

# President's Column

by David Campbell



*The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.*

—Mark Twain

Each year in February or March, Lana and I take a trip to Florida to temporarily escape the cold and snow. This year was no different, so during the second week of February we headed to Orlando to check out Epcot and play some cribbage. We arrived on a Wednesday and planned to go to Epcot on Thursday and find something else to do on Friday before the tournaments started on Saturday.

Normally, we arrive at Epcot near opening and stay the entire day to see the fireworks at night. This year we arrived at opening like always, but after eating the buffet in Germany (to get ideas for Oktoberfest, the theme of this year's Grand National in North Conway NH in October) and walking over eight miles we decided to call it a day just after 6p.

For the next few days my legs and other parts of my body felt the pain of my decision to wear sandals to Epcot. So, the plan of doing something else fun

on Friday vanished.

Saturday morning, we arrived at the tournament and saw the usual Floridians and other people who decided a warm break would be nice in the middle of February. We started playing, and on my table was a woman I didn't know. At lunch I had the opportunity to talk to her and found out her name was **Julie Mayo** and she was from Gorham, Maine. Gorham is a couple towns away from where I live, and as it turned out I was very good friends in high school with the son of one of her very good friends.

This was her first tournament ever, and the only reason she played was because yearly she came to Florida to visit a friend. But this year her friend had already signed up for the tourney, so Julie decided to play also.

What happened on Saturday was a wonderful sight. People were kind and very helpful to Julie throughout the day. I must admit that after talking to her it would be tough not to be nice to such a sweet woman. I am proud seeing what a great organization we were all lucky enough to join. **CW**

