



The Trail Blazer

TRAIL BLAZING SAMS
FLORIDA CHAPTER # 47
May, 2018

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Newsletter Year
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May Campout May 25-28, 2018

Bay Bayou RV Resort

8492 Manatee Bay Dr, Tampa, FL 33635



Our May Hosts Carolyn & Dave Rilling



In October, 2016 Dave and Carolyn bought their very first RV and drove straight from the Lazy Days lot to their first Trail Blazing Sams campout. They enjoy the fun and games, and the friendship of all their Trail Blazing Sams friends

The Rillings moved from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Tampa in 1997 and now live in Land O Lakes where their two sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren live nearby.

Dave and Carolyn own a real estate and property management company in the Tampa area.. They are looking forward to their first extended RV trip in the Fall, heading West to New Mexico and surrounding states.

In the first five months of camping, the Rillings bought 3 RVs, a story well worth asking them about.

EARLY BIRD THURSDAY

For those of us who came Early Bird, we had a great time visiting with everyone at Happy Hour. Then we all caravanned to Cody's for dinner, a place we always enjoy.



**Carolyn
&
Dave
Rilling**



Richard & Jeannette Ormsby



**Mona & Roy Pulaski
Linda Nagliari & Richard Harrison**



Mike & Joanne Lima



Serge Frechette



**Deborah Boyce &
Frank Cosentino**

FUN AND GAMES

Our campout wouldn't be complete without a few games. First up, was a friendly game of Bean Bag Baseball. This time it was the guys who barely squeaked by with a final score of 4 to 2.

**The Girls Played A Good Game.
Congratulations to Home Run Deborah.**



**L to R: Richard H, Richard O,
Bill H, Bill C, Dave, Roy, Frank
& Serge**

**Right: A campout never goes by
without several of us finding some
time for card games, most often
Shoot The Moon**



Who doesn't love a Bocce Ball Tournament? We all had a lot of fun playing another of our favorite games.

Congratulations to the winning team:
Richard & Jeannette Ormsby and Roy &
Mona Pulaski



**And For Some, The Best Game Is
"Who Can Tell The Tallest Tale"**

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

On Friday night, our hosts, Carolyn & Dave Rilling, treated us to a wonderful dinner of salad, homemade lasagna and crusty bread. And if that wasn't enough, we had a delicious pineapple upside down cake for dessert.

Our tables were all decorated in a Patriotic theme, just perfect for a Memorial Day weekend.

We moved the tables together into one big circle so we could all talk together. This was the perfect setting for our after dinner activity—The Game Of Things



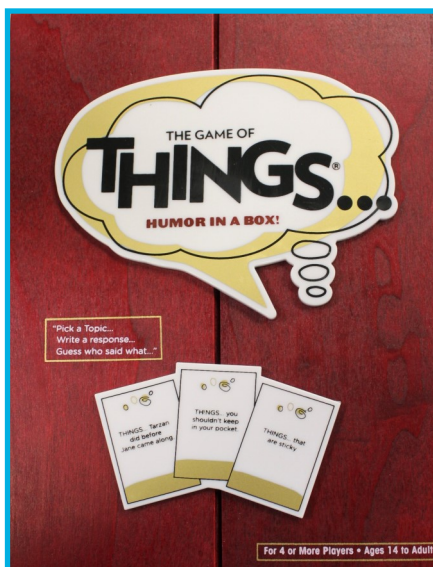
**Our Hosts, Carolyn & Dave Rilling
Inviting Us All To Enjoy A Delicious
Lasagna Dinner**



**Ready And Waiting To Begin
The Game Of Things**



**Serge Says It Takes Two Hands To
Carry All This Good Food**



Words just can't describe how much fun we had playing The Game of Things. The concept is simple—each person writes down an answer to the same question. Then the fun begins when each answer is read aloud and we all try to guess who's answer it is.

The questions were "thought provoking", such as "what is the cat really saying when it says meow?" Some answers were funny, some were hilarious and some there just weren't words to describe. You just had to be there.

It was a great game for a crowd because it kept everyone involved and interested. I can't remember when I have laughed so much.

Our big winner of the evening was Frank Cosentino. There was a rumor going around that the keys to a truck were on the line, but I am not sure that can be verified.

SATURDAY MEETING

We had eight member rigs camping with us in May, plus two drive ins. Since eleven members are required for a quorum, Acting President Mike Lima conducted an information only meeting.

The meeting began with a blessing by Chaplain Jeannette Ormsby, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike gave the Treasurer's Report submitted by Linda Kuiken.

Mike asked 2019 hosts to book campgrounds right away and let John Russano know

There was no 50/50 raffle since last month's winner wasn't able to attend and bring the tickets



Acting President Mike Lima



The Meeting Is About To Begin



Nancy Carter Read A Thank You Letter From the Shriners Hospitals For Children For Our Donation Of Can Tabs. Included Was A Very Nice Presentation Folder And Pictures



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER DANCE

On Saturday night, we were invited to attend the dinner and dance put on by Bay Bayou RV Resort. It was so nice to attend a function where none of had to do any work—just go and have a good time—and we did.

