



# The SCOOP!

Newsletter of the North River Shores Community

Volume XXXVI, No.1

January/February 2011

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## 2011 NRSPOA Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Tom Lusty .....	President
	<i>The SCOOP</i> Editor
Hal Halliburton .....	V.P., Boat Ramp
	Deed Restrictions
Mike Edwards .....	Treasurer
	Finance & Budget
	Insurance Liaison
Jan Stoorza .....	Secretary
Mary Rose Bressman .....	Social Committee
Colleen Patterson.....	Government
	& Public Relations
Chuck Romano .....	Maintenance
	Special Projects, Dredging
Sean Fenniman .....	Nominating
Jeff Duckworth.....	Membership
	Covenants Sign-up
	Communications Monitor

2011 Board meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the following months: January, February, March, May, June, September and October. The Annual Membership meeting will be on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. All meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church on Pine Lake Drive. NRSPOA members may attend with approval from the Board. Any member in good standing (all assessments paid) wishing to address the Board should call 692-3939 and leave a message no later than noon on Friday before the next scheduled meeting. Schedule changes are posted on our web site: www.northrivershoresfl.org. NRSPOA, Inc. does not have a physical office, but may be reached at 692-3939, which is both a voice and fax number.

The SCOOP is published six times a year by the North River Shores Property Owners' Association, Inc. Submissions can be sent to Tom Lusty at acabonactom@aol.com.

## NRSPOA Minutes of Annual Meeting

By Jan Stoorza, 2010 Secretary, NRSPOA

**N**RSPPOA President Tom Lusty called the Annual Meeting, held at the First Presbyterian Church of Stuart on November 17, 2010, to order at 7:02 p.m., welcoming all in attendance. He introduced Dr. Chuck Denison, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Stuart, who gave the Invocation. Tom then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Stating that the meeting's objective was to conduct the Association's Annual Business in preparation for FY 2011, Tom summarized the Rules of Order for members wishing to address the meeting.

Reminding the membership that service on the Board is voluntary, he advised that the number of monthly meetings has been cut from twelve to eight, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending before 9:00 p.m. POA members were encouraged to consider serving on future Boards.

Tom then introduced the members of the Board, along with their various Committee assignments: Mary Rose Bressman (Social), Mike Edwards, Treasurer (Finance/Budget & Insurance), Sean Fenniman (Nominating Committee and backup for Finance/Budget & Insurance), Hal Halliburton, Vice President (Deed Restrictions/Legal Activity), Colleen Patterson (Government & Public Relations), Jeff Duckworth (Membership & Sign-Up), and Chuck Romano (Maintenance/ Special Projects & Dredging/Boat Ramp

Facilities). Jan Stoorza serves as Board Secretary.

There were no questions for Mike Edwards about the proposed 2011 Budget.

Hal Halliburton reported a quiet year with only a few requests for variances, all of which were approved. He stated that in looking over the neighborhood, North River Shores has weathered the downturn better than many areas. He welcomed volunteers who might work with him on his Deed Restrictions Committee.

A number of questions arose for Colleen Patterson in connection with Phase I of the Martin County sewer project. She reported that the target date for completion of Phase I is February 1st, 2011. A subcontractor is currently working on sod replacement, and anyone with problems is encouraged to speak with him directly. If there are problems related to pipe and groundwork, a supervisor named Travis is the appropriate contact. We are told a walk-through will be conducted to check each property. One resident had been assured that funds had been included in the project budget to provide road resurfacing. Phil Keathley (223-7977) is the Martin County official to contact. While home hookup is mandatory, residents have one year from the February 1, 2011 completion date to do so. There

*NRSPOA Minutes of Annual Meeting,  
continued on page 8.*

# NRS Social Events Well-Attended, A Huge Success!

By Mary Rose Bressman

Marian and Jeff Duckworth were busy in December, hosting two neighborhood social events at their beautifully decorated home; I am very grateful to them. The neighborhood children were thrilled to meet Santa in their yard and pass along their Christmas wish-lists to him. The NRSPOA Cookie Exchange was well attended, and we enjoyed sampling some truly delicious cookies and visiting with our neighbors.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the people who helped make this year's NRSPOA Snowstorm such a huge success! I could not have done it alone. What a wonderful tradition this has become! I love knowing our children will have lifelong fond memories of these parties and the neighborhood they grew up in. There are no scheduled upcoming social events but I appreciate your suggestions. So, let me know what kind of events you would like to participate in. Thank you!



