

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS NEWSLETTER

**OUR HOSTS:
BILL & NANCY CARTER
BAY BAYOU RV RESORT
TAMPA, FL
MAY 24-27, 2013**



For our May campout weekend, we had a total of 15 member rigs and 3 guest rigs, Walt & Linda Cuellers, Mike & Pam Keller, and Dave & Pat Smith.

The May campout is held over the Memorial Day weekend which gives us an extra day to enjoy our activities and eat more food. You know we always need a special occasion to have more food! We had nine couples to arrive on Thursday for Early Bird. We didn't have any planned activities but we did an impromptu dinner at Daddy's Grill and they were able to accommodate us although we only had one waitress. With just one waitress, it took somewhat longer for our dinner and we did not return to the campground until around 8:30 p.m., so everyone retired to their rigs and had an early night.

Friday morning we had the Mobley Road cleanup. There were 12 of us that waded through the weeds, some of which were chest high, and we picked up 20 bags of trash weighing approximately 400 pounds total. We also picked up two tires and the base of a free standing basketball hoop. We worked for over two hours and the temperatures inched up to around 90 degrees. We were some hot, dirty campers when we finished!



Bill Carter, Serge Frechette, Richard & Jeannette Ormsby, John Russano, Juliet Dudinsky, Ron Mercer, Robin Murray, Cotton Deal, Bill Conway, Mary Murray

Friday afternoon most everyone was playing holey board or enjoying the shade and breeze where the games were set up. Our guests, Pam and Mike Keller, had never played holey board and really enjoyed it as well as the competition.



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Our hosts arranged for us to go to Cody's for dinner where we experienced great food and great service. At the conclusion of dinner we had a Cody's style birthday salute to Nancy Carter and Ken Kuiken. After dinner, many split off into groups and played various card games. Depending upon the group you were with, some were definitely more high spirited than others.



Walt & Linda Cullars and Dave & Pat Smith



Joan Russano and Sandy Mercer

Saturday morning we had our business meeting and the minutes have been posted on the web. Please read the minutes if you have not already so that you are up to date on the various items that were covered.

Saturday afternoon we had a resounding bean bag baseball game. When the game first started

we went several innings with no runs. The women finally broke the ice with a score of 2-0. The men were able to tie the game at 2-2. After seven innings, the women pushed ahead to win the game 4-3. The women now have bragging rights all summer!



Men's Team: Mike Keller, John Russano, Frank Ciampaglia, John Perry, Cotton Deal, Robin Murray, Myron Magedanz, Frank Cosentino, Dave Smith, Walt Cullars



Winning Team: Joan Conway, Mary Murray, Pam Keller, Juliet Dudinsky, Joan Russano, Linda Cullars, Judy Magedanz, Pat Smith, Jill Perry, Jeannette Ormsby, Mary Cosentino

Our hosts treated us to a wonderful dinner of roast pork, black beans, yellow rice, salad, bread, & various types of cake for dessert. After dinner we played card bingo which always gets good

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participation. The picture below shows the winners of the 10 games.



