



The Trail Blazer

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS
FLORIDA CHAPTER # 47
April, 2017

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Newsletter Year
Nov 2016—Oct 2017



PRESIDENT

John Russano
(352) 200-1280



VICE PRESIDENT

Ray Turner
(813) 779-9561



SECRETARY

Mike Lima
(813) 220-8116



TREASURER

Linda Kuiken
(941) 365-1453

April Campout April 26 — 30, 2017

Florida Good Sams Spring Rally

Okeechobee KOA Resort

Okeechobee, FL



Good Sam Club

Seventeen Trail Blazing Sams rigs traveled to the Florida Good Sam Spring Rally in Okeechobee. Almost everyone arrived on Early Bird Tuesday, ready to start the fun filled week.

It was a very busy week for us since TBS hosts two days of Indoor Games, Horseshoes, Bocce Ball, the Flea Market and Water Sales.

“Many hands makes light work”. Everyone pitched in to make this another very successful Rally.

We also made time for some fun and good times.



Our Chapter Banner and the American Flag are proudly displayed for all to see outside President John and Joan Russano's coach.

APRIL MEETING

Seventeen member rigs plus one guest attended the April meeting. Since we wear full uniforms to Rally Opening and Closing Ceremonies, we have a casual dress code for Rally meetings. Bill Carter, Membership Chairman, welcomed our guest and former member, Frank Cosentino.

During the meeting, President John distributed Rally Stars to everyone who volunteered at the February Tallahassee Rally. See the Minutes on the TBS website for meeting details.

Following the meeting, we enjoyed a potluck before heading to the Rally evening activities.



Mike, Linda, Ken and Steve



Joan, Jeanette, Richard, John, Jill, Nancy, Chuck and Jean enjoying our Casual Friday Meeting.

Welcome to our guest, Frank Cosentino. Frank was previously a TBS member before moving to New York. Welcome back to Florida, Frank.



There is always an interesting story to tell

IN THE EVENINGS

Wednesday night was the Opening Ceremonies. Trasurer Linda Kuiken and President John Russano carried the Trail Blazing Sams banner in the Parade of Colors. We all wear our full TBS uniforms to support our Chapter. Following the parade was the introduction of the State Staff.

Tuesday and Thursday were Samgo nights. Several of our members enjoyed playing Bingo.

Before the entertainment on Friday night and Saturday nights, Indoor and Outdoor Game Winners were announced. This year there were several TBS members included. See individual games later in this newsletter for pictures. Perrys, Ormsbys, Magedanz and Voyton won door prizes.



SERGE FRECHETTE



JEAN & CHUCK POTTER



BILL & RUTH HEMPHILL



ENJOYING THE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

COTTON DEAL / JULIET DUDINSKY



CAROLYN & DAVE RILLING



JILL & JOHN PERRY



MYRON & JUDY MAGEDANC



MIKE & JOANNE LIMA



JEANNETTE & RICHARD ORMSBY



ENJOYING THE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

LIVIA & STEVE
POPOVICH



AL & LYNNE MORNEAULT



JOHN
RUSSANO



LINDA & KEN KUIKEN



NANCY & BILL CARTER



ENJOYING THE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Three of our Trailblazing Sams members do double duty as Floriday State Good Sams Assistant State Directors. Robin and Mary Murray are also ASD's for our Chapter. Linda Voyton is the State Secretary and Joan & Bill Conway are ASDs.

During the evening entertainment, several of our TBS members were inspired to do a little dancing. Pictured are the dancers, Lynn & Al Morneault and Nancy & Bill Carter.



INDOOR GAMES

Juliet Dudinsky is our TBS Leader for all the Rally Indoor Games — Chicken Foot Dominoes, Cribbage, Euchre, Hand & Foot, Mexican Train Dominoes, Pinochle, Skip Bo and Wizard.

TBS members are always ready to help and sometimes we even get to play. Pictured are just a few of our TBS volunteers. This time several of our members were winners.

