



Trail Blazing Sams

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sams**

Issue 5

**Spring Samboree-Okeechobee, FL
May 4th-8th, 2011**

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Morneaults, Lynne & Albert

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SPRING SAMBOREE AT OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA

Of all the Samborees , Okeechobee captures the interest of most Good Sam members. Our chapter has a very good turnout with, including the Staff, we had 20 rigs in attendance. Maneuvering your way through those pesky little "Love Bugs" was a big challenge only to be outdone by removing them from our motor homes when we arrived. More information on the Florida Love Bugs to follow. After registration it was time to socialize and make plans for the week. Since Tuesday is for the early birds the only organized activity was Samgo, Good Sams' label for Bingo .



Horseshoe 1st place winners
Chuck Potter-Bill Conway

Featured on our Cover



The Morneaults

They join TBS March 1999

Lynne's hobbies: reading, sewing walking, bicycling, lifting weights, travelling

Albert's hobbies: woodworking, reading, gardening, bicycling, travelling.

He is also the coordinator for TBS Chapter of the Year book.

Wednesday after breakfast it was time to sign up for the indoor/outdoor games and to visit the various vendors. In the afternoon Caroline and her workers administered and ran the card games while Bill Conway and Serge Frechette took care of the Horseshoe competition. Of all the participants in the games today, Bill and Chuck were the only TBS members that came away victorious. Congratulations to Bill and Chuck.



Card Games workers: Joan Conway-Joanne Lima-Liz Abrams, ASD- Joan Russano- Caroline Johnson, Coordinator-Lorraine Zecher-Jean Roy-John Russano

At the opening ceremonies our President Bill Conway and Vice President John Russano presented our flag. After the usual formalities of introducing the staff and other dignitaries it was time for the evenings entertainment by Chris Diamond. He presented an enjoyable mixture of music. It got to be somewhat embarrassing when a small group of people decided to talk and do their thing rather than keep quiet and show respect to the invited guest. They were appropriately dealt with by the staff. Whoever they were, they were rude and certainly out of order.



John Russano, Vice-President
Bill Conway—President
(With our flag)

Thursday's activities started off with Bean Bag Baseball. We had two teams entered and ready to do battle. The good results from Alabama did not follow them and consequently both team were eliminated early on. We were gracious losers, wished our winners well and moved on to the afternoon activity which consisted of the second round of card games. Caroline and her workers once again did their usual great job in flawlessly administering these games. After the games several of us headed out to dinner at the Cowboy Restaurant, a nice little eating place just down the road a piece from the campground. After dinner it was time for Samgo and selling water. I think we had more success selling water than our members did in trying to win at Samgo.

"It's not true that nice guys finish last. Nice guys are winners before the GAME even starts."

Addison Walker

Addison Walker

Friday was a very busy day with many activities scheduled starting with Holey board. Once again we had many teams entered with only a few advancing to the later rounds. Some say the competition is too good but it appears that luck has a lot to do with it as well. In any event it was fun and surely we'll be back at it again next time.

The afternoon started off with the flea market. As usual lots of stuff was on display. Lynne had it very well organized with many dedicated workers. After it was all over we added \$230.00 to our treasury. A truck load was shipped off to a thrift store and there were several boxes set aside for future flea market. To all it was a job well done.



Later in the afternoon we had our business meeting where it was announced by our President Bill Conway that the fall Samboree would be moved from Wekiva Falls to Southern Palms RV Resort in Eustis, Florida. The dates are November 16 -20th, a week before Thanksgiving. There was some discussion concerning our web site as well as an interim report by Larry Buback about his committee's progress on paper reduction. This committee is looking at ways to reduce and transfer some of the files over to our web site as well as store some our chapter's history on CD's. A future report will be forthcoming. Please read your minutes for more information on what went on at this meeting.