## SEPTIC PROBLEMS?

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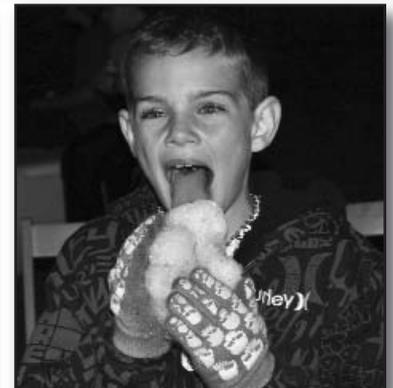
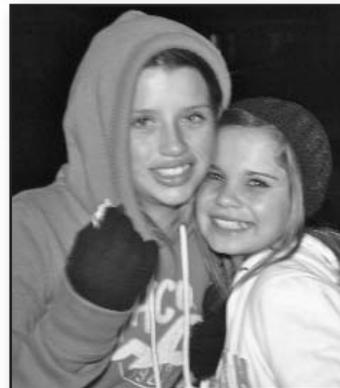


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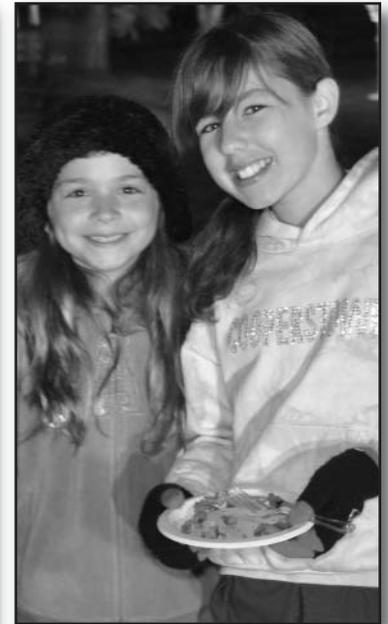
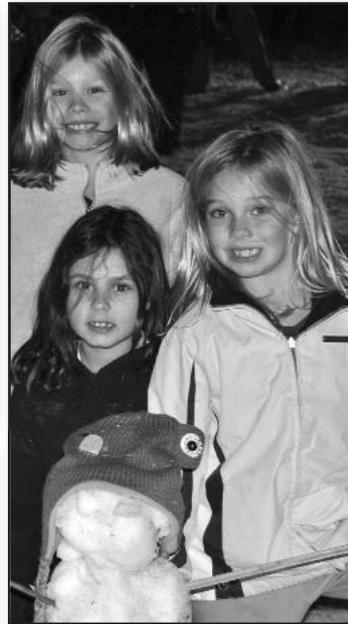
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# Beautification and Maintenance Update

By Chuck Romano

We managed to get all our mangroves and parks trimmed just before the first freeze. Hopefully, by the time you receive this Scoop, there will be no other freezes to talk about or deal with for this winter season. After surveying all our parks following the freeze, we noted the normal and expected damage. Unfortunately we were unable to cover any plants or young trees because of the scope of that effort. Like many neighbors, we'll just have to let time reveal the extent of damage. We have been advised not to rush to trim brown fronds or branches until the growing season starts. This approach serves two purposes, even though it might look unsightly. The first is to allow the tree or shrub to sprout new growth, so don't cut back unnecessarily. You'll actually be able to determine where the damage stops. The second reason for leaving the brown fronds on is for protection in the event of a hard third freeze. Our final assessment will show us which plants survived and which have to be replaced. We know your yard and our parks don't look like you'd like them to look, but it's the best approach. We'll all have our share of regular yard work and trimming in a very short time.

