



The Trail Blazer

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS
FLORIDA CHAPTER # 47
March, 2017

Issue 5 of 9
Newsletter Year
Nov 2016—Oct 2017



PRESIDENT
John Russano

VICE PRESIDENT
Ray Turner

SECRETARY
Mike Lima

TREASURER
Linda Kuiken

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

TBS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

March Campout 24 — 27, 2017

Paradise Oaks RV Resort

4628 Cr 475, Bushnell, FL 33513



Our March Hosts Bill and Nancy Carter



Since joining Trail Blazing Sams in December, 2002, Bill and Nancy have rarely missed a campout or Good Sam Rally.

The Carters live in the Citrus Park area of Tampa. Their home is surrounded by giant oak trees on their beautiful property.

Bill and Nancy love to travel in their RV, sometimes for months at a time. While their travels have taken them to several different States, they always make it a point to spend time in Nancy's home state, North Carolina. Bill and Nancy especially like to camp in Corps of Engineers, State and National Parks, enjoying the natural scenery in each one.

A favorite camping trip is New Years at Lazy Days with their TBS friends.

TRAIL BLAZING SAMs CELEBRATES 40 YEARS



From beginning to end, we spent the entire March campout celebrating our heritage of 40 years. In keeping with our Trail Blazing logo, we chose a Western theme and carried that theme through the decorations, props, clothes and food. All of our members went above and beyond to make this celebration a very memorable one.

During the campout, we took a walk down memory lane, spending some time looking at old pictures, cherishing our heritage and remembering the founding members of TBS. What we found was, that while the faces have changed, Trail Blazing Sams is much the same as it was at the beginning. Our traditions have been passed from one member to the next. Fun, friendship, good food and great times were as much a part of TBS forty years ago, as they are now.

TBS members love going to campouts and Florida State Rallies. For many years, TBS singlehandedly hosted all hospitality at all the Samborees—made and served the coffee, bought and served the donuts, the ice cream and lemonade. Today, we host the Indoor Games, Bocce Ball and the Flea Markets.

Trail Blazing Sams has always been an active Chapter, giving back to the community and contributing our time to State Rallies. Beginning in 2005, we have been recognized for all our good works by being awarded Florida Chapter of the Year nine times, more than any other Chapter, the Regional winner twice and International Chapter of the Year on two separate occasions. All our members are deservedly proud to be a part of Trail Blazing Sams.

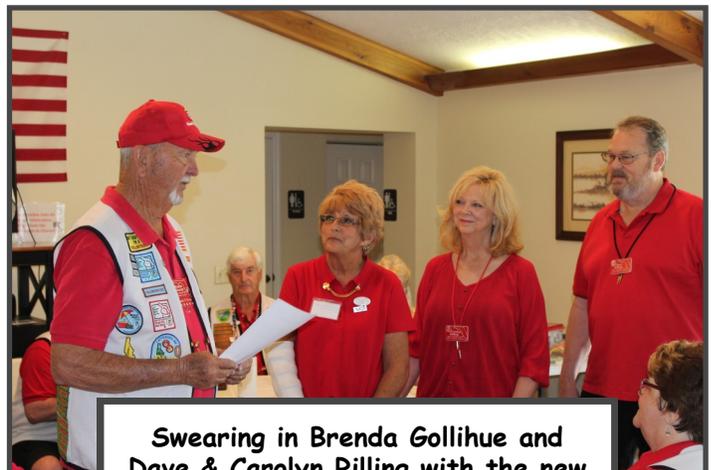
MARCH MEETING

Nineteen member rigs plus one guest attended the March campout. Vice President Ray Turner conducted the meeting and did his best to keep it short and sweet. Bill Carter, Membership Chairman, welcomed our guests Rick Harrison and Linda Naglieri.

ASD Robin Murray swore in our new members, Rick and Linda and also our February members using the new Good Sam Pledge. We really enjoyed having our new members tell us a little about themselves.



ASD Robin Murray swearing in new members Rick Harrison and Linda Naglieri



Swearing in Brenda Gollihue and Dave & Carolyn Rilling with the new Good Sam Pledge.

