

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS NEWSLETTER VOLUME XXXIV ISSUE 1

DECEMBER CAMPOUT, LAZY DAYS, SEFNER, FL
December 8 – 11, 2011



OUR HOSTS: JOHN & GAIL DUBOSE



We had a total of 15 member rigs, 3 drive ins, and 2 guests for our campout.

Our campout began with the early birds arriving at Lazy Days December 8, 2011. The weather promised to be beautiful for the entire weekend – a chance of rain – but mid to high 70s. We sat around Thursday afternoon enjoying the sunshine and then 14 of us had dinner at Ruby Tuesday in Brandon. By the time we returned it was too late to start any games, so most of us just retired to our rigs.

Friday, December 9, the majority of us began the day with breakfast at Lazy Days Café. The nice thing about staying at Lazy Days is they have the Café for breakfast and lunch. They also have the Exit 10 restaurant and several of us enjoyed a delicious, very reasonably priced lunch there. After lunch our host, Gail Dubose, gave the women instructions on making pillowcases for cancer patients at Tampa General Childrens' Center. ConKerr Cancer started when Cindy Kerr's son was diagnosed with cancer and she began making pillowcases to brighten up his hospital room and to put a smile on his face. We made 19 pillowcases to donate and you can learn more at conkerrcancer.org. We had a lot of fun making the pillowcases and felt this was a very worthy project. We did, however, tease Gail that she was running a Chinese sweat shop!



Linda Kuiken, Yvonne Wiseley, Linda Voyton, Jean Potter, Liz Abrams, Joan Russano, Gail Dubose, Lynne Morneault, Joan Conway, Jeannette Ormsby

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Friday evening our hosts treated us to a nice Lasagne dinner with salad, rolls, and ice cream for dessert. The kitchen trailer now provided for those having rallies was large enough, however, the ovens did not work, so the chef from Exit 10 baked the Lasagne dinners. Because of this problem and a miscommunication on time in the oven, the lasagne was a little on the overdone side. Although we weren't able to scrape the bottom of the pans, the lasagne was very tasty and hopefully everyone had plenty to eat.

Saturday morning many attended breakfast at Lazy Days Café. After breakfast we were ready for our business meeting which generally starts at 9:30. This morning, however, Brian Taylor from the Guardian ad Litem Program was there to pick up the toys which we were donating. There were a lot of very nice toys and Mr. Taylor thanked us for selecting the Toy Closet to donate to this year. We took pictures of all of us with the toys and then began the business meeting at 9:40. Check the web for the minutes of our December meeting.



Saturday afternoon we had a fantastic time thanks to Joanne Lima and her cookie decorating class. Joanne previously baked cookies (she actually baked 500 total earlier in the week) and brought some decorated for eating and some for us to decorate. She even had cookies for the men to decorate – the cutiest one being the melted snowman. The guys also decorated a Santa cookie using purchased Nutter Butters. Joanne devoted many hours of preparation to provide this class and we all thank her for her time, talents, and expense. We had a great time and the men did very well with their cookies.



After the cookie demonstration, Mike Lima and Bill Conway did a presentation of our new web site so individuals could see how easy it was to maneuver. Hopefully everyone understood how to access the web site and had all their questions answered. We owe a lot of thanks to Mike & Joanne Lima, Jeannette Ormsby, and Larry Buback for getting our new web site up and running.

Saturday evening we had a pot luck dinner with many excellent dishes to choose from. Our President, Bill Conway, went to each table hoping to come up with a "People's Choice Award " for a favorite dish. Well we had a tie of two dishes - one being an entrée of Chicken Cacciatore by Joan Russano and the other a dessert of Snowball cake by Jean Potter. The following are their receipes:

CHICKEN CACCIATORE – CHEF JOAN RUSSANO



Chicken pieces
Onion
4-6 cloves of garlic
Can of whole peeled tomatoes
Basil, oregano, salt pepper
Hot pepper flakes
Optional – fresh spinach leaves, mushrooms, etc.

Heat a small amount of olive oil in and pot and braise the chicken pieces on all sides. Remove the chicken and add sliced onion and garlic and simmer until translucent. Add tomatoes after breaking them up with a processor or squeezing by hand (you want some tomato pieces left). Add chicken, basil, oregano, salt, pepper and hot pepper flakes. Cook on low heat for about 1 hour. Stir gently to keep chicken from breaking up. About 30 minutes before serving add spinach, mushrooms, etc. Serve over pasta or rice.

SNOWBALL CAKE – CHEF JEAN POTTER



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2 envelopes plain gelatin
Juice of one lemon
4 tablespoons cold water
1 can crushed pineapple
1 cup boiling water
1 cup sugar
1 large angel food cake
4 packs dream whip

Soften gelatin in cold water. Add boiling water, stir to cool. Add sugar, lemon juice, and undrained pineapple and chill. Prepare 3 packs dream whip (directions on box). Combine with chilled mixture. Break cake into one inch cubes. Layer cake and mixture until used, ending with mixture. Chill for 2-3 hours. Mix last dream whip pack and put on top of cake. Makes large bowl full.

After dinner we had a lot of laughs with teams playing the Rudolph game (I think this was a dreamed up name as the team captains had to wear antlers!) Any way the object was for a team to blow up balloons and stuff them into both legs of a pair of pantyhose. Well Linda Voyton's team thought they were the winners; however, they didn't stuff the balloons all the way to the bottom of the pantyhose, so they had to start over. The winners were Mike Abrams team which consisted of himself, Liz Abrams, Mike Lima, Dea & Yvonne Wiseley.



Winning team



2nd place-Linda Voyton, Albert Mourneault, John Russano, Jill Perry & Juliet Dudinsky

After the Rudolph Game, we then did our gift exchange which was played like the Chinese gift exchange. Everyone was given a number with men receiving one set of numbers and the women another set. When the first player's number was called, they were allowed to select whichever gift they wanted from their group. Robin Murray was the first to select from the men's group and Caroline Johnson was the first to select from the women's group. They then opened their gifts and the next number was called. Well this person could steal the gift away from Robin and Caroline – which was done. This went on with all the numbers being called and the person stealing or keeping the gift they selected prior to opening it. After all the numbers were called, it then went back to Robin and Caroline as they did not have an opportunity to steal a gift. Well needless to say, they both stole a gift from someone else. We had a lot of fun playing this game.



After all the gifts were opened, we sang Christmas carols. Thanks to Gail Dubose bringing her keyboard, we actually sounded very good. Poor Gail was unable to sing with us as she had been suffering with laryngitis. I believe we all felt the true meaning of the Christmas spirit as we sang the various songs about Christ's birth and experienced the warmth and fellowship of the evening.

Sunday morning our hosts provided us a breakfast of sweet rolls, coffee, and fresh fruit. It was time to say goodbye to everyone and many of us sat around talking about the great weekend and not really wanting it to be over. The Christmas with our second family provided us with many memories and laughs and none of us were extremely anxious to leave. Many of us will be attending the New Year's Eve celebration that Lazy Days has so we will be looking forward to that in a few weeks.

Our next campout will be held at Frog Creek, Palmetto, FL January 27-29, 2012. Judy and Myron Magedanz will be our hosts for the weekend. If you have not let them know you will be attending, please do so as soon as possible by calling them at 813-685-5966. Since this is during high season, it is imperative that they know the number attending.

Bill and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy & prosperous New Year.

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS OFFICERS

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