



## **History and Timeline of Lake Rudolph Campground & RV Resort**

- 1958:** The Koch family led by Bill Koch opened Lake Rudolph Campsites to accommodate visitors to Santa Claus Land Theme Park. Included were a 7-acre lake (Lake Rudolph) and a swimming beach.
- 1984:** The campground was closed in 1984, renovated, and then reopened in 1985 as the Holiday World Outdoor Resort, a membership-only campground and a Coast to Coast resort. Several hundred memberships were sold, and several members of the campground remain today. Four cabins and several Rental RVs were added for members and their families to enjoy.
- 1990:** The name changed from Holiday World Outdoor Resort to Lake Rudolph Outdoor Resort.
- 1997:** The Koch family decided that public camping was again needed to accommodate the needs of guests to Holiday World Theme Park, so an additional 150 sites (Dasher section), 4 new Rental RVs, and a new bathhouse were built for public use.
- 1998:** A new playground was added in the new section, and hookups were improved in the Kringle section of the original campground.
- 1999:** A new swimming pool and 4 new Rental RVs were added to the new section. The name of the campground was changed to Lake Rudolph Campground & R.V. Resort. A new logo featuring Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was introduced.
- 2000:** Improvements included 4 new Rental RVs, a new nature trail, new boat dock on the lake, paving of roads in the Dasher and Kringle sections, a new cedar exterior installed on the campground office and Welcome Center, and site water and electric upgrades in the original campground.
- 2001:** Improvements included 19 new Rental RVs, 2 new basketball courts, new beach volleyball court, a new nature trail, new horseshoe pits in the Dasher section, a renovated and expanded Camp Store, a new and improved game room, the old bathhouse in the Prancer section was renovated, air conditioning was added the bathhouse in the Dasher section, annual HalloWeekends added in October. Older section of campground not occupied by members was made available to public.

**2002:** Improvements included 15 new Rental RVs and 5 new Cabins on a new road constructed off the Dasher section, the interiors of the 4 cabins in the original campground were renovated, 2 new bathhouses with individual unisex restrooms with showers were added, a new laundry facility was added to the Dasher section, 36 RV sites in the Dasher section were upgraded to Deluxe sites with 40 Ft. long concrete parking pads & full hookups with 30 & 50 amp electric, upgraded water and electric hookups in part of the original Lakeside section, new paved roads in the Prancer and Lakeside sections, a new 9-hole mini golf course, an additional shuttle bus was added, and 24 rental golf cars were added. In May of 2002, ownership of the campground was transferred to two of Bill and Pat Koch's children, Philip Koch and Kristi George. A new company called HO HO HOLDings, LLC was created to operate Lake Rudolph, Kringle Place Shopping Center, and various real estate properties.

**2003:** Improvements include 15 new Rental RVs and 5 new Cabins extending the new road built in 2002 off the Dasher section, upgraded water and electric hookups in the rest of the Lakeside section not completed in 2002, new patios were added to the concrete pads on the Deluxe sites, and 16 more golf cars were added to the rental fleet. Lake Rudolph also cancelled its affiliation with Coast to Coast Resorts.

**In November, Lake Rudolph's website ([www.lakerudolph.com](http://www.lakerudolph.com)) was named the 2003-2004 National Website of the Year by the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds during a ceremony in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

**2004:** Improvements include 35 new Rental RVs and 5 new Cabins, another extension of the 2002 Dasher road, upgraded water & electric hookups in the Prancer and Dasher sections, 9 more sites have been converted to Deluxe Sites with concrete pads & patios, enhanced security, and a new Rental Golf Car fleet of 72.

**In December, Lake Rudolph was named the 2004-2005 National RV Park of the Year in the large park category by the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds during a ceremony in Savannah, Georgia.**

**2005:** Improvements include 45 new Rental RVs including 25 New KING SIZE Rental RVs, extension and completion of the Dasher Road (Blitzen Blvd), new entry and exit lanes were added to the main entrance, a new family pool complex named Blitzen Bay which increases capacity nearly 5 times, a new golf car barn, and a new housekeeping building.

**2006:** Improvements include 12 new Rental RVs including 2 New KING SIZE Rental RVs. A total of 5 additional KING SIZE RVs were purchased as replacements for regular RVs. Upgrades to the front entrance include more incoming lanes and 2 new Welcome Center buildings with public restrooms. New paddleboats and kayaks enhance our lake recreation. Free Wi-Fi internet hot spots have been added in select areas of the campground, and 10 new electric Golf Cars have been added to the rental fleet. Several regular RV sites (10) in the Lakeside & Prancer sections were converted to Deluxe sites featuring concrete pads & patios and 50 amp electric. 2006 will also see the first full season of the new Blitzen Bay swimming pool, along with a new Kiddie Pool next to Blitzen Bay.

**In December, Lake Rudolph's four-color brochure was named the 2006-2007 National Brochure of the Year by the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds during a ceremony in Orlando, Florida.**

**2007:** Improvements include 29 new King Size Rental RVs, an expanded and renovated Camp Store, and new sidewalks and a concrete commons area were added in front of the Camp Store. The commons area includes a new gem mining activity for kids. Free

Wi-Fi internet hot spots were expanded in select areas of the campground, and over 30 new electric Golf Cars have been added to the rental fleet. Improvements also include renovations to our 18-hole mini golf course and 2 new Holiday World shuttle stop shelters with benches. Standup charcoal grills were added to all our Deluxe sites, Cabins and King Rental RVs.