## Captain Kevin's Fishing Report

By Captain Kevin Drennan

*Captain Drennan has been a member of the NRSPOA for over ten years. Call him for inshore or offshore fishing trips at 692-9831.*

*The sail fish bite continues to sizzle as each tournament in the area produces record-setting numbers of fish released. Plenty of dolphin and some blackfin tuna are being caught in good numbers. Just south of the St. Lucie Inlet, the mackerel and blue fish bite continues to bend rods. We had fish on every cast using green glass minnow lures. We had one mackerel swung into the boat that had a bluefish clamped halfway up its body.*

*But the best news of the past couple of weeks has been the return of the pompano. We fished Doc's goofy jigs just off the surf south of Bathtub Beach, and boated some decent sized pompano and whiting. This spot is better on the incoming tide and shuts down on the outgoing tide. Pompano are also being caught around the Stuart Causeway Bridge and the Sailfish flats near the beginning of the outgoing tide. Plenty of jacks and lady fish are also in the mix. Hopefully the cold fronts that we have been going through will decrease and let the water temperature stay around the mid sixties. When it goes below sixty degrees, a lot of the fish seek warmer waters.*



## Setting The Standard

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## Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Desperately Needed!

Please agree to donate about 1 hour, one evening a month to help Your Neighborhood Watch.  
Call Jerry Felton at 692-2729 to sign up.

# Recognizing Community Contributors — 2011

The NRSPOA Board established three gift categories to allow all NRS residents, whether members of the Association or not, to contribute towards the maintenance of our beautiful community. These donations are kept in a special fund used exclusively for the upkeep and improvement of our common areas – parks, entrance sign, plantings and boat ramp. We like to recognize all donors in *The SCOOP*.

If you wish to help keep North River Shores an attractive place to live, please make your checks payable to NRSPOA, Inc. and mail to: NRSPOA, Inc., c/o The Rizzolo Group, 1958 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.

Our thanks and appreciation to the following persons:

**Silver Status:** Non-members who gift an amount equal to the NRSPOA annual membership fee (currently \$175). All NRSPOA members and non-member boat ramp users who have paid their dues are automatically Silver Status.

Mark and Maggie Beatty  
William Martin  
Len and Dawn Morgan  
Lanning and Jane Fox

Pfeiffer Trowbridge  
Robert & Susan Johnson  
Mark & Jennifer Feltman  
Bobby Ray Farmer, Jr.

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**Gold Status:** Any NRS property owner gifting \$100 to \$199 above the amount of the annual membership fee.

**Platinum Status:** Any NRS property owner gifting \$200 or more above the amount of the annual fee.

Norman and Marilyn Freeman

Jeanne and Jeffrey Price

## Community Classifieds

**WANTED: 3/2/2 with pool under \$300k for good friends - Debra Parker, Broker 772-260-3090**



**FOR SALE: 1808 NW Palmetto Terrace, North River Shores, Stuart, FL 34994. 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, 2-car GA, Pool, 3900 Sq. Ft. 772-708-9641 or 772-708-0510.**



**Babysitting by Avery Elizabeth — JBHS junior & Red Cross certified/instructor. Resume and references. 692-4582**



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# Neighborhood Watch

By Jerry Felton & Gary Hawken



The good news from the Sheriff's Department is that with the cooler weather, the number of beach thefts has dropped dramatically. Unfortunately, they reported at a recent meeting with community liaisons, thefts shift indoors with the seasonal changes. Deputies urged citizens to be alert

and avoid providing easy opportunities for loss.

Merchants in particular, they said, should be aware of situations where one or more person distracts attention while another steals items. The deputies gave good common sense advice: Never let a stranger in your house for any reason, and business owners should make sure valuables are adequately secured.

The Martin County Sheriff's office conducts periodic, one-day Citizens Academy program. Open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, the program allows any interested person to spend a day learning about each department in the Sheriff's office. The next two dates are February 23rd and May 18th. The sessions are held at the Martin County Sheriff's Office training room at 800 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, and last from 8 AM until 4:30 PM. Bring a box lunch as there are presentations during the lunch hour. You can download an application at: [www.sheriff.martin.fl.us/2010/pdf/CitAcadApp10.pdf](http://www.sheriff.martin.fl.us/2010/pdf/CitAcadApp10.pdf). Mail the completed form to Laura Passanesi, MCSO, 800 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL. 34994 or FAX 772-220-7159. A recent article in The Stuart News reported the use of synthetic marijuana on the Treasure Coast. Martin County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Mark Middleton said in the article that he was not aware of the product showing up in Martin County stores. But he cautioned that availability in neighboring counties meant the substance could have an impact here. The product is marketed as incense under a variety of names, including Spice. The Drug Enforcement Administration announced in November a one-year ban of the product, which should go into effect shortly.