Pictured At Right: Lynn Morneault



Linda Kuiken won 1st Place Chicken Foot Dominoes and Wannabee Richard Ormsby, who didn't



Jeannette Ormsby 1st Place Euchre

**Carolyn Rilling on the Left
1st Place Mexican Train Dominoes**



Volunteers Jeannette Ormsby, Joanne Lima, John Russano & Juliet Dudinsky with Indoor Games ASD Loretta Redderoth

HORSESHOES

At the Spring Okeechobee Rally each year, Horseshoes is added as an additional outdoor game, Trail Blazing Sams is the host Chapter for Horseshoes.

This year, working with ASD Bill Conway, Richard Ormsby was the coordinator and also served as scorekeeper.

A good time was had by everyone who participated. The TBS team of Myron Magedanz and Serge Frechette won 2nd place.



Above: 2nd Place—Myron & Serge



Below: Myron Showing Great Form



Some of the participants, Richard, ASD Bill Conway and Myron

BEAN BAG BASEBALL

We all love to play Bean Bag Baseball. We had enough people to fill up three teams.

Two of our teams didn't make it past the first round, but one did make it to Round 3. We all cheered each other on and we came so close.

I guess we need to start playing baseball more often at our campouts so we get some practice.

Maybe next year, we will have a winner. Of course, the camaraderie and good times are the real reasons we participate.



**Above: Juliet Lining Up Her Shot
Middle: Al & Serge On 2nd and 3rd
Right: Bill & Ruth In The Shade**

Below: One Of Our Three Teams



Just Waiting For Our Turn

HOLEY BOARD



Holey Board is a favorite game for TBS members, so we always have quite a few teams. Several teams make it through at least the first 3 rounds. This year Linda and Ken Kuiken were in the running right up to the end, but were just edged out.

A big congratulations to Serge Frechette who was on the 1st Place winning team. Way to go, Serge.



An umbrella is a great way to keep the sun away. Joan Russano and Jeannette Ormsby

BOCCE BALL

At each Florida Good Sam Rally, TBS hosts Bocce Ball. It takes a lot of volunteers to handle the sign up, check-in, keeping track of results on the Big Board and, of course, refereeing.

Bill Hemphill did a great job as our fearless leader. Everyone pitched in to make this another great competition.

In spite of the hot, sunny day, there were a lot of teams and everyone seemed to have a good time. There were some very close games and some exciting tiebreaking moments.



Pictured Above: Mike Announcing The Rules

Right: Bill Refereeing

Below: Linda and Lynne



Volunteers: Richard, Mike, Dave, Frank, Bill, Serge
Seated: Joanne, Juliet (Absent Joan R)

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE AND EVERY DROP TO DRINK

At every Rally, TBS sells bottles of water at all the events—Samgo, Indoor Games and Outdoor Games.

The money we collect is donated to Dogs For The Deaf and Florida Dog Guides. At the Okeechobee Rally, our net proceeds were \$261.20.

Al Morneault and Serge Frechette are our Water Sales Coordinators. They buy the water, ice it down and take the chests to the events so we will have ice cold water to sell.

Many of our TBS members help sell water during the Rally. Attendees recognize our friendly faces and are ready to buy water, especially on hot days.



Great Job Al, Serge and everyone who sold water

FLEA MARKET

TBS is the Chapter Host for the Flea Market at all 3 Florida Good Sam Rallies. This involves providing sign up sheets, coordinating the location and the actual flea market.

It seems we always have a lot of stuff to sell ourselves. In Okeechobee we spread our treasures over several tables and we had a huge crowd to look and buy.

At the end of the flea market, we were able to add \$255.34 to the TBS Treasury.

We boxed up everything we had left and donated it to Good Will., another TBS Good Deed.



Pictured Above: Left—Setting Up
Right: Putting It Together
Below: Al, Our "Money Man"



There was a huge crowd looking over all our "stuff".

AT THE FRANKLIN LOCK

As has been our tradition for many years, several of us headed to the Franklin Lock after the Okeechobee Rally for an unofficial campout. Everyone in the Chapter is invited and this year we had 13 rigs. It is a casual time to just kick back, put our feet up and just have fun.

Each evening 3 couples provide dinner, so the rest of the time we don't need to do a thing except enjoy ourselves and this beautiful place.

