



TRAIL BLAZING SAMS NEWSLETTER

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Winter Samboree
Palatka, FL
Feb 9-13, 2011



Caroline and Harold Johnson are featured with their new Monaco Class B+. Caroline and Harold have been thinking about downsizing for a couple of years and with Harold's recent stroke, it became very clear that now was the time. This gives Harold easier access and Caroline a smaller unit to maneuver through traffic. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The Winter Samboree, February 9-13, 2011, was held at Rodeheaver Boys Village in Palatka, FL. A Samboree was previously held here in 2006, and according to those that attended then, it was a nightmare because of the grounds, the rain, the main building, etc., etc. Well many improvements have been made to the grounds and the main building, and most everyone attending agreed that it was much nicer than Dunnellon. There are a couple of drawbacks in that there is no dump station and units are parked somewhat of a distance from the main building. However, that being said, we were extremely fortunate that Rodeheaver had provided a shuttle bus for our use and State Staff members drove it around the grounds frequently picking up and dropping off the group. As far as the dump station, the State Park was right across the road and many individuals went there to dump their tanks. It was cold and we did have rain one day, but that is something no one can control - Mother Nature is always in control! Perhaps because some had bad experiences at the 2006 Samboree, attendance was considerably down. There were only about 240 rigs in attendance for our Winter Samboree.

Opening ceremonies on Wednesday, February 9 (William Conway, President, & John Russano, Vice President, with TBS Flag below left) - The color guard presentation was done in a different format at this Samboree. Reba Ward had asked the chapters which turned in books for Chapter of the Year to have a representative participate in the color guard. Serge Frachette volunteered

to be one of the rifle bearers (picture below right).



During the opening ceremony, certificates were presented to Sassy Sams, Rolling Sams, and Jax Rambling Sams for winning second place in the Chapter of the Year competition. Trail Blazing Sams received a certificate as well as a plaque for winning first place 2010 Chapter of the Year.



Our President with the plaque that was presented to TBS.

After the program, Lori Gill provided the entertainment. She was definitely entertaining in the fact that she started the program singing country, then did some rock n roll, sang some songs from the 50s and 60s and ended the program singing a beautiful rendition of “How Great Thou Art”. She definitely had a variety of music, acts, and costumes.

Once again the State Staff has done a tremendous job in all their efforts to make the Samboree as enjoyable as possible for everyone. Due to overall attendance being much lower and fewer chapters volunteering to help, many State Staff had to assist with jobs previously done by volunteers. This is in addition to the things they already do at the Samborees, so we want to thank them for all their hard work.

The games that are normally held outdoors, beanbag baseball and holey board, were held inside the main building. Beanbag baseball had a total of 14 teams to enter and the great news is Trail Blazing Sams won first place. Although the game was held inside, the building was cold and our team held up to the elements - WAY TO GO TEAM! The following is written by Lorraine Zecher capturing the excitement of this game: “Here it was, February 10, 2011, and the Trail Blazing Sams team comes up for bat! Our team consisted of Captain Lorraine Zecher, Ralph

Zecher, Jean Roy, Bob Roy, Serge Frechette, Jill Perry, John Perry, John Russano, and clean up man, Myron Magedanz. Our first game started off a bit scary when the first three batters stuck out, but we quickly recovered and went on to a 4 to 2 victory. Wow we made it to a second round. We all agreed that the board was a bit hard to see in the slightly dark room, but we were inspired by a win, so on to our second game. A couple of runs were batted in and a home run led us to our second win. Again a 4 to 2 victory! Oh my, we are actually in the finals. Now we began to set our sights on those little round holes and aimed our balls right for them, and what to our amazement, once again ran the bases to a 4 to 3 victory! Trail Blazing Sams' first win in Bean Bag Baseball in a very long time! Seems 4 was our lucky number. Congratulations Team!!" I think that was a fantastic rendition of all the excitement that day!



There were 48 teams that participated in Holey Board, but TBS did not do as well in the games. All of our teams went to the second round, but alas not into the finals. Lorraine Zecher and Joan Russano made it closer to the finals than any other of our team members, John & Jill Perry, Serge Frechette, Myron Magedanz, John Russano, Ralph Zecher, Bill Conway, Chuck Potter, Bill Carter, and Bob & Jean Roy. We always have the next Samboree to TRY our skills!



Joan Russano - Holey Board Pitch



Bill Carter - Holey Board Stance

One of the positive things with the cold weather was that we did very well with the sale of hot chocolate. Our sales from hot chocolate and water netted us **\$82** going to Dogs for the Deaf.