Brenda and Carolyn getting to know one another. So happy you are both now TBS members



Vice President Ray has our undivided attention

EARLY BIRD THURSDAY

Happy Hour is always a good time to catch up on all the news and visit with our friends. Half of our members brought snacks to share Thursday and the rest of us brought snacks Friday. We must have been hungry because everything quickly disappeared.

Since we were celebrating our anniversary, we watched some TBS slideshows. With a quick connection to the clubhouse TV, we were able to see pictures on the big screen. First, we watched pictures from our 35th anniversary five years ago. Then we relived all the good times we had in 2015 and 2016. We sure do have a lot of fun.



**Pictured Above: Left—Ken & Linda,
Middle—Bill Conway
Right—Jeannette**

**Below: Juliet and Mary sharing a
good laugh**



Catching up on all the news

THURSDAY DINNER—CHUCKWAGON SOUP & BISCUITS

We like to have dinners where our group stays together. It is almost impossible to take 40 people to a restaurant and have them seated together.

Thursday night we each brought a can of soup to add to the pot. We ended up with one crockpot of chicken soup, one with beef and chicken and Livia Popovich surprised us with a huge pot of delicious soup she made from scratch.

Liz Abrams, Juliet Dudinsky and Jeannette Ormsby each made a delectable dessert to share with the group.



Pictured Above: Chuck, Ken, Linda, Right: Brenda is first in line

Below: Liz, Mike, Albert & Bill



Livia, Your Soup Sure Looks Good

CREATING THE AMBIANCE — DECORATING THE HALL

Transforming the hall took many hands and some very creative minds. A big thank you to our Decorating Committee: **Jill, Linda K, Linda V, Juliet & Nancy.** Kuikens made the most clever covered wagon for our serving table. Bunkhouse Bill Kuiken, a real camera hog at so many TBS events, showed up once again. I don't think Bill has ever missed a party. Thanks to Chuck Potter, Bill was happy to be "back in the saddle again".

Juliet made some very clever photo frames complete with signs and props. Look for pictures later in the newsletter. Everyone had so much fun having their picture taken. Linda V donated all the tablecloths and Jill did the cute burlap and sunflower table decorations. Ken made the dinner bell stand and Mary made the cowboy silhouette.



Pictured Above: Left—Ken & Linda
Right—Jean, Ruth, Juliet, Liz
Below: The Watchers
Richard, Mike, Nancy Robin



The workers building the covered wagon

THE RAFFLE

Thanks to our Raffle Committee, Joan Conway and Mary Murray, for coordinating the Raffle and selling all the tickets.

We really appreciate everyone who donated all the wonderful raffle prizes: Linda V , Joan, Mary, Kuikens & Perrys

And a big thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets. Congratulations to all the lucky winners.

Raffle proceeds have added \$450 to the TBS Treasury.



**Pictured Above: Left—Livia
Center —Joan Right—Jean
Below:
Ken, the BIG winner**



Thank you Jill, Linda V, Joan, Mary and Linda K

THE MYSTERY GAME IS A MYSTERY NO MORE

For months, Mike Abrams, Bill Conway and Ken Kuiken have been keeping the details of the Mystery Game a closely guarded secret and now we know the reason why. It was a doozy.

The object of the game was to pass a ball (grapefruit, orange, tennis ball) from under the neck of the first person to under the neck of the 2nd person—and then back again.

Everyone was a good sport and there sure were a lot of laughs. First place wqs Linda V and Serge and 2nd place was Bill & Nancy Carter.



Pictured Above: Left—Judy & Myron
Middle Carolyn & Dave
Right: Brenda & Dennis

Below:
The Winners—Linda and Serge



Watching All The Fun

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Our hosts, Bill & Nancy Carter, entertained us with a rousing rendition of “Happy, Happy Anniversary”.

Then it was time for a delicious dinner of pulled pork and chicken sandwiches, cole slaw and homemade beans which were served in vintage cast iron pots. Dinner was topped off by a variety of desserts.

Everything was so good we all had seconds. Thank you Bill and Nancy.



