



The Trail Blazer

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS
FLORIDA CHAPTER # 47
December, 2017

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Newsletter Year
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December Campout Dec 7—10, 2017

Little Willie's RV Resort

5005 NE Cubitis Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266



Our December Hosts
Chuck & Jean Potter



Chuck and Jean joined Trail Blazing Sams in December, 2009, but they had been RVing long before that.

Chuck and Jean met when he was in the Air Force and based in England where Jean lived. When Chuck retired, they were living in Las Vegas where they continued to live for several years before moving to Florida. One daughter and one son and their families still live in Nevada. One daughter and granddaughter live in Florida.

Most summers, Chuck and Jean make a trip out West and occasionally they travel to England to visit Jean's family.

Souper Thursday

We all came in early bird Thursday to Little Willie's in Arcadia. Happy Hour was a great time to catch up, share the latest news, tell a few stories visit with our friends. Then our hosts, Chuck and Jean Potter, provided a delicious soup dinner

The big news was the surprise engagement announcement by two of our favorite people, Dennis LaPerle and Brenda Gollihue. Pictured at right is Brenda showing us her new ring. Congratulations. !!!!



Ken, Judy and Myron in the soup line.



Lining up for 3 different kinds of soups and some delicious desserts.

**Weekend Guests
Cindy Barry & Ed Hardesty**



Richard, Jeannette and Bill Playing Card Bingo with Frank checking to see who is close to a Bingo

FABULOUS FUN AND GAMES FRIDAY

One of the the games we always enjoy is our friendly Bean Bag Baeball Competition, the Guys Against the Girls. It seems as of late, the girls have been winning most of the games, but this time it was the Guys who prevailed. Maybe it was the HO HO HO Team name the guys gave themselves. There was a lot of fun, camaraderie and good natured ribbing, but in the end, this time GUYS RULE.

The Girls Planning Their Strategy



**Chuck and Mike Wearing
Their Christmas T-Shirts**



**NEWS FLASH
The Guys Win**



**No campout would be complete
without a friendly game of
Holey Board**

HEAVY HORS D' OEUVRES & "RIGHT LEFT CENTER"

Friday night everyone brought a dish to share. There was so much delicious food. Everyone outdid themselves with a special dish, more than a meal for each of us. Meatballs, bacon wrapped shrimp, sausage, deviled eggs, desserts were just a few of the dishes. Linda Kuiken made an amazing Taco Chili. Look for the recipe later in the newsletter

Everything Looks So Good—And It Was



Who Was The Big Winner?
Ken Kuiken



SATURDAY MEETING

Pictured to the right are our officers conducting the Saturday morning meeting. Right to Left: John Russano—President, Ray Turner—Vice-President, Linda Kuiken—Treasurer, Mike Lima—Secretary.

At the meeting we all brought Gift Cards, blankets and backpacks to be donated to Guardian Ad Litum for older children placed in Foster Homes during the Holidays. Later in the day, Ruth Hemphill reported that we collected over \$300 in gift cards alone.



Linda Selling Raffle Tickets Before The Meeting



SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR AND DINNER

Mixing and Mingling is one of the things we do best. Happy Hour is always such a great time to catch up on all the news and to share some stories.

Jeannette Ormsby makes a "card bag" for each member. It is such a good way to exchange Christmas cards without the expense of mailing a card.

Chuck and Jean provided us with a delicious turkey dinner, complete with all the fixings. .



**Thank you Jean and Chuck
Potter for a delicious dinner**



SATURDAY FUN AND GAMES

.Who else but Jean Potter could get us all to draw a picture of a tree or angel on a paper plate. And to make it a little more challenging, draw your picture with the plate on the top of your head.

We sure had fun and a lot of laughs and we all found out how talented we are—or aren't.

Just look at all the smiles.



**Some Serious Drawing Going On Here
Bill & Ruth Hemphill**



SATURDAY GIFT EXCHANGE

Our Gift Exchange is always a fun experience. We each bring a \$15 gift, wrapped and marked for a man or woman. Then, after randomly drawing numbers, we each have a chance to either open a new gift or take someone else's gift. When that happens, the person whose gift was taken gets to open a new gift.

John Russano knew he wouldn't get to hold onto that Cracker Barrel Gift card very long. Next year we will add some new twists to make the game even more fun



This page will feature accomplishments and announcements by our members—special things you want to share with your TBS friends.

Pictured Right—Livia Popovich

Livia started the weekend with just a ball of yarn. She was furiously knitting all weekend and look what she came up with—without a pattern What talent!!!



- Following is the recipe for the delicious Crockpot Taco Chili Linda Kuiken served at our Friday “Heavy Hors d’ Oeuvres “ Night. Thank you, Linda, for sharing.

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- **Taco Chili - Crockpot**

2 - 15 oz cans Fiesta Corn (drain liquid)

1 - 16 oz can Pinto Beans

1 - 15 oz can Black Beans

2- 16 oz cans Chili Beans

1 - 28 oz can Rotel Diced Tomato – Mild or 2 small cans (mix mild or hot)

1 lb Ground Pork

1 lb Ground Beef

2 - packages of Taco Seasoning

Directions:

Pan fry beef and pork. Drain fat. Add Taco Seasoning and water per package instructions.

Put into crock pot and add the above ingredients.

Low temp setting – 5 to 6 hours

High temp setting – 3 to 4 hours

Toppings: Shredded Mexican Cheese, Chopped Onions and Sour Cream

Also good with Tortilla Chips, Taco Shell, over Rice or Baked Potato or Flat Bread.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Bill Conway	1st
Serge Frechette	8th
Liz Abrams	13th
Dave Rilling	22nd

ANNIVERSARIES

Rilling	20th
Magedanz	27th

On The Web

tbsams.weebly.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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UPCOMING CAMPOUTS AND RALLIES

January 26—28 Ocala Sun RV Resort, Ocala
Hosts: Steve & Popovich

February 14—18 **FLORIDA WINTER RALLY**
Fairgrounds, Tallahassee

March 24—26 Paradise Oaks, Bushnell
Hosts: Bill & Ruth Hemphill

April 18—22 **FLORIDA SPRING RALLY**
Okeechobee KOA
Okeechobee, Florida

May 26—29 Bay Bayou, Tampa
Hosts: Dave & Carolyn Rilling

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

If you already have your Lock reservation and find you are unable to go, please check with TBS members before you cancel your reservation.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Carolyn Rilling just had surgery on her shoulder and missed the December campout. She and Dave plan to be at Lazy Days for New Year's.

Healing thoughts are with Juliet Dudinsky who has a painful case of Shingles. We hope you recover quickly and we see your smiling face 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.