**2008: Lake Rudolph celebrated 50 years of family memories in 2008!**

Improvements include 15 new King Size Rental RVs and an expansion of Frosty Lane and Comet Blvd. including new pavement. Upgrades include expanded WiFi hot spots, 20 new electric Golf Cars to the rental fleet, new water and electric hookups in the Kringle section, 10 RV sites upgraded to Deluxe and 36 RV sites upgraded to a new site category called **Super 30** (with concrete pad & patio, water, sewer, 30 amp electric, and standup charcoal grill). A new shuttle bus will help transport guests to and from Holiday World and a new shuttle stop shelter with benches was added in the Dasher section. New Rudolph themed street signs have been added throughout the resort. In June, Blitzen Kitchen opened serving carry-out soft serve ice cream and pizza.

**In November, Lake Rudolph was named the 2008-2009 National RV Park of the Year in the large park category by the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds during a ceremony in Nashville, TN.**

On December 27, 2008, an accidental fire destroyed most of the Lake Rudolph main office building, the original home of Bill & Pat Koch in Santa Claus, Indiana.

**2009:** Free WiFi now is available at nearly every site and rental of the campground, a new "GREEN" electric rental golf car fleet replaces the gasoline powered fleet, Blitzen Kitchen pizza delivery to sites will be available during peak periods, and a new parking lot near the Welcome Center will be available for guests.

**2010:** A new main office building is under construction and is scheduled to open in the summer of this year. Upgrades this year include 12 new Super King Rental RVs. These new rentals are expanded from our King RVs and include a larger dining area that now seats six people, a full shower in the Master Bedroom, and upgraded appliances including a smooth top stove.

**2011:** The new main office building at the main entrance opened Christmas 2010. Rudolph's Christmas Cabins opened in June. These 25 new cabins feature large lofts and decks, flat screen TVs, upscale appliances, electric fireplace, gas grill and Christmas décor. Other upgrades included 4 new Super King Rental RVs (replacing 4 standard size Rental RVs).

**2012:** For 2012, Lake Rudolph is adding 6 new Rudolph's Christmas Cabins. An additional 67 golf cars will be available, bringing the total available golf car rentals to 200.

**2013:** Lake Rudolph is investing approximately \$4 million for the 2013 season. Expansion plans include Santa's Splash Down WaterPark that will feature five water slides and 22 new Rudolph's Christmas Cabins, including one handicap accessible cabin. Other improvements include more parking, new sidewalks and road widening to improve traffic flow.

**2014:** Additions include a new Bathhouse to service waterpark guests in the Dasher section, new paving and parking for Santa's Splash Down WaterPark, a new gem mining sluice, five new paddleboats, and improvements to the miniature golf course.

On June 4, 2014, Lake Rudolph Campground & RV Resort was acquired by Sun Communities/Sun RV Resorts. Sun Communities, Inc. has owned and operated RV resorts and manufactured housing communities for over 35 years. Currently, Sun operates 191 communities in 27 states, serving over 150,000 residents and guests.

**2015:** Lake Rudolph invested approximately \$3 million for the 2015 season.

**2016:** Investments include 20 additional Holiday Cottages this season to replace Standard Rental RVs, now offering 40 Holiday Cottages. We added 20 new rental electric golf cars to replace older units. A new and improved WiFi network was added that triples the number of access points throughout the 160 acre park. The investment also includes new fiber lines increasing internet bandwidth by 80%. Lake Rudolph provides free WiFi service.

**2017:** Lake Rudolph invested in 25 additional Holiday Cottages to replace various units throughout the campground. This brings the total of Holiday Cottages available to rent up to 65. Also added was a new section in Prancer for 14 new Rudolph's Christmas Cabins, bringing the total of Christmas Cabins to 69. We have replaced 20 older six passenger golf car with new electric units. Improvements also include a remodel to our Kringle bathhouse.

**Currently,** Lake Rudolph Campground & RV Resort sits on 160 acres and features 289 family rentals: 54 Standard 38 Ft. Rental RVs, 65 King Size 44 Ft. Rental RVs, 16 Super King Size 44 Ft. Rental RVs and 153 Cabins and Cottages. All of our rentals sleep families of 8. We also have 187 full-hookup RV sites including 71 gravel RV sites, 77 concrete Deluxe RV sites, and 39 concrete Super 30 RV Sites. We also have 40 Tent sites with water & electric, 5 modern air-conditioned bathhouses, fishing lake with paddleboat, kayak, and rowboat rentals, 2 basketball courts, Santa's Splash Down WaterPark, Blitzen Bay swimming pool & Baby Blitzen pool, 2 playgrounds, an outdoor pavilion, an 18-hole mini golf course, game room, camp store, horseshoe pits, 200 golf car rentals, beach volleyball court, 2 laundry facilities, free WiFi available at nearly every site & rental, Blitzen Kitchen Ice Cream & Pizza, discounted Holiday World tickets for guests, and free shuttles to and from Holiday World Theme Park, etc.

Updated 05/2017