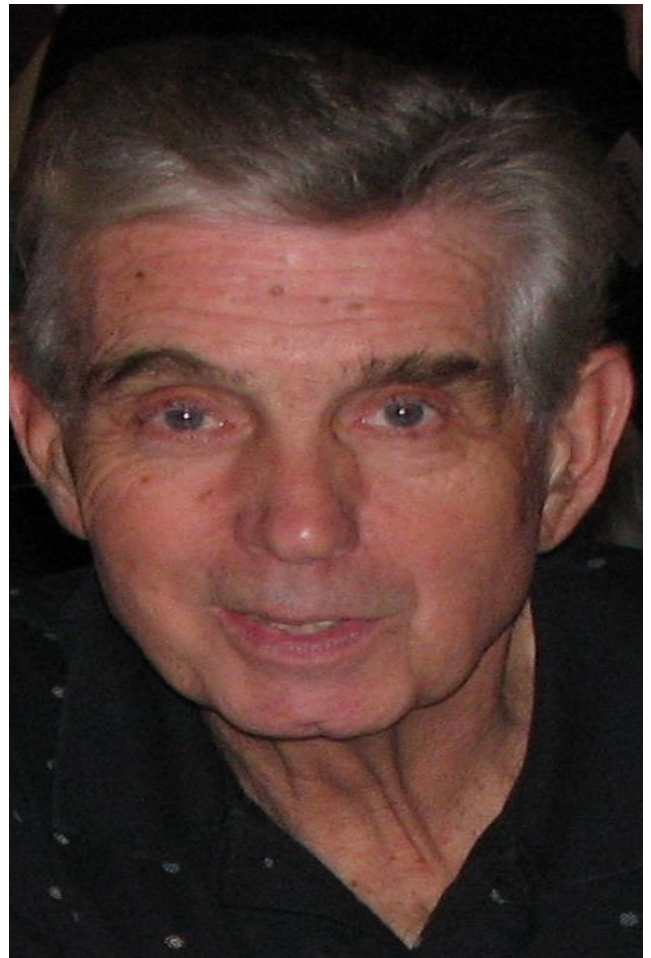
Serge Frechette, Mary Cosentino, Richard Ormsby, Jill Perry, Joan & Bill Conway, Nancy Carter, John Perry, Linda Cullars, Pam Keller

Sunday morning our hosts felt they needed to feed us once again and had a great breakfast of pancakes and sausage. Bill Carter and John Russano made the pancakes and Bill said all the ugly pancakes were made by John!



Memorial Day is a solemn occasion as we remember our Veterans that paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy our freedoms today. This Memorial weekend was also very sad in that we lost one of our own members to cancer. Charlie Voyton, also a Veteran, passed

away this morning, May 26, 2013, at 6:05 a.m. after his battle with stomach cancer. Charlie was just diagnosed with cancer in March and the doctors said he only had about two months to live. It is hard for us to understand God's plan for our lives, but evidently HE had a purpose in Heaven for Charlie. Everyone said it must have been that God needed Charlie to run His golf cart Taxi as that's what Charlie is remembered doing at the SAMBOREES. We will all miss his quiet ways, his warm smile, his dry sense of humor, and that eager hand when you needed help. RIP our dear friend until we meet again.



I prepared a brief program for all of our Veterans and began by giving the Wikipedia definition of Memorial Day. I then asked all of our Veterans

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to come forward so that they could be recognized and given thanks for their service. I read a poem titled "What Heroes Gave" and concluded the program by asking everyone to stand and hold hands while we sang along with Lee Greenwood's "I'm Proud to be an American".



Our Veterans: Walt Cullars, Dave Smith, John Henning, Mike Keller, Frank Ciampaglia, Robin Murray, Bill Conway, Serge Frechette, Ron Mercer, John Russano, Richard Ormsby, Myron Magedanz

The Chapter provided hamburgers and hot dogs for dinner and Linda Voyton, her daughter Nina, and Chuck and Jeanie Potter joined us. I know this was good for them to get away from all the pain of the last few weeks.

Our evening program was the "Balloon Game". This game provides us with more laughter and entertainment than I think anything we have played. Just look at the pictures and you can't help but laugh!



A little bit of cheating going on?



After all the crying, eating, laughing and just too much fun, many of us felt like Myron but some of us still managed to play cards that evening.



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Even though we had an extra day for our campout, the time still seemed to just fly. We thank our hosts, Bill & Nancy Carter, once again for making this a great campout. We won't meet again until September, so have a wonderful summer and definitely safe travels to those that are planning to leave town. Bill and I are planning to leave Florida around mid July and won't return until our October campout at Paradise Oaks. Happy Trails until we meet again.

The next campout will be held at Bay Bayou, 8492 Manatee Bay Drive, Tampa, FL 33635, 888-692-2968, September 27-29, 2013, and hosted by Ron & Sandy Mercer, 727-845-5249. Please contact the Mercers directly to let them know of your attendance.

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS OFFICERS

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I WOULD LIKE TO END THIS NEWSLETTER WITH THE QUOTE I READ DURING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE: "IT IS FOOLISH AND WRONG TO MOURN THE MEN (VETERANS) WHO DIED. RATHER WE SHOULD THANK GOD THAT SUCH MEN LIVED." – GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON