

Picnic Rules to Simplify the Process

Because of park scheduling and catering issues, picnics will be held rain or shine, except in the event of named storms.

All checks are held until after the event in case there is a cancellation for an emergency (not inclement weather or an opportunity to go fishing – see new requirements below).

When sending in multiple reservations, you may use the same envelope; however, **SEPARATE CHECKS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH EVENT!** There is no limit to the number of attendees on each check; just keep the picnics separate for banking purposes. There will be a \$5 returned check fee if the host has to send you back a combined picnic check.

Cash payments without a properly filled out reservation form will only be accepted for the next upcoming picnic (correct change is encouraged). If you want to pay for three different picnics at Fish Tales with cash, you will need the properly filled out reservation forms.

All reservation forms and money must be in the host's hands by the deadline (just like the banks); postmarks don't mean a thing. A \$3 late fee per person is charged for late submissions. Marco to Marco mail goes through either Ft. Myers or St. Petersburg and usually takes 3 days. The Post Office only guarantees first class delivery in 5 days.

DO NOT DROP OFF A CHECK IN THE MAILBOX! Unless there is a first class un-cancelled stamp on the envelope, it is **ILLEGAL** to put anything in the mailbox. The mailperson will pickup anything in the mailbox without looking at it, and your check will probably end up in the dead letter office.

“Walk-ins” (those making reservations the day of the picnic or showing up at gate unannounced) are discouraged and will be charged a \$5 “walk-in” fee in addition to the late fee (\$8 total) and will only be accommodated if there is sufficient food. There will be no walk-ins allowed at the Steak Cook-out.

Guests will pay a sur-charge of \$3 over the normal member charge. Since MSC has only family memberships, **both husband and wife are members.**

All penalties and guest surcharges are retained by the picnic fund in order to keep prices low for the members.

We do not maintain your check register. If you don't keep track of your checks, don't call the host to ask if you have sent a check for an event; your check probably hasn't been recorded yet. Just prior to the event, a list of those who have paid will be sent out by email.

Due to liability concerns, anyone climbing over the fence (Collier Blvd. or the County Beach Parking Lot) will be asked to leave the picnic and will not be given a refund.

Late Ads (NEW): If you want to sign up for the picnic after the deadline please call the host to make sure additional food can still be ordered. Do not just mail your check (see mail issues above).



Cancellations (NEW): If you wish to cancel before the deadline call the host AND record your cancellation with an email to his address on the flyer. Your cancellation will be official when you receive a confirmation email back from the host. Just leaving a voice mail, sending to the wrong email, or texting the host's land line doesn't count.

Picnic Tips

Due to limited seating under the chickee huts, bringing folding chairs and tables are encouraged. Veteran picnic-goers tend to cluster in groups with their own chairs.

If you can't find your name at check-in, have the check-in person check for other names you could have used. The sign-in sheet usually reflects the name that was on the check. Also, it is possible you had someone else pay for you and you are under their name.

Be careful of similar picnics in other clubs, e.g. MSC and Marco Men's Club both have St. Patrick's luncheons. If you plan to go to both, make sure you pay for both. If only going to one, go to the right one.

New members or new picnic attendees should identify themselves at check-in and at the beverage chickee in order to be introduced to other members.

Start time is always noon, beginning with a "social half-hour" with food serving **BEGINNING** around 12:30. Obviously if we're cooking steaks, everyone can't eat at the same time. The start time is approximate, depending on caterer delivery or efficiency of the cooking crew.

Anyone wishing to help out setting up can come around 11:00.

MICA requires that we take all garbage with us when we leave so therefore we have the following guidelines:

- Do not dump any liquids in the trash containers
- Use only those trash containers that have the "No Liquid" signs on them. We don't monitor the all trash containers in the park and don't want MICA finding our trash in other containers (Red Solo Cups are a giveaway it's ours).
- Please use the recyclable bins for cups, cans, water and ice tea bottles.
- Garbage to be taken home is double bagged in heavy duty black bags. If you see one by the exit, feel free to take it home and put in your trash. The picnics are on Wednesday so that you only need to have the garbage stored until you take it out to the curb for Thursday pick-up.
- The club and participants are bound by the current 27 MICA Rules and Regulations (and you thought MSC rules are restrictive). See separate attachment.

Please be courteous to the check-in crew; things get hectic with over 100 people trying to check in within a very short window. Settling of any payment disputes may have to be deferred until after everyone has checked in.

There is no set finish time, lasting until all fish tales have been exhausted (but no later than dark, when the gates are locked). If you will be staying after the beverage chickee shuts down, be alert for last call.