As always, Neighborhood Watch is looking for volunteers to patrol our neighborhood for about an hour each month. In December, the lighted Christmas decorations were a bonus. Give Jerry Felton a call at 692-2729 and help out with this very important function.

## Support Your Local Advertiser

By Tom Lusty

The North River Shores Property Owner's Association (NRSPOA) is very fortunate to have a number of local businesses that think it is a good business decision to advertise their services in *The SCOOP*. *The SCOOP* is mailed bi-monthly to about 500 NRS property owners (NRSPOA members and non-members).

The Board of the NRSPOA does not wish to make a profit from advertising placed in *The SCOOP*. We are simply hoping to offset costs of paper, printing and postage. All the work required to design, layout, edit and publish *The SCOOP* is donated, FREE, by a few of your neighbors who are NRSPOA members. Please take the time to thank this year's *SCOOP* team: Trish Littman and Deanna Thurlow.

Also, please patronize our advertisers. Many of them are our neighbors too. Their advertising dollars significantly reduce the costs associated with publishing *The SCOOP*. When you buy their products please remember to tell them you did so because you saw their ad in *The SCOOP*.

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ACTUALS COMPARED TO BUDGET**

	<b>2010 ACTUALS</b>	<b>2010 BUDGET</b>	<b>Difference \$</b>	<b>Difference %</b>
<b>INCOME (Sources of Funds):</b>				
Assessments - Membership	\$ 64,825	\$ 66,550	\$ (1,725)	97%
Advertising	\$ 5,904	\$ 5,400	\$ 504	109%
Late Fees	\$ 1,856	\$ 1,050	\$ 806	
Interest Earned	\$ 1,637	\$ 2,375	\$ (738)	69%
Ramp Key Fees	\$ 215	\$ 50	\$ 165	HI
Donations	\$ 2,650	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,050	HI
Other Income	\$ 6,105	\$ 8,500	\$ (2,395)	72%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 83,191</b>	<b>\$ 85,525</b>	<b>\$ (2,334)</b>	<b>97%</b>

**EXPENSES (Uses of Funds):**

Administration	\$ 17,199	\$ 13,500	\$ 3,699	127%
Deed Restriction Management	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ (2,000)	0%
Legal & Professional	\$ 17,145	\$ 12,000	\$ 5,145	143%
Newsletter - Scoop	\$ 4,995	\$ 4,600	\$ 395	109%
Membership	\$ 187	\$ 2,500	\$ (2,313)	7%
Insurance	\$ 7,526	\$ 7,200	\$ 326	105%
Office Supplies	\$ 708	\$ 500	\$ 208	142%
Social Committee	\$ 2,346	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,654)	47%
Rent	\$ 597	\$ 550	\$ 47	109%
Electric	\$ 230	\$ 200	\$ 30	115%
Water	\$ 977	\$ 900	\$ 77	109%
Phone	\$ 1,413	\$ 1,400	\$ 13	101%
Common Area Maint. & Imp.	\$ 9,643	\$ 11,000	\$ (1,357)	88%
Ramp Keys	\$ 173	\$ 200	\$ (27)	
Signs & Benches	\$ 99	\$ 750	\$ (651)	
Boat Ramp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Lawn Service	\$ 12,315	\$ 14,000	\$ (1,685)	88%
Miscellaneous	\$ (2)	\$ 1,225	\$ (1,227)	0%
Boat Ramp Facilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Parks & Front Entrance	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ (0)	100%
Nowsaw Dredging*	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ (0)	100%
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 83,552</b>	<b>\$ 85,525</b>	<b>\$ (1,973)</b>	<b>98%</b>
			-	
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (360.61)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (360.61)</b>	

Administration and Legal/Professional line items have come in over budget. This is due to the continued effort to force compliance with regard to POA members who have refused to pay their assessments as well as a slight expansion by the Board of administrative required services. Overall, however, the Association has come in under budget by \$1,973. This is due to less than expected expenditures in several other line items such as Membership, Social Committee and Maintenance.

