



Texas North Star Sams Area 17 - 2005

March Newsletter

The President's Corner



The good news is that our club members found creative ways to use their holiday weekend in February. The bad news is that those plans prevented their joining our regularly scheduled campout. Once the number of prospective attendees dropped to three couples, we pulled the plug and relinquished our reservations for campsites and meeting room at Destiny. The remaining 7 folks met for dinner, fellowship, and a business meeting at the Helwicks' house on Saturday night. Many thanks to our host couple, the Foitek, for the decorations and menu planning to celebrate the Chinese New Year. And, many thanks to Brian MacPherson for agreeing to fill in as secretary at the meeting.

One topic at the meeting was a Camping Cancellation Policy. With our club membership so small, circumstances to this weekend could arise again. We all agreed that we need an amendment to our Standard Operating Procedures to outline exactly how/when/who will cancel future campouts. Many of our ideas are included in the minutes of the meeting. We will revisit this subject at the March campout, and come away with a draft of a resolution. Please come prepared to discuss this topic. Of course, if everyone got at least one other couple to join, this problem would disappear!

As always, feel free to contact me with questions and/or comments.

Kathy Helwick
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Officers:

President: Kathy Helwick
Vice-President: Steve Young
Treasurer: Jim Bailey
Secretary: Sherry Young
Wagon Master: Lew Foitek

Newsletter Editor: Sherry Moran
Special Projects: Pat Foitek
Sunshine/Chaplain: Cheryl MacPherson
Web Master: Tim Moran

February Meeting:



Meeting Minutes Submitted by
Brian MacPherson for Sherry Young

Attendance:

- Pat & Lew Foitek
- Brian & Cheryl MacPherson
- Tim & Sherry Moran
- Kathy Helwick

Location:

- Dave & Kathy Helwick's residence

Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Kathy Helwick at 7:20 PM. Cheryl MacPherson led us in the invocation followed by the flag salute led by Kathy.

Secretary:

Minutes were not available as they were "forgotten" by Brian and left at home. Cheryl stated she would make sure everyone has a copy and will e-mail them.

Treasurer:

The report was called in to Kathy from Jim Bailey who reported no changes to the balance as reported at the last meeting.

Wagon Master:

- Lew Foitek was called upon to give an update on the campouts scheduled for the remainder of the year. Lew stated that Destiny would not have available to us the meeting room for our campout in May as another group had already reserved it. It was discussed that this should not pose a problem and that we would meet at someone's rig.
- The June campout is scheduled for a new location. It will be at the Lighthouse RV in Melissa.
- It was discussed that in February 2006, we may wish to join with the Rowlett Chapter at Destiny because they also were short on rigs for that month.
- A reminder to all to make sure they have completed their reservation for Hickory Creek for the March campout.
- Lew also reminded everyone that the campout locations are available on the chapter's website.

Special Projects:

- Pat Foitek talked about doing the Lap Robes again during the March and/or April campout. She will follow up with everyone.
- An idea to consider was the Teddy Bear project for local police departments. It involves donating a stuffed bear to the police who would carry them in the patrol vehicles to give to traumatized children during their patrols. Pat stated she would do more checking into this project to obtain information about which cities perform this service.
- The garage sale project date is unknown at this time. Pat will have to get with Sherry & Steve Young to nail down a date and exact location.
- Everyone is asked to bring a small prize for the next campout. These will be used for winners of planned games like bingo.
- Pat asked if everyone was still interested in doing the wagon for Christmas this year like last year. We all agreed it was a good project to continue. This will now give Pat the time to locate someone to donate or give favorable pricing on the wagon.
- Pat asked Brian about the tree planting. It was reported that the tree has not been selected yet as the landscape company Brian was going to ask may or may not be working at the mall after March 15 and he felt uncomfortable about asking for one now.
- Also, he did not want to haul around a tree in the truck for the next several months. When the time is right to ask and pickup, it will be done. A plaque will also be made up to bring to Cedar Mills.

Old Business:

- Kathy asked everyone to be thinking of other RV'ers to invite to our campouts. Several marketing ideas to gather new members were discussed. Tim Moran handed out a business card that he made up for use by everyone to hand out to prospective members. They looked great – way to go Tim!
- Since Jim Bailey has been gathering old photos in an effort to put together a Chapter Album he has requested help in identifying some of the people in these photos. Later we grouped together to see if we could indeed recognize these people.
- The web site layout and contents were discussed. Everyone agreed that Tim had done a wonderful job of putting this together. Tim did ask for short stories for the web site, with pictures, on any travels the members have taken. Brian & Cheryl will submit a short "bio" to be placed into the site.

