



The Trail Blazer

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS
FLORIDA CHAPTER # 47
January, 2018

Issue 3 of 9
Newsletter Year
Nov 2017—Oct 2018



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

January Campout Jan 25-28, 2018
Ocala Sun RV Resort
2559 SW County Hwy 484, Ocala, FL



Our January Hosts Steve & Livia Popovich



Steve and Livia started their RV experience 22 years ago when the Air Force decided it was time to head West to Alaska. They bought a travel trailer and began an RV Adventure that continues today, with a few upgrades. They joined Good Sam in 2011. They attended their first Trail Blazing Sams Rally in 2015 and joined in January, 2016.

Steve and Livia met in 1977 at MacDill AFB when Steve was fresh out of basic training and learning to become an Aircraft Mechanic. They married 2 years later and began their life adventure together. This included a 3 year trip to Daytona Beach for college followed by a 20 year Air Force flying career. Steve flew the T-33 Shooting Star, the F-4 Phantom, the F-15E Strike Eagle and currently flies a Boeing 737 at United Airlines.

Steve and Livia retired after 24 years of Military Service and moved back to Tampa where it all began. They currently live in Seffner, FL where they raised their three children, Nick, Stephanie and Jessica.

EARLY BIRD THURSDAY

Most of us came early bird Thursday to the Ocala Sun RV Resort. The campground is adding 200 new sites, so we were the first ones to park in the new sites.

Although the weather was chilly, the sun was shining all weekend. Since it was a bit windy, Happy Hour was held in the clubhouse. It was a great time to just sit around and visit with everyone.

We had a good turnout in January. Seventeen of our member rigs made the trip to Ocala (plus one drive in). It was a bit further than usual, but the accommodations were excellent, especially for January which is always so busy.

RIGHT—Livia & Steve



John, Dennis, Brenda, Linda and Richard catching up on all the news

Weekend Guests Pete & Eileen Colon



Mary Murray Making Our Guests Feel Welcome

FRIDAY BEAN BAG BASEBALL

Nothing is any more competitive than our friendly Bean Bag Baseball games, the Guys against the Girls. For a long time, the girls won every time, but for the last two competitions, the guys have managed to eek out a win. How did that happen?

Congratulations to the Guys on all those great hits and lucky home runs.

Just wait until next time.....

The Girls Say "At Least It Was a Close Game. Neck and Neck All The Way."



**A High Five
For A Home Run**



**NEWS FLASH
FINAL SCORE 14—1**



**The Guys Sure Had Some
Lucky Throws**

YO HO HO FRIDAY DINNER

We celebrated Gasparilla with a Pirate Themed Weekend. Our tables were decorated with pirate ships, beads, hooks and gold coins, What fun!

Our hosts, Buccaneer Steve and Swashbuckler Livia, outdid themselves by providing an outstanding dinner for everyone. Our menu included ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, potato salad and dessert.

Steve sure worked hard making those slow cooked ribs and the pulled pork. We hear he was up all night cooking and grilling. Everything was cooked to perfection—fork tender and the flavor was amazing.

Thank you, Steve and Livia.



It Takes 2 Very Creative Women, An Engineer and a Supervisor To Make A Pirate Ship Centerpiece

Pirate Dennis Ready To Party



Joan Has A Great Smile



Bill, Myron and Judy



Livia and Steve

YO HO HO FRIDAY DINNER

The festive decorations, good friends and awesome food put everyone in a party mood. It was a wonderful evening. There must be a bit of a pirate in each of us.

Scallywags One And All



Bill Always Has Fun



Lining Up For All That Good Food



FRIDAY GAMES—RIGHT, LEFT, CENTER

What better game to play on Pirate Night than Right, Left, Center. We each chipped in \$3 for the evening's entertainment. It is a good game everyone can play—no advance training or skill required.

There was a lot of cheering, some good luck and some bad. In the end, it was Judy Magedanz who had the last remaining dollar and won all the loot.

Listening To Liz Explain The Rules



Judy Was So Excited To
Be The Big Winner



Is This All For Me?