*NRSPOA Minutes of Annual Meeting,*  
*continued from page 1.*

is little solid information on plans for Phase II; however, we understand the County does not have the funds to proceed at this time and it is unlikely further action will take place without grant funds.

The next issue of *The SCOOP* will include an article regarding three plumbing contractors, who are licensed and insured, who have agreed to provide special rates for NRSPOA members. The price break will require neighbors grouping together. As Jeff Duckworth noted, this information is not a recommendation nor an endorsement of these businesses, and individuals will need to get quotes based on various factors, including whether they want a general contractor to complete the entire job--or individual small businesses to deal with the various aspects.

It was explained that the grant application submitted by Glen Gareau which would have enabled NRS residents to convert septic tanks to hold rainwater for landscaping was not approved.

Jeff Duckworth elaborated on his role as Membership Chairman, calling attention to the information packets he has prepared for prospective POA members. He encouraged members to distribute them to anyone considering the purchase of a home in NRS. He plans to further develop a Merchant Discount Program for NRSPOA members, and asked for volunteers to help with this project. He believes it would be another benefit to encourage prospective members. He thanked Lynn Bateman for her continuing efforts as the NRS phone monitor.

The question was raised as to why non-POA members pay a boat ramp fee that is equal to the POA annual fee — why not a higher fee for non-members? Sean Fenniman replied all of the park properties are deeded for the use of all property owners, so it would be unfair to charge them more.

Chuck Romano reported that at last year's meeting the membership was apprised of the Board's vision for improving our neighborhood — and he was very proud of the results to date. The last issue of *The SCOOP* contained pictures of the various landscaping and hardscape improvements, including pavers, benches and flower containers. A number of volunteers contribute to these continuing efforts, and Chuck thanked them for their participation. One visionary volunteer, however, deserves great credit — and Suzy DiBartolo was presented with an engraved wooden jewelry box in recognition of her many hours of dedicated effort.



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The issue of problems for boaters in various canals since the hurricanes and the possibility for further dredging was raised. Dana Small is the engineering expert who assisted residents Rick and Donna Woods with permitting, etc. for the boat ramp canal dredging, completed in 2009. Many residents understand that both Federal and State permits are required for dredging outside the mouth of the canals, and each canal is permitted separately. It was stated that for dredging outside the canal (at its mouth), the State wants to know how many yards are going to be removed and then monitors the project. Tom Lusty stated that the Board would address this issue further in the future.

Hans Schmid asked about timing for the County to do swales in NRS, but no one was familiar with this issue, which seems to be a County matter.

Tom Lusty, in his role as Editor of *The SCOOP*, called attention to the color added to the last issue and stated it would continue. He reported that advertising income covered all costs to print and mail 500 copies to all residents of NRS, and urged members to patronize advertisers. (Advertising in *The SCOOP* is a bargain, as our only goal is to break even.) He recognized and thanked Trish Littman for her editing help and Deanna Thurlow for her professional layout work, as well as the Board members and other residents who write articles for publication.

Tom recognized numerous other volunteers for their efforts to improve our community, including Suzy and Joe DiBartolo, Bud and Beau Woodruff, Jeff Duckworth, Pete Meier, Bob Wright — for their help with the landscape improvements; Lynn Bateman for her phone monitoring; Cathy Ellis, our official historian; Jim Rizzolo (liaison to our Web Master and head of our accounting firm and keeper of our data base); Bob Wright, the keeper of our boat ramp keys; and Fred and Jerry Felton who head up our Neighborhood Watch program, which is not a NRSPOA program but is staffed mostly by POA members. Tom stated that while the Neighborhood Watch program is an

important deterrant to crime, it also helps our property values hold up, and urged members to volunteer and get involved.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tom Lusty announced that the 2010 Annual Report, Year-End Financial Summary, and Minutes of this meeting will be published in the first 2011 *SCOOP*.

