

**MARCH CAMPOUT
PARADISE OAKS RV RESORT
BUSHNELL, FL
MARCH 23-25, 2012**

*DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
DEA WISELEY
February 23, 1939-March 18, 2012*



The majority of our members arrived as early birds on [Thursday](#). We began Happy Hour at 4:00 p.m. with a prayer dedicated to one of our newest members, Dea Wiseley, who was killed in a boating accident on March 18. Mike Abrams lead us in a beautiful prayer followed by a toast to celebrate Dea's life given by our President, Bill Conway. This was done in conjunction with the memorial service that began Thursday, March 22 at 4:00 p.m. which because of location, we were unable to attend. Fortunately two of our members, Harold & Caroline Johnson, were able to represent TBS at Dea's memorial service.

Although Dea's passing was a shock to us all, our campout was a tremendous celebration as it was Trail Blazing Sams 35th Anniversary. Dea and Yvonne had planned to come directly from Lake Dora to Paradise Oaks a couple of days early to spend time with their friends before the campout. We definitely missed having them with us and wish they had been part of our most joyous celebration. We do have a souvenir napkin

to give Yvonne which Gail DuBose made for all our Chapter members.



We had a total of 21 member rigs, 2 guest rigs (1 with honorary member), and 6 drive in guests for our campout.

[Friday](#) we celebrated happy hour with a wine and cheese party. Each member brought a favorite bottle of wine and cheese to share. The table looked so pretty with the various selections of cheese and wine. Everyone seemed to enjoy tasting the varieties of wine and cheese!



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We had five of our honorary members to celebrate with us on Friday: Gladys Vollick (TBS member since Nov 1988), Frank & Evelyn Ciampaglia (TBS members since Nov 1980), and Colin & Joanne Greseth (TBS members since Feb 2007). It was really great to have them with us for our 35th anniversary.



Our dinner at 5:30 was hot dogs, slaw, baked beans, and dessert. After dinner we had movies starring TBS members in some of the Samboree parades and site decorations from the 1990s to 2011. Thanks to Joanne & Mike Lima for all the work they did converting movies to DVDs. What a great evening with a lot of laughs! We even had sodas, popcorn & candy during the movies.



Linda & Charlie Voyton making popcorn

Saturday we began the morning with a potluck breakfast. What a feast we had! As Bill Conway put it, if you went away hungry, it was definitely your own fault.



After breakfast we had our business meeting (see the posted minutes on our web site). After our meeting we took some new group pictures which will also be posted on our web site.



We had a tropical theme for the 35th anniversary celebration. Saturday was our FUN day and it began at 1:00 p.m. with a golf putting tournament. We each received three balls to putt. The first ball was strictly for practice and the next two were counted together for total distance closest to the hole. The object, naturally, was to get the smallest distance closest to the hole. We had members that never played golf along with those that play frequently. We had a lot of

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laughs and some even tried to bribe the judges!



First place winner: Ken Kuiken
Second place winner: Mary Murray



Our judges: John Perry, Bill Carter, and Frank Cosentino measuring and recording the distance of each putt.

In keeping with the tropical theme, everyone was asked to dress in tropical clothing and bring a tropical drink for happy hour.



Twins Bill Conway & Ray Turner



Guests Dave & Brynda Villeneuve



Joanne Lima, Gladys Vollick, Guest Linda Frey (Joanne's sister)

The tables were beautifully decorated with pastel tablecloths, lovely table settings, the gorgeous napkins Gail DuBose made, and a center piece consisting of a clear glass bowl containing white sand from Florida, shells and a pillar candle. The hall looked like we were preparing for a beach wedding and everyone was dressed festive for the occasion, complete with leis. For our potluck dinner everyone was asked to bring a dish that was tropical. As usual we had an abundance of food.



After happy hour and our tropical potluck dinner, we were treated to some live entertainment. Jill Perry gave the introduction to our evening celebration followed by Caroline Johnson comparing events from 1977 versus 2012. Linda Voyton spoke (through tears of sadness and joy) of the fun and fellowship which took place with past and present TBS members over the last 35 years. Joan Russano brought Evelyn Ciampaglia on stage for

“This is Your Life” with performances of the past 35 years from Minnie Pearl (aka Mary Murray), Uncle Willie (aka Robin Murray), Rhett Butler & Scarlet O’Harah (aka Ken & Linda Kuiken), Johnny Cash (aka Frank Ciampaglia), and Patsy Cline (aka Jean Roy). What great entertainment!



After our entertainment, Jeannette Ormsby presented everyone with a souvenir program celebrating Trail Blazing Sams’ 35 years.

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Next on the program was Serge Frechette presenting the champagne toast.



The “formal” program was over and we now were asked to continue the celebration with cake, punch, and fellowship.



Sunday morning came and everyone lingered over breakfast not wanting the weekend to end. What a spectacular time we all had these past few days. Bill and I want to personally thank each and every member for their many donations of time, food, drink, entertainment, decorations, expenses, etc., etc., etc. Whatever you may have done this weekend, we all came together as a group and did what Trail Blazing Sams always does, and that is making something spectacular happen!

Our next campout will be the Spring Samboree in Okeechobee, FL at the KOA Resort, April 25-29, 2012. Have a safe trip coming to the Samboree.

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