Sunday night Jeannette made her famous spaghetti. Carolyn made a salad and Joanne provided bread and home-made blueberry and cherry cheese pies. Yum!



Everything tastes better when we eat outside



Happy Hour and Dinner Outside with Trees For Shade and a View of the Caloosahatchee River

MONDAY AT THE FRANKLIN LOCK

Without a care in the world, it was so nice to play Shoot The Moon all afternoon. It was a bit windy, so we had to hold on to the cards, but nothing would keep us from enjoying the games.

Monday evening, Ruth, Juliet and Jean treated us to a wonderful dinner of pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches with all the fixings. Then dessert was the big surprise—ice cream sundaes and banana splits. It just doesn't get any better.



Happy Hour and Dinner Outside with Trees for Shade & a View of the Caloosahatchee River



Ice Cream Sundaes and Chuck Says "This One Is All Mine"

MATLACHA

On Tuesday morning, all 24 of us headed to Matlacha, an artsy community on the way to Pine Island. There are shops, art galleries and all kinds of funky places to visit.

The highlight was our visit to the Leoma Lovegrove Gallery and Gardens. Leoma's original art is featured in the gallery and the whimsical gardens are filled with flowers and walls made with blue Saratoga Springs water bottles.

Leoma has a custom painted RV in the garden which makes a great background for a photo op.



Beautiful waterfront setting



Bill & Nancy Carter with their new ride

LUNCH AT BERT'S



FRIED SPAGHETTI AND LEFTOVERS

Tuesday night we had an impromptu “leftovers dinner”. John and Joan treated us to John’s famous fried spaghetti, made with olive oil and garlic—and a little hot sauce for some. Our famous chef, preparing dinner right before our eyes.

Ruth, Juliet and Jean brought their delicious pulled pork and chicken, with ice cream for dessert.

It was a great time to just sit around and enjoy being with our TBS family.



Everything tastes better when we eat outside



Happy Hour and Dinner Outside with Trees For Shade and a View of the Caloosahatchee River

BREAKFAST ON THE POINT AND A MEATLOAF DINNER

Breakfast always tastes better when it is cooked outside. Sausage gravy and biscuits made by Bill & Nancy, pancakes by John and Joan and eggs and bacon by Linda and Ken. It was so pretty sitting out by the water watching the dolphins feeding and the boats traveling through the Lock. We saw some pretty big boats locking through.

For dinner, Linda V, Al & Lynne and Rick & Linda N. provided a meatloaf dinner. The three meatloaves were all delicious. This was our last planned meal for the week and it was a good thing. We sure did eat well this week.



No. No. We Really Aren't Eating Again



Just Enjoying Happy Hour With Our Friends

GIANT JENGA



Giant Jenga is just like regular Jenga except the playing pieces are much larger. Chuck made the game and we all had some good laughs as the blocks came tumbling down



Defying Gravity

FISHERMANS VILLAGE, A FEW GAMES AND A FOND FAREWELL



A trip to Fisherman's Village to listen to some great music, do a little shopping and have lunch made it a very memorable outing. We ended the day playing a few games to finish off an absolutely perfect week.



Let's Do This Again Next Year
Same Time, Same Beautiful Place

BIRTHDAYS

Jill Perry 28th

ANNIVERSARIES

Morneaults 25th

On The Web
tbsams.weebly.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joanne Lima

jvlima@tampabay.rr.com

UPCOMING CAMPOUTS AND RALLIES

Apr 30 - May 6 W.P. Franklin Lock, Alva
"TBS Friends Campout"

May 25—29 Sandy Oaks, Beverly Hills
Hosts: Al & Lynne Morneault

Sept 21—24 Winter Quarters,
Manatee RV Resort
Hosts: Linda & Ken Kuiken

Oct 26—29 Bay Bayou, Tampa
Hosts: Juliet & Cotton Deal

Nov 14—19 **FLORIDA FALL RALLY**
Eustis, FL

Dec 8—10 Little Willie's, Arcadia
Hosts: Chuck & Jean Potter

SUNSHINE CORNER - Rita Turner

Everyone in the Chapter is happy and healthy and we hope we all continue to be.

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.