After dinner we all had a great time at the dance. It is always fun to get out on the dance floor.



Ruth & Bill Hemphill



Dave & Carolyn Rilling



Jeannette & Richard Ormsby



Love To See Serge Out On The Dance Floor



Mona & Roy Pulaski



Linda Nagliari & Richard Harrison

SUNDAY B-B-Q

In lieu of our tradition of cooking hamburgers and hot dogs, the Chapter paid for our meals at the delicious B-B-Q put on by Bay Bayou. What a great way to celebrate Memorial Day.



Nancy & Bill Carter



Enjoying The B-B-Q

REMEMBERING JOHN PERRY



Just one year ago, we were stunned to find ourselves saying good-bye to one of our cornerstone members, John Perry. John was just 75 when he unexpectedly passed away from a massive stroke on May 31, 2017.

John and his wife, Jill, joined Trail Blazing Sams in April, 2005. They were very active members, rarely missing either a campout or a State Rally. Whether it was a parade or a project, the Perrys were always ready to get involved.

John was such a good sport, Whether it was dressing up as Elvis for our 50's celebration, participating in a parade or just having fun at our Western Themed TBS 40th anniversary, John was always an enthusiastic participant.



Dancing At A RV Rally



Clowning Around With Bunkhouse Bill



Cruising With TBS



Forever Friends—Mike, Joanne, Jill, John



Elvis X 3: John, Ken, Mike



Dancing With Elvis



Happy Hour — Chuck, Bill, John R, John Perry



Campout Hosts



Good Friends



Ready For The Macey's Parade

REMEMBERING JOHN PERRY (continued)



Announcing The Bocce Ball Rules At A Good Sam Rally

When we think of John, his sunny smile is the first thing that comes to mind and what will always stay with us. John was such a kind and caring person. Whenever the Perrys hosted a campout, John was known for planning creative and fun activities all our members would participate in. Getting everyone involved was always a goal of John's.

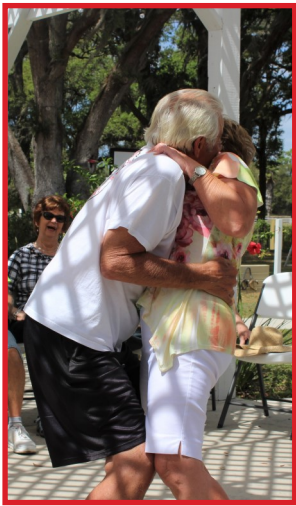
Who can forget Jingle Balls, the Braniac Challenge and the Saran Wrap Game. John left us with legacy of wonderful memories.



Having Fun With Horse Racing—John, Bill, Robin, Ray, Mike & Serge



Getting Everyone Involved In A Game Of Bean Bag Baseball



Mystery Game Fun



John's Braniac Game



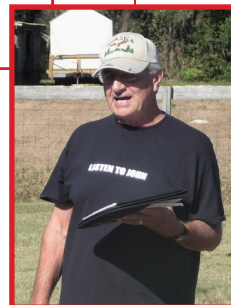
We All Had So Much Fun With The Saran Wrap Game



Organizing A TBS Shuffleboard Tournament



Playing Left Handed After Shoulder Surgery



We All Love Jingle Ball



Jingle Ball Crew—John, Bill, Richard, John



Having Fun With Right, Left, Center

As much as John enjoyed playing all the games, I think what he loved best was organizing and running games for others. Best of all, he always found a way to get everyone involved and having a good time. Thank you, John.

REMEMBERING JOHN PERRY (continued)

Family was so important to John. Each summer, he and Jill traveled to Michigan to visit all their family there (the others live in Florida). With John's three children and Jill's two, they have 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

John had a "Bucket List" and he checked off a lot of his boxes. One objective was to play every one of the 600 plus holes of golf in the Villages — Check. One was to attend the Masters' Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia—Check. Go To The Kentucky Derby— Check. Vacation In Hawaii - Check. Visit The Islands. - Check. We should all take a page from John's book and have our own Bucket List and be sure we check off some of our own boxes.



John and Jill At The PGA Masters' Tournament In Augusta, Georgia



Family Patriarch

NEW YEARS FUN

Celebrating New Years with TBS friends was a long standing tradition. Wonderful memories.



Having Fun On The Dance Floor



Celebrating In Grand Style

John Perry, Richard Ormsby, Bill Carter, John Russano, Mike Lima & Ken Kuiken

REMEMBERING COTTON DEAL

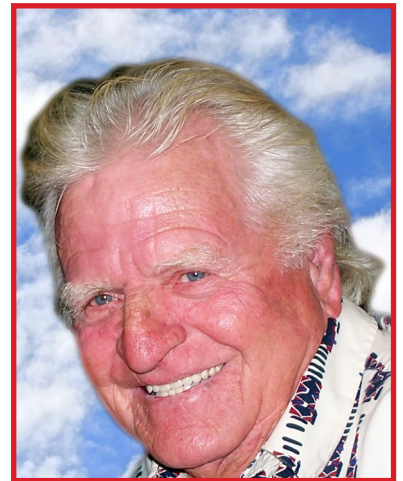
We also remember another of our cornerstone members, Cotton Deal, who passed away June 1, 2017, during complications from surgery.

