



The Trail Blazer

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS
FLORIDA CHAPTER # 47
December, 2016

Issue 2 of 9
Newsletter Year
Nov 2016—Oct 2017



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December Campout Dec 1 — 4, 2016

Ocala Sun RV Resort

2559 SW Hwy 484, Ocala, FL 34473



Our December Hosts
Jill and John Perry



Jill and John live in the Villages, FL. They joined Trail Blazing Sams in April, 2005. Here is how they use their 38' Bounder.

"Since there are no TBS campouts during the summer, our RV travels during the summer start in early June ending in late September. During this time we visit family and friends in Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. This year's "special" travels will include the Calgary Stampede, Boise, Idaho, the National Parks in Utah and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. We hope to find our way back to The Villages, Florida before the weather turns cold where we can continue traveling in the RV throughout the winter months to our TBS campouts."

December Meeting

Seventeen of our nineteen member rigs attended the December campout. President John Russano conducted the meeting. Bill Carter, Membership Chairman, welcomed our guest Brenda Gollihue.

John reported on the highlights of the Presidents' meeting in Eustis.

Since the Chapter that handles the Rally Flea Markets no longer will be doing this, TBS voted to take over this project. Lynne Morneault will be the coordinator.



Steve & Livia Popovich looking good in their Trail Blazing Sams uniforms.



TBS Officers for the next 2 years
John, Ray, Linda & Mike

The Annual Audit
Dennis, Ray & Juliet



President John awarded stars to TBS members who volunteered at the Eustis Good Sam Rally

FUN AND GAMES

There was some fierce and friendly competition going on all weekend—men against the women. First round was Bean Bag Baseball and every person played. There were a lot of laughs and some amazing shots. Most of us even hit the target once or twice.

The men gave it a good try, but when all the hits, runs and outs were counted, the women scored a total of 8 runs to only 3 by the men.

So now it is on to Round 2 of the Battle of the Sexes.



**Bean Bag Baseball—The Winners
Girls Rule!**



Love That Form

2nd Place



**Bringing Them In With a Home
Run**





Game 2 of the Battle of the Sexes. The Braniac Puzzle was quite a challenge. We all had some good laughs trying to decipher the clues. Did I mention the Girls won with a score of 319 to 313?



FRIDAY NIGHT "SOUPER" DINNER



Jill prepared three different kinds of delicious soups for us



Serge



Judy & Myron



FUN AND GAMES



Who knew Saran Wrap could be so much fun. The objective was to peel off all the layers of Saran, wearing gloves, to get to the prize in the middle. Small prizes were won along the way, too.



Bill & Ken tried hard, but it was Ray who got the apron



JINGLE BALLS



Cheerleader Linda. Secret weapon for the girls

For several years, we have been playing some form of Jingle Balls using Bocce Balls. This year everyone played. It was the final game of the Battle of the Sexes.

Both sides sure wanted to win. Cheerleader Linda Voyton cheered on the girls. That may have made the difference, since the final score was 11 for the girls and 3 for the guys

So, in the end, it was a clean sweep weekend for the girls. The guys hung their heads in defeat, but vowed to come back next year stronger than ever.



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

The Saturday night dinner was the highlight of our weekend. The tables were set with candy cane candle centerpieces and clever candy cane and chocolate sleigh favors (made by Jill, of course). Placemats, made by Joan Russano, were loaned by Jeannette.

Our hosts, John and Jill, provided a delicious dinner of turkey and ham with all the fixings. For dessert, we all had pumpkin and cherry pie topped with whipped cream. Thank you John and Jill.



Joan & John



Ken & Linda

Jean & Chuck



Cotton & Juliet

GIFT EXCHANGE

Each person brought a gift to exchange. The process was lively and fun. Do I open a new gift or take a gift from someone else? There were some gifts everyone wanted. Taken three times, a gift is frozen. Bill Hemphill had a knack for picking the best gifts because everyone wanted his.

Who got those nice baking dishes? Did Robin end up with the long handled flashlight? Did John end up with that great set of knives? Soft blankets and tools were high in demand. What fun we all had.



Myron & Judy



Joan & Bill



Robin & Mary



Joanne & Mike



Ray & Rita



Brenda & Dennis

Steve & Livia



Richard & Jeannette

I am going to choose this gift



Nancy & Bill

GIFT EXCHANGE & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

After we finished the Gift Exchange, it was time to sing Christmas Carols. This year we were accompanied by Dennis on the keyboard.

While some of us were a little off key, we sang our own rendition of some of our favorite Christmas Carols. "Oh bring us some figgy pudding, oh bring us some figgy pudding, oh bring us some figgy pudding and a cup of good cheer." At least we know the words, but just what is figgy pudding?



