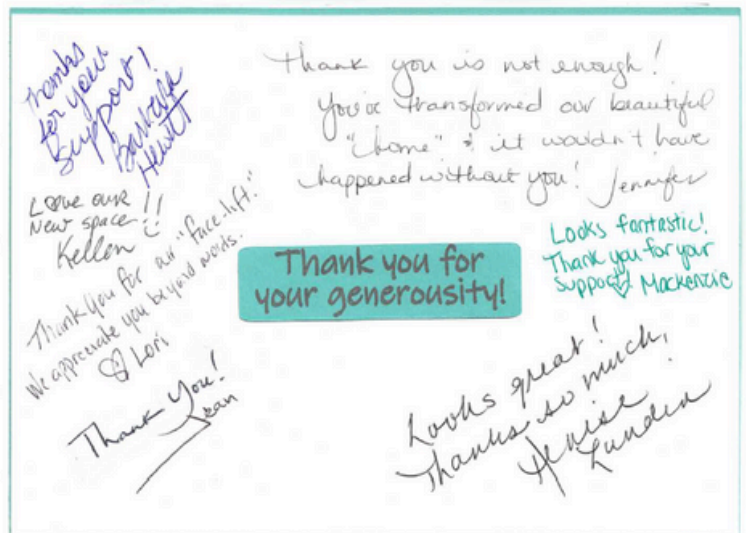
In 1963, John married Darlene Upmann, and together, they founded Skarda Equipment Co., Inc. in 1969. The company’s primary focus was on the sale of engineered industrial, pneumatic, and hydraulic equipment designed for industrial production. A significant part of their business was in the stockyards and large meat processing facilities. Over the years, Skarda Equipment Co., Inc. grew to employ 45 individuals and generated annual sales of \$25 million before its sale in 2022. John and Darlene are blessed with three children and seven grandchildren.

In 1998, John demonstrated his commitment to community service by joining the Carefree Kiwanis organization. This was back long before the Marketplace, when Kiwanis would only hold quarterly sales out of the Carefree warehouse. He also had a key role in surveying other “donation/resale” businesses statewide and he was instrumental in providing some of the financial analysis recommendations toward the decision-making to buy the Marketplace facility.

He has since dedicated himself to having served on the Kiwanis board for three terms, actively participating in various club committees, including; Funds Request, luncheon speakers, yearbook production, road pickup, STEM initiatives, Salvation Army activities, nominating committees financial planning and budgeting, and fundraising efforts.

A Special Thank you!

THE HOLLAND CENTER



From the Board & Staff -

You've helped us refresh and renew,
Our lobby now shines, thanks to you!
Carpet and furniture, cozy and bright,
You've made The Holland Center a true delight.

Kiwanis, your impact goes beyond the floor -
You've opened wide our community's door.
With gratitude from all of our hearts,
Thank you for giving us this wonderful new start!

Thank you so much for your generosity & brightness to our lives & the lives of so many in our community! Sharon

Frankie!!
Im Sule
Gretchen!
Eric Martin



REIGNING GRACE RANCH

A big thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Carefree for their incredible generosity in sponsoring 18 students in our Equine Programming at Reigning Grace Ranch!

Because of their support, these students will have the chance to experience healing, growth, and the life-changing bond between horse and human.

Community partnerships like this truly make a difference! Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us light the way for a brighter future!

18 CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS 12-WEEK PROGRAM

In the Community

IMPROV DESERT FOOTHILLS THEATER

January 31

It was a night of levity as President Cam took the stage for IMPROV, a fundraiser for the Desert Foothills Theater.



K-KIDS AT HORSESHOE TRAILS

The K-Kids at Horseshoe Trails, with the help of Gordon, were spreading the love to all of the teachers, making special Valentine's Day cards for each of them! We LOVE all of those smiling faces!



CAVE CREEK RODEO DAYS

Sandra was proud to accept an award from Cave Creek Rodeo Days for sponsoring Mutton Bustin'. Save the date- Sunday, March 23!! Come watch the kids hold on to the wooly bully!! Always a fun community event!



In the Community



CAREFREE CAVE CREEK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Such a huge milestone and Sandra was able to celebrate with other Kiwanians, Chamber Members, and the Community!



DESERT FOOTHILLS YMCA

Summer is coming and we are proud to support the Desert Foothills YMCA and fund their summer swimming lessons and summer camp for kids! Club member Cheryl B had the pleasure of delivering two checks to the Executive Director of our local YMCA, Chris Hart. We look forward to seeing the smiles on the many kids in our community who will benefit from these programs!





CAVE CREEK RODEO DAYS

MUTTON BUSTIN'

SPONSORED BY



Kiwanis
CAREFREE

**SUNDAY
MARCH 23
2 PM**

**CAVE CREEK MEMORIAL ARENA
37201 N 28TH STREET
CAVE CREEK
CAVECREEKRODEO.COM**



FREE FAMILY FUN

We will be handing out
water and popcorn!

HIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

Invite your family and friends to join in this community event and fundraiser for our club!

KIWANIS PANCAKE BREAKFAST



*All you
can eat!*

**SATURDAY
APRIL 12
7 am - 12 pm**

Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion
on Easy Street in Carefree



For the kids

KiwanisCarefree.org

Happy Birthday

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

10th - Keith McKenzie
15th - Hans Thiele
17th - Rodney Lewallen
28th - David Bell
28th - Bernadette Graham

JOIN US!

MARCH 22

CAVE CREEK RODEO DAYS PARADE!

Meet at the Marketplace at 7 am to
decorate the float and ride along!



SEND YOUR PICTURES TO
COMMUNICATIONS@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG
WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THEM!

GUEST SPEAKERS

★ **WANTED** ★

If you know of someone who would
be a great speaker at a luncheon
email Darlene Carter!

ADMINISTRATION@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG



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