Born in Indiana in 1940, Cotton moved to St. Petersburg in 1954. "Cotton" is survived by his wife Juliet, four sons, Wayne, Patrick, Derek and Chris. and four grandchildren

Cotton and his wife, Juliet, joined Trail Blazing Sams in February, 2001. From the start, they were very active members, rarely missing a Chapter campout or a Good Sam Rally.

Cotton enjoyed socializing with all his Trail Blazing Sams friends. He loved just sitting around having a beer and he and loved to play games,

We are so happy his wife, Juliet, bought an RV she can drive and will continue to be a active member of Trail Blazing Sams. We love you, Juliet.



Hanging Out with Friends—Bill, Ron, John D, John R, Cotton



Pirates Of The Carribean



TBS Celebrates The 50's



Caravanning With TBS Friends



50's Fun



TBS Road Clean UP



Always Patriotic



Telling Stories—Chuck, Mike, Serge & Cotton

REMEMBERING COTTON DEAL (continued)



Cotton loved all sports and games. He was such a competitive player, but always a good sport. He loved to win, but I think he enjoyed the challenge of the game even more than he did winning. His eyes would just twinkle and there was nothing he liked better than a close game or a well played hand, no matter whose it was.

Cotton didn't particularly like, his picture being taken. He never wanted to be the center of attention, but he sure deserved to be there. Getting a picture of Cotton was always a challenge, but we did manage to snap a few.



Winning First Place In Holey Board At A State Good Sam State Rally With Partner Robin Murry Was Awesome



TBS Bocce Ball Winners — Cotton and Mike



Cotton & Team Hanging Their Heads In Defeat - Girls Won



Beating Juliet at Cribbage Was Always So Much Fun



Winning At Cribbage With Dennis LaPerle



**Holey Board
Myron, Serge, Cotton, John R**



Cotton Was Front and Center When The Guys Won Bean Bag Baseball



**Golf
Joan, Robin, Cotton, Bill, Richard**



Shoot The Moon - Mike, Juliet, Richard, Joanne, Cotton, Jeannette

REMEMBERING COTTON DEAL (continued)



One of Cotton's favorite places to camp was the W.P. Franklin Lock, Corps of Engineers campground in Alva, Florida. With sites right on the Caloosahatchee River and a large Pavillion for gatherings on the Point, this is such a beautiful place to go.

One of our Trail Blazing Sams traditions for many of us is to head to the Lock right after the Okeechobee RV Rally. After working hard at the Rally, it is so much fun to just relax without a set itinerary.

We were all at the Lock just a few short weeks before Cotton passed away. I will always remember all of us barely getting our rigs set up before Cotton said "when are we playing cards?" Of course, everyone was ready for a good game of "Shoot The Moon"

Cotton loved the outdoors and fishing was one of his hobbies. Just give him a fishing pole, a deck of cards or a set of Holey Board washers and he was in his element.



Giant Jenga. What Fun



Cotton Loved To Play Holey Board



Making Friends At The Alpaca Farm

We said good bye to Cotton at a beautiful "Celebration of Life" held on Madeira Beach at the home of Derek and DeeDee Dudinsky. Son Chris gave a beautiful eulogy. A casual gathering of family and friends is just what Cotton would have wanted. We all threw a rose on the water in Cotton's memory, Cotton loved his family and was a caring person. He lived a good life and gave us joy. Well played, dear friend.



Cooking Breakfast On The Point



Everything Tastes So Much Better When We Eat Outside



Playing Cards With Good Friends



Early Morning Fishing



Son Chris, Wife Juliet, Son & Daughter In Law Derek and DeeDee

BIRTHDAYS

Steve Popovich	5th
Frank Ciampaglia	14th
Richard Harrison	14th
Nancy Carter	26th
Lorraine Zecher	28th
Ken Kuiken	30th

On The Web
tbsams.weebly.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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UPCOMING CAMPOUTS AND RALLIES

September 21- 23* Bay Bayou, Tampa
*(date change) Hosts: Mike & Liz Abrams

October 25—28 Paradise Oaks, Bushnell
Hosts: John & Joan Russano

November 13—18 **FLORIDA WINTER RALLY**
Eustis, FL

December 14—16 Paradise Oaks, Bushnell
Hosts: Mike & Joanne Lima

2019
January 25—27 Paradise Oaks, Bushnell
Hosts: Dennis LaPerle/
Brenda Gollihue

February 22—24 Little Willie's, Arcadia
Hosts: Officers

SUNSHINE CORNER—RUTH HEMPHILL

Our condolences to Chuck and Jean Potter on the loss of their daughter.

Condolences also to Ken and Linda Kuiken on the loss of Ken's niece.

We continue to keep Lorraine Zecher in our thoughts and prayers as she continues her battle with cancer.

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.