



# TaraNotes

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Spring Issue 2015

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear TaraNova Members:**

The mountains of snow have disappeared and the flowers are finally starting to bloom. The children are looking forward to the end of school and parents are wondering how to keep their little ones active. If you have not already made plans for the summer, call TaraNova for available reservations at the TaraNova resorts in Costa Rica and Florida or check out [rci.com](http://rci.com) for last minute vacations. See inside this issue for a sampling of RCI vacations and some helpful Travel Tips! While you enjoy the summer weather, now is a good time to look at your vacation plans for the winter months. Don't wait too long to reserve your week. The earlier you know when and where you would like to vacation, the greater the chance to confirm your desired week.

I would like to thank Mac and Velma Walker for arranging the TaraNova Social Gathering held in February. The members who attended the gathering enjoyed an evening of social interaction with other TaraNova members and helpful information about their membership. A special thanks to Rosanne Guanabara who represented the Club at the meeting. Rosanne was available to discuss different aspects of TaraNova and those attending expressed appreciation for her knowledge, expertise, advice and assistance.

As our members know, the Club is governed by a board comprised of TaraNova members. I would like to extend a thank you to the board for all their hard work. They volunteer their time and advice to ensure the continued viability of the Club.

Please keep sending your letters and e-mails to our office. Many of our members write asking us to assist them with their membership, from banking weeks to transferring names. They also share with us their reviews of our resorts and those visited through their RCI exchanges. Our customer service department is always happy to hear from our members and to answer any questions you may have with respect to your TaraNova membership. They look forward to assisting you with all your TaraNova vacation needs!

Regards, Teresa Knapp

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Any member in good standing may run for a position on the Board. Please contact Teresa Knapp if you would like information on the nomination for a position on the Board. John Brunt and Helmut Bayer have been re-elected by acclamation to serve on the board until June 2018.



Letters from Members

Congratulations **Judy and Bill Hyndman** the WINNERS of an RCI week!!! We love to hear from our members. Just mail, fax or e-mail telling us about your vacation. We will enter your name into the draw. You too may win a week into **your RCI account** courtesy of **TARANOVA!**

*Guest Certificates are now on Certificate Paper. Below is the response from one of our members with respect to the New Guest Certificate.*

*Dear Pam: Lovely! That's new :) It makes it so much more like a gift thank you!  
Best Regards,..... Mary-Ann*

Last month we enjoyed vacationing at TaraNova at Seawatch in Garden City SC and were grateful for restful surroundings and the help of the staff for all our needs. Thank you for your kind assistance..... Sincerely Anne

Hi Rosanne: Bill and I want to thank you so much for the time you spent with us on Tuesday. You, taking the time to help us see how we can get better value from our Tara Nova time share, was invaluable. Over the last few years we have wanted to get rid of our membership because of the many frustrations we have had not getting what locations and times we wanted. Now that you have explained the system and how it works we are excited to use this info to get what we want. You also made us feel so welcome to call back or drop in at any time if we needed more help. Thanks for being there to give us such great service. We look forward to speaking with you again.....Judy&Bill

Hi Mark, We truly enjoyed our visit to Costa Rica and to the Villas Palmas....We enjoyed all five Sol Tropical Tours that we participated in. Christian is an outstanding tour guide!....These are once-in-a-life-time pictures – because I do not intend to zip-line again. I am a grandmother! Please ask Christian to speak to the photographer on the zip-lining tour and have him send the pictures directly to my e-mail....Thanks again for the terrific tours! ..... Barbara & Gerome

Rosanne... Jill and I enjoyed the meeting and our thanks to Mac and Velma for making the arrangements. Jill and I felt we learned some valuable information from the meeting and look forward to our week in Attitash Mountain this September. We were a bit disappointed that we were not able to mix and mingle as much as we thought, but then again not having attended an evening such as this we had no idea what to expect. Your presence at the meeting was certainly beneficial and I would hope that if any additional socials are planned that you would be able to attend..... Jill & Walt

Buenos Mark, Thank you and Christian once again for ensuring we had the time of our lives the 1<sup>st</sup> week in Costa Rica. Each and every excursion exceeded our expectations. Even the river rafting was great so you picked a good company and guides there. Thank you kindly and we look forward to returning with the family someday soon. Take care.....Deborah & Calvin

