

## December 17, 2016 - River Ranch Resort - Revisited

I generally don't do repeat writings about places that I have already posted on my blog, but the River Ranch Resort, located right in the middle portion of the state and bit below Orlando, is a destination that I really enjoy flying to. It is about a 50 minute trip, in each direction, which makes for an easy breakfast or lunch flight. It is patterned after a Western Dude Ranch, but one in which luxuries and amenities abound. There you will find golf, power boating, air-boating, fishing, skeet and trap shooting, tent and RV camping as well as **Glamping**, which is a derivative of "Glamour Camping", that will allow you to stay in an Indian Teepee that is equipped, to the max, with upscale furnishings and high tech electronics. There is a night time rodeo, a old timey cowboy saloon and an area, set aside just for kids, which features miniature golf, a mechanical bull to ride, a fairly exciting zip-line and a game room featuring all manner of electronic challenges. You can partake in hay wagon rides, gigantic swamp buggy tours, horseback trail rides and an exotic animal zoo as well as a kids petting zoo. There are also modern log cabins, family sized homes, apartments and motel type rooms to rent, as well as a really upscale privately owned luxury RV park, whose site rental allows full access to all of the resort's amenities. There are several places in which to eat with the Smoke House Grill, the one that I most enjoy, located right next to the full service marina. There you can sit on their screened-in porch and watch the boats and airboats as they travel out the private canal onto the adjacent Kissimmee River. River Ranch is a place that I try to visit once a month during the winter season as it is a pleasant place to spend a few hours wandering about or by exploring all of the resort's offerings and activities.

Today's flight brought me into a downwind entry for Runway 16 which offered a spectacular view of the entire resort property including the marina grill at which I was soon going to be having lunch. It is located at the photo's lower right hand portion at the canal access point and just behind the docks.



It is a mile walk over from the airport (a free shuttle is available but I enjoy working up an appetite and, this time of year with its cooler temperatures, it is a pleasant sojourn). And you get to see a lot of the animals, which abound in the fields, along the way. These range from bison to regular beef as well as long horned Texas cattle, ostriches, goats, and, of course, ponies & horses. The horses are especially



curious creatures and will always wander over to the fence as I go by. I suspect that guests may give them treats but I never seem have anything to offer... yet they still come over to the fence. Here is a selfie photo of me and one of today's greeters. On the next page I have a bunch of other photos around the resort, some taken by me and others copied from their website.





Me, in front of the Saloon and outdoors dance hall



Action photo during the evening rodeo event



A trail ride through the resort's Live Oak trees



The Swamp Buggy awaiting its next tour group



This is the Teepee Glamour Camping area



Interior view of this \$300/night accommodation



After a delicious lunch of a Florida Citrus Salad and an hour of strolling around the resort it was time to return to its airport for my 70 mile flight back to my home base. As I lifted off of runway 16 I was treated to another view of this upscale complex, this time from its opposite end. The large brown colored rectangle visible in the lower center of the photo is the rodeo arena which features their Saturday night cowboy competition. The cool Florida winters make this a delightful one day air excursion. Today it was a pleasant 78 degrees outside. **I'll be back!**