New Business:

- Kathy reported that she had a copy of the treasurer's report from the Fall Samboree if anyone was interested in looking at it.
- The Mini-Rally is set for September 14-18, 2005 in Perrin with 11 Chapters being invited. It was also mentioned that individuals who are Good Sam members but do not belong to a Chapter will also be invited. There will be a planning meeting for Chapter Presidents or their designee in McKinney on March 12th at 1:00 PM. Tim & Sherry Moran agreed to represent the Chapter and to listen to what assistance they may ask of us for the Rally and bring it back for discussion by all. The Mini-Rally is the same weekend as our usual campout in September so it was agreed that the Waggon Master cancel our campout at Cedar Mills.

- Cancellation Policy for our Chapter was discussed with an emphasis on when or why. Many ideas and methods were discussed that included the draw-backs we could encounter if we called a campground and cancelled. A cancellation could jeopardize our having a meeting room or even obtaining favorable camping fees in the future. Since the cancellation policy is not spelled out in our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and how it could affect our members, it was concluded that we would present several ideas to the Chapter at our next campout so it could be voted on and placed into the SOP's. The ideas discussed were:
 - 1) must have a RSVP from each rig no later than 7 days prior to the campout
 - 2) payment options for a "no show" at our campout – rig pays for all or some of the nights but only if additional charges are levied by the campground
 - 3) Wagon Master will need to make confirmed reservations to the campground by the Monday prior to the campout and ask about any possible "no show" fees

Happenings: as taken from the agenda

- 1) Jim & Marge Bailey are to return from the valley on March 25th
- 2) Tim & Sherry were in California for Mom's birthday
- 3) Kathy & Dave were in Detroit for new grandbaby born January 25th
- 4) Dave's dad passed away February 18th – Dave is in Ohio
- 5) Lew & Pat will be gone May thru August
- 6) Brian & Cheryl plan to retire the end of June and will leave July 5th
- 7) The Duerr's wedding anniversary is February 27th – 17 years
- 8) The Young's wedding anniversary is March 9th – 20 years
- 9) The Gumfory's wedding anniversary is March 14th – 24 years

Other:

Tim & Sherry will be gone most of June & July.

There being no other business a motion to adjourn was given by Lew Foiteck and seconded by Sherry Moran.

Happenings:

- The Texas North Star Sams will be having a **GARAGE SALE** at the home of Steve & Sherry Young on the weekend of April 23 & 24. Start putting your **STUFF** aside **NOW** !
- The Young's wedding anniversary is March 9th – 20 years
- The Gumfory's wedding anniversary is March 14th – 24 years
- Jim & Marge Bailey are to return from the valley on March 25th
- Lew & Pat will be gone May thru August
- Tim & Sherry will be gone most of June & July
- Brian & Cheryl plan to retire the end of June and will leave (Dallas) on July 5th

Wagonmaster



Lew Foitek

March Campout:

March 18-20: Hickory Creek Campground
(reserve sites: 104-121, [www.reserveusa](http://www.reserveusa.com), 877-444-6777)

You MUST have a pre-registration to stay in the Campground

Hosts: Tim and Sherry Moran (timoran@ticnet.com)

The Saturday night dinner will be an **"Irish Feast"**
St. Patrick's day is March 17th

Tim & Sherry will provide baked potatoes and a variety of
spoon-on toppings.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

***Each couple should bring an item to be used as a prize for
the bingo games.***

See www.ntahc.org/northstarsams –
"Upcoming Events" for more details and a map

April Campout:

April 15-17: Cedar Mills Campground (memorial tree
and plaque in loving memory of Malee Jones)

Hosts – Steve and Sherry Young

See www.ntahc.org/northstarsams –
"Upcoming Events" for more details and a map

May Campout:

May 18 – 22 Destiny RV Resort

Hosts – Jim and Marge Bailey

See www.ntahc.org/northstarsams –
"Upcoming Events" for more details and a map

Happy Birthday!



Sherry Moran
on March 23

From the Editor:



Please send any news you'd like included in the newsletter to Sherry Moran before the last week of the month.

sjmoran@ticnet.com