## TARANOVA SOCIAL GATHERING



It was a pleasure to meet with TaraNova members, listen to their experiences and adventures, and to answer questions pertaining to their membership. There were many questions on how to best utilize the membership; how to get the best week for RCI exchange including advance banking of the week; reservations procedures; adding an adult child to the membership; upgrading memberships; and many other interesting tidbits of information.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please do not hesitate to contact me. By now, all of you should have received the "Special Offer to Members". Please contact me for any additional information at [rosanne@taranova.com](mailto:rosanne@taranova.com)

If you would like to attend or arrange a Social Gathering in your area, please contact Mac Walker at [macwalker33@gmail.com](mailto:macwalker33@gmail.com)

These gatherings are arranged by the members, for the members.

Let Mac know if you would be interested in attending a Summer Social Gathering!

## What is the best way to donate my TaraNova week to Charity?



What a lovely way to use your week! Occasionally we have members that are not able to use their week. Some have reserved a week at a TaraNova resort and then given it to their favourite charity to auction or use as an incentive for their charity benefit. The easiest way to provide a week for a donation is to confirm a week in one of our TaraNova Resorts. Then give it to your charity to auction. TaraNova will assist you in developing a certificate that may be given to the charity for their purposes. Once you have paid the guest

fee and provided us with the guest contact information, TaraNova will contact the guest directly to assist with their vacation accommodation. Check with your charity to see if they issue tax receipts for donated weeks. (TaraNova does not provide tax advice with respect to donations). You may want to have your week deposited and confirm a resort through RCI. The same process would be used, except RCI would issue the guest certificate and you would directly confirm the exchange with RCI.

Why not take advantage of RCI's on-line, on-the-spot availability and plan a vacation through RCI. The following are just a very few of the exciting travel destinations available through RCI exchanges. Remember to fill in the search exchange information in order for you to view the areas and resorts you may wish to explore.

For example: Try and keep your request as open and flexible as possible. If there are just 2 of you, a studio may do the trick, and if something larger is available, then even better! However, if 6 of you are travelling, we recommend you narrow your search to only those resorts that have availability for occupancy for 6. In some resort areas like Mexico, Dominican Republic and other Caribbean destinations, there are resorts that have mandatory or non-mandatory all-inclusive packages. Make sure to indicate if you have a preference before finally looking at the list of resorts available. The more you can define your must-have specific requirements, the easier it is to view the resorts that would be available to you. Remember to check how long your reservation will be held so you can secure flights, car rentals and confirm the number of people that will be travelling with you. You must confirm and pay the exchange fee before the end of the courtesy hold time or the reservation will be cancelled.

As you are aware, the availability of RCI exchanges may change at any moment.\* Reservations and new deposited inventory are continuously changing. As at noon April 28, 2015, RCI was reporting over 24,000 units were available world-wide for check-in between May 29, 2015 and August 30, 2015. Over 15,000 of those weeks were in silver or gold crown resorts. More than 1,000 were 2 bedroom with a maximum of "10" trade value.

Below is a very small sampling of inventory\* available all over the world. These are all 2 bedroom units, with a trade value required of "10" or less, with guest ratings of 4 stars, and most are Gold Crown resorts. There are many more available!\*

 [Summer Bay Orlando \(#3175\)](#)

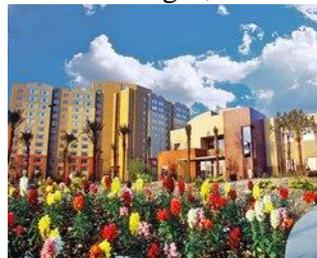
Clermont, FL 34714, USA 



Rating: ★★★★★

 [Grandview at Las Vegas \(#6923\)](#)

Las Vegas, NV 89183, USA 



Rating: ★★★★★

 [Breakers \(#2267\)](#)

Umhlanga Rocks, South Africa 4320 



Rating: 

 [Holiday Club Katinkulta \(#2247\)](#)

Vuokatti, FINLAND FI-88610, Finland 



Rating: 

