



Trail Blazing Sams Newsletter

Spring Rally

KOA Okeechobee,
April 6th—10th
April 5th— Early Bird



John Russano President
(352)799-0021



Richard Ormsby, Vice-President
(813)633-6171



Mike Lima, Secretary
(813) 264-7010



Linda Kuiken, Treasurer
(941) 365-1453

We had 16 member rigs and 2 guests (John & Sue Zeider and Caroline Oseland , sister of Jean Potter) Caroline was visiting from England.

We were brought up to believe that April showers brings May Flowers but for Good Sam members, April brings us a great Spring Rally at the KOA Resort in Okeechobee, Fl. We all look forward to a week of fun filled events, hard work, great fellowship and wonderful memories.

Most of us arrived on Tuesday (Early Bird) and after registering got busy preparing for the week.

In the evening it was time for the popular Samgo (Bingo) game. One of our members John Russano, our President) was lucky enough to win a nice sum of money.

WEDNESDAY April 6th

Wednesday's activities started with breakfast as provided by Chapter Host: Jax Rambling Sams followed by sign up for both outdoor games and indoor games. Our Chapter tradition-ally has for a long time organized and ran all the indoor games as well as Bocci Ball and Horseshoes. The Sampipers Chapter has run the Bean Bag Baseball and Holey Board games for years .They have resigned and the State is trying to find another Chapter to take over those games. Since I with Juliet assisting did the sign ups for Bocci Ball and Horseshoes the State assumed we would take care of the other games as well. In Tallahassee we did. However I made it perfectly clear to Paul Schneider, State Coordinator of Outdoor Games that we, TBS, will do the Indoor Games but will only do Bocci Ball and Horseshoes in the future. With all the activities we are involved in we cannot take on more responsibilities. After all going to a Rally is supposed to be fun and frankly speaking even though we are Chapter of the Year, we do enough. I have been assured that in Eustis the State will have Chapters to take over Bean Bag Baseball and Holey Board. We hope for the best because it would be a shame to lose those games. They bring a large number of players to the Rally.



The afternoon started with the indoor games under the direction of Juliet Dudinsky. There were several Chapter member who assisted her and the transition from Caroline Johnson seems to be going smoothly. The games today were Hand & Foot, Euchre, Wizard and Chicken Foot Dominoes

Game Workers

L. to R.

Dennis LaPerle
Joanne Lima
Jeannette Ormsby
John Russano
Richard Ormsby
Juliet Dudinsky
Linda Kuiken
Ruth Hemphill



The games today were Hand & Foot, Euchre, Wizard and Chicken Foot Dominoes

Thursday started with a walk with Liz Abrams. The rest of us got treated to coffee and donuts provided by Space Coast Sams followed by Bean Bag Baseball. We had two teams entered but never got by the first round. Our best hitters couldn't find the base hits. After the ball games ended it was time for Hot Dogs sponsored by Go-Go Angles.



Wednesday evening was the Opening Ceremony where we proudly presented the **Chapter Colors**. Our State Director had announced that our Chapter had won the **Regional Chapter of the Year** and was in the running for National Honors. Unfortunately, we were beaten in the finals by a Chapter from Utah. Congratulations are in order for all Chapter members. After a few announcements the evening closed with entertainment by Craig Singleton.





Thursday afternoon it was time once again to host the Indoor Games. Participants played Mexican Train Dominoes, Pinochle, Cribbage and Skip-Bo. Cotton Deal and Juliet Dudinsky won the Cribbage tournament. (It stays in the family)



Friday began with a walk with Liz Abrams while the rest of us had a breakfast of coffee, sausage gravy and biscuit followed by Holey Board. What a fun game. Unfortunately some of our previous winners were eliminated early. We did have a team (Frechette-Conway) that did go to the finals. A mistake was made and second place was the result.



In the afternoon it was time for BBQ lunch sponsored by Golden Triangle Sams. The Ice Cream social followed hosted by Carefree Sams. I guess age makes no difference when it comes to Ice Cream (maybe free had something to do with it). There were lines but it didn't take too long for everyone to enjoy this treat. The State Staff was introduced in the evening program followed by entertainment with Bob Gaffney

Thursday evening it was Samgo with many of our members participating. As with all the events TBS was busy selling water for our designated charity. (Florida Dog Guides and Dogs for the Deaf) Just want to thank everyone that participated in selling water. We captured a photo of a few of them .