Mary Rose Bressman, Social Chair, urged members to attend the various social events planned for our community, which are advertised in *The SCOOP*, and for which she sends individual e-mailed invitations. She will also call individual residents if asked to do so. Another bigger, better SNOWSTORM event is planned for January 22, 2011 at the Park on Lakeside Trail. All ages will enjoy the festivities. She does, however, need volunteers to serve on her committee and assist with the Social plans. Two meetings of that Committee are scheduled for her home on December 9, 2010 and January 6th. Over the summer, the golf outing and lunch, together with the clown's program, were enjoyed by attendees. Holiday events are planned--both at the Duckworth residence on Pine Lake Drive. A "Meet Santa" photo opportunity will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 11 (bring your own camera, and any donations will go to Jensen Beach High School's Project Graduation). The annual Cookie Exchange will be held Monday, December 13, at 7 p.m. Participants are asked to bring three dozen cookies to trade. Snacks and drinks will be served. Tom Lusty added that the SNOWSTORM is a premier event. Many Florida children have never seen snow, and they had a ball last year, so spread the word.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee Chairman Sean Fenniman announced that three current Board members whose terms expire this year (Hal Halliburton, Tom Lusty, and himself) had all agreed to be nominated for re-election. He asked for any volunteers or nominations from the floor. Jon Gottschalk moved that the nominations be closed, and that the three Board members be re-elected by a unanimous vote. The motion was seconded and carried. (The ballots will still be counted.)

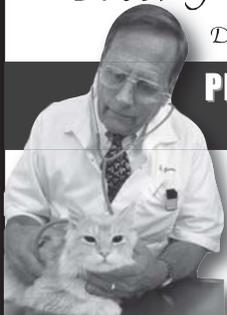
Tom Lusty advised the membership that ballots which had not been mailed in should be placed in the ballot box held by Jim Rizzolo, and that additional ballots were available if any had been misplaced by members.

The 2011 Budget is a separate ballot. Tom stated he was proud we had maintained the \$175 maintenance fee

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for another year. That fee has gone down from \$210 to \$185 to \$175.

Tom Lusty reported that the lawsuit brought by the group known as "NRS for Change" was dismissed by the judge based on the determination that it was beyond the Statute of Limitations. The matter is now a dead issue, and Tom plans to move the POA forward in a very positive way.

Jerry Felton, Neighborhood Watch coordinator, asked to address the members, and advised that this program is run by the Sheriff's Department, which holds a monthly meeting. That Department is also currently conducting a "Medicine Drop-Off Program" to enable citizens to dispose of unused and unwanted medications. In addition, the Sheriff's office conducts valuable Citizens Academy classes. Jerry urged POA members to volunteer for the Neighborhood Watch program, and Tom Lusty explained the process — advising that Jerry asks you for availability each month and fits the schedule to your needs. Those who patrol are advised not to become involved in a suspicious situation, but to call the Sheriff's office for action.

#### CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT:

President Tom Lusty thanked those in attendance for their participation and invited everyone to share in refreshments — as well as to volunteer their time to help in our community by serving on Committees. He wished everyone a happy Holiday Season. Gordon Craig moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Guy Bohner, and the motion carried unanimously.



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## The SCOOP 2011 Deadlines

Issue	Due Dates-Articles & Ads	Publish Dates
Mar/Apr	March 18	April 11
May/Jun	May 20	June 13
Jul/Aug	July 15	August 8
Sep/Oct	September 16	October 10
Nov/Dec	November 18	December 12

Any member in good standing is encouraged to submit an article — with pictures if possible — or announcements of community activities to: Tom Lusty, Editor, *The SCOOP*, at [acabonactom@aol.com](mailto:acabonactom@aol.com) or regular mail: 1759 NW River Trail, Stuart, FL 34994.

## NRS Social Events Keepin' It COOL!



*See inside The SCOOP  
for more highlights from  
our recent neighborhood events.*

### YEAR-ROUND TAX & ACCOUNTING SERVICES



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