

# TRAILBLAZING SAMS NEWSLETTER

## MAY, 2014



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### OUR HOSTS:

**Ken & Linda Kuiken**

**Frog Creek RV Resort & Campground**

**Palmetto, FL**

**May 23-26, 2014**



For our May campout weekend, we had a total of 15 member rigs and one guest rig.

Our May campout is the last one of the season and we had great fellowship, wonderful food, fun and games, beautiful weather, and serene surroundings amongst the large oak trees filled with spanish moss. Some of those trees, however, were not too friendly. In the process of the Frog Creek Staff parking Robin Murray, they ran him right into a tree and broke off his right side mirror. Definitely not a good way to start the weekend.

Those of us that arrived Thursday afternoon went to Poppi's Restaurant for dinner. Because of a miscommunication however, we all didn't make it to the same Poppi's restaurant. Everyone said they had an excellent meal, we just weren't all together.

Friday the rest of the group arrived and our hosts provided us with a wonderful dinner of ham, baked potatoes, green beans, and various desserts. Cards games were enjoyed after dinner.

Saturday morning the business meeting was held and minutes have been posted. One of the items discussed during the meeting was the news about Trail Blazing Sams winning the Good Sam Chapter of the Year and that we would be receiving \$500 for the Chapter Treasury and \$2,000 would be sent to the Florida Good Sam Treasury on our behalf. Because of my Father's illness, I was unable to do a news letter after the Spring SAMBOREE when it was announced we were National Chapter of the Year, so I wanted to ensure everyone had this fantastic news. Our thanks once again to Albert Morneault for putting together the COY book which depicted all of TBS' accomplishments and hard work.



**Ladies & Gentlemen, May I present your  
2013 Florida Chapter of the Year and  
2013 Good Sams Chapter of the Year**

After the business meeting, a group of us visited My Warrior's Place in Ruskin. This place was started by Kelly Kowall after her son, Corey, was killed in Afghanistan. She sought a place where she as well as other veterans and military families could grieve over their losses. All that



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attended were very impressed with the work that has been and is being accomplished at this facility through the dedication and hard work of this Mother. This is an organization many in our group were inspired to want to help.



Saturday afternoon a holey board tournament was held and many participated. There were four teams competing at a time, and some of the games went very quickly while others dragged on and on and on. I was on one of those teams that getting to a score of 21 seemed like it took all afternoon! Here are the winners!



**Robin Murray & John Russano 1st Place**



**Jill Perry & Ken Kuiken 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

We caravanned to Anna Marie Oyster Bar in Ellenton for dinner where almost everyone had free margaritas! The restaurant did a fabulous job in getting the orders in correctly, served in a timely manner, and us out the door in a short period of time.



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Sunday morning was indeed a day of rest for many. We had no scheduled activities until 1:00 p.m. when we had a Memorial Day program. Bill and I provided some readings and poems, Gail DuBose played her keyboard, and we sang My Country Tis of Thee and America the Beautiful which, in my opinion, added a beautiful touch to the ceremony. A few related personal stories to add to our theme which was the "Purpose of Memorial Day."



**Gail DuBose and Joan Conway**



**Our Veterans**

**John Henning, Myron Magedanz, Richard Ormsby, John Russano, Dave Smith, Albert Morneault, Bill Carter, Chuck Potter, John DuBose, Bill Conway, Mike Abrams, Robin Murray, and Serge Frechette**

We thank each of you for your service.

Sunday afternoon we had another rousing game of Bean Bag Baseball with the men versus the women. Since we had such a large number of players, it was decided with the referee that the game would be played for 9 innings thereby giving everyone a couple of times at "bat". Of course some of the men thought the women were cheating when the game was tied 7 to 7 in the fifth inning and they scored 3 runs in the sixth inning (making the game 10 to 7), and were told the game was going for 9 innings. Although the women fought hard up to the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning, the score remained in favor of the men 10 to 7. The men currently hold the championship title with two wins in our September through May campouts. The women will now be out for revenge next season.



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners – Ken Kuiken, Bill Carter, John Russano, Myron Magadenz, Mike Miles, Dave Smith, Serge Frechette, Bill Conway (Referee), Mike Lima, Robin Murray, John Perry, Chuck Potter, Richard Ormsby, Mike Abrams**

Sunday evening we had our traditional Hamburger/Hot Dog picnic along with grilled corn on the cob, watermelon, and various desserts. Of course this was after Happy Hour with a lot of great appetizers. We are never lacking in something to eat that's for sure!

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Although this was a three day campout (4 days for many) the time always goes by too quickly. Our hugs and farewells are given and everyone is wished a safe summer. We thank Linda & Ken Kuiken for a great time and remind everyone to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day weekend.

Below is a quote I found on the internet which I believe truly applies to Trail Blazing Sams and especially with winning both Florida and National Chapter of the Year:

Winners never Quit  
Quitters never Win!



### TRAIL BLAZING SAMS OFFICERS

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Our next campout will be held at Winter Quarters Pasco RV Resort, 21632 State Road 54, Lutz, FL 33549 September 26 – 28, 2014 with Linda Voyton being our Hostess.

Bill and I wish everyone safe travels and lots of new adventurers over the summer months.