Pictured Above: Left—John & Jill
Right—Caroline Johnson
Below: Linda, Cotton, Steve



Everything tastes better served from the Chuckwagon

HORSE RACING

Horse racing was a great way to spend Friday evening. We all came ready with our quarters to bet on our favorite horse. Jeanette made the horses, Ken made the stanchions, Richard O provided the racing forms and coordinated the event. Caroline was our announcer and Mike A rolled the dice. Linda V and Mike L were our cashiers.

There were some rousing cheers during the races as we all enthusiastically cheered on our favorite jockey.



Pictured Above: Left—At The Gate
Right—Placing Our Bets
Below: Rolling The Dice



Our Jockeys: Steve, Serge, Brenda, Ray, Mary & Chuck

COW PATTY SHUFFLE

Saturday afternoon we all gathered for the long awaited Cow Patty Shuffle. Each person had 4 chances to get closest to the “O” in 10 Off.

Coordinators John Perry and Bill Carter came up with some very creative award categories. Prizes (scratch off lottery tickets) were awarded during the Saturday night program. Congratulations to all the lucky winners.



Pictured Above: Left—Linda & Chuck
Right: Joan and Brenda
Below: Juliet



John and Bill are checking to see who is closest to the O

WANTED FOR FUN, LAUGHTER AND GOOD TIMES



WANTED FOR FUN, LAUGHTER AND GOOD TIMES



WANTED FOR FUN, LAUGHTER AND GOOD TIMES



WANTED FOR FUN, LAUGHTER AND GOOD TIMES



Just Having Fun

Clowning Around



WONDER WHY THESE FOLKS ARE IN THE HOOSGOW?



LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD WAY TOO MUCH FUN



BUNKHOUSE BILL - A RETURNING CELEBRITY

That handsome fella Bunkhouse Bill has been the star of many a TBS event. For the Wild Wild West, Bill was in the parade and then was the keeper of the outhouse.

When we were pirates, Bill hung from the bowsprit of the ship in the parade.

When we celebrated our 35th anniversary, Bill appeared as Tropical Bill.

And now as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary, Bunkhouse Bill is back for a celebrity appearance.

Wonder where Bill will show up next?



SATURDAY NIGHT HAPPY HOUR & DINNER

Our Food Committee is pictured at the right—Ruth Hemphill, Jean Potter, Liz Abrams and Juliet Dudinsky. Ruth provided the fancy aprons and Juliet embroidered the names. They sure do look good.

At Happy Hour, we all enjoyed two different kinds of punch provided by Liz and Ruth.

Everyone came dressed in their Western best, ready to celebrate our big night. We loved all the hats, vests, boots and Western wear. We have such a creative group.



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

A big thank you to the Decorating and Food Committees. The sunflower centerpieces and cow pattern balloons set the stage for a very special evening.. The creativity continued in how dinner was served—and what a great dinner it was. We had aluminum pans for plates and Western kerchiefs for napkins.

The food was awesome—fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs, corn on the cob and biscuits. Thank you Ruth, Liz, Juliet and Jean for making—and donating— the punch and all the side dishes.



It is time to ring the dinner bell



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

Dinner was topped off by a three tier cake made and donated by Joanne Lima. Pictures of all our TBS members, printed with food coloring on sheets of icing, decorated the sides of the cake. The cake topper was a solid chocolate covered wagon. The cake base was wrapped with rope, in keeping with our Western theme.



A Big TBS YEE HAW



Clean Up Committee—Richard, Chuck, Dennis, Serge



SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies, Mike Lima, welcomed everyone to the Trail Blazing Sams 40th Anniversary Program.

Ruth Hemphill gave us a humorous rendition of why they joined Trail Blazing Sams, citing the need to do something fun now they she and Bill were retired.

Robin Murray read a very meaningful poem he had written titled "I Am Trail Blazing Sams".