After dinner we headed for the evening's program. Our State Director Bob Ward started the program by introducing the State Gaff which received a very well deserved standing ovation. Not having attended other State Samborees, I can only go on what I am told and I understand that our State Staff is by far the best. Congratulations and thank you for doing such a great job. After announcing the game winners (Bill and Chuck horseshoes) and a short discussion about the Florida Guide Dogs, it was onto the evening's Chapter Entertainment presented by Lake Eola Sams. A very enjoyable presentation of several musical selections from the 50's and 60's. They gave a very good performance.

Saturday came with a few of our members heading off to the golf course while others tried their hand at Bocce Ball. The results followed the pattern set by previous games.

Now guys this is serious



Everyone competed well, had a good time, wished their victors well and was last heard saying... just wait till next year.

Frank Ciampaglia, Mike Lima, John Russano, Serge Frechette—
Workers Bocce ball



Joanne Lima & Lorraine Zecher—
Check-in for Bocce Ball

Following lunch was the ever popular Mad Hatters Contest, an event which seems to be getting more popular each year. Our host Joan McGee and Sharon Vanderbok had it well organized and it went off smoothly. Several classes were judged and TBS had many entrants. **Joan Russano and Joan Conway** each won their respective class. Congratulations to each of them.



Joan Russano, Joan Conway (both winners) Jean Roy, Lorraine & Ralph Zecher, Caroline Johnson, John Russano, Lynne & Albert Morneault., Jeannette Ormsby



The closing ceremony was once again conducted by our State Director. After presentation of awards, game winners and Chapter raffles it was time for the evening's entertainment. Mr Ward presented Vic Sand from Tennessee who sang many country and western as well as other popular songs. He was a very talented and gave us an enjoyable evening of good music.

Early Sunday morning (5:30 am) many rigs were heading out of camp. Beating the Love Bugs was their mission since its known they don't become active until later in the morning. Several of us joined in and headed out to the Ortona Corps of Engineers Campground located near LaBelle, Florida. Thus our Spring Samboree at Okeechobee came to an end. To the Staff we say thank you for doing a great job. See you in the fall.

SPECIAL PRAYER COLUMN



We take time to think of those that are incapacitated and suffering from sickness or recovering from long term illness. We are aware of **Colin's** condition. In talking to Joanne I'm told that he is progressing nicely with his speech and mobility therapy. He's moving around much easier.

As you all know **Harold Johnson** as suffered a set back. His fall left him with a fractured left wrist. Hopefully the recovery from this incident will be fast and he can continue recovering from his stroke.

Talked to **Frank Ciampaglia** recently. He's undergoing many tests and visits to physicians. Our president Bill Conway will keep us posted as new developments occurs

Please continue to keep **Colin, Harold and Frank** in your prayer and give special thoughts and prayers to their caregivers; Joanne, Caroline and Evelyn.

INTERESTING FACTS

Florida Love Bugs We've heard many times, "It's a Woman's World". When it comes to the Florida Love Bugs I wonder if that is really true. Males are tiny (1/4") and the female is larger (1/2"). They mate while air borne and the female fly forward dragging their male partners backward through the air. The female does all the work and the male does absolutely nothing. Quite a contrast when compared to the human species. Neither of them eat thus with all the love making it's no wonder they only live 23 days. Some state that the "Love Bugs" were created by the University of Florida but according to Snopes.com this is not true. Apparently they migrated to Florida in 1947 from Louisiana. Originally it was thought that Mr. and Mrs. Love Bug would eat Mr. and Mrs. Mosquito but apparently this is a myth since they do not eat. They do not bite or carry any diseases but they sure are a complete pain in the neck to Florida motorists. Goodbye Mr. & Mrs. Love Bug, see you in the fall.



**May**

14th— Frank Ciampaglia
 14th— Jean Roy
 26th— Nancy Carter
 28th— Lorraine Zecher
 30th— Ken Kuiken

**May**

7th-Johnsons
 7th-Perrys
 7th-Voytons
 16th-Mercers

June

11th— Abrams
 11th— Limas
 18th— Potters
 20th— Carters
 30th— Frechettese

June

12th-Joanne Lima



To you who are already blazing the
 roads. Be safe and have a good
 summer

We're on the web
www.tbsams.webs.com