Since attendance at the SAMBOREE was much lower, our indoor card games had less people participating. On Wednesday we had a total of 48 players and on Thursday we had 70 players. We did have one of our own members tie for first place in Cribbage and that was Bob Roy.

Saturday morning when Bocci Ball was played it was cold, but a bright, sunny day. We had a total of 23 teams participating and teams from Sassy Sams won first place and Florida Eagles won second place. Congratulations to them. TBS had two teams participating as the rest of us helped to run the games. Thanks to all that assisted with Bocci Ball.



After Friday's evening program, the state 50/50 raffle drawing was held and John DuBose won. Congratulations to John. Our entertainment that evening was a gospel group called the Sonshine Quartet. They were very good, but it was so cold that evening, many people went back to their rigs to get warm. They missed a good program, but those that braved the cold were rewarded with a great show.

Friday afternoon we had the Flea Market. There were only two chapters that participated, Pine Tree Sams and Trail Blazing Sams. This may have worked to our advantage because we sold a lot of **STUFF/JUNK** - excuse me, **TREASURES!** I believe almost everyone at the Samboree attended the flea market because while we were trying to set up, people wanted to buy things. Once we opened at 1:30, you couldn't walk between the tables! I believe this was one of our most successful flea markets as we grossed **\$192.00**. Thanks to all our volunteers and especially Lynne & Albert Mornault for driving in to run the flea market.



Saturday evening we had a catered meal followed by a brief program. After the program the state 50/50 raffle drawing was held, and this time Myron Magedanz won. **WOW** two of our members winning almost a total of \$300! The entertainment that evening was the Sweet Heart Dance where many of us dressed in 50's era attire. Those of us that braved the cold had a great time as we stayed warm dancing! TBS had more party animals than any other group staying until the end of the dance.



Jean & Bob Roy



State Director & TBS Ladies

Well the Samboree was over and although it was cold, we only had one day of bad weather. The afternoons were sunny and warm and we all had a great time. Speaking of time, it seems to fly while we are at the Samboree. It's hard to believe the time has come to say our goodbyes to all our friends. Although TBS puts in many volunteer hours during the Samborees, I believe we all have a great time and wouldn't have it any other way.

MARCH CAMPOUT

March 25-27, 2011
(Early Bird March 24)

**Paradise Oaks Golf & RV
Resort
4628 CR 475
Bushnell, FL 33513
(352) 793-1823**

**Please call or email our hosts,
Chuck & Jean Potter, to let
them know you will be
attending: (727) 492-4543 or
trvlptrs@yahoo.com**

ALABAMA SAMBOREE

April 7-10, 2011
(Early Bird April 6)

**Natl Peanut Festival Fairground
5622 Highway 231 South
Dothan, AL 36301**

**We will caravan on April 6 from
Oaks 'N' Pines RV Park
3864 North US Highway 441
Lake City, FL 32055
(386) 752-0830
Contact Joan Conway
(813)938-5691 for more info**

SPRING SAMBOREE

May 4-8, 2011
(Early Bird May 3)

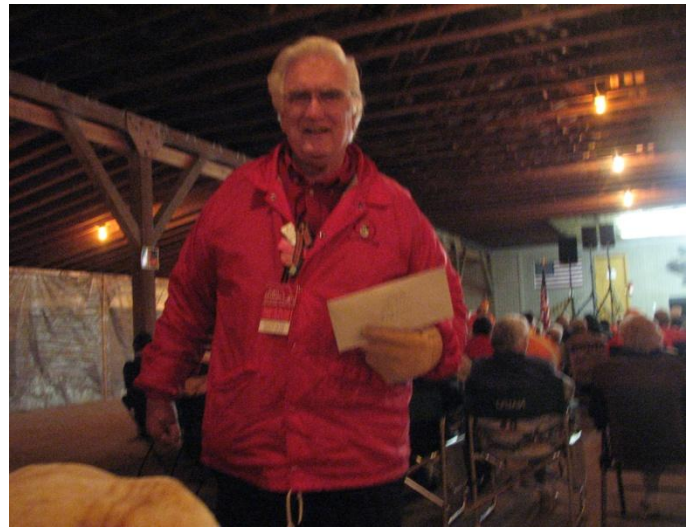
**Okeechobee KOA
4276 US Highway 441 S.
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 763-0231**

**Please get your
reservations
in ASAP as it is filling
up fast.**

Photos from the Samboree:



Jill Perry really focusing on Holey Board.



John DuBose with his 50/50 winnings!



Getting ready for the Business Meeting



Let's get this meeting started!



One of TBS' Bocci Ball Teams



Ralph Zecher selling water at the Flea Market