

Keeping up with Komp isn't easy

March honoree is packed with energy

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Eleven-year resident Olivia Komp had to be cajoled into accepting the honor as Leisure Worlder of the Month for March. When Historical Society President Evelyn Shopp called her, her response was "No thanks."

But her husband prevailed, and Komp, who is truly modest, finally said okay.

Komp says she has no idea why the Leisure World Historical Society chose her as the March honoree, although she admits she gives as much time as she can to Leisure World. "I can't say no: I love it here."

One need only look at her contributions to others both within and without the community's gates to understand that's no idle statement.

She's an active member of no less than 13 clubs and organizations: Tennis, Saddle, American Ballroom, Ballroom Dance, Sunday Night Dance, College, World on Film No. 1, California, Ebell and Computer Clubs; Laguna Hills Philharmonic Committee; and Opera 100 and Community Concerts groups.

An avid athlete, who regularly enjoys physical activities such as playing tennis and golf, biking, working out in the gym, walking, swimming and ocean body surfing, she also has enjoyed sharing her exhilaration in sports reaching "special" children.

She is a docent at Sherman Gardens in Corona del Mar and

Background: Komp, a native of Connecticut, says she grew up along the coast of the Nutmeg State and received her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Connecticut.

She worked with accounting firms on the east coast and in the midwest before retiring as fiscal officer from a non-profit organization based in San Diego in 1980, though she continues to do accounting (most of it on computer) for individuals and groups on a per project basis.

Although Komp says she's always been an active, outdoor



Jim Max/The News

It's easy to stay trim when you're as active as Olivia Komp, Leisure Worlder of the Month for March, who enjoys riding her bike around Leisure World in between her many other activities.

ushers at the Orange County Performing Arts Center.

California Club President Robert Bauler says she's served his club in various official capacities but has rendered outstanding service to his group and others computerizing membership lists and records.

"She's got a good head on her shoulders, is very active and does a great job in whatever she does," says Bauler adding as well that Komp is "very nice to work with."

Philharmonic Committee President Carlann Luetzow, who also plays tennis with Komp, agrees wholeheartedly with Bauler's assessment.

"She's a lot of fun and she's made a tremendous contribution to our group," says Luetzow,

person, she says it wasn't until she moved to Leisure World in 1984 that she really expanded her horizons.

Her first assays were into tennis, golf and horseback riding.

Although she's had to give up riding, tennis and golf have continued to be favorites as well as lengthy walks, gym workouts, and bicycling expeditions in the community.

She once even toured Holland for two weeks on a bike with a 50-Plus group, an adventure she penned for publication as she has other expeditions by recreational vehicle in the United States and

explaining how Komp helped streamline one of the committee's most ambitious projects: bringing thousands of county school children to the Orange County Performing Arts Center to hear musical performances to help cultivate

audiences for the future.

She says Komp used her organizational skills to make it easier for the youngsters to come into the arts venue by designating entry areas for individual groups.

That strategy, adds Opera 100 President Betty Hohwiesner, made the whole operation run so much more smoothly.

Hohwiesner says too, like Luetzow and Bauler, that Komp was a definite asset to her organization, both in her official duties and in sharing of her computer and accounting expertise.

"She's just a darling girl, always willing to lend a hand (and with such energy!), she's a joy, joy, joy to have as a friend and I love her dearly."

Ceremony facts

Who: Olivia Komp
What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for March
Where: Clubhouse 6
When: Wednesday, March 1, 10 a.m.
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

Canada

Komp points out, however, that most of her sports are individual. "I'm not a competitive person, it just isn't in me."

Challenging herself, however, is another matter. "If it's there, I want to try it."

When she's not improving her aerobic fitness, she sews her own clothes, makes jam, gardens, does work for her clubs and organizations, takes classes (she's currently into art history), attends functions (she loves to dance, especially with her favorite partner, husband and retired engineer Loren) and

travel in her motorhome all along the California coast and Baja.

In short, Komp explains she tries to eat "what you're supposed to," minimize time in front of the television and keep on-the-move.

"I think you can do anything you want to you just have to listen to your body."

"My philosophy is there's joy in life—it's all there . . . for the giving and for the taking."