 [SRC @ Ramada Plaza Yantai \(#A525\)](#)

Yantai City, Shandong 264003, China 



Rating: 

 [Las Brisas \(#1733\)](#)

Yaiza, Lanzarote, Canary Islands 35570 



Rating: 

 [Nepean Country Club & Day Spa \(#1169\)](#)

Boneo, VIC 3939, Australia 



Rating: 

 [Mayfield Beach & Tennis Club \(#0566\)](#)

Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas 



Rating: 

 [Beverly Hills Heights \(#2398\)](#)

Arona, Tenerife, Canary Islands 38650 



Rating: 

 [Mayan Palace Puerto Penasco \(#6860\)](#)

Puerto Penasco, Sonora 83500, Mexico 



Rating: 



[Guadalupe Resort \(#4020\)](#)

La Puerta, TRJL 3106, Venezuela 📍



Rating: ★★★★★



[Wyndham Resort at Fairfield Glade \(#0072\)](#)

Fairfield Glade, TN 38558, USA 📍



Rating: ★★★★★



[Woodstone at Massanutten \(#5711\)](#)

McGaheysville, VA 22840, USA 📍



Rating: ★★★★★



[Smugglers' Notch Resort \(#0300\)](#)

Smugglers' Notch, VT 05464, USA 📍



Rating: ★★★★★



[Orlando's Sunshine Resort II \(#5592\)](#)

Orlando, FL 32819, USA 📍



Rating: ★★★★★



[Stallion Springs Resort \(#5546\)](#)

Tehachapi, CA 93561, USA 📍



Rating: ★★★★★



[Silverleaf's Holly Lake Ranch \(#0712\)](#)

Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765, USA 📍



Rating: ★★★★★

[Elkhorn Resort \(#1080\)](#)

Onanole, Canada R0J 1N0 📍



Rating: ★★★★★

\*Inventory availability subject to change without notice.

## **TRAVEL TIPS:**

**VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** Always make sure your passport is valid through the specified dates for your travel. Some countries require your passport to be valid for a period of time **AFTER** your return date. Always check with your travel agent for passport, visa, immunization, exit costs and other requirements to enter and return from your vacation.

**CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENT:** Sometimes just a change in the food may cause some discomfort. Check with your medical advisor before planning a trip that may include altitude, water, weather or other changes.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Many credit cards and employee benefit plans may offer travel insurance. However, always check out the categories and limits of your insurance to ensure you are covered for any emergency.

**CAR RENTAL:** If you are renting a car, it is important to know what coverage you have under any plan and check out the insurance policy of the car rental company prior to confirming your vehicle. Most cars now are equipped with GPS however, it is wise to check this with the rental company. Subject to possible data roaming costs, it may be beneficial to take your own GPS with you, however, be prepared that some GPS will not work in other countries. GPS does not always work in certain areas, especially in the mountains, so be prepared with a map like they did in the “olden days”.

**CHECK-IN/OUT:** Most resorts have a specified check-in time. Please contact the resort if you are not going to check-in at the stated time. Most resorts will provide a late check-in procedure if required.

**RULES OF THE RESORT:** Always read your confirmation letter to ensure you know the rules, regulations, restrictions, costs and other pertinent information required to ensure a pleasant vacation experience. For example: All TaraNova units are “smoke free”, “pet free”, our units are not handicap accessible and other restrictions may apply. However, RCI may offer resorts that have the amenities you require.

### **TARANOVA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Date: Saturday, May 30, 2015 Time: 10:00AM – Noon**

**Place: TBA (near TaraNova head office, North York)**

The meeting is open to all members in good standing and the purpose is to review the Club's financial affairs and outline future plans. Please advise the Club in writing on or before May 14, 2015 of your intent to attend. (*Space will be reserved to accommodate only those members who RSVP by the deadline*) Confirmed members will be notified of the location. (*In order to avoid unnecessary financial costs, the meeting will be cancelled if less than 5% of the membership base intends to attend.*)

**This is a general meeting only. If you wish to discuss your specific membership, please contact the Club directly at [rosanne@taranova.com](mailto:rosanne@taranova.com).**