Linda



I wonder what is in this package



Bill & Ruth



Serge



Mike and Liz Abrams joined Trail Blazing Sams in October, 2001. For the past 8 years, they were also part of the Florida State Staff as Assistant State Directors and are now “retired”.

Mike was chosen to write the procedures for the Emergency Response Team and for several years handled this role by himself. The ERT was the first of its kind in the Good Sam Club. In an emergency, the first call was to 911 and the second to Mike who could be counted on to be first on the scene. Mike also served as State Parliamentarian.

“Walk With Liz” early each Rally morning always drew a crowd of early walkers. Working with TBS volunteers, Liz was ASD for the Indoor Games. She also coordinated Special Events including parades and exhibits. If you needed a ride, Liz provided all day taxi service. We all saw Liz as a participant in the beautiful Memorial Service held at each Fall Rally. In addition to all of this, Liz also served as State Secretary.

Mike and Liz were ASDs for several Chapters including ours. We are so proud of them for all they have done and very happy to have them as members of our Chapter.

ASD for Rally Indoor Games



Two familiar faces, Robin and Mary Murray now serve as Trail Blazing Sams ASDs. Those who have been in TBS for a while will remember that the Murrays were also our ASDs several years ago.

Not all Chapters are fortunate enough to have one of their own member couples as ASDs. We are lucky to have had two TBS members couples serve in that role.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Salvation Army Angel Tree

At our December campout, we traditionally each bring either a toy or gift card to donate to the Salvation Army Angel Tree.

We always collect a mix of toys for the youngsters and gift for the older children. This year we collected almost \$400 in toys and gift cards.



DOGS FOR THE DEAF & FLORIDA DOG GUIDES



Co-Chairmen Al Morneault & Serge Frechette, with lots of help, coordinate our water sales at each Rally. Proceeds go to Dogs For The Deaf and Florida Dog Guides



VETERANS' HOSPITAL

On behalf of TBS, several times a year. Robin and Mary Murray and Juliet Dudinsky deliver hundreds of books, puzzles and magazines to the Bay Pines Veterans' hospital. We recently received a letter thanking us for the latest donation—561 books, 208 magazines, 130 CDs, 10 lap robes and 3 Bibles. A special thanks to Robin, Mary and Juliet.

FROM OUR PROJECTS CHAIRPERSON - Lynne Morneault

Please remember to save the following: aluminum tab tops, BoxTops For Education, plastic bottle lids, cell phones, and hearing aids, books, puzzles and magazines.

We are always in need of lap robes, baby blankets and baby hats. If you don't knit or crochet, please consider donating yarn to those who do. We have so many places who greatly appreciate these handmade items.

Myron and Judy will take any donations of food, clothing and shoes to Echo. Robin, Mary and Juliette will take books, puzzles and magazines to the Veterans' Hospital

Please start saving your flea market donations for the next Rally.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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Bill Conway	1st
Colin Greseth	6th
Serge Frechette	8th
Liz Ambrams	13th
Cerese Henning	17th

ANNIVERSARIES

Deal/Dudinsky	24th
Magedanz	27th

On The Web
tbsams.weebly.com

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UPCOMING CAMPOUTS AND RALLIES

January 27- 29 Paradise Oaks, Bushnell
Hosts: Ray & Rita Turner

February 15—19 **FLORIDA WINTER RALLY**
Fairgrounds, Tallahassee

March 24—26 Paradise Oaks, Bushnell
Hosts: Bill & Nancy Carter
**TBS 40th Anniversary
Celebration Weekend**

April 26—30 **FLORIDA SPRING RALLY**
KOA
Okeechobee, Florida

May 26—29 Sandy Oaks, Beverly Hills
Hosts: Al & Lynne Morneault

Be sure to make your reservation now if you are going to the unofficial "TBS Friends Campout" at W.P. Franklin Lock after the Okeechobee Rally

SUNSHINE CORNER - Rita Turner

Al Morneault is recovering from breaking his shoulder and wrist when he fell off a ladder putting up Christmas lights. Everyone, stay off those ladders.

Chuck Potter is scheduled for back surgery January 19.

We wish both Al and Chuck a speedy recovery and hope to see them camping soon.

GOOD SAM PLEDGE

As a member of the Good Sam Club I pledge to give aid to others in need, respect nature and the environment, give back to the community and those less fortunate, treat others with dignity and respect, and to wear a smile (like Good Sam and Good Samantha's) and promote the pledge of the Good Sam Club to others.