SATURDAY MEETING

We had seventeen member rigs camping with us in January, plus one drive in. Our meeting began with a blessing by Acting Chaplain Bill Hemphill, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting minutes are available in the Members Only section of our TBS website www.tbsams.weebly.com

Following the meeting, the 50/50 raffle was won by Livia Popovich.

Pictured Below: President John awarding stars to the Eustis Rally volunteers - Bill Carter, Mike Lima, Joanne Lima, Steve Popovich, Dennis LaPerle, Bill Hemphill, Ruth Hemphill, Juliet Dudinsky, Liz Abrams, Dave Rilling, Carolyn Rilling, Ken Kuiken



Acting Chaplain Bill Hemphill



I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag



Linda Selling Raffle Tickets Before The Meeting

Conducting The Meeting



Volunteers Signing Up for The Winter Rally



SATURDAY "SUPER SPECIAL OLYMPICS"

Let The Games Begin. Steve designed six games we all could play. A little skill, a lot of luck and a \$3 entry fee were all that was required. Each of the games had a clever name and all the games were variations of Golf, Bocce Ball, Bean Bag Baseball, Holey Board and Ring Toss, games we all know and love. Steve suggested the winner and the TBS Treasury split the total, so \$43 to each.

Games were run simultaneously so there was more playing and less waiting. Thanks for such a great idea and event, Steve.



Steve Is Explaining The Games



Closest to the pin and an extra 10 points made a big difference when the final scores were tallied. Congratulations to our big winner—Mike Abrams.



SATURDAY "SOUPER" DINNER

Once again, Steve and Livia outdid themselves on Saturday night. Livia made four different kinds of soup—chicken, pasta and two kinds of beef. With salads and desserts made by some volunteers, we had another outstanding dinner.

After dinner we all stayed in the clubhouse, some to shoot the breeze and some to Shoot The Moon. There were other card games going on, including a new game taught by Jill Perry. There sure was a lot of laughing going on at that table.



Lynne, Myron, Linda & Judy



Learning A New Card Game—Joan, Linda, Jill, Nancy & Mike

WE CAN'T FORGET NEW YEARS

Celebrating New Years together at Lazy Days has been a long standing Trail Blazing Sams tradition. This year we had wonderful entertainment for both the Pre New Year's Eve Party and also New Years Eve (our favorite band—The Impacs).

We had two excellent dinners. The first night was roast pork and chicken, and then for New Years Eve, prime rib. There was champagne and party favors to celebrate at Midnight and a champagne brunch New Years Day. It was so much fun celebrating with good friends and meeting some new ones.



Dave & Carolyn Rilling



Ruth & Bill Hemphill



Linda & Ken Kuiken



Bill & Nancy Carter



Mike & Joanne Lima



Brenda Gollihue & Dennis LaPerle



Joan & John Russano



Livia & Steve Popovich



Richard & Jeannete Ormsby

NEW YEARS

It wouldn't be New Years without a little dancing and celebrating. Old friends and new friends all having a good time together.



Joanne, Linda, Carolyn & Ria Looking Celebratory



Ria & Chuck Prowling



Pete & Eileen Colon



Alice & Bill



Dave & Helen Griffith



NEW YEARS—CELEBRATING AT MIDNIGHT

The witching hour has arrived. And we all managed to stay awake until midnight, but not much beyond.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Kuiken 5th
Mary Murray 28th

ANNIVERSARIES

Ormsby 7th
Zecher 20th

On The Web

tbsams.weebly.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joanne Lima

jvlima@tampabay.rr.com

UPCOMING CAMPOUTS AND RALLIES

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

Sept 21- 23* Bay Bayou, Tampa
Hosts: Mike & Liz Abrams

Be sure to make your reservation now if you are going to the unofficial "TBS Friends Campout" at W.P. Franklin Lock immediately following 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. There may be someone who will take your spot.

SUNSHINE CORNER—RUTH HEMPHILL

Carolyn Rilling has had an amazing recovery from shoulder surgery.

We were so happy to see Juliette Dudinsky recovering from a serious bout of Shingles.

We continue to keep Lorraine Zecher in our thoughts and prayers as she goes through chemotherapy.

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.