Top left: Bill Hemphill & Linda Kuiken Down left: Caroline Oseland & Jeannie Potter Judy Magedanz & Nancy Carter



Saturday began early for many of us since this was Bocci Ball day. Some continue embarrassing us by walking with Liz while the rest of us had another breakfast consisting of Coffee and Donuts provided by Host Lake Eola Sams. After we headed out to the Courts to set up for Bocci Ball. The games went smoothly with no fighting, pushing or scratching. Everyone had a good time and we finished early enough for all to return to get their Meatball Sub Lunch.

Happy Birthday

May 5th-Steve Popovich

May 14th-Frank Ciampaglia

May 26th-Nancy Carter

May 28th-Lorraine Zecher

May 30th-Ken Kuiken

Happy Anniversary

May 7th-Johnsons

May 7th- Perrys

**Wish you all
many more
Happy Years**

Saturday after lunch it was time for the MAD HAT-TERS CONTEST AND PARADE. There were many participants but due to the many other activities our Chapter is involved in, it appears everyone was too tired to participate because there was only one entry from our ranks.

Jeannette Ormsby

Our Chapter's Business Meeting was followed by a very nice cookout. For information regarding that meeting make sure you read the Minutes.

Big changes are in the works. It was announced that Mike & Liz Abrams are resigning from the State Staff (but not from TBS) So with that we will be losing our Chapter ASD's. It is not known at this time who will replace them. At the same time we were informed that Bill & Joan Conway will become Assistant State Directors. Stay tuned.



Saturday evening Our State Director Joe and Debbie Weston got the program underway at the designated time. After the presentation of the Century Patches and Flower Awards, the Chapter Raffles and announcement of the Game Winners it was time for the evening entertainment by Dr. Michael Matone. Originally from Long Island, NY he was a physician before leaving the medical field to become an accomplished performer. Moving to Boynton Beach, Florida he has received many tributes from several musical industry critics. While we heard him sing in English he also sings in three languages. Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. Interesting performance.



Mike & Liz Abrams



Bill & Joan Conway

Sunday arrived and with it came the end of another very successful Rally. Upon leaving Okeechobee many of us departed for N. Franklin Locks, Alva, Florida where we spent several days totally relaxing. What a great time we had doing nothing and I mean nothing. What a beautiful campground where you can enjoy the Inter- Coastal Waterway, Eagles flying and fish jumping. We had a lot of fun with a couple of side trips that Joanne Lima organized. You can see some pictures on our web site

WE'RE on the WEB
tbsams.weebly.com

*Goodbyes are not forever, Goodbyes are not the end
They simply mean I'll miss you
Until we meet again.*



COMING EVENTS

As a reminder please mark your calendar for the May Campout at Hide-Away RV Resort, 2206 Chaney Drive, Ruskin, Florida. Your Host/Hostess will be Rob and Mary Murray. They will be sending out the Agenda in a few weeks. Since May ends our camping season until September it would be nice to see everybody at this campout before many depart for the summer month's destinations.

September our campout will be at Bay Bayou RV Resort in Tampa. September 23-25th. Your Host will be Serge Frechette. If you haven't let him know of your intention to attend please call him or drop him an email. Apparently Bay Bayou requires a list of attendees as soon as possible.

Sunshine Club

The latest news on Ken Kuiken is that his shoulder is well and his rehab is proceeding nicely. Joanne Lima is having difficulties with her hip and is scheduled to see her physician soon.

Chuck Potter is undergoing treatment for his leg(s) and back problem.

Let's not forget about John & Cerese Henning

Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers



Robin & Mary Murray

Linda Voyton
Still part of State Staff

We'd like to leave you with this thought

There comes a time in your life,
when you walk away from
all the drama and people who create it.

You surround yourself with
people who make you laugh.

Forget the bad, and

FOCUS ON THE GOOD.

Love the people who treat you right,
pray for the ones who don't.

Life is too short to be
ANYTHING BUT HAPPY.
Falling down is a part of life,
getting back up is living.

- Jose N. Harris

www.allinspiredboutique.com

Editor: Richard & Jeannette Ormsby

(813) 633-6171