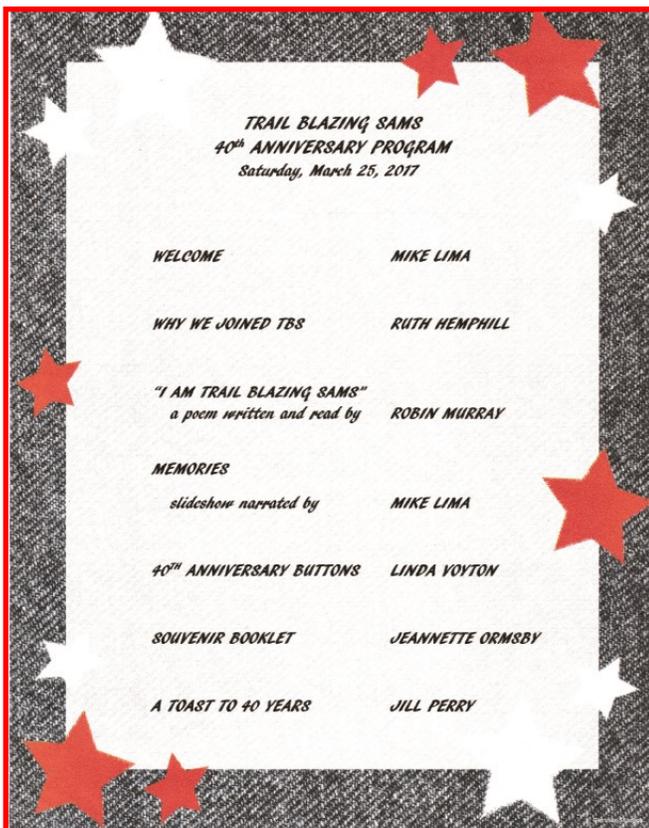
Linda Voyton, who has been a TBS member longer than anyone else (we won't call her our oldest member), distributed our 40th anniversary buttons and explained what being part of TBS means to her.

Jeannette Ormsby shared the 40th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet that she compiled with input from Judy Magedanz. Highlights of the booklet include a history of TBS, photos of each member and a copy of Robin's beautiful poem. Each member received a copy of the booklet.



Mike took us for a walk down memory lane, sharing pictures from the TBS early years. He compared the campouts, Samborees and activities from years ago to today and we found the heritage our founding members started still exists today.

Mike also shared some of his "tongue in cheek" RV experiences and we now all know to stay out of those Texas roadhouses.



Ruth



Robin

Linda



Jeannette

TRAIL BLAZING SAM'S 40th ANNIVERSARY TOAST

A Toast By Jill Perry

"Thank you for helping to celebrate Trail Blazing Sams 40th Anniversary tonight.

This Chapter has been so successful in the past due to a combination of hard work, dedication and fun times (such as we are having tonight). I would like to make a toast. Please raise your glasses high. Here's to Trail Blazing Sams success in the future. Happy 40th Anniversary Trail Blazing Sams. Cheers!"

We ended the evening on a nostalgic note, singing our TBS theme song, "Happy Trails To You"



Mike Abrams 8th
Caroline Johnson 9th
Lynne Morneault 14th
Al Morneault 29th

**NO MARCH
ANNIVERSARIES**

On The Web

tbsams.weebly.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joanne Lima

jvlima@tampabay.rr.com

UPCOMING CAMPOUTS AND RALLIES

April 26—30 **FLORIDA SPRING RALLY**
KOA
Okeechobee, Florida

Apr 30 - May 6 W.P. Franklin Lock, Alva
"TBS Friends Campout"

May 25—29 Sandy Oaks, Beverly Hills
Hosts: Al & Lynne Morneault

Sept 21—24 Winter Quarters, Manatee RV
Resort
Hosts: Linda & Ken Kuiken

Oct 26—29 Bay Bayou, Tampa
Hosts: Juliet & Cotton Deal

Nov 14—19 **FLORIDA FALL RALLY**
Eustis, FL

SUNSHINE CORNER - Rita Turner

Bill Hemphill is recovering from shoulder surgery and Joanne Lima from knee surgery, but both were able to attend the March campout.

Mike Lima had a very successful cataract surgery March 27 and is scheduled for the surgery on his other eye April 3.

GOOD SAM PLEDGE

As a member of the Good Sam Club I pledge to give aid to others in need, respect nature and the environment, give back to the community and those less fortunate, treat others with dignity and respect, and to wear a smile (like Good Sam and Good Samantha's) and promote the pledge of the Good Sam Club to others.